



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

Sept—Nov 2015

The Bridge

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

Growing Up in the Body of Christ

Welcome children. Welcome choir. Welcome Breakfast Café. We are glad to see you back. Hope you all have had a wonderful summer. Weather has been beautiful and it's hard to believe that we will be welcoming fall soon.

Summer often is a time of rest and renewal. I have certainly enjoyed our relaxed worship, while feeling moved each Sunday by the Iona service we've been following—especially our final prayer that invites God to “take us out into the world as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.” The Smiths family and their musical guests have also stirred our hearts in different ways, and we have been enriched by those who have frequented our services.

This edition of the Bridge highlights the continuing work of committees that have met over the summer, insuring that our parish remains a vital community partner in Dover. Your Vestry, especially, has been worked hard, moving towards a plan for the congregation that expresses health and unity. This will be accomplished in stages and I like to share with you what's been happening and what you can expect this fall.

June's Vestry Retreat focused on a Healthy Congregation workshop facilitated by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, a workshop to equip church leaders with an understanding of qualities that mark more 'differentiated congregations'—a concept (though difficult to grasp) that leads to health and wholeness. As touted by our workshop leader, “healthy congregations will be less anxious, will manage times of heightened anxiety more thoughtfully, and appreciate differences within their membership rather than ignore or condemn them.” In essence, healthy congregations are more differentiated and better equipped to stay in relationship with others because they are less reactive to anxiety.

We learned concepts such as *triangulation, self-differentiation, chronic anxiety, family system theory*—in an attempt to equip us with some common language that will help St. Thomas move toward healthier functioning. As Bowen's Family System theory suggests: the more 'differentiated' we are, the better we are at staying in relationship with one another. Yet the fact remains, none of us are fully successful at this effort. As human beings we all have blind spots, which is one of the reasons why we need community.

During August's Vestry meeting, one of our Vestry leaders recognized that Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus expressed well what we are striving for. Saint Paul reminds us that we are called to be the body of Christ and that our calling is to build up the body:

As a prisoner of the Lord, I beg you to live in a way that is worthy of the people God has chosen to be his own. Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united. Do this by living at peace. All of you are part of the same body. There is only one Spirit of God, just as you were given one hope when you were chosen to be God's people. We have only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is one God who is the Father of all people. Not only is God above all others, but he works by using all of us, and he lives in all of us.

Christ has generously divided out his gifts to us. As the Scriptures say,

“When he went up
to the highest place,
he led away many prisoners
and gave gifts to people.”



(continued on page 2)

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When it says, “he went up,” it means that Christ had been deep in the earth. This also means that the one who went deep into the earth is the same one who went into the highest heaven, so that he would fill the whole universe.

Christ chose some of us to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers, so that his people would learn to serve and his body would grow strong. This will continue until we are united by our faith and by our understanding of the Son of God. Then we will be mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him.

We must stop acting like children. We must not let deceitful people trick us by their false teachings, which are like winds that toss us around from place to place. Love should always make us tell the truth. Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ, the head of the body. Christ holds it together and makes all of its parts work perfectly, as it grows and becomes strong because of love.

—Ephesians 4:1-16 (CEV)

For those of us working in other kinds of organization it might be odd to think of our congregation as a living body but the metaphor illustrates the essential interconnected of all our members. All parts of our body are needed, and each part depends on all the others to carry out the work of the whole. In addition, each part has a distinct role to play on behalf of the whole, and in any healthy system, the parts do their own work but not the work of other parts. This division of labor is essential to the wellbeing of the whole body. In other words, if one part of our church over-functions (takes on too much work) or under-functions (does not do it part), the whole body suffers.¹

In November, your Vestry will be meeting with The Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson from our diocese who will lead us in a process known as a Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). At that time, we will review how the Body of Christ, known as St. Thomas’ is doing. In particular, we will review how our various parts are functioning in support of the greater whole. Hannah will take all the information that you have provided through the Church Assessment and help our Vestry come up with a plan for St. Thomas’ that will help us become ‘grow up’ in Christ (borrowing St. Paul’s words to the Church in Ephesus) as we move forward as a *unified* body serving God in Christ and the greater Dover community.

This is hard but sweet work, especially while we’re in the middle of discerning God’s call for us. So I would like to leave you all with a quote from Brother Mark Brown of Society of Saint John the Evangelist:

The vision is here, the dream is here, the unseen presence is here. What we are to become is dancing along with us even now, just out of sight. If we listen, if we are attentive, if we are obedient to this new, true self in Christ, it will lift us overhead and help us fly.

Let us soar...

In your service,
Gail+

¹ (adapted from Samuel P. Magill, *Living into our Ministries: The Mutual Ministry Cycle A Resource Guide*.)



