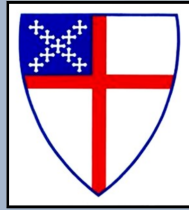


# The Builder

## 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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### *From the Pastor*

One of the most astounding miracles of our modern and increasingly religiously-sterile American society is that the words: “*In God We Trust*” have not been removed from our U.S. Currency. For many, it may simply be an innocuous slogan, but the very presence of “*In God We Trust*” on our money is at once both a bold statement of faith and a very strong caution written on the face of America’s favorite would-be idol. Those who first decided to place those words on our money knew well money’s seductive capabilities; the dollar can and will exert enormous influence over our choices and priorities in ways that should be reserved for God alone. In a sense, “*In God We Trust*” is really a form of state-sanctioned graffiti intended to deface and defame the false God: “Money.” They were wise to put it there, and we would be fools to remove it.

It is now time for our annual pledge campaign, the functional time in the Church Year when we assess our life-priorities and take the time to reflect on the many gifts that God has given to us in our lives. We use this time to consider our various church ministries and our hopes for the future. This is a holy time to reflect on our commitment to Christ and to assess what we need to continue our work together as the Body of Christ.

In the wake of the seemingly eternal inflationary processes of life, we hope that you will take this holy time to reflect on your life in Christ versus the ever powerful and false lure of money. This ***Commitment Sunday November 13***, your vestry and I are praying that you will consider our communal need for you to prayerfully increase your financial support of our historic church and its continued witness in the world.

But let us also remember that far and away, the most compelling reason for these actions is simply this: When you give your money to St. Thomas, you are really “thumbing-your-nose” at the most seductive, insidious, powerful, and socially acceptable “idol” you may ever encounter. You will truly do good and help someone by making your gift—including and especially, perhaps, yourself as you allow God to live and breathe *in* you as no mere “idol” possibly can.

*Pastor Lin +*

### ADVENT

It is almost that time of year for my usual rant about “Advent;” how Advent is a Season of preparation and anticipation that should be kept separate and distinct from the later and shorter “Season of Christmas,” which is a mere 12 days that starts on Christmas Day. Advent is intended to be a distinct Church Season with a distinct purpose.

Advent invites us to reflect on the ambiguity of the world we live in. God has been revealed in Jesus Christ, yet we still await the fulfillment of God’s Kingdom and Christ’s return. We live in this time *between* those times, between the “already” of Jesus, and the “not yet” of Christendom. Waiting is, as waiting has always been, difficult and frustrating. Which is probably why we now seem to start celebrating Christmas right after Halloween!

It has been a difficult year for our world, for our nation, and for our church. Conflict and controversy seem to lurk around every corner these days. We are living between peace and some vague and distant promise of peace that may sound like hollow promises. But then, that is what Advent is all about. It is a time to look in hope to the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and the coming of Christ into this world.

## *For All the Saints...*

### **Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, 461 ~ November 10**

When Leo was born, about the year 400, the Western Roman Empire was in shambles. Weakened by barbarian invasions and by an inefficient economic and political system, the structure that had been carefully built by Augustus had become a chaos of internal warfare, subversion, and corruption. The social and political situation notwithstanding, Leo received a good education, and was ordained deacon, with the responsibility of looking after Church possessions, managing the grain dole, and generally administering finances, winning broad respect for his abilities



Although he was absent on a mission to Gaul, Leo was unanimously elected Pope in 440. His ability as a preacher is reflected in the 96 sermons still extant, in which he expounds doctrine, encourages almsgiving, and deals with various heresies, including the Pelagian and the Manichean systems.

In Gaul, Africa, and Spain, Leo's strong hand was felt as he issued orders to limit the powers of one over-presumptuous bishop, confirmed the rights of another bishop over his vicars, and selected candidates for holy orders. Leo's letter to the **Council of Chalcedon in 451** dealt so effectively with the doctrine of the human and divine natures of the One Person of Christ that the assembled bishops declared, "*Peter has spoken by Leo,*" and affirmed his definition as orthodox teaching. (See page 864 of the Prayer Book.)

With similar strength of spirit and wisdom, Leo negotiated with Attila when the Huns were about to sack Rome. He persuaded them to withdraw from Italy and to accept an annual tribute. Three years later, Genseric led the Vandals against Rome. Again, Leo negotiated. Unable to prevent pillaging by the barbarians, he did dissuade them from burning the city and slaughtering its inhabitants. He worked, thereafter, to repair the damage, to replace the holy vessels in the desecrated churches, and to restore the morale of the Roman people.

