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Tidings



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is an inclusive and worshipping Christian community that accepts the challenge of living the Gospel.

The Rector's Column

I'm gonna share a not-so-well kept secret with y'all. Sometimes, I get so caught up in the preparation for Holy Week and Easter and the great celebration of the Resurrection, that I kind of lose sight of what the Resurrection is all about.

I mean, I'll say the prayers, sing the songs, preach the sermons. But the reality of that whirlwind is that it usually takes a week or two for Easter and the Resurrection to begin to sink in. Thank God, we have a whole 50 days in the Easter Season to soak in the meaning of what we all just experienced.

The meaning of the Resurrection is so vast, there's no way to condense it down to a simple cover letter. Christ's Resurrection is all over the New Testament, fills the pages of our Prayer Book, and forms the basis of thousands of years of theology. The Resurrection, as they say, is kind of a big deal.

The Catechism of the Episcopal Church says succinctly, "By his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and opened for us the way of eternal life" and that we "share in his victory when we are baptized." We say we are "buried with Christ in the waters of Baptism," and through those same waters, "we share in his resurrection." And at funerals, we proclaim "sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life" while

Christ reminds us "I am Resurrection and I am Life ... whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die."

The Resurrection is heavy stuff. No wonder it takes us 50 days, lived and re-lived year after year, to begin to grasp what it means for us. But while the monumental meaning of the Resurrection takes time to sink in -- and maybe it never does so fully -- I think we're able to appreciate little glimmers, reminders, imperfect analogies, even, in the more mundane aspects of our lives.

I'm talking about those regular things we see, daffodils springing up from seemingly dead bulbs buried underground, robins reappearing from long migrations with hungry bellies and pastel blue eggs, much needed phone calls from family members that wouldn't normally call, handshakes after arguments, apologies a long time in the making, and so on.

The Resurrection itself, that's big, sometimes within our reach of imagination and prayer but often beyond our understanding. So, we need those little things that we can wrap our heads and our hearts around to help us get there. Looking for Resurrection is as simple as looking for new life, renewal, repair, and reconciliation. Actually seeing it is harder. Harder still is hoping for

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Resurrection where it can't be seen. And hardest of all is telling of Resurrection out loud.

But such is our life as Christians, especially in these 50 days of Easter. In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we look, we see, we hope, and we tell. ■

Blessings,
Brooks+

Bible Blurb

Happy Easter, everyone! This month, we're headed back into the New Testament for a sprint through four books: The Letter of Jude and the Three Letters of John. We'll read one book per week, starting with Jude, and we'll take a break on May 16.

Where: All clumped together nearly at the end of the New Testament (just before Revelation).

What to Watch For: Don't let the length of these letters fool you. They are jam-packed!

References: These authors knew their scripture. We get references all over the place, including a mention of Balaam of talking donkey fame!

Content: These are letters reminding people to live by their faith, especially timely for us in this Resurrection Season.

Lectionary: Of all four books, only half of the First Letter of John appears in the Lectionary for Sunday mornings.

Read on, good people, and God bless! ■

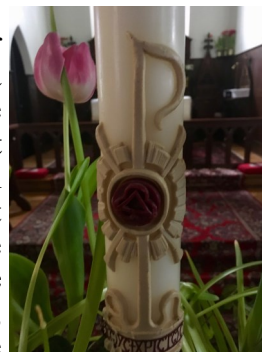
--Fr. Brooks+

Lenten Special Collections Update

Our Lenten Collections netted a total of \$4630 this year: \$533 for Friendship Inn; \$975 for the Hamilton Food Cupboard; \$485 for the Episcopal Fund for Human Needs (Diocese of Central New York); \$625 for the School of Theology at the University of the South; \$1568 for the Haiti Rehabilitation Foundation; \$324 for Mission of Miracles in our Companion Diocese of El Salvador; and \$120 for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Many thanks for your generosity and continued support! ■

Nave Gazing

Ever since the Easter Vigil, you may have noticed a large candle standing in the middle of the Crossing -- that central part of the church where the transepts intersect with the nave. This is the Paschal Candle, lit from the New Fire and signifying, among a number of things, the light of Christ that defeats darkness.



For us, ultimately, the Paschal Candle is about Resurrection. It appears for the entirety of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. Every time we see it, we are reminded of the darkness that left us hopeless on Maundy Thursday and the light that came crashing back into our lives on Easter.

That said, we also see the Paschal Candle on two other occasions: baptisms and funerals. In both cases, we are reminded of that same movement from darkness to light. In baptism, we remember the darkness of sin, we die with Christ, and we are raised with Christ, a personal Easter of a sort. In funerals, we proclaim Christ's defeat of death and the resurrection in Christ we'll each receive, another personal Easter of a sort.

