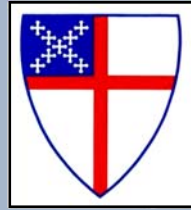


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

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



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Editor: Ann Wood

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Issue No. 3

From the Pastor

A sudden snow and temperatures in the 'teens in the middle of March! Who would believe a "sticking snow" after so warm a beginning? But what a delight. I hope you saw it in its afternoon aftermath. It looked like God had sprinkled powdered sugar over everything; it was fairytale beautiful. Sometimes I think we tend to take for granted or overlook the sheer beauty of our area, after all, when you live in one of the most beautiful counties and parts of the country, it's easy forget the awe and pure wonder of the changing seasons with which God blesses us. Sometimes it's important to remember to stop and to grin with the delighted amusement of a child, and to gaze at this awesome creation that the Almighty God has given to us.

The great Reformation theologian, Martin Luther, said that, "*There is no cross in a rainbow.*" By that he meant that although we can see God's general handiwork in creation, we cannot discern the salvation that God offers us in the life and death of Jesus Christ. This is true. Just as looking at Leonardo Da Vinci's famed "Last Supper" or "Mona Lisa" reveal a painting genius, but they do not reveal all aspects of the man himself—that he was also a sculptor, a linguist, an inventor, and an engineer. No, we see only a sample product of a phenomenal genius....but still, sometimes it's pleasant to simply look at some of the "product."

So, yes, Martin Luther was right, we cannot discern the saving grace of God by just looking at creation. However, what we can discern is a creator who loves color and light, who seems to delight in the soaring majesty of mountains, the intricate unfurling of a fern leaf, or the surprise of late spring snowfall.....a genius beyond our comprehension.

That same genius also emptied himself into us, to share with us one brief and holy life, in the person of Jesus, the anointed, the Messiah. He allowed his disciples to share in his life, to glimpse more than just the "product." In Jesus, he offered us a glimpse of the genius himself. As Holy Week and Easter approach, we have a revered and ancient opportunity to share in the life of Jesus, exactly as his disciples did two thousand years ago. I encourage you to take advantage of this spiritual journey to glimpse the Master Genius, the Living God, and to grow closer God's greatest gift, Jesus, Son of the Living God—our teacher, our shepherd, our king, and our Savior.

I encourage you to walk with us on Palm Sunday; through the daily Evening Prayer that follows; through Maundy Thursday, the stripping of the altar, and an hour or two in the Chapel of Repose that night; and to the Good Friday Celtic Stations of the Cross at noon, and the later powerful and solemn Good Friday evening liturgy. Each of these steps allow us to walk with Jesus, as his disciples did. They allow us a foretaste and glimpse into the sacrifice and meaning of Resurrection Sunday, Easter.

On Sunday, 3 Lent, I noted that "the only thing that can rob you of life is you! It is never too late to choose a different path, to change direction in your life, because a new, fuller life begins the day we turn aside from the worries of the present and heed God's call to love. God's love song is there for anyone to see in a wondrous creation. It is there for those with "eyes to see" and "a heart to fill," an opportunity to see not only the "product," but also the Living God behind it.

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

Because April is usually the month of Holy Week and Easter many of the saints we recognize in April go unnoticed.

George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, and of Lichfield, 1878 : April 11



Many people enjoy the rich, flowing language of the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, which is written in both English and Maori, the language of the native Maori peoples in New Zealand and Melanesia. However, few people know that George Selwyn was the first Bishop of New Zealand. He was born on April 5, 1809 in London, educated at Eton and St. John's College, Cambridge, where he became a fellow. Upon ordination, he served as the curate at Windsor until his selection as the first Bishop of New Zealand in 1841. During his journey to the South Pacific, he mastered the Maori language and preached in that language upon his arrival. During the sporadic ten-year "New Zealand Wars," Bishop Selwyn deftly ministered to both sides, the British colonists and the Maori people, and retained the affection and admiration of all.

Five years later, Bishop Selwyn began missionary work throughout the Pacific islands of Melanesia.

