

June 2023

12 1/2 Madison St.
Hamilton, NY 13346
315-824-1745 (for fax also)
E-Mail: stchurch@nynmail.com
Website: StThomasHamilton.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

RECTOR:

The Rev. Brooks A. Cato 315-554-1236
brooks.cato@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Dianne Adams McDowell 315-750-6027

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Leah Schmitt 315-750-6040

WARDENS

Deb Barker 315-691-6203
Jane Welsh 315-824-3070

VESTRY MEMBERS:

John Orr '23 610-716-2501
Emily Hutton-Hughes '23 315-292-0979
Susan Beattie '24 315-824-0209
Valerie Morkevicius '24 312-218-1389
Anne Perring '24 415-280-8943
Wynn Egginton '25 315-825-5534
Connie Harsh '25 315-824-2183
Maureen Ghent '25 315-893-7383

CLERK OF THE VESTRY:

Susan Cerasano 315-824-1037

TREASURER:

John Bowen 315-824-4118

SEXTON:

Barbara J. Hicks 607-244-3397

TIDINGS EDITOR:

Rose Novak 315-824-2082
rnovakhamilton@gmail.com

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Tidings



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is an inclusive and worshipping Christian community that accepts the challenge of living the Gospel.

The Rector's Column

Y'all remember the Great Paint Vote of 2023? Well, there's a whole lot more coming soon!

- The Church and Parish Hall will be painted dark brown - scheduled to start July 31!
- The Fuel Oil Tank in the Rectory will be replaced with a Natural Gas System.
- The Front Entryway will be replaced.
- The Roof will be hand-cleaned.

We've talked a lot about the paint already, but here's the rest of what we're up to:

Transitioning the Rectory to Natural Gas

The Church and Parish Hall furnaces were transitioned to Natural Gas several years ago, so this has been a project long in the works. We've decided to do this now because the existing tank and lines show considerable wear. If either were to fail, we'd have a costly mess (financial and environmental) on our hands.

Replacing the Front Entryway

The current brick entryway replaced a set of steps to make the Church more accessible, but the ramp settled enough to create three significant tripping hazards where materials meet. Additionally, one paver crumbled and others are beginning to weather badly. The bridge from the ramp to the door

and the threshold of the door are on their last legs. No fewer than three people have tripped and fallen in this area within the past six months. Our contractor begins work just as soon as materials arrive.

Cleaning the Roof

We have no leaks; the underlayment is intact, and the decking is solid. That said, some of the cedar shingles are rotting or curling. We know the roof needs to be replaced, but we do not have the funds to pay for it. At 6,000 square feet and with a significantly steep pitch, our roof is going to cost a pretty penny to replace. Cleaning the roof of the existing moss and replacing individual shingles now gives us some breathing room (3-5 years) to continue to research roofing options and to raise funds to pay for the eventual roof replacement.

Whenever we consider these kinds of projects, we have essentially four primary concerns: safety, longevity, cost, and aesthetics. In addition, all of the work we're doing this summer has been planned in conversation with our insurance carrier and a preservation architect. It's a lot to juggle as we strive to be the best stewards we can be, and we're glad to get the work moving!

Also, if you're curious what else we've been up to this year, we've completed a whole slew of other projects, too!

- Improved lighting at the entrance of the Church and in the Parish Hall Kitchen
- A dusk-to-dawn light at the entry of the Church and rewiring of the chandelier over the crossing to create a more hospitable space
- Painted the ceiling of the Narthex
- Mold mitigation in the Church basement
- Constructed replacement sign for the front of the Church (to be installed after painting is finished)
- Replaced water heater in Parish Hall
- Reinstalled water meter servicing the Memorial Garden
- Adjusted sound system for Zoom
- Wrote Grant Applications

If you are interested in learning more about each project or if you have any questions, please reach out to a Vestry member, a member of the Buildings Commission, your Wardens, or me, and we'll be happy to fill in the gaps!

With gratitude,
Brooks+

Join the Conversation Bible Study

In June, we'll finish up our study of Paul's Letters to the Corinthians. The next book in our lineup will be the Prophet Isaiah.

Where: Isaiah is roughly three-fourths of the way through the Old Testament.

What to Watch for: The main question concerns guiding a faith community through difficult times in its ongoing development and spiritual practices.

References: Some familiarity with the concept of prophecy is helpful, but we'll do a refresher.

Content: Isaiah is a theological and historical heavyweight, and not everything it has to say is easy to digest.