The origins of the Paschal Candle are murky, though by the fourth Century, we already have grumblings from Saint Jerome about the verbose prayers dedicated to the lighting of this candle. By the time we reach the medieval church in England, the use of the Paschal Candle was undoubtedly established, sometimes to an overwhelming degree. Salisbury Cathedral measured their candle by height, standing a whooping 36 feet tall! Westminster Abbey, not to be outdone, measured by weight, tipping the scales at over 1,600 pounds!

Ours at St. Thomas' is a bit more modest, though, as candles go, it's still very impressive. The ring of Springtime flowers reinforces the Resurrection imagery, new life bursting beautifully from what was seemingly dead. Set into the wax is a large Chi Rho -- the symbol formed by the combination of the first two letters in Greek of the word for Christ: *Christos*. At the center is a sunburst reminiscent of the high church monstrance, a liturgical implement used for

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carrying the consecrated wafer (the Body of Christ) into the world on the celebration of *Corpus Christi*. At the center of the sunburst, where one might expect to find that consecrated wafer, instead we see a trefoil paired with a triangle, dual symbols of the Trinity. At the base of the Chi Rho sit the letters Alpha and Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), a direct reference to Revelation 22 and the proclamation that God is the Beginning and the End. And, finally, the foundation for all these symbols lies at the very bottom: the name "Jesus Christ" spelled out in Greek, a shorthand reference to the inscription Pontius Pilate had written over the crucified Jesus.

Our candle is heavy with meaning and reaches heavenward with the hope of the Resurrection. In the words of the Easter Vigil prayer that accompanies its lighting, we offer this candle in God's honor. "May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning!" ■

--Fr. Brooks+

Outreach Commission

The Outreach Commission at St. Thomas' has been honored over the years to allocate funds to various organizations, reflecting our connections in the world and living out our faith by supporting good work locally, nationally, and internationally. Over the past year, they've been discussing ways to expand our idea of Outreach, continuing to provide financial support to those places that need it while also living into our faith in a more hands-on way.

On May 11, we have just such an opportunity. We'll team up with the Impact Project, a group out of Sherburne that provides desperately needed home repairs to people in need. Working with contractors and an army of volunteers like us, the Impact Project is able to provide these repairs completely free. As an added bonus, no skill level among the volunteers is needed. If you can swing a hammer, they'll give you a hammer. If you can't, they'll put you to work somewhere else. And don't worry, there's plenty of work to be done!

If you're interested in joining us on May 11, please contact Brooks at brooks.cato@gmail.com ■

--Fr. Brooks+

RIP "Cork" Tarplee

With sadness we share the news of the death of the Rev. Cornelius "Cork" Tarplee, former Rector of St. Stephen's, Millburn, on April 24, 2019 in Santa Monica, CA. He passed gently surrounded by his loving wife, The Rev. Judith Baldwin, their daughter, Lily Baldwin, and son-in-law, Adam Blum.

A graduate of Oberlin College and Virginia Seminary, Cork served as rector of parishes in Hamilton, NY; Weare, NH; and Dunbarton, NH before becoming the rector of St. Stephen's.

Cork was the Rector of St. Thomas' from 1980 to 1986, and served both Hamilton and nearby communities in many ways. At one point, his ministry was shared between St. Thomas' and St. James' in Clinton. Under his guidance, St. Thomas' experienced a time of growth, as did the church's organ! Our bright red doors--painted red during his tenure--still proclaim sanctuary to those in desperate need of God's love.

During his 17 years in Millburn, Cork grew the congregation into a thriving and dynamic parish that, by his example, focused their ministry tending to those in need, to social justice issues, and to equality and fairness for all. The best way to describe his ministry is that he loved and welcomed everyone.

Cork was an exceptional and inspiring preacher. He particularly dedicated himself to the issues of equality for gay and lesbian people and was one of the earliest rectors to hire and mentor gay and lesbian clergy. Known for his quiet and gentle nature, Cork was a fierce and relentless advocate for love and inclusion for all.

In addition to his wife, daughter Lily and son-in-law Adam, he is also survived by his children Alison Coluccio and her wife, Nancy Menning, Matthew Tarplee and Katherine Hall-Lapinski; his granddaughter, Roxy Coluccio; his sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Al Tucker; and his beloved family The Rev. Melissa Hall and Fran Lapinski.

A private memorial service will be held in Los Angeles, CA, at a future date.

Letters of condolence can be sent to the Rev. Judith Baldwin at 817 1/2 South Sycamore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

- Taken in large part from the Diocese of Newark website

Vestry Minutes **March 27, 2019**

Present

Brooks Cato (presiding), Rick Geier, Sue Geier, Michelle Landstrom, Kerry Linden, Luke Marshall, Terry Monty, Michael Sitts, David Sturges, Jane Welsh, Ellie Weyer

Call to Order and Opening Devotions

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM following Evening Prayer. David Sturges read a prayer.

Clerk's Report

The minutes of February 20 were approved with two emendations.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Geier reported that there had been a transfer of funds **\$13,695** from the NBT checking account to the new Ramshaw Fund (LT-UIF). As a result the total expenses for February are **\$18,301.21**. He also informed the Vestry that pledge income is at 84% ytd. The Treasurer's Report was received as submitted.

