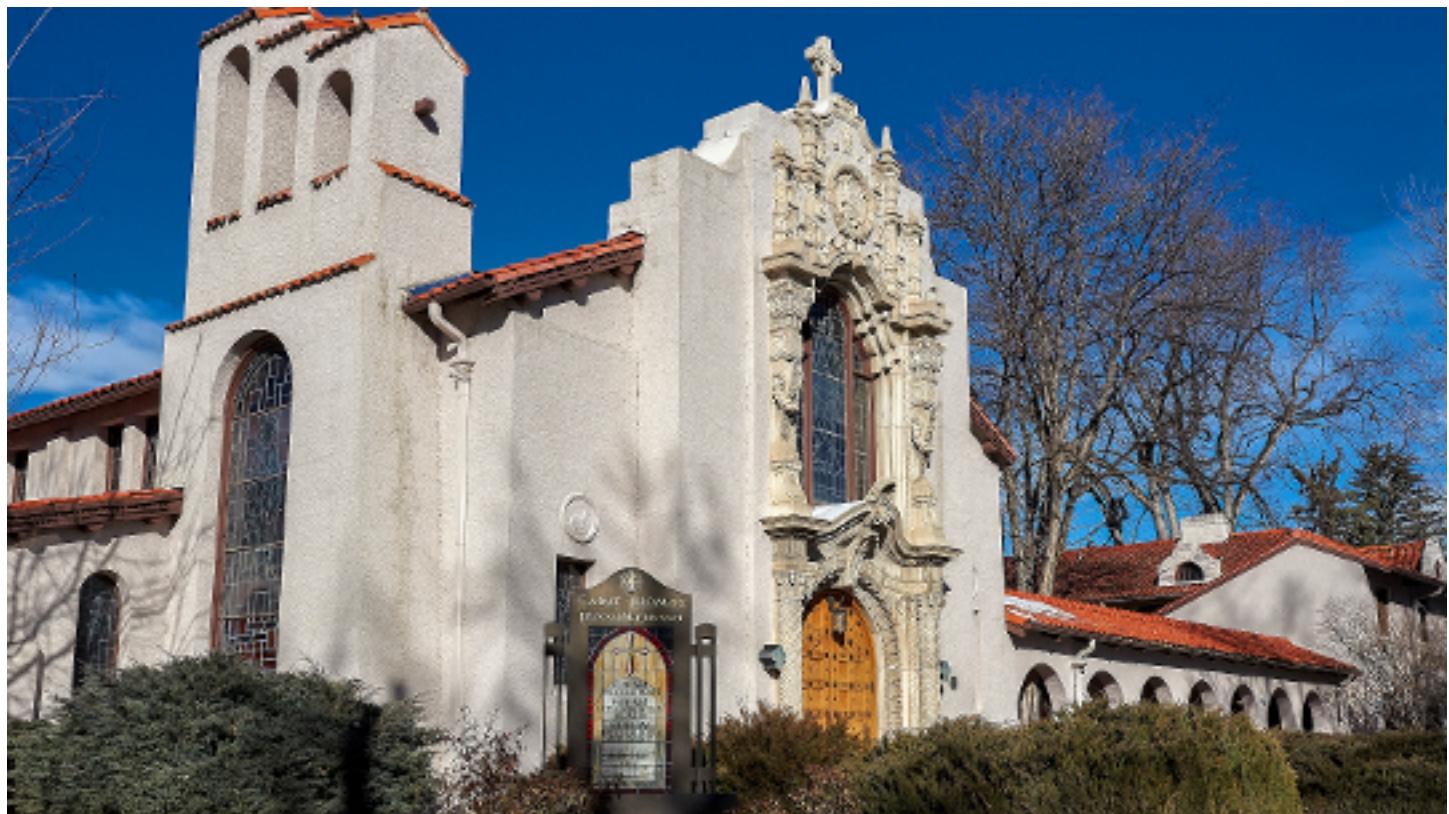




BOLD LIVING

August 2018

*The newsletter of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
diverse ... Christ-centered ... committed*



Fred Mast

St. Thomas Parishioners Work to Prevent Firearm Violence

By Mike Earnest on behalf of GSIP

I awoke today and turned on 9News, hearing "Mass shooting in Toronto leaves two dead and a dozen injured". Tonight I read emails about the US Government preparing to allow downloading and 3-D printing of hand guns. Our national firearm violence epidemic continues to grow. The legions of money and power continue their immoral work.

