

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

September, 2017

Address

98 Sky Manor Road
PO Box 348
Pittstown, NJ 08867-0348
Phone: (908) 996-4091
Fax: (908) 996-4515
Web: <http://stthomasepc.org/>

Rector

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

Parish Administrative Assistant

Anita Campbell
Mon, Wed & Thurs: 10:00am - 2:00pm
secretary@stthomasepc.org
908-996-4091

Sunday, September 10 Outdoor Service and Picnic

Holy Eucharist at 10:00am
followed by a parish picnic
(indoors in case of inclement weather)

Fall Service Schedule resumes on Sunday, September 17

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

Office Hours

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

From the Rector:

Michaelmas 2017

Love is the most Powerful Force for Change in the World.

-- Becca Stevens, *Love Heals*

Becca Stevens, an Episcopal priest, was the keynote speaker at our diocesan convention this past year. She is also the founder of Thistle Farms, a sanctuary for women in Nashville, Tennessee. Twenty years after its founding, the organization continues to welcome women with free residence that provides housing, medical care, therapy and education for two years.

In their own words: *"Thistle Farms' mission is to HEAL, EMPOWER, AND EMPLOY women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. We do this by providing safe and supportive housing, the opportunity for economic independence, and a strong community of advocates and partners. We believe that in the end, love is the most powerful force for change in the world."*

The products of Thistle Farms include hand soap and lotions, healing oils, candles, room sprays, textiles and much more. You can find out all about Thistle Farms at <https://thistlefarms.org>.

Becca Stevens has written a book about her work and mission titled "Love Heals" -- to be released in September. I pre-ordered the book weeks ago, but had totally forgotten about the poster that was being offered to folks who pre-ordered -- until the poster arrived in the middle of this past week. 8 X 10 inches, the words above, printed in beautiful gold letters on white matte cardstock.

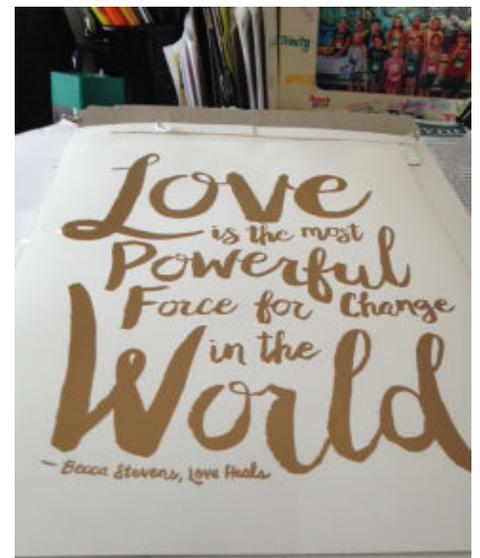
Sometimes things show up at just the right moment. That week was a very hard week, unfolding with the events and tragedy in Charlottesville, VA, and all the aftermath, plus so many other challenging things throughout the world. Prayers, prayers... along with the challenge to find meaning and possibility in the face of evil and hurt.

The arrival of the poster was a total surprise, and it came at just the right moment. I opened it and smiled -- and remembered, Love IS, indeed, the most powerful force for change in the World. When we can remember that, we are already one step forward in being part of that change.

The thing is, I think those things that can remind us and give us what we need are there all the time. Sometimes we can recognize them, but more often, we forget, or get so overwhelmed by the tough stuff that we can't see them. So: Look around. Find the things that remind you of God's love, and let them help you bring more of that love into the world. A simple poster in gold letters on 8X10 cardstock -- who knew?

Love is, indeed, the most powerful force
for change in the world.

