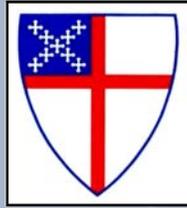


The Builder

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

Vol. XXXVII

September 2019

Issue No. 7

From the Pastor

Have you ever stopped to consider your Baptismal Vows, looked at what we Episcopalians believe and hope for in that transformational event known as Baptism? If you look on page 308 of our Book of Common Prayer, you will see that the prayer for the newly baptized concludes with:

*“give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and **wonder in all** your works.”*

What “*gifts of joy and wonder in all*” have you experienced in your life, in St. Thomas, and in your community? How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life? There is a story of *wonder* all around you if, as Jesus says, “you have the eyes to see and the ears to hear.” [Mark 8.18] Consider the many ways our St. Thomas family quietly supports and interacts with our community: we work hard to ensure local families in distress have the opportunity to stay in their homes, have access to healthcare, and sustainable food. In addition to the continued religious instruction of our own youth, we provide thousands of books to young people every year. We raise funds for distributable food, malaria nets, and farm animals for people around the world. Just consider the *wonder* of how many ways our life together in Christ is open to our community.

Take a moment to consider the *wonder* of God’s work in your life. Did you know that the Hebrew word for: “*wonder*” or: “wondrous sign” is translated into English as: “*miracle*”? Miracles, “wonders,” are happening around us all of the time, but we rarely stop to notice them.

This year our Stewardship campaign will focus on this concept of the “*Wonder in All*,” specifically the divine gift of “Wonder” in all of God’s works going on around us, in us, and through us. As we begin to enter into the fall season, your stewardship committee asks that you stop and count the many blessings and wonder in your life as you strive to live into your baptismal covenant, which prays for “*the gift of joy and wonder*” in all that God provides to us in our lives together.

Pastor Lin +



For All the Saints...

Nikolai Grundtvig & Soren Keirkegaard, Bishop and Hymn Writer, 1872 ~ September 8



Nikkolai Grundtvig

Nikolai Grundtvig and Søren Kierkegaard were the most influential Danes of the nineteenth century both in theological and philosophical circles and in civic life.

Born in 1783, the son of a Lutheran pastor, Grundtvig inherited from his father a lifelong appreciation for classical Lutheran orthodoxy rooted in sacramental practice, a stark contrast from the dry rationalism common to Danish Lutheranism at the time. From his mother, Grundtvig received a fascination with the literature, legends, and poetry of the Norse.

Grundtvig was a student all his life. His academic passions were largely in history and theology, but education, he believed, opened one's heart and mind to a vigorous love of life. Grundtvig also believed in the power of poetry. He thought that poetry had the capacity to speak to the souls of human beings more deeply than prose, particularly in matters of the heart and the life of faith. During his lifetime he composed more than a thousand hymns, a number of which are still sung today: "*Built on a rock the Church doth stand,*" "*O day full of grace,*" and "*God's word is our great heritage.*"

Grundtvig's father was pastor of a large congregation and needed assistance. Grundtvig preached a trial sermon at his father's church during which he launched a scathing attack on Danish rationalism. The sermon met with a severe response and he was widely denounced. Nonetheless he survived the resulting spiritual crisis and was ordained in 1811. He served as his father's curate until his father's death in 1813. After a long season with no work, Grundtvig served several short-term pastorates that usually came to an end because of his commitment to a Lutheran orthodoxy rooted in sacraments and liturgy. He believed that the dry, rational, almost gloomy approach favored at the time did not penetrate the depths of the human soul.

Toward the end of his life, Grundtvig's vision was taking hold and his influence upon both church and nation continued to increase. He was made a bishop in 1861. He died in 1872.



Soren Keirkegaard

Vincent de Paul, Religious and Prophetic Witness ~ September 27

Born in France in 1580 to a peasant family, Vincent took his theological studies at Toulouse and was ordained in 1600. When called to hear the confession of a dying man, Vincent was shocked by the spiritual naiveté of the penitent. In response, Vincent preached sermons on confession in the village chapel of Folleville, calling people to the necessity of repentance. So persuasive were his sermons that villagers stood in line to go to confession. Vincent had underestimated their spiritual hunger. In 1626, Vincent and three priests pledged to "aggregate and associate to ourselves and to live together as a Congregation ... and to devote ourselves to the salvation of the people."



