

THE CANTERBURY TALES

AUGUST 2016



FR. MARK'S MUSINGS

Happy August and hope you are all enjoying the “Dog Days of Summer”. The heat just seems to slow us down, doesn't it? But by comparison, last month I was in southern Georgia and our hosts would have thought this weather was rather nice. Of course, if you were from farther north you might find this heat unbearable. I remember visiting my cousins in Scotland during a heat wave. They were struggling in the unusually warm 80 degree weather while my son and I were quite comfortable. Conversely, while in seminary a good friend of mine was complaining of the cold and wore a winter coat and hat indoors! For him our 75 degree building was almost 50 degrees cooler than summers in his home land of Sudan. How we perceive a thing is very dependent on our past experiences and what we are used to.

I will give you another analogy. A few years ago a friend of mine and I were comparing the parishes in which we were rectors. Both had the same Sunday attendance, approximately the same size buildings, budget, and deficit. However, one parish was filled with great hope and spirit. They were growing in their faith and their understanding of being Christ in the community. The other was depressed and worried about their future, finances, and building. There was a sense of anger, frustration, and disagreement in the parish. What was the difference between the two parishes? One was on their way up while the other was in decline.

This brings me to St. Thomas of Canterbury. Some people see this parish as a dynamic, spirit filled place of faith where we are learning to live out our ministries in the community. While others see us in decline and moving away from the core values that made our past great. These are very different views based on different perspectives. Just for the record, I see this parish as growing, spirit filled, and moving toward a wonderful future. It could be that I am an incurable optimist, or it just might be that this parish is growing. New members and new programs are taking root and there is life!

If you are one of those who see us in decline, (and there can be no debate that attendance is down), perhaps it might be a good idea to take another look with different eyes. Sometimes the number of very young people in the parish is even a bit distracting. What a wonderful thing!!! Every month there is another report on the progress of the vision team on the bulletin board and in the tale. The choir continues its outreach to the community with concerts for the residents of nursing homes and senior living centers. And if you were in church this last Sunday you would have seen the incredible results of the enthusiastic Canterbury Crafters and friends. All of these ministries make a difference in this community in a variety of ways. One more thing that perhaps many of you don't get a chance to witness is when visitors come to our parish they frequently tell me that there is a wonderful spirit in and around this congregation. It is life and it is life giving. A few that have visited over a long period of time have told me that that spirit is growing.

So if you're a glass half empty kind of person, I invite you to take another look at St. Thomas of Canterbury. Only this time don't think about whether the glass is half full or half empty, but consider the 23rd Psalm. Even when things look their darkest, walking through the valley of the shadow of death, we will not be afraid, because our cup runneth over! God has given us from the divine abundance everything we need. It is ours to share with others. And it is in giving that true joy is found.

Peace always,

Fr. Mark





DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

"What dreadful hot weather we have!
It keeps me in a continual state of inelegance." - Jane Austen "

On July 26, 2016 I took my pet companion, Cheeto, to the vet because of periodic coughing thinking it might be asthma or an allergy. It was aggressive cancer and I had to let Cheeto go; my heart is hurting and my house is empty. But as the card I received from the pet crematory says: *How precious the time; beautiful the memories.*

By the time you receive this Tale, I will have:

--met with the Nicholson House ladies for lunch—August 4th

--voted—August 9th

--been at the beginning rounds of meetings for Lifelong Christian Formation—August 10th

And now...

We start gearing up for fall meetings—Executive Council and Commission on Ministry in September, continuing Lifelong Christian Formation in October along with the Diocesan Convention that is being held on October 7th and 8th at the Madison Marriott West Hotel & Convention Center, Middleton, WI. The theme is: **From every family, language, people, and nation, a kingdom of priests to serve our God. (Canticle 18/Revelation 5:9-10)**

REMINDER: I am running for the office of delegate to the General Convention in 2018 which will be held July 5th-13th 2018 in Austin, TX. Shamelessly I plead: vote for me.

AND **ALL** are invited, for FREE, on Friday

-- to attend the workshops:

Multicultural Ministry - presented by Anthony Guillen, Latino /Hispanic Ministry officer from the Episcopal Church Center

Who are our Neighbors?

Living into our Neighborhood - real life experience

Time with the Bishop of Milwaukee

Diocesan Budget / Parish Assessments 2017

Racial Reconciliation

Global Reconciliation - Sustainable Development Goals

--to participate in the Eucharistic Service and

--to enjoy the social hour

For those of us addicted to Forward Day By Day, a book of daily meditations produced by the Forward Movement Company, The Rev. Jonathan Melton - a priest of this diocese who leads the Episcopal campus ministry at UW-Madison, St. Francis House - wrote the daily meditations for the month of September this year.

