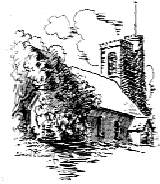




# The Tower

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
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**Volume 09, Issue 3**

**March 2011**

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

Do you know the expression, “Use it or lose it?” It is most often used in referring to the facility we have when we learn a foreign language, but if we don’t “use it” (practice speaking it with someone) we can “lose it,” and then it becomes, again, very foreign to us.

I used to feel the same way sometimes when I was woodworking. It’s part of the problem of having something as a hobby and not a vocation. Sometimes months would pass between projects, or projects may have been interrupted for long periods of time when other, more pressing claims on my attention arose. I can remember walking downstairs with the intention of making some edges for the top of a box I was putting together, and then trying to put a bit in the router, feeling as though this was a strange, alien “thing” on my bench instead of a tool I had used hundreds of times. It took me a while before I found the “language” for it, and then I could do what I wanted.

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Praying can feel like this, too. Either it's been a while since we've really had something that drove us to pray, or we just aren't in the practice of doing it in anything more than a perfunctory way. We may think we used to know the right language, but since we haven't used it in a while, we may feel as though we've lost it.

Well, as long as you don't mind feeling a little awkward trying, the good news is, it's not lost. Misplaced maybe, but not lost. Also, God is much more flexible and forgiving than any tool in the workshop. God doesn't ask for the same kind of precision as a router or a drill press, only that we try to say what's in our hearts, only that we do open our hearts to listen and give God a chance to be part of a conversation. We don't have to get it "just right" for God, God will hear our prayer, however we say or feel it.

Lent is the perfect time to practice prayer, to spend some time in recalling this holy and conversational language. Prayer needs practicing and daily attention. It won't always be an "aha" experience, but it will be a faithful one, and if it's been a while since you've been intentional with prayer, be patient with yourself. You'll soon discover that it's not a lost language at all, just a trusty tool you haven't used in a while.

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Tanneau

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## **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Lent invites us to contemplate our Faith. A penitent time of the church year, Lent often finds the believer probing the deeper recesses of their souls. Lent beckons us to give a full accounting of our lives over the past year, exploring ways that we may have hurt others or ourselves. Lent

illuminates our place in the complex web of sin in which we find ourselves.

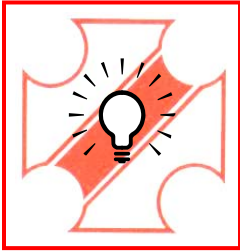
Here's a Lenten exercise for the penitent history buff: find a particularly egregious historical injustice. Learn all you can about that episode of history. Read. Watch documentaries. Talk to people who were involved, affected, or maybe even just alive then. Read Scripture. Meditate. See if you can discern patterns that you see in today's events. Do you find any ways that you might be complicit in this injustice, either by your action or inaction?

I discovered this Lenten discipline, accidentally, when a classmate from college gave me a copy of Charles Rappleye's Sons of Providence: The Brown Brothers, The Slave Trade, and the American Revolution. At about the same time, the Diocese began to take a hard look at the Episcopal Church's involvement with Slavery and the Slave Trade as well as the lingering consequences of it that fester today. With every turn of the page, I confronted a new understanding of the extent of the violence, brutality, and injustice that had been done. As an alumnus of Brown University, I gained new knowledge of how much I benefited from the generosity of my alma mater's slave-trading benefactors. I realized that I was indeed very complicit in a terrible historical injustice.

Reading Sons of Providence forced me to my knees. It compelled me to change the way I saw myself and those around me. It pushed me into new, uncomfortable places spiritually. Grief, repentance, change, and new understanding is what a Lenten discipline should be about. I invite any of you to pursue a similar endeavor this Lent; but be forewarned, you may find yourself in a tough place spiritually. However, take heart. That's what Lent is for.

In Peace,

*Jr Will +*



## Deacon Thinkin'

It is really hard to concentrate today, the due date for some profound, enlightening thoughts from yours truly. The weather is perfect for a walk in the sunshine, the temperature is a bit cool but inviting. The snow has been washed away with two days of rain, and I actually spotted a bit of green grass. Ah! Spring is on its way.

Looking out my window at the bare tree branches that reach towards the heavens, I can't help but notice the sharp, thin points of wood that will soon be the anchors Bradford Pear blossoms.

Spring, a new beginning, reminds me of Lent... the promise of a new beginning. As with any new beginning there is a certain amount of preparation involved, even when we don't think so.