Vincent devoted great energy to conducting retreats for clergy because of the widespread deficiencies in theological education and priestly formation. He was a pioneer in the renewal of theological education and was instrumental in establishing seminaries.

For Vincent, charity was a predominant virtue that was to be extended to all. He established charitable confraternities to serve the spiritual and physical needs of the poor and sick. He called upon the women of means in Paris to collect funds for his missionary projects particularly hospitals to serve the poor.

Vincent was by temperament a very irascible person. He said that except for the grace of God he would have been "hard and repulsive, rough and cross." But he became tender and affectionate, very sensitive to the needs of others. He had an extraordinary capacity to connect with all types of people and to move them to be

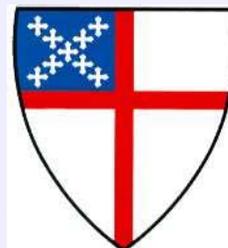
empowered by the gospel of Jesus. In the midst of the most distracting occupations his soul was always intimately united with God. Though honored by the great ones of the world, he remained deeply rooted in humility.

At Vincent's funeral, the preacher declared that Vincent had just about "transformed the face of the Church." "The Apostle of Charity" breathed his last in Paris, on September 27, 1660, at the age of eighty. He is honored in the tradition as the patron saint of charitable causes.

MORE, "101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian"—

Reason # 16: "We do not give simple answers to complex questions. Instead we offer tools that help people develop a sustaining faith." *B. Lance Moody, Diocese of Oklahoma*

Reason # 51: "[Ours is a church] where the 'priesthood of all believers' has a goodly chance of including everyone, including people of all shapes, sizes, ages, colors, and abilities." *The Rev. Dr. Barbara Cheney, Diocese of Connecticut*



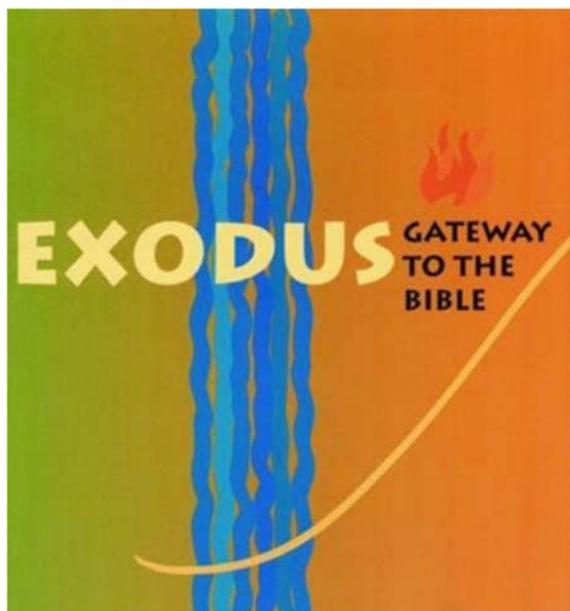
A **Very Special Thank You** goes out to **Cynthia Arnold** for coordinating the **St. Thomas Shrine Mont Weekend** held last in **June**. We had a marvelous group turn-out with games, prayer, activities, relaxation, and FUN in a beautiful setting at Orkney Springs, Virginia. Thank you to everyone who brought snacks to share.

We are always grateful for our **Choir Members** who give of their time and talent to enrich our worship life. Special appreciation goes out to our Choir for their participation in the funerals of Henry Carter and Jinnie Mason, two faithful and devoted members of our congregation who now "stand before the throne and before the lamb." Their respective families are deeply grateful!



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED and APPRECIATED. Because we used funds from the **Rector's Discretionary Fund [RDF]** to pay for the supplies used in the Rise Against Hunger program, the RDF is dangerously low. ANY and ALL donations to the RDF will be greatly appreciated as we use this fund to augment the Christian Emergency Council's support of our poorest community members. Simply write a check to St. Thomas Church and note: RDF on the Memo Line.

