



BOLD LIVING

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

June 2014

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.

Rector's Reflections

The Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Rector



Our Abiding Place

If you are new to us, welcome. If you are newly returned, welcome. We are so happy you are here. And if you have been here a long while, thank you. Thank you for abiding in this community.

I've been praying lately with the "abiding" texts in the gospel of John. In this season of farewells and transitions, as we mark graduations and observe the feast of the Ascension, which is all about saying good byes, my thoughts have turned to what it takes to abide together amid all the chances and changes of this life.

In my Ascension sermon (which you can find on our website), I talk about the value of embracing the departures that are a necessary part of our lives and that help us grow.

Here, I would like to talk about the other side of that coin, the abiding we must do in order to have the "staying power" that lets us sustain departures and change of all sorts.

When the Jesus of John's gospel instructs his followers to abide in him as he abides in the Father, he uses a compelling word, "meno." This is one of John's favorite words. He uses it 34 times in the Gospel, and 19 times in his letters. It means to dwell, to stay no matter what. It has the sense of staying true to one's essential nature despite changes going on all around you. It means to persevere, to keep going. And, it also means to resolve to stay in a common purpose with others, even when it would be tempting not to do so.

This one word sums up the essence of Christian community. The fact that change will come is a given. The fact that times of departure are a part of the forward movement of life is a given. The fact that you and I will disappoint one another is a given. The fact that things will unfold that are not as we had hoped or anticipated is a given.

In the midst of all these givens, the strength we find in being Christ's body is reflected in this word "meno." There is an abiding place you and I are invited into through our baptism. We participate in it here at St. Thomas.

Christians dwell together in a manner not determined by conditions, such as our pleasing one another or meeting ideals we carry in our heads. Our dwelling together is not of our own making. It is not our wills or good intentions or even our noble actions that bind us together. It is nothing we do. It is rather who Christ has made us to be, despite all our sins. Christ has made us an abiding place for one another. Through his being, through his love, we become able to be more than we otherwise could be for one another...much more.

Our community is a communion not made by human hands. It is a strange, beautiful mystery that is constituted before our eyes every Sunday and experienced by each of us in a myriad of ways.

It sustains us through the chances and changes of this life and brings us sweet solace and immense strength.

And all of it is pure gift. Unpredictable, unmanageable. Undeserved. Simply given to us.

Praise God for our abiding place.

Deacon Speakin'

Deacon Sally

Dear St. Thomas Friends,



This month I would like to tell you a little more about The Servants for Justice. This group is busy learning about a new form of communication, which we hope will interest you all. Through the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), we are learning a technique called 'One on Ones', or relational meetings. This is not something the organization "created" but is a system for opening and deepening conversations to a new level.

In our context, our hope is to deepen our understanding of one another on a different level, with the goal of better understanding one another, what St. Thomas means to each of us, and how we can meet one another's needs in the future through joint experience. That sentence was difficult to create so if you didn't understand it, or if you have questions please feel free to ask me, or a Servant Member. There is no intention of prying, or trying to 'fix' St. Thomas, it is purely a relational experience allowing each of us to get to know each other, and learn from each other.

The relational meetings have not slowed our intentions to work on Habitat, Metro Care Ring, Family Promise (The next week is June 15th – June 22nd – please let Carla Henebry Branscombe or me know if you can help), Advocacy, Episcopal Relief and Development, etc. Please join us if you feel inclined. We are a goin' blowin' group of loving folks.

The following are currently members of Servants for Justice:

Scott Bates	Diane Pritchard
Melissa Jones	John Pritchard
Vicki Earnest	Ginny Smith
Elsie Haley,	Amanda Halpin
Mike Earnest	Rev Ruth
Barbara Medina	Deacon Sally
Peg Oldham	

God Bless all of you who are doing God's work,

Deacon Sally

Vestry Voices

Let's Wrap the Capital Campaign!

