

THE CANTERBURY TALES

JUNE 2017



FR. MARK'S MUSINGS

There are times in my life that seem to just stand out as markers or milestones of revelation or epiphany. These past couple of weeks have been one of those times. The revelation has been one of witnessing the love of God expressed in the actions of care and service to others by members of this congregation. There seems to be an upsurge in caring and serving one another and the community. There seems to be a growth in the understanding of following Jesus that I find quite exciting.

The Community Garden, the Senior Advocacy Program and the Canterbury Crafters are three examples of ministries growing by caring people responding to a need. The response has been fabulous and we have begun to see the fruits of these projects already. We are beginning new relationships with neighbors we've never met and our reputation as a church that is involved in the community is growing.

There are signs of growth in our care and service to one another as well. Organizing a reception or setting up home care for someone just out of surgery and other examples demonstrate self-care of this part of the Body of Christ so that we can minister to the broader community. I believe that all of these are signs of growing into followers of Jesus, not just worshipers. They are examples of a growing spirit of servant hood and demonstrations of the love of Christ.

There is another analogy that I have been reading about lately. It is a perspective of church that compares servants to consumers. We are all consumers of course, and in the church consumerism is no different than at the mall. It is an attitude that expects/demands a particular way to worship, study, or participate for the least amount of money. Some even view "church" as a service that should be offered for free but a servant is more interested in how can we help! Where can my gifts be utilized? The church should be working to make servants of all people. Too often we create consumers. I think it is a natural trend, but one we need to resist and return to the idea of servants or followers, not consumers and worshipers. It is especially hard because we live in a culture of consumers. It is a life style that has become second nature to us. As always, the church stands counter to our culture in many ways.

The examples mentioned above are great examples of servant hood and follows a great foundation on which to continue our spiritual growth. They demonstrate love, compassion, understanding, and caring for others. This is what the church has to offer. It is the only reason for its existence. Having a nice warm fuzzy place to worship is nice, but if we are not creating followers, we are just a social club. I think Jesus had a lot more in mind when he said, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptize in the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them do obey all I have commanded you". We have to baptize, but we also have to teach and make disciples without prejudice by living a life as a servant for others.

I think we are making progress. It thrills me to see examples of love and fellowship, servants and followers. What is just as important is that these examples can be contagious and they are worth catching.

Thank you all who have put so much effort into breaking down barriers to create these examples of love. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, every more.

Peace always,

Fr. Mark



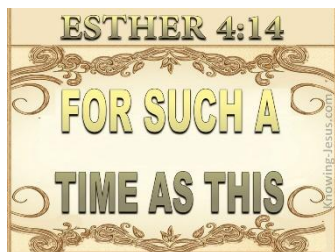
DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows. It's what the sunflowers do.
-Helen Keller

On June 3rd, 2017, the Executive Council met at St. Mary's, Dousman. If you are considering nomination to the Executive Council or are curious as to the workings of Executive Council, the minutes of the meetings are on the diocesan website under **About Us, Governance & Structure, the Executive Council**.

On June 10th, 2017 Mr. Drew Harmon, a postulant in the diocese, will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at The Cathedral Church of All Saints 818 East Juneau, Milwaukee, WI. Again, if you have never been to an ordination and are available that Saturday at 10:30 a.m., you are welcome to attend.

On June 17th, 2017, the deacons will gather at St. Mary's, Dousman. It is an opportunity for the deacons to pray together, review the Deacon Guidelines, share a meal, engage in lively conversation and especially, spend time with Bishop Miller. Please think of us and say a prayer.



The above quote from Esther is the heart of the theme for our own Diocesan Convention October 14, 2017 at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Delafield, WI. Let these six words direct our thoughts as we prepare for our time together, as a diocese, in prayer, in conversation and in planning for the future of the diocese.

Consider at least attending the Eucharist. The setting for the Eucharist is the **Noble Victory Memorial Chapel**. The chapel was constructed between 1920 and 1927 and was originally named Victory Memorial Chapel in honor of the St. John's Military Academy cadets who served

in World War I. Beautiful stained glass windows adorn the English Gothic style architecture. Imagine 200-250 persons filling the chapel with song and prayer. Better yet, come and be one of them.

AND, if any of you who feel called to leadership in the diocese, consider running for one of the offices that will be open: Executive Council, Standing Committee, Title IV Disciplinary Board, Trustee of Funds and Endowments, Treasurer and this year, alternates to the General Convention.