Peace and blessing,
Carol+



Wardens

Lynn Logg
908-995-4794
Lori Ann Wolfe
732-710-2053

Vestry

Tracey Bergstrand
973-979-1594
Fran Brunelle-Iuzzolino
908-217-8571 (cell)
908-387-1000 (office)
Gene Budsock
908-735-9976
Kevin Kapples
908-996-3019
Pat Neil
908-730-0114
Roger Prince
908-735-9709
Adam Rinehart
832-330-6808

Treasurer

Nicky Wallis
treasurer@stthomasepc.org
609-851-0870

Music Director

Richard McIntyre
macwnj@yahoo.com
908-213-6619

Assistant Organist

Jan Davis
908-689-1222

Altar Guild

Please contact the Rector

Acolytes

Donna Kapples
dkapples@gmail.com

Church School

Michelle Wagner
wagners88@comcast.net
908-735-4015

Youth Group

Antonia Mattei
908-782-3777
Michelle Wagner
wagners88@comcast.net
908-735-4015

Childcare

For more information,
please call 908-996-4091

Newsletter

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

On Stewardship

by Gene Budsock

Returning to 'Normalcy'

Although Summer does not technically end until the latter part of September most of us think of Labor Day as our end of Summer. We can see the shortening of daylight and cooler evenings as part of that transition. Likewise, at St Thomas, we will shortly be transitioning from our Summer schedule of a single 9am Sunday service to our normal 8am and 10am services.

Other things that I see this time of year are all the reminders that it is back to school time. Preparations are underway to get new supplies, clothing and other sundries as we prepare to move from the hazy, lazy days of summer to our normal routines. For some it means catching the school bus early weekdays, for others it is off to college and for most it is a busier early morning routine. We have our own back-to-school plans at St Thomas. This is an area of time and talent stewardship where individuals can help out in our Sunday School program. We have a talented group of folks who work with our youth but they run pretty lean. If you have any interest working with our youth on a full time or part time basis, please contact Michelle Wagner.

This month I would like to stick to the theme that we can help each other through the use of our time and talents. There are simple tasks like ushering, altar guild, gardening, counting, etc. There are always sign up lists in the gallery area between the church and the parish center. There are no special skills required for most activities; just a willingness to help. If you are concerned about doing something for the first time, there are other parishioners who will be happy to mentor and help you. Contributing a little time just once a month can make a huge difference. Hosting Coffee Hour is another ministry that is very simple. If you are uneasy about hosting a coffee hour by yourself ask another family to share the load and reduce the effort. Or, if you see another family signed up, ask if you can help them on a Sunday. I am sure they will welcome the help and it lessens the load on everyone. I like to think of this time as being our "Return to Normalcy" by helping one another.

Interfaith Youth Summit

Saturday, September 16, 2017

4:00 - 7:00 pm

St Anna's Greek Orthodox Church

85 Voorhees Corner Road, Flemington, NJ



St Thomas is part of the Hunterdon County Interfaith Outreach Council, and also One Voice. The purpose of these groups is to have dialogue and sharing of information about concerns in our county, and build positive relationships for change among our churches and municipalities.

The Interfaith Youth Summit is the first of its kind. St Anna's has offered to host the event, and has promised lots of music and great food. Check the Sunday bulletin and eblast for more information.

Around St Thomas



Members of the Walker family enjoy a previous year's Homecoming picnic

Homecoming Outdoor Service and Picnic is Sunday, September 10

On Sunday, September 10, there will be one service at 10:00 am. It will be held outdoors (weather permitting) and will be followed by a picnic (rain or shine). Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided – please bring salads, desserts and sides.

Some extra fun is planned – you won't want to miss this. *Hint: Lindy Hop, anyone?* And perhaps more...

We are planning on inviting our neighbors on Sky Manor Road – please invite your family, friends and neighbors as well.

Share the joy that is St Thomas Church!

WOMEN'S GROUP – BOOK CLUB

We are currently taking suggestions for our next book club reading. Please send ideas to sarah_rinehart@yahoo.com. We are looking for books about women and either faith in general or the Episcopal faith. Please remember that books should be either under \$12 or multiple copies available at local libraries.