Rector's Report

Brooks Cato presented a brief summary of his recent activities, including his journey to Chicago on behalf of the Episcopal Church to join with others at a task force meeting concerning sexual assault within the church.

Commission Reports

Buildings: Brooks Cato stated that the Commission is still hard at work assembling records related to former repairs on our buildings. So far, attempts to find records related to the last repair of the church roof have been unsuccessful.

Old Business

Land Donation: Brooks Cato noted that by the time the final survey and title are completed it will probably be the end of April before a date for closing can be set. Ellie Weyer distributed photocopied map facsimiles of the area where the land is located so that Vestry members could see clearly where the plot of land is located. There was a sense amongst several Vestry members that

the land might be kept and used for informal outdoor events, such as youth happenings. It was also acknowledged that the land could be sold to provide income to pay for other expenses. As discussion drew to a close it was clear that conversation would continue at the April meeting.

Safeguarding Training: Vestry members were apprised of the training program that would take place on April 6, from 1-4, at St. Thomas' parish hall.

Mutual Ministry Review: It was decided that this item would be moved to the April meeting.

New Business

Driving Ministry: Brooks Cato commended Millie Franklin for her extraordinarily successful new "driving ministry." In a very short period of time it is up and running (or should we say "rolling"?).

Steffenhagen: Rick Geier explained that, historically, there have been some issues with the fund. It was not been very transparent in terms of how it is managed or invested. Also, the fund seems to underperform. All this has been discussed by Budget & Finance which has wanted to remove the money from NBT and reinvest it in a better fund. Adger Williams, Chair of Budget & Finance, is now trying to make a foray into the problem and Debbie Barker is attempting to help. A resolution was passed to send a letter to NBT, requesting further information.

Announcements were made. Ellie Weyer offered to lead prayer for the April 24 meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:36 PM.■

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cerasano, Clerk

A Prayer

Lord God, instill in us the energy and drive to live as you lived on this earth, and grant us the peace that the last word belongs not to the systems of this world, but to you. Amen.

--Sojourners

The History of the Treasurers of St. Thomas'

Dave McKay was asked to be Treasurer of St. Thomas' in the early 1960s and had to go on Sunday nights, four in a row, for training from Howard Pike, who was then Treasurer. Howard had a large sheet with all the pledgers' names on it down the left-hand side with a box for him to enter what they gave each Sunday. Dave served as Treasurer under The Rev. Harrison Hadley and also The Rev. Bill Myers. He remembers that at Vestry meetings, Jesse Moses would sometimes lean forward and say, "Young man, do you need any money?" Actually, things were sometimes tight, and Dave often counted the collection to see if there was enough money to pay all the bills. When Dave admitted that they needed money, Jesse would take out his checkbook and pay his pledge.

The Vestry named Betsy Meggett as Treasurer in the late 1960s, and she served for over 20 years. Betsy did all of it in her home and even had the mail delivered there. There were lean times in that period as well, and Betsy sometimes paid her own pledge in order to cover the big bills when they came in. In the 1980s she no longer came to Vestry meetings, and Liz Brackett served as liaison to the vestry, going to Betsy's home, compiling a report using an Excel spreadsheet to present to the Vestry. Betsy was developing memory problems during this time, and our Interim Rector, Jackie Schmitt, insisted that we make changes before the new Rector, Elizabeth Gillett, arrived. The mailing address was changed back to the church office, and Liz Brackett was named Treasurer.

Liz wrote a computer program for tracking the pledges, replacing the large poster board on Howard Pike's kitchen table. Later, she asked Bev McKay to help her as Assistant Treasurer, and Bev paid the bills and wrote all of the checks. Warren Ramshaw was Treasurer in 1992, while Liz and Tom were in Thailand for seven months. Later, Dick Beattie was named Treasurer. Then Evelyn Buchanan was Treasurer for a short period. She moved us to Church Windows, which we are still using today. When Evelyn left, Karen Baase became Treasurer and served until midway

through Donnel O'Flynn's Rectorate. Nancy Schult took up the mantle in 2008, and Adger Williams and Evelyn Hart assist with counting, recording, and depositing the offering. Currently, Nancy is in Australia, and Rick Geier is serving as Co-Treasurer while Nancy is overseas and the transition to new software is completed. The team has a new bookkeeper, Kathleen Stahl, handling the transition to QuickBooks.

