

## THE CANTERBURY TALES

FEBRUARY 2017



Father Mark and Sandra are travelling to England to attend Sandra's mother, Marion's, funeral. Marion passed away February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Father Mark, Sandra and the entire family in your prayers.



### DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other. ~Linda Ellerbee, *Move On: Adventures in the Real World*, 1991

**No** Diocesan meetings in February! PHEW.

At St. Thomas of Canterbury, I will be attending an altar guild meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> and participating in the visit from Bishop Miller on February 26<sup>th</sup> including confirmation and a reception to the Episcopal Church.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended an organization meeting with those of us elected as deputies to the General Convention in Austin, TX in 2018. Two of the eight of us are "newbies." The others have been at between 1 to 4 General Conventions. Their insight regarding preparing for the event was most helpful.

At the 2018 Convention, two of the areas of dialogue and decision are leadership and the Book of Common Prayer:

--should there be less or more Canonical Structure—how arrange the “chairs”; how keep the ship afloat?

As Bishop Miller said at the last Executive Council meeting: *Sometimes structure can hinder.*  
--revising the Book of Common Prayer

**The Living Church** is a bi-weekly magazine published by the Living Church Foundation with the “historic mission in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion to seek and serve the Catholic and evangelical faith of the one Church, to the end of visible Christian unity throughout the world.”

On October 2, 2016, **The Living Church** began a teaching series on prayer book revision: *Necessary or Expedient?* As is stated in the Preface of the BCP p. 9:

*The Church of England, to which the Protestant Episcopal Church in these States is indebted, under God, for her first foundation and a long continuance of nursing care and protection, hath, in the Preface of her Book of Common Prayer, laid it down as a rule, that "The particular Forms of Divine Worship, and the Rites and Ceremonies appointed to be used therein, being things in their own nature indifferent, and alterable, and so acknowledged; it is but reasonable that upon weighty and important considerations, according to the various exigency of times and occasions, such changes and alterations should be made therein, as to those that are in place of Authority should, from time to time, seem either necessary or expedient."*

Article topics so far are:

- Are We Done with the “79 Prayer Book?
- Fresh and Familiar
- Prayer Books Ancient and Modern
- ‘Let the Liturgy Be’
- It’s Never *Just* About the Music
- Common Prayer, Common Purpose
- A Good Map for the Journey

If you are interested in any or all of the current articles, let me know by calling me, e-mailing me or seeing me at church.

AND in the most recent **The Living Church**, there was a small news item from The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM).

It will ask the 79th General Convention to consider four different paths for revising the Book of Common Prayer.

The four paths are:

- Full and comprehensive revision of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer beginning after the 2018 General Convention

- Creation of comprehensive Book(s) of Alternative Services and no revision of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, with work beginning after the 2018 General Convention
- Intensive church-wide conversation between the 2018 and 2021 General Convention about whether a revision of the Book of Common Prayer is needed or desirable; to what extent; and whether the Episcopal Church should instead develop significant supplemental liturgical resources, such as a Book of Alternative Services
- A step back from efforts toward comprehensive liturgical revision or creation of new liturgies, and an accompanying commitment to deepening the collective understanding of and engagement with the theology of current liturgies

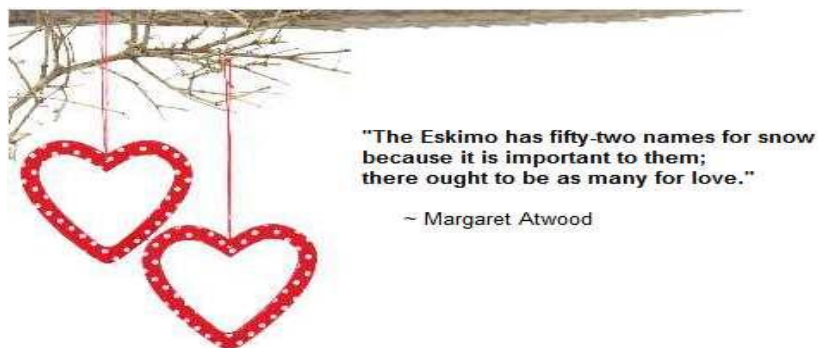
Enough of General Convention considerations!