I am at Nicholson House the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th of June. If you are in the area, stop in for a visit and a tour of the diocesan office.

June 21, 2017 Summer Begins



Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.

-Sam Keen

Peace, love and prayers,

Deacon Marge



NOTES FROM PAUL STOVING, SENIOR WARDEN

Yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

-Galatians 2:16

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

-James 2:17

As stewardship chair (one of several hats I've been known to wear), I've been wrestling with these two seemingly contradictory statements lately. In the first, the apostle Paul writes that works are not enough to save us, and we must be dependent on our faith. In the second, James notes that faith is nothing without works.

How can these both be true? Perhaps these are both different sides of the same coin and this is not so much of an "either/or" situation as it is an "and" situation. While works alone are not enough for grace, if there is true faith, then works will necessarily follow. How can we truly believe in Jesus without following his example? This was, indeed, his new commandment to us. That means that works, particularly those that show our love for our neighbors, are a visible result from faith. It strikes me that this is remarkably similar to our definition of our sacraments, being "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace." (BCP, p857) Perhaps this is not a coincidence.

What works have we, at St. Thomas of Canterbury, done that might be visible signs of our faith? I think we need look no further than our renewal efforts. Consider the following examples:

Last month many of us stood in the rain as we blessed and opened our community garden. The response has been overwhelming – all of our plots are already allocated, and we are already talking about adding new plots for next year.

Our health advocacy group is working with the Greendale Health Department and the Love Thy Neighbor Foundation. We've been distributing Files of Life to our neighbors, have been promoting vaccine clinics, and will be providing three blood pressure clinics this summer at St. Thomas.

As well as adding to our own worship, our choir continues to reach out to our community, and recently sang two concerts at neighboring senior centers, which were an enjoyable experience filled with lots of fun for all involved. We have already been asked to come back.

Our Canterbury Crafters continue to knit and crochet lap robes, scarves, and gloves. On a regular basis, during our Sunday services, we add our blessings to these and send them out to those in need.

These are all just recent examples, but I take these as very heartening and visible signs of our faith. We must keep ourselves from being distracted from these and other such acts towards our neighbors.

One such distraction is our budget. All too often, when a church is confronted with a deficit, or any cash-flow shortfall, the first things that are talked about cutting are the very programs that reach out. Instead, we look inward and spend resources on fundraising to make up the shortfall. To prevent this from happening, to keep us on track with our outreach, and to keep us from being distracted, I need your help.

As many of you are aware, in our annual meeting, we all approved of a budget with a \$13,700 deficit, as well as about \$5,000 in loan principal reduction, resulting in a total cash-flow shortfall of about \$18,700. With our year approximately one-third over, we are right on track for that shortfall. Last month, your vestry authorized our treasurer to borrow \$6,000 from our money-market accounts so that we would be able to pay our bills. As we all approved that budget, we all own this debt, and must do what we can, both to repay this loan to ourselves, and to move forward to a positive cash flow for the remainder of the year. How might we do that?

Recall that last fall, after our pledge drive; we held an open forum in which we discussed our shortfall. One parishioner suggested that we post our bills for all to see, and allow the congregation to contribute towards them. At the time, many of you agreed that this seemed a good idea. Thus your finance committee has tried to implement this idea this year. To date, we have collected about \$1,200 towards paying our bills via this campaign. To those that have contributed towards this, I am sincerely grateful and thankful.

However, while this goes a long way towards paying our bills for this month, it is not enough to pay all of our bills for this year. I still need help, from each and every one of you, to keep our shortfall from becoming a distraction from our mission, from our works, and from our faith.

Please, prayerfully consider how you might help. We cannot do this without you. You can help by choosing one or more bills from our "Bill Tree," and paying all or some of the amounts listed. Or, if you'd rather not pay towards a bill, you may contribute directly, as in previous years, with a check or contribution for any amount that you'd like. Either way, please identify your check

with “Special Asking” and put your contribution in the plate, or deliver the funds to us through any avenue that you would normally use to contribute.

Do not let this opportunity to support St. Thomas, and the outward and visible signs of our faith, pass you by. Thank you.

As always, I appreciate your thoughts.

Paul Stoving

Senior Warden, Chair of Finance and Stewardship

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ISLAM & MUSLIMS

Wednesday, June 14th at 6:00 PM, Imam Ziad Hamdan will be speaking at St. Thomas of Canterbury. This is a culmination of the recent bible study that centered on studying the Islam religion which Father Mark facilitated. St. Thomas has extended invitations to several area church congregations to join us for this presentation.

