



FALL 2023

THE CANTERBURY TALES

The Seasonal Newsletter of St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church

Celebrating

50

Years



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FROM THE RECTOR

“St. Thomas of Canterbury is a place where Christ meets you at the door as you enter.”

A quote from Joan Reichart in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of St. Thomas of Canterbury

Dear ones,

As I have been digging through the church archives over the past few months in preparation for the 50th anniversary of our parish, I stumbled across the above quote. Even though it was written a little less than 25 years ago, I believe it still rings true of the little, round parish off of Grange. What a marvelous testimony to God’s faithful ministry in this place over the past 50 years!

Over the course of Fall 2023 - Spring 2024, we will mark the 50th anniversary of St. Thomas of Canterbury Greendale with opportunities to gather and share meals, learn and strengthen community, give thanks and remember, and, of course, to have some fun along the way.

I am thrilled that Tammy Wyman Wroblewski and Margaret Done have agreed to chair the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee. In the next few months they will share several invitations about how you can get involved in the festivities and planning. One of our goals is to record and share interviews with many of the founding members and previous rectors of the parish.

This is an important milestone for STOC, and I pray that it will be a chance for us to look back with joy and gratitude for all that St. Thomas of Canterbury has been, to celebrate our vibrant community as it is today, and to discern and plan for future ministry. Our hope is that no matter how long you have been a part of STOC, you will join us in commemorating this anniversary, and know that you are a valued part of this community.

Please join me in giving thanks for God’s many blessings and faithfulness throughout the history of our parish!

with gratitude and thanksgiving,

Melesa +

The Rev. Melesa McEwan Skoglund

PS - On the following page is a brief history of St. Thomas of Canterbury that was written for the 25th Anniversary of the parish.

A graphic celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church. It features a large white '50' with a sunburst effect behind it, set against a dark red background. The word 'Celebrating' is on the left and 'Years' is on the right of the '50'. Below this, the church's name 'ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH' is written in white. Further down, the text 'SAVE THE DATES' is written in large white letters, followed by the date 'October 8, 2023' in a white script font. Below that, there is a paragraph of white text describing a potluck lunch and a long-standing tradition. Another paragraph follows, mentioning sign-ups for the potluck. A third paragraph describes a bounce house for children. At the bottom, the date 'April 27, 2024' is written in white script, followed by a paragraph of white text describing a Saturday evening dinner and silent auction.

Celebrating 50 Years

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SAVE THE DATES

October 8, 2023

After the 10am service all are invited to a festive potluck lunch, a long standing STOC tradition. The parish will be providing a main protein dish. To ensure we have a space that is accessible to all of our members, we will be renting a large, walled tent for the event.

Sign ups for the potluck are located in the gathering space.

For our children, youth, and the young at heart, we will have a bounce house next to the tent!

April 27, 2024

Mark your calendars for a Saturday evening dinner at a local banquet hall. The evening will include a silent auction to benefit local outreach efforts, a reveal of video interviews with founding members, and more. All past rectors and clergy of St. Thomas of Canterbury will be invited to attend.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

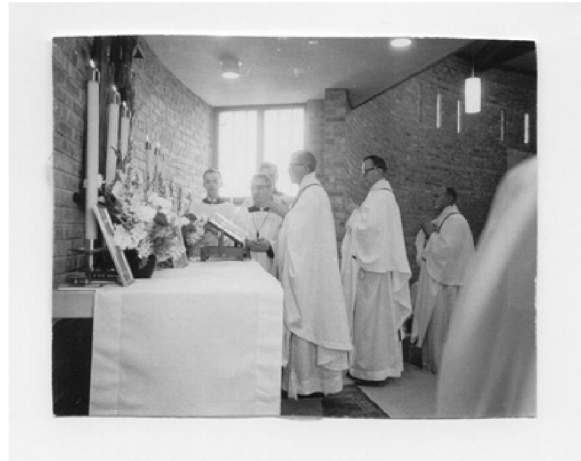
Our Parish History

St. Thomas of Canterbury's history includes the legacies of two churches - St. Thomas the Apostle in Hales Corners and St. Hugh of Lincoln, which began on the current site.