The Treasurers of St. Thomas' have faithfully served this church and the people of God for decades ensuring that we are acting as good stewards in all we do. Their work has been thankless too often, so we pause this month to thank them all, from Howard to Dave to Nancy to Rick, for those that served before, for those who are serving now, and for those who will serve in years to come."■

Applications for Ramshaw Scholarship Due June 18

With the end of the school year fast approaching, the Vestry and I are delighted to invite applications for the Ramshaw Scholarship for Graduating Seniors. Students who are awarded the scholarship will receive \$750 to go toward college expenses. Applications are available in the office and should be returned by June 18.■

--Fr. Brooks+

Scripture Lesson

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

--John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

Sermon for Easter Day

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Ah, it feels good to say that. It's been a long time coming, about 40 days, give or take. So it is a good and joyful thing to be with you this morning to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus! It is a good and joyful thing, but that doesn't mean it's an easy thing. See, when Mary Magdalene comes running, when she comes back to tell us the grave is empty, and we go running to see for ourselves, yes we're taken to Christ's grave, but we're also taken to all those graves we've seen for ourselves.

About this time last year, I took an emergency trip down to my homeland. See, when I moved up here from Arkansas, I left pretty much all of my family behind. That brilliant uncle that built his own home and translated Shakespeare into Hillbilly. My six-foot tall aunt that claims to be 5'11" in heels and once had a pet raccoon that loved lemon meringue pie. My gardener of a mother who, when asked what she wanted for her birthday, said, "Either a KitchenAid mixer or a squirrel-hunting rifle." I left them all back in the hills of Arkansas. You know, they all went to the same college, Ouachita Baptist University, they all went to the same college on scholarships set aside for "the education of mountain people." And this always struck me as kinda odd, because they're all smart folks, cultured even. They weren't even first-generation college goers.

That was my grandmother, Mary. She studied at the Arkansas State Teachers College to be a school librarian. And she was a good one. The sort of paragon of a grandmotherly type, small and round, with big dimples and warm eyes and always a kind word to share with a struggling kid or a grandson with a skinned knee. She'd sing Johnny Cash to teach about flood plains along the Mississippi River. She'd churn butter to make Little House on the Prairie a little more real. And she'd dress up as all sorts of characters for Christmas and Thanksgiving and any other holiday that gave her the excuse to have a little more fun. And on Sundays, you better believe she was at the Valley Springs Baptist Church plenty early. She wasn't much of a singer, but she'd get there early to hear her son -- that same hillbilly Shakespeare quoter from earlier -- she'd get there to hear him sing in his rich baritone. She'd come with her baby

blue dress and her knee-high stockings, her white hair short but graceful as its waves reached toward God, and always, when she walked in, folks treated her like a queen. Now, I don't mean that in the sort of twisted way that some Southerners expect to be treated. Not in a manipulative or condescending way. No, she walked in and was treated like a queen because if we could pick a queen for this world, we'd pick a sweet, kind, all-loving queen like Mary. When Mary walked into a room, it seemed like she was always trying to see where grace was hiding. Maybe it was in her son's voice, or in the warmth of the woman holding the door for her, or maybe it was in the kid distractedly fumbling with the wrapper of a Werther's Original she'd snuck him. When she saw the world, she saw Jesus.

When I left Arkansas, Grandma Mary wasn't the Grandma Mary I'd known before, except when she was. She was slowing down, her body mostly fine, but her mind slipping to Alzheimer's. She sort of time-traveled backwards, and each time I saw her, I was still a loved one, but each time, I was a loved one a generation earlier. So I was me, then I was her son, then I was her brother, then I was a childhood friend. Just a few months before I moved, I saw her again, sat in a church pew with her for a while, then kissed her forehead as I stood to leave. Turning to walk away, I heard her lean over to my mother and whisper, "Who was that handsome man?" That same day, even though her mind was failing, she'd stand and carry on conversation, or pretend to. She'd still try to make little kids laugh. She still had some mischief and some love and certainly faith, but she just couldn't be them fully anymore.

When I left Arkansas, I kinda knew that I wouldn't see her again. So, when I got the call to go back to those hills last year, I went. I didn't know if I would get there in time, but I knew I needed to go. I did, though. I made it to her little, white farmhouse. It looked right. It smelled right. Inside, the floral couches and Thomas Kinkadee prints felt right. But Grandma's bedroom was wrong. There was a hospice bed at the end of her four-poster. But the pictures surrounding her were right, and so were the people. She didn't look right, but her hands did. The same hands that had loved so many. The same hands that had searched for so much grace. The same hands that had

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worked so hard for God. Mom asked me to read a sermon I'd written about the rock shop down the road from Grandma's house, and my aunts and cousins and sisters and I wept in that room. I don't know if Mary heard that one, but if she did, she'll know that she taught me to look for grace when I walk in a room, too.

Now, I don't tell you this story to bring you down. I tell you this story to show you the hardest truth of Christianity: that we are a Resurrection People. Yes, we proclaim the Resurrection, but we can't get to the new life in resurrection without going through the grave first. And we go there often. Even Jesus went there. And I don't mean for himself, though we get that today, too. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus, his friend, before raising him from the dead. That sorrow, that loss, that pain, it's woven into who we are. So we can't shy away from that place. Christianity at its core is no Hallmark card. It's hard. And it's sometimes painful. And it's often dark.

