



June, 2014

Address

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E-mail: welcome@stthomasepc.org
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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 thru June 1

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:00am Holy Eucharist with music
9:45am Nursery and Church School

Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 8

Single Service at 10:00 am
followed by picnic

Summer Schedule begins June 15

9:00am Holy Eucharist
8:45am Nursery

Mid-week Service

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
(No service on June 11 or June 18)

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:

Pentecost, 2014

Tongues of fire and wind; the Good News proclaimed and understood by everyone present, each in their own language; bystanders and disciples in awe or terrified or both: the Holy Spirit is nothing if not dramatic. That is what the gospel writers tell us about the Day of Pentecost. Those days following the Resurrection had been times of transition. Some of the fringe followers had no doubt returned to their homes and their former lives, thinking whatever had been was not over. The faithful remnant stayed together, praying, sharing what they had, talking about what they had seen and heard, trying to make sense out of it all. There had been several encounters with the risen Christ, but these were now over as well.

Perhaps they were settling into a new rhythm, perhaps anticipating a future that would be much more calm and peaceful than the times they had just gone through. But the coming of the Holy Spirit changed all that, and they found themselves with a new sense of mission and direction, ready to move forward and share the Good News throughout the world as they knew it, and even beyond – to the Ends of the Earth, wherever that might be.

We, too, are called to live that Great Commission to share the Good News of God's redeeming and life giving love. Sometimes we use words. Most often we do this by how we live in the world and how we share what we have been given in our time, our talents and our treasure.

This year the Day of Pentecost is also the day of our spring outdoor service and picnic. We will recognize our teachers and others who work with our youth, our graduates and our soon-to-be-confirmed confirmands. We will sing and pray and celebrate together the beauty that is St Thomas Church; the faithfulness of those in every generation who have cared for and worshiped in this holy place; and the wonder of God's ever-present love for us and for all of creation. We will share food and tell stories, and then go our various ways out into our own lives, refreshed and filled with the Spirit for the work ahead.

Be filled with the Spirit! Spread the Good News! Rejoice and be glad!
Alleluia!

Peace and blessing,
Carol+

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 Nemeč
mnemeč@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

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Confirmation

On Saturday, June 21, St Thomas will join with several other churches from the Watchung Convocation at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge for our annual regional confirmation service. Bishop William "Chip" Stokes, 12th bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, will be the preacher and celebrant, and will confirm Four young people from St Thomas: Lauren Wagner, John Spies, John Wolfson and Claire Wolfson. The service will begin at 3:00 pm and all are invited to attend. Please pray for the confirmands, their parents, teachers and sponsors, and a huge thank you to Cheryl Spies for her work with this group.



Visit the new TRINITY CATHEDRAL WEBSITE

www.trinitycathedralnj.org/

and find out more on Cathedral Sunday, June 1

Trinity Cathedral in Trenton is a focal point for the Diocese of New Jersey -- the place where all the 'big' events take place -- ordinations, consecrations, elections, commemorations. You can take part in 'Cathedral Sunday' on June 1 -- check the website for details.

Flemington Area Food Pantry

The Pantry's Shopping List for June includes

CANNED FOODS: Tomato Sauce

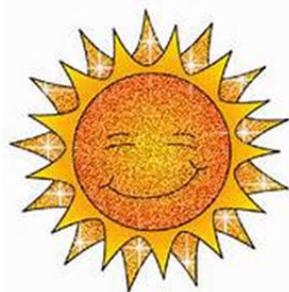
Pasta Sauce Black Beans Soups Pears

Creamed Corn Peaches Potatoes

Chickpeas Spinach

Grape Jelly Pancake Syrup

Also: Pancake Mixes, Mac & Cheese



*There are baskets in the gallery for your items.
Your donations make a difference!*

YOUTH GROUP BRIDGES OUTREACH on Sunday, June 1

As you have heard, the St Thomas High School Youth Group will be participating in another "Bridges Run" this year on Sunday, June 1st. **Students must be in high school to participate!** Alisa Swider and Elie Trubert will be the adult chaperones/drivers.

This year we are asking St Thomas families to commit to preparing the bag lunches, which our group will deliver and distribute to homeless people in Irvington. We will meet at St Thomas at 8:45 am on June 1st to load up the lunches. After a parish send-off in the parking lot, we will leave by 10 am. We'll drive to the Bridges office in Summit where we will participate in a brief training and then follow the Bridges truck to Irvington. The kids will hand out the lunches, hot soup, and drinks, and help distribute clothing, accompanied by Bridges coordinators. As important as the food is, fellowship and kindness also play a big role in the experience. We will return to St Thomas mid-afternoon.

