



# The Tower

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
168 West Boston Post Road  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543  
914-698-0300  
[www.SaintThomasmmrk.org](http://www.SaintThomasmmrk.org)



**Volume 09, Issue 2**

**February 2011**

## **Dear St. Thomas Family,**

Very often, for the February issue of the Tower, I am writing to you about Lent approaching and how it is an annual opportunity to slow down. Two things are different this year. First, Lent doesn't begin until March, because Easter falls so late in April. Second, all our snow storms have not only given us opportunities to slow down, they have virtually forced us to do so!

It all makes me recall a popular song of years ago. "The Fifty-Ninth Street Bridge Song" was written and performed by Simon and Garfunkel (parents, please explain to your younger children who these historical figures are). Its lyrics include watching the flowers grow, talking to a lamp post and other such whimsical activities, all meant to comment on taking the time to enjoy what's right in front of us. The key to unlocking all of this is found in the words, "Slow down,

<b>Content</b>	<b>page</b>
Dear St. Thomas Family	1,2
Dear Brothers and Sisters	3
Deacon Thinkin'	4,5,6
Pledge Update	7
Sunday School	7,8,9
Book Group	9
Pastor's Corner	10
Musical Notes	11
Angel Tree News	11,12
In the Bleak Midwinter	13
Game Night	13
Farmer's Market	14
Don't forget...	15
February Birthdays	15
Contact Information	16
Who we are	17

you move too fast, you got to make the moment last.” We all just “move too fast,” and sometimes it just becomes a habit we can’t seem to break.

Let’s take some time to rethink that, perhaps to make a change. Whatever the reason, be it Lenten discipline or snow days, maybe even the remembered lyrics of a song, I am all in favor of getting into the practice of taking some time to slow down. It isn’t a matter of quantity, it is a matter of quality. It is also a matter of choice: we can choose to schedule every waking moment of our days or we can choose to set aside some quiet time. Being deliberate about taking even only 15 minutes a day to be still and recharge means you are taking care of your inner self, of your soul, and when we take care of what is inside of us, then what is outside of us will be less daunting than it all too frequently seems.

Taking time to be still means that you control your time, it does not control you, and what you discover in those quiet moments may surprise you. What may surprise you most of all, once you get into the habit of taking them, is how much you look forward to them. You may think of things, you may not. You may be inspired to pray, you may not. What matters most of all is your decision to take the time, to be quiet and then to be open to whatever the stillness brings your way.

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

Faithfully, *Pastor Tanneau*



## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of our Lord. In Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph present Jesus to the priests in the Jerusalem temple and dedicate him to the service of God. This mitzvah was required in the Torah of all first born sons not only to commemorate the smiting of first-born Egyptian sons during the Exodus, but also to ritually purify Mary after childbirth.



During the family's visit to the temple, they encounter both Anna and Simeon; two faithful, Spirit-filled individuals who have been waiting for the Messiah. Both instantly recognize Jesus and prophesy about him in ways that surely unnerved his parents. Recorded only in Luke's gospel, this curious encounter between the worlds of the Old and New Testament invites us into deeper thought and reflection.

What does it mean for us that Jesus was born under the Torah Law? What does it mean that God's salvation is contained in the body and flesh of a small, helpless child?

The Apostle Paul ponders many of these questions in his letters to the various Churches of the first century. The sacrificial offerings of the temple foreshadow the mysterious, atoning death of Jesus on the Cross. Every Eucharist, we hear language that probes this mystery. This season, between our celebration of Christ's nativity and our commemoration of his Passion, lets accept the invitation to probe deeper.

In Peace,

*In Will +*



## Deacon Thinkin'

I was told that if I dared to write about the mid 70 degree weather in Mesa, Arizona that I enjoyed last week (you had two or more snow storms I believe), or if I even mentioned the bright warm sunshine and the fact that I was forced to turn on the A/C one day I

would be fired. 😊 Therefore I will not go into any details about the aforementioned, and instead my Deacon Thinkin' will be a repeat of the Outreach Annual report, with some tweaking. I believe it is important that the activities of the committee and the parishioner volunteers who share in making the projects and events so successful be known to as many as possible. Besides, I love my job!

