

The Vision of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is to be a community:

Advent 2016 -
Lent 2017

- Centered in Christ,
- Glorifying God,
- Serving our neighbors.

The Bridge

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH—DOVER, NH—CORNER OF HALE AND LOCUST



The Bridge



A Season for Conversation and Healing

The anticipation of Christ's coming, his birth, and the revelation to the world that Christ is here—are the gifts that this new Church season brings. And *man* do we need His revealing more than ever. Families are divided as well as our churches and our nation. But as Christians, confident in Jesus's presence yesterday and today, we find ourselves once again in a sacred place where true conversations and

healing can occur.

The Latin root of the word *conversation* implies an *association with* and a *turning around*—rather than a platform for putting one's belief or opinion *onto* another. It requires true dialogue and a willingness to be changed as a result of that dialogue. No projections, no fixing or advice are allowed, demanding a deepening of our spiritual practices that calls us into greater listening, mutual understanding and engagement.

Ours is a '*wait and see*' faith that calls us to set aside our assumptions and presumption—trusting that *all* will be well. Otherwise, we mess with Holy Spirit's work of *conversion* and transformation. Interestingly, the word *conversation* and *conversion* share the same Latin root *conversio* that calls for *our* turning around to see God and others, which is why Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are important seasons to remember and celebrate. We are invited to look around for Christ AND seeing his presence not only in the world but also in each other and ourselves.

I share three mediations for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany respectively from *Daily Prayers for all Seasons*, a new prayer book that complements our Book of Common Prayer.

For Advent

"Redemption is the journey of being reconnected to the light of God within. It is a journey home that takes us through what seems like unknown land...Redemption is not the bringing of light to a creation that is essentially dark, but rather the liberating of light from the heart of Life."

J. Philipi Newell

*Where do we thirst for the light of redemption today?
How will we offer that light to others who thirst?*

From *Daily Prayer for all Seasons*, Advent, pg. 15

Continued on page 2



Living Well through Advent:
Practicing Simplicity with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind
 Sunday Nights of Advent, 5pm-7pm

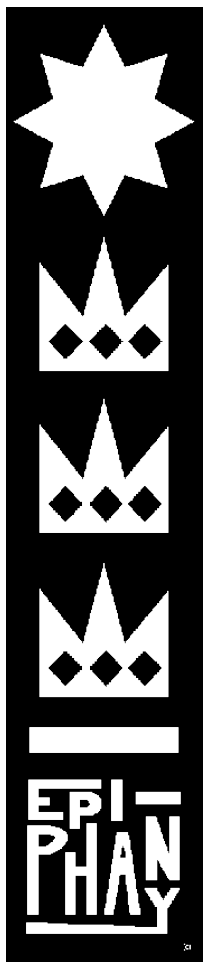
November 27th marks a new season for the Church: Advent—a time of waiting, preparation and anticipating the birth of Jesus, not only as a forerunner of Christmas but as an invitation to see the Kingdom of God here on earth. It's a time to see anew the birthing of Jesus in all we do. Stop, slow down, stay in the moment for a second—trust that he will appear.

This year, St. Thomas is engaging in an Advent offering Sunday nights from 5pm to 7pm called *Living Well through Advent: Practicing Simplicity with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. We will have a simple meal—soup, bread and salad to feed our bodies and souls and deeper engagement of our Sunday's Gospel readings to prepared us once again for Christ's coming. I love Advent because it asks of us to slow down and open our eyes to the glory of God around us. The night should prove to be nourishment for our overworked/overscheduled days—a much needed Sabbath rest.

Richard Rohr—Benedictine monk provides these comforting words that are counter-cultural and counter-intuitive:

The final fruitfulness of work is actually found by choosing and living its exact opposite—the cessation of work—or the Sabbath rest. Unless approximately one-seventh of life is also ceasing from work, putting spaces, paragraphs, and parentheses around my efforts, work always becomes compulsive, addictive, driven, unconscious, and actually counter-productive for the self and for those around us. We also need not to work.

