

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church



## ***The Front Page***

February 2019

I am so very honored to have served with our Vestry and with the many other leaders and volunteers who continue to enliven St. Thomas' and offer their time and talents to this transformative, and transforming, community. I am particularly indebted to each member of St. Thomas' who has offered me much grace and many kindnesses in our time together. You have given me boundless encouragement and trust in allowing me to explore various ministry initiatives within our community, following my lead even if you thought I was nuts! The memories of each one of you and the different people who have said yes to the call to be a part of numerous ministries will remain deeply treasured by me. So many of you have truly embodied for me the best of what gathered community can be if rooted in spreading the Good News of God in Christ. Being faithful servants means walking a line between practicality and vision, ultimately trusting in God's goodness to provide the guidance and resources needed to be successful in ministry.

I pray that your experience here, too, is one that empowers each of you to take on service and leadership roles as St. Thomas' continues to mature into the active, multi-faceted community we are called to be in this increasingly complex world. Without each of us coming to know ourselves as both servants and leaders we cannot "*be the change we hope to see in the world*" (Mahatma Gandhi). The world needs what we have to offer! Please continue to be the faithful – and fun - people I have come to know and to love so very much. You will always be my treasured folks, and I will miss you dearly.

A wise friend once told me that we should rejoice if we are grieving a transition, for it means that we have loved-and been loved-where we were. Therefore, I rejoice, and encourage you to follow St. Paul's exhortation to "*Rejoice always; again I say rejoice!*" (Ephesians 4:4). Rejoice with me (and pray for me) as I continue to follow the path of ministry open before me, and rejoice in the wonderful reality - and even more wonderful potential - that is St. Thomas' Church, Greenville, RI. You are simply amazing.

My last services with you as a priest of this community will be Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. On that date I will preach and celebrate at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. (no mascara for me!) One week earlier on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, I will be present at *my* last (but certainly not *the* last) Celtic service at 5:30 p.m. I do hope many of you can join me on those dates to celebrate and to share some fellowship time together. I pray the Celtic services will continue to make your hearts sing, as they have mine.

Know that I will keep you all in prayer and close to my heart. Having loved my priestly service with you here at St. Thomas' so much, be assured that I will draw from the great love and support I have been honored to receive here as I continue in my ministry. Nothing ever dies in God's great economy, and the love and respect we have shared will always be a part of each of us. I leave a piece of my heart here with you all. Always remember, "*Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind.*" May it be so!

With blessings and deep gratitude,  
Susan+



## From the Senior Warden

At the January, 2019 Vestry meeting, as was in the ordinary course of business, Susan opened the meeting with a spiritual exercise. The reading was Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. For many this passage may not be familiar, but if you are of my time vintage you probably remember the song from the group called the Byrds "Turn, Turn, Turn!". This rock and roll song (almost a ballad) is based on this biblical passage.

The opening passage from Ecclesiastes reads *"There is an appointed time for everything..."*

It is the time for Susan to leave St. Thomas' Church. She has dedicated the past nine (9) years to helping the Church at St. Thomas to grow, heal, reflect and develop the community to a wonderful level. Susan has been there for all of us from baptisms to funerals, help when facing personal crisis, celebrating the joys of marriage, counselling in difficult moments, and comforting many of us during sickness and medical crisis. And let us not forget the Bible Challenge, "Susan's teachable moments" as well as the nuances of the little used portions of the Book of Common Prayer. Susan has been a true and wonderful gift to our Church Community.

In our discussion at the January Vestry meeting, one of the questions posed was, "How can the passages above keep us centered?". The consensus was that change is inevitable. How we handle and or embrace change will guide the continuing development of our Church Community.

And so, St. Thomas' now faces a change in its spiritual leadership. No single person is the Church. It is very important to understand that we are a community and we all have gifts to contribute to enhance and enrich everyone's spiritual development. While we can appreciate the good work and gifts Susan has given us, it very important that we embrace the change and challenges that face St. Thomas'.

Finally, a few members have raised questions about the "no contact" portion of Susan's letter. Susan has not done anything wrong. This is a policy of the Diocese, a policy that Diocese and our Bishop strictly follow. The purpose is to keep our next spiritual leader from being inadvertently challenged.

So, it is my sincere wish that the community of St. Thomas' openly embrace the change we face so we can continue the good journey we have undertaken.

Peace to all.

