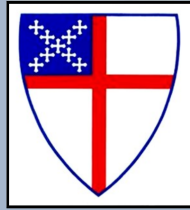


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

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



www.stthomasorange.org
email: stthomas3@verizon.net
Editor: Ann Wood

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Issue No. 10

From the Pastor

Let every heart prepare him room...

Okay, so someone told me that the ABC Family Network [or some such network] is celebrating twenty-five days of “Christmas” this year, from December 1 through 25. Fine. I give up. I’m not exactly sure why we can’t wait until December 25th to *begin* celebrating Christmas, but I guess we just can’t. It seems to me that January would be far less drear and bleak if we were still listening to Carols on the radio and watching Rudolf on the 5th of January, but hey, what do I know? I’m only the Pastor. Besides, recently at the Montpelier Races, my nephew’s new bride was shocked to learn that “The Twelve Days of Christmas” *started* on Christmas and ended with “Twelfth Night,” January 5th, the Day before The Feast of the Epiphany. Apparently, like so many in our society, she thought that the “Twelve Days” ended on Christmas Day. What is the world coming to?

Secretly, however, I like all this stuff. December is frantic, yes, but it is also a lot of fun. It is fun finding a great gift for someone and imagining what it will be like when he or she opens it. It is fun getting dressed up, going to parties, and eating things I shouldn’t eat. It is most fun of all coming to church on Christmas Eve and singing all those great hymns, and carols and sharing the Eucharist in a joy-filled candlelit atmosphere. Moreover, this Christmas will be particularly poignant for me as I will retire next year, making this my last Christmas with you at St. Thomas.

Remember though, that the spiritual challenge of Advent is most worthy of our attention. We all get the idea of preparing. Anyone who hosts a party is acutely aware of the hours of planning and the attention to detail that goes into a three-hour dinner party. Everyone who gives gifts is aware of the thought that goes into matching the present to the person and the logistics of navigating Amazon Sales or excursions to the malls in Charlottesville or Fredericksburg. It is in these many moments of planning and preparing in December that I ask you to hear the Advent call: It is Jesus who we invite to be the honored guest at our celebrations; it is Emmanuel—*God with us*—for whom we seek a wonderful and worthy gift. Preparing for that is something we might want to take seriously.

So every time you “prepare” this Advent, prepare also for the coming of Christ. May the Peace of Christ Jesus fill your lives with joy.

Pastor Lin+

For All the Saints...

Richard Baxter, Pastor and Writer, 1691 ~ December 8

Richard Baxter was born in Shropshire in 1615 and educated in the local schools. He was ordained in 1638 and spent the early years of his ministry as a schoolmaster and curate, becoming a chaplain to the parliamentary army at the outbreak of the English Civil War in 1642. Although aligned with the Puritan cause, Baxter was a moderate and stood against the excessive destructiveness of Cromwell's legions.

Baxter became the Vicar of Kidderminster in 1647 and his pastoral ministry thrived there. He set up new patterns for parish catechesis, increased the size of parish buildings to welcome the larger numbers coming to hear him preach, and pioneered a style of pastoral ministry that has enriched the Anglican tradition to this day. Baxter provides his own narrative of his pastoral work in his book *The Reformed Pastor*, of 1656.

When episcopacy was re-established in England after the Civil War, Charles II offered Baxter an appointment to the See of Hereford. Although more moderate than many, Baxter's Puritan convictions kept him from accepting the post, a decision that made it impossible for him to continue as a priest of the Church of England.

Baxter is remembered in the history of the Book of Common Prayer for the role he played at the **Savoy Conference of 1661**. There he argued for the changes that needed to be made in the next prayer book from the vantage point of the Puritans, the so-called "Exceptions." The resulting **1662 Prayer Book** shows few of the marks of Baxter's agenda, but his strong advocacy of the Puritan position certainly influenced the shape of the revision.

