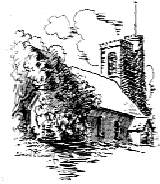




# The Tower

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**Volume 09, Issue 6**

**September 2010**

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

When I was a junior high school teacher, September's arrival always gave me a boost in both energy and outlook. I can still remember what new textbooks smelled like, how chalk dust felt on my hands and the fun of putting up a "welcome back" bulletin board for my home room students. As we enter September here at St. Thomas, I'm feeling the same kind of boost. There aren't any new text books, and we've progressed from chalk to markers, but I'd still like to hang a big "Welcome Back!" sign outside as we all return from summer breaks, vacation trips and what was, I hope, a time to kick back a little and feel refreshed.

I'm excited about seeing everyone again and hearing what was good (or otherwise) about your summer experiences. I look forward to seeing our parish family reunited, gathered around the Lord's Table and coming to the altar rail to be nourished. I know we will be celebrating all of life's passages together, and that makes me deeply grateful.

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As you look at the enclosed September calendar, you'll see that we return with a full head of steam. Our 8 and 10 AM services resume on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, with the start of Sunday School that morning, too. You'll also find the date for the start of Choir, as well as dates for other events and meetings. I'm happy to say we have added an adult discussion opportunity on Wednesday mornings and I am looking forward to interesting and lively sessions.

Welcome back! May the coming months bring us closer to each other, and to the God we all love and serve through Jesus Christ.

God's Peace,

Pastor Tammeau

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

Since becoming ordained six years ago, autumn has become my favorite season. No, it's not because College football resumes, though I do enjoy it. Rather, the fall brings one of my favorite celebrations of a Saint: the Blessing of the Animals in honor of Francis of Assisi. On Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00pm we will hold up in prayer any and every animal we can. Live or stuffed, wild or domestic, present or absent, all will be blessed. I believe that our relationship to the animals can serve as starting places to reflect on our faith. We connect with animals in a variety of ways. It seems we connect with God in a variety of ways as well. I thought I would give two examples of how connecting with the animal world helps us understand our connection to God.

If you want to understand the OT concept of *chesed* (think loyalty, steadfastness, and fidelity) look to your dog. In Luke's Gospel, it's the dogs, not the people, who show Lazarus kindness by cleaning his sores.

If you want to grasp *chavod* (glory, majesty, grandeur), spend some time observing the large, fierce, and sadly, endangered beasts in the wild. I still remember the mix of terror, reverence, joy, and awe I felt when I saw a Grizzly Bear while backpacking. OK, I admit, it's safer and less expensive to go to the Bronx Zoo and imagine you're in Yellowstone or Denali. Either way, you'll know exactly what the Psalmist means when he or she writes, "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."

No doubt, I could go on. Indeed, animals can teach us a lot about our relationship to a God who seems to love one animal in particular. One animal He loves so much that He would send His son to die on the cross for: humans. I invite anyone to come out for our Blessing of the Animals. Pray of a special animal or for all animals. Share your story of connection.

*Father Will Fisher*

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## **The Year Ahead: Satisfying Your Families' Spiritual Hunger**

At St. Thomas, plans have been in the works for this Sunday School year since June. We have been cooking up some great new offerings for our growing community and look forward to sharing it with our children, tweens, teens and families starting this fall. From service opportunities, to special Sunday evening church and pizza dinners, to new chapel offerings, to the latest Sunday School curriculum, along with a ton (well, it seemed like a ton when we carried it upstairs) of new craft supplies and rockin' new tunes with Ann and Laurie, we are certainly ready to roll this September. All we need to make it work are kids and their parents to partake of our expanded menu of family offerings.

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Every couple of years we try out a **new Sunday School curriculum** to mix things up for our regulars. I am very excited about our new program—Weaving God’s Promises—a web-based Episcopal curriculum focusing on how God’s promise of salvation is woven into our daily lives. This year we will focus on the story of our redemption by Jesus, and how we fit into this story. Our emphasis, as always, is on God’s love. We will also discuss aspects of our Episcopal faith and tradition.

