



# 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,**

A couple of kitchen cabinet screws came loose the other day, which meant locating my tool bag and then finding the right screwdriver to tighten them. It's always kind of interesting to see what's in a tool bag or kit, looking at the collection of things that come in handy for the small, tinkering sort of jobs that need tending to from time to time. Screwdrivers, pliers, files, hammers, measuring tapes, even a small hand saw – all are going to be needed at some time for some thing.

What do you carry in your spiritual tool kit? What are the tools available for you to sort through and come up with for the tinkering sort of jobs that need tending to from time to time in your life? Some of

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them are probably pretty obvious. Prayer is what came to your mind first, yes? Scripture, meditation, singing (which is, as St. Augustine said, “to pray twice.”), worship are some others. I think a sense of humor is a good tool to have handy. If you rummage around and look, I bet you’ll find the tool of generosity.

Generosity encompasses so much more than money, although I’m sure that’s what we first think of when we hear the word. I mean generosity of spirit. It is a vital tool, and an important one to remember to use. It helps us tinker with our souls in a way that allows us to be generous with our time and our talents – to be generous in forgiveness, both of ourselves and others. It’s the tool that helps us recall in a profound way just how much we have been given by God, through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. It’s the tool that will get us “out of our own way,” to selflessness and service. If it is satisfying to use tools to repair and create, then generosity is the one that will bring us the most joy and the deepest satisfaction.

There’s another thing about tools, and anyone who has loaned theirs out knows it all too well: sometimes that favorite one-of-a-kind wrench doesn’t get returned, and it is gone forever from your kit. The good news about your spiritual tools, though, is that they are always returned, they are never lost and in fact, they are refreshed and have an eternal guarantee. It’s true of prayer, it’s true of devotional reading and it’s especially true of generosity of spirit. What you give away in forgiveness blesses and heals you. What you give away in love is blessed by God and comes back to you multiplied many times over.

*“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6: 38)*

God’s Peace,

Pastor Tanneau†

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While giving my daughter a bath this summer, I handed her a Dora the Explorer towel which she loved as a smaller child. Still sopping wet, she refused. “Daddy, I’m too old for that towel!” Of course, the days of me giving her a bath will soon end as well. The Dora towel has moved on too; to my gym bag.

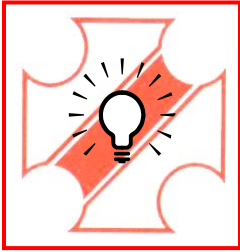
The whole incident has made me think about stages in life. Anybody can look back on their own lives and see how certain experiences, interests, events, choices, and relationships have demarcated them into episodes or stages. I can remember the stage of my life when I was really into Heavy Metal and Dungeons & Dragons. I grew out of it, although I still may turn up the volume when Ozzy or Judas Priest comes on the radio.

The same can be true in our interior lives. Something triggers a new chapter in our spirituality. Maybe it’s a crisis. Maybe it is a challenge or something we hadn’t thought of before. We hope that St. Thomas can be a resource to you when you make a transition into a new stage in your life.

If you’re young, but growing in intellect and maturity, you may be staging out of Sunday School and into the 10am service (and into Pre-Confirmation class). If you’re a man and newish to church or want to deepen your relationship with the Divine, we have a Men’s Group. If you just want to serve others, come help out at the Tuesday lunch or Community Dinner.

Whatever stage in which you find yourself, that is probably where you should be right now. Where will God take you next?

*In Will +*



## Deacon Thinkin'

Not long ago I had dinner with a longtime friend from my working days in Connecticut. We reminisced about the “good ole’ days” and about the people we worked with. We laughed a lot about some of the practical jokes we pulled on each other and those aimed at our colleagues.

She reminded me that she was still very active as a Lay Reader in her church and of the conversation we had many years ago, when I nudged her to put her name on the Lay Ministry schedule at her church. She also reminded me of our conversations that followed, about how challenging it is to be a Christian. In her words, “This Christian stuff is hard work.”

