



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Seekers, searchers,
and doubters welcome

Volume 14, Issue 5, June 2016

The Tower

From Mother Carol:

Today is Friday, the last day of our vacation. I am seated on the sea wall of St. Mary of the Harbor Episcopal Church in Provincetown as I write this, taking a break from my daily morning walk. The sky is blue with a bit of haze and the sun shines brightly. It is low tide, and the water is quite still. A few fishing boats are starting to come back in to shore.

While Provincetown is a place where the diversity of God's creation is quite apparent and brings me joy, it's really about the water: the ocean is the place where I am most keenly aware of God's presence. Its beauty is unparalleled, and it brings me back each year. Like the water of baptism, to be near the ocean is to be restored, renewed, and I am grateful for such a time of refreshment and re-creation.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carol'.

Relay for Life - Thank You Team St. Thomas

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life held at Harbor Island on May 21-22 was a great success, thanks in part to Team St. Thomas. There were 20 teams with over 200 participants. Through your generous donations our team raised \$1,320 which will support The American Cancer Society's long-term goal of a cancer-free future. Thank you Team St. Thomas supporters! I would like to send out a special thank you to my team mates who joined the relay and walked for the cure: Tami Burks, Lynn Werdal, Daniele Toselli, Dawn Yanuzzi, and Mary and Bill Reed.



The night was an inspirational and moving remembrance of those who have taken the journey through cancer and are no longer with us, an expression of gratitude for the caretakers who have guided someone's journey and a demonstration of hope for those who are continuing on their own personal journey, and a tribute to the survivors.

The evening was filled with music, games, contests, food, and fun. Toddlers to senior citizens spent the night in Mamaroneck's newest neighborhood, ***Tent City at Harbor Island***. The spirit of the Relay never waned, even with some late night wind and rain; there were always participants walking the track.

I am looking forward to next year and an even bigger and better event. Keep Relay for Life in mind, dust off your camping gear, grab your kids and enjoy a family friendly fun night for an important cause. Again, thanks to all.

Ronnie Sessler

Summer 2016—Midweek Fellowship and Worship

Beginning Wednesday, July 6th and continuing through August, join us on the church lawn for summer fellowship every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Bring a folding chair or blanket, a picnic dinner, or just yourself.

We'll have an assortment of lawn games and activities available for all ages. Come and play a game of bocce or horseshoes, blow some bubbles or simply enjoy the chance to sit and chat with your fellow parishioners. Make some new friends or get to know old friends better.

We will end with the Wednesday Evening Eucharist in the chapel at 7:30. This short spoken service lasts about twenty minutes and is the perfect opportunity to pause and refresh spiritually mid-week.

Jami

See you in September

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” Psalm 100

I always found the song *See you in September* by The Happenings very appealing. Was it the rich harmony or the sentiment expressed by the lyrics? Probably a little bit of both, although the lyrics appear to sum up the life of an educator who marks his time in academic years. “See you in September, see you when the summer’s through.” It is certainly true as I prepare to say goodbye to my students for the summer.

It's hard to accept that it is June already; it seems like only yesterday that I first entered St. Thomas on a Sunday morning. And now its time for me to say goodbye to you, for now, because "I'll see you in September, see you when the summer's through." As part of our formation, all postulants (my official title) take an intentional hiatus from our field placement parish, returning to our sponsoring parish with an occasional visit to other Episcopal parishes during the summer months. When summer ends, some postulants anticipate a new field placement assignment in September, while others like me have the pleasure of returning for a second year.

As I prepare to say goodbye for now, with my last Sunday June 19th approaching, my heart is filled with gratitude to our Rector, Carol Gadsden, our Associate Tami Burks, the staff and members of our parish family. I couldn't have asked for a more blessed opportunity than the one I experienced at St. Thomas as a Deacon in training. You have all welcomed me with warmth and acceptance. You supported me as I engaged in parish ministry for the very first time. I always felt nurtured and raised up by your presence, your words of encouragement, and your warm smiles. I have learned a lot, taken a few missteps, and grown in my love of God because of you. So, as I prepare to spend the summer elsewhere, I look back with a grateful heart and look forward to spending my last year in formation with you.

This September will begin the final year of formation and with God's blessing; as well as the consent of the Bishop and the People of New York (those I journey with in faith) will lead to ordination. Please keep me in your prayers knowing that I will keep you in mine. And know that you will be forever pressed in my heart as a rich source of loving gratitude to a gracious God for my having experienced the love of Christ among you.

Richard

Summer: A Time for Taking in and Taking on

Twenty years of schooling, spanning nursery through graduate school, another eight or so working in higher education, plus almost twelve years in Christian

Education, the ebb and flow of all those forty school years has etched a special pattern on my cells and soul.

