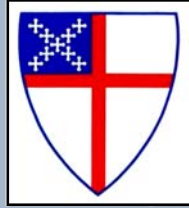


The Builder

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. 7

From the Pastor

The word “unprecedented” does not begin to describe the world we’ve been living in since March 2020 and the advent of **COVID-19**. Yet despite the many challenges socially, culturally, electronically, financially, and spiritually, St. Thomas has managed to faithfully serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in our local community and in the world.

Despite endlessly changing rules and requirements, we at **St. Thomas** still visit those unable to get out; we still convey fond farewells during funerals; we still baptize infants into the Body of Christ; we still support struggling members of our community with food, medicine, clothing, and utilities; we still continue Bible study; and we still offer prayers and worship to the glory of God.

We know that we are living through a type of Century-level, perhaps Millennia-level, event and that somehow, we will pass through it. This year’s Diocesan **Stewardship Theme** is titled: “**Broken Open.**” Regardless of who we are, each of us has been “broken open” in some way by the COVID Pandemic in small ways and in great. Perhaps some of you know someone now struggling with the challenges of a post-COVID infection or perhaps you have lost someone dear to you. Throughout history, in times like these God has consistently proven to be a rock, a fortress, a “bulwark never failing” against the tides of dismay, destruction, or death.

This is why Jesus blessed and “broke” the Bread at the Last Supper, transforming plain bread into an opportunity for us to participate in his life and sacrifice that we might be transformed into his likeness, filled with humility, kindness, and a love for all peoples. And just like the Bread that Jesus broke open, sometimes we too must be “broken open” that we might see and accomplish what needs to be done in the world, and in the process, might also become stronger in the “broken places.”

As we consider “**Stewardship**” and the loving support of our beautiful St. Thomas Church, we pray that you will generously respond to our “**Broken Open**” Fall Campaign so that we may faithfully continue to be Christ’s presence in the world. **This year our resources are dangerously low, and our need is great.** We need a concerted effort from all members just to continue our faithful work as the Body of Christ this next year. Please pray and reflect on how you can help to fill the broken places.

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

Harry Thacker Burleigh, Composer, 1949 ~ September 11



Henry (Harry) Thacker Burleigh was an American singer, composer, and arranger who did more than anyone else up to his time to make available the musical and spiritual riches of the American Negro spiritual to vast audiences.

Burleigh was born in Erie, Pennsylvania in 1866. His grandfather, Hamilton Waters, had been a slave who had been blinded by a savage beating, but passed along old songs by singing them to his grandson, Harry. Burleigh had a natural voice and sang when and where he could. In 1892, with some difficulty, he won admission to the National Conservatory of Music where he studied voice and music theory. Although never directly a pupil of Antonin Dvorak, the director of the Conservatory at the time, he worked for Dvorak copying orchestral parts. It was Burleigh who suggested to Dvorak some of the themes that would become Dvorak's Symphony No. 9: *From the New World*.

To support himself while at Conservatory, Burleigh became the baritone soloist at *St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City*. The presence of a black man in the choir initially caused dissension, but it died down when J. Pierpont Morgan, a member of the parish, took a clear stand on the matter. Even after gaining other employment and becoming a successful composer, Burleigh continued to sing in the choir at St. George's for many years and became a beloved part of the congregation.

Burleigh composed original music, mostly for voice, and was a well-respected arranger and music editor in New York. His art songs were musical settings of the poetry of such great African American poets as *Langston Hughes* and *James Weldon Johnson*, among others. His greatest achievement, and that for which he will always be celebrated, was recovering and arranging many Negro spirituals for solo voice and piano so they could be widely heard on the concert stage. Various choral versions of the spirituals had been well known in the black churches, but it was Burleigh's arrangements that made this distinctively American music available to the masses.

Burleigh died on September 12, 1949.

Saint Michael and All Angels, ~ September 29

The scriptural word “angel” (Greek: *angelos*) means, literally, a “messenger.” Messengers from God can be visible or invisible and may assume human or non-human forms. Christians have always felt themselves to be attended by healthful spirits—swift, powerful, and enlightening. Those beneficent spirits are often depicted in Christian art in human form, with wings to signify their swiftness and spacelessness, with swords to signify their power, and with dazzling raiment to signify their ability to enlighten. Unfortunately, this type of pictorial representation has led many to dismiss the angels as “just another mythical beast, like the unicorn, the griffin, or the sphinx.”

Of the many angels spoken of in the Bible, only four are called by name: Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael, each is referred to as an “Archangel.” The Archangel Michael is the powerful agent of God who wards off evil from God's people and delivers peace to them at the end of this life's mortal struggle. “Michaelmas,” as his feast is called in England, has long been one of the popular celebrations of the Christian Year in many parts of the world.



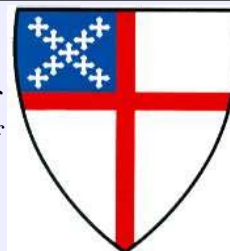
Michael is the patron saint of countless churches, including Mont Saint-Michel, the monastery fortress off the coast of Normandy that figured so prominently in medieval English history, and Coventry Cathedral, England's most famous modern church building, rising from the ashes of the most devastating war of our time.

