

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



The Front Page

July 2015

One of my main visions for St. Thomas Church is gently teasing *everyone* into at least one form of ministry. There are so many ways to be involved in the life of this wonderful parish. As new people step up to the plate and tiptoe into volunteer work, there are some great things that happen.

First ó it is a cliché, but it is very true that many hands make light work. Breaking up tasks that need to happen really do make it manageable and pleasant for everyone -- no one need feel overwhelmed, or worse, burned out.

Second -- incredible relationships develop as we get to know someone working shoulder to shoulder. We learn things about one another; we share a little bit of ourselves and discover things in the process.

Third -- it is FUN! There is a misconception out there in the world, folks, that church people sit around in serious prayer all the time! Well, we might do a fair amount of praying, but we certainly are NOT always serious. Or as someone recently said after working in the kitchen during one of our dinners -- "Man, that was SO much fun, what a great bunch of people! Who knew church people could be such a blast --I would do that again in a heartbeat!"

There is, however, one thing I would ask of all of you. There is a tendency when talking about ministry to say this: "Oh, I just _____" You fill in the blank ó "I just washed the dishes for an hour at the dinner." "I just teach Sunday School." "I am just on the Altar Guild." "I just fold the bulletins for Sunday once every four weeks."

I would just like to tell you all that you DON'T need to say "just"! Each task and part of ministry that you do is a piece of the puzzle ó and we need each piece to get the whole picture. You do not "just" do these things ó you are also bearers of the Good News ó equipping others not to be hearers only, but also people who live this message and then bring it to others. And so, I stand and applaud each of you for the good work that you do. We are each members of the Body of Christ ó and that is indeed a sacred privilege!

Blessings, Rev. Susan+



Senior Warden's thoughts....

By Kimberly Murdoch, *Senior Warden*

I wanted to share my experience with Cars4Causes and my contribution to St. Thomas. I had a 10 year old van in need of repairs for inspection which would result in a selling price of 200-300 dollars if I sold it on Craig's List. I contacted Cars4causes. They towed the car from my driveway 3 days later. I received a receipt for a \$1400.00 tax deduction. Approximately 3.5 months later St. Thomas received a check for \$309.00. I would say it was a win-win situation.

I contacted the company and St. Thomas can become a preferred charity. They will place a link on our website for anyone interested in donating cars, trucks, boats, trailers, etc. By using the link, the proceeds check will be a higher percentage than charities not on the list! We will also appear on the Cars4Causes website as a preferred charity. If someone is looking for a charity in Smithfield RI, for example, our name and address appears as an option. This is a free service.

I must admit with many online activities I do not travel in faith. Yes, I cross the line to skepticism. I feel comfortable sharing this now that I have had personal experience. This is one that seems to do the trick and is another way to support our capital campaign in the future.

Enjoy your summer and stay safe my friends.



CITY CAMP VISITS!

This summer, we will again be blessed with hosting City Campers at St. Thomas'. This year we all hit the jackpot with not 1, not 2, but 3 visits!! That means we will be able to serve lunch to over 120 campers! The dates are: Friday, July 17th, Monday July 27th and Friday August 7th. Each day begins with the campers arriving at 11:15 and leaving by 2:30. Announcements will be made in church for what help and food are needed. We will also be collecting healthy snacks and fresh fruit to send home to VERY grateful homes. Stay tuned!



Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Mere words cannot express the level of gratitude that I have for all that you've given me during these past nine months. The blessings, joy, sorrow, and laughs that we all shared, only served to draw us closer in this journey. God, truly, does place persons into our life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.

I'm overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support that you all showed toward my children, and to Paul. I know I can speak on behalf of each of them, when I say your acceptance and willingness to let us be a part of your lives during our time with you, albeit short as it was, is a gift that we will take with us for the rest of our days. I further cannot thank you enough for supporting my ministry with the Afia Center; through your generosity and continued outreach, this will be on-going, despite my departure.

