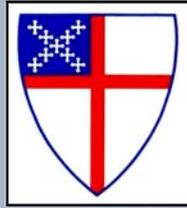


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
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Issue No. 7

From the Pastor

Many years ago, I read Jim Stovall's book titled: The Ultimate Gift. The story involves the considerable fortune left by a wealthy man, which has to be distributed among his greedy and self-centered heirs. Most of the heirs storm out of the attorney's office when they fail to receive what they deem as "a fair piece of the pie" from their father's will. The lone grandson (Jason), perhaps the most spoiled and self-centered member of the clan, was bequeathed with a series of "gifts" that seemed to have no value whatsoever.

The grandfather's "gifts" serve as challenges to be completed, thus Jason embarks on a journey of self-discovery and character development. These challenges reveal the real value in the little things that we so often take for granted. As Jason confronts and overcomes each challenge, he discovers the true gift of work and friends, the value of money, the gift of family, laughter, dreams, learning through pain, the gift of giving, gratitude, forgiveness, love and the gift of a perfect day. In the end, Jason becomes the man his grandfather had hoped he might become.

I was thinking about this story, as I know "school" has started for many of our young people, and others are transitioning to college. This year is the beginning of another chapter in their lives as they embark on new journeys into uncharted territory further shaped by COVID limitations. We all want our young people to be wise and successful. We want them to be happy and fulfilled in their careers. Yet, more than anything we want them to stay connected to Christ, realizing that the world we live in has a lot to offer, but—as Jason learned—the things that matter most in life are those things which money cannot buy. Life itself is a treasured gift that is nurtured by making the most of what we have been given. So here are some principles, which are invaluable not only for our young people, but also to each of us as we live our lives (from the Ultimate Gift):

- * If you love your work, it's not a labor.
- * Money is a tool, not a goal.
- * True wealth is measured by one's friendships.
- * We learn through life's trials; we grow through pain.
- * Life's problems teach us how to use good judgment, which in turn teaches us how to avoid life's problems.
- * Every family, no matter how dysfunctional, has value.
- * Laughter is the soul's medicine.
- * Faith can make our dreams realities.
- * We gain most when we give ourselves in service to others.
- * Gratitude comes from recognizing what we have, not dwelling on the things we lack.
- * Living in the present and taking time for the people we cherish is the formula for a perfect day.
- * Love is the greatest treasure. We gain it by giving it away.

Live your life—it is precious—Treasure the Gift!

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

Soren Kierkegaard, Teacher and Philosopher, 1855~ September 8



One of the most influential philosophers of the nineteenth century, Søren Kierkegaard, the son of a devout Lutheran, spent most of his life in Copenhagen. As a young man, he studied Latin, history, and theology, though he was particularly drawn to philosophy and literature, and his works are remarkable in part for his deft blending and treatment of theological, literary, and philosophical themes.

From 1843 until his death in 1855, Kierkegaard was a prolific writer. Sometimes referred to as the “Father of Existentialism,” Kierkegaard is known for his concept of “the leap of faith,” his understanding of how a person’s beliefs and actions are based not on evidence, of which there can never be enough, but on the willingness to take the leap despite that lack of evidence. He explored this theme in works such as *Fear and Trembling*, *Repetition*, and *Stages on Life’s Way*.

For most of his life, Kierkegaard was critical of established religion, which he felt substituted human desire for God’s law. In 1854, he published several articles which attacked what he saw as the selfishness of many leaders of the institutional church. His criticism of the church as an institution, however, should not be confused with the absence of faith or the lack of trust in the ethical teachings of the Christian Gospel.

His religious and theological works, such as *Practice in Christianity* and *Christian Discourses*, though sometimes overlooked, show his profound understanding of the significance of the teaching and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and of the human call to live in imitation of the selfless, sacrificial life of Jesus. His work was influential on philosophers such as Martin Heidegger and on theologians such as Karl Barth. His challenges to the Church remain powerful reminders of the institution’s call to pattern its common life according to the teaching of its founder, Jesus Christ.

Wilson Carlile, Priest, 1942 ~ September 26



Born in 1847 in Brixton, England, Wilson Carlile was from an early age afflicted with spinal disease, which made his education difficult. He entered his grandfather’s business at the age of thirteen and soon became fluent in French, which he used in his own silk trading endeavors in Paris. His business was eventually ruined in the economic depression of the 1870’s. The collapse of his business resulted in physical and emotional distress, and it was during this time that Carlile turned to religion for comfort and a new sense of direction.

After serving as an organist in Dwight L. Moody’s evangelistic missions, Carlile was ordained a priest in 1881, serving his curacy at St. Mary Abbots, the parish church in Kensington. He had long been concerned with the church’s lack of presence among the poor and working classes, and as a curate, he encouraged soldiers, grooms, coachmen, and other working laymen to preach the gospel among the residents of some of the worst slums of London. Many among the church establishment accused Carlile of “dragging the church into the gutter.”

