



The Tower

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
168 West Boston Post Road
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
914-698-0300
www.SaintThomasmmrk.org



Volume 09, Issue 9

November 2011

Dear St. Thomas Family,

We are all familiar with the Parable of the Lost Coin, in which a housewife has lost a gold coin and then sweeps her house to look for it, even lighting every lamp she has to make it easier to see. Parables often come in two's or three's in order to emphasize their message, and just before this story, Jesus offers the Parable of the Lost Sheep. (You can find these parables in Luke, chapter 15, verses 3–10.)

How many of us would think of Jesus as the Good Housewife? We are familiar with Jesus as the Good Shepherd, but I'm betting there aren't many – if any – stained glass windows depicting this very feminine and domestic image. And yet, Jesus himself asks us to ponder it.

Content	page
Dear St. Thomas Family	1,2
Dear Brothers and Sisters	3,4
Deacon Thinkin'	4,5
Sunday School News	6,7
Knitting for Christmas	8,9
Hillside Ministry	9,10
Men's Retreat	11
Episco Trivia	12
Christmas Fair	13
Thanksgiving Reception	14
Welcome to St. Thomas	14,15
Your Change	15
Don't forget...	16
Transitions and Birthdays	16
Contact Information	17

If your pet has ever gotten loose and run away, you know just how hard that shepherd looked for his lost sheep. Each of us has lost something we value, whether it's money we've misplaced, or an object we treasure for the sentiments and memories it evokes from us. We can easily put ourselves in the housewife's shoes, opening drawers, shuffling papers, digging through piles of stuff and doing whatever it takes to find what we've lost.

God looks even harder, spends more energy, and as much as we understand the value of something important to us, God values each of us even more than that. It is, to me, pretty incredible and completely God-given and divine. Along with this gift of love, come a couple of requests.

First, God asks us to grasp just how much we are valued, and then God asks us to offer this sense of value to the world around us. The first part is for each of us to work on and to help each other understand. The second is for all of us at St. Thomas to do together, both as we continue our outreach beyond our doors and our "inreach" within our congregation.

I know just how generous and responsive we are as a congregation. As I write this, I am recalling how many of you have provided meals and transportation for some of our families. Several of our members have "quiet" ministries of intercessory prayer, and of taking the time to write notes or cards to our members who can't get out too often, or who are ill. All are important ways to nurture and support each other in our life as a Christian community.

I would also encourage you to look around on Sunday, as we pass the Peace in our own St. Thomas fashion, and see who might be missing. Be a good shepherd or a good housewife. If some one you know isn't as present as they usually have been, take the extra step to "search" for them. Give them a call to let them know you've missed them. Each and

every one of us is an important member of this flock, this family, and each and every one of us is as important to our church community as is the misplaced coin or that lost sheep.

It is our privilege and delight to be in community with each other and I ask that we take these parables to heart, to think of ourselves as wielding brooms to look for, and to care for, all the members of our parish family.

God's Peace,

Pastor Tanneau†

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you were to attend St. Thomas' every Sunday (good!) but never read the Bible outside of our Sanctuary (not so good), you would still know a lot of Scripture. You would be very familiar with the life and ministry of Jesus as well as some of Paul's key teachings. You'd have a passing knowledge of the New Testament because, while it makes up almost 25% of the Bible, it makes up about 60% of our readings. Over the course of a three year lectionary cycle, you will hear almost half of the New Testament.

The Old Testament, however would be another matter. While you would also be familiar with some key passages in the Old Testament and the Psalms, you would still be missing out on a lot of Scripture. The OT makes up more than three quarters of our Sacred Story, but we hear just a small portion every three years. Absent from Sunday services are such gems as the story of Judah and Tamar, Joshua's conquest of Canaan, and

Jehu's mad chariot driving. The Hebrew Scriptures unfamiliarity to many Christians is surprising, given that at one time, the OT was the Christian Church's Bible.

