



July-August, 2013

Address

98 Sky Manor Road
PO Box 348
Pittstown, NJ 08867-0348
Phone: (908) 996-4091
Fax: (908) 996-4515
E-mail: welcome@stthomasepc.org
Web: www.stthomasepc.org

Rector

The Rev. Canon Carol Horton
rector@stthomasepc.org
(908) 735-9559

Parish Secretary

Colleen Stroup
M-W-Th: 9:45am – 1:45pm
secretary@stthomasepc.org
908-996-4091

Summer Schedule thru Sept 1

9:00am Holy Eucharist
8:45am Nursery

Mid-week Service

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
(no service on July 3, Aug 7,
Aug 21 or Aug 28)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 5 - 9, 9:00am - Noon

Office Hours

Please call the office to arrange
for a home visit or
to make an appointment.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

To worship, to nurture, to serve, together in Christ

From the Rector:

Summer 2013

At this time of year I am always reminded of the abundance of God's creation – particularly when I look at the weeds in my garden. These "volunteers" seem to grow stronger, faster and in more places than just about anything I plant. Someone once said that a weed is nothing more than a flower growing in the wrong place – which is, I suppose, another way of saying, "it's all how you look at it." God's abundance surrounds us.

At our outdoor service and parish picnic in June we thanked many people who work with our youth and young people, who provide music and hospitality, and who add so much to our life at St Thomas. We also recognized our graduates, and formally welcomed those who have come to call St Thomas their spiritual home in the last few years. Watching our children grow, marking the milestones, and giving thanks for the opportunity to share in them: God's abundance surrounds us at every turn.

Sunday worship at St Thomas is more relaxed in the summer, with one service early enough in the day (9:00 am) to offer the promise of the cool of the morning, with enough of the rest of the day remaining for other local adventures. Since it is more relaxed, it is also a good time for families to worship together – something with lifelong implications for children and young people.

May this be a time of abundance for you, with all the blessings of creation. May you see new things, or old things in new ways, and be refreshed and amazed.

In Christ's love,
Carol+



Taking some time off for the summer...

St Thomas' newsletter is taking a break! Look for the September newsletter at the end of August, just in time for gearing up for fall and getting back into the swing of things.

Deadline for September newsletter information is August 19.

Senior Warden

Greg Shutske
908-713-1473

Junior Warden

Amanda Fuhro
908-735-5602

Treasurer

Roman Chiminec
treasurer@stthomasepc.org
908-995-2675

Vestry

Denise Buczek
908-238-3734

Nancy Bush
908-236-6608

Marina Day
908-238-9523

Lynn Logg
908-995-4794

Joan Milne
908-303-4900

Pat Neil
908-730-6696

Laura Zigich
908-996-2265

Music Director

Richard McIntyre
macwnj@yahoo.com
908-213-6619

Assistant Organist

Jan Davis
908-689-1222

Altar Guild

Please contact the Rector

Acolytes

Mary Nemec
mnemec@ptd.net
908-996-7955

Church School

Michelle Wagner
wagners88@comcast.net
908-735-4015

Youth Group

Antonia Mattei
908-782-3777

Cheryl Ann Spies
908-713-6701

Nursery

Catherine Eubank
908-284-1309

Newsletter & Communications

Maria Markovich
mmarkovi@ptd.net
908-229-3515

WORDS FROM THE WARDENS

“Summertime -- and the living is easy,” (words from a song in the musical Porgy and Bess). I don’t know about you, but it seems to me that in many ways the business of our lives continues at the same pace no matter the season. Maybe we don’t have to shovel snow or rake leaves, but the grass needs to be cut, gardens watered and weeded. Spouses and children still want breakfast, lunch and dinner. Children still have activities that require a chauffeur, usually named Mom or Dad, and that six hour respite provided by the school day will not return until September. Oops, almost forgot -- those frequent intrusions of the tinkle of the cell phone, the buzz of a text message and the ding of an arriving e-mail message also do not seem to respect that it is Summer when the living is supposed to be easy.

But wait! God in His wisdom created Sunday and designated it as a day for rest and for thanking Him for all He has provided for us.

How blessed are we to be able to come to St Thomas on a Sunday morning in summer to find an hour of respite from all of the above. A place where, instead of cell phone ringtones (if you remembered to turn yours off), we hear nature’s music from the song birds joining us in singing our thanks and praises to God for this place and His presence in our lives.

