

June, 2015

Address

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

Rector

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

Parish Administrative Assistant

Anita Campbell
M-W-Th: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
secretary@stthomasepc.org
908-996-4091

Service Schedule thru June 7

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

Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 14

Single Service at 10:00 am
(outside, weather-permitting)
followed by a Parish Picnic

Summer Schedule begins June 21

9:00am Holy Eucharist
8:45am Childcare

Mid-week Service

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
(No service on June 3)

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, 2015

As I write, it is the Eve of Pentecost and the shadows of evening are stretching across the garden. I am always amazed at the lush greens in all their variety and the splashes of color that surprise and delight at every turn.

In less than a week's time this garden will be the setting for a gathering of folks from the Watchung Convocation as we welcome Bishop Stokes and share in the Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of youth and adults from several parishes. The weather forecast is favorable at this point, and the thought of our garden filled with so many people praying, singing and praising God together rejoices my soul.

A lot of work on the part of many people has gone into the hosting of this event, from planning to food to music and worship preparation, having enough chairs, tables, food and folks on hand to share the load. A lot of work. But the best things in life often require a lot of work.

I think of students graduating from high school, college or graduate schools and all the hard work they and their parents put in to make it all come about. I think of all those who celebrate wedding anniversaries at this time of year and the amount of hard work it takes to have a marriage that is full and rich and life-giving over the years.

And I think of those disciples of Jesus facing the hard work of discipleship following Pentecost: the teaching and preaching and healing that were part of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ; and the hardships many of them would endure because of their life and faith.

Hard work. And much Joy. And many opportunities for praying, singing and praising God in our own lives in so many ways.

May this be a time when all of us are filled with the Holy Spirit in our work and in our play, and may we sing, pray and praise God every day.

Peace and blessing,
Carol+



Come – take a moment or two to sit in St Thomas' garden...

Wardens

Amanda Fuhro
908-735-5602

Lynn Logg
908-995-4794

Vestry

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

Gene Budsock
908-735-9976

Kevin Kapples
908-996-3019

Pat Neil
908-730-6696

Roger Prince
908-735-9709

Treasurer

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

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 Nemece
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

For more information,
please call 908-996-4091

Newsletter

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

Diocese of New Jersey Choir Camp July 26-30, 2015

Make music and friends that last!

When: Sunday evening, July 26 through Thursday afternoon, July 30, 2015. Final Evensong will be at 4 PM at Church of the Advent on Thursday, July 30, 2015 with Bishop Chip Stokes present - Open to all!

Who may come? Girls and boys who are ages 10-21 are welcome to register. You do not have to be from the Diocese of New Jersey to register. Due to space limitations, we can only accept 25 campers, so register early!

Where: We stay at beautiful [Holiday House](#), just around the corner from the [Church of the Advent](#) in Cape May, New Jersey. Rehearsals are held at Church of the Advent, who generously hosts us for the week.

How Much: The cost of the camp is \$350 per camper. Two scholarships are available from the Diocese of New Jersey. Contact Diane Caruso (music@trinitynj.com) for details.

To Register: [Click here](#) or visit <http://njchoircamp.weebly.com/>



Flemington Area FOOD PANTRY Needs

NEEDED THIS MONTH

- Beans (black & cannellini)
- Baked Beans
- Pasta (penne & spaghetti)
- Tomato paste & Sauce
- Cereals (healthy, low-sugar)
- Shampoo

ALWAYS NEEDED

- Oatmeal
- Canned Tuna & Meat (chicken, etc.)
- Laundry detergent
- Disposable razors & Shaving cream
- Diapers (especially adult sizes)
- Feminine care products
- Toilet paper & Facial tissues

Please place your items in the baskets in St Thomas' gallery.