I continue with my regular "Fridays at Nicholson House," the diocesan office, (804 East Juneau) and again invite you to stop in for coffee/tea and a tour.

"There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart." - Celia Thaxter

Peace and prayers,

Deacon Marge





NOTES FROM PAUL STOVING, SENIOR WARDEN

Costello: Well, then who's playing first?

Abbott: Yes.

Costello: I mean the fellow's name on first base.

Abbott: Who.

Costello: The fellow playin' first base.

Abbott: Who.

Costello: The guy on first base.

Abbott: Who is on first.

Costello: Well, what are you askin' me for?

So begins one of the most famous skits in comedy. If you've never heard it, the first baseman's name is, in fact, "Who," leading to much confusion. Lou Costello is trying to ask a question, but Bud Abbott hears it as a statement. Then later when Abbott says a statement, Costello repeatedly hears his own question back. Because each is stuck within his mindset, neither hears what the other is saying. Costello gets increasingly frustrated and agitated, and Abbott continues to answer in a calm deadpan.

Communications can be like that for us sometimes too. Sometimes, we try to express ourselves as best as we can, but somehow our message still fails to get through. I've been there, and I can say that it usually leaves me feeling more like Costello than Abbott. To make things even harder, all of us communicate differently. Some people like bulleted lists of facts. Others like metaphors and similes. Some people do well with numbers; others need things explained in text. Some need to hear things; others need to see things. Some people may do well with

words, but, I've found for difficult concepts, I usually need a picture, sometimes with a bright blinking red arrow that says, "look here" (but that's a different story).

To make sure that we all have a chance to "be on the same page," we should attempt to communicate in multiple ways with the hope that something will get through. Your vestry attempts to communicate meetings via posted minutes on both our bulletin boards and on our website. Important notices are posted in our weekly bulletin and in the *Canterbury Tales*, as well as visually on our bulletin boards. While the *Tale* itself is sent out via email, it is also viewable on our webpage, and printed copies are available for distribution in church or by request.

Nevertheless, I'm certain we can improve.

For many topics, there really seems to be no substitute for face to face communications. Something new that we've tried a few times in the past year is to hold open forums. This is a chance for us all to meet together, discuss things, hash them out, and, in my opinion most importantly, ask questions if we don't understand. In the past year, I've seen something remarkable: these meetings have seemed to me to be more effective than if we had all talked to each other one at a time, almost like they are worth more than the sum of their parts, because it gives us a chance to build on each other's ideas.

This month, on August 14th, after the Sunday service, we will be holding an open forum to discuss our budget deficit. Recall again that we approved this deficit when we approved this year's budget. Also recall that this year's deficit is the lowest that I've ever seen since I started serving on vestry. On top of the deficit, there are many deferred maintenance items that we have been unable to afford but cannot put off much longer without them becoming larger expenses.

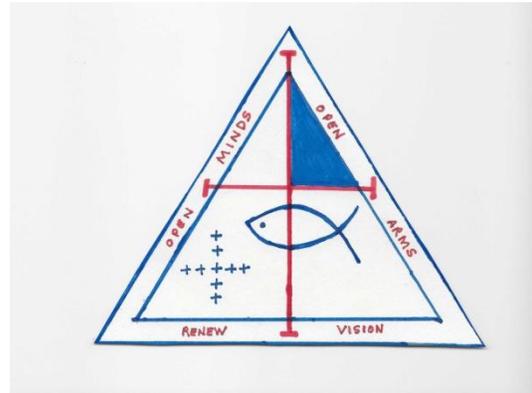
I encourage each of you to come. We will be looking for your suggestions on how best to address these issues, as well as anything else that may be on your minds. If you can't come (or if you are reading this after the fourteenth), but feel strongly on any issue, please feel free to contact me or any other vestry member.

Let's all be on the same page, and know "who's on first."

As always, I appreciate your thoughts.

Paul Stoving





VISION TEAM UPDATE

Isaiah 30:21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, this is the way, walk in it

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known

Psalms 46 :10 Be still and know that I am GOD

Can you believe it's August already?! Where does the summer go? We who live in Wisconsin eagerly await the summer weather—and I do mean WAIT. We complain that it takes forever to get here and then groan about the blasted heat and darn humidity; but, we wait, and yes it does come. Again, there is that need to be patient and hold on to our faith. God will make sure that we will have all four seasons to enjoy.