Just as life at home continues no matter the season, so also must the daily chores and responsibilities for maintaining the physical plant and functions of St Thomas be continued no matter the season. Service bulletins are prepared weekly, the Good News e-mails are sent out so we can be kept informed of what is happening, programs like Vacation Bible School are being planned, the building and grounds are being maintained, and bills are being paid. The vestry appreciates your efforts to maintain your pledges for the support of the Church during the summer months.

Have a great summer. If you worship at another church this summer, bring us back a photo and perhaps a story. No, we are not checking up on your summer church attendance – we just want to share in your adventures.

Amanda Fuhro, Junior Warden



Flemington Area Food Pantry

The Pantry thanks you for your donations. It’s summer and school is out. Children are at home more and some no longer have access to school lunch programs – so needs typically increase.

This month’s requests include:

Canned meats (chicken, corned beef, tuna) **Cereal**

Canned pasta (Beefaroni, etc.) **Black Beans** **Spaghetti**

Canned Fruit **Baking Supplies** (flour, sugar, cake mixes, etc.)

Tooth brushes & Toothpaste **Mouthwash**

Men’s Razors & Shaving Cream **Men’s Deodorant** **Bar Soap**

Shampoo & Conditioner **Laundry Detergent** (*yes, always!*)

VOLUNTEERS with pickup trucks or SUVs are needed to make local food pickups. Call 908-788-5568 for more information.





Getting to Know You . .

While watching the movie *Epic* with my children last week, I caught a line that jumped out at me. As the leader of the Leafmen was trying to save the forest from extinction, he declared, "We are all individuals, but we still need each other." Sitting on my porch a few days ago, hoping a friend would pass by and stop in for a minute, I thought of that line. It can be lonely and isolated here in Hunterdon County. How easy to go on our way without making a connection with someone else, but how vital and meaningful it is that we do.

While St Thomas Church is on summer status, it is wonderful to relish the long, quiet days. Please take time to do it with a friend, family member or neighbor. We must be stewards of each other in these times. We must push ourselves to share and reveal ourselves and, beyond that, to care for those in our community. We must not forget that we belong to each other, and there is much peace in giving our simple selves to one another.

May you enjoy your summer, and shine your beautiful light on those near and far.

Vacation Bible School will be August 5 – 9

KINGDOM CHRONICLES: Standing Strong in the Battle for Truth

Dear Family and Friends of St. Thomas,



Hello! I'm writing to you with some news about Vacation Bible School this year! Like last year, VBS will be the first week of August; Monday the 5th through Friday the 9th, from 9:00 am until 12 noon. This year, the theme will be *KINGDOM CHRONICLES: Standing Strong in the Battle for Truth*. It will involve knights, castles, and other cool medieval things.

Last year, we had a lot of volunteers, and I hope it will be the same way this year. If you are available that week, do not hesitate to talk to me! We need volunteers to help take the children to each station, and we need volunteers to run stations. Though I know some people have already to come to me saying they'd like to volunteer, I can never have too many.

If you wish to contact me about volunteering or attending VBS this year, my number is **908-797-2231**, and my email is xroastbeef@gmail.com. I will soon be sending out emails to those who attended last year, and emailing those who have already pledged to volunteer.

Have a great summer and I will see you soon!

Sincerely,
David White



Building Committee Presents a Proposal

Your Input is NEEDED

In March, 2013, a St Thomas Building Committee was formed and has had six meetings since then. The committee was formed primarily because a number of people feel that, since the trailer was removed, we are in critical need of additional space for our church school. We also need extra space for parish gatherings such as the pancake supper and fundraisers. Because of St Thomas' recent past experiences with expansion, the committee is trying to make every effort to be open and transparent in communicating our thinking. This page represents our first effort to make good on our promise to share our thoughts with the whole St Thomas community so that we can make a prayerful decision about if, how, and when to move forward.