Lectionary: Isaiah gets used all throughout the Lectionary with special attention on and around Christmas. Even so, we only get a little over 20% of Isaiah on Sundays.

—Fr. Brooks



Nave Gazing

For most seasons in the Church Year, we are given one set of readings for each Sunday. In the long Season after Pentecost, though, the Revised Common Lectionary (that cycle of readings we use on Sunday mornings) presents us with an option. We can choose to follow either Track 1 or Track 2. This is truly exciting liturgical planning, folks!

In both Tracks, the Gospel Reading and the other New Testament Reading are the same while the two passages from the Hebrew Scriptures change. In Track 1, the first reading each week progresses through a coherent narrative, and the Psalm somehow relates to that narrative. In Track 2, the first reading bears something in common with the Gospel Reading, and the Psalm complements them both.

The thing is, neither Track does its job as cleanly as we might hope. The reality of Track 1 falls short of the ideal of a consistently coherent narrative with a leap-frogging plot and the sometimes boring bits left out.

The reality of Track 2 also falls short; many times the thing the first readings share with the Gospel is clear, but just as often, the connecting thread is known only to those mystical Lectionary Devisers behind the proverbial curtain.

At St. Thomas', we've used different Tracks in the hopes of covering a greater swath of scripture over time. Starting in June, this time around we'll use Track 1, so buckle up for a summer full of To-Be-Continued stories!

—Fr. Brooks

Outreach Donation Update

The Outreach Commission is pleased to announce that the following donations were made to charities in early May 2023.

International Impact (the Diocese of Central NY will be asked to match these donations)

- \$500 *Haiti Rehabilitation Foundation*
- \$500 *Brackett Refugee Education Foundation*
- \$250 *Educare Africa*

Local Impact

- \$1,000 *Hamilton Food Cupboard*. \$1,131 was raised by the congregation in the last three weeks of Lenten collections. Outreach will add to this amount \$1,000 from our budget bringing the total donation to \$2,131.
- \$500 for *Community Bikes*
- \$1,000 for *Help Restore Hope* (Madison County domestic violence support and shelter)
- \$1,500 to support the Ukrainian **Dyshko family**.

—Emily Hutton-Hughes

Interfaith Summer Food Program

St. Thomas' will be joining the local Catholic, Baptist and Methodist Churches in a coordinated approach to helping the Hamilton Food Cupboard with increased demands in the summer months. St. Thomas' has been asked to focus on cereal, soup, and hygiene items (body soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.). The other churches will provide peanut butter & jelly, tuna, mayo, fruit cups, and granola bars. The program starts in June and goes through August.

—Emily Hutton-Hughes

Land Sale Update

We're moving along! The court order permitting the sale of the property has been signed and all that remains is the actual closing. We're almost there!

The funds raised from the sale of the land will go to capital expenditures planned for this year. While we expect the proceeds to cover quite a bit of the cost of the work we need to do, we may need to turn to the congregation to do some targeted fundraising. Stay tuned!

—Fr. Brooks

Sabbath Book

Thomas Merton's *Silence, Joy* is a delightfully small book combining some of his reflections and poetry. Merton's writing is delightfully quiet and still and invites us to continue our Sabbath into the summer months.

—Fr. Brooks



Flowers for the Altar

Just a reminder that if you would like to honor or remember a loved one with flowers on the altar, you can do that by making a donation to the Flower Guild (\$35 is recommended). Write a check to St. Thomas' Church and in the memo write Altar Flowers. Envelopes for flower donations are provided at the back of the church. You may either place the envelope in the collection plate during the Sunday morning service or mail or drop off your check in the Parish Office no later than the Wednesday prior to the Sunday you want your loved one honored or remembered so that the name(s) can be included in the bulletin.

Thank you.

—Rose Novak & Jana Laxa
for the Flower Guild

**Sermon for the Sixth Sunday of
Easter: John 14:15-21
The Rev. Brooks Cato**

Over the past week, I've been digging through our church records. I love those old books. The masking tape spines, the frayed covers, even the occasionally indecipherable cursive of a country parson in a hurry. Mostly I've passed my time in the old Service Registers, those books that record every single service we hold. You can pick any random Sunday, look up what service we did, what time it started, how many people showed up, who the preacher was, and sometimes even what the weather was like! But I found something interesting, or rather, re-found something. When St. Thomas' was preparing to hunker down at the beginning of this pandemic, I found a missing Sunday way back when we closed for the Spanish Flu, and I made a lot of hay about COVID not being the first time we'd done this. Well, I just found another, a different Sunday a few years later, when we closed again. Influenza was the cause that time.