On a personal note:

--late February I will pet-sit for Gabby, Patch, Lenox and Jet

--during February I will be moving, actually closer to St. Thomas

Again, I am at Nicholson House every Friday and encourage you to visit and tour the diocesan office.



Peace, love and prayers,

*Deacon Marge*



## NOTES FROM PAUL STOVING, SENIOR WARDEN

*Try to see it my way,  
Only time will tell if I am right or I am wrong  
While you see it your way  
There's a chance that we may fall apart before too long.*

While I was growing up, my sisters went through a phase where they constantly were listening to the Beatles. In “We Can Work It Out,” Paul McCartney writes of a couple fighting. In my mind, the two are each insisting on their way, and essentially threatening dire consequences if the path of the other’s way is followed. An olive branch is offered, “there’s no time for fussing or fighting,” but only if the other tries to, “see it *my way*.”

We can all be that way sometimes. We all tend to focus on “my way” as being correct and bad things will happen if “my way” is not followed. We see this not only in relationships, but in politics, and even in religion.

In the Episcopal Church, there is a tradition of “*Via Media*.” This is a Latin phrase that translates as the “middle way,” and comes from the philosophy of Aristotle. He posited that when confronted with two extreme positions, the best course was right down the middle, taking some of each, but in moderation. In the Anglican Church, and later the Episcopal Church, this was taken as the middle way between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism, which has resulted in many of our practices in church today.

This still applies to us to this very day. Even in St. Thomas, we have many parishioners from diverse backgrounds. As a result, many of us have learned to worship in different ways. To each of us, “my way” is correct; “your way” is wrong and might have dire consequences. However, also for each one of us, “my way” is someone else’s “your way.” Since there are more than two people in our congregation, there are a lot more “you”s than “me”s, which means that, statistically, we are all wrong!

What do we do about that?

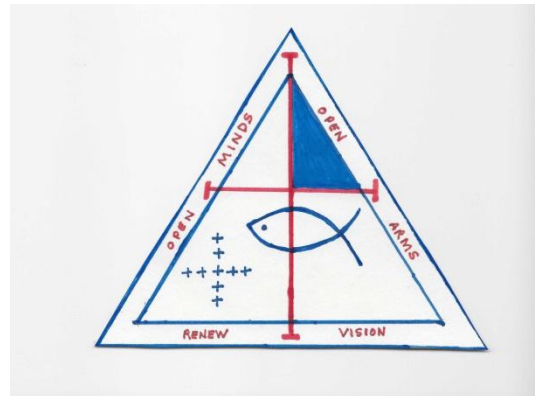
In short, we still follow the middle way. Essentially, compromise. We all must work together and chart the course that goes through the middle of our backgrounds and practices. Unfortunately, this sometimes means that those at the extremes may be further from the path we choose than those that fall more in the middle. This doesn't make those at the extremes less important; it actually makes them more important, as they balance those at the opposite extremes. Without both, we will lose balance and fall.

As our congregation shifts from time to time, our middle road may also shift with it. This means that periodically we will try new things and may sometimes drop old things. This is a natural part of seeking the middle way. In my time as Senior Warden, I have let the middle way be one of my guiding principles, always attempting to find a path through the middle. Where not possible, I'll encourage us to try a little of each, but in moderation. This means that sometimes we'll do things one way, sometimes another.

As we continue with a new year, I ask each one of you to take a look at your practices, and the practices of the rest of us. Try to understand the rest of us. Essentially, don't only ask others to just see things "my way," as in the song, but also promise to try to see things "your way," and try to meet the rest of us in the middle. You may find it an enriching experience.

As always, I appreciate your thoughts

*Paul Stoving*



## VISION TEAM UPDATE

### *Health in Body and Spirit*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

3 John 1:2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Happy Valentine's Day and a very blessed 2017!! I hope this day finds everyone in good health and happiness. May you know and feel God's peace and love surround each and every day, for He is always with you.

Each day is a precious gift from God and we should do our best to remember that and enjoy each day to the fullest. In order to do that, it is important to be as healthy and vibrant as possible. As stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19 our bodies are "temples of the Holy Spirit", so it behooves us to treat them as such. We want to make sure that our parish family as well as the community of Greendale has access to tools and information to allow them to be the healthiest they can be, so we have formed a Health Advocacy Committee to help make this happen. You will be hearing more about this group of faithful, dedicated and caring people who want all people they touch to be healthy spiritually as well as physically.