Rick Kyte  
*Senior warden*

## REV. SUSAN'S RETIREMENT PARTY



**Friday, February 15, 2019**  
**6:30 PM in the Church Hall**  
**POTLUCK DINNER**  
**(organized by the Vestry)**



We will be joining together to wish Rev. Susan and Brian a hearty farewell. What a better way than to enjoy a potluck dinner of our favorite dishes! This way we can all sit together as family without the necessity of folks cooking in the kitchen. 😊

Sign-up sheets are on the ministry table, to help with set-up, clean up, decorations, and bringing in our favorite foods - appetizers/salads, main dishes and desserts. (You might want to check out some recipes from our St. Thomas' Cookbook!) Beverages will be provided.

As the event is in the evening and we have some members who do not drive at night, we have a sign-up sheet for anyone who is willing to pick up and bring home these parishioners. See Al Parrillo to sign up to be a driver or if you would like a ride.

If you have any questions, see a Vestry member.

Let's make this a night to remember!





## Celtic Worship Service

The second Sunday evening of each month we continue to worship in the Celtic style. We have an enthusiastic “Worship and Music Guild”. The musicians, led by Kim Murdoch, practice regularly and seem to be having WAY too much fun at rehearsals! They lead us in music, and teach us different songs and hymns at our worship services. And the worship guild members, led by Donna Doris, arrange the church in a way that is conducive to quiet, mystical and transcendent worship.

In these tumultuous times, it seems very timely that we are able to enter into contemplative worship together. It is a wonderful way to start the week. So, grab a friend and plan on joining us for this lovely, candle-lit prayer service on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

ALL are welcome!

## Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather



The decision to cancel Saturday and or Sunday services or ministry meetings is not made lightly! But we always want you to be safe. Many factors go into making the decision – snow, ice, temperature and so on.

We do send out an email based on our database – so if you are not receiving our newsletter electronically, you will not receive the cancellation notices.

To receive cancellation notices – and the newsletter – simply do one of the following:

1. Go online to our website and sign up: [www.stthomasepiscopalri.org](http://www.stthomasepiscopalri.org)
2. Fill out a yellow slip of paper (from the narthex as you enter the church) and drop it into the collection plate at a service.
3. Call the office and leave a message with your email and we will sign you up.

The information will also be posted on the St. Thomas’ Facebook page. We are currently not accessing the RI Broadcaster Association, because they have changed the TV notifications to include a \$100. yearly fee. (Previously there was no charge!) If you know someone who isn't able to access these methods of communication, please contact them to let them know when something is canceled.

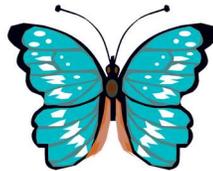
# WINGS Spring Retreat

We have a date for our WINGS RETREAT- "Embracing Change." The dates are March 29th-31st (**NOT** March 22nd-24th, as originally announced) at ECC - the Episcopal Conference Center - in Pascoag, RI. We will arrive between 4 pm and 6 pm on Friday and leave after lunch on Sunday. The cost will be \$165.00 and includes 6 meals, 2 nights stay and the use of all of the facilities.

A \$65. deposit is due ASAP to Karen Pare, with the balance due at the retreat. Checks should be made out to St. Thomas' with "WINGS retreat" on the memo line. Your deposit ensures your spot on the retreat list.

It is first come first served - we have a limit of 22 people. Put this date on your calendar now, and prepare to join us for this wonderful WINGS event, which has such a timely subject for us as St. Thomas' women.

After all, we are a blessing one to one another!



\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of deposit \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ remaining balance \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

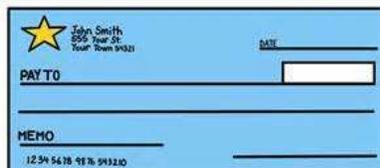
I would like to carpool from St. Thomas': yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to drive from St. Thomas': yes \_\_\_\_\_ I'd rather not! \_\_\_\_\_

Special concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pledging notice**

This is a reminder for those who have pledged financial support to St. Thomas' by deducting their pledge from their checking account. If you have changed your pledge in 2019, please remember **you** must change the amount with your bank. You are the only person who has access to your account, not any parish financial people. Thank you for doing this. (And anyone interested in fulfilling their pledge in this way can simply speak with the treasurer for directions.)



### **No Checks? No Cash? No Problem! Electronic Giving is Here!**

So many people are now making their pledge online! It is helpful for many folks to have this done regularly – would you like to take advantage of this as well? When you go to the St. Thomas' website ([www.stthomasepiscopalri.org](http://www.stthomasepiscopalri.org)) there is a blue button on the right-hand side of the main page labeled "Give Online". Clicking this button will link you to a secure site where you can create an account to have the ability to make donations to your church home.

