



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

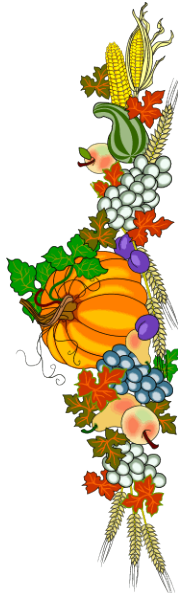
November 2014

The Bridge

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

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

The Bridge



Litany for the Renewal of the Church

Let us pray to the Lord and Giver of life that the Church of God may be renewed and strengthened for its mission in our day.

Silence

That the Church may become alive again with the fire of its first charity, fearless of danger and reckless unto death, in the splendor of that Life which is the light of the world,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

That the Church may be worthy of its liberty, persistent in reform, active in benevolence, trusting the people, and ever faithful to the Jerusalem which is above, and free, and the mother of us all,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

That the old may dream dreams, and the young see visions; that its sons and daughters may prophesy, bearing eager witness of its beauty to the world,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

That all its members, putting self aside, disinterested and pure in heart, may seek and find God, and rejoice in the truth,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

That its clergy may be good and wise, strong and courageous, competent in their work, and faithful in their witness,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

That its bishops, full of insight and imagination, may venture great things, not exercising dominion, but serving as true leaders of the people,

Receive our prayer O Christ.

That its councils and conventions may be keen to go forward, filled with wisdom, eager to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

Receive our prayer O Christ.

That its scholars may have disciples, its prophets hearers, its saints imitators, and all its pioneers may anxious to follow in their steps,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

That we may forsake that love of party which keeps us from loving one another; and so, coming together in friendship, we may find the overpowering love of God, which shall knit us all together in one united Church,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

And finally, that the Church, with love recovered in its midst, may teach all to love one another, and all the nations to dwell together in helpfulness and friendship, reconciled and redeemed,

Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Father, be with us all

Christ, be with us all

Holy Spirit be with us all.

Be with us, Holy God, now and evermore.

- Prayed at October's Clergy Conference



From the Interim Rector's Desk

The Rev. Gail Avery

The Harvest Fair has passed, yet the joy of that day still lingers...



Since my arrival in May, the Craft Committee has been busy upstairs working. Every Monday night laughter flows down the stairs as Fran, Georgia, Evelyn, Carol, Cathy, and Gwen busily work their skillful hands. I had no idea of the breath and talent of these women. Dolls, ornaments, hand-knitted throws, table runners—just to name a few of their wares.

Then the cooking began in September. Cookies, jellies and jams, pies—fruited and meat. For weeks, Fair Committee members turned bakers, assembled and cooked pies. So much work, too few hands, but the laughter continued. To my surprise, it seemed to increase, as the day of the Harvest Fair got nearer!

The day of the Fair, my husband Kirk and I arrived early to ensure that each table had its cash drawer ready. Said a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing and then watched in amazement as parishioner after parishioner came in with something in their arms—chowder, salad fixings, mac and cheese, and tons of cookies and special desserts. No lists were posted, no panic pleas for help. The participation just happened, joyfully.

I can't wait for next year! Hale house feels pretty empty without your laughter.

With thanksgiving and deep gratitude for St. Thomas' parish and all you do.

Gail+



"Why St. Thomas' matters to me"

a reflection by Marcia Flinkstrom

I come for "respite" from craziness of my work.

I look for solace and spiritual fulfillment in the liturgy and the words.

I come for "community"—a place of belonging.

I come to find and nurture relationships that are mutual and sustaining, inclusive.

I look for a place in my church that shares my social concerns that strives to work in the world/community on social justice, poverty, and inequality.

I am here to participate (to the best of my ability and availability) in activities of the parish—in particular those that reach into the community and the world to address need.

Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PRIVILEGE OF PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. Dr. David D. Holroyd
Interim Associate, St. Thomas', Dover



When I was invited to join the interim team at St. Thomas' last spring as your quarter time interim, it was with the understanding that my focus would be that of pastoral care. In the past several months it has been a joy to meet people in hospitals, assisted living communities, and in homes. My list of people is growing each month as I make pastoral visits, share the Holy Eucharist, and spend quality time with those who are unable to attend church. It is a reminder that if some are unable to come to church, then the church will come to them. These people are still very much a part of our parish family, even though you may not see them in church on Sunday morning.

