

The Many Roles Women Play in Service of Saint Thomas Parish

Inge Reist

March 10, 2024

64 *Year Book*

The Woman's Auxiliary.
MEETS IN GUILD ROOMS ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY IN THE MONTH AT 10:30 O'CLOCK

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Aim and Object of the Woman's Auxiliary.
THE Woman's Auxiliary of St. Thomas's Church is one of the Parish branches which together form the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of New York. This larger body is again a part of the whole organization, of which a branch exists in every diocese and missionary jurisdiction of the Church in the United States.
The Woman's Auxiliary was created in 1871 by the Board of Missions in session in Baltimore, with the object of aiding the work of the Board by contributing money for the support of missionaries, for the building of chapels at mission stations, and for educational and kindred purposes, and also by sending boxes of clothing and other necessities to missionaries whose stipends are insufficient for their support, and whose distance from sources of supply renders it difficult and expensive for them to satisfy their own needs.
The St. Thomas's Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary holds its meetings in the Guild Rooms of the Church on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:30 o'clock. Every woman in the Parish is invited to attend the meetings regularly or as often as convenient.

The Association
FOR THE
Employment of the Industrious Poor.
MEETS IN THE GUILD ROOMS EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT 10 O'CLOCK

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THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

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Object of the Employment Society.
THE object of the St. Thomas's Employment Society is to help industrious women support themselves and their families by paying them to make garments, which are given to various Church Guilds or to hospitals and schools throughout the country.
This Society is especially helpful during the summer months, when many of its beneficiaries have no other work upon which to rely.
Meetings are held every Thursday morning from November to May at 10 o'clock, when work is cut and prepared by the ladies of the parish.
Every alternate Friday the Society meets at half-past 10 o'clock to receive and give out work, and pay the poor women for doing the sewing.

St. Thomas's Parish 49

Officers and Committees.
A. D. 1906-1907

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PRESIDENT
MISS SCHMELZEL.....16 West 56th Street

VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. HENRY S. MANNING.....3 West 50th Street

FIRST DIRECTRESS
MRS. M. S. BROMLEY.....9 West 53d Street

SECOND DIRECTRESS
MRS. WILLIAM C. FARGO.....56 Park Avenue

TREASURER
MRS. LANSDALE BOARDMAN....4 West 48th Street

SECRETARY
MRS. FRANCIS M. NASH.....640 Madison Avenue

PURCHASER
MRS. IRA BARROWS

SUPERINTENDENT OF CUTTING
MRS. IRA BARROWS

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS
MRS. CHARLES L. EDEY
MRS. A. B. BOARDMAN

SUPERINTENDENT OF PREPARING COMMITTEE
MRS. WILSON PETERSON

ASSISTANTS
MISS SCHMELZEL MISS HALSTED

DR. KILMER, DEACONESS CROSBY, AND A PATIENT IN OUR DISPENSARY IN THE
HALSEY DAY NURSERY

THE CRÈCHE, HALSEY DAY NURSERY
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Whether serving on Committees or actively managing employment training and day care for working women, often immigrants living in the tenements of the East Side, the women of Saint Thomas have played essential roles in carrying forward the mission of the parish and the larger Episcopal Church. Especially during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, several women also made significant monetary donations that, for example, made possible the construction the Halsey Day Nursery and the John Wesley Brown Summer Home on Long Island, a precursor in spirit to the well-known Fresh Air Fund.