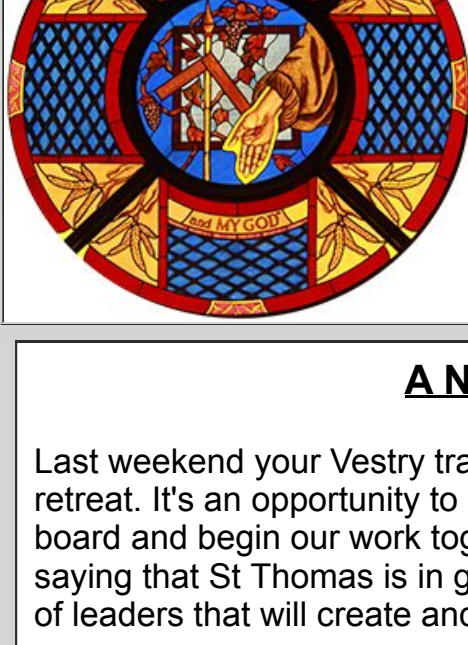




# St. Thomas Episcopal Church



## THE EPISTLE January 31, 2019

### A Note From the Rector:

Last weekend your Vestry traveled to Camp McDowell for our annual Vestry retreat. It's an opportunity to get away, help the newly elected members get on board and begin our work together for the year ahead. I feel comfortable in saying that St Thomas is in good hands. You have elected a very capable group of leaders that will create and implement a vision for the next year and beyond.

One of our topics of discussion was how to better communicate with the congregation as well as creating better lines of communication from the congregation to the Vestry. We hope to use multiple platforms for facilitating better communication and will be sharing some of our ideas with you in the weeks ahead.

Another decision the Vestry made was to close the church office on Fridays at noon. This will give Dorothy some quiet time to catch up on things or go home if she has worked extra hours earlier in the week. We will begin our new hours this Friday, February 1.

St Thomas is blessed in so many ways and I firmly believe the leadership you have in place for the next year is but one more manifestation of that reality!

Paul

### Your 2019 Vestry

#### 3rd Year

George Harriman (Senior Warden)  
David Hattaway (Junior Warden)  
Mike Jones (filling the unexpired term of Trish Caraway)  
Wyn Christian

#### 2nd Year

Jason Conklin  
Elizabeth Duling  
Patty Moy  
Evie Wilson

#### 1st Year

Bryan Dodson  
Kelly Evans  
Brett Tomlin  
Nancy Ward

### Theological Gumbo this Sunday

Kenny Mitchell, Huntsville native, NASA engineer/manager, entrepreneur, author, and US diplomat to Russia, will speak about his book The Cradle of American Space Exploration: Huntsville, Alabama at this Sunday's Theological Gumbo.

It is a narrative of Huntsville's significant and historical role over the past 70 years in America's exploration of space. It is a narrative of why I believe our city has a divine destiny to be a "light to the nations" and "a city set on a hill". Please join us at 9:30 in the Parish Hall.

#### Next week:

We'll welcome our own Nareatha Studdard to speak about "Let's Get Real...About Privilege." at 9:30 on February 10! Explore the concept of privilege and take a privilege walk. Afterwards, let's begin the conversation on ways to help change our world for the better.

### 188th Diocesan Convention February 8 - 10 Camp McDowell

#### 2019 Convention Delegates

Jenna Pirani  
Carolyn Seaman  
Bryan Dodson  
David Hattaway  
Cynthia Geis

#### The Alternates

Elysa (Lisa) Jones  
Kathy Heim  
Bob Thurber  
Sherry Barnes

Please remember them in your prayers as they venture off - along with our clergy - for the Convention next weekend.

#### Readings for the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30  
Psalm 71:1-6

**Taize Worship coming up** - Mark your calendar to join us for the next Taize Eucharist on Wednesday, February 13 at 6 PM in the Nave.