To address this problem, we have resumed our Thursday morning Bible Study and Discussion group. In this latest edition, we will be focusing on the women of the Old Testament: Eve, Sarah and Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Deborah, Bathsheeba, and more. We will study the way each lived and how they work into the Bible's narrative. We will analyze the stories of these complex women from a variety of perspectives. Come bring your coffee and your Bibles and come on down the Church every Thursday morning for an engaging tour of the Bible and its heroines.

In Peace,

Jo Will +



Deacon Thinkin'

I once, maybe even twice bought a Palm Pilot to help me keep track of appointments and things to do. The novelty soon wore off, and I found it took too much time to navigate the gadget to get to the calendar or to the to-do-list, to type or use the stylus and to jot down the note or to fill in the calendar. I always seemed to go back to what I used for decades (yes, decades) when

I was working: notepad and pen! So I gave up on the electronic gadget and continued to use the notepad.

I have two Palm Pilots in the bottom of a drawer someplace if anyone is interested.

I just finished crossing off all the things I had on my to-do-list that was created on October 15. Today is Oct. 19 and it is 6 AM. Out of 31 items on that list I took care of 24, which makes me feel pretty good. One of the items that I haven't crossed off yet is "write Deacon Thinkin". I don't really need that reminder – I know that the deadline is the 15th of every month and the Tower Editor doesn't let me forget, that's her job. The problem is: what to write?

So, reflecting on the thirty-one items which included calls to be made (some more important than others), letters to be written (not e-mails, letters), car maintenance appointment, bills to be paid, shopping items etc., I realized the five days I will be away at the end of the month are looking mighty good. We all need fallow time.

Down time: a time to let go and be swallowed up in non-busyness, to be non-productive, (it almost hurts to say that). A time to just hear the birds, watch a squirrel scoot up a tree, sit by a water fountain, day dream, people watch, a time to let the soul be nourished and replenished, a time to do nothing, a time to listen for God.

And so my message is simple: make some fallow time for yourself. It is more important than anything you will put on your list.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynn".

St. Thomas



Sunday School

In Thanksgiving for a Fine Fall in Sunday School

I try to spend a few moments several times over the course of each day being grateful and giving thanks to God for His many gifts in their myriad forms. Over the years, I have worked to open myself to seeing opportunities to give thanks, and taking the time to do so in that particular moment. In a few important seconds I offer up a silent prayer. This might take the form of a traditional blessing over my food, or a thank-you for a sunset that leaves me awestruck, or an expression of gratitude for a satisfying walk with a good friend, or a cheer for my husband cooking our Sunday dinner.

My observance of a thanksgiving practice has helped keep me from getting lost in a mish-mash of my own desire and envy -- it reminds me of all that is good and important in my life. By creating space for me to offer thanks throughout the day, I more deeply experience God's blessings, which is another blessing in itself.

This fall I have had many opportunities to count the children of St. Thomas among my blessings. First for their sheer numbers, we have had well over 40 different kids participate in our program since September, including a dozen brand new ones. Our average weekly attendance is about 20 kids, our lowest Sunday we had 15. The children bring an energy and openness to their worship of God that is so spiritually nourishing to me. Not to mention their creativity and humor. So many blessings, all packed into one Sunday School hour.

There are adults for whom I am also grateful. First, our parents who choose to worship at St. Thomas and manage, often against the odds, to get their kids to Sunday School much of the time. And for our wonderful

teachers, who share their time and talent, so we can now offer three different Sunday classes: pre-school through grade 2, grades 3-4-5 and pre-confirmation. In addition, our babysitters provide a safe and fun place for the toddlers, and Ann and Annie a special community for the young and musical. There are many adults who have pinch-hit with special activities and projects along the way, making cooking with 22 children feasible. Along with Father Will's fun, illuminating and instructive chapel church, we are able to provide a rich variety of ways to foster, in each of our children, a sense of our shared experience as Christians.

Here I quote my wise mother: "Lord, I should be thankful, and I am."

