



“the story”

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
February 2016 Volume 39, Issue 2

*All are Welcome
No Exceptions!*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church accepts all people and we commit to:

Celebrate the Eucharist regularly

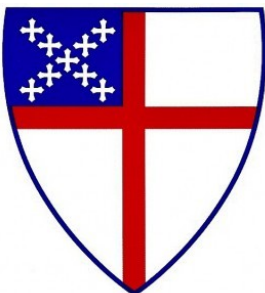
Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and study

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting justice, peace, and love

Nurture God’s people as we grow in Christ

Live with thanksgiving, wonder, and openness to God’s love

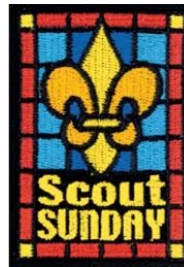
Restore all people to unity with God and each other



**Shrove “Sunday”
Pancake Supper
after worship
February 7
SCOUT SUNDAY**

The cost is \$5/person or \$10 /family. We will also have a 50/50 to offset costs. Invite a friend to the 11 am worship and the Pancake Supper. Please see Ann Kieffer if you can help.

February 7 is also Scout Sunday. Boy Scout Troop 229 is chartered by St. Thomas.



**February 10
Ash Wednesday**

Whitney+ will distribute ashes at St. Thomas at noon and at St. Luke’s at 7 p.m. How will you journey with Jesus through Lent this year? Please pray about it. Easter is March 27.

Chili Cook-Off!



**Saturday, February 20
5-7 p.m.**

The 7th Annual Chili Cook-Off “Fun-Raiser” will be held Saturday, February 20, 5-7 p.m. in Halladay Hall. All chili chefs are encouraged to enter their favorite recipe. The entry fee is \$5.

Admission is \$4/adult or \$10/family. Taste-testers will vote with their cash for their favorite chili. The chili chef with the most donations will be deemed the winner of the cook-off.

Interested chefs should contact Phil Warrenburg at phil@warrenburg.info or leave a message at 317-736-9043.

The Anglican Communion and Christian Unity

By the Rev. Whitney Rice, Priest-in-Charge

On January 15, 2016, the Anglican Primates gathered in Canterbury and by a majority vote sanctioned the Episcopal Church because of our actions in 2015 approving same-sex marriage. They said: "Recent developments in The Episcopal Church with respect to a change in their Canon on marriage represent a fundamental departure from the faith and teaching held by the majority of our Provinces on the doctrine of marriage... Such actions further impair our communion and create a deeper mistrust between us. This results in significant distance between us... given the seriousness of these matters we formally acknowledge this distance by requiring that for a period of three years The Episcopal Church no longer represent us on ecumenical and interfaith bodies, should not be appointed or elected to an internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they will not take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity."

That's pretty heavy duty stuff. We've been benched for three years due to our stance for love and justice. It's painful to think that we've been (temporarily?) separated from the Communion that birthed us, with whom we've been in fellowship these hundreds of years. It hurts to think that Thomas Cranmer's church no longer considers us worthy of being at the table of the Councils of the Church with them.

This has been building since Bishop Gene Robinson, our first openly gay bishop, was consecrated in 2003, but having weathered the storms of controversy for the last thirteen years without breaking up, I for one never thought they'd actually kick us out. And they didn't. We're not exactly kicked out. But we're definitely not really in either.

And so given these developments and the pain that many people feel over them, I'd like to present to you the case against Christian unity.

"Against Christian unity?" you might say. "But that's one of the most basic Christian doctrines! Jesus prayed for us all to be one as he and the Father are one!" That's absolutely true. But Jesus didn't specify how he wanted us to be one, and I think we may have gotten a wee bit off track there. And I don't so much want to get rid of the doctrine of Christian unity as to add to it.



Over the centuries, more blood has been spent trying to achieve Christian unity than almost any other cause. Generations of wars, especially in Europe, have been fought, Catholic against Protestant, Catholic against Catholic, Protestant against Protestant. Tens of thousands dead, tens of thousands more injured or displaced, all so we might be united, all so we might believe the one, right way. Then you have the wars of the powerful against their people, the Inquisitions both Catholic and Protestant that demanded doctrinal purity at the end of a sword, a stake, and a rack. If that is the road to Christian unity, I'm not interested.

