



THE GOOD NEWS

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1108 Providence Rd., Towson, MD 21286

410-821-5489

www.stthomastowson.org

stthomastowson@gmail.com

September 2015

*Bless to me, O God
The earth beneath
my foot,
Bless to me, O God,
The path whereon
I go;
Bless to me, O
God,
The thing of my
desire;
Thou Evermore of
evermore,
Bless thou to me
rest.
Bless to me the
thing
Whereon is set
my mind,
Bless to me the
thing
Whereon is set
my love,
Bless to me the
thing Whereon is
set my hope,
O Thou King of
kings,
Bless Thou to me
mine eye!*

From The Celtic
Vision

One Bread, One Body

On Sunday, August 30, I began a discussion with the congregation about how our summer services went, and what changes people would suggest for next year. After a few answers, someone said, "Why can't we have one service all year?" From there, the discussion went in a different direction, and we heard from many, many people, how much it has meant to them to see everyone at the same service. There were questions about whether 9:30 or 10:00 would be better, questions about having a quiet service, and a few other concerns, but the overwhelming desire was to have one service on Sunday mornings.

Because of this enthusiasm, we will maintain the combined services for the rest of the year. For the month of September, we will be meeting at **9:30**, a compromise. During the month of September, the musicians and the Worship Team will meet to discuss the format of these services. Will we have some traditional, some contemporary, some combined music? Will we add a quiet service, or give those who desire it a different venue in which to experience the quiet worship they love? How will the planning of music work for our interim organist and the worship band? What do we need in a permanent church musician? Perhaps someone who is organist, choirmaster, and has skills for contemporary worship as well? All these questions need to be answered, and in short order.

I appreciate people's honesty in our discussion. I asked at the end of the service for people to speak to me about their concerns regarding having one service. I do so again now: if you have concerns that haven't been expressed, please talk to me. I want to hear from you. You can email me at lpenner.stthomastowson.org, or call me, either at the church or on my cell, 443-377-9048.

Personally, I am excited about the fact that people want to be together; this is a healing moment for our church, that at one time was quite divided between traditional and contemporary. I pray that worshipping as one Body, and sharing the one Bread together will strengthen us, and help us move forward into greater ministry.

Please pray for the leadership of the church as we continue to plan our One Service together.

Faithfully,
Loree+

Senior Warden Report

On Aug 8th, our Maintenance/Work Day went very well. We have essentially completed our planned weeding and planting of the side/patio areas. Many thanks to all who have generously donated their time, talent and treasure to help us maintain the St. Thomas property. Keep in mind Saturday, Sept 12 for our next work day.

This gives me great opportunity to update you on some of our accomplishments and the major property/maintenance issues your Vestry, Property Committee and yes you, the parishioners are facing. We have a lot of work to do and your help in each of the following areas is respectfully requested.

As we all are delightfully aware our new A/C's are operating beautifully...very coolly you might say! We had a "tune up" on Monday (Aug 3) following the continuous-run "break-in" mode. One minor problem was discovered and corrected by our contractor. All zone thermostats have been re-set and locked to reflect the daily needs of the parish. We expect to see benefits of the normal operation in our next BG/E billing.

As part of our HVAC installation a white vinyl privacy fence has been erected around our new A/C plant. We took this step to discourage thoughts of "easy access" to the many feet of copper piping and it also makes a more esthetic appearance. Our HVAC contractor donated his labor force to erect the fencing...we will only have to pay for the materials, about \$400.00.

Some of you are aware of the water issues we have been having thru-out our property. The unprotected window wells and recent heavy rains have led to the water intrusion of the East wall (Providence Rd side) of the Nursery. We have taken action; beginning with installing new well covers, sealing and re-coating of the exterior wall, and removal of the damaged carpet. The Nursery has two independent FCU's (Fan Coil Units, which date the "BEAST" era) for heat and A/C to that space and they too have been affected by the water. A new single HVAC unit will cost about \$4800 installed and replacing of the carpet will run about \$2900.00. Unfortunately our insurance does not cover any of this work.

