



Grapevine

Volume 36, Number 9

January, 2017

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday
8 am—2 pm

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Michael Stagliola

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Assistant Treasurer

Our Daily Bread Treasurer

Eric Pearson

eric.odv@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,

Happy New Year! 2016 was a great year and 2017 will be even better. How do I know this? Because I have discovered a few principals which, if lived by, will make any year better. Here they are:

- 1) **Stay Positive!** You can listen to the cynics and doubters and believe that success is impossible or you can trust that with faith and an optimistic attitude all things are possible. If we are always expecting bad, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Likewise, if we are expecting good it, too, is a self-fulfilling prophecy. I am reminded of Paul's exhortation to the Philippians (2:1-2) to think on whatever is noble, good, just, and pure.
- 2) **Be Grateful!** Gratitude is an important spiritual discipline. It enables us to see that we are part of creation, not the center, but part. That is important for preventing a sense of selfishness and entitlement from developing. The word Eucharist literally means Thanksgiving. The whole story of the Bible from beginning to end is the story of what God has done to save us. The proper response to the Bible is gratitude. I like to say that Gratitude is a game changer, and it is, (Colossians 2:16-17).
- 3) **Do Not Seek Happiness!** Live with passion and purpose and happiness is a natural by product. Too many

of us have been tricked into believing that the purpose of our lives is to be happy, that happiness is some kind of goal. It isn't. The purpose of our lives is to become the creature God wants us to be. Happiness is always a by-product, never something that can be an end in itself.

This year as we make our New Year's Resolutions, I invite you to make one for your church. Perhaps it is to be more regular in church attendance. Christians are expected to worship weekly. Or, you want to step up your giving as a sign of your commitment. If we take the church for granted and never put anything into it, then we never get anything out of it. The old saying "You get out of something what you put into it" is very true. This year resolve to get more out of your church. Spend more time here; meet more people, volunteer, give. There are many ways to participate and your presence is the best one to share.

Finally, I want to call your attention to our First Epiphany Pot Luck on Friday, January 6, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and we will have a play about Epiphany written by Maureen El-dredge. The play is the story of the Three Wise Men searching for the baby Jesus. It is humorous and short, which is always a good combination. Join us that night for eating, fellowship, and fun!

New Year Blessings, Fr. Rich

Happy New Year!

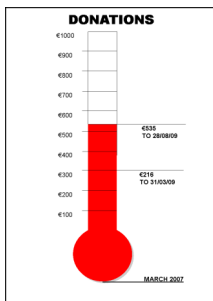
REMINDER

**Annual Reports
are due
January 15, 2017**

**Those responsible,
PLEASE TURN THEM
IN TO LYNN ASAP.**

~ ~ ~

**Capital Campaign
&
Stewardship Campaign**



~ ~ ~

**Joy of Living Senior
Lunches**

Thursdays ~ 12 noon
St. Thomas Church
Taunton

Our 289th Annual Meeting

February 12, 2017 ~ 11:30 AM
Pot Luck Luncheon and Meeting
(Please bring a dish to share)

This is a very important meeting in which we elect officers and delegates to represent our church for the coming year and hear reports. This year we will be electing our Jr. and Sr. Wardens, Treasurer, Clerk, Vestry members and delegates to convention, diocese and Episcopal City Mission.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT MEETING

Campaign Update

Michael Stagliola

Thank you to all who have supported the Annual Campaign and the Capital Campaign pledge drives for 2017!

To date the annual **Stewardship Campaign** has generated \$100,241 which supports a \$130,000 budget. We have quite a way to go!!!

The **Capital Campaign** has generated \$150,265 in donations to date with a goal of \$410,000. The Vestry has been making phone calls to parishioners who have yet to pledge. Those of you who have not pledged are urged to consider your support and send in your pledges as soon as possible .

St. Thomas needs your support to reach these important goals!

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.

January Schedule of Speakers

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 5 | <u>The Three Wise Guys</u> : a play by Maureen Eldredge |
| January 12 | <u>Cocktails Anyone?</u> The Do's and Don'ts of Mixing Medications
Raquel Holmes RPh, Magellan Health Care |
| January 19 | Helping a depressed friend / Annemarie Matulis, Director,
Bristol County Coalition for Suicide Prevention |
| January 26 | Bingo |

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 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.

~ ~ ~



Pot Luck Supper and program
January 6, 2017 ~ 6:00 PM

~ ~ ~

I have
a dream...