I know from my reading that we have over 300 million firearms in private hands and homes in the U.S. Over 34,000 people die in firearm violence here every year (about 95 per day, 4 per hour). Among the developed nations of the world we are the leading nation for firearm violence and we are the leading exporter of firearms to nations throughout the world. We now are exporting our violence to Canada. (A friend of mine who leads the Zero Gun Violence Movement in Toronto told me that half of firearm violence deaths there are caused by guns traceable to the U.S.)

Many of us at St. Thomas have said "Enough! No more!" About four years ago several of us gathered as the Gun Safety and Injury Prevention (GSIP) group. We quickly found and led St. Thomas to join the Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence. CFCU is composed of 38 Colorado communities of faith - Christian congregations, Jewish synagogues, Muslim mosques, and Unitarian/Universalist churches. We are active together to end firearm violence in our communities.

Working with CFCU, St. Thomas parishioners have lobbied the state legislature to pass measures that will reduce firearm violence and have attended rallies and vigils calling for a cease fire in our state. Recently we met with Mayor Michael Hancock and also with the

Director of the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment, urging them to set a plan and goal of "Zero Firearm Deaths in Denver by 2030". They received our proposal favorably and so invited CFCU to serve on a mayor-appointed commission, a forum where we will promote our views, working with several Denver city departments and other public interest groups!

At the June 24 Adult Forum here at St. Thomas, Rev. Justi and our GSIP group discussed these plans with about 25 interested parishioners and heard their ideas. Thanks to all of you who joined the discussion. Special thanks to you who offered to help.

Do you want to join our efforts to end the horrible epidemic of firearm violence in Denver, in Colorado and in our nation? We invite your ideas, your energy, your prayers, your donations and your joining our working groups. Interested? See Rev. Justi or Mike Earnest (303 355-7436).

May the Peace of the Lord be with us all,
Mike

LIBRARY CORNER

David McCullough, *John Adams*; Fanny Fern, *Ruth Hall and Other Writings*

Abigail Adams is one of my heroes. So I was pleased to see that one of the readings for our July 4 service was an excerpt from one of her letters to her husband, John Adams, written on March 31, 1776, when he was a member of the Continental Congress. If you weren't at the service, here is the heart of what she has to say to him: "I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

It is interesting to me to see the variety of reactions this letter gets. A fairly typical response is that of David McCullough, in his fascinating cultural biography, *John Adams*, which he could easily have titled *John and Abigail Adams*. McCullough opines, "[Abigail Adams] was not being entirely serious. In part, in her moment of springtime gaiety, she was teasing him. But only in part". (105) While it is true that the tone of the letter is light in places, I have no doubt that Abigail's request was completely serious. (McCullough also notes that in writing "Remember all men would be tyrants if they could", she is borrowing a line from a poem by Daniel Defoe that was familiar to both of the Adams—strengthening her case by alluding to a powerful male writer.)

By contrast, John Adams' response was deliberately light and dismissive. He begins, "I cannot help but laugh." His letter is more than troubling in light of the history of women's rights in this country: "Depend on it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems. . . . We have only the name of masters, and rather than give up this, which would completely subject us to the despotism of the petticoat, I hope General Washington and all our brave heroes would fight." What is interesting about this

response is that as a lawyer, Adams would have been fully aware of the legal situation of women of the time; Abigail's assessment of "such unlimited power" in the hands of husbands was accurate.