### **Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680, November 18**



"*Hilda's career falls into two equal parts,*" says the Venerable Bede, "*for she spent thirty-three years nobly in secular habit, while she dedicated an equal number of years still more nobly to the Lord, in the monastic life.*"

Hilda, born in 614, was the grandniece of King Edwin. She was instructed by Paulinus (one of the companions of Augustine of Canterbury) in the doctrines of Christianity in preparation for her baptism at the age of thirteen. She lived, chaste and respected, at the King's court for twenty years, and then decided to enter the monastic life. She had hoped to join a convent in Gaul, but Bishop Aidan was so impressed by her holiness of life that he recalled her to her home country, in East Anglia, to live in a small monastic settlement.

One year after her return, Aidan appointed her Abbess of Hartlepool where she became renowned for her wisdom, eagerness for learning, and devotion to God's service. Some years later, she founded the famed Abbey at Whitby, where both nuns and monks lived in strict obedience to Hilda's rule of justice, devotion, chastity, peace, and charity. Known for her prudence and good sense, Hilda was sought out by kings and other public men for advice and counsel. Those living under her rule devoted so much time to the study of Scripture and to works of righteousness that many were found qualified for ordination. Several of her monks became bishops; and she encouraged the poet Caedmon, a servant at Whitby, to become a monk and to continue his inspired writing.

In **663**, Whitby was the site of the famous **Synod of Whitby** convened to decide divisive questions involved in the differing traditions of Celtic Christians and the followers of Roman order. Hilda favored the Celtic position, but when the Roman position prevailed, she was obedient to the synod's decision. Hilda died on November 17, 680, surrounded by her monastics, whom, in her last hour, she urged to preserve the gospel of peace.

**MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—**

Reason # 57: “Anglicans can imagine the past and remember the future.” *The Rev. Nayan McNeill, Ph.D., Diocese of El Camino Real*

Reason # 83: “When you count acolytes, Chalice bearers, ushers, greeters, nursery people, altar guild, choir, and so on, there are more people involved in an Episcopal service than I any other. And there are more opportunities to be involved.” *Donna H. Barthle, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania*



**Community Missions and Thanksgiving**

**THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR** will be tough on many in Orange County. **Please join us in helping Community Missions support the Love Outreach Food Pantry’s Thanksgiving Food Drive.** Sign-up using the posted sheets at the church entrance. Please return your donations to the church **by Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**, so they can be distributed in time for Thanksgiving. Monetary donations also are gratefully accepted; please make checks payable to St. Thomas noting “Community Outreach—November” in the memo line.

Other non-perishable items are always welcome and will be delivered to Love Outreach Food Pantry.

We thank EVERYONE for their support!



## Stewardship Sunday is November 13<sup>th</sup>!

**Don't forget to bring your Pledge Card to place in the Offering Bowl to Christ!**

*"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above coming down from the Father."  
James 1:17*

### TIME

*"It's astounding; time is fleeting..."* The older I get, the less funny and more sobering is that line from the song: *The Time Warp*." It seems like just yesterday that I sat on the porch with my grandmother to snap string beans; just a minute ago I felt rush of my first aircraft carrier landing. Time is fleeting, and it is the single great gift that, once gone, can never be recovered. We cannot make more of it, and we cannot get back what is past.

The gift of time is, therefore, extraordinarily valuable—to us and to those with whom we choose to spend it. And how we spend time, therefore, speaks volumes about who we are and what we truly value.

The real question is this: How does your use of Time glorify God? How much does God get back in prayer and worship?

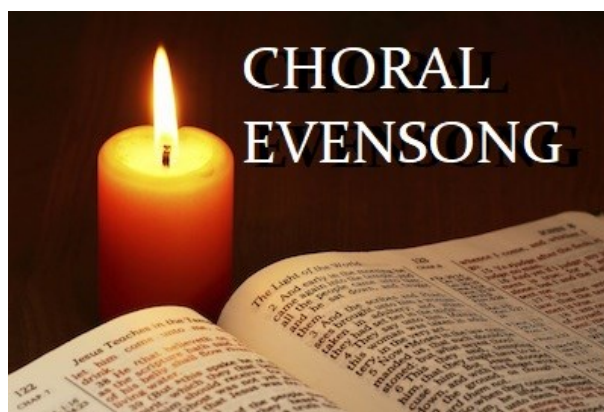
### TALENT

*"God does not give gifts to you; God gives through you."* This long-forgotten author's point holds true upon examination. A nurse's gifts are of most use in the presence of a patient; a teacher's in the presence of students; a mechanic's in the presence of things that need to be fixed; etc. All the many "talents" that each of us possess in unique combination, are given by God through us for the benefit of the church, our community and society. Thus, our "talents" are not ours to keep, but rather ours to be used.

So, looking at your many gifts and talents, how is God working through you?

