



The Steeple Bell

Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, November, 2020



From the Pastor,

Dear St. Thomas Family,

I hope this fall season in late October finds you and your family doing okay and staying well.

This fall going into winter season much like the rest of this year finds this country of America

and the whole world still grappling with the Corona virus which has certainly been wreaking havoc in the living of our daily lives.

These are challenging and hard times but we do have much to be thankful for.

However, throughout this great nation of America, especially during this pandemic, many people are struggling to keep their heads above water, financially, and to keep a roof over their heads. Other people, especially those discriminated against or persecuted, blacks, Hispanics and other minorities have already gone under water and moved into a state of extreme poverty forced to live in their cars or motels in cramped circumstances with extended families many of whom are children.

We know that young children in the critical first few years of their lives do not thrive when their family circumstances involve a lack; of nourishing food, a decent place to live and their parents, grandparents or other caretakers don't earn enough at his or her job, or are themselves suffering from lack and severe stress and anxiety regarding their circumstances.

What can we do to help, personally, or as the Church? Well there is much that can be done to give a hand up to those struggling in a ditch and an ongoing cycle of life that robs them of dignity and self worth and often leaves them as a casualty of outdated systems or red tape when it comes to receiving help. ***For each one of us and our church, St. Thomas, doing something starts with finding out where there is a need and then getting involved.** Believe it or not, it could be a neighbor living next door to us who doesn't have enough nourishing food or can't afford to heat his or her home.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, to whom all things in this world belong, we never as the Church start from a place of lack, or scarcity saying and believing we do not have the funds or goods or the know how to help. God expects us, His disciples, to step out in faith, to take risks, and if we are doing God's work for God's needy people then all that is needed will be provided by God so we can give, share with desperate, poverty stricken, unemployed, hungry, homeless, stressed and anxious ridden children of God.

I hope as St. Thomas Church that we can find a way or ways to do something to give people a hand up in this dire and difficult time. ***All we need to do is to look around us and keep our eyes open and our ears attuned to an area of need.** It might be close to home or further afield but it's ***a need that isn't being addressed and won't be unless you or I do something.**

I saw a program on TV where a woman saw a need; a man came across the street from a motel and stole some food from a convenience store. The woman knew she had to do something. She started out giving basic food like bread to families in need. Later, the woman progressed to giving out clothes, too. Then she provided toys for children and other helps. Finally, she got a building where she could receive and distribute items to those in need. **God was in this endeavor! *So, let us all pray and actively seek a way(s) to assist God's people in need.** Thank you! To God be the glory!

Rev. Shirley +



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of

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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The head of the Church, Jesus Christ!

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry,
Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan
& Rector of St. Thomas Church,
The Rev. Shirley McWhorter-Vicar

Cynthia Tise-Secretary

Carol Hoggard-Bookkeeper

Barbara Conroy-Music Director

Gerald Eory-Custodian

Bishop's Committee

Term expires Jan-2021

Term expires Jan-2023

Scott Abernathy (Warden)

Peter Boylan

Gary Sonnenberg

Janet Pounds

Cheryl Koerber

Sherry Fegreus

Secretary to the Bishop's Committee: Peter Boylan

Treasurer: Bishop's Committee

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9am-1pm

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Worship Services:

Sundays at 10:00am Holy Eucharist

Morning Prayer Services will be on the
2nd and 5th Sundays of each month at 10:00am

*Wednesday, 10:00am Holy Eucharist (Sept-May)
and Seasonally as Announced*

Christian Education

Adults-Wed 11:00am via Zoom (Sept-May) and

Seasonally as Announced

Ways to Participate Beyond Worship:

If you have an idea for a ministry or a group that you would like the church to be involved in, please speak to Rev. Shirley, and we'll see what we can do to make it happen.

- Invite someone to worship or Bible study with you, and offer to pick them up.
- If you haven't seen someone in worship lately, give them a call or send a card.
- Invite a neighbor for coffee and offer to pray with them.
- Volunteer for a committee.