**Parents' Night Out this Friday!** Need a little break? Drop your kids and their dinner(s) off on Friday, February 1 from 6-8 PM so they can have fun with friends (under the watchful eye of nursery staff) and you can have a little rest & relaxation. Children under the age of 5 will be in the nursery, and kids ages 5 and up will be in the Youth Room. Contact Laura Beth Bestor to reserve your spot (laura.beth.dong@gmail.com, 662-648-9498).

**Ladies Craft Night** Our next creative endeavor will be this Friday, February 1 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the Parish Hall. We will be making Valentine's Day cards for our members who are home-bound. So, bring your awesome heart-making skills (and maybe a pair of scissors), a snack to share, and whatever you'd like to drink and join the fun. If you need more information call Michelle Crull (256) 881-6855. Childcare will be available.

#### Nar-Anon Meetings Now At St. Thomas

A Nar-Anon group is now meeting at St. Thomas the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month, at 3 PM in Conference Room II. Their next meeting is this Sunday, February 3. Nar-Anon is a twelve-step program for friends and family members of those who are affected by someone else's addiction. Everyone is invited to attend.

#### St. Thomas Ministries with Children and Youth

##### Youth

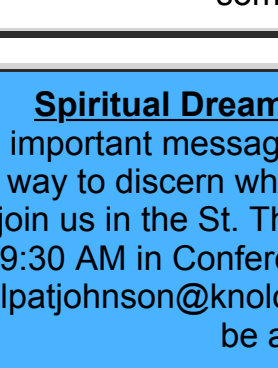
- In Sunday School we will be preparing for our launch of our new Sunday School curriculum! Harry Potter and the Five Encounters with Christ! More details to follow on February 10th! We will begin our journey February 17th.
- EYC will have our annual Super Bowl and Puppy Bowl celebration! 4pm-8pm

##### Children this Week

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- Children's Chapel during 10:30 service
- 4:00 pm Treble Choir practice

**Treble Choir News for Sunday, February 3**  
4:00 pm - Join us for the children's choir rehearsal in the Choir Room! Questions, or want to join? Contact Kathy Heim (misskaybug@gmail.com).

**Reminder:** The deadline for bulletin and EPISTLE articles is Wednesday at noon. This does include prayer list changes. Please submit your articles to the church office at stthomas@stthomashuntsville.org



**Monday morning book club** will meet **February 11th** at 10 am in the parlor to discuss our book selection Educated, a memoir, by Tara Westover. If you want to plan your reading ahead of time, we will be reading The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society by Ann Barrows in March and Pachinko by Min Jin Lee in April. We had a good group in January discussing Beulah and we invite you to join us in the coming months on the second Monday at 10 am.

**St Thomas Lunch Bunch** will meet **Thursday, February 7**, at Bonefish Grill, 4800 Whitesburg Dr at 12:00 noon. For reservations please contact Starr or John Miles at 256-539-0212 or jsmiles9601@att.net

**Super Bowl BBQ and Fellowship** - This **Sunday, February 3** Charlie & crew are busy getting ready to cook for the Super Bowl. If you'd like to order some BBQ, contact Charlie, or sign up in Information Hall or at the Volunteer Desk in the church office. On the day of the game, we'll have the Parish Hall open and the game on the big screen. Bring a snack to share and join us for some fellowship. Kickoff is slated for 5:30 PM!

**Spiritual Dream Works:** Have you thought your dreams may have an important message for you that you cannot figure out? There is a spiritual way to discern what our dreams may be telling us. Bring your dreams and join us in the St. Thomas Spiritual Dream Works to begin **Sunday 3 Feb @ 9:30 AM** in Conference Room II. Call Pat Johnson, 256-881-0133 or email: alpatjohnson@knology.net for more information and to sign up for what might be a very interesting journey into our dreams.

