

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

Jun - Aug 2015

The Bridge

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



The Season of Pentecost

We have officially entered into the Season of Pentecost also known as “Ordinary Time.” It’s also called “*the long green season*,” referring to the green color of the vestments and altar hangings in our churches as well as the greening of our New England countryside in spring and summer.

In Latin, the name of this season is **Tempus per annum**, literally meaning “time during the year,” adding to its seemingly ordinariness. Yet the Season of Pentecost is far from ordinary. Rather than meaning “common” or “mundane,” this term comes from the word “ordinal,” which simply means *counted time*. *Counted time* after Pentecost always begins with Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with Christ the King Sunday (last Sunday before the beginning of Advent).

Daily Prayer for All Seasons, a new supplement to The Episcopal Church’s Book of Common Prayer, articulates the rhythm of this *greening* season beautifully: “After Pentecost we settle into the growing season, nourishing the seeds planted by Easter and put down roots in our faith.” Week after week, we come together to celebrate “the time in which we actually live” and are reminded that two thousand years after the first Pentecost, the church still lives in this *in-between* time before the fulfillment of time in Christ’s second coming.

This summer as we hear the lessons found in Mark’s Gospel, we will learn again what it means to be followers of Jesus in our context and time. And I like to share with you this quote from Elizabeth A. Johnson in Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology, which summarizes the work ahead of us during the *counted* time of this season - a *greening* of ourselves, if you will.

The Season of Pentecost

To be a disciple means to put one’s feet in the footsteps of Jesus and, in the power of his Spirit to continue in one’s own historical time and place, his mission of announcing and signing the coming of the reign of God.

Together as church, the community of disciples is in a unique way called to be the instrument of the reign of God in history. Since peace and justice are among the most powerful signs of the reign God presents in this world, it belongs to the essential mission of the church to make these realities more visible in our time, so marked by oppression, violence, injustice and threats of total destruction. Following Jesus on this way may cost disciples their lives—the servants are not greater than the master. But the community of disciples must go on witnessing throughout the conflicts of history, drawing courage from their memory of Jesus, from their experience of his continuing presence in the Spirit, and for hope in the final victory of the coming reign of God.

Sunday June 28th officially kicks off St. Thomas’ summer schedule. We will be celebrating a Holy Eucharist Service each Sunday at 9am. Hope to see you there—to continuing the *greening* that has begun in each of us.

Thanks be to God our churches remain open during the summer and don’t go on vacation! So wherever you may be, I’m sure you’ll find an Episcopal Church near you. ☺

Blessings, Gail+

St. Thomas' Welcomes The Rev. Ted Rice as Interim Associate



Ted joined St. Thomas' in April. Read his bio below and you'll concur how fortunate we are that Ted decided to come out of retirement! Stay tuned for his future offerings. Ted, our prayers to you and your wife Pat as she battles cancer.

I was born in New York City, grew up in its suburbs, attended college in Hartford, Connecticut, and seminary in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After my second year in seminary, I worked in the inner city of Boston first in job training, then as a curriculum developer and eventually as the principal of Boston's school for high school drop-outs. Having finished seminary along the way, we moved to Michigan where I was ordained and did community organizing with disaffected high school students and young adults.

In 1976 I went into parish ministry as an associate in Dearborn, Michigan. Later I served as rector in East Lansing, Michigan, and Dedham, Massachusetts, before doing interim ministry in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Christian formation has been a focus of my ministry. I designed curriculum and vacation church school programs for younger children, led youth groups and retreats for teens and have led all manner of formation programs for adults. Some of my favorites include weekly programs studying the lessons appointed for the following Sunday as well as courses on meditation and Christian spirituality. I have led year long studies on discipleship as well as shorter ones on Handel's Messiah and the Brahms's Requiem. I do a seven week course that covers the whole bible. I have also been asked to work with other clergy doing interim ministry and those starting out in new ones. Along the way I have done a lot of work with parishes in conflict.

My first wife and I had the honor and privilege of raising two great children: Megan and Joshua both now in their forties. In May of 2010 I was married to the Rev. Pat Stelz, also an Episcopal priest and who is now recovering from brain surgery and battling an aggressive form of cancer.

In 2014 I retired from full-time parish ministry and we moved to Barnstead, New Hampshire. Although my mother says I failed at retirement by coming to work at St. Thomas, I am excited to be working with Gail and the parishioners of this parish as we look for ways to revitalize its ministry and serve God as healers of a broken Creation.

-- The Rev. Edward G. (Ted)



Draw your Church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Growing into Discipleship



This summer I recommend two important books to you: People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity and The Agile Church: Spirit Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age, both by Dwight Zscheiler, who was the keynote speaker at our Diocesan Lay-Leadership Training in May.

Zscheiler encourages us to rediscover our identity as learners and I like to share some of his insights that could help St. Thomas' move forward during this *in-between* time before calling your new rector.

“To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a student, learner, or apprentice in a community of mutual growth in love. It means collaborating together, using all the spiritual gifts which God has equipped us. It also involves *mutual support, accountability, and encouragement.*” (Italics mine).

