



# St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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

## Address

98 Sky Manor Road  
PO Box 348  
Pittstown, NJ 08867-0348  
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## Rector

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

## Parish Administrative Assistant

Anita Campbell  
Mon & Thurs: 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Wednesday: 10:00am - 2:00pm  
[secretary@stthomasepc.org](mailto:secretary@stthomasepc.org)  
908-996-4091

## Service Schedule

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

## Mid-week Service

No midweek services in January

## Office Hours

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

## **From the Rector...**

As I write, the Winter Solstice is still a few days away, and preparations are being made to green the church for Christmas. I am pulled toward Christmas, but I am still very much in Advent – waiting, listening, preparing space in my heart and mind for – what?

For the singing of carols, loud and joyous, hushed and mysterious; the laughter of children and the sighs of parents and grandparents – or are those the brush of angels' wings, barely perceptible in the night. For all of this, and so much more that remind us of the coming of Jesus, the Christ, into our world. There is great joy, and there is also sorrow in the hearts and homes of many whose tables have empty spaces this year, or whose memories are less that joyous. All of this is part of Christmas, just as it is part of life. And there is so much more. We give thanks for what we have, for the love we have known in our lives, and we pray for those who have less than they need, or whose lives are challenged in any number of ways.

I love the angels and the shepherds, the excitement of setting up the creche on Christmas Eve and blessing it, welcoming the shepherds and sheep, cows, birds and other animals, Mary and Joseph – and, of course, the baby Jesus. I love singing the carols, hearing the choir, seeing the reflection of faces in shimmering candlelight. All of these help make it Christmas for me.

But I know it is truly Christmas when I hear or read the words from John on Christmas morning:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-14

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the space flight of Apollo 8, when for the first time we saw the backside of the moon, and,

**From the Rector...**

even more, the image of Earth from space. We tend to take space travel a bit more casually these days, (though hearing a transmission of the wind blowing on Mars is pretty awesome), but in 1968, this was extraordinary. On Christmas Day, as they continued to orbit, the astronauts read the story of creation from Genesis: “In the beginning...” I wept then, I weep now hearing that broadcast.

It is no accident, I believe, that John chose to begin his gospel with the same words as Genesis: “In the beginning...” Those words bring us back and move us forward, way before a baby in a manger, way before shepherds and angels, way before all of it, and remind us that this one we know as Jesus is the Word, was with God and is God, from before time and forever. God chose to come and be among us – to be one of us, open to all the joy and sorrow, all the celebration and separation. God chose to come among us as an infant, depending on his mother’s milk, and the care of humans to help him grow. God chooses to be among us still, in our hearts and in our very lives, as close as breath. Now, that, I believe, is truly awesome.

An epiphany is often described as an “aha” moment, when something previously unknown or understood suddenly becomes known or understandable. May this season of Christmas and Epiphany be such a time for us. May we discover new and deeper experiences of God through the coming of Jesus, and may we then have the wisdom and courage to share these gifts with the world in new ways.

Let us pray:

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

— Collect for Epiphany

Peace and blessing,

Carol+



caring for others with Outreach, taking care of the church itself, as well as thinking and planning for the future... It should not be a job for the few, but one for the many.

What is your vision for St. Thomas? How can it be facilitated? How can we all help? Vision 300 is for us but so is Vision 2123. Carry On...

Respectfully given,

Kevin Kapples

### Church News...

#### Thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in the Angel Tree; and to Kevin Kapples and Nicky Wallis for delivering everything to the Hunterdon United Way!

- Daniela Johnson

#### St Thomas' Annual Epiphany Pageant

One of the traditional Christmas events at St Thomas is our annual Epiphany Pageant. This year's pageant will be on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 5pm. It will be featuring the children and youth groups of St. Thomas. The children will have a short practice for the parts of the play they signed up for during our regular Church School class time of 9:45 am on December 23rd. All performers with speaking parts should try to attend this practice. We will have one run-through with costumes prior to show time on January 6th, please have all performers arrive at 4 pm the night of the pageant. The Epiphany Pageant will begin at 5 pm and will be followed by a celebration dinner of pizza and desserts. We ask families to bring a dessert or drink to share with everyone after the pageant.

#### Women's Group Cookie Exchange

On December 9th we held our second cookie exchange for the women's group. Just like our first cookie exchange, we had a great time! We were able to exchange not only delicious desserts but also wonderful stories. Some of the the stories we told were about the present and some were about how these holiday treats somehow make us feel closer to ones who have passed but are still so fondly remembered though treats and traditions. It was so nice to hear about other people's happy memories, from favorite cookie types to old memories that were stirred by the sight of the treats on the table to even people walking by saying "Wow, I have not seen those in a while, they were my favorites when I was a kid!" What a delight to hear that we all have a connection to the cookie exchange and, whether the cookies/treats are bought or homebaked, or our stories are old memories or new, that we share our stories with others bringing a smile to everyone's face.

#### Confirmation Class

Confirmation: The sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860).