From 1662 until his death in 1691, Baxter resided in the environs of London. The re-establishment of the monarchy in the state and episcopacy in the church unfortunately made Baxter, remembered for his moderate Puritan posture, a target of unkindness and petty revenge. A profound example of Baxter's deep joy and piety can be found in the words of the hymn *Ye holy angels bright* (The Hymnal 1982, #625)



Samuel Shoemaker, Priest and Evangelist, 1963 ~ January 31



Born in Baltimore in 1893, Sam Shoemaker was a highly influential priest of the Episcopal Church and is remembered for his empowerment of the ministry of the laity.

While attending Princeton University, Shoemaker came under the influence of several major evangelical thinkers. After college he spent several years in China and came under the influence of The Oxford Group, a group initially oriented toward the personal evangelization of the wealthy and influential and aspects of the Oxford Group's approach would influence Shoemaker for the rest of his life.

Training for the priesthood at The General Seminary, Shoemaker became an Episcopal priest in 1921. After a brief curacy and further involvement with student ministry at Princeton, Shoemaker was called in 1925 to become the Rector of Calvary Church, New York City, a post he held for sixteen years. During his tenure, Calvary's ministry grew exponentially, largely through Shoemaker's ability to hold in creative tension the power of personal evangelism and giving authentic witness to one's faith while remaining faithful to the liturgical and sacramental traditions of the church.

Two significant movements—*Faith at Work* and *Alcoholics Anonymous*—have their roots in Shoemaker's work at Calvary Church, New York City. *Faith at Work*, founded in 1926, grew out of Shoemaker's passion for personal witness in the workplace. In the 1940's, the movement became increasingly

ecumenical and many of the leaders of spiritual renewal in mainstream American evangelicalism have connections to Shoemaker's *Faith at Work* movement.

Also, during Shoemaker's tenure at Calvary, New York, *Alcoholics Anonymous* was founded. Although Shoemaker did not create A.A., his work provided the foundation, based upon principles he learned earlier from the Oxford Group, for the need to be recognized and the movement to flourish. Much of the teaching upon which A.A. is built bears the unmistakable influence of Shoemaker who is generally regarded as the spiritual mentor of the movement.

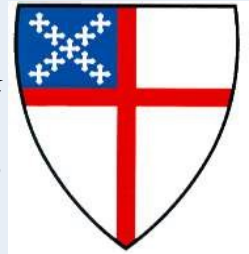
Later in life, Shoemaker served as Rector of Calvary Church, Pittsburgh. He died in 1963.



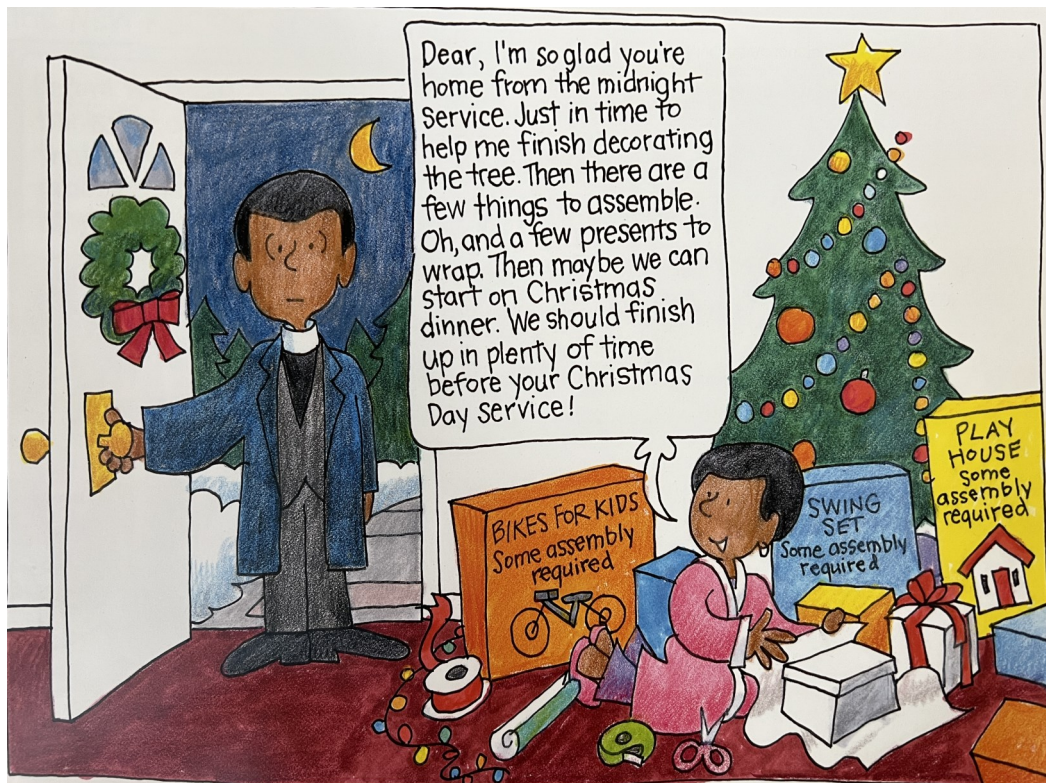
MORE, "101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian"—

