



# Grapevine

Volume 36, Number 8

December, 2016

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday thru Friday  
8 am—2 pm

web page: [www.stthomastaunton.com](http://www.stthomastaunton.com)

**Parish Administrator**

Lynn Clifford

Office phone: (508) 824-9595

Office fax: (508) 822-5263

e-mail:

[stthomasepiscopalchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stthomasepiscopalchurch@comcast.net)

[lynnclifford1@comcast.net](mailto:lynnclifford1@comcast.net)

**The Rev. Dr. Richard Bardusch**

(508) 813-3398 cell

(508) 824-9595 office

e-mail: [fr-rich64@aol.com](mailto:fr-rich64@aol.com)

**Sub Deacon Sonia Hodge**

**Organist/Choir Director**

Dr. Steven Young

[slyoung@bridgew.edu](mailto:slyoung@bridgew.edu)

**Sexton**

Paul Boudreau

[paulboo67@yahoo.com](mailto:paulboo67@yahoo.com)

**Senior Warden**

John D. Blake, Esq

[barrister.blake7@gmail.com](mailto:barrister.blake7@gmail.com)

**Junior Warden**

Len Walker

[lwalker@aplanforeveryone.com](mailto:lwalker@aplanforeveryone.com)

**Clerk**

Robertha Dwuye

[nynehodo@yahoo.com](mailto:nynehodo@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer**

**Assistant Treasurer**

**Our Daily Bread Treasurer**

Eric Pearson

[eric.odb@verizon.net](mailto:eric.odb@verizon.net)

**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,

It is during the month of December that we have the shortest days in the year. December also brings about the end of the calendar year, the hibernation of much of life, and the end of our holiday season. In many ways December can be thought of as an ending month. It is as if the light is going out, and in a literal way, it is. That can be sad.

But for Christians December also brings beginnings. It is the beginning of the new liturgical year, it brings the beginning of the calendar year, and the beginning of days getting longer, and literally the increase of light. It brings many fresh starts. That can be joyous.

There is no ending without a beginning and no beginning without an ending. Which decides for you who you will be: the endings or the beginnings? It is as simple as that. We get to choose.

The choice is not about choosing one set of facts over another. The light does decrease and the light does increase in the month of December. Both statements are true. Our choice is about with which one we will align ourselves. Will we be people of increasing light or decreasing light?

In many ways it is like the Native American story about the two wolves inside each person. One is a wolf of anger and the other is a wolf of peace. Which one will we feed? The one that we decide to feed is the one that we will become. As December unfolds, I invite you to make a choice. Choose to be people of light instead of darkness.

Christ was born in the darkest month that the light might shine even more brightly. He asks us to choose. Which side will we be on? I choose light and new beginnings.

Advent Blessings,

Father Rich

## Christmas Sing-A-Long

Sunday, December 4th ~ 4:00 PM

*Join us for a time of singing, fellowship and refreshments as we prepare for Jesus' birth.*

## On-line pledging and donating now available

- 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).

## Join us for the Holy Land Presentation

Fr. Rich



On Thursday, December 15, at Noon Father Rich will be making a presentation to the Joy of Living Luncheon on his recent trip to Israel and Palestine - the Holy Land. The focus of the trip will be on the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis. At left is a picture of Father Rich and Dr. Husam Zomlot in Ramallah, West Bank. Dr. Zomlot is co-founder and coordinator of the Palestine Strategy Group. He serves as ambassador at large for the Palestinian government and adjunct professor and co-chair of the School of Government at Birzeit University

Dr. Zomlot served as a PLO representative to the UK from 2003 to 2008. His work experience includes the United Nations, the London School of Economics and the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute.

He holds a PhD degree in Economics from the University of London and held teaching and research positions at the University of London and Harvard University. His book entitled: 'Building a Palestinian State Under Occupation' is in press.

## Advent Calendar for a New Century

Fr. Rich

Be part of the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar. It's an innovative way to engage in the season of Advent with people all over the world. Simply respond to the daily meditation emailed to you with images and prayers that speak to your heart. Your images and prayers will appear in the Advent Calendar with others from around the world. Join us as we anticipate the coming of Christ, the fulfillment of our deepest longings. Sign up at [www.adventword.org](http://www.adventword.org).