Currently, we are working with the Greendale Health Department to try and reach out to our parish family and the people of the Greendale community to increase awareness of getting and staying in good health and ways to make that easier. We have Files for Life available for all and

we hope that all members of the congregation will take one and utilize them. We will also be reaching out to those in Greendale in order to provide them with a File of Life in hopes that someday everyone will have these in their homes. Basically, it is a list of medicines and health conditions placed on your refrigerator that a EMT or another healthcare giver can use to help an individual in trouble that cannot speak for him or herself. It could truly save a life and is such a simple thing to do. Please see a member of our committee to get one for yourself and every one in your family.

It is flu season, so please remember to get your flu vaccine if you have not already done so!! Any person over the age of 65 should also consider getting the series of pneumonia vaccines which include the Pevnar 13 and Pneumococcal 23. Vaccinations are a valuable tool and are a good preventative step to take. Other vaccines are also available and important to keep up to date with to remain healthy. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Health Advocacy Committee. As we move forward with this project, we will keep you informed as to what we are doing to try and keep St. Thomas of Canterbury and the Greendale Community as healthy as possible.

Matthew 19:26 with God all things are possible.

Faithfully in Christ,

Erika Stoving  
Lisa Chmielewski  
Shelly Wawrzonek  
Sally Greg  
Noelle Gehlhaart

**ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
GREENDALE WISCONSIN  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2016**

**Opening Prayer and Call to Order**

Father Mark Moore called the meeting to order at 10:16am with 40 people in attendance; he led the gathering in opening prayer.

**Acceptance of 2016 Minutes**

Motion: Clem Wagner moved that the 2016 minutes be accepted as written; Angie Bier seconded the motion; approved by all present.

**Rector Report**

Father Mark referred to his written report for complete information. He reiterated that although attendance is down, he feels the energy in the church about the garden and senior advocacy projects is a step in the right direction.

**Vestry Reports**

These can be reviewed as submitted.

There were some questions regarding the reports. Deacon Marge Kiss noted that the Canterbury Tale and Pam Kasper, its editor, had been left out of the Communications Report. Kathie Hein said this was an oversight that she'd realized after the report had been submitted, and that she apologized for that, and appreciates all of Pam's hard work on the Tale. Deacon Marge and Bill Kienzle also asked for an explanation of the website numbers, and it was clarified that each computer is only counted once per month as it accesses the website, although any individual using multiple devices would be counted once per device.

Bill Kienzle expressed his wish for more content in either the Canterbury Tale or the bulletin, about events in the Greendale Community or other churches in the area or Diocese. Pam Kasper asked that anyone who wants something included in the Tale send it to her. Both Angie Bier and Fr Mark reminded the congregation that we are the "reporters" and that Pam can only include the content she is given. A note was made to put an announcement in the bulletin to give the congregation her email address and directions to her mail slot in the parish office.

Bill Kienzle referred to the Buildings and Grounds report and asked about the panic bars. The panic bars are in process and one each will be installed on two separate sets of doors. It will not prevent a casket from entering in the front door.



Irene Slyfield asked about the leak behind the altar. This is an ongoing problem, and several solutions have been tried over the past few years that haven't helped at all. We are still trying to trace the cause of the problem.

Irene Slyfield and Scott Carstens asked about the basement leak and grading problem. To regrade the area along that wall would require dropping the ground by at least 4 feet and tearing out the landscaping and likely part of the driveway. The cost is prohibitive, and the current solution is to keep the gutters cleared and water directed away from that wall as much as possible.

Scott Carstens asked about a church Facebook page. Father Mark explained the need for it to be constantly updated to be worthwhile, and asked for volunteers who are social media savvy to contact him.

### **Senior Warden Report**

Paul Stoving started his report with the Mission and Vision Statements that emphasize that all are welcome at STOC. He noted the ways in the past year where STOC has been living out its mission with things such as the choir outreach concerts, vision team projects, and the forums that led to the Vestry's vote to open up marriage to same sex couples at STOC. He also highlighted the Columbarium that was installed this year, with 12 niches already sold. He talked about seasonally changing from the Traditional to Contemporary version of The Lord's Prayer, and how Worship Committee recommended that we stop singing the Lord's Prayer, based on feedback from the Congregation. He also explained that Annual Reviews have been started for Father Mark for the first time, at both his request and an inquiry from a parishioner, and how that has helped Vestry and Father Mark gather feedback from the congregation.