*In
Loving
Memory*



ANTHONY MICHAEL LARSON

The funeral service for Anthony Michael Larson, son of parishioner, Laurie Larson, was held on Saturday, June 10, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Laurie and her family during this difficult time.

JUNE GRADUATES



Maggie Stoving is graduating from Oak Creek East Middle School. She will be attending Oak Creek High School/9th grade center in September. Maggie will be a member of the Oak Creek High School Marching Knights marching band, playing her trumpet. She will be continuing with Girl Scouts and plans to join the high school JV swim team in August.

Victoria Celsor is graduating from Greendale High School. Tori has been very active in her time at GHS. She has spent many hours providing support behind the scenes as part of the running crew for the fall play and summer musicals. She has been a volunteer at Camp Greendale (a summer camp including special needs children), at the Greendale Library and at Betty Brinn Children's Museum. Her favorite classes this year were Accounting and Ceramics. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin- Whitewater in the fall. Tori is planning on majoring in Accounting.

Joshua William Cram graduated twice this week. First on Sunday, June 4, 2017 from Whitnall High School, Greenfield and on Thursday, June 8, 2017 from GPS Education Partners. The Whitnall graduation was a large affair in the school gym honoring 200 seniors. The second graduation was held at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts honoring 90 seniors. While at the GPS Education Partners school, Josh attended classes part of the day and had work experiences in three different manufacturing companies for the rest of the day. Through this school program he earned Manufacturing Certifications in Safety, Blueprint Reading, and Maintenance. These are Wisconsin State certifications that employers need their workers to obtain. He also earned Certification from the Workforce Development State Office and a \$3,000 scholarship to MATC for each of three years. His last worksite was at Lakeside Manufacturing and his strong work ethic and likeable personality earned him a full time position this summer

and in September continued employment while he attends MATC. He also earned a Merit Award for exceeding the rigorous performance expectations in both classroom and workplace settings.



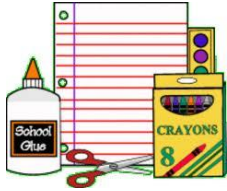
Father Mark blessed these three graduates during the service on Sunday, June 4th. Our blessings and best wishes go out to Maggie, Tori and Josh as they move into the next exciting stages of their lives.

OUTREACH NEWS

Thank you for your continuing generous food bank donations. Our parish is able to provide help to three different pantries: St. Alphonsus, St. James and the Hospitality Center in Racine. Keep up the good work; a simple task but so very needed. Secondly, the response to the Hope House linen collection was quite remarkable. Thanks to all who were able to turn spring cleaning into a gift for those in need.



Next on the list is the July school supply collection. Dave Vogt, a social worker at Canterbury school, has suggested needed items: backpacks (somewhat expensive, perhaps two people could combine resources), note books, pens and pencils (still needed even in the 21st century!), and lastly gift cards from Wal-Mart or Target for unforeseen items. Please bring your donations in between July 1st and August 6th. At one time, we looked farther afield for students needing assistance but now, alas, we find them in our midst. Please be generous.



Thank you and God bless.

The Outreach Committee



BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

The Senior/Health Advocacy Program at St. Thomas of Canterbury is working with the Greendale Health Department to present three blood pressure clinics at STOC on the following Thursdays: **June 22, July 20, and August 17**. Each session is from 10:00-11:00 AM.

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRIES



THE ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHOIR



Choir Members: Irene Slyfield, Shelly Wawrzonek, Margaret Wyman, Bernie Somer, Linda Cram, Barb Labisch, Anne Van Deusen, Mark Slyfield, Kat Worzalla, Joan Lamson, Angie Bier, Kathie Hein, Randy Schraw, Roy Wyman, Josh Cram, Tammy Wyman, Jeanne Langenberg, Paul Stoving ... Missing: Toni Crivello

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing (Psalm 98:5)

St. Thomas of Canterbury is truly blessed to have our worship enhanced by the talented members of our choir who are led by Anne Van Deusen, Director of Music. These dedicated people rehearse approximately one night a week from September through May/June. They also come early on Sunday mornings and use some of that time to review and/or learn new music. When people do solos or special pieces, they come in extra to prepare. It is interesting to note that the choir has incorporated a variety of musical styles in our Sunday services. These include hymnody, chant, classical, gospel, contemporary Christian, Praise and Worship, and even a piece from an opera. Over the years a variety of instruments have been used which include flute, violin, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, guitar, bass, drums, auxiliary percussion and shakers made by the children who played them during the service.

