



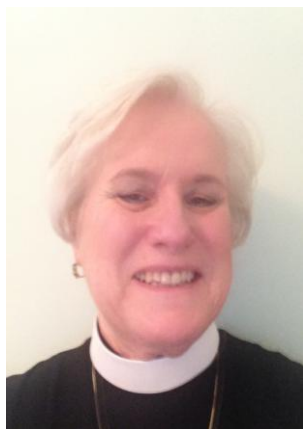
The Steeple Bell

Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, April 2022

From Rev. Mary Jane Peck

Dear St. Thomas Family,

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1



It does not seem possible that I have been serving as your Vicar at St. Thomas for almost five months. I feel so blessed that you called me to be your Interim Pastor. I have loved getting to know you, as members of this congregation, and the wealthy history of this church. We have had time to worship and share in fellowship together. We have worked together and prayed together. The question frequently asked is, "How long you will be here and when will we get a permanent priest?" I wish I could give you a definitive answer but there are many variables that makes it difficult for me to give it at this time. What I do know is that everything happens in "God's perfect timing." It takes patience to wait for God's timing. Yet, during this period there is still work that we need to do together.

When I was called, I was asked to sign a Letter of Agreement for two years which I did with the understanding that it could be extended if needed. The Bishop wants me to take the time needed to work with you to not only stabilize but to move toward future growth in membership. To do this takes time, along with the ability and the willingness of the members to change. Change is not always easy. Our progress may be slow, but it needs to be steady.

I worked with the Bishop's Committee in February to set achievable goals for this year that will help St. Thomas prepare for the changes that we see needed not only for this church but the wider church. Your role in this growth is not only needed but is crucial for progress. You may be asked to serve on various subcommittees needed for achieving the goals.

This is an exciting time for our parish. Together we will discover what God is calling us to be as an active and creative congregation serving in ministries that support the spiritual and physical work in God's church. I will be here to support and work with you as long as I am needed, and the Bishop agrees. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to talk with me or any member of the Bishop's Committee.

Thank you for calling me to be your Interim Priest.

Blessings,

Rev. Maryjane Peck, M.Div.

A Monthly Publication
of

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry,
Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan
& Rector of St. Thomas Church

The Rev. Mary Jane Peck
Interim Rector

Sarah Morgan
Secretary

Barbara Conroy
Music Director

Sharon
Custodian

Bishop's Committee

Term expires 2021

Peter Boylan (Warden)

Nancy Sutherland

Ron Puchalski (Grounds Warden)

Janet Pounds

Term expires 2022

Cheryl Koerber (Warden)

Term expires 2023

Mandy Vidusic

Treasurer: Carol Hoggard

Worship Services:

Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00am Holy Eucharist
3rd Sunday- Morning Prayer 8:00 & 10:00am

Christian Education

Adult Bible Study
Wed 11:00am

Office Hours

Monday – Tuesday –Thursday -Friday
9:00am - 1:00pm

Formal Introduction

By Sarah Morgan

While I have already met many of you, I'd like to formally introduce myself as your new Secretary. My name is Sarah Morgan and I've happily been with St. Thomas since mid-February. I have varied background, but most of my prior experience has been in computers and education. I live in Brownstown with my husband, Bill, and our two daughters, Mia (14) and Fiona (9). We love to travel and are always planning our next big adventure. You will also always find me looking for my next great read or newest recipe to try. I thank you for your warm welcome and if we haven't met in person yet, please stop by the office and say hi...and maybe bring me a book or recipe recommendation!



Altar Guild



Did you know...11 members of the Altar Guild (and others) gathered on April 8th to make palm crosses out of fresh palm branches? Just one of the many behind-the-scenes activities that take place as we celebrate Easter.

Outreach Committee Meeting

The Outreach Committee will have their next meeting on Tuesday May 3, 2022 at 12pm. Please join us if you are interested in hearing more or helping.

Bishop's Committee

By Janet Pounds

At the Bishop's Committee meeting of April 10th, the group reviewed their current list of goals for the future improvement of our facilities and operations here at St. Thomas.

Goal 1: We are considering creating areas in our chapel and main sanctuary to accommodate handicapped persons in wheelchairs satisfactorily.

Goal 2: We are working to correct the current deficiencies in lighting in the main church. We are having difficulty in finding a company with the equipment to do the work in the high places in the sanctuary, so we may have to revert to our own scaffolding and personnel.

Goal 3: Brick work repair on the front of the church, which will cost at least \$40,000.

Goal 4: Reviewing our By-laws and updating as needed.

Goal 5: Reviewing and updating our office technology.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 1 Vijay Pockyarath
April 1 Robert Sherry
April 5 Ann Buhl
April 10 Barbara Conroy
April 14 Barbara Hewison
April 18 Sharon Johnson
April 20 Sadie Saunders
April 24 Brenda Sullivan

April 29 Jean Pendell
May 1 Cheryl Thivierge
May 3 Katherine Boylan
May 3 Hana Mitsusada- Boylan
May 5 Judith Holden
May 10 Hazel Longton
May 13 Abby Meade
May 17 Susan Eory

May 17 Charles Lippert
May 17 Robert Walz
May 22 Charleen Fegreus
May 28 Judith Budziak
May 30 Rev. Maryjane Peck
May 31 Helen Breil

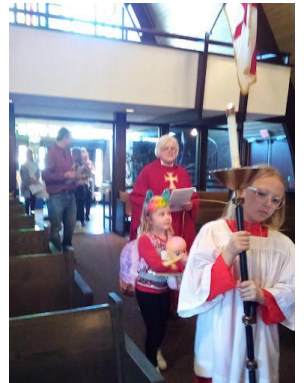
Lenten Worship at St. Thomas



Mothering Sunday



Palm Sunday



Helping our Neighbors By Fran Felty



The St. Thomas Outreach committee has been actively working to help our neighbors in 2022. In January and February, we collected money for THAW to help families in Michigan with their utility bills. In March and April, we collection donations for ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development) which helps with disaster relief worldwide including those neighbors affected by the war in Ukraine.

Closer to home, we continue to provide a warm meal once a month for the homeless at the ChristNet daytime center in Taylor. The meal in April included ham, macaroni & cheese, fresh fruit and home-made goods. In addition, we support the efforts of the Trenton Food Pantry by collecting non-perishable foods (canned goods, pasta, toilet paper, etc.). There is a basket at the back door to our church for you items.

Now that the Thrift Shop is closed permanently, we are looking for a new project to benefit our neighbors and/or build up fellowship amongst our St. Thomas members. Any suggestions? Want to volunteer to help with a current project? Contact Fran Felty, Kathy Zook (ChristNet), Jean Pendell or any member of the Outreach committee.

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TO:

COMING UP IN APRIL AND MAY



Every Mon. & Sat	7:00pm AA Meeting
All Tuesdays	10:00am Al Anon Meeting
All Wednesdays	11:00am Bible Study
All Thursdays	5:00pm AA Meeting
All Saturdays	9:00am Peter, Martial Arts

<u>Sunday April 24th</u>	<u>8:00 & 10am Morning Prayer</u>
<u>Sunday May 1st</u>	<u>8:00 & 10am Service</u>
<u>Sunday May 8th</u>	<u>8:00 & 10am Service</u>
<u>Sunday May 15th</u>	<u>8:00 & 10am Service</u>