## Outreach Committee 2010 Annual Report

**Feeding Program** (St. Thomas Hospitality Table) includes:

- Monthly Community Dinners
- Weekly Brown Bag Lunch and Food Pantry
- Vouchers for a meal at local luncheonette
- Super market gift cards

Attendance at the monthly **Community Dinners** averages 105 guests and volunteers. There is always a need for volunteer chefs and hands to help in the set up, food preparation and clean up. Dinners are served at 5:30 PM the second Saturday of each month. Meals served = **1260**. Total expenses = **\$3,279.70**. Contributions = **\$684**.

The weekly **Brown Bag Lunch and Food Pantry** has been in operation since April 2008. Each Tuesday between 11 AM and 12 Noon our doors are open for anyone to receive a bag lunch and food items. During 2010 volunteers prepared and distributed **4319** lunches. Guests then select enough food items to serve on average at least three additional meals during the week. Therefore with the additional food items plus the lunch the number of meals provided total = **17,276**. Food items include donated

bread and bakery goods from Trader Joe's, canned goods, rice, dried beans, pasta, pancake mix, peanut butter, jelly, canned tomatoes, powdered milk, cooking oil etc. Volunteers from Rye Book Club help with the preparation and distribution of food every fourth Tuesday and volunteers from St. John's Church, Larchmont help the first Tuesday each month.

**Vouchers** are given to community residents as need arises. A local luncheonette will provide a meal valued at \$8.00 to persons presenting a voucher. In 2010 we provided **78** vouchers.

**Gift Cards** are given on an as needed basis for use at local supermarkets. We provided **13** gift cards in 2010.

**Grants** We received several grants to support our feeding program; The total expenditures for the program = **\$16,795.33**, grants and donations received = **\$15,058.30** grantors included Episcopal Charities, NYS, Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless, Adopt a Pantry from Food Bank of Westchester. Although we were fortunate to receive these grants we know that at least a good amount of what was received in 2010 will not be granted in 2011 since funds have been cut off.

We also received "in kind" grants, meaning food donations from Stop-n-Shop, Trader Joe's (weekly donations of bread and baked goods), and the Beta Zeta Foundation of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Inc. (\$1000 in goods)

**Lunch and Food Pantry parishioner volunteers** number 11 on a regular basis and "drop in" folks are always welcome. There are two volunteers who faithfully help who are not members of this congregation in addition to the scheduled volunteers on the first and fourth Tuesday mentioned above.

Outreach fund donations made to other charities, local, regional, national and global totaled **\$11,795.75**. From the Pumpkin Patch proceeds we sent **\$1,461** to benefit Human Development Services of Westchester.

From the Christmas Fair proceeds we sent **\$3,583** to KEEPS and **\$3,583** to Meals on Wheels.

**Men Cooking** All proceeds from this event go to the Carpenter’s Kids program.

**Thrift Shop** Grateful for the volunteers who faithfully staff the Thrift shop we realized a gross amount (items sold cost us nothing) of **\$20,488.70**, expenses = **\$528.00** for a net of **\$19,960.22**. The Thrift Shop is staffed by 11 parishioners and 3 community volunteers.

**Shelter Night** We hosted 12 Shelter nights in 2010, our guests from Open Arms Shelter always receive light refreshments the evening they arrive and coffee before they leave in the morning. Cots are set up the afternoon our guests will arrive by volunteers. This is a ministry that requires minimum amount of time (usually ½ hour if 3 or 4 volunteers arrive) and is a great “family” opportunity.

