

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
PO Box 97
Morgantown, PA 19543

**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 2017**



**Thank you to everyone who
attended our
Annual Meeting!**

A special thank you to our new vestry members: Jim Hathaway, Jen Cunningham, and Stan Stalnaker. Stan will be serving as our Junior Warden, Janet McColgan as our Senior Warden, and Pat Mast as our Secretary. And thank you to Arlene Hathaway, who will be our delegate to diocesan convention, and to Evans Goodling, who is serving as an alternate.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. -Jeremiah 29:11

Over the course of Advent, members of the church met together discuss the church's history, create a timeline of important events, and identify key events and patterns in our past in order to shed light on where our church is today. We explored what we view as the key features of our identity, our core values, and what God is calling us to do in our church, in our community, and in our world.

We will be continuing these discussions in 2017 to help us better understand the strengths and challenges of St. Thomas in the here and now. What are our gifts? What are our passions? Where do our gifts and passions overlap with the needs of our church and our community? What is God calling us to do and to be in this year and in the next and beyond? These are all answers we will be seeking as we use the work we have already done to begin revamping our mission statement to more accurately reflect the St. Thomas of today and begin plotting out a plan for the future.

In preparation for this next series of discussions, I would like everyone to consider the following questions before our first session:

Why is St. Thomas important to its members?

Why is St. Thomas important to the surrounding community?

What do we care about most?

What are the people of St. Thomas doing right now?

Where do we want to see St. Thomas in the future?

What do we want the church to look like in 1, 2, 5 years?

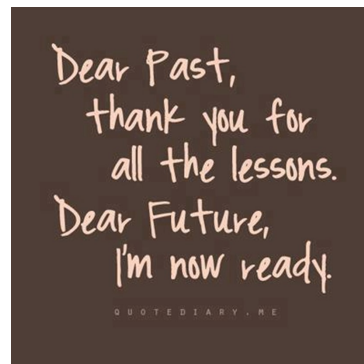
What do we want to be doing in the church?

What do we want to do in the community?

This series will take place on Sundays February 12th, 19th, and 26th at 9:30am. Please come and make your voice heard. Each and every person in St. Thomas has gifts to share. The more people involved in these discussions, the more wisdom can be shared, and the more able we will be to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit leading us.

Peace,

Megan



The Power of Healing Prayer

After the death of his daughter Rev. Eugene Patton became very involved in Healing Prayer. There were programs to help whoever was interested in the types of prayers, how to pray, etc. There were workshops not only at St. Thomas but at other churches of various denominations. The Prayer team at St. Thomas was formed and had about 10 members. We not only prayed for people after church but also we visited the shut-ins.

Over the years the numbers of involved healers at St. Thomas diminished due mostly to age. Along the way I also studied Reike which channels energy into patients by touch to activate natural healing processes of the patient's body and restore physical and emotional well-being. I chose to continue my work at St. Joseph's Hospital after I retired. This led me to many interesting experiences although I never have felt particularly comfortable with Reike since I never advanced beyond the basics.

I had some wonderful experiences and some just plain weird in my opinion. The weird happened at St. Joe's where there were some strict old line Catholics versus those of the more modern ideology. I always asked someone if I could pray with them after getting to know a bit about the person. The toughest to deal with are mentally ill, drug addicts, alcoholics, and agnostics. I tried the Cancer ward and found it very wearing and difficult to handle. However, several patients remembered me when they were in the hospital later. I didn't remember them, however, they told me how much my prayers and words had meant to them.

I have also prayed with people to give them permission to die and move on to Heaven. This is extremely difficult yet gratifying. The most moving was my sister-in-law who was dying of lung cancer. First I have no idea what told me to go see her. Secondly I never knew her to be at all religious. I asked her if I could pray with her and she said yes. I did a form of prayer and Reike, when I got to her chest she was on fire. I said "Oh Bev you are on fire", she replied "I know, please forgive me for all the wrongs I have done to you and your family." I replied that not only did I forgive her but so did God." She smiled and we hugged and I left. I received word that evening she had died at 5:30, I had left her room at 5:15.

Now to healing and living. I have also had amazing experiences with this type of healing. I had broken some bones in my left hand and was in a cast from finger tips to elbow in the summer no less. After about 4 weeks Nancy Patton prayed over my hand on a Sunday. About Tuesday I was typing (sort of) and had a painful jolt in my hand that brought tears to my eyes. Two days later I went to the doctor to have my cast redone. Ex-rays were taken, the doctor came in and said he made a mistake there were no broken bones. I told him I was healed with prayer, with that he jumped up said that was impossible, he had read the x-ray wrong and left the room.

I and others prayed for people at the altar rail at St. Thomas (this was a weekly ritual) along with Father Patton. One woman screamed suddenly the ear she could not hear in had, popped and she could once again hear. Some would say this was a medical happening others would say it was a miracle of healing. However, one thing is plain to me – healing prayer can work miracles.

By Barbara Goodling



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Bert Beebe
Jillian Hendrix
- 8 Peg Cook
- 11 Florence Howells



Mark Your Calendar



- Sunday, Feb. 5—Children's Church—9:30am
- Sunday, Feb. 12, 19, 26—Discussion Group—9:30am
- Sunday, Feb 19—Sunday School—9:30am

Thank You



for your Kindness

We received a thank you form Zerbe Retirement Community for the Christmas gifts we gave to the residents. The letter is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. They were much appreciated!



Back by Popular Demand

Yes, we are starting "Dinner Out" once again!!
Thursday, March 2 will be at the Crab Barn on Route 61.
It has recently reopened under new management!
And again, many thanks to our "Leader" Dori Stillman.
She is always looking for suggestions for different places to go,
so let her know if you have any!

Feb. 5

8:30am
9:30am—Children’s Church
10:30am
Reader.....Jim Hathaway
Intercessor.....Arlene Hathaway
Chalice.....Evans & Barbara Goodling
Ushers.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
Refreshments.....McCord/Goodling
Nursery.....Liz Beebe
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....D.D. Krawlzik/Terry McEwen

Feb. 12

8:30am
9:30am—Discussion Group
10:30am
Reader.....Evans Goodling
Intercessor.....Barbara Goodling
Chalice.....Ken & Helen Harclerode
Ushers.....Stan & Sally Stalnaker
Nursery.....Jen Cunningham
Refreshments.....Stillman/Gring
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....Cook

Feb. 19

8:30am
9:30am—Sunday School/Discussion Group
10:30am
Reader.....Amy Smith
Intercessor.....Pat Mast
Chalice.....Stan Stalnaker/D.D. Krawlzik
Ushers.....Jim & Arlene Hathaway
Nursery.....Doris Gring
Refreshments.....Cook/McEwen
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....Goodlings

Feb. 26

8:30am
9:30am—Discussion Group
10:30am
Reader.....Barbara Goodling
Intercessor.....Helen Harclerode
Chalice.....Evans & Barbara Goodling
Ushers.....D.D. Krawlzik/Terry McEwen
Nursery.....Liz Beebe
Refreshments.....Stalnaker
Healing.....Barbara Goodling
Counters.....Janet McColgan/Jen Cunningham



FEBRUARY 2017