

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church



**June 2019**

## **ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

### **Special Church Meeting**

**Sunday, June 2, 2019**

**Call to Order 11:31 a.m.**

**Opening prayer offered by Rev. Canon Linda Grenz**

**The church's mission statement was read by Sr. Warden, Richard Kyte**

**Approval of the Agenda:** M-S-A-after a question was asked regarding the committees and if they would be discussed at this meeting. Which was yes.

#### **Interim Priest –**

--Rev. Canon Grenz began by explaining that there had been a turn in the process. She gave a synopsis of the history of how the Parish has gotten to this point.

--The planned Interim Priest was too expensive.

--A solution has been found in Rev Liz Habacker, who is retired and does not need health insurance or pension. She also would be available on a part time basis. With a decrease in pledges and current financial circumstances, this interim would ease financial pressures and avoid a deficit.

--Avoiding a deficit is important in recruiting a new priest.

--Questions were raised and addressed.

--Thanks was offered to the vestry for being financially prudent in this process.

--Rev. Canon Grenz offered reassurance that this Parish would be fine.

--The plan is that Rev. Habacker would be brought in ASAP after meeting with the Sr. Warden.

#### **Discernment Process-**

--Rev. Canon Linda Grenz explained an option available to us rather than calling a rector through the Discernment Process: Priest-In-Charge

--Priest-in-Charge can come in for 1-2 years and then be called as the rector.

--This means that the Portfolio Committee will proceed. There are twelve questions that they are working on.

- We will be listed on two databases: One is Regional, the other National.
- The Regional database only requires answers to three questions and Rev Canon Grenz has already listed our parish on this site. There has been one application so far. The National database utilizes the Portfolio with the 12 questions.
- There is a tighter timeline with this process-meaning a few months with a candidate possibly by the fall vs 9 months. The vestry can interview and hire the candidate.
- Ideally, there are two candidates to choose from.
- Although, Rev Canon Grenz officially retires July 9, she has agreed to continue to search for our priest post retirement.
- The Priest-in-Charge is a contract that can be converted to Rector whenever the vestry, priest, and bishop agree but often that happens at the end of the first year with the normal mutual ministry review.
  - The goal and priority here are to stabilize the parish between Rev. Habacker and then the Priest-in-Charge.
  - It was offered that Rev. Susan was originally a Priest-in-Charge here.
  - The new Priest-in-Charge would be full time.
  - Marty Brown offered details about the portfolio-the questions allow parishioners to let their opinions known of what they are seeking in a new priest.
  - These questions will go out to parishioners via email, by mail to those who get newsletters by mail, and will also be handed out in church.
  - A few parishioners mentioned that they aren't receiving parish email. Those attending were asked to give Jacki Zahn their name and information if they did not receive the announcement regarding this meeting as it was mentioned to all parishioners. Then their information will be checked in the database.
  - It was stressed that everyone needs to participate and answer these questions – no one can assume that their opinion and position is represented.
  - All the committees will still be utilized except for the Discernment Committee at this point. If the Priest-in-Charge is not successful, this committee will be reactivated.
  - The prayer team will be responsible for praying when the Vestry interviews the candidates.
  - The Welcome Committee should begin meeting soon as they will be needed sooner than originally anticipated.
  - The Website Committee needs to update the website
  - The Communication Committee is needed as much as ever.
  - The Parish will be responsible for paying for the move of the new priest. It is estimated that it costs \$8,000 to move a priest who lives east of the Mississippi and it costs \$10,000 to move a priest who lives west of it.
  - There was a question raised about utilizing the rectory if it is needed-Rick Kyte, Senior Warden, stated that if it is needed, a revolving loan is under consideration. This has been a topic of discussion for the vestry. Also, a Priest-in-Charge would likely rent housing initially.

--Most clergy would prefer a call to be a rector due to stability, but more parishes are going to Priest-in-Charge.

--Rev. Canon Grenz explained that there are basically two types of priests

--Professional-where they are on a career path-priest-canon-bishop

--Vocational-where they are discerning where God is calling them. A Priest-in-Charge is most likely to come from this category. Bishop Knisley and Rev Canon Grenz are more inclined to priests who fall into the vocational model.

