



# The Tower

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



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

Our Lenten journey is nearing its end as we walk through Holy Week in anticipation of the great joy of Easter Day. We continue to be in each other's company and in the company of Jesus the Christ, the One who went first on our behalf. Sometimes it is hard to grasp just how much Jesus has accomplished for us, even harder to understand he is always right by our side, not just in Holy Week, but in every week, every day, every moment, even when we cannot sense it.

One of my favorite memories of my father will help explain what I mean. When I was in high school, my father and I spent many spring weekends on fishing trips to the trout streams of New Jersey. They were some of the happiest times I spent with my dad. One year, spring followed an especially snowy, wet winter, and the streams were barely contained by their banks. The water was very turbulent, frothy and fast.

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In one particular place, we had to cross a stream by walking over a fallen log, which we had done many times. My father went first, got to the other side and turned for me to follow. I got about a third of the way across, looked down at the water and froze. The log was about 8 feet long, but it felt like a football field. I simply could not move, and no amount of cajoling, coaxing or coaching from my father could get me off that spot.

So my father came back out onto the log, took my hand, and walked me the rest of the way across to the other side.

That is what Jesus does for us. Jesus looks at where we are, and comes right to us, in whatever state of mind or soul we are in. There is no cajoling, coaxing or coaching. Jesus takes us by the hand and walks with us to Golgotha. Walking with Jesus during Holy Week is possible only because Jesus walks with us. We can follow in his footsteps only because he has stood in our shoes, and intimately knows our pains, our griefs, our fears and even the shadow of death.

Having Jesus as our constant companion is not a vaccination against problems, nor is it any kind of rabbit's foot to hold in reserve for use when we think we need it. The constancy of Jesus' companionship is a reminder of the constancy of God's love. It is real. It is profound. It is life-giving and hope-filled.

Walk this Holy Week, and every week, in the company of Jesus. Easter Day will be all the brighter and more meaningful, I promise.

God's Peace,

Pastor Tanneau†

## What's so good about Good Friday?

### A Brief Reflection

“It is finished.”

With these words, Jesus gives his last breath. This act of Holy surrender is what, paradoxically, give us a victory, a promise. But before Jesus has any resurrection on Easter he has to endure the Cross on Good Friday.

For us, the Good Friday has come to symbolize all the death that the power of sin creates. For some Good Friday comes from within: a desire for control, a need to self-aggrandize, or maybe self-centeredness. For others Good Friday comes in the form of something external, over which we have no control: an illness, the death of a loved one, or some other tragedy. Many times, the adversity brought on by an external manifestation of death exacerbates those that are internal. In short, we encounter Good Friday when times are bad.

Naturally, we try to avoid Good Friday moments, but, inevitably, they find us. Reflecting on how God made Holiness out of the pain and loss of Good Friday, we are invited to look for holiness in our own Good Friday moments. If anything, we realize how dependent we are on grace. In addition, we are often strengthened by the adversities we face, so Good Fridays edify us. Oftentimes, we can pass along the valuable insights we gained in a time of trouble can be valuable to another going through similar trials.

In our lives, we may have many Good Friday times. But it is the work that Jesus finished on that day that lets us know that it's all right to live Good Friday. He lets us know that we are not alone because, first he lived it (and died it). Of course, the story doesn't end there. No matter how dark our Good Fridays are, there will always be Easter. That's God's promise. Something to think about next time you find yourself in a Good Friday moment.

*The Rev. Will Fisher*



## Notes for *All* from the Sunday School Director

### *Easter Sunday Fun*

Sunday School

Families, please join us for St. Thomas' traditional Easter Sunday Egg Hunts. The bunny makes a special visit to St. Thomas, and tires himself out hiding hundreds of eggs on the lawn in front of Heathcote Hall and up by the labyrinth.

Why have two separate hunts? So everyone has a fair chance at getting a cache of eggs. Our youngest children, up through first grade, will search high and low on the lawn in front of Heathcote Hall. The big kids, grade 2 and up, have a more challenging hunt up by the labyrinth. Once a child claims ten eggs, it's time for him to help out a friend.

So that everyone will have a good time, we ask that all parents closely supervise their egg hunters, please. We also ask that parents carefully check the contents of their kids' eggs to make sure the goodies are appropriate for your children. It takes a village to keep our hunt safe, fun, and fair, for everyone.

### *First Chapel Service with Father Will*

I want to thank Father Will and the twenty-five sturdy kids, parents, and Sunday School teachers, who braved the last gasps of the hurricane-without-a-name and Spring-forward to worship together in our first instructive Eucharist, a service tailored especially for families on March 14. There were songs (thanks to Ann Hunt), prayers, blessings, many wonderful questions, and lots to learn. If you missed this special worship, don't worry, we are planning a Spring service, too. Look for announcements by e-mail and in the bulletin.