Join us for our Epiphany Pot Luck

Friday, January 6, 2017 ~ 6:00 PM dinner/6:30 program
Parish Hall

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and a desire to laugh. Our **entertainment** for the evening will be a play written by one of our new members, Maureen Eldredge. The play is about the Wise Men’s search for the Baby Jesus. It is meant to be humorous, and we hope you enjoy it.

Come one ~ Come all

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. service

Monday, January 16, 2017 ~ 7:00 PM
Memorial United Methodist Church
176 Somerset Avenue; Taunton, MA, 02780

This prayer service is organized by the Greater Taunton Clergy Association to recognize the work of Dr. King and acknowledge the work that still needs to be done.

Please join us for this annual event.



Pastoral Care Team

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

- Stuart Parker
- Edith Beard
- John Moniz
- Joan Andrade
- Nancy Lee

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

~ ~ ~



Choir Rehearsals
 Wednesdays~
 7:30PM
 ...the Chapel
 Sundays—9 AM
 in the Chancel

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 Drowniak
- 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
- Justin Medeiros

Pray for the Dearly Departed

May light perpetual shine upon her

Elizabeth Baylies Schultz
 Called home October 31, 2016

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.



Notes from the Organ Console

Dr. Steven Young

JANUARY ANTHEMS

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| January 1 | lessons & Carols | |
| | Ding, Dong, Merrily On High | Barbara Wallace |
| | Hodie Christus Natus Est | Erik Meyer |
| | Infant Holy | David Willcocks |
| | In Dulci Jubilo | Ian Higginson |
| | Sing Lullaby | Richard Shephard |
| | There Is No Rose | Ian Higginson |
| | In the Bleak Mid Winter | Vernon Hoyle |
| January 8 | Christ is the World's True Light | W. K. Stanton |
| January 15 | My eyes for beauty pine | Herbert Howells |
| January 22 | The People That Walked in Darkness | Richard Shephard |
| January 29 | Offertory | John Ness Beck |



**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!**

**Eucharistic Ministers
9:00 AM Sundays**

Melanie Auger
Eric Amoedo
Annemarie Amoedo.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

January 1

Crucifer Julia Boudreau
Candles Mason Badger / Stephen Rose
Gospel Khloe Butler
Readers Stephen Rose / Condoleezza Dwuye

January 8

Crucifer Douglas Francis
Candles Elijah Figueroa / Condoleezza Dwuye
Gospel Calvinne Dwuye

January 15

Crucifer Stephen Rose
Candles Julia Boudreau / Logan Frank
Gospel Dhillon Auger

January 22

Crucifer Douglas Francis
Candles Karissa Murray / Kassidy Murray
Gospel Khloe Butler

January 29

Crucifer Mitchell Grady
Candles Condoleezza Dwuye / Elijah Figueroa
Gospel Calvinne Dwuye
Readers Stephen Rose / Condoleezza Dwuye

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/LAYREADERS

January 1

8:00 AM Michael Stagliola
10:00 AM *Lessons & Carols*
Mary Wargat, Lector/Chalice/Reader
Alix McNamee, Prayers/Chalice/Reader
Readers: Paul Boudreau, Linda Belenger,
Marge Largey, Monica Shearer, Lisa
Benedetti, two Acolytes

January 7

Brenda Neugeboren

January 8

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

January 14

Renee Vitale

January 15

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

January 21

Terry LaRue

January 22

8:00 AM Avis Leary
10:00 AM Terry LaRue
Alix McNamee,
Wayne Perkins

January 28

Brenda Neugeboren

January 29

8:00 AM Michael Stagliola
10:00 AM Len Walker, Prayers/Chalice
Sarah Walker, Chalice

Readers: Stephen Rose / Condoleezza Dwuye

**COFFEE HOUR
VOLUNTEERS**

January 1

Birthday & Anniversary

January 8

Renee Vitale/Steve Lombardi

January 15

Esther Wilbur

January 22

Donna Francis/ Terry Ascì

January 29

Need a Volunteer

GREETER SCHEDULE

January 1

Steve Lombardi
Renee Vitale

January 8

Elizabeth Boudreau
Julia Boudreau

January 15

Maureen Eldredge

January 22

Sarah Walker
Len Walker

January 29

Jacqui Schell
Terry Ascì



FINANCE COMMITTEE

(4th Tuesdays)

