



The Steeple Bell

Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, April 2021



Dear St. Thomas Family,

It says in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter (*purpose*) under heaven."

At the beginning of May this year, I will have been with you as your priest and pastor for many seasons over a period of fourteen years. Jesus has walked with us through all of these seasons of joy, sorrow, challenges, laughter and the ministry we have done together. I can honestly say for myself that the sum total of all the seasons has been good; a blessing from God!

However, the time has now come when I feel myself called away from St. Thomas Church to a new life in retirement. There have been so many accomplishments we have achieved together at St. Thomas Church over the years. Too many to mention them all but a few that come to mind are paying off a loan we had with our Diocese for over \$60,000+ when I first came. No small feat for a smaller congregation!

We celebrated the 175th anniversary of St. Thomas Church in the years of 2018-2019 with numerous activities and a historical plaque marking our 175 years of existence now resides on the outside of our building blessed by our former Bishop, Wendell Gibbs.

We have also kept up and are in good standing with various requirements our Diocese asks of its churches. We also have significant buildings and grounds including a main sanctuary and a Chapel whose maintenance has been kept up well over the years.

Beyond any or all accomplishments, though, what matters most in our lives with Christ is whether you or I have been faithful. I believe as I prepare to leave you all on Sunday, June 6th, 2021, the last day of our program year, that with God's help I have been faithful to the call to serve Him at St. Thomas Church and beyond our walls.

Gary and I would like to thank you all for allowing us to walk with you on our collective journey with Christ for so many good, happy, and fruitful years. We are looking forward to having more family and extended family time and the new ministries where God will have us continue to serve Him. We ask for your support and good wishes in this intermediate time as Gary and I prepare to embark on this new chapter in our lives. Please know we will continue to pray for you, the much beloved church of St. Thomas, as you journey on with Christ and, in God's time, welcome a new and faithful pastor.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Shirley McWhorter +



Birthdays of the Month

April Birthdays

01 Vijay Pockyarath	19 Roberta Beverly
01 Robert Sherry	20 Sadie Saunders
05 Ann Buhl	24 Brenda Sullivan
10 Barbara Conroy	25 Cynthia Tise
14 Barbara Hewison	29 Jean Pendell

Next Deanery Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Next Outreach Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 1:00pm

Next Clericus Meeting

The next Clericus meeting is on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 via Zoom from 1:30-3:00pm

Next Bishop's Committee Meeting

The next Bishop's Committee Meeting is on Sunday, April 18th, 2021, at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone.

Matthew 5:44-45 MSG



Easter Flowers

Donations in any amount may be given to Altar Guild to defray the cost of Easter flowers either as a thank offering or in memory of a loved one. We will be doing decorating on a somewhat simpler scale this year as we return to in-person worship, but we do want the space to look festive and spring-like. Please make checks payable to St. Thomas Altar Guild.

Jerry Retiring

Dear St. Thomas Members, Just to let you know that Jerry Eory retired as our Custodian on Wednesday, March 21st.

We are very grateful to Jerry for all his years of hard work and faithful service. He will be missed! Please be sure to wish him well and thank him for his time at St. Thomas Church.

A FYI: Brantley Saunders will be taking over Jerry's job as of April 1st, 2021.

Clothes Racks, etc.

If anyone at church would have use for clothes racks, hangers or white wood bookcases (from the Thrift Shop), please leave your name and number in the office and we will contact you. Trying to find good homes for some of our items.

The Outreach Committee

Quote of the Month

You have to accept whatever comes and the only important thing is that you meet it with courage and with the best that you have to give.

Eleanor Roosevelt

March 21, 2021

St. Thomas Episcopal Church BC Meeting Minutes

Opening Prayer/Meditation: The Rev. Shirley McWhorter

Attendance: Rev. Shirley McWhorter, Carol Hoggard, Nancy Sutherland, Janet Pounds, Ron Puchalski, Peter Boylan; Ellen Ekevag

Financial report: Carol presented the financial report.

