

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**RECTOR:**

The Rev. Brooks A. Cato 501-554-1236  
brooks.cato@gmail.com

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:**

Dianne Adams McDowell 315-750-6027

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & YOUTH DIRECTOR:**

Leah Schmitt 315-750-6040

**WARDENS**

Martha Berry 315-263-6384  
Jane Welsh 315-824-3070

**VESTRY MEMBERS:**

Wynn Egginton '25 315-825-5534  
Connie Harsh '25 315-824-2183  
Maureen Ghent '25 315-893-7383  
John Orr '26 610-716-2501  
Kerry Linden '26  
Rose Novak '26 315-824-2082  
Debbie Barker '27  
Debbie Knuth-Klenck '27  
Ellie Weyer '27

**CLERK OF THE VESTRY:**

Susan Cerasano 315-824-1037

**TREASURER:**

John Bowen 315-824-4118

**SEXTON:**

Barbara J. Hicks 607-244-3397

**TIDINGS EDITOR:**

Rose Novak 315-824-2082  
rnovakhamilton@gmail.com

# Tidings



*St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is an inclusive and worshipping Christian community that accepts the challenge of living the Gospel.*

## The Rector's Column

I grew up spending my summers at Camp Mitchell, the Episcopal Summer Camp in Arkansas. We did all sorts of fun stuff, from games on Chigger Field to Chubby Bunny at lunch and even the occasional prayer service at the chapel. That chapel is a real gem of my home state. It sits on the edge of a cliff and only has one wall, which is really just a giant window behind the altar. The rest of the building is open-air, more a pavilion than a typical church, and it is just plain beautiful.

Tons of significant moments of my life happened there, including my own wedding. I met many of my friends there, certainly learned most of what I know about God there, and even made my wife work a session of camp to make sure she really was "The One"!

Maybe the most important lesson I learned at Camp Mitchell, though, remains at the core of my faith. It comes from a song we'd sing every night at the service of Compline in that open-air chapel. It goes like this: "Love, love, love, love / The Gospel in a word is love. / Love thy neighbor as thy brother. / Love, love, love." It's sung in a hauntingly beautiful round, and the lyrics couldn't be more calming. What an incredible way to bring

about a peaceful night and a perfect end to the day, and what an incredible way to define the ethos of a place.

That song continues to fill my heart and define my faith. The Gospel, in a word, is love. These days, I can't imagine a more important message. As our outgoing Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry says, "If it's not about love, it's not about God."

November promises to be an interesting month. Lord knows we'll have the normal St. Thomas' excitement, complete with the Jazz Eucharist and preparations for the various upcoming holidays. This year, though, November has an extra layer to anticipate. It's election season, which means just about everyone we encounter (ourselves included!) is carrying some very big feelings. I suspect it's going to be a tricky time to navigate.

I keep hearing that old camp song repeating in my head while the fervor of this election season rises. I just wish our world ran as beautifully as that summer camp. I wish we were as accepting. And I wish love was easy to see

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everywhere we look.

There's not much we can do about the state of the world from our little Village, but there's plenty we can do here. I mean, yes, vote. But beyond that, we'll still be living here come November 6th, and we'll still keep on loving our neighbors. That's who we are. We share that love here. We share that love on the sidewalk. We share that love at the ballot box. And we share that love with every face we meet.

It's simple to say and hard to do, but we've committed to that challenge. Love God, love your neighbor, because the Gospel, in a word, is love.

—Brooks+

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## Interfaith Thanksgiving Food Drive

Help feed local families in need this November. Approximately 150 area families and individuals need Thanksgiving dinner this year, and our church can help! We have enough money for the main course but could use your help with the “fixings” (stuffing, cranberry sauce, etc.). Bags and shopping lists will be available on the pews at the back of the church by October 27.

**Bags should be returned to the church by November 18.**

This is a coordinated effort between seven Hamilton churches, local businesses, and the Hamilton Food Cupboard. Distribution will occur on November 23th.

## Join the Conversation: Bible Study

We're continuing through the book of Jeremiah, and the end is (mercifully) in sight.

**Where:** Jeremiah sits almost exactly in the middle of the Christian Bible, between Isaiah and Lamentations.

**What to Watch for:** For Jeremiah, there's no hope, except when there is, but even then there probably isn't.

**References:** Lots of references to Moses and the Exodus.

**Content:** Jeremiah takes place immediately before and at the outset of the Babylonian invasion and exile.

**Lectionary:** Only 11% of Jeremiah shows up in our Lectionary. We typically encounter Jeremiah in Year C and occasionally at both Christmas and Easter.



