



# Grapevine

Volume 36, Number 4

Summer, 2016

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday thru Friday  
8 am—2 pm

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**Vestry Members**

2017: Bob Wilbur, Mary Wargat  
Gordon Francis

2018: Lisa Benedetti, Raquel  
Holmes, Alan Dennen

2019: Michael Stagliola, Wayne  
Perkins, Amy Kazlauskas

## Greetings from Fr. Rich

Dear Friends,

I want to share with you about an important event in the life of our congregation. As many of you may already know, we have been making progress in the last five years toward financial stability and in growing our church. As a matter of fact, we are on course to make 2016 the best year financially we have had in at least the last decade. We are still not where we want to be, but we continue to chip away at our deferred maintenance, raise revenue, and limit expenses.

I am happy to report that the Vestry voted at its July meeting to initiate both a capital campaign and strategic plan to run parallel to each other. The capital campaign has been named "Campaign for our Future," and will be launched on Sunday, September 25, along with our annual pledge campaign. The strategic plan will be implemented at a later date.

In our previous capital campaign we had pledges of over \$225,000, which we collected over a five-year period. The last payments on this campaign are to be made this winter. The money we collected has enabled us to replace the boilers in the parish hall and the rectory and convert them from oil to gas. This has resulted in a significant savings in our utility expenses as well as a reduction in our carbon footprint. We have also paved the new

parking lot, which we acquired from Walgreens, and paved the worst portion of our parish hall parking lot. Additionally we repaired the retaining wall at the end of the rectory. While these projects are not glamorous, they were substantial and made a tremendous difference in the life of our parish.

Because of the success of our previous capital campaign, the Vestry believes this Campaign for our Future will be even more successful and take us even further in our vision. We are currently working to develop an explanation in written form for our goals and the many opportunities we wish to address. There is tremendous excitement among our leadership for this endeavor, and I would like to ask every member to pray that God will bless our undertaking and lead us forward in the doing of his will. There will be informational meetings in August and September in order for the leadership to meet with the congregation.

The chair of the Campaign for our Future is Michael Stagliola (an 8:00 o'clocker) and the co-chair is Wayne Perkins (a 10:00 o'clocker). Please feel free to contact them with questions or input.

I am excited to kick-off a new program year this September and look forward to all the new things we have happening at St. Thomas. Blessings, Fr. Rich+

## On-line pledging and donating now available

Elmer Holmes, Treasurer

- Pay your pledge directly from your checking account or by credit card
- Donate to all the other events throughout the year

Visit our St. Thomas webpage at [www.stthomastaunton.com](http://www.stthomastaunton.com). Click the blue "donate" button in the upper left hand corner of our web page. That will lead you to our online giving page where you can create a user ID and password and select how often you'd like to pay your pledge (one time, weekly or monthly).

## ACOLYTES NEEDED

**Youth in Grades 3 through High School are needed to serve as Acolytes...**

Gospel Carriers ~ Candle Bearers  
Crucifers ~ Readers

Contact Lisa Benedetti, Elizabeth Boudreau or Jessica Mason to be added to the schedule.



## Welcome our New Acolyte Coordinators Fr. Rich

As of September 1, 2016, Mrs. Lisa Benedetti and Ms. Liz Boudreau will be co-leading the Acolytes for Sunday morning worship. Mrs. Benedetti has been a Sunday school teacher for 12 years at St. Thomas and is leaving that position in order to help with the Acolytes. Her daughter, Ms. Liz Boudreau, is a Nursing Student in her second year at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS), and was an acolyte at St. Thomas for many years.

The schedule for Acolytes for the fall will be forthcoming as will a training date. Acolytes are generally seven years of age and older. With this year's graduating class we lose several of our crucifers who are going off to various colleges and universities. Crucifers are generally older than 12 and have been an acolyte for several years. If your child has not been an acolyte before, please consider asking them to join the acolyte team.

## First Annual Overnight Retreat Lisa Benedetti



On June 9-10, 11 members of our parish attended an overnight retreat at the **Miramar Retreat Center** in Dighton, Mass. The theme of our retreat was "The Four Elements". Participants attended sessions centered on Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Each session uniquely captured the many ways in which the Holy Spirit is present within us and in the world around us. Not only was the retreat a time for rest and renewal, it was also a time for fellowship and fun. The grounds had

beautifully planted gardens and meditation spaces, and also included a prayer labyrinth. The meals were nutritious, delicious (shrimp and scallop scampi? yum!) and carefully prepared by the Miramar staff. The accommodations were clean and comfortable. The talented Lou Rapoza provided us with music for reflection and praise. We even celebrated the running of the Belmont Stakes with a special punch concocted by Father Rich himself!

