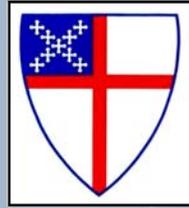


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
(540) 672-3761
Rector: The Rev. Dr. Lin Hutton



www.stthomasorange.org
email: stthomas3@verizon.net
Editor: Ann Wood

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From the Pastor

In general, I do not believe much in coincidence; that is: the concept that random variables or events just happen to coincide. As a result, I often make the statement: "It's a 'God' thing." By that I mean that I believe that the event, thought, experience, etc. has been directed and driven by God. I believe that God is always present to us and with us and that God routinely seeks to address us, or, as we might say: "God taps us on the shoulders" to catch our attention, often in these so-called "coincidences." And, if that is true, then we should probably pay more attention and/or give thanks to whatever it is God wants us to know.

One of the most famous controversies in Church history happened during the Reformation between Martin Luther, leader of the German Reformation, and Ulrich Zwingli, leader of the Swiss Reformation. The debate was about the Eucharist, and specifically, where do we meet Christ? Luther famously said that "*Christ is above us, below us, around us, and even in our pea soup.*" Luther meant that, once we are grasped by the Holy Spirit, we become able to "see" Christ in all things, including the so-called: "coincidences" in life.

Being alert to Christ in our lives is a skill disciples must learn and practice if we are to offer anything life-giving to the world. The personal prayer disciplines, that we explored in our past Lenten program, offer a major avenue of communication between us and the mystery of God in Christ, which not only serves to deepen our awareness to Christ's abiding presence, but also increases our sensitivity to experiencing those often-spine-chilling movements of the Holy Spirit that reveal God's direct presence in our lives on a daily basis.

However, there are countless other ways to open our eyes or "defog our lenses" to see and experience the boundless mystery, majesty, and tender-care of a loving God, whether through pictures or prose, gardening or reading, or simply driving through our beautiful Virginia countryside. Of course, the most profound opportunity for experiencing not just the awareness of God, but also a divine union with God comes during the Holy Eucharist, the Great Thanksgiving, of Holy Communion. That is the supreme moment when we come forward to offer ourselves, our souls and bodies, to participate in and to become a part of Christ's loving sacrifice for us. We not only acknowledge that sacrifice and offer thanksgiving for it, but we also *participate in* that sacrifice! In that moment, Christ is there beside you, saying: "I am here with you."

Pay attention to the "coincidences" that happen in your life. They may be God reaching out to touch you lightly on the shoulder. And, as you notice God in your life, do share it! It may be the greatest gift someone else receives one day.

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

The Martyrs of Lyons, 177 ~ June 2



In the second century, after a brief respite, Christians in many parts of the Roman Empire were once again subjected to persecution. Although the media historically tend to focus on persecutions in the Middle East, brutal persecutions also occurred in the northern provinces of the Roman Empire. In Lyons, in Gaul, there were missionary centers that had drawn many Christians from Asia and Greece. These Christians were living a devout life under the Bishop of Lyon, when persecution began in 177.

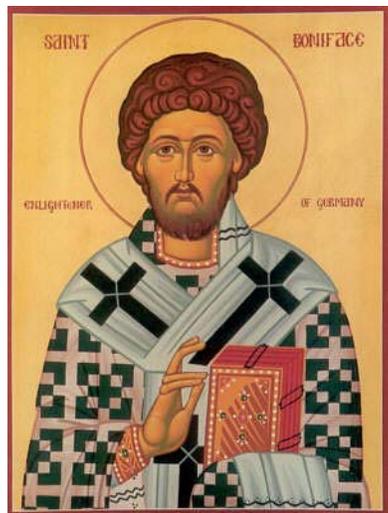
At first, the Christians were socially excluded from Roman homes, the public baths, and the market place; insults, stones, and beatings by pagan mobs soon followed along with the vandalization of many Christian homes. Shortly after, Roman officials imprisoned the local Christians.

Slaves from Christian households were often tortured into making public accusations that Christians practiced cannibalism, incest, and other perversions, which caused even friendly pagans to turn against the Christians. Mob fury fell most heavily on Sanctus, a deacon; Attalus; Maturus, a recent convert; and Blandina, a slave. According to Eusebius, a noted historian of the time, Blandina was so filled with power to withstand torments that her torturers gave up. “I am a Christian,” she said, “and nothing vile is done among us.” Sanctus was tormented with red-hot irons. The aged Pothinus was beaten to death.