There's other stuff in there, too. There's snowy days and guest preachers. There's burials and baptisms. There's even a service that had zero attendees with the comment "Rector absent." One can only imagine what the Rector had gotten up to. This is a longstanding set of records, by the way. We lost some to the Parish Hall fire in the '50s, but we still have ways to track down old information. The diocese keeps records, too. The whole church does, for that matter, and while most of the time they sit in a safe, occasionally we break 'em out for an adventure in their musty pages. My favorite example of notes from those old books, comes from an English minister in the 15 or 1600s, I can't remember which. One Sunday, a somewhat literate farmer got up to read the passages assigned for the day, and when he got to a phrase that referred to the great sea beast, "that Leviathan," he stumbled on the unfamiliar word. The minister notes that the reader did his best, saying, and I quote, "that...that...well, that Leather Thing."

Now, we don't just keep records for the delightful moments. We keep tons more, notes about marriages and confirmations, baptisms and burials, last known addresses and final resting places. We write it all down, strictly following more or less the same rules for centuries so that

someday someone can sit in some office and peruse those pages looking for a hint about who we used to be and maybe who we're becoming. Really, it's organizational spreadsheets and administrative work, and that kind of thing gets glanced over when it comes time to hold up the ministries of the church. We like the big flashy things, but most'll never see the little notes in those aging books. They just sit there, a record for someone when they're ready. It's a patient and quiet thing we do, and it's chock full of hope because we write this stuff down assuming some day it'll be useful. Some day, someone's going to care about "that Leather Thing" or how many people were here today. And maybe with the lens of history, they'll be able to tell something about us because of that.

Here's an example: when I was looking through our old records, there are two really explosive times of growth in terms of Sunday attendance: the 1920s and the late-1940s into the '50s. We need to do what they did, right? Well, pause a moment and think about why folks might've come to church then. There are a million reasons that could be, but there's a couple that stand out. For one thing, church attendance fell during the late 1910s and the early 1940s. It's gotta go back up, right? Now, it fell because many of our people weren't here to attend. They were off fighting on some distant front where they witnessed unfathomable horrors in trenches and battlefields. While many lost God in the foxholes, many found God there, too. And when they came home, they came to church for its safety and the comfort of a place to make sense of all that'd happened to them. Our church saw magnificent growth at great cost. And we wrote it all down. We celebrated the Armistice and lamented the need for it. We recorded the losses and the boom of children that followed. We wrote it all down. Wrote it all down for someone later, hoping that someone in the future would care that we were here, that we lived at all, and that we were faithful, as faithful as we could be in the world we occupied. Don't worry, Zoom folks. We're writing y'all down, too. Because how you're here now is very much a part of our body. And because I hope some future priest's gonna sit at their desk and get a kick out of how we managed to keep going when the world closed its doors.

In Peter's Letter, there's a line I'd never quite caught before: we should always be ready to give an accounting for the hope that is in us. We're pretty well used to accounting for all sorts of stuff,

but accounting for our hope, that's a new one. It shouldn't be. It's been in those pages for a little while by now, but it only just sprung out. And you know, given the years we've been having, it's a tough one to think about. An accounting of hope's likely to come up in the red. If not now, it sure would've a year or two ago. I was having dinner with a dear friend the other night, and we talked about how hard hope is to foster. I told him about that Nick Cave line from Easter Sunday about hope being "optimism with a broken heart." There's something really valuable in the claim that hope is not naive. Hope has lived, hope has seen snowy days and acts of war. Hope has lost and broken and decided to stand back up anyway. Hope has come to places like this after waves of grief washed the walls clean. But an accounting of hope, well, what do we do with that? And more to the point, what do we do when the bottom line gives little reason to hope, when our hope reservoirs run dry, when we feel the last hint of hope wither, what then?

Well, you could turn to Google. A quick search turns up millions of articles on how to cultivate hope, and while some are fine, many amount to telling a sad person to smile more. We can lean on this place for a refill of hope. For many of us it's a never-ending flood just waiting to flow into our hearts. But it isn't always. We can proclaim "Christ is risen" all we like and still feel the hurt of his death in the first place, and, maybe, even worry for the hurts that will come because of it. Our story is not a tale of simple optimism. We know this. From the first book of the Bible to the last, it's a hard set of stories. There's beauty in there, but there's also deep realism. But in spite of all that has happened, in spite of all that humanity is, there remains God and God in relationship with us, and because of that, there remains hope.