For a regularly updated list of Pantry needs,
visit <http://flemingtonfoodpantry.org/what-we-need/>

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

BRIDGES OUTREACH

on Saturday, June 6



St Thomas is signed up for the Saturday, June 6th "run" to Newark. Under supervision of the Bridges staff, at each stop our group will set up and distribute brown bag meals, serve hot soup and cold drinks, hand out clothing and most importantly greet and engage the street friends who visit the truck. Bridges began 25 years ago under the Brooklyn Bridge. Today they deliver 100,000 brown bag meals, 13,000 pairs of socks, 9000 toiletry kits, 2800 gallons of soup, and tons of donated clothing to 500 people each week in New York City, Newark and Irvington, NJ. With the help of 1500 volunteers, their mission is *to bring the housed and homeless together in community.*

We will need 10-15 volunteers (entering 9th grade to high school) and three adult drivers.

We are committed to bring 300 brown bag lunches. Sign up is in the gallery. Anyone in the congregation can volunteer to donate bagged lunches. Details of what must be in each paper bag are in the gallery or can be found on the Bridges website (<http://bridgesoutreach.org>).

All adult and child volunteers need to complete the waiver on the "Runs" section of the Bridges website and watch the video (<http://bridgesoutreach.org/who-we-are/>).

We will meet at St Thomas at 8:30 am, which will give us plenty of time to pack the lunches and cars, arriving in Summit by 10 am. We will be in Newark from approximately 11 am to 1-1:30 pm, and should be back at St Thomas' by 2-2:30 pm.

Ice-cream social and slime night

YOUTH GROUP EVENT – Final meeting

Sunday, June 7, 7:00 - 8:30pm

“yuck and muck”. Some games we may play are slime volleyball, slime twister, pie roulette... you get the picture. You may want to bring a clean change of clothes or a towel to put on your parents' car seat for the drive home.

On Sunday, June 7, at 7:00 pm, we will end our season's meetings with a mess. First, we'll talk seriously about the effect sin has on our lives and what a mess it can make. Then we will have some fun! So dress for

Our last day of church school is Sunday, June 7. This is our Service Sunday and the classes will be working together on local outreach projects during their class time. Last year we made birthday bags for the food pantry.

Church School
June 7 is Service Sunday
and the final CS day of the season

Our first day returning to church school will be Sunday, September 20th. Mark your calendars. **We are always looking for adults to join our church school ministry.** If you are interested, please contact Michelle Wagner at wagners88@comcast.net.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING REVIEW

Fast-Paced Action in April!

How fast? So fast sometimes it was hard to capture (even when sitting still...)

Our April meeting entitled *The Big Bad Wolf and Other Enemies* was a great success. We had such a fun time outside playing a competitive nerf gun war. Afterwards we talked about the fact that there are a lot of enemies trying to tear families apart and the best strategy for surviving is by living in love like the Bible says. We read 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 and hopefully our youth realized that living in love is a great defense against all the “wolves” out there in life. When we love each other, it’s much more difficult to be torn apart by jealousy, or envy, or greed.



May's GNOME IN YOUR HOME a 'Spritely' Success!



Above is the entire gnome team gathered for dessert at St Thomas. High school YG members include: Sean Swider, Olivia DiRienz and Lauren Wagner; Middle school members are: Garrett DiRienz, Brooke Testa, and Gene Budsock.

On Sunday, May 3, members of St Thomas' Youth Group and their driver Alisa Swider visited two church families for appetizers, dinner and fun conversation. Fun, that is, for the kids. The adult hosts were put through their paces by struggling with challenging questions like “What is the hardest thing you’ve ever done?” and “Would you rather...?” Our youth also shared their insights into everything from A to Z. *Curious? Ask anyone in the picture – except maybe Zooky (center), who hasn't said much so far.*

After dinner, everyone met back at the church for a dessert feast put on by the youth and their parents. A grand time was had by all! Two coveted Gnomes were awarded to hosts Greg Shutske & Maria Markovich and to Linda Francis. Thank you to everyone who took part – hosts, drivers, youth and parents – for a truly unique event. And if you didn't win your Gnome this time around, there's always next year!