We prepare the soil for Spring plantings, we clean out all the dead branches, the leaves and debris that have found its way into our yards or gardens. Lent, with its promise of a new beginning, is our opportunity to clean away that which has cluttered our spirit and to open ourselves to the nurturing love of Christ.

I am not talking about being morbid or guilt ridden in this season of Lent. Accept Lent as a holy time to reflect, and remember how cherished we truly are by a God who knows us, each and every one of us! Enjoy Spring, but allow yourself to embrace the opportunity for spiritual growth and a new beginning.

Bwana Asifiwe!



## Sunday School

### **New News for Sunday School**

With so many kids and families so active in our church, we are excited to offer some new programs. This Sunday, March 6, Ann Hunt and Annie Shikaney will launch a special St. Thomas children's singing group. Ann and Annie will be teaching our kids, grouped by age, proper musical techniques like sight-reading, breathing and rhythm in a fun, 30-minute long after-church program starting at about 11:15 A.M. most Sundays. This program is open to any interested children who can participate on a regular basis. See Ann, Annie or me for more information. And when you see Ann and Annie, please give them a big thank you for leading this musical ministry for our kids.

After a February planning session with parents, Father Will and I are launching a bi-monthly pre-confirmation group to be offered during Sunday School for our kids in grades 5-8. We have selected a special curriculum geared towards tweens and teens to help them prepare for confirmation in 2013. We also look forward to planning service projects and field trips with the kids. The program will begin this month and dates will be announced by e-mail. Contact me, or Father Will, if you'd like more information, or if you'd like to help.

And finally, thank you in advance for helping the Sunday School fill mite boxes this Lent so that we can buy books for our friends in Tanzania. We couldn't do it without you!

*Kate Beeby*

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

## A Good Time Was Had By ALL!



I'm talkin' about **GAME NIGHT (#1)**. We may have been small in numbers but we were tall in fun. Thirty-seven people attended Game Night on February 19<sup>th</sup>, even though we had to reschedule from 2/5, and the new date turned out to be the start of President Week vacation time for many folks.

Forty (count 'em) Door Prizes were given out – obviously some folks got more than one basket. The big winners were generous in sharing their winnings with others. In fact, the winner of the 50/50 raffle **refused** to accept his prize and simply said, “keep it.”



Thanks to the generosity of those present **\$547.00** were raised in support of our Carpenter's Kids. This money will be used towards the cost of a Hombolo Makulu Easter Feast.



We had so much fun, that Game Night #2 is on the planning board. So yes, if you have any “treasures” you would like to donate for door prizes, or can solicit from family, friends or local merchants, please do.



*Photos: Greg Cherry*



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



**March Birthdays:**

Laura Foster	11-Mar
Emma Apeadu	12-Mar
Geri Jones	17-Mar
Russell (RJ) Foster, Jr.	25-Mar
Joseph Liguori	27-Mar
Shannon Liguori	28-Mar
Michelle Thomas	31-Mar

## **Coming this Lent: Bucks for Books!**

A book can change a life... so we are very excited to share news of this year's Lenten mite box effort to support the Carpenter's Kids Program's "The Year of the Book—2011." It's time to start saving your change and spare paper money so that we can send some very special gifts to our friends in Hombolo Makulu.

This Lent, our mite box savings will be pooled to buy books for our Carpenter's Kids and their school, as well as Swahili Bibles, Prayer Books and Hymnals for our partner parish.

Family favorites by the likes of Richard Scarry, Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle will make their way from Heathcote Hall to Hombolo Makulu this summer. Through these books we can share our love, our language, some art, some family traditions, and even some laughs with our Tanzanian children. We will also send some science books and Atlases to appeal to the left-brained among our Carpenter's Kids. And our Sunday School kids will help select the titles we will send.

In addition, Swahili Bibles, Prayer Books and Hymnals will be purchased in Dodoma and delivered to our partner parish in time for worship this summer. These church books offer another way we can be present in the spiritual lives of our Tanzanian brothers and sisters.

So look out for your St. Thomas Lenten package, inside you will find your mighty mite box. Your generosity this Lent will help the Sunday School kids make this the most successful mite box offering yet, and it means we can share books with our friends in Hombolo Makulu.

Remember, \$6.40 buys a Swahili Bible, \$14.40 provides a bilingual Bible, \$8.99 buys a Dr. Seuss book and \$19.99 buys a children's atlas. So be generous this Lent, your coins will turn into books that can change lives.

