

THE GOOD NEWS

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1108 Providence Rd., Towson, MD 21286

410-821-5489

stthomas@stthomastowson.org

www.stthomastowson.org

May 2015

From the Rector

Jan Bahner, Beth Crosby and I just returned from the Church Building Fund Symposium in Raleigh, North Carolina. We heard inspiring speakers - people who have reinvented themselves to serve the needs of their community; people who talked about building a brand, i.e., knowing why you exist, and how to get the word out about what you offer; people who have chosen to worship in a different way; people who have chosen to stay in their historic building, but have changed things so that the building itself generates income. There is much to think about, and some experiments to try, along with some on-going discernment about how we can best be the community of St. Thomas, Towson.

The Symposium came on the heels of a complaint from the neighborhood about one of our banners. Moving forward, we will have to abide by Baltimore County rules about temporary signage. Each time we want to put up a banner, such as for our Christmas Bazaar, we will be required to apply for a permit and pay a fee. It is not a big challenge, but it is an inconvenience and expense that we did not expect. The Maintenance Team will be looking into options for permanent signage that may be different from what we have now, but will meet our needs and save us money in the long run.

Before we left, St. Thomas' had a wonderful visit with Bishop Sutton, who confirmed two fine young men, Blake and Gavin Walter. He stayed after the service and spoke with the Vestry about how things are going. Read more about that meeting in the Senior Warden's Report.

The day after the Bishop left, our beloved "Beast," our over 40 year old HVAC system, was being disassembled. One of the speakers on buildings at the Symposium was an HVAC contractor. He told me that the 40+ years of the Beast's life is about equal to a person who lives to be 100. We have been very fortunate to have a system that has lasted as long as it has. The replacement will be much more efficient, but thanks be to God for the people who designed and built the Beast to last as long as it did. Read more about the replacement in the Junior Warden's report.

Now we head into May, the month of Diocesan Convention, Mother's Day, beautiful spring weather, and graduations. Inside you will find information about May's Messy Church, reports from both Junior and Senior Wardens, and the other activities of our wonderful church. Thank you for being part of the St. Thomas' Family.

Blessings,
Loree⁺

Message from the Sr. Warden

As I write to you, we have just had a visit from Bishop Eugene Sutton. After Sunday services, the Bishop met with the Vestry. Our discussion focused on what is great and brings us joy at St. Thomas' and then what worries us about our future.

No surprise, people are our greatest joys! Rev. Loree+ foremost among them. And people are our greatest worry...that is how to recruit new families. The Bishop congratulated us on our specific goal for this year..."To bring 10 new families into our church".

He reminded us that we are a vibrant, caring, and dedicated church and that we've come through a valley over the past few years with struggles that might have brought other churches to close. We chose to pray and worship together as we healed.

My message today is one of hope...the message of the resurrection. It's time for us to come out of the valley. We have so much to offer those seeking to worship in a community of faithful people. We also have our challenges. Both are what make us strong!

Part of the valley we've been traveling through has caused us to defer maintenance of our buildings. While the building doesn't make our church, it is the place where we've chosen to gather to worship our Lord. And to insure that we are able to continue to do so, we are going to have a very busy spring.

We have a certain amount budgeted each year for building and maintenance issues, and have identified the projects we most need to address with the money this year. The good news is that Vern Adams, Jr. Warden, and our Property Committee have everything under control! They know what needs to be done and are working diligently, often behind the scenes, to take care of the issues at hand. Thank you all!

We will do everything possible to communicate property updates and changes prior to their taking place. But remember, we are human. We do sometimes forget to communicate in our excitement to fix something. And sometimes an opportunity to fix a problem presents itself without time to communicate with everyone.

One of the things we pride ourselves on is if one thing doesn't work, we stop, take stock and try something else! So today I ask that you be patient with us. With your leadership, your communicators, with those who are trying to give us the best possible facility we can have in which to worship.

