

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

To find the tree that stands in promise...



Dear Friends:

I would like to begin with a poem, one written by the Kentucky farmer, poet, and author Wendell Berry. Berry reflects on a ride through his autumn fields, tasting the last fruits as the season turns to fall, looking up to see the geese passing overhead.

The Wild Geese

*Horseback on Sunday morning,
harvest over, we taste persimmon
and wild grape, sharp sweet
of summer's end. In times' maze
over fall fields, we name names
that rest on graves. We open
a persimmon seed to find the tree
that stands in promise,
pale, in the seed's marrow.
Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye,
clear. What we need is here.*

As we enter the month of October, often the most beautiful of months, we, like Wendell Berry, stop to think on change, on endings and beginnings, on what has gone before and what will be.

Berry looks at the heart of a persimmon seed, and in the marrow he sees "the tree that stands in promise." At St. Thomas Church we have finished the profile that speaks both to who we are and of our aspirations, our hopes for the future. That profile is now on our website. Others are seeing it and are wondering if their call from God somehow matches ours.

This time of transition stands between two seasons in the life of St. Thomas Church. We are like the persimmon seed, full of promise of what will be.

I hope we will keep this poetic metaphor in mind through the next few months. It is applicable to our commitment to being good stewards of our resources. It causes us to be mindful of our past and our potential.

Berry ends by saying, "What we need is here." God is here. The vast resources of our past are with us like a hidden reservoir. Our present is rich and vital. And that God who is here with us summons us on to become what we dream. "What we need is here."

Berry draws on the dead to contrast those who once were among us with the seed that is "the tree that stands in promise." I imagine him riding by an old country cemetery on a knoll shaded by trees. "We name names that went from here, names that rest on graves." October will end with the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls, November 1 and 2. We too will name names of those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith. They were "clear in the ancient faith."

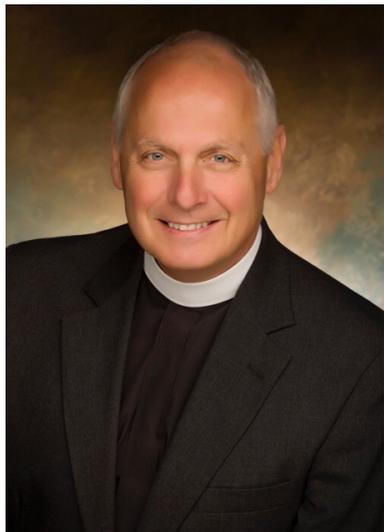
We share that same faith. It is what guides us into God's future. The seeds are planted. The tree will grow. Let us be confident in what God will reveal here among the community that is St. Thomas Church.

Faithfully,

Bob Hart, Interim Rector

Interim dean seeks new ways for cathedral to serve the diocese

Fr. Lucas Grubbs of Church of the Ascension recently interviewed the Very Rev. Ron Pogue, interim dean of St. John's Cathedral.



The Very Rev. Ron Pogue

Please tell us a little bit about your background. Where are you from? Your family. What drew you to the priesthood? What are you most passionate about in priestly ministry?

I am a native of Houston, Texas. On Maundy Thursday in 1966, I experienced my first sense of a vocation

to ordained ministry at Houston's Christ Church Cathedral. Since I was a United Methodist, I pursued my vocation in that communion. After completion of my undergraduate degree at the University of Houston, I attended the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Upon graduation, I returned to Houston where I served as a United Methodist Pastor for 25 years. In 1995, I was moved to approach Diocese of Texas Bishop Claude Payne about the possibility of entering Holy Orders in The Episcopal Church. The following year, I retired from the ministry of the United Methodist Church and my wife and I were received into this Church by Bishop Payne on the same day. I joined the staff of Christ Church Cathedral and there I was ordained Deacon and Priest. In 1999 I was called as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Galveston, Texas, where I served for 10 years before entering transitional ministry.

My personal mission statement sums up what I am most passionate about in priestly ministry: foster hope; lead change; inspire action; and glorify God.

The promises I made at my ordination provide a rule of life: listen to others; study and teach; work collaboratively, become who and what I am; and remain in intimate relationship with God.

During your time as Interim Dean at St. John's Cathedral, what are some of your goals and visions for the life of our Cathedral?

At Saint John's Cathedral, we are working to increase lay involvement in all of our ministries, foster generous giving, address financial and deferred maintenance issues, continue robust outreach into the community, and develop new ways to serve the Diocese of Colorado as your Cathedral. For starters, we are forming a Saint John's Cathedral Guild made up of members of the Cathedral community who will welcome a call to service when we are functioning more in the role of Cathedral than as a parish church. Also, we are going to make an apartment across the street available to diocesan clergy who would like to spend a few days or a week in Denver.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with the people of the High Plains Region in the Diocese of Colorado?

Six years ago, I started a Facebook page called "Unapologetically Episcopalian." It is an online faith community where people are invited to say good things about the Church we love. We have almost 53,000 followers. It is a reflection of my belief that this Church has so much to offer and it is up to us to unapologetically tell the world about it. I look forward to working alongside the bishop, clergy, and people of this diocese in the coming months and to doing everything in my power to help The Episcopal Church boldly carry out the mission God has entrusted to us.

Where are some of the places you have served in the Episcopal Church?