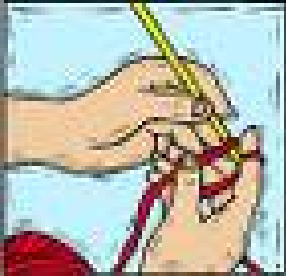
Kate Beeby

Sunday School Director
914-833-3237 katebeeby@optonline.net

P.S. For those of you who have had fall conflicts, please remember it's never too late to come to Sunday School. Really, we are structured in a way that you can start anytime. Doors open at 9:45. The lesson begins at 10:05.



Photo: Steve Bonaparte



Helping Hands - Christmas At Sea

Terry Giallorenzo

Mariners are the backbone of global commerce, transporting billions of tons of cargo each year across the world's oceans and along our nation's inland waterways. Their labors greatly impact the world's economy.

The Seamen's Church Institute cares for the personal, professional, and spiritual needs of these mariners around the world. Each year SCI assembles and distributes gift packages for mariners working on Christmas Day. **Helping Hands** contributes by sending our knitted projects to SCI each November. We are told that the highlight of each package for deep-sea mariners is a hand-knit vest, watch cap and scarf set, or pair of knit socks.

Helping Hands meets once a month in St. Thomas' library. Our main purpose is to make knitted items for these "Christmas At Sea" gift packages. It is gratifying to give support to the mariners (both men and women) who deliver the goods that make our modern way of life possible.

New members, knitters and non-knitters, are always welcome to join our group. We have all levels of knitters who are happy to get you started or simply help you follow one of our simple patterns.

The evening passes quickly with knitting, crocheting, some lively discussion and more than a few laughs. If you have a desire to join us, our next meeting is on **November 14 at 7:00pm**. We usually meet on a Monday night; future meeting dates will be both in the Tower and in Sunday's bulletin.

If you find you are not able to attend any of our monthly meetings, you can still participate. There is a straw basket in the back of the church with copies of patterns for either knitting or crocheting. Simply pick up a pattern from this basket and when you complete your project, leave it in the same basket. Help warm the hearts of mariners working away from home on Christmas Day.

You can contact me at tgiallorenzo@optonline.net or 914-637-0437 with any questions.

Hillside Ministry

Two St. Thomas Parishioners

It's a Saturday morning and for us we are up earlier than what we would normally be on a normal Saturday. However we both seem energized in spite of the bed calling to us. What is the source of this energy? It is our monthly food delivery for the Hillside Food Outreach Program.

Several months ago Deacon Werdal approached me about this program. It appeared that although St. Thomas' had a Tuesday brown bag lunch & food pantry where we served those in need who were able to get to us there was another need that wasn't being met. That was those individuals that could not get to our Tuesday brown bag lunch. Whether this was because they were disabled or working during the time of our food pantry.

Deacon Werdal had heard of the Hillside Outreach Program & discussed it with me & several others. It seemed like a worthwhile idea so we went to visit the facility & signed up that very day. The Hillside Outreach Program is located in Thornwood.

What our ministry entails is that once a month (there is a schedule prepared in the beginning of the year) we travel up to Thornwood. It is about a half hour drive. There we pick up the food to be distributed. Most of it is already bagged with the exception of the produce which you can select for your clients. After picking this food we are ready for delivery. For us this means bringing needed food to three families located in Mamaroneck. A senior citizen with an adult son, a single adult male and a single mom and her daughter. All are very appreciative of what is being provided and we hope to be able to assist them in other ways as time goes by and we get more familiar with their other needs.

All in all it takes us about 2 hours once a month. This includes travel to pick up the food and the actual delivery. There are more opportunities through Hillside for other volunteer teams to deliver food. It is truly a worthwhile ministry and we encourage others who might be interested to talk to Deacon Werdal.



Why I'm looking forward to the Men's Retreat

Ira Hart

I am really looking forward to the Men's Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery. Actually, I have been since last November, when the last Men's Retreat ended. My experience opened my eyes and heart, encouraging me to look inwards at myself as well as to be more receptive towards others and more generous in spirit.