So come and enjoy our Advent conversation Sunday nights. Come one night, come all—put a space into your busy week to be fed by Jesus' words and our beloved community.



Continued from page 1

For Christmas

“You will know when it is time to bring to birth the new creation. The signs will be all around you, urging, insisting: Now is the time. You have to know just when to bear down and concentrate on one thing only. It takes labor, hard, hard labor to birth something new.”

-- Miriam Therese Winter

What is God calling forth from us? How will we labor to birth what God calls for?

From *Daily Prayer for all Seasons*, Christmas, pg. 23

For Epiphany

“In the name of God, stop a moment, close your work, look around you.”

-- Leo Tolstoy

What can we let go this hour, and how will it free us to use our gifts with greater joy?

From *Daily Prayer for all Seasons*, Epiphany, pg. 49

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Blessings. May this holiday season bring your closer to Christ and one another.

Gail+



The Tradition of the Wreath

We begin our church year with advent, a season of preparing for Christmas and at the same time looking toward the Second Coming of Christ. The season's purple symbolizes royalty - because Christ is our king - and serious self-examination, for Christ is our judge.

Long ago the people in Northern Europe made the first wreaths, bending evergreen branches, a symbol of everlasting life, into a circle, which having no beginning and no end represents eternity. The wreath symbolizes our eternal life in Christ; the four candles remind us that Christ is the Light of the World. One more is lit each week to tell us of the gradual revelation to Israel of the coming of Christ. A large white or red candle is usually in the center of the wreath, but not lit until Christmas. The purple candles may then be exchanged for white to burn during the twelve days of Christmas.

The wreath may be placed in the center of the dining table where the family can say the Advent prayers before dinner and light the candles. Lessons may be omitted on week days if they are too much for younger children. For those wishing a different lesson for each day, a lectionary is found in the prayer book (BCP p. 936) and in *Forward Day by Day*.

Children will enjoy lighting and extinguishing the candles. Older children may like to read the prayers or lessons. It is effective to begin the liturgy in semi-darkness. A period of silence is appropriate after the lesson to allow time for it to sink into our hearts. Since the Advent season looks to the coming of the King of Kings, participants might wear home made crowns.

Incense-sticks may also be burned as in the Jewish Temple where the smoke reminded the worshipers of the cloud of mystery that surrounds God and also as a symbol of our prayers rising to God. You may think of other meaningful ways to enhance the liturgy - there is no one right way.



We should strive for unity, not uniformity. Uniformity is mechanical, barren, unfruitful, and unprofitable. Unity is organic, living, and capable of endless growth. If we are to be truly catholic as Christ himself is catholic, then we must have a church broad enough to embrace within its communion every living soul.

The Rt. Rev. Wm. Alexander Guerry, 1861-1928

How Are We Being Called To Stand in Authentic Solidarity With Our Indigenous Siblings?

Kathleen Faller

Recent worldwide demonstrations of solidarity with the Water Protectors of Standing Rock Sioux Nation have reminded me of a native man's lament during a counseling session 40 years ago: "We Indians need to sober up QUICK to teach and show the world how to live, because the White man is destroying our earth." At the time I was a Counselor for Catholic Charities, working amidst the Red Lake, White Earth, and Leech Lake reservations of northwestern Minnesota, following years of work with Native Americans in Minneapolis. The man's salient lament helped me understand that his healing path necessitated deep soul work within his own Indigenous spiritual tradition which, in turn, ushered in my awareness of the devastating, soul destroying impact of the Doctrine of Discovery on the spiritual core of native people.