The Roman governor set aside several days for a public spectacle in the amphitheater. Eusebius writes that on the last day of the events, “Blandina, last of all, like a noble mother who had encouraged her children and sent them ahead victorious to the King, hastened to join them.” She was beaten, burned with irons, and finally wrapped in a net and tossed about by a wild bull until she died. The spectators were amazed at her endurance.

Eusebius concludes: *“They offered up to the Father a single wreath, but it was woven of diverse colors and flowers of all kinds. It was fitting that the noble athletes should endure a varied conflict, and win a great victory, that they might be entitled in the end to receive the crown supreme of life everlasting.”*

Boniface, Archbishop of Mainz, Missionary to Germany and Martyr, 754 ~ June 5



Boniface is justly called one of the “Makers of Europe.” He was born in Devonshire, England about 675 and received the English name of Winfred. He was educated at Exeter and Nursling, near Winchester, where he was professed a monk and ordained a priest.

Inspired by other missionary priests like Willibrord, Winfred journeyed to Frisia (Netherlands) as a missionary in 716, but with little success. He set out a second time in 719 via Rome. Pope Gregory the Second commissioned him to work in Germany and gave him the name of “Boniface.” With help from friends in England, Boniface devoted himself to reforming, planting, and organizing churches, monasteries, and dioceses in Hesse, Thuringia, and Bavaria. In 722 the Pope ordained Boniface a bishop and in ten years made him an archbishop, and then in 743 assigned Boniface to the “See” (or diocese) of Mainz.

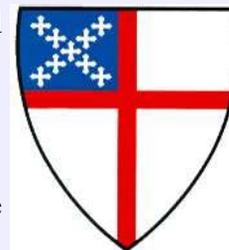
Boniface was also well supported by the Frankish rulers and worked closely with many of their reforming councils. Boniface later appointed Pepin, “King of the Franks,” which prepared the way for Charlemagne, son of Pepin, and the revival of a unified Christian dominion in western Europe.

In 753, Boniface resigned his see, to spend his last years once again as a missionary to Frisia. However, on June 5, 754, while awaiting a group of converts for confirmation, he and his companions were murdered by a band of pagans, near Dokkum. His body was buried at Fulda, a monastery he founded in 744, near Mainz.

MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

Reason # 79: “We eat, drink, and are merry, for we live in the Kingdom of our Lord Christ.”

Ken Guthrie, Diocese of Alabama



Reason # 87: “We don’t have all the answers, and we welcome others who love the questions.”

The Rev. Wilifred Allen-Faiella, Diocese of Southeast Florida

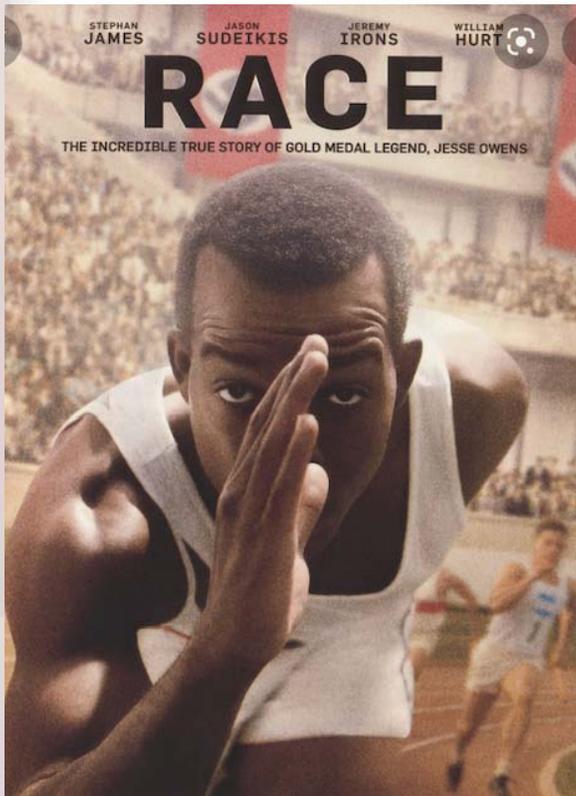


Adrianna Waddy for hosting our Inaugural “First Sunday Hospitality Hour” last May. The event was Marvelous, the Food Delicious, and the Fellowship Fantastic! Thank you for hosting our May event!



To all our High School and College Graduates, 2022!!!!

