

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



The Front Page

February 2015

The Rector's Reflections on our Annual Meeting...

We have just held our 164th Annual Meeting – imagine – **164 times** this yearly family meeting has been held over the years! We met after our two Sunday worship services, where we had just gathered at our Lord's Table to be fed, and then adjourned to the Parish Hall – where we were also fed.

It was exciting to have folks see the ALMOST finished kitchen. We are so close – walls are done, cabinets have been built in the kitchen, awaiting paint. The duct work and suppression system have been installed, the paperwork has been submitted for the inspection from the Fire Department, and the ceiling tracts are hung. The tile floor will be laid next – the end is in sight!! The price of granite has come down and stainless steel has gotten more expensive, so the Kitchen Committee went this week to choose the stone for the countertops, it is going to be so beautiful! Like childbirth, I have been telling myself the pain of getting this new kitchen up and running will soon be behind us and we will just delight in the wonderful ways it will contribute to our mission and ministry. We will be able to increase our outreach dramatically to our community, as well as allow us to safely put on more dinners and fundraising events.

I love the custom of our church - that we come together to be informed about and vote on many of the details of our common life. The Finance Committee has put together a budget that reflected not only our current situation, but also preparation to fund our hopes and dreams for the next year; many of you have pledged a portion of your treasure to support that budget – and we thank you. The Nominating Committee presented us with new folks to serve on the Vestry; they identified important leadership qualities that will make them a vital part of this important group. We elected delegates to Convention and to represent us at Deanery meetings.

ANNUAL MEETING



And we reluctantly said good-bye to others who faithfully served on our Vestry for the last three years. I am especially thankful for the ministry and witness of Henry as our Senior Warden – he has been a delight to work with over this time, along with Kim as Junior Warden. With the leadership of Kim as Senior Warden and Rick Kyte as Junior Warden, I anticipate the joy will just continue!

I, for one, see God’s hand at work guiding us to faithfully grab hold of the opportunity to continue to improve our facility – NOT for our own pleasure, but for the mission and ministry of our parish. Why? Because - *“We are a welcoming community following Christ, through loving service and joyful worship in the Episcopal tradition.”* As I said in my address, get ready to really move outside of those lovely red doors out into the world together – making a genuine difference in the lives of those who really need what we have to offer – the Gospel message of our Lord.

We will continue our culture of transparency – minutes are posted right away on the bulletin board after a monthly Vestry meeting – and questions and concerns are *always* welcome; just see anyone on the Vestry. And come to one of our monthly meetings – it is an honor, privilege and really enjoyable to undertake this holy business of running our parish. I feel so much anticipation as we enter the next stage of our lives together - discerning who God is calling us to be for one another and for the wider community.

Blessings upon blessings!

Rev. Susan+

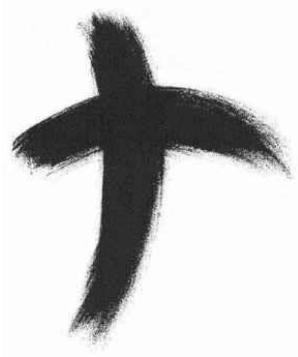
FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

After searching through vestry papers from 2013, I found a list of long term (5 to 10 year) goals for our church. I was amazed to find that we had reached every one on the list-and even more! We have certainly taken leaps of faith, but in every case have felt our feet being guided, giving us the assurance that we have made the right decisions. What wonderful minds and talents we have in all that takes place in our busy church! What a blessing to be able to be part of the action.

Just as time is marked in our own families, it was marked in my church family with the marriage of my daughter Elizabeth last April. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Thomas. Ever since she was little she wanted to get married in ~~her~~ church. My wonderful church family made a perfect wedding day. It made me realize that the term ~~member~~ almost seems inadequate for my church relationship. The bond I have for over 20 years is that of family and heartfelt love.

As I move to Senior Warden, I wish all of you to have that same feeling. We are family, we have our quirks, celebrations, holidays, griefs, births, losses, and yes, we are all getting older together. We all have one Father. Let us worship Him happily together in peace as we travel down this road of life.