Work began on Aug. 3rd to replace the water damaged exterior upper and lower doors (West Side) to the Office and Classroom Annex and a new door at the main entrance to the Office. All this work was completed in two days at a cost of \$12400.00. Following the door(s) installation we next replaced the tile in the lower level hallway (previously flooded) of the Annex. This work, including the removal/disposal of the asbestos tile has been completed at a cost of \$2660.00. \$1600 of this cost was covered by our insurance.

Our vestry has approved and directed the Property Committee to modify the Church sign at the Providence Rd entrance. Essentially, the lower portion of the existing sign will be removed and a new larger sign installed enabling additional "advertising" of our upcoming events. We expect to eliminate the expense of securing permits (\$100/per) for each and every time we want to post a sign advertising an event. John Condon and Kenny Daniels will undertake the modifications and installation.

There is a new contract in place as of Aug 1 for a year-round pest control service thereby eliminating the expensive "call us when needed" service.

With new door installations and repair of other doors we will re-key our lock system reflecting the access required by each of our officers and committee chairs to specific parts of the buildings. The locksmiths have estimated a cost of around \$1900 to re-key.

The FCU unit in the Admin Office (sim to the unit in the Nursery) does not work and must be replaced. We have rec'd an estimate of \$1800 for that work.

We are also endeavoring to effect some economies in our daily operations; in regards to the A/C plant tuning mentioned above our telephone services are being investigated for updating and changes along with other outside maintenance items.

These last few months many projects were undertaken and completed...none of which could have happened without your help and generosity. We are especially thankful to you, our parishioners, for your generosity without which we could not and would not have tackled these critical issues. As you can see we still have some work to do and I ask you to consider your help in completing our un-finished projects...which seem to grow day by day. Join us in our monthly maintenance work day. All and any are welcome. Second Saturday, every month, 8 AM to noon. If 4 hours doesn't work, how about 2 or even 1 hour. It's a "feel good" day!

I will continue to keep you updated as we move along.

-VGAdams, Junior Warden

EDUCATION

St. Thomas' Book Club with Dessert:

Please join us for Book club on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The emphasis will be on books that enhance our spiritual journey.

September book club will be Wednesday, September 30 at 7pm at:

Jeanne Windsor's
620 Stone Barn Rd.

We will discuss *Help, Thanks, Wow: the Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamont

Questions: email- wind21286@aol.com

EfM (Education for Ministry) begins Tuesday September 15th. Our evening class begins at 6:30 with dinner together. The class is full this year, but if you are interested, we can begin a daytime class. Next year there will be several openings in the evening class as well. If you're interested in a daytime class, please contact Rev. Loree+ We would need at least three people to begin.

Coming Soon: Watch the e-news and your bulletins for an announcement about a Mindfulness Meditation class to be taught by Dr. Annie Umbricht. Classes will meet on Monday evenings at 7:30.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WOMEN (AND MEN)!

We would like to invite you to become an Altar Guild member of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.

The Altar Guild is a group of women and men whose ministry is to prepare the altar for all services as well as cleaning up after the services. The Altar Guild includes 25-30 members who are divided into four teams. There is a specific leader for each team, and the team serves every fourth month.

Specific duties include preparing the altar on Saturday morning for the 9 AM service in the church. After the 9 AM service on Sunday, the altar is prepared for the 10:30 AM service. After the 10:30 AM service, the vessels are cleaned and all items stored until the next scheduled service.

Each month a schedule is prepared by the team leader responsible for the specific month. The schedule is made following consultation with all team members to determine when they will be available during the month. At least two team members are always assigned for a specific task and new members are always paired with a more experienced member. Each new member attends an individual training session, and a detailed set of instructions, as well as pictures, are always available in the sacristy.

Everyone is welcome to assist with preparing God's table for the various services. Please contact Diane Flayhart (410-426-4618 or cwfdlf@yahoo.com) or Rev. Loree if you interested in assisting.

