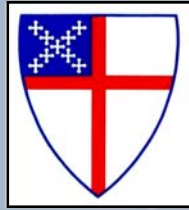


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
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From the Pastor

“If prayer is the deep secret creative force that Jesus tells us it is, we should be very busy with it...[for] that is one sure way of directly helping-on the Kingdom of God.” So wrote Vida Dutton Scudder, one of this month’s “For All the Saints.” Prayer, personal and corporate, remains a vital aspect of our Christian life. At each baptism, we reaffirm our vow to: *“continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.”*

We Episcopalians believe that prayer is responding to God, by thought and deeds, with or without words. As Christians, when we pray, we believe that we are responding to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul noted, “For we do not know how to pray as we ought, so the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” [Romans 8.26-27]

In other words, sometimes we just don’t know what to say or how to say it. But that’s ok, because the Spirit does know. The Holy Spirit is our “Advocate” and our “Holy Comforter.” When the words won’t come, the Holy Spirit intercedes or advocates for us so we need never feel alone or bereft.

For many people, the only time they think to “pray” is during Sunday Worship. And that is at least a starting place. However, this is what we call corporate prayer or “common” prayer. In common prayer, we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God’s Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments. In other words, the entire Sunday worship service is really one massive prayer composed of words, actions, and deeds.

Just as St. Paul reminded the Christian communities in Thessalonica, he still reminds us today to: *“Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.” [1Thess 5.17-19]* Think about what Paul is saying to us. God desires, God wills, that we communicate with God *without ceasing*. Moreover, Paul implies that our failure to pray “quenches” the Holy Spirit. Our inattention to prayer literally extinguishes the Spirit within us. By converse, when we pray, when we “pray without ceasing,” we literally “fan the flames” of the Holy Spirit within us, causing it to increase and suffuse our lives.

The more we pray, the more Spirit-filled we become, the more God-filled we become. When that happens, the challenges and difficulties we face in life seem less important and we gain a more Godly perspective. So do not worry about “what to pray” or “how to pray,” trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you.....and just pray, pray without ceasing!

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator and Witness for Peace, 1954 ~ October 10



Vida Dutton Scudder was born in India on December 15, 1861 to Congregational missionaries. When her father accidentally drowned the following year, she and her mother returned to the family home in Boston, Massachusetts. In the 1870s, Vida and her mother were confirmed in the Episcopal Church. After studying English literature at Smith College and Oxford University, Scudder began teaching at Wellesley College, where she became a full professor in 1910.

As a young woman, Scudder founded the College Settlements Association, joined the Society of Christian Socialists, and began her lifelong association with the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross in 1889, a community living in the world and devoted to intercessory prayer and social reconciliation.

In 1893, Scudder took a brief leave of absence from Wellesley to work with Helena Stuart Dudley to found Denison House, a “Settlement House” in Boston. Settlement Houses were established and staffed in poor urban areas to provide services such as daycare, education, and healthcare to improve the lives of the poor. She took an active part in organizing the Women’s Trade Union League and in 1911, Scudder founded the Episcopal Church Socialist League, and formally joined the Socialist party. Her support of the Lawrence, Massachusetts’ textile workers’ strike in 1912 drew a great deal of criticism but Wellesley firmly resisted calls for her dismissal as a professor. Though she supported World War I, she joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation in 1923, and like so many of that era, by the 1930s was a firm pacifist.

Throughout her life Scudder’s primary relationships and support network were women. In 1927, Scudder received the title of professor emeritus and, in 1930, became the first dean of the Summer School of Christian Ethics at Wellesley. In her retirement, she authored 16 books on religious and political subjects, combining her intense activism with an equally vibrant spirituality. She once said, “*there is one sure way of directly helping on the Kingdom of God, that way is prayer. Social intercession may be the mightiest force in the world.*” Vida Scudder died on October 9, 1954.