The first Episcopalian services in this area were held March 22, 1953, at the Hales Corners home of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Champlin. Eventually, St. Thomas the Apostle Church was built at the corner of Ridge Road and Highway 100 in Hales Corners. That building later was converted to the Hales Corners Library and has since been demolished and replaced by different fast food restaurants.

Services in Greendale began in 1956, in a donated residence that is now used as the church offices. Current parishioners Charles and Mary Fleming were among the first members of the congregation led by Fr. Gordon Olston. A small round church, known as St. Hugh of Lincoln, was built in 1960, on the site that includes the current sanctuary of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

The Rev. John R. Edwards was assigned as first vicar to serve both St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Hugh of Lincoln congregations until 1962 when the Rev. James Kaestner was called and served until 1969.



The Rev. John Edwards celebrating Eucharist at the original altar of St. Hugh of Lincoln in the round sanctuary. This altar is where the current columbarium sits. 1961.



A wedding with the interior of St. Thomas the Apostle pictured. Date unknown.

Outdoor procession at St. Thomas the Apostle with The Rev. Jim Kaestner. May 1964.



Becoming St. Thomas of Canterbury

Discussions began about merging the two congregations but there was no agreement. From 1969 to 1972, St. Thomas was served by the Rev. Michael Stoloman and St. Hugh by the Rev. John T. Splinter. In 1972, the Rev. Robert A. Winter was named to serve both congregations.

On July 17, 1973, the congregations voted to merge and selected the Greendale site and the name St. Thomas of Canterbury.

The little round church was expanded in 1976-77 to its current size. The congregation became a self-supporting parish of the Diocese of Milwaukee on October 21, 1977, with Fr. Winter as its first rector.



The Rev. John Edwards presiding in chapel that was located in the house that currently serves as the parish offices. Date unknown.

PARISH NEWS

Deacon in Training

This fall St. Thomas member, Lisa Chmielewski, will be stepping into a new role as she begins her field education for the diaconate at St. Thomas! Lisa has been in the discernment process for ordination to the vocational diaconate since 2021, and is continuing in her formation process as required for ordination.



Throughout the fall and spring, Lisa will be leading formation opportunities, preaching, leading aspects of the liturgy that are fitting for this stage in the ordination process, and much more. Just as we have welcomed seminarians in the past, please extend a warm welcome and your support to Lisa as she continues on her path to ordination!

Praying for Our College Students

As we move into the rhythms of fall, please join Mtr. Melesa in praying for our college students. This year there are four! College can be a deeply formative experience, and we pray that these young people will continue to grow into who God has made them to be.

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Cat Celsor

Sophomore at UW Milwaukee

Angie Mecikalski

Freshman at Concordia

Evan Klumb

Freshman at UW Oshkosh

Maggie Stoving

Junior at Michigan State

St. Thomas Receives Two Ministry Grants

This fall the diocese presented the opportunity to apply for Fall Ministry Grants with the purpose of strengthen ongoing ministries and helping parishes begin new ministries. The Milwaukee parish that are are part of the MKE Youth Collab received a grant of \$5,000 to fund our shared youth ministry this year! This will allow us to purchase food for all of our gatherings, and hold an overnight summer service project trip.

We also received a grant of \$750 to support our new efforts to increase our hospitality and outreach efforts as we try to get the word out about our parish and have a presence in our community. If you would like to be a part of these discussions or have ideas about how we might be present in our corner of the Milwaukee area, please talk with Mtr. Melesa or a member of the Vestry!

A Prayer for College Students

adapted from Emily P. Freeman

Dear God, be with our college students. As they begin again, remind them of your faithfulness every morning. As they look for community, remind them you are always with her no matter where they may go.

When insecurity, comparison, disappointment and failure knock on their door, may they turn to you with their questions, pain, and confusion. Weave your wisdom into the fibers of their soul, bearing the fruit of confidence, clarity, contentment and a light heart.

May they not fear failure, rather may they thrive in the midst of it. Help them to find true friends and be a true friend in turn. Help them find their voice and to use it to be an advocate for themselves and for others.

Replace their shame with courage.
Replace their confusion with peace.
Replace fear with a love that moves within their beyond their ability to understand.

May your grace surprise them kindly.

Amen.