A sign-up sheet for the lunches is at St. Thomas in the gallery, along with information about what to include. Please sign up! St. Thomas has committed to providing 200 brown bag lunches. You can prepare fresh or "sustainable" lunches. This is a wonderful way for your whole family to take part, even if the kids are too young for the run. If any of the youth are interested in doing an overnight in cardboard boxes, please advise Mrs. Swider at alss107@gmail.com.

SERVICE SUNDAY for Church School on Sunday, June 1

Our church school children are ready to participate in their fun outreach 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 is a collection box in the gallery.



DORNEY PARK DAY on June 25 for YOUTH GROUP & ST THOMAS CONGREGATION

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. Ticket price is \$26.00 per person. We must have your money by June 18th if you plan to attend. We must have a minimum of 20 tickets to qualify for the group rate. Please give your check made out to 'cash' to Michelle Wagner. Young and old are invited to attend!

Church School Teachers & Helpers are needed in the Fall

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! Our current teachers have been teaching since their children were 4 or 5 years old – and those children are now in their teens. Only one is a "real" 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 you will participate in the class and help out.

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

Mark your calendars !! **2014 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is August 4 - 8**

Volunteers are needed



Grab a hammer! Find a paint brush! And put on your creative thinking cap – as you imagine and build – with GOD!!!! Discover how the ordinary becomes *EXTRA*ordinary with God.

St Thomas 2014 VBS will be held August 4 – 8, from 9:00 am to 12 noon. David White will return again this year to lead VBS – and he is requesting your help. Volunteers are needed to run each station, and to take the children to each station. To volunteer or for more information, contact David at 908-797-2231 or xroastbeef@gmail.com.

Stewardship: A Moving Perspective

by Nancy Bush

I am going through an experience right now that has sharpened my understanding of the word “stewardship” in several important ways. As some of you may know, I have chosen to go back to my hometown of Atlanta after 34 years in the Northeast, with most of that time having been spent here in western New Jersey. The reason is simple -- to be closer to my family and especially to my mother, who is going through a number of health challenges that require that I be closer by to help out.

While I have already bought a home in Georgia (in the lovely little town of Madison, about 60 miles east of Atlanta), the tougher part is still before me -- selling my home here in New Jersey, which I have owned since 1994.

It is a beautiful old colonial farmhouse, built in 1834 as the home of the Huffman family, who were one of the original settler families in Annandale, which was settled by Scots and Germans. It was at one time a 200-acre dairy farm and orchard property, and a very old pear tree is still on the grounds and still produces terrific pears each fall. This has been, in short, a wonderful place to live, and it has been a source of peace and solace to me many times during a tumultuous 30-year career on Wall Street.



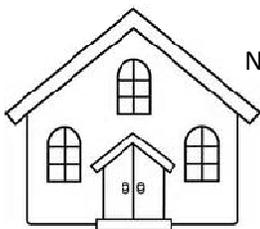
It struck me as I was going through the house last week -- and thinking how much I would miss it -- that perhaps it was time to leave. I am, after all, only a steward of this house -- it has stood for 180 years, seen many children raised here and many people pass on, I’m sure. And no matter how much I believe that it will always be MY house, that’s not quite true. I am just one of many, and I’m very happy that I have been able to add to its inherent beauty, improve the systems and grounds, and I am proud that I will be leaving it in better shape than I found it. I’m hopeful that I will be able to sell it to a family that sees it, and cherishes it, the same way that I do.

The same is true for me of my association with St Thomas -- another beautiful place that has stood for many generations and has been a home to many families and seen both much happiness and, I’m sure, occasional grief. I have belonged to several Episcopal churches in my time -- I’m a cradle-to-grave Episcopalian -- and each one has given me unique insights into my faith and into that connection with the many people who have come before me and stood strong in these churches in the sight of Our Savior. I am so proud to have been here, and the age and continuity -- and the struggles -- of this parish have given me terrific insights into the concept of stewardship. I will be sorry to leave here, and I cannot tell you how much I admire the dedication and optimism of all in this place who practice their unique brand of stewardship on a daily basis -- without even having to think much about what it means.

And here’s the ironic part. In Madison, I will be living three houses down from The Episcopal Church of the Advent -- a lovely church that is experiencing its own period of trials, financial and otherwise. Please feel free to come visit both my new church and me -- I’ll be easy to find!

