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Tidings



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

The Wardens' Column

Well, as of this writing, we are two weeks into Father Brooks' sabbatical. May the remainder be as peaceful!

What a magnificent send-off on June 12 with our Gospel Service! Thanks to Dianne and the musicians who graced us with their talents. That music just makes you want to dance, doesn't it? Two Sundays with Canon Megan Castellan followed. What a treat! We are truly blessed to have been able to welcome her into our St. Thomas' home.

Your Wardens are trying to keep things calm, cool, collected, uneventful, happy and caring around here. With everyone's help (and we thank you in advance), we will succeed. Your Senior Warden is going to Tuesday morning Coffee. Father Brooks has that gift of gab that makes this time delightful, and our conversational skills cannot compare. However, please come, drink some coffee, eat some cookies, tell us what is on your mind and what you are up to.

We have some wonderful supply priests coming up, including The Rev. Jim Corl and The Rev. Holly Eden. Canon Megan will then be returning for the first two Sundays in August. They are all making long drives in order to be with us. Please

show how grateful we all are by coming to Church, meeting them and hearing what they have to say. We would like to see you as well! We also would like to thank Deb Barker and Susan Cerasano for leading Morning Prayer on the Sundays when supply clergy are not available.

Finally, a big shout-out to Leah Schmitt who is holding down the fort. We are only just learning how many hats she wears. She juggles a lot of things with true grace.

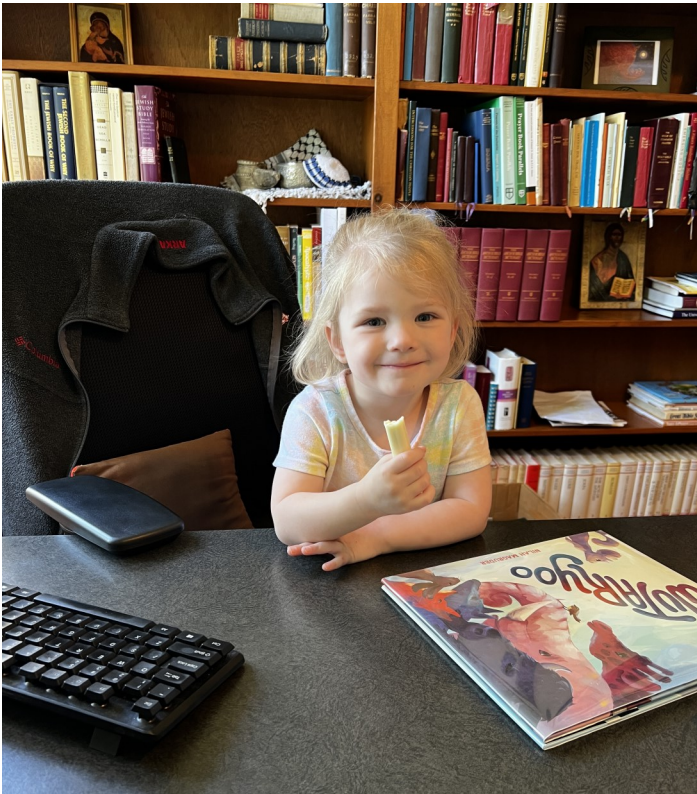
St. Thomas' doors and, figuratively, our doors are always open. You know where to find us! If you would like to get in touch with either of us, just email us at:

janelwelsh1952@gmail.com

marthalberry@gmail.com

— Jane Welsh, Senior Warden

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While Brooks Is Away

Just in case you're wondering who's helping to take care of business while Fr. Brooks is away, Elsie and Cillian have got it covered. Fr. Brooks made sure they got a run-down and know what seats to fill. They will be sure to help mom, Leah Schmitt, in the office and they will surely greet you at the door. Don't hesitate to bring your coloring, typing, or taste-testing needs up to these two!

—Leah Schmitt



Sabbatical Contacts

Are you wondering who to contact if something comes up? Leah Schmitt in the Church Office can help you find the right folks to help out. The Church Office phone number is (315) 824-1745 and the email is stchurch@cnyemail.com

During Fr. Brooks' Sabbatical, he will not be checking email and may not be the quickest to respond to texts. Please direct church questions or needs to the Office or to one of the Wardens.

Join the Conversation Bible Study

The class continues with Fr. Steve White. We are currently talking about the "Binding of Isaac" (Gen. 22:1-19). Please join us in-person, and if we can get it together, we will be on Zoom for folks who can't make it in person.

