

The AP^{He is Risen}STLE

Easter 2019

“Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter. All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.”

One of the better hymns to come in recent years is one we sing often at St. Thomas, “All are Welcome.” The hymn was written by Marty Haugen one of our modern, prolific musicians. The underpinning theme of the hymn lays out a beautiful image of what a church could be when it embraces the core concept of “no outcasts” that is so prominent in the Gospels. It also imagines a church that is not focused on itself, but rather on the outside world and its needs.

It was a while ago when I heard this hymn for the first time. It gave me the chills as well as the sense of deep prayer that came from within these beautiful words. Not only is this a signature hymn for us here as St. Thomas, but it is also a vision of what we hope to be as a congregation. In recent years we have really begun to branch out into newer ministries at times that are very much on the edge for us.

“Let us build a house where all are named..... and loved and treasured, taught and claimed.”

Now that is a church I would want to belong to! One of the tragedies of our current society is how isolated we have become as people. We can spend an entire day without conversation or interaction if we choose, even though the whole time there is a swirl of humanity around us! Moreover, we are slowly just becoming numbers and the personal touch that once existed is lessened each day. But what happens when someone or a group WANTS to know our name? Or better yet, not only knows our name, but knows our needs and our fullness of life? There is something wonderful when that happens.

St. Thomas has grown much over the years. From a group of just 5 families in the early ‘60’s to a group of over 300 households now. One thing we can’t lose track of is how important it is that we know each other. Names, needs, wants and all! I think at the core of being a Christian is being part of that kind of community.

We will soon be celebrating Easter, our principle feast. Easter is all about celebration and community. It is about the kind of community that Jesus left behind—one that reaches through the depth of history to each of us today. It is a community that wants to know your name. It is a community that deeply desires to see you as treasured, taught and claimed as its own. Maybe we don’t always see that or feel it; but the truth of the matter is that it is really the core of what it means to be here.

So, now what? Can you get to know someone new this week? Can you learn their name? Can you see them as God sees them? Are they really welcome in this place?

Blessings,
GARL

FOOTNOTES

Eastertidal Wave

Dr. Beth L.
Elswick,
Director of
Music
Ministries



When the passion and drama of Holy Week seems so climactic, sometimes I wonder, “Can you top this?” Is it possible that the church musicians have expended most of their resources and energy on the wrong week?

On Palm Sunday, we mark the triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms and a procession led by the pipes. Our children walk through Holy Week, and the traditional choir will sing a Schubert mass—a setting accompanied by a string orchestra. Later in the week, the praise band and youth “carry the cross.”

On Maundy Thursday we contemplate Christ’s gift with a pledge to be a servant and return on Friday to commemorate his death with spirituals and prayers.

As a side note, the time and energy leading up to Easter always boosts the music program at St. Thomas. It is as if we have captured the essence of “musical RED BULL” in our rehearsals! The energy in the loft and praise area is palpable. **Jim Elswick** works to make us do our best, and we have centuries of artistry and musicianship to use as musical models underpinning our endeavor. We have so much to celebrate and give back to the people of St. Thomas. The praise musicians spend hours preparing for 3 different services in 7 days!

Nonetheless, by the time Easter Vigil arrives, the musicians have already devoted hours of rehearsal time in order to prepare hours of music for worship during Holy Week. Yet, the **Resurrection** is the climax of the church (musical) year. The antithesis of sorrow and sin, the **Resurrection** demands that we do our best work and rise to the occasion. Without a resurrection, the death on the cross would be huge a tragedy, but not a victory.

At our Easter Vigil, **Barbara McCall** will create an atmosphere of expectation and mystery when she sings *The Exultet*. Her wonderful chant propels us to new heights as we begin the Easter celebration including four different services on one day.

There is an early sunrise service on Easter Sunday. The praise service will include traditional Easter songs accompanied by guitar, bass, piano and drums. In addition, the traditional Easter Sunday will have a brass quartet, timpani, organ and choir.

A later afternoon service will be offered for those who prefer a more contemplative setting. Such is the wave of energy that gives impetus to the season of Eastertide.

The children will sing on the following Sunday, and the momentum of the season will continue with Confirmation and Pentecost.

—Beth

WARDEN’S WORDS

Our seemingly endless winter has finally loosened its grip and signs of spring are upon us.

Bruce
Henricks,
Senior
Warden



Winter came at cost which I referenced in a recent Tower Talk. The \$10,000 deficit (beyond that budgeted) to cover the cost of snow removal puts a great deal of strain on our already tight budget. Now that winter is over, attendance is back up, and with your continued generosity and commitment to your pledge our financial position will stabilize. We will continue to inform you regularly on our financial situation as the year progresses.