January 24
February 28
March 28

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

**St. Thomas
Altar Guild**

- Linda Belenger
- Sharon Cravenho
- Josephine Dwuye
- Donna Francis
- Nancy Grady
- Carol Hunt
- Beverly Kimball
- Dane Kimball
- Marie Largey
- Avis Leary
- Steve Lombardi
- Alix McNamee
- Cheryl Medeiros
- Sandi Mongiovi
- Renee Vitale
- Esther Wilbur
- Janet White



A Tribute to Our Altar Guild

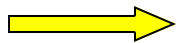
Beverly Kimball

Who are these people, you ask? You never see them doing anything around the church. Why do we even bother to acknowledge them!

There are many volunteers needed to make the church a wonderful and inviting place to worship - the greeters with their smiles and friendly welcome, the choir members who not only are there on Sundays, but rehearse during the week to bring great music, the acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, readers - just to mention a few.

However, have you ever wondered, as you enter the church, how the flowers that add to the beauty of the church miraculously appear, and how the altar is prepared ready for the Eucharist - and the altar hangings periodically change color. Is this more of God's magic? You don't see it happening, because it is done by a remarkable group of people who quietly serve God behind the scenes. They are in and out of the church after each service and on Saturdays, cleaning, washing floors, dusting, washing/ironing the linens and preparing for the services ~ Eucharist, weddings, funerals, baptisms and any other special services that may arise during the week. **These are the Altar Guild members!**

Anna Loura, Altar Guild Directress, would like to give special thanks to Esther Wilbur for her amazing training, assistance, advice and caring; to Cheryl Medeiros for the beautiful flower arrangements and all the "little" extra things she does behind the scenes all year; Sandi Mongiovi and Janet White who launder both the altar linens and purificators and perform so many other tasks; Marie Largey for ordering all the altar supplies and tracking incurred expenses; and so many others who are always willing to "go the extra mile" when asked; and to all those Altar Guild members who serve faithfully each month --- **and WE want to thank Anna for her direction, dedication, caring and hard work as she serves as our Altar Guild Directress.**



**Meeting & Tea
February 18 ~ 3 PM
Rectory**

Our Officers....
 Anna Loura, Directress
 Esther Wilbur, Asst. Directress
 Marie Largey, Treasurer
 Cheryl Medeiros, Flowers

ALTAR GUILD MEETING: The Altar Guild will have a **meeting and "eclectic tea"** with coffee and deserts in the Rectory - **Saturday, February 18, 3 - 4 PM.** Members are encouraged to attend and those interested in learning more are invited also.



