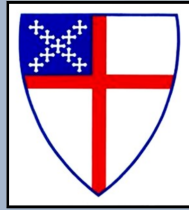


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
(540) 672-3761
Rector: The Rev. Dr. Lin Hutton



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From the Pastor

I wish everyone could go to the Holy Land. I wish you could go, see, and experience the seeming “bigness” and the amazing “smallness” of it all. Every famous biblical place is so much closer than you imagine to every other place, like the distance from Orange to Gordonsville or Culpeper. Yet, on foot, the distances can still make travel laborious, especially since much of the area is actually desert—hot and dry. I wish everyone could have gone with the three of us from St. Thomas, but be assured that you were always in our prayers as we traversed the Holy Land.

The constant need for water and shade, any type of shade, becomes an ever-present compulsion. Without even realizing it, Holy Land travelers find themselves unconsciously sheltering themselves with any available tree, overhang, or doorway. Experiencing the Holy Land and the desert environs around Jerusalem, one quickly understands the inhabitants' need for an absolute dependence upon God. Without God's guidance and protection, they would not survive, as individuals or as a culture.

In the Holy Land, it's easy to see where the water is, just look for a bright green patch. Date palms, with their deep tap roots signify the presence of oases springs and underground aquifers. Bands of green in the distance indicate lush fields and trees lining a river like the Jordan. In the shade of the trees lining the bank of the Jordan River, songbirds sing and warm winds sigh through pungent eucalyptus, dates, and figs. The Jordan River is an ethereal aquamarine color, almost teal.

And without quite realizing it, you come to understand that, in this part of the world, water is power. Whoever has access and control over the water, holds the power. Disputes over wells and water rights, now and in biblical times, still determine who wins and who loses.

Every Christian holy site is marked with churches and cathedrals, places where the faithful have come to pray for nearly two thousand years. Places that are cool and dry and smell of incense and beeswax candles; places where you can feel the weight of centuries of prayers, places where centuries of Palestinian Christians still faithfully serve, regardless of who is in power: Rome, Byzantium, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamelukes, Ottoman Turks, Great Britain, or Israel. In their persistent and hope-filled faithfulness, one's own faith is restored.

Hearing the Sunday Communion service in a Palestinian Christian Church, spoken in soft sibilant Arabic, so like the Aramaic that Jesus spoke, can create a sense of holy wonder and transcendent delight. To walk where Jesus walked, see hills he saw, smell the aromatic coffee and spices he knew, eat the same warm bread still cooked the same way, all serves to make Jesus very real and very intimate. Scripture sounds different and new insights arise from the living experience one has of Jesus and the Holy Land. The reality is that you can never truly shake the talc-fine dust of the Holy Land from your feet. It becomes a precious part of you. And you learn to pray, as countless visitors have done before, to “*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.*” [Psalm 122:6-7]

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

Thomas Traherne, Priest, 1674 ~ September 27

Though not as well-known as John Donne or George Herbert, Thomas Traherne was one of the seventeenth century's most searching, inventive poets, and theologians.

Traherne was among about twelve Anglican lyricists dubbed by the rather prosaic Samuel Johnson as "the Metaphysical Poets" who attempted to articulate the Christian Faith in a world which was changing from the sure faith of the Middle Ages to the bewildering maze of conflicting opinion which was the "Modern."

Born in 1637, the son of a humble shoemaker in Hereford, Traherne went to Oxford thanks to the generosity of a prosperous relative. He was awarded the B.A. in 1656 and later the M.A. and B.D. He was ordained priest in 1660. From 1667 on he was the chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Keeper of the Great Seal. At 37 he died in his patron's house.



Traherne's poetry was unpublished and unknown until it was found in manuscript in a London bookseller's stall at the beginning of the twentieth century. In all the Metaphysical Poets we find the attempt to express the inter-penetration of the sacred and the profane, the mortal human and the immortal divine, and the eternal verities of God's revelation in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Traherne was particularly taken with the paradox that the naive grandiosity and self-centeredness of a small child was, in fact, a kind of window into the Divine Being. In reading his poetry it is sometimes not clear whether he is speaking of himself as a small child or of the Christ-Child. In fact, he is often inferring both, by which he means us to understand that in the Incarnation, God assumed our humanity and so our humanity is in fact, our blessed access to God.

Jerome, Priest and Monk of Bethlehem, c. 420 ~ September 30



Jerome is considered the foremost biblical scholar of the ancient Church. He studied in Constantinople under one of the great Cappadocian theologians: Gregory of Nazianzus and later served in Rome as secretary to Pope Damasus the First. Impressed by Jerome's phenomenal intellect and command of both biblical Greek and Hebrew, the Pope set Jerome to the task of making a new translation of the Bible into Latin—the "vulgar" ("common") tongue, as distinguished from the classical Greek. Hence the name of Jerome's translation: the "Vulgate."

Jerome later returned to the East, and established a monastery at Bethlehem, where he lived and worked until his death on September 20, 420. He was buried in a chapel beneath the Church of the Nativity, near the place of our Lord's birth. Those members who go on next year's trip to the Holy Land will have the chance to see where Jerome did so much of his proliferate work on biblical commentaries, and indeed, where he is buried in the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.