On a personal note, I had not attended an overnight retreat since my teen years and was a bit unsure of what the experience would be like. With the carefully prepared programs, the warm and caring presence of fellow parishioners, and the gorgeous surroundings, I found myself not wanting to leave on Saturday. I had just started to really relax and find my spiritual center when we had to say goodbye. I am looking forward to next year's weekend already!

This fall, the retreat team is looking to recreate our experience for the congregation during an afternoon. I would invite and encourage those of you curious about the retreat experience to join us for a time of prayer, reflection, quiet and fellowship. Our hope is to make next year's weekend retreat bigger and better. I hope to see you there!



We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another year of fellowship, fun and spiritual development. Hope everyone had a safe and fun summer. There is a lot happening as we enter the Fall, so please get involved!

Join us for the  
**Fair Committee Meeting**  
**August 21st—11:30 AM**

**PLEASE HELP BY  
 GETTING  
 DONATIONS IN  
 EARLY!**

**WE NEED YOUR  
 HELP!!!**

Join the  
**Bazaar Stitchers Gathering**  
**WEDNESDAY, August 23 —**  
**7:00 PM ~ Coram Lounge**



**CHILDREN'S  
 FINGERPRINTING**

**CHILDREN'S GAMES**

**FLU SHOTS**

**HAUNTED HAYRIDE**

..... And more!!!!

## "SPOOKTACULAR" BAZAAR UPDATES

Jane Lopes at [janelopes@comcast.net](mailto:janelopes@comcast.net) or (508) 944-0944  
 Beverly Kimball at [bevdanek@outlook.com](mailto:bevdanek@outlook.com) or (508) 697-6667

Now that summer is almost over, it is time to make our final plans for our October Fair. **NEEDED.....**

**LOTTERY TICKETS:** Please purchase a few and give to Wayne Perkins for our Lottery Tree Raffle.

**CLOTHING REQUEST:** Gently used children's clothing sizes infant/toddler to 6x maximum.

**WHITE ELEPHANT ITEMS:** Bring your White Elephant items to Homecoming Sunday (September 11th) or **NO LATER THAN** September 30th. The Committee needs time to sort and price the items. Please bring them in cleaned and in working order.

**BID BOARD ITEMS:** Please let us know what you have for the Bid Board as soon as possible so we can advertise and encourage competitive bidding.

**FARM STAND:** Consider us when you are reaping your fields/gardens and preparing to can and freeze items, gathering the fresh eggs and preparing jams & jellies.

**BASKET RAFFLE ITEMS:** Terry Larue is looking for donations of beer, wine, wine glasses, crackers, cheese, peanuts, etc. to fill baskets. Also looking for coloring books, crayons, markers, etc. to fill children's baskets.

Bakery/Pies	Anna Loura, Terry Larue, Judy McGuire
Bid Board	Cheryl Medeiros, Donna Francis
Cafeteria	Mike Stagliola, Aaron LaBeau
Children	Renee Vitale
Children's Clothing	
Dinner	Bella Roma (Paul Boudreau)
Farm Stand	Alix McNamee, Ethel Fraga, Liz Silvia
Jewelry & Jazz	Kim Avila, Liz Ransley
Knits/Stitches	Ginny Ames, Connie Capron, Carol Hunt, Jacqui Schell
Raffles—Basket Raffles	Jane Lopes / Terry Larue
Lottery Tree	Wayne Perkins
Money wreath	The Kimballs
Quilt	Carol Hunt
Roll-ups—Adult	Paul Boudreau
Roll-ups—General	Susan Cameron
White Elephant	Wayne & June Perkins, Bob Wilbur, Dan Benjamin, Marge Largey

**HAUNTED HAYRIDE ~ Saturday ~ 10:00 AM ~ 12:00 Noon ~ 2:00 PM**  
 Cost is \$10.00/person

**FLU SHOTS ~** CVS will be available to give flu shots—no cost but insurance card must be presented.

**FINGERPRINTING** of children ~ the Masonic Lodge fingerprinting group will be available to fingerprint all children ~ 10 AM to 12 Noon on Saturday



**Pastoral Care Team  
Prayer List**

Please pray for our sick & shut-ins...