In 1882 he resigned his curacy and devoted himself to the formal establishment of the Church Army, an organization dedicated to the proclamation of the gospel among the least of society. Despite great

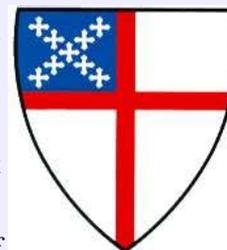
resistance, he sought official approval for his organization and its work from the Church of England Congress in 1883. In 1885, the Upper Convocation of Canterbury passed a resolution officially approving and recognizing the Church Army. Carlile served as rector of St. Mary-at-Hill, Eastcheap, London, from 1892-1926, where he continued his administration of the Army's ministry. In 1905 he was honored as a Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Today, Church Army evangelists are admitted to their offices on behalf of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, both of whom are vice-presidents of the society. They are licensed to operate within the Anglican system by individual diocesan bishops within the United Kingdom and Ireland.

MORE, "101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian"—

Reason # 26: "Like Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians, Episcopalians are in touch with the ancient voices and aesthetic and spiritual practices of the Christian tradition. We are united by a common liturgy and by the Book of Common Prayer. And so long as we do the liturgy right, we are orthodox, and thus permitted a broad range of theological opinions. With its riches of liturgy, prayer, and music, it is for me a sacrament of the sacred, and it feels like home." *Marcus Borg, Diocese of Oregon*

Reason # 38: "Our theology is an art form, not a law book." *Paul Gibson, Diocese of Toronto*



Thank You! To everyone who still faithfully gives not only your pledged gift to Christ, but who also remembers to give to the **Rector's Discretionary Fund** for emergent needs by those most disadvantaged in our local community, to our local **Love Outreach Food Pantry**, and who faithfully drop off school supplies for those youth in our community most in need of assistance.



Through your generous donations, the Community Outreach team has delivered:

- ◆ 41 backpacks
- ◆ 279 school supplies
- ◆ 40 kids' mask (many thanks to Betsy Amos for making them!)
- ◆ 223 snack items

We continue to delivery any donations received and continue close communications with OES to find out ways that we can help. We will keep everyone posted!

We don't have any information regarding the Town Halloween event. We will order books once we know.

We are going to provide 500 SNACK PACKS for the Orange County Toy Box in December. Watch for details in an upcoming builder!

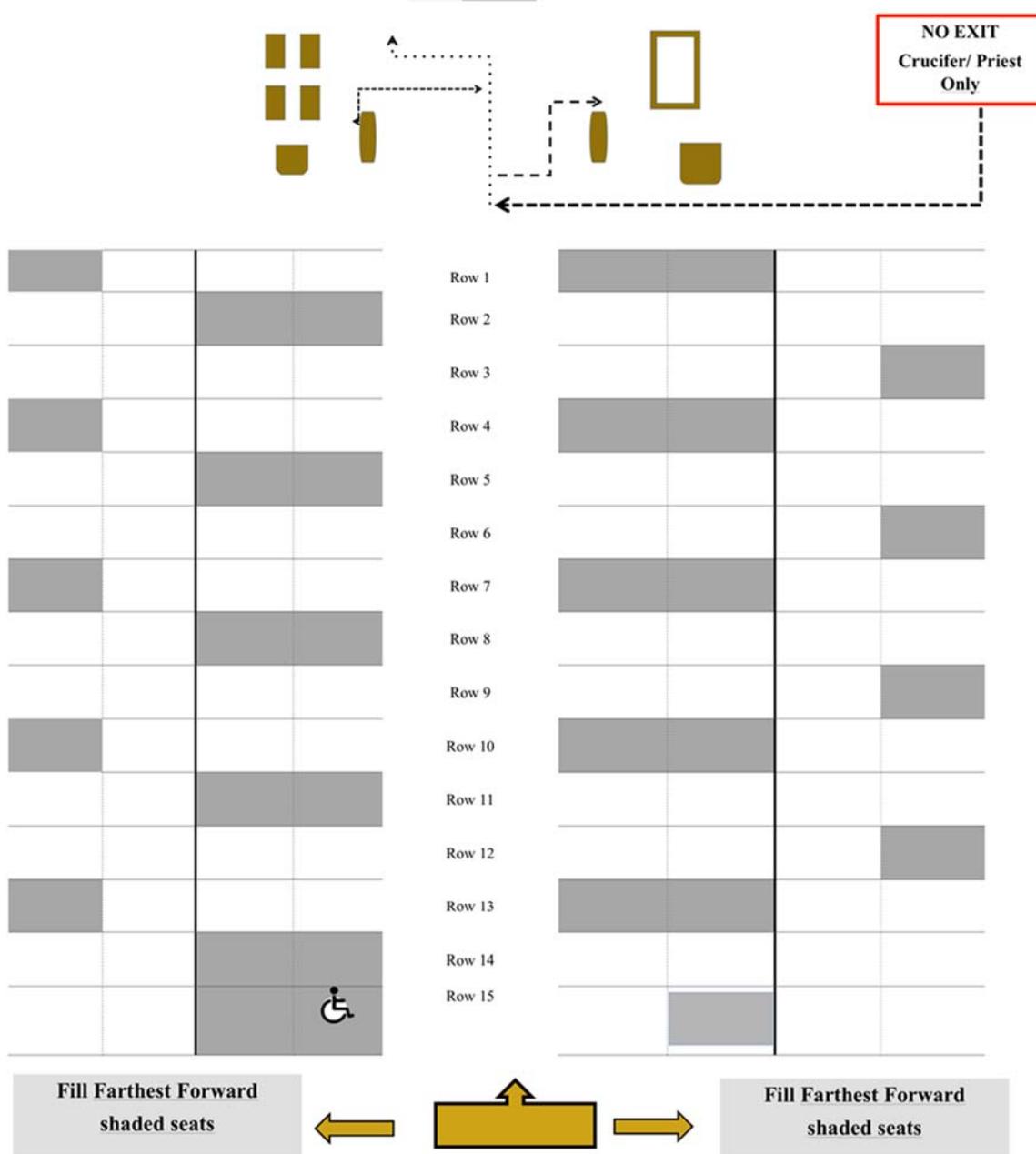
Thank you all for your continued generosity and support!