“But learning is not easy for any of us—it’s risky because there is the possibility of failure. It exposes our lack of competence, mastery, and control. It is frequently uncomfortable.

“There are many good reasons why churches resist learning. Foremost among these is the prospect that learning will involve change and change will involve loss...many churches today are paralyzed or numbed by grief over the loss of our children, our grandchildren, our vitality, our influence. We struggle with the prospect of losing cherished customs; even if doing so might be necessary to adapt the church’s life to speak to younger generations and diverse neighbors.

“At the heart of the gospel is an apparent failure that shocked Jesus’ students. Nothing could be more disappointing to those who wanted Jesus to overthrow the Romans oppressors than his betrayal, imprisonment, torture, and execution at Roman hands. Crucifixion was the most shameful and painful way to die in Jesus’s world. [It is no wonder that Peter and the other disciples initially retreated in fear to the upper room.]

“Yet it is precisely in the embrace of the worst of human circumstances that victory and renewal spring forth in Christ. Reminding us that we should hold the terms “success” and “failure” lightly as we recognize the profound paradox at the center of God’s redemption of the world. What might seem to be “successful” in conforming to the world’s expectation might be far removed from how God is in fact renewing the world in Christ through the power of the Spirit.



“From a Christian perspective, the greatest apparent failure of all—the cross—is the very means by which God’s purposes are accomplished. (Agile Church, p. 9-10)

So as we settle in the seemingly ordinary *greening* Season of Pentecost, we must trust that the Spirit of Christ is indeed alive and working among God’s ordinary people as something new is brought forth in, through and among us—as we too are led by the Spirit to learn and discern the depth and reach of the gospel that extend beyond us and St. Thomas’.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer beautifully articulated in a letter from prison, “The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell *men and women* of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.”

Ted and I are excited about sharing this journey with you - as we all grow as disciples.

-- Gail +



Summer Reading List

The Zealot: The life and times of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan

No god but God: The origins, evolution, and future of Islam

Pastrix: The cranky beautiful faith of a sinner and saint by Nadia Bolz-Weber

The Road to Character by David Brooks

Christ Actually: The Son of God for the secular age by James Carroll

The Gift of Years: Growing older gracefully by Joan Chittister
Gospel of Mark, The New Testament

Being Mortal: Medicine and what matters in the end by Atul Gawande

The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the fault line between Christianity and Islam by Eliza Griswold

The Essential Henri Nouwen, Edited by Robert A. Jonas

Reconcile: Conflict transformation for ordinary Christians by John Paul Lederach

The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A spirituality for real life by James Martin, SJ

We Make the Road By Walking: A year-long quest for spiritual formation, reorientation and activation by Brian D. McLaren

Binding the Strong Man: A political reading of Mark's story of Jesus by Chad Myers

A Hidden Wholeness, The Journey Toward an Undivided: Welcoming the soul and weaving community in a wounded world by Parker J. Palmer

Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps by Richard Rohr

Eager to Love: The alternative way of Francis of Assisi

Falling Upward

Immortal Diamond: The search for our true self

The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz

All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood by Jennifer Senior

St. Benedict's Toolbox: The nuts and bolts of everyday Benedictine living by Jane Tomaine

The Book of Forgiving: The four paths for healing ourselves and our world by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu

The Essential Henri Nouwen, edited by Robert A. Jonas

The Agile Church: Spirit-led innovation in an uncertain age by Dwight J. Zscheile

People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal identity

Two Books to Consider this Summer

The Road to Character by David Brooks. Brooks is a New York Times editorial writer and political commentator who, as a devotee of Edmond Burke, the 18th Century political theorist and philosopher, has always been interested in character development. In this book he explores the difference in what he calls the "resume values": success, accomplishment, accumulation and the "eulogy values": caring, wise, generous, interested in the common good. Today's culture seems devoted to the self, the big me and to the fulfillment of the resume values to the neglect of the more traditional values extolled in eulogies leaving character development in the dust. Interestingly, he contends the turning point is not with the new technology and social media but with those we often name as the "greatest generation". To save time one might read just the introduction and last chapter of this book where you will learn his thesis and an explanation of his fifteen top "eulogy values" but in doing so you will miss his wonderful sections on such important topics as sin, the big me and character as well as the interesting biographies of those who started out as "basket cases", to quote Brooks, and who through determination and rigorous self-examination became model characters: Frances Perkins, St. Augustine, Dorothy Day, Dwight Eisenhower, General George Marshal, A. Philip Randolph, George Eliot, Samuel Johnson, and Johnny Unitas.