- Christopher McGuire
- Andy Marshall
- Eugenia Rego
- Sara Patterson
- John Moniz
- Pauline Bailey
- George Hodge
- Judy Lincoln



Please contact Fr. Rich with any pastoral emergencies. Be sure to inform him if you know of anyone in the parish who is ill and/or in the hospital.

In addition to keeping you on our prayer list, our Pastoral Care Team is available, upon request, to visit and take communion to those who are sick/shut-in or hospitalized.



Rainbow over St. Thomas

Photo courtesy of Fr. Rich.

**Prayer for our Mission**

O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving and healing your people and your creation. In your Son, and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the work. Then, God, into our communities, our nation and the world, send us to serve with Christ taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Pray for our Military**

- Daniel Snowdall
- Megan Drewniak
- Adam Dyke
- William Marsh IV
- Donald Souza
- Noel Souza
- Ryan Vohnoutka
- Alex Paull
- Christopher French
- Rick Dray
- Alex Bolton
- Scott Larson
- Brendan Clifford
- Kyle St. Jean

**Pray for the Dearly Departed**

May light perpetual shine upon them

**Paul Green**  
*Called home June 11, 2016*  
*(Father of Crystal Kavanaugh)*

**Jacqueline M. Marshall**  
*Called home July 4, 2016*

**Mona Lee Blake**  
*Called home July 18, 2016*  
*(Mother of John Blake, Sr. Warden)*

**Family Systems Theory & Christian Spirituality**

Fr. Rich

This fall for six Wednesday evenings beginning September 7th at 6:00 PM in the Rectory I will be offering a class on *Family Systems Theory and Christian Spirituality*. Family Systems Theory is a school of thought that encourages people to think of issues, (e.g. marital conflict, depression, addiction, acting out teenagers, difficult relationships, loneliness, etc.), in terms of a multi—generational family or a “system.”

Unlike most conventional psychological therapies, the focus is shifted away from the individual and toward the larger family unit. There are eight (8) basic concepts in the theory that will be covered in the six sessions. There is a charge for the class which will be posted after August 15th. Individuals must sign up in order to attend by RSVPing to Lynn at [lynnclifford1@comcast.net](mailto:lynnclifford1@comcast.net).

~ GRAPEVINE DEADLINE ~ *September deadline is August 20th*

*Send articles to Beverly Kimball*

*(h) (508) 697-6667 ~ e-mail: [bevdanek@outlook.com](mailto:bevdanek@outlook.com)*

**GREETERS WANTED**

New Greeters are needed to welcome visitors to St. Thomas at the door on Sunday mornings. Greeters also take the collection and release the congregation for communion.

If you are interested, please contact:

terryasci@gmail.com or call 774-240-9674.

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Coffee Hour is a good time of fellowship and a chance to meet old friends, welcome new members and visitors. Without our volunteers, this is not possible.

Presently looking for volunteers  
September 25th  
October 23rd and 30th

Please consider taking one or two Sundays a year. Contact Lynn in the church office at (508) 824-9595

**Without our volunteers, there will be NO coffee hour!**

**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

**August 7**

Gospel                      Kloie Butler  
Crucifer                     Stephen Rose  
Candles                     Parker Cleathero / Camden Cleathero

**5:00 PM**

Dhillon Auger

**August 14**

Gospel                      Condoleezza Dwuye  
Crucifer                     Christopher Francis  
Candles                     Karissa Murray / Kassidy Murray

**5:00 PM**

Dhillon Auger

**August 21**

Gospel                      Calvinne Dwuye  
Crucifer                     Julia Boudreau  
Candles                     Elijah Figueroa / Stephen Rose

**5:00 PM**

Dhillon Auger

**August 28**

Gospel                      Calvinne Dwuye  
Crucifer                     Camden Cleathero  
Candles                     Karissa Murray / Kassidy Murray  
Readers:

**5:00 PM**

Dhillon Auger

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/LAYREADERS**

**August 6**

Brenda Neugeboren

**August 7**

8:00 AM                     Michael Stagliola  
10:00 AM                     Robertha Dwuye, Lector/Chalice  
Mary Wargat, Prayers/Chalice

**August 13**

Renee Vitale

**August 14**

8:00 AM                     Avis Leary  
10:00 AM                     Beverly Kimball, Lector/Chalice  
Wayne Perkins, Prayers/Chalice

**August 20**

Raquel Holmes

**August 21**

8:00 AM                     Norm Teed  
10:00 AM                     Marge Largey, Lector  
Alix McNamee, Prayers/Chalice  
Monica Shearer, Chalice

**August 27**

Brenda Neugeboren

**August 28**

8:00 AM                     Robertha Dwuye  
10:00 AM                     Len Walker, Chalice  
Sarah Walker, Chalice  
Ethel Fraga, Prayers  
Douglas Francis, Reader

5:00 PM Sundays

Melanie Auger, Eric Amoedo  
Annemarie Amoedo.

