



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

November, 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

Service Schedule

8:00am Eucharist

10:00am Eucharist with music

9:45am Nursery and Church School

All Saints' Evensong - November 3

Sunday, November 3 at 5:00pm,
followed by a covered dish supper

Thanksgiving Day - November 28

Thursday, November 28
Holy Eucharist with hymns at 10:00am

Mid-week Services

Wednesdays at 12:15pm
(no service on November 6 or 27)

Office Hours

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

From the Rector:

ALL SAINTS 2013

Saints and turkeys, remembering and celebrating, preparing and feasting, gathering and connecting, giving thanks and sharing our abundance: these describe the events and opportunities of a typical November. Here in the Diocese of New Jersey, this year we will add "Bishops" to our list – the retirement on November 2 of our bishop, George Councill, and the ordination, consecration and installation on November 2 and 3 of our new bishop, William "Chip" Stokes. See elsewhere in this newsletter about ways in which you can share the celebration.

2013 is also a significant milestone for St Thomas Church. Founded in 1723, St Thomas marks 290 years of presence in this part of Hunterdon County. While there were stretches of years when there were no regular services in the building, the property was always maintained, and the dream of active, full time ministry was kept alive – and here we are! 290 years later, an active, lively worshiping community of faith, a spiritual home for children, youth and adults. See elsewhere in this newsletter for information about how we will celebrate on November 10.

Sometimes as I prepare the calendar for the coming month, or look at my schedule for the coming week(s), I get a bit overwhelmed with all the "doing." It's mostly really wonderful, and so many opportunities to connect with people both in the parish and throughout the diocese. But I have heard the little voice inside me saying, "and when is YOUR prayer time?" Good question.

It is so easy to get so wrapped up in the "doing" that we lose sight of our need for "being" – in prayer, in mindfulness of our surroundings, in touch with God without a 'to do' list in our hands or on our minds. Most of those things we do are good, or serve an important purpose. But we also need that space apart, that intentional time when our attention is on our primary relationship, which is our relationship with God.

As I head into this season of heightened expectations and demands, I have decided to write in some "God time" every day on my calendar: time for quiet listening, deep breathing, gentle prayer and mindful awareness of this 'fragile earth, our island home.' There may be some singing, or at least humming. Perhaps you will join me in this intention ... we will be in the company of saints and angels, ancestors and the One who has loved us from before we were born. Good company indeed.

Peace and blessing,

Thanks and love,

Carol

.....

Collect for All Saints Day:

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

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

Autumn is always a beautiful time of the year and it seems like this year's has been especially pleasant and colorful. We've been having cool nights and warm days with plenty of sunshine that makes it nice to be outdoors. There have been a lot of things going on at St Thomas and there are a lot to look forward to. We've already had the blessing of the animals and the youth group pumpkin picking. I hear the latter was a "smashing" success (see pictures later in this newsletter). Also, don't forget the Halloween parade coming up this weekend and the fall cleanup days soon after. The celebration of Bishop Councill's ministry was held on October 13; and Bishop Stokes' consecration will be November 2. That same weekend we'll have Choral Evensong on Sunday afternoon followed by a covered dish supper. Once November arrives, Thanksgiving will be here before you know it, and once Thanksgiving is here that means our Tricky Tray will be just around the corner. I'm sure a lot of us are already hard at work on getting donations and making baskets.

Other things have been happening, too. For one, we completed the expansion survey: we received fifty-two responses and you will find the results later in this newsletter. The building committee is currently researching the possibility of crowd-funding as a supplementary source of revenue for this project. Under the heading of not-so-good-news, we have discovered that the roof on the church and parish hall needs major work. We have some time to consider the best way to approach this work, but it needs to be addressed next year for sure. This will clearly have an impact on the proposed expansion and I will keep you updated as we gather estimates and consider our alternatives.

Please remember all the good things going on at St Thomas when you fill out your pledge cards in the next few weeks. It's only through your generous support that all these things are able to happen. In that regard, I'm pleased to report that, for the first time in my memory, we did not have to withdraw money from our endowment to pay the bills over the summer. I pray that we will all evaluate just how much our lives are filled with abundance as provided by God, and continue to express sincere appreciation through generous and joyful gifts in our annual stewardship program.