Upcoming Events

- June 16:** The Ramshaw Scholarships will be awarded at the service.
- July 4:** Great Hotdog Giveaway & Hamilton's 4th of July Parade
- August 12:** Fr. Brooks returns from sabbatical

Summer Schedule

The Wardens have arranged for priests to be at St. Thomas' for most of the Sundays during Fr. Brooks' Sabbatical. Here's who you can expect to see this summer:

- June 2: The Rev. Jim Corl
- June 9: Morning Prayer*
- June 16: The Rev. Holly Eden
- June 23: Morning Prayer*
- June 30: The Rev. Jim Corl
- July 7: Morning Prayer*
- July 14: The Rev. Holly Eden
- July 21: Morning Prayer*
- July 28: The Rev. Holly Eden
- August 4: The Rev. Canon Megan Castellán
- August 11: The Rev. Canon Megan Castellán

*We'll have Morning Prayer services on four Sundays led by our talented Lay Worship Leaders. The service of Morning Prayer remains a beautiful way for the church to gather and tap into our old-school roots when it was the primary Sunday service.

Rite II Services

Normally we make a few changes to our worship schedule in the summer months, but this year we're going to stick with **Rite II at 10:00 am** every Sunday. Primarily, we're keeping our schedule simple to ease the way for our various supply clergy and volunteers.

Update from Sabbatical

Becca and I spent my first weekend off just outside of Brattleboro. While I was stacking away at my dry stone wall workshop, Becca puttered around Southern Vermont and found lots of little spots for us to explore once I'd finished.

The workshop was great, complete with knowledgeable instructors, cool folks from all over the Northeast, and not a single stone dropped on toes. At night, we tent-camped at a nearby KOA surrounded by huge RVs and little teardrop campers. The first couple of days, oddly enough, we stumbled into an annual event celebrating Christmas in May complete with blow-up Santas, reindeer on camper roofs, and a bucket of free-for-the-taking candy canes. The campground was perfect, and after long days of adventuring and building, we both slept like especially active babies. Lots of other campers brought their pets with them, and after cooing over a tiny dog in a sweater, we met its owner. He'd seen my Colgate t-shirt and asked where I was from. As it turned out, he used to work at Community Memorial in Hamilton and now lives in Sherburne! In case you're curious, I can't remember his name for the life of me, but the dog's name is Oliver.

On our last full day there, Becca found a lovely hike in Jamaica State Park that took us a few miles from civilization to the base of an extraordinary waterfall. Imagine my surprise when I saw the cascade's name: Hamilton Falls! We also sampled Brattleboro's downtown, spent way too much time (and money) at a local bookstore, and loaded up on cool little glass bottles with cork stoppers (clearly a must-have, you know).

While we were away, I also got to check off lots of firsts. I drove across a covered bridge, crossed back into New York on a ferry, climbed around on a "moon gate" stone structure in Putney, and ate a magnificent maple creemee (worth the trip all on its own).

We're back in town for a bit, and I've been spending lots of time out at the land. There's all sorts of puttering that needs doing up there. I'm going through sunscreen and Gatorade by the bucketload, and I'm getting the last details in place so I can finally set that first cornerstone in my own wall.

I'm really enjoying this time, and I'm glad to know y'all are in such capable hands. That really has freed me up to turn off my brain for the summer, and it's an enormous treat.

Next up: lots more sunscreen, Gatorade, and a short trip to see friends in Philadelphia.

—Fr. Brooks+



The workshop hosted 18 people, each assigned a roughly 4-foot section to build. Fr. Brooks' section was, obviously, the best.



Stone found on the Stone Trust grounds. Much as he would love to take credit, Fr. Brooks did not make this.



What Is So Rare as a Day in June

And what is so rare as a day in June?
 Then, if ever, come perfect days;
 Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune,
 And over it softly her warm ear lays;
 Whether we look, or whether we listen,
 We hear life murmur, or see it glisten;
 Every clod feels a stir of might,
 An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
 And, groping blindly above it for light,
 Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers;
 The flush of life may well be seen
 Thrilling back over hills and valleys;
 The cowslip startles in meadows green,
 The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice,
 And there's never a leaf nor a blade too mean
 To be some happy creature's palace;
 The little bird sits at his door in the sun,
 Atilt like a blossom among the leaves,
 And lets his illumined being o'errun
 With the deluge of summer it receives;
 His mate feels the eggs beneath her wings,
 And the heart in her dumb breast flutters and sings;
 He sings to the wide world, and she to her nest,—
 In the nice ear of Nature which song is the best?...

—James Russell Lowell

Looking for Contributors

Interested in adding something to our monthly newsletter? We're looking for contributors to spice up *Tidings* and add some variety! Pictures, poems, articles, book reviews, insights -- anything that's brought you closer to God. Please make submissions to the Church Office by the 20th of each month, and we'll consider them for publication.

Make a Donation Online

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.

Let's Scrabble!

When: Tuesdays from 5-8 pm

Where: St. Thomas' Parish Hall

What to bring: \$5 to cover club expenses, Scrabble board, tiles, and racks if you got 'em.

Hope to see you there!