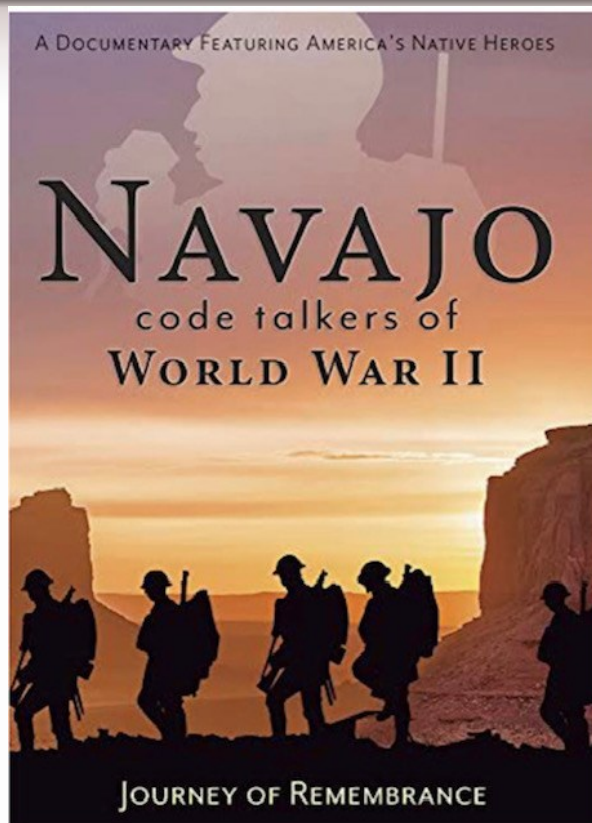
### TREASURE

To the extent that we actually "have" anything, we have these: TIME (which is given to us); TALENT (which is given to us, even though we usually think we've earned it), and TREASURE. Treasure has to do with using the varied gifts that have been given to us in a way that honors the Giver. When we use our gifts the way God intends for them to be used, we become co-creators of the Kingdom of God right here and right now. For a human being there can be no greater joy and peace on this side of heaven.



*The choir will present a service of Choral Evensong on Christ the King Sunday, November 20, at 4:30 pm. The St. Thomas choir will be joined by other singers from the wider community as we sing this traditional service of sung Evening Prayer. This beautiful, contemplative close-or-the-day service has been sung since the earliest days of the Anglican Church and traces its history to the medieval monastic "hours". Please join us!*

**NOW SHOWING**



A documentary that provides viewers with highly personal insights from a group of Native American war heroes regarding their service on behalf of the United States and the Navajo Nation. The secret code these marines developed based on the unwritten Navajo language was never broken, and gave American troops an upper hand in many battles, which ultimately led to Japan's surrender in 1945. This documentary stars Teddy Draper, Albert Smith, and Sam Tso and is directed by George A. Colburn. ~ *Amazon*

**Friday, November 18th at 7pm in Robertson Hall**

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

# November 2022

## St. Thomas Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
<p><b>6</b> <i>The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>All Saints' Sunday</i></p> <p>Rite I — 8:00 A.M. Rite II—10:15 A.M.</p>	7	8 	9	10	11 	12
<p><b>13</b> <i>The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p><b>Commitment Sunday</b> Rite I — 8:00 A.M. Rite II—10:15 A.M.</p>	14	15	16	17	<div style="background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">           Annual convention of the Diocese of Virginia         </div>	
<p><b>20</b> <i>The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King</i></p> <p>Rite I — 8:00 A.M. Rite II—10:15 A.M.</p> <p><b>Choral Evensong 4:30 p.m.</b></p>	21	22	23	24  <div style="background-color: #FFFF00; padding: 2px; border: 1px solid black;">             Office closed for holiday           </div>	25	26
<p><b>27</b> <i>The First Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p>Rite I — 8:00 A.M. Rite II—10:15 A.M.</p> 	28	29	30			



~Anniversaries~

Keith Frick & Borden Lee

~Birthdays~

- 11/07 Alice Smith
- 11/18 Virginia Butterfield
- 11/18 Zachary Yowell
- 11/19 Abby Yowell
- 11/24 Katie Barfield
- 11/26 Jennifer Porter
- 11/26 Claire Porter



***Food Pantry***

Special requests for October are peanut butter, jelly, and mac and cheese. 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, Ellen, William, Susan, Earlene, Casey, Bev, Aubrey, Elaine, Heather, Dave, Charlie, and Lynne

*Please feel free to submit your prayer requests via phone (540-672-3761) or email ([stthomas3@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:annwood304@gmail.com) by November 24, 2022 for inclusion in the December/January

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

**November 2022**

