

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church



**April 2019**

## *A Word from Pastor Sandra D'Amico*

I look forward to walking with you as a “supply priest” through the season of Lent to the joy of Easter. Father Bill Locke will join you after Easter as an “intentional interim priest” for a longer term on the next leg of your journey. It is our honor to serve you during this time of transition.

Here’s what I know about St. Thomas after my first week here: Good and Kind Church; A place that cares for one another and those in need, with a joyful spirit.

Here’s some info about me: I am a lifelong Rhode Islander, blessed with two daughters, and a newborn granddaughter (Miss Hazel)! I grew up in South County and currently reside in Warwick near where “Rocky Point used to be”!

I grew up as a Lutheran, graduated from The Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge MA, was ordained as an ELCA Lutheran pastor, and here I am with you as an Episcopal supply priest. How is that all possible? The U.S. Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran churches now share a “common mission,” which honors our different expressions. It’s called “Call to Common Mission’ which honors our common call to love and serve the church and world, in a partnership that honors our differences, and unites us in what does not divide us.

My role at St. Thomas, as a part-time Supply Priest, is primarily to serve worship services, provide urgent care, and support your leaders. If you need to reach out, contact me at:

Email: [pr.sdamico@gmail.com](mailto:pr.sdamico@gmail.com) Mobile/Text: 401-486-2423

Or if you wish to see what I am thinking and talking about on social media:

Facebook: Sandra D’Amico

Instagram: @dogwalkerprayers

Tumblr: “Journey With the Beloved” <http://sandraldamico.tumblr.com>

*May God bless you and keep you, in peace on this holy journey.  
Pastor Sandra D’Amico*

## Further information about the Lutheran Church

Questions have come up about the Lutheran church and its beliefs. This chart illustrates the differences between the ELCA and the Missouri Synod. (Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Smithfield is part of the Missouri Synod.)

Missouri Synod	ELCA
Do not allow women and homosexuals to become pastors	Allow women and homosexuals to become pastors
Members of other Protestant denominations are not welcome to communion at Missouri Synod altars	Members of other Protestant denominations are welcome to communion at ELCA altars
Abortion is considered a sin	Abortion is not considered a sin
Condemns non-traditional interpretations of the Lord's Supper	Accepts contrarian views on presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper
Preach only traditional Lutheran doctrines	Allow for variations in preaching the Lutheran doctrines
The Bible is the God's Word	The Bible can be subject to interpretation

For more information:

<https://theydiffer.com/difference-between-missouri-synod-and-elca/>

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/full-communion-partners>



- **Thursday**, April 18, 6:30pm. ***Maundy Thursday*** Eucharist
- **Friday**, April 19, noon and 6:30pm. ***Good Friday*** liturgy
- **Sunday**, April 21, 8am. and 10am. ***Easter Day!***



## What's Going On?

**(An update on what is happening at St. Thomas' as we begin to look for a new Priest.)  
April 2019**

### **Thank You**

The Vestry thanks all of you who are holding our Discernment Process in your prayers at this time. Your prayers are needed and we hope that you will continue to pray for all those who are involved in the Discernment Process in the weeks and months ahead.

### **Discerning Team Membership**

The Vestry also thanks all of you who prayerfully considered and put your name forward to be considered for membership in the teams that will be responsible for the process of finding a new priest for St. Thomas'. Thanks too, to those of you who prayerfully considered membership in a team but discerned that God was not calling you to serve in this way, at this time.

On Sunday, March 24, 2019 the Vestry met with Canon Linda Grenz to begin the process of discerning members for the teams that will do the work needed to find a new priest (i.e., communication, discernment, portfolio, prayer, welcome, website update). Canon Grenz has led other Vestry members through this process many times, and although the process was time consuming, our Vestry, like other Vestries, found the process interesting and effective.

This is the process through which Canon Grenz led the Vestry. Following a group prayer, each Vestry member silently and prayerfully considered the names of those who had indicated a desire to participate in a team. Vestry members also prayerfully considered other St. Thomas' members for team membership. During this time, Canon Grenz held the Vestry in prayer. Continuing in silence, each Vestry member then indicated their suggested team members by placing sticky notes on flip chart pages. Once that task was complete, Canon Grenz assisted the Vestry in prayerfully discerning which of the suggested participants should be approached about 1) participating in the various teams and 2) chairing the various teams. Additional participants were identified who will be approached, should the people whom the Vestry has identified discern through prayer, that they are not called to serve in this way at this time. The meeting concluded with prayer.