St. Thomas Yard Sale

Turn your unused 'Stuff' into cash for St Thomas



Saturday, June 13

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*:

DVD/CDs

Games

Garden

Arts & Crafts

Sports

Holiday

Toys & Stuffed Animals

Shoes/Belts/Handbags

Jewelry

Linens - bed, curtains, towels
(please include size/dimensions
of bed linens and curtains)

Household (pictures,
décor, frames, tchotchkes)

Kitchen

Books

* **Clothing** (will not be sold)

- 2) **DROP-OFF YOUR MERCHANDISE**

Merchandise will be accepted at the EMS building on

Friday, June 12 (2 windows): 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM and 4:00 - 6:00 PM

- 3) **VOLUNTEER !!** *Assignments & times below; sign-up sheet in St Thomas Gallery*

Friday, June 12: **11:30 AM - 2:30 PM and 4:00 - 6:00 PM**

Volunteers needed to ✓ Accept drop-offs and do initial set-up

Saturday, June 13 (2 shifts): **8 - 12 Noon and 12 Noon - 4:00 PM**

Volunteers needed: ✓ Set-up & Sales ✓ Cashiers ✓ Merchandisers

- 4) **DISTRIBUTE YARD SIGNS** *Will be available at the church*

GOT QUESTIONS? Contact anyone on the fundraising committee --

Lynn Logg, Elisabeth Chiminec, Fran Brunelle, Donna Kapples, Amanda Fuhro,
Linda Ubry, Linda Grieme, Kathleen Cichonski, Joan Milne or Kate Allworthy

PARISH REGISTER

Thank You...

To all who provided hospitality following Bobbie Douglas's funeral;

To Kevin Kapples and Greg Shutske for tree work in the garden;

To all who provided hospitality for the Watchung Convocation Confirmation service, especially to those who prepared and served food, to altar guild members, readers, and acolytes, and to vestry members Lynn Logg, Fran Brunelle, Pat Neil, Amanda Fuhro, Kevin Kapples, Gene Budsock and Roger Prince;

To those who cleaned and tidied the parish hall and kitchen on Pentecost;

To Doug Logg for his work with the confirmation class, and to the families and sponsors of confirmands;

To our Church School teachers and Youth Group advisors, and to all our students and families for their participation in the education of our children and youth;

And to all who quietly do so much to enhance life at St Thomas Church.



Happy Birthday

- June 1 Elizabeth Nemec,
Travis Oldenburg
- June 6 Tristan Parker
- June 9 Tracey Bergstrand
- June 10 Bradley Doerr, Kacie McKenna,
Ruth Mikuta
- June 14 Fran Brunelle-luzzolino, 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 24 Pierson-Massey, Finley
- June 25 Stephen Swider
- June 26 Jason Burns, Alan Grieme,
Donna Kapples, Michele Thomas
- June 28 John Dougherty, Ann Holt, Carly Soden
- June 29 Kate Harney
- June 30 Ryan Soden



Happy Anniversary

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

Congratulations...

To those who have been recently confirmed or received, including Ashley Vesdel, Amelia Crislip, Owen Buczek, Garrett DiRienz, Brian Kruzel and Lindsey Deuchar.



And to all St Thomas' graduates!



Welcome...

To all who have come to consider St Thomas their spiritual home over the past year. Please be sure to join us at the parish picnic on June 14.

PARISH REGISTER



Heartfelt Thanks...

My family -- Kati Herbert et al, and I -- wish to thank all of the St Thomas family for their donations, prayers, and good vibes during Kati's family's tragedy of May 7, 2015 (motorhome fire while moving -- no injuries, thankfully). They arrived finally in Batesville, Arkansas on May 14th and 15th after a few more mishaps. As I told Kati, "A soap opera couldn't have scripted their journey!" The anthem the choir sang on Mother's Day was based on John 13:34,35 -- *I give you a new commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* The family at St Thomas has definitely proven their discipleship! Kati's family will continue to struggle as they try to find work and housing, but at least they are safe. Their Go Fund Me site is still up for donations at www.gofundme.com/uf7qp6w. Donations may also be made through the Rector's Discretionary Fund at St Thomas. Again -- OUR THANKS! - Janet Davis

Congratulations to our Graduates!