Six group members met on July 23rd for a wonderful discussion about **The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew -- Three Women Search for Understanding** by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner.

Please let us know what you'd like to read – and join us for our next book!

Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:15 pm



All voice parts are welcome.

No audition required.

Just show up!

St. Thomas' Supper Club

Coming Soon to a Dinner Table Near You



Have you ever wished you had more time to talk to someone during coffee hour but were dragged away by a spouse with a to-do list that had to be addressed? Well, join the Supper Club! The Supper Club will consist of 3-4 couples who will meet in each other's homes between September 2017 and May 2018. Each couple will host the group in their home and provide the main course, with the other couples bringing side dishes and dessert. The schedule will be determined by each group.

The club is not limited to just couples - individuals can sign up with or without a cohort. If you are interested in joining please send an email to Daniela Johnson at 4dogs3cats@comcast.net or sign up on the list in the church gallery.

YOUTH NEWS

(September 17th will be very busy...)

YOUTH GROUP MEETING on September 17



In the beginning, God created

St Thomas' Youth Group and said,

**“Come to the first meeting of the year
on Sunday, September 17th at 7 pm to
8:30 pm – and... *don't be late!*”**

And God saw that this event
was good.

Then God said, **“Let this event
bring forth lots of youth and
teenagers from 5th grade to 12th grade,
and let them swarm around the fellowship
hall and creep across the floor playing gaga.”**

And God saw that this was very good.

Then God said, **“And let each teenager bring a drink or snack, and let the food
multiply over the tops of the tables!”**

And God saw that this was very good.*

* with apologies to God and the Book of Genesis!

CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS



Our first day returning to church school will
be **Sunday, September 17th at 9:45 am.**
Mark your calendars.

We are looking forward to our new school
year with our wonderful group of kids! Our
small but mighty group of teachers is getting
ready, but we can always use more help. Please
contact Michelle Wagner at
wagners88@comcast.net if you can join this
wonderful ministry.

Acolyte training will be held on **September 17th,**
after coffee hour, from about **11:30 am - 12:30 pm.**

Acolyte training is for –

-  New acolytes who are in 4th grade and above
(*new acolytes will be asked to serve about once
a month with an experienced acolyte*)
-  Current acolytes who would like a refresher
-  Eucharistic Ministers who would like some
training in case an acolyte is not available



Who *are* these people – and *what* are they doing?

Are they –

- a) Two arch-criminals trying to hide their identities?
- b) Two dead-beats trying to hide from bill collectors?
- c) Two nerdy retired scientists (and members of St Thomas) viewing the August 21st eclipse the 'old-school' way?
- d) All of the above?

PS – Did YOU see the eclipse? Send us your pictures and experiences so we can share them – if you dare...

For what it's worth...

[The first printing of this I could find was in Dear Abby, November 13, 1990. It was unattributed then, so I didn't try to research it further. But it's still funny -- and more relevant to me than ever (sigh). Thanks to Joyce Pragdat for sharing! -MM]

Old folks are worth a fortune: With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed - with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do - all the time. No matter where I am - in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen or down in the basement - I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?"

CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Flemington Area Food Pantry needs include: ▪ PEANUT BUTTER ▪ JELLY ▪ WHEAT THINS
▪ MAC & CHEESE MIX ▪ TUNA FISH (PACKED IN WATER) ▪ UNSWEETENED CEREAL ▪ CANNED FRUIT IN JUICE

Clinton Open Cupboard needs include: ▪ SOUPS: VEGETABLE, LENTIL, PEA & BEEF ▪ CANNED TUNA
▪ CANNED FRUIT: PEARS & PINEAPPLE ▪ CANNED VEGGIES: SPINACH, POTATOES & CARROTS ▪ PASTA SAUCE
▪ FLAVORED OATMEAL ▪ COFFEE & SUGAR ▪ TOILET PAPER, SOAP, LAUNDRY DETERGENT

There are baskets in St Thomas' gallery for your non-perishable donations.