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS**

**August 7**

Birthday & Anniversary

**August 14**

Perkins Family

**August 21**

Gayle & Lou Raposa

**August 28**

Sarah & Len Walker

**September 4**

Homecoming Sunday  
Ann & Norman Lafleur

**September 11**

Homecoming Sunday

**September 18**

Renee Vitali & Steve Lombard

**FINANCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**

*(4th Tuesdays)*

August 23  
September 27  
October 25  
November 22  
December 27

Meetings start at 7:00 PM in the parish hall.

**COUNTER SCHEDULE**

**August 7**

Christina Latour

**August 14**

Lisa Benedetti  
Bob Wilbur

**August 21**

Len Walker  
John Blake

**August 28**

Sarah Walker  
Gordon Francis

## Pre-School Exploratory Committee

Fr. Rich

An exploratory committee has been formed to discern the feasibility of establishing a preschool at St. Thomas. If you have interest in being part of this discernment process or to find out more information, please contact Fr. Rich at 508-824-9595 or [frich64@aol.com](mailto:frich64@aol.com).

The first meeting is Thursday, August 4, at 6:30 PM in the Coram Lounge.



## Join us for the Blessing of the Backpacks

Fr. Rich

On the weekend of September 4th we celebrate the *Blessing of the Backpacks and Briefcases*. Please bring your backpacks for school and briefcases/laptops for work. At the peace everyone will be invited to the front of the church where they will receive a blessing for a prosperous school/work year.

You are welcome to bring anything you want to be blessed such as sports equipment, chemistry sets, etc. that you will need to use during the year. We will do this at all of our services.

## Join us for the Blessing of the Animals

Fr. Rich

The first weekend in October is our annual Blessing of the Animals at all of our services. You are encouraged to bring your pets to church that day and have them sit with you in your pew. Please bring animals either on leashes or in appropriate cages and remember that it is OK to take them outside during the service if they become scared. If, for some reason, you are unable to bring your actual pet to church that day, feel free to bring a photograph or drawing of your pet. We will do this at all of our services.

We are intentional about having our pets with us in church on this day because they are, in fact, members of our families. By having them blessed in God's house, we show our love for them in a very concrete and special way. Having them here on this special day also helps us remember that God loves them as part of creation. He called them good and encourages us to be responsible for their care and welfare.

For each of you who would like to have your pet blessed but will be unable to attend a blessing, below is one that can be done at home by any member of the family. It is best to gather as many members of the family as possible and pray together saying:

*"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless (name). By the power of your love, enable him/her to live according to your plan and may we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."*

This is a typical Franciscan Prayer of Blessing for the Animals.



# Join us for Lunch or Dinner

## Dine out

Tuesday ~ September 20th

Bay Street Grill



**E-MAIL REQUEST** If you have not been receiving the news and announcements we send electronically, please send your email to Fr. Rich at [FrRich64@aol.com](mailto:FrRich64@aol.com) or to [yynnclifford1@comcast.net](mailto:yynnclifford1@comcast.net), so that we can make sure you get updated information. This is important not only because we send the most up to date information on our activities via the Internet, but also because we give notice by email in the event of a weather cancellation.

Also, if you have changed your e-mail address, please be sure we have your current one. Send to church office or print on sheet in the church.



## Choir Rehearsals resume

Wednesday evening  
September 7th ~ 7:30 PM  
...at the piano in the Chapel



**Fundraiser**  
**(Bay Street Grill)**

**Tuesday ~ September 20, 2016**  
Home Plate ~ Bay Street Grille


Enjoy lunch or dinner with your family and friends and present this ticket with your bill. St. Thomas Church will receive 20% of your bill. This offer is good on sit-down meals, take-out orders as well as gift certificates purchased.

This ticket should be cut out, copied and given to your family and friends, and take one with you to Home Plate.