Owen Buczek, son of Jason & Angela and grandson of Denise & Buzz, is graduating from 8th grade at Union Township School. Owen will be a freshman at North Hunterdon High School in the fall. He also will continue working toward his TaeKwonDo Black Belt.

Garrett DiRienz, son of Amanda & Mark, is graduating from 8th grade at Clinton Public School, and will attend Voorhees High School in the fall.

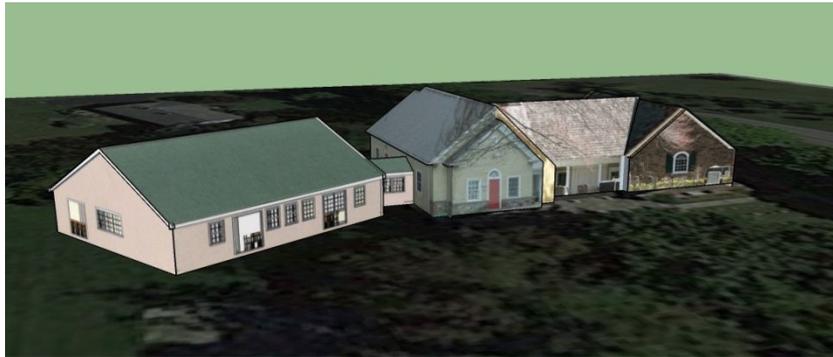
Michaela Lowe, granddaughter of Fred, is graduating from Washington Academy; she will attend the University of Maine at Presque Isle this fall.

Maria White, daughter of Antonia Mattei and David White, will graduate with her Bachelor's degree from the University of Tampa.

David White, son of Antonia Mattei and David White, will receive his Master's degree from New York University.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Expansion Planning is back on track



Now that we've successfully completed the new roof, we want to get back to our efforts to add new space to St Thomas. The next meeting of the building committee will be held after the 10:00 o'clock service on May 31. At that time we will review our current plan and decide on our next steps. For your reference, shown above is a sketch showing how the currently proposed addition would look in relation to our existing buildings.

New members are welcome and anyone with an interest in this project is encouraged to come to the meeting or to contact me, Rev. Carol Horton, or one of the listed committee members. Below are the names of the building committee members as of the last time we met.

Tracey Bergstrand Fran Brunelle Elisabeth Chiminec Pete Cichonski Alan Grieme
Kevin Kapples Lynn Logg Brian O'Rourke Linda Ubry

- Greg Shutske

June Dates

- June 6** BRIDGES RUN – Meet at St Thomas at 8:30 am
- June 7** This season's **last Church School class**;
also final Youth Group meeting **ICE CREAM social and SLIME NIGHT**, 7-8:30 pm at St Thomas
- June 13** **ST THOMAS' YARD SALE**, Quakertown EMS Building, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- June 14** Single outdoor service (weather-permitting) at 10:00 am, followed by a Parish Picnic; also Flag Day
- June 15** Summer schedule begins (through Labor Day)
with a single service at 9:00 am
- June 27** Vestry meeting at 7:00 pm at St Thomas
- June 21** **Summer Schedule begins with one service at 9:00 am!**
Father's Day! First day of summer!
- June 22** Combined JULY-AUGUST newsletter submissions are due



The Priests of Ba'al... and Hannibal the Great

Surely one of the best, albeit more gruesome, stories on the Old Testament is that of Elijah and the Priests of Ba'al, told in 1 Kings Chapter 18. Israel had deserted the LORD at the behest of Jezebel, and only Elijah was left as his priest. But there were Priests of Ba'al and Asherah aplenty - and there was no rain. King Ahab was worried, and blamed this lone conservative voice, but Elijah would have none of it - *"I have not troubled Israel; you have, ...you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and followed the Ba'als. Now therefore have Israel assemble at Mount Carmel, with the 450 prophets of Ba'al and the 400 prophets of Asherah... Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and also put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God."* All the people answered, "Well spoken!"