We are so blessed to have Doug Logg volunteering to teach this wonderful class in the upcoming year. If you are 8<sup>th</sup> grade or up and are interested in attending this class, please email Michelle Wagner at [wagners88@comcast.net](mailto:wagners88@comcast.net) or speak with Carol at church. Classes will most likely begin sometime in February



## Church News...

**Condolences** to Donna, Kevin, and Mackenzie Kapples on the passing of Donna's father, John Borek.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### **Snow Pool**

Feeling Lucky? Don't forget to sign up for snow pool in the gallery!

Our aim is to have the driveway, parking lots and walkways cleared in time for worship and other events. However, this is not always possible. Use discretion about traveling if conditions seem questionable — your safety is the highest priority.

### **Flemington Food Pantry Shopping Trip**

Our annual outreach for the food pantry will be on Monday, February 18. This is Presidents weekend. Last year we raised so much in funds that we were able to donate food to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton as well as the Flemington Food pantry. Lets hope we can do that again! This year we will meet at the Flemington Shop-Rite at 10am. An item or two as well as a budgeted dollar amount will be given to the kids and they will proceed to shop and get us the best deals! We then check out and pack up our cars and drive them to the Flemington food pantry. This wonderful outreach only takes about 1-1/2 hours all total and is something the younger kids can really appreciate. Sign ups will be out in the gallery mid-January. Our congregation is asked to please donate generously for this outreach. Look for our collection envelopes in January!

### **Food Pantry Needs...**

Cream of Wheat, Grits, Old Fashioned / Quick Oats, Canned Pears, Peaches in Juice, Canned Chicken, Tissues, Bar Soap, Dish Detergent, (Men & Women's) Deodorant, Shaving Cream, Shaving Razors, Female Sanitary Products, Coffee (Regular & Decaffeinated), Elbow Pasta, Spaghetti, Apple Juices, Canned Beets, Pancake Mix

Food Store Gift Cards are also accepted and give increased purchasing of perishable items such as milk, cheese, and meats.



## Youth Group



### December Crafts & Games

We had a fun time making snow globes, eraser tops, felt candy cane mice and yummy snacks on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Sandra Mikuta and Michelle Wagner for being the adult chaperones.

## What's Next?

### LASERTAG AT BRANCBURG SPORTS COMPLEX

On Sunday, January 13<sup>TH</sup> we are planning to go to Branchburg Sports Complex to play laser tag. Please eat before meeting up at the church. We will be meeting at 5:30pm at St. Thomas and leaving there by 5:45pm. We will then drive the half hour to Branchburg Sports Complex, 47 Readington Road, Branchburg. They have drop in 15 minute games for \$8.00 per person per game. We will plan on all playing one game. So, everyone needs to bring \$8.00 plus extra if they want a drink. If any of the kids want to play a 2<sup>nd</sup> game, then they need to bring \$16.00.

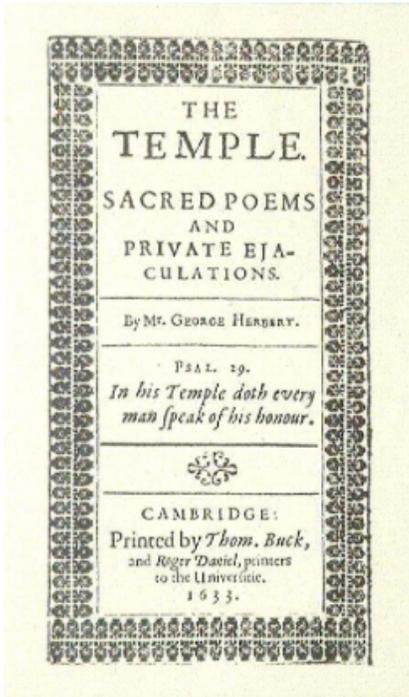
Everyone who plans to play, must have a signed waiver. Link: <https://www.smartwaiver.com/w/5302cf48efbfd/web/>

We should be back to St. Thomas at about 8pm. Parents will be called when we leave the sports complex. This event will need a 2<sup>nd</sup> chaperone and probably 2 drivers depending on the interest. So, please look at the date and RSVP to [wagners88@comcast.net](mailto:wagners88@comcast.net) as soon as you can. If I get a large enough group interested, I will see if we can get a better rate.

### HOAGIE SALE LOCK-IN

Our annual hoagie sale lock-in will be on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> through to Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The youth group helps with prep, plays a little gaga, attends a service at the church, makes hoagies, sells hoagies, and hopefully gets a little sleep in there. Members are asked to bring sleeping bags and pillows as we sleep on the floor in the church hall. This event is a lot of fun and helps the group raise funds for their outreach projects. We need two adults to chaperone this event at the church. Please speak with Antonia Mattei or Cheryl Ann Spies if interested.

## From Roger Prince...



### George Herbert

Our Hymnal 1982 contains several wonderful hymns by George Herbert (1593-1633), a Welsh-born poet who was raised in England and served in Parliament before eventually becoming an Anglican cleric. All of our hymns were published in a posthumous volume *The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations* (1633) which contained 160 poems. The collection was very successful, and went through several editions in the next few years.