Yours in faith,
Greg Shutske, Sr. Warden

Flemington Area Food Pantry

Thanksgiving is on its way! Upcoming needs at the Flemington Food Pantry include:

Black Beans Canned Soup Canned Corn Canned Beets Mashed Potatoes

Pancake Mix Canned Fruit Cake mix Cookies Crackers

Tooth brushes & Toothpaste Mouthwash Liquid Hand Soap Body Wash

Shampoo & Conditioner Men's Razors & Shaving Cream Men's Deodorant

Laundry Detergent *(yes, always!)*

Don't forget that Shop-Rite partners with the Food Pantry to accept donations of Thanksgiving turkeys you earn when using your Shop-Rite card. Please inquire when you check out!



Choral Evensong on November 3

We will continue our observance of All Saints Day with a service of Choral Evensong at 5:00 pm at St Thomas Church. This is a beautiful service of music, readings and prayer in that space between the hectic activities of the day and the quiet rest of night. The service will be followed by a covered dish supper – please bring a dish to share with friends and family. All are welcome.

Bishop Stokes' Consecration will be held on November 2

William "Chip" Stokes will be ordained and consecrated 12th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey on Saturday, November 2, at 11:00 am at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey.

Because seating is limited at the Cathedral, those who would like to attend the service must pre-register – go to www.NewJersey.anglican.org for more information.

The service will be simulcast at four locations throughout the diocese; the closest one to St Thomas is at St Luke's in Gladstone. There will be full participation at these satellite locations, including holy communion.

Julia Nemeec, as a Diocesan Youth Council member, will participate in the ceremony.

Celebration Sunday on November 10

Plan to join the celebration of St Thomas Church at 290 years on Sunday, November 10, with brunch following each service. This is also the day when the pledge cards for our financial, time and talent support of St Thomas Church will be presented on the altar, as our pledge to be part of the ongoing life and ministry of God's mission here.

Please bring a dish to share for the brunch, along with your memories and stories about St Thomas Church – photos too if you have them.



Honoring Bishop Councill

Over these past several months we have been celebrating and bidding farewell to Bishop Councill with gatherings large and small, public and private. Part of our thanksgiving for the ministry of +George and Ruth among us is participation in the fund for Urban Promise/ Street Promise. (Envelopes for your gift may be found in the gallery at St Thomas.)

FILL THE SILLS



You may have noticed that St Thomas Church has very deep window sills. Each year in the weeks before Thanksgiving, we work to Fill the Sills with non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, personal care supplies, diapers (infant, child and adult) and other items needed for the local food bank. Thanksgiving is a time when many churches and other groups provide items for turkey dinners, etc. While these are very important, it is also important to help meet the every day needs of people *after* the big day as well. Please be generous.

Put Some Sunshine into Miguel's Life

Those present at the October 20 stewardship presentation heard Linda Ubry talk about how prayers are helping Miguel and his family. Miguel is a 16 year old boy from Three Bridges who was diagnosed with leukemia this past May. His parents have health insurance, but it does not cover all of their expenses.

Two stores in Flemington – *Attachments*, 138 Main St and *Sage*, 48 Main St, are offering a Give Back Program. For each purchase made between November 11 - 18, *Attachments* and *Sage* will donate 15% towards Miguel's medical expenses.

Please come out and patronize these generous local Flemington stores – and take the opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. Invite your friends and family.



On Stewardship

by Marina Day

My Two Cents

My Myers-Briggs personality type is an ISFP - an Introverted Sensory Feeling Perceiver. It's no accident, then, that St Thomas reaches me most directly through my senses. I **SEE** the majestic maple tree that has weathered many storms and draughts, the faded gravestones marking lives past, the tulips gently nodding to us from their vases near the altar. I **HEAR** the chanting of a choir that often moves me to tears, the quiet babble of a toddler sitting on her father's lap, the wise words of a well-written sermon. I **FEEL** the earnest handshakes of the congregation as we exchange the Peace, the warm welcomes extended to visitors. I **TASTE** the fresh-baked foods at coffee hour supplied by loving hands. I **SMELL** the deep, woody bouquets of the decorative Christmas garlands, the blueberry pancakes sizzling on the griddle on Shrove Tuesday supper. These, and so many more, are the things I take in, and they fill me with awe, as do the hearts, hands and minds of the people that make them possible.

