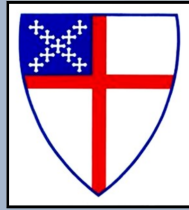


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
(540) 672-3761
Rector: The Rev. Kyle M. Bomar



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From the Pastor

Adjusting Our Sails

During the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the metaphors that kept coming up in conversation with folks in church was the idea that we were repairing the plane while it was already in flight. We had to constantly adjust the plans we were making and rethink the approaches we were taking. If you had a plan for that first spring of 2020 it was long gone, and you had to quickly come up with alternative plans. I remember thinking how important it was to maintain a sense of adaptability while at the same time fighting for stability. It was a nightmare most of the time. But it reminded many of us of the value of making adjustments while striving to maintain course.

For very different reasons, we find ourselves in the middle of adjusting our sails here at St. Thomas as well. Any time there is a changing of pastoral leadership there are the necessary adjustments just to simply get used to the new personnel. Our family's situation has proven another gust of disruptive wind that we have needed to work with. We joyfully began work here at St. Thomas on July 2 and only a few days later we found out that my wife Caitlin has breast cancer. A few days after that we found out that it wasn't just cancer, but that it had already advanced to stage IV. Every week with tests and procedures we've learned more and each week we've had to adjust the sails again. We've had to rethink what ministry life looks like in this kind of season. We've had to find ways to juggle the appointments, work events, and wrangling our three precious daughters as we adjust to whole new rhythms of life for them. We've made all of these minor and major adjustments to keep things moving forward. Just like the old days, we are again repairing the plane in flight.

But we are still flying. The boat is still up and running. Even in the midst of the chaos, we have new energy and direction in our church and people are stepping up. Folks are stepping up to help with our family, yes, but also to keep things running well here at the church. We have new ideas and programs still starting up, like the adult forum and the Bible study starting this month. We have new and old ways of engaging our community, like the street festival and the Halloween book giveaway. We are listening to parishioners and trying to shape effective programming that meets our congregation's concerns, like the Holy Cow Survey and the upcoming listening sessions. We may be adjusting our sails, but it's been amazing to see us maintain course.

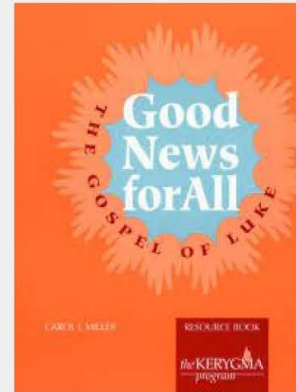
Christ who walks upon the waters has called us to step out. Even in the midst of the chaos, to follow Him. To walk with Him into ministry here in Orange, to deepen our faith, celebrate in worship, and listen deeply to His Call. I am thrilled to listen to that call with you all. May God grant us courage, strength, and peace for the journey ahead.

Pastor Kyle

Discipleship Offerings this Fall

Fall Bible Study

Monday nights in person in the parish hall and through Zoom. 6-7:30 pm. This Kerygma Bible Study program will address the **Gospel of Luke**. and will run for 14 weeks September 11 - December 11. This fall we will look at the life and times of the writer of this Gospel, seeking to understand Lucan theology then and how it applies to us today. The Kerygma program entails two to four hours of study per week and a dedicated commitment to class attendance. The course costs \$35 for materials. For more information, please contact: Anne Harman at annejharman@gmail.com



Adult Forum

Sunday Mornings running roughly 9 - 10 am we will gather in the parish hall for coffee and light refreshments and an hour of learning together with Pastor Kyle. The Adult Forum will run this fall for 12 weeks and serve as an opportunity for our community to learn about each other as we begin a new season of ministry together. Both Studies offer a chance to get to know our new pastor and allow all gathered to learn about each other.

September 10 - October 15 will be a six-week study called "**Cornerstones**" exploring what core aspects of theology shape our lives.

October 22 - November 26 will be a six-week study called "**Friends for the Journey**" exploring the idea of spiritual friends as partners throughout life and the benefit of having them. Please contact Pastor Kyle for more information. kbomar52@gmail.com

Sunday School for young people

We are actively seeking volunteers and those interested in forming a plan for our Nursery and childcare opportunities including potentially restarting our Sunday school program. This act of hospitality goes a long way to welcome young families, so please let us know if you or someone you know is interested in assisting in these ways.





You and your animal friends are invited to join us this year for the Blessing of the Pets at St. Thomas Episcopal church on **October 8th**. Weather permitting, both Sunday services traditionally begin outside in front of the church for the blessing and then proceed into the Church for the service. All pets are welcome. Please bring anything from gerbils to goats, dogs, cats, and anything that creeps or even slithers!