### Upcoming Events

**November 3:** All Saints' Sunday  
& Jazz Eucharist

**November 8:** The Altar Guild's Polishing  
Party

**November 27-29:** The Office is Closed  
*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## Nave Gazing

The churchy word for things we do as a congregation is "corporate," meaning "of the body." Corporate prayer means the gathered people of God say our prayers together. The Prayers of the People are just one type of corporate prayer, and if you count only the collections of prayers explicitly titled "The Prayers of the People," we have seven regular forms: the intercessions on page 328 of the Book of Common Prayer and the six options beginning on page 383.

That said, there are others that show up on special occasions. For example, in The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, on pages 429-430 a series of prayers specific to the occasion replaces the regular Prayers of the People. Same goes for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Funerals. Ordinations do not have the Prayers of the People, per se, but they do have a unique Litany that serves a similar function. The Solemn Collects on Good Friday also serve a similar purpose. Even Eucharistic Prayer D has a place for a specific kind of intercessions called "diptychs" (from the ancient use of a pair of wax tablets that could fold together, be written on, and then be reused). There's some debate in the wonky liturgical world about whether or not the use of diptychs in Prayer D replaces or complements the Prayers of the People.

In any case, there are lots of ways we pray as a body. The more eagle-eyed of you may have caught the note on page 383. "Adaptations or insertions suitable to the occasion may be made." In other words, the Prayer Book allows individual churches to write their own prayers so long as they include the following:

- The Universal Church, its members, and its mission
- The Nation and all in authority (doesn't matter whether or not you like 'em, we still pray for 'em)
- The welfare of the world
- The concerns of the local community
- Those who suffer and those in any trouble
- The departed

While the Prayer Book makes it clear *what* we're supposed to pray for, there is very little instruction governing *how*. The practice at St. Thomas' has long been to provide a list of names of people for whom prayer has been asked (either by themselves or others), and then the gathered body reads these names in unison; the list we pray from in the bulletin is managed and provided ahead of time. I've seen some churches put out a sort of sign-up sheet that fills in the prayers of the people anew every Sunday. The practice I've seen most commonly, though, involves no set list at all; instead, the Intercessor (the leader of the prayers) reads the Prayers of the People and invites the people to add their own prayers from their pews.

Every one of those practices has its own benefits (and, I suppose, drawbacks), and every single one of them holds our community in prayer. Some places take all this a step further and hold a separate prayer service each week, too. As long as the church is praying, we're doing our job.

But all this leads me to a question for y'all: what do you prefer? Do you like having the church pray as one for these people every week? Do you prefer leaving the prayers to the individuals within the gathered body? Would you like to see us change the way we do the Prayers of the People or stay the same? Have you been to another church and seen the Prayers of the People done differently? Let us know what you think, and we just might try an experiment or two!

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## Scrabble Club Schedule Change

Starting in November, Scrabble Club will meet only on the first Tuesday of the month. We'll be slinging tiles from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the Unicorn Suite. If you'd like to join, feel free to drop in or reach out to Denise Dixon to be added to the text list for updates and other information at (315) 416-2323.

## Prayer List Experiment

We've been hearing from lots of y'all about the Prayer List lately, so we wanted to answer some of the more common questions. Then, we'll turn it all back around and ask y'all to send us more feedback!

### Where do all these names come from?

Names ending up on the prayer list are included when someone requests they be added. The Prayers of Thanksgivings are added from church records.

### Why isn't my name included in the Thanksgivings?

That's on us! Please let us know if we've missed you or someone you know that should be on there, and we'll update our records!

### Why are Mr. & Mrs. Doe still included when they haven't come here in years?

If someone is included in our prayers of Thanksgiving, that means they are still members of the parish. Whether or not we see them in-person, they're still a part of St. Thomas'!

### How come some are just first names while others are first and last?

Many people want to be prayed for but are concerned about privacy. When someone asks to have a name added to the prayer list, we always clarify whether or not to include one or both names.

### Who runs this show?

Our Parish Administrator Leah Schmitt and Emily Hutton-Hughes manage the Prayer List with input from Fr. Brooks.

### Why are there so many names / How long do the names stay on?

We look through the list roughly once a month and contact the person that asked for each name to be added. If the person continues to be in need of prayer, we keep the name on the list. Someone

with a chronic illness, for example, is likely to stay on the list for a long time. If the person no longer is in need of prayer, we remove them. Fortunately, St. Thomas' has gained a reputation for being a place of prayer, so we tend to get lots of requests.