Reason # 29: "The signs that say, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" mean it." *Nick Humez, Diocese of Newark*

Reason # 39: "From Miami to Manchester, from Lima to London, from Brisbane to Birmingham, Singapore to San Francisco, I can go to church and fit right in." *John F. Schwaller, Diocese of Minnesota*



December Cartoon





THANK YOU

We are very grateful for the generous response to the Thanksgiving Love Outreach food drive. Your kindness & generosity enabled families to have a supply of staples over the 4 day Thanksgiving vacation break. Thank you also to those who donated funds. Those monies were deposited into our In/Out account and a check was then issued to Love Outreach in the amount of \$275.00. Over 500 pounds of food was collected and distributed to families in need.

REQUESTS

We have received a request from the school nurse at OES for the following items:

- ◆ Girls Youth Underwear, size 10-12 and 1-16
- ◆ Size 6 pants, plain, no decorations, with an elastic waist
- ◆ Individual boxes of Juicy Juice (4.23 ounces)
- ◆ Single serving snack crackers such as Ritz, Goldfish, Oyster crackers, Cheezits, and Animal crackers
 - ◆ PLEASE no sandwich type crackers filled with peanut butter or cheese

We anticipate more requests from our community and we are in need of donations to our In/Out Fund. PLEASE only write General Outreach In/Out in the memo line of your check. This will allow us to respond to any winter needs or SOS requests to assist our school children.

DISTRIBUTIONS

From our main budget we will be issuing a check to the OCCTB in the amount of \$500.00 in support of this excellent program that ensures the children of Orange are remembered at Christmas.

Community Missions will issue checks from our main budget fund in the amount of \$187.56 to both the CEC and the Love Outreach Food Bank. That will zero out that budget line item for the year of 2022.



**LOVE OUTREACH
FOOD PANTRY**



Rummage Sale

&

Orange Christmas Parade Hot Cider, Warming Station!

The Town of Orange will host its Holiday Village on Saturday, December 4th from 10 am – 4 pm

**Streets close at 4:30 pm for the
Annual Rotary Christmas Parade**

St. Thomas will participate in Two Ways:

A St. Thomas Rummage Sale from 10am-4pm

Looking to “De-Clutter”? Have that unused Television or Blender?

Then Bring it & Sell it at St. Thomas, all proceeds go to the Church, which makes it tax deductible; saves our landfill; and reduces clutter in your home.

Requirements: You bring it; you sell it; and (except for the baked goods) take away any remaining items —home, Goodwill, etc.

What can you bring? Tools, Artwork, Collectibles, Crafts, Baked Goods, *working* Electronics, Pet supplies, Christmas ornaments, kitchenware, etc.