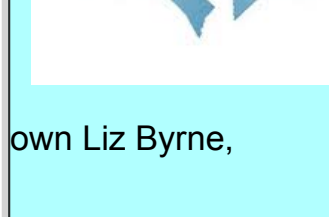
#### Summary of financial giving for the last two weeks:

| Sunday | Offering | Actual   | Budget   | More(Less) |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| 20-Jan |          | \$14,409 | \$15,346 | (\$937)    |
| 27-Jan |          | \$5,923  | \$15,346 | (\$9,423)  |
| YTD    |          | \$20,332 | \$61,384 | (\$41,052) |

#### Aquarius Club Lunches

Aquarius Club members are adults with long-term mental health issues, most of whom live in group homes. The Aquarius Club provides a weekly social outlet where members socialize, play Bingo, and eat lunch. For many years, St. Thomas parishioners have provided the February lunches for the Aquarius Club. The good news - no cooking is required as we only provide the menu items for the staff to prepare. Your response has been very generous and we only have a few menu items remaining. There are sign-up sheets in Information Hall explaining what's still needed. No time to shop? Financial donations (payable to St. Thomas Episcopal Church and marked for "Aquarius Club") are also welcome and I'll do the shopping. Please see or call Cynthia Geis with questions: cgeistec@gmail.com or 256-508-4202. Thank you for your support!

**AQUARIUS CLUB BINGO PRIZES** -- While we are providing lunches for the participants in Aquarius Club on the four Mondays in February, it seems like a good time to be thinking about Bingo prizes for these folks as well. Favorite prizes include sport socks (especially for men with large feet), insulated drink cups, 2-litre sodas, toothbrushes and toothpaste, candy, chips, pretzels, dishwashing liquid, body wash, stationery, BandAids and Kleenex (any brand). There is a large, shiny blue box in Information Hall where you can place any item that you think would make a good Bingo prize. Questions? Contact Susan Smith at 256-881-4197.

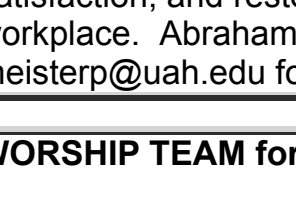


**Meals on Wheels Drivers** - We're in need of folks who are willing to join our St. Thomas Meals on Wheels team. If you are interested, please contact Mark Dixon at 256-426-0381 or mddixon@aol.com. Thanks to those who are scheduled to help this coming week!  
**Meals on Wheels Feb 4 - 8**  
Mon: Kay Strobel & Susy Thurber (T route), Don & Barbara Hauler (P route)  
Tue: Mark Dixon (T route)  
Wed: Latham Thurber (T route)  
Thu: Bill Kistler (T route)

**The More You Know: How to Help Stock the Little Free Pantry**  
We are thrilled to offer a Little Free Pantry at St. Thomas. Thank you for all you do to help provide food to our neighbors in need. If you are adding canned items and non-perishables from your own pantry, please check the expiration dates. We've found that some expired goods have been placed in the box, and we want to ensure all food is healthy for those who are being fed by the generosity of St. Thomas. Questions? Ask Debbie or George Harriman (daharriman@comcast.net).

#### Your Helping Hands Needed: St. Thomas Childcare

We are looking for special individuals to volunteer in the nursery. Providing childcare allows us to welcome people of all ages to share in worship, service, and fellowship at St. Thomas. This is a part of our vibrant ministries, and as we grow, our needs for childcare grow, too. Please consider helping! If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering, please let us know. Contact Audrey Clark at the church (256-880-0247) or via email youth@stthomashuntsville.org.



**Caregiver Support Group** Are you caring for a loved one: a parent, spouse, child, or other family or friend? You are not alone. Others at St. Thomas share in this holy, hard work that opens us to love...and yet, we need refreshment and rest. Our next gathering is Monday, February 11, 1:00 PM in the Parlor. Our own Liz Byrne, LPC, helps facilitate these sessions. Come join us!

**Grief Recovery Group** When loss happens, it is devastating. Next steps are uncertain. Join others as we find ways to live in fellowship with our grief, through conversation, laughter, and sometimes, tears. Our next gathering is **TODAY at 5:30 PM**. We'll go out for dinner at The Boot on South Memorial Parkway! Can't join us for dinner this week? We'll meet again next Thursday, February 7 at 5:30 PM in the Parlor.

