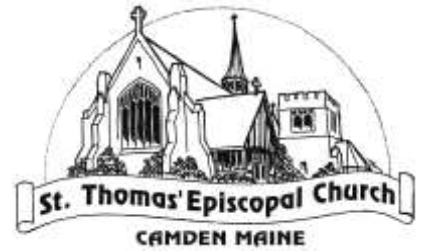


Chapter & Verse



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2017

Notes from the Rector

The oddest thing has happened to me since I've been here. I keep reconnecting to people from my past. And it's not the people you would typically think of—old high school friends, people I've kept in touch with, colleagues.



One person was the wife of an old boyfriend's favorite teacher. I had met her once—nearly 40 years ago. She walked into a service here at St. Thomas, and I recognized her. Another was a summer visitor from Sudbury MA.

"Oh," I said, "I only know one person from there: my Colby college roommate." I laughed. "She's probably not even there anymore." Sudbury only has about 20 THOUSAND people.

"Who is it?" She asked politely.

"Janet Duranian," I responded. Her eyes opened wide.

"Oh my gosh. She's my best friend."

At the Shakespeare Production of *Romeo and Juliet* we hosted this summer, I discovered that one of the

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End of

Summer Celebration

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 ♦ 6:00 pm

Wine ♦ Hors d'oeuvres ♦ Music

Grand Prize Drawing ♦ Silent Auction

Raffle Gift Baskets

♦ All are welcome! ♦

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church ♦ 33 Chestnut Street ♦ Camden
Parking on Wood Street ♦ Info: 236-3680

Come to the End of Summer event! Enjoy raffles, silent auctions, music, great food, wine and *each other!* Bring friends—**it's open to** the whole town. Come and join in-- September 22, from 6-9! Get ready to say goodbye to the warm weather—and hello to prizes, food and fun! Good-will donation is \$20 at the door.

From the Rector

Continued from page one

cast members was from my high school—and had competed against my sister in the Miss Sagadahoc pageant. You can't make this stuff up.

I'm going to consider it a sign, because I don't believe in coincidences.

We are all more interconnected than we think—but no church I have ever served has brought it home to me like St. Thomas'.

I believe one of the reasons God created us to live on this lovely planet is to learn how interconnected we really are: with the planet, with each other, with all life.

As we begin our relationship together as a community bound in faith, worship, and service, may we discover all the ways we are bound together. We will do our best to worship in beauty, I will encourage you to continue questioning in faith, and I will join you in serving in love. We are all connected. And if we ever forget, I'm sure God will remind us.

Lisa+



Care Ministry Forming

Do you like to talk with people? Are you the friendly, caring sort?

There are people out there that await your gift of caring. We have several parishioners who are homebound or are in assisted living who could use the gift of friendship on a weekly basis. Taking a page from the Stephen Ministry model, I would like to ask for volunteers for a new Care Ministry. Each volunteer would be paired with someone who would like regular visits. The volunteer would be asked to agree to visit this parishioner every week for 30- 45 minutes. Bring the gift of caring to someone, and see how much it changes you, too.

Lisa+

Blessing of the Animals

Bring Your Pets to be Blessed. Honor St. Francis and your pets when we gather on the front lawn of the church at 4:00 pm on **Sunday, October 8**, for a Blessing of the Animals. Animals of all sizes, shapes, temperaments, and types will be blessed: dogs on leashes, cats in carriers, horses, elephants with trainers... Please join us.

September 17 Training

Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and Usher training will be held Sunday, September 17th immediately after the 9:30 service. All lay ministers in those areas from the 9:30 service are requested to attend. We will be going over changes that have occurred since June, brushing up on service at the altar, and getting to know the new Rector better. Pizza will be served. Please call or email Rev. Lisa if you are unable to attend. 236.3680 X 102;

rector@stthomascamdenme.org.

Church is for Every-Body

The Rev Abby Pettee

"To everything there is a season", writes King Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes—"A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance."