**Lay Ministry** We currently have on our Lay Ministry Roster:

Lay Readers	20	
Eucharistic Ministers	6	(Chalice Bearers)
Acolytes	6	
Ushers	14	
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	3	

Looking forward, we will have three additional Eucharistic Ministers in 2011 at the completion of their training.

Parishioners who are interested in any of the above ministries as well as volunteer ministry in the Thrift Shop, Lunch and Food Pantry, Community Dinners, and Shelter Night, (and others in the future) are encouraged to speak with the Rector or the Deacon.

Clearly, St. Thomas is a beacon in this community, inviting and welcoming. But it is you, the members, who send the message of giving and generosity while you offer your time and energy. On behalf of all you serve, thank you.



## Pledge Update

Thank you to all the members of St. Thomas who have already pledged; your generosity will help us continue the many programs of the church that make our services so special. For those of you who haven't, please consider a pledge, no matter the size. With a pledge you will deepen your commitment to our remarkable church. If you think the size of your pledge matters—it doesn't! What does matter is that you do pledge!

With many thanks,

*Lou Scenti*

Stewardship Chair

---



Sunday School

## My Life in Stories

I still have a small notebook I kept as a child listing all the books I'd read, sometimes with a line or two of personal review. Regretfully, the practice faded as I grew up. How I wish now that I had a list of all the books of my life. My recollection is that the book notebook served to soften the blow of being finished with a good story, sort of like keeping the address of a good friend, so you will always remember that friend and know where to find her. Alternately, the book notebook offered up a warning about the ones I found not-so-good, a list of don't-waste-your-time stories. If I was still keeping that list it could surely serve as a diary and would make a wonderful eulogy. Interestingly, I suspect that my listed likes and dislikes would change over time. Roald Dahl would remain a favorite author, but as I grow older, I can now make peace, and a place, for Mark Twain. However, Thomas Hardy would remain on the warning list.

Books have made me a better person. I know this for sure. An avid reader since girlhood, I cannot fathom who I would be without stories. Probably lonely, as I am basically shy and reserved, and it is my books

that pushed me to connect with the world. They also offered me a way to understand things that might otherwise remain beyond my grasp.

I think the same holds true for me and Bible stories. Sometimes I don't know what to think when I read a Bible story. The relevant point is often buried in the past, and makes no more sense to me, a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century woman, than wearing a corset. Other times I am appalled by the gore, or worse, by the message. Then there are times the stories, at least on the surface, just seem fanciful—a man living inside a whale, c'mon? On the other hand, there are Bible stories that completely transform me, they hook me in, they become a part of me, and in turn, I am a part of them. The story of Jesus' lowly birth works that way for me, it offers me such simple elegant truths about who I am and what I believe God expects of me. And wait, borrowing from our pastor, there's more—I find others who are engaged with the same story, perhaps in different ways or for different reasons, yet we are bound to each other by that story in community nonetheless. That is where I find my own key to our Holy book. These stories are our stories—unlocking doors so that we can connect with each other and our ancestors over thousands of years. Even more connections are made when people of different faiths find common threads among each other's stories. Then we may find ourselves more alike than different, growing our sense of community beyond our own tribe.

A couple of months ago, I wrote a story in the Tower about my personal meditation on love, tolerance and acceptance. I am not accustomed to getting much feedback on my Tower missives, but that piece struck a chord. Those who reached out to me may not have agreed with what I wrote, but they read it and were thoughtful about it and kind enough to tell me so. That story asked only to be read and considered. With the Sunday School kids we teachers sometimes wonder what they “get”—some days it seems like the Bible story is just something we've got to do on our way to the craft table. Other days a child has insights that can illuminate the darkest of rooms. It is then we know that they listen, that they are somehow making those Bible stories their own, in their own time. It is then I am confident of our future because the young are connecting to the older and to the ancient (and I'm not referring to long-in-the-tooth parishioners) and to the wider world.