T-Shirts for Sale



St. Thomas' T-shirts are available in the office. Pay what you can, or we're now asking \$10. Feeling generous? Offset someone else's cost at another \$10! **Available sizes:** Adult S-XXL



Calling All Volunteers for the 4th of July “Great Hotdog Giveaway”

As the days continue to get longer and the temperature heats up, we know the 4th of July is not too far off! And, 4th of July means the annual Hamilton parade, and additionally, St. Thomas has decided to once again show our community support by providing any passersby with free hotdogs. Last year’s turnout of folks who were delighted to partake in our hotdog giveaway was so impactful that we knew we had to also make this an annual event.

Deb Barker and Eric Muller are organizing this activity and are looking for volunteers to assist with setting up, grilling, and distributing hotdogs. Set up will begin about 9:30 am, and we expect that clean-up will be done around 2:00 pm.

If you are willing and able to contribute any time to assist, please reach out to Deb or Eric and let them know your availability. We truly appreciate any assistance in making our “Great Hotdog Giveaway” a meaningful event for our community!

Scripture Lesson

Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

—1 Peter 1:8-9

Affirmations from “How to Build a Life”

In *The Atlantic’s* magazine column “How to Build a Life,” Arthur Brooks offered some Dominican wisdom that we can all use. Here are the affirmations that he suggests for the beginning of the day.

1. I do not know what this day will bring, but I will live it the best I can, with an attitude of love and generosity.
2. I am grateful for the good I experience today, but I do not fear the bad, which is part of being alive and an opportunity for learning and growth.
3. I do not possess the absolute truth, but I will seek it with honesty, an open heart, and a spirit of adventure.

—Shared by a parishioner

Scripture Lesson

But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

—Amos 5:24

A Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank you for coming to reside with us. May we daily recognize the beauty of your spirit within one another.

—Sojourners

Sermon for the Seventh Sunday of Easter: John 17:6-19

The Rev. Brooks Cato

May 12, 2024

Well, I gotta say, that Gospel reading makes it real tempting to imagine myself as the Messiah. I'm not, by the way, I know that. I'm not Jesus, and I'm definitely not picturing myself in his shoes. Buuuuut, this scene where Jesus prays for his disciples as he prepares to leave them, I mean, you can see it right? I'm not Jesus. I don't want to be Jesus. I don't want you to think I'm Jesus, and I don't want you to think I think I'm Jesus. But this farewell discourse just might be a sort of mirror. So, let's start with what's different. We already covered that I'm not Jesus. All agreed? Good. I'm also not about to get arrested (I don't think), not about to spend a terrible night fretting about y'all and myself, not about to be brought before the governor and ultimately crucified. And even if I was, I'm not about to rise again in three days. Y'all aren't disciples. At least, you're not my disciples. You are disciples of the Good Shepherd. At my best, I'm just a sheepdog. None of y'all are about to chop off anyone's ear, at least I don't think you are. And none of y'all think I'm on the road to an awful death for treason against the empire. Also, none of y'all think I'm the Son of God, which is a good thing, 'cause again I'm not. I will be laying my head to rest for the big sleep soon, and by that I don't mean the grave, I just mean I'm planning on sleeping for the next three days straight, after which I just might rise again for a snack and go back to bed. And while I'm sleeping off the past eight years, y'all won't be hiding behind locked doors for fear of whatever the world holds. You won't need proof that I am I. I won't walk through walls proclaiming "shalom!" and show you old scars. I might share a fish fry with ya, but not before August. And I just might find myself on higher ground, but I won't ascend there with Holy Spirit-powered rocket boosters.

But, there is something I want to point out that does track from that Gospel to us today. While Jesus prepares to leave this world, he prays for the safety and well-being of his people. And I'll tell ya, if there's one thing that's remotely Jesus-like to this fella in your pulpit, it's that I'm praying for y'all, for your safety and your well-being. I'll be back soon enough, but that won't stop my prayers just 'cause we see each other a bit less often. If there's

anything I can claim in myself that is Christ-like it's just that: I hold you in my prayers. And I hope you hold me in yours. You're gonna be just fine this Summer, I know, but think of all those prayers as a sort of sacred insurance plan. Y'all are gonna be just fine, but just in case, here's a prayer or two.

