

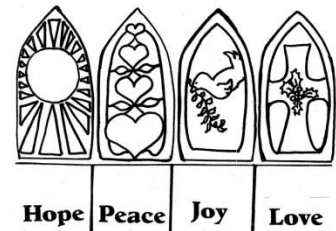
The Carpenter's Helper

December 23, 2018

St. Thomas's Parish, Newark, DE

302-368-4644

www.StThomasParish.org



WELCOME! Please introduce yourself to any of our parish family and complete our yellow Welcome Form found in the pew card-holder. Place the form into the alms basket or give it to an usher. Join us for fellowship in the Great Hall following services. Guests are invited to put on a handwritten blue name tag which an usher or greeter can give you. The ushers will also be glad to help with any questions you may have. Keep in touch via St. Thomas's web site at <http://stthomasparish.org/> or via St. Thomas's **Facebook** page. To join our Facebook community, you can go to our web site at <http://stthomasparish.org/> and click the Facebook ("F") link at the **top right**, log on to Facebook and *like* us.

Our Heavenly Creator, who has blessed this dedicated church family for 175 years, serving our community in your faith and love, we ask for guidance for our Parish, Search Committee and Vestry as we embark on the journey to mutual ministry with our next Rector. Bless us with your grace and fill us with knowledge and fortitude throughout this process. In the holy name of Jesus Christ, our savior, and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

Transition Topics

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS:

The Vestry and Search Committee of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Newark, Delaware announce with great joy and elation the acceptance of the call to serve as Rector; The Reverend Doctor Howell C. Sasser. Father Sasser is, at present, serving as Rector to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. We eagerly anticipate his arrival to St. Thomas's in early March, 2019. We ask God's blessing upon the other candidates. May they continue with God's grace on their journeys to future mutual ministries. We thank our Congregation, Search Committee, Consultant and Vestry for their hard work and continued support throughout this entire process. Respectfully yours in Christ, Regina M McCann, Senior Warden- St Thomas Vestry, Marilyn Prime, Chair – St. Thomas Search Committee, Donna Weaver, Chair – St. Thomas Search Committee.

Stewardship -- *Responsible Vestry Members – Rich Wadman & Denise Burgher*

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE – The 2019 contribution envelopes will be available on Sunday, December 9 on a table in the Great Hall. Please pick them up by January 7.

DID YOU KNOW YOU MAY BE ABLE TO USE YOUR IRA TAX-FREE?

In December 2014 Congress enacted legislation making QCDs (qualified charitable distributions) permanent. If you're over age 70 1/2, you can send up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity -- including St. Thomas's. The distribution is excluded from your gross income making it tax free. For more information, contact Amy Keach or your tax advisor.

THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR - Thanks to the support of our Parish, the Annual Bazaar was again a success with funds raised for Outreach in the Community. To those who gave generously of their talents to make and bake items for sale: THANK YOU!

Those who put time in helping set-up, break-down, and staffing in between those times deserve special mention. Thanks so much to: Ann Banning, Diane Baxter, Teresa Coons, Devon Miller Duggan, Fr. Ed Gooden, Jo-Ann and George Grier, Sue Houghton, Deb Kearns, Joy Lynam, Connie Malin, Marge and Jack

O'Donnell, Carol Palermo, Belinda Young-Payne and family, Marilyn Prime, Phyllis Rawling, and Donna Rotandi.

Your support makes it possible to supply funds for organizations in our community who provide much needed assistance to our neighbors. Thank you all. Barb and Jackie

Worship— *Responsible Vestry Members – Judy Grabowski & Ronnie Wilbur*

GREENING OF THE CHURCH - The Greening of the Church for Christmas will take place immediately after the 10:30 Eucharist on December 23. All parish members are invited to help the Flower Guild place potted plants and hang evergreen roping and wreaths. Stay after the service, and have some floral fun! Many thanks, Rue Manning, for the Flower Guild

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES – Services for Christmas Eve will be 5:30 pm for the Carol singing followed by the Children's Pageant with Holy Eucharist and 10:30 pm for Carol singing followed by Christmas Midnight Mass. Christmas Day Service will be at 9:30 am.