Hymn 382 begins

King of Glory, King of Peace, I will love thee:

And that love may never cease, I will move thee.

Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me:

Thou didst note my working breast, Thou hast spared me.

Hymns 402 and 403 begin

Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and king.

Hymn 487 begins

Come my Way, my Truth, my Life.

Hymn 592 begins

Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see,

and what I do in anything, to do it as for thee.

George Herbert probably intended to become a priest when he entered Trinity College Cambridge, but he became the Public Orator — an official acting as the voice of the university in public affairs, and then a Member of Parliament. Only later did he return to a clerical career, and he married and was appointed rector of the charmingly named village of Fugglestone St. Peter near Salisbury in 1629. He died of tuberculosis in 1633 shortly after delivering the manuscript of *The Temple* to his friend Nicholas Ferrar, urging him to publish it if he thought they might “turn to the advantage of any dejected soul”. “If not, let him burn it; for I and it are less than the least of God’s mercies.” Fortunately Ferrar made the right choice, and the collection has been in print ever since!

Thanks be to God.

### Schedules for January

	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Snow</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>Counters</b>
<b>January 6th</b>	Jennifer Fisher	Denise Buczek	Marjorie Mikuta	Markovich / Shutske	Shutske			Gene Budsock & Daniela Johnson
<b>January 13th</b>	Roger Prince	Jan Davis	Julia Reinhart		Milne			Amanda DiRienz & _____
<b>January 20th</b>	Nicky Wallis	Nicky Wallis						_____ & _____
<b>January 27th</b>	Denise Buczek	Larry Mikuta	Trinity Mikuta			Gunson / Prince		Kevin Kapples & _____

### Calendar January 2019

January

- 1 The Holy Name — New Year’s Day
- 6 The Feast of the Epiphany  
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 am  
Epiphany Pageant rehearsal — 10:00 am  
5:00pm — Epiphany Pageant — all are welcome!
- 9 Choir rehearsal
- 13 The First Sunday after the Epiphany — The Baptism of Christ  
Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10, Sunday School and nursery care at 9:45am  
Reports due for Annual Report Booklet
- 15 Martin Luther King Day
- 16 Choir rehearsal
- 17 Vestry Meeting — 7:00pm
- 18 The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle
- 20 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00
- 23 Choir Rehearsal
- 25 The Conversion of St Paul
- 27 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am, followed by brunch and Annual Meeting

### **Birthday's & Anniversaries**

Jan 2 — Melanie Bracken, Mackenzie  
Kapples

Jan 21 — Terry Allworthy

Jan 17 — Christopher & Lynn Faust

Jan 4 — Charles Fischer, Bob Furman

Jan 22 — Annalise Kelly, Kerry Walsh

Jan 5 — Jeff Blomkvist

Jan 23 — Kathleen Conceicao, Owen  
Walker, Eva Wallis

Jan 12 — Linda Grieme

Jan 26 — Denise Buczek, Marian Sumner,  
JoAnne Oldenburg, Joe Preston

Jan 13 — Kevin Kapples

Jan 27 — Kevin Eichorn

Jan 14 — Maria Markovich

Jan 29 — Pat Neil, Zach Ubry

Jan 15 — Ana White

Jan 17 — Marianne McElrath

Jan 18 — Lauren Rule

Jan 19 — Katianne Herbert, Antonia



## THANK YOU

To all who have supported St. Thomas Church in 2018 through their gifts of time, talent and treasure, and to all who have pledged their support of time, talent and treasure to St. Thomas for 2019;

To all who continue to support our outreach for ongoing relief for places suffering from disaster through Episcopal Relief and the quarter tube, and help to those in need through the discretionary fund;

To the members of the Finance Committee for their ongoing work;

To all vestry members for their dedication and hard work on behalf of St Thomas Church;

To all who work each week to keep St Thomas clean, neat and welcoming

To all those who continue to spread the word about St Thomas Church;

To our church school teachers for their dedication, creativity and skill in working with out children and youth;

To our parents for seeing that their children participate in the worship, Sunday School and other activities of St Thomas Church and beyond throughout the year;

To our readers, acolytes, eucharistic ministers, ushers, and all who enrich our worship in so many ways;

To Richard McIntyre and St Thomas Choir for beautiful music at Christmas and all through the year;

To those who provide the food and other refreshment we enjoy through coffeeshours, covered dish suppers and brunches, picnics and receptions;

To all who have contributed goods and funds for our special projects throughout the year;

To all who helped with the fall clean up and ongoing outdoor clean up;

To all who worked on and donated to the Bridge The Gap fund raiser, including the committee, those who donated gifts, and especially Denise and Ed Buczek for making all the baskets beautiful;

To all who contributed cloths, shoes and toys to ur families in need through the angel tree for United Way, to Daniela Johnson for coordinating the effort, and to those who delivered the items to Flemington, including Nicola Wallis and Kevin Kapples;

And to all who quietly do so much

IN EVERYTHING  
give *Thanks*

1 Thes. 5:18

**St Thomas Episcopal Church**

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by phone 908-996-4091 or by Email to [secretary@stthomasepc.org](mailto:secretary@stthomasepc.org)