All Joy and No Fun by Jennifer Senior. There are tons of books out there in the self-help section on how to be a good parent. This book is a beautifully written and thoroughly researched book on what it is like to be a parent in 2015. Senior has a marvelous way with words, a quick wit and is brilliant in her metaphors. As an example, she likens being the mother of a teen aged girl as often being like being a pit-crew. In comes the flashy race car-daughter, your job is to polish the fender, fill-up the fuel tank and change the tires and then get some smoke and grit in your face as the car peels-out on its way to greater glory. Being a pit-crew takes a lot of ego strength. Being a parent in this era, Senior reminds us, is very different from any time in the past as our expectations of our children, our selves and of life itself have all changed quite radically. Senior got out of the library and spent many hours interviewing modern parents—husbands and wives, gay couples, single parents, grandparents raising their grandchildren and these interviews lead to a very realistic picture of what parenting is actually like. Her views are marvelously balanced as she sees the strengths and weakness of almost every parent's concerns. The last chapter is not to be missed as it is the place where Senior addresses the question of, "is it really worth all the work and anguish" with a resounding, YES!! If you haven't guessed it, she concludes that parenting is really about life's meaning and purpose and therefore, at least ultimately, a great source of joy.

-- Rev. Ted Rice





Summer is the Growing Season!

Our children's program was entitled "Tales of the Good Shepherd" and throughout the year we heard stories about his life and those that chose to follow him. We end this school year season hearing about the work of the Apostle's after the Good Shepherd left the physical world. We are reminded of our responsibility to keep the faith alive as it has been done by all those who came before us. These stories are a good foundation to see what it means to be Christian. It is not always easy but the Good Shepherd has shown us the way.

We started in September with 4 registered children and end the program year with 15 registered children. Attendance has ebbed and flowed and in the fall, the Good Shepherd will be calling the children back to the sheep fold. After the summer break for growth and rest from the normal school schedule, we will have a chance to add in some more complexity that involves liturgical stories. The time we spend with children is the time we give them for their own spiritual journey. The session time mimics that of a service so that there is a lesson/story, individual response time, and fellowship. The storytellers and doorpersons are present to be in the service of the children because this is a Montessori concept that allows each child to use the time as they need to. All of the adults currently taking an active role in our children's program, value this concept and approach and they are terrific examples of God's love for one another.

In the fall, we hope to welcome a few more storytellers and doorpersons. If you feel called to help in our program or if you have an idea about an enrichment experience, please speak to me, Rev. Gail, or Rev. Ted. We start our new school year with many opportunities to learn about saints including our own St. Thomas. Often there are skits or workshops that can be created to explore one theme in more detail. I have also seen some terrific parable skits, which would be a great thing to do in the winter months. Please reach out to us if you want an active role in our children's program come fall. As summer is the growing season, this is when we plan for a fall harvest. The apple harvest this fall will be what inspires me, especially as this year's blooms have just been pollinated.

-- Judi Turner



SAFE CHURCH

The Safe Church Policy is a diocesan policy and it states that our Vestry and Warden's are responsible for compliance. Our Safe Church Minister, Judi Turner, is looking both forward and reaching back to the past to get the necessary pieces up to date with policy requirements. Our parish originally made the promise to comply with the Safe Church Policy in 2009, so even though we may have had gaps in leadership, we still need to be current. The Safe Church Audit is a part of the parochial report, which tells you that the diocese does take this policy seriously.

The awareness of the policy and steps we need to take to remain a safe place for all people can be achieved easily by participating in the Safe Church Training program. The program is 6 on-line modules that can be completed on your own computer on your own time. Each module takes 20-30 min to complete, (3 hrs in total). The "Live" session is 3 hours and provides some case studies and time for discussion and sharing of policy information. Together these sessions are the Safe Church Training as mandated and provided by our diocese. This program is free of charge and it is recommended that each parishioner participate in the program regardless of mandated compliance. Contact Judi to get your log-in ID to begin the program. (domicil@comcast.net or 603-767-0707).

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



Breakfast Café

Our last Sunday Café was May 17th. We thank all who have supported us either by attendance or good thoughts and prayers.

I'd like to thank our cooks; Tim Constantine, Thomas Stafford and Cam Turner. Our runners and counter people; Patty Laughlin, Bonita Hartford, Nancy Coleman, Peg Warner and Robyn Britton. Thank you to our closers, Fran Whiting, Kevin Gorham and Allen Laughlin.

God's summer blessings on all and we'll see you again September 20th!



This year's craft fair is well underway. Debbie Rice has volunteered to lead the Fancy desserts table. Gwen Klevich will be at the head of the cookie walk table. The craft group headed by Georgia Campbell will lead the craft table. Fran Whiting will organize the pie sales. The

Children's room will be led by Valerie Smith who did such an awesome job last year. We hope to have another amazing team for the luncheon this year, too.

We are still working on items for the raffle. So far we have had a \$25 donation from The Isle of Shoals steamship company, The Breakfast Basket donated by the Café group, the food basket which we will be asking for donations to fill, a church print, and a wrapping basket donated by Valerie Smith. We are still looking for other donations that will support this part of the fair.

New this year we would like to rent out spaces on the front lawn to our active church members who may want to publicize and advance their personal business. You would have to provide your own set-up and understand the fair is a rain or shine event. We would also expect that there would not be items that would compete with the items selling at the fair. The tentative fee has been set at \$25.00. Please let the fair committee know if this is something you would be interested in so plans can move forward to accommodate this activity.

Fair Committee members: Georgia Campbell, Fran Whiting, Kathy McCloud, Mickie and Elaine Hasham, Deb Rice, Gwen Klevich, Evelyn Mammigonian, Valerie Smith, Carol Heighes, Mary-Jo Dudley, and many others. This is our Parish fair so please join us.