Building Committee Gets Back to Planning for More Space

-- Greg Shutske



Now that we have met our fundraising target for the roof, the building committee is focusing again on our goal of adding space for the church school and parish functions. Our immediate goal is to produce a better diagram or representation of the proposed structure. This will allow all of us to visualize what we have in mind and to focus, refine, and debate our ideas. At the same time, Fran Brunelle and her committee are putting together an exciting and inspirational video slide presentation about St Thomas that we will post on a crowd-funding website in order to supplement fund-raising efforts within the parish. If you have questions or comments, please see Rev. Carol, myself or one of the members of the building committee below:

Tracey Bergstrand
Alan Grieme

Fran Brunelle
Kevin Kapples

Elisabeth Chiminec
Lynn Logg

Pete Cichonski
Brian O’Rourke

Dan Dusylovitch
Linda Ubry

PARISH REGISTER

Thank You



To all who worked so hard to make this year's yard sale such a huge success;
To parents and sponsors of our confirmands for their help and support;
To St Thomas Choir and to Richard McIntyre for wonderful music throughout the year;
To Jan Davis, our organist throughout the summer;
To all who are keeping St Thomas clean these days though their work on the cleaning crews, and to Marina Day for coordinating the effort;
To all who are tending to the grounds and gardens at St Thomas;
To the family that donated the funds to have the driveway and parking lot repaired and re-graveled;

To our youth group members who will go on the Bridges Run on June 1, to Elie Trubert for organizing the project, for the adults who will attend, and for all who will provide the bag lunches to be delivered that day;
To our Church School teachers and youth group leaders, and to all who help make our church school such a special place through their presence and enthusiasm;
and to all who quietly make our life here at St Thomas so meaningful.



June 1 Elizabeth Nemec,
Travis Oldenburg
June 6 Tristan Parker
June 9 Tracey Bergstrand
June 10 Bradley Doerr, Kacie McKenna,
Ruth Mikuta
June 12 Will Parker
June 14 Roger Prince
June 15 Nora Trubert
June 18 Trinity Mikuta, Julia Nemec,
Ethan Walker, Traci Wood
June 22 Monika Kelly, Doug Logg
June 23 Olivia Eichorn
June 25 Stephen Swider
June 26 Jason Burns, Bobby Davis,
Alan Grieme, Donna Kapples,
Michele Thomas
June 27 Peter Davis
June 28 John Dougherty, Ann Holt
June 29 Kate Harney

Happy Anniversary

June 6 Amanda & Victor Fuhro,
Cathy & Ed Kane
June 7 Eliza & Robert Causey
June 8 Donna & Kevin Kapples
June 9 Liz & John Dougherty
June 18 Edward & Patricia Bielcik
June 20 Diane Groth & Lou Mikolajczyk,
Joanne & Will Parker
June 24 Dorothy & Will Stevenson
June 26 Brian & Trish Walsh
June 28 Dan & Kathleen Conceicao
June 29 Ann & Jack Holt

Congratulations

To all our graduates, and to their families and teachers.

Welcome...

To all who have come to consider St Thomas their spiritual home over the last several months. Please be sure to join us at the parish picnic on June 8.



Remember these Summer Dates



June 1 BRIDGES RUN – All join in prayer in the parking lot at 9:45 am and Church School Service Sunday – Birthday Bags! (final church school class until September)

June 4 Final choir practice until September

June 8 Single outdoor service (weather-permitting) at 10:00 am, followed by a Parish Picnic

June 9 - 20 Rector is away

June 14 Flag Day

June 15 Summer schedule begins (through Labor Day) with a single service at 9:00 am --
Guest Preacher and Celebrant: The Rev. Ann Holt, First Rector of St Thomas Church
– and also FATHER’S DAY

June 21 First day of summer!

June 24 Combined JULY-AUGUST newsletter submissions are due

June 27 Vestry meeting on the 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm

August 4 - 8 St Thomas Vacation Bible School: *Workshop of Wonders*

The world’s worst father-in-law - and a rather unusual sheep...

Mother-in-law jokes may be a staple of stand-up comedy, but **Genesis** (Ch 29-31) tells us that Jacob had a father-in-law who must surely rank amongst the worst in-laws of all time. Jacob, of course, was himself not a very nice man, having tricked his brother Esau out of both his inheritance and his father’s (Isaac’s) blessing (Ch 25 & 27). Perhaps not surprisingly, Esau vowed to kill his brother as soon as their father was dead, so their mother insisted Jacob leave home to stay with her brother Laban until things cooled down.