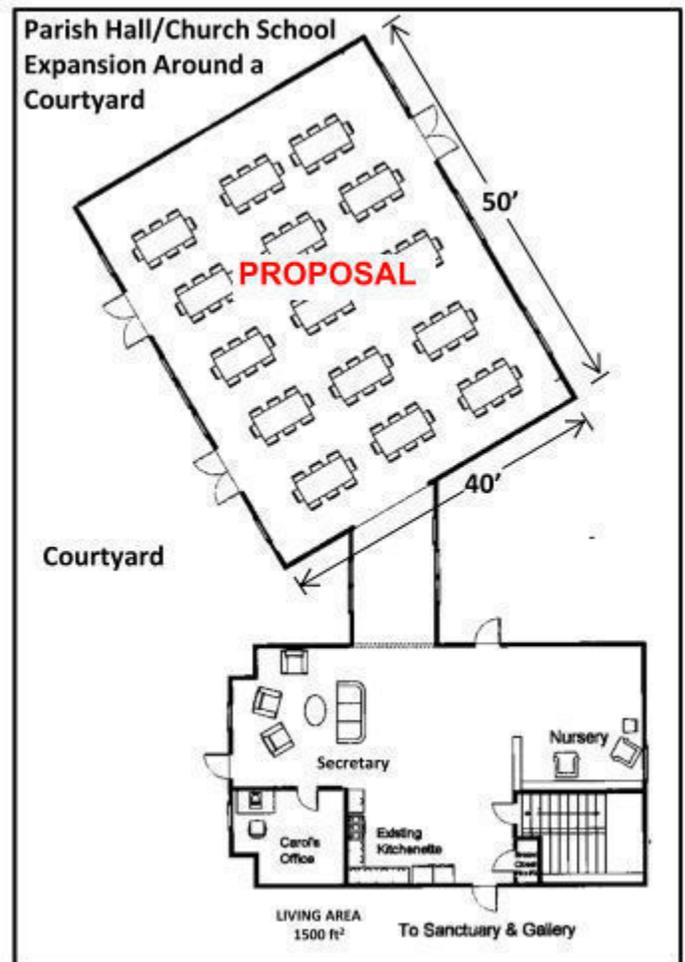
The drawing below is the current floor plan we've been working with. It shows a 40' x 50' building connected to the existing parish hall by an enclosed corridor. That size would more than double the current space in the parish hall and could seat approximately 100 people. Below are a few design considerations:

- A separate building with corridor is more cost effective than building directly onto the existing hall.
- The building is angled to conform to our property.
- There would be no basement. The building would be built on a slab or over a crawlspace.
- A kitchen and powder room could be added but at additional expense.
- There are many ways to save money on construction, including pole construction (Morton, Kistler); we want any new building to complement the existing church and hall.
- We may be able to offset some costs with labor donated from parishioners.
- We may be able to further offset some costs with grants and an internet fund-raising appeal directed at the general public.
- Yet another way to offset some costs would be to design to the space so it would be suitable to rent to local civic groups or for wedding receptions etc.

We are projecting the lowest possible cost of such space to be \$250,000. There are many design considerations that will impact the cost however – exterior finish, roof, flooring, windows, heating, A/C, etc. In addition, there may be engineering requirements, such as expanding our well and septic systems.

Before we plan further, however, we want to get input from as much of the St Thomas Community as possible. **We are planning a brief information session during the announcements after the 9:00 am service on June 30** with additional Q & A sessions to follow on later dates. We are also making plans for an anonymous survey, available online and hardcopy. In the meantime, please be open and candid about expressing your views to one of the building committee members, listed to the right, or to Rev. Carol. We would like to make a decision on whether and how to proceed by the end of September, 2013.

Yours in faith, Greg Shutske, Sr. Warden



Building Committee

Kate Allworthy	Tracey Bergstrand	Fran Brunelle
Ed Buczek	Elisabeth Chiminec	Pete Cichonski
Dan Dusylovitch	Alan Grieme	Kevin Kapples
Lynn Logg	Brian O'Rourke	Greg Shutske
	Linda Ubry	

PARISH REGISTER

Happy Birthday!