FOURTH SUNDAY CHOIR - This year I am trying a new idea to help interest anyone out there to sing with the choir. Here is my plan: It is called *Fourth Sunday Choir*.

On the 4th Sunday of each month (not necessarily the last Sunday...) anyone who is interested in singing with the choir will be encouraged and welcomed. This will also involve the Thursday evening rehearsal just before that Sunday, for the first part of the rehearsal. The anthems for these Sundays will be fairly uncomplicated and the choir will already have rehearsed them. New singers will be able to sing either the melody or try one of the other parts, depending on their voice range.

This idea is different than the Summer Choir in that new singers will be expected to attend the prior Thursday's rehearsal for the first half-hour or so. If they can't then they wouldn't sing on the Sunday.

The strong choral tradition of St. Thomas's is in jeopardy unless a new wave of singers comes forth to make a commitment to our parish and our liturgy. Experiencing the joy and fellowship in the rehearsal room is an essential ingredient in understanding how important and rewarding this way of giving time and treasure is to the life of our parish.

Please consider giving this a try!

Thank you, and....CHEERS!

Marc Cheban

CENTERING PRAYER AT ST. THOMAS - *Be still and know that I am God.* Psalm 46:10

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our body, mind, and spirit to receive this gift. For more information contact Joe Corsello at 302-369-0330 or jmcorsello@gmail.com.

Education— *Responsible Vestry Member – Kristin Sausville*

CAMP ARROWHEAD – Brochures are now available in the Narthex for the summer of 2019 at Camp Arrowhead. Additional information regarding applications and costs are available from Belinda Young-Payne.

COPING WITH GRIEF - The daily struggle of missing loved ones that are no longer with us is always hard. The holidays are a time of gathering with family and friends, a time full of traditions and memories. It can be particularly difficult for those who are dealing with loss to navigate through the holiday season.

The Reverend Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon, LCSW, and Dr. Lisa DiRenzo will offer a grief workshop beginning November 4 between the two Sunday services starting at 9:15 am. We will accept input from the group as to whether to continue meeting at that time or choose another more convenient time for members. Please call Adele Meredith at the church office, 302-368-4644, to register.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS NEEDED -: Please consider the INVITATION to join the St. Thomas's children's ministries team. It is a wonderful ministry that richly blesses everyone involved. The children teach and inspire us as much as we do them. And the team members are tremendous supports and inspiration to each other. We are so thankful for all the children and adults who have been and still are a part of the program. However, we need new faces to join us. Maybe God is calling you?

“Teaching” involves an average commitment of two Sundays a month and an hour or two of preparation the week you are the lead teacher. We teach in teams of two so you would be lead teacher an average of once a month. If you are more comfortable being the helper teacher each time, that is fine too. If you feel called to be a part of children's ministry in any way, please contact Belinda Young-Payne via email at belmar43@aol.com or by phone at 302-388-4017 (cell) or 302-832-8834 (landline).

NOVEL THEOLOGY – The reading list for the coming year's Novel Theology is below.

January 13	<i>The Hidden Flame</i>	Davis Bunn
February 10	<i>The Centurion's Wife</i>	Davis Bunn
April 14	TBA	
May 12	<i>Remarkable Creatures</i>	Tracy Chevalier

For further information or questions please contact Susan Hechter at susanahechter@gmail.com or 302-738-9918.

Evangelism – Responsible Vestry Members – Joe Corsello, Cana Hartman & Joy Lynam

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY – New parish directories are available in the office. Look for the directory with the BRIGHT PINK cover!!

