



July-August, 2014

Address

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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

Summer Schedule

(through Labor Day)

9:00am Holy Eucharist

8:45am Nursery

Mid-week Service

will resume on

Wednesday, September 3

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Workshop of Wonders

August 4 - 8, 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 2014

“ABUNDANCE” is surely the key word at this time of year, particularly at St Thomas Church.

The gardens are in lovely abundance, thanks to the dedication of the planners from many years ago, and those who continue to weed, prune, plant and encourage all the living things that surround us in this place. A new addition this year: at the picnic, Alissa Swider and several of our younger members planted decorative gourds in one of the newly refurbished beds toward the back of the property. Please take a look at their progress, and do take some time to sit in the garden and be refreshed by its beauty and peace.

This past Saturday four of our young people were confirmed by Bishop Stokes as part of our Watchung Convocation service of Confirmation. As each of the young people stood before the bishop to be confirmed, I stood on one side of each confirmand, and their mentor stood on the other side. We placed a hand on the shoulder of the confirmand as the bishop laid hands on the head of each one. It was a powerful moment for all of us. I was aware that it was not just the bishop, the mentor and myself laying hands – it was *all* of St Thomas Church present at that moment, supporting this young person in his or her life in Christ – we were representing all of you who have been in one way or another models, teachers, examples, supporters of these young men and women, many of you from before they were born. God’s Abundance for sure, lived out in and through each one of us, just as it has been for centuries, and will be forever. Awesome responsibility – awesome opportunity and joy! Pass it on!

Wherever we are, whatever shifts we experience in our lives, the key for all of us can be found in the renewal of our baptismal vows: “Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?” and we respond, “I will, with God’s help.”

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+

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.

*** September newsletter information is requested by August 25 ***

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

WORDS FROM THE WARDENS

Summer has finally arrived and with it comes many endings and beginnings. The traditional school year ends with graduations and new beginnings. The earth changes from brown and gray to green, red, yellow, purple, orange, yellow as the trees blossom and our gardens flower. Precipitation falling from the sky does not have to be shoveled, and instead it gently washes away the dust and sometimes brightens the sky with a rainbow. At St Thomas, church school ends, the choir takes a well-earned break, and we celebrated the beginning of the summer season with an awesome outdoor worship service followed by a picnic lunch. The hazy, lazy days of summer are upon us. Enjoy them, but let us not forget from whom the seasons flow, the sun shines and the flowers grow. God, who created the heavens and the earth and all living creatures (including us), never takes a vacation but doesn't mind if we do. But I think it saddens Him somewhat when we forget that His House is open all year long. I imagine that sometimes He gets lonely when so many pews remain empty with only a few voices singing thanks and praises for all his gifts and his presence in our daily lives. So when you are at home during the summer, please come and join your faith family at 9 am on Sunday mornings -- in shorts and sandals -- and give thanks and praise to God who in His wisdom knew we would need a season called summer to regenerate both our bodies and our souls. We also need your voice while our choir is on vacation!

The practical side of me also urges you not to forget that St Thomas also needs your support during the summer months to maintain the physical operations of the Church. We ended the last fiscal year in the black and would like to make that a new tradition. You can contribute to that effort by keeping up your pledge, signing up to clean the church, being a reader, or hosting a coffee hour during July and August. Thank you all for all you do.

-- Amanda Fuhro, Warden

Flemington Area Food Pantry



Please remember to keep your Food Pantry donations coming through the summer.

Summertime at the Flemington Food Pantry – and the livin' is not too easy for some. In the summer, many children lose access to the meal assistance they received during the school year – placing **increased** demands on food pantry resources.

Suggested donations include:

Cereal (low sugar, please) **Mayonnaise** **100% Juice** **Canned Fruit**
Canned meats (chicken, corned beef, tuna) **Canned pasta (Beefaroni, etc.)**

Also needed are personal care products such as

Soap **Deodorant** **Toilet paper** **Women's sanitary items**

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

YOUTH NEWS

SERVICE SUNDAY for CHURCH SCHOOL

St Thomas church school put together and donated 22 complete “birthday in a bag” bags for the Flemington Food Pantry. The food pantry was so thrilled to receive this generous donation. Our church school children did a great job! Thank you, Congregation, for all your support.