Vestry members have now begun the process of contacting proposed team members. Proposed team members will be asked to pray for about a week whether or not God is calling them to serve in this way. The Vestry member will also pray for the proposed member during this time. After a period of prayer and deliberation, the Vestry member will ask the proposed team member for their answer. The Vestry member will not attempt to persuade the proposed team member to serve on any team.

The Vestry hopes to be able to announce team membership by Palm Sunday.

### **Other Questions and Answers**

1. How will I have input on who the new priest will be?

Part of the responsibility of the Portfolio Team will be to gather data from the congregation. The Portfolio Team is expected to consider this information as they develop the list of qualities and characteristics we are looking for in a new priest. Therefore, please prayerfully consider the qualities and characteristics you believe are important in a new priest and be prepared to share this information with the Portfolio Team. As soon as the Portfolio Team members are discerned, the Team will begin to meet 1- 2 times per week until the end of June.

2. Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns?

Please contact our Senior or Junior Warden (Senior: Rick Kyte; rkyte1@cox.net; 401-954-2765; Junior: Jacki Zahn; jmz222@outlook.com; 401-651-6401).

The Vestry welcomes all of your questions. It is very likely there are others who have the same question, and we look forward to answering them in future newsletters.

### **MY DISCERNMENT DAY EXPERIENCE**

Parishioner Erica Pease recently attended the first diocesan Discernment Workshop, held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich. She offers these reflections:

"I would highly recommend the discernment days offered by the Reverends Pam and Jennifer. The day was centered around beginning one's spiritual autobiography; an introspective on the way God has touched you or led you in your life. It is a novel perspective that most would never think of trying. Pam and Jennifer provide a really inviting space to talk about God in your life in a way you normally wouldn't. The season of change we're beginning as a parish coincides nicely with this workshop, where you begin to learn how to interpret God's will for you. If nothing else, you get to meet like-minded people from parishes outside St. Thomas"



Just a reminder that a second Discernment workshop is being offered on Saturday, April 6, at St. John's in Barrington from 9am to 3pm. See Deacon Grace for further information.

**In Transition (2)**

**Rick Kyte, Senior Warden**

At the recent vestry retreat at ECC, although discussion focused on the future of St. Thomas', someone mentioned the importance of remembering what the St. Thomas' community has accomplished in the recent past. Here is a list of the major highlights:

--The heating system has been converted from oil-fired furnace in the church, church hall and rectory.

--Smart thermostats installed.

--Alarm system now meets code standards.

--Bell tower glass replaced.

--Updated carillon

--Installation of organ donated by Trinity, including refurbishment of speakers and "voicing" organ

--Stained glass windows in the church have been refurbished.

--New Rectory roof installed.

--Rectory painted; lead paint eliminated

--Sound systems installed in both the Church and church hall. Also a digital projector in the hall.

--Windows added to the classroom doors.

--Prayer room in hall basement

--New garage door

--New sensor activated lighting on garage

--Internet coverage in rectory and hall

--Ability to take credit card payments at church events

--Ability to receive online pledges and donations

**AND** very importantly:

**--Kitchen upgrade: Fire suppression system and vent hood, new appliances, new floor and counters installed to meet RI Department of Health Code.**

These improvements are tangible proof of the wonderful support of the church community of St. Thomas'!

## Way of Love Workshop is Inspiring!



On February 16, several members of St. Thomas joined approximately 150 people from throughout the diocese at St. Mary's, Portsmouth. They were there to learn more about the Way of Love and how to integrate its principles into their own lives and their congregations. Seven laypeople and clergy shared ways in which they try to live out one of the Way of Love practices: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest. There were accounts of praying, such as using coloring as expression, the Celtic services initiated here at St. Thomas', turning to God after experiencing a health crisis, and more.

There are hopes that congregations will find ways to implement these practices, and perhaps join with other congregations in sharing their resources and ideas. The diocese through the Congregational Development Commission (CDC) is providing materials that will be updated every three months on the diocesan website ([www.episcopalri.org](http://www.episcopalri.org)). Also, funding will be available from the CDC to create programs related to this initiative. Stay tuned as St. Thomas' explores more ways to live into the Jesus-centered Way of Love.