### Can we know why each person is on the prayer list?

Out of respect for their privacy, we don't share the reason someone is added to the prayer list. If you are curious, you can ask because sometimes we do get explicit permission to answer questions. Most of the time, though, we don't have that luxury. Instead, we pray for people by name trusting that the one we pray to knows what is needed.

### Do we have to do it this way?

Nope! There are all sorts of ways to do the Prayers of the People. See this month's Nave Gazing for more information.

### So what's the experiment?

Honestly, we don't know yet! We want to hear from you. Do you like the way we do the Prayers of the People now? Would you like to see it change?

Email Fr. Brooks at [brooks.cato@gmail.com](mailto:brooks.cato@gmail.com) or the Office at [stchurch@cnymail.com](mailto:stchurch@cnymail.com) with your thoughts, ideas, and opinions, and we'll work on the experiment from there!

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## Worth Repeating

To become a real peacemaker, is to do justice unto the world, is to wield power with responsibility.

—Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian politician, activist, and scholar

## Hamilton Crop Walk Summary

The Hamilton Crop Hunger Walk was amazingly successful this October vastly exceeding our set goal of \$7,000. Thanks to the generosity of the whole community we raised \$11,743!!! Thirty-two people showed up on Walk Day.

Team Highroad Walkers (Deb Barker, the Wickert family, Kate Lucey, and I) raised \$8,845. Team Wellness Walker Bees, led by the stalwart Liz Brackett, raised \$1,228. The Baptists rounded up \$1,020 and the CWEG Water Walkers brought in \$400. The Methodists secured \$250 in checks and \$180 in cash, which was turned into an online donation for Highroad Walkers. For those who like a little friendly competition for a good cause, the St. Thomas' Highroad Walkers currently ranks #32 amongst nation-wide teams, just behind a fierce soccer team from NH called the Hanover High School Bears. Can I get a final rousing hallelujah?!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Crop Walk Day a success including Adger our Treasurer, photographer Susan Beattie, registration desk hawks Sandra Carter and Debbie White, and Deany Wood and Maureen Fox who worked with Dunkin Donuts to bring in Dunkin coffee and hot chocolate and Donut holes from Price Chopper. The balloons from the Baptist archives were also a big hit.

—Emily Hutton-Hughes



## **Sermon for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost:**

**Mark 10:35-45**

**The Rev. Brooks Cato**

**October 20, 2024**

My buddy Steve has a saying: “God is not your magic trick.” It’s tempting to fall into the trap of the disciples telling Jesus “we want you to do whatever we ask.” Problem is, I do want Jesus to do whatever I ask. But thank God, it doesn’t work like that. I’m not saying prayer doesn’t work, I’m just saying the impulse to use God to benefit myself isn’t the way. Now, most of us probably aren’t all that threatened by that idea. Most of us have prayed enough to get it. But some just can’t shake the “ask and ye shall receive” of it all. That’s a fine impulse, but we gotta be aware of what we’re praying for and more importantly, whether or not what we pray for lines up with the values of the Kingdom of God. Like, I don’t think God cares all that much, in spite of my deeply sincere prayers to the contrary, if I hit a red light and show up late to work. I suspect there’s other things on God’s mind. It’s not that prayer doesn’t matter, it’s just that prayer might not be what we think. I don’t know how God deals with it, but I do know that prayer changes me. It’s not that my prayer makes God do whatever I want, it’s that my prayer makes me face my own shortcomings. What do I want to see change in the world? Prayer helps me realize that I’m not always working to change what I wish God would. Too often, when we approach prayer as a magic trick, what we’re really doing is using it as an excuse. If I pray for God to fix something, it’s real tempting to take a step back and wait, and if I’m waiting for God to do the work, that often means I’m not. A few weeks ago, I introduced the St. Ignatius quote, “Pray as if everything depends on God; work as if everything depends on you.” Prayer isn’t an excuse not to act, and it’s not our magic trick. At its best, our prayers line up with the values of the Kingdom of God.