You all have touched our lives in ways that are life changing. Whenever and wherever our personal dark clouds come into our lives, we will think of all the many blessings in our life that were God given, through our time at St. Thomas. And, I'm proud and honored to call you all friends.

-From my final sermon (6/26/15):

I believe Garth Brooks expresses my emotions best in: "It's your song."

"And I remember one time, when I was so afraid, didn't think I had the courage to stand up on this stage. Then you reached into my heart and you found the melody, and if there ever was somebody who made me believe in me, it was you." IT WAS YOU! Simply, as my son so often says, 'You fill me with happiness.'

An Old Irish Prayer:

May God give youí
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sign, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer.



Thank you and may God bless you all.

Faithfully, Jim Kelliher
Diaconal Candidate

"Alphabet Soup Potlucks"

To kick off our Friday fun nights, we are having a series of Alphabet Soup Potluck dinners! We are borrowing an idea from someone who told me about a custom in her former church. There were a series of dinners and they were intended for people to get to know one another in a smaller venue than a whole church event. The way people are divided up for this is by the first letter of their last name! So we will be hosting four fun Friday night dinners in this way!

So here is our schedule:

July 10th - for people whose last names begin with the letters A - D

July 17th - for people whose last names begin with the letters E - L

July 31st - for people whose last names begin with the letters M - S

August 7th - for people whose last names begin with the letters T - Z

The night is from 6:00pm - 9:00pm and is pretty unstructured. There will be some icebreakers and appetizers from 6:00-6:30, and then we will enjoy a dinner of whatever people bring to share. We are keeping this informal and easy - if you want to sign-up to help us to know how many tables to set up, that would be great.

Sometimes we have folks who don't know people from the other services - is this you? Then here is a great opportunity to mingle and get to know some of the other folks who call St. Thomas home. And it is great to have all ages interact - there will be special activities for our kids. See you at church!



(PS - I'm bringing the alphabet soup - I call it!! Rev. Susan+)

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Individual contributions of personal spiritual experiences are welcomed.

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Episcopal 101/Confirmation Classes



What does it mean to be an Episcopalian and an Anglican? Many of us come from different traditions or from no church background at all. There are a lot of things that puzzle even cradle Episcopalians! In this three-part series we will address questions about basic beliefs and traditions in our church. Please come and be part of the discussion - we will *all* learn something and we will get to know one another. There will be some homework each week - but no tests! This series is especially appropriate for those considering Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church, which will be held on September 27th at a service celebrated by Bishop Knisely. A fun book we will be using is "*Those Episkopals*" by Dennis Maynard, available at our first meeting. If you have questions about our faith tradition - then this is the class for you!

<u>Night of the Week:</u>	Wednesday
<u>Time:</u>	7:00-9:00pm
<u>Dates:</u>	July 8 th , July 15 th & July 29 th .
<u>Place:</u>	Parish Hall

"Mass on the Grass"

5:30pm Saturday July 18, 2015



Bring a blanket or your favorite chair (or don't bring a thing - there will also be chairs already set up!) We will gather on the grass to sing some songs with the guitars, hear the Word of God, and break bread together. Why not bring your spouse, grandkids or neighbors to get a chance to introduce them to some of the awesome people at St. Thomas?!

If it rains, we will simply move our casual worship inside. The service will have been preceded by a car wash (see article elsewhere in this newsletter)

Plan on joining us for a lovely, relaxed Eucharist. And come as you are!

Safe Kitchen Training Date Announced!



We will be holding a training class on July 16th at 6:30 PM in the church hall. The purpose of the training is to educate all future users of the kitchen on the various state and local regulations that must be followed. We will also be going over the proper way to clean and sanitize surfaces along with the proper way to handle food from receiving to serving. We will also be going over the use of our new kitchen appliances and accessories.

Attendance at this course is mandatory for all who want to work in the kitchen at any time food is being prepared or served. Only those church members who are properly trained will have access to the kitchen.

It should be a very informative and fun evening and we look forward to seeing you there!

