

August 30, 2020

St. Thomas's Episcopal Parish  
276 S. College Ave Newark, DE  
302.368.4644 StThomasParish.org

weekly newsletter

# The Carpenter's Helper

*This Week..we are looking at the sunny FUTURE*

## Announcing the 2020-2021 Adult Christian Education Season

### Short Courses

9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18

#### **What We Believe, What We Share**

a short course in comparing religions

12/6-12/13, 12/20

#### **Ordinary Virtues**

spirituality the Lord of the Rings

2/28, 3/7, 3/14

#### **The Sacramental Life**

examining baptism, Eucharist, burial rites  
and other sacraments

4/25, 5/2

#### **The Episcopal Church**

theology & serving the children of God

### Special Events

November 1

#### **The History of St Thomas's**

January 17

#### **Absalom Jones**

February 21

#### **Book of Common Prayer**

May 16

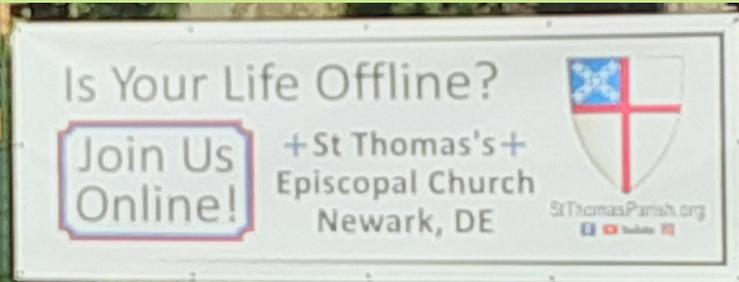
#### **The Order of St John**

**Given the need for precautions to keep everyone healthy, we will offer all our programs in person and virtually, at 10:30 on Sundays. Please visit our website, [StThomasParish.org](http://StThomasParish.org), for more information about these stellar offerings.**

**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.

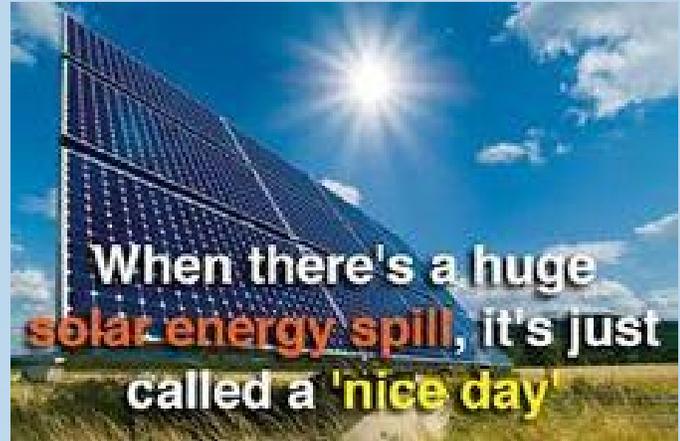
We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark Community through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page.

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.



# The vestry voted unanimously on Sunday to approve the installation of solar panels at St. Thomas.

We are grateful to Jerry Schultz for leaving St. Thomas money at his death for solar panels to kick off the formal investigation process. Jerry was a treasured long-time parishioner who counted, served on the vestry, and helped with Code Purple among the many hats he wore at St. Thomas. He was also a retired UD professor of chemical engineering and materials science, and a very talented musician. Additionally, his donation led to a formal energy audit at the church last fall which revealed several opportunities to reduce our energy use and expenses.



We would like to thank Judi Gregory, Tom Fairchild, Wayne Weaver, Alan Lynam, Jill Jensen, Barry Gregg, Sue Houghton, Peggy Schultz, and our friends at Delaware Interfaith Power & Light for their all their help and support with the project. We are pleased to provide the following answers to frequently asked questions.

## FAQ's

Where will the solar panels go?

They will be installed on the south side of the nave roof.

How many trees need to be cut down or topped?

None. The roof receives enough sunlight for the solar panels to operate properly.

How much do the solar panels cost?

After Jerry's financial contribution is taken into account, St. Thomas will lease the panels for 10 years at a fixed annual cost of \$1,700. CleanEnergy USA guarantees 23,165 kWh of electricity worth approximately \$3,900 per year in 2020 for an annual net savings of \$2,200. As the City of Newark raises their cost for electricity the savings are expected to grow while the lease payments remain fixed.

What happens to the warranty on the new roof?

CleanEnergy USA accepted responsibility for the workmanship warranty on the areas where the solar panels are installed. The materials warranty remains unaffected by the installation of the solar panels.

When will they be installed?

Installation will occur in the fall after permits are obtained and site work is complete.

What happens if the solar panels break?

The panels are monitored by CleanEnergy USA and come with a 25 year warranty.

What happens at the end of the 10-year lease period?

We have 90 days to ask CleanEnergy USA to remove the panels at no cost to us or we may assume ownership of the panels.

Why are you leasing the panels and not buying them?

The cost to purchase solar panel is inflated for tax credits that flow to buyers. As a non-profit organization, we would not be able to use the tax credits.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Amy, Sue, or Jill.