The 'Doctrine of Discovery' refers to a collection of papal bulls issued primarily during the 15th century that granted European kings and princes the right to "discover" and take possession of new land territories that were "empty" of Christians, in the belief that God sanctioned taking non-Christian land, and asserting total control over the inhabitants, in a manner akin to the Old Testament's Chosen People: Promised Land. (Newcomb) Because Indigenous people were not Christian, they were deemed unworthy of fundamental human dignity and rights. The doctrine ultimately provided the legal justification for colonization, in which Catholic and Protestant churches became complicit partners of governmental efforts to acquire land, establish churches and convert and coercively assimilate native people into European Christian beliefs and cultural practices. This doctrine continues to deeply and directly influence indigenous policies concerning land rights, identity determination, and judicial processes and decisions.

In 2009 the General Convention of The Episcopal Church became the first Christian church to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. "Resolved, That the 76th General Convention repudiates and renounces the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our understanding of the inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God .. and be it further Resolved, That The Episcopal Church review its policies and programs with a view to

exposing the historical reality and impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and be it further Resolved, That each diocese within The Episcopal Church be encouraged to ... seek a greater understanding of the Indigenous Peoples within the geo-political boundaries claimed by the United States ... and to support those peoples in their ongoing efforts for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected .." (Resolution Number: 2009-D035)

In light of this General Convention resolution; Presiding Bishop Curry's call for us to embrace our role as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement; and our diocesan mission priority to "advocate for the dignity of all human beings and care actively for God's Creation" how can we best stand in supportive solidarity with the Indigenous people of our country who, despite their ongoing struggle to survive multiple generations of oppression, are now rising up to take a sacrificial stand in resisting evil, and working to preserve and care for our earth and all current and future human life, much as my long ago client once dreamed. The You Tube link below entitled 'The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery' helps ground our search in answering this question...

- General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 371-372.
- Newcomb, Steven T. *Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 2008
- <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/print/2009/07/26/episcopal-church-repudiates-doctrine-discovery-82239>



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Rob Sylvester

One of the definitions of “Stewardship” is “An ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. The concepts of Stewardship can be applied to the environment and nature, economics, health, property, information, theology, etc.”

This year has been a tough one for me and I have struggled to write articles regarding stewardship for The Bridge. With Elaine’s recent death, much of my focus has been elsewhere. But there were some bright spots that I need to try and put to paper.

First off, I need to say a totally heartfelt “Thank You” to the entire St. Thomas’ community. Your expressions of love and caring, prayers, good thoughts and good works not only lifted up my children and me, but you helped Elaine through what was not an easy time for her. You were good stewards to her by using your gifts to help ease what she had going on. You were good stewards to my family by sharing your faith that God gave you while we struggled in ours (or at least I can say I struggled with my faith recently). So, with my love I say thank you to all of you as it has helped me stay moving forward.

As I was thinking of exactly what to write, I was reminded that we get to be stewards of God’s gifts to us in many different areas. Part of Elaine’s stewardship was her prayer life. Part of what God had given to her (shown to her) was a gift of love of prayer. She spent hours and hours in prayer for others and in doing that, underwent a great deal of change in her life so that in the end as she was getting ready to go to God “through her faith and prayers, prolonging her life and demonstrating to us that cancer doesn’t have the last word”, as Rev. Gail put in a Parish Prayer Alert shortly before Elaine’s death. So in a real sense, Elaine was able to manage and share with all of us some of God’s resources given to her of prayer and good works. There are many other “Prayer Warriors” at St. Thomas who practice this kind of stewardship on a daily basis praising God and blessing us in what they do.

In the same way, St. Thomas’ continually acts as a good and faithful servant of God in sharing its resources in things like the Christmas breakfast we had last year, the Friendly Kitchen, the people making Prayer Shawls (and the people praying over them). And through the stewardship of time, the parish is able to pass on God’s love and faithfulness to us through the Sunday School programs for our children.

On the financial side of things, the people of St. Thomas’ have literally shown they will “step up” there as well.

Not only did we have new pledgers, but we had a significant number of parishioners who did Take One Step Up to help support the parish so we can do God’s work.