A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

From Senior Warden, Erika Stoving

A few months ago, Mother Melesa asked the vestry to come up with some goals for the year. One of our goals is: Build and rebuild the community that was lost or atrophied during the COVID-19 pandemic through fellowship events, service, and community outreach. There are several vestry members assigned to this goal, including me. We started by talking about the community outreach partners that we support with the monthly yellow envelopes.

St. Thomas has supported the Milwaukee Rescue Mission (MRM) in the past, so I thought that I would see what they have to offer. I felt that it was important for me to do this especially if I was going to ask others to volunteer. I found a time for serving dinner that worked for me, which was on a Saturday, from 3:45pm-6pm.

The Saturday I volunteered I was a member of a team with 3 others that I had never met before that day. The meal that day was chicken stew over rice, with a vegetable and a piece of bread. The plates/trays started at the end with the rice, where there was one person scooping the rice, another putting stew on top, another one with the veggies and I was at the end putting on a piece of bread. First, we served those living in Safe Harbor. Then the women and children from Joy House. Lastly, it is men that are looking for a warm meal. This was over 100 people!

Someone asked me if I felt safe doing it. I did. MRM is on 19th and Wells. On one side is a playground, on another side has several fraternity houses from Marquette University. On the other side is a parking garage for Marquette and across the street is the Marquette campus. It really feels like the edge of a college campus. The staff at MRM also make sure that the 3 groups that come to eat do not see each other. There are staff members present with each group.

Since that first Saturday, I have volunteered several other times and have signed up for several more shifts. You get the immediate satisfaction that you have helped someone as you see the people you are serving. They are so grateful.

MRM relies on volunteers to help. They serve 3 meals. If they don't have volunteers for a meal, the staff must serve. This puts stress on staff that are already overworked and keeps them away from their regular job duties. I have a feeling that this occurs at least weekly.

Who would like to serve with me?

Erika

VOLUNTEER WITH STOC AT THE MILWAUKEE RESCUE MISSION

Join Erica on Sunday, October 22nd, from 3:45pm-6pm,
at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

Four volunteer slots are available. Sign ups will be posted in
the Gathering Space.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

From Scott Eakins

Summer Choir

Our sincere gratitude to the Summer Choir who enhanced our worship at the 10am service during the month of July! Summer Choir was a new opportunity in Music Ministry this year. It offered those who sing in choir on a regular basis to keep their vocal chords in shape and an opportunity for those who might have an interest in joining us in the fall a look behind the scenes.

We are grateful to Kathy Angeli, Angie Bier, Barb Labisch, Joan Lamson, Sheryl Slocum, Paul Stoving, Kat Worzalla and Tammy Wyman-Wroblewski for giving our worship a little more summer spice. Deo Gratias!

The Sunday of Pentecost – Fall “Ordinary Time”

The Season after Pentecost lasts from the Monday after Pentecost Sunday until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of this season is Trinity Sunday, and the last Sunday is Christ the King Sunday.

The Season after Pentecost is also known as “Ordinary Time.” You might hear “ordinary time” as “boring time.” But that’s not the case! The word “ordinary” most likely means “numbered” here (think ordinal numbers), because the Sundays of Ordinary Time are numbered.

At the heart of Ordinary Time is the weekly celebration of Sunday, the Lord’s Day. Each Sunday is itself a celebration of the Easter feast. We are a particular people who have been baptized in the name of the Trinity — in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, every Sunday is also a celebration of the Trinity. On Sunday the Church celebrates the threefold mystery of creation, Resurrection, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

As September begins, we continue our celebration of Ordinary Time, Year A in the Common Lectionary with the Gospel according to Matthew as our guide. At the same time in our day to day world, we experience the abrupt ending of summer, the beginning of a new school year with all its inherent busyness; the preparations for autumn remind us that the earth is preparing for the long slumber of winter. The sport of football reigns, Halloween will soon be here and the retail world will usher in Christmas months before the Church celebrates the actual feast! Yet through our participation in the Church’s liturgies, we continue to celebrate new life in Christ and his coming again in glory, especially in these final Sundays of Ordinary Time. For the Christian, however, no time is ordinary. Every day is extraordinary because every day God — the three in one — is still acting in our lives. God is sustaining us. God the Father is re-creating us anew as his people in his Son through the Holy Spirit.