FALL BIBLE STUDY: “THE BOOK OF EXODUS”



The Book of Exodus is often called the “Source book of the Bible.” This is because the Book of Exodus initiates all of the great themes of faith: salvation and revelation, promise and fulfillment, covenant and community.

Exodus lays a foundational theology in which God reveals God’s name, attributes, redemption, law, and how God is to be worshipped. The foundation of Biblical ethics and morality is also laid out first in the gracious character of God as revealed in the exodus itself and then in the Ten Commandments and the ordinances of the Book of the Covenant, which taught Israel how to apply it in a practical way of the principles of the commandments.

This Course of Fourteen [14] Lessons is not only a “biblical” study, but also a “theological” study in that it focuses primarily on what it says about God and our relationship with God.

The Course will be held on MONDAYs at 6pm and BEGINS on Monday, September 9th.

The Cost is \$25 for the workbook and Open All Ages and Levels of Biblical Knowledge, whether Biblical Study “first-timers” or “multi-year” participants.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO HAVE ANY BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE TO TAKE THIS COURSE!

PLEASE “SIGN-UP” ON THE SHEET IN THE PARISH HALL!

From Your St. Thomas Stewardship Committee

Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make:

I WAS HOMELESS WHEN I MOVED TO ORANGE!!!!

It's true! I really feel that in St. Thomas we have found a home in the truest sense of the word. We love and are loved here, we care for and are concerned with the congregation and feel your care and concern for us in return. We comfort each other and find comfort here. We allow each other the latitude to try new experiences here and are supported in those new challenges.

My life at St Thomas has been one new experience after another, things I never thought I would do in my time on this Earth! Some of these experiences were familiar (hospitality and reading the lessons) but others were new and terrifying (Altar Guild and LEM'ing). My experience helping Pastor Lin at the Altar and hearing her say "Life is short and we do not have much time....." have changed the way I live my life. I feel and see the light so much more clearly, in our Church, than I ever have before. This feeling has given me the grounding to go out into the world and, I hope, shine that light for others and it is my most sincere wish that you all feel the same way. St. Thomas is truly a special place. I feel so very close to God when I am here.

It is from this background that I write this letter to you today. As you know, autumn means Stewardship. We as parishioners prepare for winter by signing pledge cards so that the Vestry can budget for the oncoming year. The Outreach committee of the Vestry talks about the kinds of Outreach projects that need doing in our community. As you know, there are a great many challenges and opportunities in Orange and Orange County, including our own Preschool, our greatest outreach project. We must have sufficient income over and above our daily Church operating expenses to conduct the projects we want to do as a Church in our community. Thanks to your generosity, our buildings are in excellent condition, a legacy for decades to come, but we also have other concerns.

Just as our home bills come every month, the Church shares the same fate. Summer is a time for vacation and travel, but our giving has not kept pace with our financial commitments. Your Vestry encourages you to update your annual giving from the weeks you were not able to join us. Our church is NOT in the money business, but we are dedicated to accounting for every penny in a way that honors God and your commitment to Him through your pledge. In this spirit, I am giving you a "snapshot" of where we stand in our Stewardship efforts for the current year through July 31, 2019:

PLEDGE RECEIPTS: PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE \$92,813 CURRENT YEAR TO DATE \$72,335

The Expense side of our budget has been trimmed to a minimum over the years. Our expenses have been below budget for the last several years but, in 2019, that is no longer the case.

I hope you will take the time to consider the gifts you have received from God through St. Thomas Church and how we will all meet the challenges going forward. A sincere and hearty thank you to all of you who pledged last year.

Sunny Carr





A big thank you to the parish for generously donating 72 backpacks to our backpack drive for the Orange Office on Youth school supplies giveaway. These backpacks helped some students get their school year off to a good start!

September is a Feed My Lambs month. Please bring your donations of healthy single-serve breakfast items (protein bars, fruit cups, etc) to the blue bucket in Robertson Hall. These food items will go to children at Orange Elementary School who are in need of breakfast.

The school year has begun in Orange County, and the Outreach Committee is running low on money in its in/out fund for addressing emergency requests—usually for clothing and hygiene items at Orange Elementary and Orange High School. Please consider a donation that can be made to St Thomas Episcopal with “general outreach” on the memo line. Thank you!