Your donation makes a difference!

Where we've been, what we've seen...

Did you travel this summer? Visit a different church or city? Go to a national park or other special place? See the eclipse - at home or in the 'zone of totality'? Check out the bulletin board in the parish hall and add what you like - a postcard, a service leaflet from a church service, a brochure or photographs...



PARISH REGISTER

Thank
You

To those who keep the gardens and yard looking so beautiful;
To all our Coffee hour hosts;
To Jan Davis and Heidi Breyer, our organist and pianist this summer;
To Julia Rinehart for sharing her music with us this summer;
To our Sunday School teachers and helpers for their work with our children;
To all who contribute to this newsletter;
To vestry members for service as “Vestry in Charge” throughout the summer months;
To counters and those who clean the church; and
To all who quietly do so much for our life together.

Happy Birthday!

Sept 3 Jane Bowers, Jordan Furman, Maria White
Sept 4 Reily Thomas
Sept 6 Meadow Testa
Sept 8 Wesley Wolfe
Sept 9 Gene Budsock, Addison Idol
Sept 10 Kevin Kenny
Sept 12 Emily Blomkvist, Susanne Evarts
Sept 13 Kyle Conover
Sept 15 Melissa Blomkvist, Dennis Milne
Sept 18 Evan Ader
Sept 19 Lynn Logg
Sept 20 Sherwood Stevenson
Sept 21 Kate Allworthy, Joan Mott
Sept 24 Adam Rinehart, Allen Whitehead
Sept 25 Kathleen Cichonski
Sept 30 Martha Young, Sophia Wallis

Happy Anniversary!

Sept 1 Eileen & Gary Lewis
Sept 3 Ingrid & Stephen Pierson-Massey
Sept 4 John & Kathleen Stolarz
Sept 8 Bob & Peggy Furman
Sept 8 Elizabeth & Jose Santos
Sept 9 Gene & Heidi Budsock
Sept 10 Marion & Perry James
Sept 13 Amy & Daniel McKenna
Sept 20 Elisabeth & Roman Chiminec
Sept 21 Diane Gunson & Roger Prince
Sept 21 Elaine & Scott Niemann
Sept 21 Elie & Sylvain Trubert
Sept 25 Cheryl Ann & Robert Spies
Sept 26 Doug & Lynn Logg
Sept 29 Arthur & Lynn Petroff

Congratulations...

To Brian and Lindsey Kruzal on the birth of their son, Greyson Sakes Kruzal. Welcome Greyson!

CONDOLENCES

To Melanie, Joe and Elizabeth Preston on the death of Melanie’s father, Andrew Bracken. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Help us stay in touch... 

Have you changed your email address or telephone number? Please let the church office know so our records and be kept up to date and we can stay in touch with you. As we head into hurricane season, having your cell phone number can be especially important.

College Students and Parents of College Students Help St Thomas stay in touch with our students though the newsletter and other occasional notes. Please send both email and snail mail addresses to Maria Markovich (mmarkovi@ptd.net), Carol Horton (rector@stthomasepc.org) and Anita Campbell (secretary@stthomasepc.org). Addresses are not made public.

Dates to Remember in September

- Sept 4** Labor Day (office is closed)
- Sept 10** **Homecoming Sunday:** a single outdoor service at 10:00 am, followed by a Parish Picnic
- Sept 13** Choir practice resumes at 7:15 pm
- Sept 16** Interfaith Youth Summit, 4:00-7:00pm at St Anna's Greek Orthodox Church, Flemington, NJ
- Sept 17** **Fall service schedule resumes:** Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10 am; Church School and Childcare at 9:45 am; and Youth Group meeting, 7 – 8:30 pm at St Thomas
- Sept 18** October newsletter submissions are due
- Sept 19** Vestry meeting, 7:00 pm at St Thomas (meetings now on Tuesdays)

and looking ahead -- **Oct 1** Blessing of the Animals at both 8:00 and 10:00 am services

Poor Leah –

although her reputation may be looking up...