Nothing is ordinary about people of faith who gather each Sunday as members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Sunday is the original feast day. In the first several hundred years following the death and Resurrection of the Lord, it was the only feast day for the Church. From the time of the New Testament we know it as the Lord’s Day. This follows a tradition handed down from the Apostles, which took its origin from the day of Christ’s resurrection. Thus Sunday should be considered the original feast day.

In the busyness that autumn can bring, our Sunday gathering for liturgy is a perfect opportunity to keep our eyes fixed on the presence of God and our ears attuned to his life-giving Word so that we are able to go forth into our world proclaiming and witnessing to his kingdom. This is not ordinary. We have the opportunity to do extraordinary things. The love and forgiveness of God celebrated in Christ every Sunday will help us to proclaim his love and forgiveness in word and deed until Christ comes again in glory. When we do this, we carry on what Jesus began. This is our extraordinary vocation. This is the power of Ordinary Time – The Sundays of Pentecost.



AUTUMN

FORMATION

Growing in Grace

Grace upon Grace: A Study of John's Gospel

Thursdays, October 5–November 30, 7:00–8:30pm

Join us this fall as we walk through John's Gospel with the help of Karoline Lewis' commentary, *John*, from Fortress Press. Of the four Gospels, John's is the most extravagant and poetic, and he offers us a transformative image of what life with Christ looks like.

In addition to reading the Gospel and commentary together, you will be invited to try on a new practice of scripture engagement for the duration of the study such as listening to, copying, journaling and memorizing scripture. Sign ups are located in the Gathering Space or you can email Mtr. Melesa.



MKE Youth Collab

Once a month on Sundays, 5:00–7:00pm

The MKE Youth Collab is an Episcopal youth group open to all 6th–12th graders, and is facilitated by Christ Church Whitefish Bay, St. Mark's Milwaukee, St. Paul's Milwaukee, St. Thomas of Canterbury Greendale, and Trinity Wauwatosa.

The Collab gathers throughout the school year as a supportive place where youth can build community, grow, and serve our neighbors. STOC Youth are invited to join Mtr. Melesa each month at the Collab for games, formation and a pizza dinner!

Dates for the fall are September 17, October 15, and November 19. All events will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal in downtown Milwaukee.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Third Sunday at the 10am service

Children's Liturgy of the Word is back in September! Children K4–5th grade are invited to the parish library for a Bible lesson and craft. Parents are welcome to attend with their children if they would like. Students will rejoin the church service during the passing of the peace.



Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

Sunday, November 26, 11:30am–1:30pm

Lay Eucharistic ministers are individuals licensed by the church to take communion elements that have been consecrated to parishioners who are homebound or unable to attend Sundays services. This two hour training will include detailed instruction about the process of preparing a communion kit, leading a brief liturgy for communion under special circumstances, administering communion, and hands on practice through role play. Those who wish to be licensed will also need to complete Safe Church Training (online) and a background check. For more information or to sign up, please talk with Mtr. Melesa.

A light lunch will be provided.

FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE



Connect Sunday

Sunday, September 10

Join us on Sunday, September 10th, as we kick off the launch a new program year at STOC! We are celebrating at both services with donuts and the return of the choir at 10am. Stick around after each service to get to know your neighbor, learn more about fall formation programs, pick up an updated parish directory, and sign up to serve at or with the good people of St. Thomas.

Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 7, 10:00am

Calling all critters! In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), we will be holding the annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 7th, in the church parking lot. All pets, their owners, and any animal lovers are invited! If your pet does not play well with others or is unable to travel to the church, please bring a picture of them!



Outreach Team Meeting

Sunday, October 22, 11:30am

Looking for a way to plug in at St. Thomas? Interested in helping us find and promote ways for us to be good neighbors in our neighborhoods? Consider being a part of the Outreach Team! The Outreach Team meets 2-3 times a year to plan service opportunities, support the peanut butter and jelly club, identify monthly outreach partners, and consider ways that we as a parish can expand of vision of what it means to be a good neighbor.



Fall Clean Up Day

Saturday, November 4, 9:30am-noon

All hands on deck! Help us care for our building and grounds through a variety of outdoor and indoor projects. A detailed project list will be completed by our Building and Grounds Team and shared before November 1st. All ages welcome! We will have projects for our youngest and most experienced members! Please sign up via the link in the eNews or on the form in the Gathering Space.