We were blessed to have Rev. Jamie Hamilton, from All Saints in Peterborough who shared with us at a dinner earlier in the week with leaders of various groups in the parish and was the Guest Speaker at our Consecration Sunday service. Her words at both occasions touched many hearts.

In particular these words from her sermon struck me:

“We begin by believing that the Church can make a difference. We, each one of us, are called to make a difference. We can model to the nation the power of interpreting our lives and our holy texts the way Jesus did, with love, clarity and hope:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

I think the community of St. Thomas’ is doing just that.

So, thank you on many fronts. Both from the parish level and from me personally. Your continued being “Good and Faithful Stewards” touches many lives and hopefully will continue to do so for a long time to come.

Blessings, Rob



As you hope for peace and justice in this world, give thanks to God for those moments where the sky ignites and the glory of the Lord shines in. How can you be one of the rays of hope punching through the darkness? In what ways can you audaciously go out and share the good news? How can you join the host that sings out emphatically that justice can be done throughout the world?

~Christian Reformed Church in North America

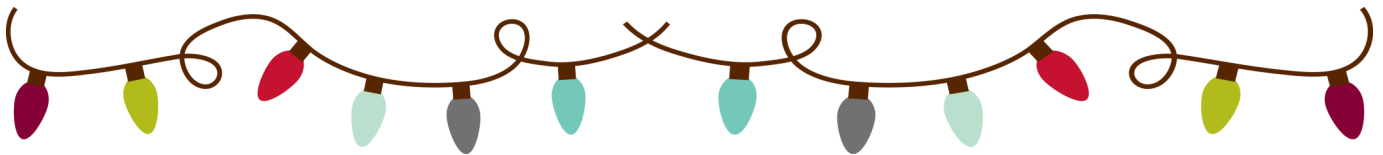


7th Annual Festival of Trees
 Friday, December 2nd, 2016, 4:00-8:00pm
 RIVERMILL AT DOVER LANDING
 2 WASHINGTON STREET, DOVER, NH 03820



St Thomas' is participating in the "The Festival of Trees" this year with a **St Nicholas themed tree**. Parishioners can choose a tree ornament labeled with items needed for this theme tree and the date we need them by. The decorated tree will be on display and available for auction as part of the Chamber's event. We will be promoting our church activities and services with promo material available to anyone visiting our decorated tree on Friday, Dec 2nd. Please come and support our themed tree by either picking an items to donate or by coming to visit the decorated tree on Dec. 2nd. I anticipate decorating the tree on Thursday, Dec 1st and could use some help! Thank you!
 Judi Turner

Festival of Trees will feature over 30 trees, elaborately decorated by local businesses and organizations, to be auctioned and raffled off to benefit the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce City Lights Committee. The event also includes live choir performances, children's activities, holiday carols, refreshments and more!



Hangin' of the Green Service
 Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 PM

The service will be followed by a parish pot luck! Join the choir for a beautiful service of readings and carols plus the greening of the church.

Katherine Mayfield, Music Director

Kids Rock

Early September I wasn't sure if we would have our renovated spaces complete and 2 months later I know that we wouldn't be at the expansion of our program without these rooms. Currently we have an active Nursery space with a paid sitter to watch the 5 infants-3yr olds that are currently registered. We are now at a point where co-op parent duty can happen and be shared by 1 week per month duty so that everyone can participate in all that the church has to offer. The biggest burst of growth is 3-5yr olds with 16 children registered for that room at the moment. The biggest blessing is that now the older kids, 1st – 6th grade, have their own room and a place to spread out and get messy during response time. The "education suite" also has a room with 3 round tables and can comfortably seat 12 (or more) for meetings with any group in our church. There is a dry kitchen area for preparing feast and 2 more rooms that need to be sorted out for the best possible use for our growing parish. All in all, the rooms are doing exactly what we hoped for our program by being a clean, nice space to be in during our time with children.