Altar Guild

June is a **"Newcomers' Month"**! If you have been thinking about joining the Altar Guild, this is a great time to find out what we do! Please join me on Saturday mornings at 9am to set up for the Sunday service. If that time doesn't work for you, plan to stay after church for 20 minutes or so to help clean and put away the items used during the service. No strings attached, we just want you to have as much fun as we do serving the members of our congregation! You won't find a group that laughs more than the Altar Guild! It is truly a joyful service!

~Kitty Cornwell



REVELATIONS - *Building Bridges through Small Groups*

Fishercats vs. Seadogs Outing July 19!

10:30: tailgate party (burgers, dogs, etc.) at Christ Church, Exeter.

11:45: bus leaves for Manchester with choir members and anyone else who wishes to join

1:30: Game on between New Hampshire Fishercats and Portland Seadogs (Red Sox affiliate)! Choir members will sing the National Anthem and David Holroyd will throw out a ceremonial first pitch before the game! Immediately after the final out, kids can remain and run the bases, after which the bus will head back to Exeter.

\$20.00 per person, all-inclusive, (checks payable to "Christ Church, Exeter", memo "ballgame"). Cutoff date is July 5.

Choir members are invited to sing the anthem. Bruce Adami and Suzanne Jalbert Jones, our music directors, will rehearse the group at the tailgate party. Choir dress code is khaki pants or shorts and blue shirt. The more the merrier!

Tickets will be distributed at the tailgate party, (other arrangements can be made as needed). Questions may be directed to Deb Rice at (603) 534-9680. We hope for a big contingent from St. Thomas!



The Fourth Street Jazz Choir

Directed by Wendell Purrington

Accompanied by Kathy Fink

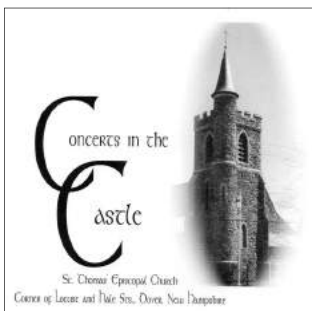
Saturday, June 13, 2015, 7:00 PM

St Thomas' Episcopal Church

Suggested Donation: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors & students.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the St Thomas' Music Fund.

Please join us for a dessert reception immediately following in Ervin Hall



Stand tall today. Breathe in the strength of the Spirit, be renewed in heart and mind, consider well the lessons life has taught you, feel the truth of justice whispering in your ear, and reach out with your hands to take hold of the work God has entrusted to you, let your voice ring out bright and clear, proclaim the acceptable moment of a holy hope, be the example others are praying to see, not timid, but confident, full of faith, full of compassion, alive in love without judgment or shame, giving all you can with all you have to all you meet. Stand tall today.

-- The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston



ACTS - Action in Community through Service

Shower Program for the Homeless

As I went to leave the evening Good Friday service this past year I walked past the collection box for the Shower Program for the Homeless. What a surprise!! There were 7 – 8 bath towels, each with a packet of shampoo, conditioner, body cream, soap, comb, etc. What a beautiful gift for a homeless person – to be able to go to the Dover Pool and shower, clean up and feel whole again. All I could think of was the Bible verse –“even as you have done to one of us, you have done it for me”.

Each week there is another surprise, new towels, gently used towels, wash cloths, hotel shampoo, conditioners, and soap. This week we were gifted several travel size deodorants!

Many thanks to all of you who care about this program and keep it going!

~Mary Jo Dudley & Marci Novak

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
show us how to nourish.

For faith in a world where many walk in fear,
show us how to comfort.

