

June 2010



## *A Word from the Weiss*



### *Never Talk About Religion and Politics...*

...At least, that's what people say. But, as we prepare to mark Flag Day (at our "Red, White, and Blue" Potluck—see below) and move toward Independence Day, it seems appropriate that we explore how our faith relates to our politics. After all, part of St. Thomas' mission is to Grow in Faith. One way we can do that is to prayerfully consider how our relationship with God informs the way we see important issues of the day. Toward that end, I will lead two Coffee Chats along this line:



- **June 6: Was Jesus Political?** *How did Jesus' life and teaching relate to political matters? Some say not at all; some say a great deal.*
- **June 20: The Christian Faith and War.** *What has our faith had to say about war? Three things, actually.*

As always, as we meet for these conversations, we do well to "be quick to listen, slow to speak" (St. James) and to "speak the truth in love" (St. Paul). By listening and sharing in love, we can indeed Grow in Faith.

Let me know if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Along with you on the journey of faith,

*Fr. Chuck Weiss*

## **"Red, White, and Blue" Potluck!**

On Sunday, June 13, we will commemorate Flag Day with a "Red, White, and Blue" Potluck, games, and a visit from Betsy Ross! Feel free to wear red, white, and blue clothes.

Plan on having another fun day with the Fellowship Committee! You never know what might happen...



## ***WOMEN'S LUNCH!***



On Saturday, June 5, the ladies of St. Thomas will gather for their monthly Lunch at Table Lakeside Restaurant, 200 North Lakeside Drive, in McMurray.

The fun begins at Noon!

RSVP to Martha Weiss at 412-963-0971.



## ***The Cursillo Program in the Diocese of Pittsburgh***

All Cursillistas (folks who have attended the Cursillo program) are encourage to attend an Ultreya (follow-up Cursillo meeting) at St. Mark's, Johnstown, on Sunday, June 13, at 3PM.

Bishop Price will attend. Barbara Taylor, a Cursillista, will share her faith story. Enid Bishop, from the Diocese of NW PA, and part of the team who brought Cursillo to Pittsburgh, will be among the speakers.



More info for Cursillistas and non-Cursillistas at [episcopalpgh.org](http://episcopalpgh.org)

## ***A Visit from Fr. Dick Pollard***



On Sunday, June 27, while I am on vacation, St. Thomas will have a visit from Fr. Dick Pollard, the priest from All Saints Episcopal Fellowship in Bridgeville. Since All Saints' beginnings, about a year ago, Fr. Dick has encouraged Episcopal parishes to share in worship, fellowship, and education with them. I had the privilege of preaching and concelebrating the Eucharist there in March. Please give Fr. Dick a warm St. Thomas welcome!

*Please note: Fr. Dick will be available for pastoral emergencies while Martha and I are away from June 20 (after Coffee Hour) until July 2. He can be reached at 412-551-5055.*

## *Notes from the Senior Warden*

At this past vestry meeting, the vestry completed its planning for the year. Each year we decide what our goals should be and put committees together to carry them out. Those committees met to determine objectives that will help them achieve their goals. These goals and objectives are the things that help us to accomplish our mission :

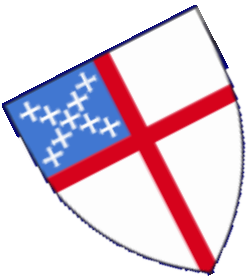
*With God's help, St. Thomas Episcopal Church seeks to grow in faith and numbers, reflecting the love of God to all. We will do this by*  
*Welcoming all in the name of Jesus Christ*  
*Worshiping God with dignity and joy*  
*Honoring questions of faith*  
*Supporting each other and serving the world around us*  
*Laughing together!*

Attached to this newsletter you will find the goals and objectives for St. Thomas for 2010. Also included are the various committees, members, and vestry liaisons. During the summer the committees will work to put these goals and objectives in motion. In September we will be coming to you with a brief survey on several topics to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the parish and the community.

As you look at the goals and committees, if you have questions or input, please contact me or the vestry liaison. If you would like to be part of a committee or participate in an activity please let us know. There is plenty of room for everyone.

I would like to thank the vestry for their hard work, and the many parishioners who have volunteered to be a part of committees to help carry out our mission . With God's help we will continue to grow in faith and in numbers.

Pam Gardner, Senior Warden



## *The Episcopal Church (TEC) News*

More info at [episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org)

- ***Diane Bruce, Mary Glasspool consecrated bishops in joyous celebration in Los Angeles diocese.*** Bruce became the first woman bishop in the Diocese of Los Angeles; Glasspool became the first gay, partnered, bishop in that diocese. "The world's transformed only if we turn to each and every one of our brothers and sisters and see the face of Christ superimposed on them," said Bishop Jon Bruno, co-consecrator and preacher at the service. Bruno noted how he had once protested women's ordination.
- ***Bishops to go ahead with Arizona meeting despite immigration law outcry.*** The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops will meet Sept. 15-21 in Phoenix for its regular fall meeting as planned, including an optional pre-meeting trip to the U.S.-Mexican border, despite public outcry over Arizona's recent enactment of the nation's toughest immigration law and calls for a boycott. "It's an opportunity to be educated, to be informed and to make a public statement about solidarity with people that are victims in this, and there are victims on both sides, which is important to emphasize," said Arizona Bishop Kirk Smith.
- ***"I am an Episcopalian" celebrates its first anniversary and invites you to send a video.*** What does it mean to be an Episcopalian? Would you like to share your answer on The Episcopal Church web site?



## BIRTHDAYS

Ben Hill—June 7  
 Diane Bushko—June 11  
 Joe Lucarelli—June 12  
 Chuck Meacci—June 13  
 Elizabeth Freeman—June 24  
 Wayne Greaves—June 24  
 Betsy Carey—June 29

## ANNIVERSARIES

The Celentos—June 10  
 The Bushkos—June 25



## Notes from the Church Mouse!

One thing I love about the Women's Lunch is that it's never the same crowd—and they always have fun!.....Nice turnout for Bob's Recital at First Presbyterian Church in Washington. What beautiful music! And what a FEAST afterwards! (I couldn't find their Church Mouse anywhere...Do Presbyterians have them?).....I heard Fr. Chuck forgot to "fill the tank" before church on Mother's Day. What's that mean? All I know is that they started without him! (I did hear him thank Pam for leading worship, and his "angels", Jerry and Michelle, for picking Martha and him up.) .....The Mother's Day Brunch was wonderful, thanks to Maggie, Lori, and the Youth Group! Thanks, gang!.....Heard the Youth Retreat to Calvary Camp was lots of fun! (I thought about hoppin' into the van, but Conneaut, Ohio, is FAR AWAY from my mouse house.)..... Fr. John Thomas, who filled in for Fr. Chuck while he was away, is very nice. But—was he named after the church or was the church named after him?.....Well, you all outdid yourselves at the last Canon House gathering. I mean, PIZZA after the service? What next?.....What a great time celebrating Pentecost with St. Paul's!.....But, what's with all the RED people were wearing?

Well, see you around (but you won't see me!), **TOM**



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