It is hard work to be Christian when you drive and someone cuts you off, it is hard work to be Christian when doing what is right is not “politically correct,” it is hard work to be Christian when you or someone you love is wronged, and every fiber in our being screams to retaliate.

In these difficult times for so many of our family, friends and neighbors we are given opportunities every day to live out our Baptismal Covenant, being more Christian in every way. We can be kinder, gentler, more supportive. There are so many ways to manifest in word and action what it means to be a Christian.


Don’t get me wrong - I am not suggesting for a moment that only Christians can be kind, caring, supportive, good people. You know what I mean.

I am always touched by the folks in this community that come forward to reach out to others; the young woman who has helped at our food pantry and will, with her husband, cook the October Community Dinner; the volunteers from Strait Gate Church who for the past 6 months have come to help set up, serve and clean up after the Community Dinners, volunteers (not members of this faith family) who give us countless

hours in the Thrift Shop, and of course “our” volunteers, who faithfully work the Lunch/Food Pantry Program, and knit in our Knitters Group.

Participating in any activity that will benefit another is God’s way. (Should I have written the Christian way?) It matters not that it is just a small act, an hour or two of time, the sharing of a meal, listening, visiting the shut in, teaching a Sunday School class, selling pumpkins, supporting the Christmas Fair, taking someone to a doctor’s visit, being kind.

*“In everything set them an example by doing what is good.” (Titus 2:7)*

Peace, 



## **Musical Notes**

"...well *that* didn't last long..."

The Good news is that Maria Woods and Sandra Black have had career advancements for which we congratulate them heartily. The Bad news is that their new careers necessitated their leaving the tri-state area, and St. Thomas Choir has lost two really good sopranos.

Last year, for the first time, we had an almost ideal balance of voices in our choir when Maria and Sandra joined us. Now our soprano section has a deficit. So once again, we are searching for two additional sopranos to sing with us. The time commitment is as follows:

Sunday 9:30am arrival; 10am service; 11:15am coffee; 11:30am rehearsal which ends at 12:45pm.

Please contact Noel Hart via email for more information:

[ExcellentSingers@aol.com](mailto:ExcellentSingers@aol.com)

*Noel Hart*

## **st. Thomas I-spy....a church sign!**



**Sunday School**

Our family traveled a lot by car this year. Aside from collecting a huge variety of license plates, we have observed a number of remarkable church signs. You know, the ones with moveable letters? Several stuck with us. Seen in Rhode Island: “The Hokey Pokey, it’s not what it’s all about.” Michigan, which had a great variety of church slogans, some inexplicable to us, offered up two gems: “The Son always shines.” Addie spotted this family fav: “Wal-mart—it’s not the only saving place.”

While the church signs gave us a collective chuckle, and I-spying them helped to pass the time on some seemingly endless journeys, they also offered us an opportunity as a family to ponder their intended meaning. The ensuing banter and discussions over these signs helped us to explore our values and beliefs as Christians. No deep theological insights were unearthed, but the church signs provided us a family-friendly space for talking about our faith.

Pretty much everyone knows that I have been a member of an inter-faith parenting group for many years. A couple of times a month, a dozen moms, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Baha’i, Muslims, Buddhists, and the faithful but unaffiliated, spend a lot of time thinking and talking about how to nurture our family’s spiritual center. A few themes re-cur. Our members note that the more open we are with our children about our own personal faith and spirituality, and the inherent questions, doubts and conflicts that come with it, the more likely our children are to truly embrace their own spirituality. We also see that when our children see us worship, they learn to worship, too. And, of course, while we can guide them, and set an example, we must allow our kids find their own way.

But finding their own way in faith is easier when we offer our families a more balanced life. Here I paraphrase a quote from one of Pastor Tammearu’s communications: “Americans work at play, worship work and play at worship.” As parents, as a faith community, if we hope our

children will have faith, we must better balance the lives we lead, and make time and space to seek faith for ourselves. In doing so, we guide our children in their faith and spirituality with our example.