- July 1 Mark Kelly, Joan Milne,
Sophia Walker
- July 4 Olivia DiRienz, Mary Nemeč
- July 6 Marina Day
- July 10 Carl Meier
- July 11 Pamela Bergstrom
- July 12 Donald Jordan
- July 14 Elizabeth Santos
- July 15 Martin Burns
- July 16 Stephanie Spies
- July 17 Robin Atkins, Diane Salley
- July 18 Victor Fuhro
- July 19 Dermot Wood
- July 22 Carla Faust, Jake Wood
- July 23 Rhys Zigich
- July 24 Alex Wolfson
- July 26 Beth Conover, David Moskal,
William Nemeč
- July 27 Drew Conover
- July 28 Mark Esch
- July 29 Zachary Furman
- Aug 2 Gail Kenny, Lynn Petroff
- Aug 4 Robert Spies
- Aug 8 Roman Chiminec
- Aug 10 Edward Bielcik
- Aug 11 Diane Gunson
- Aug 15 John Stolarz
- Aug 17 Alexis Moskal
- Aug 19 Trevor Oldenburg
- Aug 20 Patrick Searles
- Aug 23 Elisabeth Chiminec
- Aug 26 Eileen Lewis
- Aug 29 Edward Doerr, Eric Eichorn,
Zachery Meier, Elaine Niemann
- Aug 30 Amy McKenna, Whitney Wetherill
- Aug 31 Christopher Fischer, Fred Molineux



Happy Anniversary!

- July 13 Doug & Leigh Anne Walker
- July 17 Brian & Lisa Fanicase
- July 20 JoAnne & Trevor Oldenburg
- July 24 Gail Kinsey & Dermot Wood
- July 28 Jane & Tim Otto
- Aug 11 Jean & Martin Burns
- Aug 18 Alisa & Lenny Swider
- Aug 20 Kathleen & Pete Cichonski
- Aug 28 Mark & Patty Esch

Thank You . . .

To Michelle Wagner and all the Church School teachers and helpers for another inspiring and energetic year;

To all who worked to make the parish picnic such a success;

To Richard McIntyre and the St Thomas Choir for a year of beautiful, spirit-filled music;

To Antonia Mattei and to all who worked with our youth this year;

To Greg Shutske, and to all who take on the maintenance tasks, large and small;

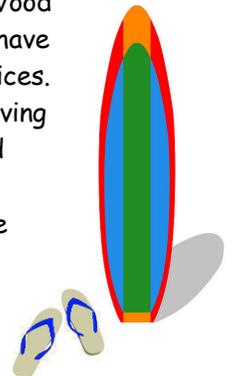
To all our coffee hour volunteers; and

To all who quietly do so much for our life together.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ACOLYTES

Thanks to all our new Acolytes this year: Olivia Day, Mackenzie Kapples, Trinity Mikuta and Jake Wood for joining the acolyte group this year. They have made a joyful contribution to our Sunday services. We will miss Jake, as he and his family are moving to Texas -- we appreciated his enthusiasm and dedication. We wish him the best in Houston.

And thanks to our veteran staff: Stephanie Spies, Alex Ubry, Kurt Wagner, Julia Nemeč, Olivia DiRienz, Zach Ubry, Elizabeth Nemeč, Madeleine Eichorn, Owen Buczek and Garrett DiRienz for being such great mentors!



PARISH REGISTER (continued)

Congratulations to our Graduates !

-- and best of luck in their new endeavors

Owen DiRienz graduated from Voorhees High School, and will be attending the University of Delaware in the fall.

Lynn Petroff has *four(!)* grandchildren graduating -- her late son's three children and her daughter's oldest child, respectively:

- **Caryl Armour** received her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from University of Nevada, Las Vegas;
- **David Armour** received his Bachelor's degree in Japanese and Mathematics from Rutgers University;
- **Stephanie Armour** graduated from Northwest Career and Technical Academy (Las Vegas) with a concentration in Culinary Arts, and will be pursuing an Environmental Science degree from the University of Western Florida at Pensacola;
- **Arthur Dysart V** graduated from Clinton Township Middle School and will be attending North Hunterdon High School in the fall.



FAREWELL ...

To Traci, Jake and Kate Wood, who will be moving back to Texas in mid-July. Their email and phone contact will remain the same -- their new address will be listed in the upcoming directory.

Condolences

To Doug and Lynn Logg on the death of Doug's sister, Patty. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Safe and Happy Travels

Julia Nemec is going to Ecuador this summer from July 23 to July 30. She will join other youth from the Diocese of New Jersey and travel to Guayaquil in the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral, which has been the companion diocese of NJ since 2012. They will perform some service activities there, but the main purpose of the trip is to meet youth from another part of the world who are also eager to meet people from the United States. It will be an opportunity to share their faith stories and expand their spiritual community. They will also travel by local bus a few hours to the Pacific Coast to "the beach" -- there is actually no other name for the area!