Each one of us could add to the list of sensory experiences at St Thomas, for it is an abundance of good things here. We are filled with "otherworldly" thoughts, yes, but it is authentic here. Some times messy, other times serene, always creative and real, as real as the life God sends us out to when we leave church on Sunday.



During this stewardship campaign, please try to be deliberate about the experience you have at St Thomas and remember to give back.

Flourish in Faith: Stewardship Program

Stewardship packets have been mailed to those who were not able to pick theirs up in person. If you did not receive a packet, please take one from the gallery, and sign the accompanying sheet so that we can keep our address list up to date.

The packet contains 2 pledge cards: one for your financial pledge, the other for your pledge of time and talent for 2014. Your generosity will help St Thomas to continue to live into our mission statement, "To worship, to nurture, serve, together in Christ." Extra pledge cards are available in the gallery. Please return your pledge cards by November 10.

Pumpkin Picking a Smashing Success

Twelve youth group members picked pumpkins at the West Portal Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, October 13. Thank you to the Swider family for providing dinner. Youth group members and some adults wrote their worries or concerns on their specially picked pumpkins before offering up their worries to God and then smashing them. Who knew smashing pumpkins could bring you closer to God?



YOUTH GROUP MEETING on November 24: Join us at 7:00 pm at St Thomas for Gagas and Tricky Tray tasks and basket wrapping. Bring a friend, and a snack or drink to share.

CATHEDRAL LOCK-IN: The youth group has decided to attend the Cathedral Lock-In in Trenton at Trinity Cathedral on December 13, 8:00 pm thru December 14, 7:00 am. The cost is \$33.00 per person and you must register at www.newjerseyyouth.org. Please advise Michelle Wagner when you sign-up as we need one adult for every 5 youths.



Church School HALLOWEEN PARADE on October 27:

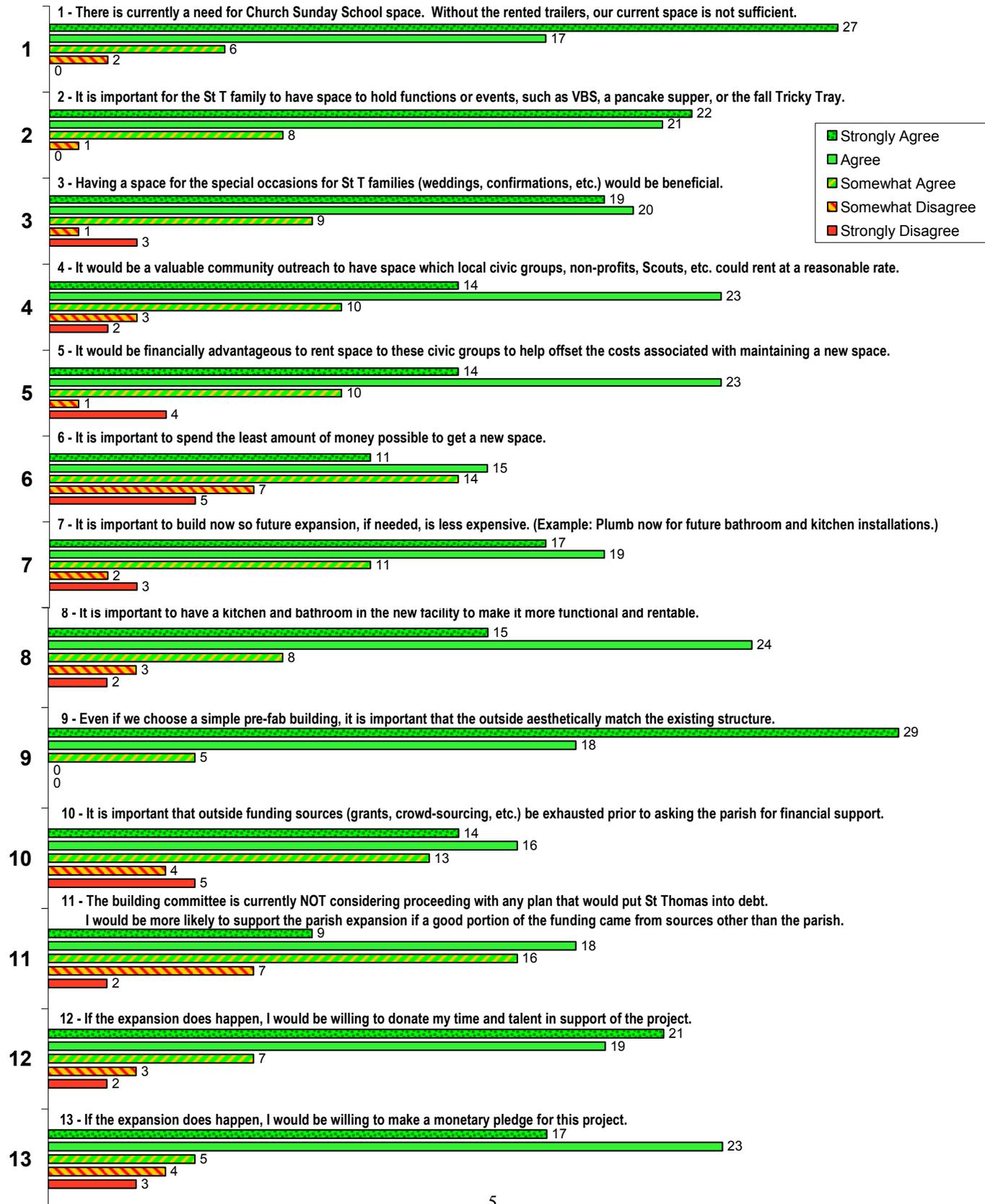
Thank you to the Walker family for helping organize this parade and baking the cupcakes!