After my service at Galveston's Trinity Episcopal Church, I was trained as an intentional interim minister, an IMN Professional Transition Specialist, and a credentialed mediator. I have also completed training in transformative mediation at the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. I have served as an interim in Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Wyoming, and now as Interim Dean at Saint John's Cathedral.

What are some of your favorite pastimes, hobbies, and places to travel?

I enjoy genealogical research, the study of history, and road trips with my wife, Gay. Of all the places our family has ever traveled, Colorado is our favorite. I've been coming to Colorado since childhood. Recently, while spending a few days in Grand Lake, Gay said to me, "You know, some families have houses that remain constant through the years. Grand Lake is that constant place for us. It feels comfortable and homey."

WE are (the Rector Search Committee of) St. Thomas!

By Vicki Earnest

This combines the theme of the Stewardship Campaign 2016 and was adopted by the Search Committee for the **Parish Profile**, available on the website and paper copies in the church office. Completing and publishing the Profile is a huge step in the Search Committee's journey toward finding a new rector for our Parish!

The Committee has devoted untold hours of weekly meetings – and individual work in between – to conduct nine Holy Conversations; develop, distribute, and collate the findings of a Parish Survey; and complete the Profile. We thank you all for your participation in these endeavors, and your supportive prayers for our work. We

are moving forward, inch by inch!

Our next step is the completion of a Community Profile, currently underway, which is then submitted to the Diocese. We will meet with Bishop O'Neill and Canon Lou Blanchard within the next month to finalize our hopes and desires for a rector. The Bishop and Canon will take on the next step, inviting applications for the position of rector of St. Thomas. The Diocese has the responsibility to sort and vet candidates, and return these applications to the Search Committee.

Meanwhile, the Committee continues to need your kind, loving and prayerful thoughts.

Capital Campaign committee urges all to honor their pledges

By Marti Smith, Chair, Capital Campaign

A Reminder: When the St. Thomas Capital Campaign began in 2014, it was announced that the people who pledged to the campaign had three years to pay off their pledge. Guess what? December 31, 2016 is fast approaching, which is the end of this three-year period. Most people have paid their pledges, but for those who have not done so, the Capital Campaign committee urges you to honor your pledge to the future of St. Thomas.

The Capital Campaign was begun so that needed upgrades/repairs to be building could be made to improve accessibility to all parts of the building for all people, make all bathrooms in the building ADA compliant, and improve the functionality of the kitchen.

The two bathrooms on the lower level and one on the 2nd floor have all been modernized and made ADA compliant; the unisex one on the main level will soon be relocated and made ADA compliant. A ramp will be installed in the sanctuary to make movement from the two levels of that space accessible to all people and

improve access to the other parts of the church building.

Within the next couple of weeks, you will see a lot of demolition, installation, and improvements throughout the main floor of the church building. It has taken quite a while to get all of these things accomplished, but it looks like everything should be completed by the end of this year. That is why it is imperative that all those who pledged complete payment of their pledges in the next three months so all of the improvements can be accomplished and paid for in full with no outstanding debt.

If you have any questions about the status of your pledge, please see or contact John Clark and he will be able to answer these questions.

The Capital Campaign Committee of St. Thomas thanks all of those who pledged or contributed to the campaign; the results of this three-year endeavor will make St. Thomas more functional, modern, and accessible for all who use this beautiful, historic structure.

"WE Are St. Thomas!"

By Mike Earnest

The new St. Thomas Stewardship Committee recently met to plan for this year's annual pledge campaign. We each discussed our personal history at St. Thomas, all that we have received here, and why we want to serve in this stewardship role. Our conversation then turned to "What is our best message to give to our parish during this special year of transition?" After some struggle we paused, then Brian Swanson spoke up. "I don't know if this sounds right," he said, "but what about 'WE are St. Thomas'?" We all took a breath, looked at each other, and agreed, "Yes. That's it!" We found our theme.

We have since shared the idea with the Rector Search Committee, and they have adopted it, framing their beautiful Parish Profile report with that theme. (See the related article in this month's Bold Living.) In addition, the Vestry at their September meeting agreed to adopt the theme.

So what does it mean? Why does it inspire us?

"WE" – That's us, all of us. Everyone who worships here. Everyone who comes all the time or occasionally or who supports our missions and ministries at a distance. All of us are full members of the St. Thomas community, sisters and brothers welcome at God's table every week. All of us share the Peace of the Lord, the mystery of the Eucharist, the "Communion of the Saints" - often in person; always in spirit. We are together in church and often side-by-side beyond our

church walls as we serve our many missions. We are Christ's witnesses everywhere we go in the world.

Our Stewardship Committee asks you to consider your experience of the "WE" of our beloved community. Examine the personal reality of our church for you – the ministries, the worship, the music, the adult and child educational offerings, the missions, our clergy and staff, the outside programs we house, and our beautiful sanctuary, buildings and grounds.

Consider their importance to you and your entire family.

Our Stewardship Committee members are Kathi Atkins, John Clark, Ed DeCecco (associate chair), Mike Earnest (chair), Melissa Jones, Fred Mast and Brian Swanson. Fr. Bob serves as our guide and advisor. Please share with us your questions, suggestions, and concerns.

The details of our Stewardship Campaign schedule will roll out in the coming weeks with announcements in church, articles in Bold Living, homilies from the pulpit, letters to the parish, and some special other displays and electronic postings.

Watch for them.

We will wrap up the campaign on Sunday, November 13, with the in-gathering of our pledges at the morning worship, followed by a special blessing and celebration cosponsored by the Stewardship Committee and the St. Thomas Vestry.

