



“the story”

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
July 2015 Volume 38, Issue 7

**All are Welcome!
No Exceptions!**

Long-Range Planning for St. Thomas by Robin Kares, Senior Warden

St. Thomas Episcopal Church accepts all people and we commit to:

Celebrate the Eucharist regularly

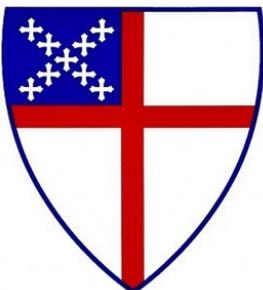
Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and study

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting justice, peace, and love

Nurture God’s people as we grow in Christ

Live with thanksgiving, wonder, and openness to God’s love

Restore all people to unity with God and each other



It's hard to believe that we are half way through our shared ministry agreement with St. Luke's. By October of 2016, we will have discerned 1) whether the clergy model (1/2 time shared priest) works for St. Thomas, 2) whether we want to continue in our shared ministry or try another model, and 3) whether we wish to retain Whitney as our priest in the shared or another model. In order to be able to make these decisions, the church has to work to become as strong and as vibrant as possible. With St. Thomas and its future in mind, a vestry long-range planning committee started meeting in February of 2015 to kick-off our planning process.



Our initial steps were brainstorming. We articulated six goals which we thought might be appropriate for this time frame. We may decide as a congregation to attempt some and not others, or we might embrace them all. But here's the first general look:

- Determine our clergy model, needs and preferences
- Become more financially stable
- Develop plan for regular Christian Education opportunities for adults and children
- Engage in more (and more meaningful) interactions with our community
- Explore a variety of worship opportunities
- Develop and improve communications to foster spiritual intimacy

We then brainstormed activities for each goal and raised the following questions and possibilities:

Clergy Model Needs and Preferences

Full or part-time?

Shared or solo?

Whitney+ or someone else?

Activities: Mutual Ministry Review (parish wide), Discussions with St. Luke's vestry, small group meetings, parish-wide meetings (include Bruce Gray?)

Financial Stability

Commitment to evangelism (not just for this reason)

More effective stewardship

More fundraisers – commitment to support St. Thomas

Spend down the endowment

Give the endowment away

Independent parish or mission?

Activities: Fun Fest 2016*, Spaghetti dinners, pork chop dinners, Finance Committee meetings, financial advisor

*Fun Fest is taking a year off; it will return in 2016.



(Long-Range Planning—continued)

Develop a plan for regular Christian Education activities for children and adults

Need someone willing to coordinate education (or two people, one for children and one for adults)

Deirdré Warrenburg - Godly Play

Youth worship coordinator so that there is something every week during the school year

Whitney - one adult forum per month and Lenten study

Discipleship classes on regular basis

Lay-led Bible study

More and more meaningful interactions with community

Clinic discernment – Do we want to continue with this as our project? Can we commit to it as volunteers and financially?

Scouts

Franklin College

Volunteering with Youth (CASA, kids to camp, Kic-It?)

Collaboration for Spirit and Place and other related opportunities; committee needs to begin working on Eva Kor event. Elyssa Everling is coordinator.

Community meals?

Food pantry

Work with homeless?

Booths at events

Worship Opportunities

Labyrinth Service planned for August 16

Morning Prayer

Evening Prayer once a month?

Occasional sung service – evensong?

Informal prayer services around community and world needs

Outdoor worship

Services at Franklin College?



Communications to foster intimacy

Prayer partners (Discipleship group)

New member dinners

Newsletter articles on new members

Newsletter articles on spiritual or reflective experiences, not just upcoming events – recruit several "editorial" writers

More fellowship opportunities – ladies lunch, men's breakfast?, round robin, quarterly game night

Check in with one another on spiritual life, other concerns

Plan for Fall - Link *Bring a Friend Sunday* to *Stewardship* to *Ministry Fair*: Form committee right away; Robin Kares, & Steve Faust are committed; need other members to join.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Please look through this and react. Add, delete, comment without fear of censorship and send me an email at roblkares@yahoo.com to let me know what you think is possible and what you are willing to support. We aren't looking for consensus right now, just narrowing possibilities. If you prefer, print The Story and scribble on it, including your name in case I have questions, and put it in the Senior Warden's mailbox. **PLEASE PARTICIPATE!** Without the opinions of many, it is difficult to move forward.

The Long-Range Planning Committee members—Elyssa Everling, Mike Ramsey, Deirdre Warrenburg and Robin Kares—are eager to hear your opinions.

