

## **THE CANTERBURY TALES**

**JULY 2016**



**FR. MARK'S MUSINGS**

Dear friends in Christ.

I continue in my prayers for all of you that the spirit in each of you, and as a congregation, continue to grow and flourish. I know that most of you have heard the word and are either involved in discernment about where it is taking us, or you are wondering where we are headed. I am absolutely certain that the people of this parish are growing in their awareness of God's many gifts and I think that increased awareness makes us curious about how to live that out. As you all know the Visioning Team, the latest form of the renewal project, has been working since last fall to discern what possibilities are available to us and what resources we have that we can use to the benefit of the community of Greendale. As a result we have identified three areas of great need in which we might be able to help.

The first, and I know you've heard this all before, is a community garden. There has been much discussion about how we could develop a community garden to provide a way for some to have a hobby, some to have food, and others to be able to teach gardening, using our facility. The second is a summer lunch program. 25% of the students in the Greendale schools are receiving assisted or free lunch during the school year but during the summer months they frequently go hungry. We know that undernourished bodies cannot think or perform well and for lack of food many of our children will remain in the vicious cycle of poverty. One of our ministries

might be to lead a group in the community to provide these children a simple nutritious lunch during the summer. And third, a program (already in progress through the health department) that encourages people with health issues to fill out, and keep handy, personal health information so that EMT's and doctors can better address their needs should an emergency arise. Although this program is already in place most people are unaware of it and they need help getting the word out and helping people find and fill out the information needed.

We are beginning the detailed research on each of these ministries to confirm the extent of the need, how much we can take on, and how much help can we expect from other congregations in Greendale.

Last week at our vision team meeting I was deeply moved by the energy and loving spirit in the room as we split into three teams to do the next phase of work on these projects. I have no doubt that it is that spirit of service to others that will grow the church. It is a return to a life of living for others instead of worrying about ourselves. It is a model that has served the church well for two thousand years. And the only time that "the church" has been in decline are those times when we have lost our focus and directed our passion and energy inward. So it is with the Episcopal Church as well. For many years our focus has been inward and our fear is of decline. Today the church is (by necessity) reexamining its self and redirecting its energy and talents to that of ministry to others. To be more Christ like, more compassionate and more loving toward all God's people. I am convinced and firmly believe that a life of service to others will not only have us living out our call to spread the Gospel, but by demonstrating the love of Jesus to the community we will grow and thrive.

For some that outward focus promotes fear that we will not take care of our own. If we were to move to an extreme that went so far as to exclude our own people we would be violating Jesus command to love one another as we love our selves. Quite literally we are to love the rest of the world as much as we love and care for our selves, not more, not less. Without self care we will be in no condition to care for others. And without care and love for others we will become irrelevant and fade away.

But there is always good news. I have seen, in the hearts and minds of this parish, a wonderful thriving spirit with a passion to love and serve others as we love ourselves. Many of you have been eagerly, and energetically working to discern how we best express that love to the

community. There is excitement to share the love that has been given to us in so many ways. (Remember the gifts assessment that we did a couple of years ago.) That is why I am so confident about the future of St. Thomas, The Episcopal Church, and the universal Church of God. We will grow, we will thrive, and we will become nothing less that the resurrected body of Christ in the world.

Peace always,

*Fr. Mark*





## DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability."

- Sam Keen “

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

--participated in two cook outs—July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

--enjoyed Summerfest with my nephew Darrel—July 5<sup>th</sup>

--cat sat for my friend's daughter—July 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

And now...

All major meetings are on hiatus—Executive Council until September; Commission on Ministry until October; Lifelong Christian Formation until we set a day and time; Deacon Formation School until candidates are in discernment.

The one area still in play—preparation for this year's convention being held on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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)**

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

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

With our summer so short and festivals so plentiful, have a happy one, but please be safe.