Today, we fight our wars for Christianity with words. Schisms still happen every day. Little congregations break up, big denominations break up, over conflicts on women's ordination or human sexuality or any other number of hot button issues. People grieve deeply over others being "wrong" from their perspective, worrying that their salvation is in jeopardy while feeling heartbroken that they can no longer be in fellowship. Once again, this can't be what Jesus had in mind when he prayed that we all might be one.

I think the reason we have gotten into such a mess is that we are missing the other half of the doctrine of Christian unity. Christianity is a religion of paradox. We find deep spiritual harmony in seemingly contradictory ideas coexisting. God is one and God is three. Death and resurrection. Sin and redemption. Where would any of those ideas be without its partner? Christian unity has been missing its partner all these years, its other half that gives it depth and meaning and roots it in God: Christian diversity.

Whitney+ (continued)

The idea of the diversity in the members of the Body of Christ is powerful and well-known in the church, but most of the time we have interpreted it only on the congregational level. “For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another,” Paul writes to us. We have used that text to understand and to celebrate that some people are called to the altar guild and others are called to building and grounds work and others are called to lead our outreach efforts.

But what if it’s true on other levels as well? I want to think in terms of the whole state of Christ’s Church. What if along with the call to Christian unity there is also a call to Christian diversity? All of the diverse viewpoints in the Anglican Communion—we all have something different to offer. What if God is actually rejoicing over that instead of grieving it?

Surely our common aim is to bring more people into the loving embrace of God. With the needs and perspectives of the people in spiritual need being so diverse, I can only see it as a tremendous strength and blessing that there are so many different types of Anglican churches out there to answer those needs. There’s a church out there for everyone, and that would not be the case if we were all in lock-step, thinking and acting the same way all the time.

So rather than our differences causing us to fight each other and accuse each other of being wrong, I think we should utilize our differences to minister to different kinds of people. “We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,” Paul says. You notice the same principle in nature. What is the unifying principle of the natural world? Diversity. Bio-diversity is a marker of the strength of an ecosystem. Trying to force everything to be the same is a recipe for decay and death leading to extinction.

And so I think we need to hold Christian unity and Christian diversity as one of the great paradoxes of our faith, a both-and rather than an either-or. Part of the reason this is so important is because learning to live in and celebrate Christian diversity, which is to say to quit using Christian unity as an excuse for violence in words or actions, is a witness desperately needed by our hurting world.

When the Body of Christ tries to force itself to be only one thing, it cannot survive. The Body of Christ cannot be all noses or all pancreatic cells. We actually *have* to be different to make a complete Body of Christ. We need our differences because our differences bring gifts that make us flourish. God has given each of our communities a little piece of the truth, but none of us has the whole truth. We need each other, and we need to be different. “For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”

I don’t know what’s next for the Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion. Maybe we will find our way back together or maybe we will be driven further apart. But I feel that Christian unity and Christian diversity are two sides of the same coin, just like every other great Christian paradox. Each makes the other possible, and each is much the weaker without the other. Christian diversity would be a hollow doctrine without the simultaneous call to Christian unity, and the reverse is true as well.

I think God looks down on the Earth and see how much we all care about finding a path to God and takes delight in that. Diversity on a foundation of unity is what makes the Body of Christ possible. We are called to live out our own unique witness with all of our strength. To have someone stand up and say that being Christian doesn’t mean being a clone might make all the difference for someone out there who has been longing for a spiritual home but has wondered if he or she would fit in. And then the Body of Christ might be able to celebrate a new member.



ANNUAL MEETING NEWS



Three Vestry members were elected on January 17. Danny Bachman, Judith Mullinix and Jim Phillips will serve in the next Vestry class.

Marikay Kapke was elected as the St. Thomas Convention delegate for the 2016 Convention to be held October 25-27.

The 2016 Proposed Budget was approved and area reports were given. See the Bulletin Board to review the minutes and 2016 budget.