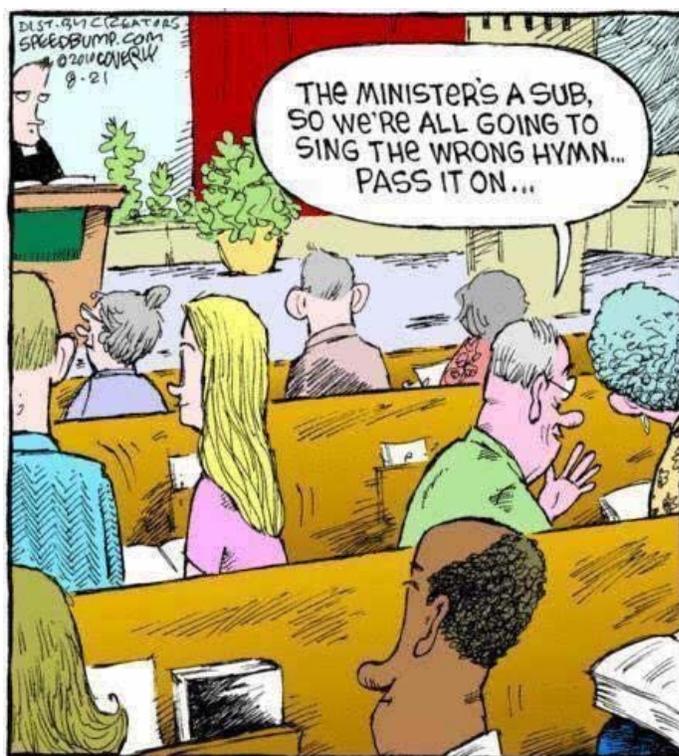
The Dolly Madison Quilt Guild will be holding their upcoming show on Saturday, September 21 (10am to 5pm) and Sunday, September 22 (11am to 4pm) at Prospect Heights Middle School. Admission is \$5.00 per person. The two South African quilts, incorporating the Sunday School children’s art squares will be on display. After the show the quilts will be delivered to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria before heading to South Africa next winter.

The Bishop is Coming!



Bishop Susan Goff will be visiting St. Thomas Church on **Sunday, September 29th** at our **10:15 a.m.** service. While here, Bishop Susan will Confirm and Receive several of our adults and youth. We hope to have a good presentation for our Bishop and to celebrate with our newly Confirmed members. We will also have an opportunity for conversation and discussion with Bishop Susan during our Fellowship time immediately after the service. ***Please plan on attending the 10:15 a.m. service that day!***

September Cartoon



Rise Against Hunger, 2019

Thank you to all of our Volunteers who turned out for the **Rise Against Hunger** event this August. What an amazing event that packed 10,000 meals for distribution. This year we have been given an “event code” so that we can actually track wherever those meals go.



St. Thomas 2017-2018 Preschool

Notes from Preschool...

We kicked off our preschool year on August 27th with orientation in the Parish Hall. We came together as a preschool family to meet, greet, and go over important highlights for our year. We completed paperwork and explored the classroom. I am blessed and excited to be in the role of Director and Lead teacher here at the St. Thomas Community Preschool and I am looking forward to the incredibly, fun and busy year we have planned.

I would like to thank the church members for the supply donations that have been given. These seemingly small items always help make our year go a little more smoothly.

I am excited to share all of the wonderful activities that our little ones will be doing here in preschool!

Thank you for your warm welcome,

Amanda Campbell

The St. Thomas' Preschool still has a few openings!

Anyone interested contact stthomascommpreschool@gmail.com or 540-672-2337.