**NOTE: No tickets are allowed to be distributed at Home Plate Restaurant at any time.**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## TICKET



Supports  
**Episcopal Church of St Thomas**

Bring this ticket to  
Home Plate Bay St. Grill on  
**Tuesday,**  
**September 20, 2016**

**Good for dine-in, take-out  
and gift card purchases.**  
Tickets cannot be distributed  
at any time at Home Plate.

**20% of your bill  
will be donated to**

Episcopal Church of St Thomas

# Notes from the Organ Console

*Dr. Steven Young*

Welcome the choir back for the new year of great music.

- Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 7th, 7:30 PM at the piano in the Chapel.
- The choir sings at Homecoming Sunday, September 11th at the 10:00 AM service.

New members are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Rehearsals are  
Wednesday evenings ~ 7:30 PM  
Sunday mornings ~ 9:15 AM

The only requirement is a love of music!

## Lobster Roll Day 2016

Profit \$9, 131.06



## A Newcomer Reflects

Maureen Eldredge

Against the geopolitical backdrop of the Berlin Wall, on June 26, 1963, President John F. Kennedy cried, "Ich bin ein Berliner," – I am a Berliner! Ever since I have uttered, "Ich bin ein Bostonian", as I was born and raised along the shores of the muddy Charles. The Public Gardens, Boston Common, Fenway Park, the Make Way for Ducklings sculpture, where I can name every single duckling -here- is my life, social and spiritual. In my twenties, I walked into my parish and it became my "Cheers," – everyone knew my name. From Parish Council, to creating New Alliances, a singles group, to writing a newsletter, to planning and executing every function, i.e. Midnight Mass & Easter Vigil receptions, to participating in "service" trips to countries that needed more than one week could give, to greeting newcomers on the Welcoming Committee – for the last 40 years – this was my universe. When my daughter, a Pharm.D., and a Commander in the U. S. Public Health Service, which aligns itself with the Navy, announced that there was an "addition" to their lives yet to come, she and her husband decided to move to Rhode Island to be closer to the Navy Base and its medical facilities. For me, it was time, to find another home, somewhere out there!

"Wait till you see what I found you," my Real Estate Agent exclaimed. As she drove down the long driveway I asked, "Those sticks coming out of the earth with green coverings, what are they?" "Trees," she said. Trees? What no more looking into my neighbor's bathroom from my bedroom window - homes in Boston often are in close proximity to another. The late Joan Rivers, called childbirth, pulling your lower lip over your head. Sifting and sorting through 40 years of a massive collection of "stuff" deciding what stays and what goes feels very similar! As I traveled back and forth to Goodwill, Salvation Army, and Savers hauling donations, a fellow parishioner said, "Too bad your parish life is ending." What??? My parish life, over? How funny, I thought, once I was the one "welcoming" and now I needed to be "welcomed!"

Holy Week was upon us and as I sat in my new home lamenting; not having an Easter Vigil Reception to execute, I did what every sad female does – I went shopping. On my way out of the only store that was familiar – Shaws Supermarket, I picked up a local newspaper. Sitting on the floor, with a glass of wine, I read that a church by the name of St. Thomas, was having a 12 o'clock Ecumenical Service. Within 20 minutes I was seated on a cushioned bench, a nice surprise from a hard pew, watching and listening as the gathered community honored the Ultimate Sacrifice. Upon leaving, I saw the sign for Our Daily Bread, and as I wrote down their number, someone asked if I was going for "chowdah." I smiled and said, "Of course – where do I go?" "Follow us," was the answer. I wasn't alone during Holy Week, after all. I think it was Divine Intervention!

Little children have the ability to innocently say, "Wanna be my friend?" or "Can I play with you?" but for adults there are books as breaking into a new group is no easy task. Living in a transient world with people coming and going all the time, new communities need to know and trust that you value who they are and what they stand for. Because I volunteer one day a week at Our Daily Bread and I saw Fr. Rich preside over the Good Friday Service, I asked if he needed help with the Yard Sale. According to "the" book one way to meet new people is to get involved in events, committees, and ask how they became involved in the first place. It was forty years ago, all over again!

As a way of life, an act of love, an expression of faith, hospitality reflects and anticipates God's welcome. It is by God's grace that communities grow more willing, more eager, to open the door to a needy neighbor or a weary sister traveling from another place. God's grace flows throughout St. Thomas for your doors have flung wide open saying, "Welcome Maureen – There's a place with us!"

