



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Give thanks and praise to God and share God's love.

April 2024

Volume 25 Issue 4

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- Joe Tulacz, Jr. Warden
- Lucy Barnett
- Chris King
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From the Rector's desk ~

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for
everything
which is natural which is infinite which is
yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the
birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the
gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

--e.e. cummings



The Easter Season

Welcome happy morning
age to age shall say...



The St. Thomas altar adorned for the
Easter Service

We are now in the Easter Season, or Eastertide, when the altar and vestments are adorned with white and gold hues. On May 19 we will celebrate Pentecost followed by Trinity Sunday on May 26, after which we will resume Ordinary Time and the color green will again grace the altar and vestments and frame our monthly newsletter.



Endowment News

\$5,000 Matching Gift Challenge!

Thanks to the success of **The Young Musicians at St. Thomas Program**, your Endowment Fund Board is launching a campaign to bring new talented musicians to our worship services.



The Board is challenging St. Thomas members to raise \$2,500 to make this happen. Board members have offered to match your gifts dollar for dollar up to \$2,500 for the whole congregation. **That's a total of \$5,000!**

Every Board member, led by Rev. Ann, has pledged his or her own money for this challenge. In fact, **they've pledged even more than \$2,500.** Please join us – Beverly Jackson, Cindy Jensen, Rev. Ann Gaillard, Lee Gaillard, Diane Landon, Duncan Murray, John Spruance in this effort.

From the \$5,000 raised, one half will be granted to Music Director Keri Davis to continue the Young Musicians Program. The other half will go toward more new ministries.

Soon we'll be sending information about how you can help meet this challenge.

I'm pleased to report that, as of January 1, 2024, both Lee Gaillard and Diane Landon "reenlisted" for additional terms on The Endowment Board. Both have made significant contributions in their prior terms. Please join me in thanking them for their service.

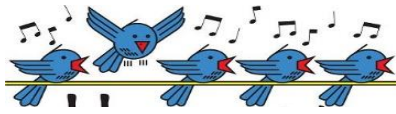
Duncan Murray, Chair

St. Thomas Book Group



Even with the arrival of spring and the temptation to get outside, there is no letup in the reading opportunities for the St. Thomas Ladies Book Group. In fact, on a sunny spring day you might find these avid readers enjoying their book selection outside. The April reading selection is Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts. The group will gather on Thursday, April 25 at 1:30 pm in the Parish Library for their usual lively conversation and book review complemented by some tasty treats. Interested readers are welcome to join this engaging group of well-read women.

Grace Notes



Grace inspired twenty hearty souls to rise early on Saturday, March 23 to attend to a myriad of tasks on our St. Thomas campus, all part of our annual campus cleanup. The morning began with the crafting of the Palm Crosses followed by the stuffing of the Easter Eggs for the annual post Easter service children's egg hunt. Then a very industrious crew took on that arduous task of power washing the walkways and building exterior. An equally dedicated crew washed the Parish Hall and Narthex windows inside and out and dusted the Library and Narthex shelves and swept cobwebs. Whew! It was all a labor of love for our church, our beautiful campus and for all who worship and interact on our campus. *Grace!*



Anne VanDerveer, Maggie Meneghin, Adeline Hoover at work making Palm Crosses and stuffing Easter Eggs.



The power washing team cleaned walkways at the entry and in the back breezeway. Others swept and washed exterior siding. And inside another crew was at work in the Parish Hall, office and Narthex washing windows inside and out and putting the finishing touches on the overall effort by sweeping cobwebs and dusting.



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And as the saying goes, *many hands make light work*. On March 23 there were many helping hands at work on our St. Thomas campus.



Joe Konieczka may have been down on the floor cleaning the entry carpet, but he was definitely in charge of the whole operation. And the best thing about the effort was the smiles – all happy to be there and proud of our church home.

Young Musicians' Program



Wyatt Tubbs performed as the March representative and scholarship recipient of the St. Thomas Young Musicians' Program. Wyatt, who is a Springfield resident from birth, is finishing his senior year at Thurston High School. He is actively involved in theater and has appeared in high school and community productions including *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Sound of Music* at The Shedd.



GrassRoots Garden

Our plum trees are blooming, and the weather can't seem to make up its mind – must be springtime! At the Garden, we're busy finishing up pruning our perennial crops while they're still dormant, planting in our greenhouses, and starting to get beds ready for planting outside. Our Seeders are hard at work sowing and caring for our starts for the bulk of our spring plantings, and we've been putting a lot of effort into improving our nursery set-up in our greenhouse.

It has been challenging in the past to have a nursery greenhouse set up that provides a good environment for seed germination while at the same time being completely modular to allow us to fully disassemble it to use the greenhouse for summer crops later on in the season. Our main problem has been things getting too cold at night, and issues with smaller

plant cells drying out during the day. We have tried some new innovations this year that seem to be making a difference in our germination success.

One of the new things we've tried is keeping active hot compost builds going in our nursery greenhouse. The compost is slowly producing heat and passively heating our greenhouse, keeping our nighttime low temperatures a bit higher than outside. We have been keeping notes on when we turn the piles and monitoring the temperature inside and outside the greenhouse first thing in the morning. We're also experimenting with woodchip piles under the benches in the greenhouse that are also composting and generating heat. We will keep refining these ideas and our techniques. If nothing else, having bulky thermal mass in the greenhouse helps keep the heat absorbed throughout the day radiating back into the space at night.