I believe the storytellers/doorpersons are settling in, although with our rotating schedules, some may have only been in the room once since the start of the new academic year. We hope to have training opportunities in the winter/spring so that the adults involved have guidance, inspiration, and nourishment as we continue to grow in God's love for our children. Registration is on-going and the kids are always welcome to bring along a friend any Sunday.

St Nicholas Celebration

New this year is the participation in the **Festival of Trees on Friday, Dec 2nd** at the Rivermill at Dover Landing, 2 Washington (mill behind the Children's Museum). This is a Dover Chamber of Commerce event and should provide us with some visibility within the community and a chance to promote our Christmas service schedule. Come and check it out from 4-6pm, admission is free.



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Saturday, Dec 3rd is "Breakfast with St. Nicholas"

and we will again have a waffle bar (plus extras with Chef Tim), activities for children including decorating cookies, and of course the visit with St Nicholas in person. Come and learn about the tradition of St Nick. This was a terrific event last year and more promotion has gone out this year that we are expecting it to be even better! We found that many grandparents enjoyed bringing their grandchildren and parents enjoyed the non-commercial way of enjoying St. Nick (aka Santa) in a safe church environment. The feast day of St Nick is Dec 6th, so this early Christmas event helps set the mood for the other preparation in celebrating the birth of Jesus toward the end of the month. We are asking for \$4 per child under 12, \$8 adults or \$20 for family. Please help spread the word and come. We had many people walk in from the community last year because they saw the sandwich board out front. One man grew up in Belgium and came because he missed this traditional feast time with St Nick. Christmas is for kids of all ages!





The Fair Committee is thankful for many things this year. Thanks to all our crafters who created such a wonderful assortment of gifts for us to sell. Thanks to all our bakers for the great desserts, cookies, pies, breads and other delicious treats that our Fair is so well known for. Thanks to the kitchen team for a great luncheon again this year and to everyone - donators, servers and cooks for a job well done. Thanks to Duke for great music. Thanks to all our table teams. Thanks to the McConnell Center teens for their help with set-up. Thanks for the great raffles we had this year and all those who made them possible. Thanks to the financial team for all their help in collecting and reporting that aspect of our Fair. Thanks to all who helped set up for the Fair and clean up after the Fair. Thanks for all the donations of time and talent that allow this Fair to happen year after year. Thanks to all the patrons of the Fair. It is a blessing that we are able to succeed every year and there are always those moments that truly gladden our hearts. A few special memories from this year for me is the look on Mary's face when she won our food basket! She truly did deserve it. I loved having the Hale House full of those energetic teens bringing all our totes and boxes and bags down to the Dallas room. I am also extremely grateful to Georgia who not only did all she usually does but also filled in many of the jobs that were left vacant while our friend Fran was recuperating. The Fair always seems to inspire us as a parish to share our gifts and talents and we are all most thankful for those moments when we feel the presence of the Lord in our efforts.

Sincerely, Carol and the Fair Committee



HOLIDAY SERVICES

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm Pageant

9:30 pm Congregational Hymn Sing

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day, December 25

9:00 am Holy Eucharist



January 1

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

(no Kids Rock)

January 6

5:00 pm Epiphany Dinner



Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 11, 7:00 pm

First Parish UCC, Central Ave, Dover

Have the holidays got you feeling blue? The Holiday Season is hard for some of us. Job loss, depression, first Christmas following the loss of a loved one

Dover's annual Blue Christmas Service takes place at 7 pm, Dec. 11 at First Parish Church UCC, Central Avenue in Dover – a special worship event that lifts up the hope of Emmanuel, God with us, while acknowledging that the

season is not filled with joy for all. Area clergy will participate, along with the First Parish Church bell choir. Rick Gremlitz, Director of Music, will provide other music.

Following the service, join in fellowship hosted by the Dover Cooperative Ministries Council. If this season is a difficult for you, please know that this service IS for you. Or if you know someone who struggles emotionally at Christmas time, we hope you will extend an invitation for them to attend – and perhaps you can be a support by attending with them.