So this piece turns out to be both a plug for our St. Thomas book group (next up: Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* on March 6), and for our Bible study together through sermons, Sunday School, or a dedicated group of parishioners meeting monthly in the library. In communion, the books, the stories, mean so much more. Together with you, I'm willing to take on the Bible, and maybe even Hardy.

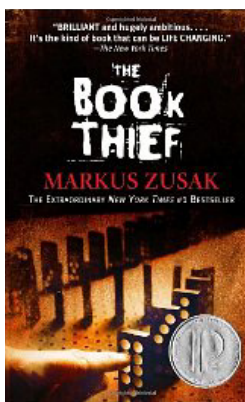
Thoughtfully,

*Kate Beeby*

[katebeeby@optonline.net](mailto:katebeeby@optonline.net),  
Sunday School Director

---

## Book Group



The St. Thomas Book Group has met three times now. We started in November and just this last Sunday met again. At each meeting we shared a simple meal and warm fellowship. So far we have read:

“The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. “Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim’s Tale” by Ian Morgan Cron. “The Tender Bar: A Memoir” by J.R. Moehringer.

For the first book, someone in Phyllis’ and Sheldon’s family knew the author. For “Chasing Francis”, Robert Pinchbeck had met the author himself.

Each discussion goes in unusual directions that I would not have necessarily considered. It is wonderful to share a simple meal followed by a thoughtful discussion.

Come join us on March 6 for a discussion of “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak. Nancy Mustacato is cooking a simple meal. Everyone is welcome!

*Ann Hunt*



**My Thanks to...** Steven Bonaparte for his wonderful slide show at our Annual Meeting, giving us a photo review of 2010. Thanks also to Kate Beeby, for her thoughtful “catering” of that meeting. More than 60 members of St. Thomas Parish attended.

**The Rector’s Cross was given...** to Irene Styer and Robert Poney, two of the “quiet people” who help make St. Thomas the remarkable place it is. A **St. Thomas Medallion** was given to Henry Mustacato in appreciation for his constant and faithful attention to the finances of this congregation.

**Our Carpenter’s Kids...** in Hombolo Makulu will be starting their 5<sup>th</sup> year in school soon. Letters requesting your pledges to these children will be sent soon. As we come to the close of our initial commitment, the pilgrims who have gone – Ann Hunt, Carol Campbell, Cheryl Howard, Grace Gallo, Ira Hart and Deborah Tammearu – have agreed to consider ways to continue our relationship with our link village. You will be hearing more from them as we approach Lent.

**2011 is the Year of the Book...** for the Carpenter’s Kids, and so our focus this Lent will be on funding books to take with us for the schools. We will be asking our Sunday School children to help us choose books, and to take part in an informative game or two as we open ourselves to understanding our partners in Tanzania more.

Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr., November 9, 1915 – January 18, 2011

*“Break mirrors, yes, indeed. Shatter the glass. In our society that is so self-absorbed, begin to look less at yourself and more at each other. Learn more about the face of your neighbor and less about your own.”*

Mr. Shriver gave this advice to graduating students at Yale in 1994



## Musical Notes

Marching on, doing what we do best: making music to help people see and hear God in our worship during our Sunday morning services.

During February, we will present some music of African-American composers. Requests, as always, are welcomed.

Please contact Noel Hart at [ExcellentSingers@aol.com](mailto:ExcellentSingers@aol.com) with questions, comments and requests.

*Noel Hart*  
Director of Music

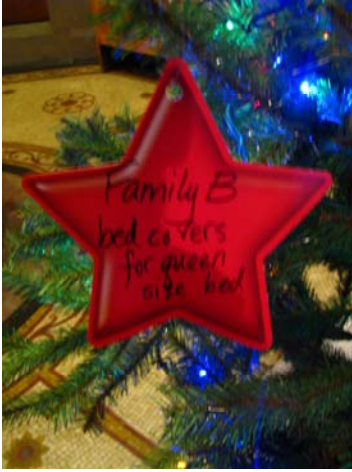
---



## Angel Tree News

Below is a note sent to me and Deacon Werdal, from my friend Marisol Rivera Thurman, acknowledging some of the many gifts we share at St. Thomas. Marisol is a trained social worker and local volunteer who connects us with needy families for our Advent Angel Tree endeavor. She is also a practicing B'Hai, who co-chairs an interfaith parenting group which is one of my great pleasures. Her e-mail follows:

*On the eve of Three King's Day, time for a closure e-mail on this Christmas' activities. It all went very well, and all were very grateful.*



*On the 24th, I took my family to your church for midnight mass. It was magical. We loved it so much. Olivia kept turning to me saying "I LOVE this"! My husband was so impressed by the choir. William fell asleep on my lap, and looked like an angel, and I was moved by all of it: sharing the experience with my family, the music, the message, the diversity of the group. I reminded my family that the people in front of us are the ones who generously give, without expecting anything in return.*

*Thanks again for making our Christmas and that of a few families extra special. — Marisol*

Deacon Werdal and I also worked with Daneen Payne, a Hommocks Middle School guidance counselor and occasional St. Thomas visitor, to make Angel Tree connections. She sent the following:

*Just wanted to thank you so much for connecting some of our Hommocks families with St. Thomas Church. I have gotten amazing feedback.*

*Parents said "The kids were so excited" "They received the perfect gifts." "How did they know what to get them?" "Our Christmas was great this year...thank you!"*

*The families and the counseling department were so touched by the congregation's generosity. It was truly amazing. I hope we can team up again next year. St. Thomas Church truly knows what the Christmas season is all about! — Daneen Payne*

*Kate Beeby*

Photos of our Angel Tree: Ella Hall

## In the Bleak Mid Winter

It's deep and crisp... and expensive to clear. We've had a lot of snow this winter and the season is still only half done. Mark Penn, retired and an avid storm watcher, tells me we have had nine snowstorms already and we are under yet another warning as I write.

For St Thomas, roads, a car park, paths and steps have to be cleared and made safe after every storm. Clearance is charged on the depth of snow and the cost ramps up for the heavy falls. A storm that dumps 19 inches is a bit of a financial shocker. So far this winter, snow clearance has cost us almost \$5,000. Roll on spring.

*James Whitehouse*

Chairman, Properties Committee

*The job of the Properties Committee is the maintenance, repair and improvement of the St Thomas estate.*



**Game Night**  
**Saturday, February 5**  
**7-9:30pm**  
**St. Thomas Church**  
**\$ 10 per person, includes light**  
**refreshment, snacks and prizes**

Bring your friends and board games, cards, scrabble, dominos, etc. for a fun night to support our Carpenter's Kids (AIDS orphans in Tanzania)

Please RSVP to 914.698.0300 or  
[office@saintthomasmmrk.org](mailto:office@saintthomasmmrk.org)



**50/50 Raffle**



*"Did Jesus create these locally?"*

The New Yorker, Nov. 8, 2010

---

## WESTCHESTER FARMERS' MARKETS

# Mamaroneck Indoor Farmers' Market

Founded 2009 | Sponsored by St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
Heathcote Hall, 168 W. Boston Post Rd., Mamaroneck  
SATURDAYS 9:00AM - 1:00PM - RAIN OR SHINE

### Special Events:

**Feb. 5** 10am-Noon Deuces Child entertains with acoustic folk music!

**Feb. 12** 10am-Noon Pelham Art Center demonstrates art projects!

**Feb. 19** 10am-Noon Cooking demo and tasting by Chef Amelia!

**Feb. 26** Market Closed Today

## YOU DON'T WANT TO FORGET...



**Tuesdays at 10:00 AM:** Brown Bag Lunch Preparation. Every week we prepare about 60 to 80 sandwiches and distribute them between **11:00AM and 12:00PM.**



**Every Saturday** (with the exception of February 26) the Farmers Market is open in our Heathcote Hall from **9:00AM to 1:00PM.**



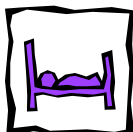
**February 5, 7-9:30PM: Game Night.** A fun night to spend with your friends. Not for children.