*Henry Dziadosz & Sharon Thompson
Kitchen Committee members*

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A carwash is coming to St. Thomas'!



On Saturday July 18th from 1:00pm-5:00pm we will have an opportunity to have our cars washed in our very own parking lot! One of our parishioners, Owen Placido, has chosen St. Thomas' for his Boy Scout Eagle Project. Owen and his fellow scouts will be painting the inside of our Parish Hall!

Now that we are back to hosting dinners and are using our parish hall more and more, we are delighted that Owen has chosen us for his project. To raise money for the supplies, he must also run a fundraiser. So on July 18th, come on down to the church to have your car washed by a very enthusiastic group of young scouts. (That evening there will be a "Mass on the Grass", so come early and have your car washed!)

JOIN THE FUN WITH PENNY SOCIAL BASKETS!!

Deb Farrar and Phyllis Spaziano, chairs of the bazaar Penny Social, remind us that the 2015 Hollyberry Bazaar is only 20 weeks away, and that it's time to get ready! The Penny Social is always very popular with folks of all ages. What can YOU do to help? As mentioned at church, our plan is to prepare gift baskets which can be part of the Penny Social offerings. Each basket will have a different theme, and items suggested for each category will be listed each month on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Once all items are



collected, they will be assembled in an attractively-wrapped basket and put on display. Something on the list may strike you as something you would like to donate! A labeled box will be available to collect contributions. Have a bit of free time? We would love to have you join the team! Just see Deb or Phyllis.

NEWS BRIEFS

--At its July meeting (Monday, July 20, 6:00pm), St. Thomas' WINGS group (Women In Need of Growing Spiritually) will be making strawberry jam in our new kitchen. Each woman attending will take home a jar of the jam, and the remainder will be sold at the November Bazaar--perhaps starting a new tradition! All women of the church are cordially welcome. Please bring a game to play in case there is down-time while the jam thickens.



--While sorting items for the recent Yard Sale, Phyllis Barton found some photos of a famous person in one of the wallets which was donated. If they belonged to you and you would like them returned, please see Karen Pare.

--Speaking of the Yard Sale, the Men's Club was pleased to announce that proceeds in excess of \$2500 were received, making this the most successful yard sale in St. Thomas' history! The kitchen also made \$200 through food sales. Thanks to the huge crew who sorted through the donations, manned the sale, and cleaned up afterwards. And thanks to all who contributed items and to all who took home some treasures of their own!

--Our new rectory roof is very attractive! Look up and appreciate it the next time you walk past. The next item on the list for Capital Campaign funds is a complete painting of the rectory. This will be an expensive project, as lead paint removal is involved. Painting can begin when sufficient funds are received to pay for it, so please contribute as soon as you are able!

IN MEMORIAM



Our St. Thomas family is saddened by the death of Tyler Vanner on Tuesday, June 16th. Tyler was a paper carrier for the Providence Journal and was a lover of animals, football, and video games. His funeral service was conducted at Highland Memorial Park on June 24 by Reverend Susan. Condolences are extended to Tyler's family, especially his grandmother Elva Vanner, who has been a St. Thomas parishioner for many years. May Tyler find peace in God's heaven.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNIZES <https://smile.amazon.com/> STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



On Sunday, June 28, the last day of Sunday School, St. Thomas held its traditional recognition of the children of our Sunday School and of their teachers. Our Sunday School has grown in recent years, and it is wonderful to see so many of the youth joining their families for communion each week and for the entire service on Youth Sundays. Our young people also take part in services as readers, acolytes, greeters, and gift bearers on a regular basis, as well as singing songs led by Miss Mimi at selected services. By taking part with the adults, they prepare to take on larger roles in the church as they grow up.