WE are St. Thomas! What does that mean to you? How do you and your family want to commit to St. Thomas' future for 2017 and beyond?



Good news from the Capital Campaign

The first piece of construction on the main floor of our buildings has begun.

Work has begun on the accessibility ramp along the north aisle of the church. The ramp should be finished, perhaps by October 1. The ADA handrails and the decorative railing that matches existing railings will be constructed over the next two weeks.

Once the handrails are installed, the ramp will be useable,

providing access to both the altar area and the Great Hall.

Architect drawings have been prepared for the new ADA accessible restroom and all the important decisions have been made for the update on the kitchen. These projects will be done in sequence: accessibility ramp, restroom, and kitchen. In addition, the dying tree in the courtyard has been removed.

The bells toll a story

By Lola Wilcox and Marian Frank

St. Thomas has been participating in the Episcopal Church's **49 bells** project. Starting July 5 and continuing until November 2, each Wednesday the church bell has tolled 49 times – one toll for each person killed in the Orlando nightclub mass shooting. The toll is in witness to the 91 Americans killed each day - on average, 33,000 people a year. The St. Thomas bell ringers are now naming a victim of the shooting prior to each toll of the bell. The bell ringing project closes on November 2, which is All Souls Day, during the All Hallows celebration. Traditionally, the names of the dead of that year are recited on that day. Parishioners have been faithful in ringing St. Thomas' bell. People in the neighborhood express how much they appreciate the bell ringing, and usually one neighbor has attended each ringing.



Part of the bell ringing project was a call to action for our elected officials. **Election time is upon us.** There has never been an election where it is more important to have your vote counted. Gun Safety and Injury Prevention (GSIP) would like to make voting as easy as possible for you and here is how:

1. If you have moved recently or have never registered to vote, members of GSIP will be available after each Sunday service to help you register. You will need a Colorado Driver's License or ID to register.
2. **All ballots will be mailed out this year after Oct 17.** If you prefer, you can go to a voter service center (polling center) to fill it out. If you need an absentee ballot you can go to the Denver Election Division at Bannock and 14th and fill out your ballot there.
3. If you prefer to drop off your ballot rather than mail it, two convenient **Drop-off Boxes** (if you live in Denver County) are located at:
 - a. The North entrance of the Museum of Nature and Science;
 - b. The Denver Botanic Garden.

Another project that the GSIP group is involved in is **Rapid Response**. GSIP is part of the Colorado Faith Communities United to Prevent Gun Violence (CFCU) to which our church belongs. One of GSIP's activities is to contact elected officials to vote for or against gun legislation. CFCU contacts us with information regarding specific bills and includes the email and telephone numbers of the legislators to be contacted. Last year Representative Max Tyler, in a thank you note to a CFCU officer, said that he gets about 1200 form style emails from gun lobby activists when a gun bill is heard.

Sometimes CFCU's notifications come the day before or day of the vote, so **Rapid Response** is an accurate name for the group. This is a great activity of choice for people concerned about this issue but with only minimal time. St. Thomas hopes to double the number of members in the Rapid Response group. To sign up contact Marian Frank at g123sawyer@gmail.com or call 303-355-2348.

Caribbean Update: Dream of physical therapy clinic coming true

Dear Partners in Mission,

Elena and Ana, two of the therapists I've worked with in the past, had dreams of opening a physical therapy clinic, using space at the Clinica Episcopal Esperanza y Caridad. The bit of funding that they had to help get started, however, went to another purpose, so that dream folded. But the story goes on.

Several years ago the Dominican Association for Rehabilitation moved the rehab clinic out of the Clinica's space to a rented building, and now they have land outside of San Pedro where they have begun construction for a center of their own. The bishop spoke with me early on following their departure about opening a physical therapy clinic, but it was not the right time.

Changes made last year in clergy assignments have brought a dynamic priest to oversee the clinic. Ana and Elena want to change their job settings and are anxious to work in a Christian environment. Now it seems that God has put the pieces in place for it to be the right time.



Elena

We have begun some necessary remodeling and thanks to supporters of this ministry we have begun purchasing equipment, such as electrical stimulation, parallel bars and a universal-type gym piece. We do not have a projected opening date as of yet, but with God's help we will be



The Clinica

seeing patients sometime this fall.

Given my teaching schedule, it is unlikely that I'll be treating patients here, although I've been busy helping prepare the clinic to open. As always though, we'll see what God has in store as things progress.



Ana

Please pray that we follow God's lead and that as Gideon battled against a much larger army for God, may we succeed for God's glory and honor in order to serve with love and compassion those in need of physical therapy. May God help you overcome all obstacles in your path.

As Paul said to the Corinthians, I thank God for you, and for your support for this ministry.

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

<https://secure-q.net/Donations/SAMS/3311> or <http://samsusa.org/givetomissionaries>.

Cards/letters: Cathy Donahoe, Apartado 587, San Pedro de Macoris 21000, Dominican Republic. Email:

cathyd@turbonet.com website: www.cathydonahoe.net (more pictures available on the website.)



Deacon Speakin'

St. Thomas's quiet fundraiser



Shhhhh – it seems to be a secret. You have probably seen John Clark or Eva Williams set up a table every Sunday in the Great Hall or Court Yard to sell grocery cards. A number of people know

about this, and many don't. This is a sleeper of a fundraiser for St. Thomas.