You may bring items into the Parish Hall beginning Monday, Nov 21st

Provide a Hot Cider & Warming Station for the Parade

As families and the Parade pass by, St. Thomas will host a fire pit warming station and free Hot Cider in the front of the Church. **To volunteer please contact Kip Porter at:**
porterkip@gmail.com

Meet our New Bishop-Elect



The Rev. Canon Mark Stevenson. He will be Ordained and Consecrated as the **14th Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia** on Saturday, December 3rd at 11:00 am. **The Chief Consecrator will be The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church.**

The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson last served as the *Canon to the Presiding Bishop* for Ministry Within The Episcopal Church, serving as the principal liaison between Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the House of Bishops, the various dioceses, and many of the governing bodies of The Episcopal Church.

Before being called to that role in September 2018, Canon Stevenson was the **Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries**, leading a dedicated team in **executing a national program of refugee resettlement**. Previously, he served as Domestic Poverty Missioner for The Episcopal Church.

Canon Stevenson served as **Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Louisiana** from August 2005 until September 2013. Following hurricane Katrina, Canon Stevenson worked closely with local, regional, national, and international leaders and groups to put into place the processes for effective relief and other ministry. He was the **Rector in two parishes: the Church of the Annunciation in New Orleans, and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Maitland, Florida**. His time at both churches focused on developing ministries with youth and revitalizing ministries of stewardship, Christian education, and community outreach.

Before their move to Virginia, Canon Stevenson and his wife of twenty-seven years, Joy, resided in Louisville, Kentucky, with their Border Collie, Franklin.





Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent **Outreach Projects!**

Despite the weather, we had a marvelous **Halloween Book-Give-Away**. We were able to erect six canopies donated by our members to protect the books from inclement weather. We also received numerous complements from children, their families, and the Town of Orange noting how grateful they were that St. Thomas participated despite the damp weather.

This year, thanks to your many donations of items for our **November/Thanksgiving Drive**, we were able to send forth **over 500 pounds** [390 individual &/or packaged items] of **Food and Paper Products** for families in our Orange Community. This was only made possible by the amazing generosity of you, our members, who responded so generously.

Grateful Appreciation is also offered to those who give to the **Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF)**. This past month we were able to help **Mrs. D**, a woman who had lost her job due to a sustained illness. Although seriously in arrears with her mortgage payments, she had managed to pay \$5,000 of \$6,000 in back payments. However, she still needed the remaining sum before eviction and the loss of her home. **Thanks to the generosity of so many members to the RDF, St. Thomas was able to provide the assistance needed to allow this woman to stay in her home.** She is back at work and she has not lost her home

We also assisted Ms. G with rental assistance while she awaits assignment of affordable housing through **The Department of Social Services HUD**. These are *our neighbors* so: **Thank You!**



Episcopal
Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

Mosquito Nets & Training

During this season of giving, we are asking parishioners to donate your pennies to the Youth Group Pennies for Mosquito Nets. A simple insecticide-treated net can protect children and families from a needless, preventable death. Your gift provides for the distribution of nets and vital training in how to effectively use them, how to recognize symptoms of malaria and when to seek treatment.