Help generate some content for our church's social media platforms:

- **Facebook: [St. Thomas Episcopal Church Group](#)**
- **Website: stthomastrenton.org**

****PLEASE bring your Financial and Time & Talent cards on Sunday, Nov. 1st, at the 10:00am service. If after that, please bring them, mail them or put in the outside mail slot to the right of the Church double doors. Be sure to put your name on your cards! Thank you!***



November Birthdays

05 Charles Kromer	23 Erin Hill
13 Laura Krupa	24 Rachel Kerns
14 Alexander Sherry	28 Lynne Cook

Peace for Our World

Dear God, thank You for overcoming the world. Thank You that in all things we are more than conquerors because of You and Your love for us. Today and every day, help us to "turn away from evil and do good; to seek peace and pursue it." Make us eager to maintain unity, and slow to become angry.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to You. Guide our feet in the way of peace and teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Heal our lands Lord, and bless Your people with peace. Amen

*From YouVersion Holy Bible,
Compliments of Janet Pounds*

Next Deanery Meeting

The next Deanery Meeting is January, 2021.

Next Outreach Meeting

The next Outreach meeting is on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 1:00pm in the Guild Hall.

Next Clericus Meeting

The next Clericus meeting is on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 via Zoom from 1:30-3:00pm

Next Bishop's Committee Meeting

The next Bishop's Committee Meeting is on Sunday, November 15, at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Pumpkin Bread/Muffins

1-2/3 C flour
1 t baking soda
3/4 t salt
1/2 t cinnamon
1/2 t nutmeg
1-1/2 C sugar
1/2 C cooking oil
2 eggs
1/3 C water
1 C canned pumpkin
1 C pecans (optional)

Sift dry ingredients and sugar into bowl. Add rest of ingredients and mix well until smooth. Place batter into a large greased and floured loaf pan and bake 1 hour and 15 minutes at 350 degrees or until toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. **OR**, fill cupcake lined muffin tins 2/3 full and bake for 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees. Makes 1 loaf of bread or 18-20 medium sized muffins. Bread and muffins freeze well.

Recipe compliments of Fran Felty

Are you looking for something to do?

Now that the weather is getting chilly, the days are getting shorter and there is less to do around the yard, are you starting to get "cabin fever?" Maybe it's time to find a new author to read, or pull out the jigsaw puzzles. Next time you stop by the Church for service or to say "Hi" to Cynthia and Shirley, take a quick minute or two to look at the books in the Guild Hall. There's a wide variety of authors and topics to tempt you. Our own lending library. Feel free to borrow a book or two. Perhaps leave a book or two of your own for someone else to read. And while you're there, check out the jigsaw puzzles just waiting to be borrowed and done.

Fran Felty

Here is a Blessing from the Celtic Daily Prayer Book

Let nothing disturb thee, nothing affright thee; all things are passing, God never changeth! Patient endurance attaineth to all things; who God possesseth in nothing is wanting; alone God sufficeth.

Judith Dabanian

Experience God's Peace

Oh God, my life is filled with trials and hardships. Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed and grieved. Nevertheless, I'm grateful that in every situation You are with me. In You, I can have peace. No matter what I face, today I choose to not let my heart be troubled or afraid. My mind is fixed on You and I trust in You. Fill me with joy and peace so that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, I may abound with hope. Guard my heart and give me the strength to live a life marked by Your peace. Amen.

*From YouVersion Holy Bible,
Compliments of Janet Pounds*

***In 2021 we are going to elect three members for 3-year terms on the Bishop's Committee. The election will be at the annual meeting at the end of January. Date to be announced.**

Dear God:

I did not sleep well last night, but I did wake up.

My muscles are sore,, but they work.

My wallet is not full, but my belly is.

I may not have all I want, but I have all I need.

My life is not perfect, but my life is good. Thank you.

Ralph Freeman

Author unknown

The Best Vitamin for a Christian is B1

**Try our Sundays.
They are better than Baskin-Robbins.**

Come in and have your faith lifted.