Pastoral care is a privilege and a gift. How often are those times when I visit a person and leave feeling better than I did when I arrived! How often I depart feeling as though I have received far more than I have given. What a blessing it is to be among the people of God in such a special way. If you are reading this and would like to receive a home visit, simply call the office, leave a message with Patty or Gail, and I will be happy to contact you. A favorite bishop of mine once reminded some of us newly ordained clergy many years ago: "Whenever you make a pastoral visit, you are saying three important things -- that you care, your church cares, and most importantly that God cares." That message has always been with me and I try to remember to say a little prayer before every visit that I make.

A few days ago Deb Rice, Margie Ford, and I attended a wonderful pastoral care event at Wentworth-Douglas Hospital. It was led by someone who has done extensive ministry with those who suffer from various forms of memory loss. She encouraged all of us to simply take the risk to enter into another person's world -- not to bombard them with our perceived reality but to engage in what is real for them. She referred to this as "therapeutic fiblettes." It quickly brought to mind a favorite new parishioner friend of mine who thinks that I am the Bishop! I have since been demoted to the Bishop's Assistant, however. Instead of trying to tell her that I am just a Priest from St. Thomas' I can now live with a therapeutic fiblette. Who says that pastoral care can't be fun and maybe even contribute to an inflated ego?!



LET US KNOW!

In addition to letting Gail or me know if you wish to receive a pastoral visit, please let us know if you are going to be hospitalized or are in the hospital. Clergy no longer have access to hospital lists because of privacy issues. The hospital rarely informs us as to whether or not a parishioner is there. We rely on the person, a family member, or a friend to inform us. Nothing makes us sadder than not seeing someone because we did not know that they were there. Be God's eyes and ears for us!

Another Successful Harvest Fair!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who was able to support our Harvest Fair in any way. The fair committee couldn't be successful without your help. Our fair saw a wonderful day. The weather was beautiful, the food was delicious and the crafts were unique and beautiful.



Congratulations to the winners of our raffle items:

1. Bike - Norma Willard
2. Dolls - Tinka Findly
3. Church Print - Francine Kontos
4. Breakfast Basket - Tammy Bessette
5. Food Basket - Rebecca Whitley
6. Gift Wrap Basket - Marie Nadeau



There will be a followup Fair Committee meeting on Tues, Nov 11 at 7pm in the Dallas Room.

Again, a huge thank you for all your support!

The Fair Committee:
Carol Heighes, Georgia Campbell, Mary Jo Dudley, Tinka Finley, Mickey and Elaine Hashem, Nancy Hunt, Gwen Klevitch, Kathy MacLeod, Evelyn Mamigonian, Bea Mayrand, Nat Peters, Deb Rice, Valerie Smith



*Gifts for Life – The Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) Catalog
Celebrating 75 years of Healing a Hurting World*

Jennifer Stiefel



Together with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners, ERD strengthens communities in some 40 countries today to meet tomorrow's challenges. They rebuild after disasters and empower people by offering lasting solutions to fight poverty, hunger, and diseases including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and the Ebola virus.

The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief was founded during WW2 to assist refugees fleeing Europe. After the war, the PB Fund helped rebuild Anglican institutions such as missions, hospitals and churches in Europe and China. It then expanded to include humanitarian assistance worldwide.

In the 1990s, following Hurricane Mitch, the PB Fund launched "Faith, Hope and Joy," an innovative disaster relief program in Honduras. A combination of rebuilding and development helped spur economic growth in the devastated region, and this integrated approach became a core element of the PB Fund's disaster relief work. The PB Fund was renamed ERD at the General Convention in 2000, the better to emphasize its growing focus on implementing long-term development and rehabilitation programs. In 2010 ERD helped the response to the massive earthquake in Haiti by providing food, medicine and rebuilding assistance. The US Disaster Program was also created, helping Episcopal Church leaders respond to emergencies in America.

Using this year's catalog you may choose a gift from the following life-changing categories: animals & agriculture, basics for life, green gifts, health & wellness, economic opportunities. You may select an individual item (such as a goat) or donate part of a project (such as a well for a village). With each purchase, large or small, you'll receive a personalized card to send to friends and loved ones, telling them about the transformative gift you've made in their name.

Robert and I have given such donations on the one hand to grandnephews and nieces, and to godchildren, who really don't need any more stuff. We've found that they appreciate being themselves givers, able to help others in need. On the other hand we've also made ERD gifts in the name of older folks who are downsizing (like us), and want to stop accumulating. If you order by December 3 you'll receive gift cards in time for Christmas.