The children who participated in this season's Sunday School classes include:

Cole Almieda
Eliza Angelotti
Michael Angelotti
Avery Angelotti
Jake Bowen
Jennifer Derosier
Timothy Kane
Andrew Kelley
Caitlin Kelley
Maxx Doris
Maxton Marz
Nathaniel Whitten
Adelaide Harris

Liam Paquette
Peter Trementozzi
Caoilinn Gass
Adelaide Harris
Samuel Placido
Ashleigh Plante
Jessica Plante
Ella Trementozzi
Emma Tuetken
Kylie Wells
Domenic Whitten
Kate Placido

Stephanie Kelliher
Christopher Kelliher
Michael Herchen
Stephen Herchen
Craig Derosier
Kaydence Coupe
Taylor Coupe
Emma Archambault
Spencer Alberg
Rohan Dhupa
Alexandra Gales
Riley Whitten

Teachers who were recognized include Lisa Coleman, Deb Lusignan, Kim Lusignan, Cate Gorman, Sharon Thompson and Lori Kane. Mimi Freeman was honored as song leader and Deb Farrar as Sunday School Superintendent. Kayla Kelliher was a helper this year with the younger children. The picnic after the service was a chance for our young people to enjoy sweet treats and lots of activity as the year wound down.

Watch for registration for our next year in September, following Labor Day.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Barb Plouffe 6	Eric Croteau 16	Michelle Kelley 23
Justin Turcotte 7	Zachary Wedda 16	Donald Boulais 25
Lisa Coleman 8	Lily Caswell 19	Samantha Gales 25
Lois Whittaker 8	Claudia Amaral 20	Tiffani Herchen 25
Jeff McNulty 12	Olivia Turcotte 21	Jessica Hodgins 25
Riley Whitten 12	Lilianna Turcotte 22	Sarah Thompson 26
Sam Placido 13	Dillon Turcotte 22	Carol Derosier 29
Joe D'Angelo 14	Marsha Cereto 23	Deb Farrar 29
Bob Whitaker 15	Bob Hart 23	Russell Couture 31

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin and Joelle Fournier 13
Sam and Debbie Ciotola 14
Russell and Julia Couture 14
Bob and Jeanne Hart 25
Bob and Sandi Williams 25
John and Janice Crouse 30



RENEWAL OF VOWS



Congratulations to Al and Jean Marz, who celebrated 55 years of marriage by renewing their vows before the congregation at the 10:00 service on Sunday, June 21. Reverend Susan officiated as the couple affirmed the original vows they took on their wedding day. Blessings to them and their family as they continue in their married life!



July 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 HE & Healing service 9:30- noon Crafting group	2	3	4 HAPPY FOURTH Of JULY!! 5:30 HE
5 8:00 HE 9:30 HE	6 7:00pm Wellness ministry	7 6:00-8:00pm Book & Movie Group 7:00- 8:30pm Adult Formation	8 9:00 HE & Healing service 9:30- noon Crafting group 7-9pm Episcopal 101	9 6:30pm Vestry	10 6:00-9:00pm Alphabet Soup	11 5:30 HE
12 8:00 HE 9:30 HE	13 	14 7:00- 8:30pm Adult Formation	15 9:00 HE & Healing service 9:30- noon Crafting group 7-9pm Episcopal 101	16 6:00-8:00pm Safe Kitchen Training Course	17 11:15-2:30 City Camp! 6:00-9:00pm Alphabet Soup	18  5:30 "Mass on the Grass"
19 8:00 HE 9:30 HE	20 6:00-8:00pm WINGS	21 7:00- 8:30pm Adult Formation	22 9:00 HE & Healing service 9:30- noon Crafting group	23	24	25 5:30 HE
26 8:00 HE 9:30 HE	27 11:15-2:30 City Camp! 6:30-8:00 pm Order of St. Luke meeting 8:00 Healing Service	28 7:00- 8:30pm Adult Formation	29 9:00 HE & Healing service 9:30- noon Crafting group 7-9pm Episcopal 101	30 5:30- 7:30 "Taco Thursday!" Dinner by the Altar Guild	31 6:00-9:00pm Alphabet Soup	Coming up: "Mass on the Grass" Sat. August 22nd at 5:30pm

The Newsletter of St. ThomasøChurch

July 2015



Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for 5 Pentecost, BCP