Teresa of Avila, Nun, “Doctor of the Church” 1582 ~ October 15



Teresa of Avila is only one of two women declared to be: A “Doctor of the Church,” which is based upon theological writings and sanctity. Teresa is known primarily for her two mystical contemplative works: *The Way of Perfection* and *Interior Castle*. She was a close spiritual and personal friend of St. John of the Cross.

Teresa was born near Avila in central Spain. Even in her childhood, she took much pleasure in the study of saints’ lives, and she used to delight in spending times of contemplation, repeating over and over, “For ever, for ever, for ever, for ever, they shall see God.”

Teresa’s father sent her to an Augustinian convent to be educated in attempt to offset what appeared to be a wild and overly “worldly” youth, but a serious illness interrupted her studies. During her convalescence, Teresa determined to enter the religious life; and, though opposed by her father, she became a postulant at a Carmelite convent. [Carmelites are mendicant friars, nuns, and secular members who live in a more austere and rigorous order than Benedictines]. Teresa’s poor health limited her ability to participate fully in the religious life, but led her instead in a more contemplative and meditative direction, which was strongly

influenced by both Augustine of Hippo and Mary Magdalene. Teresa began to receive visions—whether from God or the Devil she could not know—and she struggled to reject them.

In 1562, Teresa established a reformed Carmelite order of “discalced” Carmelites [“discalced” means barefoot or sandal-footed]. Energetic, practical, efficient, as well as being a mystic and ascetic, she traveled for 25 years through Spain and established 17 convents of reformed discalced Carmelites.

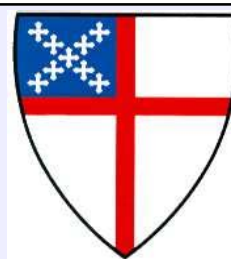
Teresa wrote numerous letters that provide a rare insight into her personality and concerns. She shows us a practical organizer, a writer of native genius, a warm devoted friend, and, above all, a lover of and the beloved of God. Her death, following two years of illness, was peaceful. Her last sight was of the Sacrament brought for her comfort; and her last words, “*O my Lord! Now is the time that we may see each other!*”



MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

Reason # 67: “Episcopalians believe in moderation in all things, including moderation.”
Sheena A. Lawrence, Diocese of Atlanta

Reason # 1: “When Anglicanism is at its best, its liturgy, its poetry, its music and its life can create a world of wonder in which it is very easy to fall in love with God.” *Urban T. Holmes, III, [priest, theologian, seminary dean]*



Thanks to those who have given to the **Rector’s Discretionary Fund**. Recently, we were able to assist **Mrs. N**, a local householder with small children who had lost her job due to illness and was now behind in her water bill. We were able to provide her with the necessary **funds for her water bill**.



Volunteers Needed!

Friday, October 29th, 3:00pm—7:00pm in Taylor Park

The St. Thomas & MPS joint Halloween Book giveaway will be part of the ODA's 2021 HowlOween Ghoul-a-palooza! This street event is scheduled on October 29, 2021, from 4pm—6pm.

Community Missions needs volunteers to help move tables and (a few) chairs to the Park and to hang our Church banner. We also need volunteers to unload, arrange, and distribute all of the books. Volunteers are needed starting at 3pm.

Feel free to wear a costume! Masks will be required. Please contact Betsy Amos or Ellen Otto with any questions or suggestions.