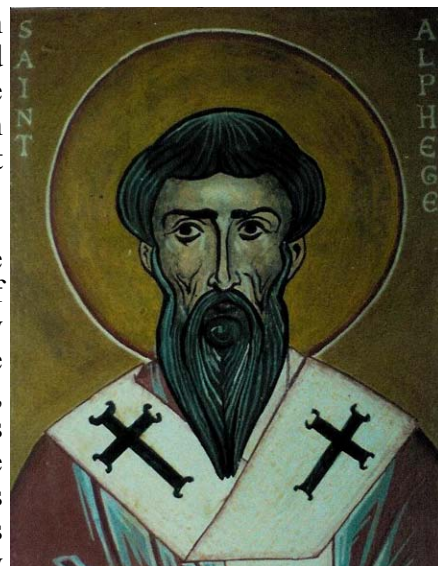
Following autonomy from England, Bishop Selwyn used the structure and constitution of the American Episcopal Church for that of the New Zealand Church, a practice common to many of the English colonial Churches. Interestingly, Bishop visited the Episcopal Church in America two times and preached at our General Convention in 1874.

In 1867, following the first Lambeth Conference in England (a conference of Anglican Bishops), Selwyn reluctantly accepted the See of Lichfield in England. Bishop Selwyn died on April 11, 1878 and his grave in the cathedral of Lichfield remains a pilgrimage site for the Maori people for whom he first brought the gospel message

Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1012: April 19

Alphege was an Anglo-Saxon born in 954. He served as a monk and then later as the Abbot of Bath, until Archbishop Dunstan's influence elevated Alphege to the position of Bishop of Winchester in 984. In 994, Alphege brought the recently baptized Viking King Olaf Tryggvason to the English King, Aethelred, to make his peace and to be confirmed in the Church at Andover.

Alphege's successful ministry with the Vikings led to his election as the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1005. In 1011, during the second wave of Scandinavian invasion and settlement in England, Alphege was captured by the Danes for ransom. However, Alphege forbade a personal ransom to be collected from his already over-burdened people. Seven months later, despite the Viking commander Thorkell's effort to save the Archbishop's life by offering all his possessions, the Danes grew furious at the Archbishop's refusal to request any funds. In a drunken rage the captors dragged Alphege out in the night and brutally murdered him with the bones and horns of oxen. It was said that a Danish Christian convert, horrified by the brutality, intentionally dealt a fatal blow with an iron axe to the head. Alphege's remains lie under the High Altar of Canterbury. It was to Alphege's memory that Archbishop Thomas a Becket called out during his own brutal martyrdom before the High Altar of Canterbury 150 years later.



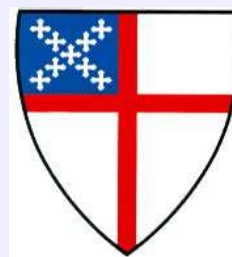
MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

Reason # 86: “Catholic, without the pope, and with the women; protestant without the gloom.”

Catherine Gallouet, Diocese of Rochester

Reason #20: “Where the road to Easter is never a short cut, but you always get there.”

The Rev. Dr. Barbara T. Cheney, Diocese of Connecticut



Episcopal Relief & Development is coordinating with the “ACT Alliance” response to the Crisis in Ukraine

Nearly three million people have been displaced because of the warfare in Ukraine. *Episcopal Relief and Development [ERD]* has established a “Ukraine Crisis Response Fund” that is working directly with organizations on the ground in Europe.

**Please pray for the people of Ukraine
and about how you can support them.**

Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting “Action by Churches Together” (the ACT Alliance) to offer critical assistance for refugees in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Poland by providing emergency assistance such as food, shelter, water, and basic supplies to refugees and people displaced and affected by violence in Ukraine.

ERD is also working with The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, the Diocese of Europe, the Anglican Alliance, and United Society Partners in the Gospel as the churches prepare to mobilize on immediate and potential long-term needs to assist Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Romania, Hungary, and other parts of Europe.

**If you would like to Donate,
you may write a check to: *St. Thomas Church* and place:
“Ukrainian Relief” on the Memo line. ALL donations will go
directly to Ukrainian Relief.**

Easter is Coming! Alleluia!

We WILL hold Easter Services on April 17, The Sunday of the Resurrection

This will follow our **Palm Sunday services on April 10th** and nightly services throughout the week at 6 p.m., including **Maundy Thursday/Stripping of the Altar on April 14th** and the powerful, **Solemn Good Friday liturgy on April 15th**.