YOUTH GROUP BRIDGES OUTREACH

The fourth annual Bridges run took place on Sunday, June 1st. The group consisted of Elie, Nora & Thibault Trubert, Alisa, Stephen & Sean Swider, Linda, Alex & Zach Ubry, Owen & Olivia DiRienz, and Kurt Wagner. This year the congregation donated our 200 brown bag lunches to bring to the Bridges offices in Summit. The group received a parish blessing and send-off at 10 am and then travelled to Irvington Civic Center to hand out hot soup, lemonade, sandwiches and clothing. This year they still had some bagged lunches leftover so they made a small stop outside of Penn Station in Newark. The group provided basic necessities as well as fellowship and kindness to the homeless in these areas.

Here is a link to learn more about this wonderful program.

<http://www.bridgesoutreach.org/>

Mark Your Calendars for these Fall Church School Dates

A School Teacher/Helper meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 7** after the 10:00 am church service.

Church school resumes on **Sunday, September 14!**

Enjoy your summer!

**** Event Cancelled ****

**Youth Group & St Thomas
Congregation Dorney Park Day**

This event has been cancelled.
Look for it again next year.

A Generative Approach to Stewardship by Fred Lowe

Let me open by reminding us all that summer is historically a difficult time for St. Thomas, a *financially* difficult time, I mean. So many of us are away, and giving falls behind. Sadly, the bills don't take a vacation or pack off for Maine as I have done. Please keep your pledges up, and pre-pay before heading out on that August vacation.

I personally don't like the word "stewardship." It's been associated with financial support for so long that it is quite difficult, I think, to adopt the wider view that we need to. What is a better word? Shepherd-ship? Nurture-ship? Giver-ship? Lover-ship? The concept I am thinking of is all of these and more.

Erik Erikson, a psychologist prominent in the middle of the last century both as a theorist and a practitioner, posed 8 stages of human psychological development. Each stage presents a crisis of sorts, a way for the personality to go forward in a healthy fashion, and a way for things to go wrong. According to Erikson, the 7th struggle is between "generativity" and "stagnation." Generativity is all about other-directedness. Stagnation is just what you think it means. The generative person has, above all, accepted that he or she is not the end and be-all of creation. S/he is aware of his or her mortality and impermanence, accepting of the limits that life imposes on every human self and all our human circumstances, including the limits of our own effectiveness. And yet the generative person is impelled to nurture others and the future in whatever ways s/he has at hand, filled with the Spirit of love in other words. We have all seen a happy grandparent walking along holding the hand of a beloved grandchild, completely absorbed in the child's world, his/her bad hip and aching feet forgotten. That is the very picture of generativity. We have all seen a parent or grandparent hand a child a dollar that says "get out of my hair" and send them away. Sadly, that's how many people think about stewardship.

I hope it is not an ecclesiastical version of an urban legend, but I read somewhere that Mother Teresa was asked if she believed that her efforts could ever make a real dent in the problems of the population she worked with. She replied with an unqualified "no," but added words to the effect that it was very important that she do it anyway.

The paradox is that other-directedness must begin with intentional self-directedness. Erikson would put it that only the integrated personality has the capacity to be generative. Jesus would say, did say, albeit not perhaps in these words, that only the person who has brought the Kingdom of Heaven into his/her everyday consciousness can possibly live an abundant life. If you have no water in your own pitcher, you have none to give anybody else. In a very real sense then, stewardship begins in the heart, at home.

And the final, the 8th stage? It grows naturally out of the preceding one: personal integrity versus despair – the sense of having lived meaningfully and having grown in acceptance and wisdom, of passing on the baton of hope, love, and compassion...



MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

**ST THOMAS' VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is
AUGUST 4 - 8 from 9:00 AM - 12 NOON**

Grab a hammer! Find a paint brush! And put on your creative thinking cap – as you imagine and build – with GOD!!!! Come to the Workshop of Wonders VBS and discover how the ordinary becomes *EXTRA*ordinary with God.

Friends and Family of St. Thomas Episcopal,

Greetings! I hope all of you are having a great summer. This is a reminder that St Thomas VBS is just around the corner! It will be August 4-8, from 9am-12pm every day, and the theme is Workshop of Wonders. If you have a child between 4 and 11 years of age, please sign them up! And you can also invite friends!