*--Phyllis Spaziano*

## New Faces at St. Thomas'

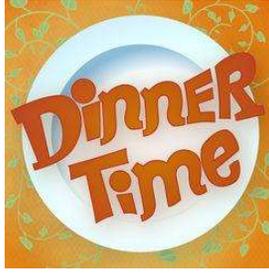
Besides our new supply pastor, Sandra D'Amico, you might run into some other new faces at St. Thomas' these days! **Anne Browning** is our new parish administrator. She resides in North Providence and will be training with Joan until Joan's retirement date in April. (Joan will continue to be available to Anne even after that date when questions arise!) We will feature a short bio of Anne in the next newsletter. Drop into the office and wish her well when you have a chance!



**Brenda Boisvert** and **Lisa Burns** are our new cleaning service ladies. They will be cleaning the church and parish hall each Friday morning between 7:30am and noon. If you happen to see them, make sure you say "Hi!"

**Property Committee** will meet Saturday, April 27, from 9 to 11am.

**Flower Power Fundraiser** has been postponed because the company has been sold and the new owners are still organizing. Stay tuned for updates!



Join us for a delicious dinner of  
**“PEASANT PORK”**  
With Buttered Noodles, Salad Bar, Rolls and  
HomeMade Apple Pie.

“Peasant Pork” is tender sliced pork tenderloin  
simmered slowly in a sauce of tomatoes, mushrooms  
and sour cream and served over buttered egg noodles.

**Saturday, April 13**  
**5:00pm – 7:00pm**

Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased after each service.



Our Annual May Breakfast will be held on

**Saturday, May 4**

**8:00am – 11:00am**

**Buffet Style**

Scrambled Eggs, Corned Beef Hash, Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes, Home  
Fries,

Coffee & Juice

**\$9 per person**



## USING THE HALL OR KITCHEN

As the St. Thomas' calendar fills with events and meetings, it is important that we do not run into double-booking situations..... If you are planning to use either the Hall or Kitchen, please follow these guidelines:

--**Check the Calendar** in the Rectory to make sure Hall or Kitchen is free.

--**Fill out** a Request to Use the Hall/Kitchen Form (packets are located on the Ministry Table) and **submit for approval** (Instructions are included in packet).

--**If a raffle is involved**, also **submit an application to the RI State Police**. (Forms are in hutch behind Ministry Table.) **Post the license next to the raffle items(s)**.

--Fundraising events will also require the submittal of **Expense & Revenue forms** following the event.

--Once approved, ensure that the event is posted on the **Calendar** in the Rectory as well as **emailed to our Church Administrator**, Anne Browning, at [office@stthomasepiscopalri.org](mailto:office@stthomasepiscopalri.org)

Forms should be submitted as soon as you start planning your event, but at least **2 weeks** prior to the date.

**Any questions? Contact Sharon Thompson or Carolyn Villanova**

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PO Box 505, Greenville, RI 02828

Telephone: (401) 949-2260

Email: [office@stthomasepiscopalri.org](mailto:office@stthomasepiscopalri.org)

The Rev'd Sandra D'Amico, Supply Pastor

Office Hours: Wed., 9am-4pm, or by appointment



**Just in time for**

**EASTER!**

**Saturday, April 20**

**9am -12pm**

**Cakes, Cupcakes, Maids of Honor, Cookies  
and Bagged Treats!**

**Would you like to Bake or Decorate? See the sign-up sheet in  
the Parish Hall**



**The Sound of Music Sing-Along**

**(Who doesn't know all the songs?)**

Join us as we watch the movie and sing all those wonderful tunes!

**Sunday, April 28, 2:00-5:00**

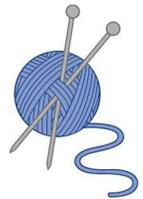
**\$7 per person; refreshments at intermission**

## WINGS TO ATTEND PLAY



St. Thomas' WINGS group (Women in Need of Growing Spiritually = you + me!) will have a special meeting on Sunday, April 28, when they attend an original play at St. Paul's Church in Pawtucket. Entitled "Packing Orders", the play chronicles one woman's reaction to a forced move after having lived in one place for 30 years. The play was written by, and stars, Deacon Grace's sister-in-law, Claudine Cossin-Jellison, a talented member of a family of actors. It is part of St. Paul's week-long celebration of the performing arts, which will include a yoga session done to Taize music!

Please meet in the church parking lot at 3:00 to carpool for the 4:00 performance, or you may meet us there. Sign up on the Ministry Table. After the play we will have dinner at a restaurant chosen by the group. All women of St. Thomas' are warmly invited to share this enjoyable afternoon, with its theme of change that will resonate with us all!