Here's just one success story from the catalog:

A Passion for Growth in Kenya

A few years ago, our local partner in Kenya, Anglican Development Services – Nyanza (ADS), started working with communities to alleviate child malnutrition.

They decided to switch from growing tobacco to growing passion fruit—which is not only good to eat but in high demand throughout Kenya and on the export market.

Through the program farmers learned to control pests; prune the branches to get a good harvest; separate the fruit based on size, color and ripeness; and share what they learned with their neighbors.

The farmers also started a tree nursery, where they grow avocados, mangoes, papaya, citrus and forest trees, and created team of grafters who create stronger trees by combining disease-resistant local trees with higher-yielding foreign varieties.

Farmers who had been growing tobacco for many years told us they were so much happier now – no longer at the mercy of the tobacco companies and able to make good money for their families.

Laughing, one man said, "When my wife washes my clothes, she will now sometimes find change in the pockets."



A Thanksgiving to God



The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

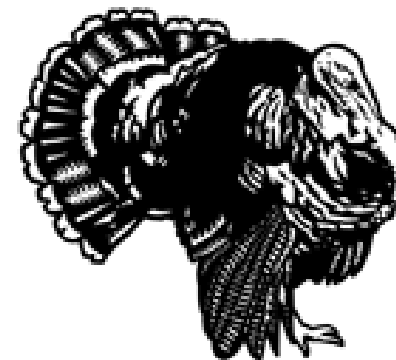
Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

Abraham Lincoln





Notes from Stewardship

Annual Appeal Letter

by Rob Sylvester

Annual appeal is a request for a commitment from YOU for funds so we can plan on the ministries we can afford to support at St. Thomas'. When I first became an Episcopalian I had no idea what this pledge thing was and why it was important. As I became active in my church I realized why pledging was so important to operating a church. I found out that managing a church equates on one level is no different than managing a business or a home. We have so much in income and we have so much in bills. We say yes to what we NEED and we say yes to some we WANT. The bills, our commitments are easy-peasy to predict. We know the cost of our clergy, staff, lights, heat, etc. What we cannot predict easily is YOUR financial commitment. That is why we ask you to annually reflect on the many gifts from God and make a financial commitment or pledge to this Church.

Annually it costs us approximately \$250,000 to operate this church. After rents paid to the church by groups using the church, our investments (interest and liquidations) and events (like our glorious fair) we look to YOU for the rest. The rest is 55% of the total or \$137,500. For the number of families pledging (60-65) that equates to \$2,200 per family or pledging unit. Some give more some give less. We need YOU to please give this careful consideration, reflection and prayer to determine your commitment to St. Thomas' in the year ahead.

We know this has been a year of change and uncertainty. We also know the greater community of Dover counts on us in many ways. The Dover Family kitchen serving two meals a week. The 3 AA groups. The Indonesian Church who worships here Sunday afternoons. We also know that many of you count on the generosity and fellowship of this great Episcopal Community, St Thomas'.

This annual appeal is ONE part of our Stewardship. By definition Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. We have been entrusted to care for this place, the long term life of this place. This place, NOT just the physical plant but the community of Christians who worship here. Stewardship applies to everything we have been given. Our time, our money, our God given gifts and abilities, our influence, it all comes from God.

Thank you for your past generosity. If you are not currently coming to St. Thomas', we would like to invite you to come back and join with us as we share in God's many graces together as a community. Thank you in advance, for prayerful consideration and commitment for this coming year and always. Your support enables us to continue to be a part of the body of Christ in our community.

We welcome all to join us as we enter a new chapter in our life as a parish and a part of the larger community.

Peace and blessings.

The Stewardship team

Five Practices of the Episcopal Church in NH

"Tending the Vine, Together"

1. *Showing up* - at worship and prayer we regularly place ourselves in the presence of the vinedresser;
2. *Telling the stories* - the Gospel tells us about the mission of God and we tell these stories again and again;
3. *We splash water around* - We baptize and we live out our baptism covenant;
4. *We share food* - at the altar and in out-reach to others;
5. *God surprises us* - we are ready with joyful expectation even if we do not yet know how God will surprise us

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



The Breakfast Café

Breakfast Café will be open for business as usual for the first four Sundays in November. On November 30th, (the 5th Sunday), the Café will serve a Continental Breakfast after the 9:00 AM Worship Service, in preparation for the Vestry Forum at 10:30. We will serve items such as bagels with cream cheese, danish, muffins, fruit cups and the like. This will be a free-will donation. Anyone wishing to donate, please see Nancy Stafford-Parsons at Café or call 603-767-2349.