So, what do our prayers ask God for? How many of our prayers are self-serving? How few of my prayers put other people first? How many of my prayers are focused on a certain Tuesday in November? I’m not saying they shouldn’t be, I’m just aware of how different mine have been lately. Character and truth and meanness sure are front of

my mind, and my prayers keep going back to ‘em. But there’s a piece I’ve been missing that feels obvious in retrospect but only just started to make sense with this reading. See, we’re looking at an entire ballot, top to bottom, of people trying to become public servants. At least, that’s what we’re looking at in theory. It occurs to me that not everyone on the ballot wants to be a servant. I mean, really, who does? It’s much nicer when people serve you. Life is easier, you get everything you want, you don’t have to lift a finger unless you choose to. You get the idea. It’s pretty cushy being served. But that’s not what leadership is. Leadership is down in the dirt with the rest of the people, or sometimes down in the dirt in place of the people. Serving isn’t easy or fun or even all that enjoyable. Serving isn’t about personal comfort. Serving’s about putting everyone else’s comfort, safety, needs, and life ahead of your own.

When Jesus heard his disciples grumbling over who’s Number one, he reminded them of what the Gentiles do. Remember, “Gentiles” can be a sort of shorthand for “people that’ve got it all wrong.” The leaders of the people who’ve got it all wrong lord their position over the people. The greatest ones --”greatest” meaning most powerful not best at being really really good--the greatest ones, the most powerful ones are tyrants. But for followers of Jesus, the greatest, the most powerful, the real leader’s leaders are servants. Real leaders strive to serve not to be served. Real leaders lay down their lives to save others. And they’re not just servants of a handful, of the ones they like, or of the ones that can give them something in return. Real leaders serve all and sacrifice for all. I don’t know what’s in the hearts of those folks running for office across this country. I know some of them are true servant leaders and some aren’t. Some it’s hard to tell, some it’s just not. You’ve heard it a dozen times a day for the last couple of months, but the best way to tell is that old maxim, “you will know them by their fruits.”

Now look, I can’t tell you what your political beliefs should be any more than a politician can tell you what your religious beliefs should be. If you want the two to be distinct, you can do that. Some folks want church to stay contained to this one hour a week. That’s not a judgment; it’s just how some people are, which is fine. But if you think your religion and your politics should line up, if you want what you do in the voting booth to reflect the faith you profess every week, there’s some things

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you need to take into account before you cast that vote. Servanthood is right at the top. Who will serve and who seeks to be served? If that doesn't quite fit, maybe change it up: who will be loyal and who demands loyalty? Fear is another. The phrase, "Be not afraid," occurs about 150 times in our scriptures. Who seeks to calm your worry, and who stirs up your fear? And then there's love. "Love God, love your neighbor," Jesus says is the greatest commandment. He never says who that neighbor is, but scripture tells us to treat foreigners no differently than anyone else, prioritize the poor over the rich, seek the welfare of the cities we reside in, and put the needs of others before our own. Who encourages you to love your neighbor? And who seeks to deport your neighbor, serves the interests of the wealthy, intends to dismantle public services, and demands total fealty? Voting starts soon, mail-in and early locations are bracing for an influx of the enfranchised. It'll be another couple of weeks before we know how this all turns out. I can't tell you who to vote for. I can tell you what the Bible and our tradition say about lots of policies. I can't tell you if any of the candidates are good Christians, but I can tell you some have shown they absolutely are not.

I saw a quote the other day. It said, "Vote your hope, not your fear." I loved it, at first. I don't want my life ruled by fear. I want hope to be a defining characteristic of me and my nation. But also, there's real fear behind the urgency of my preaching. To be clear, it's not fear that someone that doesn't act like a Christian will be in office. I couldn't care less what, if any, religion the president is. The real fear is that someone will continue to use a distortion of Christianity to control, target, and eradicate. This is not empty fear mongering; this is the reality of the choice we face. We've seen this before, and we know the fruits. There's every indication that those fruits will only get more rotten, and with them, our personal freedom and safety, perhaps even the religious freedom to say what we believe is and should be true.

When you sit down in the kitchen or slouch over a cocktail table to fill out your ballot, please, remember your faith. You vote in private. No one gets to know how you do. But one day you may have to answer for that vote. May it be a vote for service, for neighbors, for hope, and for love. It won't be a vote for Jesus, but it doesn't have to be an active vote against Jesus either.

I'll put this differently. On Sundays, we pray for all sorts of things, including the nation and "those who work for justice, freedom, and peace." May those prayers come to fruition. I can't make y'all vote one way any more than I make God do whatever I ask, so I'll leave you with this: If you are here, you're at least interested in some aspect of Christianity; when you reach the Pearly Gates, may you never have to explain why you voted contrary to that interest.