You can also use the secure Give+ app to make donations from your smart device. Simply download the app, fill in your account information, select St. Thomas' as the recipient of your gift and pick an amount and frequency.

Donations can be made on a one-time or recurring basis. There is also a box to click to help defer the costs involved with credit card processing.

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PO Box 505, Greenville, RI 02828  
Telephone: (401) 949-2260  
Email: [office@stthomasepiscopalri.org](mailto:office@stthomasepiscopalri.org)  
[susan@stthomasepiscopalri.org](mailto:susan@stthomasepiscopalri.org)  
Website: [www.stthomasepiscopalri.org](http://www.stthomasepiscopalri.org)  
Rector: The Reverend Susan M. Carpenter  
Office Hours: Wed., 9am-4pm, or by appointment

## "IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD" WINGS WILL REMEMBER MR. ROGERS



Please join our WINGS group (Women In Need of Spiritual Guidance) on **Wednesday, February 20th** at 6pm in the Parish Hall as we remember Fred Rogers, the iconic originator of "Mr. Rogers'

Neighborhood". A recent docu/movie about Fred's life and works, which delighted audiences and was widely praised, will be shown, and everyone is invited to share their own memories of Mr. Rogers as time permits. He was a warm, caring person with a relaxed manner--balm for many a mother who despaired of other kids' television shows--and he has now been reimagined in the series "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood", which is watched by many of our grandchildren.



If you have any Mr. Rogers books or memorabilia, please bring them to share with the group that night. And if you have any ideas that would carry out the Mr. Rogers theme, please be in touch with Karen Pare. Women of all ages are most welcome!

Please note that we will meet on a Wednesday night this month because the Parish Hall is rented for a private event on Monday.

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to all who attended our property meeting on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. We worked on a maintenance plan that will be ongoing and we finished before our 11:00 deadline!

Look for more details in the March newsletter.

Jacki Zahn ([Jmz222@outlook.com](mailto:Jmz222@outlook.com), 401-651-6401)

Newsletter Editor: Karen Pare: [klplamb24@gmail.com](mailto:klplamb24@gmail.com)

Production Manager: Nancy Burton

Individual contributions of personal, spiritual experiences are welcomed.

## Clothing Shed Outreach continues at St. Thomas'



A reminder that we depend on the clothing donations of many people to fill our clothing shed. It is wonderful to have so many people from around town stop by every day to "feed the clothing shed." Your Vestry voted to have all proceeds go to the Outreach Ministry of St. Thomas', so don't forget to bring your tied bags of usable clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillow cases, blankets, curtains, fabric scraps over a square yard and stuffed animals to our drop-off shed. St. Thomas' is reimbursed 4 cents per pound of donations, and all of these items will go to new homes with folks who need them. And a BIG thank-you to David Placido who regularly pushes the clothing bags to the side to make room for more!

And thank you all for "feeding the clothing shed"!



## ECC: Summer 2019 Registration

Summer Camp Registration for 2019 at the Episcopal Conference Center is now open! ECC offers transformative programs for all ages. Check out their website for more details. Scholarships are always available for this most worthwhile experience.





## A LOVE LETTER TO SUSAN

“Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us” ...no better words to live by and no better way to express what Susan has taught me these past nine years. My heart has certainly been gladdened by this wonderful woman who took that heart the first day I met her. I walked into the Rectory on a sunny afternoon and quizzed her with forthright abandon, testing her to see if she was a fuddy-duddy or just ordinary, like me: She proved to be neither.

There’s nothing fuddy-duddy about Susan, she exudes familiarity without even trying. She offers comfort with just a smile, and if she were to hold your hand, or wipe away your tears you would forever remember how she made you feel. She could make me feel better even when the greatest fears filled my being and I grappled with life itself. An hour spent with Susan was always an hour I would not have wanted to spend with anyone else. No one at all.

Likewise, there is nothing ordinary about our lovely Susan. To take on the task of being so much to so many would have been an insurmountable task to an ordinary person, but Susan has a God-given gift of “Giving” that extends far beyond the definition of the word itself. She gives herself to whomever she meets, guiding without judging, soothing without smothering and listening with ears only for your words.

Susan is fluid. She is organic. She is comfortable in her own skin. She is soft, with a heart as big as her smile. She hums constantly, usually hymns and with joy. She is joyful. She is joyous. She spreads joy to those who walk the way with her. She gladdens the lives of many.

