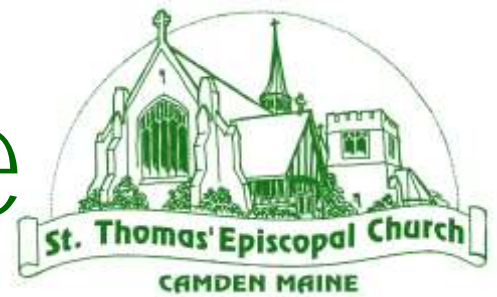


# Chapter & Verse



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
JUNE 2016

## From The Priest in Charge

*"Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him forever."*

—Canticle 12, Morning Prayer.  
*The Book of Common Prayer*

Dear St. Thomas family and friends,

When I was in seminary and terrified of everything, especially public speaking, Morning Prayer was held every day and was mandatory. I came to learn the wisdom of the Daily Office, those services held four times a day: Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline.

I came to learn that when I was especially overwhelmed, it centered my heart to know I only had to cope with about six hours at a time before I had the chance to breathe, confess my mistakes, be forgiven, and begin all over again.

To this day I do my best to begin each day with Morning Prayer; to at least pause at noon, to give thanks as I drive home in the evening and, like many of you, say my prayers before sleep.

Life can be overwhelming even when it is good, and this spring at St. Thomas' was a great example. Not only have parents and volunteers maintained Sunday School and created a new Summer Sun-

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## Kids 2 Kids

### Summer Sunday School

St. Thomas' Parish will be offering a special summer Sunday School program for nine weeks in July and August during the 9:30 service. The series is entitled "Kids 2 Kids" and its focus is on children helping other children. Each week will have its own theme, children will learn through scripture readings and arts and crafts. The Sundays will be taught by a wonderful group of volunteers. The sessions will meet from 9:15 to 10:15 am on the following dates:

July 3: Who is my neighbor?, Instructor: Anna Black (*Luke 10:25-37*)

July 10: Music, Instructor: Bonnie Achterhof (*Psalms 35:28; 1 Chronicles 25:2-7*)

July 17: Prayer, Rev. Abby Pettee, Bill and Susan Freeman (*Psalms 23*)

July 24: The Environment, Instructor: Victoria Bucklin (*Genesis 1:1-16; Canticle 12*)

July 31: The Heifer Project Instructor: Catherine Kitt (*John 21:15-17*)

August 7: Refugees, Instructor: Alison McKellar (*Matthew 25:34-46, Mark 10:13-36*)

August 14: Food, Instructor: Rev. Abby Pettee (*Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 5:30-44, Luke 9:10-13*)

August 21: Water, Instructor: Sue Foltz (*John 13:1-17*)

August 28: The Heifer Project, Instructor: Catherine Kitt (*John 21:15-17*)

Pre-registration is requested. Please call the Parish Office at 236-3680  
Nursery and Child Care offered every Sunday for children 5 and under



Our new fence has been installed to the left of the kitchen door. It is our effort to ensure that the youngest members of our parish have a safe play area that protects them from wandering into the Wood Street traffic.

## From the Priest in Charge

*Continued from page one*

day School Program, but also, we have reconvened a wonderful pastoral care team, begun some of the many projects on the Building Committee's to do list; interviewed parishioners in cottage meetings for the Discernment Committee; hired a new young woman, Bianca Mitchell, for the nursery, and, held steadfast to outreach, EFM, Bible study, vestry, contemplative prayer; Quarry Hill services, choir and regular worship.

In addition to all these joyful ministries, we did our best to journey with Parker Laite and his family and friends as he faced the end of his life with faith, humor, generosity of Spirit and incredible hospitality. It was an honor to have Parker's visiting hours here at St. Thomas'. It was an honor to have his funeral here and to work with Parker's family to create a tribute to an amazing man. Thank you to everyone one who came forward with prayers, visits, phone calls, and everything that was required to be fully present to both the Laite family and the wider Camden community.

As we've gotten to know each other over the last four to five months, I am deeply moved by the depth of spiritual steadfastness St. Thomas' offers. This is a parish that honors the traditions of the past, yes, but who also values the reality of the present. I am grateful to all clergy who came before me for faithfully anchoring St. Thomas in that wonderful Anglican three-legged stool: Scripture, Tradition and Reason.