Your Vestry had a productive planning meeting on February 23rd and highlighted a number of initiatives for 2019. We want to capitalize on our strengths as proven again by the 2018, *Holy Cow* survey. Our ability to “adapt and be progressive” as a church positions us to continue growing, expand our outreach capabilities, embrace diversity, and focus on being more inclusive of all. We want to tweak our infrastructure to better utilize technology to both reach more parishioners and enhance our efficiency.

St. Thomas remains an envied diocesan leader due to the talents of Gar and Kelly, the environment each of you contributes to through your personalities, and the financial commitment each of you make in your pledge.

REFLECTIONS

***Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?
We will!***

That is our question and our heartfelt response to every new Christian who is baptized in the Episcopal Church. Every time a baby or child is baptized, we are both speaking on behalf of the larger church and answering as an individual. Bringing this child up knowing the Lord, knowing grace, knowing love is our responsibility as a community.

We have an extraordinary Sunday School educational experience for our young people led by loving and dedicated volunteers. Each week they show up, well-prepared and eager to teach our children about God. Our liturgy includes and welcomes children, teaching them the practice of a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving through children's church, children's choir, acolyting, ushering, etc.

Beyond all of are two other elements to raising a child that I believe are critical: **celebrate** and **show up**.

Most every week in youth group we have a time of celebration when kids can talk about something that happened to them the previous week that deserves recognition. Big or little, we all clap and cheer. I love that. This is also why I often put celebrations in Tower Talk, so that the rest of the community can celebrate right along with that young person. Life is hard on teens and children, and we must do everything we can to fill their buckets.

The other element is one of my favorite parts of my job. Showing up. I make it a priority to go to kids' plays, concerts, games and events. When I cannot make it, I do my best to reach out to wish them good luck and see how it went. But the beautiful thing is that if I can't make it to an event, often some member of the amazing Youth Team will do their best to be there. Other members of the St. Thomas community show up as well. I cannot tell you how times I have been sitting in a bleacher and a parent of a non-St. Thomas kid has been shocked that people from church would show up to cheer on a kid.

Every year before our big mission trip fundraising dinner I gather the youth to give them instructions for the evening, pray together, etc. In that talk, I always tell them that the people who are coming to the dinner don't come for the food. They don't come for the entertainment or even the silent auction items. They come because they want to show support and love for our young people.

We want our children and youth to know they are not navigating the world alone. They have the love of God uplifting them through a tenacious community of love and support. We want them to know we have their backs. Thank you all for your constant love and support of our beautiful young people.

Mother Kelly

*The Rev. Kelly
Demo,
Assistant
Rector*



MINISTRIES UPDATE



Invite • Welcome • Connect®

St. Thomas Newcomer Lunch

June 2nd

Today, as I write this article, there are snowflakes falling so it's hard to imagine that Spring is officially here. I sure hope we are done with winter by June.

If you are new to St. Thomas church, we want to welcome you to our faith community by inviting you and your family to our next

**Newcomer lunch on Sunday,
June 2nd at 12 pm
in Parish Hall 2.**

Come learn more about our St. Thomas leadership, staff, ministries and outreach opportunities while at the same time we can learn more about you. We look forward to seeing you then.

More information will be available soon. Questions - please contact **Jean Adam** at 913-530-9097 (cell) or jean_adam2004@yahoo.com.



Safe Church Changes

About two decades ago the Episcopal Church started a training program called “Safe Church.” The concept was to offer regular required training for those who work with children and youth in the church. This came in light of a number of problems throughout many denominations.

The training included boundary training and certain expectations and requirements of anyone (volunteer or staff) who is part of these ministries. St. Thomas has always held regular training sessions and implemented these polices throughout the church.

Recently, the national church changed the requirements and expanded the scope of training to include Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults as a part of the training. This includes those serving as Eucharistic Visitors, Staff members, Youth volunteers as well as the officers of the Vestry and others.

Included in these changes are now required background checks for certain people beyond the staff. The Council of Trustees of our Diocese recently updated our local polices and requirements to coincide with the national church’s changes.

We are currently working through who will need to go through training and the background checks. This is not happening because of any incidences at St. Thomas, but simply as precautions and our commitment to provide a safe environment for all of our members. If you have any questions, please feel free to be in touch with either **Barbara McCall** or **Father Gar**.