As much as I love Sunday mornings at church, it takes quite a while, one Sunday at a time, to get to know someone. I have been a member of St. Thomas Church since 2002, and while I would like to say I know just about everyone to some extent, I didn't really get to 'know' some of the men until the men's retreat last November. Our facilitator, Brother Bernard, guided us through prayer, meditation, and discussions that enabled us to clarify our own understandings of being Christian men. The whole atmosphere at Holy Cross lent itself to getting to know ourselves and each other more deeply.

In my eyes and heart, my relationships with Will, Greg, Noel, Tom, Greg, Henry, James, Bob and Steve have been transformed. I am beyond "Good morning," "Hi, how's it going?" or waving at a familiar face. Deacon Lynn has chided us, in some of her wonderful sermons, to be bold enough to not just ask "How are you" but to ask "How's your spirit?" I am comfortable enough to be able to ask and answer this question. It would be great to share this opportunity with the other men of the parish.

You can get further information from Fr. Will either by calling the church office or speaking to him directly on a Sunday morning. Or ask some of the other men who attended. Either way, I encourage you to consider attending the retreat this year from November 18 – 20 (Friday afternoon/evening to Sunday afternoon). It is time **well** spent.

Episco-trivia

We will elect a Bishop Coadjutor at a special convention on October 29th. Here are some terms to help understand the “mysteries” of our structure.

Episcopal: The adjective describing our particular denomination. It means “governed by bishops.” (from *episkopos* in Greek, meaning “one who oversees”) Episcopalian is a noun, naming a person who is a member of the denomination.

Diocese: The geographic area which is under the jurisdiction of a bishop, including all the congregations and clergy within that area.

Bishop: The person who is given authority over the clergy of a diocese. In the Episcopal Church, the bishop is elected by the clergy and laity of the diocese they serve. In the early Church of the First Century, Bishops were the only ordained clergy. In the Diocese of New York, Mark Sisk is our current diocesan bishop.

Bishop Coadjutor: The person who is elected to succeed a diocesan bishop prior his or her retirement. Coadjutor means this person “governs with” the incumbent for a period of transition. Once the diocesan bishop retires, Coadjutor is no longer used as part of this title.

Bishop Suffragan: The person who is elected to serve and be subordinate to a diocesan bishop. In large dioceses, there is sometimes more than one Bishop Suffragan. In the Diocese of New York, our Bishop Suffragan is Catherine Roskam.

Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 3, 2011

This year's Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM at Heathcote Hall. Food is available at the Fairside Café which is open for breakfast and lunch.



The auction starts at 1:00PM. The auction and silent auction will offer: Steuben, Waterford, Milk Glass, Depression Ware, American Brilliant Cut Glass, Cordial Glasses, Sailor Banks, Celluloid Four Piece Vanity Set, Deco Brush and Mirror Set, Sterling Silver and Silver Plated Items, Marx Tin Doll House, "Josie the Walking Cow" ('50s battery operated toy). Jewelry, Appley Dapply Beatrix Potter Royal Albert Made in England, and numerous other collectible items.

Please join us for this wonderful family day. Aside from the auction and the silent auction there will be: Vintage Table featuring vintage clothing, linens, and collectibles; Nearly New Table featuring a number of items new in the box plus a number of "gently used" items; Christmas Table featuring a large collection of Christmas ornaments, decorations and various Holiday items, including new and vintage items; Jewelry Table; Men's Accessory Table, Baked Goods Table, and much more.

We are looking for extra help this year preparing the merchandise we sell on the tables and booths. Also on setup day, Friday, December 2, we need folks who can work with our team leaders to display all the goods.

If you have time to give, an hour or two will do. We invite you to join all the volunteers at the Fair, and to enjoy this fun event. Please contact Michael Ford at mikerdford@yahoo.com or 698-2507. Thank you!

All proceeds will be given to KEEPS After School Program.



The Thanksgiving Service... will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd, the Eve of Thanksgiving, at 7:30 PM.