So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

Dan Berrigan, Testimony: The Word Made Flesh

*Drop down, you heavens, from above;
and let the skies pour down righteousness;
let the earth open, and let it bring forth Salvation.*

*Book of Common Prayer
Advent antiphon for the Magnificat*

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking light. To you we say, come Lord Jesus.

Henri Nouwen, An Advent Prayer



CONNECTIONS - *Hospitality beyond introductions...involving ourselves in the life of each other*



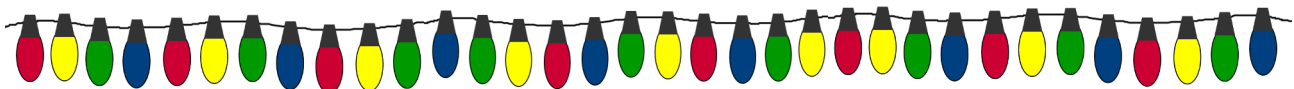
Come Make a Joyful Noise with Us!

Want to make your voice heard? Our choir is currently seeking new members. We're a fun and dedicated group, with very talented singers, and we sing an eclectic mix of modern and traditional music. We would love to have you join us! Rehearsals are Wednesday evening from 7-9pm, and we sing at the 10am service on Sundays. Please contact Music Direc-



Christmas Gathering!

Fran Whiting's Annual Christmas Gathering will be Friday, December 16, 2016 at 7pm at The Whiting's, 160 Locust Street in Dover. Please bring a snack to share and a gift for the Yankee Swap not to exceed \$10.00 in value. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a relaxing get together.



REVELATIONS - *Building Bridges through Small Groups*

Advocacy Training December 3, 2016 9:30am - 2:30pm

At the root of the word advocacy is 'vocare', meaning to call or speak. In our advocacy as Episcopalians, we are calling out the challenges and we are speaking on behalf of those who have no voice. This training will encourage partnership among our communities and parishes, with one another and between our Church and a wounded society. Join us as we learn to be stronger advocates, grounded in our faith. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Laura Simoes, Missioner for Community Engagement, Episcopal Church of NH, lsimoes@nhepiscopal.org To register email Lynn Eaton at leaton@nhepiscopal.org or call 603-224-1914

ACTS - *Action in Community through Service*

Food Pantry Donations

Many thanks to all who donated dental hygiene items during the month of October. The Dover Food Pantry was delighted to receive the toothbrushes (116 of them!), tubes of toothpaste (70), mouthwash, dental floss, and related items. The Food Pantry is allowed to spend money on food only, so these additional items are greatly appreciated. At this writing, November, we are collecting shaving items: razors, shaving cream, and bar soap. The schedule for the next three months is as follows:

DECEMBER - think of all the preparations and clean-up going on in your house for the holidays and consider making that process a little more affordable for others. During the month of December we are asking for donations of: Paper Towels, Dishwashing liquid, Laundry detergent

JANUARY - the beginning of a new year. Let's help welcome all the children who are brand new by donating: Diapers - all sizes, preferably in packages of 40 or more, Baby wipes, Baby formula

FEBRUARY - the month of Valentine's Day (and, more seriously, National Heart Month). To aid the romance, please consider donating: Shampoo & conditioner, Deodorant, Bath/Baby powder



Items are collected on the church window sills (or at the back of the nave when the Christmas decorations are up) and then delivered to the food pantry at the end of each month.