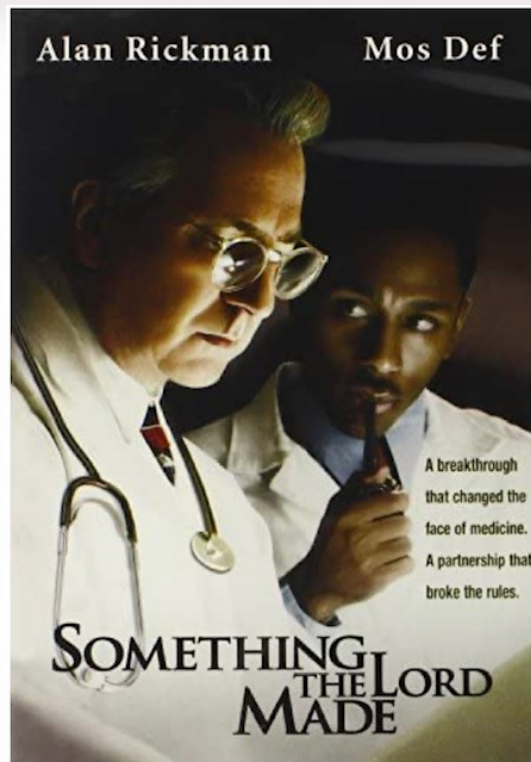
\$12 - One net and training

\$120 - Ten nets and training

\$300 - Help 25 families

St. Thomas will send a check at the end of the year in order to purchase as many as possible with the funds in that account. We are hoping to be able to help 25 families, which is a \$300 donation. Please, if you can, dig out those pennies laying around and bring them to service. We appreciate every single cent.

NOW SHOWING



This is a 2004 made-for-television biographical drama film about the black cardiac pioneer Vivien Thomas. Although Vivien Thomas (played by Mos Def), a black man in the 1930s, is originally hired as a janitor, he proves himself adept at assisting the "Blue Baby doctor," Alfred Blalock (played by Alan Rickman), with his medical research. When Blalock insists that Thomas follow him to Johns Hopkins University, they must find a way to skirt a racist system to continue their study of infant heart disease. Thomas is indispensable to Blalock's progress, but Blalock is the only one who is allowed to receive the acclaim. ~ IMDB

Friday, January 27th at 7pm in Robertson Hall

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



~December & January Anniversaries ~

Jennifer & Kip Porter

~December Birthdays~

12/03 Evan Wagner

12/08 Gareth Lee

12/09 Brandon Barfield

12/17 Steve Cushman

12/19 Amelia Lee

~January Birthdays~

01/01 Daniel Robinson

01/02 Graham Barton

01/03 David Dulin

01/04 Charles Seilheimer

01/05 Diane Line

01/07 Barbara Garnett

01/10 Catherine Gillespie

01/11 Ally Keating

01/12 Christopher Dulin

01/15 Kenneth Taormina

01/20 Randy Merrick

01/24 Doc Garnett

01/29 Virginia Donnelly

Food Pantry

The special request for December and January are canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, toilet paper, and diapers. 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, 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: Terrell, Margaret, Harriet, Ellen, William, Susan Earlene, Casey, Bev, Aubrey Elaine, Heather, Dave, Charlie, and Lynne

*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 to add something to The Builder? Contact Ann Wood at annwood304@gmail.com by January 24, 2023 with your information!

December 2022

St. Thomas Church

**Poinsettia orders are due
to the office by
December 19**



Key: Chapel (C); Conference Room (CR); Holy Eucharist (HE); Rector's Study (RS);

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Madison Choral Society Concert 7:00 pm	3 <i>Church Rummage Sale 10 am to 4 pm Hot Cider Warming Station during the Parade 4:30 pm</i>
4 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II	12	13	14	15 Messiah Sing- Along 7:30 pm	16	17
18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II	19	20	21 Saint Thomas the Apostle	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5 pm Family Service 10 pm Candlelight Service
25 <i>The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II	26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Years Eve</i>

January 2023

St. Thomas Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat1
<p>1 <i>The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> Morning Prayer 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II</p>	<p>2 New Year's Day observed - Office closed</p>	3	4	5	6	7
<p>8 <i>The First Sunday after the Epiphany:</i> <i>The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II</p>	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>15 <i>The Second Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II</p>	<p>16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office closed</p>	17	18	19	20	21
<p>22 <i>The Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II</p>	23	24	25	26	<p>27 Movie 7 pm Something the Lord Made</p>	28
<p>29 <i>The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Holy Communion 8:00 am Rite I 10:15 am Rite II</p>	30	31				

Church fellowship luncheon and Annual meeting following the 10:15 service

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

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