Transformations - Part Two

by Jeanne Windsor, co-chair of Christian Formation

Summer days are winding down yet beauty prevails. Last month's habits of transformation were to think about God and to thank God. Was this hard or easy for you? Did you make any changes to your routine?

This month's habit of transformation is about forgiveness, confession and trust. These are very hard concepts to practice. Confession of sin is especially hard. We first need to recognize and admit our wrong doing. No one likes to be wrong! And we especially hate when our imperfections are pointed out by others. God knows that we are not perfect, yet He loves us anyway. David, Peter and Paul, are just three Biblical characters who all made mistakes, but all were redeemed by God for His Glory. God asks us to admit our sins and confess them to him. In 1John 1:9, "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." God promises us a fresh start, a do-over every time we sin! Our cleansing is continual through our asking for forgiveness. Our only obligation is to repent and trust in God's goodness.

Evidence of God's forgiveness is contained throughout the Bible. Jesus healed the leper, the woman, and the paralyzed man, drove out demons, and forgave sins openly. Mark 3:28, "I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven." Trust comes into play with our acceptance of God's forgiveness. God forgives us. Do we forgive ourselves? Jeremiah illustrates trust eloquently: "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." [Jeremiah 17:7-8](#)

Jesus provided the Holy Spirit for us. The Holy Spirit provides guidance and strength in every aspect of our lives. Forgiveness and trust are hard; we need to forgive and trust others. We need to pray for help with forgiveness. Joyce Meyers's prayer is "Holy Spirit, breathe on me and give me the strength to forgive." Matthew 6:15 reminds of a harsh fact, "if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Let's practice forgiveness, confession and trust this month.

Altar Flowers & Memorials

The following altar memorials are available for:
September 2015:

Branch Candles, Sanctuary Candles and Wine

If you are interested in a memorial, either call the church office at 410-821-5489, or put your request in a plain white envelope marked "Altar Guild" Attn: Jill and place it in the offering at any Sunday service. The cost of each memorial is \$25.

Work Day - Fun Day - Fellowship Day

Saturday , September 12th
8:00 a.m.- Noon

Place: Right here at St. Thomas'

Help Kenny, and our Maintenance Team do some maintenance projects around the church.

St.Thomas' would like to welcome **Jeanne Klusewitz** as our interim organist, until the position can be filled permanently.

Flea Market

Saturday, October 3rd
8:00am - Noon

Place: Right here at St.Thomas'
Rain or Shine

Vendor Space Reservation \$15.00
Call: Vern @ 443-257-6013
or
John @ 443-841-2483

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: Jill Dumser

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



SEPTEMBER 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 6pm -Zumba | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:30am – Worship | 7 Labor Day Office Closed | 8 2pm Service at Edenwald with Rev. Loree presiding | 9 6pm –Scouts (CL) 6pm –Ski Club | 10 6pm –Zumba | 11 7pm –Scouts (FH) | 12 8am—Noon Work Day |
| 13 9:30am – Worship 11:30 – Vestry | 14 7pm –Scouts (CR) Asset Based Ministry- Training –Rev.Loree out | 15 6:30pm -EFM Asset Based Ministry Train- ing –Rev.Loree out | 16 Asset Based Ministry - Training –Rev.Loree out | 17 6pm –Zumba Asset Based Ministry- Training –Rev.Loree out | 18 Asset Based Ministry- Training –Rev.Loree out | 19 |
| 20 9:30am - Worship | 21 | 22 6:30pm –EFM | 23 | 24 6pm –Zumba | 25 Vestry Retreat – St.James | 26 Vestry Retreat – St.James |
| 27 9:30am - Worship with John Windsor preaching | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

Room Legend: FH –Fellowship Hall, CL –Classroom, CR –Counting Room

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

Time Dated: May 27, 2015

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Timonium, MD
Permit 246**

VISION

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is a diverse and loving family confidently dedicated to God and his Word, 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.*