Diocesan Financial Review

On August 4th the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire performed a 2014 financial review of St. Thomas’ financial statements and Interim Rector’s Discretionary Account. After a tedious day, I’m happy to report that it is the opinion of the Diocese that our review fairly presents our financial position as of December 31, 2014.

Thinking back where we were a year ago, it is amazing how far we’ve come. Safeguards are now in place, statements reconciled timely, and best practices followed thanks to the hard work of our financial team: our treasurer, Kevin Gorham; our financial bookkeeper, Jerry Costanza and his assistant Karen Gardner; our interim office manager, Patty Laughlin; and our Senior Warden, Chris Wyskiel.

As rightly noted, sound internal control procedures have been implemented and are being observed. A few minor recommendations were made and are currently being followed that will further strengthen our financial position and reporting. Above all, we were praised for the continued good work of this parish, and for this, I give you *all* deep thanks.

Your dedication to St. Thomas’ parish and willingness to pledge insures the continuation of this great parish and strengthens the ministries we provide to our parishioners and residents of the greater Dover area.

With appreciation, gratitude, and blessings,
Gail+

Today may I give and receive love. Today may I work for justice. Today may I listen and pray. Today may I sing God’s praises. Today may I delight in God’s beauty. Today and every day. ~Ruth Burgess, Bare Feet and Buttercups



Senior Moments

Chris Wyskiel, Senior Warden

Amid a year of troubled finances, it is exciting to report that St. Thomas' Diocesan Advance Fund ("DAF") loan is completely paid off! Exciting news of which we should all be proud!

For those who may not know or remember, our former Rector (of 30 years!), Bob Ervin, challenged Vestry a decade or so ago to consider greening projects, particularly with respect to our buildings' heating plants, to minimize our carbon footprint (and to save some money). Five years ago, just before I became Senior Warden, our leaders were finishing technical and financial studies to replace our ancient oil-fired Church, Ervin Hall and Hale House boilers with more efficient, cutting edge technology. Improving the energy efficiency of our historic Hale House windows was also on the plate. Hoping not to dip into our endowment for an expensive project, leadership opted to take advantage of the DAF Loan Program by which the Diocese would match special gifts, donated by parishioners for this particular project, dollar for dollar. The hope then was to pay a portion by gifts (and match), and the balance in monthly (general budget) payments over ten years.

Preparing to take over as Senior Warden during December/January, 2010/11, I realized I would inherit project implementation and fundraising. I just didn't realize how quickly. Our Church heating plant immediately failed. We hurriedly found a vendor to implement (improve, actually) our plans, funding initial repairs with trust funds eventually repaid through gifts and DAF loan funding. To shorten a long story, we converted all heating and hot water needs to efficient gas-fired, forced hot air systems, and restored our historic Hale House windows to achieve maximum energy efficiencies. And we commenced our DAF loan special gift campaign.

In under two years, we completed a project costing approximately \$115,000. Our DAF loan was at first structured like a construction loan; we borrowed funds as needed to pay our vendors. As gifts were received, we paid the Diocese, receiving a dollar for dollar matching credit, trying to lessen interest paid. Once our work was completed and gift giving leveled off, we changed our note and began making equal monthly payments for an intended ten year term. But due to our general financial troubles we failed to make regular payments. Thankfully, in recent years, gifts have continued to come in and, with the Diocese's continued generous match, enabled us to completely pay our obligations this summer. Accrued interest was paid from our general operations budget.

We received enough gifts over the past four years to completely pay half of total project costs. Generously, the DAF loan financed our work, and paid the other half. It is good to repay our debt sooner than expected so other parishes might make use of DAF financing.

At last month's general financial review (of all of St. Thomas' finances) by Diocesan representatives, our gift giving and bill paying records for this project were also reviewed. This project is completely behind us.

Hindsight review of some 120+ checkbook entries reminds me of the "can do" motivation and generosity with which members of St. Thomas' got behind this project. With Claire Tucker's recent passing on our minds, it should be no surprise that she was among the first, most generous, and most excited givers. Her amazing \$10,000 gift was my third checkbook entry. An equal \$10,000 amount of Lily Ford's generous bequest to St. Thomas' was allocated to this project. There were a handful of donors who gave \$5,000 (at once or over time), others who gave multiple \$1,000 gifts, and many who gave multiple \$100 gifts. A number of people gave more than once. And I have always intended to write about my favorite givers, Skip and Sheila Marquette.

Skip's and Sheila's names are easy to find among my entries. They are right on top of many more lines of ditto marks. Skip and Sheila first learned of the project at a stewardship "Genesis Dinner" at Cindy's and my house a few years ago. Thereafter, Bob Whiting would routinely deliver envelopes to my office labeled (in Skip's handwriting) "Jesus' furnace." Like someone skipping coffee or ice cream once a week, Skip's \$5.00 checks came regularly, and when he missed a few dates, he'd catch up with a \$10.00 check, or a \$15.00 check (when his weekly gifts increased to \$7.50), and so forth. On a weekly basis, Skip and Sheila did not miss the few dollars they regularly gave. Over many months, they gave hundreds. Accounting for their gifts made me smile ...