Rev. Shirley announced her retirement. June 6th will be her last service. She will announce it by a letter she will send out by email on 3/22. The Vestry will prepare a letter explaining the vestry plans moving forward for celebrating Rev. Shirley's retirement and our plans going forward after that. Ellen Ekevag will provide support from June about an interim priest during the transition and how to do the search.

Financial Report

- Carol presented the financial report.
- Rev. Shirley reported that St. Thomas has been approved for a second PPP loan. It just needs to be signed for.
- Peter moved to accept the financial report as presented. Janet seconded. Unanimously approved.

February Meeting Minutes

- Janet moved to accept the minutes of the February meeting as presented. Nancy seconded. Unanimously approved.

Ministry and Mission Report

- Need to get in touch with the entire congregation about the church reopening, the Rev's retirement, and the search process. The plan is to divide up the directory amongst the Bishop's Committee for direct contact.
- Janet suggested we hold a parish wide meeting to discuss. We do have to wait until after Rev. Shirley's formal retirement on June 6th before we begin planning for the search process.

Thanks

- Thanks to Nancy Sutherland for the donation of the new shredder.
- Thanks to Cheryl Koerber for arranging everything with ServPro and negotiating over the bill.

New Business

- Jerry is retiring March 31st. We want to get him some sort of thank you gift. Janet will contact Sue Eory. We can try to plan a thank you celebration outdoors before Rev. Shirley leaves on June 6th.
- New custodian: Brantley would like to try doing Jerry's job. He has another job 20 hours a week, he can do the custodial job alongside the other job. Jerry can provide a walkthrough and create a list of things that need to be done to take care of the church.
- Peter moved that we hire Brantley for up to 10 hours a work at \$12 per hour. Janet seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Carol received a letter from Mark Miliotto that ADP (payroll company) will no longer provide hard copy reports.
- Peter moves we contact Ralph Vidusic about leading the counter ministry and preparing a job description so we can recruit new counters. Janet seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Warden's Corner

Peter -

- Thank the Lord the church is open again, and we are getting vaccinations.

Rev. Shirley's Comments

- Thankfully everything is moving forward and improving.

Next Bishop's Committee Meeting is April 18th at 1:00 PM on Zoom

Closed with prayer

Minutes prepared by Peter Boylan, Secretary to the Bishop's Committee
03/21/21

April, 2021

Helping Schedule

Altar Guild: Ruth Doak, Nan Morrish & Janet Ottenbreit, Team Leaders
Beth Gill, Jacki Klein, Beth Ann Mace & Janet Pounds

04/04 10:00am - Celebrant: Rev. Shirley
Birthday Blessing Lector/Prayers: Janet Pounds
Easter Sunday Usher: Jacki Klein
Sound System: Gary McWhorter

04/11 10:00am - W.L.: Janet Pounds
Morning Prayer Lector/Prayers: Mandy Vidusic
Second Sunday Usher: Nan Morrish
Of Easter

04/18 10:00am - Celebrant: Rev. Shirley
Healing Prayers Lector/Prayers: Janet Pounds
Third Sunday Usher: Jack Morrish
Of Easter Sound System: Gary McWhorter

04/25 10:00am - Celebrant: Rev. Shirley
Fourth Sunday Lector/Prayers: Janet Pounds
Of Easter Usher: Gary McWhorter
Sound System: Gary McWhorter

Calendar is sent in a separate email

The Steeple Bell

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TO:

Coming Up In April:



All Mondays	7:00pm AA Meetings
All Tuesdays	10:00am Al Anon Meetings
All Wednesdays	11:00am - Zoom Bible Study
All Thursdays	5:00pm - Zoom AA Meetings
All Sundays	11:30am-1:30pm Covid Cleaning 12:00 Noon-Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, 4th Easter Sunday	10:00am H.E. Service Birthday Blessing
Sunday, 11th 2nd Sunday of Easter	10:00am Morning Prayer
Sunday, 18th 3rd Sunday of Easter	10:00am H.E. Service, Anniversary Blessing, Food Pantry Collection 1:00pm - Zoom BC Meeting
Sunday, 25th 4th Sunday of Easter	10:00am H.E. Service

**Morning Prayer Services will be on the 2nd and 5th
Sundays of this month.**