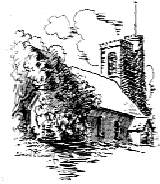




# The Tower

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
168 West Boston Post Road  
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[www.SaintThomasmmrk.org](http://www.SaintThomasmmrk.org)



Volume 09, Issue 1

January 2011

## Notice Of Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 23, 2011**

**One worship service at 9:00 A.M.**

Followed by brunch in Heathcote Hall

Child care will be available

More details to follow!

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## Dear St. Thomas Family,

As our front page so boldly declares, St. Thomas will convene our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> in Heathcote Hall. Reports will be offered, the 2011 budget will be presented and 2 new Vestry members will be elected. It is a routine meeting for us in many ways and one which meets our obligation to the laws of New York State.

Beyond the reports and numbers, though, is the context in which we meet. The meeting is opened at the beginning of our worship service, not after, because everything we do is of concern to Christ Jesus, in whom, as one of our prayers so beautifully says, “we live and move and have our being.” Moreover, we meet during the season of Epiphany, the season which pays special honor to the visit of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus and the miracles of Jesus, all outward signs, all manifestations of the power and call of God.

It is, I believe, perfect timing to have our annual meeting in Epiphany, because the business which will be conducted – each report given, each Vestry seat filled, and each dollar in the budget – is only meaningful business if it empowers St. Thomas to manifest the love and call of God.

St. Thomas was the first church to be organized in the Village of Mamaroneck and we have stood watch and witness over the harbor for more than two centuries. Our faithful community has done its best, I believe, to manifest the power and grace of God for all those years and continues to do so in a meaningful and loving way.

Please join me at the Annual Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. More than that, though, I hope you will join me as we begin a new year and a new decade in faithful ministry and in the manifestation of God’s love.

God’s Peace,

Pastor Tanneam†

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the feast of Epiphany approaches and as I read that narrative from Matthew's gospel, I delve into a mystery. I can't think of any other Bible story where the dominant tradition of interpretation and a close reading of the text are so divergent. Since around 1200 CE, our traditional understanding was that three gift-bearing wise men or kings visited the baby Jesus and his family after he was born.

Now, read the second chapter of Matthew again. From where do we get the number three? Matthew doesn't give a number. Was there Trinitarian symbolism that was later projected onto Matthew's text?

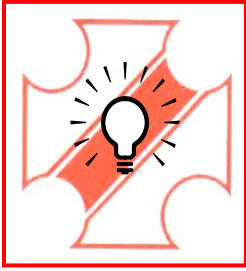
Consider this: in the original Greek, Matthew chose to use the *magoi*, which means sorcerer, magician, or astrologer. The same word describes Elymas and Simon in Acts (not favorably). The laws of the Old Testament forbid such practices. Why did Matthew not use the words *sophoi* (wise men) or *basiloi* or *tyrranoi* (kings)? Was their inclusion in Matthew's gospel meant to be ironic or satirical? Was Matthew trying to show that even fools recognize Jesus as Lord? Were these foreigner's recognition of Jesus meant to challenge Matthew's presumed Jewish audience?

Since Matthew is not alive to come to St. Thomas as a guest speaker, we can only speculate about the questions I've raised. So let's open our Bibles! Let the speculation begin!

As Anglican Christians, we are often asked to hold divergent viewpoints in tension with one another. Epiphany is one such occasion. I invite you to ponder these mysteries of Epiphany with me. If you come up with an answer let me know.

In Peace,





## Deacon Thinkin'

We will be celebrating the First Sunday after the Epiphany in just a few days. Perhaps this is why I was drawn to my book shelf to search out a small paperback entitled *Everyday Epiphanies: Seeing the Sacred in Every Thing* by Melannie Svoboda, SND.

It is a book of reflections on ... well, like the title suggests, on just about any everyday thing: people, circumstances, seasons, emotions, the good and the bad, the happy and sad. Some reflections are only a few sentences long while others may be as long as a page. I go back to this book from time to time, not deliberately, but rather because I come across it in my search for another title. It's not unlike running some errand and having the happy surprise of meeting a good friend you weren't necessarily looking out for. Whenever one of these accidental encounters happens, I stop and open and begin to read.