Deb Rice helped me launch our special gift giving campaign. Together, we met with a few people and reached out to more. The excitement of her mom's, Claire Tucker's, \$10,000 gift was plainly evident in the sparkle in Deb's eyes when she reported the gift to Vestry. Claire Tucker was a special St. Thomas' parishioner who devoted herself to worship, parish work and play for sixty of her 93 years. I went to Claire's funeral this past September 2. She would have been so proud of her grandson, Brian, handsome in his Marine Dress Blues as he read the twenty-third psalm, and of her granddaughter, Katie, whose homily so eloquently spoke of a very full, fun, and devoted life surrounded by love.

For many years, our bodies will be warmed by the new heating systems Claire Tucker's generous gift helped us install. For those who knew her, knew of her, or will learn about her, our hearts will be warmed by her memory.

To everyone who generously gave to this project, thank you, and well done! For anyone feeling left out ... we've got lots more projects.

Vestry Whispers

As with each vestry meeting, I'll begin with a prayer.

*May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow
For every tear, a smile
For every care, a promise
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song
And an answer for each prayer.
An Irish Prayer*

At our parish Forum Meeting on August 30th, we presented a Church Assessment survey to our congregation. It was an opportunity to have small group conversations with fellow parishioners about what you enjoyed most about St. Thomas', something you may want more information about or something you may like to see change: our greatest hope is that everyone will make themselves heard.

If you were unable to attend, please ask any Vestry member for an Assessment to complete. We want to continue the dialogue so be sure to include your rational along with your assessment. Additionally, we will be posting the Assessment in Ervin Hall and hope you will add your comments and suggestions to the newsprint.

Becoming aware of how others experience our life together is a critical part of coming together around a plan to move forward. It will help Vestry as we develop a plan for St Thomas' to thrive—to be a viable, significant and sustainable community in God's service now and for many years to come. We really appreciate you and want to embrace your ideas and thoughts as we move forward.

Kick-off Sunday is September 13th. Our 8am and 10am services resume, Sunday school and Choir begin. Between services and during coffee hour following the 10 am service, there will be displays set up showcasing the diversity of St. Thomas' ministry groups. Please check us out and join any ministry that piques your interest! Parishioners will be there to help you explore each of our ministries.

As ever, in God's peace and grace,
Your Vestry



Cores, Pancakes, Stories, & Saints

This year we will be sharing core stories of our faith which will come from the Godly Play curriculum. These stories are the foundation for liturgical, sacred and parables which will allow children to go deeper as their interest and experience leads them. We are looking forward to welcoming new and returning children to our program on Sept 13th @ 9:30 am.

We have some newly renovated spaces! This year we will be meeting in the larger room, across from the current chapel space. This room was painted in April and when you visit you will see a fresh, clean palette and a spruced up area. Other individual rooms may be re-painted over the year so that we have a unified and useable area for our programs and rentals. Please come and visit after the services on the 9/13 when we will host an "Open House"!

On the calendar this year are three Saturday Pancake Breakfasts! Make note of these dates 10/31; 12/5; and 3/26. These will be family and community minded events to celebrate saints and feast days. We are looking for volunteers to help with photography, silhouette art, crafts and music. Please speak with me if you can help with any of these events. Tim Constantine has agreed to organize the breakfast portion and he will be looking for the usual assistance for putting a meal together. Please jump in with these if you are able as they have the potential to be a chance to welcome the wider community in to our parish family.

Come visit our spaces and help us celebrate Saints and stories this year.

Judi Turner, 603.767.0707



Prayer should bring us to an altar where no names or walls exist. ~Rabia Basri

Harvest Fair 2015



Our Harvest Fair is well on its way to being another wonderful representation of our Parish's generosity of time and talent! There are again many ways we can all help this major event be successful in spirit as well as gain.

Please check out the Fair calendar dates included with this Bridge and join us for one or all of the pie baking evenings. We can be great teachers if you don't know how but there's always room for peelers and kitchen help if you want to come and have a fun night out.

Love to bake? We're looking for those specialty desserts for our fancy desserts table being run by Deb Rice this year. All of your other specialty items could find a home on our bake table. People love home-made breads, jams and whatever may be yummy to you! You can sign up to make cookies for our cookie walk table. It's easy to do at home in your own time.

I'm sure many of you do your crafting at home. You might consider donating items to our craft table. We love to see the talent that shines out in this Parish.