Kim Murdoch
Senior Warden



Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes

&

Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 17

Noon and 7 pm

**note that the 9:00am service
is canceled for this day*

A Holy Lent



February is a time transition from the liturgical season after the Epiphany to the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, one of two mandatory fast days in the Episcopal Church (the other being Good Friday). This doesn't mean it is required we not eat all day, but it does mean we should all be intentional in some fast. It is through our intentional fasts, study & reflection, prayer and works of charity throughout Lent that we can be drawn closer to our Lord. This year we will offer two services on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at noon and 7:00 p.m., each with Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes. I hope that as Lent approaches, you will consider Lent to be a time of contemplation and repentance. Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a schedule of the "Soup & Study" opportunity to gather with others in taking on a new discipline.

As Lent progresses, may we also transition away from the heart of winter to peek into the new life that is spring - thanks be to God!

ST. THOMASqEPISCOPAL CHURCH

PO Box 505, Greenville, RI 02828

Telephone: (401) 949-2260

Email: office@stthomasepiscopalri.org

susan@stthomasepiscopalri.org

Web site: www.stthomasepiscopalri.org

Priest: The Reverend Susan M. Carpenter

Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs, 9am-1pm or by appointment

Lenten “Soup and Study”



Join us for an inspiring study during Lent ó everyone is welcome! We will begin with a simple supper of soup and bread, followed by a short video and then the program.

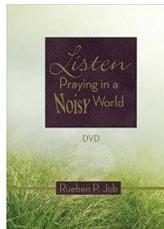
When: Wednesday nights ó February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th & April 1st

Time: 6:00pm ó 8:00pm

Where: in the Parish Hall

We will be using the book and companion DVD :

õListen: Praying in a Noisy World”



We live in a world of noise! Everywhere we go, we hear sounds that compete for our minds and hearts. Listening to God requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos around us and focus our thoughts. *Listen*, by Rueben P. Job, is a 40-day experience created to offer help to those new to prayer, those with a daily prayer routine, and those whose lives seem too busy to pray.

We would love to have you commit to each week, but every session can stand alone; so come to one or come to all of them. Supper will begin at 6:00 ó the video will start at 6:30. We will clean up during the last 15 minutes and weøll all be out by 8:00pm ó a fruitful 2 hours indeed!

Plan to join us as part of your spiritual discipline during Lent.

See you there! Susan+



Pancake Supper

Let's have some fun on Shrove Tuesday!

We will be serving plain/ blueberry/chocolate chip pancakes, sausage and applesauce and delicious desserts!*

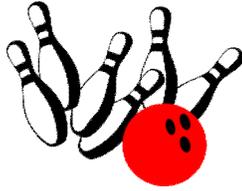
With a Mardi Gras theme, we will listen to Zydeco music and may even persuade you to join in some pancake races!

It's going to be fun and it's going to be FREE!

Bring your family – just let us know how many are coming.....See the sign-up sheet in the hall.

Tuesday, February 17th 5:30pm – 7:00pm

***There's a sign-up sheet to donate a dessert too!**



MEN'S GROUP SPONSORS BOWLING NIGHT

Men of St. Thomas', age 18 and up--come and rack up those strikes and spares on Monday, February 9th, when the Men's Group hosts an evening of bowling at the nearby Lincoln Mall lanes! Bring your bowling shoes (if you have them), your energy, and your enthusiasm, and meet at 6:30 pm in the church parking lot to carpool. The cost for bowling is \$5 per person per string and an evening of 2-3 strings is anticipated. Food is available for purchase, if you wish a snack. Please sign up in the parish hall if you plan to come, so we will know how many lanes to reserve. Questions may be addressed to Russell Couture or Father Don Parker.

Bring along your competitive spirit or just enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship! All men of St. Thomas' are invited to attend.

Journey to Adulthood

Sunday February 15th



Where? At Trinity Church.

Who? Teens AND their parents

What time? 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Join us as we brainstorm activities for the next 4 months! We will begin with a delicious lunch, followed by some wonderful opportunities to decide what we might like to do together. Come prepared to join the discussion with ideas for field trips, outreach projects, fun activities and anything else you think might be a great idea for our time together. After our joint discussion, parents will meet with us downstairs while our teens will watch a movie upstairs.