VBS is run by a group of volunteers, and as of now we still need a few people to be group leaders that help move the groups from activity to activity. The more volunteers the merrier!

If you want to sign up your children for VBS or ask about volunteering, please feel free to email me at dmw351@nyu.edu, or call me at 908-797-2231 -- leave a voicemail if I don't answer, since I may not pick up the phone from a number I don't previously know!

Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, David White

PARISH REGISTER

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 Cheryl Spies for her work with our confirmands this year, and to Antonia Mattei, Alissa Swider, Fred Lowe and Doug Logg who have been their mentors;
- To Marina Day, Amanda Fuhro, Lynn Logg, and to all who provided the lovely brunch to honor our confirmands on June 22;
- To all our coffee hour volunteers; and
- To all who quietly do so much for our life together.

Happy Anniversary!



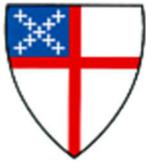
- July 13 Doug & Leigh Anne Walker
- July 17 Brian & Lisa Fanicase
- July 20 JoAnne & Trevor Oldenburg
- July 24 Gail Kinsey & Dermod Wood
- Aug 11 Jean & Martin Burns
- Aug 17 Arlene & Larry Rack
- Aug 18 Alisa & Lenny Swider
- Aug 20 Kathleen & Pete Cichonski
- Aug 28 Mark & Patty Esch

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 Dermod 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

PARISH REGISTER (continued)

Congratulations to our Confirmands!



Congratulations to **Clair Wolfson, Lauren Wagner, John Spies** and **John Wolfson**, who were confirmed on June 21 by Bishop William 'Chip' Stokes -- and to their families, mentors and teachers.

Hats off to our Graduates!



COLLEGE TRANSITION:

Stephanie Spies has completed her studies at Raritan Valley Community College, and will continue at William Patterson University this fall.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Brandon Leonidas will attend Potomac State University in the fall, majoring in Physical Education with an emphasis on Coaching.

Julia Nemec will go to The College of New Jersey in the fall, where she will study Early Childhood Education and Biology. This summer she plans to attend the Episcopal Youth Event in Philadelphia from July 9 -14th. Julia will meet with other Episcopalian teens from around the world to celebrate and discover new things about their faith. Bishop Stokes has asked her to help re-energize a college age ministry for the Diocese of New Jersey!

Alex Ubry will be attending the College of Engineering at Penn State University in State College, PA.

Kurt Wagner is heading to Rowan University in southern NJ.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Claire Wolfson, John Wolfson, John Spies and **Lauren Wagner** are middle school graduates.

Farewell (for now) and Good Luck

To Victoria Prince, as she settles in Salt Lake City, Utah, for her residency in Family Practice Medicine.

Condolences

To Roman and Elisabeth Chiminec on the death of Roman's mother, Maria Chiminec. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Building Committee Finalizing New Roof Specifications -- Greg Shutske

The building committee is currently focusing on finalizing specifications for the new roof and scheduling a contractor. If you have any questions, please see me, Pete Cichonski or Kevin Kapples. At the same time, the building committee is trying to arrive at a reasonably accurate estimate for the cost of new space. This will enable us to set a realistic goal for our crowd-funding effort. As always, 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

Remember these Upcoming Dates

- July 4** Independence Day (church office is closed)
- July 17** Vestry meeting at 7:00 pm at St Thomas
- Aug 4 – 8** *Vacation Bible School – Workshop of Wonders*, 9:00 am – Noon at St Thomas
- Aug 25** September Newsletter submissions are due
- Looking ahead to September --*
- Sept 7** Homecoming Sunday: a single outdoor service at 10:00 am, followed by a picnic
- Sept 14** Fall service schedule resumes, with services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am
– and Nursery/Church School at 9:45 am



A wonderful bird is the pelican...

*A wonderful bird is the pelican,
His bill will hold more than his belican,
He can take in his beak
Enough food for a week
But I'm damned if I see how the helican!*

This limerick by Dixon Merritt (1879–1972) reminds us of what a curious bird the pelican is. The two American Pelicans, the Brown, which plunge-dives, and the White, which dabbles, rarely make it to New Jersey, but are surely familiar to us all. Despite the doggerel, they do not store food in their pouches.