Here's the deal: the cards have changed recently. It used to be you could buy cards in \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100 amounts to be used at King Soopers just like cash and then discard them. The new version of the cards is better. You buy a card at St. Thomas for \$10 (we can also have other amounts) to be used at King Soopers, and it is now a **re-loadable card**. You take it to King Soopers and you "load it" using cash, check or credit card, however much you personally think you will spend. For example, you can load it with \$100, use it, and the balance is fully available for your next shopping trip. Or you can load it with what you estimate your monthly grocery expenses will be, and use it throughout the month.

King Soopers has a record of all the cards that we sell. Every time a card is reloaded, St. Thomas will receive a 5 percent bonus. The way I see it, we all go to the grocery store to buy food, and St. Thomas may as well be benefiting for our human need to eat, drink, and be merry.



The cards can also be used to buy gas, but you have to buy gas at specific locations. It can be used for everything you buy at King Soopers including their Starbucks (with the exception of Starbucks gift cards). So what a perfect fundraiser: do what you do anyway, but use a King Soopers card to make it profitable for the church.

Another super idea is, you can buy them as gifts for family or friends and even your employees, and all you need to do is teach them how they work. St. Thomas continues to benefit.

If enough people prefer to go to Safeway, we can have a similar arrangement with them. Please try it – I think you will like it – I do.

Please see John, Eva or me if you have further questions.

Blessings,

Deacon Sally

Days of Reflection, Repentance, Reconciliation, Prayer, and Action

As was announced in August's *Bold Living* these days leading up to our national election on November 8 will be observed as a time for reflection, repentance, reconciliation, prayer, and action. The impulse for this call arose out the increase in racial tension that escalated this summer. Attention has shifted to the election, but the campaigning itself has only highlighted racial issues in this country. Even the Summer Olympics had moments when questions of race came to the surface. Now is the time to reflect, think, and act for racial reconciliation. Over a hundred years ago the great W.E.B. DuBois wrote in *The Souls of Black Folk*, "The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line, --- the relation of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea." It remains an issue for the Twenty-first Century.

October 1, Saturday – "With the ringing of a bell and a speech from President Obama, the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington is to officially open its extraordinary collection to the public... But the museum can claim another, equally important achievement: helping resolve the protracted debate about the contributions of black people to American history and, indeed, about whether they had a history worth preserving at all. Those questions were at the heart of the nation's original debate about whether, and how, **black lives matter**." Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

October 2, Sunday – Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners and the violence that enslaves us. Lead us to the heart of your Son so that our hearts may be turned to peace. Pray for our nation whose wealth is soaked in the blood of black, brown, red, and yellow bodies. This is a sorrow you know too well, when you held the lifeless brown body of your Son, murdered by the Empire in the name of Law and Order. Pray for us. The Rev. Reagan Humber

October 3, Monday – "More than a museum, the building on the National Mall is a refutation of two and a half centuries of the misuse of history to reinforce a social order in which black people were enslaved, then systematically repressed and denied their rights when

freed." Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

October 4, Tuesday – "But Charlotte's protests are not black people versus white people. They are not black people versus the police. The protesters are black, white, and brown people, crying out against police brutality and systemic violence. If we can see them through the tear gas, they show us a way forward to peace with justice." William Barber II, president of the North Carolina N.A.A.C.P. and a founder of the Moral Monday movement.

October 5, Wednesday - "Anyone who is concerned about violence in Charlotte should note that no one declared a state of emergency when the city's schools were resegregated, creating a school-to-prison pipeline for thousands of poor Africa-American children. Few voiced outrage over the damage caused when half a million North Carolinians were denied health insurance because the Legislature refused to expand Medicaid." William Barber II

October 6, Thursday – "When Charlotte's poor black neighborhoods were afflicted with disproportionate law enforcement during the war on drugs, condemning a whole generation to bad credit and a lack of job opportunities, our elected representatives didn't call it violence." William Barber II

October 7, Friday – "Instead, let's look at the vast, diverse majority of the protestors [in Charlotte, N.C.]. This is what democracy looks like. We cannot let politicians use the protests as an excuse to back reactionary 'law and order' measures. Instead, we must march and vote together for policies that will lift up the whole and ensure the justice that makes true peace possible." William Barber II

October 8, Saturday - A book to read: *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. National Book Award for Nonfiction. This work tells the story of the Great Migration and the Second Great Migration, the movement of African-Americans out of the Southern United States to the Midwest, Northeast, and West from approximately 1915 to 1970.

October 9, Sunday – “In the Scriptures, the prophet Jeremiah denounces false prophets for crying ‘peace, peace when there is no peace.’ We cannot condemn the violence of a small minority of protesters without also condemning the overwhelming violence that millions suffer every day.” William Barber II

October 10, Monday – “I’m not sure how many days are left in my life. I am not suffering from a terminal disease. I don’t work in a high-risk occupation. No, I don’t have suicidal thoughts. I don’t even live in an especially dangerous neighborhood. I am racially black and I live in America, which raises the question: Will I live as long as I intend?” by Chris Lebron in The Stone

October 11, Tuesday – “Yet, I am certain as I can be without personally knowing this man [Terence Crutcher] that he thought a death like the one that befell him was in the realm of the possible for him --- because Terence Crutcher was black in America, which happened to be the same condition shared by Keith Scott, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile and hundreds of other black Americans killed by employees of the state in the past few years.” By Chris Lebron in The Stone

October 12, Wednesday – Black Lives Matter 5280 uses a holistic racial justice approach that strengthens health and wellness, community building, educational programming, economic sustainability, and direct action strategizing.