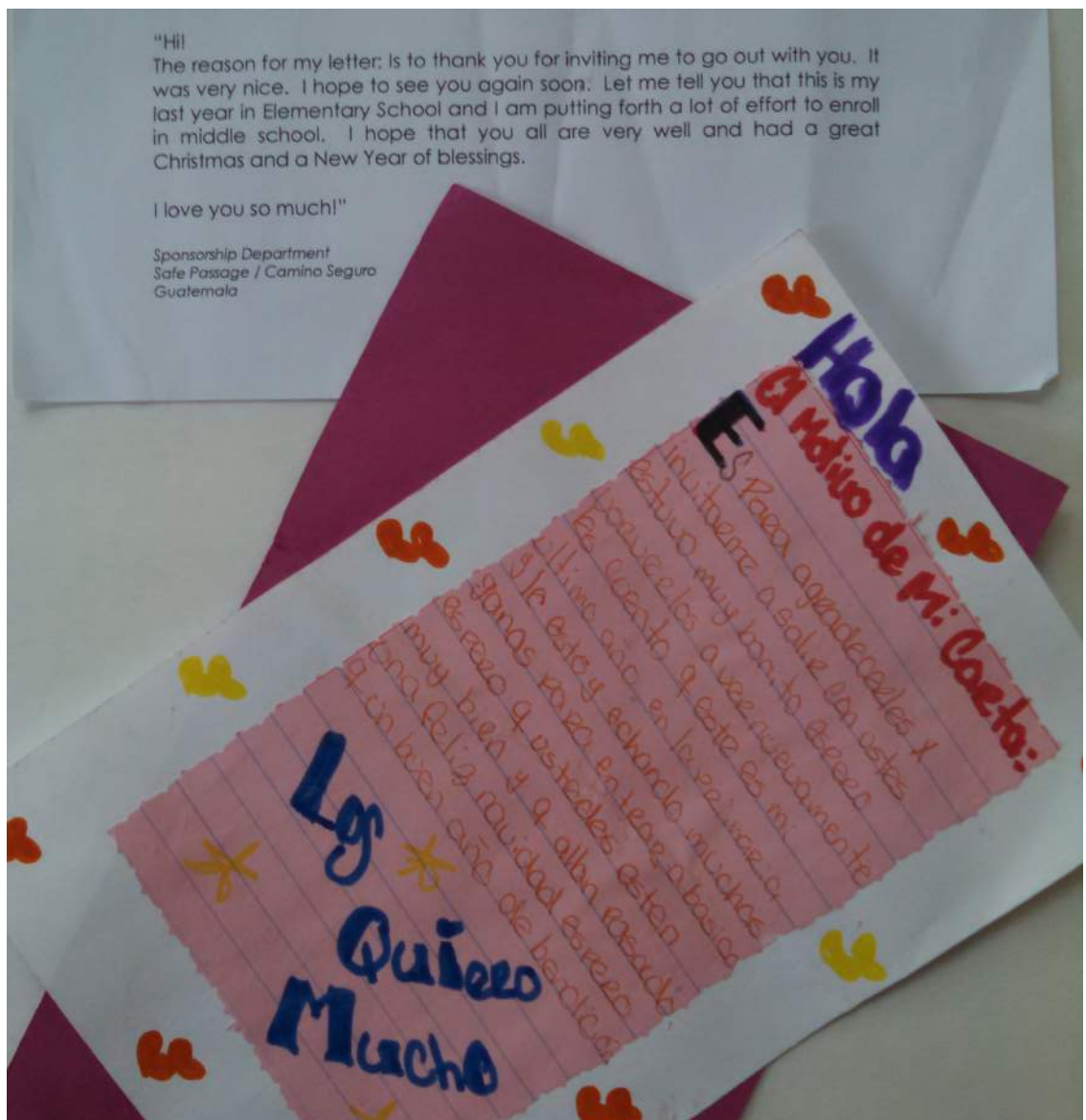
For friends in a world where many walk alone,
show and praise your holy name.

Show us how to open our hearts.
We give you thanks, O Lord.



Huron Hunger Fund
Anglican Church of Canada, adapted

Mail from our Safe Passage sponsored child,
Galin Lorena Margarota Tepaz Mendoza

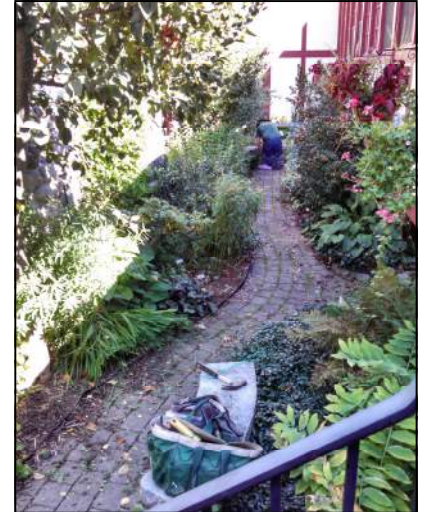


Parish Workday Success!

The property Committee would like to thank the volunteers who turned out for our spring Parish Workday. We accomplished a lot while enjoying fellowship and serving together .

Highlights of the day included:

- 20 volunteers
- A great lunch together - Phil Swan's pizza subs were a hit!
- Cleaned out & weeded gardens, mowed the alley behind parish hall
- Spring cleaned the Memorial Garden
- Installed window air conditioners
- Updated the ladies bathroom - cleaned light fixtures, cleaned walls, painted
- Continued Hale House basement work
- Installed bulletin board in Ervin Hall connector for community events and happenings
- ***Cleaned out and organized the 3rd floor of the Hale House***
- Washed Ervin Hall tables and chairs
- Cleaned kitchen stoves, grill and backsplash
- Put air holes around water damaged windows and door in the church



Our next parish workday is planned for September 26, 2015 9am-3pm.
Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.



Church Floor Painting

The church floor is showing signs of wear and it's especially noticeable where we've removed pews to accommodate handicap access, the family area and the organ.

A painting project is planned and we need your support in volunteer time and funding.

The plan is to begin painting in June so that windows can be opened for ventilation. The floor will be done in sections over several weeks to accommodate long drying times (5-8 days) and so we'll still have seating available for services. There may be a week or two you don't get to sit in your favorite pew. 😊

Painting the floor is the easy part. Preparation will include: lifting kneelers, vacuuming, washing, sanding and vacuuming again. There are also lots of materials that will be needed in addition to paint: sand paper, brushes, rollers, containers, rags, cleaning agents, marking tape, etc.