### *The Faith Club*

We had the first meeting of our own faith (book) club to discuss this interesting and illuminating book. I want to thank our six participants and urge others to keep reading this intimate account of interfaith dialogue and friendship. We will have another chance to meet over

chocolate and cheese on April 25<sup>th</sup> at about 11:30 A.M. Babysitting will be available. Keep reading, and don't forget to mark your calendars, you won't want to miss a chance to explore this book with friends.

### *Hang on Tight to Your Mite Boxes*

We are looking to break our own record for mite box offerings this year, so that we can make sure that each needy child in Hombolo Makulu will have a gift from St. Thomas of basic school supplies when our pilgrims visit this summer. Which means we'd like you to please hang on to your mite boxes and continue filling them through the Easter season. You can offer them in church on May 16. If yours is getting heavy, don't forget to put a piece of tape across the bottom....I wonder how much \$1,690 in change weighs? We will have to ask Nancy, our bionic bookkeeper!

*I look forward to celebrating the glory of Easter with you, your kids and your family and friends.*

*Kate Beeby*

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

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### **Musical Notes**

As was announced in the March Tower, there will be a very special presentation at St. Thomas on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The choir and soloists of St. Thomas will perform the Fauré Requiem at 7:30pm (Good Friday evening.)

On Easter Sunday, April 4, at 10:30am, the choir will perform two more beautiful choral favorites. Fulfilling several requests, the choir will perform the great choral masterpiece "Alleluia" by Randall Thompson;

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and, also by request, the choir will present “Christ Our Passover” by Will MacFarlane.

Please note that this is a special opportunity for the St. Thomas family to invite people from outside our parish family to hear St. Thomas’ fabulous choir and soloists. Good Friday evening, in particular, would be a perfect time to invite your music-loving neighbors, co-workers, and family to hear the well-loved Fauré Requiem.

The Fauré Requiem is a sublimely beautiful piece of music with beautiful melodies, and ethereal harmonies and textures.

Hearing the Fauré Requiem on Good Friday evening in the darkened sanctuary will give the listener a unique opportunity to experience a spiritual catharsis while reflecting on the sorrows of Good Friday. And for non-religious people, it will be an opportunity to hear one of the world’s most-loved choral masterworks.

We hope that you will attend and bring others of your friends and relatives whom you would want to experience this very special presentation.

Note: The Fauré Requiem is not long in duration (less than 45-minutes) but baby-sitting will be provided in Heathcote Hall.

## **About the Fauré Requiem**

Gabriel Fauré composed his Requiem in D minor, Op. 48 between 1887 and 1890.

This choral–orchestral setting of the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead is the best known of his large works. The most famous movement is the soprano aria *Pie Jesu*.

Fauré's reasons for composing his Requiem are uncertain. One possible impetus may have been the death of his father in 1885, and his mother's death two years later. However, by the time of his mother's death he had already begun the work. The earliest composed music included in the Requiem is the "Libera Me", which Fauré wrote in 1877 as an independent work.

In 1887–88, Fauré composed the first version of the work, which he called "*un petit Requiem*" with five movements (Introit and Kyrie, Sanctus, Pie Jesu, Agnus Dei and In Paradisum), but did not include the "Libera Me". This version was first performed January 16, 1888 under the composer's direction in La Madeleine in Paris.

In 1924 the Requiem was performed at Fauré's own funeral. It was not performed in the United States until 1931.

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

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### **Deacon Thinkin'**

In just another six days I and some twenty-plus others will be leaving from Newark Airport on a twelve-day pilgrimage to Israel. As the time draws near, I am making lists: one for what needs to be packed in the check-in bag, another for the carry-on bag, yet another for the backpack, the fourth for the things to do in my apartment. There is the refrigerator to clean out (there are lots of small containers with unrecognizable contents inside). The plants (all two of them) will have to be cared for. A kind neighbor has been solicited to collect the mail. And then there are the critters that will have to be farmed out.

Clyde is a hermit crab given to me as a souvenir of my daughter and son-in-law's trip to Cape Cod. I know what you are thinking. Originally Clyde had a partner, Bonnie. But when I discovered a stray claw in the bottom of the terrarium one day, and after twenty-four hours Bonnie

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hadn't moved, I decided she had expired and I disposed of her in a kindly manner. I have since been told she was probably molting! And then there is Rambo, my Beta fish, who knows my voice and greets me with flailing fins every morning. Ok, so he knows he will be fed and that is what the excitement is all about, but humor me.

I wonder as all this is taking place, and will continue for the next week, if I'm preparing myself as well for my personal pilgrimage to follow Christ. Have I taken the time to "take stock" and examine where I am at and where I am going spiritually? I do know that it is a never ending process, and I am thankful for that. That is how God works in our lives. He never gives up on us, but He gives us as much time as we need to find our way. I realize I don't do that, check out where I am in my spiritual growth, as often as I should. I will have to add that to my everyday list of things to do. Certainly, if I can plan to deal with packing for a trip, arranging for the care of two critters and two plants, and clearing out the hidden unsavory contents of my refrigerator, I can search out and discover what will bring me closer to God.