October 13, Thursday – Black Lives Matter 5280: We firmly believe that communal visions of liberation are the way forward into a beloved society that affirms gender equity and social justice.



October 14, Friday – Black Lives Matter 5280: Our work is to cultivate communities of abundant joy where all Black

people are emboldened and empowered to lead, love, heal, and thrive.

October 15, Saturday – “But back of this still broods silently the deep religious feeling of the real Negro heart, the stirring, unguided might of powerful human souls who have lost the guiding star of the past and are seeking in the great night a new religious ideal. Some day the Awakening will come, when the pent-up vigor of ten million souls shall sweep irresistibly toward the Goal, out of the Valley of the Shadow of Death, where all that makes life worth living --- Liberty, Justice, and Right --- is marked 'For White People Only.'” W.E.B. DuBois “Of the Faith of the Fathers” in The Souls of Black Folk 1903.

October 16, Sunday – Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

October 17, Monday – “We need to focus on developing a national standard for how information such as police videos is released, and how prosecutors, politicians and law enforcement work together in a consistent and fair way. No one can be seen to be hiding information, or to try to cover up unflattering truth. We also have to face the fact that while many of us encounter violence in our communities, it occurs disproportionately in poorer communities, which unfortunately happen often to be minority communities. How do we keep people safe? How do we ensure that laws are enforced clearly and impartially?” Charles H. Ramsey, co-chairman of the President’s task force on 21st century policing.

October 18, Tuesday – “One answer I keep returning to is a greater commitment to partnering with community groups. The police must not be seen by residents as quasi-military occupiers, but rather as allies and partners.” Charles H. Ramsey, co-chairman of the President’s task force on 21st century policing.

continued next page

Days of Reflection... continued

October 19, Wednesday – An independent analysis of *Washington Post* data on police killings: One of the report's authors wrote, "The only thing that was significant in predicting whether someone shot and killed by police was unarmed was whether or not they were black...Crime variables did not matter in terms of predicting whether the person killed was unarmed."

October 20, Thursday – The Department of Justice's investigation into the behavior of police in Ferguson, Missouri: "Officers expect and demand compliance even when they lack legal authority. They are inclined to interpret the exercise of free-speech rights as unlawful disobedience, innocent movements as physical threats, indications of mental or physical illness as belligerence."

October 21, Friday – "In 2016 we confront a new phase of the problem of police legitimacy. The Rodney King video was shocker in its time. Now it seems that every week brings a new video of a black body being beaten and shot by the police. A flurry of government reports on policing in Ferguson, Cleveland, Baltimore, and Chicago have all delivered the same message---that racism has deeply infected American policing." Ta-Nehisi Coates, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, *What O.J. Simpson Means to Me*, *The Atlantic*, October 2016.

October 22, Saturday – Alicia Garza, one of three founders of Black Lives Matter, says with so much media focus on the violent elements of the protests in Charlotte, many have lost sight of the injustice that sparked them. "The thing people get so concerned about is how do we stop the violence in Charlotte but yet we're not thinking about the fact that there's been violence in Charlotte since way before whatever is happening there has happened." [...] According to Garza, those who are concerned with violent protests in Charlotte should focus instead on the conditions that create them. By Andrew White editorial intern at Complex.

October 23, Sunday – "Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land [...] buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals... The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds." Amos 8: 4-7

October 24, Monday – "Freedom, by definition, is people realizing that they are their own leaders." Diane Nash

October 25, Tuesday – Black Lives Matter is a call to action and a response to the virulent anti-Black racism that pervades our society.

October 26, Wednesday – Black Lives Matter is broadening the conversation around state violence to include all the ways in which Black people are intentionally left powerless at the hands of the state.

October 27, Thursday – Black Lives Matter is a chapter-based national organization working for the validity of Black Life.

October 28, Friday – Black Lives Matter is working to (re)build the Black liberation movement.

October 29, Saturday – Black Lives Matter seeks to spark dialogue among Black people, and to facilitate the types of connections necessary to encourage action and engagement.

October 30, Sunday – "Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous---therefore judgment comes forth perverted." Habakkuk 1: 3-4

October 31, Monday – "Then the righteous will stand with great confidence in the presence of those who have oppressed them..." Wisdom 5: 1 Office for the Eve of All Saints

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Trevor Fai
- 2 – Mikia Caston
- 5 – Finley Knight; Jim Matkin
- 7 – Jessica Strother
- 10 – Barbara Moe; Ben Vandal
- 15 – Jaden Bland; Virginia Leonard
- 18 – Amy Hansen
- 19 – Alison Atayde; Tana Knopf; Bernard Rowlett
- 20 – Chauncey Rhyne; Dennis Leonetti
- 23 – Grace Atufunwa; Charles Henry
- 24 – Nancy Atufunwa, LaDamion Massey
- 28 – Laurel Sparks
- 31 – Marjorie Power

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Ed & Carol Donahoe
- 13 – Charles & Shirley Henry
- 23 – Bernard & Susan Rowlett

League of Women Voters on the Ballot Issues

Once again voters are facing a significant number of issues on this year's ballot. The Pro/Con ballot issue brochures produced by the League of Women Voters will be available at a table in the Parish Hall each Sunday during October. Also, you are cordially invited to a briefing on the State and



Denver Ballot Issues presented by the League of Women Voters of Denver on Thursday, October 6, at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia Street. The doors are open at 5:30 p.m. for conversation and light refreshments with the presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. The briefing will last about two hours, including a question-and-answer period.