The Building Committee is pleased to present the results of the Proposed Expansion Survey. For additional information, please contact Greg Shutske, Senior Warden, or any member of the Building Committee.

The next Building Committee meeting will be held on November 3, following the 10:00 am service.

St Thomas Proposed Expansion Survey - Fall 2013

52 Survey Responses





SAVE THE DATE

The 4th Annual St. Thomas Tricky Tray
Saturday, December 7th
North Hunterdon High School
1:00 - 5:00 PM

How you can help? Invite your friends and family for a wonderful afternoon of fun, food & holiday shopping!
Incentive: Any parishioner who brings a friend gets a free Blue Ribbon ticket
(Chance to win a prize valued at \$200-\$300)

Do you have a favorite local business that you frequent? Ask them to donate a basket or gift certificate. This is great exposure for local businesses - 100-200 local people under one roof! Donation request letters for local businesses are available in the gallery and will also be available online.

Are you creative? Make your own theme basket! Some basket ideas: Family Game Night, Dog Lovers, Kid's Crafts, Culinary Delights, Coffee Lovers, The Holiday Dining Table, Holiday Centerpiece, Knitting, Theme Book Baskets, (business, mystery, crafts, romance), Jewelry Making

What's Your Talent? Make a basket out of it! Painters discount and tools, Accounting Services, Web development, Catering, Photography - Everyone can participate.

Hey Kids - What can you do to help? Donate your time for a service basket - babysitting, snow shoveling, lawn cutting and clean up, dog walking, teaching old people technology (*stop laughing - it's not that funny!*)

No time to make a basket? Make a check out to St Thomas (write TT donation in subject line). Money will be used to purchase electronics with the money raised. Donna Kapples (dkapples@gmail.com) will coordinate.

Our first mission is to get great gift baskets! There will be plenty of service opportunities the day of the event - BUT RIGHT NOW OUR MISSION IS BASKETS! Whether you're making your own or soliciting a donation from a business, all are welcome and appreciated! We have a goal of 50 baskets by October 30th and another 50 by November 15th, with the balance of 30-50 before Thanksgiving. Please bring all baskets to any Sunday Service. **Have questions? Contact any of the Tricky Tray Team:**

Fran Brunelle 908-217-8571 - Fran@AcceleratedBuySell.com, Lynn Logg 908-995-4794 llogg92609@gmail.com, Donna Kapples dkapples@gmail.com, Elisabeth Chiminec 908-995-2675 erchim@aol.com, Denise Buczek dbuczek@comcast.net, Amanda Fuhro Amanda.Fuhro@utb.edu, Linda Ubry LindaUbry@gmail.com, Debbie Dusylovitch dddusy@gmail.com, Kate Allworthy crumbs_kate@comcast.net, Linda Grieme grieme@recognitionbydesign.com