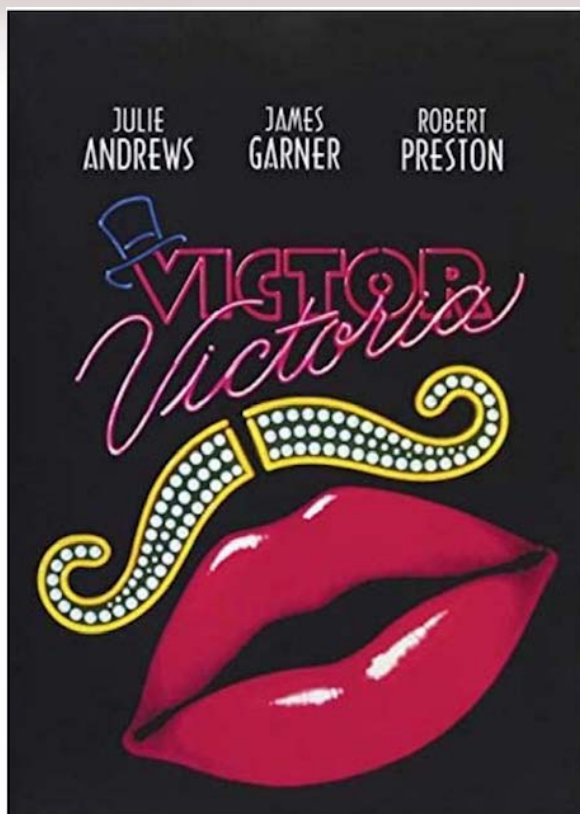


Thank You!

Thanks to a generous donation, Community Missions was able to donate 114 snack packs of Graham Crackers and Goldfish to OES. We also purchased 64 clothing items (underwear, leggings, and shorts) for younger OES students.

We also are VERY grateful for donations to our In-Out fund. These donations allow us flexibility in meeting the needs of our local students. Checks can be made payable to St. Thomas with Community Missions In-Out Fund written in the memo line.

NOW SHOWING



Victoria Grant (Julie Andrews), a down-and-out British soprano, struggles to find work in the nightclubs of 1930s Paris. While trying to scam a free meal, Grant meets cabaret performer Toddy (Robert Preston), who comes up with an idea that will change everything. Acting as her manager, Toddy bills Grant as a male female impersonator. When the nightclubs eat it up, the duo makes it big - - even a Chicago mobster (James Garner) is enamored with Grant. But keeping the truth a secret is no easy task. Victor/Victoria also stars Leslie Ann Warren, Alex Karras, John Rhys-Davies, and was directed by Blake Edwards.

Friday, October 22nd at 7pm in Robertson Hall

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

October 2021

St. Thomas Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Psalm 84:3</p>			1	2
<p>3 <i>The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Blessing of the Animals Both Services</i> <i>Penny Sunday to support youth program</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Mark Bible Study continues each Monday in October</i></p>	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 <i>The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Sunday Forum 9 am each Sunday in October</i></p>	<p>11 <i>Columbus Day Holiday</i> <i>Office closed</i></p>	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 <i>The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</i></p>	18	19	20	21	<p>22 <i>Movie night 7 PM</i></p>	23
<p>24 <i>The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</i></p>	25	26	27	<p>28 <i>Vestry meeting 5:30 pm</i></p>	<p>29 <i>Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6 pm</i></p>	30
<p>31 <i>The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Halloween</i></p>	<p>Volunteers are needed to help with our participation in the Orange Downtown Trick or Treat event from 3:30 pm for setup through 6:30 pm for teardown and clean-up.</p>					



~Anniversaries~

David & Diane Acree
Jack & Martha Stawther

~Birthdays~

10/02 Betsy Amos
10/02 Jay "Cooper" Porter
10/11 Terrell Baskerville
10/11 Frank Walker, Jr.
10/12 Anthony Wood
10/14 Ansley Higginbotham
10/15 Ellen Otto
10/17 Frank Thomas III
10/18 Martha Strawther
10/22 Margaret Johnson
10/25 Anne Meade Faulconer
10/27 Bill Drake
10/27 Kimber Keating
10/29 Donna Robinson
10/31 Lin Hutton



Food Pantry

Special requests for October are Stuffing, Peanut Butter, and Canister Drink Mix. 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 Ralph

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

And for the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Terrel, Barry, Betsy, Margaret, Harriet, Barbara, Ellen, Liz, Susie, William, Karen, Cynthia, Allen, Susan, Jim, Luella, Jennifer, Joanne, Sylvia, Shirley, and Sandy

*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.*

Want something included in the Builder? Please submit information to Ann Wood at annwood304@gmail.com by October 24, 2021 for inclusion in the October Builder.

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

October 2021