The problems with the failure to address women's rights in the 18th century are clear in the history and in literature written by American women writers in the 19th century. My favorite of these writers, and another of my heroes is Sara Willis Parton, whose pen name was Fanny Fern. She is not well known now, but in the second half of the 19th century, she was the most popular writer in the country (and that included Emerson, Thoreau, and Walt Whitman, who benefited from his association with Parton). I would recommend Fanny Fern, *Ruth Hall and Other Writings*, edited by feminist scholar Joyce W. Warren, who also wrote a fascinating biography of Fern, *Fanny Fern: An Independent Woman*.

Ruth Hall is a fictionalized account of Sarah Willis Parton's own life. Her first husband died young, leaving her with two young daughters to raise and no way of earning money. Her wealthy family's solution was a marriage to an abusive husband, and in spite of all the odds against her, Ruth, like Sarah, divorces, begins to write and finally is able not only to survive, but to thrive, marrying for a third time to a much younger and truly supportive man. The novel was dismissed by literary critics, who attacked Parton personally and called the novel overly sensational. They couldn't admit that the sensational incidents she portrays in the novel were the real life experiences of many nineteenth century women, who had few rights of any kind.

We might think of both Abigail Adams and Sarah Willis Parton as ahead of their time. I highly recommend McCullough's *John Adams* for its picture of John and Abigail Adams as remarkable individuals and as an example of a true partnership in marriage, the kind that Willis found only late in life. McCullough draws a vivid picture of a marriage that endured long separations, in the colonies and later in Europe. The Adamses wrote more than a thousand letters during their marriage, and these clearly sustained them. The letters also give a clear picture of their strong bond and mutual respect.

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Given the strong marriage and his love for the beautiful, intelligent resilient woman he had married, one would wish there had been a better response to Abigail's request that John and the other "founding fathers" "remember the ladies." Perhaps things might be different even now.

(In this review, I have departed from the usual practice of reviewing only books from the Emery Library. The McCullough book on John Adams is readily available. If you want *Ruth Hall*, I would go to Rutgers University Press and search for it (Joyce W. Warren, the editor, is listed as the author.) Used book sellers on Amazon are asking incredible prices for used copies. I have personal copies of these books

and am also willing to share them.)

Library news: The library is locked for security much of the time now, but I am planning to spend a half hour or so there after the service on August 12 so you can return books or check out new ones if you would like to do that. We will resume book tables in September.

-Elsie Galbreath Haley

Your Junior Warden has been charged with cleaning out our space to make ready for new and exciting Building Use in the future. Therefore, with Rev.'s blessing going forward our new gift policy is below.

Thank you-

Your Junior Warden

Gift Policy:

No gifts of furniture or other bulky items, and the like will be accepted unless expressly approved by your Wardens or Justi to ensure that our space doesn't become a catch all for things that might not be suitable for general use. Instead of gifts of this nature, members of the parish are asked to prayerfully consider other gifts that directly support the general fund and mission of St. Thomas. This way we in leadership can continue to look at ways to truly fund our ministries and programs that St. Thomas desires to support and promote.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Marti Smith
- 13 – Joe Taylor
- 17 – John Ahlenius
- 20 – Stephen Hubka
- 21 – A'shanti Harris
- 22 – Scott Bates, Barbara Harrison
- 23 – Julie Overland
- 28 – Olivia DeCecco; Ed Schmidt; Leslie Stewart

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 – Michael & Kristi Caston; Jim & Tana Knopf
- 17 – Rafael & Alison Atayde
- 19 – David Wilhelm & Jean Emery
- 22 – Nathalie & Tory Moir
- 25 – John & Diane Pritchard
- 27 – Charles & Laurel Sparks

Art of Passing*:

By Jon Moore

Rules:

1. No limp wrists
2. Don't swish your hips or walk "girly."
3. Deepen your voice
4. Keep flamboyance to yourself
5. No grand gestures or expressive body language
6. Don't wear bright colors that bring attention or exude any sort of feminine or "soft" qualities
7. Don't react to pain or act "sissy."