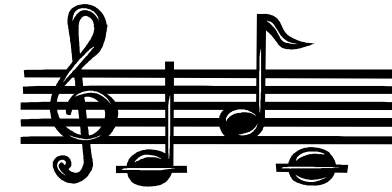
Looking for more closers, please!

We have one Vestry member who has volunteered to be a closer one Sunday a month....any others? (9:30 - 10:30).



ANNUAL RAFFLE

We will have our annual Christmas Morning Basket raffle starting the first Sunday of ADVENT. \$1.00 a ticket, 7 for \$5.00. Basket contains among other things. a quiche, ham, scones, coffee, tea, CHRISTMAS CD etc. Check it out!



From The Musical Director

Greetings! This holiday season we will be doing a special parish event called "The Hanging of the Green". It is similar to Lessons and Carols but involves our youth as well in the decorating of the church. I am looking for some extra singers for this occasion! The date is Saturday, December 13th at 5:00 pm followed by a pot luck supper. If you are interested in singing, please contact me or speak to me at church.

Kathy Fink
pianotchr@aol.com
603-534-4526



Notification of Special Meeting of Vestry

At the request of several Vestry members and Bishop Robert A. Hirschfeld, we, Gail Avery, Priest-in-Charge and Chris Wyskiel, Senior Warden, of The Parish of St. Thomas' Church, hereby call a special meeting of Vestry at St. Thomas' Church, Dover, NH Wednesday November 12th, 2014 at 7pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss 1) roles and authority of Priest in Charge and Vestry and 2) healthy norms of communication and conflict mediation in the Vestry and the Parish-at-large.

Agenda is as follows:

- Prayer
- Renewal of Baptism Vows
- Opportunity for concerned members of the parish to present concerns with Vestry (30 minutes)
- Executive Session with Bishop and Canon(s)
- Closing Prayer and Dismissal

ACTS - Action in Community through Service

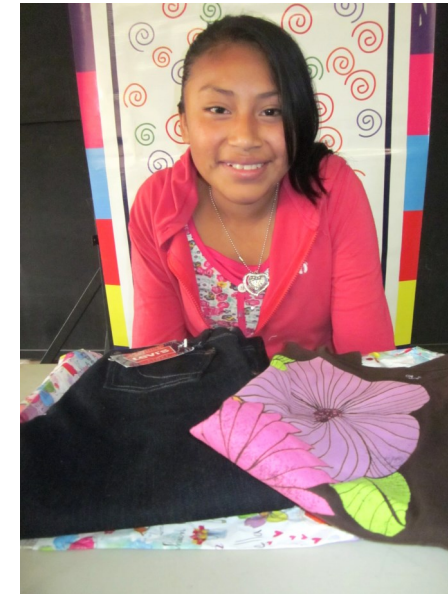
Happy Birthday to our Safe Passage child!

Dear Friends of Safe Passage,

Greetings from Camino Seguro! Attached, is a photo of your sponsor child Gelin Lorena Margarita Tepaz Mendoza, with the birthday gift that we were able to purchase with the donation you sent towards the Gift Fund. Thank you so much for donating to the fund and ensure that Gelin and all of our students have a special birthday!

Please accept our gratitude for all of your support and thoughtfulness! It really meant so much to Gelin to hear from you!

Best Wishes,
Ingrid Hernandez



Donations Needed!

Dover Cooperative Ministries, of which St. Thomas' is a part, need help in providing for our brothers and sisters in need in the community. We are putting together shower packs to leave at the indoor pool next to the Children's Museum for the homeless to use. Items needed are: bath towels (new or gently used), travel size shampoos, conditioner and shaving cream, disposable razors and combs. The Dover Food Pantry also has a great need of personal care products, such as toilet paper, diapers, soap, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste, feminine pads and tampons, cleaning supplies. Many of these items can not be purchased with food stamps and are desperately needed by the patrons of the food pantry. Milk cards are also welcome. Please keep those who are in need in your thoughts and prayers as well.

REVELATIONS - Building Bridges through Small Groups

Memorial Tree in Gratitude for Bob Whiting

A tree and plaque have been donated by the City and Dover Cooperative Ministries in gratitude for all Bob Whiting has done for our community over the years. A dedication ceremony will take place on November 3rd at 1:00pm at the Pine Hill Cemetery, (across from the former Care Pharmacy, now CVS Pharmacy, on Central Avenue).