Because most Sundays we now have robust enough numbers to sustain two **Sunday School classes**—one for pre- and early-readers, and one for Grades 3 and up—we are making a big push to schedule separate “big” and “little” kid classes most Sundays. Father Will and I will also explore, with our kids, their interest in forming a pre-confirmation group and other special tween and teen activities. That way we can tailor our learning in more age-appropriate ways. There will still be times when we have what I call “little red school house” sessions where we might have large group projects and the kids can help each other out and get to know each other. It should be a good mix for everyone.

We continue to offer a **well-staffed nursery**. I am pleased to announce that Renate Delfino will continue on as our senior babysitter and will be joined by parish-mom, Janessa Bing. This year, our high school babysitters include our very own Christine Perciasepe and Shannon Liguori. We hope that Madi deBaker will also return. Our goal is to have two to three sitters staff the nursery each week to keep our youngest parishioners safe and entertained. The nursery is appropriate for babies and toddlers.

Father Will plans to lead a variety of **special chapel church services** and we look forward to scheduling a few more **Sunday evening worship and pizza dinner fellowships** that we launched this summer. And don’t forget to join us for a **Blessing of the Animals** on Saturday, October 2, at 4PM.

**Service programs** like the Pumpkin Patch, the Thrift Shop, the Carpenter’s Kids and a new Holy Land ministry, offer plenty of family-friendly opportunities for kids and their families to serve others.

Everyone, not just our families, should consider buying a table (\$20) at our second annual **parish tag sale** on October 23. We will think about a special, lower-cost area for kids to sell their wares, if there's interest. It's a great way to divest of your unwanted stuff, enjoy fellowship and community time.

Since we have so many plans, I thought it might be helpful to include the following calendar so that you can plan your family time accordingly:

September 2010 through January 2011

			<i>Grades 3 &amp; Up</i>	<i>Age 4 - Grade 2</i>	
Sunday School	9/12	@	10AM	x	x
Sunday School	9/19	@	10AM	Teen/Tween Chapel	x
Sunday School	9/26	@	10 AM	x	x
Saturday	10/2	@	9AM	Pumpkin Patch Unload, great activity for families. St. Thomas staffs Patch week of 10/2-8, great service opportunity for families, watch for sign-up sheet	
Saturday	10/2	@	4PM	Blessing of the Animals, bring pets, appropriate for all	
Sunday School	10/3	@	10AM	x	x
Sunday School	10/10	@	10AM	Special Pumpkin Patch Group Activity for all kids	
Sunday School	10/17	@	10AM	x	x
Saturday	10/23	@	9AM	Parish/Family Tag Sale, get rid of your junk!	
Sunday School	10/24	@	10AM	x	x
Sunday School	10/31	@	10AM	x	x
Sunday School	11/7	@	10AM	x	x

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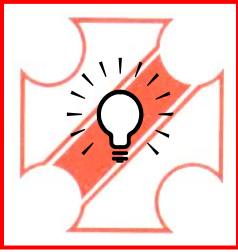
Sunday School 11/14 @	10AM	x	x
Sunday School 11/21 @	10AM	x	x
Thanksgiving Weekend	11/28	No Sunday School	
Sunday School 12/5 @	10AM	Family Chapel Church, St. Nicholas Project. Gift-making Workshop to follow	
Sunday School 12/12 @	10AM	x	x
Sunday School 12/19 @	10AM	No Sunday School, Big Church Family Service	
Christmas Eve 12/24 @	4PM	Family Service	
	@ 9PM	Late Service	
Christmas Holiday	12/26	No Sunday School	
New Year's	1/2	TBD	
Sunday School 1/9 @	10AM	Family Chapel Church and Kings' Cake Baking	
Sunday School 1/16 @	10AM	x	x
Sunday School 1/23 @	10AM	x	x
Sunday School 1/30 @	10AM	x	x

Nursery for babies and toddlers is staffed weekly from 9:45 AM through the service.