May it be so.

Shalom, *kyan*

	<b>April Birthdays:</b>	
	Meagan Jones	2-Apr
	Ann Breen Metcalfe	2-Apr
	Rosella Zaglio	9-Apr
	Jon Burckin	17-Apr
	Phyllis Evans	17-Apr
	Leana Fisher	18-Apr
	Orial Redd	19-Apr
	Teresa Thomas	22-Apr
	Dami Burckin	27-Apr

## **Men Cooking at St. Thomas Returns Sunday, May 23**

Pots and pans will be busy as “Men cooking at St. Thomas” returns on May 23, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm. This fund-raising event benefits the Carpenter’s Kids and our partner parish in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, Hombolo Makulu. Many men have already agreed to join in the festivities, preparing a variety of dishes for people to sample, but more are welcome and needed. Yes, it is called “Men Cooking at St. Thomas”, but that doesn’t mean that our lovely women cannot be called upon for consultation or technical assistance!

We need to have many more people involved in the background work, such as making calls, soliciting donations from favorite shops or restaurants, setting up, publicity, and selling beverages. My grandmother used to say, “Many hands make light work,” and that always seemed to be the case. If you can offer some assistance, please contact Ira Hart ([ihart1@optonline.net](mailto:ihart1@optonline.net); cell 347-668-4957) or Greg Cherry ([gcherryhart@aol.com](mailto:gcherryhart@aol.com); cell: 646-345-4799).

Thank you for your participation and support. This will be a great event for the community, St. Thomas Church, and our Carpenter’s Kids!

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## **Property News**

Mark Penn relinquished his chairmanship of the St. Thomas Property Committee in December before going to New Zealand for an extended stay. He will be missed; the Committee has benefited significantly from his diligence and expertise as well as his good humor.

In January the Committee met to discuss on-going projects and some new considerations. What sort of projects does the Committee have to oversee? Broadly speaking we are responsible for repairs, maintenance and improvements. But the greatest of these is repairs, precisely because we have a beautiful and historic (which means old) church and Heathcote Hall with all its amenities, together sited on a lawn beside the Boston Post Road. Sounds expensive doesn’t it?

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At the top of our to-do list is a work in hand. A building engineers' report recommended we should plan now to replace the forty two stone louvers in the church tower. The Committee is in the process of assembling a specification to put the job out to competitive bidding, a procedure typically required if the cost of a project is likely to be more than nominal.

When we know what the cost of replacement will be we can then look at some options for reducing the cost. What about a cheaper, more high-tech alternative to stone? What about a grant for our historic building? Each worth exploring but we might find we cannot take advantage of both ideas if, for example, a grant for an historic building requires only authentic materials be used. No easy answers as our architectural consultant is fond of telling us.

In the meantime the Committee has compiled a list of all the property related projects we can think of, mainly repairs but also improvements and we are establishing a priority for each. The intention for the first time is to come up with a program looking three years ahead so we can better plan and budget, at least for the expected.



## **AIDS Walk New York**

Greg Cherry and Ira Hart will be participating in AIDS Walk New York on Sunday, **May 16**. The purpose of AIDS Walk is to raise money to fund research, support, and education programs to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS. It also helps to support services to men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS.

Please be generous in donating money to AIDS Walk New York. This year, our goal is to raise \$1,000. All contributions are fully tax-deductible. Cash and checks are acceptable; checks should be made payable to "AIDS Walk New York." Please see Greg or Ira after the 10:00 a.m. service any Sunday before May 16 to sign the sponsor sheet and/or contribute.

Thank you for your generous support!

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



**April 1, Maundy Thursday: 7:30 PM** a celebration of the Holy Eucharist to mark the night it was begun by Jesus



**April 2, Good Friday: Noon** Stations of the Cross in the church.  
**7:30 PM** The choir of St. Thomas will perform Fauré's Requiem.



**April 4, Easter Day: 10:00 AM** One worship service of the Holy Eucharist. Egg Hunt immediately following service.



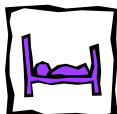
**Tuesdays at 10:00 AM:** Brown Bag Lunch Preparation.  
Every week we prepare about 60 to 80 sandwiches and distribute them between **11:00AM and 12:00PM.**



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



**The Next Community Dinner is Saturday, April 10.**  
Please come and help with set-up ; dinner is served at **5:30 PM**; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM.



**Open Arms Shelter** will be hosted by St. Thomas in Heathcote Hall on Saturday **April 24.** 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:

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:

9:45 AM Sunday School

Nursery care available from 9:30-12:15.

Deadline for articles and submissions for the next Tower: April 15, 2009

## **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.

# **THE TOWER**

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