The 20th Vestry of St. Thomas (2016-2019)

2017	Robin Kares, Jen Tullis
2018	Steve Faust
2019	Danny Bachman, Judith Mullinix, Jim Phillips

The Clergy, Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Catherine M. Waynick
Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Whitney Rice
Deacon	The. Ven. Ron Goldfarb
Interim Organist	Brother Steven Jamison
Parish Administrator	Carol Macmillan
Senior Warden	Robin Kares
Junior Warden	Danny Bachman
Clerk	Jen Tullis
Treasurer	Marti Ramsey
Assistant Treasurers	Robin Kares, Eric Smith

Annual Vestry Retreat & February Meeting Saturday, February 13, 10am-2pm Judith Mullinix' Home

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Godly Play (3-6) & Youth Classes (7-18) meet on Sundays during worship. Children return to worship during The Peace.

Whitney's+ Sermon Forum
Sunday, February 7, 10 am

Acolyte Training & Refresher
Sunday, February 14, noon

This training is for all acolytes and anyone wishing to become an acolyte—adults or children. Questions? See Danny Bachman.



Journey of a Lifetime Bible Study
February 14 & 28

This group meets at 10 am in Halladay Hall. Questions? See Phil Warrenburg.

Br. Jamison Forum on Episcopal Religious
Sunday, February 21, 10 am

Do you know that the Episcopal church has religious? Please join Br. Steven, OSF to learn more about religious in the Episcopal church, what life like as a religious and their function in the church. [Br. Steven Jamison serves as Interim Organist at St. Thomas.]



Have you noticed the new faces at worship? We have quite a few and they want to know more about St. Thomas. You don't need to be a greeter to welcome a guest. We are all greeters here. Here's a few welcoming tips: Smile. Be yourself. Introduce yourself. "Hi, I don't think I've met you yet, I'm " Listen to them and let it flow from there.

Need a nametag? You don't need to be a 'member' to have a nametag. Call the office (535-8985, Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm) and ask Carol to make you one. Please wear your nametags to make it easier for all to learn names.

ST. THOMAS CLINIC NEWS

The Clinic is for Johnson County residents and by appointment only. The Clinic is open Wednesdays and one Saturday a month, 9am to noon. Please call 317-535-6057 to schedule an appointment. For prescription refills, call 317-535-0143 by noon.

Upcoming Events During Clinic Hours 9am-Noon

- Feb. 6—Saturday Clinic
- 10—HomeInstead Hiring Event, bring resume
- 17—Diabetic Education
- Mar. 2—HFAV (Veteran Programs Representative)

Support the Clinic via the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Link your card to our new Kroger Nonprofit Number: 85628. You can do it online: www.krogercommunityrewards.com or stop by the Kroger Customer Service Desk.

The next Clinic Steering Committee is Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 pm in the Library.

Terresa Branham, D. Div., HHP
Interim Clinic Director
St. Thomas Clinic
Email: stthomasclinic@aol.com
www.saintthomasclinic.org
Facebook: St. Thomas Clinic

WEATHER CLOSING INFORMATION

In case of inclement weather: Watch FOX59 (Channel 11) or WTHR (Channel 13) for closing information. The church and clinic will have their own listings noted on the ticker line.

You may check their websites and click on the Closings link:

www.wthr.com/weather
www.fox59.com/weather



OUT OF ORDER

University of Indianapolis
Dinner Theatre
Schwitzer Hall

Saturday, February 27
6:30 pm dinner
8 pm curtain

Tickets are \$24/person. Please sign up and indicate how many tickets you need. This event is open to 20 people—two tables of 10.

We will meet at the theatre. Questions? Call Fran Thompson at 535-4897.



Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

Your Bishop Search Committee has published our diocesan profile at HoosierBishopXI.org describing our Diocese to potential candidates. Bishop nominations are now being accepted and will close on February 15. Know of a potential candidate? Nominate them yourself by following the links in the diocesan profile website noted above.