The briefing is free and open to the public. For additional information see the website www.LWVDenver.org

Secret of a Pew Whisperer: Explain the Game

By Derek Olsen

Cheers erupted in the living room as the long pass was caught, and the wide receiver made good progress down the field. "Don't get too excited yet, guys, that flag is going to be Offensive Holding and we're probably not going to keep any of that yardage," I said.

The camera closed in on the official who hollered, "Offensive Holding!"

Three pairs of eyes swiveled over to me where I had been wandering through on my way to another part of the house. "How did you know that, Dad? You don't even like football!" the girls asked.

"Well," I explained, "the quarterback had an awful long time to throw despite all of the guys down there, the flag was thrown right near the line of scrimmage and happened while the ball was still in the air. When they get all tied up in the

way that they did and yet the quarterback is still able to get a throw off, then it's usually because one of the linemen was holding to keep somebody from tackling the quarterback."

It's not that I don't like football, it's just that I don't normally spend the time to watch it. I certainly don't mind watching our hometown Baltimore Ravens play, but it's not a habit of mine. I never played football. When I hit the weight rack at our gym today you can still tell who were the guys playing football in high school and college, and who was the guy playing Dungeons & Dragons.

But my father did play. He grew up in Texas in an era where football was a masculine rite of passage. Growing up,

continued next page

Secrets of Pew Whisperer... continued

we would only watch a few teams—the Cowboys and the Browns, Ohio State and the University of Texas—but when we did, my dad would explain what was going on to my brother and me. He didn't think that we'd ever use this knowledge to become star players; my father viewed this as a form of cultural literacy. As he saw it, part of being a guy is being able to talk sports with other guys and to understand the game even if it wasn't a passion of ours. And—sure enough—his lessons have stood me in good stead over the years. Now I find myself passing them on to my daughters to the puzzlement of my wife (who knows exactly how little football I watch).

Did my dad enjoy having his football game interrupted by questions from us about what was happening or why he knew something? Probably not. There was probably a stretch of years where he couldn't properly focus on the game because he would have to be constantly explaining things to us. But he didn't complain about it: in his eyes, it was a duty, an important transfer of knowledge.

I have had some parents tell me that they don't like having their children in church with them because they are a distraction. Their kids keep bugging them so that they can't focus on what's going on and therefore they don't get anything out of it. But what if we shift the narrative a bit? Do they know what's going on? Do they know how to play this most sacred game of the liturgy with understanding as to who's doing what and why?

My dad didn't just explain football to me—he and mom explained what was going on in church too: what we were doing and why it was important. I do the same for my girls too.

Of course kids aren't going to get involved and engaged if they don't know what's going on! We have to teach them. We have to teach them why it matters to us, and why we persist in bringing them week after week. Sometimes this is as simple as a quick, "Stand up now, the deacon's gonna read the Gospel and we are standing up to show our attention to the stories of Jesus..." This isn't just filling them in on stage directions, it's helping them see why we're doing what we're doing.

Yes, there may be a stretch of years

where we as parents can't worship with uninterrupted focus—but that's ok. We are playing an important role in transferring cultural literacy to our children: valuable insights into why we're Christian, what the liturgy and the faith mean to us, and why we feel it's important to pass it on to them.

But—and here's the kicker—this means that we have to know ourselves... We have to know what's going on. We have to know why we're doing what we're doing in church, and how the things in the liturgy connect and play out in our daily lives. Sometimes, I think, we don't want to take the time to explain things because it's an interruption—but maybe it's because we don't know ourselves.

If this is the case, talk to your priest. Talk to your Christian Formation or Sunday School people. Can they do a class on what the liturgy means? For you—not just for your kids. And have you taken the time to stop and consider and to work out why and how this stuff matters?

That's my challenge to you: be informed so that you are able to inform. Know why this stuff matters so you can communicate to your kids why it matters. If you're a priest, make sure your people know. Christian Formation isn't something that happens in Sunday School classrooms to children of a certain age; it must be the whole Body of Christ building itself up together into the wisdom and the love of God.

Secrets of a Pew Whisperer was originally published at www.growchristians.org.

October Organ Recitals
By Cheryl Saborsky
"Many Styles/Many Cultures"
and Featuring Michael Burkhardt's
Balboa Park Organ Suite: A Celebration of All People
(commissioned for the outdoor pipe organ in Balboa Park,
San Diego to celebrate all people)
Also works by: Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Powell, Phillips, Hollinger
St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 22nd and Dexter
Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m.
(free will offering)
Hope United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 23 at 2:00 p.m.
(Donation basket in back to benefit the Hope UMC Music Department)

October Adult Forums provide a variety of topics

Sunday at 9:15 am in the Great Hall

October 2: Black Lives Matter

During these sessions we will discuss Black Lives Matter and whether the movement is one that St. Thomas should support. In the first session, we'll examine the facts and the myths surrounding the BLM movement and compare it to earlier crusades for racial justice. We'll also discuss "Black Lives Matter" versus "All Lives Matter." On Oct. 2, we'll dig deeper into our own experiences around race and discrimination in the community and in the church. We'll examine the Moral Document for Racial Justice, and ask if and how St. Thomas should do more around racial reconciliation.