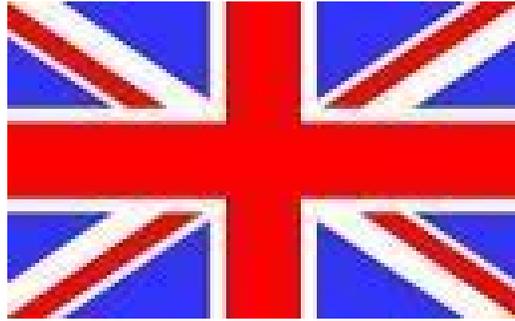
(see our facebook page for details!)

Lunch will be provided - let us know who is going from your family!

J2A is for all young people in grades 8 - 12.

Questions? Just ask Susan+ or Pam+

WINGS OVER ENGLAND



The WINGS group will be gathering on Monday,
February 16th for an
"EVENING IN ENGLAND"

All women are invited to attend this presentation of
all things English, offered by our resident Brit:
Sharon Thompson.

Traditional English refreshments will be served,
along with a good helping of Cockney Rhyming Slang
and a collection of English memorabilia and a slide
show. Hope to see you there!

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Newsletter Editor: Karen Pare
Production Manager: Nancy Burton
Individual contributions of personal spiritual experiences are welcomed!
Email: klplamb24@gmail.com



ADOPT-A-TABLE

Well, the kitchen renovations are showing signs of finishing and how happy a day will that be!

I, for one, cannot wait to start using it to take part in cooking the most fabulous dinners and planning events
.....It won't be long now.

So, in thinking about all these fabulous dinners, we are in need of some new resin folding tables, to replace the heavy wooden ones.

We are thinking we need 8 new ones and they cost \$75 each.

Would you like to "Adopt" a Table for \$75?

If you do, please see Sharon Thompson or place your donation in an envelope marked "Table" and place in Offering Plate. Checks can be made payable to St. Thomas' and please be sure to write "Table" on the Memo Line.

With the newly-renovated kitchen we will have so many opportunities to eat together and share in the wealth of one another's company, I can't wait!!

MEET OUR NEW OUTREACH CHAIR!

My warmest greetings to the family and friends of St. Thomas'!

My name is Ryan McNelis, and I just recently agreed to become our parish's new Outreach Coordinator. I feel, as many of you undoubtedly do, that outreach is a very important and essential part of any well governed institution. Furthermore, if we can better organize our efforts, I feel everyone involved with an outreach project will be better able to reach their goals.

It is in this spirit that I hope to meet with the many of you who are already involved in a project, whether it be Thanksgiving Baskets, one of the collections, the Mile of Pennies, or any of the other recurring charities/projects we support throughout the year. Lastly, I am also hoping that we will find some new volunteers and a few new ideas for projects.

If outreach to the community is something you feel is important to you, please feel free to contact me so that we can determine how best to support you in that noble goal. I may be reached at JR.McNelis.Esq@gmail.com or (401) 243-4567.

MINISTRY BRIEFS



--**Note the change of date!** Due to the inclement weather, the second session of the "Three Wishes" workshop will be changed to Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 pm and the "Planning Your Funeral" session will be held at 11:30 am on Sunday, February 8. Let's hope the weather cooperates this time around!

--Bazaar Chair Sharon Thompson announces that crafting sessions for the November 2015 bazaar will begin on Wednesday, February 4, and continue each Wednesday from 9:30 to noon. Come join the fun and learn how "crafty" you can be!

--Sunshine Lady Tina Di Millo would like all to know that besides the regular birthday and anniversary cards that are sent to parish members, other occasions such as illness or good news deserve a card as well! However, Tina needs to be made aware of those in need! Please call her at 232-1858 or email her at tinadimillo@aol.com so she can make sure an appropriate message is sent! (It helps if email messages contain the words "Sunshine Lady" on the memo line.)

CHANGES PLANNED FOR EPISCOPAL CHARITIES COLLECTION

In March the Episcopal Charity Drive will begin. In the past few years there has been some confusion because of the brochures which the diocese sends to all those who pledged during the previous year. The purpose of the brochures is to make participants aware of the coming drive, but they also contain a pledge form which duplicates those given out at church. We want parishioners to understand that the forms in the brochure are NOT to be used if you have already given using a pledge card provided at St. Thomasq

Kelly and I also want to try a new method of tracking the contributions this year, which we feel will make it easier for our efforts to be coordinated. We have permission from the diocese to test it. When our drive begins, we will ask you to fill out a simple statement as to the amount of your intended donation and your method of payment, without filling in the actual pledge card. Kelly and I will then fill out each pledge card ourselves, using your information, and will collect them, sending all donations to the Charities Office in one grouping. We ask that no one mail their pledge card directly. We hope that this system will rectify some of the confusion of the past, when some mail-ins were recorded twice, by the Charities Office and in our records as well.