Pastoral Care – Responsible Vestry Members – Rejane DeMoraes & Marilyn Prime

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY – The Pastoral Care Ministry provides many services to our parish family. When you know of a need or can lend a hand, please contact Donna Weaver at dweaver214@gmail.com, your Vestry leaders Marilyn Prime and Rejane DeMoraes, or the parish of

CHRIS DONOHO MEDICINE MINISTRY - Did you know that medical expense assistance is available from St Thomas's Chris Donoho Medicine Ministry account? We have a small endowment in memory of Chris Donoho which generates interest designated to be used for medical expenses (doctor appts., medicine, equipment, etc.). If you, or someone you know, in need of help with medical expenses, please contact Fr. Ed or any member of the Finance Committee for details. Please do not let a lack of money keep you from taking the medications you need or from seeing a doctor.

Service – Responsible Vestry Member

CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. - Save these dates as opportunities to come together in community, to remember and celebrate, the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Activities:

SATURDAY, January 19: Clean-up Day - Hope Dining Room

Kingswood United Methodist Church

300 Marrows Road

Newark, DE 19713

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, January 20: Community Worship Service

St. John A.M. Church

77 New London Road

Newark, DE 19711

Limited seating; call to RSVP 302-731-5390
3:00 p.m.

MONDAY, January 21: *Reflections - Letter from Birmingham Jail*

Newark Branch NAACP and
Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow present
Newark United Methodist Church
69 East Main Street
For church lot parking: 62 East Delaware Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

DONATIONS: We will be collecting donations of **new, still packaged**, underwear (all ages, sizes, & genders) to be distributed by Clothing Bank of Delaware. If you have questions about these events feel free to contact me. Many thanks, and Merry Christmas, Cami Seward

BLUE HEN BOUNTY NEEDS RE-STOCKING- The fall semester is coming to an end but, that does not mean that students are not hungry. *Blue Hen Bounty*, ECM's and St. Thomas' food pantry for U of D students is in need of food -*especially instant food like Easy Mac, canned tuna, and other instant one-serve meals, snacks such as crackers and granola bars, and non-perishable breakfast foods.* Please bring your contributions to the stage in the Great Hall.

HOLY HEARTS AND HELPING HANDS - We ask your prayers and help to purchase a gift card that could help provide a tank of gas or buy some needed grocery staples at a local store. The office is currently out of gas and grocery cards. Please give them directly to Adele Meredith or put in an envelope marked to Adele's attention and place in the offering plate. **Donations of gift cards are always welcome – will you help??**

NEWARK AREA WELFARE COMMITTEE'S FOOD CUPBOARD - There is a current need for folks to transport the food that has been collected over to Newark United Methodist Church. There is also a continuing need for **small jars of mayonnaise, grape or strawberry jam or jelly, canned fruit, and canned tomatoes.** Contributions go in the baskets as you enter the nave. The NAWC Food Cupboard **also needs volunteers** to distribute food at the Cupboard housed at the United Methodist Church on Main St. The Cupboard hours are from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information contact Susan Hechter at 302-738-9918 or susanahechter@gmail.com.

GO BAGS NEEDED - NEC is currently at a critical shortage of Go Bags. ***There are none in stock.*** Please ask your congregation to provide Go Bags as quickly as possible. Don't wait until you've collected supplies for 50 or so. Even 15-20 will help for now. Use your social media. Host a Go Bag Party. Ask your office friends. Don't keep it a secret!

The contents, all assembled in a 1 gallon zip lock bag, with a napkin and spoon are: individual Chef Boyardee meals in microwaveable container, snack cracker packs (cheese or peanut butter), granola type bars, individual fruit cup or applesauce, box or pouch drink.