2019 Women’s Summit *“The Sacred Art of Listening”*

Friday, May 3rd, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm and
Saturday, May 4th, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, KS

Join women from across the Diocese of Kansas for the 2019 Women’s Summit. It will be a memorable oportunity for women to come together for a dedicated time of worship, conection and learning. The theme is “The Sacred Art of Listening” and our guest speaker is **Kay Lindahl**.

There will be an evening reception and a book signing with Kay on Friday evening. Saturday will feature eight breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics about listening to God and others.

Brochures about this event are available in the Narthex. Early registration ends on April 15th. Contact **Deacon Fran** for more information.

MINISTRIES: IHN



It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to the IHN charity Dinner and Auction.

Save the date for this fabulous event to be held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 5 pm.

The annual fundraiser will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard in Overland Park, KS.

Tickets for admission will be \$75.00 per person or \$750 per table.

Admission includes a delicious buffet dinner prepared by the Convention Center chef, two drink tickets, a wine toss, and silent and live auctions. Houses of Hope will again be for sale.

Joe Lauria, Channel 4's chief meteorologist, will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and The Nigro Brothers will conduct the live auction. This exciting evening will begin at 5:00 pm. Deadline for registration/ticket sales is June 6, 2019.

Please plan to be present to enjoy a delightful evening in support of a great cause!
Interfaith Hospitality Network.



IWC served greeters, ushers and breadbakers a lovely luncheon to thank them for their contribution towards welcoming new people to our church. THANK YOU!



Photo/Jean Adam

Continued from page 2

Be proud of your church home, what we represent, what we do and can do, and know the Vestry and I recognize without your commitment our future would not be bright.

May God's blessings be yours this Easter season and beyond,
For the Vestry,

—Bruce

YOUTH



Thank you to everyone who came out to support the youth mission trip fundraiser/silent auction/ trivia night! We had so much fun and raised over **\$6000** that will help cover our costs for our summer mission trip.

On July 23rd, a number of our youth and six adults will be headed to North Carolina to help with hurricane Florence clean up work.

Congratulations to the senior high youth (in particular **Carter Phillips, Emma and Ian Gordon, Bre Geary**

and **Olivia and Maddie Rimmer**) who planned and executed the silent auction and trivia night. Thank you also to our intern, *Jillian Hardeman*, for helping guide the senior high in their planning.

Currently, the youth still have about \$3000 more to raise so you will be hearing from us! We plan on selling days of the trip which will allow people to “buy” a day for one youth and that youth will then send a postcard from the mission trip on that day telling the person what they did! We also hope to be selling car decals with an Episcopal shield designed by *Cormac Palmer*, a former youth group member who is now studying graphic design at KU.

As always, thank you all for your support of our young people!

Mather Kelly

Easter Resurrection Rolls

Prep time 5 mins; Cook time 10 mins; Total time 15 mins

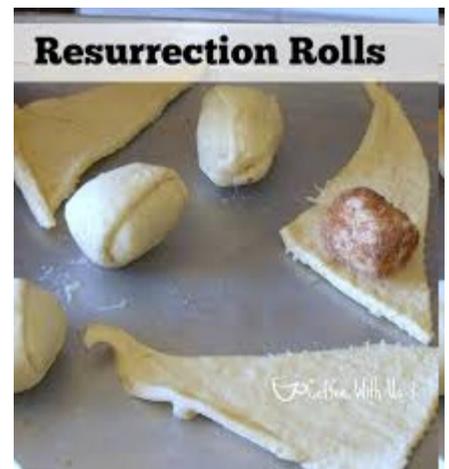
Serves: 8 rolls

Ingredients:

- 1 can Pillsbury Crescent Dough
- 8 large marshmallows
- water
- cinnamon & sugar mixed together in a bowl

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.
- Unroll crescent dough (tomb) and separate each triangle.
- Have children dip marshmallow(Jesus) in water. Roll in cinnamon and sugar mixture.
- Place marshmallow in the top of the crescent roll and roll into a crescent roll shape, then secure the sides by tucking them under and pinching them closed. (Don't worry about how they look! They will be yummy!)
- Place on prepared cookie sheet and repeat with remaining 7 rolls.
- Bake in preheated oven for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown on the outside.
- Let cool for a few minutes and then let the children pick a roll to open up. The marshmallow has disappeared!



recipe and photo from Internet

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Striking a balance between Easter Blessings and Easter Bunnies...