If you see a change you weren't expecting or don't like, please don't jump to any conclusions. We're not trying to work in secret. Call a Warden or a Vestry member and get your concern addressed! Keep submitting the maintenance requests for issues you identify. We may already have your issue on our list, but it never hurts to have another pair of eyes.

Some of the work you will see includes a new heating system (please see the Jr. Warden's message this month if you missed the recent e-mail), new outside doors, new tile in the lower level of the office building, and different signage. I'm sure there will be other things that at the moment I can't recall. Look forward to Vern's messages for the details! If you'd like to help and aren't sure where, please call one of us. Remember that we have a workday the second Saturday of every month from 7 am - 12 noon. Even an hour of your time will help. No need to sign up, just show up!

In the meantime, as we enter a busy time of spring and all the wonderful renewal opportunities it brings, be safe, healthy and keep St. Thomas' in your prayers.

Happy Spring...it's finally here!!!

Peace,

Jan Bahner

Sr. Warden

A word from the Junior Warden...

As most of you know we are and have been having some issues with our heating/cooling plant...which we affectionately call "The BEAST." In 38(+/-) years of operation it has been a good beast; but now is "graying" and showing its age. Over the last couple of years or so we have discovered the three-zone control (original design) system was non-operational and were forced to an "all or nothing" operation. Basically, this means even though we only need to heat or cool the Church we still had to heat or cool the lower level also. To say the least that is not an efficient mode of operation; which our utility bills painfully remind us. You may recall at the beginning of this heating season we had some difficulty controlling the heat and had to devise a method of "shutting off" when a desired temperature was reached. This new system will allow us to control all three zones; Altar, Church and Lower Level, each independent of the other.

With all that said we have had four commercial HVAC companies review our problems, make recommendations and provide us with estimates of repairs and/or replacement. As noted above, our unit is approximately 38 years old and "BEAST" replacement parts are no longer available; and therefore each of the bidders have recommended complete removal of the existing plant and control system and installation of a combination of units and controls suitable to our needs.

We have selected a contractor and work will begin later this week. Initial removal/demolition will take about 7-10 days and the installation process will be completed on or about May 15, 2015. Our finance committee has approved use of Heritage funds to cover the project costs of \$93,000.00. Following completion we will begin budgeting to replace Heritage Fund dollars over a period of time.

During this period please pardon the dust, although the contractor says there will be little of that...but above all else please pray to our heavenly Father for pleasant weather as we move ahead with this much needed improvement. Even though the Lenten Season is behind us, I recall a short verse from St. Mark as being a bit appropriate at this time..."could you not watch with me one hour"...I ask your patience for about one month.

Peace and all good things...
Vern Adams

Monthly Ultreya Saturday May 2nd at 6:00 pm *Ultreya—Onward!*

An Ultreya is a gathering together for fellowship, and a "checking-in" time for those who want to deepen their spiritual journey. St. Thomas' will begin to hold an Ultreya monthly, beginning on May 2nd. Join us at 6:00 pm. While **Ultreya** is a ministry of Cursillo, you do NOT have to attend Cursillo to be part of Ultreya. Come and join us!

If you need more information, contact Jim Stultz, jimstultz@hotmail.com, Barbara Lewis, blewis711@gmail.com, or Chris Snead, csnead1034@aol.com.

