



The Tower

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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May/June 2011

Dear St. Thomas Family,

Years ago, I came across an article in “The Christian Century,” a religious publication I read, well, religiously. The article was the author’s commentary on a particular aspect of the American personality, especially concerning the way we order our lives. The words that left the deepest impression on me were, “Americans worship their work, work at their play, and play at their worship.”

Almost two decades later, those words still have the ring of truth to them. We perceive America as a country where anyone can do anything or improve themselves, purely by dint of hard work. If we work hard enough, we think we can get ahead financially, socially, or in any other way we want. Part of our heritage comes from the Pilgrims, a religious group that valued hard work, and saw free play as frivolous. One of the first questions we ask

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some one we've just met is, "What do you do?" Clearly, a major factor in the view and value we have of ourselves is our work. We often give it priority over everything else, including our families.

What about the idea of "working at our play?" There was a *New Yorker* cartoon which showed two children walking together. One says to the other, "So many activities, so little unstructured time." In an effort to be sure that our children have as many "enriching" experiences as possible, we pack their days with an incredible number of planned activities, which sometimes leaves them with little or no time to themselves, to be kids.

We adults can really get into our "play" as well, working to become good at whatever we undertake. I have entire wardrobes structured around hiking, or travel, or the gym. Often, because we are so task-oriented, we think we have to have a rationale, a higher meaning, for play, as though playing for its own sake is somehow a bad thing. (There are those Pilgrims again!) Ask yourself, when was the last time you did something just for the fun of it. When have you gone for a walk for something other than exercise? When was the last time you sat and doodled, or wrote a poem, or got silly, for no "good" reason other than your own pleasure? When was the last time you had a conversation that didn't have an agenda? At what play do you work the hardest?

Finally, what is "playing at our worship?" I wish it meant being playful at our worship, approaching it with the open heart of a child, jumping in unencumbered and waiting to be happily surprised. The person who wrote the article meant "dabble," certainly playing in a sense of not taking it seriously. By putting at the end of the sentence, he made it clear that it was, of the three, taken the least seriously.

I offer this commentary to you and ask you to mull it over. Let it roll it around in your heads and hearts, and listen to what it might be saying to you. I'm not debasing good, honest hard work, and I'm certainly not saying that I don't want us to play when we're at church. I am saying that I agree with the author of that quote, in that I think we can be so tied

up in our work that we have to work at playing and often give our worship short shrift.

It is usually during Lent that I ask you to try to arrive a little early and get centered, but why not try it now? Having quiet time (even just a few moments) before worship will make the whole service a better, more meaningful experience. Talk to each other after the service and give each other the gift of silence beforehand. Open the hymnal and find one of your favorites. Pick up the Prayer Book and find a favorite Psalm on which to focus.. Take a moment to look at the rest of the Prayer Book, and you will find a wealth of treasures inside. I promise you, it will make an enormous difference, not only in how you experience the service, but how you relate to yourself and to others.

Most of all, don't play at your worship, don't put it at the end of the sentence of your priorities. Come with an open heart, a godly and playful spirit, and with the awareness that worship is a vitally important part of your spiritual journey.

God's peace, as we make this journey together,

Pastor Tanneau

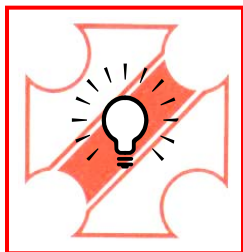
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A rock or mountain climber tries to scale a challenging obstacle. As one who has done some mountain climbing (Mt. Whitney, Half Dome, a couple of Colorado's 14ers, but nothing dramatic; my wife would never let me try Everest), I can write with some authority on the subject. I can tell you that the challenge is what makes climbing fun.

While the challenge of conquering a mountain is exhilarating, it can also be dangerous. When a climber ascends an especially steep or treacherous surface, they wear a safety harness which keeps them from falling. Knowing that he or she is roped into a safety harness allows the climber to take some risks and extend their body in a way they wouldn't dare do without a harness.

One way that Christians can think about the Resurrection of Christ is as a safety harness. In raising Jesus from the dead on Easter, God shows us that forgiveness is the goal for which we should reach, much like the summit of a peak (btw: the real goal of a climber is not the summit, but to return home safely; grant me a little license here). When we forgive we take risks. We extend ourselves. We often give up the power that comes from anger at being wronged. We expose ourselves. But, on Easter, we learned that God has promised forgiveness to us. This pardon is our safety harness. It allows us to reach out, take risks, and forgive. Blessings,

In Will +



Deacon Thinkin'

One of my favorite TV channels is channel 29, The Food Channel, I watch it often and I can spend the good part of a rainy, bone chilling, dreary, dark, dank day or just about any day or evening watching the shows on this channel. I take notes, copy web site addresses, and then rewrite the notes so I can read them, file all this information with my other zillion recipes and seldom if ever, prepare a meal from these notes.