Photos courtesy of Dane Kimball

**Imam Farid Ansari**

*Guest Speaker*



Photo Courtesy of Fr. Rich

## Join us for Homecoming 2016

On September 11, 2016, St. Thomas will celebrate its annual Homecoming with a special guest speaker at the 10:00 AM service. Our speaker this year will be Imam Farid Ansari. His topic will be on True Islam. Mr. Ansari is originally from Bronx, NY and studied Urban Legal Studies at CCNY. He is married to Na’ima Ansari and currently serves as Chaplain for the Bristol County Sheriff’s Department. He was formerly Chaplain for the Department of Corrections for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and is employed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Since 1998, Mr. Ansari has served as Imam at the Muslim American Dawah Center of Rhode Island.

Mr. Ansari will also give the blessing at the new Common Ground: Center for Spiritual Practice on Sunday, September 11, at 12:00 p.m. This will be the kick-off of the Center for Spiritual Practice from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. that day at the McKinstrey House. Please join us for the cookout after the 10:00 a.m. service at 11:15 a.m. in the driveway between the church and the Rectory. The Center for Spiritual Practice will be providing international desserts as part of its kick-off in the McKinstrey House at 12:00 p.m.



## Join us for Newcomer Sunday Brunch

Fr. Rich

Bring a Friend Sunday and Newcomer Sunday

On Sunday, September 18 we celebrate Newcomer Sunday. As a way of helping our members understand what it is like to enter a new space we are having on this date New Perspective Sunday, too. The Welcoming Team is asking all of our members to have a bit of a new perspective on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The way we want you to do that is by changing where you sit in church that day. All of us have our favorite seats. Week after week we sit in them and our perspective is the same. This one Sunday we would like you to sit somewhere you have never sat before. We want to see what you think about having a new perspective. This is an opportunity for us to have some fun and to learn that just finding a new seat can shift our perspective a lot. Don’t worry; the next Sunday you can go right back to your usual seats. We want you to see what it is like for one day. Give it a shot and let us know! Thanks.

Finally, on September 18 we have our Fall Newcomer Brunch immediately following the 10 AM service in the Rectory. We will also be welcoming in new members at our services. This is a great day to bring a friend, so please do. There is much happening here at St. Thomas and we want everyone to be part of it!



Photos courtesy of Dane Kimball

## Join us for Episcopal 101

Fr. Rich

For three consecutive Sunday evenings beginning on August 14, we are offering a short class on the Episcopal Church. The time is 6:00 PM, and we will meet in the Rectory. Yes, we have air conditioning.

If you have never been confirmed or received, now is a good time to do that. This is also a good opportunity for those who just want to learn more about the Episcopal Church or even just to make new friends.

Please RSVP to Lynn at 508-824-9595 or [lynnclifford1@comcast.net](mailto:lynnclifford1@comcast.net).



**.Yard Sale**



Photos courtesy of Dane Kimball

# Upcoming Events ~ Save the Dates



- Saturdays (weekly) 5:00 PM - Come as you Are service—Chapel
- Saturdays (1st) 6:00 PM - Senior Ministry—Coram Lounge
- Sundays (1st) 11:30 AM - Newcomer’s Meeting—Coram Lounge
- Sundays (1st & 3rd) 10:00 AM - Healing Prayer offered during Eucharist—Serviceman’s Altar
- Sundays (2nd) 11:30 AM - Christian Formation Meeting
- Sundays (weekly) 9:00 AM - Choir Rehearsal—at the organ
- Sundays (weekly) 10:00 AM - Church School
- Sundays (weekly) 1—6 PM - Nothing But the Truth—Coram Lounge
- Sundays (weekly) 5:00 PM - After Sports Mass—**Begins February 28th**—Chapel
- Sundays (last Sunday) 10:00 AM - Youth Sunday
- Sundays (4th Sunday) 11:30 AM - Building & Grounds Committee—Coram Lounge
- Mondays (1st & 3rd) 10:00 AM - Assisted Living (Raynham) Women’s Club
- Mondays (3rd)
- Tuesdays (2nd) 7:00 PM - VESTRY—Coram Lounge
- Tuesdays (4th) 7:00 PM - Finance Committee Meeting—Counting Room
- Wednesdays (weekly) 7:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal—Chapel
- Wednesdays (1st) 6:30 PM - Mindfulness Group—Coram Lounge
- Thursdays (weekly) 12:00 N - Senior Luncheon—Parish Hall
- Fridays (weekly) 7-10 PM - Nothing But the Truth—Parish Hall
- Fridays (2nd) 10:00 AM - Knitters meet in the Coram Lounge
- Fridays (3rd) 2:30 PM - Taunton Nursing Home