While I am careful not to put too much stock in the numbers, we are seeing more and more families at St. Thomas make a regular and concerted effort to find that balance, to make a place for faith and worship in very busy lives. I am grateful for our families for choosing faith among the many demands on their time and for the St. Thomas community for its warm welcome of our youngest members and the way they model their worship. We are blessed.

A bit more on the church signs... When I googled “church signs” I was amazed to find websites devoted to catchy sign slogans. Here are a few to ponder from [www.sayingsforchurchsigns.com](http://www.sayingsforchurchsigns.com):

“Two things you can count on: Death and Taxes.

Are you ready for both?”

“7 days without prayer makes 1 weak.”

“Always remember that Hell is un-cool.

“Autumn leaves - Jesus doesn't.”

“Be ye fishers of men....You catch them, He'll clean them!”

“Can't sleep? Come hear a sermon.”

And from our friends at the Reader's Digest, <http://laughs.rd.com/clean-jokes-and-laughs/11-funny-church-signs/>:

“Now is a good time to visit, our pastor is on vacation.”

“Too cold to change sign, message inside.”

“Concealed Weapons Class Jan. 30”

Well, that's some food for thought!

*Kate Beeby*

Sunday School Director

914-833-3237 [katebeeby@optonline.net](mailto:katebeeby@optonline.net)

## **Upcoming family-friendly events and activities:**

**Sunday School and nursery:** Sundays starting at 9:45 AM in Heathcote Hall . It's never too late to join

**Pumpkin Patch opens on 10/1 at 9:00 AM:** Confirmation kids to help unload pumpkins. All welcome to assist in this special community event

**Blessing of the Animals on 10/1at 4:00 PM:** bring your pets to church. All are welcome

**Family Service/World Food Day** on 10/16 at 10 AM

**Confirmation Group** meets with Father Will, 10/23 at 10 AM

**Chapel Church** 10/30 at 10 AM

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## **Trinity Church, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2011**

*By Nigel Holloway*

From familiar pink  
Look beyond our forebears' resting place  
Into that same blue sky  
Where two towers rise  
Bolt by bolt  
Girder on girder  
Filling that hole.  
They do not replace  
Nor do they erase.  
But concrete, glass and sweat  
Show we continue.  
And by risking life and limb,  
Our fabricators lift two fingers  
Defiantly skyward.

## 9/11/11 Reflection

When terrible natural disasters occur, some call it a manifestation of God's anger. Many others would rightly agree with what Dean Peter Beck of Christchurch Anglican Cathedral in New Zealand said earlier this year. When his beautiful, iconic building was destroyed in an earthquake, he said, "This is not an Act of God; this is the earth doing what it does."

But when human beings cause disasters, it's not so easy to answer the question, "Where was God?" or "If God loves us, how could this happen?" We seem to be asking, "How could God have forsaken us in those moments of terror?"

Perhaps one answer might be that the Creator is a generous artist rather than a programmer. Within the masterpiece of our world, men and women have been given a great gift – free will. We have been created free to make choices, to use these wonderful bodies, minds and emotions for good or ill. Dean Beck said that during a great trial, "the act of God is how we love each other, how we reach out to one another." On the last day, it will be the answer to the question: "I gave you freedom. How did you use it?"

*Solange De Santis*

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My thanks to parishioners Nigel Holloway and Solange De Santis for writing, at my request, the reflection and poem in this month's Tower. I would appreciate more "parishioner pieces" from our congregation, and invite you all, from youth to adult, to submit your writing (or sketch, perhaps?) for future newsletters.

*Pastor Tammearu*

## **To the congregation of St. Thomas:**

The Christmas Fair will be here before you know it! This year we would like to try some new ways of getting more people involved. You can participate in a way that is not overwhelming and time consuming. There is a lot of work done behind the scenes that many people are not aware of and any time you can give would be appreciated. Many of those who work at a booth need help with sorting and pricing the items a month before the fair. The booths are Vintage, Christmas, Bake, Jewelry, New and Nearly New, Silent Auction and the Live Auction.