As liaison to Finance, Paul also reported that despite having a deficit budget for 2016, we just about broke even. On top of that, donations made it possible to buy a new computer and software for the office, and a printer/copier was also donated. STOC also paid off the Diocesan Loan in full and has made good progress paying down the loan that was converted from the Line of Credit. The money from the Rummage Sale as well as the donations from the Jiu Jitsu lessons are paying for our new crash bars. Finance and the Vestry will use 2017 to concentrate on the best use of the Anne Yokers' memorial.

Paul also admitted that the Stewardship Campaign didn't go as well as everyone had hoped. He noted that some people who had pledged in the past have failed to turn in pledge cards. He asked that anyone who decided not to pledge this year let him know why they made that decision. The upcoming Open Forum in February will also have a discussion on how the congregation thought the Stewardship Drive went and what they would like to see done differently in the future with the Stewardship Campaign, Special Asking drives, or any other issues. In conclusion, Paul asked that anyone with concerns about anything bring them to the ongoing Open Forums, or come to him, Fr Mark, or any Vestry member.

At the end of his presentation, Paul asked Margaret Done to come up and give tokens of appreciation to our outgoing Vestry Members: Dave Mecikalski, Joan Lamson, and Donna Celsor

## **2017 Budget**

Paul Stoving thanked Kris Reed and Tammy Wyman for their many hours of work in forming the budget for 2017.

He noted that all the staff was given 2% raises. He explained that Vestry made this decision in order to keep the pay in line with the current market for those positions. It also will prevent “sticker shock” when Fr Mark eventually retires or leaves, and we find what we will be expected to pay a new Rector.

There are also now minimum pay guidelines the Diocese recommends. Lastly, no one really wants to make any of the employees unhappy enough that we’d have to do the extensive work of a search to replace them.

Paul explained that Diocesan guidelines have changed, so the line item that was previously labeled as Housing Equity has been rolled into Fr Mark’s base salary.

Paul also explained that, based on feedback and help from the Diocesan Finance Treasurer, we have changed the way we are recording our loan payments. Previously, they had been recorded as Expenses. This is not accurate, in Accounting Terms, as the expense was whatever the money was used for at the time of the loan. The interest on the loan is an expense, but the principal payments are what is referred to as “negative cash flow.” Because our Diocesan Assessment is based on our expenses, our Assessment for 2018 will be lowered.

Bill Kienzle asked about the Designated funds and requested that the congregation be notified when money is used from them. He was told that this is noted every month on the Financial Report that is made available on the bulletin board. He expressed a desire for it to be presented in the bulletin instead. Fr Mark said Communications would take that under consideration.

Sharon Owen asked if there could be a motion made that would prohibit the unrestricted memorial funds from the Yokers’ Estate from being used on repairs or refurbishment. Louise Allen and Father Mark both explained that doing so would be a violation of Estate Laws, as well as going against the wishes of the person who purposely gave the money as unrestricted. Louise Allen also explained that the point is moot. Any funds, restricted or not, can be used for any purpose in an emergency, or if, for example, money is designated for Children’s Sunday School, but there are no children to form a Sunday

School and the walls need repaired. Father Mark emphasized that he and the Vestry are very committed to honoring the wishes of those who leave money to the church, but that the courts have agreed that churches can use funds left by an estate for things other than what was designated, in those cases. Sharon Owen withdrew her motion.

Sharon Owen asked about the Line of Credit. It was converted to a term loan, and no longer exists.

Irene Slyfield asked about the church’s books being audited. The Diocese has the church audited every other year. 2016 was our off year.

Motion: Irene Slyfield motioned that we accept the 2017 Budget as Presented. It was seconded by Clem Wagner. It was approved by all present

**Election of Vestry & Convention Delegates.**

There are three open seats on the Vestry. In addition, Margaret Done and Paul Stoving's terms are up, but they have agreed to continue for another term.

Scott Celsor and Mark Lamson volunteered to serve. No other names were put forward. Fr Mark announced that we would go with a smaller Vestry this year. It was asked what the procedure is, if someone later wants to take the empty seat. The By-laws allow Vestry to vote in someone to fill an empty seat throughout the year. Anyone who would like to serve can let a Vestry Member know at any time.

