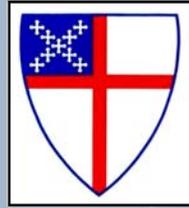


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
(540) 672-3761
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Issue No. 4

From the Pastor

There is a legend that circulated in the early Church that: after the Spirit descended on the disciples at Pentecost, Peter said, *"I believe in God the Father Almighty."* Andrew then added, *"and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord."* And so they went around the group of disciples with a dozen sentences forming the Apostles' Creed.

Though untrue, nevertheless, the desire to trace the Baptismal Creed to the living disciples in the Bible is theologically sound. A theologian once noted that: "What the Scriptures say at length, the Creed says briefly." (Nicholas Lash). In fact, the Apostles' Creed is a quick summary of the sixty-six books of the Bible. In a few words, it offers a birds-eye view of the high points of a story spanning thousands of years. In many ways, the Creed helps us to get our arms around the "big story."

For centuries, the Creed was especially important, for a majority of Christians did not know how to read. So the Creed indelibly impressed on the eager but illiterate heart the story of God's love in this world. Perhaps in our own day, when people know how to read but often spend more time interacting with their various media devices and their Bibles gather dust from lack of use, the Creed may be the most convenient vehicle to remind us of the one story that ultimately matters.

Notice the Creed is not a list of dogmatic propositions nor are the sentences like a deck of cards that can be shuffled and still be a "creed." The Creed tells a "story" in chronological order: God is first, then God creates; then God sends Jesus, who is born, dies, and is raised; and then the Holy Spirit dawns on the Church and its life in the Feast of Pentecost.

The Bible is a story; the Creed is a story. Our lives are a story. Like our lives, the Creed's words have a plot with phrases that flow from one to the next. However, the Creed's story only flows one-way, from God to us. We know about God, not because we are shrewd or spiritual, but because God has lovingly, mercifully, revealed God's heart to us in history. The great Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, once wrote: "God is the One who has made Himself known in His own revelation, and not the one man thinks out for himself and describes as God."¹

Oddly enough, the best way to understand the Apostles' Creed is to dig into the Bible! If we don't know the Bible, or if we steel ourselves against the mysterious work the Bible can do in our souls, then the Creed will seem arbitrary. The Bible, of course, requires interpretation. As Christians, we are challenged to think about it, probe it, question its words, and to let them question us. Christianity is more than a set of devotional practices and a moral code: it is also a way of thinking about God, us, the world, and history.² For Christians, thinking is part of believing. This Pentecost, let the Fire of God's Holy Spirit enflame a desire to learn, think, challenge, and to grow in your knowledge and love of the Lord. The Apostles' Creed is always a good place to start!

Pastor Lin +

¹"Dogmatics in Outline", 23; ² Howell, James C. "The Life We Claim: The Apostles' Creed for Preaching, Teaching, and Worship." Abingdon Press, 2005.

For All the Saints...

Monnica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387: May 4

Monnica's life story is enshrined in the spiritual autobiography of her eldest son, in *The Confessions* of Saint Augustine. Born in North Africa about 331, of Berber parents, Monnica was married to a Latinized provincial of Tagaste named Patricius, whom she won to the Christian faith before his death. In her earlier years she was not without worldly ambitions and tastes. She grew in Christian maturity and spiritual insight through an ever-deepening life of prayer.

Her ambition for her gifted son was transformed into a passionate desire for his conversion to Christ. After his baptism in Milan in 387, by Bishop Ambrose, Augustine and his mother, together with a younger brother, planned to return home to Africa. While awaiting ship at Ostia, the port of Rome, Monnica fell ill.

Augustine writes, "One day during her illness she had a fainting spell and lost consciousness for a short time. We hurried to her bedside, but she soon regained consciousness and looked up at my brother and me as we stood beside her. With a puzzled look, she asked, 'Where was I?' Then, watching us closely as we stood there speechless with grief, she said, 'You will bury your mother here.' "

Augustine's brother expressed sorrow, for her sake, that she would die so far from her own country. She said to the two brothers, "It does not matter where you bury my body. Do not let that worry you. All I ask of you is that, wherever you may be, you should remember me at the altar of the Lord." To the question, whether she was not afraid at the thought of leaving her body in an alien land, she replied, "Nothing is far from God, and I need have no fear that he will not know where to find me, when he comes to raise me to life at the end of the world."



Recent excavations at Ostia have uncovered her original tomb. Her mortal remains, however, were transferred in 1430 to the Church of St. Augustine in Rome.

Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605: May 26

Augustine of Canterbury is not the same Augustine of Hippo, mentioned above.