Beginning on Sept 7 our parish hall will open its doors to a four-session dance program called Dance For Everyone. Sponsored by Pen Bay Community Health and Wellness, our saying "yes" to hosting reflects St Thomas' commitment to partnering with our local hospital, on behalf of whole person wellness.

Instructor Katie Tranzillo has been a dance instructor for over 16 years, combining movement and music in accessible ways, so that her students feel safe and comfortable. Dance for Everyone enables people with movement difficulties to pursue fitness in a creative, life-giving way.

St Thomas' is a worshipping community that provides hospitality and sanctuary for so many folks in our neighborhoods. 12 step meetings, wellness classes, music concerts, educational forums—all

combined, there's good, healthy energy all around! As a parish family we care that people are fed spiritually, emotionally and physically.

The stones of our church become living stones as we continue to provide welcome, and we show that we are a House of Prayer for all peoples.

Stop by sometime and greet the Thursday morning participants of the Dance For Everyone class. In offering a St Thomas welcome, we share the love of God.

Stewardship

A person doesn't begin to build a house by first putting up the roof to keep out the rain. That would not make sense to any of us. My old neighborhood in Topsham where I grew up is now full of houses that aren't old, but aren't new either. But I remember the neighborhood when they were still building those houses. First they dug a hole, and then they poured the concrete. The children of the neighborhood waited impatiently while the cement "set"—not understanding how important the foundation was to the whole building, or why the workers took so long to make sure it was firm. Saint Benedict once said, "You need to build the foundation to reach the top."

We teach our children "foundational" rules to live by long before they begin school. My father and mother didn't teach my brother and sister and I that the first rule in life was to get as many things as we could, and then hold onto them tenaciously. Instead, we heard over and over that we had to learn to share.



Fast forward: a mentor of mine taught me that the hardest thing in life I would ever learn—and the most important—was how to give with as much willingness as when I "got". He believed that we spend so much of our lives learning how good it feels to work for things—status, recognition and money, that we forget there's another equally important thing to learn—how to let it go. To release, especially to release our *money*, seems to be the hardest thing for us. We easily see the wisdom of learning to give of our goods, give of our things, give of our love—but giving our money is challenging.

I remember learning to swim. I started by holding on to the side of the pool, and it took me awhile to realize that in order to learn how to swim, I needed to actually let go of the side of the pool, but I was scared. When I finally learned to let go of the safety of the pool edge, I discovered a whole new freedom; the freedom of learning to swim.

Even though letting go is the most important things that we learn in life, we resist. We fear what will happen. Fear always holds us back. Jesus said over and over again, "Fear not." The angels said, "Fear not." God says, "Do not be afraid." Maybe they know something we don't know. Maybe it's not scary to give at all. Maybe letting go of some of what we receive will bring us new freedoms we can't as yet picture.

Giving brings freedom. A paradox, yes. But in paradox we find truth. Join me in giving freely and joyously this during this year's stewardship campaign.

Lisa+

Would you like to join The St. Thomas' Choir and me on Friday, October 20, 2017 and Saturday morning, October 21, 2017 for two lively and engaging sessions to explore music and sing with John Bell? *Who is John Bell?*

According to The Rev. Paul Sullivan, of Our Lady of Hope R.C. Parish in Portland, who is one of the organizers bringing John Bell to Maine:

John Bell is a native of Kilmarnock, Scotland and has been ordained by the Church of Scotland. For ten years he worked in youth ministry before transferring to concentrate on music and worship. He lectures, preaches and conducts semi-

Exploring Music with John Bell

nars across denominations in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Southern Africa. He is a hymn writer, author and occasional broadcaster on national radio and television, but retains a primary passion for congregational song. His biography states that he is neither leader nor Musical Director of the Iona Community (Scotland). He is simply (with typical modesty) a Wild Goose Resource Worker (Wild Goose is the name used to publish at the Iona Community). He does not have a mobile phone, driving

license, camera, i-pod or wife. He has never traced his family origins, played a guitar or eaten a Big Mac.

We are warmly welcomed to join with those sponsoring John Bell's visit. There is a workshop on Friday night, October 20 and Saturday morning, October 21 in Scarborough. More details will follow about carpooling, and/or possibly staying over on Friday night. Talk to me if you are interested!