Vicki Earnest

You have read about the Capital Campaign in the past few months, you have heard about the Campaign during Sunday services, and you have had an opportunity to examine the architectural plans and artist drawings of the planned outcome of the remodeling project. Now you must make your



commitment to the future of St. Thomas! Consider these points:

- Rev. Ruth will be with us now and into the future. Hurrah!
- Redesigned ramps from the Courtyard into the Great Hall and kitchen area enhance handicap access. (Examine the drawing of the new Courtyard!)
- The Courtyard will be redesigned to prevent flooding, as happens when Denver experiences heavy rains. As part of this, the old tree will be removed and replaced with a younger, healthier tree.
- Two new ADA compliant bathrooms will be installed on the main floor. The bathroom on the second floor and bathrooms in the basement also will be updated.
- The remodeled kitchen will be durable, affordable, and more functional with better traffic flow and commercial grade appliances. (Examine the drawing of the beautiful new kitchen!) All the groups that use the kitchen will appreciate this!
- A small elevator will provide access to the lower and second level of the church for those whose mobility challenges participation in various activities.



The Campaign has received pledges from approximately half of parishioners who regularly pledge for our yearly budget. Now is the time for the other half to make a pledge and WRAP the Campaign!

Community Garden Update

Ginny Smith and Catherine Welch

Our Gardeners are on their way! Some have planted; some are still planning what to plant where. The pots of pansies survived the snow and cold and should perk up by the time the June Bold Living is published. The spot of ground cover - Veronica - that Rev. Catherine planted in the bench area last year amazingly survived and, hopefully, will spread this growing season. Our maple seems to be thriving!



We received seeds and transplants from Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), and Rev. Ruth signed our Agreement with DUG. It was delivered this past week. I will keep you informed of progress as we become a "DUG GARDEN."

Mulch for around the bases of the raised beds has been ordered and paid for out of our St. Thomas garden account. At our next Work Day we will have spread the mulch. Notice how beautiful our garden is looking!

Again this year, the majority of our produce will be delivered to MetroCareRing.

Library Corner

Spotting the Sacred in the Ordinary



Carol Donahoe

Several of the recent additions to the Emery Library offer readers meaningful reflections that highlight the spiritual aspects of rather ordinary everyday life experience.

Bright Evening Star: Mystery of the Incarnation by Madeleine L'Engle is a collection of twelve short vignettes based on some ordinary moments that reveal the presence of Christ. Extraordinary? Or truly ordinary?

Plan B: Further Thoughts for Faith by Anne Lamott who, according to *The San Francisco Chronicle*, is “walking proof that a person can be both reverent and irreverent in the same lifetime. Sometimes even in the same breath.”

Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith by Kathleen Norris – “In essay after polished essay, Norris blows a breeze of linguistic precision and profound theological thoughtfulness across words like ‘Hell’ and ‘Virgin Birth’ ... a dazzling and independent spiritual thinker” ... - *The Seattle Weekly*

Zen for Christians by Kim Boykin is a step-by-step guide to Zen meditation practices written especially for Christians. According to the book jacket, it offers Christians a way to incorporate Zen practices into their lives without compromising their beliefs and faith.

For Families:

City Foxes, Photography by Wendy Shattil and story by Susan J. Tweit, will surely delight you, whatever your age. This urban fox adventure invites spiritual reflection on the wonders inherent in nature. Interesting “Fox Facts” are included. If your family are city dwellers you may have some of these furry urbanites in your neighborhood. We do!

St. Thomas' Emery Memorial Library is located on the second floor overlooking the patio. It is open on Sunday mornings and week days whenever the building is open. Feel free to visit and browse!