The first thing Jacob noticed when he arrived at Laban’s home was the younger daughter Rachel, and it was love at first sight. Within a month he offered Laban his services ‘*I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.*’ Laban agreed, and Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her (29, 20). Perhaps it was a very boozy wedding feast, and/or a very dark night, but Jacob awoke the morning after the wedding to discover that he had not married his beloved, but rather her elder sister Leah! ‘*What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?*’ yelled Jacob. Laban replied, ‘*This is not done in our country -- giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.*’ (29, 25) And Jacob did! We can imagine the hurt feelings of the sisters in this most curious family, but between them and their two ‘handmaidens’ they delivered 12 sons and a daughter within a few years.

Eventually Jacob hoped his brother Esau would have mellowed, and he decided to return home. Laban felt obliged to pay him for his years of service, and Jacob suggested that he take all the spotted animals in Laban’s herds. Laban agreed, but secretly had his sons remove all the spotted animals to distant pasture before Jacob had a chance to take them. Faced with a multitude of plain white animals, and not a spotted one in sight, Jacob resorted to folk magic to generate some new multicolored animals. ‘*He took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the rods. He set the rods ... in front of the flocks’ ... watering troughs, ... and since they bred when they came to drink, the flocks bred in front of the rods and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.*’ (30, 37). Not only that, but Jacob only did this with the strongest animals, so within a few years he had a substantial herd of sturdy bicolored animals, while Laban was left with a herd of enfeebled white ones – perhaps his just deserts.

This curious story has led to the naming of a most unusual breed of sheep known as *Jacob sheep* – a relatively small, piebald, multi-horned sheep that has become popular with gentleman farmers and spinners. Their origin is obscure, only being well documented in England since the 17th Century, and only gaining their current name in the 19th. Until then they were sometimes known as *Spanish sheep* due to a (likely incorrect) view that they had arrived from shipwrecked vessels of the Spanish Armada of 1588. In any case, they are a poignant indication of how central the stories of the Bible once were to everyday life.



Thanks be to God.

~ Roger Prince



June 2014 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter 7 HE 8 & 10am Nursery/Church School 9:45am <i>CS Service Day</i> <i>Bridges Run@9:45am</i>	2	3	4 <i>Midweek Service</i> 12:15 pm <i>Choir practice</i> (final until Sept) 7:15 pm	5	6	7
8 PENTECOST <i>HE at 10:00 am</i> <i>Single outdoor</i> <i>Service followed</i> <i>by PARISH PICNIC</i>	9	10	11 <i>Saint Barnabas,</i> <i>the Apostle</i> (no midweek service)	12	13	14 FLAG DAY
June 9 – 20: Rector is away						
15 TRINITY <i>Father's Day</i> <i>Summer Schedule:</i> HE at 9 am Nursery at 8:45am	16	17	18 (no midweek service)	19	20 <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Dinner</i>	21 <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Service</i> <i>St Mark's,</i> <i>Basking Ridge</i> 3:00 pm
June 9 – 20: Rector is away						
22 Pentecost 2 HE at 9 am Nursery at 8:45am	23 <i>JULY-AUGUST</i> <i>Newsletter</i> <i>submissions due</i>	24	25 <i>Midweek Service</i> 12:15 pm	26 <i>Vestry meeting</i> 7:00 pm	27	28
29 Pentecost 3 HE at 9 am Nursery at 8:45am	30 <i>Saint Peter</i> <i>and Saint Paul,</i> <i>Apostles</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
June 1	8- 10- J. Davis	8- 10- M. Thomas	10- M. Kapples	8- 10- D. Eichorn	10- C. Eubank	8- 10-
June 8	10- D. Buczek, L. Mikuta	10- M. Markovich	10- O. Buczek	10-	10- S. Mikuta	10- Picnic
June 15	9- A. Fuhro	9-	9- T. Mikuta	9-	9- B/M Nemecc	9-
June 22	9- M. Day	9-	9- E. Nemecc	9-	9- S/E Niemann	9- Logg
June 29	9- L. Mikuta	9-	9- OPEN	9-	9- M. Day	9-

FLOWERS

June 1 Logg
June 8 Testa
June 15
June 22
June 29

ALTAR

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

COUNTERS

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

CLEANING