-- A motion from Rick Kyte was presented: **Motion to authorize, the Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer to pursue engagement of the Rev. Liz Habecker as a part-time interim consistent with no requirement of health services, insurance, and pension. This engagement will be modeled on the guidelines established by the Episcopal Diocese of RI and subject to ratification by the vestry. M-S-A**

--Rick Kyte will be meeting with Rev. Liz Habecker this Thursday, June 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

**Motion to adjourn at 12:03 p.m. M-S-A**

**Faithfully submitted by Phyllis Spaziano**

## YOUR OPINION MATTERS!



Within the next two weeks the Portfolio Committee will be asking each of you to fill out two easy questionnaires which will help our parish find a rector who will be a good fit for St. Thomas' We will be distributing the forms at our regular Saturday and Sunday services, sending them out via our email mailing list, and mailing them by USPS to the small number of folks who receive the Newsletter by mail, due to infirmity. (This is only 17 people.) Please fill out the forms and return them by the end of June, so the committee will know what attributes/talents you would like to see in our next rector. You may mail your response to the church office or leave it in the large labeled container in the parish hall. **Please do not reply electronically, because these responses are harder to tabulate!** We want to hear from everyone! And many thanks to the members of the Committee for all their hard work.



The good weather has finally arrived, and to celebrate the occasion, St. Thomas' has planned a festive June celebration on the side lawn. Join us on Sunday, June 9th, after the 10am service, for an old-fashioned picnic, complete with food, fun, and games. We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and buns, while YOU can bring side dishes (salads, desserts, snacks, etc.) to complete the meal. Tables will be set up under the trees for fellowship, and children are encouraged to run free in the grass, play tag, or just let all their energy out. All are welcome, and a good time is guaranteed for all. See you there!

## ST. THOMAS' GIFT CARD RAFFLE

(Fundraiser sponsored by the Vestry)

Gift cards with a total value of \$750.00 will be raffled off as **One Grand Prize** on Sunday, July 14th, after the 10am service. Tickets cost \$25 each and will go on sale at the church picnic (June 9th). **Only 80 tickets will be sold!**



(Cards will include Amazon, Lowe's, Greenville Inn, Lindy's Tavern, Laura's Diner, Wright's Chicken Farm, Dave's Marketplace, Dunkin Donuts, Wright's Dairy Farm, Stop and Shop, Mai Thai Cuisine, Kohl's and Newport Creamery.)

Thanks to all who donated cards to the raffle!

## HATS OFF TO OUR GRADUATES!!



Again this year, St. Thomas' is pleased to honor the children and grandchildren of St. Thomas' parishioners who have completed a course of educational study at some level. Be sure to congratulate the proud relatives of these grads, recognizing that it "takes a village" to raise and educate our youth!

Two youngsters will finish their preschool studies at The Learning Place in Chepachet and begin kindergarten in the fall. **Fisk Sweeney**, the grandson of Jacki Zahn, will attend Austin T. Levy School in Harrisville. **Reid Tancrelle**, grandson of Karen and Philip Pare, will be a student at Raymond LaPerche School in Smithfield. Congratulations, Fisk and Reid!

Amanda and Shawn Scott have two grads in their family! **Thomas Scott** is completing elementary school at Clayville School in Scituate and will be moving up to Scituate Middle School. Also **Samuel Boswell** has recently graduated from the Boston Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree, majoring in Tuba Performance. In the fall he will be moving to Montreal, Canada, where he will continue his studies toward a Master's degree in the same field at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University. We wish them the best of luck!

**Zack Fontaine**, grandson of Phyllis Barton, is graduating from Coventry High School, where he has participated in the Junior Air Patrol for four years. Zack will further pursue this interest as he enlists in the US Air Force after finishing high school. Aim high, Zack!

Jean and Al Marz are proud to announce the graduation of their granddaughter, **Katherine Anne Ragosta**, from Sewanee University of the South in Tennessee. Katherine majored in Art History and minored in French. Here's to a bright future, Katherine!



## WINGS PLANS SALAD DINNER, UNDERTAKES OUTREACH EFFORT



St. Thomas' WINGS group (Women In Need of Growing Spiritually) will be meeting on Monday, June 17 from 6 to 8 in the church parish hall. On the agenda is making plans for some special events during the summer months to take advantage of the warm weather! Before getting down to business we will enjoy sharing fellowship with a salad dinner. Please bring your favorite salad, whether it be meat, veggies, or fruit--or jello! The evening will end with Compline in the church. All women of St. Thomas' are warmly welcomed!

At their May meeting the group made Blessing Bags--cloth bags filled with small food and toiletry items which are given to homeless people in need of basics. They plan for this to be an ongoing outreach ministry to address the problem of homelessness in RI. A bulletin board in the parish hall highlights some of the details, including the fact that in RI over 1000 people each night have nowhere to sleep. You can help by donating any small items (list is on the board) to the group. They may be given to Carolyn Villanova or Karen Pare. Stay tuned for more information on this project as definite plans are developed.