In the coming months a sign- up sheet will be posted. We will need help with carrying items and boxes from the basement and setting up the booths the day before the Fair. You may like to be a floater during the fair and give people breaks. Another way of helping is returning unsold items to storage areas and or the Thrift Shop when the Fair ends.

Every little bit is appreciated, even if it's an hour or two. Think about where you would like to help. Everyone is welcome and you might find that you want to get more involved in the following year.

If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Karen Bonaparte (bake table), Shelley Crook (auction), New and Nearly New (Peggy Saunders) Rose Gareri (Christmas table), Sue Perciasepe (Christmas table), Linda Shearman (Silent Auction), Donna Robinett (vintage table), Ann Strychalski (Live Auction), or Rosella Zaglio (Live Auction). They would all appreciate hearing from you!

*Donna Robinett*

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## **Time to Clean-up and Clear-out, Again!**

We are planning our Third Annual Family Tag Sale for October 22 in Heathcote Hall. So, start your fall clean-up now. Remember, your trash could be someone else's treasure.

Tables are \$25 each. Contact Kate to reserve a table. Set-up is at 8:30 AM, doors open at 9 AM, we close down at 1 PM. Vendors are responsible for their own set-up and clean-up. Unsold items in excellent condition may be donated to the Thrift Shop.

We also need volunteers to assist with this event. It's easy to do and you can still have your own table. Contact Kate at [katebeeby@optonline.net](mailto:katebeeby@optonline.net), or 833-3237, if you'd like to be an associate commissioner of junk, I mean treasure.

*Kate Beeby*

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## **Remembering St. Thomas**

Please consider remembering St. Thomas in your will. We were recently notified of a pending bequest from a former parishioner and I commend this as another way to support your church.

You may do so by using the following wording: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, with the present address of 168 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543, the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ percentage of my gross estate, to be used in such manner as determined by its Clergy, Wardens and Vestry."

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## **Future Pilgrimages**

Carpenter's Kids pilgrimages are set for July 16-28, 2012 and August 6-18, 2012.

Holy Land pilgrimages are set for October 19 -31, 2012 (this is a women's pilgrimage, led by the Rev. Deborah Dresser) and June 11 – 22, 2013 (This pilgrimage is co-ed and will be led by Pastor Tammearu and the Rev. Roy Cole.)

A pilgrimage is much more than sight-seeing and a pilgrim is not a tourist. These journeys can be transforming to your faith and your life. As the Carpenter's Kids website notes, "The life you change may be your own!"

Each of these pilgrimages costs in the neighborhood of \$3,500.00, but as a current advertisement says, the experience is "priceless." Set aside some funds and come, take a journey which will change you.

*Pastor Tammearu*

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



The Pumpkin Patch starts **October 1** and is open all through October from 12 to 5PM on weekdays and from 10AM to 6PM on weekends. Please help us **unload the pumpkins on October 1 at 9AM**



**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, October 8 at 5:30PM** Please come and help with set-up ; dinner is served at 5:30pm; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM.



On **October 16** we will celebrate a family service at 10AM



**October 17** at 7:00PM: The **Helping Hands Knitting Group** meets - everybody is welcome!



Third Annual **Family Tag Sale** for **October 22** in Heathcote Hall from 9:00AM to 1:00PM



**The Christmas Fair and Auction** will be on **Saturday, December 3** at Heathcote Hall.

### **Transitions:**

#### Deaths:

Joann Quadrine Petzold, Jane Gaffney, Ruth Hartenau



### **October Birthdays:**

Don Giallorenzo	01-Oct
Mary Louise Cox	07-Oct
Betty Pollak	11-Oct
Carolyn Young	13-Oct
Ira Hart	14-Oct
Robert Poney, Jr.	14-Oct
Charlotte Fisher	15-Oct
Veronica Sessler	16-Oct

## 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:

June Hendry

Peggy Saunders

Nigel Holloway

Louis Scenti

Mary Olsson

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: October 15, 2011

Submit articles to June Hendry at [jhendry@idealcut.com](mailto:jhendry@idealcut.com)