When Mary came to the tomb this morning, she came in darkness. She came not because she knew she'd see Jesus. She came because she loved him, and that's just what you do. You go to the graves of the ones you love. You tend them. Plant flowers or brush leaves away or put a flag in the ground. Mary didn't expect to see Jesus. She expected to weep her loss there, maybe find some small grace in that garden. Maybe even say her final goodbye before trying to leave Jesus behind.

Now, we know the rest of the story. The tomb is empty, she can't believe it, thinks the worst, and runs to tell the disciples. She still doesn't know what's going on. She's still crying. Her grief, her fear, her worry, she can't look for grace now, a whole pillar of salt's been heaped on her wounds. So she can't even see the grace standing before her. "She did not know the gardener was Jesus." She couldn't see that grace. And in all this, there he stands, quiet and calm and whole. And Alive. This is what it means to be a resurrection people. Crying out, running for help when we don't understand, and through our grief, getting surprised by grace. At the grave, we sing. From the ashes, we rebuild. Out of history, we restore. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

But as much noise as we Christians sometimes make, I'm amazed at how quiet the

Resurrection itself actually is. Christ's death was big and loud, a political spectacle complete with earthquakes and eerie darkness. But the silence of the grave soon takes hold. And most everyone thinks the story's over. But Resurrection takes the time to move the stone. Resurrection takes the time to fold burial linens and set them neatly aside. Resurrection takes the time to sit a quiet vigil and wait. When Christ returns there's no booming announcement, no trumpets, no fanfare. There's only the quiet beauty of a garden. It's so quiet, and if Mary hadn't been there, the world may never have known. Alleluia. Christ is risen.

I wonder about my Mary. That grandmother of mine, she lived in a quiet part of the world, an underestimated hillbilly with a farmhouse and cattle on the end of a dirt road. She worshipped her God in a town with 200 people in it. And she found grace in small gardens, love in small places, and peace in small wonders. The resurrections she found, the only fanfare those resurrections ever received were gentle and quietly shared. And if Mary hadn't been there, the world may never have known. Alleluia. Christ is risen.

And I wonder about us. At graves or in gardens or even in the growing noises of our lives, what resurrections do we find? What resurrections would the world miss if we weren't there to tell them? We are a resurrection people, but all too often, we're looking for fanfare while resurrection quietly waits for us to notice. And this is the quiet resurrection God taught Mary, and Mary taught me, and I'd like to teach you. Walk in a room and look around. If the gardener could be Jesus, then so could anyone. So, notice them. Love them. If you have to, fight for them. And if they'll let you, tell them what you know: that Christ is risen. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!■

--The Rev. Brooks Cato

Reminder: Sunday sermons are posted on the St. Thomas' website: StThomasHamilton.org

A Prayer

Christ of the cross and of the empty tomb, strengthen us to bear the burdens of the day, to seek you amid the hurts and questions, and to trust you for mercy enough for this day. Amen.

--Sojourners

**Pentecost: A Concluding Review
of Timothy Roth's
The Week that Changed the World
(NY, 2009) and other sources**

In my review last month of Timothy Roth's extraordinary book, *The Week That Changed the World*, I pointed out that the author extended Holy Week beyond Christ's resurrection, to take in his visitation with the disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem and then in Galilee with hundreds of his followers, followed by his ascension. The book concludes in Jerusalem with Pentecost, formerly called Whitsunday, the end of Eastertide. The author draws this final section largely and literally from the letters of Paul. It ends the Easter story.

"When the day of Pentecost came, they [the disciples] were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."(108-09)

Jerusalem being a city of international trade, diaspora Jews from other countries undoubtedly recognized the languages as coming from Mede, Asia, Crete, Rome, Egypt, Arabia, and other ancient places. To some degree the disciples were able from previous exposure to such tongues in Jerusalem to imitate their sound, released from inhibition by the Holy Spirit. For modern Christians there is fun in imitation of these sounds, and in recognition that they called for Christians, in Jesus' words, to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (98) This is commonly taken as the meaning of Pentecost.

However, there is another, less appreciated meaning for Pentecost. It is the celebratory day for the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity. Jesus had spoken previously of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost now exalted the gift of harmony in Christian lives to live and work together. This was the work of the Holy Spirit.

The idea is presumably ancient, but it was emphasized among Americans in the late 19th and 20th centuries, at a time when religious freedom invited theological division and competition rather than cooperation in Christian efforts, facing an increasingly secular world of industry, commerce, and popular culture. (I am relying here on the published sermons of Charles Duell Kean and especially The Rt. Rev. Phillips Brooks.) Brooks called Pentecost "the communion of the Holy Ghost," who created the daily apostolic power by which the Christian church has always lived. Men and women have always needed communal fellowship for living, work, and prayer. As social people they share Christian bonding. It does not exclude other Christians by gender, race, ethnicity, or theology, but seeks to fulfill communion and divine love. "As we come to God the Holy Ghost, we come to one another." The Holy Ghost is "the God of continual contact with mankind," "the effectively present Deity." (1)

Pentecost has a context in St. Thomas' Church. In addition to the novelty and excitement of reading Scripture in foreign languages at Pentecost services, parish activities on that day and year-round offer Communion of the Holy Spirit as they gather, and so do interfaith meetings outside the church.■

(1) Phillips Brooks, *Sermons for the Church Year*, NY, (1895), 316, 303-07

--Richard Frost

Consider This

I have never been especially impressed by the heroics of people who are convinced they are about to change the world. I am more awed by those who struggle to make one small difference after another.