NOW SHOWING



Young Jesse Owens (Stephan James) becomes a track and field sensation while attending the Ohio State University in the early 1930s. With guidance from coach Larry Snyder (Jason Sudeikis), Owens gains national recognition for breaking numerous records. After heated debates, the United States decides not to boycott the Olympics in Nazi Germany. Overcoming racism at home and abroad, Owens seizes the opportunity to show Berlin and the world that he's the fastest man alive. ~IMDB

Friday, June 24 at 7:00 pm in Robertson Hall

~ cost of admission is one non-perishable food item ~



BACKPACK Drive for Orange County School Children K through 12!



Please help us support our local children in need with New or clean and gently used backpacks for **Boys and Girls ages 5 through 17**. Participation from the parish is crucial to make this a success!

We would also love donations of pencils, pens, notebook paper, composition books, rulers, glue sticks, binders, etc.

Monetary donations to our in/out fund are needed to address needs at OES and OCHS for snacks, emergency clothes, and hygiene items when school begins again are also greatly appreciated!





June 2022

St. Thomas Church

Key: Chapel (C); Conference Room (CR); Holy Communion (HC); Rector's Study (RS); Robertson Hall (RH); Youth Room (YR)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>If you are interested in assisting in worship or in volunteering around the church please speak to the Rector or to any member of the Vestry.</p> <p>You may also call (540-672-3761) or email (stthomas3@verizon.net) the church office for more information.</p>			1	2	3	4
<p>5 The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday</p> <p>Holy Communion 8 and 10:15 am</p> <p>First Sunday Social following the 10:15 am worship service.</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>12 The First Sunday after Pentecost: TRINITY SUNDAY</p> <p>Holy Communion 8 and 10:15 am</p>	13	<p>14 <i>Flag Day</i></p> 	15	16	17	18
<p>19 The Second Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Father's Day</p> <p>Morning Prayer 8 and 10:15 am</p>	20	<p>21 <i>Summer begins</i></p> 	22	<p>23 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm</p>	<p>24 Movie Night 7 pm</p>	25
<p>26 The Third Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Holy Communion 8 and 10:15 am</p> <p>Music Society Concert 4 pm</p>	27	28	29	30		

Church office will have limited business hours this week. Call ahead!
540-672-3761



~Anniversaries~

Will & Kristen Brockman Desiree & Richard Floyd
Joanie & Ray Palmer Donna & Dan Robinson
Malaika & David Rogers Steve Sylvia & Nancy Rossbacher

~Birthdays~

06/02 Griffin Floyd	06/05 John Amos	06/05 Maddie Keating
06/06 Mary Lou Seilheimer	06/07 Caroline Keating	06/10 Daisy Floyd
06/11 Barbara Collins	06/12 Gabrielle Nigmond	06/13 Nancy Rossbacher
06/14 Cecelia Hohman	06/14 Don Place	06/15 Sammy Higginbotham
06/15 Caroline Merrick	06/16 Cynthia Levin	06/17 Lily Robinson
06/18 Adrianna Waddy	6/20 Deacon Barfield	06/20 Samuel Barfield
06/22 Marty Gray	06/23 Elaine Baskerville	06/24 Thomas Merrick
06/28 Grayson Butterfield	06/30 Cynthia Arnold	

Food Pantry

Special requests for June are **Toothpaste, Pancake Mix, and Syrup**. All food/hygiene items and cash gifts are always welcome and appreciated. You can drop off donations at the Love Outreach Food Pantry each Tuesday from 9:00-10:30 and on Wednesday from 8:30-12:00. Their mailing address is: Love Outreach Food Pantry, Inc., P.O. Box 788, Orange, 22960. You may also bring any donations to the church to be delivered.



*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give
you peace.*

Please submit entries for the July-August issue of
The Builder by June 24th to
annwood304@gmail.com or to the church office.

Prayer List

We pray especially for our church's leadership:

Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Susan & Jennifer, bishops for this diocese, and our new Diocesan Bishop who will be elected June 4th.

Our Country: President Joe, Vice President Kamala, & Governor Glenn

For the men and women in our armed forces serving our nation around the world.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Barbara, Ellen, Liz, Susie, William, Susan, Earlene, Casey, Mary, Donnie, Cliff, Charlotte, and Bev.

Please feel free to submit your prayer requests via phone (540-672-3761) or email (stthomas3@verizon.net) for inclusion in the morning prayer bulletin

Names are kept on the Prayer List for three months for parish members and one month for others. Please let us know of on-going concerns.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
119 Caroline Street
Orange, VA 22960

June 2022