**We will hold our FIRST, in-person COFFEE / HOSPITALITY HOUR
immediately after our**

10:15 a.m. Festive Easter Service

[although remaining socially distanced]

Thereafter, as we slowly return to post-COVID “normal”

after the 10:15 service, we will begin:

“FIRST SUNDAY” Coffee Hour

On the FIRST SUNDAY of Each Month [i.e., May 1, June 5, etc.]

All other Sundays of the Month will be simple Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, & Cookies.



In the month of March, Community Missions concentrated on the needs of the youth in our neighborhood. We purchased and delivered 13 additional items of clothing (underwear, leggings, jeans, sweatpants) to OES. We also purchased and delivered 11 items of clothing (jackets, hoodie, sweatpants) to OCHS. We are grateful for those parishioners who donated body wash, toothbrushes and toothpaste. We delivered 58 of these hygiene items to the HS.

Unfortunately, the needs of the school children in our neighborhood will not diminish. Their needs persist and will require our continued assistance.

We are extending our program to collect donated hygiene items for both boys & girls at the HS. We also continue to request monetary donations. Purchasing clothing, especially for the older kids, depletes our funds.

Checks may be made payable to St Thomas with **“Outreach In/Out Fund”** noted on memo line.

We are most thankful for all donations and we request your continued support.

Betsy, Ellen & Jennifer



~ A Little “Courtroom Humor”

as we begin to come out of Covid and Winter ~

These are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by Court Reporters that had the torment of staying calm & straight-faced while these exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

NOW SHOWING



On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese forces launch a devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. naval base in Hawaii. Six months later, the Battle of Midway commences on June 4, 1942, as the Japanese navy once again plans a strike against American ships in the Pacific. For the next three days, the U.S. Navy and a squad of brave fighter pilots engage the enemy in one of the most important and decisive battles of World War II. The film was directed by Roland Emmerich and written by Wes Took. This film was an ensemble cast, including Ed Skrein, Patrick Wilson, Luke Evans, Aaron Eckhart, Nick Jonas, Mandy Moore, Dennis Quaid, Tadanobu Asano, Darren Criss, and Woody Harrelson ~ *IMDB*

Friday, April 22nd at 7pm in Robertson Hall

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

Easter Lilies



The Church will order Lilies for Easter, to decorate the nave and to support our local businesses.

Lilies may be purchased in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one (\$18.00 each).

Orders are due April 10, 2022.

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like an order form.

Phone: 540-672-3761 Email: stthomas3@verizon.net



April 2022 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
Order your Easter Lilies In memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one by using the forms in church or by calling the church office at 540-672-3761 Lilies are \$18 per plant and orders are due by Palm Sunday, April 10th					1	2
3 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 4 8:00 am HE I 10:15 am HE I	4	5	6 <i>Evening prayer and Lenten study 5:30 pm</i>	7 Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm	8	9
10 <i>The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday</i> 8:00 am HE I 10:15 am HE II 	11 <i>Evening prayer 6 pm</i>	12 <i>Evening prayer 6 pm</i>	13 <i>Evening prayer 6 pm</i>	14 Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Chapel Watch overnight</div>	15 Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12 pm Service 6 pm	16 Holy Saturday
17 <i>The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday</i> 8:00 am HE I 10:15 am HE II Easter Feast 	18 <i>Office closed</i> 	19	20	21	22 Movie night Midway 7 pm	23
<i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00 am HE I 10:15 am HE II 	25	26	27	28 <i>Vestry Mtg. 5:30 pm</i>	29 	30



~Anniversaries~

Page & Ansley Higginbotham

~Birthdays~

04/07 Lexie Rogers Halstead
04/08 Claire Yowell
04/17 Jamieson Floyd
04/17 Raymond Palmer
04/23 Susie Simko
04/30 Ellie Robinson

*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.*



Food Pantry

Special request for February is **pancake mix, syrup, and peanut butter**. 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; Susan, Jennifer, & Porter, 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 people of Ukraine.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Barbara, Ellen, Liz, Susie, William, Susan, Earlene, Tracy Casey, Allen, and Mary.

Want to add something to The Builder? Contact Ann Wood at annwood304@gmail.com by April 24, 2022 with your information!

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

April 2022