If you have any questions or concerns about this new method, which should provide an accurate tracking of St. Thomasq contributions to Episcopal Charities, please speak to either Kelly or Jean. We thank you for your interest and participation, and look forward to the beginning of our drive!

Kelly Almieda 272-1235
Jean Marz 934-0463



BABY NEWS!!

Allison (Uttley) and Todd Bianco of North Providence proudly announce the birth of their son, Milo Anthony Bianco, born on December 21, 2014! Milo's beaming grandmother is Gigi Uttley and his ecstatic great-grandmother is Isabelle Uttley. Ask them for details and pictures. Congratulations to all!





EPIPHANY PAGEANT DISPLAYS ST. THOMAS' STARS

St. Thomas' 2015 Epiphany Pageant, featuring members of the Sunday School plus Sharon Thompson as the Angel Gabriel and infant twins Lilianna and Dillon Turcotte in the role of Baby Jesus, was a heart-warming portrayal of Jesus' birth and the effects it had on the shepherds, wise men, and animals of the time. A host of angels helped all these groups, as well as Mary and Joseph, "recover" from the startling, life-changing revelations they received, and Sam Placido's narration tied the story together.

Thanks to all our wonderful stars, who included:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Sharon Thompson | Jessica Plante | Caoilinne Gass |
| Kaydence Coupe | Taylor Coupe | Stephanie Kelliher |
| Kayla Kelliher | Jennifer Derosier | Ashleigh Plante |
| Christopher Kelliher | Cole Almieda | Tim Kane |
| Dominic Whitten | Liam Despres | Nate Whitten |
| Riley Whitten | Kimberly Lusignan | Kate Placido |
| Maxton Marz | Craig Derosier | Spencer Alberg |
| Alex Gales | Lilianna & Dillon Turcotte | Sam Placido |

Additional thanks are extended to Kimberly Lusignan, Deb Lusignan, Sharon Thompson, Lori Kane, Lisa Coleman, and Cate Gorman, for all their efforts in bringing this wonderful pageant to life. Thanks to Kimberly for the awesome costumes and a **big** "thank-you" to Jean Marz for the organ accompaniment.

A pot-luck supper after the Pageant was enjoyed by parishioners, cast members, and their families. Have you ever seen so many proud, smiling grandparents? Barb Whitman organized the meal--not an easy task without a kitchen! All in all, it was an evening to be remembered!





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Richard Connor 1
Sam Ciotola 2
John Gallonio 3
Eric Alcusky 5
Hailey Boucher 5
Joyce Grassel 5
Luke Thompson 5
Henry Dziadosz 6

Nan Boulais 12
Jessica Reedy 12
Kaitlyn Turcotte 14
Erica Caswell 15
Christopher Wilson 15
Anna Kitada 17
Kirsten Young 17

Maxton Marz 18
Beverly Connor 21
Emily Ritter 21
Diane Wenskowicz 22
Ann Marie Maguire 25
Connor Kehoe 26
Donald Parker 27
Michaela Fournier 28

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph and Deb D'Angelo 1
Lucien and Barbara Tessier 15
Fred and Sandy Leigh 22
Richard and Anita Coyne 24



BAPTISMS

On Epiphany Sunday, January 11, Reverend Susan baptized infant twins Lilianna and Dillon Turcotte, children of Kaitlyn and Justin Turcotte, at the 10:00 service. The sacrament's administration was eagerly watched by big sister Olivia! May Lilianna and Dillon be filled with God's holy and life-giving spirit. Congratulations to all!

Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church

At Routes 44 and 116
P.O. BOX 505
GREENVILLE, RHODE ISLAND
02828



The Newsletter of St. Thomas Church February 2015

A Reflection from Thomas Merton

Let me seek, then, the gift of silence,
and poverty, and solitude,
where everything I touch is turned into prayer:
where the sky is my prayer,
the birds are my prayer,
the wind in the trees is my prayer,
for God is all in all.