## NEW ACTIVITIES OFFERED!

Have you always wanted to learn to **knit**? Are you a knitter who needs to polish up your skills or try a more challenging pattern? If so, we have just the group for you! Julia Couture is starting a group for knitters of all levels, to be held at a time that is mutually convenient for all. Beginners will be given a pair of needles and a small ball of yarn to learn with, while more experienced knitters are invited to bring yarn and a pattern of their choice, or a project which is underway. Julia will help you pick up those dropped stitches which can be so discouraging! Sign up in the parish hall or see Julia directly for more information. (710-7179)



Starting on Wednesday, April 10 at 10am, St. Thomas' will offer a weekly class in **Tai Chi**, taught by instructor Carl Davies. The group will meet in the large Sunday School room downstairs in the parish hall, and is free of charge. Please wear casual clothing. Originally developed as a form of self-defense, tai chi has evolved into a graceful exercise of gentle, flowing movements designed to reduce stress. Why not give it a try? See Mimi Freeman with questions. (233-0274)



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Briana Robinson 4  
 Richard Kyte 7  
 Beverly Wilson 7  
 Ronald Slocum 8  
 Albert Marz 9

Linda Packer 10  
 Adrienne Harris 12  
 Philip Pare 13  
 Jackson LeBlanc 14  
 Donna Myers 19

Joelle Fournier 20  
 Dennis Blais 24  
 Ella Trementozzi 25  
 Carol Slocum 26  
 Eugene Slocum 28

### APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Ed and Jean-Marie Daniels 9  
 Larry and Kim Murdoch 11  
 Mark and Leigh-Ann Plante 15  
 Peter and Beth Trementozzi 21  
 David and Lisa Coleman 22  
 Timothy and Lori Kane 25  
 Dan and Tina McCormick 27



### IN MEMORIAM

Our Christian sympathies are extended to Vestry member Donna Stolasz on the death of her daughter, Christine Paupst, on March 1. Christine was a woman who lived life to the fullest in her job as car salesperson and in her relationships with family and her many friends. She is survived by her mother, her father, a sister, three children, extended family, and a multitude of friends. Reverend Sandra conducted Christine's Memorial Service at St. Thomas' on Saturday, March 23. May she be numbered among the angels in God's heavenly kingdom.



## 2019 Easter Flower Memorials



You may want to remember a loved one or give in thanksgiving for an occasion or special happening in your life with an Easter plant memorial.

The amount of your donation is up to you. Names of loved ones you honor or remember will be printed on an insert in the Easter bulletin.

Forms are due in the parish office

**No later than Sunday, April 7, 2019**

To contribute flowers, fill out this form and drop it in the plate on Sunday, or mail it to the parish office with your donation.

Please make the checks payable to **St. Thomas' Episcopal Church** with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

IN MEMORY OF:

---

---

---

---

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

---

---

---

---

Donation by \_\_\_\_\_  
phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, PO Box 505, Greenville, RI 02828

## APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  6:00-8:00pm Book and Movie Group	<b>3</b> 9:00 <b>Healing Service &amp; HE</b> 9:30—2:00pm Crafting group 7:00-8:15pm School of Discipleship	<b>4</b> 10:00-11:15am School of Discipleship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9am-3pm Discernment Class, St. John's, Barrington  <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>7</b> 8:00 HE 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 HE 5:30pm Celtic Service	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 <b>Healing Service &amp; HE</b> 9:30—2:00pm Crafting group 10:00 Tai Chi 7:00-8:15pm School of Discipleship	<b>11</b> 10:00-11:15am School of Discipleship  6:30pm Vestry	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 4:00pm Caregiver Support Group  5:00-7:00 Pork Dinner  <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>14</b> Palm Sunday 8:00 HE  10:00 HE	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 <b>Healing Service &amp; HE</b> 9:30—2:00pm Crafting group 10:00 Tai Chi	<b>18</b> Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm	<b>19</b> Good Friday Service Noon and 6:30pm	<b>20</b> 9am-noon Easter Bake Sale
<b>21</b> Easter Sunday  8:00 HE  10:00 HE	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30-8:00pm Order of St. Luke meeting  	<b>24</b> 9:00 Healing Service & HE 9:30—2:00pm Crafting group  10:00 Tai Chi	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9-11am Property Committee Mtg.
<b>28</b> 8:00 HE 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 HE 2-5pm Sound of Music 3:00 WINGS play	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church

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



The Newsletter of St. Thomas' Church  
April 2019