Pets must be under restraint. Dogs should be on leashes and all other pets restrained in a safe and appropriate container. As always, when there is rain, we do the Blessing in the Parish Hall & then process into the Church. See you and your beloved pets soon! Please contact Pastor Kyle for questions or more information or if you would like your pet blessed but are unable to bring them to the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Training for participation in the Jail Ministry offered at CVRJ is being offered on Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Hank Micks at 804-543-6379 with questions.

Please check the **mowing schedule** in the Parish Hall and see if there's a time when you can help out. Talk to Eddie Hutchens or call the Church office if you have questions.



Volunteers are still needed for the **Street Festival here in Orange on September 9, 2023**. Please contact Kip Porter at 703-200-2010 or the church office.

If you are interested in volunteering for the **Orange Downtown Trick or Treat Event** please speak to Beth Yowell at Yowell01@comcast.net or 434-987-2155 or contact the office.



UPDATING OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is one of the central aspects of the Christian life. Prayer is the lifeblood of the church and the heart of what we do when we gather together as a congregation. Prayer is also a gift. It is a practice of self-offering and opening the heart. It is deeply personal and in many cases one of the intimacies of our shared life. With all of these in mind, we will be making a slight update to the process of our prayer request ministry.

One of the slight changes is that all new prayer requests that we publish in the newsletter and bulletins moving forward will be made with consent. Because we are a public organization, with open documents it is appropriate to make sure that the people we are praying for are aware that their names, even if it's only their first name, are being published. This will usually be as simple as someone requesting to put a name on the list and John in the office simply asking, "Do they know that we will be publishing their name in the bulletin?". This lack of formality may seem odd at first, but it is a kindness to ask for permission. Like any gift, it is best given when desired. The only other slight change is that we will be checking in with those being prayed for every few months to inquire if they would like to be prayed for continually. Please contact Pastor Kyle if you have any questions or concerns about these changes.

LISTENING SESSIONS



In this new season of ministry, the discernment committee worked with the Holy Cow consulting company to offer a handful of listening sessions over the next few months. These listening sessions will enable us to explore some of the data that was presented at the Holy Cow presentations, as well as retell our story as a church.

We want to hear from you. We want to hear your way of telling the story. We would love as we embark on a new chapter of ministry at St. Thomas, to articulate who we are and who we want to be. Who do we think God is calling us to be for our community and in the world? We don't want just one pastor's answer, or one consulting company's answer. We want all these voices to come together, into a chorus, as we learn to sing this new song together. Please look out in the Bulletins and in the weekly constant contact email for updates and dates for these sessions.

Dates coming soon.

NOW SHOWING



Growing up in the early 1800s, P.T. Barnum displays a natural talent for publicity and promotion, selling lottery tickets by age 12. After trying his hands at various jobs, P.T. turns to show business to indulge his limitless imagination, rising from nothing to create the Barnum & Bailey circus. Featuring catchy musical numbers, exotic performers and daring acrobatic feats, Barnum's mesmerizing spectacle soon takes the world by storm to become the greatest show on Earth. Nominated for a 2018 Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy, this film stars Hugh Jackman as PT Barnum, Michelle Williams as Charity Barnum, Zac Efron as Phillip Carlyle, and Zendaya as Anne Wheeler. ~ *IMDB*

Friday, September 22nd at 7pm in Robertson Hall

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

September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Sunday Forum 10:15 am HE II	4 <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	5	6	7	8	9 Outreach table at Town of Orange Street Festival
10 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Sunday Forum 10:15 am HE II Coffee Hour following worship	11	12	13 Garden Club meets in the Parish Hall	14 Woman's Club of Orange meets in Parish Hall	15	16
17 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am HE I and Baptism 9:00 am Sunday Forum 10:15 am HE II	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Sunday Forum 10:15 am HE II	25	26	27	28	29	30



~Anniversaries~

James & Mary Brook Miller

Graham Barton & Kenneth Taormina

G.W. & Marty Gray

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

09/15 David Rogers

09/17 Bernice Walker

09/18 Jay "Kip" Porter

09/19 Desiree Floyd

09/20 Betsy Brantley

09/21 Jamie Wagner

Food Pantry



Special requests for September are canned fruit, canned meat, 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; Mark, Gayle, David, and Ted, 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.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

FOR: Margaret, Harriet, Ellen, William, Susan, Casey, Aubrey, Elaine, Heather, Lynne, Lola, Keith, Kevin, Sarah, Caitlin, and Logan

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.

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

Please submit entries for the September issue of *The Builder* by September 24th to annwood304@gmail.com or to the church office.

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

September 2023