Today was different, though. I deliberately set out to find this little book that makes me stop, observe, and ponder my surroundings and thoughts so that I could search it for some inspiration to meet today's Tower deadline! Hey, at least I'm being honest.

Of course it may have been most fitting to spend these few paragraphs musing on the beginning of a new year and all the good wishes and promises we make to each other and ourselves (the latter being those things called resolutions), and how soon we forget, or worse, ignore them. But then I would have had to share my resolutions with you and again, to be honest, I haven't made any. And I don't plan to. I need to take each day and resolve to do my best. That's something I can only plan to do one day at a time.

But, having said all that, I'd like to share a small part of one of Sister Melannie's reflections. This particular section, "Door Prizes," particularly caught my eye because I had a discussion just yesterday

about the need for door prizes for our February 5<sup>th</sup> Game Night. (Like the way I snuck that in?) And so, I quote:

“Door prizes are a lot like God’s love. We do not earn God’s love. We do not have to do something difficult to get it. God’s love is gratuitous, that is, freely given. In a way, then, we can say we have all won the door prize of the gift of life. It’s as if God said to each one of us, ‘Here’s a life! Do something beautiful with it!’”

Talk about an Epiphany!

Peace,



Sunday School

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## Looking Ahead to Sunday School in Winter 2011

Wow, we’ve grown in 2010! I am so grateful to our families, new and not-so, who have come together to create such a wonderful church youth community. In short order, we’ve grown from a one-classroom little red Sunday school house of about a half-dozen kids to two teeming classrooms and a nursery full of children almost every week (often 20 kids or more!). While small can be beautiful, there is a special, exciting energy in numbers. Again, I offer my thanks to our kids, parents, teachers, babysitters and clergy who are making our Heathcote Hall classrooms and chapel church a vibrant community of Christian youth.

While we had many wonderful Advent programs in December: special chocolate Advent calendar challenges, a visit from St. Nicholas, carols and gift-making workshops, January will also offer some St. Thomas

traditions, as well as new opportunities. On January 9, we will celebrate the Epiphany with a family chapel church service and the baking of our special, homemade warm and flakey French King's cakes, which, you will be happy to know, we share during coffee hour. Father Will and I also look forward to meeting with the parents of our "tween" children (grades 5, 6, and 7) to plan a new pre-confirmation program for this large cohort, meeting date to-be-announced. Plans are also underway for some special social and service activities for our older teens, too. It really is so very thrilling to expand the depth and reach of St. Thomas' family offerings.

February will bring another chapel church on the 13th and on March 6, World Mission Sunday, we will kick off our Lenten Mite Box drive to benefit our Carpenter's Kids in Hombolo Makulu. Start stockpiling your change now—we'd like to buy books for the kids!

Looking forward to more Sunday School excitement in 2011.

*Kate Beeby*

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

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## **From: Cheryl Howard & Jim Minnerly**

Mark your calendar, Saturday, February 5, Game Night 7-9:30 PM. Invite your friends, bring your favorite board game, cards, dominoes, scrabble etc. There will be soda and snacks, and the evening will end with coffee, tea, cake, cookies, brownies. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Cost is \$10 per person and all proceeds will benefit our Carpenter's Kids.

You can help make this a huge success by donating a cake, cookies or brownies. RSVP's to the Church office would be appreciated. More information about this to follow. Save the date, please!

## 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. We can always use fresh fruit (apples, pears, oranges)



On **Saturday, January 9** the **Farmers Market** reopens. Schedule: January 8 to May 21, 9:00AM to 1:00PM (closed on February 26)



**January 9, 10AM:** Youth Chapel and Baking of French Three Kings Cakes.



Community Dinner

The next **Community Dinner** is **Saturday, January 8**. Please come and help with set-up ; dinner is served at 5:30pm; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM. We need a chef!



**Open Arms Shelter** will be hosted by St. Thomas in Heathcote Hall on Saturday, **January 29**. Volunteers are needed to help set up cots for our guests at **4:45pm**.



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



### January Birthdays:

Virginie Descamp	06-Jan
Donna Robinett	07-Jan
James Minnerly	10-Jan
Grace Gallo	12-Jan
Ginger DiVito	15-Jan
Ruth Kapp	22-Jan
Henry Mustacato	22-Jan
Kenneth Thomas	27-Jan
Allana Condon	31-Jan

## 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: January 15, 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.