The Anglican Communion with the Society of Saint John the Evangelist Brothers invite you to:

- Sign up
- Pray through Advent
- Use your phone camera

Help create a Global Advent Calendar.

### How To:

Receive the daily AdventWord meditation by email and respond.

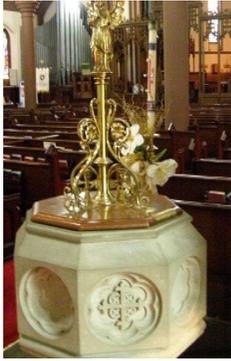
On Twitter and Instagram, tag your image/prayer #adventword plus the tag for the day. Make sure that there is a space between the tags for example: #adventword #proclaim. On Facebook go to the AdventWord Page and write on page using #adventword & the tag for the day.

Visit: [www.instagram.com/adventword](http://www.instagram.com/adventword)

Visit: [www.twitter.com/adventword](http://www.twitter.com/adventword)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/AdventWordOrg](http://www.facebook.com/AdventWordOrg)





## Next Baptismal Sunday

Fr. Rich

The next Baptismal Sunday is January 8, 2017. Anyone desiring to be baptized or to have a child baptized should contact Father Rich at 508-824-9595 or by email at [FrRich64@aol.com](mailto:FrRich64@aol.com) immediately. Those who are to be baptized are to have at least two Godparents, both of whom must be baptized and members of a Christian church. It is permitted to have more than two Godparents, but two is the minimum.

Godparent preparation is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office. Those adults being baptized and Godparents for all candidates must be present. Young children do not need to be present, but may if their parents wish it.

*“Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates.”*

*It is fitting that a parent be included among the godparents of their own children. Parents and godparents are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help the new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of his Church.”* Book of Common Prayer, page 298.

## First Annual Retreat

Gayle Raposa & Lisa Benedetti

First Annual Retreat  
Miramar Retreat Center



The theme of our first annual retreat at the Miramar Retreat Center was **“The Four Elements.”** Participants attended sessions on Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Each session captured the many ways in which the Holy Spirit is present within us and the world around us.

In their first presentation, Gayle Raposa and Lisa Benedetti discussed the first element, “Earth.”





**Pastoral Care Team  
Prayer List**

*Please pray for all who are sick & shut-in...*



*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.*

*Calling all Children...*

**Sunday Morning  
9:00 AM  
Chapel**

## 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 him*



**Norman Dunphe**  
Called home November 18, 2016

Brother of Carole Silvia  
A long and faithful servant, a kind gentleman  
As our Church Historian, Norm loved researching and writing of St. Thomas' history, symbolism and people.

## Join our Children's Service & Eucharist

Sunday, 9 AM

Our 5 PM Sunday afternoon service has been moved to Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in the Chapel. This is a children's service and Eucharist with prayers and songs. If you have young children, please come try us out.



# ➔ Fall Fair Reaches Goal!!!

Adult Roll-ups	\$ 560.00	Lottery tree raffle	\$ 428.00
Bakery	\$ 391.86	Money wreath raffle	\$ 369.00
Bid Board	\$1,717.00	Pies	\$ 281.00
Bid Board/After Raffle	\$ 111.00	Quilt raffle	\$ 105.00
Booth rental	\$ 295.00	White Elephant	\$1,408.67
Cafeteria	\$1,424.85	Miscellaneous	\$ 55.00
Child's clothes	\$ 202.00	History/Symbolism books	320.00
Child's games	\$ 93.50	Deposit	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
Child's roll-ups	\$ 158.50		\$10,731.38
Chinese Auction	\$ 404.00	<b>Less cost of lobster</b>	<b>660.00</b>
Dinner	\$ 800.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,071.38</b>
Farm Stand	\$ 841.40		
Haunted Tour	\$ 35.00		
Jewelry	\$ 244.60		
Knits/Stitches	\$ 466.00		

THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS**

**December 4**  
 Birthday & Anniversary

**December 11**  
 Tad & Marie Largey

**December 18**  
 Dane & Beverly Kimball

**December 25**  
 Malcolm Baker  
 Joan Andrade  
 Carol Crapeau

**January 1**  
 Birthday & Anniversary

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS/LAYREADERS**

**December 4**

8:00 AM Michael Stagliola  
 10:00 AM Mary Wargat, Lector/Chalice  
 Alix McNamee, Prayers/Chalice

**December 11**

8:00 AM Avis Leary  
 10:00 AM Linda Belenger, Lector/Chalice  
 Wayne Perkins, Prayers/Chalice

**December 18**

8:00 AM Michael Stagliola  
 10:00 AM Marge Largey, Lector  
 Monica Shearer, Prayers/Chalice  
 Beverly Kimball, Chalice

**December 24**

2:00 PM Sonia Hodge, Lector/Chalice  
 John Blake, Prayers/Chalice  
 5:00 PM Renee Vitale, Lector/Chalice  
 Beverly Kimball, Prayers/Chalice  
 10:00 PM Len Walker, Lector/Chalice  
 Sarah Walker, Prayers/Chalice

**December 25**

*Merry Christmas*  
 8:00 AM Avis Leary  
 10:00 AM Sonia Hodge, Lector/Prayers/Chalice

Eucharistic Ministers  
 9:00 AM Sundays

Melanie Auger  
 Eric Amoedo  
 Annemarie Amoedo.

**GREETER SCHEDULE**

**December 4**  
 Lisa Benedetti  
 Alix McNamee

**December 11**  
 Steve Lombardi  
 Renee Vitale

**December 18**  
 Fran MacKinnon  
 Larry Berghaus

**December 25**  
 Terry Asci



**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
 (4th Tuesdays)

December 27

Meetings start at 7:00 PM in  
 the Rector's Office

**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.

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!**

# Join us for Food and Fundraising



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

## Home Plate ~ Bay Street Grille

**December 6, 2016**

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!**

### CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**Stewardship Campaign**

**\$84,000**

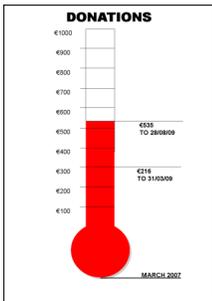
---

**Capital Campaign**

**\$140,000**

Still a long way to go to our goals so PLEASE get your pledges in ASAP.

### Stewardship Campaign



**Capital Campaign for our Future**

## TICKET



Supports  
**Episcopal Church of St Thomas**

Bring this ticket to Home Plate Bay St. Grill on

**Tuesday,**

**December 6, 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

~ GRAPEVINE DEADLINE ~ January deadline is December 20th

Send articles to Beverly Kimball

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

## What It Means to Serve My Church

Condoleezza Dwuye

Hi! I'm Condoleezza Dwuye. First I would like to say a few words about the people who helped out in the fair. I would like to thank the organizers of the fair. I would also like to thank everyone that helped to set up. Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone that contributed to the fair. It wouldn't have been possible without your help.

Right now I'm a reader. I read every 4th Sunday (Youth Sunday) and I enjoy it a lot. I practice with my parents a few days before I read so I can be prepared.

Here are a few things people said about me as a reader:

- Father Rich: "Well I think you're doing a great job, and that you're reading above your grade level. I really appreciate all that you do here at church."
- Ms. Lisa: "I think you are very brave for doing it. I think you're a very good reader. And I thank you for offering to do it."
- Dad: "I think you are a very good reader. Not only me, but everyone else in church says that you are a very great reader and they like to hear you read."

Recently, my sister Calvinne became a gospel bearer. I think she is really improving, and she is doing a good job. I am really proud of her. Here are few things people said about Calvinne as a gospel bearer:

- Father Rich: "Calvinne does a great job. She has learned quickly how to carry the gospel. I always look forward to seeing her on Sunday as gospel bearer."
- Ms. Lisa: "I think Calvinne's doing an excellent job. She follows directions very well and she's always here on time."
- Mom: "Calvinne is doing fine. I'm also proud of her. She's doing a great job, although sometimes I feel she goes too fast the same way Condi did when she started. I cautioned her the other day, and I'm like... you know... slow down your pace. This last Sunday I realized that she actually did. So I'm thinking she's learning. And I'm very proud of her."