- August 14, 2016 - 11:30 AM Lobster Roll Debrief, Coram Lounge
- August 14, 2016 - 6:00 PM Episcopal 101, McKinstrey House (Rectory)
- August 21, 2016 - 11:30 AM Yard Sale Debrief, Coram Lounge
- August 21, 2016 - 11:30 AM Fair Committee Meeting—final plans, Coram Lounge
- August 21, 2016 - 6:00 PM Episcopal 101, McKinstrey House (Rectory)
- August 23, 2016 - 7:00 PM Bazaar Stitches, Coram Lounge
- August 24, 2016 - 9:00 AM Brown Bag Program, Parish Hall
- August 28, 2016 - 6:00 PM Episcopal 101, McKinstrey House (Rectory)
- September 3, 2016 - 5:00 PM Blessing of the Backpacks/Briefcases, Chapel
- September 4, 2016 - 8:00 & 10:00 AM Blessing of the Backpacks/Briefcases, High Church
- September 4, 2016 - 5:00 PM Blessing of the Backpacks/Briefcases, Chapel
- September 7—October 12 Family Systems/Spiritual Direction, McKinstrey House
- September 7 - 7:30 PM **Choir Rehearsal resumes**, Chapel
- September 10 - 5:00 PM Saturday School sign-ups, Chapel
- September 10 - 5:00 PM Welcome Back Cookout for Saturday Church
- September 11 - 10:00 AM Homecoming Sunday—Bring a friend to church
- September 11 - 12 Noon Kick-off/Center for Spiritual Practice, McKinstrey House
- September 17 - 5:00 PM Saturday School begins, Chapel
- September 18 - 11:30 AM Newcomer Brunch—Bring a Friend Sunday
- September 20, 2016 All day Home Plate Fundraiser
- September 25 10:00 AM Stewardship/Capital Campaign Kick-off
- October 1 & 2 All services Blessing of the Animals
- October 22, 23 All Day 2016 FAIR ~ **Spooktacular Bazaar**

## A busy summer for St. Thomas

**Yard Sale** profit of \$2,308.05 was realized—\$1,240.05 to St. Thomas Repair & Maintenance and \$1,068.00 to Belize.

**Lobster Roll Day** profit of \$9,131.06 was realized with over 2300 rolls pre-ordered. This was our largest pre-sale.

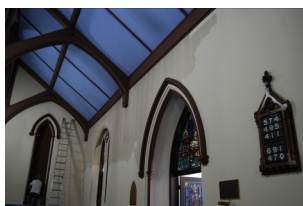
**Church Painting** has been completed

**Roof Repairs** were made



**Joy of Living Senior Luncheons resume in September**

**Church Painting**



**Parish Hall Roofing**



# Join the Joy of Living Seniors

The Joy of Living Seniors offers FREE lunches to those aged 55 and older and a program of fellowship and fun.

**Thursdays ~ 12 Noon**  
**St. Thomas Church Taunton, Parish Hall**

The program offers lunch and a variety of speakers with Bingo on the last Thursday of each month.

## Saturday Church

Raquel Holmes

**Saturday Church School** will meet at 5PM in the Chapel the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Registration is Saturday, September 10. Classes begin on Saturday, September 17.

**Saturday Church Homecoming** will be held on Saturday, September 10th with a cookout following the 5:00 PM service.

## Taunton River Deanery Notes

Ann Lafleur

The June meeting of the Deanery was hosted by Grace Church, North Attleboro on June 5th. The group had a full agenda with reports from various representatives from the diocese and member parishes.

The diocesan reps reported that they have been working on the grants for the mission hubs for the coming year, other budget matters are in the works, and the Phase 3 mission strategy team will have a draft version available for review in August. The final version will be presented to the diocesan convention in November.

Information about diocese news can be found in the FYI electronic newsletter. Check out [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org) to sign up for this newsletter.

The following loans and grants were approved by the deanery assembly and will be forwarded to the diocese:

**Stokes Loans:** St. Thomas requested two loans—\$10,000 green loan for replacing the lights in the parish hall and up to \$50,000 for repairs to the undercroft. The requests were approved.

