



The Tower

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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Volume 10, Issue 1

February 2012

Dear St. Thomas Family,

It feels like someone hit the fast forward button again. Advent purple gave way to Christmas white which in turn changed to Epiphanytide green. Within a few weeks, the green hangings will be stored and our church will be dressed in Lenten array.

Lent just might be my favorite liturgical season because it is a perfect time and opportunity to rethink how we are with God, with ourselves and with each other. It's been a mild winter so far, I know, but I like to think of Lent as the ultimate "snow day": found time to be free of the usual routine and schedule of our days; it frees us from having to be some place or to do some thing. It is a season to be quiet, to be still and know that God is, indeed, God.

Content	page
Dear St. Thomas Family	1,2
Dear Brothers and Sisters	3
Deacon Thinkin'	4,5
Sunday School News	6,7
Book Group	7
From the Auction Team	8,9
In Memoriam: Rosella	9
Consecration on March 10	10
Congratulations, Peggy	10
Lenten Events	11
Birthdays	11
Don't forget...	12
Transitions	12
Contact Information	13

I ask us all this Lent to make an effort to find quiet and stillness, especially on Sunday when we come to church. We are a genuinely friendly and caring congregation, but giving each other space to be quiet, to get centered and to pray before the service begins is not only a friendly and caring thing to do, it is very loving as well. Sister Cintra Pemberton of the Order of St. Helena, who was my spiritual director for many years, put it this way: *Silence is a gift we give to each other.*

We all lead busy, full lives and it can be difficult to carve time out during the day for quiet or prayer. So let's make a beginning by designating Sundays in Lent for this. Let the moments before the service begins be a time for centering prayer or reading through one of your favorite hymns. Give yourself the gift of silence first, then pass it on to your brothers and sisters in this congregation. There's plenty of time for conversation after our worship is finished.

Silence is not easy, I understand. It might even feel a little awkward at first, but you may find it grows on you and you'll want to make it a part of your spiritual practice. It is a gift for you to have and for you to share. It is a gift which will help us see each other more clearly as the children of God we all are.

*“For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in him.”*
(Psalm 62:6)

God's Peace,

Pastor Tanneau†

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Want to engage your brains this Lent? Read a challenging new book? Re-examine our faith at a fundamental level? Well, prepare yourself for a thought-provoking Lent. Pastor Tammearu, Deacon Werdal, and I will take turns leading the Thursday Morning Study Group.

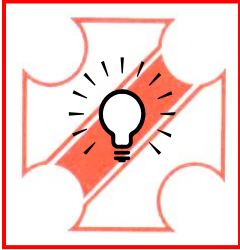
Get yourself a copy of Brian McLaren's "A New Kind of Christianity" and read it! McLaren argues convincingly that Christianity is in an identity crisis and that it has strayed too far from its Jewish roots, especially in how the Church seeks and arrives at what it considers 'truth'. Without giving away what's in the book, I will say McLaren lays out a provocative case for a Church that asks a lot of questions. Is it a way forward for the Episcopal Church? Come find out.

My hunch (and McLaren's as well) is that Christianity goes through a major period of change and upheaval every 500 years or so, when the bonds to old structures of authority are torn asunder and new ones are formed to new loci of truth. The Body of Christ went through these when the Roman Empire fell in 476, the Great Schism of 1054, and the Protestant and Anglican Reformations of the 1500's.

Are we on the verge of another great re-shaping of Christianity? What will the Christian world look like then? What will the lasting impact be of such a great re-ordering? If you want to ponder the answers to these questions and more, come join us on Thursday mornings in Lent. Bring your mind!

In Peace,

In Will +



Deacon Thinkin'

I was tempted to submit for this issue of The Tower a simple sentence: “Work in progress, please check back later.”

During the preparation for this article I have deleted a ridiculous number of “inspired” thoughts. I have searched my memory and been on the lookout for some spark, an aha moment, or even an OMG awakening - anything, anything at all that would send me to the computer and would make me quickly, before I forget, put something that is printable into this miraculous machine and have it spew out words of wisdom. Well, maybe not words of wisdom, but at least something worthy of your attention. I have been trying to write something for this Tower for the last four days.

I realize that although we would all like to hit a home run or score the winning touchdown or, as in the recent Giants game, kick the winning field goal - it just will not happen all the time, maybe not even half the time.

Now, if someone came to me and said they just could not get it right, be it putting words together, or assembling a toy for a child, or cooking from a recipe, I would simply tell them to stick with it, to go back and try again, because eventually they will get it right. Having said all that, I want you to know that I started this piece thirty minutes ago and have already interrupted myself to make a pot of coffee, venture outside in the bitter cold to empty the garbage and have even considered cleaning the oven! Now how desperate is that?