Presenter: Parishioner Angela Miller is co-leader of the Christian formation class for St. Thomas teens. She has a degree in finance from Metropolitan State College Denver and a master's degree in international business from the University of Colorado Denver. She is a senior product consultant at S&P Global Market Intelligence, and is co-chair of its Women's Networking Group. Her son, A'shanti, is a senior in high school, and she will marry her fiancé, Eric McClam, next summer. She is passionate about equal rights and improving conditions in the black community.

October 9: Central Visitation Program: A Lifeline for Troubled Families

Parents get divorces. Families are split. When the divorce is not amicable, or when there's a restraining order involved, courts have determined that children still need to have contact with a parent, but in safe, supervised visits. Supervised visitation can be very expensive, and families with limited financial needs may have difficulty arranging such visits. The Central Visitation Program was created to help meet that need, and to provide economical alternatives for low-income families. Learn

about this unique ministry, and how you can participate in helping keep the lines of communication open between parents and children.

Presenter: Brad Wood is the executive director of the Central Visitation Program. He is the cofounder of Colorado Impact, a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for programs to benefit the poor and marginalized.



Brad Wood

For many years, he was director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Colorado, and has a long history of working with ecumenical partners to encourage the faith community to become politically engaged.

October 16: St. Thomas Roundtable

We'll hear the latest from the Rector Search Committee and have the opportunity to ask questions about whatever else is on people's minds.

October 23: ColoradoCare: Pros and Cons of Amendment 69

Amendment 69, also known as the ColoradoCare Initiative, would put Colorado in the forefront of providing universal, single-payer health care to all residents. Proponents argue that a single-payer system is the smartest, fairest way to provide health care to all, but opponents worry about the cost to the state and the impact on the quality of care available. The question will be on the November ballot.

Presenters: The Colorado Health Institute, a nonpartisan health policy research center, has conducted an independent analysis of ColoradoCare. Representatives will discuss their findings, and offer suggestions for what questions ought to guide voters as they weigh this momentous proposal.

October 30: The Search for (and Fight Over) Paul

Which Apostle Paul are we talking about? The Paul in Luke's Acts of the Apostles, or the man in his own words? We take a closer look at this enigmatic saint, who helped Jesus become the Christ.

Presenter: The Rev. Dennis O'Neill Michael Christopher Kennedy holds a doctorate in ministry from Catholic University, and has taught in seminaries in Chicago, Saint Louis and Denver. A former Roman Catholic priest, he was received as a priest in the Episcopal Church in June. He serves as vice-president of The Conflict Center and has a long history of justice work. He's been a frequent and popular presenter at St. Thomas Adult forums.



The Rev. Dennis Kennedy

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join the Choir – The St. Thomas Choir practices weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to join, especially men. Please contact LaDamion Massey for further information.

Food Ingathering for Greater Park Hill Community Food Bank – Sunday,

October 2 - 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.



Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, October 2 at 1:30 pm In observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, there will be a Blessing of the Animals service in the St. Thomas Courtyard on Sunday, October 2 at 1:30 pm. All are invited to bring pets to

receive a blessing.

Men's Group Breakfast – The next meeting of the St. Thomas Men's Group will be on Saturday, October 8 at 8:30 am at the Park Hill Golf Course, 4141 E. 35th Avenue, Denver.



St. Thomas Concert Series presents organist Cheryl Saborsky on Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 pm for *Many Styles/Many Cultures* featuring Michael Burkhardt's *Balboa Park Organ Suite: A Celebration of all People* and works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Powell, Phillips, and Hollinger. Admission is free, though a freewill offering will be accepted.

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



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 Susan Eaton at 813-629-2588 or Ginny Smith at 303-404-3491 with any questions.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

