



May, 2014

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 Holy Eucharist
10:00am Holy Eucharist with music
9:45am Nursery and Church School

Ascension Day Service

Thursday, May 29 at 12:15 pm

Mid-week Service

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
(no service on May 28)

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:

May, 2014

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!”

“The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

After a long Lent, and a seemingly endless winter with more than its share of cold and snow, these words are welcome indeed. In our part of the world they mean not only the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead, but also the rising of new life in the earth around us and under our feet – green shoots, the first flowers, the songs of returning birds setting up housekeeping for the coming season. We are relieved in part because we have seen it, experienced it before, and trust that it will continue to unfold once more, as expected. But sometimes we may wonder if, indeed, it will happen.

The story of the resurrection of Jesus is much the same. For those who have heard it since early childhood, it seems certain, a piece of the reality of our lives. It was not so for those first disciples who arrived to find only an empty tomb on that third morning after the crucifixion. They didn't know what had happened or what to think – so, John tells us, they went home. It would take some time and several appearances by Jesus over those next forty days for them to process and sort it out for themselves. For some there would be quick acceptance and great joy. For others, there would be doubts and speculation, fears and uncertainties, along with a yearning for deeper understanding. So they stayed in the conversation, and continued in fellowship and prayer, supporting and loving one another, as Jesus had commanded them to do when he said, “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

Over time, the story spread, first by word of mouth, then, after several years, in the form of letters and, finally, in the books we know as the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. The story continues to be spread across the world, from one generation to another, across time and space: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Death did not – will not – have the final victory.

It is ours to know and to share in our own generation. In the times we find ourselves unsure or questioning, or weary with pain or suffering, may we be strengthened and filled by the presence of God's constant love and grace.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Spread the word!

Peace and blessing,
Carol+

*“When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Thy love can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green”*

-- John M.C. Crum (204, Hymnal 1982)

Wardens

Amanda Fuhro
908-735-5602

Fred Lowe
908-240-3934

Joan Milne
908-303-4900

Treasurer

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

Vestry

Fran Brunelle-Iuzzolino
908-217-8571 (cell)
908-387-1000 (office)

Nancy Bush
908-236-6608

Marina Day
908-238-9523

Kevin Kapples
908-996-3019

Pat Neil
908-730-6696

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

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

WORDS FROM THE WARDENS

I hope you were able to attend and share in several of the special services that were available at St. Thomas during the week preceding Easter day. They began with Palm Sunday, followed by the regular 12 noon service on Wednesday. Then came Maundy Thursday service (Eucharist & stripping of the altar). On Good Friday there were two services: 12 noon was a journey through the Stations of the Cross followed at 7 pm that evening by the Liturgy of the day. Saturday evening celebrated The Great Vigil of Easter. Then came Sunday, Easter Morning! By now I am sure you are wondering why I am wandering back to the start of Christ's journey from the cross to his resurrection and our celebration "Welcome, happy morning age to age shall say!"

I have no idea how many hours Carol spent preparing seven sermons and the time that Colleen spent preparing programs etc. for ten services over eight days, but I am pretty sure it was more than forty!

I believe that we are blessed to have The Rev. Canon Carol Horton as our rector. My experience has been that, at other Episcopal churches where there was only one priest, the services during Holy week were limited to Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Please join me in thanking Carol for providing the opportunities for her "flock" to experience The Journey from, "All glory laud and honor to thee, Redeemer King" to "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" to "He is risen, He is risen!"

Amanda Fuhro, Warden



Flemington Area Food Pantry

This month's Shopping List includes

Cans or Jars of: *Tomato Sauce* *Pasta Sauce*

Black Beans *Soups* *Baked Beans* *Creamed Corn*

Pears *Chickpeas* *Spinach* *Grape Jelly*

Also: *Pancake Mixes and Syrups* *Potatoes*

Boxes of Diapers

There are baskets in the gallery for your items.

Your donations make a difference!

YOUTH NEWS



YOUTH GROUP & ST. THOMAS CONGREGATION DORNEY PARK DAY

What better way to end our school year than a fun-filled, thrill ride day at Dorney Park!

We are planning this fun day on Wednesday, June 25th. Final pricing and signups will be out mid-May. Mark your calendars!

NEEDED!

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS/HELPERS

We are in need of teachers and helpers for our upcoming 2014-2015 school year. Even if you have never taught before, please think about serving on this wonderful ministry. The curriculum is easy to follow and our kids are absolutely wonderful! Even if you can only donate one Sunday a month, we would love to have you! The current group of teachers has been teaching since their children were 4 and 5 years old – and those children are now in their teens. Only one is a “real” (professional) teacher in the community; the rest of us just follow the curriculum and have a commitment to our church and our kids. So, even if you are not a “real” teacher, you *CAN* do it! Please see Michelle Wagner or email her at wagners88@comcast.net. You can start as a helper which means you do not prepare the lesson, but participate in the class and help out.

*Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.
-- Psalm 127:3 NLT*

SERVICE SUNDAY FOR CHURCH SCHOOL

Every year our last day of church school is Service Sunday! This year our last day of school is Sunday, June 1st. Our church school has made ziti and wrapped plastic utensils for SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program), has colored paper bags for Meals on Wheels, and has decorated placemats for local nursing homes. This year we will be making birthday bags for the Open Cupboard food pantry. Please donate cake mixes, icing, birthday candles, plates & napkins for our Service Sunday! There will be a collection box in the gallery.

HOST A GNOME IN YOUR HOME

Thanks from the Youth Group!

A Huge Thank You to our Gnome Hosts:

The Cichonski, Kapples, Logg, and Prince families! We hope you enjoy your new Gnomes as much as we enjoyed your hospitality on April 27th.

YOUTH GROUP BRIDGES OUTREACH

The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

--Proverbs 11:25 NLT



On Sunday, June 1st, our High School Youth will be taking their generosity to the streets of Irvington & Newark, and providing 300 meals to the hungry and homeless. In the month of May, our youth will be asking the congregation for donations of sandwiches, cookies and other items that the youth will pack on Saturday, May 31st. If any of the youth are interested in doing an overnight in cardboard boxes, please advise Mrs. Swider at alss107@gmail.com. Only high school youth group can participate in the Bridges Run. Middle School youth group can assist with packing on Saturday, May 31st. More details will follow through Sunday announcements and Thursday Good News.

On Stewardship

by Fran Brunelle-luzzolino

Stewardship In Thought, Word, Deed And Being

I've always thought of stewardship as so much more than tithing. I've also found it curious that so many Christian folks think of ministry and stewardship as things done for and in the church community. Is it not through the good stewardship of our time, gifts, talents, words, prayers, thoughts and the spirit that permeates and emanates from our being that we have the God Given ability to touch and transform our fellow humans? How does any society come to an understanding of a loving and forgiving God if not through exposure to those that allow their God Given Gifts to freely shine no matter where they are?

People always remember how you make them FEEL. Be kind, be generous, and be encouraging. You never know how your interaction, no matter how small, will affect people, both in the positive and negative. Whether we are working, retired or in school, each of our lives is a ministry to those we are exposed to. The mindful stewardship of our lives, as related to those we are exposed to, is how we express gratitude to God for all that he has provided for us.

I recently re-connected on LinkedIn with a young man that worked for my company many years ago. I was thrilled to learn that he had gone back to school and was excelling in a new career that he loved. I was shocked when he said that I was responsible for this. How could this be? We had not seen each other in years. He reminded me of a conversation we had where I told him that anything was possible for his life. Dream big, think big, have faith and just keep putting one foot in front of the other. A short time later you'll look back and find you're on a different path, one that is blessed. They were just a few words that I had all but forgotten. The thing was... he had never heard those words from anybody else in his life.

An old Facebook buddy made a suggestion for Lent. Every day during Lent, show kindness and give an encouraging word to someone God puts in your path. If the entire body of Christ did this, not just during Lent, what would our world be like? This makes me think of the closing prayer every Sunday... "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do." How will you be a good steward of your talents, words, deeds and Life this month?

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law.

Colossians 3:12

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

BUILDING COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

by Greg Shutske

Our campaign to raise enough money to put a new roof over the church, gallery and parish hall is a success! In just four months we have received donations bringing our total to over \$25,000. The building committee wants to express its deepest gratitude to all who prayed for the success of this campaign and to all who made donations. Just to remind you, we received a very generous offer from a St Thomas family to provide a \$25,000 match once our donations reached \$25,000. This will get us to our total of \$50,000 needed to replace the roof. In view of this successful campaign, we will be proceeding as expeditiously as possible to complete the bidding process so that we can begin work during the summer. Please don't forget that the roof is just a detour on the road to our eventual goal, which is to add more space for our church school. In order to help fund this next project, Fran Brunelle and her committee have put together an exciting and inspirational video slide presentation about St Thomas that we will soon post on a crowd-funding website. If you have questions or comments (or have experience with a good roofer), please see Rev. Carol, myself or one of the members of the building committee below:

WE'VE MET OUR ROOF GOAL!