Right now, I'm also a candle bearer. I try my best to hold the candle straight. Me being promoted to a candle bearer has been a big switch. I'm at the front instead of the back, I'm holding a candle when I used to hold a book. But now, I'm starting to be more in control. Here are some things people said about me as a candle bearer:

- Mom: "I think you're doing very great as a candle bearer. I'm very proud of you. As a mom, I remember when I did that also as a little girl. Sometimes I do get a little scared if the candle comes too close to your forehead. I hope you will learn to hold it and keep a steady hand, just so nothing happens."
- Auntie Robertha: "Well I think you do an excellent job. I know it was a little challenging, but I'm glad that you are excited from the beginning and you've been doing well so far. I think... you are doing good."

That's all I would like to say. Have a merry Christmas and a good week!

**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 [lynncifford1@comcast.net](mailto:lynncifford1@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.

**Christmas Sing-Along**



**December 4  
4:00 PM**



**Join the Choir...**  
You'll Be Glad  
You Did!

**Choir Rehearsals**

**Wednesdays~  
7:30PM**

**...the Chapel**

**Sundays—9 AM  
in the Chancel**

**Join us for a Christmas Sing-A-Long and Fellowship**

This year on **December 4, 2016** at 4:00 p.m. St. Thomas will host a Christmas Sing-A-Long in the main church. Come join us to sing both Advent and Christmas Carols as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. Dr. Young will accompany our singing on the organ and there will be refreshments afterwards. Bring your friends for this celebration of music and fellowship, of singing and fun!

**Notes from the Organ Console**

*Dr. Steven Young*

**DECEMBER ANTHEMS**

December 4	There shall a star from Jacob	F. Mendelssohn
December 11	There is no rose	Ian Higginson
December 18	Magnificat	A. Herbert Brewer
December 24	Hodie Christus natus est	Erik Meyer
December 25	Ding, dong, merrily on high	Arr. Barbara Wallace
January 1	<i>(Lessons and Carols)</i> Ding, dong, merrily on high; Hodie Christus; Infant holy; In dulci jubilo; Sing lullaby; There is no rose; In the bleak midwinter	

**TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS**

Just A week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out next to the fireplace.

“What are you doing?” I started to ask. The words chocked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement...

“TEACH THE CHILDREN!” I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, “Teach the children” Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten.”



Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. “Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. All the needles point heavenward making it a symbol of man’s thoughts turning toward heaven.”

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. “Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise.”

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. “Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world and when we see this great light, we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness.”

Once again he reached into his bag and



removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. “Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection.”

He then pulled from his bag an ORNAMENT of himself. “Teach the children that I, Santa Claus, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December.”



He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. “Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him.

Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, “Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son.” Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.



*Continued on Page 10...*

Calling all children... Cut out the page below along the dotted lines then color the pictures. Fold the page in half horizontally, then fold in half once more to make a book.

New Testament NT

stayed in a stable where animals slept.

Joseph and Mary

traveled to Bethlehem. The city was so crowded that they could not find a place to sleep.

Joseph and Mary

While they were

there, baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in soft cloths and laid Him in a manger.

CHRISTMAS

LUKE 2:1-7

## Upcoming Events ~ Save the Dates



### Christmas Services

December 24 - 2 PM  
 December 24 - 5 PM (Choir)  
 December 24 - 10 PM

December 25 - 8 AM  
 December 25 - 10 AM

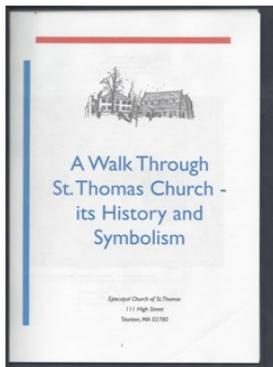
### Service of Lessons & Carols

January 1, 2017 - 10 AM

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)	9:00 AM - Children’s Service - 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)
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

December 4	4:00 PM	Christmas Sing-A-Long Main Church
December 6	All Day	Home Plate/Bay Street Grill Fundraiser
December 15	12.00 Noon	Holy Land Presentation - Senior Luncheon
December 17	6:00 PM	Winter Solstice Celebration
December 27	7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting - Fr. Rich’s Office
January 8, 2017	10:00 AM	Baptismal Sunday
October 21/22	All Day	FALL FAIR 2017

ON SALE NOW  
 288 YEARS OF  
 ST. THOMAS HISTORY



\$20.00/COPY

...continued from Page 8



Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. “Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds’ crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother’s keeper.”