Cathy's Caribbean Quarterly

Dear Partners in Mission,

Gilda, the wife of one of our church members, needed to have open heart surgery to remove a benign tumor. The family had to raise the entire financial estimate prior to the surgery, as their insurance denied coverage. Being a family of very modest means, there was no way they could do that from their own resources. They spent a few months knocking on doors and pounding the pavement before accumulating the needed resources. She recently had the surgery at a specialized center in the capital and is now recovering. I visited her one day while she was still in intensive care, where visits are allowed for a total 30 minutes 2x/day. Her daughter, Griselda, and I chatted with her and tried to cheer her up about her progress, as she was getting depressed without being able to have family and friends around her. Though still in the capital, I did not plan to go the next day, as I had other commitments. God had other plans. As I was leaving the university, I got a call that Las Chicas Nices rehearsal was cancelled. After getting in a cab, I felt the nudge that I could now go visit. I made it to the



hospital and found Griselda in the waiting area stressed and in tears. She'd been robbed while in transit to the hospital a short time before. She'd felt so alone when it happened and asked God why she was alone. I didn't see Gilda that day, but God knew that Griselda needed some friendly support from Santa Fe at her side. May you be the answer to someone's prayer, by listening to the Holy Spirit in your heart.

In Christ,
Cathy

Cathy Donahoe is a SAMS Missionary and Physical Therapist serving in the Dominican Republic.

Donations: SAMS, PO Box 399; Ambridge, PA 15003 with Cathy Donahoe in the memo line of the check or go to the website www.samsusa.org Cards/letters: Cathy Donahoe, Apartado 587, San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. Email: cathyd@turbonet.com website: www.cathydonahoe.net

Bulletin Board



If there are community events in line with the mission of St. Thomas, please submit them and, space permitting, we'll include them here. Comments, reactions, contributions, suggestions, critiques? Send to Maria at office@saintthomasdenver.org.

You can Help Make St. Thomas a Greener Community

One of the things we talk quite a bit about at St. Thomas is becoming a greener community. We've made small steps in that direction and will make more with funds raised by the Capital Campaign. But there is another task that needs your support, as you are able. That is helping us dispose of things that collect in our recycle bins. Because we are considered a business and not a single family home by the City of Denver, we do not have our garbage and recycle collected by the City. We use a private company, Waste Connections, to do this.

Many of you know that we have recycle bins in the hallway by the restroom on the main floor. We're good about getting things to the bins, but need your help in getting rid of what collects there. Recently four large bags (from Ikea) have been placed on the wall above the bins. If from time to time, you could fill one of the bags with some of what has been collected to add to your recycle, it would be a great help. Then please return the bag so someone else can have a turn. While a several members have been making an effort to do this, having more people involved will make it easier on everyone. And the bags will help you get recyclables home.

It's yet another small step we can take in becoming a greener community. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact me. Kathi Atkins, Junior Warden

Family Promise Needs Food Donors!

Do you know that Family Promise stocks a pantry with non-perishable items such as dry cereal, boxed juices, crackers and canned soup? Do you know that during each Family Promise host week, generous volunteers bring fresh fruit, milk, cheese, luncheon meat, bread, and other items to provide breakfast and brown-bag lunches for our guests?

Do you also know that you could help this valuable mission by being a contributor?

Some volunteers who have helped stock the pantry and refrigerator are no longer able to contribute. If you would like to help in this simple, easy way to ensure success of this mission, please contact Rosalie Chamberlain at 303-953-0866 or champ4597@gmail.com for details.

Please DO NOT bring food items unless you and Rosalie have agreed on what is needed! Thank you.

Congratulations Confirmands!

We offer our congratulations to the following St. Thomas parishioners who were confirmed by Bishop O'Neill on Sunday, May 17th at Church of the Holy Comforter in Broomfield: Eddie Atayde, Claire Gilmore, Sergio Mukokomani, Olivia Pike, Ginny Smith, and Ben Vandal. We are so proud and excited for you!



Announcements

The Family Promise mission stocks a food pantry for items such as fruit, milk, juice, and lunch items. Our next host week is June 15-23. If you are able to help with this mission, please contact Rosalie Chamberlain to determine what specific food item is needed. She may be reached at 303-953-0866 or champ4597@gmail.com.

Metro CareRing Sunday is held on the first Sunday of each month. Please remember to bring your gifts of non-perishable food and help us to provide nutritious food to hungry people!

Men's Group Breakfast – This month's meeting of the St. Thomas Men's Group will be on Saturday, June 14 at 9:00 am at the 35th Avenue Grill (Park Hill Golf Course), 4141 E. 35th Avenue, Denver.

