

The Carpenter's Helper

December 10, 2017

St. Thomas's Parish, Newark, DE

302-368-4644

www.StThomasParish.org



WELCOME! Please introduce yourself to any of our parish family and complete our yellow Welcome Form found in the pew card-holder. Place the form into the alms basket or give it to an usher. Join us for fellowship in the Great Hall following services. Guests are invited to put on a handwritten blue name tag which an usher or greeter can give you. The ushers will also be glad to help with any questions you may have. Keep in touch via St. Thomas's web site at <http://stthomasparish.org/> or via St. Thomas's **Facebook** page. To join our Facebook community, you can go to our web site at <http://stthomasparish.org/> and click the Facebook ("F") link at the **top right**, log on to Facebook and *like* us.

Now that we're in a time of transition, we've added a new section to the newsletter, "Transition Topics," that will provide information on where we are in the process. Be sure to take a look at it.

*Location Key C: Classroom CO: Counter's Office GH: Great Hall K: Kitchen MR: Music Room
N: Nave P: Parlor U: Undercroft TBD: to be determined*

TODAY

The Second Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | N | Holy Eucharist Rite I |
| 9:00 a.m. | U | Youth Confirmation |
| 9:00 a.m. | C | Novel Theology |
| 9:15 a.m. | P | Adult Education |
| 9:15 a.m. | U | Children's Creche |
| 9:30 a.m. | U | Children's Worship |
| 10:30 a.m. | N | Holy Eucharist Rite II |
| 12:00 p.m. | GH | Feast and Fellowship |
| 4:00 p.m. | N | Advent Lessons and Carols |
| 7:00 p.m. | GH | UD Dance Team |

Tuesday to Thursday 5:15 p.m. N Evening Prayer

Monday, December 11 6:30 a.m. C Serenity at Sunrise AA Meeting
7:30 p.m. GH Scottish Dance

Tuesday, December 12 6:30 a.m. C Serenity at Sunrise AA Meeting
10:15 a.m. U Musikgarten
5:15 p.m. CO AIDS Delaware
6:30 p.m. U Dusk Patrol AA
7:00 p.m. P Finance Ministry
7:00 p.m. GH U D Ballroom Dance Team
7:30 p.m. U Climate Change Ministry
8:00 p.m. U AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 13 6:30 a.m. C Serenity at Sunrise AA Meeting
10:30 a.m. C Bible Study
4:00 p.m. C, GH, K Episcopal Campus Ministry
6:00 p.m. P Centering Prayer
8:30 p.m. GH, K South College Speakers AA Meeting

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Thursday, December 14 | 6:30 a.m. | C | Serenity at Sunrise AA Meeting |
| | 6:00 p.m. | MR, GH, U | Lights Choir |
| | 7:15 p.m. | U | Blue Grass Jam |
| | 7:30 p.m. | MR | Adult Choir |
| Friday, December 15 | 6:30 a.m. | C | Serenity at Sunrise AA Meeting |
| | 12:00 p.m. | U | Al-Anon |
| | 6:30 p.m. | P | Women's AA Meeting |
| Saturday, December 16 | 1:00 p.m. | GH, K | Jack and Jill of America |
| Sunday, December 17 | Third Sunday of Advent | | |
| | 8:00 a.m. | N | Holy Eucharist Rite I |
| | 9:00 a.m. | U | Youth Confirmation |
| | 9:15 a.m. | P | Adult Education |
| | 9:15 a.m. | U | Children's Creche |
| | 9:30 a.m. | U | Children's Worship |
| | 10:30 a.m. | N | Holy Eucharist Rite II |
| | 12:00 p.m. | GH | Feast and Fellowship |
| | 12:30 p.m. | P | Vestry Meeting. |
| | 7:00 p.m. | GH | UD Ballroom Dance Team |

Transition Topics

The Vestry has met with a candidate for interim rector and has extended a call to that priest. The priest has accepted the call and we are in the process of working out the letter of agreement, then getting it approved and signed by parish and diocesan officials. Only after all of these steps have been accomplished can we make an announcement. This process has taken a long time because there are many so steps involved and we want to get it right. Although we cannot reveal the name of the priest, we can say that the priest is trained and experienced in interim ministry and is looking forward to being with us in 2018. It will be a different sort of year for St. Thomas's, but it has the potential to be a very good year as we continue our journey towards the call of our next rector.

Stewardship -- *Responsible Vestry Members – Barry Gregg & Rich Wadman*

PLEDGE ENVELOPES –The 2018 contribution envelopes will be available in the Great Hall on December 15. They are arranged alphabetically. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. If there are any questions regarding your 2017 giving report please contact Jeanne Moore at jeannesmoore1@verizon.net or Barbara Graham at 44graham@comcast.net .

STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH: THE CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTRY - *Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, Prayer for the Conservation of Natural Resources)

The Climate Change Ministry is back and is looking for a few (or more) good persons! We will begin to deal with follow-up on the Diocese-wide acceptance of the Genesis Covenant (50% reduction in carbon emissions in 10 years) and will also discuss education in stewardship of the earth and new ventures for the ministry. We invite everyone to come; the more hands on board, the more we can do. Jerry Schultz, secretary

Worship– Responsible Vestry Members – Judy Grabowski & Ronnie Wilbur

The Newark Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 21 was a wonderful experience of worship. It provided a glimpse of the wonderfully rich, diverse community of faith we have here in Newark, and was a great way to conclude our celebration of 175 years in the community. Over 170 people attended and the offering raised over \$900 for the Newark Empowerment Center. Thanks to all who made it possible! And may we find more ways to be connected to our neighbors.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS - Please join us at 4:00 p.m. December 10 for our annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols. The service will offer an inspiring and thoughtful break from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas rush. Come and be refreshed.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS – Forms will be available either online under the Forms section of the parish website or as an insert in the Sunday bulletins starting December 3. Please complete and return with payment to the church office by Monday, December 18 for inclusion in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

EVENING PRAYER – Evening Prayer on Mondays will be suspended until our leader is feeling better. We miss you Pete Greiss, Get Well Soon!!

CENTERING PRAYER AT ST. THOMAS - *Be still and know that I am God.* Psalm 46:10
Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our body, mind, and spirit to receive this gift. For more information contact Joe Corsello at 302-369-0330 or jmcorsello@gmail.com.

Education– Responsible Vestry Member – Kristin Sausville

DISMANTLING THE NEW JIM CROW– *What can I do?* Join us as we work together for racial justice and a better understanding of the impacts of racism in our state. The group meets the 3rd Monday of each month with changing locations every month. **Their next meeting is Monday, December 18, 6:00 p.m. at Las Americas ASPIRA Academy Auditorium, 326 Ruthar Dr., Newark, DE 19711.** If you are interested or would like more information contact Cami Seward at 907-321-3336 or at camiseward@gmail.com.

ADULT EDUCATION – Come one and all, new and old! Starting on October 1, the Adult Education group began to explore the *People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity* by Dwight Szcheile. The discussion aims to explore the ways St. Thomas can move into the future beyond these walls as we share our story of God. The book can be easily purchased online via Amazon, B&N or any bookstore. For any questions, please contact Ronnie Wilbur at vwilbur@gmail.com or Larry Duggan at lgjd@udel.edu

NOVEL THEOLOGY – Our Novel Theology Book Group has resumed at 9:15 a.m. in the classroom area. The list of books for the balance of the year are:

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|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| January 14 | <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> | J. D. Vance | February 11 | <i>Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker</i> | Jennifer Chiavari |
| March 11 | <i>The Reason For God</i> | Timothy Keller | April 8 | <i>Turn Right at Machu Picchu</i> | Mark Adams |
| May 13 | <i>The End of Your Life Book Club</i> | Will Schwalbe | | | |

For further information or questions please contact Phyllis Rawling at phyllcr@gmail.com or 302-545-5105.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP - Children's Worship began again on September 10 for children 3 years (bathroom-trained) to 6th grade. Sunday School normally runs from 9:30 to 11:10. Our goal is to have three Sunday

School classrooms this year. In order to do this in the best way that we can, **we need at least two more teachers**. I am praying we can find some new faces to join our children's ministry team. Teaching involves an average commitment of two Sundays a month and an hour or two of preparation the week you are the lead teacher. We teach in teams of two so you would be lead teacher an average of once a month. If you feel called to be a part of children's ministry in any way, please contact me. I can be reached via email at belmar43@aol.com or by phone at 302-388-4017 (cell) or 302-832-8834 (landline).