**The Next Community Dinner** will be **Saturday, February 12.** Please come and help with set-up ; dinner is served at **5:30 PM**; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM.



**February 13, 10AM:** Youth Chapel



**Open Arms Shelter** will be hosted by St. Thomas in Heathcote Hall on Saturday **February 26.** Volunteers are needed to help set up cots for our guests at 4:45 PM.

If you would like your birthday to be included, please send it to the parish office by mail or e-mail: [office@saintthomasmrk.org](mailto:office@saintthomasmrk.org)



### February Birthdays:

Jonathan Thomas	10-Feb
John Perciasepe	11-Feb
Sue Perciasepe	12-Feb
Margaret (Peggy) Saunders	17-Feb
Mary Olsson	22-Feb
Pamela Sullivan	25-Feb
Irene Styer	26-Feb
Cheryl Bing Howard	27-Feb

## St. Thomas Clergy, Vestry, and Staff Directory

**Rector:** The Rev. Deborah G. Tammearu [rector@saintthomasmmrk.org](mailto:rector@saintthomasmmrk.org)

**Associate Minister of Youth:** [willfisher@msn.com](mailto:willfisher@msn.com)

The Rev. William A. Fisher

**Deacon:** The Rev. Dn. Lynn Werdal [deacon@saintthomasmmrk.org](mailto:deacon@saintthomasmmrk.org)

**Director of Music:** Noel A. Hart, Jr. [ExcellentSingers@aol.com](mailto:ExcellentSingers@aol.com)

**Senior Warden:** Laurie Ozelius

**Junior Warden:** Ira Hart

**Treasurer:** Don Giallorenzo

### Vestry:

Carol Campbell

Peggy Saunders

Don Giallorenzo

Louis Scenti

June Hendry

Pamela Sullivan

**Sunday School Director:** Kate Beeby [sundayschool@saintthomasmmrk.org](mailto:sundayschool@saintthomasmmrk.org)

**Parish Secretary:** Barbara Gessler [office@saintthomasmmrk.org](mailto:office@saintthomasmmrk.org)

**Bookkeeper:** Nancy Mustacato [bookkeeper@saintthomasmmrk.org](mailto:bookkeeper@saintthomasmmrk.org)

**Sexton:** Edgar Garza

**Sunday Sexton:** Anner Garza

### Service Schedule:

<b>Sundays:</b>	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist (said)
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist with music
	11:30-12:45	Choir rehearsal

### Christian Education for Young People:

10:00 AM Sunday School

Nursery care available from 9:45AM until the service ends

Deadline for articles and submissions for the next Tower: February 15, 2011

Submit articles to June Hendry at [jhendry@idealcut.com](mailto:jhendry@idealcut.com)

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of St. Thomas is to show forth God's love in the community, the nation and the world.

**St. Thomas Church** is a parish of the Diocese of New York, a branch of the Episcopal Church in the United States which is a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

## **The Anglican Communion**



### ***Archbishop of Canterbury***

The Most. Rev. and Rt. Hon. Rowan Williams

A global community of 70 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 70 countries.

## **The Episcopal Church**



### ***Presiding Bishop***

The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori

A community of 2.4 million members in 113 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

## **The Episcopal Diocese of New York**

### ***Bishop of New York***

The Rt. Rev. Mark Sean Sisk

### ***Bishop Suffragan***

The Rt. Rev. Catherine S. Roskam



A community of 203 congregations covering 4,739 square miles with approximately 600 priests and 72 deacons, with worship in 12 languages: Akan, American Sign Language, Bontoc, Chinese, Creole, English, French, Igbo, Japanese, Korean, Malayalam and Spanish.