Vestry Nominations

While the Annual Meeting of our parish is still months away (January 2024), now is the time when we begin to pray and prepare for electing new members of the Vestry. In 2023, we made significant changes to how the Vestry operates, including moving to a model that is centered around annual Vestry goals rather than ministry liaison relationships.

Members of the Vestry serve as the governing body of the parish and work to develop strategies for fulfilling and discerning our parish's mission. We also establish and monitor the budget, have robust and healthy discussions, laugh, support each other and celebrate our accomplishments. The commitment to the Vestry includes a monthly meeting (6:15pm-8pm), an annual one day retreat. Members of the Vestry serve three-year terms. If you are interested in learning more about the Vestry, please contact Mtr. Melesa or a current Vestry member.



OUTREACH

Socktober Returns

October 2023

Deny it as we may, winter is coming! Warm and dry feet as essential to making it through Wisconsin winters, so this October we will be collecting NEW socks to be given to and distributed by Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Last year we collected 375 pairs of socks for Socktober. Think we can beat it this year? Socks for all ages are needed!

A collection box will be placed in the Gathering Space. Sock donations will be accepted through October 29th.



Outreach Partners

September 2023



The September Outreach recipient is ACTS Housing. ACTS's mission is to promote affordable home ownership that fosters a low-income family's ability to be self-empowered, thereby reducing community blight, neighborhood deterioration, and poverty. ACTS' strategy is to generate home ownership opportunities for inner-city residents within a targeted neighborhood so that an entire community can be transformed and sustained.

October 2023



The October Outreach Partner is the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission offers practical assistance like food, clothing, and shelter, in addition to short- and long-term assistance, education, pastoral care, help in overcoming substance abuse, job training and much more.

November 2023



The November Outreach Partner is the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is a faith-based nonprofit that provides a variety of services including addiction services, emergency services, meal assistance and more.

To give to our monthly outreach partner, use an outreach giving envelop or write outreach in the memo line of your check.

Upcoming Dates

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Making

Monday, September 11 at 4:00pm

Monday, October 16 at 4:00pm

Monday, November 13 at 4:00pm

Monday, December 11 at 4:00pm

Each month we make 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to be distributed the following Saturday through The Gathering's weekend meal program in Milwaukee. All ages are invited to join in the sticky fun each month!

Outreach by the Numbers

\$1,454 Collected for The Clergy Discretionary Fund in April

\$800 for Sojourner Family Peace Center in May

\$1,070 for Milwaukee Street Angels in June

\$1,098 for Repairers of the Breach in July

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

September 02	Veronica Heaney	November 02	Elizabeth Hipp
September 03	Don Stormoen	November 03	Tom White
September 09	Pete Leszcynski	November 04	Kris Reed
September 09	John Heuer	November 07	Audrey Reineck
September 15	Mark Krausman	November 09	Dennis Witkowski
September 16	Ron Thorson	November 09	Kathi Beinlich
September 21	Dennis McKnight	November 10	Ruth Lent
September 22	Judy Stormoen	November 12	Bernie Sommer
September 28	Melanie McKay	November 14	Olivia Carstens
October 02	John Amenda	November 20	Jane White
October 10	Teagan Amenda	November 22	Gail Passler
October 14	Pat Totsky	November 23	Carol Chmielewski
October 15	Terry Greiten	November 23	Cindy Purpero
October 23	Tony Kluessendorf	November 24	Colleen Nelson
October 28	Josie Neff	November 24	Jim Joehnk
October 30	Marge Fink Hill	November 28	Mary Benes-Malone
October 30	Tom Labisch	November 28	Louise Allen
October 31	Nikki Domenget	November 29	Erik Skoglund

Anniversaries

September 04	Meghan & Tony Kluessendorf	October 02	Tammy & Jim Wroblewski
September 13	Tammy & Brian Knaption	October 06	Veronica & Gary Heaney
September 16	Marie & Jan Lee Brzezinski	October 10	Kathie & Jim Beuscher
September 25	Diane & Michael Piontek	October 18	Jane & Tom White
September 26	Gail & Stan Dunne	October 19	Joan & Mark Lamson
September 28	Melesa & Erik Skoglund	October 23	Erica & John Amenda
November 22	Mary & John Heuer		



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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