## MORE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**"We're Just People"**, a tailgate inner-city ministry run by parishioner Barbara Flanagan and a friend, are always looking for contributions of food-related items which they distribute several times weekly. You can help by buying:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Stop and Shop gift cards | Marshmallow fluff  |
| Bottled water (24-pack)  | Plastic spoons   |
| Mayonnaise               | Ziplock sandwich bags  |
| Canned tuna              | Regular sandwich bags  |
| Pasta sauce              | Small styrofoam bowls  |
| Grape jelly              | Aluminum foil sheets (Dollar Tree sells them<br>by the box.) |

You may give your donations to Barbara at the 8am service or leave them in the parish hall with her name on them. Many, many thanks!



## CITY CAMP ALERT

Before you know it, our first City Camp group will be arriving at St. Thomas'. Within the next few weeks, a list of snack suggestions will be posted on the Outreach board in the parish hall. Just in case you don't know, we send each City Camper home with a grocery bag full of healthy snacks (and maybe a little candy as well!). We need to plan for 60 children at each session.

Here is a short list of possible donations: granola bars, Chef Boyardee canned meals, Cuties (small oranges), fruit cups, individual packs of nuts, pudding cups, popcorn. Please no perishable items aside from the Cuties. Also please be sure that the "Best by..." date is after September 1. If you would prefer to donate cash, I would be happy to buy snacks for you.

As we get closer to the visits, there will also be sign-up sheets for volunteers. One of the most heartwarming parts of the day is often sitting and eating lunch with the campers. They enjoy the adult attention and the chance to chat and share a meal together. A simple task such as teaching a child how to butter a piece of bread can create a bond!

The City Camp visits will be on Tuesdays: July 16, July 30, and August 13, so mark your calendar now.

Thanks, Marty Brown



## CRAFTS AT HOME

Do you like to do crafts, but can't come to the regularly scheduled crafting sessions? The Crafting Group would like to invite you to try making an easy craft in the comfort of your own home on your own schedule. We will supply directions and a materials list. If you wish, you may pay for the supplies yourself, but we will supply them if you prefer. Please contact Marty Brown if interested. (949-1272)



## CHURCH BEYOND THE WALLS UPDATE

During our May service date, St. Thomas' volunteers to this downtown Providence worship community shared Eucharist and served sandwiches to more than 70 men, women, and children. Guests gave their thanksgivings for Reverend Linda's sermon and for the food as well.

Your past issues of "Forward Day by Day" can find new life through the CBW outreach committee. A great way to recycle! Please place them in the small box marked for that purpose in the parish hall, and we will share them with participants at our July service date. Thanks for your continued support of CBW!

### BITS AND PIECES



--Church Directory Update: If you had your picture taken for the directory and have not yet received it, please contact Jacki Zahn at [jmz222@outlook.com](mailto:jmz222@outlook.com) or (401) 651-6401--call or text.

--Thank you to our choir and our Sunday School teachers who will be taking a well-deserved rest during the summer. We will see them in September!

--Summer worship hours will begin on Sunday, July 7th. Saturday services remain at 5:30, while Sunday services will be held at 8:00 and 9:30 am. We will resume our regular hours on the week following Labor Day, September 8th.

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PO Box 505, Greenville, RI 02828  
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Website: [www.stthomasepiscopalri.org](http://www.stthomasepiscopalri.org)  
Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9am to 1pm or by appointment

## Thank You, Friends!



Dear St. Thomas' Friends,

I am writing to let you know that I will no longer be able to worship with you regularly as I will be retiring from my position as Professor, Bryant University at the end of the summer. As I am a Canadian, when I retire I will return to Canada to live. I will spend this summer in western Canada with my siblings and cousins where I will continue to work on my research. In September, I will move permanently to Halifax, Nova Scotia in eastern Canada where I will live close to my daughter, her husband, and their two children.

Although I am retiring after a long and happy career, I am very sad to leave this wonderful, Christian community. From the moment I entered the doors of St. Thomas' I have felt welcomed and loved and it is **very** difficult for me to leave you. St. Thomas' is a special community and I consider myself very blessed to have been part of it for these past few years. I have been especially blessed and honored to have been able to worship with you regularly, to have served as a Vestry member and as a Lector, to have attended Discipleship classes (I wish I could have attended more of those!), to have worked alongside wonderful friends in the kitchen, to have served as a 'shepherd' to some of you, to have worked with Jean on the Episcopal Charities campaigns, to have served on the Capital Campaign Committee, and to have led a research project on our beautiful stained glass windows. Being a part of St. Thomas' has allowed me to grow spiritually and personally in ways that I could not have imagined. For that I will always be very grateful. Thank you for all of that.