Doing an accounting of hope for St. Thomas', I'm one happy priest. Realistically, our Sunday morning numbers are a little low, but that's ok. We're a dedicated bunch. There's a fair number of folks that'll come back yet. But there's also a whole village and then some that desperately need some hope of their own, and we just might be able to share what we've got. I'm hopeful, not naively optimistic, but hopeful of what the years ahead hold. We leave the lights on, hoping someone'll find rest here. We make coffee, hoping someone sneaks into a church they wouldn't set foot in otherwise. We open scripture,

hoping wisdom two thousand years in the making'll pop out. We fill folders, hoping a new person'll be interested in learning more about who we are. And we gather every week, with some of y'all setting the table, some of you putting out flowers, some of you warming up your voices, some of you tidying the bulletin stack, some of you weeding the gardens, some of you practicing your welcoming smile, some of you looking for your own place to rest. We gather every week and do all that work hoping someone'll be moved by what they find here. We gather every week with the hope that what we do matters. That belief matters. That God holds us tight. And that hope grows here. And we write it all down.

The world outside our doors is a wild place. There's pain and disappointment in spades, so much that hope has a hard time competing. But here, we do hope, stubbornly, realistically, gratefully. Here, in community, in love, in God, here we hope.

--The Rev. Brooks Cato

June is **Pride** Month On the Lighter Side



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes April 23, 2023

Present: Debbie Barker, Susan Beattie, Brooks Cato (presiding), Wynn Egginton, Maureen Ghent, Emily Hutton-Hughes, Valerie Morkevicius, John Orr, Anne Perring, Jane Welsh
Absent: Connie Harsh, Heidi Riley
On Zoom: John Bowen, Emily Hutton-Hughes

Call to Order

The meeting began at 11:34 a.m. in the parish hall. Anne Perring led the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report

The minutes of the March 26th vestry meeting were approved as submitted. (Moved by Debbie Barker; seconded by Jane Welsh.)

Treasurer's Report

John Bowen submitted the following report to the vestry members:

“The financial picture remains stable. There have been no unusual expenses. Investment accounts show some modest gains for the month. The Budget and Finance Commission is embarking on the annual audit. A subcommittee will be meeting tomorrow (April 24) with our Good Neighbor Fund investment advisor to review goals and performance.”

The Treasurer's Report was received as submitted. (Moved by Wynn Egginton; seconded by Valerie Morkevicius.)

Rector's Report

Brooks Cato thanked everyone who assisted in putting together the range of Holy Week services. He reiterated that all had gone well, with the magnificence of the Easter Sunday service, shining gloriously, as the ultimate occasion. Brooks read out the note he hoped to send by email to all of the musicians who participated, including the string quartet members and the lutenist who participated in various ways to enrich the offerings by our own parish musicians. The note was approved by the vestry. (Moved by John Orr; seconded by Anne Perring.)

Wardens' Report

Debbie Barker echoed Brooks Cato's sentiments regarding the outstanding array and quality of services offered during Holy Week. She added her own note of thanks to all involved. She concluded that this year “it all seemed so much more real” and that the services had really touched her heart. Jane Welsh agreed. She commented that “it seemed like 2019 again, and it felt like home.”

Commission Reports

- *Buildings:* Brooks Cato explained that Ed Page and our electrician Kevin are getting our lighting situation fixed. They have discovered the need to separate elements of the narthex switch so that they can install a dusk-to-dawn light over the front door of the church. Brooks had connected with Birdsall, who will paint the church, as well. The earliest that they can get to us is the first week of August, but the work might be done later, depending upon the roof work that ideally needs to be completed first. As to the most immediate building work, during the next three weeks the renovation of the front walkway will take place. While this is ongoing parishioners will be able to use either of the side doors of the church. The one on the grass-in side will have a ramp. Jane Welsh added that she is going to get samples of paving stone so that the Buildings Commission and other interested parties can see what choices will be available for the front walkway. Brooks then informed the vestry that the village has granted permission to change the rectory heating to natural gas. The work is upcoming, at a date still-to-be determined, but with the summer ahead there is no great rush to get to this.
- Brooks turned the vestry's attention to the issue of roofing materials. At the end of the March meeting the vestry had hoped to use synthetic slate. However, when the estimate arrived Brooks and the Buildings Commission were surprised to learn that it would cost in the neighborhood of **\$225,000** to pay for the installation, in addition to costs for the removal of the existing roof (and any repairs that might need to be done). The Buildings Commission has scheduled a meeting for April 24th to discuss other options. Brooks noted that he would like some sense of direction before the May vestry