The Sherwin-Williams company in Dover has been very helpful, coming to the Church to advise us on the project and will be providing a 40% discount on paint.

To volunteer your time and/or skill and expertise please contact Mary-Jo Dudley, ideabetes@comcast.net , 749-3899.

To make a donation toward the project you can write a check, payable to St. Thomas' with 'Church Floor' on the memo line.



Property Committee : News, Updates & Opportunities

Efforts, Projects and Issues

The property committee is monitoring many facilities related efforts, projects and issues.

Project priorities:

- ✓ **Ervin Hall vestibule** - floor replacement is in the works
- ✓ **Winter water damage repairs** – Damage in the church from water and ice dams is being assessed and we’re looking for contractors to help with repair work both inside and out.
- ✓ **Gatehouse window** – Repairs will be starting soon.
- ✓ **Wood trim on Bridge** – Wood rot is a big issue in the Memorial Garden and it has attracted carpenter ants. We’re looking for contractors to quote repair work.
- ✓ **Hale House basement** – work to clear the foundation drain and install a sump pump to facilitate drying in the basement continues.
- ✓ **HVAC assessment and action plan**
- ✓ **Church chimney water leak**

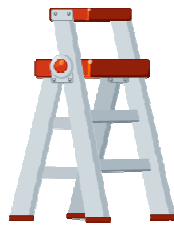
Future projects:

- ✓ Repair and paint trim work on the Hale House
- ✓ Repair and paint trim work on the Church
- ✓ Replace kitchen cabinets and upgrade sinks

For a full list of projects and maintenance items, large and small, both ongoing and proposed, please see the Property Committee bulletin board in Ervin Hall

- Do you have project ideas for the Property Committee?
- Do you see something that needs attention in the facilities or on the grounds?

Please contact a committee member or call or e-mail the committee chair or the Jr. Warden.



Committee Members

Don Meserve, Hank Feenstra, Harold Clarke., Bill Hunt, Bill Dudley, Mary-Jo Duduley, Bob Campbell, Michael Bloomfield, Jr. Warden Allen Laughlin, Committee Chair Patty Laughlin (603-734-2804; pjdavidson@mindspring.com)

Summer Grounds Tasks

We have two ongoing summer tasks for which we need volunteers. We’d rather not have to hire a service to help us with these tasks and, through Roland is happy to mow, he has other priorities.



- * Mowing - once a week as needed; mower and trimmer are in the shed
- * Garden Maintenance - weed & deadhead

There are sign up lists on the Property Committee Bulletin board in Ervin Hall. Contact Patty for more information or to arrange coaching.

Committee Roles

As you can see the Property Committee is very busy! Please consider joining us as a committee member or as a resource, offering your expertise or skills for specific tasks or projects.

You do not need to have property management, repair, renovation, maintenance, HVAC, plumbing or electrical experience to be a valuable member of the committee. All you need is an interest in learning about and keeping up our facilities and grounds, a willingness to help and a few hours a month for tasks.

Specific Needs:

Clerk - attend committee meetings, take minutes, type up minutes & prep agenda in collaboration with committee chair; 2-3 hours per month including the meeting itself

Contractor Engagement - contact contractors to quote projects, meet them for walk throughs, help assess quotes, and manage engagement when someone is hired.

Technical Writer - help compile and produce a facilities operations manual

Grant Writer - help find and apply for grants for facilities projects

Bookkeeper - collaborate with our treasurer and financial manager to manage facilities related spending

THANKS

A Song of Thanksgiving

I thank my God whenever I think of you, and every time I pray for you all, I always pray with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the very first up to the present. I am quite confident that the One who began a good work in you will go on completing it until the Day of Jesus Christ comes. It is only right that I should feel like this toward you all, because you have a place in my heart.
(Philippians 1:3-7)

As our program year comes to a close, we give special recognition and thanks for all those listed below who nourished us throughout the year. Yummy food for our bodies, melodic voices for our souls, and a deeper knowledge and wisdom as our children showed us new ways to encounter God's lively Word. Thank you for your time and skills, and we ask God's blessing upon you.

O God of all beginnings and endings, we thank you for the gifts these people have given freely to us this program year. It has been a time filled with grace and blessings, with challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows. The days have passed quickly, O Lord. The weeks, the months, the seasons, and Holy days--all have come forth from your hand. And we trust that your purposes have always been at work in us.

Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer. Let our efforts of this program year continue to bear fruit. Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion and bless us, according to your will.

With the fulfillment of our summer hopes and dreams, watch over us in the weeks ahead, and guide each day as you have always done. In the fall, help us to return to our programs with a new spirit and a new energy.

May we grow in your wisdom, knowledge and grace all the days of our lives. Amen.