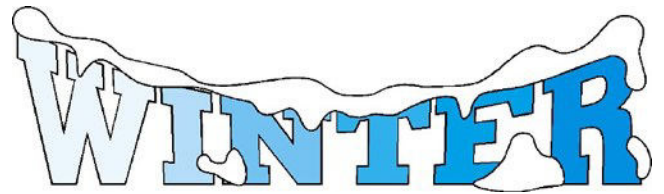
Able-bodied Volunteers Needed to Carry Food

There is a need of help for two different organizations in carrying boxes of food. Every 4th Tuesday on even months, Federal Commodity Foods delivers a shipment of food for the elderly at the Niles Center at 10AM. Each recipient is given two boxes of food. The boxes are heavy so volunteers deliver them to shut-ins in Dover and some surrounding towns. If you are able to assist in this program, please contact Pat Sorensen at patpopster@comcast.com. The other organization requiring the carrying of food boxes is End 68 Hours of Hunger in Dover. Every 4 to 5 weeks volunteers need to move food from Hannaford in Dover and Market Basket in Somersworth to the Little Red House at St. John's Methodist Church on Cataract Ave. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Debbie Bodell at debmovie@yahoo.com or Mary Jo Dudley.



Celebrating in...

Many Happy Returns to:



December Birthdays

Autumn Bernier, Susan Boos, Charles Cooper, Mark Gearreald, Mary Krans, Griffin Leach, Katherine Lynch, Lois Martin, Abigail Mathieu, Caitlin Mathieu, Chris Parker, Kevin Plante, Emma Sattler, Kiersten Shute

January Birthdays

Diane Plante, Susan Lucius, Nancy Hunt, Monroe Rhodus, Sally Thorn, Dale Smith, Chris Wyskiel, Judi Turner, Joyce Mayrand, Patty Laughlin, Deb Morton, Owen Wolterbeek, Charlotte Nason, Tom Powell, Dorothe Littlefield, Joshua Mathieu, Kathleen MacLeod, Elizabeth Akridge, Mary McKenney, Elaine Sylvester, Ella Montanus, Gerald Finley, Shirley Turcotte, Joshua Warner, Benjamin Carbone, Ryder Jackson, Lee Foster, Teddy Foster

February Birthdays

Nathan Bigelow, Gray Cornwell IV, Hank Feenstra, Micky Hashem, Bridget Jameson, Abrielle Laderbush, Evelyn Mamigonian, Madeline Mayor, Elise Nanda, Sharon Smith, Ellen Yarborough, Gage Billetbeaux, Morgan Gallagher, Mary Hampton, Mason Shute, Sharon Smith, Maddy Wade

Anniversary Blessings and Congratulations to:

December Anniversaries



Gray & Kitty Cornwell
 Gerald & Tinka Finley
 Barbara & David MacInnis
 Donald & June Meserve
 Kevin & Sora Martindale
 Jennifer and Robert Stiefel
 Rev. Gail Avery & Kirk Trachy

January Anniversaries

Kevin & Suzanne Gorham

February Anniversaries

Karen & Wayne Ciccotelli
 Charles & Julie Cooper
 Claire & Jay Dean
 Kathleen Ford & Lisa Miller
 Bea & Ed Mayrand
 Morgan Gallagher & James Johnson
 Francine & Ted Kontos
 Marci & Joseph Novak

We are delighted to celebrate birthdays & anniversaries in The Bridge each month. If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and are not listed, please contact us so we may update our records.

Serving God in His Church

The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop
 The Rev. Gail Avery, Interim Rector

Convocation and Convention Diocesan Delegates

Nancy Hunt, Judi Turner, Rob Sylvester Jo-Anne Fuller-Sattler

Alternate:

Nancy Kershaw

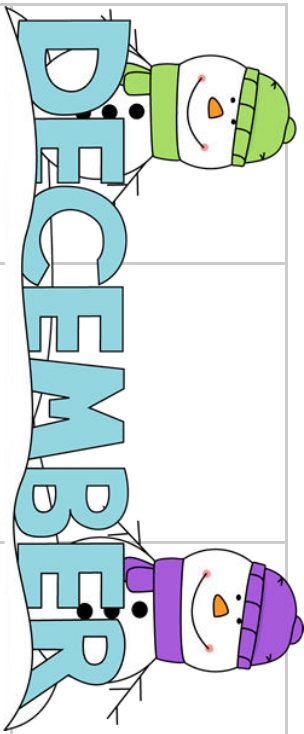
The Vestry

Officers

Allen Laughlin, *Senior Warden*;
 Chris Turner, *Junior Warden*
 Bill Hunt, *Clerk*; Kevin Gorham, *Treasurer*