The Rector's Holiday Reception... will be held in Heathcote Hall on November 23rd, the Eve of Thanksgiving, following our worship service.

St. Thomas welcomes you!

Nancy Ruggiero

These words could not be truer.

My cousin Deanna passed away in May, unexpectedly, and much too soon. A native New Yorker living in San Francisco, we wanted to have a memorial service locally for her New York and New Jersey relatives.

Raised Catholic, I went to my local church, explained the situation and asked if they would hold a memorial service. No, I was told, "we do funerals, not memorial services." Disheartened but not surprised, I was determined to find a church willing to help my family remember our beloved Deana.

My first call was to St. Thomas. I left a message explaining the situation, including the fact that I was not a member of their congregation, hoping for the best. I shortly received a return call from the parish secretary advising the pastor would contact me.

Pastor Tammearu called me and was generously open to discuss a memorial service. Pastor Tammearu and I met, talked about Deanna and

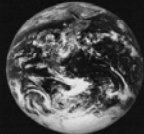
her courageous 10 year battle with chronic disease, and our desire to have a local memorial service. Pastor Tammearu did not hesitate in her willingness to help us.

On a warm Saturday in late June, our family gathered at St. Thomas' chapel and remembered Deanna. Family members offered eulogies and Pastor Tammearu led us in prayer. It was a very necessary and healing experience for our entire family, in particular for Deanna's husband, brother and sister.

Pastor Tammearu suggested I attend a Sunday service, which I was happy to do as a thank you for her kindness and generosity. I have been a regular to Sunday service since, and am very impressed with the St. Thomas' family and their commitment to the community.

I hadn't been a faithful church attendee for over 10 years. I lost some of my faith in the church along the way. I didn't realize how much I missed attending mass and the spiritual void it had created. My faith is being restored, and I realize my need to thank God for the good things in my life, and to pray for comfort and strength in difficult and challenging times for myself and loved ones.

Deanna's passing was a great loss. Finding St. Thomas has been a great gift and spiritual resurgence. Thank you, Pastor Tammearu and St. Thomas for your generosity. I know from experience, "St. Thomas Welcomes You" is not just a saying, but a genuine conviction.

<p>YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD</p> 	<p>THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR CHANGE TO OUR CARPENTER'S KIDS</p> <p>10/16 \$199.47 10/23 \$ 62.74 Total to date \$262.21</p>
--	---

YOU DON'T WANT TO FORGET...



Tuesdays at 10:00AM-12:00PM: Brown Bag Lunch and Pantry Preparation and Distribution



St. Thomas' Study Group meets every **Thursday** from 9:00 to 10:00AM



Community Dinner on **Saturday, November 12**. Set-up about 5:00 PM; dinner is served at 6:00 PM; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM.



Helping Hands Knitting Group will meet again on **Monday, November 14** at 7:00 PM in the Library.



The Rector's Thanksgiving Reception in Heathcote Hall will take place on **Wednesday, November 23** following the 7:30 PM service.



The Christmas Fair and Auction will be on **Saturday, December 3** at Heathcote Hall. This traditional event is a must for the whole family.

Transitions:

Deaths:

Ruby Boyce, Mary Paige, Helga Tammearu, Alan Richards



November Birthdays:

Mabel Atkinson	11-Nov
Nigel Holloway	16-Nov
Terry Giallorenzo	20-Nov
Ann Strychalski	20-Nov
Carol Campbell	29-Nov
Margaret Poney	29-Nov

St. Thomas Clergy, Vestry, and Staff Directory

Rector: The Rev. Deborah G. Tammearu rector@saintthosasmmrk.org

Associate Minister of Youth: willfisher@msn.com
The Rev. William A. Fisher

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

Parish Secretary: Barbara Gessler office@saintthosasmmrk.org

Bookkeeper: Nancy Mustacato bookkeeper@saintthosasmmrk.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: November 15, 2011

Submit articles to June Hendry at jhendry@idealcut.com