I giggle a bit to myself as I am typing out this list, but not too long ago I would have said these were unnegotiable. As a gay child growing up in a community (a devout Catholic community), I regularly had to remind myself to act and present the "right" way. It took a lot of work to say the heck with it all and just embrace me for me. Yet, still biased and stereotypical perceptions of "gay" persist. This can be particularly true in Church where the LGBT+ community is just beginning to claim their voice in the conversation. To be a true ally to me means that my cisgender straight counterparts don't just look for "signs" of who is LGBT+ but looks beyond social constructs and just sees "me" as an individual and human equally blessed and loved by God. If you have felt "expected" to act in a certain way to gain acceptance let's talk (privately of course). Email: moorjon@gmail.com. Let's create dialogue at St. Thomas and once and for all be Christian toward the "outcast" and marginalized in our midst. Let us truly love without all the preconceived "rules." Let us just love!

* As I have experienced it.

Wanted:

Donation of \$200.00 for Garden Tool Shed before Fall and Winter set in so we can store tools and garden supplies. Please contact the Junior Warden via email (moorjon@gmail.com) if interested in contributing. Thank you in advance.



Annual Mass in the Grass and Parish Picnic

When: Sunday, August 19, 2018

Where: Congress Park Pavilion

Time: Mass at 9:00 am with Picnic to Follow

St. Thomas and friends, let's celebrate summer, friendship, and fellowship with this wonderful parish tradition. Moving the liturgy outdoors one day a year is a special experience. There will be great food, music, and games. Families of all sizes, shapes, and backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to attend. See y'all out there St. Thomas!

Please sign up in Great Hall to bring a side or main dish.
Free Will offering.

Dear Partners in Mission,

Jesus brought many gifts to the people of Israel and surrounding people while he was here, including physical and spiritual healing. Jesus also gave the gift of teaching, including teaching us how to pray. Birthdays here are a special occasion. If I had a celebration at all back in Colorado, it was a quiet dinner with a few friends or something like that, with most years passing with little acknowledgment. Maybe that would have changed in the last 11 years, but here birthdays have always seemed a bigger event, even for adults. As a member of the Iglesia Episcopal Santa Cruz family, prayers are the primary gift on offer and what a special gift they are. Starting early in the morning there are prayers awaiting on the cell phone. Then a coworker swings by my office with a humble prayer full of love and blessings. Consolation visits were scattered with birthday greetings and prayers. Prayers continued in a surprise party at the neighbor's house as each person present offered their comments, prayers and blessings. I am fine with low recognition on my birthday, but what a truly remarkable gift to have a day filled with multiple prayers, spoken aloud to me. Birthday or not, prayer is a very special gift that we should freely give to others, not only offering the private, quiet prayers during personal devotion time or the communal prayers during worship services. Is someone you know needing this precious gift, which costs nothing except a little time?

I am looking forward to the chance to visit with you during the fall term. If you are interested in scheduling a visit, please let me know, via email is best for now. May God continue to transform each of us into a more Christ-like version of who God created us to be!

In Christ,

Cathy Donahoe

Cathy Donahoe is a missionary with SAMS, the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders. She is serving in the Dominican Republic as a physical therapist in San Pedro de Macorís and Santo Domingo. E-mail:

cathyd@turbonet.com Donations can be sent to SAMS (checks made to SAMS with Cathy's name in the memo line for the general ministry or "Donahoe Project" for the construction ministry): PO Box 399, Ambridge, PA 15003. Snail mail: Apartado 587, San Pedro de Macorís, Dominican Republic 21000 website: www.cathydonahoe.weebly.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Ingathering on Sunday, August 5 – Our monthly ingathering of food on the first Sunday of the month benefits the Greater Park Hill Community Food Bank. The Servants for Justice Committee prepares sacks with lists of the most needed items. The sacks are available at the back of the church. If you would like to take a sack, fill it with one or many items, and return it on the first Sunday of the month, you will be helping to feed hungry neighbors.