Term ending 2017	Term ending 2018	Term ending 2019
Margaret Miller	Gwen Klevitch	Fran Whiting
Tim Constantine	Nancy Stafford-Parsons	Elle Yarborough
Tinka Finley	Rob Sylvester	

Bridge article submissions are due the **15th of each month**. Please email your article to parish.office@stdover.org







2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock 5p Advent Series/Living Compass</p>	<p>5 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Property Committee</p>	<p>6 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 6-9p Seacoast Convocation</p>	<p>7 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir</p>	<p>8 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA</p>	<p>9 7a AA Morning Reflection 4-8p Festival of Trees</p>	<p>10 8:30-11a St. Nick Breakfast 9:30-2:30 Advocacy Training</p>
<p>11 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock 5p Advent Series/Living Compass</p>	<p>12 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>13 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 5p Kitchen Team</p>	<p>14 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 5p Daisy Scouts 7p Choir</p>	<p>15 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA</p>	<p>16 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>17 5-8p Hanging of the Green and Potluck</p>
<p>18 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock 5p Advent Series/Living Compass</p>	<p>19 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Vestry</p>	<p>20 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK</p>	<p>21 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir</p>	<p>22 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA</p>	<p>23 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>24 4p Pageant 9:30p Congregational Hymn Sing 10p Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 9a Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>26 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>27 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK</p>	<p>28 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 5p Daisy Scouts 7p Choir</p>	<p>29 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA</p>	<p>30 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>31</p>



Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

1 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 	2 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Property Committee	3 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	4 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	5 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	6 AA Morning Reflection 5-8:30p Epiphany Dinner	7	
8 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock	9 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours	10 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	11 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 5p Daisy Scouts 7p Choir	12 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	13 AA Morning Reflection	14	
15 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock	16 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Vestry 7P Craft Group MLK JR DAY	17 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	18 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	19 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	20 7a AA Morning Reflection	21	
22 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock	23 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours	24 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	25 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 5p Daisy Scouts 7p Choir	26 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	27 7a AA Morning Reflection	28	
29 9a Holy Eucharist 10:30a Annual Meeting	30 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Craft Group	31 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK					2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	2 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	3 7a AA Morning Reflection	4
5 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock	6 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Property Committee 7p Craft Group	7 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	8 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 5p Daisy Scouts 7p Choir	9 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	10 7a AA Morning Reflection	11 Valentine Dinner
12 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock	13 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Craft Group	14 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK  VALENTINE'S DAY	15 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	16 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	17 7a AA Morning Reflection	18
19 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock	20 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Vestry 7p Craft Group PRESIDENTS DAY	21 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	22 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 5p Daisy Scouts 7p Choir	23 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	24 7a AA Morning Reflection	25
26 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Kids Rock	27 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Craft Group	28 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK				

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
5 Hale Street
Dover, NH 03820



The Bridge

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Who's Who at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Gail Avery, Interim Rector (603-674-5455)

603 742 3155 ~ stthomas@stdover.org

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Jerry Costanza, Financial Bookkeeper
Katherine Mayfield, Director of Music
Roland Girard, Sexton

For upcoming events and 'The Bridge' articles, visit our website at:
www.stdover.org

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Thomas Episcopal Church is to know and worship God, to build community, and to serve others.



**Come
Worship**

Sunday Services

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:30 am Sunday School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist with music & choir

8:30-10:00 am Breakfast Café

Months with 5 Sundays, there is one Service at 9:00 am on the 5th Sunday

Please call the church office for additional pastoral needs at 603-742-3155. In cases of emergency call Rev. Gail at 603-674-5455

**SAFE
ZONE**