“So be swift to love and make haste to be kind”....I love Susan. I love the path she has forged with me, as I am sure she has with many of us. I have loved having Susan in my life. I will always love her. Susan’s love of her church is the very core of her. I cannot say that I am as devoted as she, but with her guidance, I have certainly grown spiritually and with a far greater appreciation of faith and the love that God shows us all. By my saying that, I can see Susan smile because she has done her “job” with me. How many times would I profess that I am “not religious” and she would shake her head at me and say “I beg to differ”. So many times.....And here I say that Susan has brought me on a journey where I myself have embraced my faith, it wasn’t thrust upon me, but I found it myself. I love Susan for helping me realize this. I just love Susan.

When I heard that Susan was leaving, I cried. I was in a car, driving through the Florida Keys and everything was bright and sunny. My heart sank and I cried. Jon and the kids looked at me with horror, thinking that someone had died, and at that instant it felt as if someone had. I was well aware that Susan

leaving St. Thomas' would mean no future casual contact with her and I was not ready to have her taken from my life. To be sure, I felt panicky and my family all knew how much I hurt. Shock turned to anger when the realization set in that Susan would not physically be in my life anymore. I truly felt the need to grieve her loss.

Susan is very courageous. She is very strong for such a wee thing. She is not saying goodbye to one person as am I, but she is saying goodbye to a couple of hundred. Many of you have known her for decades (how blessed are you?) and she has known you too. So many have been a huge part of her life and now she has to say goodbye to so many...that's a gutsy move. I am so happy that she is going to spend more time with her family – she is going to gladden their lives on a much more frequent schedule and that is perfect.

It is going to be difficult to say goodbye one last time. Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February is going to be a humdinger for the emotions for us all. I love you Susan. I am going to miss you incredibly and I think I speak for the vast majority of your peeps when I say you have meant so very much to us, touching our lives in so many ways and with selfless efforts to make the world a better place for us all.

Susan, thank you for all, for everything and for being YOU. Thank you, God, for giving us Susan – life is indeed short and we have been truly blessed to know her.

Fondly yours, Sharon (Thompson)



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Samuel Ciotola 2

John Gallonio 3

Erica Pease 3

Hailey Boucher 5

Joyce Grassel 5

Lillian Rogers 5

Luke Thompson 5

Henry Dziadosz 6

Nathaniel Whitten 6

Shelby Pease 8

Zoe Pouliot 8

Julia Smith 10

Janine Boyd 11

Nancy Boulais 12

Kaitlyn Turcotte 14

Arlene Garrison 15

Anna Kitada 17

Kirsten Young 17

Maxton Marz 18

Beverly Connor 21

Emily Ritter 21

Michelle Carrara 22

Elyse Accetturo 23

Ann Marie Maguire 25

Emily Grace 26

Connor Kehoe 26

Donald Parker 27

Nicholas Ray 28

## FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph and Deb D'Angelo 1  
 Stephen and Julia Smith 11  
 Lucien and Barbara Tessier 15  
 Fred and Sandy Leigh 22  
 Richard and Anita Coyne 24



## HOLY BAPTISMS



At the 10:00 service on the Day of Epiphany, January 6, three parishioners were welcomed into the St. Thomas' Christian Family by Reverend Susan through the sacrament of Baptism. Newly received into the household of God were Diamantino David Carrara, infant son of Jason and Michelle Carrara; Shelby Marie Pease, toddler daughter of Aaron and Erica Pease, and adult Aaron Michael Pease.

Congratulations to the newly-baptized! May they know God's blessings each day of their lives.

## February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						5:30—HE

# February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> <b>8:00 HE</b> <b>10:00 HE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:00-8:00pm Book & Movie Group	<b>6</b> <b>9:00 HE &amp;                      Healing service</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Vestry	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:00pm Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>10</b> <b>8:00 HE</b> 9:45 Sunday School <b>10:00 HE</b> <b>5:30 Celtic                      Service</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>9:00 HE &amp;                      Healing service</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Rev. Susan's "Good-bye Event"	<b>16</b> <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>17</b> <b>8:00 HE</b> 9:45 Sunday School <b>10:00 HE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:00 HE &amp;                      Healing service</b>  6:00-8:00pm WINGS	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>24</b> <b>8:00 HE</b> 9:45 Sunday School <b>10:00 HE</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30-8:00pm Order of St. Luke meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9:00 HE &amp;                      Healing service</b>	<b>28</b> 		

Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church

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



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' CHURCH  
February 2019

A Meditation

May the presence of God  
inspire your thoughts.  
May the wisdom of God  
inspire your words.  
May the love of God  
inspire your actions,  
that you might become  
a blessing to others,  
and in turn be blessed.



John Birch, [faithandworship.com](http://faithandworship.com)