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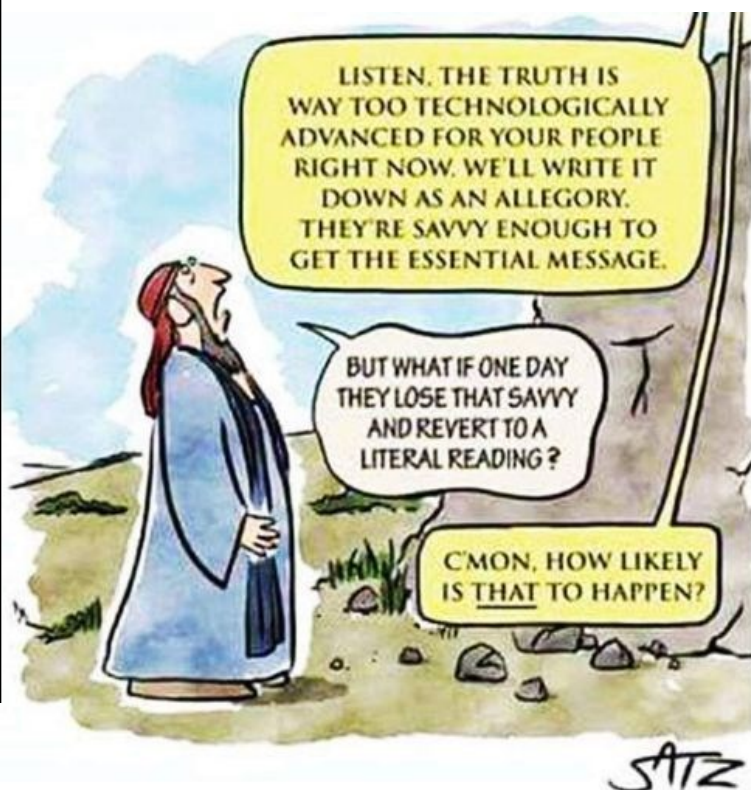
### Prayer for an Election

#### The Book of Common Prayer, Page 822

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (*or* of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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### On the Lighter Side



## Stewardship 2024

Last year, when I was considering being nominated for Junior Warden, a family member said to me: “Are you sure you want to get into that”?

I said, well yes, and that I thought St. Thomas’ was a pretty well oiled machine.

And then, Brooks went on Sabbatical. . .

Exactly! Brooks went on Sabbatical and this community did not miss a beat! So many of you dedicate your time and talent, often behind the scenes and without being asked or thanked, to preserve our grounds, make sure our altars are impeccable, see that there is always a pot of coffee brewing, that shut-ins are visited and that newcomers are welcome. I could go on. But, suffice it to say, this last year was proof of what a treasure we have here and what a special community we are.

But, I’m not supposed to talk about that today. I am supposed to talk about MONEY! Specifically, I am supposed to be talking about pledges for next year.

I don’t like talking about money. But, I need to let you know something.

Pledges fund our operating, day to day expenses, including insurance, utilities, the diocesan assessment and salaries. Pledges keep the lights on. There should be no doubt but that we are a thriving community. However, when it comes to our operating expenses I need you to know that if we want to keep things the same for 2025 we are looking at a significant deficit from this year’s pledge totals. If we want to continue all of the programming that we have, we simply need to raise more money than last year

I know that your - and my- household operating expenses are increasing at a much greater pace than income and paychecks. Everyone is asking for more money. I was reminded of that on my way here today when I was listening to NPR’s fall fundraiser. On behalf of the vestry and budget and finance commission we just humbly ask that when

you consider your pledge for 2025, you consider whether you can help close our gap and do what you can.

I don’t say this to cast a pall over our worship here today. I have enough experience with all of you to know that St. Thomas’ is faithful and just stubborn enough that we will rise to the occasion and get through this.

I would like to put all this in perspective. To borrow a line from Brooks,

I’d like to brag on y’all a bit.

Most of you know that one of the hats I wear is Chancellor in the Diocese. Chancellor is just a fancy and kind of fun name for lawyer.

Anyway, in my role, I work with a lot of parishes and the majority of the work in the last few years deals with shrinking parishes who do not have a priest, are unable to field a vestry and are discerning whether they will even be able to remain open. It’s a bit depressing.

Some fun facts: Did you know, there are 69 parishes in this Diocese? Did you know that of those parishes, St. Thomas’ is one of only 13 parishes that supports and will continue to support a full time Rector?