In Person Worship to Begin September 20th

We are Planning to Start “Socially Distanced, In-Person Worship” on Sunday, September 20th!

We Need Your Help! PLEASE wear your masks, wash your hands frequently, and stay socially distanced starting NOW! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to do likewise so that they do not infect you! **HERE Is Our Church Seating Chart:**

ALTAR



Entrance from the Center Front Doors Only! Filling seats as individuals or family units starting with the farthest forward available seat and working backwards to the Front Door

From Your St. Thomas Stewardship Committee

“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears not fruit.” - Matthew 13:22

As we begin to head into the Fall Stewardship Campaign (yes, it’s already that time of the year!), it’s worth spending time reflecting on our relationship with God. Our family is going through some financial hardship during this year, brought on by several different factors. I know God has a hand in what we need to do to reorganize our finances, just as God has a hand in the financial future for St. Thomas Episcopal Church. St. Thomas needs our support in time, talent, and money. As my Dad used to say, "You can't take it with you when you die."

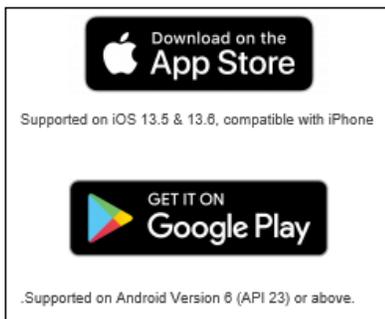
Do not let the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life. Do not get so caught up with earthly activities that you have no time for God. Gratitude and generosity are Stewardship virtues that we should strive to do daily. Hear the word and bear fruit.

~ Cynthia Arnold



Smartphone App to Help Stop Covid-19's Spread

Download Virginia’s free **COVIDWISE** Exposure Notifications app to help protect your community while protecting your privacy. **COVIDWISE** uses Bluetooth Low Energy technology on your smartphone to quickly notify users who have likely been exposed so you can reduce the risk of infection for your friends and family and help Virginia stop the spread.





September 2019

St. Thomas Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>SOCIAL DISTANCING</p>		1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>7</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p> <p>Office closed</p>	8	9	10	11	12
<p>13 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>Practice Zoom meeting 4 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Practice Zoom meeting 1 pm</p>	18	19
<p>20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Welcome back to in-person worship 8 and 10:15 am</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Gospel of Mark Bible study on Zoom.com</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Gospel of Mark Bible study on Zoom.com 2 pm</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 Vestry</p>	25	26
<p>27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>In-person worship 8 and 10:15 am</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Gospel of Mark Bible study on Zoom.com 5:30 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Gospel of Mark Bible study on Zoom.com 2 pm</p>	30			



~Anniversaries~

Graham Barton & Kenneth Taormina

G.W. & Marty Gray

James & Mary Brook Miller

Chip & Mary Queitzsch

Tony & Ann Wood

~Birthdays~

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

09/17 Bernice Walker

09/19 Desiree Floyd

09/20 Betsy Brantley

09/21 Jamie Wagner

Food Pantry

Special requests for September are 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, and Ted, bishops for this diocese

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

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Eric, Emily, Cecelia, and Rhys; for family and friends of Bill Collier, mourning his death.

And Especially for: Our students, teachers, administrators, and support staff as they return to school in-person and on-line; we pray for a safe and productive school year .

*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 2020