Although Christianity had existed in Britain before the invasions of Angles and Saxons in the fifth century, Pope Gregory the Great decided in 596 to send a mission to the pagan Anglo-Saxons. He selected from his own monastery on the Coelian hill in Rome, a group of monks, led by their prior, Augustine. They arrived in Kent in 597, carrying a silver cross and an image of Jesus Christ painted on a board, which thus became, so far as we know, "*Canterbury's first icon.*"

King Ethelbert tolerated their presence and allowed them the use of an old church built on the east side of Canterbury, dating from the Roman occupation of Britain. Here, says the Venerable Bede, they assembled "*to sing the psalms, to pray, to say Mass, to preach, and to baptize.*" This Church of St. Martin is the earliest place of Christian worship in England still in use.

Probably in 601, Ethelbert was converted, thus becoming the first Christian king in England. About the same time, Augustine was

ordained bishop in France and named “Archbishop of the English Nation.” Thus, the See of Canterbury and its Cathedral Church of Christ owe their establishment to Augustine’s mission, as does the nearby Abbey of Saints Peter and Paul, later re-named for Augustine. The “chair of St. Augustine” in Canterbury Cathedral, however, dates from the thirteenth century.

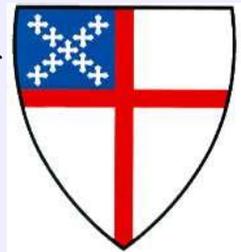
Some correspondence between Augustine and Gregory survives. One of the Pope’s most famous counsels to the first Archbishop of Canterbury has to do with diversity in the young English Church. Gregory writes, “*If you have found customs, whether in the Roman, Gallican, or any other Churches that may be more acceptable to God, I wish you to make a careful selection of them, and teach the Church of the English, which is still young in the faith, whatever you can profitably learn from the various Churches. For things should not be loved for the sake of places, but places for the sake of good things.*”

This counsel bears on the search for Christian “unity in diversity” of the ecumenical movement of today. Augustine died on May 26, probably in 605.

MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

Reason # 63: “My favorite reason for being an Episcopalian is the coherence of scripture, tradition, and reason/experience as basic tenets of our belief. I appreciate our melding of church and world, sacred and secular, soul and body, sophistication and simplicity, literary and non-verbal, seriousness and nonchalance, holiness and ordinariness, indeed, our being deeply rooted in the Incarnation.” *The Rev. Malcolm Boyd, Diocese of Los Angeles*

Reason # 7: “Episcopalians see reality as existing in the tensions of paradox, ambiguity, and diversity.” *Richard C. Milhon, Diocese of Kansas*



**Thank You to our St. Thomas Vestry
for a Marvelous
Easter Feast!**

Thank You to:

Graham Barton, Senior Warden
Virginia Donnelly, Sexton
Sunithi Gnanadoss
Susan Duhring

Cynthia Arnold, Clerk
Frank Thomas
Anne Harmon
Kip Porter

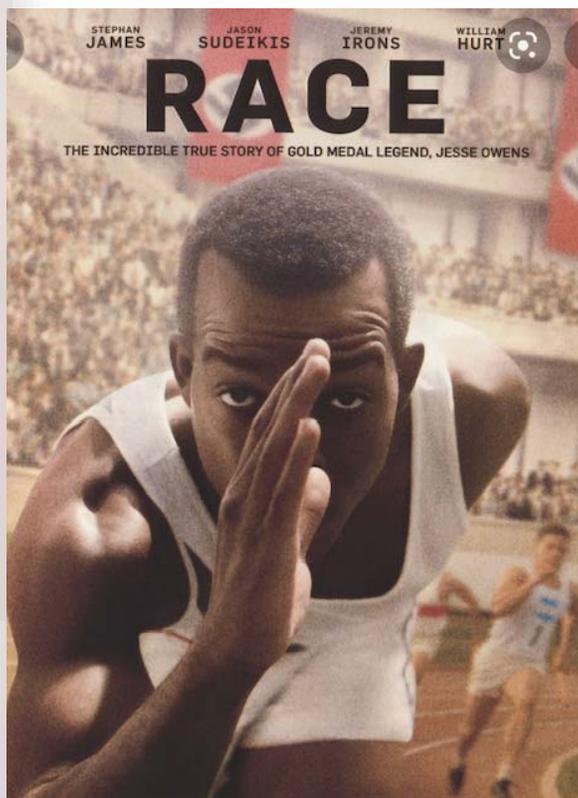
David Acree, Junior Warden
Anne Meade Faulconer
Desiree Floyd
Diane Line

The Food was Fabulous! The Decorations Divine! The Hospitality Marvelous!
What a wonderful way to break our Covid Hospitality Fast