**Pastoral Care Needs?** The clergy and lay ministers of St. Thomas want to support all parishioners who are home-bound, sick, hospitalized, or need home communion. Call or email us to let us know of your needs (256-880-0247, pastoralcare@stthomashuntsville.org.). To add a loved one to the parish prayer list, look for the blue forms in the Narthex - or ask an usher!

**Abrahamic Prayers** - Matter, Life and Harmony. Laj Utreja will explore a proposal for fundamental Hindu principles (basic human principles) **Thursday, February 7**, in the conference room. People who willingly subscribe to these principles experience benefits in many areas, for example greater job satisfaction, and restoration of broken relationships at home and in the workplace. Abrahamic Prayers meets from 7 to 9 PM. RSVP to meisterp@uah.edu for handouts.

#### WORSHIP TEAM for February 3, 2019

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Celebrant                      | The Rev. Paul Pradat   |
| Preacher                       | The Rev. Katherine Harper  |
| Organist                       | Melanie Payne  |
| Choir Director                 | Donna Clark  |
| 8:00 AM Eucharistic Ministers  | Sally Upchurch, Bryan Dodson   |
| Lectors                        | Malcolm Tagg, Beth Cantrell  |
| Acolyte                        | Gary Dodson  |
| Ushers                         | Garry Griffith, Pat Stueck   |
| Greeters                       | Nell & David Fisher  |
| 10:30 AM Eucharistic Ministers | Gretchen Mauldin, Thad Mauldin   |
| Lectors                        | Bill Stevenson, Natalie Brock  |
| Acolytes                       | Griffin Anderson, Erin Slagle, Grayson Brewer, Olivia Moore                                |
| Ushers                         | Jim & Nancy Teasdale   |
| Greeters                       | Linda & John Hanson  |
| Children's Chapel              | Angie Pradat   |
| Vestry on Duty                 | Brett Tomlin, Kelly Evans  |
| Altar Guild                    | Ulla Allison, Marcia Steiner, Vickey Bell, Pat & Al Johnson                                |
| Flower Guild                   | Ruth Erwin, Kelley Johns   |
| Breakfast                      | Vestry - Jason Conklin, Wyn Christian, Bryan Dodson, David Hattaway, Patty Moy, Nancy Ward |

#### This Week at St. Thomas

**Thursday, January 31**  
4:00 PM Centering Prayer, St. Anne's Chapel  
5:30 PM Grief Group: Dinner outing at The Boot (S. Memorial Pkwy)  
7:00 PM Men's Spirituality Group, Conference Room

#### Friday, February 1

8:00 AM First Stop Breakfast  
6:00 PM Ladies Craft Night, Parish Hall (6-8 PM)  
Parents' Night Out, Nursery & Youth Room (6-8 PM)

#### Sunday, February 3

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Nave  
Nursery Available  
9:00 AM Breakfast, Vestry  
9:30 AM Christian Formation Classes:

- Theological Gumbo, Kenny Mitchell, The Cradle of American Space Exploration: Huntsville, AL Parish Hall
- Children's Sunday School, Hiers Hall Classrooms
- Youth Sunday School, Youth Room
- Centering Prayer, St. Anne's Chapel
- DreamWorks, Conference Room II

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Nave  
Nursery Available  
3:00 PM Nar-Anon, Conference Room II  
4:00 PM EYC, Youth Room  
4:00 PM Treble Choir Practice, Choir Room

#### Monday, February 4

7:00 PM The Great Emergence Discussion, Conference Room II

#### Tuesday, February 5

6:00 PM EFM, Conference Room

#### Wednesday, February 6

9:30 AM Bible Study, Conference Room  
Parents' Morning Out - drop-off  
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing Service, St. Anne's Chapel  
Noon Bible Study, Conference Room  
12:45 PM Parents' Morning Out - pick-up  
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Nave  
Nursery Available  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

#### Thursday, February 7

4:00 PM Centering Prayer, St. Anne's Chapel  
5:30 PM Grief Group, Parlor  
7:00 PM Men's Spirituality Group, Conference Room

St. Thomas Episcopal Church | [stthomas@stthomashuntsville.org](http://stthomas@stthomashuntsville.org) | <http://www.stthomashuntsville.org>  
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