The Vestry Retreat will be Feb 18<sup>th</sup> at St Mark's, South Milwaukee.

Motion: Shelly Wawrzonek moved that we elect the slate of candidates as presented. Lisa Chmielewski seconded. It was approved by all present.

Motion: Mark Slyfield moved that we elect Paul Stoving as Sr Warden and Margaret Done as Jr Warden. Irene Slyfield seconded the motion. It was approved by all present.

In addition, Gail Pedersen volunteered to serve as Vestry Clerk. She will be elected by Vestry at the next meeting.

We need four delegates to Convention and four alternates. Convention will be October 14<sup>th</sup> at St John's Military Academy in Delafield.

Pam Kasper, Irene Slyfield, Scott Celsor, and Scott Carstens agreed to be serve as Delegates.

Shelly Wawrzonek and Kris Reed have agreed to be alternates.

Motion: Angie Bier moved that we accept the slate of candidates and alternates. Mark Slyfield seconded. It was approved by all present.

**General Comments:**

Shelly Wawrzonek reminded everyone of the upcoming Mystery Dinner fundraiser, open to everyone.

Karen Leszcynski asked if there are plans to rent out the rectory. Father Mark is still using the rectory almost every day, and it was agreed that this was the best solution for everyone for multiple reasons. The most pressing reasons being that STOC can't afford to pay the housing allowance we'd be required to give him in lieu of the rectory's use, and any rent we received from the rectory is taxable as income.

Kris Reed expressed thanks to Pete Leszcynski as Assistant Treasurer, and Gail Pedersen and Mary Seppala as Recording Treasurers. Mary has stepped away from the position for 2017, and anyone interested in taking her place should contact Kris Reed or Tammy Wyman.

### **Necrology**

Jane L. Murphy (January 24, 2016)  
Phillip W. Harper (March 23, 2016)  
Nancy M. Houdek (December 9, 2016)

A Closing Prayer: Was recited by all.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:51am

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathie Hein  
Clerk of the Vestry



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP



### **Regarding Executive Order on Refugees: Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee issues statement**

The following statement issued by the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee has been signed by Bishop Miller and other judicatory leaders.

*For almost 50 years, the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee has stood together, committed to upholding the dignity of every person and the solidarity of the human community. We believe the recent executive order that would stop the entry of refugees from predominantly Muslim countries is not only detrimental to national security but also contrary to our collective commitment to unity, as well as to our individual faith understandings of what it means to offer hospitality and to welcome the stranger.*

*For over 200 years, our nation has stood as a beacon of hope for the oppressed of the world. It has been the place that countless generations have looked upon as a land of real opportunity, a place where they can live free and provide for their families without hindrance. Certainly there have been times in our history when we have not afforded these opportunities to everyone. This should not be one of those times.*





Episcopal Policy Network offers more info, call to action ...

To access a list of statements on refugees issued by the Presiding Bishop and other Episcopal leaders in light of President Trump's recent executive action regarding refugee resettlement go to the following link:

[advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/RefugeeAdvocacy](http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/RefugeeAdvocacy).

The list was compiled by the Episcopal Policy Network and at their link you will also find information on their "2 x 4 Campaign" which urges Episcopalians to call their elected representatives on behalf of refugees and refugee resettlement.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The kids have spoken. They want Sunday School to meet from 9:15 to 9:45 every Sunday. So beginning March 5, we will hold a one room school house for ages 4 and up. If your child is three and potty trained, please talk with any Sunday School teacher. We will continue with the "stump Fr. Mark bag. There will also be clipboards with age appropriate fun pages in the white dresser in the coat room. This is also where we will stock crayons and color books for the little ones.

Erika Stoving, Lisa Chmielewski and Donna Celsor are Sunday School teachers.

We are looking forward to seeing your children on March 5.

## **BISHOP MILLER TO VISIT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

Bishop Miller will be making his biennial visit to St. Thomas on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. He will be presiding at both the 8:00 and 10:00 AM services.

At the 10:00 AM service the Bishop will confirm Maggie Stoving, Cat Celsor and Amanda Slyfield; Angie Biers will be received into the Episcopal Church, and the Bishop will bless a silver paten purchased from Anne Yoker's gift along with altar tables that Father Mark made and Sandra gifted to the parish.