Actually, I wonder about the next week or two in particular. Next Sunday, the story picks up where today's Collect hints, with the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide God's people now that Jesus has come and gone and come back and gone again. "Send us your Holy Spirit," we prayed right off the bat. And that, that right there's where our lives, my life, intersects beautifully with scripture. I'm no Jesus, y'all know that. We've been running this race together for plenty long enough for you to be well sure of that fact. But I do care for you deeply, and come tomorrow morning, I trust the Holy Spirit to guide this whole church for the next few months. And I trust y'all to hear it, listen, live, and thrive under its care. The cool thing is, though, that Spirit's no stranger. Back at my Installation, we sang "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place." That's not just y'all, and that's no accident. It takes a church that listens to the fierce and fiery blowing of the Holy Spirit to live that out. And my God, do y'all live that out. That Spirit's been here. You know it well. That Spirit's here right now. You can hear it a little bit louder, a little bit clearer in this incredible music. But it's here on calmer days, too. It's comfort and solace, joy and silence, excitement and peace. That Spirit's a regular attendee, and ever since the 7th day of Creation, it hasn't taken a day off, either. It'll be here all summer long. And once I get back, it'll keep on sticking around. The constant in this place isn't me or you or even these buildings or prayer books or hymn boards. The constant in this place is God. You'll notice my sabbatical takes me away before Trinity Sunday. I swear I didn't plan it that way, but I'm not gonna say I'm sad to miss preaching that day. Canon Megan will do a fine job, finer than I could've that's for sure. But I will say this about the Trinity: Spirit, Son, and Father, I don't really care all that much how you describe them / it, but I do care that you recognize them / it here. That mysterious 3-in-1 will sustain you today, tomorrow, and for the rest of time, be it summer, winter, sabbatical, overtime, napping, working, or just plain being. The constant is God.

But, there's one little bit from that Gospel I want to touch on before I pack up my work gloves and set to stacking stones in the far and distant land of Vermont. Jesus says he does not belong to this

world and neither do his people. I'm sure you've all heard this before, but I've got a quick caveat for you. Where I'm from, some take this passage to mean that this world has grown so broken and distant from its intended design as to be completely secularized (at best) and perhaps even damned (at worst). And if it's damned, then it must be disposable. By that logic, the cares of this world mean nothing to us. Some even take it a step further and claim the disposal of this world's a necessary step in the coming salvation. And when that becomes our guiding interpretation, being "not of this world" allows us to ignore this world. The argument's basically the same as looking across the street and seeing your neighbor's house engulfed in flames. But it's not your house, so why bother calling 911? I wish this was just a caricature. I wish I could say no one thinks like that. I wish we could laugh at the absurdity and thank God our world's different. But y'all know better. Being "not of this world" does not mean we don't care for the world or for its people. It does mean we don't find our satisfaction in the things this world says we should, namely power and money and the many abuses that come with seeking them out. In other words, when we see our neighbor's house on fire, we call 911. And we don't do it because we expect a small town hero's parade or a kickback from their homoeowner's insurance. We do it because it's the right thing to do. We aren't motivated by power or money. We're motivated by love and a desperate concern for their well-being.

Y'all, our neighbors' houses are on fire. I don't mean the folks specifically on Madison Street. I'm talking about the whole world. The pursuit of power and excess has grown so great that we're teetering on the edge of destruction, and as long as there are people who can step back and pretend like they aren't affected by that spreading fire, more and more of the world'll turn to ash. Next week, you'll hear of that same Holy Spirit descending onto the heads of the disciples like flames flickering with holy light. They say it's easiest to fight fire with fire, and to push this metaphor to its breaking point, that might just be how we can exist in a burning world but not be consumed, and it just might be how we can save it. There is great beauty in this world. There's sacredness and gift and blessing. There's love and peace and room to breathe, but I fear what happens if we choose to stand back because we're "not of this world."

I guess the point of me saying all this is to encourage y'all to let that Holy Spirit light its fire under you. This coming three months is more than a

time to survive. This coming three months will demand much of you. I guess if I'm in the business of leaving you homework over summer break, it's just this: save the world. No biggie. I mean, it's up to God to do the saving, but as Teresa of Avila has it, you are Christ's hands, Christ's feet, Christ's body, and maybe most importantly Christ's compassion. Grab your own naps this summer as you can. Rest. Find renewal. But keep an eye on your neighbor's house, and when the time comes, fight those flames of greed and corruption with your own sacred flames of love and peace. That's it. That's all you have to do. Nothing could be simpler, right? I'm kidding, of course. It's hard work, and sometimes it's just as hard to take a breather as it is to fight the good fight. But this is why you have this place. This is why you have each other. None of us can do this alone, so we don't. In the church's wisdom, we gather as a body and we work as a body, each with their own role. I promise you, if you do this, if you support one another, this wonderful church will stand for generations to come. And if we're lucky, our world just might, too, for God is our constant.