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meeting, even if an extra meeting is required to discuss further options. Jane Welsh commented that there is something very positive about the synthetic roof, given that it would be guaranteed for 70 years. Brooks acknowledged the desirability of this kind of longevity, stating as well that he looked forward to seeing what other options will emerge. Lastly, Brooks announced that he planned to repaint the ceiling of the entryway to the church. This will lighten the space considerably.

Old Business

- *Land Sale:* Jane Welsh updated the vestry here. She had spoken with Martha Berry earlier in the day. Martha explained that there is a new judge in place now, and there had been some confusion in the procedure by which the land sale needed to be approved. Martha is scheduled to speak with the judge in the near future, concerning another matter, and she hoped that she might learn more about the land sale then. In the meantime, Martha offered to reach out to the realtor and the buyers so that they understood where St. Thomas' is in the process.
- *Newcomers' Commission:* Brooks Cato commented that the group used Easter Sunday to launch their work. They are organized now to welcome new persons at Sunday services and to distribute the new, reconceived welcome packs.
- *Safe Church Training:* Anne Perring reported that a few people had missed the final session so they will sign up for future dates when it is offered again.
- *Contact List:* Brooks Cato stated that work continues here.
- *Display Case:* Brooks Cato had nothing to report at this time. (Emily Hutton-Hughes was away at the time of the meeting.)

New Business

- *Leah Schmitt Return Date:* Brooks Cato reminded the vestry that Kirsten Weyer would be leaving in a week and that Leah planned to return on May 1st. The vestry acknowledged their thankfulness for Kirsten's work during the time that Leah was away on parental leave. Brooks added that Kirsten would be at the next Sunday service so that he—and everyone

present—could thank her publicly.

- *Core Priorities Discussion (Fundraising for Gifts, limited to 10 minutes):* Brooks Cato reiterated the conversation from the March meeting. He noted that he is still waiting to have conversations with some donors, so the vestry's discussion would center upon funds additional to what might be donated by private individuals. Wynn Egginton noted that there is a church in Norwich that seems to be undergoing vigorous renovations and the process is ongoing. She had learned that some of this was paid for by grants and she wondered whether Brooks might reach out to them and ask about the grants they had received to see whether this might assist us in some way. Brooks agreed to pursue this. Susan Beattie stated that, amongst the many suggestions floated during the March vestry meeting, she favored the idea of an auction or a chicken bar-b-que, but the latter would require that those involved would have to cook the food in order to make a profit. Brooks Cato suggested that perhaps hot dogs and hamburgers could also be considered. A discussion ensued as to potential dates, including July 4th (a Tuesday this year). July 4th seemed to be an attractive possibility, so there was an agreement to get on to the Hamilton village calendar. There was a suggestion that there could even be a bake sale on the side. In addition to postings on Nextdoor Hamilton, or other electronic sites, advertising could be embellished by the use of yard signs. John Orr, mentioning some experience he gained in a previous parish, stated that an auction is best scheduled in the Fall, and it has the potential to raise substantial funds. He was involved in an antiques auction at which many local antique vendors came together to use the parish hall. They paid for a space in the hall and also pledged a percentage of their profits for the day to the parish. Wynn Egginton added that many details would have to be considered, including the necessity for professionals to evaluate items that would be donated to the auction. Brooks Cato asked informally that Susan Beattie and John Orr work together to outline the parameters of what

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an auction would entail, and they agreed to meet and discuss the matter.

- *Last items:* Brooks Cato mentioned two items: 1) He has been invited to be a member of the board for SOMAC, starting in May, and he has agreed to take up the position; 2) Ruth Ann Loveless, Hamilton’s mayor, has invited Brooks to work with the group that is pondering ways to use the recent village revitalization grant and he has agreed to participate in this as well.
- Final announcements were made regarding upcoming events.
- *Next meeting:* The next vestry meeting was set for May 28th, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. Due to the proximity to Memorial Day, Brooks Cato stated that he would send out an email to poll vestry members as to their availability on the holiday weekend.
- *Prayer Leader:* Wynn Egginton offered to lead prayer at the opening of the next vestry meeting.