Happy 35th Anniversary to St. Thomas former Rector Scott Hennessy and his lovely wife, Tricia

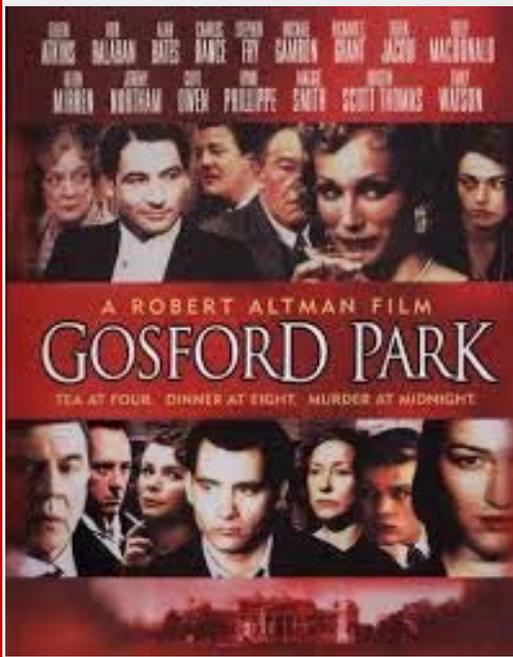
Thank you for visiting today and celebrating your special day with us. And thank you to Zan Thomas for making the cake!





A Prayer for Labor Day

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper re- turn for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



NOW SHOWING

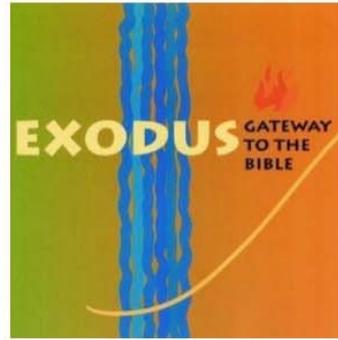
Gosford Park is a 2001 British murder mystery film, written by Julian Fellowes (*Downton Abbey*) and Robert Altman (*MASH*). The story follows a party of wealthy Britons plus an American producer, and their servants, who gather for a shooting weekend at Gosford Park, and English country house. A murder occurs after a differ party, and the film goes on to present the subsequent investigation from the servants' and guests' perspectives. The film stars an ensemble cast, including Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren, Jeremey Northam, Clive Owen, Kristin Scott Thomas, Emily Watson, Stephen Fry, Michael Gambo, ,and Richard E. Grant. ~ *Wikipedia*

Friday, September 27th at 7:00 pm in Robertson Hall

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

September 2019

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	Sat
<p><i>1 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Catechumenate Class 10:15 am HE II 1:00 pm Jail Ministry</p>	<p>2</p>  <p><i>Office closed</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Preschool begins</i></p> <p><i>Grymes opens</i></p>	4	5	6	7
<p><i>8 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Catechumenate Class 10:15 am HE II and Sunday school begins</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Exodus Bible Study 6 Pm</i></p>	10	11	12	13	14
<p><i>15 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Catechumenate Class 10:15 am HE II and Sunday School</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Exodus Bible Study 6 Pm</i></p>	17	18	19	20	21
<p><i>22 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Catechumenate Class 10:15 am HE II and Sunday School</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Exodus Bible Study 6 Pm</i></p> <p><i>Autumn Begins</i></p>	24	25	26	27	28
<p><i>29 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>10:15 am HE II Episcopal Visitation and Confirmations — Bishop Susan Goff</p> <p><i>Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Exodus Bible Study 6 Pm</i></p>					



~Anniversaries~

Graham Barton & Kenneth Taormina

G.W. & Marty Gray

James & Mary Brook Miller

Chip & Mary Queitzsch

Tony & Ann Wood

~Birthdays~

09/01 David Acree

09/05 Emily Likins-Hohman

09/05 Valentino Nigmond

09/05 Nevie Wood

09/10 Eddie Floyd

09/10 Maruchi Moreth

09/13 Paul Brockman

09/15 David Rogers

09/16 Koren Ward

09/17 Bernice Walker

09/19 Desiree Floyd

09/20 Betsy Brantley

09/21 Jamie Wagner

Food Pantry

Special request for September is Dish Detergent and Toilet Paper. 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:

Michael, Presiding Bishop; Susan, Bob, & Ted, bishops for this diocese

Our country: President Donald, Vice President Mike, & Governor Ralph

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Dana and Margaret **and** our men and women in our armed forces who are serving our nation around the world.

And Especially for: Bo, Dale, Darlene, Ellen, Nancy, Palmer, Ruth, and Sam

*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 September 24, 2019 for inclusion in the October Builder.

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

September 2019