**Try Jesus.
If you don't like Him
The devil will always take you back.**

**Life is Hard.
Afterlife is Harder!**

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

**Where will you be sitting in eternity?
Smoking or non-smoking?**

**Under same management
For over 2,000 years.**

*This column compliments of Ralph Freeman
Authors unknown*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Bishop's Committee Meeting's Minutes

October 18th, 2020

Opening Prayer/Meditation: The Rev. Shirley McWhorter

Attendance: Rev. Shirley McWhorter, Janet Pounds, Cheryl Koerber, Peter Boylan, Carol Hoggard.

- Scott moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 20, 2020. Janet seconded it. Unanimously approved.
- Finance Report: Scott moved to accept July financial report as presented. Janet seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Due to technical difficulties, the BC decided to review the September financial report in November.
- PPP funds: St. Thomas has used more money than required to be able to apply for forgiveness. We will start the dialog with the bank regarding applying for forgiveness of the loan.
- Peter moved to commit \$950 per month for the diocesan apportionment. Scott seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Laura Krupa had to withdraw from the being a convention delegate. We are looking for a replacement delegate.
- Thanks to Nancy Sutherland and Cheryl Koerber for all their work on the church grounds.
- Thanks to all the ladies helping to clean up and dispose of the contents of the Thrift Shop.
- Thanks to Erica and Brantley for coming and doing the cleaning every Sunday.

New Business

- Rev. Shirley sent out financial commitment cards to the congregation.
- Janet suggested contacting Downriver Ground Control about leaf cleanup. The office will contact the company and find out about costs.
- Church Insurance Company wants to review the policy. Cynthia will scan the letter and send it to the Bishop's Committee.
- Rev. Shirley suggested offering computer support to anyone who wants to join Zoom activities and doesn't know how. Janet will contact the Outreach Committee and ask them to contact the congregation to find out who wants help.
- Rev. Shirley has cups with grape juice and communion wafer and she has consecrated them to take to members who can't get to services.

Old Business

- Feedback about the Zoom meeting with Bishop Perry. People generally liked it and appreciated getting her perspective on the current conditions.
- Next BC meeting is Sunday November 15th.

Closed with a prayer.

Submitted by
Peter Boylan
Secretary to the Bishop's Committee of St. Thomas Episcopal Church

November, 2020

Helping Schedule

Altar Guild: Ruth Doak, Nan Morrish & Janet Ottenbreit, Team Leaders

Beth Gill, Jacki Klein, Beth Ann Mace & Janet Pounds

11/01 10:00am - Celebrant: Rev. Shirley
Birthday Blessing Lector/Prayers: Janet Pounds
All Saints' Day Usher: Nan Morrish
Sound System: Gary McWhorter

11/08 10:00am - W.L.: Janet Pounds
Morning Prayer Lector/Prayers: Mandy Vidusic
23 Pentecost Usher: Jack Morrish

11/15 10:00am - Celebrant: Rev. Shirley
Anniversary Lector/Prayers: Janet Pounds
Blessing Usher: Gary McWhorter
24 Pentecost Sound System: Gary McWhorter

11/22 10:00am - Celebrant: Rev. Shirley
Last Pentecost Lector/Prayers: Mandy Vidusic
Usher: Jacki Klein
Sound System: Gary McWhorter

11/29 10:00am - W.L.: Janet Pounds
Morning Prayer Lector/Prayers: Mandy Vidusic
First Advent Usher: Gary Sonnenberg

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TO:

Coming Up In November:



All Mon. & Sat.	7:00pm AA Meetings
All Wednesdays	10:00am Worship Service in Chapel 11:00am - Zoom Bible Study
All Thursdays	5:00pm - Zoom AA Meetings
Sunday, 1st All Saints' Day	10:00am H.E. Service Birthday Blessing
Sunday, 8th 23 Pentecost	10:00am Morning Prayer
Sunday, 15th 24 Pentecost	10:00am H.E. Service, Anniversary Blessing Food Pantry Collection 1:00pm Zoom BC Meeting
Sunday, 22nd Last Pentecost	10:00am H.E. Service
Sunday, 29th First Advent	10:00am Morning Prayer

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