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**Now, Join Us for our “First Sunday” Hospitality Hour that will follow our 10:15  
a.m. service on the “first” Sunday of each Month.**  
**All other Sundays will be simple Coffee, Lemonade, and Cookies**

# 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, May 27 at 7:00 pm in Robertson Hall**

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

## May Cartoon



### *Please Join Us—Organ Recital, June 26*



*Please join us on Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 4:30pm for a concert with  
Dr. Liya Petrides.*

Liya Petrides was born in St. Petersburg, Russia where she received her early musical training in piano, chorus, composition and organ at Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory College. After immigrating to the USA in 1993, she earned her Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a doctorate from Juilliard in organ performance on a full scholarship. She was fortunate to study with two legendary organists of the twentieth century McNeil Robinson and Gerre Hancock. Prior to St. Catherine's, Dr. Petrides served as the music director of St. Theresa's Church in the Bronx and the Immaculate Conception Church in Tuckahoe, NY. In addition to her duties as a liturgical musician, Liya has appeared at many prestigious concert venues such as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Thomas Fifth Avenue Church, Carnegie, Alice Tully and Avery Fisher Halls, and many others. She lives in Pelham Bay, Bronx with her husband, guitarist and composer, Mercy College professor Dr. Ron Petrides, and their two young children, Teddy and Sophia.

# May 2022

## St. Thomas Church



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

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mon                                                                                                                              | Tue | Wed                                                                                                          | Thu                 | Fri                                                                                         | Sat1 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <p><i>1 The Third Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Holy Communion<br/>8:00 am Rite I<br/>10:15 am Rite II<br/><i>First Sunday Social &amp; Craft sale after worship</i></p>  | <p>2<br/>Chess club<br/>12-1:30 pm</p>          | 3   | 4                                                                                                            | 5                   | 6                                                                                           | 7    |
| <p><i>8 The Forth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Holy Communion<br/>8:00 am Rite I<br/>10:15 am Rite II<br/><i>Coffee hour &amp; craft Sale after worship</i></p>         | <p>9<br/>Chess club<br/>12-1:30 pm</p>         | 10  | 11                                                                                                           | 12                  | 13                                                                                          | 14   |
| <p><i>15 The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Morning Prayer<br/>8:00 am Rite I<br/>10:15 am Rite II<br/><i>Coffee hour after worship</i></p>                                                                                                           | <p>16<br/>Chess club<br/>12-1:30 pm</p>       | 17  | 18                                                                                                           | 19                  | 20                                                                                          | 21   |
| <p><i>22 The Six Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Morning Prayer<br/>8:00 am Rite I<br/>10:15 am Rite II<br/><i>Coffee hour after worship</i></p>                                                                                                             | <p>23<br/>Chess club<br/>12-1:30 pm</p>       | 24  | 25                                                                                                           | 26<br>Ascension Day | 27<br> | 28   |
| <p><i>29 The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day</i></p> <p>Morning Prayer<br/>8:00 am Rite I<br/>10:15 am Rite II<br/><i>Coffee hour after worship</i></p>                                                                         | <p>30<br/>Memorial Day<br/>Office Closed</p>  | 31  | <p><i>Movie night: Friday, May 27th in Robertson Parish Hall.</i><br/><i>Race: the Jesse Owens story</i></p> |                     |                                                                                             |      |



~Anniversaries~

Bob & Kris Brockman

~Birthdays~

05/01 Page Higginbotham  
05/02 Joanie Palmer  
05/09 Pen Breese, Jr.  
05/11 Mary-Parke Johnson  
05/14 Sarah Rogers  
05/23 Franklin Higginbotham  
05/23 L. Borden Lee  
05/25 Gordon Cowan  
05/28 Grayson Wood  
05/29 Lisa Wagner  
05/30 Doug Arnold



## Upcoming Opportunity

Community Missions will begin its Backpacks and School Supply collection in June. If you want participate and see backpacks now at a good price consider purchasing one or more for donations in June.

*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.*

*Numbers 6: 22-26*

## Food Pantry

Special requests for April are **Rice, Dried Beans, and Canned Vegetables**. All food 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.



## Prayer List

### We pray especially for our church's leadership:

Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Susan, Jennifer, & Porter, bishops for this diocese

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

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

**Our world:** Especially for the people of Ukraine

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

**For:** Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Barbara, Ellen, Liz, Susie, William, Susan, Earlene, Tracy Casey, Mary, France, Donnie, and Cliff.

*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.*

Please submit entries for the June issue of *The Builder* by May 24th to [annwood304@gmail.com](mailto:annwood304@gmail.com) or to the church office.

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

**May 2022**

