

## Sharing money, yes, but also effort, time and energy

By Melissa Jones

*"Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move ever human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumple, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

-Book of Common Prayer, Prayer for Social Justice

This is one of my favorite prayers in the Book of Common Prayer. It speaks to what is for me the heart of St. Thomas, social justice. It is why I felt such a strong pull to become a member of St. Thomas: the diversity and history of social justice. And I have a feeling it also speaks to each of us in the congregation.

It is truly an exciting time at St. Thomas! We are well on our way to finding a new rector, our Capitol campaign has been a success and we are again at the forefront of social change!

Our holy conversations and the survey of our parish helped us to understand more about our current state and where we want to be in the future. We learned that we have a rich history of social justice and a stalwart cadre of people to support our work. Our vision for St.

Thomas includes a welcoming parish for younger families and an increased effort of outreach to our larger community. And, you all indicated that you'd like a full-time Rector to join us in our journey.

We also must face the realities of maintaining an aging building and paying the salary of a full-time Rector.

Please consider pledging to St. Thomas or, if you already pledge, increasing your pledge for 2016. Remember, too, that "pledging" is not just about money. It's about your effort, time and energy as well.

Our new rector is waiting to serve. We need to make the ground fertile so that the seeds planted by us and that person will flourish and nurture a prosperous faith community for all!

We Are St. Thomas!



## Saint Thomas is like a Mizpah coin that completes me

By John Bullock

As I reflected on what I might say about stewardship, I realized that I could focus on myself: my journey – not a straight line in any way – which has led me to St Thomas; or I could focus on St. Thomas: how it is special, unique and powerful. But the image that kept coming to my mind was that of a Mizpah coin.



You might not know it by this name – I had to google it to learn the name – but I'm sure you will recognize it. A Mizpah coin is a friendship token with two parts, each with a broken, jagged edge. Each half is incomplete, but when fitted together they form a medallion. Incomplete when

separated, but when fitted together, complete and whole.

I am half a Mizpah coin. In so many ways, St. Thomas is the missing half, what fits into my broken parts to make me whole. (I don't want to stretch this analogy too far,

but it speaks to me. Maybe it will speak to you too.)

What we do here – who we are for each other – fills in the broken parts of me. Our fellowship, the adult forums, the youth and education ministries I am pleased and proud to be a part of, our shared music, prayer and worship, insightful and challenging preaching, what happens at this altar – this is what I need to be whole.

For all of this I thank God. And I thank all of you. Thank you. Because without each of you bring **your** broken Mizpah coin I couldn't be completed. My Mizpah coin isn't just my broken parts. It's also the part of me that contributes to the whole. I hope that somehow, my Mizpah coin is helping you to be complete.

This is why I am here at St. Thomas: to teach and be taught, to pray and be prayed for, to listen and be listened to, to love and be loved.

Each of us has resources and talents, attention and care, time and treasure, which may seem inadequate to the challenges we face. I encourage each of you to reflect on what you can contribute to our shared life. To help your neighbor and yourself be whole.