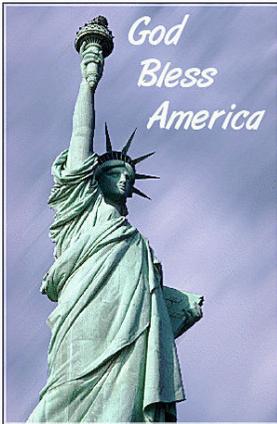
The group will stay at a Diocesan Youth Camp for a few days before heading back to NJ, where we'll be waiting to hear about her adventures.



It's Summertime - Bring On the Bluegrass! (outdoors, please)

Beth Coleman's Band is scheduled to perform a Bluegrass concert at St Thomas on Saturday, July 20th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Weather-permitting, the concert will be held outdoors – under the stars on our beautiful church grounds. Bring a picnic – and some friends. And meet some new friends too. Tickets are \$15 per adult and proceeds benefit St Thomas. Children under 18 are free. Intermission refreshments will be provided by St Thomas parishioners.

Remember these Upcoming Dates



- July 4** Independence Day (church office is closed July 3 – 4)
- July 20** Beth Coleman concert (outdoors, weather-permitting), 7:00 – 9:00 pm at St Thomas
- July 25** Vestry meeting (the 4th Thursday) at 7:00 pm at St Thomas
- July 28** Building Committee meeting after the 9:00 am service
- Aug 5 – 9** *Vacation Bible School – Kingdom Chronicles*, 9:00 am – Noon at St Thomas
- Aug 19** September Newsletter submissions are due

Looking ahead to September --

- Sept 8** Homecoming Sunday: a single outdoor service at 10:00 am, followed by a picnic
- Sept 15** Fall service schedule resumes, with services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am – and nursery at 9:45 am

Right Reverend John Croes; first Bishop of New Jersey (just...)

As we await the installation of our new bishop, William Stokes, we might look back at the election of New Jersey's first bishop; it has an interesting twist. John Croes (1762-1832) was born in what is now Elizabeth of German parents, and the family moved to Newark when he was 11. He was sixteen when he entered the Revolutionary Army as a private, apparently able to read but not write, and he 'learned his letters' from a drummer who taught him to write with charcoal on his drumhead. John progressed through the ranks, becoming Recruiting Sergeant in Newark in 1780, and began teaching when he was discharged. Having little family money he did not go to University, but did raise enough capital to marry in 1785 and became Principal of a teaching academy in Newark. He resigned this post in 1789 and announced his desire to be a candidate for Holy Orders. At that time the church demanded that a candidate have a potential job to become ordained, and John walked and rode throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland looking for a parish that would take him. Swedesboro agreed, and he began there as a lay reader in September 1789. Taking lessons from Bishop White in Philadelphia, he was ordained deacon in 1790, and entered the priesthood in 1792.

He stayed at Swedesboro (all the early texts call it the much more refined 'Swedesborough') until he was called to be Rector of Christ Church, New Brunswick, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Spotswood (some 9 miles distant), and principal of the Grammar School of Queen's College, now Rutgers University. He took up these posts in 1801, and his success at the school encouraged the College's revival in 1807 just before ill health and growing parochial duties led him to resign being headmaster in 1808. [The recession of the War of 1812 led to a second closure of Queen's College, and it would be another decade before a second revival in 1825, and the substantial gift from Colonel Henry Rutgers (1745-1830) that led to Rutgers' renaming and subsequent success.]

In June 1815 the Diocese of Connecticut elected John Croes to be their Bishop, and this electrified the Church in New Jersey. In August the Rev. Lewis P. Bayard, rector of Trinity Church, Newark, resolved that the New Jersey convention go into the election of a bishop and, after considerable debate, John Croes was elected Bishop on the first ballot. He chose the state of his birth as the place to exercise his Episcopate even though Connecticut offered him considerable inducements. He was consecrated in Philadelphia that November by Bishop White of Philadelphia, Bishop Hobart of New York, and Bishop Kemp of Maryland – he was the 16th American Bishop.

Let's hope nobody tries to poach Rev. Stokes, who when installed will likely be the 1078th American Bishop.

Thanks be to God.

