

The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JUNE 2019



From the Rector's Desk

In light of the flurry of restrictive abortion bills that have been passed in a number of states during the past month, several parishioners have come to me asking about the Episcopal Church's stance on abortion. The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations has provided a summary of various resolutions on abortion passed at General Convention over the years, which you will find below. I hope you will find this information helpful.

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +

Summary of General Convention Resolutions on Abortion and Women's Reproductive Health May 17, 2019

Clergy throughout The Episcopal Church counsel women, men, and families who must make decisions relating to pregnancy and childbirth, adoption, family planning, and who face infertility. Our ordained and lay leaders walk alongside Episcopalians and others who struggle with this intimate and challenging aspect of human life. Over the past several decades, the General Convention has addressed the topic of abortion from a position informed by this ministry and personal lived experience of clergy and laity within their own families. As a result, the General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognizes the moral, legal, personal, and societal complexity of the issue. The diversity of views within the Church represents our common struggle to understand and discern this issue.

The Episcopal Church teaches that "all human life is sacred. Hence, it is sacred from its inception until death. The Church takes seriously its obligation to help form the consciences of its

members concerning this sacredness. Human life, therefore, should be initiated only advisedly and in full accord with this understanding of the power to conceive and give birth which is bestowed by God." Our liturgical text *Enriching Our Worship* calls for great pastoral sensitivity to the needs of the woman and others involved in decisions relating to "abortion, or mishaps of pregnancy and infertility." This ministry is particularly important in situations that result in the loss of a pregnancy or inability to become pregnant and as a Church, we have experienced that all of these have "a tragic dimension."

In a series of statements over the past decades, the Church has declared that "we emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience." At the same time, since 1967, The Episcopal Church has maintained its "unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them."

The Church urges dioceses and congregations "to give necessary aid and support to all pregnant women." General Convention "commends the work and mission of pregnancy care centers which stress unconditional love and acceptance, for women and their unborn children." We have urged support of "local pregnancy care centers" that "develop an outreach of love to pregnant women and to mothers and their children."

At the General Convention in 2018, The Episcopal Church called for "women's reproductive health and reproductive health procedures to be treated as all other medical procedures." The Convention declared "that equitable access to women's health care, including women's reproductive health care, is an integral part of a

woman's struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being."

We continue to advocate that "legislating abortions will not address the root of the problem. We therefore express our deep conviction that any proposed legislation on the part of national or state governments regarding abortions must take special care to see that the individual conscience is respected, and that the responsibility of individuals to reach informed decisions in this matter is acknowledged and honored as the position of this Church."

The Church also sees education as an essential component of engaging with issues relating to family planning, child spacing, adoption, infertility and abortion. The global Anglican Communion, of which The Episcopal Church is a member, first supported the use of contraceptives in 1930, and as Christians we affirm responsible family planning. General Convention policy [states](#) "it is the responsibility of our congregations to assist their members in becoming informed concerning the spiritual, physiological and psychological aspects of sex and sexuality." The Book of Common Prayer affirms that "the birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the Christian community."

Parish Business Update

In keeping with current accounting procedures and diocesan guidelines, the St. Thomas Vestry has decided to revise the parish's check-writing and check-signing procedures. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Vestry member, the Rector, or the Treasurer.

In addition, remember that the minutes of all Vestry meetings as well as each month's financial report are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Rector's office. You're invited to take a moment to check them out and see what your Vestry is up to!

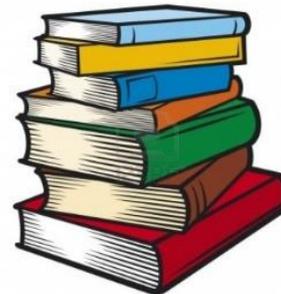


St. Thomas Endowment Fund News

A couple of weeks ago we received from Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), our Endowment Fund investment manager, results for the quarter ending March 31, 2019. I'm pleased to tell you that, during this period, your Fund gained \$11,861.20, an increase of 8.7%, and now totals \$149,043.28.

On another subject...Have you ever considered making a gift to the St. Thomas Endowment Fund in memory of a loved one? It's a way to create a lasting, loving memorial to that person you love as much now as you did during his or her lifetime. Please give it some prayerful thought.

Duncan Murray, Chair



St. Thomas Book Group

SHOE DOG by Phil Knight is the June selection for the Women's Afternoon Book Group. The June meeting will take place a 2 pm on June 27 at the home of Lyn West. We invite you to come join the fun! For driving directions to Lyn's house, contact Lyn or Sue Colvin

The Parish Library



The library was the recipient of two donations this past month, both of which will add interest and variety to the library shelves.

The first is Chapters into Verse. It is a selection of poetry by many famous authors from the fourteenth century to the present who have been inspired by biblical passages from Genesis through Revelations. These passages have been arranged in chronological order, followed by the various ways sacred text has sparked the imaginations of persons such as John Donne, George Herbert, Robert Burns, Dylan Thomas, and Robert Frost, to name just a few of the poets represented. It is a fascinating addition to the library.