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 8a & 10a Services 9:30a Sunday School 8:30a-10 Breakfast Café</p>	<p>3 7a AA Morning Reflection 1p Bob Whiting Mem'l (Pine Hill Cemetery) 7p Crafts Group 7p Property Committee</p>	<p>4 9a-12 Office Hours 5p DFK</p>	<p>5 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-12 Office Hours 7p Choir</p>	<p>6 5p DFK 9a-12 Office Hours 7p Dover original AA</p>	<p>7 7a AA Morning Reflection Diocesan Convention (St Paul's Concord): 5-6:30p: Open Forum 6:30p: Brown Bag Dinner 7p: Bishop's Address</p>	<p>8 Diocesan Convention (Grappone Conf Ctr, Concord): 7-8:30a: Check-in 9a: Call to Order</p>
<p>9 8a & 10a Services 9:30a Sunday School 8:30a-10 Breakfast Café</p>	<p>10 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Crafts Group</p>	<p>11 9a-12 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Fair Comm Mtg</p>	<p>12 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-12 Office Hours 7p Choir 7p Special Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>13 5p DFK 9a-12 Office Hours 7p Dover original AA</p>	<p>14 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 8a & 10a Services 9:30a Sunday School 8:30a-10 Breakfast Café</p>	<p>17 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Crafts Group 7p Vestry 7p Dover Share</p>	<p>18 9a-12 Office Hours 5p DFK 5p Kitchen Team</p>	<p>19 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-12 Office Hours 7p Choir</p>	<p>20 5p DFK 9a-12 Office Hours</p>	<p>21 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8a & 10a Services 9:30a Sunday School 8:30a-10 Breakfast Café</p>	<p>24 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Crafts Group</p>	<p>25 9a-12 Office Hours 5p DFK</p>	<p>26 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-12 Office Hours 7p Choir</p>	<p>27 5p DFK 9a-12 Office Hours 7p Dover original AA</p>	<p>28 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>	<p>29 Sunday 30 9a One Service only 10:30a Vestry Forum 10a Continental Breakfast</p>

NOVEMBER

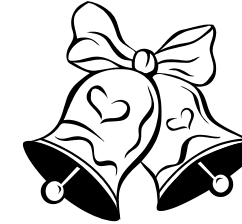
2014

Celebrating in...



Many Happy Returns to:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Chad Flinkstrom | Paige Moody |
| Alan Goelzer | Imogene McKinney |
| Bella Britton | Carol Bernard |
| Lucille Thompson | Gregory Leach |
| Bill Dudley | Jacob Wolterbeek |
| Thomas Morton | Amy Ponchak |
| Janice Clark | Pam Hallett |
| Gregory Hunt | Patricia Clark |
| Georgia Campbell | Penny Seaver |
| Carol Heighes | David Burton |
| Mackenzie Rhodus | Ruthann Lennon |
| Kate Montanus | Susan Powell |
| Robert Campbell | |



Anniversary Blessings and Congratulations to:

- Michael & Debbie Debeck
 Micky & Elaine Hashem
 Donald Young & Jo-Ann St. Pierre

We are delighted to celebrate your birthdays and 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. Thank you!



Serving God in His Church

- The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop
 The Rev. Gail Avery, Interim Rector
 The Rev. David Holroyd, Interim Associate
 The Rev. Dick Siener, Interim Consultant

Convocation and Convention Diocesan Delegates

Kitty Cornwell, Nancy Hunt, Judi Turner, Rob Sylvester

Alternates:

Joe Marquette III, Margie Ford

The Vestry

Officers

Chris Wyskiel, *Senior Warden*;

Allen Laughlin, *Junior Warden*

Allan Krans, *Clerk*; Kevin Gorham, *Treasurer*

Term ending 2015	Term ending 2016	Term ending 2017
William Hunt	Valerie Smith	Margaret Miller
Elaine Sylvester	William Dudley	Marcela Rhodus
Tim Constantine	Margie Ford	Chris Turner

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



The Bridge

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Current resident or:

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Who's Who at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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

The Rev. David Holroyd, Interim Associate

The Rev. Dick Siener, Interim Consultant

603 742 3155 x2 ~ parish.office@stdover.org

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

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

Breakfast Café 8:30-10:00 am

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**