I believe I am not alone in playing the avoidance game, avoid at all cost the thing that is most unpleasant or difficult at the time.

I want you to know that I just attempted to pour myself that fresh cup of coffee when I noticed ... I forgot to put the water in the pot! I know what you are thinking.

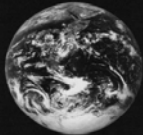
Back to the avoidance part: we all like to turn away and escape from whatever it is that causes us discomfort, not necessarily the life threatening or physically painful kind, but that piercing gnawing we experience when we know we have something that needs to be done, yet cannot get into the spirit of the moment. Could it be that we put too much pressure on ourselves, that we let our ego get in the way? That we are assaulted by the cares, concerns, worries we carry? Maybe we take ourselves too seriously?

And so I offer this for you to consider when you find yourself during a “dry time”, an anxious time or a time of doubt: let it go, pull back and retreat. That does not mean giving up, it is doing as Jesus did, moving away from the distractions, the mental chatter, the pressure to get it done, and let go.

And listen.

Peace,



<p>YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD</p> 	<p>THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR CHANGE TO OUR CARPENTER'S KIDS</p> <p>Total to date \$684.42</p>
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st. Thomas There is a whole lot going on...



... in Sunday School and at St. Thomas for our kids and their families.

Sunday School

January started with a bang in Sunday School. Our first day back after the Christmas break, we made eight Galette des Rois, traditional French puff pastry Kings' cakes, to celebrate the Epiphany. We shared these special treats with the whole congregation at coffee hour. There was not a morsel left over! And eight parishioners found the feves and were crowned kings or queens for the day.

We continued our tradition of observing Martin Luther King's birthday with a teach-in, this year we had a special guest lecturer. Miss Deborah (Lee) led us in an exploration of justice and what it meant to Dr. King, to Jesus, and what it means to us as Christians. After our discussion, we made posters and signs, and held our own march for justice while singing *Marching in the Light of God*.

Our kids were busy during the Annual Meeting with a babysitter-supervised brunch and craft activities upstairs in the Heathcote Hall classrooms.

Looking ahead, on February 12 there will be a special Carpenter's Kids family service in the big church to observe World Mission Sunday.

Families who are looking for service opportunities, please consider signing up for a shift at our Carpenter's Kids Café open during the indoor farmer's market hosted by St. Thomas in the winter. The two-hour shifts are family friendly and fun. Look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

For Lent we have planned a series of special craft activities to help us prepare for Jesus' resurrection. You will hear more about that soon.

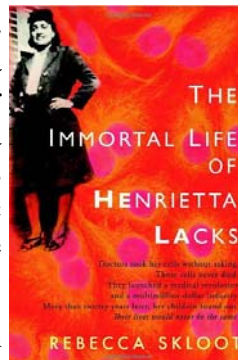
Please remember, each Sunday is a new opportunity to start, or re-join, Sunday School! Hope to see you soon.

Kate Beeby

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

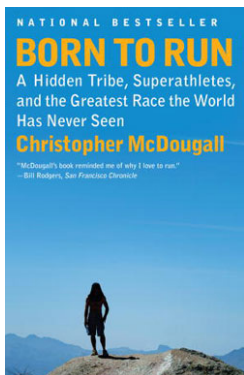
Saint Thomas Book Group

The St. Thomas book group met on January 15, 2012 to discuss the book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks". It is the story of a woman with cervical cancer who died in 1951. But rather than one story about a woman with cancer the book includes many stories about racism, sexual abuse, classism, scientific discovery and how scientists can lose sight of the humanity of those they are studying.



The author, Rebecca Skloot, shuttles back and forth in time from the 1940s and 1950s to the present, all the

while expertly juggling the multiple complex story lines and issues. During our discussion it was hard to give each issue it's due as there were so many.



All are welcome to the St. Thomas book group that includes a light lunch and a lively discussion.

The Book Group will meet again on February 26, 2012 at 11:30 to discuss "Born to Run" by Christopher McDougall.

Ann Hunt

A Heartfelt Thank You From the Auction Team

It was a pleasure to have new people involved in this year's Christmas Fair. It was really a lot of fun, and we all worked well as a team.

There are a lot of people whom we would like to thank, but first of all we'd like to express our gratitude to Michael Ford for giving us so much support and for letting us move forward with our new ideas and ventures.

In addition we would like to thank everyone who worked at a table or in the kitchen, and who collected the money for the café. Thanks go also to our auctioneers, James Whitehouse and Solange De Santis. To Jim and Rosanne Minnerly and to Mary Ford for the excellent record-keeping of the auction items.

We'd like to thank Shelley Crook, Irene Styer and Leana Fisher for joining the auction crew, for aiding us in keeping the auction items organized, and for giving their expert input on the items to be auctioned off. Kate Beeby, who staffed a new table this year which supported the Carpenter Kids program—it was great to have all the kids involved.