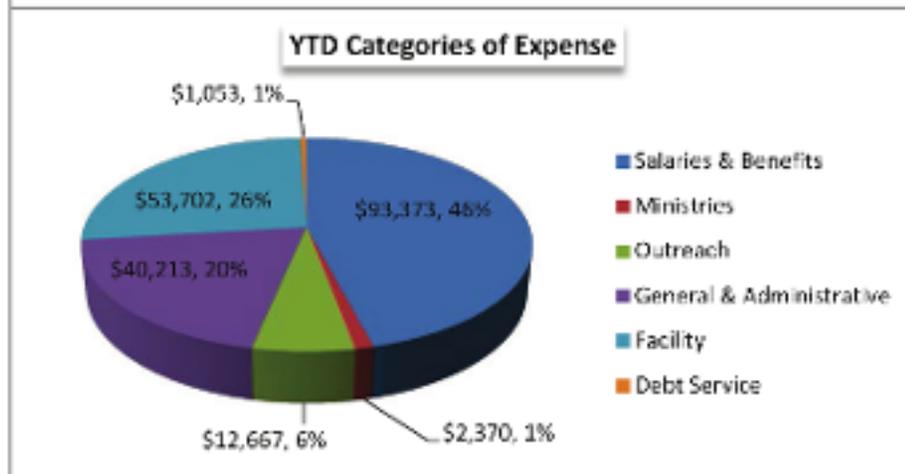
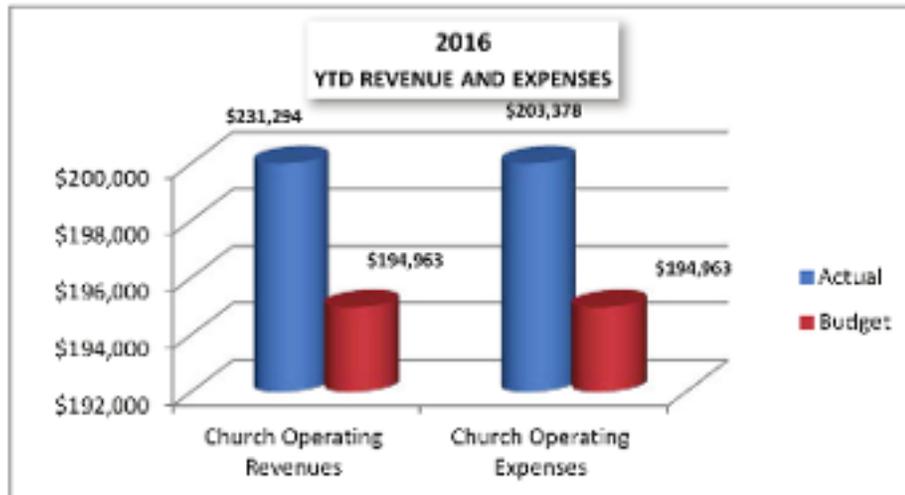
- 2 – Greater Park Hill Food Bank Sunday
- 2 – Blessing of the Animals at 1:30 pm
- 8 – Men's Group Breakfast at the Park Hill Golf Course at 8:30 am
- 16 – St. Thomas Concert Series: Organist Cheryl Saborsky at 4:00 pm
- 17 – Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm
- 23 – *Bold Living* Deadline for November issue
- 29 – Eucharistic Visitor Training 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Weekly:

- Dalcroze – Mondays at 3:30 pm
- Tuesday Morning Eucharist – Tuesdays at 9:15 am
- Theology Class – Tuesdays at 10:00 am
- A.A. – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
- St. Thomas Choir Practice – Tuesdays at 7:00 pm
- Morning Prayer – Wednesdays at 7:00 am
- 49 Bells – Wednesdays at 1:00 pm
- One World Singers – Thursdays at 7:00 pm
- Al Anon – Fridays at noon
- Sunday Services – 8:00 am Spoken Mass & 10:30 am Sung Mass
- Christian Education for All Ages – Sunday at 9:15 am

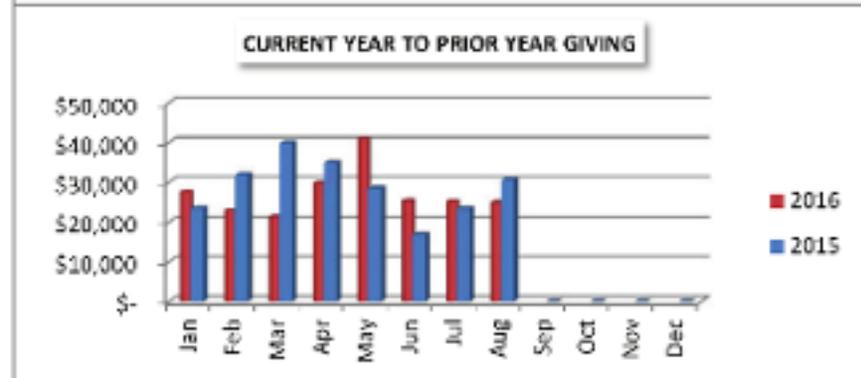
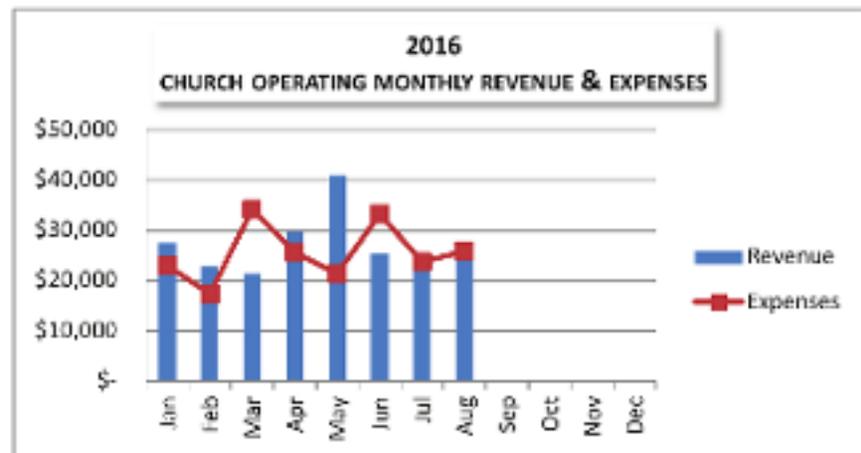
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2016

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Financial Dashboard as of August 31, 2016



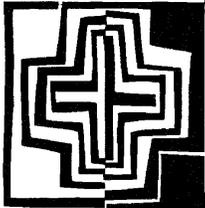
Total Cash Availability

Cash Balance 8/31/16	\$223,643
Current Liabilities	(728)
Upcoming payments	(313)
Temporarily restricted balances	(211,017)
Available cash	\$11,585



Unrestricted Cash Availability

Cash Balance 8/31/16	\$12,626
Current Liabilities	(728)
Upcoming payments	(138)
Available cash	\$11,760



BOLD LIVING

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

October 2016

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.