Of the remaining, 44 parishes have part-time arrangements, 10 are staffed by supply clergy and two are run by lay leadership.

And, we support a 9 member vestry plus 2 wardens! That is basically unheard of! One of the most frequent questions I get from parishes is how to legally reduce the number of vestry members, usually from 6 to 3.

We have and will have Brooks as our full-time Rector. We have a healthy vestry with a pool of parishioners to look to for leadership. To quote Don Berry, we have the best music in the Diocese. We have an unbelievable team that makes sure everything is running smoothly.



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None of this should be received as bad news. We just want to be transparent about our situation because, we don't know what we don't know. We want you to know that we are looking at a shortfall for next year so you can make an educated and informed decision in formulating your pledge for the upcoming year.

I am confident that this community will rise to and meet the challenge. I am confident that the light of St. Thomas' will continue to shine. I am confident that our light will glow even brighter in 2025 and for the years ahead.

Thank you.

—Martha Berry

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## A Prayer

O God, help us listen to the cries of the wounded and seek true peace and justice. Give us the strength to be instruments of healing and compassion, remembering those who suffer and working toward a future where every life is valued.

—Sojourners

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## Scripture Lesson

But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.

—Luke 6:27-28



## Presiding Bishop Transition

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York, was elected and confirmed the 28th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church at General Convention on June 26, 2024.

Rowe, 49, was ordained Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania in 2007 and became Bishop Provisional of Western New York in 2019. From 2014 to 2018, he served as Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem. Born in Sharon, Pennsylvania, Rowe earned a bachelor's degree in history from Grove City College, a master of divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in organizational learning and leadership from Gannon University. Rowe was the youngest Episcopal priest in the U.S. when he was ordained in 2000 at age 24, and he was the youngest member of the House of Bishops when he was ordained and consecrated at age 32.

Bishop Rowe's investiture will be Saturday, November 2nd at 9:30 am EST, and you can watch the service online at

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/investiture/investiture-stream-english/>



### Display Case

Check out our new display case! Thanks to the kind folks at Swing for the Fences in Cooperstown, we can put our old church Bible out again. The Bible was given to us back in 1835 at the founding of St. Thomas', and the case will also display other treasures from St. Thomas' history.

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### A Prayer

Creator, thank you for this day. Help us to be present, embracing each moment with gratitude and trusting you with our future.

—Sojourners



### The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives  
may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great  
heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

—Wendell Berry, a contemporary poet, novelist, essayist,  
and proponent for agrarian environmentalism.

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### A Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for our unity in the body of Christ. Help us embrace our diverse roles and serve one another with compassion, striving for justice and reflecting your love in all we do.

—Sojourners



## How can a Truth be told? How can a Secret be spoken?

A betrayed schoolboy, a Japanese soldier, and the inventor of the saxophone.

Three narratives show how a story can save your life.

It's bold, provocative, theatrical—and not for a moment depressing.

The award winning play *Groomed* will be performed at **7PM on Saturday, November, 2, 2024** at the Palace Theatre, 19 Utica St., Hamilton, NY 13346, with a talk-back after the show. The performance is FREE and open to the public (PG-13). Doors open at 6:15PM.

Performed by UK playwright and male survivor, Patrick Sandford, the 1-hour, 1-act play is set in an elementary school. The performance evokes strong emotions but is not graphic. *Groomed* was performed at the Vatican in November 2023 and is meant to educate, inform, and be a catalyst for discussions about the reality of sexual abuse of minors.

For information contact: Michael Koplinka-Loehr, 607-592-8437, [mak11@cornell.edu](mailto:mak11@cornell.edu)

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### Co-sponsors:

Madison County Children's Advocacy Center

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Hamilton, NY

The Hope for Children Foundation

HAVEN counseling Center, Colgate University; sexual assault response team

Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of NY (AFFCNY)

Community Memorial Hospital

Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Team (SARP): Hamilton/Morrisville Catholic Community

### Reviews:

*Astounding and transformational - VATICAN OFFICIAL*

*Astonishing text and delivery make this a chilling but unmissable study GUARDIAN\*\*\*\* (film)*

*Sheds much needed light on some dark places GUARDIAN \*\*\*\* (play)*

*A remarkable and brave piece of theatre FINANCIAL TIMES\*\*\*\**

*The urging of the need for empathy rather than dismissal, and for simple acknowledgment, hits home hard DAILY TELEGRAPH \*\*\*\**

## Free Coffee

St. Thomas' has free coffee in the Parish Hall every Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 am. Stay and enjoy a cup or take one to go!