Having served in seasonal parishes before, I knew that there would be a difference between the year round parish and the warm, bubbly energy of summer with its fluidity and increase of returning parishioners, visitors, tourists, children, grandchildren. What I didn't remember was how

## A Reflection and a Prayer

*by Rev Abby Pettee, Deacon*

The Right Reverend Gregory O. Brewer, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida shared his feelings and thoughts in the wake of the violent attack that took place at the Pulse Nightclub. As I grappled myself with a myriad of feelings upon hearing the horrific news from Orlando, his reflections were a source of help. Bishop Brewer reminded us that the deeper the grief, the fewer the words. Standing by, praying, and loving the best he could—this was his offering to the traumatized, and the grieving. "What I do believe is that love is stronger than death", he writes. "The promise of the resurrection brings courage, and the promise of a 'new heaven and a new earth' should fuel all of God's people to help build a better world."

I offer the following prayer as an expression of support.

O God, we ache for the innocent victims of Orlando. We weep over the impact of violence and hate. We ask for your healing embrace for those wounded in body and spirit. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us courage and hope. Gather us as one, Holy Trinity, on behalf of the dignity of every human being. O God, in whose image all people are made, stir within us a passion for justice. Hold us in your steadfast love.

*Amen.*

long it takes to learn people's names and to begin to get a sense of the ministries a parish is called to.

A couple of Sundays ago in a sermon I said that Jesus teaches us that "God's hospitality is sanctuary." St. Thomas' tries to live into this call each day. St. Thomas' heart lies in the ministry of hospitality and sanctuary. Sanctuary for those visiting; sanctuary for those curious; sanctuary for children and youth; sanctuary for those in need; sanctuary for all of us.

We may not be perfect in offering this gift, but together, with the Grace of God, we are learning how to be the Body of Christ in the world today.

It is an honor to be serving with you all. I am so glad that it is summer and that we can share our lives in this beautiful place with those who come to St. Thomas'. Blessings to all for a joy filled, renewing summer.

Faithfully,  
*Suzanne +*

## Building Fund named for Parker Laite

On June 22 the Vestry voted to honor Parker Laite by naming the current building fund effort in his memory. At his death Parker was co-chair of this committee and also head of the Finance and Endowment Committees. Parker always loved to raise money for any effort that had to do with the maintenance and beautification of our church property. Basically, he described himself as a "bricks and mortar" donor. His services to the church and expertise in this capacity will be greatly missed.

Currently, the parish match is at \$64,236 of the \$100,000 that we need to raise. Please consider donating to the **Parker S. Laite, Sr. Building Fund.**



The parish asked its members to submit photos of past and present family members who served in the military as part of its commemoration of Memorial Day. An enthusiastic response led to the creation of the display above, which was viewed in the Sun Room for a period of two weeks.

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[www.stthomascamdenme.org](http://www.stthomascamdenme.org) ❖ [stthoscampen@roadrunner.com](mailto:stthoscampen@roadrunner.com)

The Rev. Suzanne Colburn, Transition Priest in Charge ❖ The Rev. Rosalee Glass, The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacons

### VESTRY

Lucy Ebbert - Senior Warden ❖ JoAnne Ryan - Junior Warden  
 Terry Mello - Treasurer ❖ George H. Jones - Clerk

Sarah Akin (2018) ❖ Frank Beane (2018) ❖ Anna Black (2017) ❖ Br. Donovan Bowley (2018) ❖ Fred Bucklin (2017) ❖ Susan Fockler (2019) ❖ Erik Frederick (2019) ❖ Stephanie Laite Lanham (2018) ❖ Terry Mello (2017)

### RECEIVING TREASURERS

Bonnie Achterhof ❖ Pat Ayers ❖ Joan Bennett

### STAFF

Jane M. Schroeder, S.M.M, Minister of Music ❖ George H. Jones, Parish Administrator



A Sunday of Recognition



Flower and Altar Guild Luncheon

Above left: Sunday School children, acolytes, parents, volunteers, teachers, and their at the 9:30 am service on June 12. Right, on June 10, the Flower and Altar Guilds met for a joint luncheon. It was a social opportunity **but also a “working lunch” where they discussed the delight, devotion and challenges of these ministries.** Their work is by definition in the background but vital to the weekly operation of this—or any other—parish. Seated at the table, they are, clockwise: Karen Laite, Terry Bungler, Isa Babb, Sarah Groman, Pat Ayers, Marilyn Smith, Anne Ayers, Rev. Suzanne Colburn, Kate Jackson, Tiffany Andrews, Jacqueline Recht, JoAnne Ryan (barely visible), Joan Bennett and Ruth Tolman.

## Consider EfM This Fall

It's not too soon to begin thinking about beginning Education for Ministry in the fall. Education for Ministry, known familiarly as “EfM,” is a comprehensive program of theological education created by the School of Theology of The University of the South, Sewanee. It is a group seminar that can be taken locally at St. Thomas and at some other Episcopal churches in Maine. It covers the study of Scripture and the history and theology of Christianity.