This year's raffle items include a Church Print by Scott Schnef, a Halloween Breakfast basket donated by our Café, a Food basket overseen by Fran Whiting, and a Gift Wrap basket donated by Valerie Smith. We also have a Gift Certificate of \$25.00 from the Isle of Shoals Steamship Company and one for \$20.00 from Harvey's Bakery. The cost will be \$1 each, 7 tickets for \$5.00 or 15 tickets for \$10.00. We hope that everyone will help publicize and sell tickets for these great raffle items!

This year's Children's Room is, again, being organized by Valerie Smith. This is a great place to help out. We're going to try to have a little "General Store" for them to buy gifts inexpensively so we are asking for gently used small items to stock the store and small wrappings for them. Another adult and some older children could also volunteer to help with this. We also want to have a craft area in the children's room and, as usual, a games area. We'd like to advertise this as a big part of our fair this year but we need your help to get it set!

The luncheon is well underway also. Nothing better than that great fish chowder!! Look for food donations and other ways you can help with the luncheon.

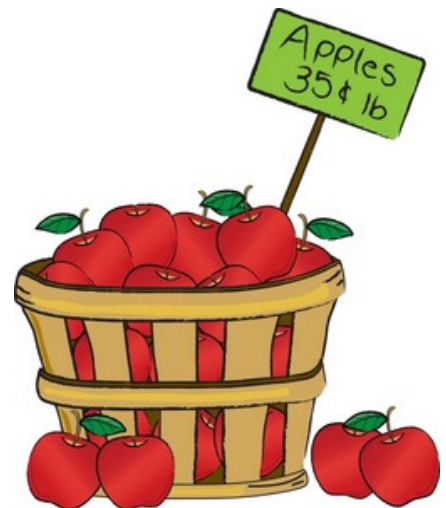
New this year we would like to rent out spaces on the front lawn to our active church members who may want to publicize and advance their personal business. You would have to provide your own set-up and understand the fair is a rain or shine event. We would also expect that there would not be items that 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.

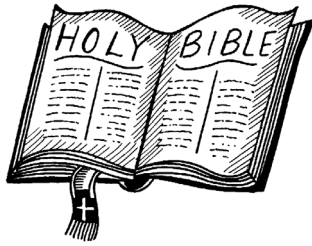
And if we haven't worn you out don't forget there's always advertising, set-up and clean-up. All of this seems like such a daunting task but however it happens, God opens everyone's hearts and somehow our fair does happen. One or two or seven can't do it, it's our Parish Fair and somehow God sends that message out there with love. We all hope you hear it and get in on the fun the Fair can be.

God be with you, Your Fair Committee

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BCP, pg. 232





YOUR BIBLE - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

Ted Rice

Several years ago, as the parish I was serving finished an introductory course on Christianity and the Episcopal Church, participants asked if we could have a similar introductory course on the bible, the whole Bible—and do it in six to seven weeks. WOW, I thought, that's a lot to cover. So I went looking and found that Kerygma Publishers, who have twenty or more courses on the Bible, have one entitled "Your Bible! The Study Begins.

If you're interested in beginning a similar conversation at St. Thomas, contact Gail, myself or the parish office. Let us know what days and times work for you, and with or without a meal. There is a resource guide for each participant so you'd have the basics even if you have to miss a session or two, which for most folks' busy lives, is inevitable.

We would cover topics like: What is the Bible? How did the Bible come to be? What is the Old Testament about? What is the New Testament about? How has the Bible been preserved and handed on? How shall we study the Bible? What is the place of the Bible in our lives? And each session would be structured to be interesting and helpful even if you have missed others. We anticipate lively discussions and learning each other's differing opinions and perspectives.



The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No program accomplishes our mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes anything.
That is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do every thing, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are not workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, martyred March 24, 1980

Consecration Sunday

Have you ever heard about Consecration Sunday? Ever thought about how each of us may consecrate ourselves to God? Have you ever thought seriously about what God calls each of us to do? And in what ways? **Stay Tuned!!!** As fall approaches, we will have more information coming. Be prepared to give "consecration" some thought and to help us celebrate as well.



Painting the Church Floor

Mary Jo Dudley

My mother always said, “The things you worry about don’t come to pass, it is something unexpected that will cause you grief.” I thought of this as we prepared to paint the Church floor, but as it turns out I needn’t have worried.



In reviewing the project with the Property committee, we considered many questions.

When is the best time of year to paint when we could open windows, have just one Church service, but before all the volunteers left for summer vacations? What about the odor from paint, what about color, one coat or two, how much paint to buy, and what kind of paint? Should we remove the pews, rent a sander to sand the floor, and who would fill in the holes in the floor where the pews had been removed? How would we move the piano and organ? These were just some of the questions we considered.