--Ellen Goodman (born 1941), an American journalist and syndicated columnist. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1980. She is also a speaker and commentator.

Conversations on Race

The conversations we've been having around St. Thomas' and with the Hamilton Area Anti-Racism Coalition (HAARC) have been challenging, to say the least. I've gotten a lot of feedback (and encourage more) as we continue to delve into this massive and difficult issue, or rather these massive and difficult issues.

Race in America is a complicated thing, and the realities of racism affect every one of our lives. Corrective pendulum swings also have damaging echoes, and as Anglicans, we're always searching for that place where the middle way, justice, and faith intersect. Our conclusions are often imperfect, but we keep on working and listening and, I hope, praying for the Glory of God in every person to be honored, respected, and valued.

As hard as these conversations are among adults, talking to children about race can bring its own set of challenges. The website embracerace.org/talking-race-kids has some helpful resources to get started, including videos, presentations, and online forums. This is hard work, no matter the audience, but it is sacred work!■

--Fr. Brooks+

Stand Still and Remember

As you open your mouth to speak to someone, let the truth of God flow out of your mouth to support your everyday words. When you say, "How are you?" be aware that God created heaven and earth *and* the individual who is standing in front of you at the church coffee hour. When you're planting your pea seeds on a blustery March afternoon, remember that when God said, "Let there be light," light appeared immediately; and it is this sun that will make your garden grow. Let the words of the Word cavort around you, and let them reveal our awesome God. And when you're cooking dinner, whether you're roasting a hot dog over an open fire or adjusting the heat under your *poulet en cocotte*, recall that before there were chickens or garlic or aromatic vegetables, there was a great stillness, and there was God, riding on the wind over the mysterious waters of creation.

--Kristen Johnson Ingram is the author of more than twenty books, including *Wine at the End of the Feast: Embracing Spiritual Change as We Age*. She is also a writing instructor and a licensed preacher in the Episcopal Church.

You Are Invited

I will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood on the feast day of Dame Julian of Norwich, **Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 PM at the Church of the Epiphany in Sherburne**. It would mean a great deal to me to share this milestone observance with my St. Thomas' family since many of you have been an integral part of my vocation to parish ministry. I gave my heart to St. Thomas' when I was the rector from 1988-1998 and a piece of it remains there today. I intend the celebration to be a thanksgiving for my vocation, so I hope that you can be there to receive some of those thanks for being such a special part of it.

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe has kindly agreed to preside at the service. The Rev. Dr. Becky Drebert will be preaching. We will enjoy a reception in the parish house following the service. Please check your calendars to see if you might be able to join us.

With gratitude and love,

Elizabeth+
(The Rev. Elizabeth Gillett)

Hamilton Ecumenical Youth!

All 6-12 Graders Welcome
Sundays, 4:30-6 PM
Park United Methodist Church

Spring Dates

May 19
June 9, 23

On the Lighter Side





Galaxy Squad Dancers to Perform in New Hartford



MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU

The TitleTown KnockOuts of Madison County take on the Erie Roller Girls from Erie, Pennsylvania. This is a *Star Wars*-themed bout and we always welcome fan participation in our themes. Portions of the proceeds will go to benefit **The Bell Tree** in Earlville, New York. Food truck provided by Brake From the Grind. Half-time performance by the **Schmitt Sisters Galaxy Squad Dancers**. ■

Where dance is for everyone!

122 North Main St.
Sherburne, New York
315-750-6040
SchmittSistersDance@gmail.com



The Sam and Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts

Open Studios

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

4:30 PM-6:30 PM

Meet artists [Danielle Mužina](#) and [Austin Furtak-Cole](#) and see their works in progress from the last four weeks at the residency barn. Unfortunately, [Hiromitsu Kuroo](#) will not be in attendance as he had to depart early from the residency, but you'll be able to see his work at our next Made In Paint exhibition, opening in the spring of 2020!