"CHRISTMAS FOR ALL" is going to be held at Calvary Baptist Church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Calvary is opening its doors at 4 PM Christmas Eve and plans to serve a Christmas Eve Feast to all homeless or displaced persons who accept the invitation. They will stay overnight there and be served a hot breakfast on Christmas Day and Santa will visit with gifts at 9 AM. In order for this to happen, all the participating churches in Newark, will need to step up. Here are some things you could provide: **FOOD:**

ham, turkey, beef, sides, desserts and canned sodas. Egg casseroles or pastries (in disposable pans). Lunch meat, rolls, individual chip bags. **GIFTS:** \$10 gift cards to Wawa or McD, insulated gloves, warm socks, hand warmers, new underwear - all types and sizes, LED flashlights. **WORKERS:** They are very grateful for 1 hour, 4 hours... of your help. IF you can help out, give Tom Perkins a call to volunteer: 302-731-8193 (home) or 302-465-2070 (cell). There will be a box in the great hall, on the window side, labeled "Christmas For All". They will take it over to Calvary on the 23rd of Dec at noon. Please have any donations in it by that time. If you would like to donate something that needs refrigeration, put it in the church frig and mark it: "Christmas For All", and it will be taken that as well. MANY Blessings for being the hands and feet of Jesus, in Newark. If you have questions, please call Madeline Johnson at 484-508-8557 or mad1240@comcast.net.

Parish Calendar

*Location Key C: Classroom CO: Counter's Office GH: Great Hall K: Kitchen MR: Music Room
N: Nave P: Parlor U: Undercroft TBD: to be determined*

Sunday, December 23, 2018

8:00 am	N	Holy Eucharist – Rite I	6:30 am	C	Serenity at Sunrise
9:00 am	U	Youth Confirmation	5:00 pm	C	Network Delaware
9:15 am	U	Nursery	7:30 pm	MR	Choir
9:15 am	P	Adult Education			
9:30 am	U	Children's Worship			
10:30 am	N	Holy Eucharist – Rite II			
11:45 pm	GH, K	Hospitality Hour			
12:00 pm	N	Greening of the Church			
7:00 pm	GH	UD Ballroom Dance Team			

Friday, December 28, 2018

6:30 am	C	Serenity at Sunrise
12:00 pm	U	Al-Anon
6:30 pm	U	Women's AA Meeting

Saturday, December 29, 2018

Monday, December 24, 2018

6:30 am	C	Serenity at Sunrise
5:30 pm	N	Carol Singing
6:00 pm	N	Children's Pageant & Holy Eucharist
10:30 pm	N	Carol Singing
11:00 pm	N	Christmas Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 30, 2018

9:30 am	N	Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion
		GH, K Hospitality Hour
7:00 pm	GH	UD Dance Team

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Christmas Day – Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

6:30 am	C	Serenity at Sunrise
10:30 am	C	Bible Study
6:00 pm	P	Centering Prayer
8:00 pm	GH	South College Speakers

Thursday, December 27, 2018

Contact Information

276 South College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19711

Office phone number - 302-368-4644
Church office hours Monday – Thursday 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Parish Office: **302-368-4644**
Website: <http://StThomasParish.org>
Facebook page: StThomasEpiscopalChurchNewarkDelaware
Parish Email: email@StThomasParish.org

Interim Rector: The Rev. Edward E. Godden
302-373-7999 eegodden@gmail.com

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon
302-530-3493 csawhar@udel.edu

Organist & Choir Director: Marc F. Cheban
302-220-9680 a1b2celest@yahoo.com

Administrator: Adele Meredith 302-368-4644
adelemeredithstthomas@gmail.com

Children’s Ministry: Belinda Young-Payne belmar43@aol.com
302-368-4644

Youth Ministry: Alex Cook 302-593-9044
acookbook27@gmail.com

Pastoral Care: Donna Weaver 302-753-1910
dweaver214@gmail.com

Registrar: Wendy Campbell
302-368-9562 wjcampbell7@yahoo.com

Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM): Denise Burgher, Convening Advisor
dburgher@ude.edu 323-627-4782
Devon Miller-Duggan, Faculty Advisor 302-388-4758

Business Manager: Dominic Berta 302-738-4696
Sexton: Brian Smith 302-368-4644