So why do I do this, you ask? I don't know, I guess it's because I *enjoy* watching people who know what they are doing, *enjoy* the creativity and the simplicity of it all. It *looks* so simple. The end product looks so delectable I can almost taste the flavors.

So why don't I prepare these culinary masterpieces? Probably because I **need** to practice before I dare to invite you to dinner to sample my handiwork. There is no way that I would not try the selected dish on myself at least once before going public. My fear is that it would appear as a mystery dish and not at all like the end results those friendly cheerful chefs whip up with such ease.

But, practice is something most of us find boring, tedious, just plain hard work. Practice in anything takes commitment and desire. I am comfortable with what I know I can do. When it comes to cooking, I have my favorites - recipes that I am confident I can prepare and that taste almost as good as they look. But here is the drawback: by not taking the opportunity to learn to prepare a meal that is not part of my safe favorites, I miss the opportunity to enjoy a new experience, and then to share that experience with others.

Which leads me to the real purpose for this Deacon Thinkin'. Practice in anything, be it tennis, learning a musical instrument, sewing, photography, soccer, cooking, giving, lets us enjoy the sense of accomplishment and the gift of fulfillment. Did you catch the word giving in that last sentence? I am not necessarily talking about money, although that should not be excluded, I am referring to the gift of giving as a ministry. We all can give, you simply have to discern what it is and then enjoy the results of sharing it. Is it serving as an usher, lector, acolyte? Does your ministry involve volunteering in the Thrift Shop, the Food Pantry, teaching a Sunday School class, making phone calls to shut ins? Community Dinner helper? Any one of the above ministries, and Lord knows there are others, will be spirit filling for you and those you share them with.

In Luke's Gospel 8:21, when Jesus is told his mother and brothers are waiting to see him, "He replied, My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." Are we not called by God to serve and share? We cannot be all things to all people at all times, that is not what we are asked to do, but we are asked to practice giving.

God's peace,



Easter at St. Thomas



Photos: Steve Bonaparte and Lynn Wedal





MEN COOKING AT ST. THOMAS

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Sunday, May 22, 2011
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
168 West Boston Post Road
(2 blocks south of Mamaroneck Ave)
at Mt. Pleasant Ave)
Mamaroneck, NY

Tickets: \$10.00 per person,
\$25.00 per family at the door

Come for great food, conversation, raffles and more at St. Thomas Church's Fourth Annual Men Cooking event. Enjoy live music performed by the acoustic duo Deuces Child!

Heathcote Hall will be set-up with tables full of delectable specialties, prepared by

40 or more individual chefs.

This year we are fortunate to welcome **Celebrity Chefs** Anthony Chiffolo and Rayner "Rusty" Hesse to this event, authors of the bestselling books "Cooking with the Bible" and "Cooking with the Movies: Meals on Reels":

Make it a family adventure: bring the kids and come to St. Thomas –

OUR MEN CAN REALLY COOK!





Wrapping-up Another Sunday School Year

I cannot believe another Sunday School year is winding to a close. Though we are in no way winding down--we have many special activities for our kids between now and the end of June that I'd like to share.

On **May 22**, we will have a Family Service in the big church celebrating our Carpenter's Kids and to call in all of our Mite Boxes and Silly Bandz. Our kids will present these items for blessing. And, may I have a drum roll please: Ann Hunt and Annie Shikaney will direct our Kids' Choir in their inaugural performance! Please make a special effort to come to church for this special service and bring your mite boxes and Silly Bandz if you have not already done so. Pre-confirmation kids meet with Father Will following service (about 11:20 AM).

Then on **June 5**, The little kids will have Sunday School while the pre-confirmation kids attend regular church service for bishop's visit and confirmation service. There will be Father's Day Gift Crafting, too.

On **June 12** we will have our Sunday School/Church Picnic following the 10 AM Service. While our children will help with picnic set-up, we will need additional help from parish adults--don't forget to sign-up to help set-up, clean-up, work at the grill, and bring food.

June 19 will be our last Sunday School/Pre-confirmation class until September.

A note about summer schedule starting on **June 26**: we plan to have babysitting on most Sundays throughout the summer. Because summer services are brief and therefore child-friendly for most, we encourage parents to bring older, church-ready kids to services with them.