Also available now is a King James Bible in large print. This volume will be handy for persons whose eyesight is challenged by the small print of other Bibles and by those who are inspired by the beauty of Elizabethan English. – Barbara Root

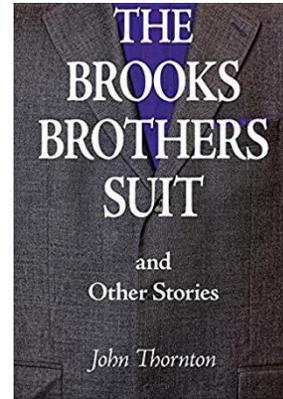


The Outreach Ministry is still collecting for the “Home Starter Kits.” Thanks to all of you, we have been extremely successful in helping to provide basic bedroom and bath goods to individuals and families transitioning out of substance abuse treatment, homelessness, abusive spouse relationships, mental health programs and prison. **For the month of June, we are looking for donations of new blankets.** You will find a collection basket for them in the entryway to the church. Again, it’s thanks to the generous donations of the St. Thomas congregation that we have been so successful with this project. God bless you all! – Lindy Moore

Save the Dates!



Saturday, June 15th at 1:00 pm. Please join us as we celebrate with a reception and book signing of Bishop John Thornton’s latest writings, The Brooks Brothers Suit and Other Stories. We will meet in the Parish Hall of St. Thomas.



Thursday, July 11th at 7:00 pm. The Outreach Ministry is sponsoring “An Evening with Dorcas Smucker.” Come to hear the *Register Guard* columnist who wrote “Letters from Harrisburg” for almost 20 years. Admission is \$10.00. Tickets may be sold in advance or at the door.

Our Coffee Hour Tradition

With many thanks to Judy and Larry Wilson for their dedicated management of this St. Thomas tradition following the 10:00 am service, parishioners are encouraged to sign up to bring treats to share along with the coffee and tea.



Dick Braun serving coffee hour refreshments following the Easter Sunday service



June Birthdays

- 2 Lyn West
- 6 Shirley Collard
- 7 Lori Konieczka
- 7 Margaret Heltman
- 8 Beverly Jackson
- 16 Eloise Bushnell
- 17 Janet Calvert
- 19 Anne VanDerveer



June Anniversaries

- 6 Duncan and Sandra Murray

Upcoming Events

- June 5 – Preschool Graduation 12:15 pm
- June 6 – Finance Meeting 10:00 am
- Preschool Graduation 11:00 am
- June 8 – Diocesan Meeting 10 am – 2 pm
- June 9 – Pentecost
- Wear Red!**
- Sunday School Celebration
- 10:00 am service
- June 10 – Outreach 10:00 am
- June 11 – Vestry Meeting
- June 15 – Bishop Thornton
- Book signing – 1:00 pm
- June 16 – Father’s Day
- June 27 – Ladies’ Book Group
- June 28 – Diocesan Mtg. 10am–9:00pm
- June 29 – Diocesan Mtg. 9 am – 3 pm
- July 11 – Dorcas Smucker Talk
- Parish Hall – 7:00 pm



St. Thomas Youth

Back row: Lottie and Harlan Rhode
 Front row: Mason and Lucy Duer, Christopher and Emily Hente, Tilda Rhode

Sunday School Celebration

During the 10:00 am service on Sunday, June 9 there will be a celebration of the Sunday School with recognition of the Sunday School teachers. This wonderful little family of dedicated Sunday School attendees have enjoyed a year of learning the lessons of Jesus and His example of love. The goal of our Sunday School teachers is to guide our children in an understanding of what it means to be a faithful Christian in our community and the world. As part of their Sunday School celebration the children will also share a surprise they have for the parish.



... to our St. Thomas Sunday School Teachers for another school year of dedicated service – Sue Colvin, Judy Wilson, Holly Spruance, Laurinda Andrist and Cindy Jensen.



Grass Roots Garden Happenings

The annual Plant Sale at GrassRoots Garden April 6 drew huge crowds. Customers purchased six packs of veggie starts, flowers, and herbs. Also available were native and wetland plants, fruit and ornamental trees. Many blueberry plants were happily adopted by visitors. This extremely successful event was staged with the able help of many garden participants, FFLC volunteers and Master Gardeners who assisted customers in selections and helped with set up and clean-up activities. Regional nurseries and the FFLC Youth Farm contributed hundreds of plants for the sale, which brought in nearly \$20,000 in revenue – another new sale record! These funds will be used for operational expenses at GrassRoots Garden and the Youth Farm. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who gave so generously of their time, energy and talents!

Herb walks will begin May 4 in the Herb Garden from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Walks will continue on the first Saturday of the month, ending September 7. Consider staying for the Weed Walk with Rebecca Shepard starting at 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Our new “Sedum Slope” at GrassRoots Garden is designed with various sedums, hens-and-chicks, and other plants to be low-maintenance and drought-tolerant. Some of them have bright flowers and provide nectar or pollen for native bees and butterflies. We are also renovating our Gratitude Garden to show how native plants, traditional perennials, and herbs can blend to make a habitat welcoming to bees and butterflies.

Pollinator Walks: We will be offering small-group pollinator walks, for ages 6 through adult, in the Garden starting in late June. Visitors will see native bees and plants they favor and learn how to attract them to their gardens. Please contact Sara (e-mail below) to schedule a walk. Or, join us on Saturday, July 13 from 10 –11 am

for a family friendly Pollinator Event to celebrate our new plantings!

Please let me know if you will join us!
Sara – svandyck301@gmail.com

Summer Garden Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, and behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information, please contact Merry Bradley at 541-484-7144 or merrybradley@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and support!

Preschool Family Fun Night

St. Thomas parishioners enjoyed the annual preschool Fun Night festivities and volunteered to assist with the event.



Judy Wilson in the kitchen with the Preschool teachers; Rev Ann with Preschool Dir. Patti; Tom & Linda Whitehead selling tickets