One last thing, and then I'll sit down. I am just so grateful for everything y'all have done for me in this amazing place. I didn't know being a priest could be this fun. I'm having a blast. And I know just how much y'all are taking on to make space for me to step back. As y'all're painfully aware, I'm rarely at a loss for words. But when I try to tell you how much this summer means to me, my words fail. So I'll keep it simple. For eight wonderful years, for supporting my family, for putting up with barks from the back porch, for embracing my best friend, for random food left on the doorstep, for all the love and kindness and care, for book recommendations, for hard conversations, for trying new things and for breathing life into old ones, and finally, for being such a beautiful Body of Christ, St. Thomas', thank you.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
April 28, 2024

Present: Martha Berry, John Bowen, Brooks Cato (presiding), Wynn Egginton, Maureen Ghent, Connie Harsh, Kerry Linden, Valerie Morkevicius, Rose Novak, John Orr, Anne Perring, Jane Welsh

Absent: Susan Beattie

Call to Order

The meeting began at 11:28 a.m. in the parish hall. Rose Novak led the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report

The minutes of the April 7th vestry meeting were approved as submitted in final draft. Approval was moved by Valerie Morkevicius; seconded by Anne Perring.

Treasurer's Report

John Bowen submitted the following report to the vestry members:

“Church Windows software continues to frustrate its users at St. Thomas’. I have discovered several errors in accounting, some of which go back several years. Notable errors include proper assignment of utility bills to their various expense lines and proper recording of transfers and balances in the Funds lines. The utility bills have been difficult to unwind, in part, due to the batch billing from the village. I believe we have made corrections solved that problem. Proper fund balance recording will require some additional training from Church Windows support team.

The errors in Church Windows reports reflect only proper recording of data in the program. Account balances, expenses, and income are all recorded accurately elsewhere and on the top half of the Balance Sheet. Income and expenses for March are in line with the budget. There were no unusual expenses. Pledge income appears robust at 139% of budget, but is distorted by some early bulk pledge payments. There is a healthy balance in the checking account. The 2024 Budget included some support from the Ramshaw Fund to balance anticipated expenses. We have not need to draw from those

funds yet.

The Budget and Finance Commission had a long discussion about whether to continue with Church Windows or employ another accounting program. We have decided to stay with Church Windows for now.

Budget and Finance plans to prepare a preliminary 2025 budget in time for the September annual meeting in order for parishioners to adjust their pledges mindful of 2025 anticipated church needs.”

Jane Welsh requested further clarification as to why the bills can be difficult to sort out. The issue doesn't seem to have been raised before. Is it new? John Bowen explained that the top section of the budget sheet (the Income section) has always been strictly accurate. The difficulty lies in how the Expenses are recorded below, and, particularly, in recording the utilities for the many buildings that the parish operates. The bills that come from the Village of Hamilton don't always separate out the costs from one building to another (parish hall, rectory, church). The costs for water in one building might be recorded with the costs of another and it is difficult to separate them out. Moreover, the Church Windows software doesn't make it easy in terms of recording such issues. Utilities and phone bills are special problems. Brooks Cato added that one outside water spigot, for example, is charged separately from all of the other water usage. There is little rhyme or reason as to how the bills are laid out but, in the end, it creates issues for matters of accounting.

Wynn Egginton moved that the Report be received; Martha Berry seconded the motion. The Report was received unanimously.

Rector's Report

Brooks Cato commented, “it feels as if St. Thomas’ has its legs under it again, and that it has remained this way for a while now.” At the end of last year there were regularly 53 persons in church, on average, each week. Today there were 62 persons in attendance, so church attendance is robust. Brooks also noted that Bishop Dede Duncan-Probe is on the slate of nominees for the election of the next Presiding Bishop for the Episcopal Church. The convention takes place in late June. Finally, Brooks observed that last September the Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent (from the Episcopal Diocese of Central NY) had been ordained and consecrated as the Bishop of Maryland.

Wardens' Report

Jane Welsh reported that both she and Martha Berry, our Junior Warden, have been very busy preparing for Fr. Brooks' sabbatical. She wanted to give a shout-out to Martha who, single-handedly, has arranged for supply clergy, and has managed to cover all but four Sundays. The list of Sunday clergy covering services will be announced in the next *Tidings*. Martha added that members of the congregation should be encouraged to come to summer services, regardless of the fact that this is a time of the year when attendance often drops off. Martha emphasized that our supply clergy are going out of their way to help us out during a period when we need them. To cite one example, she stated that Canon Megan Castellan, from the diocesan office, will be with us for four Sundays. Finally, Martha wanted to thank Fr. Brooks for being so organized prior to his leave.