PARISH REGISTER

Thank You

To Michelle Wagner, Greg Shutske, Linda Ubry and Ana White, our Flourish in Faith speakers for October;

To Melanie Preston, Amanda DiRienz, Roman Chiminec, Linda Ubry, and all who helped prepare for and work through the recent audit;

To Heidi Budsock for her work in organizing the sacristy;

To our coffee hour hosts, church cleaners and gardeners for all they do to make St Thomas a place of welcome and hospitality;

To all our Sunday School teachers and youth coordinators for all they do;

... And to all who so quietly live the Gospel through their efforts.

Happy Birthday



Happy Anniversary

Nov 5 Linda Ubry

Nov 6 Sylvain Trubert

Nov 7 Garrett DiRienz

Nov 9 David Eichorn

Nov 10 Jan Davis,
Andrew Niebuhr

Nov 14 Marjorie Mikuta

Nov 17 Gwyn Zigich

Nov 19 Charlotte Kelly

Nov 21 Patricia Bielcik

Nov 22 Gene Budsock

Nov 24 Jose Santos

Nov 30 Michael Causey

Nov 3

Christopher & Laura Hughes

Nov 10

Melanie Bracken & Joe Preston

Nov 13

Linda & Michael Ubry

Nov 20

Maria Markovich & Greg Shutske

Nov 27

Denise & Edward Buczek

Nov 29

Lisa Giannetti & Carl Meier

And... Just what *IS* Boxing Day ??

Having been asked about Boxing Day any number of times, Kate Allworthy offers this short summary:

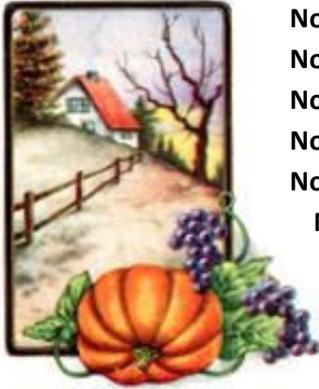
The first official work day after Christmas is a public holiday in the United Kingdom, named for the old British tradition of giving boxed presents to tradesman and servants. In medieval times, English priests emptied the alms box of the church on the day after Christmas, and distributed gifts to the poor.

During the 1600's, wealthy families thanked their servants for working on Christmas Day by letting them visit their own families the next day. Employers gave each servant a Christmas box to take home, containing gifts, bonuses, and left over food from the Christmas feast. Victorian tradesmen collected Christmas boxes of money or presents on the first weekday after Christmas, as thanks for good service throughout the year.

Kate admits to learning a bit more about Boxing Day from her research exercise and adds, "December 26th is also a perfect time to organize and discard empty gift boxes, but that's just a coincidence!"

***St Thomas' Second Fall Clean-up Day is Saturday, November 9, 9:00 am to Noon
Bring a rake or a leaf-blower - and some gloves. All ages are welcome!***

Remember these Fall Dates



- Nov 2** Consecration of Bishop Stokes, 11:00 am at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton
- Nov 3** **Clocks are set back one hour !**
- Nov 3** Building Committee meeting after the 10:00 am service
- Nov 3** All Saints' Day Evensong at 5:00 pm, followed by a covered dish supper
- Nov 4-6** Diocesan Clergy Retreat (rector is away)
- Nov 5** Election Day – don't forget to VOTE!
- Nov 9** Fall Clean-up Day (second chance!) at St Thomas, 9:00 - Noon
- Nov 10** CELEBRATION Sunday: Brunch follows each service; 2014 Pledge Cards due
- Nov 21** Vestry meeting, 7:00 pm
- Nov 24** FILL THE SILLS Sunday: fill St Thomas' window sills with non-perishable food for the food pantry
- Nov 24** Youth Group meeting: Gagas and Tricky Tray tasks; 7:00 pm at St Thomas
- Nov 25** December newsletter submissions are due
- Nov 28** Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist with hymns at 10:00 am
- Dec 1** First Sunday of Advent

BISHOPS...