### ***Maggie Stoving***

Maggie is 13 years old and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Oak Creek East Middle School. She plays trumpet in her OCEMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade band and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade jazz band. She is also a member of the OCEMS German club and book club. She swims for the Oak Creek Swordfish Recreational Swim Team. Her favorite stroke is butterfly. She hopes to join the High School swim team next year. She is also involved in Girl Scouts and volunteers at the Oak Creek Library (when her schedule allows) and at Girl Scout service area meetings. Maggie is also an Acolyte and Youth Choir member at St. Thomas of Canterbury.

### ***Cat Celsor***

Cat is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Greendale Middle School. She enjoys Cross Country, Math, Theater, Reading, Fitness Club and volunteering. Cat is an Acolyte, Crucifer, Sunday School assistant and is in the Youth Choir.

### ***Amanda Slyfield***

Amanda is 15 years old and a freshman at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. She has been playing clarinet for five years and is in the High School Marching Band and Concert Band at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. Amanda's interests include drawing, reading, bugs and curling. She is an Acolyte and occasionally sings with the Youth Choir.

### ***Angie Biers***

Angie grew up on a hobby farm outside of Janesville, Wisconsin, the oldest of five children. She attended parochial school through the eighth grade and received her initial piano instruction from a nun at the convent up the hill from school. Angie was taught early on to play for masses, and playing for her church and others was a job that she started in middle school. She

still enjoys playing the piano to this day, and participation in the choir is her strongest tie at St. Thomas. Angie attended Lawrence University for undergrad, where she continued to take piano lessons on and off. She then attended medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Wauwatosa and met her husband, Jimmy, there. He grew up in Madison and some of you have met him in his practice as a gastroenterologist. The couple completed their medical training in Tucson, Arizona; Angie was trained as a pediatrician and practiced there and upon returning to Wisconsin up through 2014. Their oldest daughter, Natalie, was born in Arizona, and the desire to raise her close to family sparked their return to Wisconsin; it certainly wasn't the weather. Evelyn was born in Wisconsin. Since leaving medicine Angie has pursued a busy schedule of volunteer activities, and enjoys reading, cooking, travel, genealogical research, and writing in her free time. When her ankles allow it, she also enjoys tap dancing.



## **GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY**

***Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> is Girl Scout Sunday!***

Girl Scouts Day is celebrated on March 12, 2017. Girl Scouts Day commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low founded the very first girl troop of scouts with 18 girl members in Savannah, Georgia. It is also known as the birthday of the girl scouts. The week surrounding Girl Scouts Day is Girl Scout Week, also including Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath.

Girl scouts aim to do a good turn daily and to be prepared anytime to help. On Girl Scouts Day girl scouts celebrate their selves, the great friendship and trust in their groups and the worldwide connection between all girl scouts. (This text has been taken from [www.cute-calendar.com](http://www.cute-calendar.com))

St. Thomas of Canterbury's Girl Scouts will be actively involved at the 10:00 AM service and will be wearing their Girl Scout sashes/vests.





## **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK**

### ***VESTRY POSITION***

At the Annual Meeting three open Vestry positions needed filling. At this point in time there is still one open position. Father Mark stated we will go with a smaller Vestry for the coming year, however, if you feel called to serve our parish community in this capacity, please see Father Mark or any current Vestry member.

### ***HOSTING COFFEE HOUR***



It is that time of year again to sign up to be coffee hour hosts for 2017. We are very thankful for the 10 families who have signed up for this year's Coffee Hour. **We are in need of two more families for this ministry.** With a total of 12 families we would then be able to continue having Coffee Hour every week.

We are using an online system so you get to pick the date that works best for you. We also would love to have individuals give hosting a try, so you can sign up for one time to see if this is a ministry for you. Please add your name to the signup sheet in the office. If you have any questions, please see Angie Bier or Tammy Wyman.

## ***RECORDING TREASURER NEEDED***

The financial team is in *desperate* need of a person to assist with the deposits and record keeping of weekly donations. You would be responsible to come to church every other Monday or Tuesday evening to verify the weekly offering, put together the deposit and key information into our pledging system. If you want to learn more and/or are interested, please contact either Kris Reed or Tammy Wyman.