Commission Reports

Buildings: Brooks Cato commented, first of all, that the Commission would be meeting during the following week to identify the sections of the report that require immediate attention. Second, Brooks has been in touch with Brian Treffeisen concerning the steps on the bell tower side (the south side) of the church. Vestry members expressed how pleased they were with the job he had done with the front walkway. This time, Brian is being so careful that he has ordered a threshold for the side door to match that on the front door area. He has put in an estimate for materials and labor at **\$4810**. Jane Welsh will be the point person for the project. Brian will let us know when he can begin. Valerie Morkevicius moved to accept the estimate; Maureen Ghent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Turning to the recent issues with the fire alarm system in the church, Brooks Cato explained that Ed Page had met with ABJ Fire Protection Co. and learned that the electric beam that trips the system is getting interrupted by dust and other material that falls from higher

up in the attic. The workmen will need to reposition and replace the equipment to avoid this and probably to replace some wiring as well. Their bid to do the necessary work is for **\$2325**. After some discussion Jane Welsh moved that the bid be accepted; Wynn Egginton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next on the agenda, Brooks Cato informed the vestry that the rectory driveway is in rough shape. It needs new gravel and regrading. There is no proposal yet for this work, but Brooks will send one around to vestry members when it is available. If this comes after May 12th, when his sabbatical begins, he will pass this project on to the wardens.

Finally, Brooks announced that he is getting a meeting together of some key personnel before May 12th, just to make sure that everyone has a chance to ask questions and to know what is expected during his time away. He emphasized that the summer is normally a period when things slow down quite a bit.

Old Business

Safe Church: Anne Perring informed the vestry that there have now been changes in the procedure for certifying persons in Safe Church. The former series of online tutorials (followed by the one-hour meeting) is no longer being used. Anne has sent some emails to the diocese, asking for advice and clarification. She is awaiting a response. The simplest solution would be for St. Thomas's to run a Safe Church session of its own to certify everyone; but, for the moment, everything is paused.

1835 Bible Display Case: There is no new information to report at this time; however, Brooks Cato remarked that when he is in Vermont this summer he might take a look around there and, if he finds an appropriate case, he will be

in touch with the vestry.

Rectory Bathroom: Brooks Cato informed the vestry that Aaron Payne is working on the bathroom, as well as the dishwasher installation in the parish hall kitchen. He plans to coordinate both projects so that he can work on them simultaneously, using down-time from one to do things on the other.

New Business

Diocesan Convention (Oct 18-19, 2024): Brooks Cato reminded the vestry that John Orr offered to serve as a delegate at the last meeting. Following this, Debbie Barker agreed to serve as the second delegate. Now formal approval was needed. Wynn Egginton moved that the vestry approve both delegates to represent St. Thomas' at the Convention; Valerie Morkevicius seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ramshaw Scholarships: Brooks Cato had circulated two letters, from Emilija Morkevicius and Daria Shokri, in advance of the meeting. Vestry members reviewed them and commented on how talented the students are and how delighted they were with their letters. Without any hesitation they voted to award *each* of the students **\$750** from the Ramshaw Scholarship Fund. (Jane Welsh made the motion; Maureen Ghent seconded.) Subsequently, on Monday, April 29th, Joseph Berry submitted a letter of application for a Ramshaw Scholarship, which was circulated to vestry members by e-mail. The vestry read the letter and all responded enthusiastically. On April 30th they agreed to award **\$750** to Joseph to assist with his future endeavors. It was such an affirmative part of the meeting. Fr. Brooks and members of the vestry want everyone to know how very proud they are of our scholarship recipients!

Good Neighbor Investment Management: Brooks Cato explained that when he, John Bowen (Treasurer), and Adger Williams (Budget & Finance Commission) last visited our investment manager, Alex Erath, she advised them to rework their investment model so that it would be more conservatively weighted. This seemed like reasonable advice so the three of them agreed to change to a more conservative model. The three representatives from St. Thomas' thought that they were empowered to make changes in how the mix of investments is chosen. (They are not empowered to remove

money from the account.) Additionally, it was decided that a formal letter from the vestry should be put on file with our broker, stating this. A letter was read. (Wynn Egginton moved to approve the letter; Valerie Morkevicius seconded the motion.) The vestry voted unanimously to approve the letter. Note: On April 30th Alex Erath sent an email to Fr. Brooks, acknowledging the letter and thanking him for it.

New Vestry Slate: Brooks Cato reminded vestry members that there needs to be a new vestry slate in place by the August 28th meeting. Jane Welsh (Senior Warden) would be coming off, along with Susan Beattie, Anne Perring, and Valerie Morkevicius. A Junior Warden and three persons for 3-year terms are needed. If a person from the existing vestry is drafted into a new term, then someone would need to be found to complete the term of the person vacating the position. As a sidebar: at the end of the conversation, because she will be going off of the vestry, Anne Perring generously offered to dedicate some time, in the future, to helping with children's programs.

Budget & Finance Budgeting Process (Starting Early): Brooks Cato underscored what John Bowen had suggested earlier at the meeting—that the budget for 2025 would be ready for review at the general meeting in September.