Contact Details:

Sam & Adele Golden Foundation for the Arts, Inc.
237 Bell Road, New Berlin, NY 13411

Phone: (607) 431-8765

Email: contact@goldenfoundation.org

HOME GROWN!
Celebrating American Composers



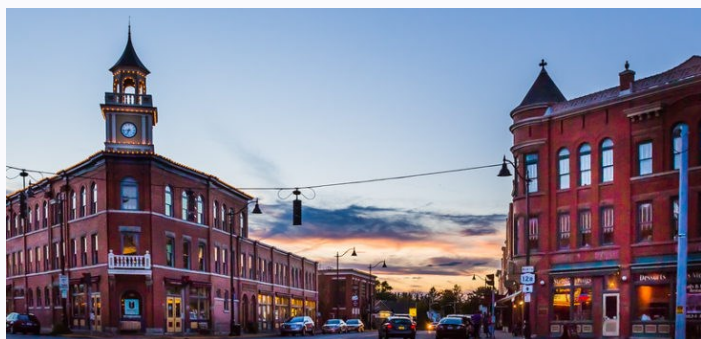
Jubilation!
Women's Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, May 19, 2019 3:30 p.m.
Park United Methodist Church
Hamilton, New York

A portion of proceeds will benefit **Faculté Des Sciences Réhabilitation D'Leogâne** Occupational and Physical Therapists in Haiti.

Adult — \$10 Student — \$5 12 under — free
Special pricing for families of four or more

St. Thomas' parishioners Wynn Egginton, Emily Hutton-Hughes, and Jane Welsh are among the wonderful singers in the vocal ensemble, Jubilation!



Great art makes for good neighbors. That's why Arts at the Palace takes an active role in Hamilton's creative community even as we foster the imaginative spirit that flourishes across Central New York.

Through performances, exhibitions, and a variety of educational programs, we promote appreciation of the arts in all its forms. We also offer skills and expertise on demand for other organizations seeking grant funds, event promotion, and more.

Ready to engage with Arts at the Palace? Watch our schedule of events for community programming, or call for more information on our outreach initiatives.■

artsatthepalace.org
Arts at the Palace
19 Utica St.
Hamilton, New York

A Prayer

Lord make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy. Amen.

--St. Francis' Prayer



Friends of Rogers
2721 State Highway 80
Sherburne, New York
www.FriendsofRogers.org

Spring flowers are opening every day at Rogers! You can see for yourself at our next EdVenture program on **May 11**, when we host a Wildflower Walk beginning at 10 AM. Your guide will be former Rogers Center Director Marsha Guzewich, who will take you through a wildflower lover's paradise on the Cush Hill property.

On **May 18**, starting at 9 AM, former FOR Board President and current Utica College Professor of Geology Adam Schoonmaker will show everyone the proper way to dig for fossils and explain the fascinating story of how they go there. Join Adam's Fossil Dig as he takes you back into the distant past!

Friends of Rogers offers a variety of programs and camps to help everyone from kids to adults learn and appreciate nature, promote togetherness, and learn resourceful techniques to advocate sustainability.■

Music Night at The Rye Berry **Sunday, May 26** **6 PM** **(doors open at 5 PM)** **37 Lebanon Street**

Our special guest this evening will be Maren Meyer-Wendt, accompanied by the local jazz legend, Monk Rowe. I will be absent from my normal hosting role this month, so the first hour of the program will be an OPEN MIC (6 PM-7 PM), hosted by Kehela Reeves. Slots are limited, so those interested can email me at masonmcdowell88@gmail.com, or come early (doors open at 5 PM) to sign up!■

--Mason McDowell

May at St. Thomas'

Regular Weekly Events

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 8 AM & 10 AM.

Nursery Care: Sundays, 9:45 AM.

Church School: Sundays, Teen Class, 9 AM; Godly Play (5-11 years), 9:45 AM.

Adult Education Class: Sundays, 11:30 AM.

Friendship Inn Community Meal: Mondays, 5 PM, Parish Hall (Closed May 27 for Memorial Day).

Prayer Group: Thursdays, 9:30 AM. All are welcome.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 10 AM. All are welcome.

Choir Rehearsal: Thursdays, 7:30 PM, (No Choir May 9).

Special Events

The Rev. Quinn Parman Guest Preacher, Sunday, May 5, 8 AM & 10 AM.

HAARC Monthly Potluck, Sunday, May 5, 6 PM, St. Thomas' Parish Hall.

H.E.Y!, Sunday, May 19, 4:30 PM, Park United Methodist Church.

Friday Night Lights (Open Mic series), Friday, May 24, 7 PM–9 PM, Zach Collins, Special Guest, St. Thomas' Parish Hall.

Looking Ahead to June

Mark Your Calendars

Sundae Sunday, June 2, 11:15 AM.

HAARC Monthly Potluck, Sunday, June 2, 6 PM, St. Thomas' Parish Hall.

Pentecost Gospel Eucharist, Sunday, June 9, 10 AM.

Melissa Clark & Bob Price Show, Friday, June 14, Time TBA, St. Thomas' Church.

Summer Schedule Begins, Sunday, June 14, 9 AM

Ramshaw Scholarship Applications Due June 18.

Friday Night Lights (Open Mic series), Friday, June 28, 7 PM–9 PM, St. Thomas' Parish Hall.