Storytellers & Doorperson's for Children's Program: Julie Cooper, Deb DeBeck, Jo-Anne Fuller-Sattler, Nancy Hunt, Sora Martindale, Jennifer Mayor, Emma Sattler, Judi Turner

Kathy Fink, St. Thomas' Music Director

St. Thomas' Choir Members: Tim Campbell, Tinka Finley, Jerry Finley, Jo-Anne Fuller-Sattler, Carol Heighes, Francine Kontos, Ted Kontos, Jennifer Mayor, Lisa Miller, Margaret Miller, Joann Rhode, Chris Turner, Thorne Warner

Breakfast Café Coordinator, Nancy Stafford-Parson

Breakfast Café members: Tim Constantine, Thomas Stafford, Cam Turner, Patty Laughlin, Bonita Hartford, Nancy Coleman, Peg Warner, Robyn Britton, Fran Whiting, Kevin Gorham, Allen Laughlin.

Serving God in His Church

The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop

The Rev. Gail Avery, Interim Rector

The Rev. Ted Rice, Interim Associate

Convocation and Convention Diocesan Delegates

Kitty Cornwell, Nancy Hunt, Judi Turner, Rob Sylvester

Alternates:

Jo-Anne Fuller-Sattler, Margie Ford

Safe Church Minister: Judi Turner

The Vestry

Officers

Chris Wyskiel, *Senior Warden;*

Allen Laughlin, *Junior Warden*

Bill Hunt, *Clerk;* Kevin Gorham, *Treasurer*

Term ending 2016

Valerie Smith

William Dudley

Margie Ford

Term ending 2017

Margaret Miller

Tim Constantine

Chris Turner

Term ending 2018

Adrienne Mallinson

Elaine Sylvester

Kathleen Ford

Gwen Klevitch



Celebrating in...

Many Happy Returns to:

June Birthdays

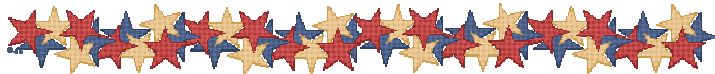
Karen Ciccotelli, Kitty Cornwell, Sharon Courtemanche, Michael DeBeck, Allison Dotchin, Thomas Dotchin, Mary Jo Dudley, Tinka Finley, Jo-Anne Fuller-Sattler, Lauren Furtney, Peter Georgakilas, Claire Gleeson, Elaine Hashem, James Johnson, Allen Krans, Jr., Roger Legere, Thomas Massingham, Robert McKeagney, Audrey Smith, Joseph St. George III, Robert Stiefel, Chris Turner, Mark Zemgulis

July Birthdays

Colby Bigelow, Robert Cooper, Gerald Daniels, Eric Flinkstrom, Bonnie Hartford, Allan Krans, Sabrina Lucius, Barbara MacInnis, Lindsey Macleod, Lorraine Mathieu, Isaac Mayor, Arlo McKinney, Tatyana Wolterbeek, Barbara Jean Paquette, Michael Paquette, John Rice, JoAnn Rohde, Barbara Schnepf, Margaret Spuler, Kim Staples, Jennifer Stiefel, William Treacy, Elias Warner, Fran Whiting

August Birthdays

Valerie Smith, Ron Mitchell, Marjorie Ford, James Schulte, Alexander St. George, Scott Schnepf, Patricia Staples-Lake, Jon Federico, Deborah Rice, Harold Clark, Francine Kontos, David Akridge, Rohan Nanda, Anna Franas, Vivian Treacy, Eric Miller, Matt Furtney, Jessica Ponchak, Paul Smith, Ann Clark, Debbie DeBeck, Donald Young, Shelby Smith, Cynthia Wyskiel, Kayla Flinkstrom, Juliette Emory, Sean Lucius, Anna Wolterbeek, Daniel Wolterbeek, Fisher Yarborough, Natalie Martindale



Thanksgiving for National Life



Almighty God, giver of all good things:

We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.

Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

Inspire us.

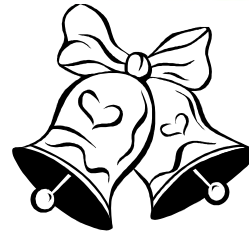
We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.

Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

Renew us.

For the Nation, BCP, 838



Anniversary
Blessings and
Congratulations to:

June Anniversaries

David & Martha Burton
Ann & Ernest Clark
Carolyn & Daniel Federico
Mark & Sharon Gearreald
Greg & Heather Hesse-Stromberg
Nancy & Bill Hunt

July Anniversaries

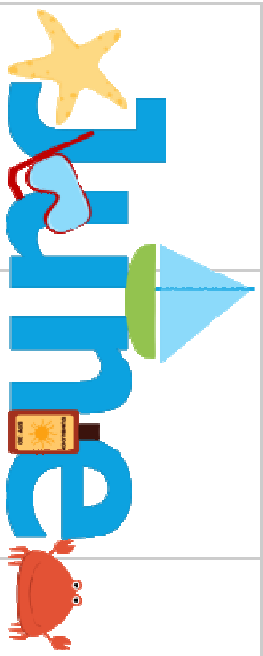
Michelle & Thomas Dotchin
Jo-Anne Fuller-Sattler & Lonn Sattler
Rebecca Hawthorne & Joe St. George
Keith Lake & Patricia Staples-Lake
Allison & Gregory Leach
Scott & Susan Lucius
Susan & Tom Powell
Chris & Cynthia Wyskiel
Ron & Shannon Mitchell
Arthur & Mary McKenney