FINANCE FACTS

by Marti Ramsey, Treasurer

As of the end of June, St. Thomas' fiscal year is half complete. At the top of the weekly bulletin announcements, there is a statement of the "Financial Update" which presents the status of the plate offerings and pledge payments. Why is this there? It is an informational piece to keep the congregation aware of the financial status of St. Thomas.

The 2015 budget for pledges is \$73,504. This is the exact amount of money pledged to St. Thomas by parishioners. The 2015 budget for the plate offering is \$4,000. This amount was determined by the Finance Committee based on the prior years' plate offerings. Any contributions received that are not pledge payments or designated for a specific purpose are recorded as plate offerings.

At the end of June, the pledge payments received are \$33,640. The budgeted increment for this portion of the year is \$36,752. This is a deficit of \$3,112. It must be noted that some pledges are paid weekly, some monthly and some paid in full by the end of the year. For reporting purposes, the annual budget is divided into weekly increments.

The plate offering at the end of June is \$7,285.25. The budgeted amount is \$2,000. This is an excess of \$5,285.25 for this first half of the year and has already fulfilled the annual budgeted amount. Why such an excess? There are two simple explanations. One, those who chose to not commit a pledge this year are now putting their contributions into the plate offering. Second, visitors contributions also are reflected in the plate offering.

The Clergy, Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

Bishop.....	The Rt. Rev. Catherine M. Waynick
Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Whitney Rice
Deacon	The. Ven. Ron Goldfarb
Organist/Choir Director.....	Mary Barrett
Parish Administrator.....	Carol Macmillan
Senior Warden.....	Robin Kares
Junior Warden.....	Mike Ramsey
Clerk.....	Jen Tullis
Treasurer	Marti Ramsey
Assistant Treasurers	Robin Kares, Eric Smith

ST. THOMAS NEWS FOR YOU

FAST TRACK SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE July 3-August 16

Bring school supplies (lists available in foyer) now through mid-August to help Johnson County children in need. Donations also gladly accepted. Checks payable to St. Thomas and memo "Fast Track." Elyssa Everling is the coordinator.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY BOOK CLUB

The Bible Study group is reading "Simply Christian" by N.T. Wright. They will meet before worship at 10 a.m. for discussion. Part two will be discussed on July 26; part three will be discussed on August 23. Contact Cheryl Faust for more information.

ST. THOMAS CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to our newest volunteers: Katie & Matthew Meyer, and Mike Nichols; and to Joey Hollis, R.N., the new Steering Committee Chairperson.

Diabetic Education by the American Health Network is the third Wednesday of each month. Those with diabetes and/or COPD may qualify for current research studies. Call Cathy at 317-718-5479.

See the monthly calendar on page 6 for Clinic fundraiser event dates this month.

The 19th Vestry of St. Thomas (2015-2016)

2016.....	David Buchholz, Marikay Kapke, Mike Ramsey
2017.....	Elyssa Everling, Robin Kares, Jen Tullis
2018.....	Steve Faust



There is no Vestry meeting in July. Next meeting will be TUESDAY, August 18, 7 p.m.

God and the Fourth of July

by the Rev. Whitney Rice, Priest-in-Charge

There comes a time in every woman's life when she must answer the call of her country. That can sometimes coincide with the time when she must answer the call of nature. This was the situation I faced on July 4, 1997. I had just finished my freshman year of high school and while the annual family outing on the 4th of July was kind of a drag for someone as eminently cool as myself, at least walking around the grounds of the local folk festival afforded the opportunity to look for cute boys.

It was a hundred degrees in the shade around noon that day, and the rustic grounds of the Jesse James Festival in northwest Missouri did not afford very elegant facilities. Thus was I forced to utilize the dreaded portable toilet common to all fairgrounds, thereby lowering my coolness quotient by at least fifty points.

So there I was, braving the fragrant confines of the Johnny On the Spot when I heard John Philip Sousa music being massacred by a local marching band and my sisters calling, "Whitney, hurry up! It's time for the parade and we're going—"

I could not hear the rest of the sentence, however, because it was drowned out by an ominous roaring overlaid with a recurring beep. Feeling a little nervous, I struggled to reassemble my wardrobe with all haste as the stall began to shiver and shake. The roar was reaching epic proportions now and to my horror, the Johnny On the Spot with me in it slowly began to tip over. Now I could hear my sisters' squeals over the motor and I screamed too as the four of us worked at cross purposes trying to open the door from both sides.

I eventually spilled out onto the ground uninjured to discover that a fairground worker was backing a tractor slowly and efficiently right into my Johnny On the Spot as he towed a parade float into place, blissfully unaware of the traumatized teenager within. Once I had narrowly evaded death by portable toilet, my family thought the whole thing was hilarious. All I have to say is that George Washington never had to deal with this kind of indignity.