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music
music@stthomascamdenme.org

Eileen Morelli has been nominated and approved by the Vestry to serve out the term of the late Loren Kitt. We are excited to introduce her to you.

Eileen Morelli has lived in Camden for the past two years and spent summers here for three years prior to moving here. She and her husband, Paul have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Her daughter, Licia lives in Camden and her two sons, PJ and Tom live in Boston and Baltimore. Her grandchildren range in age from 7 years to 13 years old.

She has also lived in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Colorado and Birmingham, England.

Throughout her career in education she has been a second grade in Hobart, Indiana and a graduate level

New Vestry Member



Eileen Morelli

professor of literature and language arts at Westminster College as well as a curriculum supervisor for the Den-

ver Public Schools and Executive Assistant to the President of the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh. She is a certified Reading Specialist in Maine and four other states. Currently, she works with children who have reading difficulty.

Eileen has always been an active member of her church and feels that this participation enhances her life's purpose. In her service to the church she has served as a teacher, member of church council and chaired or co-chaired various fundraising activities.

She feels it is important to continue to learn about her own spirituality, reach out to others and encourage younger people to participate in knowing God through their own religious education.

Celebration of New Ministry

On Sunday afternoon, September 10, a special service was held to celebrate the new ministry of the Rev. Lisa Fry and the people of St. Thomas' Church. The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler, representing the Bishop, read a Letter of Institution, which reads in part: "This letter is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop."



"Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come."



Afterwards a special reception was held in the Parish Hall with an enormous apple spice cake and St. Thomas' famous chicken salad, among other refreshments. A good time was had by all!



Bishop Lane to Retire

The Rt. Rev Stephen Lane has decided to retire as Bishop in June of 2019. He has called for the election of a Bishop Diocesan to be the 10th Bishop of Maine.

At the upcoming 2017 Diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee will present a resolution concerning discernment and transition, and the proposed Diocesan Council budget will include monies for that.

Bishop Lane writes: *"Serving as your bishop is the greatest joy of my life in the Church, and I look forward to continuing that service for the next two years. The work of following Jesus goes on even as we make preparations for our diocesan future, and I will remain fully engaged as your bishop until the moment I pass the crozier to my successor. There will be time for farewells as part of the transition process."*

This announcement initiates a long and careful process. All Maine Episcopalians are asked to take part, through prayer and discernment, and by continuing the faithful work and worship that are going on all over the diocese. The Bishop asks for our prayers, and promises his as we make this journey together.

Food Pantry Plans Capital Campaign

Thank you all for your past support of The Camden Area Christian Food Pantry. Your generous support and past donations have enabled us to serve many in this area who have insufficient food for their family. Our Board of Directors consists of representatives from local churches, including St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Our Lady of Good Hope, the First Congregational Church, Chestnut Street Baptist Church, and John Street United Methodist Church.

The Salt Seller

There was a man who had salt for sale
He dug it out of a salt pond beach
His customers were poor and sad
and his price far out of their reach.

So he gave it away until all was gone
and went back to the beach for more
But it started to rain and he lost all his salt
and so did his customers poor.

If he had a hut or at least a shelter
He could save the salt for all
The neighbors saw his vision too
So they started with just a wall.

His friends and customers all stepped up
and each brought a stick, a brick or a stone
The pantry was built and the salt was saved

With God's help, one is never alone.

—Tom Crowley

Nearly 75 volunteers came from those and many other churches to serve nearly 1000 individuals last year.

The good news is we are now able to serve more people. The bad news: the pantry will shortly run out of room for both dry goods and cold storage. We need additional space to meet current needs, anticipate future needs, and protect goods from spoilage. After careful review, the Food Pantry has decided to expand the building on Mount Battie Street in Camden to better serve our clients.