But they do have a long history in Christian symbolism, although the myth quite likely predates our Lord. The legend was that in time of famine the mother pelican used her impressive bill to wound her breast to feed her young, perhaps even to revive them from death, but in doing so lost her own life. While there is no truth in it, it is easy to see how this became an allegory for Christ's crucifixion. An early example is in the **Physiologus**, a Greek text of the 2nd century, which describes a host of animals, birds, and fantastic creatures, each followed by a moral anecdote. Along these lines, Dante's **Paradiso** (Canto XXV), written in the early 14th Century, has Beatrice call Christ 'the pelican'.

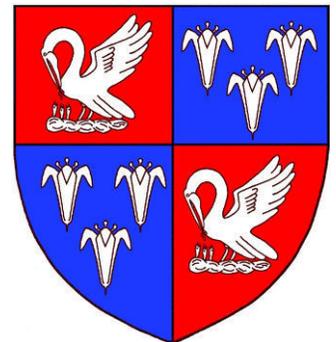
A famous portrait of Queen Elizabeth I (c. 1573) has her wearing a pelican to symbolize her care for her subjects, and soon thereafter, probably around 1600, Shakespeare has Laertes (the eventual killer of Hamlet) exclaim "I'll open my arms wide to his true friends, and like a mother pelican, I'll even give my life for them." (**Hamlet** Act 4).

The image became linked to the medieval religious feast of *Corpus Christi* (now a minor feast in our tradition, celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday), and the two colleges of that name at Oxford and Cambridge (shown at right) in England have the pelican stabbing her breast in their coats of arms.

All this is a long way from **Leviticus** 11, 18, where at least in some translations the pelican is unclean and an 'abomination'. But then perhaps the pelican is grateful not to be hunted and eaten?

Thanks be to God!

~ Roger Prince



July 2014 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	 Office is closed	5
Secretary is away						
6 <u>Pentecost 4</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <u>Pentecost 5</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	14	15	16	17 Vestry meeting 7:00 pm	18	19
20 <u>Pentecost 6</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	21	22 <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	23	24	25 <i>St James the Apostle</i>	26
27 <u>Pentecost 7</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	28 <i>Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederick Handel & Henry Purcell, Composers</i>	29 <i>Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany</i>	30	31 <i>Ignatius of Loyola</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
July 6	9-	9- M. Thomas	9- J. Nemeč	9- D. Eichorn	9- C. Eubank	9-
July 13	9-	9-	9- M. Kapples	9-	9- B/M Nemeč	9-
July 20	9-	9- N. Bush	9-	9-	9- S. Hart	9-
July 27	9-	9-	9-	9-	9- L/M Ubry	9-

FLOWERS

July 6
July 13
July 20 Nancy Bush
July 27

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

August 2014 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Joseph of Arimathea</i>	2
3 <u>Pentecost 8</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	4	5	6 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	7	8	9
Vacation Bible School - WORKSHOP of WONDERS <i>9:00 am - Noon</i>						
10 <u>Pentecost 9</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	11	12 <i>Florence Nightengale, Nurse & Social Reformer</i>	13	14	15 <i>St Mary the Virgin</i>	16
17 <u>Pentecost 10</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	18	19	20	21 <i>No vestry meeting in August</i>	22	23
24 <u>Pentecost 11</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am	25 <i>St Bartholomew the Apostle</i> SEPTEMBER Newsletter submissions due	26	27	28 <i>St Augustine of Hippo</i>	29	30
31 <u>Pentecost 12</u> HE at 9:00 am Nursery at 8:45 am						

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 3	9-	9-	9- M. Kapples	9- D. Eichorn	9- C. Eubank	9-
Aug 10	9-	9-	9- E. Nemec	9-	9- L. Zigich	9-
Aug 17	9-	9-	9-	9-	9- D. Buczek	9-
Aug 24	9-	9-	9- O. Buczek	9-	9- S. Mikuta	9-
Aug 31	9-	9-	9-	9-	9- S/E Niemann	9-

FLOWERS

Aug 3
Aug 10
Aug 17
Aug 24
Aug 31

Petroff

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
L. Santos, L. Zigich

CLEANING