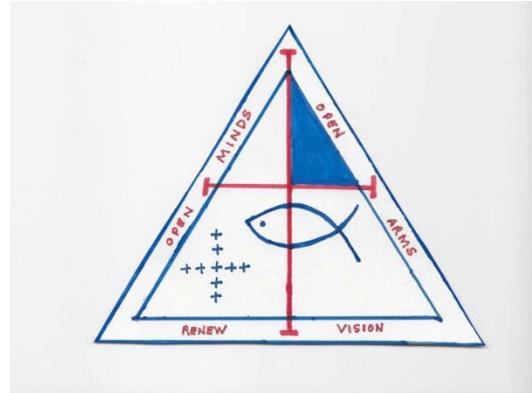
"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

- Erma Bombeck

Peace and prayers,



*Deacon Marge*



## VISION TEAM UPDATE

Habakkuk 2:2-3 And the Lord answered me: write the vision, make it on plain tablets, so he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

The Fourth of July has come and gone and we are well into summer. Summer is an eagerly awaited season as it generally means fun filled family vacations, the joyous voices of children as they play in parks or splash in pools, hot dogs, baseball, long sunny days and so much more. It can be a laid back and relaxing time of year when we can refocus our energies and reexamine our lives and where we want to be at this time next year. Something we all definitely need. We hope all of you in our STOC family are having a wonderful and blessed summer!!

Your Vision Team has continued to meet during the summer and we are extremely excited about where things are headed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the incredible power of prayer. We are very grateful to all who have been praying for us and with us by taking a "leaf" of faith on Sundays and creating our prayer tree. The power of praying unceasingly is clearly working at St. Thomas of Canterbury as the Vision team continues to discern God's path of renewal for our parish family. As Habakkuk 2:3 states "the vision has an appointed time and it will surely come." Patience and waiting have been a part of the process for the Vision team members as well as the entire parish. Sometimes patience and waiting can be very challenging and frustrating, but please be assured that in the following weeks, we will be presenting you with new and exciting ideas we have been researching and praying on to be able to reach out to

our Greendale community and meet some very vital needs, as well as experience the love of Christ in a vibrant and powerful way within the walls of our church as we worship together. Although, patience and waiting can be frustrating and it seems as you are getting nowhere fast, we have learned that we need to be patient and God will reveal His glorious gifts and shower us with His love, thus making the waiting well worth it.

We have broken up into 3 smaller groups and are gathering information on 3 separate ideas that we hope can blossom and grow to help many who need it most. We are extremely excited about what we are doing and where we are going on this pathway of renewal. We are very eager to present our ideas and “vision” to all of you and are hoping that you become equally excited as we continue to travel this journey together. We will meet again on July 27<sup>th</sup> as one team and pool our information and hopefully soon after, make you all aware of just how praying unceasingly can make miracles happen. Matthew 19:26 “with God all things are possible. “ Until then, please keep taking a “leaf” of faith and remain patient. The appointed time for the vision God has for St. Thomas of Canterbury is quickly approaching!!

Faithfully in Christ,  
Your Vision Team

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



**THE COMMUNITY OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
WELCOMED ITS' NEWEST MEMBER ON JUNE 26, 2016**



The Kaminski Family

**2016 PARISH PICNIC**

Save the date for this year's parish picnic ... Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

More information to follow.



## JULY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS



Jason Brunelli	July 1
Kyle Radavich	July 2
Mark Lamson	July 7
Margaret Wyman	July 8
Ross Worzalla	July 10
Angelina Mecikalski	July 12
Brian Klumb	July 15
Karen Leszcynski	July 17
Fred Pedersen	July 19
Shelly Wawrzonek	July 19
Margaret Done	July 20
Bill Knotek	July 20
John Zick	July 30
Barb Miller	July 31

### ANNIVERSARIES



Ross & Kat Worzalla	July 8
Mrs. Winifred Galaty	July 10
Scott & Donna Celsor	July 11
Mark & Irene Slyfield	July 15
Michael & Terry Greiten	July 16
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Shilling	July 18
Dr. Al Miller	July 19
Barb Miller	July 19
Roy & Margaret Wyman	July 22
Donald & Judy Stormoen	July 25
Catherine Wood	July 26