August 16-17-18 we are planning Vacation Bible Camp. Our third annual 3-day camp for kids who will be entering kindergarten through 8th grade next fall is in the works. The cost is \$50 per child, scholarships are available. Last year's theme was Bible super-heroes, we have daily Bible study, crafts, games, and activities, plus we make our own lunch daily. Senior campers (grades 6-8) will be offered leadership roles. To run camp, we need ten kids to register for camp by July 1, so please let me know if you are interested.

September 11, Sunday School Resumes.

Notes of appreciation: While the summer offers me a nice respite, I will miss the hum of our Sunday School year activities. Even when we don't have a special event or service, Heathcote hall buzzes with children learning and playing in Sunday School and the nursery, making beautiful music in Kids' Choir, and considering adult choices in confirmation and pre-confirmation groups. I want to thank our parents and our children who make it all possible because you show up when you could be doing other activities, or nothing at all. For our rich family offerings we have to thank Father Will; our dedicated Sunday School teachers: Shelley Crook, Laura Foster, Leana Fisher, Grace Gallo, Ira Hart, Ann Hunt, Ayele Norman-Locoh, Laurie Ozelius, and Sue Perciasepe; our kids' music directors, Ann Hunt and Annie Shikaney; and our nursery staff of Janessa Bing, Christine Perciasepe, and Shannon Ligouri. None would be possible without the support of Pastor Tammearu, as well as Deacon Werdal, Barbara Gessler, Nancy Mustacato, Edgar and Anner, and all the parishioners of St. Thomas.

It truly takes a village, so thank you all for your contribution to our family ministries.

Kate Beeby

Sunday School Director
(katebeeby@optonline.net)

SHARE YOUR SILLY BANDZ with Kids in Central Tanzania

Silly Bandz Drive Continues ‘til June 19!

While many of us continue to fill our Carpenter’s Kids Mite Boxes, our children, and a number of adults, have helped us gather in a more personal gift of Silly Bandz for the children of Hombolo Makulu, Chisichili, and the other Tanzanian villages our pilgrims will visit this summer. We chose to send Silly Bandz because our kids want to share something of their own, and they are lightweight and easy to carry. Our goal is to collect at least 1,000 Silly Bandz from our friends, our classmates, and ourselves, in hopes that Lynn and Grace will be able to give each child they meet a small personal gift from us.

We accept gently used and new Silly Bandz—there’s a marked collection can in the back of the church if you want to help.

So this is why Lynn and Grace will have colorful rubber bands up and down their arms....

Lord's Prayer Challenge, Met Again!

Charlotte Fisher and Isaiah Shikaney successfully memorized, and recited, the Lord's Prayer this year. Don't forget to congratulate them if you see them. You can also ask them about the reward they chose.

Organist and Choir Director Noel A. Hart, Jr. receives the Rector's Cross



Photos: Steve
Bonaparte

Brown Bag Lunch



Photos taken during Brown Bag Lunch by Lynn Werdal



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



May Birthdays:

Connor Jones	05-May
Alba Carrasco	06-May
Solange De Santis	08-May
Thomas Bates	11-May
Florence Peters	15-May
June Hendry	27-May
Timothy Eddy	30-May

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**.



May 21: Last day for this year's Farmers Market in our Heathcote Hall from **9:00AM to 1:00PM**.



May 22, 8:00AM: Village of Mamaroneck Fire Department Memorial Service.



May 22, 10:00AM: Family Service



May 22, 5:00 to 7:00PM: Men Cooking at St. Thomas to support the Carpenter's Kids, with celebrity chefs Rusty Hesse and Anthony Chiffolo. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$25 per family.



June 5: Episcopal Visitation by Bishop Roskam during the **10:00AM** service



June 6 at 7:00PM: The Helping Hands Knitting Group meets - everybody is welcome!



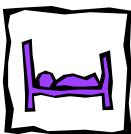
Community Dinner on June 11 at 5:30 PM. Please come and help with set-up and clean-up (finished by 7:00 PM).



The Annual Parish Picnic is June 12 after the 10:00AM service



On **June 19** is the **last day of Sunday School**. The **Summer Schedule** of one service at **9am** starts **June 26**.



Open Arms Shelter will be hosted by St. Thomas in Heathcote Hall on **May 28** and **June 25**. 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

Associate Minister of Youth: willfisher@msn.com

The Rev. William A. Fisher

Deacon: The Rev. Dn. Lynn Werdal deacon@saintthomasmmrk.org

Director of Music: Noel A. Hart, Jr. 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

Parish Secretary: Barbara Gessler office@saintthomasmmrk.org

Bookkeeper: Nancy Mustacato bookkeeper@saintthomasmmrk.org

Sexton: Edgar Garza

Sunday Sexton: Anner Garza

Service Schedule:

Sundays:	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: June 15, 2011

Submit articles to June Hendry at jhendry@idealcut.com