

The Carpenter's Helper

March 4, 2018

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.

176TH ANNUAL MEETING - The Wardens and Vestry of St. Thomas's Parish have set aside the fourth Sunday in Lent, March 11, 2018, for the 176th Annual Meeting of St. Thomas's Parish. This important gathering gives opportunity to gather as a community of faith, to hear reports of our ministry activities over the year past and plans for the year ahead, and to elect four [4] people to three-year terms as servant leaders of our parish. Nomination forms and the requirements for being a Vestry candidate are now on the nametag table. Vestry nominations are due on Sunday, February 18. For the Annual Meeting we will gather at 12:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, beginning with time of fellowship and a light lunch. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. We are offering activities for our children so that parents may participate fully in the life and ministry of our parish. More information will be forthcoming in February and March, and weekly in the Carpenter's Helper. We will offer the Annual Report electronically at least one week before the Annual Meeting. Autobiographies of Vestry candidates have been sent out by email. Hard copies can be found on the name tag table at church. Absentee ballots are available by request from our Senior Warden, Connie Cooper; Clerk of the Vestry, Jean Runge, and from Adele Meredith in the church office.

Absentee Ballots for the Vestry Election are available in the church office or by contacting Jean Runge 302-836-4625 jerunge@earthlink.net, Connie Cooper 302-731-7595 cjcooper15@verizon.net or Adele Meredith 302-368-4644 adelemeredithstthomas@gmail.com.

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 Third Sunday in Lent

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 Crèche
9:30 a.m.	U	Children's Worship
10:30 a.m.	N	Holy Eucharist Rite II
12:00 p.m.	GH, K	Feast and Fellowship
12:00	C	C.R.E.W. Youth Group
7:00 p.m.	GH	U D Dance Team

Monday, March 5

6:30 a.m.	C	Serenity at Sunrise
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	6:00 p.m.	U	NAMI Delaware Basics
	7:30 p.m.	GH	Scottish Dancing
Tuesday and Thursday	5:15 p.m.	N	Evening Prayer
Tuesday, March 6	6:30 a.m.	C	Serenity at Sunrise
	10:15 a.m.	U	Musikgarten
	5:00 p.m.	CO	AIDS Delaware
	6:30 p.m.	U	Dusk Patrol AA
	7:00 p.m.	GH	U D Dance Team
	8:00 p.m.	U	AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 7	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
	5:30 p.m.	N	Evening Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	P	Centering Prayer
	8:30 p.m.	GH, K	South College Speakers AA Meeting
Thursday, March 8	6:30 a.m.	C	Serenity at Sunrise AA Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	MR, GH,	Lights Choir
	7:15 p.m.	U	Blue Grass Jam
	7:30 p.m.	MR	Adult Choir
Friday, March 9	6:30 a.m.	C	Serenity at Sunrise AA Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	U	AI-Anon
	6:30 p.m.	P	Women's AA Meeting
Saturday, March 10			
Sunday, March 11	The Fourth Sunday in Lent		
	8:00 a.m.	N	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	9:00 a.m.	C	Novel Theology – “The Reason for God”
	9:00 a.m.	U	Youth Confirmation
	9:15 a.m.	P	Adult Education
	9:15 a.m.	U	Children's Crèche
	9:30 a.m.	U	Children's Worship
	10:30 a.m.	N	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	12:30 p.m.	GH, K	176th Annual Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	GH	UD Dance Team

Our Heavenly Creator, who has blessed this dedicated church family for 175 years, serving our community in your faith and love. We ask for guidance for our Parish, Search Committee and Vestry as we embark on the journey to mutual ministry with our next Rector. Bless us with your grace and fill us with knowledge and fortitude throughout this process. In the holy name of Jesus Christ, our savior, and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

Transition Topics

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEEDS INPUT - As part of the Rector Search process St. Thomas's Parish is taking part in a Church Assessment Tool (CAT). It's an on-line instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, trends, and areas of challenge and

potential growth in our church.

An email with a unique link to the CAT will be sent to you on March 3rd. If for some reason, you do not receive an email, here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StThomasNewark>. Please complete the survey by clicking on the link provided and tell us about your experience in and priorities for our church. The assessment period will end on March 25th. Your answers should remain private so you don't influence someone else's answers. There is the opportunity for more than one person in your household to participate.

We strongly encourage you to complete the survey online, however, if you are not able to do so, paper copies will be available in the church office. Additionally, search committee members will be available to offer assistance at church on Sunday, March 18th, and Sunday March 25th after both services. All answers will be anonymous. There is no way to match any response to a particular person so you should feel free to be candid in providing your perceptions, opinions, and experiences.

