

July 19, 2020

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE
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weekly newsletter

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week..we pass the Peace of the Lord around, in new ways

HOPE DINING ROOM OPPORTUNITY

The Hope Dining Room, located in the basement of the Kingswood United Methodist Church, provides a noontime meal for all who are hungry. We would like to pull together a combined team of St. Thomas and St. Nicholas parishioners to help feed those in our community who need help. They have an opening for a church group to take the 3rd Monday of every month. We would plan to break the duty into bite-size pieces and there is a large table in the middle of the kitchen, where people with limited-mobility could sit and chop veggies or otherwise contribute to the making of the meal. A sample schedule looks like this:

Prep the meal- 9:45 AM - 11:45 AM Serving- 11:45 - 1 PM Dishwasher- 11:15 - 1:15

During the pandemic, all serving is done as a "grab and go" lunch, outside. Masks are worn and social distancing is practiced. These practices are also in effect in the kitchen, which can comfortably have 6 people in it at a time.

You could donate to the cause by dropping a check at either church, with "Hope Dining Room" on the memo line. You could be a one-time volunteer, or sign up by the month, if the day we work is convenient for you (3rd Monday). If you would like to be on the volunteer list, please drop me an email or call me.

MANY Blessings,

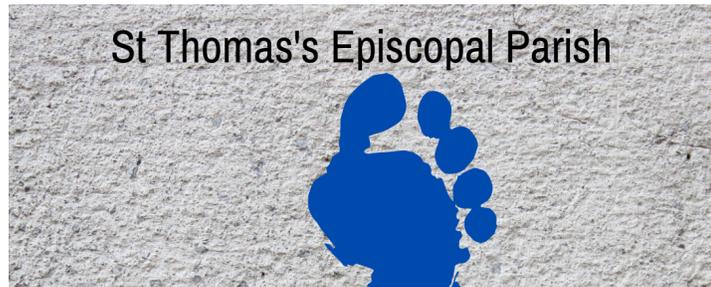
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During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well. We are worshiping via live streaming on YouTube (See our YouTube Channel and hit Subscribe!). The full-text bulletins for our services can be found on our website, and by email request.

We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark Community through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page.

Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them, and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times. May God bless you and keep you, now and always. For more, see the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware COVID-19 site.

**Contact the office to join
in the movement!**



**SOUL
SURRENDERERS**



*racing for our lives
and the lives of those affected by
COVID-19!*

A FUN FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY

passing the peace with postcards

Communal practices like post-game handshakes are simple but profound. They are actions that speak louder than words, actions that reinforce our values (such as sportsmanship). Christian worship is filled with symbolic actions: heads bowed in prayer, arms raised in praise, standing in reverence during a Scripture reading. One ancient and significant gesture in worship is the passing of the peace. Passing the peace is a tradition, rooted in Scripture, that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20) and trains our hearts, hands, and minds in the ways of peace.

From the beginning Christians have exercised this practice. “Peace be with you” is a greeting Jesus himself used with his disciples. The apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words “Grace and peace be with you”. The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. In the midst of earthly divisions, we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs, and recently socially distanced bows, messages of peace in our online chats, and virtual hugs.

It’s important to recognize the cumulative impact of weekly passing of the peace. By regularly practicing this gesture, our hearts are shaped in the form of the words. Consider the daily practice of teaching toddlers to say “please” and “thank you.” Though at the beginning the toddler mechanically repeats the words, eventually her heart fills the words with grace and gratitude. In the same way, passing the peace gives us the vocabulary for expressing peace as we grow in faith and, in fact, shapes our hearts and minds to extend that peace out into the world.

This week, look for a packet to be delivered to your home. In it is an opportunity to pass the peace around our faith family. In the envelope, you will find two postcards: each is stamped and addressed to another household in the parishes of St Thomas or St Nicholas. We ask that you take a moment to reflect on these faith family members and say a prayer. Then, write in an encouraging message and drop in the mail. You may not know these members directly, but knowing the faith that we have in common, there is a message of hope to share. Within a few days, you can look forward to receiving similar messages, and **know that there are others in our family that are thinking of you and praying for you.**

Thank you for your participation in this FUN fellowship project. Please note that this was made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor.



A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU,
THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU,
THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

-John 13:34