With great excitement, I look forward to the feast of our family fellowship. Hope you and yours can join the feast! Please contact me if you have any questions: [katebeeby@optonline.net](mailto:katebeeby@optonline.net), or, 914-833-3237.

*Kate Beeby*

Sunday School Director



## Deacon Thinkin'

I want to be the first to remind you that as I write this there are but a mere 109 days till Christmas! I just wanted to get that in before the bazillion catalogs begin arriving at your doors.

One hundred and nine days, that's plenty of time you say? Well, then let me share with you that a mere 109 days ago you were making your shopping list for the Memorial Day cookout! Doesn't seem so long ago, does it?

Before you know it you will be preparing trick or treat bags and before you can dispose of the turkey carcass from Thanksgiving dinner you will be up to your knees in Christmas wrapping paper. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Just the thought of the upcoming holidays will make some folks groan, so I say to you, lighten up! No matter what you do, no matter where you try to hide, you cannot escape the Halloween greeting cards already in the Hallmark stores, and I swear to you in my search for a ladies room in the back of a local department store I almost knocked over Santa Claus and Rudolph, waiting to fill an honored place on the store shelves.

I have noticed the older I become the faster the seasons, holidays and birthdays come and go. I cannot explain this phenomenon, but it has taught me to relish and enjoy the moment. It is what others have dubbed "being in the moment." Really, feeling the breeze, smelling the flowers, listening to the waves, admiring the changing colors as fall begins to descend on the landscape, letting the snow flakes fall on your tongue and celebrating the birthdays and holidays with gusto.

God in his generosity has given us the gift of choice, we can choose to ignore or curse the events that fill our days or we can choose to embrace them, enjoy them and, more importantly, share them.

Peace, *kyan*

## From the Deacons' Desk

### New Zealand Earthquake

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a 7.4 Earthquake in New Zealand. Knowing that Elizabeth Penn along with her son Carl were there I sent her a short e-mail enquiring about their well-being. I received the following response on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Hi Lynn,*

*Yes we are fine. That earthquake was real scary for almost 60 seconds in the middle of the night. The whole house was rocking and rolling. And of course it was pitch black because the electricity went out immediately. Carl and I just grabbed each other and were trying to think of the best place to go (outside? in a door frame? quick, get back from the windows and glass) and suddenly it was over. There was the weirdest noise like heavy thunder. The rumbling and shaking built up in intensity before it stopped. Ever since the big one, we have been getting lots of tremors, one was over 5 on the Richter scale. We were lucky, not much damage except for one large crack in the plaster. A lot of people had major damage and lots cannot use their homes at all. We were without electricity for 24 hours and the water has been off and on for a few days, and we still have to boil drinking water. Carl's university is closed for a week mostly because the buildings need to be checked and books re-shelved in the libraries. There have been no deaths but several close shaves. Thank you, God.*

*Hope all is well at St. Thomas.*

*See you in November.*

*Elizabeth*



### More from your favorite Deacon

The pumpkins will arrive via 18 wheeler at 9AM on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need all the help we can get, young, eager, not so eager, middle aged, and aged to help with the unloading and placement of each and every pumpkin (usually about 3000).

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Even if you are not physically fit to lift or carry the big ones, you can help with organizing each smaller “patch” or serving coffee, tea, water, encouraging and cheering each other on.

Wear gloves, bring a wheel barrel or wagon.

St. Thomas parishioners are responsible for staffing the patch from the time of delivery through Friday, October 8. We will need volunteers from the end of unloading Oct 2 till 6PM, Sunday Oct 3 from 10AM-6PM and Mon-Friday from 12-5PM. Call me anytime to let me know your availability.

Thank you all.



## Musical Notes

### Calling All Singers

The fabulous St. Thomas Choir Year begins on Sunday, September 12th with a rehearsal at 11:15am.

Our first Sunday singing in church will be Sunday, September 19th, 9:30AM call.