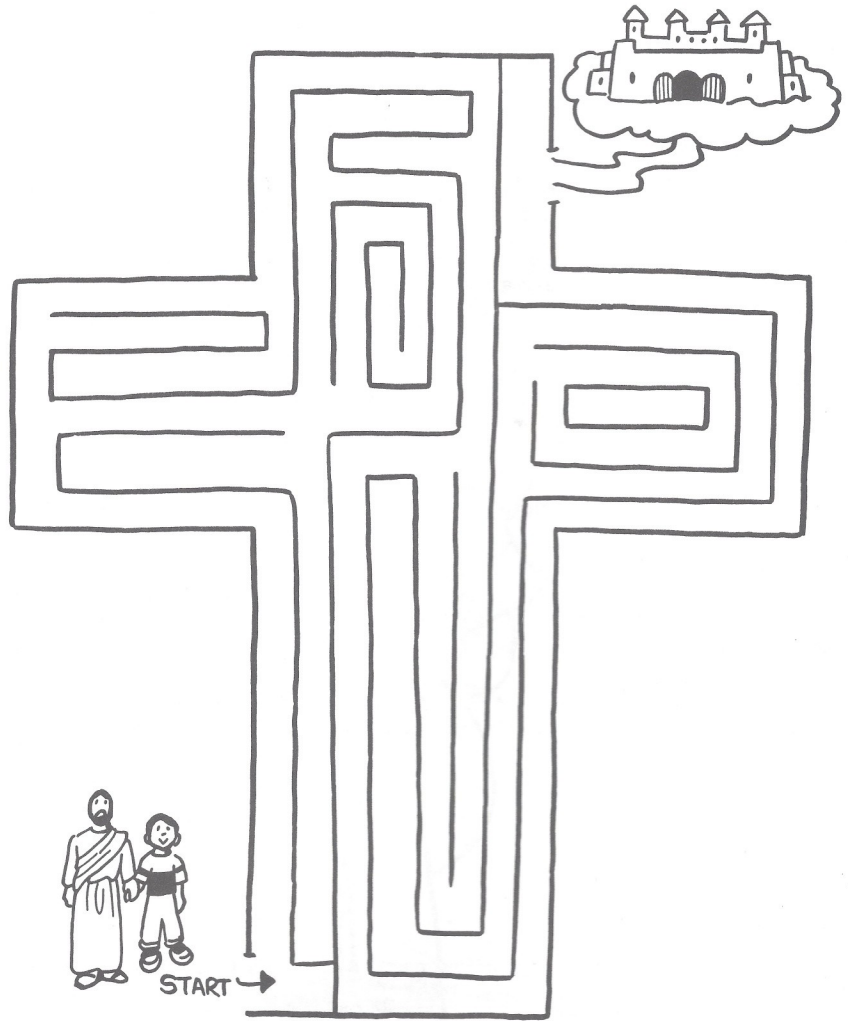
**Come to the tea.
Check us out.**



The church looked especially beautiful on Christmas thanks to the talent and hard work of Cheryl Medeiros and her helpers who arranged the beautiful flowers.

Children's Corner

The only way to get to heaven is by accepting the free gift of salvation from Jesus. Find the right path to heaven in the maze below.



*Join us at 9:00 AM
Sundays
Children's Service
followed by refreshments
...in the Chapel*

You guide me . . . and afterward You will take me into glory.
Psalm 73:24 NIV

20

Prayer is talking with God. You can talk to Him any time, any place
and about anything.

~ ~ ~

Hear my prayer, O Lord
Psalm 102:1



Upcoming Events ~ Save the Dates

*Service of
Lessons & Carols*
January 1, 2017 - 10 AM

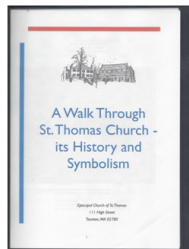
Saturdays (weekly)	5:00 PM - Come as you Are service—Chapel
Saturdays (1st)	6:00 PM - Senior Ministry—Coram Lounge
Sundays (1st)	11:30 AM - Newcomer’s Meeting—Coram Lounge
Sundays (1st & 3rd)	10:00 AM - Healing Prayer offered during Eucharist—Serviceman’s Altar
Sundays (2nd)	11:30 AM - Christian Formation 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

January 5, 2017	12:00 Noon	Joy of Living Senior Luncheon - Parish Hall
January 6, 2017	6:00 PM	Epiphany Pot Luck Supper and Play
January 8, 2017	10:00 AM	Baptismal Sunday
January 12, 2017	12:00 Noon	Joy of Living Senior Luncheon - Parish Hall
January 16, 2017	7:00 PM	Martin Luther King service - Memorial United Methodist
January 19, 2017	12:00 Noon	Joy of Living Senior Luncheon - Parish Hall
January 26, 2017	12:00 Noon	Joy of Living Senior Luncheon - Parish Hall
February 12, 2017	11:30 AM	Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon
February 18, 2017	3:00 PM	Altar Guild Meeting & Eclectic Tea - Rectory
October 21/22	All Day	FALL FAIR 2017

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ST. THOMAS’ BUDGET**



Purchase “A Walk Through St. Thomas Church” Beverly Kimball

Table of Contents	The Chapel
What is the Episcopal Church	Our Buildings & Assets
History of St. Thomas List of our Rectors since 1728	The Church - an Upjohn edifice The Chapel The Parish Hall The Rectory (McKinstry House) The Waldron Gibson House The Cemetery Our Daily Bread Our Thomas Coram 1739 Prayer Book Memorials
Sermons You Can See The Sanctuary The Chancel Holy Communion Vestments Disciples in Stained Glass	Biographies Thomas Coram Walter J. Clemson William McKinstry
The Jardine Organ List of St. Thomas Organists Organ Specifications	

Loving Kindness Meditation for Ourselves and for Our Nation

Ethel Fraga

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.”

Ethel Fraga, Contemplative Educator, and MBSR Instructor (11/10/16)

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 or lynnclifford1@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.

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. 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).

~ **GRAPEVINE DEADLINE** ~ February deadline is January 20th

Send articles to Beverly Kimball

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

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—

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