We've also devised a better system for row covers, where wire hoops slide through fence nails in the benches, allowing us to raise or lower the hoop height easily depending on the height of the plants. We have been using a thermal cover at night, and these also offer the ability to put a piece of shade cloth on during the day which hopefully will address the issue of things drying out too fast once it's warmer outside.

Our last, and possibly most impactful greenhouse modification has been the addition of more wobble wire channels to the door and vent areas, allowing us to really seal up the greenhouse at night to prevent heat loss through drafty gaps.

So far it would appear as if our changes are making a difference. We have been able to keep the

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nighttime greenhouse temperatures above 50 degrees with all of these innovations working together, and we are seeing good germination in our crops so far! We look forward to continuing to refine our methods and improving our nursery set up throughout the spring.

Spring Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9am – 4:00pm. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information, contact Merry Bradley: 458-221-0652, merrybradley@yahoo.com.

Earth Day Activities

April 22 is Earth Day and on Saturday, April 20 our St. Thomas campus will host two events to acknowledge *creation care*. Youth from throughout the diocese will participate in the *Hope and Fire* event to positively address the actions individuals and communities can undertake to reduce our carbon footprint. The youth will be actively engaged in planting and weeding in the GrassRoots Garden.

At the same time the Emerald Valley Electric Vehicle Association will have an information booth and an exhibit of EV vehicles on our St. Thomas parking lot for interested people to see EVs up close and speak with the experts about the EV experience and impact. The photographs are of a similar event held earlier this year.



Apostles' Shield

The apostle Andrew was Peter's younger brother. He shared the home in Capernaum with Peter and was a fisherman with him. Before Andrew knew Jesus, he was a great admirer of John the Baptist and was with him the day that John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Andrew was greatly impressed by what he saw and heard and soon started following Jesus. We are told in the gospel of John that Andrew became the first missionary by bringing his brother Peter to Jesus.

Andrew is said to have preached in Scythia (Russia), Cappadocia, and Bithynia. He died by crucifixion in Greece on a cross the shape of an "X". His bones are supposed to have been taken to Scotland, where he became Scotland's patron saint. Thus the St. Andrew's cross now appears as the diagonal "X" on the flag of Great Britain.



April Birthdays

- 3 Patty O'Neal
- 8 John Paulson
- 9 Barbara Root
- 10 Kathy O'Neal
- 13 Paul Colvin
- 21 Mary Lusk
- 30 Mason Duer



April Anniversaries

- 16 Stu Hogg & Charlotte Heltman

Reflections

This editor's workstation is at a desk overlooking our forest hilltop with three large maples in the forefront. When we moved here 27 years ago the maples were shoulder-high saplings. Now they tower well above the second story roof of our home with branches spreading across the west corner of the house.



They are a blessing and a curse, but the blessings far outweigh the nuisance of their seasonal debris.

The obvious benefit is the wonderful shade they provide throughout the late spring, into the summer and all the way to early fall as the afternoon sun in the western sky can be blinding. Then in winter we benefit from that same western sun providing warmth to the house through the screen of bare maple branches. Beyond the benefit of controlling light and shade, the trees are a delightful source of entertainment as they host our resident squirrels and a profusion of migratory as well as resident birds. Then there is the ever-increasing growth of lichen on the branches – a soft green from winter rains when the leaves are gone. The abundance of lichen is an appreciated reminder of the healthy air quality of our forest region. As winter wanes and spring arrives in the Northwest, the clusters of bright green blossoms emerge along the branches like ornaments. Soon after the new seeds spread their wings – the maple *helicopters* that must surely amass in the thousands to the delight of the birds and squirrels. And this is the first great nuisance. As they fall to the ground and accumulate, they must be raked up to avoid an over-abundance of maple seedlings. It is an operation that requires regular attention from spring, through the summer and into the fall when the next nuisance requires attention. But before that we experience the glory of the fall color – shades of yellow, gold, and rust.

Perhaps more than anything, the maples are a source of inspiration as the progression of the seasons unfold. So often I have gazed out the

window and been struck by an idea or realization inspired by those trees. While raking helicopter seeds and leaves, I remind myself of these benefits and pleasures and the work seems less arduous. That is the lesson of life. It can be hard. It can be challenging, but there are blessings if we recognize the grace that God provides in all life – in nature, in our relationships, in our work. And with God's grace there is always *hope*.

Beacon Quiz

The answer to the Beacon Quiz question in the March Beacon edition was provided once again by **Lucy Barnett**. What is the name of the annual fall GrassRoots Garden festival? *The Carrot Pull*. See the January 2023 edition for pictures and story by Merry Bradley. The names of all the quiz participants will go into the hopper for the year-end prize drawing.

The April quiz question is in recognition of Earth Day in April: **What are the three phases of Creation Care actions implemented to date at St. Thomas?**



Contributions to the Beacon from parish ministries or individuals are welcome. Please send ministry reports, Reflections or Grace Notes to the editor at lajotkd@com. If possible, submissions are to be typed in Times Roman 12 font and single spaced. and received by the 25th of the month preceding Beacon posting.