We are grateful to Luddy Kravchychyn (Strychalski), who ironed all of our vintage linen and other miscellaneous items, assisted with set up and was a floater during the Fair; Tom Bates for his strength and assistance carrying boxes to our booths; Shelley Crook for her creativity in making one of our flyers and Joe Gesick, who printed all of our wonderful posters and flyers.

Let's not forget our volunteers who diligently work in the Thrift Shop all year long, sorting through the donations and putting items for the auction aside for us. Rose Gareri and Sue Perciasepe for giving us free access to the Christmas room and all the holiday decorations they have to help make Heathcote Hall and our stage look so festive. Laurie Ozelius, who is always willing to come down and give us a hand. Ronnie Sessler and Grace Gallo for helping with the vintage booth. Barbara, our secretary,

who makes sure the ads get placed and the auction catalog put together, plus giving us her valuable input on jewelry throughout the year.

Due to the many compliments received over the years about the changing of outfits during the Fair, we had our first fashion show featuring Shelley and Luddy as our models. They were very brave and deserve a great big special thank you. We hope to continue incorporating this into the Fair and recruit even more new people this year. If you're interested, let us know. Although the Fair just ended, our heads are brimming with new ideas for 2012. Hope you can all join in the fun!

*Ann Strychalski
Rosella Zaglio
Donna Robinett*

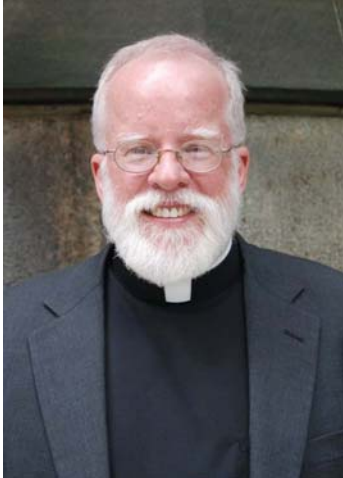
In Memoriam: Rosella Murray



November 2, 1929 - December 30, 2011

Photo: Donna Robinett

The Consecration of the Bishop Coadjutor



Canon Andy Dietsche will be consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of New York on Saturday, March 10th. You are invited to join with others and share in the celebration. Mark your calendar and set aside March 10th to come to the cathedral and participate in this joyful occasion. Carpooling is what we have in mind, so please let us know if you would like to go and if you would be willing to drive. This will be a special day in the life of our diocese. I hope you can come and be part of it.

Congratulations to Peggy Saunders



She was honored as a volunteer of the Bruce Museum

SHROVE TUESDAY

After a short hiatus, St. Thomas Church is once again hosting a traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for friends and families on February 21 at 6:30PM. Details to follow.

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be two services of the Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes on February 22 at 12:00 Noon, St. Luke's Chapel in the Parish House and 7:30 PM in the Church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be offered every Wednesday evening in Lent at 7:30 PM in our Chapel.



February Birthdays:

Jonathan Thomas	10-Feb
John Perciasepe	11-Feb
Sue Perciasepe	12-Feb
Margaret (Peggy) Saunders	17-Feb
Mary Olsson	22-Feb
Pamela Sullivan	25-Feb
Irene Styer	26-Feb
Cheryl Bing Howard	27-Feb

If you would like your birthday to be included, please send it to the parish office by mail or e-mail: office@saintthomasmmrk.org

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.

On February 5 and 12 a second Study Group meets after the 10:00AM service. A light lunch will be served.



St. Thomas Men's Group meets every first Friday of the month at 7:30pm in the Chapel.



Every Saturday the Farmers Market is open in Heathcote Hall, with the exception of February 25.

Schedule: January 7 to May 19, 9:00AM to 1:00PM



Community Dinner on Saturday, February 11. Set-up about 5:00 PM; dinner is served at 5:30 PM; clean-up is finished by 7:00 PM.



February 12, 10:00 AM: Family Service

Transitions:

Deaths:

Rosella Murray

St. Thomas Clergy, Vestry, and Staff Directory

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

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

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

Director of Music: Noel A. Hart, Jr. ExcellentSingers@aol.com

Senior Warden: Ira Hart

Junior Warden: Sue Perciasepe

Treasurer: David A. Brown

Vestry:

John Brown

Peggy Saunders

Nigel Holloway

Pamela Sullivan

Mary Olsson

Gloria Welcome

Sunday School Director: Kate Beeby sundayschool@saintthomasmmrk.org

Parish Secretary: Barbara Gessler office@saintthomasmmrk.org

Bookkeeper: Nancy Mustacato bookkeeper@saintthomasmmrk.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: February 15, 2012

Submit articles to June Hendry at jhendry@idealcut.com