In artwork and iconography, the Archangel Michael is traditionally depicted with a sword; Uriel with fire; Gabriel with a horn; and Raphael with a fish.

MORE, "101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian"—

Reason # 33: "Episcopalians try to love with the heart of Christ, think with the mind of Christ, and act as if we were the body of Christ." *Prof. Willis H. A. Moore, Diocese of Hawaii*

Reason # 85: "My Jewish mother and Roman Catholic father found themselves welcomed into the Episcopal Church over fifty years ago as they sought a home for their young family. I grew up in the Episcopal Church feeling that everyone was welcome. My father, a blue collar worker, served on the vestry with a doctor, corporate executives, public officials, and educators. They shared a common vision of a church that was big enough to make all differences less important. *The Very Rev. Dr. James A. Kowalski, Diocese of New York*



Thank You! Marty Gray for hiring someone to clean-up our **Memorial Garden**. Carmen did a fabulous job. Now we just need some Rain!

To Everyone who brought in **backpacks and school supplies** for the Orange County Office on Youth.

September Cartoon



Our Sunday Forum

**begins on Sunday, September 12th at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish
Hall**

ALL Ages Welcome

Whether you are:

‘8’ or ‘80’

Cradle-Episcopalian or Agnostic Searcher

or

Looking to be “Confirmed” in the Episcopal Church

THIS COURSE IS FOR YOU!

Who is God? Why do we need a Savior? What is Sin? How did the Episcopal Church come to be? What is the meaning behind the Structure of the Church? Why do we do Worship the way we do? What do the Elements of the Eucharist represent? Why do some Churches have ‘red doors?’ What’s the deal with dipping, pouring, or immersing in Baptism?

All this and so much more!!!

If you have ever asked yourself these questions, then JOIN US each Sunday after Labor Day at 9 a.m.

From Your St. Thomas Stewardship Committee

What Have We Missed Seeing?

“Wait! Stop! Did you see that? Turn around, go back. Hurry!” insisted Jane, my wife and traveling companion that day as we were driving down a somewhat unfamiliar, two-lane road in the Maine countryside.

You must understand, I didn’t see it because I was focusing on the up-coming round-about and on-coming traffic. At least that’s what I told myself and Jane at the time. I had missed seeing the ***For Sale Sign*** placed on an outdoor metal table and chair set. I quickly reversed my direction and returned to examine the somewhat rusty, but very ornate round table and six chairs placed next to the road. The seller was a young woman who was moving soon and wanted to part with her grandmother’s table/chair set, originally brought to the US from Spain. We immediately drove to our daughter’s new house to get her, then back and soon the set was ours for \$150.

Several weeks later after wire brushing then painting with anti-rust sealer and two coats of new paint (black for the table and poolside blue for the chairs), the three of us marveled at the miraculous, beautiful transformation of our find. The project gave our family a unique time to be together, in the midst of my daughter’s move, sharing laughter and joy with a sense of pride in our accomplishment. It became an exciting topic of conversation (texts & emails) between a few friends and family members. The set is beautiful and it gives the promise of many wonderful hours of backyard entertainment at my daughter’s home. Ask me and I’ll gladly show you the photos!

So, what does this have to do with Stewardship? Several thoughts come to mind.

Restoration! No matter how weary we might feel or left behind, God notices us and cares. We are being redeemed and restored in ways that we might not notice at the time. For as we continue to pray, to come together to worship as a loving community, the transformation takes place as God’s love washes over us day by day. Through Love, Forgiveness and Reconciliation the process is on-going, bringing us joy through God’s mercy. Lost sheep returning to the fold. The hard work comes in the discipline of prayer, study, church attendance, loving others, using our time and talents wisely and remaining open to God’s Grace.

Pay attention. Look Around! Why are we so busy? Too often we miss opportunities that are staring us in the face. We pass people like ships in the night. Now, especially with our new handheld technologies, we are less likely to make eye contact, stop to chat with a friend or stranger, make time to really listen during a conversation, invite others to our church activities or volunteer for an Outreach project. How can we better respond and relate to others that God puts before us? How can we include others as we grow our attendance and membership at St Thomas? How can we see Christ in all persons?

Community! We are all in this together. When we miss seeing the obvious, we remind each other to take notice. When we become disheartened, fail or lose our way, we give each other encouragement and support. During times of grief, illness or celebration, we are there for each other. Many hands make light work! One service project leads to another even better idea! You can do your part by showing up, serving on the Vestry or any of the several committees vital to our church’s mission. This is how we serve Christ in our own lives and in this world -- through committed relationships and intentional giving.

Submitted by Barry Barr, Past Stewardship Chair

Gerry Dulin Turns a Fabulous 90!

Happy, Happy Birthday!!!