When I stopped at the Sherwin-Williams store on Central Ave. to get advice about these questions, the store manager Adam Dorfman offered to come see the floor for himself. Adam and the regional manager for Sherwin-Williams spent an hour looking over the floor, offering many useful suggestions. (They also assured us a discount on the paint!) Thanks to the advice from the S-W team, we did not need to remove the pews nor rent a sander. Instead we used deglosser over the entire floor.

On Monday June 22nd, we began. A team (Carol Heighes, Claire Gleeson, Fran Whiting, Mary Jo and Bill Dudley) began vacuuming, washing, filling holes with wood putty, dusting and applying the deglosser. The painters (Georgia Campbell & Fran Whiting, assisted by Bill, Mary Jo, and Marci Novak) began painting on Wednesday, June 24.

The weather was warm but dry, the paint had NO odor and we used two fans from Ervin Hall to aid in drying. Because we had pre-painted the worn areas, we only needed one coat of paint and the color matched the old paint perfectly. Kathy Fink had the piano moved for us and we painted around the organ.

What we did NOT plan on was replacing the “gliders” on the bottoms of the kneelers. We found many of the gliders to be worn down to the nail head and digging into the floor. So 400 new felt tipped gliders were ordered and Susan Ervin, Wade Coleman and Mary Jo Dudley helped Bill Dudley replace the worn gliders.

As the project was coming to a close and many of the volunteers were worn out, Debbie DeBeck and Kevin Gorham came in to remove the painters tape and put down the kneelers, completing the project.

Several parishioners donated financial assistance to buy the paint and supplies. We want to thank them, along with ALL the volunteers for making the project possible for the Parish.

Blessing of the Animals, October 4th



October 4th is the day many people around the world celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Since St. Francis was such a lover of animals and used them in his teaching—it was he who assembled the 1st Christmas creche, many Episcopal churches set aside this day for parishioners and friends to bring their animals: dogs, cats, fish, birds, hamsters, snails to church and have them blessed acknowledging what a blessing they are to us, as it were, a gift from God. Many of us feel they are a daily reminder of God’s Presence among us. They are really something for which we can be thankful. We will gather on our front lawn after both the 8 and 10am services and invite you to bring your animals for a blessing. Bring them to church if you dare, leave them in the car with the window open if it is safe to do so on that day, or go retrieve them when the service ends and we will hang around to offer an individual blessing, thanksgiving, for each and every one of these our friends and companions.

Property Committee : News, Updates & Opportunities

The property committee continued to make progress on projects and maintenance tasks this summer as well as developing plans for additional work.

We have both the blessings and challenges of being stewards of historic properties. One of our major efforts as we move forward will be to document and implement a comprehensive operations plan and maintenance schedule for our facilities and systems that will move us from being reactionary to being proactive. We'd love to be planning and saving for things like a new roof for the church, updated kitchen appliances and the next set of felt pads for the kneelers instead of facing leaks, malfunctions and scratched floors. This effort will require a change in how we view, plan and coordinate facilities projects and the transition will not be easy, quick or inexpensive. We look forward to working with the Vestry and the parish as a whole as we create that future together. For the moment, back to practical matters:

Efforts, Projects and Issues

The **Church Floor Painting** project is our major summer accomplishment – It's amazing what a fresh coat of paint, and lots of elbow grease, can do to make a space seem new and vibrant. Mary-Jo and a team of volunteers did an amazing job orchestrating and executing the floor painting project. We had great collaboration and assistance, not to mention deep discounts, from our paint vendor; parishioners made donations, in excess of project costs, so no operating funds were needed; and volunteers provided the critical skills and time (almost 170 hours) to clean, vacuum, sand, de-gloss, tape, paint, etc. and made the project a great success. And I don't think anyone was out of their favorite pew for more than a week!

We were prepared to report on the great progress that was made by Judi Turner and crew in updating the **Sunday School classrooms** this summer. We weren't prepared for the water leak we encountered there in August. The major set back has included visits from an insurance adjuster and a service master remediation team. We are working to identify the source of the leak/seepage and make sure it won't happen again. Then we'll have the opportunity to re-update the space.

As always, there are too many **maintenance tasks** to mention them all, but they have included: replacing kitchen sprayer hose, cleaning fan screens and blades, replacing faucets, replacing sump pumps, installing new electrical circuits and air conditioners, responding to fire alarms, repairing window latches, etc.

We have several **projects underway** that are progressing slower than we'd like, but we believe it's for the best and that taking the extra time and being diligent will insure that we get it right.

- Ervin Hall vestibule - Now that the vendor is selected, quote is approved and tile is selected you think this would be easy. Then you try to find two consecutive days when the vendor is available and we don't need the Ervin Hall entrance...
- Gatehouse window – Work began in July and then we encountered a few complications. There are studs in the wall that will need to be replaced and the window itself needs repair before

it can be reinstalled. A stained glass repair person available on short notice probably isn't the one you want...