## **Coffee & Conversation in the Library on Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:45 AM**

### **Lenten Sessions**

**March 17:** Our Story in Ancient Time – Looking at the Bible

**March 24:** Our Story in Our Time – A bird's eye view of Church History

**March 31:** Our Faith – What's Behind the Creed?

**April 7:** Our Spirits – Prayer and Meditation in practice

**April 14:** Our Lives – How do we live a faithful life?

***Can't make every session? Join us when you can!***

### **Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross will be offered every Wednesday evening in Lent at 7:30 PM in our Chapel

### **Tuesday Ecumenical Services**

All services begin at 7:30pm followed by a time of fellowship

**March 15:**     **AME Zion Church, 645 N. Barry Ave.**

The Rev. Deborah Tammearu

**March 22:**     **St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 168 W. Boston Post Rd.**

The Rev. Dr. James Taylor

**March 29:**     **First Baptist Church, 817 Howard Ave.**

The Rev. Richard Allen

**April 5:**       **Mamaroneck United Methodist Church, 546 E. Boston Post Rd.**

The Rev. Dr. Marvin Henk

**April 12:**     **St. John's Lutheran Church, 122 Fenimore Road**

The Rev. Annie Kersey

## Trinity St. Paul's Episcopal Church

311 Huguenot Street New Rochelle, NY 10801 \* 914-632-5368  
Email: [office@trinitystpaul.org](mailto:office@trinitystpaul.org) \* Website: [www.trinitystpaul.org](http://www.trinitystpaul.org)

### *A Journey through Lent 2011, A Pilgrimage of Faith*

#### *Thursdays in Lent*

Each evening begins with a light Supper at 6:30 p.m.  
Please call Parish Office to reserve supper – Free will offering.  
Can't make every evening? Join us when you are able.

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>: "Traveling as a Spiritual Practice"

Ms. Deborah Lee (Daughter of this Parish, now in San Andres, Yonkers)

Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>: "Traveling In: An Evening in the Spirit of Taize"

Fr. Masud Ibn Syedullah (Rector, Atonement, The Bronx)

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: "Our Pilgrim's Progress: Using the Symbol of the Journey to Explore our own Religious Experience." Fr. Martin Smith (Senior Associate Rector, St. Columba's, Washington, DC.)

Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>: "A Leap of Faith -- From Armenia to Canterbury"

Mother Louise Kalemkerian (Interim Rector, St. Peter's & Trinity Church, Thomaston, CT)

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>: "Icons as Windows into the Holy: Cyprus and Egypt", Fr. Robert, Deacon Hyacinth, & Deacon Holly (Clergy of Trinity St. Paul's)

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## **A message from the Penns**

We are all fine, but the house was shaken and rattled, it went both up and down and side to side at the same time, with the 3 of us plus Skeeter inside, and it only lasted a minute. We no longer believe in the idea of "terra firma". The walls are still standing and we are safe, living happily inside. The electricity went out for 3 days and we are still waiting for the water to come back on, 8 days after the big one. Oh well, we are all getting smelly together. We feel fortunate despite some destruction to the house, especially when compared with lots of other people we know. They are in our prayers.

Peace, *Elizabeth*

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



**Tuesdays at 10:00 AM:** Brown Bag Lunch Preparation. Every week we prepare about 100 sandwiches and distribute them between **11:00AM and 12:00PM.**



**Every Saturday** the Farmers Market is open in our Heathcote Hall from **9:00AM to 1:00PM.**



**March 7 at 7:00PM:** The Helping Hands Knitting Group meets - everybody is welcome!



There will be two services of the Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes on **March 9: 12:00 Noon**, St. Luke's Chapel in the Parish House and **7:30 PM** in the Church.



Stations of the Cross will be offered **every Wednesday evening in Lent at 7:30 PM** in our Chapel



**Ecumenical Lenten Services, 7:30 PM: March 15:** AME Zion Church; **March 22:** St. Thomas Episcopal Church; **March 29:** First Baptist Church



**Starting Thursday, March 17 at 9:30 AM:** Coffee and Conversation in the Library



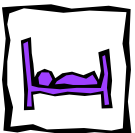
**Community Dinner on Saturday, March 12 at 5:40 PM.** Please come and help with set-up ; dinner is served at **5:30 PM**; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM.



**March 13: Daylight Savings Time** begins at 2AM, please move your clocks one hour ahead.



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



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

## 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:

June Hendry

Peggy Saunders

Nigel Holloway

Louis Scenti

Mary Olsson

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: March 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.