In an outreach effort, the choir has performed at area nursing and retirement communities during the holidays and other times throughout the year. Kathie Hein describes the recent Choir Outreach Concert which was held on June 3rd at Harbor Village and Berkshire Retirement Center: *Both facilities keep inviting us back, and seeing the faces as we perform is very heartwarming to all the choir members. The choir gets as much enjoyment out of the experience as the audience! Each concert was about an hour long. In addition to the music, we distributed flowers for the residents to take back to their room, and some treats. This time, we also teamed with the Senior Advocacy project, which were on hand to explain and distribute the packets emergency responders could use to get the residents current medical information.*

Anne Van Deusen shared that nine of the eighteen choir members were on board when she took over as Music Director eight years ago. She credits their dedication, passion and enthusiasm as a draw to bringing in new members to the choir.

What a treasure we have that our friends and fellow parishioners have chosen the choir as their area of ministry. Psalm 100 tells us to *Worship the Lord with gladness, come before him with joyful songs* and come they do to move us with their solos and bring out the songs within all of our hearts during worship services throughout the year.



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Vegetables and flowers are starting to grow in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Community Garden.



Community Garden at night with solar lights.

A new garden session is planned for Saturday, June 17th, 10:00 AM at St. Thomas. Committee members will cover any questions those in attendance may have and discuss thinning and placing of crops and successive plantings. The Committee plans to have two to three more sessions throughout the season focusing on a variety of topics.

There are now two boxes placed on the garden grounds. One on the fence with general info regarding the garden, which is a new tri-fold sheet for the general public, and one at the main door for gardeners to place their questions or concerns to be answered by the Garden's three master gardeners.

St. Thomas volunteers are needed to help with checking on the garden, perhaps learning how to fill the rain barrels for water and help with the grass cutting and trimming, as Joan and Mark will be gone several times this summer. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you are able to help with this work and have any questions, please contact Joan and Mark Lamson or Noelle Gehlhaart.



NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

Scott Carstens will be taking pictures for our new Parish Directory after the 9:00 AM service on **June 18, July 9, and July 16**. Pictures will be taken inside of St. Thomas. Further reminders will be printed in the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions regarding the Parish Directory, please contact Pam Kasper at pkasp51@gmail.com



PARISH RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, July 8, 2017

We will accept donations through Sunday, July 2nd. Gently used items are welcome. Large items can be brought in, such as couches and furniture items; however, for these large items you **MUST** contact Cheryl Carstens (414-940-1475) for storage. All rummage items brought in shall be placed in the room located across from the nursery.

Volunteers are needed to assist with this rummage sale for set-up, clean-up, pricing, table sales and food booth. There will be a **planning meeting** in the Loft immediately following service on **June 25th**.

Please contact Karen Leszcynski for any questions at 414-762-4803.

ONLINE SUMMER BIBLE STUDIES

Lifeway Women is offering two online bible studies for the busy summer months that you can do at your convenience at home.



Beginning June 15th and running for six weeks, *Entrusted*, by Beth Moore, is a study of 2 Timothy. You buy the book and the online video sessions which will be posted each Thursday morning is free.



Beginning June 14th and running for seven weeks, *Steadfast Love*, by Lauren Chandler, is a study of Psalm 107. Once again you buy the book and the online video sessions which will be posted each Wednesday morning is free.

For more information about these online bible studies go to <http://blog.lifeway.com/womenallaccess/online-bible-studies/>

****Both Entrusted and Steadfast Love will be online until August 15th which will allow for some breathing room for those who join late or have a couple of extra busy weeks.**

Lastly, beginning June 17th from Margaret Feinberg, *Overcomer*, a four week bible study of Philippians. For further information go to <https://www.margaretfeinbergstore.com/collections/all/products/overcomer-a-4-week-study-in-philippians>

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



Bryan Luetgen	June 7
Kathy Nitka	June 8
Tyler Beinlich	June 10
Amanda Slyfield	June 10
William Kienzle	June 12
Alan Labisch	June 14
Brett Reed	June 14
Tyler Fink	June 17
Axl McKenzie	June 19
Shawn Reed	June 19
Matthew Allen	June 20
Sally Gregg	June 26
Natalie Kim	June 29

ANNIVERSARIES



Dennis & Susan McKnight	June 6
John & Mary O'Malley	June 13
Robert & Claudia Stewart	June 15
Bill & Sandi Knotek	June 21
Roy & Tamara Wyman	June 21