We've often heard in December that we should "Keep Christ in Christmas," yet, I don't think I've ever heard that same reminder to keep Christ in Easter. Sometimes, though, it's a little hard to keep Christ in our Easter once we leave those church doors on Easter Morn. After weeks of "spiritual discipline" – whatever that looked like for you and yours – it's hard not to get excited about the return of leavening, chocolate and Starbucks!

For those of us with children, and the Easter Baskets and Egg Hunts that come with the season, it's even harder. That's not to say that celebration isn't a good thing...Easter is a FEAST, after all. Just ask your kids what the white stands for in the church! So, we WILL celebrate within our families and as a church, but as we're doing that, here are a couple of ideas for how we might strike a balance between Easter Blessings and the Easter Bunny during this upcoming season:

- **Make time to honor the events of Holy Week.** At St. Thomas, we offer our Holy Week services beginning on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and culminating with the Great Vigil on Holy Saturday. Everyone is also very warmly invited to participate in our "Walk through Holy Week" during the Education Hour on Palm Sunday as we hear the story of Jesus' final days as presented by the members of our Youth Group.
- **Try making Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday or Resurrection Rolls for Easter Sunday** (recipe for rolls opposite page). Though not "official" Christian traditions, the symbolism of the cross or the empty tomb is there, and in ways that are easy for young children to grasp.
 - **Hide a SPECIAL empty egg** during your family's Easter Egg Hunt to represent the Empty Tomb.
 - **Celebrate with a special meal and family time.** This can be a one-time thing on Easter Sunday, or can be a new Easter Season discipline to try weekly. (Maybe you already do this. Keep it up if you do!)
 - **Start (or continue) a family prayer or meditation time with a focus on JOY and GRATITUDE**...one idea can be "Post-it Prayers" on your refrigerator or special spot on a wall. Write one thing you are grateful for, or that gave you joy during the day or week and post it for all to see!
- **Plant a spring or "Easter" garden** together as a reminder of our new life in the risen Christ!

And, of course, join us for services on Easter Sunday, April 21st, at our usual times (8:45 and 10:45 am). Although there is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday while we give our Sunday School teachers the morning off to be with their families for the Easter Feast, we will have special celebrations in Children's Church during each service.

Then, we'll gather the following Sunday as a parish during the Education Hour for our Annual Celebration Sunday Potluck Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt. This special day will also include a celebration of our 2019 High School and College Graduates!

Regular Sunday School/Christian Education Classes will take place on Sunday, May 5th and Sunday May 12th at the regular time between the two Sunday services.

Our final week of Sunday School coincides with the first visit of our newly elected Bishop, the *Very Reverend Cathleen Chittenden-Bascom*. This special day will come with an adjusted schedule: 1) a whole group gathering for Sunday School at 9 am for a "Summer Sending Forth" lesson and "End of Sunday School" Celebration, and 2) a single 10 am service to include the Sacrament of Confirmation followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

Though the spring season offers us many things to do on the weekend, we hope you'll join us as we celebrate together our life in the risen Christ!

Barbara McCall,
Director of
Children's
Ministry



Ms. Barbara



**Our
regular service hours
Saturdays**
5:30 Holy Communion

Sundays
8:45 Holy Communion
with praise music & band

10:45 Holy Communion
with traditional music



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The next deadline for the
APOSTLE is
May 5, 2019

PARISH NOTES

Baptisms

On Sunday, February 3, 2019,
Blake William Redlien,
was welcomed into the
household of God.
Blake's parents are
Parker & Melissa Redlien.

Deaths

The heartfelt sympathy of the
St.Thomas family is extended to

Patty Hodgson & family
on the passing of her husband,
David;
and to the
family of former member
Robert Holland "Hod" McIntosh.

Calendar in brief

- 14: **PALM SUNDAY:** *Congregation assembles outside the church to begin the liturgy. Palm Fronds will be distributed.*
- 18: **Maundy Thursday—7 PM:** *Footwashing, stripping of altar and Holy Communion.*
- 19: **Good Friday— Noon: Stations of the Cross**
7 pm—**Good Friday Service:** *This service includes the reading of the Passion according to John.*
- 20: **EASTER VIGIL SERVICE (with Baptism) at 5:30 pm**
- 21: **EASTER—He is Risen!**
Sunrise service at 6 am
8:45 am—**Holy Eucharist**
10:45 am —**Holy Eucharist**
5:30 pm — **Holy Eucharist (incense at this service only)**
- 28: **CELEBRATION SUNDAY—** *Potluck after each service;*
Easter egg hunt at 10 am.