## Coffee Hour Host

If you would like to host a Sunday Coffee Hour, there is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Parish Life can make the coffee or teach you how, and you can just bring some goodies! If you have any questions, you can reach out to Leah in the office.

# SCHMITT DANCE STUDIO

## DANCE OPPORTUNITIES

### ADULT LINE DANCE NIGHTS

\$10 6:00-7:30 PM  
NOV 22

### REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN FOR ALL DANCE CLASSES

Classes for all ages! Students are welcome to try out the first class for free.

### CONTACT US TO REGISTER:

SchmittDance@gmail.com

Facebook.com/SchmittDance

12 E Main St., Earlville, NY



Arts At The Palace Presents

*Hamilton Country Dancers*



# CONTRA DANCE

MUSIC BY

# STEAMING BEETS

- FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- ALL AGES AND EXPERIENCE LEVELS WELCOME
- NO PARTNER NEEDED
- LIVE MUSIC PROVIDED BY STEAMING BEETS

**Sat. Nov 9TH 7pm**

**The Palace Theater  
19 Utica St.  
Hamilton, NY**

Contra dance is a lively social dance that is easy to learn and doesn't require any previous experience to participate. All dances will be taught on the spot by the caller. We will employ non-gendered language while steps are called in order to encourage everyone to try both roles of leading and following. This event is a great way to connect with the community, make new friends, and get your body moving!

**[ArtsAtThePalace.org/events](https://ArtsAtThePalace.org/events)**

## St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

Since the Annual Meeting replaced our Vestry Meeting in September, there are no new Vestry Minutes to post at this time.

### Worth Repeating

To be an activist is to speak.  
To be an advocate is to listen.  
Society can't move forward without both.

—Eva Marie Lewis,  
an American activist from South Side, Chicago

## Make an Online Donation

You can make a donation to our parish online with the link below. You will receive an email confirmation of your gift, and the Diocese will forward your gift and contact information to our parish for acknowledgment.

<https://cnyepiscopal.org/give/give-to-my-parish/>

When you go to the link above, you will fill out the donation form. In the Parish section, select "Hamilton: St. Thomas' Episcopal Church" and in the "gift note/designation" line be sure to type pledge, deficit appeal, or wherever you'd like your donation to apply.

## AA Meetings in Hamilton

TIME	NAME	LOCATION / GROUP	ADDRESS / PLATFORM	REGION
Monday, 7:00 PM	<u>Hamilton on the Green</u>	<u>Hamilton on the Green</u> First Baptist Church	First Baptist Church 27 Broad Street	Hamilton
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	<u>Colgate University</u>	<u>Shaw Wellness Institute</u>	113 Broad Street	Hamilton
Friday, 7:00 PM	<u>Hamilton on the Green</u>	<u>Hamilton on the Green</u> First Baptist Church	27 Broad Street	Hamilton
Sunday, 3:00 PM	<u>12 ½ Group of AA</u>	<u>St. Thomas' Parish House,</u> First door on the right	12 ½ Madison Street	Hamilton

## Prayers of the People as of October 30<sup>th</sup>

**For those in need:** Edmund Bradley, The Rev. Dan Carrou, Michael Clough, Cindy Decker, Aster Dinku, Joan Fales, Lisa Gee and her children, Kaia Harding, Amanda Harlan, Kathy Hynes, Angela Jones, Pat Osowski, Cynthia Rell, Joe Rupp, David Sturges, Patricia Tayntor, Paula Tayntor, Ed Vantine, Becky Vinopal, Christine Watkins, Ellie Weyer, Deb Willis, Pavla Zakova-Laney, Bruce & his Family, Deb, Bill, & their family, Jerry & Roseann Fitzgerald, Anthony & Vincent Pacillo, Chris, Charles & Susan, Jan, Janice, Kate, Mary, Maureen, Meral, Nick, Paula, Scot, Tara; Brian, Dan, Katie, Richard, Rob, and Travis.

**For the Departed:** Jim Kellogg, Christopher Warren.



### Flowers for the Altar

Just a reminder that if you would like to honor or remember a loved one with flowers on the altar, you can do that by making a donation to the Flower Guild (\$35 is recommended). Write a check to St. Thomas' Church and in the memo write Altar Flowers. Envelopes for flower donations are provided at the back of the church. You may either place the envelope in the collection plate during the Sunday morning service or mail or drop off your check in the Parish Office no later than the Wednesday prior to the Sunday you want your loved one honored or remembered so that the name(s) can be included in the bulletin. You can also fill in a date on the flower calendar in the Parish Hall.