He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. “Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior’s birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men.”

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. “Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.



Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me, and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, “Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One who is, and I bow down to worship him, our LORD, our GOD.”

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**  
**KEEP SAFE!!!!**

### Joy of Living Senior Lunches

Thursdays ~ 12 noon  
St. Thomas Church Taunton

**Loving Kindness Meditation  
For Ourselves and for  
Our Nation (11/10/2016)**

## Join the Joy of Living Senior Lunches

Ethel Fraga

These catered lunches, held in the St. Thomas Church Parish Hall, are free of charge. Donations may be made to help support Our Daily Bread soup kitchen. **The meal begins at noon and is followed by a speaker (or bingo once/month), from 12:30—1 PM.** Everyone 55 years of age or older may join us.

### December Schedule of Speakers

December 1 St. Nicholas ~ Frank Leary  
December 8 Group Discussion of Family Holiday Traditions  
December 15 Fr. Rich Bardusch - slides on clergy trip to Israel to study status of "Two-State Solution" between Israel and Palestine  
December 22 Bingo with a holiday theme  
December 29 New Year's Eve Party

## Loving Kindness Meditation for Ourselves & Nation

*Ethel Fraga, Contemplative Educator, and MBSR Instructor*

May these benefactors of the United States of America, sit with us and support us with their deep commitment to equality, nonviolence, presence, simplicity, beauty and service to others: Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Henry David Thoreau, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou and Dorothy Day. May their best intentions radiate in us - and out of us toward our world. Pause a moment to allow the radiance of their intentions and values to nourish you and then inwardly surround our nation with their best intentions and values.

Continue, compassionately allowing thoughts and feelings that arise and gently, without judgment, returning to your wishes of good will for self and others.

"May I be happy, peaceful, strong, healthy, safe from inner and outer harm; may my heart be filled with joy."

N. B. If it is uncomfortable expressing compassion toward yourself, try linking yourself to others in the human family who feel similarly. Ex: May I, and all who feel unworthy, be happy, peaceful, strong, healthy, safe from inner and outer harm; may our hearts be filled with joy. (Repeat and savor wish of love and kindness.)

"May my loved ones, family and friends, be happy, peaceful, strong, healthy, safe from inner and outer harm; may their hearts be filled with joy."

"May all citizens of my community, my state, my country be happy, peaceful, strong, healthy, safe from inner and outer harm; may their hearts be filled with joy."

"May Donald Trump, his family and his supporters be happy, peaceful, strong, healthy, safe from inner and outer harm; may their hearts know true joy."

"May Hillary Clinton, her family and her supporters be happy, peaceful, strong, healthy, safe from inner and outer harm; may their hearts know true joy."

"May our nation and our world be happy, peaceful, strong, healthy, safe from inner and outer harm; may our hearts be filled with joy."

## 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 McKinstry 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

Consider joining one or more of these committees

Acolytes—Lisa Benedetti, Elizabeth Boudreau,  
Altar Guild—Anna Loura  
Archives—Marge Largey  
Audit Committee—Susan Cameron,  
Kirk Cleathero  
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—  
Budget - Treasurer  
Insurance—Susan Cameron  
Investment -  
Stewardship—  
Flower Committee—Cheryl Medeiros  
Fundraising Committee—Paul Boudreau  
Golf Tournament—Len Walker  
Grapevine—Beverly Kimball  
Greeters—Terry Asci

Healing Prayer Ministry—Jane Lopes  
Historian—  
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) —  
Wine & Cheese Reception Coordinator—Brittannya Figueroa