August Anniversaries

Joseph Marquette III & Robert Gibson
Kathleen Koson & Shawn McKinney
Barbara & Scott Schnepf
James & Nancy Schulte
Sherrie & Wayne Sheehan
Elaine & Rob Sylvester
Jacob & Ky Wolterbeek

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.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8a Holy Eucharist 9:30a Church School 10a Holy Eucharist with Baptism	7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St. T Staff Meeting 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	7a AA Morning Reflection 5-9p Concert Rehearsal 6-9p Vestry Retreat	9a-4p Vestry Retreat 5-6:30p Bible Study 4-7p Concert Set-up 7p The Fourth Street Jazz Choir Concert 8-9p Reception

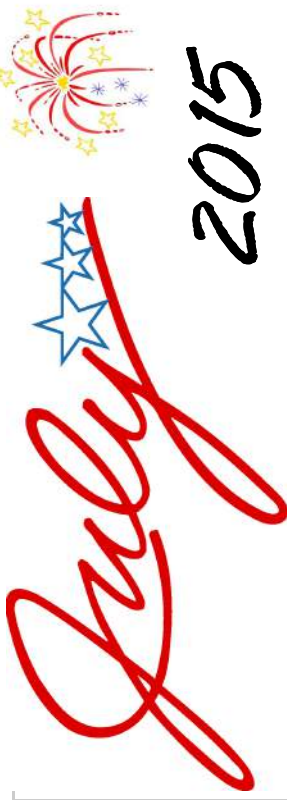
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Recognition Sunday 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 9:30a Church School, (last class until fall)	7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Vestry	9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 5p Kitchen Team	7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St. T Staff Meeting 9a-2 Office Hours	9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	7a AA Morning Reflection	5-6:30p Bible Study

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8a & 10a Holy Eucharist (last day with choir)	7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St. T Staff Meeting 9a-2 Office Hours	9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	7a AA Morning Reflection	5-6:30p Bible Study



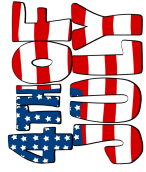
28	29	30	<p><i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i> We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Amen</i></p>			
9a Holy Eucharist	7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK				

BCP, 840

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour Hosted by Altar Guild	6 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Property Committee	7 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	8 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours	9 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	10 7a AA Morning Reflection	11
12 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour Hosted by Choir	13 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	14 9a-2 Office Hours 10a St T Staff Mtg 5p DFK	15 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours	16 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	17 7a AA Morning Reflection	18
19 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour Hosted by Craft Group	20 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Vestry	21 9a-2 Office Hours 10a St T Staff Mtg 5p DFK 5p Kitchen Team	22 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours	23 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	24 7a AA Morning Reflection	25
26 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour Hosted by Harvest Fair	27 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	28 9a-2 Office Hours 10a St T Staff Mtg 5p DFK	29 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours	30 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	31 7a AA Morning Reflection	

4

INDEPENDENCE
DAY

Sun

Mon

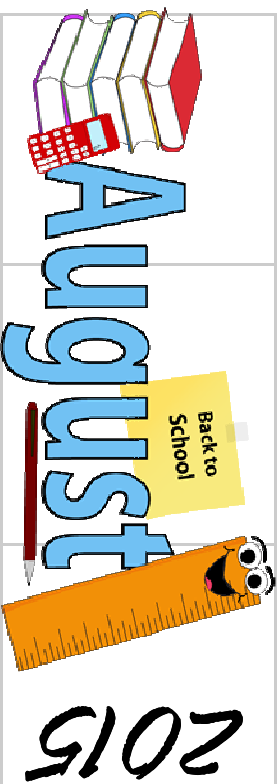
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



We, thank you, O' Lord, for making us co-creators of your loving purpose. Each of us has a capacity for great good, and that is what makes God say it was well worth the risk to bring us into existence. Extraordinarily, God the omnipotent One depends on us, puny, fragile, and vulnerable as we may be, to accomplish God's purpose for good, for justice, for forgiveness and healing and wholeness. Desmond Tutu, No Future Without Forgiveness

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5-6:30p Bible Study
2 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour Hosted by Hospitality	3 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Property Committee	4 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	5 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours	6 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	7 7a AA Morning Reflection	8
9 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour Hosted by Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers	10 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	11 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	12 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours	13 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	14 7a AA Morning Reflection	15
16 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour Hosted by Property Committee	17 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Vestry	18 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 5P Kitchen Team	19 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours	20 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	21 7a AA Morning Reflection	22
23 9a Holy Eucharist	24 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	25 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	26 7a AA Morning Reflect 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	27 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	28 7a AA Morning Reflection	29
30 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Parish Forum	31 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group					

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)

The Rev. Ted Rice, Interim Associate

603 742 3155 ~ stthomas@stdover.org

Parish Office Hours:

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

Jerry Costanza, Financial Bookkeeper

Kathy Fink, 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

Summer Schedule

Beginning June 28th

9:00 am Holy Eucharist with music

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**