Evangelism– *Responsible Vestry Members – Oneta Applewaite, Joe Corsello, & Regina McCann*

COFFEE HOUR – During this time of transition and changes within St. Thomas's, the Hospitality Ministry has decided to transform and revamp the coffee hour held after the 10:30 service each Sunday. As our Sunday Service booklet invites us for "fellowship and light refreshment," we have decided to keep the coffee hour to a minimum of light refreshments such as coffee, tea, and iced tea/lemonade. This will be very much like what we offer in the summer months, but, now to be all year round. The coffee hour can be expanded to a larger offering if there are special occasions that warrant it, such as special events or if groups or ministries want to have a larger assortment of treats to celebrate an event or milestone. Those individuals/groups can host a Sunday of their choice and announce it to the parishioners as they see fit to communicate it. We welcome parishioners who may want to bring a tray of cookies or cheese/crackers to offer to a regular Sunday coffee hour, but there is no obligation to do so. Volunteers for making the coffee and juices are always welcome and appreciated immensely but, there is no need to sign up for a designated Sunday. The same will apply for the clean-up process, volunteers to clean up after the refreshments are welcomed and appreciated but, it should be a minimal amount to clean up. The idea is to keep a lighter, simpler method to our gatherings and allow us all to enjoy our fellowship time together as parishioners and congregation. .

SUBMITTING ARTICLES - Articles submitted for publication in the Carpenter's Helper should reach Adele in the church office by Tuesday noontime each week. This will allow time to insert and proofread the article prior to copying. Send articles to adelemeredithstthomas@gmail.com.

Pastoral Care– *Responsible Vestry Members – Rejane DeMoraes & Marilyn Prime*

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY – The Pastoral Care Ministry provides many services to our parish family. When you know of a need or can lend a hand, please contact Donna Weaver at dweaver214@gmail.com, your Vestry leaders Marilyn Prime and Rejane DeMoraes, or the parish office.

Service– *Responsible Vestry Member – Keith Fleming*

PROJECT ANGEL TREE – We will be providing gifts for a needy family this holiday season. The family has 3 children, a daughter age 6, a son age 5, and another son age 2 ½. Please pick up an ornament from the tree and bring your gift, wrapped, to the church office by Sunday, December 17.

HOLY HEARTS AND HELPING HANDS - We ask your prayers and help to purchase a gift card that could help provide a tank of gas or buy some needed grocery staples at a local store. Please give them directly to Adele Meredith or put in an envelope marked to Adele's attention and place in the offering plate. **We have no cards to give at this time so we turn away many who come to us – will you help??**

NEWARK AREA WELFARE COMMITTEE'S FOOD CUPBOARD - There is a current need for **small jars of mayonnaise, grape or strawberry jam or jelly, canned fruit, and canned tomatoes**. Contributions go in the baskets as you enter the Sanctuary. The NAWC Food Cupboard **also needs volunteers** to distribute food at the Cupboard housed at the United Methodist Church on Main St. The Cupboard hours are from 2:00 p.m. –

3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information contact Susan Hechter at 302-738-9918 or susanahechter@gmail.com.

HOPE DINING ROOM TEAM is seeking a new leadership to coordinate our monthly commitment to serve at Hope Dining Room. Help us continue the valuable ministry to the homeless and those who are food challenged by becoming a member of our team. Contact Jack & Marge O'Donnell or Susan Hechter if you are called to serve this ministry in this time.

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE WITH HOPE – On the third Monday each month, St. Thomas's is committed to preparing & serving a nutritious meal for those in need at Hope Dining Room at Kingswood United Methodist Church on Marrows Road. Volunteers gather by 10 a.m. or after to begin preparation of the meal, set up of the dining room and so on. Lunch is served from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. Our next day to serve is **Monday, December 18**. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Marge and Jack O'Donnell at 302-832-1419 or jodmod2@yahoo.com or Susan Hechter at 302-738-9918 or susanahechter@gmail.com.

Contact Information

276 South College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19711

Church office hours Monday – Thursday 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. 302-368-4644

Parish Website: <http://StThomasParish.org>

Facebook Page: facebook.com/StThomasEpiscopalChurchNewarkDelaware

To view Parish Emails: <http://groups.google.com/group/StThomasParish>

To subscribe to automatically receive Parish Emails see the "Google Groups" section on the Parish Website.

Supply Clergy The Reverend Elizabeth Masterson – 302-547-7931
ermasterson@gmail.com

Deacon and Episcopal Campus Minister: The Rev. Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon- 302-530-3493
csawhar@udel.edu

Organist and Choir Director: Marc F. Cheban - 302-220-9680
a1b2celeste@yahoo.com

Parish Administrator Adele Meredith
AdeleMeredithStThomas@gmail.com

Children's Ministries: Belinda Young-Payne
belmar43@aol.com

Youth Ministry: Alex Cook - 302-593-9044
acookbook27@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Ministry: Donna Weaver - 302-753-1910
dweaver214@gmail.com

Parish Registrar: Wendy Campbell - 302-368-9562
wjcampbell7@yahoo.com

Parish Business Manager: Dominic Berta - 302-738-4696

Sexton: Brian Smith - 302-368-4644 (church)