The Vision team has also learned the value of patience. Habakkuk 2:3 “the vision has an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, wait for it, because it will surely come, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it: because it will surely come. It will not tarry”. Being patient is not always easy to do as we all know, but patience often brings about great and glorious things!! And that is exactly what has happened here at St. Thomas of Canterbury. We are extremely excited that by exercising patience and allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to open our ears and hearts to God's voice, His plan for our parish is finally becoming apparent. Jeremiah 33:3 “Call to me and I will answer you, I will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” We waited with patience and have called on God and He has truly answered our call. As you are probably aware, with God's help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Vision team has come up with three projects that we are researching as ways to utilize our resources and reach out to the Greendale community and meet some very crucial needs. As of now, we are calling them: 1) Community garden project, 2) Kids lunch project and 3) Advocates for seniors project. We will meet twice in the month of August to determine the viability of

these three projects within our parish. We are asking you all, I as well, to start thinking about these projects, because in order for any one of them to be successful, St. Thomas and the Vision team needs the help and continued prayers of our entire parish family. Not only will any one of these projects help those of our Greendale community, but it will also empower all of us with the love and presence of Christ in our church as we worship as a family. What an awesome and glorious blessing!!

Please continue to watch our bulletin board in the narthex for updates and meeting minutes. Also, keep making your prayer tree grow by taking new “leaves of faith” as they become available. The power of prayer is incredible and indeed evident at St. Thomas of Canterbury—so continue to pray unceasingly!! Remember that with prayer and God, “all things are possible” Matthew 19:26.

Isaiah 30:21 “your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, this is the way, walk in it.” We have waited with patience and humility for the Holy Spirit to guide us to hear God’s voice and discern His pathway of renewal for our parish family. Now we rejoice as God speaks to us at long last. We are hearing His voice and drawing closer to the vision He has for us here at St. Thomas of Canterbury. It is a very exciting time for all of us. Please feel free to approach any Vision team member with questions, concerns or ideas. We want the entire parish family to join us in our excitement as making God’s vision for us a reality.

Faithfully in Christ,
Your Vision Team,

Fr. Mark Moore
Gayle Radavich
Joan Lamson
Erika Stoving
Randy Schraw
Tammy Wyman
Noelle Gelhaart
Jesse Hein
Lisa Chmielewski



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, FUN!!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 9:00 SERVICE



Please plan on joining us on Sunday, August 28th after the 9:00 am service for our 2016 parish picnic. This is our last combined service for the summer and will be a great way to celebrate our oneness as a parish family.

The church will provide hot ham and rolls. If you can, please bring the following:

- Last name A-M, bring a dessert to pass
- Last name, N-Z, bring a salad to pass
- A Lawn Chair

We also will be having a **DIP Competition** as this year's food challenge! Bring your favorite dip to share.

If you are able to help with a few items to make the picnic a success, please add your name the sign-up sheet on the Narthex door.

Thanks,
Parish Life

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



Bridget Done	August 3
Lorraine Herzstock	August 5
Jessica Wigand	August 6
Pat Brunelli	August 8
Lukas Carstens	August 8
Randy Schraw	August 9
Marilee Wade	August 12
Mandy Klumb	August 15
Dustin Becker	August 18
Irene Slyfield	August 18
John Allen	August 23
Marjorie Szydlowski	August 25
Audrey Klumb	August 29

ANNIVERSARIES



Paul & Erika Stoving	August 2
Matthew & Margaret Done	August 9
Thomas & Kathi Beinlich	August 12
Carol Kelly	August 30



SAVE THE DATE



Father Mark's wedding to Sandra Archer will be held on Saturday, September 17th at St. Michael's in Racine at 2:00 P.M. with a reception to follow. They would love for everyone from their church families to be there to celebrate this wonderful event with them.



YOGA AT ST. THOMAS

Mondays: 8:30-9:30 am
September 12 - October 17
October 31 - December 12
*** (NO Class 10/24)***

****PRICE CHANGE**:** \$7/drop –in and \$60/10 class card
Current punch cards will be honored.

Hope to see you and any friends/family that would like to join us!
Contact me with any questions!

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BOOK CORNER



Pastor Mark Batterson in his book, *The Circle Maker*, states that “Drawing prayer circles around our dreams isn’t just a mechanism whereby we accomplish great things for God. It’s a mechanism whereby God accomplishes great things in us.”

If you are looking to improving your prayer life, I highly recommend this book. Beginning with the retelling of Honi the Circle Maker who draws a circle in the sand and stays within that circle until his prayers for his people are answered, Pastor Batterson guides us to “Dream Big,” “Pray Hard,” “Think Long,” while continuing to circle around our prayers. Each chapter ends with thought provoking questions that will impact your life. One such question is “If one prayer has the power to change the course of history, why do you think we don’t pray more?”

Prayer is a driving force within our parish community. This book offers another perspective of the power of praying unceasingly.