The cost is \$100,000. We feel it is important to reserve existing funds for food products, personal items, and free biblical publications, so we have set a goal of raising \$50,000 over the next 12 months. We will be seeking funding from capital grants, donations from local organizations and

businesses, contributions from the towns we serve, and, most importantly, from the five churches that make up our Food Pantry Board and Service Teams.

Please consider making a special contribution as we focus on helping our neighbors in need.

Thank you,
Tom Crowley & Leamon Scott
Board Members of *The Camden Area Christian Food Pantry*

Sussman House Support Volunteer Training

Have you resolved to become more involved in your community? To pay to forward? To volunteer?

If you have answered "yes" to any of these questions, you just might be the kind of person Sussman House is looking for.

Maine Health Care at Home (formerly Kno Wal Lin) is offering five hour training to becoming a Sussman Support Volunteer. This training will be held at 170 Pleasant Street in Rockland on Tuesday, September 26 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. A lunch will be provided.

Support volunteers staff the front desk, greet family members and visitors and answer phones. Some volunteers also bake and make soup in the kitchen. These goodies are available for family members of patients and visitors to enjoy.

If you think you might like to learn more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Joy Chamberlin, Volunteer coordinator, at 542-4991 for more information.

Welcome To Social Media!

Now, I remember when "social media" was opening up your prayer book and handing it to a newcomer. And that still works. However, our faith has "gone viral" since the very beginning: who would have thought that a message that began with a handful of followers would have spread throughout the world today. And it was harder then. Word spread from mouth to mouth. Word about God can spread much faster today.

We are asking you to join us in being a part of making the Good News go viral.

Even if only a small number of you are using Facebook, because of how social media works, 5000 or so of our friends and family will learn something about us and our church. That's a lot of people getting the message-- for a tiny bit of social media evangelism.

Imagine how the world would be different:

- If John the Baptist had just checked in on Foursquare his followers could have found their wandering prophet more easily.
- Martha could have looked through Pinterest for tips on how to keep the perfect house.
- Mary could have posted family

videos on her YouTube channel, or vlogged about her life as "the mother of the son of God."

- Jesus could have live tweeted his sermon on the mount.
#Ilovethosepeacemakers,
#canyoumoveIcan'tseeJesus,
#thisguyisamazing

The world has changed in the last 20 years and now I'm going to ask you to be a part of the easiest evangelism you will ever do. If you are already on Facebook, "like" our page. Find us @episcopalcamden. Check in on Facebook, post about anything interesting that you hear or that you wonder about during the service.

We are all connected. It's always been true-- we are a part of the body of Christ-- but it's never been more apparent than in recent history. Share St. Thomas' enthusiasm, love, and welcome to people not yet present in the pews. "Like" Facebook today. We are going to feed the 5000!

Lisa+



Calendar of Events

Friday, September 22
6:00 pm

End of Summer Celebration

Saturday, September 16
11:30 am

Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen
St. Peter's Rockland

Friday, September 22
6:00 pm

End of Summer Celebration

Sunday, October 8
2:00 pm

Blessing of the Animals
at St. Thomas

Saturday, October 21
11:30 am

Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen
St. Peter's Rockland

Sunday, October 22
1:30 pm

Service at Quarry Hill

Saturday, October 28
198th Diocesan Convention
Cross Insurance Center, Bangor

Chapter & Verse

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

33 Chestnut Street (P.O. Box 631) ♦ Camden, ME 04843 ♦ 207 236-3680 ♦ Fax: 207 236-8016
www.stthomascamdenme.org ♦ admin@stthomascamdenme.org

The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry, Rector ♦ The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacon

VESTRY

Lucy Ebbert, Senior Warden ♦ JoAnne Ryan, Junior Warden ♦ Terry Mello - Treasurer ♦ Elizabeth Moran - Clerk
Frank Beane (2018) ♦ Br. Donovan Bowley (2018) ♦ Terry Bunger (2020) ♦ Susan Fockler (2019) ♦ Edmund Hartt (2020)
Elizabeth Moran (2018) ♦ Suzanne Scott (2020)

RECEIVING TREASURERS

Bonnie Achterhof ♦ Pat Ayers ♦ Joan Bennett

STAFF

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