We are always looking for more singers to join us: particularly Sopranos and Altos. Please talk to anyone whom you think might be interested in singing with us. Contact me with any questions or comments.

Thank you.

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



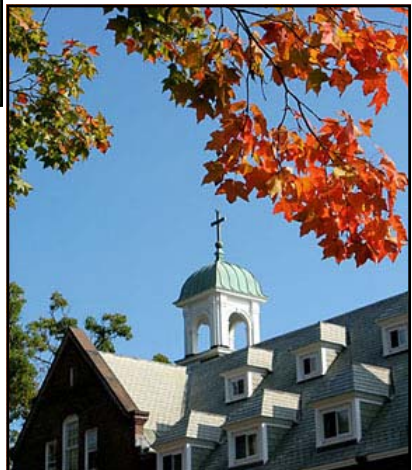
**Wednesday Mornings...** Beginning on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:30 – 10:45 AM, please join us in the Library as we discuss and explore a variety of topics and how they affect our faith and our lives.

**Women's and Men's Retreats...** are scheduled for October 15 – 17 at Mt. Alvernia in Wappingers Falls (for women) and November 5 – 7 at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park (for men). The cost for both is \$150.00/person, and there is financial assistance available if needed. Please speak to Pr. Tammearu or Fr. Fisher about any concerns or questions you may have.

**A Quiet Day...** will be scheduled as another opportunity for a centered, spiritual time. We realize not everyone is able to get away for an entire weekend.



Women's Retreat at Mt. Alvernia



Men's Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery



**St. Thomas men's trip to the Seaman's Church Institute. July 17, 2010**

*Photo by the Rev. Dn. Jacque Girard*



**Father Will, Kate Beeby and St. Thomas Kids at Bible Camp, August 17-19, 2010**

*Photos by Ann Hunt*



Hombolo Makulu - St. Thomas Pilgrims with Canon Lubeleje and Pastor Noah Massima *Photo by Lauren Salminen*



Hombolo Makulu - CKs who were on the Prayer List on July 18: Ezeleda Mzunya, Omary Nguzo, Siela Nongana. *Photo by Lauren Salminen*



Hombolo Makulu - CK's Waiting for Distribution

*Photo by Deborah Tammearu*



Hombolo Makulu - CK's with New Back Packs

*Photo by Deborah Tammearu*



Pilgrims with new desks and benches at Hombolo Makulu Kindergarten, with Mrs. Lubeleje in the back. *Photo by Lauren Salminen*



Hombolo Makulu - A Cow named Deb *Photo by Deborah Tammearu*

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



**Tuesdays at 10am:** Brown Bag Lunch and Food Pantry. Every week we prepare around 90 sandwiches and distribute the lunch and food for 3+ days between 11am and 12 noon.



The next **Community Dinner** is **Saturday, September 11**. Please come and help with set-up ; dinner is served at 5:30pm; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM.



8 & 10 AM services resume Sunday, **September 12**. Sunday School and Choir Practice will start again as well. The first service with Choir is on **September 19** at 10AM.



Beginning on **September 22**, from 9:30 – 10:45 AM, a Discussion Group will explore a variety of topics and how they affect our faith and our lives.



Open Arms Shelter will be hosted by St. Thomas in Heathcote Hall on Saturday, **September 25**. Volunteers are needed to help set up cots for our guests at 4:45pm.



The Pumpkin Patch starts **October 2** and is open all through October from 12 to 5PM on weekdays and from 10AM to 6PM on weekends.



### September Birthdays:

Suzanne Greenidge-Hewitt	2-Sep
Gregory Willis	2-Sep
Russell Foster	5-Sep
Steven Bonaparte	12-Sep
Ann Hunt	16-Sep
Noel Hart	20-Sep
Louis Scenti	21-Sep
Janessa Bing	27-Sep
James Whitehouse	28-Sep
Jacqueline Thomas	30-Sep

## 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: September 22, 2010

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.