Thank you.
St. Thomas Cursillo Team



Messy Church Logo Copyright Bible Reading Fellowship © 2015

Messy Church
@ St. Thomas'
May 16th
4:00-6:00 pm

*Fellowship, faith, food and fun
for all ages!!*

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Psalm 62:1-2



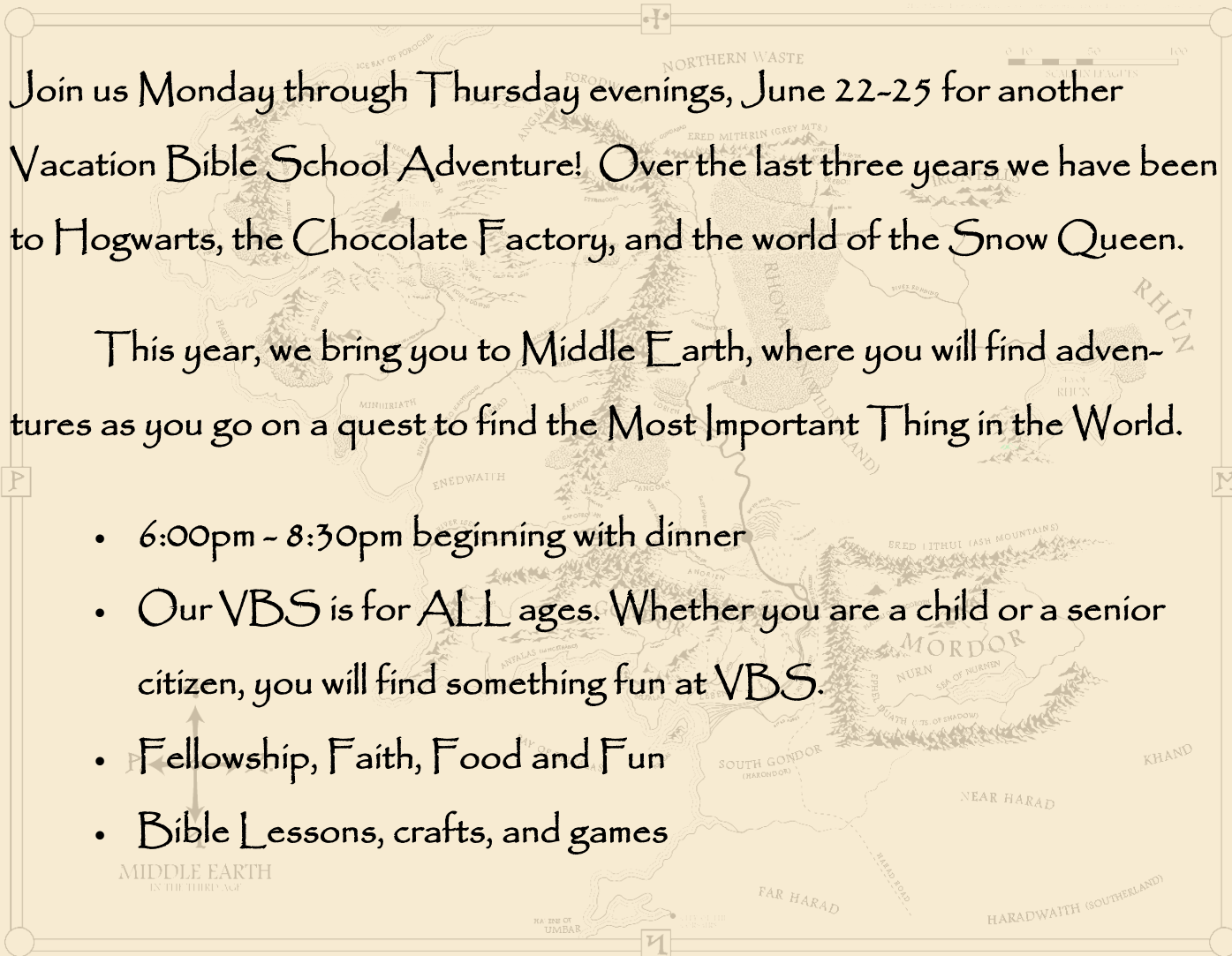
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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-25 2015

Hobbits and Elves and Dwarves, Oh My!

A Quest to find Faith in Extraordinary Circumstances



Join us Monday through Thursday evenings, June 22-25 for another Vacation Bible School Adventure! Over the last three years we have been to Hogwarts, the Chocolate Factory, and the world of the Snow Queen.

This year, we bring you to Middle Earth, where you will find adventures as you go on a quest to find the Most Important Thing in the World.