- Winter water damage repairs – This is another area where finding the right vendor is critical and where the historic nature of our buildings can make that challenging.

Future projects:

- 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 – continue 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
- Repair stained glass windows & replace window coverings
- 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 Roles

As you can see the Property Committee is very busy! Please consider joining us as a member or resource, offering your expertise or skills for specific tasks or projects. 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, & prep agenda in collaboration with committee chair; 2-3 hours per month

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 and maintenance schedule

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

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

Committee Members

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



Save the Date! Parish Workday Sept. 26th



The Property Committee is hosting the fall parish workday on Saturday, September 26th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Morning snacks, lunch and fellowship are always included.

If your ministry team has a project that needs some extra hands or if you have project ideas, contact a property committee member!

Some of the Workday activities include:

- Clean out the fridge and freezer
- Garden clean-up
- Label circuit breaker boxes
- Move extra books and book cases from the Dallas Room to the 3rd floor 'library'
- Move storage cabinet on 2nd floor landing to old Vesrty room
- Mow the alley behind the Parish Hall
- Organize kitchen cabinets & drawers, purge as necessary
- Photograph, sketch and measure kitchen cabinets
- Recycle electronics
- Remove air conditioners Clean light fixtures in bathrooms
- Remove AV equipment, file cabinet, etc. from Roland's basement storage room
- Remove old tables, racks and ladders from the freezer room in the basement
- Reprogram thermostats (see guide and room usage)

- Seal up rotting wood in the Memorial Garden
- Install grab bar in one stall in Ladies room
- Continue work to clear foundation drain in Hale House basement and install sump pump.

What to bring:

For Landscape tasks:

gloves, rake, trowel, garden fork, weeding tools, mulch fork/bedding fork, shovel, wheel barrow, broom, tarp, 5 gallon buckets (for weeds and mulch), pruners, loppers

For Cleaning tasks:

Bucket, gloves, wash rag or sponge

Debris removal tasks:

work gloves, grubby clothes

Specific needs:

Pick-up trucks with Dover transfer station stickers – we'll have a load or two of both trash and yard waste for the transfer station.

Breakfast snacks, coffee, tea & juice

Lunch: a big pot of soup/stew/chili & rolls or deli sandwiches, cookies/brownies, water, tea or lemonade

For more information or to sign up see the Property Committee bulletin board in Ervin Hall or contact Patty Laughlin at [pidavidson@mindspring.com](mailto:pj davidson@mindspring.com) or 603-734-2804.



The Nursery is Open!

Childcare is essential for families to participate in the many activities of parish life. This year we'll have a paid sitter and a Parent Coop Volunteer attending to infants & toddlers in our newly renovated nursery space on Sunday mornings. The adult/child ratio is 2:8 so we'll have 8 slots available for children ages 0-3 years. We'll be working out registration, sign-in systems, and other Safe Church aspects this fall to ensure this service provides a consistent and welcoming environment. We need a few consumable items, (disposable changing pad liners, latex gloves, hand sanitizer, etc.) so a "Gift Registry" will be set up with Target. If you can contribute from time to time, please check out our registry. If you'd like your child to join our nursery, please speak to me and look for registration on 9/13. We can show you the space and get your family on the roaster during our Open House. If we fill all 8 slots, volunteer time in the Nursery will be once every two months or so. Thank you for your support of this valuable service to our families!



-Judi Turner 603.767.0707

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



Breakfast Café Reopens September 20, 8:30 am



The cafeteria volunteers look forward to beginning our 12th year! As always, we welcome new volunteers to help in setting up, during our open hours (8:30 - 10:00) and especially closing. If you're interested, please talk with any Café volunteer or call Nancy at 603-767-2349.

In addition to our standard menu with Chefs' specials each week, September's .99 cent special is a donut and coffee (tea or hot chocolate). The Café will be closed November 29th (Vestry Forum). Hopefully, bad weather won't visit us as it so often last year. SEE YOU SOON!!!

Join your voices in song!

The parish choir is welcoming new members this fall! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 to rehearse and then 9:30 am to warm up for the 10:00 am Sunday service. We sing a variety of styles from classical, gospel, modern and more. A knowledge of music reading and some experience in part singing is recommended. If you are interested in singing, please contact St Thomas' music director Kathy Fink at: pianotchr@aol.com



A History of St. Thomas'

One of our parishioners, an avid historian and professional genealogist and writer, has volunteered to help us catalog, organize and shed light on our historical records and artifacts. In fact, a real *History of St. Thomas'* may be in the making.

"I look forward to many years with St. Thomas' and to producing a history for the present congregation and for posterity. There has been much history discovered already for which we can be proud and, just as those who went before us, we will remind our church friends and others of our proud past and our hopes for the future of St. Thomas'.