Poor Leah. We are told in Genesis 29 that Leah was the older daughter of Laban, cousin of Esau and Jacob, and the willing abettor of her father's machinations with regard to the appropriate order of marriage of his children.

Although this is only a sideline in the story of this dysfunctional family, our hearts surely go out to her. Jacob has arrived at his uncle's house because his mother is convinced that his brother Esau will murder him - as recompense for stealing Esau's firstborn's blessings. And she also intends that Jacob will find himself a wife.

Indeed Jacob falls in love with Rachel – Laban's younger daughter – and agrees to work as one of Laban's shepherds for 7 years for her hand. But at the end of those 7 years, and presumably from the effects of enthusiastic partying and lack of artificial illumination, Jacob wakes up to discover he has married the wrong daughter! Poor Leah – it is she. A week later Jacob gets to marry Rachel as well, but only on the promise of a further 7 years of labor.

We can only imagine what it must have been like for Leah to live as the second best wife, even bearing in mind that this culture embraced not only polygamy but also the siring of children with the hired help. Whatever her feelings, she promptly produced four, and eventually six, of Jacob's dozen sons, and they went on to found the twelve tribes of Israel. But the text cannot resist telling us that she was not especially beautiful – or at least not until more recent translations. The King James 'Authorized' version (1611) has 'Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured', while the New English Bible (1970) has 'Leah was dull-eyed, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful.', the Complete Jewish Bible (1998) has 'Leah's eyes were weak; but Rachel was good-looking, with beautiful features.', and the Common English Bible (2011) has 'Leah had delicate eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and was good-looking'. Only our current 'New Revised Standard Version' (1989) removes the humiliating 'but' - 'Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful'. Dante Gabriel Rossetti seems to have preferred this view in his *Leah and Rachel* (1855), although his painting was of them in (the other) Dante's *Purgatory* (Canto XXVII).

Fortunately, as Episcopalians we take the Bible far too seriously to take it literally, but these different translations provide added poignancy to our response to Biblical readings – 'Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people'.

Thanks be to God.

~ Roger Prince



Vision of Leah and Rachel
by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1855)

September 2017 at-a-glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Pentecost 13 HE at 9:00 am Childcare at 8:45 am	4  (office is closed)	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Constance and her Companions</i>
10 Pentecost 14 Holy Eucharist Outdoors at 10:00 am followed by Parish Picnic	11	12	13 Choir practice resumes 7:15 pm	14 <i>Holy Cross Day</i>	15	16 Interfaith Youth Summit 4:00 – 7:00 pm St Anna's Church, Flemington, NJ
17 Pentecost 15 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Childcare 9:45am Youth Group Mtg: 7 – 8:30 pm	18 OCTOBER Newsletter Submissions due	19 Vestry meeting 7:00 pm	20 Choir practice 7:15 pm	21 <i>St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	22	23
24 Pentecost 16 HE 8 & 10am Church School & Childcare 9:45am	25	26	27 Choir practice 7:15 pm	28	29 <i>St Michael and All Angels</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
Sept 3	9- N. Wallis, L. Mikuta	9- C. Allworthy	9-	9-	9-
Sept 10	10- D. Buczek, L. Mikuta	10- R. Prince	10- M. Mikuta	10-	10- Homecoming Picnic
Sept 17	8- J. Davis 10-	8- C. Allworthy 10- K. Kapples	10- T. Mikuta	8- 10-	8- 10-
Sept 24	8- 10- L. Logg	8- 10- D. Buczek	10- A. Wolfe	8- 10-	8- 10-

FLOWERS

Sept 3 Petroff
Sept 10 Pragdat
Sept 17 Allworthy
Sept 24 Gunson/Prince

ALTAR

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

COUNTERS

K. Testa, L. Ubry

CLEANING

Markovich/Shutske