Thank you for your donations and support in 2015. During the year we were able to provide about 4 days of food per person per visit, feeding 66,834 people. Some of these were counted multiple times due to multiple visits. Thank you for helping us serve our needy.

Sincerely,
Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County

February 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Boy Scouts 6 pm	2 Vestry 7 pm	3 Clinic Open	4 Girl Scouts 6:30 pm	5	6 Clinic Open
	7 Sermon Forum 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am Pancakes Noon Scout Sunday	8  Boy Scouts 7 pm	9	10 Clinic Open  ASH WEDNESDAY Ashes Noon St. Luke's 7pm	11	12
14 Bible Study 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am Acolyte Training noon	15 Boy Scouts 7 pm	16	17 Clinic Open	18 Girl Scouts 6:30 pm	19 March Newsletter Deadline	20 Chili Cook-Off 5-7 pm 
21 Br. Jamison Forum 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am	22 Boy Scouts 7 pm	23	24 Clinic Open	25	26	27 UIndy Dinner Theatre 6:30 pm 
28 Bible Study 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am	29 Boy Scouts 7 pm	 				

February 2016 Worship Schedule

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	FEBRUARY 7	FEBRUARY 14	FEBRUARY 21	FEBRUARY 28	MARCH 6
PROPER	Year C, Last Sunday after the Epiphany	Year C, First Sunday in Lent	Year C, Second Sunday in Lent	Year C, Third Sunday in Lent	Year C, Fourth Sunday in Lent
LESSON	Exodus 34:29-35	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Exodus 3:1-15	Joshua 5:9-12
PSALM	99	91:1-2, 9-16	27	63:1-8	32
EPISTLE	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Romans 10:8b-13	Philippians 3:17-4:1	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
GOSPEL	Luke 9:28-43a	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35	Luke 13:1-9	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
CLERGY	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb	The Rev. Whitney Rice, The Ven. Ron Goldfarb
MUSIC	Br. Steven Jamison	Br. Steven Jamison	Br. Steven Jamison	Br. Steven Jamison	Br. Steven Jamison
GODLY PLAY	Kristen Ring	Karen Cushing	Suzanne Bachman	Susie Hooten	Kristen Ring
YOUTH MINISTRY	Cheryl Faust	Cheryl Faust	Cheryl Faust	Marti Ramsey	Marti Ramsey
ALTAR GUILD	Marna Poindexter	Karen Smith		Marna Poindexter	
ALTAR FLOWERS	Glory of God	Glory of God	Glory of God	Glory of God	Glory of God
BREAD MINISTRY		Elyssa Everling	Elyssa Everling		
HOSPITALITY TEAM	Candace Phillips Jacob Phillips	Judith Mullinix Steve Faust	Wilma McDermott Dave Buchholz	Ann Kieffer Marikay Kapke	Candace Phillips Jacob Phillips
SERVERS	Reid S.	Ann Kieffer	Gavin A. Sam A.	Isaac B.	Reid S.
READERS	Jim Phillips Karen Smith	Marta Pincheira Paula Sites	Paul Jump Dave Buchholz	Don Thompson Ann Kieffer	Jim Phillips Karen Smith
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Judith Mullinix	Marta Pincheira	Cheryl Faust	Deirdre Warrenburg	Judith Mullinix
COUNTERS	Judith Mullinix Jim Phillips	Jen Tullis Steve Faust	Robin Kares Jim Phillips	Danny Bachman Judith Mullinix	Steve Faust Robin Kares
COFFEE HOSTS	Pancake Luncheon				Faust
PANERA PICK UP		Jim Alexander	Jim Alexander	Jim Alexander	Ramsey

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Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Franklin, IN

Twitter: @StthomasfrankIN

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

3 David Beck
Olivia Tullis
9 Carol Macmillan
Marta Pincheira
Austin Smith
12 Justin Ring
21 Ann Kieffer
23 Ed Thompson



Baptisms

6 Shelley Knust
9 Dave Buchholz



Anniversaries

None



Is your name missing from the Celebrations section? If so, that's because we don't have all your information in the database. Please submit your birthday, anniversary, and baptism dates to stthomasepis@aol.com or by calling 317-535-8985.