Men's Group Breakfast – This month's meeting of the St. Thomas Men's Group will be on Saturday, August 11 at 8:30 am at the 35th Avenue Grill (Park Hill Golf Course), 4141 E. 35th Avenue, Denver.

The St. Thomas Social Justice Book Club with discuss *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, on Wednesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm in the second floor meeting room. The next month, we will meet on September 19 and discuss *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Daniel Tatum. Please join us!

Mass in the Grass & Parish Picnic - Sunday, August 19 – A wonderful event in our parish life is our annual Mass in the Grass, a 9:00 a.m. outdoor mass followed by a parish-wide picnic. Invite your friends and neighbors. All are encouraged to bring a side dish, salad, quiche or breakfast casserole to share; help us to plan by signing up on the sign-up sheet in the Great Hall or contacting the parish office at 303-388-4395. We'll be back at Congress Park this year, located at 8th Ave. and Josephine St.

Join the Choir – St. Thomas Choir practices resumes on Tuesday, August 21 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to join. Please contact LaDamion Massey for further information.

St. Thomas Coffee Hour – Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Great Hall after each service. We gladly welcome any contributions (store bought or home-made) or cash donations to help cover the cost. A coffee hour sign-up sheet is on the counter. Please sign up! Contact Peggy Weston at 720-998-5440 or sandspj2506@gmail.com with any questions.

Altar Flowers – A donation of altar flowers is a great way to remember loved ones, anniversaries, birthdays, and those who have gone on to sainthood before us. To donate flowers, please sign up on the poster in the Great Hall. Please indicate if you will bring your own flowers or the office will automatically order them with your \$50.00 donation.

Stay in the Loop – To sign up for St. Thomas electronic communications (weekly e-blasts and monthly *Bold Living* newsletter), please contact Maria in the parish office at 303-388-4395 or office@saintthomasdenver.org.