I am embracing this challenging task with gusto and any ideas and information....photos, articles, etc.....would be gladly welcomed. I expect that there will be so much information available that selection will be a chore ☺." — Phil Swan

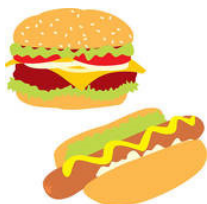
REVELATIONS - *Building Bridges through Small Groups*

Continuing Sunday Morning Bible Study

Each Sunday during our summer schedule, a number of us have gathered to study the biblical lessons to be read on the following Sunday. Sometimes it's just two of us, other times 10. Regardless we've had interesting and wide ranging discussions on what God might be saying to us through these readings. It has been fascinating. Sometimes we start by looking at how a lesson touched us as a child, other times we start with what the scholars say about the context of each passage. Folks have found that they do not need to have much previous knowledge of the Bible to gather meaningful insights. The questions raised as we read these passages are as important as answers we may find about them. It has been wonderful learning together. Please join us this fall as we move our study time to the hour between the 8am and 10am services in the Dallas room.

ACTS - Action in Community through Service

COOKOUT FOR KIDS, Friday Sept 11, 5-7pm



A Cookout for Kids with bluegrass music will be held on Friday, Sept. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Thomas Parish Hall at the corner of Locust and Hale streets in Dover. The event is a fundraiser to provide Dover area children with food for weekends through the End 68 Hours of Hunger Campaign. Tickets are \$20 each and are available from church members or by calling the church office at 603-742-3155.

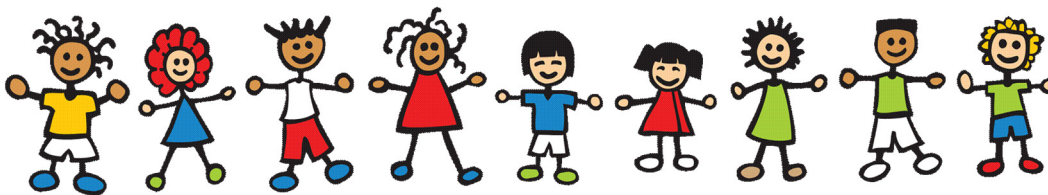
St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Dover is hosting the cookout, which is being supported by the Dover Cooperative Ministries. As Jesus fed people spiritually and physically, so can we help support our Parish mission by helping to raise funds that will help provide food for kids who might otherwise go hungry over the weekends.

We need your help!!! You can support this activity directly in two ways:

1. Volunteer to help us set up, serve and clean up. Sign up sheets will be in the Parish Hall after our services.
2. Purchase tickets to raise funds for End 68 Hours of Hunger--Dover.

According to the End 68 Hours of Hunger website, end68hoursofhunger.org, the organization “is a private, not-for-profit, effort to confront the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience between the free lunch they receive in school on Friday afternoon and the free breakfast they receive in school on Monday morning.” The organization started feeding 19 local children in Oct. 2011. As it closed out 2013, End 68 Hours of Hunger was serving more than 1,300 children a week in New Hampshire and Maine.

Blessings to all, The Cookout for Kids Volunteers



To fold one's hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. ~Karl Barth

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

Kathleen Ford

Gwen Klevitch



Celebrating in...

Many Happy Returns to:

September Birthdays

Julie Cooper, Donald Meserve, Finley Yarborough, Jim Mathieu, Sharon Gearreald, William Hunt, Nancy Levesque, Jim Staples, Shawn McKinney, Martha Burton, Thomas Stafford-Parsons, Roberta Steele, Rob Sylvester, Elizabeth Nanda, Lori Goelzer, Katherine Parker-Wright, Margaret Miller, Marci Novak, Marie Callahan, Steven Cooper, Ernest Clark, Kaia Watson

October Birthdays

Hannah Sattler, Theo Wright, Dominic Ciccotelli, Janet Campbell, Nathalie Peters, Robyn Britton, Rebecca Hawthorne, Nancy Stafford-Parsons, Willem Federico, Hunter Kretschmar, Hope Wolterbeek, Scott Lucius, Liz Turner, Avery Kretschmar, Kevin Martindale

November Birthdays

Bella Britton, Bill Dudley, Janice Clark, Gregory Hunt, Georgia Campbell, Carol Heighes, Mackenzie Rhodus, Kate Montanus, Robert Campbell, Imogene McKinney, Carol Bernard, Gregory Leach, Jacob Wolterbeek, Amy Ponchak, Patricia Clark, David Burton, Susan Powell, Julia Long, Alan Goelzer



Creator God, you see where we can't see.

You hear where we can't hear.

You speak where we can't speak.

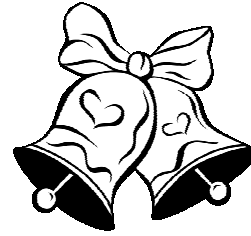
You move where we can't move.