Tracey Bergstrand
Alan Grieme

Fran Brunelle
Kevin Kapples

Elisabeth Chiminec
Lynn Logg

Pete Cichonski
Brian O'Rourke

Dan Dusylovitch
Linda Ubry

St. Thomas Yard Sale

Turn your unused 'Stuff' into cash for St Thomas



Saturday, May 3rd
9 AM – 3 PM



Quakertown EMS Building, Rt. 513
(next to the Pittstown Post Office)

1) **BEFORE YOU DROP-OFF, SORT and LABEL** by category – use boxes or bags:

Books	Women's clothing	Games
DVD/CDs	Men's clothing	Arts & Crafts
Arts & Crafts	Kids/Baby clothing	Sports
Toys & Stuffed Animals	Shoes/Belts/Handbags	Jewelry
Garden	Holiday	Kitchen
Linens - bed, curtains, towels (please include size/dimensions of bed linens and curtains)	Household (pictures, décor, frames, tchotchkes)	

2) **DROP-OFF YOUR MERCHANDISE**

Merchandise will be accepted at the EMS building on
Thursday and Friday, May 1-2: 10 AM - 2 PM & 4 - 7 PM each day

3) **VOLUNTEER !!** *Assignments & times below; sign-up sheet on Parish Hall refrigerator*

Thurs and Friday, May 1-2: Accept drop-offs 10 AM - 2 PM & 4 - 7 PM
(2 shifts each day)

Saturday, May 3: Set Up 7:30 – 11 AM

Cashiers (2 shifts) 8 AM - Noon & Noon - 4 PM

Merchandisers (2 shifts) 8 AM - Noon & Noon - 4 PM

4) **DISTRIBUTE YARD SIGNS** *Available at the church*

GOT QUESTIONS? Contact anyone on the fundraising committee - Lynn Logg,
Elisabeth Chiminec, Donna Kapples, Fran Brunelle, Deb Dusylovitch,
Amanda Fuhro, Linda Ubry, Linda Grieme, Joan Milne or Kate Allworthy

PARISH REGISTER

To Richard McIntyre and St Thomas choir for inspiring and uplifting music throughout Lent, Holy Week and Easter;

To Larry Mikuta for seeing that our banners and the colored fabric draped on the cross outdoors near the road reflected the seasons of the church year for all who passed by to see.



To Kate Allworthy for obtaining the palms for Palm Sunday, and for overseeing their preparation for the service; and to Kim and Brooke Testa, Elisabeth Chiminec and Nan Soden, Mary and Elizabeth Nemec and others who helped;

To Kate Allworthy for her creative and beautiful decorating of St Thomas Church for Easter, and for preparing the pansies given to the children on Easter day;

To Alisa Swider, for her dedicated work with the Communion class;

To Greg Shutske and Roman Chiminec for raking and cleanup of the garden before Easter;

To St Thomas Youth Group for another wonderful and successful Easter Egg hunt;

To those who provided coffee hour for Easter Day;

To our readers, acolytes, ushers and eucharistic ministers who served during Holy Week and Easter;

To our altar guild members who do extra duty this time of year to clean, polish, and prepare our church for worship;

To those who keep us informed through email, newsletter and website;

And to all who quietly do so much for St Thomas and the fellowship we share...



Happy Anniversary

May 2 Agnes (Bobbie) Douglass, Michelle Wagner
May 4 Carl Meier
May 5 Lauren Niebuhr
May 6 Kurt Fischer, Gail Kinsey
May 7 Clara Fischer, Cheryl Spies
May 9 Amanda DiRienz
May 10 Heidi Budsock, Paige Dillard
May 13 Matthew Salley
May 15 Kelly Abrunzo, Jake Niebuhr, Glenn Zigich
May 18 John Spies
May 22 Robert Spies
May 24 Arthur Petroff
May 28 William Petty
May 29 Erin Salley, Jesse Wolfson
May 30 Catherine Eubank
May 31 Kelsey Davis

May 12 Amanda & Mark DiRienz
May 16 Gail & Kevin Kenny
May 21 Diane & Wayne Salley,
Gene & Michelle Thomas
May 25 Donald & Kelly Jordan
May 30 Bill & Jan Davis

PLEASE SIGN UP

There are openings on the sign-up schedules for Eucharistic ministers, Readers, Acolytes, Ushers, Flowers, Coffee Hour hosts and Cleaners.

As with most tasks, many hands make for lighter work – or at least it feels that way. Please sign up as you are able. It is a great help to be able to plan ahead!