As we await the consecration and installation (Nov. 2-3) of the 12th Bishop of New Jersey, the Rev. Canon William H. Stokes (God willing and with the consent of the people), it is timely to look at the origins of his office.

The word 'bishop' derives, through Old English 'biscops', from the Greek 'episcopos', meaning over- (epi-) seer (scopos). Episcopos is found 5 times in the oldest Greek manuscripts of our New Testament: in the Book of Acts and four of the epistles – notably not in the four gospels. The translators of the King James' Bible (KJV) used the word 'bishop' in the four epistles, while the translators of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) that we now use in our lectionary kept it in only the three attributed to Paul. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the translators of the New International Version, working for the National Association of Evangelicals who do not recognize bishops, do not use the word at all!

So what do the verses say? One of the epistles (Philippians 1, 1) merely greets bishops, while the first letter of Peter (2, 25) describes Jesus as 'shepherd and bishop'. On the other hand, the two Pastoral Letters of Paul give stern job requirements: the first letter to Timothy (3,2) mandates *'Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher'* while the letter to Titus (1,7) tells us *For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain* (NRSV). The latter is even better in the KJV - *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre.*

Our modern conception of a Bishop as the leader of the churches in a geographical area became established in the 1st Century. Ignatius of Antioch (ca. 35-107) wrote *Plainly therefore we ought to regard the bishop as the Lord Himself* (Epistle to the Ephesians 6:1) and *He that honoreth the bishop is honored of God; he that doeth aught without the knowledge of the bishop rendereth service to the devil* (Epistle to the Smyrnaeans 9:1).

Over the years it is clear that some bishops have taken these latter admonitions rather more seriously than those propounded by Paul, and have found themselves with little support in their dioceses – the Rt. Rev. Joe Morris Doss, the 10th bishop of New Jersey, comes to mind. Let us pray that Bishop-elect Stokes avoids these pitfalls as we offer him our whole-hearted support.

~ Roger Prince

November 2013 at-a-glance

**CLOCKS
BACK** ← 1 hour on Nov 3 !!



3 Pentecost 24
All Saints Sunday
HE 8 & 10am
Church School & Nursery 9:45am
Bldg Comm mtg after 10 am service
Evensong 5:00pm & covered dish supper

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>ALL SAINTS' DAY</i>	2 <i>Commem. of All Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)</i> Consecration of Bishop Stokes -- 11:00 am, Trinity Cathedral
	4	5 <i>Don't forget to</i> OTE	6 <i>No midweek service</i> Choir practice 7:15 pm	7	8	9 Fall Clean-up at St Thomas 9:00 - Noon 
	Nov 4-6: Diocesan Clergy Retreat (rector out of office)					
10 Pentecost 25 CELEBRATION SUNDAY HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am 2014 Pledge cards due; Brunch after each service	11	12	13 <i>Mid-week Service 12:15 pm</i> Choir practice 7:15 pm	14	15	16
17 Pentecost 26 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	18	19	20 <i>Edmund, King of East Anglia</i> <i>Mid-week Service 12:15 pm</i> Choir practice 7:15 pm	21 Vestry meeting 7:00 pm	22	23 <i>Clement, Bishop of Rome</i>
24 Pentecost Last <i>CHRIST THE KING</i> FILL THE SILLS HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am Youth Grp mtg at 7 pm	25 DECEMBER Newsletter Submissions due	26	27 <i>No midweek service</i> <i>No choir rehearsal</i>	28 Thanksgiving  Holy Eucharist 10:00am	29	30 <i>ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE</i>

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
Nov 3	8- 10- J. Davis	8- 10- D. Buczek	10- M. Eichorn	8- 10- D. Eichorn	10- C. Eubank	8- 10- Kapples
Nov 10	8- 10- M. Markovich	8- 10-	10- E. Nemeč	8- 10-	10- B/M Nemeč	8- Brunch after 10- each service
Nov 17	8- 10-	8- 10-	10- O. Buczek	8- 10- G. Budsock	10- S/E Niemann	8- 10-
Nov 24	8- 10-	8- 10-	10- M. Kapples	8- 10-	10- L. Zigich	8- 10- Walker

FLOWERS

Nov 3 Kapples
Nov 10 Davis
Nov 17
Nov 24

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