- 6:00pm - 8:30pm beginning with dinner
- Our VBS is for ALL ages. Whether you are a child or a senior citizen, you will find something fun at VBS.
- Fellowship, Faith, Food and Fun
- Bible Lessons, crafts, and games

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LOOKING AHEAD

**Sunday May 31: 10:00 Combined
Service with Acolyte Awards**

TUESDAY'S @ TOM'S

**Beginning June 30 - Join us for
Food, Faith, Fun and Fellowship
on Tuesday nights through the Summer!**

- **Weekly Dinner**
- **Game nights**
- **Trivia night**
- **Movies**
- **Bible Study**

Come and join the fun!

Attention All Graduates



We are asking all parents of the graduates to contact the parish office by email (stthomastowson@gmail.com) by May 12th with the graduate's name. We would also like to have the name of the school from which they are graduating, and plans for the future.

Leadership at St. Thomas' Clergy

Rector: The Rev. Loree Penner
Lay Pastoral Associate: John Windsor
Lay Preacher: Amy Shimonkevitz

Vestry & Officers

Senior Warden: Jan Bahner
Junior Warden: Vernon Adams
Treasurer: Chuck Booth
Registrar: Carole Salisbury

Class of 2016

Beth Crosby
William Kittle
Kate Snead

Class of 2017

John Condon
Diane Flayhart
Jenny Moulton

Class of 2018

Laura Doles
Barbara Lewis
Jeanne Windsor

Staff

Administrator: Dawn Pahl
Director of Music: Hardwick Spencer

**All of us together,
we are the church!**



<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
3 9:00 AM Traditional Worship- Rite II 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist	4 7:00 PM Fit Club 7:00 PM Scouts 7:30 PM Leadership Class	5 7:30 PM EFM	6 1:00 PM Meals On Wheels Luncheon - Fellowship Hall 7:30PM Parish Choir Rehearsal	7 7:30 PM Worship Band	8	9 7:00 AM—11:00 AM Work Day
10 Mother's Day 9:00 AM Traditional Worship- Rite II 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry 2:00 PM Sudanese	11 7:30 PM Leadership Class Rev. Loree-Vacation	12 7:30 PM EFM *Deadline for article submissions for June "Good News" Rev. Loree-Vacation	13 1:30 PM Oak Crest Service 7:30PM Parish Choir Rehearsal Rev. Loree-Vacation	14 9:00 AM-1:00 PM Paul's Place 7:30 PM Worship Band Rev. Loree-Vacation	15 Rev. Loree-Vacation	16 10:00 AM - Noon Made to Love 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Messy Church
17 9:00 AM Traditional Worship- Rite II 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist	18 7:00 PM Fit Club 7:30 PM Leadership Class Rev. Loree-Vacation	19 7:30 PM EFM Rev. Loree-Vacation	20 7:30PM Parish Choir Rehearsal Rev. Loree-Vacation	21 7:30 PM Worship Band Rev. Loree-Vacation	22 Rev. Loree-Vacation	23
24 9:00 AM Traditional Worship- Rite I-Quiet Service 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist	25 7:30 PM Leadership Class- NO CLASS Rev. Loree-Vacation	26 7:30 PM EFM	27 7:30PM Parish Choir Rehearsal	28 Rev. Loree-Vacation	29 Rev. Loree-Vacation	30
31 10:00 AM Combined Service- Rite II				Rev. Loree and Steve away for EFM Training	Rev. Loree and Steve away for EFM Training	

May 2015

**St. Thomas' Good News
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
1108 Providence Road
Towson, MD 21286**

Time Dated: April 23. 2015

**RETURNED SERVICE
REQUESTED**

**NON PROFIT
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VISION

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is a diverse and loving family confidently dedicated to God, and his Word and boldly striving to seek, to serve, and to reach out to those in need.

MISSION

We focus our response to God and to the community in joyful worship, compassionate outreach and relevant service. Through fellowship, music, study and prayer, we seek to strengthen our faith, each other, and our love for God.