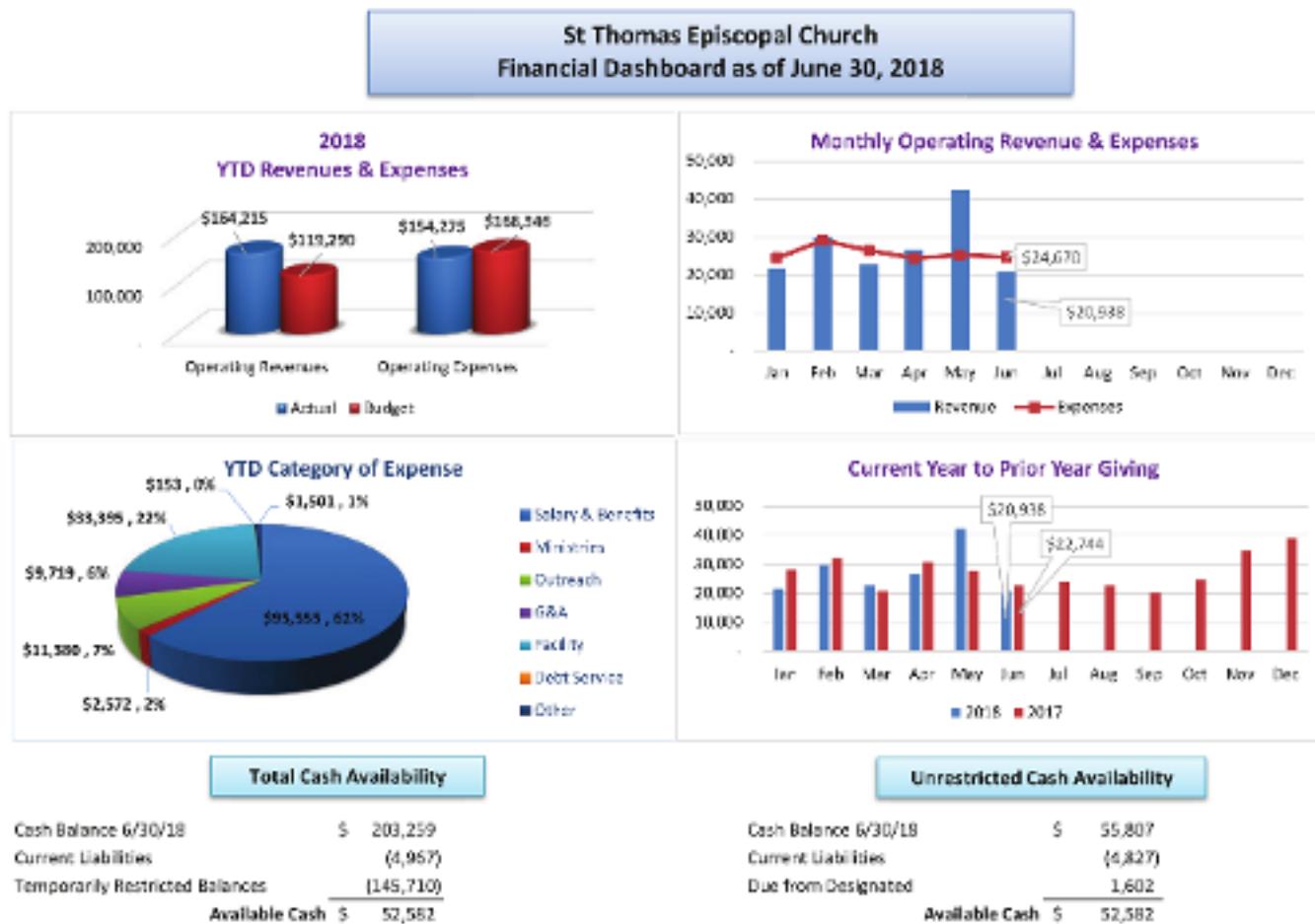
EVENTS AND MEETINGS IN AUGUST

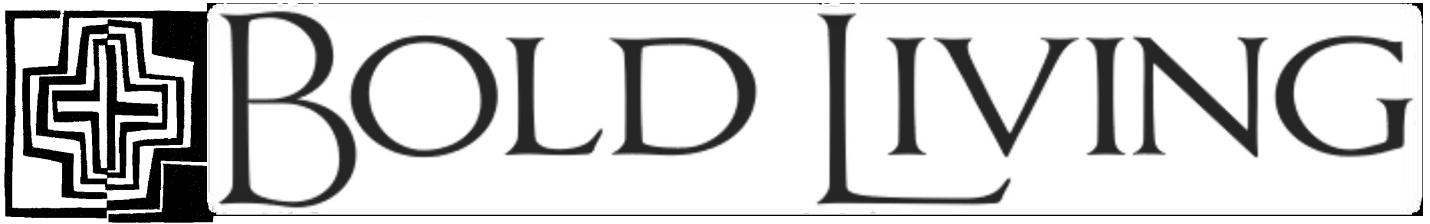
- 5 – Greater Park Hill Food Pantry Sunday
- 11 – Men's Group Breakfast at the Park Hill Golf Course at 8:30 am
- 15 – Social Justice Book Club at 7:00 pm
- 19 – Mass in the Grass & Picnic at Congress Park at 9:00 pm
- 20 – Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm
- 21 – St. Thomas Choir Practice resumes at 7:00 pm
- 23 – *Bold Living* Deadline for September issue

Weekly:

- Tuesday Morning Eucharist – Tuesdays at 9:15 am
- Theology Class – Tuesdays at 10:00 am
- A.A. – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
- Morning Prayer – Wednesdays at 7:00 am
- Al Anon – Fridays at noon
- Sunday Services – 9:00 am Summer Mass

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 2018





The newsletter of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
diverse ... Christ-centered ... committed

August 2018

saintthomasdenver.org
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
2201 Dexter Street
Denver, CO 80207

Our Mission

Boldly living with Christ, we open doors to God's household of love
as we welcome and embrace all people
through worship, service, and learning within and beyond our walls.