



# November 2021

## The Story

***All are Welcome  
No Exceptions!***

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

**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**

### **Welcome November!**

November is a special month for me, with All Saints at the beginning and Thanksgiving at the end. I enjoy both, but for different reasons.

In the Episcopal Church, All Saints offers a chance to remember saints from ancient times (such as St. Thomas) and more recent times (such as naturalist John Muir, for whom Muir Woods is named in California). All Saints is also a time to recall saints past and present who we've known personally. St. Thomas, Franklin, has traditionally read the Names of Our Beloved Departed at its All Saints service. I love that custom. Interrupted last year by the pandemic, it will be revived on November 7<sup>th</sup>, this All Saints' Sunday. By contrast, Thanksgiving has always seemed more of a secular holiday to me, focused on family or community gatherings rich with food, drink, and good company. Still, many give thanks for the blessings God has provided.

This year, as I reflect back on what we've been through as a nation and as a faith community during the pandemic, I'm envisioning a common theme between All Saints and Thanksgiving – a theme of welcome. Wouldn't that be fitting for St. Thomas, which already incorporates radical welcome into its mission?

This November, I invite you to think of ways to offer welcome all month. On All Saints, let's welcome memories of saints who still have lessons to teach us. On Thanksgiving, let's welcome family and friends at home, but also carry that spirit of welcome into our common worship. While it's always a good time to welcome visitors to St. Thomas, I think November is an especially good time, whether we're thinking of newcomers or parishioners we haven't seen for a while.

A Blessed All Saints and Thanksgiving,

--Fr. Whitney

## Church Buildings for Collaborative Projects

St. Thomas is participating in a new project through the Diocese of Indianapolis called Church Buildings for Collaborative Projects (CBCP). This project will help parishes throughout the state take inventory of their available space, identify their missions, and help them find community organizations interested in sharing that space.

Currently, St. Thomas' CBCP team is working through training sessions along with other parishes in our cohort. At an in-person training session held in St. Christopher's in Carmel, the team was invited to "meet the governor" and learn how to quickly pitch our parish, our clinic, and our mission to new people. We also considered our physical and community assets and what new missions we might be interested in pursuing.

CBCP is also being administered in partnership with Partners for Sacred Spaces and Indiana Landmarks.

Next steps for CBCP include a site visit with Partners for Sacred Spaces and getting started with the Public Value Tool, an online tool to assess the community-wide impact of our parish programs.

Father Whitney, Dave Buchholz, Joshua Craft-Rutan, and Rachel Allen are representing St. Thomas for the CBCP project. They are looking forward to sharing what they've learned so far with anyone interested in learning more.

Look for updates to follow in the coming months.

## Clinic Patients Welcome at Free Dental Day

Hadley Family Dentistry has made the generous offer of welcoming St. Thomas Clinic pa-



tients to its Free Dental Day from 8:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

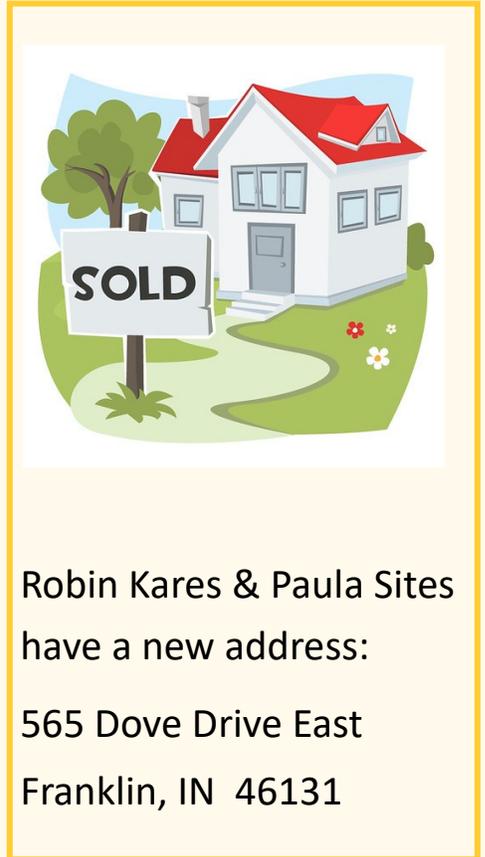
The practice at 5406 S. Emerson Ave. will provide a choice of one free cleaning, filling or extraction to individuals who are without dental insurance and can't afford dental care elsewhere. Patients must be at least 18 years old. Registration will start at 7:45 a.m., and will be available to the first 80 patients on a first-come, first-served basis.

St. Thomas parishioner Ryan Craft-Rutan, who works for Hadley Family Dentistry, asks that if you know someone in need to please pass along this information.



## Exhibit Features Photos by Mari- kay

Several of St. Thom-  
as parishioner Mari-  
kay Kapke's photos  
will be on exhibit November 6<sup>th</sup> through January 28<sup>th</sup>,  
2022 at Holliday Park Nature Center in Indianapolis.  
Called "Living with Nature," the exhibit features work  
by members of the Indiana Photographic Society. The  
opening reception will be from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Satur-  
day, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit then will be on view  
during Nature Center hours, Monday through Saturday,  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Holliday Park Nature Center is at  
6363 Spring Mill Road.



Robin Kares & Paula Sites  
have a new address:  
565 Dove Drive East  
Franklin, IN 46131

### Adult Forum Considers End-of-Life Issues

Sigmund Freud has said we are incapable of imagining our own death. Have you wondered what your life will be like before your final hours? Have you had a conversation with others regarding what you want or need as you approach the end of your physical life's journey? Do you resonate with the idea of a "good" or "respectful" death?

At our Adult Forum on November 14th, I hope we can have some discussion surrounding our thoughts and feelings about a "good" or "respectful" death. Part of the discussion will include scriptures such as John 11:26 ("And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?") and Ecclesiastes 12:7 ("Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.")

Advanced directives are a good indication that a person has had at least part of the discussion with family and/or friends regarding end-of-life goals. Unfortunately, only about 4 to 25 per cent of people in the U.S. have completed any type of advanced directive. This number varies widely due to ethnicity, sex, etc.

What prevents us from having such discussions with those closest to us? I look forward to discussing this and other end-of-life subjects with you.

-Teresa Voorhees



# November Celebrations

## Birthdays

- 1 Grace Allen
- 4 Cade Merriman
- 17 Don Thompson
- 21 Wyatt McFarland
- 23 Reid Smith
- 29 Paula Sites

## Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month



## ST. THOMAS VESTRY

### The 25th Vestry of St. Thomas (2021--2023)

- 2021 .....Robin Kares, Joshua Craft-Rutan, Jan Skopecek
- 2022 .....Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke
- 2023 .....Rachel Allen, Brandi Ashlock, Cheryl Faust, Steve Wahlberg

### The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

- Rector.....Fr. Whitney Smith
- Senior Warden ..... Dave Buchholz
- Junior Warden .....Steven Wahlberg
- Clerk ..... Karen Smith
- Treasurer .....Marti Ramsey
- Parish Administrator .....Joy Tucker
- Organist/Choir Director .....Heather Orvek

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please submit it to Father Whitney at [whitinindy@hotmail.com](mailto:whitinindy@hotmail.com) by the 15th of the month.