You are able where we are disabled.

Share with us your ability
and bless us in our disability.

Take us as we are, and
make us what you want us to be.

John and Shirley Davies, *50 New Prayers from Iona*



Anniversary
Blessings and
Congratulations to:

September Anniversaries

Bobbie & Floyd Beavers
Georgia & Robert Campbell
Deborah & John Rice
Robert & Roberta Steele
Chris & Judi Turner
Joseph & Ellen Yarborough

October Anniversaries

Harold & Patricia Clark
Karvel & Gloria Feenstra
Allan & Mary Krans
Jim & Lorraine Mathieu
Kevin & Diane Plante
Jim & Kim Staples
Richard & Shirley Turcotte

November Anniversaries

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

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.

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	2 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a-2 Office Hours	3 9-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	4 7a AA Morning Reflection	5
6 8a Bible Study 9a Holy Eucharist 10a Coffee Hour	7 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Property Comm	8 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	9 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St. T Staff Meeting 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	10 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	11 7a AA Morning Reflection 5-7p Cookout for Kids	12
13 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 9:30a Church School 11a Fair Sign-ups 11a Open House	14 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	15 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 5p Kitchen Team	16 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St. T Staff Meeting 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	17 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA 7p Fair Committee meeting	18 7a AA Morning Reflection	19
20 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Caté 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School 11a Fair Posters & Fliers	21 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Vestry	22 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	23 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St. T Staff Meeting 9a-2 Office Hours 6:30p Fair turkey and specialty pie making	24 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	25 7a AA Morning Reflection	26 9a-3 Parish Workday 10a Fair Cookie making
27 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Caté 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School	28 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	29 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	30 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St. T Staff Meeting 9a-2 Office Hours 6:30p Fair pork- pie making 7p Choir	<p>O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>		



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed




Thu

Fri

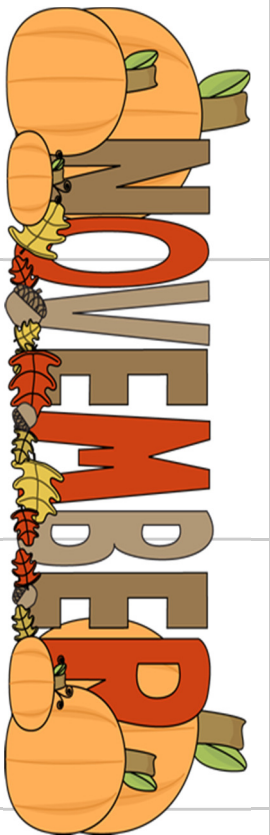
Sat

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 song of birds, and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them from our 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. Amen.
For the Beauty of the Earth, BCP




<p>4 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9:30a Church School</p>  <p>Blessing of the Animals</p>	<p>5 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Property Committee</p>	<p>6 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 6:30p Fair Apple Pie making</p>	<p>7 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 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</p>	<p>10 7a AA Morning Reflection</p>
<p>11 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School</p>	<p>12 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group</p>	<p>13 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK</p>	<p>14 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours 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 9a Vestry Workshop</p>
<p>18 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School 10a Bible Study</p>	<p>19 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Vestry</p>	<p>20 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 5p Kirchen Team</p>	<p>21 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir</p>	<p>22 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 6:30 Fair Set Up</p>	<p>23 7a AA Morning Reflection 9a Fair Set Up</p>	<p>24 HARVEST FAIR</p> 
<p>25 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School</p>	<p>26 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group</p>	<p>27 9a-2 Office Hours 10a St T Staff Mtg 5p DFK</p>	<p>28 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours 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 Pancake Breakfast HALLOWEEN</p> 

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



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

Thanksgiving Day, BCP, pg. 246

1 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School	2 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Property Committee	3 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	4 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	5 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	6 AA Morning Reflection	7 8a-3p Diocesan Convention, Grappone Conf Center, Concord
8 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School	9 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	10 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	11 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir ★☆☆ Veterans Day ☆☆★	12 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA	13 7a AA Morning Reflection	14
15 8a & 10a Holy Eucharist 8:30a Breakfast Café 9a Bible Study 9:30a Church School	16 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group 7p Vestry	17 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK 5p Kitchen Team	18 7a AA Morning Reflection 10a St T Staff Mtg 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 Euch 8:30 Café, 9:30 Ch Schl	23 7a AA Morning Reflection 7p Craft Group	24 9a-2 Office Hours 5p DFK	25 7a AA Morning Reflect 10a St T Staff Mtg 9a-2 Office Hours 7p Choir	26 THANKSGIVING 5p DFK 7p Dover original AA 	27 7a AA Morning Reflection	28
29 9a Holy Eucharist 10:30 Vestry Forum	30 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

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**