Or maybe he did. There was a less glamorous side to being the Father of Our Country, I'm sure, and he faced his own share of hardships. And many of our most important Americans did have to deal with a lot more than simple indignity. Think of the trials Americans have faced throughout history. The first settlers striving for religious freedom in a vast wilderness. Generations of African people enduring slavery. American Indian peoples watching their lands shrink with every treacherous promise of the government. Poor white Southerners during Reconstruction learning patterns of hatred that would be reinforced by poverty for generations to come. Irish and Italian immigrants suffocating in tenements and sweltering in factories. Women fighting for the vote. Committed gay couples fighting for equal recognition under the law.



LIFE
LIBERTY
AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS

All this is to say that it's not always easy to be an American. And yet what do people always think of when they think of America? Not hardships. Not suffering. Not persecution. People think of America as the land where people can make dreams come true.

For generations Americans have dreamed of and fought for a just society. Americans have worked to make their nation a place where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness truly are inalienable rights because both the common ethos and the institutions that support it make manifest the truth that all human beings are created equal.

So we see that America is a mixture of tragedy and hope, but in this long war against oppression there are a few bright lights that pierce the gloom of backsliding and foot-dragging. These men and women fought for their causes their entire lives, never questioning whether or not their goals were actually attainable. The Apostle Paul seemed to foreshadow their courage in his letter to the Hebrews: "All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them...As it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one."

Independence Day is a day to cherish those brave Americans who contributed so much to our land but died before achieving their dreams. Thomas Jefferson never saw an end to slavery. Abraham Lincoln died before the Union healed. Sitting Bull was shot while protecting his people, long before his dream of organized activism, now called the American Indian Movement, could begin. Susan B. Anthony died in the midst of her battle for women's right to vote. John F. Kennedy predicted but never saw a man land on the moon. Malcolm X was assassinated just as he began to turn the Black Muslim movement away from violence and toward peace. Margaret Sanger died only seven years before her lifelong goal of women's reproductive rights gained legal recognition. Martin Luther King, Jr. was cut down with his dream of racial reconciliation unfulfilled. And Christa McAuliffe, perhaps as close to average as any of these heroes and thus closest to us, died aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger as she was about to be the first civilian in space. "All of these died in faith without having received the promises," Paul says.

We are promised as God's children the chance to work for change, to better the lives of our neighbors. What dreams do we have for America that we want to come true before we die? What is our vision of "the heavenly country," our corner of the Kingdom of God on earth? What to us is worth giving everything, our highest passion and our greatest gifts, to make happen?

I can think of a few dreams that seem almost as unattainable as those of our ancestors during their time. I'd like to see gay marriage celebrated by the Church and recognized by the State. I'd like to see the end of exploitation of American Indians by sports teams and Hollywood, and perhaps a better standard of living on reservations than the current unemployment rate of up to 85%. I would like to live in a country where the climate of fear and war does not render its people painfully ready to relinquish their civil liberties. I would like to see America return to being a nation worthy of respect on the global stage. I'd like to see women earning more than 76 cents on the dollar. I would like to see an America capable of the sacrifice and ingenuity necessary to partner with our Mother Earth instead of being caught between war and economic collapse as the only responses to an energy crisis.

What dreams do you have? Do you think we'll die before we receive the promises?

But there's another way to look at it besides just a somber reckoning of how far our nation is from the heavenly country. Read the verse again: "each of these died *in faith* without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them." Our ancestors who hoped that their prayers for America would be answered kept working and striving and fighting year after year because they had faith that the work they did today would bear fruit tomorrow. And it did. The work that they did for justice and peace is the platform on which we stand today to do God's work in this land.

This is the knowledge that gives us courage to fight our own unwinnable fights. Every protest we march in, every petition we sign, every hungry mouth we feed, every naked body we clothe, every sick body we tend, every dying body we comfort—every single time we act in love of our neighbor, we are one step closer to receiving the promises, one step closer to seeing the Kingdom of God on Earth.

So this Independence Day, go out and watch fireworks. Grill some hamburgers, play baseball, go to a festival but watch out for tractors when you need to use outdoor facilities. This July 4th wear red, white and blue and wave your flag.