We all know the rest of the story, including Elijah's bravado of having water (?) poured on his pyre to make it a greater challenge for the LORD. Of course his altar explodes into flame... the priests (and the prophets?) are slaughtered... and it begins to rain. Even the Quran mentions it (37:123-5).

But who or what were the Ba'als? Ba'al seems to have been an honorific title for a variety of patron gods of cities in the Middle East. The Ba'al of Elijah's challenge was likely a deity from Tyre (an ancient Phoenician city in today's Lebanon – Jesus healed a young Canaanite girl here, Matthew 15, 21) who Jezebel admired. Elijah's complaint does not seem to be that this Ba'al was an evil god, but rather that he was NOT Israel's God. Other Ba'als were potentially a much deeper evil - in Carthage (today's Tunisia) he was also known as Molloch, and required propitiatory child sacrifice.

Another Ba'al – Ba'al-zebul – is mentioned in 2 Kings Chapter 1, where King Ahaziah sends messengers to the god to ask if he will recover from a fall – Elijah hears of it, and tells the king that the LORD has punished such effrontery with a promise that he will die in his sickbed. Ba'al-zebul is also mentioned in the Gospels (e.g., Matthew 12:24) – he was a Philistine deity, who later Jews decided was Prince of Demons. The King James Bible translated him as Beelzebub, and as such he has been known in literature ever since (from Milton's *Paradise Lost* to a popular Japanese comic series).

In any case, despite Elijah's success, Ba'als remained potent foci of worship in the Middle East and Mediterranean, and the great Carthaginian General Hannibal (247-182 BCE), who took elephants across the Alps to attack Rome, was named for him – his name meant Grace of Ba'al. Like Ahab's priests, he was ultimately unsuccessful!

Thanks be to God.

~ Roger Prince

June 2015 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <i>The Martyrs of Uganda</i> Choir practice 7:15 pm (no midweek service)	4	5	6 Youth Group Bridges Run 8:30 am
7 Pentecost 2 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Childcare 9:45am Youth Group Social 7:00-8:30 pm	8	9	10 Midweek Service 12:15 pm Choir practice 7:15 pm (last practice until September)	11 <i>Saint Barnabas, the Apostle</i>	12	13 St Thomas YARD SALE Quakertown EMS Building 9 am – 3 pm
14 Pentecost 3 HE at 10:00 am Single Outdoor Service followed by Parish Picnic (and Flag Day)	15	16	17 Midweek Service 12:15 pm	18 Vestry meeting 7:00 pm	19	20
21 Pentecost 4 Father's Day Summer Schedule Holy Eucharist at 9 am Childcare at 8:45am	22 JULY-AUGUST Newsletter submissions due	23	24 <i>Nativity of St John the Baptist</i> Midweek Service 12:15 pm	25	26	27
28 Pentecost 5 Holy Eucharist at 9 am Childcare at 8:45am	29 <i>Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Apostles</i>	30				

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

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Acolyte	Usher	Coffee Hour
June 7	8- 10- A. Fuhro	8- 10- M. Thomas	10- G. DiRienz	8- 10-	8- 10- Wagner
June 14	10- J. Davis	10- L. Grieme	10- T. Mikuta	10- D. Logg	10- PARISH PICNIC
June 21	9- D. Buczek	9- D. Logg	9- S. Walker	9-	9-
June 28	9- L. Mikuta	9- M. Markovich	9- E. Nemeč	9-	9-

FLOWERS

June 7 Allworthy
June 14
June 21
June 28 Markovich/Shutske

ALTAR

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

COUNTERS

A. DiRienz, M. Thomas
L. Santos, (open)
D. Logg, (open)
(open, need 2)

CLEANING

Markovich/Shutske