If you have questions, please contact Donna Weaver (dweaver214@gmail.com, 302 - 753-1910) or Marilyn Prime (mprime@udel.edu, 302-383-9782).

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

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*

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.

GUEST ORGANIST - We welcome as our Organist on Sunday, February 25 and Sunday, March 4 Ms. Sue Fuhrmann. She is a well known and respected musician in Delaware. Welcome, Sue!

Education - *Responsible Vestry Member – Kristin Sausville*

INTERACTIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS - When I was a girl the only thing I knew about The Stations of the Cross were vague references from my Roman Catholic friends. Sometimes I would see Roman numerals around the perimeters of Catholic or Episcopal churches and figured out they were for the purpose of marking the Stations.

When I arrived at St. Thomas's I learned that on Good Friday a small group of folks would "walk the stations." But I didn't "get it" until I attended my first National Youth Workers Convention and visited an exhibit in a prayer space that provided INTERACTIVE Stations of the Cross, designed by Lilly Lewin. That's when they became meaningful to me. Each stop of Jesus' journey from where Pilate dismissed him by washing his hands to where he was laid in the tomb was interpreted with an action or space for reflection.

That's when I started to make the connection. You literally wash your hands. You make a cross and carry it. You stop where Jesus stumbled and think on things that make you stumble. Where Jesus met his mother you remember things that are on your heart. You pray for folks who are ill or in trouble at another stop. You make an image of the cross where Veronica legendarily wiped Jesus' face and where he left his image on her cloth. You mourn with the women of Jerusalem and stop to mark hurt places in the world. You drink vinegar and drive nails. You experience the torn curtain of the Temple. You imagine how it would feel to have your dead son laid in your arms. You smell spices at the Tomb. And there is a 15th Station that shows the promise of the Resurrection.

Interactive Stations of the Cross have been installed at St. Thomas's and will remain until the evening of Good Friday. If this sounds like something that you would like to participate in, as a way to mark your Lent, or as a way to think about Jesus' suffering on his way to his death, I urge you to visit them, placed around the edges of the sanctuary. There are ways that groups and individuals can experience this.

You can visit anytime the church building is open, before or after worship on Sundays, or during office hours: during Monday – Thursday 9-2. You can make arrangements for weekend or evening visits by calling the church office: 302-368- 4644. You can also ask for someone to be there with you to answer questions or just to be present.

Sally Price

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, March 19, 6:00 p.m. at New Elizabeth AME Church, 250 Corp Blvd., Newark.** 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:

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

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON - On Sunday March 11, 2017, we will be holding our 176th Annual Meeting after the 10:30AM Service. There will be a Potluck Luncheon. We are asking for volunteers to bring food preferably finger foods (sandwiches etc.), setup and clean-up. There will be sign-up sheets posted in the Great Hall.

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 a 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.

HOSPITALS, HIPPA, AND YOU – Being ill is stressful. Whether it is a planned procedure, a long term illness or an emergency, your St. Thomas's family wants to be there to help you get through the period of your illness and your recovery. Unfortunately, due to federal laws that have been in place for several years, medical facilities are not allowed to notify us if you have been admitted without your permission. You, as the patient, must inform the admissions staff that you are a parishioner at St. Thomas's Episcopal Church in Newark. In this way we are informed of your admission and can be there to aid in your healing. Better yet, take a moment to put Fr. Godden's cell number in your phone (302) 373-7999 and the church office (302) 368-4644. This way if it gets forgotten you (or a family member) can still call and let us know what has happened. Another option is to ask to speak with a hospital chaplain who can relay the information to us (with your permission.) If there are any questions please contact Fr. Godden or any member of the Pastoral Care Team.

Service – Responsible Vestry Member – Keith Fleming

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. **Donations of gift cards are always welcome – will you help??**

NEWARK AREA WELFARE COMMITTEE'S FOOD CUPBOARD - There is a current need for folks to transport the food that has been collected over to Newark United Methodist Church. There is also a continuing 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.

TAXES- Yes, it's that dreaded time of the year again. To help ease the pain, Sister Jackie Fossler and Ann Banning are once again willing to help you complete your returns. We both volunteer for AARP doing taxes so you can come to the locations where we are working or meet with us separately if that is more convenient. The earlier you talk to us, the better it will be for us so catch one of us at church or contact us – Sister Jackie (302) 738-7496; Ann (302) 738-6608.

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](https://www.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.

Interim Rector	The Reverend Edward E. Godden – 302-373-7999 egodden@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)