Core Priorities: Sabbatical Roles and Expectations

Brooks Cato informed the vestry that he and the wardens have put together a list of expectations of individual staff and others who play various roles within the parish community. In the rector's absence the wardens are in charge of the parish; they coordinate everything. They will put together *Tidings* as well. Leah Schmitt will serve as the point of contact. The Pastoral Care Commission will continue on with their work as usual. The Rev. Steve White will be on call for pastoral emergencies. Jane Welsh stated that she will make her cell phone number available, and she urged everyone to phone her if they have any questions or concerns.

Continued from Page 12

Announcements:

Announcements: Announcements of importance to the parish were made.

Next meeting: The next meeting falls on May 26th, which coincides with Memorial Day weekend. (Perhaps the meeting will be moved? All things will become clear in the fullness of time.)

Fr. Brooks' Last Sunday: This will be May 12th.

Prayer Leader: Valerie Morkevicius offered to lead prayer at the opening of the next vestry meeting.

At this point Brooks Cato suggested that the meeting was at an end. Jane Welsh moved that it be over; Maureen Ghent seconded the motion. (In fact, everyone present seconded this motion.) The meeting ended at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cerasano, Clerk



Church Cookbook

Thanks to a steady stream of recipes, we've decided to extend the deadline for submissions! If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share, an old friend's go-to dish, or something you wish Central New Yorkers knew how to do just like your grandma did, send your submissions to the office at stchurch@cnyemail.com

We're looking to finalize and publish in the Fall.

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. This will continue throughout the Summer.



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.



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

AA Meetings at St. Thomas'

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is pleased to host an **open** meeting of Alcoholic Anonymous.

Group Name: 12 ½ Group of AA

Place: St. Thomas' Parish House, Godly Play Room. (Building behind the church, first room on the right).

Time: Sunday's at 3:00 PM

Happening in the Area: AA Meetings in Hamilton, NY

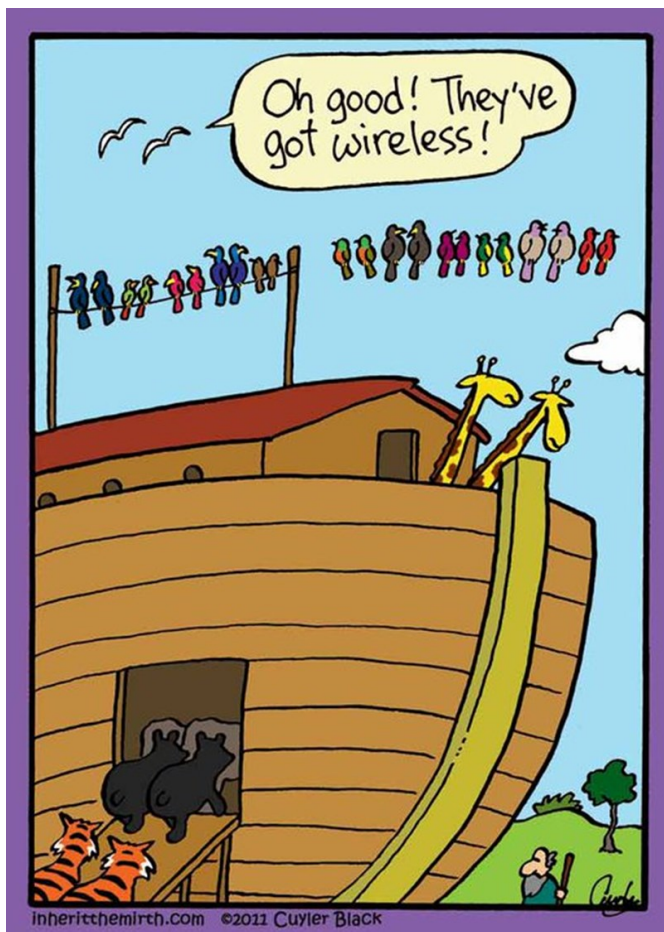
TIME	NAME	LOCATION / GROUP	ADDRESS / PLATFORM	REGION
Monday, 7:00 PM	<u>Hamilton on the Green</u>	<u>Hamilton on the Green</u> First Baptist Church	First Baptist Church 27 Broad Street	Hamilton
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	<u>Colgate University</u>	<u>Shaw Wellness Institute</u>	113 Broad Street	Hamilton
Friday, 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 May 31st

For those in need: Aster Dinku, Andrea Duncan-Tanner, Joan Fales, Justin Fitzgerald, Lisa Gee and her children, Kaia Harding, Amanda Harlan, John Hart, Nancy Heck, John Hull, Tim Johnson, Angela Jones, Sandra Jones, Pat Osowski, Joe Rupp, David Sturges, Patricia Tayntor, Ed Vantine, Chris Warren, Deb Willis, Joan Winkler, Pavla Zakova-Laney, Christine Watkins, Deb, Bill, & their family, Jerry & Roseann Fitzgerald, Anthony & Vincent Pacillo, Pat & Damon Simonds, Charles & Susan, Diane, Gordon, Jane, Jan, Janice, Jim, Kate, Mary, Maureen, Meral, Nick, Paula, Paul, Scot; Brice, Brian, Cassie, Dan, Dimitri, Katie, Gary, Richard, Rob, Travis; Jordan, Andrea, Russ, Evelyn, Ashley, and Taylor.