Although I will be living many miles **east** of here, my son and his wife live many, many miles **west** of here. Therefore, my husband and I expect to make many trips from east to west and back again and we plan to do this by car as long as our health permits. This means that we will visit RI frequently and I will worship with you whenever I am in RI. And of course, we look forward to seeing you in Canada, should you decide to venture a little bit east to Halifax.

Until we meet again, please know that you will always hold a special place in my heart, and although we may be separated by many miles, you will never be far from my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you and keep you; may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may God's countenance be lifted upon you, and bring you peace (adaptation of Numbers 6:24-26).

Sincerely,  
Jane McKay-Nesbitt [ [Jane\\_McKay-Nesbitt@outlook.com](mailto:Jane_McKay-Nesbitt@outlook.com); (401) 837-9682 ]



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Claire Farrar 1	Cate Gorman 7	Cole Almieda 21
Daniel McCormick 1	Raymond Duarte 9	Francis Lusignan 21
Thomas Caine 2	Maxx Doris 10	Dane Hersey 23
Elva Vanner 2	Katrina Coupe 11	Sandra Williams 23
Richard Coyne 3	Jean Marz 11	Nancy Nelson 24
Stephen Herchen 4	Evelyn Young 15	Cheryl Hodgins 26
Michael Herchen 4	Alexandra Gales 17	Jason Carrara 27
Dennis Kohler 5	Dave Lamontagne 18	Fritz Gorman 27
Maury Boulais 6	Al Parrillo 19	Roberta Duarte 28
Lorie Nero 6	Louise Sheldon 19	Joshua Malek 28
Eliana Catanzaro 7		Jon Thompson 28

## JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Stanley and June Heywood 1  
David and Michelle Marsella 1  
Justin and Kaitlyn Turcotte 6  
Albert and Briana Robinson 9  
Francis and Deb Lusignan 14  
Jeffrey and Dyana LeBlanc 16  
Todd and Sally Hersey 19  
Dave and Paulette Lamontagne 21  
Al and Jean Marz 25  
Richard and Lorraine Bourque 28  
Nicholas and Jennifer Ray 28



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# June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>2</b> 8:00 HE 10:00 HE	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6-8:00pm Book & Movie Group 	<b>5</b> 9:00 Healing Service & HE 9:30-2:00pm Crafting group 7:00-8:15pm School of Discipleship	<b>6</b> 10:00- 11:15am School of Discipleship 6-8pm Knitting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:00pm Caregiver Support Group <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>9 Pentecost</b> 8:00 HE 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 HE 11:30 Church Picnic  5:30pm Celtic Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 Healing Service & HE 9:30-2:00pm Crafting group 7:00-8:15pm School of Discipleship	<b>13</b> 10:00- 11:15am School of Discipleship 6-8pm Knitting 6:30pm Vestry	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>16</b> 8:00 HE 10:00 HE	<b>17</b> 6:00- 8:00pm WINGS	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 Healing Service & HE 9:30-2:00pm Crafting group 7:00-8:15pm School of Discipleship	<b>20</b> 10:00- 11:15am School of Discipleship 6-8 Knitting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>5:30—HE</b>
<b>23</b> 8:00 HE 10:00 HE	<b>24</b> 6:30- 8:00pm Order of St. Luke meeting 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 Healing Service & HE 9:30-2:00pm Crafting group 7:00-8:15pm School of Discipleship	<b>27</b> 10:00- 11:15am School of Discipleship 6-8pm Knitting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>5:30—HE</b>

<b>30</b> <b>8:00 HE</b> <b>10:00 HE</b>						
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**Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church**  
 At Routes 44 and 116  
 P.O. BOX 505  
 GREENVILLE, RHODE ISLAND  
 02828



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' CHURCH  
 June 2019

A Prayer

Circle me, Lord.  
 Keep protection near and danger afar.  
 Circle me, Lord.  
 Keep hope within, keep doubt without.  
 Circle me, Lord.  
 Keep light near and darkness afar.  
 Circle me, Lord.  
 Keep peace within, keep evil out.



*Rev. David Adams*