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 in the binder in the Great Hall. You may bring in your own flowers or the office will order them with your \$50.00 donation.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed – Have you been enjoying a cup of coffee, tea, or juice along with sweets and other goodies on Sunday between and after services? Then you know how pleasant and relaxing this time can be when we greet and enjoy each other. Please consider hosting this special time by making coffee, providing the refreshments, and greeting your fellow parishioners. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Great Hall, and if you have questions about how this all works and what to do, please call the church office.

Events and Meetings: June

- 1 – Metro CareRing Sunday
- 1 – Summer Schedule Begins: One Service at 9:00 am
- 8 – Pentecost
- 9 – Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm
- 14 – Men’s Group Breakfast at the Park Hill Golf Course at 9:00 am
- 14 – Ordination Service for Josh Shipman at St. John’s Cathedral at 10:00 am
- 14 – Reception for Josh Shipman from 4:00-8:00 pm
- 15-22 Family Promise Week
- 23 – Bold Living Deadline for July issue

Weekly:

- Theology Class – Tuesdays at 10:00 am
- A.A. – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
- Morning Prayer – Wednesdays at 7:00 am
- Contemplative Prayer – Wednesdays at 5:45 pm
- HFASS Yoga – First, Third, and Fifth Wednesdays from 6:15-7:45 pm
- Al Anon – Fridays at noon
- Summer Sunday Service at 9:00 am
- House for All Sinners and Saints – Sundays at 4pm and 6pm

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries

- 4 – Ted & Ann Schomburg
- 6 – Hugh & Charlotte Pote
- 12 – Elizabeth Bennett & Sara Luther
- 15 – Mike & Vicki Earnest

Birthdays

- 5 – Rex Wisehart
- 6 – Van Noy Harris
- 7 – Collins Atufunwa
- 8 – Jamie Thrun
- 11 – Barbara Medina
- 12 – Marquis Price
- 14 – Virginia Buckley; Eva Williams
- 18 – Edie Bell; Pete Hills
- 19 – Danielle Clark
- 20 – Elizabeth Bennett, Angela Miller
- 21 – Dick Hayes
- 22 – Ticia Cates
- 28 – Jasper Fai
- 29 – Teddy Hills

**SAINT THOMAS-SPONSORED SEMINARIAN JOSH SHIPMAN WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO SEVERAL EVENTS RELATED TO HIS ORDINATION TO THE TRANSITIONAL
DIACONATE:**

Saturday, June 14th at 10:00am
Ordination to the transitional diaconate
Saint John's Cathedral

Saturday, June 14th at 4:00pm
Potluck reception honoring Josh at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
Bring an appetizer and a favorite beverage to share
**Josh and Tim are vegan, so please bring non-meat dishes to share.

Sunday, June 14th at 9:00am, Trinity Sunday
Josh will preach at the 9:00am service at Saint Thomas



Treasurer's Report

Financial Report for April 2014

John Clark, Treasurer

Income		April 2014
Pledges		\$17,784.33
Plate		\$4,007.00
Fund raising		\$2,625.00
Other		\$1,836.50
	Total	\$ 26,252.83
Expenses		
Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Health Ins, Pension, etc.		\$17,446.16
Christian Ed, Music, Altar Supplies, Worship		\$ 1,297.36
Office and Facility		\$ 5,646.76
Evangelism and Outreach		\$ 75.00
Finance Costs, Insurance, and Misc.		\$2,236.94
	Total	\$26,702.22

Money in operating account on April 30, 2014	-\$ 10,315.81
Money in elevator account	\$ 48,114.83

Our total income was just over \$200 above budget in April with pledge and plate being below budget and building use and King Soopers profit being above budget. Our expenses were about \$900 above budget with administrative expenses (office and related expenses) and music being high and the rest being about normal. The music expenses were high due to extra services for Holy Week. We, again, deferred payments of our pledges to the Diocese and High Plains Region. You can see that our cash flow should be better and we are looking closely at both income and expenses.