Thank you.

—Rose Novak & Jana Laxa for the Flower Guild

## November Thanksgivings

**Birthdays:** Julie Dudrick (11/09), Jane Welsh (11/10), Dianne McDowell (11/10), Christina Althaus (11/10), Tracy Fountain (11/15), Pamela Novak (11/17), Mason McDowell (11/17), Paul Schult (11/19), Scott Rivington (11/22), Lauren Mettler (11/24), Edward Boyd (11/27), Laura Schmitt (11/28).

**Baptism Anniversaries:** Caitlyn Frost (11/-), Sierra Barker (11/01), Shannon Strohmeier (11/01), Andrew Fountain (11/03), Jon Speer (11/03), Eden Hubbard (11/03), Alexander Linden (11/04), Vivianna Linden (11/04), Jaxson Keller (11/05), Autum Rhoades (11/05), Christopher Brockway (11/05), Elsie Brockway (11/05), Cillian Brockway (11/05), Hayden Zahn (11/06), Isaac Hubbard (11/06), Mea Hubbard (11/06), Ginger Flor (11/07), Brooke Speer (11/14), Emily Waight (11/20), Leah Schmitt (11/22), Adger Williams (11/28).

**Marriage Anniversaries:** Deborah & Thomas Klenck (11/27).

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### A Prayer

God, we come to you with weary hearts in a world that can feel overwhelming. May we look to you in times of trouble and recognize your steadfastness. Help us keep swimming through a sea of uncertainty.

—Sojourners



**Fall Family Fest Success  
October 27**

What a wonderful day we had last Sunday for our very first Fall Family Fest. It was great to see so many children of different ages enjoying crafts and games outside with their families here at St. Thomas'!





## Cultivating Compassionate Leadership

Thursday, November 7  
7 PM | *Hybrid*

Presented by  
**Rodney Agnant**  
*Director for Campus Culture & Inclusion at Colgate University*

Leadership often comes with the stresses of seeing how to best work together alongside a team, while also being of service to others. Leading in this way can be a great blessing, but also challenging when interpersonal styles clash. **This session is focused on how to integrate compassion into how we lead**, in order to strengthen our social bonds and to help us be effective in our communication.

Rodney works at Colgate University as the Director for Campus Culture and Inclusion. In 2023, he completed his Master's thesis that focused on transformational leadership, and the ways that it shapes meaning-making, resilience, and belonging for the individuals it reaches. His work on campus focuses on leadership development, organizational climate, and designing dialogic experiences for groups on campus. In this role, he primarily works with University employees and their professional development.

Outside of his work at Colgate, Rodney serves as a personal development and leadership development coach, certified through the Co-Active Training Institute, and the Academy for Coaching Excellence.

Register online at [www.spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://www.spiritualrenewalcenter.com)  
or by calling 315-472-6546



**November 7 at 7:00 pm:** Compassion is a central part of many of our spiritual practices, and yet at times it can also feel challenging. This workshop provides a tangible way to think about how we can continue to cultivate compassion for others throughout our lives.

The suggested fee for this workshop is \$25 or whatever amount that you can afford.

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**  
**Scheduled to Serve**  
**November 2024**

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
 12 1/2 Madison St.  
 Hamilton, NY 13346

315-824-1745  
 stchurch@cnymail.com  
 stchurchonline.org

DATE	LECTOR	LEM	USHER	ALTAR GUILD	FLOWER GUILD	NEWCOMERS
November 3 <i>*All Saints'</i>	OT John Orr NT Rose Novak	Maureen Ghent	Ed Page	Colleen McNerney	Liz Brackett	Colleen McNerney
November 10 <i>*Rite One</i>	OT John Orr NT Lynn Staley	Susan Cerasano	Ed Page	Emily Hutton-Hughes	Liz Brackett	Colleen McNerney
November 17	OT Kristin Strohmeier NT Jane Welsh	Debbie Barker	Ed Page	Jane Welsh	Liz Brackett	Colleen McNerney
November 24	OT Adger Williams NT Debbie Barker	Amy Jerome	Ed Page	Jane Welsh	Liz Brackett	Colleen McNerney



November 2024

# Things

Address Service Requested

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
12 1/2 Madison St.  
Hamilton, NY 13346