The Program includes four years of study: the first year is Old Testament, the second is New Testament, the third is Church history, and the fourth is Christian theology. One need commit oneself to only one year at a time. Though each year of the Program is taken in order, it is fine to take years off and return to the Program later. For instance, one might

take year one and then wait for a year or several years to continue.

The group begins its weekly meetings in September and finishes at the beginning of June. It is open to all and there are no prerequisites other than the ability to read one lesson each week and reflect on it with other members of the group. The group is made up of 6-12 participants and is guided in its learning by two trained mentors, Br. Donovan Bowley (Donovan) and the Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass (Rosalee). The cost per person per year is \$350. Scholarships can reduce the cost to an individual to \$117 and are available to those who apply before September. No one should be discouraged because of financial concerns.

EfM participants have a diversity of backgrounds, which makes the group's learning experience in community very rich. There is no better adult education available for deepening our faith, connecting our lives with Scripture and Christian tradi-

tion, and strengthening us for ministries.

For more information or to register, contact Donovan (brdaidan@aol.com) or Rosalee (rosalee.glass@myfairpoint.net).

## R. I. Thomas Scholarship Awarded

Jordan Roubinek is this year's recipient of the Richard I. Thomas Scholarship, which was created to assist young people fund their higher education. Jordan has maintained an A average in high school and has been inducted into both the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. He plans to attend Husson University in the fall to study Video Production.

## A St. Thomas' Music Moment

**M**y favorite composer, Johann Sebastian Bach once said: "Music is an agreeable harmony for the honor of God and the permissible delights of the soul."

First of all, I am very grateful for Jane's leadership, masterful musicianship and unconditional acceptance of where each of us is in our life. She is truly a Minister of Music.

In addition to the wonderful music that makes our regular services each week even more meaningful, the Noon Music in Lent concerts are a thought-provoking way to observe our Lord and Savior's last days as a divine human. And, the simple lunch afterwards is a time of good fellowship. At this year's Community Good Friday service St. Thomas' choir stalls were full of Episcopalians and Congregationalists, Baptists and Roman Catholics. What a glorious sound that was!

Also, during the summer there are usually 1 or 2 concerts: this year, on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 7 p.m. The Somerset Consort will give their concert in the Parish Hall. There is a Taizé Service once or twice a year. And, Jane does an organ demo for the children and answers their questions, then they help her do the demo for the adults; a real "hands on" experience for all.

Last fall, I quickly found that St. Thomas' Adult Choir is welcoming to newcomers and this Georgia Girl is grateful for their acceptance and friendship. Our Thursday rehearsals begin with a thought-provoking devotional, and the prayer time after we rehearse on Sunday mornings before the service is very meaningful as well.

We work hard but there is al-



ways laughter, too. Bless her heart, Jane must wish sometimes that our "inner child" would not appear quite so often. Right now there are a few unused robes and seats, so

y'all come join us; we'd love have you sing with us and Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord.

—Suzanne Scott

### *Notes from the Organ Pit*

How do I choose the hymns? Excellent question! First I read the lessons appointed for that Sunday: the Old Testament, The Psalm (or other Canticle), The Epistle, The Gospel. While reading them, some hymns just jump into my consciousness due to their strong connection to the readings. I have a number of resources which suggest hymns that underscore, paraphrase (especially the Psalms) or illuminate a particular reading. Once I've come up with a list of perhaps ten or twelve hymns which seem appropriate for that Sunday, I look at what would work best as an entrance hymn; with what message do we want to approach worship this day? What hymn would bring out a particular concept from the lessons when sung as a sequence hymn? The offertory hymn can be a good counterbalance to or an extension of what the choir sings as an anthem (or what I or others play as an offertory). Communion hymns tend to be more contemplative (but not always!) Then, what rousing hymn of praise do we want to go forth into the world singing? Add into the mix my consideration as to how many of the hymns are known to this congregation (that is always, in all my years of doing this, never predictable!). Then I look at the mix of hymns I've selected and see what kind of balance there is from all the rich traditions we draw upon: plainchant, German chorales, English, both early and modern, Welsh, American, both early and modern, Celtic, Gospel...you get the idea. I also consult with Suzanne (or the celebrant that day), Rosalee and Abby for their input. I encourage them to ask for any hymn which they feel would amplify or enrich their sermon.

Then, I let this all rest for a day or two and take a fresh look at how it all works as a piece in shaping that Sunday's liturgy: sometimes I need to move the hymns around, or change one, but most of the time it has come together with the first day's effort.

Now is the time to stuff the ballot box! The Summer Hymn Requests box is on the table in the Sun Room, along with hymnals so you can look up the hymns. Each year I endeavor to include all of those requests: sometimes it takes until October to get them all in!

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music