Roger Prince

July 2013 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>The Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	2	3 <i>(no midweek service)</i>	4 th  Church office is closed	5	6
7 <u>Pentecost 7</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	8 <i>SS Aquila and Priscilla, Martyrs,</i>	9	10 Midweek Service 12:15 pm	11	12	13 <i>Silas, Companion of Paul, Martyr</i>
14 <u>Pentecost 8</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	15	16	17 Midweek Service 12:15 pm	18	19	20 Beth Coleman Band 7:00-9:00 pm <i>(to be held outside)</i>
21 <u>Pentecost 9</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	22	23	24 Midweek Service 12:15 pm	25 <i>St James the Apostle</i> Vestry meeting 7:00 pm	26	27
28 <u>Pentecost 10</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am Bldg Comm. mtg after the service	29	30	31 Midweek Service 12:15 pm			

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON YOUR SCHEDULED DATES, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT AND NOTIFY THE OFFICE.

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Nursery	Coffee Hour
July 7	9-	9-	9- M. Eichorn	9- D. Eichorn	9- C. Eubank	9-
July 14	9- M. Day	9- K. Allworthy	9-	9-	9- L. Zigich	9- Allworthy
July 21	9-	9-	9- J. Nemece	9- G. Budsock	9- S. Hart	9-
July 28	9-	9- D. Buczek	9- O. Buczek	9- E. Buczek	9- S. Mikuta	9-

FLOWERS

July 7
July 14 Allworthy
July 21
July 28 Bush

ALTAR

P. Neil (L. Grieme)
L. Grieme, L. Zigich
H. Budsock (D. Buczek)
D. Buczek, M. Markovich

COUNTERS

A.DiRienz, D.Eichorn, A.Grieme
L. Santos, L. Zigich
D. Logg, M. Preston
J. Preston, L. Ubry

CLEANING

Markovich/Shutske

August 2013 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 <i>Nicodemus, Teacher of Israel & Martyr</i>
4 <u>Pentecost 11</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	5  VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- KINGDOM CHRONICLES	6	7 (no midweek service)	8	9	10 <i>Laurence, Deacon & Martyr at Rome</i>
11 <u>Pentecost 12</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	12 <i>Hippolytus. Priest & Martyr</i>	13	14 <i>Jonathan Myrick Daniels, Priest & Martyr</i> Midweek Service 12:15 pm	15 <i>No vestry meeting in August</i>	16	17
18 <u>Pentecost 13</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	19 <i>SEPTEMBER Newsletter submissions due</i>	20	21 <i>(no midweek service)</i>	22	23	24 <i>St Bartholomew the Apostle</i>
25 <u>Pentecost 14</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	26	27	28 <i>(no midweek service)</i>	29 <i>The Beheading of St John the Baptist</i>	30	31

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON YOUR SCHEDULED DATES, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT AND NOTIFY THE OFFICE.

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Nursery	Coffee Hour
Aug 4	9-	9-	9- E. Nemece, M. Kapples	9- D. Eichorn	9- C. Eubank	9-
Aug 11	9-	9-	9- A. Ubry	9-	9- S/E Niemann	9-
Aug 18	9-	9-	9- Z. Ubry	9-	9- D. Buczek	9-
Aug 25	9-	9-	9- K. Wagner	9-	9- L. Ubry	9-

FLOWERS

Aug 4 Horton
Aug 11
Aug 18
Aug 25

ALTAR

P. Neil (L. Grieme)
L. Grieme, L. Zigich
H. Budsock (D. Buczek)
D. Buczek, M. Markovich

COUNTERS

A.DiRienz, D.Eichorn, A.Grieme
L. Santos, L. Zigich
D. Logg, M. Preston
J. Preston, L. Ubry

CLEANING

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact the Church Office:
by phone 908-996-4091 or by Email to secretary@stthomasepc.org

CHANGE ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

St Thomas Episcopal Church
PO Box 348
98 Sky Manor Road
Pittstown, NJ 08867-0348.

St Thomas Episcopal Church

98 Sky Manor Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am

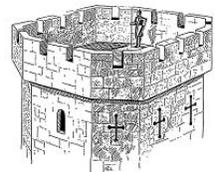
with Nursery at 8:45 am

BETH COLEMAN BAND BLUEGRASS CONCERT - under the stars !

Saturday, July 20 -- 7:00 - 9:00 pm at St Thomas Church

(indoors, if raining)

VBS ! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - *Kingdom Chronicles*
August 5 - 9, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon



All are invited and welcome!