Because there was no further business Debbie Barker moved to conclude the meeting; Wynn Egginton seconded. The meeting ended at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cerasano, Clerk

A Prayer

Lord, attune our hearts to where we may find you in the quotidian. May we not discount the goodness in small acts of kindness.

—Sojourners

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 4th 10 AM

Gospel Eucharist: We are delighted to see the return of our Gospel Eucharist Service and to welcome some of our favorite musicians back to St. Thomas’. *Bring a friend!*

Starting on Monday, June 5th

Friendship Inn will be open for indoor eating! Dining in will take place from 5:00-6:00 PM. Takeout will still be available by reservation.

For takeout dinners: Call the office at (315) 824-1745. Please leave your name and how many dinners you would like. Dinners can be picked up from the kitchen at 5:00 PM.

Wednesday, June 14th at 4:30 PM:

Madison Lane Dinner in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, June 25th, 2:00-5:00 PM:

Farewell Open House honoring Fr. Jason Hage in the Green Room at Colgate Inn, Hamilton NY.

Sunday, July 9th following the Service:

Special Farewell Coffee Hour for Hannah McClennen.

Save the Date

2:00 pm on July 9th, 2023

St. Thomas' welcomes the Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York for an afternoon concert. More information to come!

CNY PRIDE



Join people from around the Diocese as we celebrate God's LGBTQ children and spread the love of Jesus at the CNY Pride Parade in Syracuse!

JUNE 10, 2023

**EUCCHARIST - 10 A.M.
PARADE - 11 A.M.**

WHERE?

We'll meet in the parade staging area at the Destiny USA parking lot near Solar Street in Syracuse. The Eucharist will take place in this area. You'll see a HUGE group of parade walkers preparing for the parade; you can't miss it! If you can't join us in Syracuse on that day, we'll be streaming the Pride Eucharist on our Facebook page so that you can celebrate with us.

WHO?

Individuals and families of all ages! Episcopalians and non Episcopalians! Friends and neighbors!

HOW CAN I HELP?

Thanks for asking! We have volunteer opportunities listed in our online sign up form and on social media. You can also email us at communications@cnyepiscopal.org and let us know you'd like to help!

WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

Great question! We know it was HOT last year, so this year, we're taking extra precautions. We'll have LOTS of water and a tent to provide shade at the staging site. We recommend bringing an umbrella in case of rain or extreme heat. We'll have sugary snacks on hand if you need a quick burst of sugar or energy. Also, remember that you are more than welcome to come for the Eucharist even if you do not feel comfortable or confident enough to walk the parade route.

SIGN UP!

Let us know you're coming at bit.ly/cny-episcopride-23

GEAR UP!

We have three new Episcopal Pride shirt (and tote bag!) designs for 2023. Get your gear at bonfire.com/store/cny-episcopal/



What Is So Rare as a Day in June

And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
Then Heaven tries earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays;
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten;
Every clod feels a stir of might,
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
And, groping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers;
The flush of life may well be seen
Thrilling back over hills and valleys;
The cowslip startles in meadows green,
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice....

—James Russell Lowell

Ponder This

In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison



Where dance is for everyone!

Our mission is to provide a positive dance experience in a safe, creative, and fun environment. We offer dance instruction for all ages and skill levels. We believe dance is a living art for everyone to experience and enjoy!

SUMMER SESSIONS COMING SOON

Classes will be available for all ages.

SCHMITTFIT

This class is an upbeat fusion of dance & exercise for the adults! High & low-impact movements are incorporated, along with Wellness dancing & stretching. No experience required.

CONTACT US

SchmittSistersDance@gmail.com
315-750-6040
Facebook.com/SchmittSistersDance
122 North Main St. Sherburne, NY

Ramshaw Scholarship

Every year, St. Thomas' invites applications from high school seniors connected to our church as they prepare for what lies ahead.

The Ramshaw Scholarship awards a one-time gift of \$750, and applicants need answer the following questions:

1. What has St. Thomas' meant to you?
2. What are your plans for the future?

Applications are due back to the church office by June 16, 2023.