Prayers of the People

For those in need: Bob Adams, Ralph Barker, Jim Becker, Eileen Bleibry, Griffin Buehler, Sue Cato, Ann Chase, Barbara Crysedale, Barbara Danori, Bill Excell, Joan Farmer, Alea Floyd, Alice Frick, Joan Gorton, Tammy (Truett) Hutchinson, Nori Jones, Steve Jones, Brenda Jordan, Victoria Kappel, Jeff Knapp, John Koontz, Megan Marshall, Liam Meyer, Karen Neary, Bill Pratt, Mary Putnam, Thaddaeus Rowe, Ella Ryan, June Schaupp, Paul Schupf, Jill Smith, Mark Spearing, Keith Stage, David Vinopal, Helen White, Bert, Edward, Kathleen D., Elaine, Joyce, Nick, Ryan, Vivian, Kathy, Dave & Bev McKay, Sheryl & Christopher Scott, The Jones Family.

For the departed: Martin Barahona (Bishop Emeritus of the Anglican Episcopal Church of El Salvador), Travis Buddenhagen, Cy Howlett, Phebe Kipp, Ken Lamb, The Rev. Ray S. Messenger, Jeff Nilles, The Rev. Cork Tarplee.

Thanksgivings

Birthdays: Adger Williams (5/01), Alessandra Catania (5/01), Kristin Strohmeier (5/06), William Strohmeier (5/14), Hal Stevens (5/15), Marlene Houck (5/18), Dawn LaFrance (5/19), Leah Schmitt (5/21), Emily Hutton-Hughes (5/22), Deborah Radford (5/31).

Wedding Anniversaries: Barbara & Edward Page (5/01), Dianne & Jim McDowell (5/11), Melissa & Morgan Davies (5/14), Sharon & Hal Stevens (5/17).

Baptism Anniversaries: Jane Scheinman, Barbara Bowen, Barbara Bartlett (5/05), Adriana Catania (5/05), Alessandra Catania (5/05), Sicily Catania (5/05), Jessica Dakosty (5/12), Simon Williams (5/15), Barbara Frost (5/16), Everett Egginton (5/21), Alec Strohmeier (5/22), Joe Hubbard (5/27), Kevin Schult (5/28), Marlene Houck (5/30).

A Prayer

Oh God, grant us the awareness to see and notice suffering and oppression in our midst, the resolve to not turn a blind eye, and the stamina to do the work that You have called us to do. Let your Kingdom be on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

--Sojourners

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

Scheduled to Serve

May 2019

Date	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Acolytes	Ushers/Greeters	Godly Play Nursery Helpers	Altar Guild	Flower Guild	Coffee Hour
May 5 Easter 3	10 AM Linda Jenks Rose Novak	8 AM Susan Cerasano 10 AM Maureen Ghent	10 AM Sam Williams Nick Catania Sicily Catania	Ushers: 8 AM Edward Page 10 AM Valerie & Matas Morkevicius Greeter: 10 AM Millie Franklin	9:45 AM Kat Catania Karen Marriam Liz Brackett	Elizabeth Gillett	Sue Geier	Rose Novak & Susan Beattie
May 12 Easter 4 Mother's Day	10 AM Emily H.-Hughes Everett Egginton	8 AM Evelyn Hart 10 AM Wynn Egginton	10 AM Erik Geier Vivianna Linden Madalyn Jones	Ushers: 8 AM Edward Page 10 AM Rose & John Novak Greeters: 10 AM Lauren & Luke Marshall	9:45 AM Val Morkevicius Erin Loranty Nan Schmitt	Ellie Weyfer	Sue Geier	George Weaver & Robert Maziarz
May 19 Easter 5	10 AM Luke Marshall Hannah McClennen	8 AM Amy Jerome 10 AM Deb Barker	10 AM Bergen Linden Emilija Morkevicius Ingrida Morkevicius	Ushers: 8 AM Edward Page 10 AM Michael Sitts & TBA Greeter: 10 AM Liz Brackett	9:45 AM Sheila Catania Adrien Catania Rose Novak	Joan Fales	Sue Geier	Ellie Weyfer & Emily Hutton-Hughes
May 26 Easter 6	10 AM Lee Ane Miller Lynn Staley	8 AM Susan Cerasano 10 AM Barbara Bowen	10 AM Sam Williams Adriana Catania June Loranty	Ushers: 8 AM Edward Page 10 AM Valerie & Matas Morkevicius Greeter: 10 AM Millie Franklin	9:45 AM Erin Loranty Kat Catania Liz Brackett	Joan Fales	Sue Geier	TBA
June 2 Easter 7 Sundae Sunday	10 AM Jane Welsh Adger Williams	8 AM Evelyn Hart 10 AM Michael Sitts	10 AM Erik Geier Isadora Catania Sicily Catania	Ushers: 8 AM Edward Page 10 AM Erin & Michael Loranty Greeters: 10 AM Lauren & Luke Marshall	9:45 AM Deb Barker Sheila Catania Rose Novak	Elizabeth Gillett	Rose Novak	Church School



Qidings
May 2019

Address Service Requested

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
12 1/2 Madison St.
Hamilton, NY 13346

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