## ***ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS***

We are looking for individuals to join the Altar Guild. This ministry requires cleaning and set-up on Saturday for the Sunday services. You will be working with a partner, each providing clean-up after one of the two Sunday services. Additionally we will be working as a team to decorate and setting the altar for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. Please consider joining this special ministry that affects the entire St. Thomas community. Contact Noelle Gehlhaart at [noellegehlhaart@gmail.com](mailto:noellegehlhaart@gmail.com) or after Sunday service.

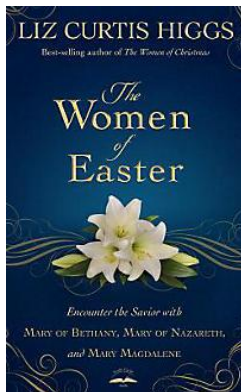


**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>**



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. As Christians, we gather to begin the journey towards the Cross and the Resurrection with our Ash Wednesday service. This year's Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 PM on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you are looking for additional offerings to use as resources for your personal Lenten journey, please see below.



## **The Women of Easter**

### **Encounter the Savior with Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene**

Higgs, Liz Curtis

You're about to meet three women named Mary, each of whom has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Mary of Bethany prepares the way for the Lord's burial when she anoints His feet and fills the air with her perfume. His mother, Mary of Nazareth, remains by His side from His first breath to His last, her loyalty unwavering. Mary Magdalene, delivered of seven demons, bravely supports her Teacher through His darkest hours, and then proclaims the glorious news of His resurrection. ( <http://www.lifeway.com/Product/the-women-of-easter-P005704154>)

## **LENTEN SILENT RETREAT**    **“HOW IT MIGHT LAST: PRAYING WITH JULIAN OF NORWICH”**

DeKoven Center, 600 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Racine    (262)633-6401

Date: March 3-5, 2017

Political unrest, perpetual war, unusual deadly disease, church conflict. This sounds very contemporary. The world in which we live can seem chaotic, confusing, and tenuous. We are tempted to wonder how it might last. But, all of these things were true – and worse – in 14th century England when Julian of Norwich lived (1342- 1416). In spite of that, as well as her own experience of near fatal illness, Julian was able to affirm with confidence that “all will be well, and all will be well, and all matter of thing will be well.” How? What did she know? And can her wisdom inform our lives six centuries after her death? In this retreat we will seek wisdom from this great English mystic and theologian and, praying with her, learn to see the world in the light of Jesus. Retreat reception begins on Friday, followed by dinner and goes through brunch on Sunday. Bishop Matt Gunter grew up on a farm in northern Indiana. He attended Indiana University where he earned a B. A. in History. Before going to seminary, he taught high school English, History, and English as a Second Language in an urban school in California.

The retreat begins with a reception on Friday, followed by dinner and continues through brunch on Sunday. The cost is \$200, including meals and lodging. Many special diets may be accommodated with advance notice. For information: [ingridbcos@gmail.com](mailto:ingridbcos@gmail.com)

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## NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CLASS STARTING MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>



We will be exploring the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Through this interactive, in-depth study, you will learn to:

- Trade feelings of emptiness and depletion for a more personal fulfillment from knowing who Jesus is.
- Stop living like a slave to your circumstances by training your heart to embrace the life-giving freedom God wants for you.
- Gain a better understanding of how Jesus' words 2,000 years ago are so very applicable to the answers we are searching for today.

Please join us for this new Bible Study on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the choir loft. For further information contact Gayle Radavich at [gradavich@hotmail.com](mailto:gradavich@hotmail.com)



## **FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS**

### **BIRTHDAYS**



February 2 – Lee Monk  
February 2 – Michael Radavich

February 3 – Gayle Radavich

February 4 – Paul Stoving  
February 4 – Clem Wagner

February 9 – Tom Beinlich  
February 9 – Christine Wigand

February 10 – Jerry Heinz  
February 10 – Amber McKenzie

February 12 – Mary O'Malley

February 13 – Scott Brunelli

February 16 – Meghan Kluessendorf  
February 16 – Bob Stewart

February 20 – Ethan Fisher  
February 20 – Sandi Knotek

February 28 – Darrell Becker  
February 28 – Jerry Lent

February 29 – Susan McKnight

### **ANNIVERSARIES**



February 10 – Tom & Pam Kasper