- May 3** St Thomas **YARD SALE** at Quakertown EMS Building (Rt 513) from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- May 11** Mother's Day
- May 15** Vestry meeting at 7:00 pm
- May 19** June newsletter submissions are due

Upcoming Dates



- May 25** Rogation Sunday
- May 26** Memorial Day
- May 31** Pack lunches for Bridges (high and middle school youth groups)
- June 1** Bridges Run (high school youth group)
- June 1** Service Sunday -- Last Sunday School class until September
- June 8** Parish Picnic
- June 15** SUMMER SCHEDULE begins (single Sunday service at 9:00 am)
- June 25** St Thomas Congregation Day at DORNEY PARK! All are invited!

Saul, David, and Benedict Arnold?

The story of King David is dear to Jews, Christians and Muslims as a historic watershed that sets the stage for much of what is to follow. It is a rich and diverse narrative, set out in the two books of Samuel, 1 Kings, and 1 Chronicles in our tradition, but also well represented in the Koran. Parts are very familiar; the story of David the shepherd slaying the Philistine Goliath with his slingshot, his murderous lust as he sends Uriah the Hittite to die so that he can hide Bathsheba's pregnancy, and his poetic skill in the authorship of the psalms.

But David was also the prototype for a particular sort of traitor – one who rises through the ranks in one army, and then leaves to fight for the enemy. American tradition singles out Benedict Arnold as its example of this particular treason. Arnold (1741-1801) was a General in George Washington's Continental Army, and achieved notable successes including the capture of Fort Ticonderoga (1775) and the Battles of Saratoga (1777). Nevertheless he felt slighted by a lack of recognition from Congress, and was very unhappy with their alliances with the French and refusal to accept the Carlisle proposals for full self-government within the British Empire. He thus resolved to turn over the fort at West Point, NY, to the British (1780); his plot was discovered when communications were intercepted, and he defected and was commissioned as a Brigadier General on the other side. He led British troops in Virginia and Connecticut, and moved to London after the war. He spent some years as a trader in Canada, but retired back to London in 1791. He and his family are buried in St Mary's, Battersea, which has the splendid stained glass window shown below.

David also had a stellar military career under King Saul against the Philistines ("Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands", 1 Samuel 18), but he, too, spent some time working for the enemy. The mercurial Saul was sufficiently jealous of David's success that he tried to have him killed – eventually even trying to carry out the assassination himself. David spent months, perhaps years, on the run, and eventually turned to the Philistine King Achish of Gath for support. Given the town of Ziklag (1 Samuel 26), David fought for the Philistines until Saul's death, whereupon he was anointed King of Judah, and upon the death of Saul's son Ish-Bosheth, King of the United Kingdom of Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 5). Our tradition is unclear whether his many battles under King Achish were ever against the Jews, but he certainly acted as if a fully commissioned General (1 Samuel 27), and with murderous zeal.

Perhaps it is this terribly flawed character that has made David such a central figure in western traditions – his only redeeming feature seems to be an ability to return to God and ask for forgiveness: he doesn't even seem very good at reforming his ways after his acts of contrition.

There is hope for us all...

~ Roger Prince



May 2014 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>St Philip & St James, Apostles</i> Midweek Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	2	3 St Thomas YARD SALE Quakertown EMS Building 9 am – 3 pm
4 Easter 3 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	5	6	7 Midweek Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	8 <i>Dame Julian of Norwich</i>	9	10
11 Easter 4 <i>Mother's Day</i> HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	12	13	14 Midweek Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	15 Vestry meeting 7:00 pm	16	17
18 Easter 5 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	19 JUNE Newsletter submissions due	20	21 Midweek Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm	22	23	24
25 Easter 6 <i>Rogation Sunday</i> HE 8 & 10am Church School & Nursery 9:45am	26  Memorial DAY	27	28 <i>(no Wednesday service – see Thurs, May 29)</i> Choir practice 7:15 pm	29 FEAST OF THE ASCENSION Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm	30	31 Youth Group packs lunches today to prepare for Bridges Run on June 1

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
May 4	8- 10-	8- 10-	10- G. DiRienz	8- 10- D. Eichorn	10- C. Eubank	8- 10-
May 11	8- 10-	8- 10-	10- O. Buczek	8- 10-	10- B/M Nemecc	8- 10-
May 18	8- 10-	8- 10-	10- E. Nemecc	8- 10-	10- M. Day	8- 10-
May 25	8- 10-	8- 10-	10-	8- 10-	10- S. Mikuta	8- (10) Amanda 10- & Joyce

FLOWERS

May 4 Grieme
May 11
May 18 Testa
May 25

ALTAR

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

COUNTERS

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

CLEANING