Prayers of the People As of May 30th

For those in need: Edith Allen, Irene Brown, Alfred Buck, Frank Cost, Aster Dinku, Joan Fales, Don Fenner, Kathy Fisher, Justin Fitzgerald, Jerry & Roseann Fitzgerald, Barbara Frost, Lisa Gee and her children, Daniel Ghent, Kristen Gregory, Cindy Hackeman, Kaia Harding, Amanda Harlan, Marlene Houck, Mary & Sue Humphrey, Brian Johnson, Danielle Jones, Janna Keser, Kerry Linden, Alyssa MacKinnon, Dianne McDowell, Liam Meyer, Pat Osowski, Anthony & Vincent Pacillo, Joni Resnick, Diane Rich Krause, June Schaupp, Candace Schult, Mark Spearing, Carol Strozyk, Patricia Tayntor, Deb Willis, Joan Winkler, Christopher, David, Elizabeth, Glen, Hailey, Jane, Janice, Lance, Lee Anne, Nancy, Nick, Rebecca, Scot, Thomas, Vicky, Grace, Amber, Crystal, Brittani, Shasta, Justin, Chad, Christine and Tara, Gert.

For the Departed: Teddy Engle & Patrick Curtin.

Looking for Contributors

Interested in adding something to our monthly newsletter? We're looking for contributors to spice up *Tidings* and add some variety! Pictures, poems, articles, book reviews, insights -- anything that's brought you closer to God. Please make submissions to the Church Office by the 20th of each month, and we'll consider them for publication.

June Thanksgivings

Birthdays: Ginny Lash (06/03), Jocelyn Martin (06/03), Juliana Catania (06/04), Philip Michelson (06/05), Greg Owens (06/05), Morgan Gunther (06/06), Sarah Wider (06/07) Janet O'Flynn (06/10), Sharon Stevens (06/10), Peter Balakian (06/13), Ingrida Morkevicius (06/14), Maureen Fox (06/16), Susan Cerasano (06/17), Mollie Michelson (06/18), Andrew Robertson (06/19), Joseph Schmitt (06/19), Mattison Gunther (06/22), Elizabeth Vantine (06/23), Gemma Godfrey (06/24), Jon Speer (06/25), Shannon Fischer (06/25), Ida June Schaupp (06/26), Anne Perry (06/26), Maxwell Johnson (06/26), Linda Bean (06/27), Emily Waight (06/27), Brackman Fischer (06/27), Cameron Dye (06/29), Alexander Linden (06/29), Steven Martin (06/30).

Baptism Anniversaries: Jessica Rivington (06/03), Daryl Wilson (06/04), Muller Linden (06/09), David Sturges (06/11), George Geier III (06/14), Barbara Page (06/17), Paul Schult (06/20), Courtney Trueworthy (06/23), Maxwell Johnson (06/25).

Marriage Anniversaries: Tracy & Garry Fountain (06/03), Susan & George Geier (06/03), Rachel & Jeff Knapp (06/05), Fay & Harold Cole (06/12), Ida June & Ron Schaupp (06/22), Ann & Dick Beattie (06/22), Christine & Jeffrey Tuttle (06/22), Janet & Donnel O'Flynn (06/28), Pamela Novak & Manuel Lopez Zafra (06/28).

Consider This

We all have major questions of faith. The goal of life is neither to fear those questions nor to repress them. The goal is to come to see uncertainties as the spots in our life where God enters in. It is trust that counts, not questions, not answers.

—from *A Monastery Almanac* by Joan Chittister

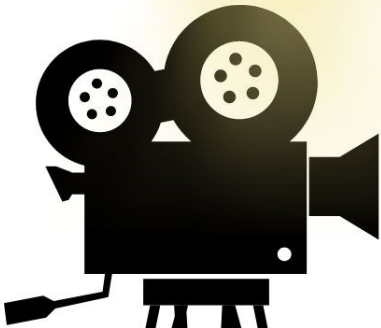
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DATE	LECTOR	LEM	USHER	ALTAR GUILD	FLOWER GUILD
June 4	OT Jane Welsh NT Ellie Weyter	Amy Jerome	Ed Page	Ellie Weyter	Michelle Landstrom
June 11	OT Debbie Barker NT Barbara Bowen	Susan Cerasano	Ed page	Colleen McNerney	Michelle Landstrom
June 18	OT Martha Berry NT Everett Egginton	Barbara Bowen	Ed Page	Wynn Egginton	Michelle Landstrom
June 25	OT Kerry Linden NT Maureen Fox	Debbie Barker	Ed Page	Colleen McNerney	Michelle Landstrom



Qidings
June 2023

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