For the Departed: Carol Marshall.

On the Lighter Side



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June Thanksgivings

Birthdays: Ginny Lash (05/03), Jocelyn Martin (06/03), Juliana Catania (06/04), Philip Michelson (06/05), Greg Owens (06/05), Drew Brockway (06/05), Morgan Donahue (06/06), Sarah Wider (06/07), Janet O'Flynn (06/10), Sharon Stevens (06/13), Ingrida Morkevicius (06/14), Maureen Fox (06/16), Susan Cerasano (06/17), Max Michelson (06/17), Mollie Michelson (06/18), Andrew Robertson (06/19), Joseph Schmitt (06/19), Mattison Gunther (06/22), Shannon Fischer (06/25), Gemma Godfrey (06/25), Jon Speer (06/25), Anne Perry (06/26), Maxwell Johnson (06/26), Linda Bean (06/27), Emily Waight (06/27), Cameron Dye (06/29), Alexander Lindon (06/29), Steven Martin (06/30).

Baptism Anniversaries: Linden Muller (06/09), David Sturges (06/11), George Geier III (06/14), Barbara Page (06/17), Paul Schult (06/20), Courtney Trueworthy (06/23), Maxwell Johnson (06/25).

Marriage Anniversaries: Tracy & Gary Fountain (06/03), Susan & George Geier III (06/03), Rachel & Jeff Knapp (06/05), Fay & Harold Cole (06/12), Christine & Jeffrey Tuttle (06/22), Janet & Donnel O'Flynn (06/28), Pamela Novak & Manuel Lopez Zafra (06/28).

A Prayer

May we act in ways that bring us salvation from the oppressions of this world, from disease, from war, from famine, from food insecurity, from homelessness. May our actions be rooted in the joy that comes from your salvation.

—Sojourners

SCHMITT
DANCE
STUDIO 

ANNUAL RECITAL

JUNE 23
AT 2:00 PM

**DANCING
THROUGH THE
DECADES**

\$5 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR

EARLVILLE OPERA HOUSE THEATER

18 E MAIN STREET, EARLVILLE NY

JUNE 23, 2:00 PM



Fit for the King

2 Timothy 2:20, 21

~ Women, Workout, Worship & Word ~

Summer 4 week Personal Fitness Challenge

Fit for the King is a fitness program designed to develop a lifestyle of Biblical health. It is a workout class consisting of cardio, strength, balance, stretch and flexibility exercises; prayer, praise & worship.

Who: Women & teens, for **all levels fitness!!!**

Where: Madison United Methodist Church, Rt 20, Madison, NY

Wear: Comfortable fitness clothes & sneakers

When: 6:30- 8:00 pm Tuesdays in June (4,11,18,25) 4 week program

Bring: Water bottle & mat if you have one

Contact: Suzanne Haight 315-939-3347 *a suggested donation of \$5

***A trial class will be held Tues May 28 Please Come join me!!**

A Prayer

Rid us of our complacency and fill us with a sense of urgency for justice. May we devote ourselves to good works and meeting each other's needs.

—Sojourners

A Prayer

Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, faith looks up.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ten Commandments of Human Relations

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful greeting.
2. Call people by name—not names. Sweetest music is to hear one's name called.
3. Have humility. There is something to be learned from every living thing.
4. Be friendly. If you want to have a friend, be one.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is a pleasure.
6. Be interested in others. You can like almost everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.
8. Give your word; then keep it.
9. Be considerate of the feelings of others.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Scheduled to Serve
June 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
June 2	OT Martha Berry NT Maureen Fox	Amy Jerome	Ed Page	Jane Welsh	Michelle Coluzzi	Linda Jenks
June 9	OT Kerry Linden NT Vivi Linden 3 rd Reading Barb Bowen	NA *Deb Barker Leading Morning Prayer	Ed Page	Jane Welsh	Michelle Coluzzi	Linda Jenks
June 16	OT John Orr NT Barbara Bowen	Susan Cerasano	Ed Page	Linda Jenks	Michelle Coluzzi	Linda Jenks
June 23	OT Maureen Ghent NT Emily Hutton-Hughes	NA *Deb Barker Leading Morning Prayer	Ed Page	Linda Jenks	Michelle Coluzzi	Linda Jenks
June 30	OT Lynn Staley NT Wynn Eginton	Maureen Ghent	Ed Page	Susan Beattie	Michelle Coluzzi	Linda Jenks



Qidings
June 2024

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