Jerome was a difficult person at best, brilliant, prideful, and a fanatic aesthetic who often became embroiled in numerous bitter controversies. Yet, he was a tireless worker with rare gifts. Jerome was seldom pleasant, but at least he was never dull!

Congratulations!

To Lily Robinson, OCHS our 2022 High School Graduate

Going to:

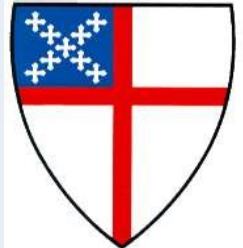
Randolph Macon



MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

Reason # 24: “We often belong before we believe.” *Joanna Wragg, Diocese of Southeast Florida*

Reason # 55: “Another reason to be Episcopalian is that the altar is not fenced. In my days as a Presbyterian “seeker” I frequently attended both Roman Catholic and Episcopal liturgies; at the former I was explicitly refused communion; at the latter I was welcome to receive. As Woody Allen didn’t quite say, I wouldn’t want to belong to a club that wouldn’t take me as a non-member.” *Deborah Smith Douglas, Diocese of The Rio Grande*



The Honorable Helen Marie Taylor



Helen Marie Taylor, a member of one of Orange’s founding families and a major benefactor of the town of Orange, passed away on January 25, 2022, at the age of 98. Due to the Covid 19 situation, her funeral and burial were private.

Mrs. Taylor's children and executor have planned a “Celebration of Her Life” to honor her many contributions to the civic and philanthropic life of the Orange community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. That celebration will be on September 3, 2022, at 5:00 pm at her historic Bloomsbury, which adjoins the Orange Airport.

For planning purposes, they request an RSVP to the James Madison Museum at 540.672.1776 by August 20, 2022.



Community missions would like to thank the parish for donating 39 backpacks and 193 school supply items for the drive by Orange Office on Youth.

We have a continuing need for donations to our in/and fund so that we can assist Orange Elementary School with their great need for snacks and emergency clothes.



We have received our first SOS from Orange Elementary School. They already need emergency clothing and snacks! The parish can help by bringing donations of individual packs of plain snack crackers like cheez its or goldfish to the parish hall, and by contributing to the Community Missions Committee's in/out fund. Thank you!!!



HALLOWEEN BOOK GIVEAWAY

Volunteers Needed!

Monday, October 31, 2022 in Taylor Park

The St. Thomas & MPS joint Halloween Book giveaway will be part of the ODA's 2022 Howl-Oween Ghoul-a-palooza! This street event is scheduled on October 31, 2022 from 4pm—6pm. .

We need 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! Please contact the parish office for more details and/or if you have any questions.



NOW SHOWING



Ben Cash, his wife Leslie and their six children live deep in the wilderness of Washington State. Isolated from society, Ben and Leslie devote their existence to raising their kids -- educating them to think critically, training them to be physically fit and athletic, guiding them in the wild without technology and demonstrating the beauty of co-existing with nature. When Leslie dies suddenly, Ben must take his sheltered offspring into the outside world for the first time and begin a journey into the outside world that challenges his idea of what it means to be a parent and brings into question everything he's taught them. Written and directed by Matt Ross, this movie stars Viggo Mortensen, Frank Langella, Katherine Hahn, and Steve Zahn. ~ *Film Jabber*

Friday, September 30 at 7pm in Robertson Hall

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

September 2022

St. Thomas Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<p><i>4 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>8:00 am Morning Prayer Rite I</i> <i>10:15 am Morning Prayer Rite II</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Labor Day</i></p> <p><i>Office closed</i></p>	5	7	8	9	10
<p><i>11 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>8:00 am Holy Communion Rite I</i> <i>Newcomer/catechumenate class: "What we believe"</i> <i>10:15 am Holy Communion Rite II</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>Discover the Bible class meets at 6 p.m.</i></p>	13	14	15	16	17
<p><i>18 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>8:00 am Holy Communion Rite I</i> <i>Newcomer/catechumenate class: "What we believe"</i> <i>10:15 am Holy Communion Rite II</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Discover the Bible class meets at 6 p.m.</i></p>	20	21	22 <p><i>Vestry meeting</i></p>	23	24 <p><i>Newsletter items due</i></p>
<p><i>25 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>8:00 am Holy Communion Rite I</i> <i>Newcomer/catechumenate class: "What we believe"</i> <i>10:15 am Holy Communion Rite II</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Discover the Bible class meets at 6 p.m.</i></p>	27	28	29	30 <p><i>Movie night</i> <i>Captain Fantastic</i> <i>7 p.m.</i></p>	



~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 cereal, pancake mix, and syrup. 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

Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Susan, & Jennifer, bishops for this diocese; and Mark, Diocesan Bishop Elect

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: Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Barbara, Ellen, Liz, Susie, William, Susan, Earlene, Casey, Bev, Aubrey, Keith, Kevin, Elaine, Heather, Brittney, Ruth, Barbara, and Dave.

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.*

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

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

September 2022