But do something else American. Plant some seeds of peace and justice and water them with love. That is how you will truly pay tribute to the ones who came before us hoping this country might dwell within the will of God, those who "died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them." If you hear the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth, let Thomas Jefferson's words renew your will to seek and serve Christ in all persons, for that is the cause for which "we, with a firm reliance on Divine Providence... pledge...our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

July 2015 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Summer Sunday Schedule</p> <p>8:30 am Lay-Led Morning Prayer 11:00 am Holy Eucharist Worship Noon Lemonade on the Lawn</p> <p>No Youth Worship or Adult Forums in summer</p>			<p>1 Clinic Open</p> <p>Boy Scouts 6pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Holiday Observed Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>5 6th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Clinic Open</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>9 Clinic receives 20% of food @ Beefcake Burgers, 5-8pm Music, Food, Door Prizes No coupon needed</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 7th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Clinic Comm. Fundraising Mtg 5:30pm No Vestry Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>Boy Scouts at Camp Ransburg this week. Please keep our scouts & leaders in your prayers.</p>						
<p>19 8th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>20 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21 Transition of Care Meeting 11am-1:30pm</p>	<p>22 Clinic Open Clinic receives 15% at Small Town Pizza Trafalgar 4-10pm No coupon needed</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9th Sunday after Pentecost The Rev. Ray Bradbury</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Carol on vacation 7/1-7/7 Whitney on vacation 7/24-8/3 No Saturday Clinics in July</p>

July 2015 Worship Schedule

	JULY 5	JULY 12	JULY 19	JULY 26	AUGUST 2
PROPER	Year B, 6th Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 9	Year B, 7th Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 10	Year B, 8th Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 11	Year B, 9th Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 12	Year B, 10th Sunday after Pentecost—Proper 13
LESSON	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	2 Samuel 11:1-15	2 Samuel 11:26-12; 13a
PSALM	48	24	89:20-37	14	51:1-13
EPISTLE	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Ephesians 1:3-14	Ephesians 2:11-22	Ephesians 3:14-21	Ephesians 4:1-16
GOSPEL	Mark 6:1-13	Mark 6:14-29	Mark 6:30-34	John 6:1-21	John 6:24-35
WORSHIP LEADERS					
CLERGY	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Ray Bradbury, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Mollie Williams, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb
MUSIC MINISTRY	Mary Barrett	Mary Barrett	Mary Barrett	Mary Barrett	Mary Barrett
SERVERS	Servers will be on a volunteer basis throughout the summer.				
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Smith Marna Poindexter	Judith Mullinix	Marna Poindexter	Judith Mullinix	
ALTAR FLOWERS	For the Glory of God	Susie Hooten	Ann Kieffer	For the Glory of God	Steve & Cheryl Faust
BREAD MINISTRY			Jen Tullis	Jen Tullis	Laura Skimina
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Susie Hooten	Marta Pincheira	Judith Mullinix	Susie Hooten	Marta Pincheira
READERS	Jim Phillips Ann Kieffer	Paul Jump Cheryl Faust	Dave Buchholz Judith Mullinix	Don Thompson Cheryl Faust	Jim Phillips Paula Sites
HOSPITALITY TEAM	Candace Phillips Jacob Phillips	Steve & Cheryl Faust	Dave Buchholz Judith Mullinix	Cheryl Faust Marikay Kapke	Candace Phillips Jacob Phillips
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN		Mirchandani	Steve & Cheryl Faust	Buchholz	
COUNTERS	Elyssa Everling Mike Ramsey	Robin Kares Steve Faust	Dave Buchholz Robin Kares	Marikay Kapke Jen Tullis	Dave Buchholz Jen Tullis
MOWER FOR NEXT WEEK	Danny Bachman	Phil McIver	Steve Faust	Justin Ring	Don Thompson



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Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am to 1 pm
 Sundays: See calendar, page 6
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www.roofcrashersandhemgrabbers.com



Bishop Michael Bruce Curry
 from North Carolina
 Elected 27th Presiding Bishop
 of The Episcopal Church
www.episcopal.org

July Celebrations

Birthdays

2 Mel Archer
 Jacob Phillips
 4 Jen Tullis
 8 Roseanna Saenz
 10 Fran Thompson
 11 Judy Thompson
 13 Tel'Lee Clark
 Ishu Mirchandani
 Erin Warrenburg
 14 Ray Hooten*
 Phil Warrenburg
 18 Mary Sanders

22 Elaine Richards
 28 Laura Skimina



Baptisms

11 Tel'Lee Clark
 12 Ray Hooten
 25 Mary Sanders

Anniversaries

12 Mark & Shelli Anderson
 18 Ray & Susie Hooten
 29 Jim & Candy Phillips

*Ray Hooten Update: Ray is now in room 136B at Franklin Meadows. The new phone number is 736-1069.

Is your name missing from the Celebrations section? Please submit your birthday, anniversary, and baptism dates to the parish administrator at stthomasepis@aol.com or by calling 317-535-8985.