As a student, whether I was five or twenty-five, the end of a school year brought a welcome break, with the summer offering a time to re-set and change gears. But perhaps most importantly, summer meant a shift to more organic and self-directed exploration--coming to know when to pick certain berries that grew along the road around the cranberry bogs down the hill from our house, and when there was an abundant crop, remembering a recipe for homemade jam learned in home ec class, and recalling the math to double, triple or halve the recipe. None of this seemed like work, or even learning (even though it was!).

Mostly summers simply provided time to mull over new knowledge and skills, integrating that which I'd just recently learned into my daily existence. As a parent and a teacher, increasingly, I believe experiencing a summer's space and time, to take in and take on what we have recently learned, is pretty much as important as more formal schooling. I hope over this summer, St. Thomas' kids find unencumbered time and space to integrate, to take in and take on, what we have explored together during our Sunday School church year. To this end, I encourage our families to worship this summer, either on Sunday mornings at 9 am, or Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, providing continuity, and space and time, for our kids to find their own place in our faith. And let all adults in our community seize opportunities to help our kids come to know that our faith is not just a Sunday thing, and church is not just a school year endeavor. Let us all make time and space to take in and take on our loving God, during this beautiful God-given season of long, golden light and fireflies.

P.S. My own summer's taking in and taking on includes contemplating our recent Christian Education offerings--what seemed to work, and what did not, for St. Thomas' children. I invite you, and your children, into conversation and ask for your help in shaping future Christian Education offerings for our children and youth. Please take some time to share what you think, and what your kids' think, with me this summer. Call me, e-mail me, meet with me: I'd love to hear what works for you and yours, and what does not!

Kate

From the Outreach Committee

At the May 2016 meeting the following grants were approved:

1. Mamaroneck High School Scholarship Fund \$500
2. Refugee Relief \$750
3. Five Scholarships to the New York Summer Youth Conference at \$275 each \$1375

Jim Minnerly, Outreach Chair



June Birthdays

Peter Aresty
Karen Bonaparte
Jacqueline Brassington
Sam Dalsimer
Dr. Sheldon Evans
Mary Ford
Alexis Friedman
Brian J. Gassick
Olga Harvey
Shannon Leigh Liguori
Timothy Mustacato
Greg Schimoler
Eugenia Strychalski
Collin Warkenthien

July Birthdays

Maryam Azizi
Tami Burks
Eleanor Cotter
Robert Deshensky
Jay'Von Downer
Jaylen Downer
Aria Friedman
Sharon Liguori
Peter McDade
Nancy Mustacato
John Perciasepe
Shannon Powell
Adelaide Isabel Scenti
Linda Shearman
Clara Shikany
Paul Shikany
Gabriel Strychalski
Luke Strychalski

August Birthdays

William Burks
Greg Cherry
Nancy Doherty
John Evans
Andrew Gargiulo
H. Lewis Henderson
Elizabeth Perciasepe
Rhys Ritter
Jeffrey Shearman
Terry Sheridan
Nicholas Strychalski
Bella Ann Warkenthien
Thomas Warkenthien
Katie Wong

St. Thomas Clergy, Staff and Vestry

Rector: The Rev. Carol D. Gadsden	rectorstthomas@gmail.com
Associate: The Rev. Tami Burks	associatestthomas@gmail.com
Deacon-in-Training: Dr. Richard Limato	rplimato@optimum.net
Director of Music: Eric Milnes	EMDMA@aol.com
Parish Secretary: Barbara Gessler	office@saintthomasmmrk.org
Sunday School Director: Kate Beeby	katebeeby@optonline.net
Bookkeeper: Nancy Mustacato	bookkeeper@saintthomasmmrk.org
Sexton: Edgar Garza	edgaregarza@yahoo.com
Sunday Sexton: Anner Garza	anner426@optonline.net
Senior Warden: Linda Shearman	Junior Warden: Brian Gassick
Vestry:	
Patricia Bave	Maria Thomas
Denny Wong	Rose Ann Minnerly
Lou Scenti	Terry Sheridan

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Sunday: Eucharist (said) 8:00am
 Eucharist (with music) 10:00am (refreshments served afterwards)
 Choir Rehearsal 8:45am
 Sunday School and Nursery 9:30am
 Parent Group meets at 9:30am

Wednesday: Eucharist in St. Luke's Chapel 7:30pm
 Tuesday: Brown Bag Lunch 11am
 Wednesday and Saturday: Thrift Shop open 10am - 1pm
 First and third Tuesday of the month: Bible Study 7pm
 Thursday: Bible Study at 11am
 Fourth Thursday of the month: Vestry Meeting 7:30pm
 Second Saturday of the month: Community Dinner 5:30pm