**House of Mercy Grants (directly targets women and children):** One request from One Family Ministry at All Saints, Attleboro for operating expenses was approved for \$1,270. One request from St. Thomas' Center for Spiritual Practice for dialog and skill development for women and children was approved for \$1,270.

**Sending Serving Grants:** One request from Trinity Bridgewater, Journey to Adulthood for a pilgrimage to Colonial VA to learn about the early church in America was approved for \$4,000.

Next meeting is September 25th, 1:00 PM at Trinity Bridgewater.

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

111 High Street  
Taunton, MA 02780



The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

*To Welcome and Grow in Love.*

**BRIEF HISTORY**—Thomas Coram, a wealthy sea captain and philanthropist, arrived from England in the 1690's and established a successful shipyard on the Taunton River. He returned to London in 1703 and left behind 59 acres of land in trust and a substantial collection of books to help found a Church of England in Taunton.

Twenty-five years later Thomas Coram's intent was carried out. In 1728 a congregation of lay persons gathered and a small church was built on the outskirts of town near the Three Mile River on what is now Tremont Street. Although the land trust was no longer available, Coram's library of books became the basis for the young parish's ministry. The church was named St. Thomas.

During the Revolution, St. Thomas Church, like most Episcopal Churches, fell upon hard times and was closed for a number of years as were many others in the area. The building itself stood unused and blew down in the Gale of 1815. In 1820 the parish was incorporated. In 1828 the Vestry voted to seek a minister who was called and then a new building was erected in the center of Taunton on High Street across from the present building.

The church grew rapidly leading to the enlargement of the building in the 1840's and this, too, was soon outgrown. The third and present structure designed by Richard Upjohn was consecrated in 1859. A chapel was added in 1869. A fire gutted the Church sanctuary in 1898, but it was rebuilt with the addition of a large three-manual Jardine organ in 1899.

The historically significant 1759 McKinstrey House (present rectory) adjacent to the church was purchased in 1907 for use as a Sunday School. In 1910 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cabot Baylies donated a Sunday School building. This parish house has proven to be of immeasurable value throughout the years to the church and to the entire community. In 1960 ground was broken for an addition to the parish house which completed the complex of buildings as we know it today.

## On-Going Committees

Acolytes—Lisa Benedetti, Elizabeth Boudreau,  
Jessica Mason  
Altar Guild—Anna Loura  
Archives—Marge Largey  
Audit Committee—Susan Cameron,  
Kirk Cleathero, Steve Perry  
Brown Bag Program—Lynn Clifford  
Building & Grounds—Paul Boudreau  
Capital Fund Drive -Mike Stagliola/ Wayne Perkins  
Centering Prayer—Fr. Rich, Ethel Fraga  
Christian Education—  
Coffee Hour -  
Counters—Sarah Walker  
Fair—Jane Lopes, Beverly Kimball  
Finance Committee—Elmer Holmes  
Budget - Treasurer  
Insurance—Susan Cameron/Norm Dunphe  
Investment -  
Stewardship—  
Flower Committee—Cheryl Medeiros  
Fundraising Committee—Paul Boudreau  
Golf Tournament—Len Walker  
Grapevine—Beverly Kimball  
Greeters—Terry Asci LaRue

## Consider joining one or more of these committees

Healing Prayer Ministry—Jane Lopes  
Historian—Norm Dunphe  
Lobster Roll Day—Paul Boudreau  
Mission Trips— Paul Boudreau, Lisa Benedetti, Andrew  
Francis, Kim Avila  
Haiti Micah Fund—Paul Boudreau  
Cranwood House—Raquel Holmes  
Music Committee—Dr. Steven Young  
Newcomer Welcoming—Sarah Walker, Mary Wargat  
Our Daily Bread—Rene Cantin  
Parish Life Team—Fr. Rich  
Pastoral Care Team— Fr. Rich, Robin Miller, Mary Wargat,  
Frank Capron, Sonia Hodge  
Property Rentals—Andrew Francis  
Scholarship Committee—Kirk Cleathero  
Senior Ministry—Avis Leary  
Spiritual Development—Ethel Fraga  
Visitations—Robin Miller, Sonia Hodge  
Taunton Nursing Home ~ Sonia Hodge  
Assisted Living Facility ~ Sonia Hodge  
Waldron-Gibson House (School Street) —Chris Hannon  
Wine & Cheese Reception Coordinator—Brittannya Figueroa  
Women's Club—Joan Blake, Beverly Farrow