Day by Day

As most of you do, I read the Forward Day by Day for my daily prayer and meditation time. The reading on August 10th really hit home with our worries of the St. Thomas budget and attendance. The devotion centered on Saint Laurence of Rome from the third century. He was a deacon who was tasked by the pope with overseeing the church's treasury and ensuring the care of those in need. The emperor passed a decree that all bishops, priests, and deacons be executed. Laurence was told to gather and bring the church's wealth. He appeared three days later with a group of poor, blind, lame, and suffering Christians. These were the church's treasure; he told the Roman officials.

We face anxiety over our budget and ultimately survival. These concerns are understandable. Yet Saint Laurence reminds us of something else. Our church's real treasure is the people we serve. What will happen to our congregation or the larger church is in God's hands. It is his church, and he can take care of it. Our call is to know where our treasure is so that our heart is there, as well.

Cynthia Arnold



Learn Play Love Grow

St. Thomas Community Preschool
119 Caroline St. Orange, VA 22960
540-672-2337

August 25, 2021

Dear Families and Friends of St. Thomas Community Preschool,

It is with a heavy heart I write to inform you, that despite our greatest hopes, prayers, and dedicated efforts, the St. Thomas Community Preschool will not reopen for the 2021-2022 school year.

After six months of searching, we were unable to find an assistant teacher to work alongside Phyllis Highland, our new director. We felt blessed to have Miss Highland willing to come out of retirement to take on the leadership at our preschool and are sad not to be able to provide families the opportunity to call her their child's first teacher.

While we do not know 100% what the future will hold, we do know that a closure of two years in a row will require a serious reboot with a new board and community of dedicated families and parishioners if our sweet little preschool were to be restarted in the future. Any questions you have concerning the preschool can, for the near future, be directed to me, Grayson Butterfield at graysonbutterfield@gmail.com.

In the meantime, I recommend checking with The Orange Presbyterian Weekday School www.orangepec.org/opws for your preschool needs. I checked and they have room in their 3 year old program and a waitlist for 4 year olds for 2021-2022. They can be reached at 540-672-4240 or preschool@orangepec.org.

Thank you for your interest and support for all of these years.

Peace be with you,

Grayson Butterfield &
The St Thomas Community Preschool Board



New Name, Same Purpose!

In order to clarify our purpose, the committee formerly known as Outreach has changed its name to Community Missions.

We are dedicated to assisting the church's neighbors in need, especially those at orange elementary school and other area children.

In the past, we have purchased and distributed free books to Halloween trick or treaters on Main Street, gathered thanksgiving baskets, prepared hundreds of snack bags for children's Toy Box recipients, distributed snacks, sanitary supplies, and emergency clothes to Orange elementary school and orange high school, held Christmas bazaars to raise money for the Christian Emergency Council, organized fund-raising chili lunch to help Orange High Choral students travel to Italy, and donated money to other projects. We need your help! Right now, we are a tiny committee with big heart and big plans.

Please contact Betsy or Ellen with questions and ideas about joining us in Community Missions.

We encourage Those who are interested in other activities of the church, such as Bible studies, fellowship activities, Sunday School, welcoming new members and prospects, choir, and more to contact the church office or a member of the Vestry.



Thank you to the parish for its donation of 19 backpacks and lots of school supplies to the Orange Office on Youth. They are still accepting donations now and throughout the year.



NOW SHOWING



The circumstances surrounding the death of crime novelist Harlan Thrombey are mysterious, but there's one thing that renowned Detective Benoit Blanc knows for sure -- everyone in the wildly dysfunctional Thrombey family is a suspect. Now, Blanc must sift through a web of lies and red herrings to uncover the truth. *Knives Out* is a popular mystery film directed by filmmaker Rian Johnson. The movie features an ensemble star cast including Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Ana de Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Shannon, Don Johnson, Toni Collette, Lakeith Stanfield, Katherine Langford, Jaeden Martell, and Christopher Plummer. Released on November 27, 2020, *Knives Out* is a modern spoof of the old 'whodunit' mystery genre. ~ *Republic World*



Friday, September 24 at 7pm in Robertson Hall

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

September 2021

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
						
5 <i>The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 am HE I 10:15 am HE II	6 <i>Labor Day — Office Closed</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Sunday Forum "What we Believe" — open to all 10:15 am HE II	13 <i>Book of Mark Bible Study on Zoom</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Sunday Forum "What we Believe" — open to all 10:15 am HE II	20 <i>Book of Mark Bible Study on Zoom</i>	21	22	23 <i>Vestry meeting</i>	24 Movie night 7 PM <i>Knives Out</i>	25
26 <i>The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 am HE I 9:00 am Sunday Forum "What we Believe" — open to all 10:15 am HE II	27 <i>Book of Mark Bible Study on Zoom</i>	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

09/13 Paul Brockman

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 Dish Detergent, Toilet Paper, and Muffin Mix. 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 Ralph

For the men and women in our armed forces serving our nation around the world.

And for the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Margaret, Harriet, Barbara, Ellen, Liz, Susie, William, Karen, Cynthia, Allen, Susan, Jim, Luella, Jennifer, Joanne, and Sylvia

*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 2021

