

### A Word from the Weiss: SHH!

Some time ago, the Myers Briggs Type Indicator was popular in The Episcopal Church. The MBTI is meant to help people understand “what makes them tick”, in terms of four personality factors. It is also meant to help folks get along, as they better understand not only themselves, but those around them. Full disclosure: my Myers Briggs “type” is the one that is apparently most suspicious of personality type inventories. That is, I don’t like being labeled. But—one thing that was helpful to me was the Introvert/Extrovert segment of the MBTI. Introverts tend to think quietly, to themselves; Extroverts think out loud. This is important because it helped me appreciate that many times, when I thought Martha was speaking to me, she wasn’t! She was just processing her thoughts. This realization greatly reduced the number of silly disagreements we had. (To this day, I will often say, “Are you talking to me or just thinking out loud?”)



Introverts and Extroverts came to mind as I began thinking about Lent. Christian folks are advised to *be quiet* in this season, to help us listen for the voice of God. Silence is encouraged throughout Scripture, but especially in Psalm 46, in which we are advised to “be still, and know that God is God”; in 1 Kings, in which Elijah discovers God not in an earthquake, windstorm, or fire, but in a “still, small voice”; and in the many occasions in which Jesus goes off by himself—away from the noise of the crowds—to pray.

The challenge for Extroverts is to be quiet at all. They are social creatures, who prefer being with others or at least on the phone or facebook. Yet the Season of Lent calls them, in part, to pull back from those social connections and *do nothing but listen* to what they hear in the “thoughts of their hearts”. The challenge for Introverts is to be *truly* quiet. They can be not talking, but still be busy with 1000 different things—chores, reading, watching TV—which can keep them from hearing the whisper of God.

I wish you, Introvert and Extrovert alike, a quiet and meaningful Lent.

—Fr. Chuck Weiss

### ASH WEDNESDAY

We have been invited to join our friends at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church to mark the beginning of Lent with traditional worship. We will gather at their parish at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 22, for the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist.





## Women's Lunch

The Ladies of St. Thomas will gather for Lunch on Saturday, February 4, at Noon. This time they'll meet at Los Chiludos Mexican Restaurant, 325 Southpointe Boulevard, Suite 300, Canonsburg.

RSVP to Amy Jennings at 304-830-0531 or amyjennings@gmail.com.

## Are You a Knit Wit?



All St. Thomas women are invited to an informational meeting for the Knit Wits, a knitting group supporting the Seamen's Church Institute! Deb Wiles, from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebo, will introduce this ministry (making scarves and hats for sailors) at 10 AM on Saturday, February 18, at St. Thomas. Knitters of all levels are welcome! To learn more, contact Michelle Lucarelli (724-942-0719) or go to [seamenschurch.org](http://seamenschurch.org).

## Snow Brigade!



The Vestry is developing a formal snow policy, including both a plowing service and an in-house "snow brigade" when there's less snowfall. Thanks to present members of this elite squad: Pam, Mike, Dan + Cindi, Michelle, Wayne, Rose, Bob. If you would like to help, contact Amy Jennings, Jr. Warden.

## Information, Please....

- We are updating our Parish Directory for 2012. Please see Lorra Brannen to review the information we have for you. We hope to print the new directory by February 26.
- Do you have texting on your cell phone? We may use texting to get out alerts (e.g., snow closure) to the parish community. Please send a text with your name to Fr. Chuck at 412-508-8444.
- Do we have your Birthday and/or Anniversary information? If not, please email that information to [revcsw@aol.com](mailto:revcsw@aol.com).



## Fr. John Thomas Memorial Gift

In honor of Fr. John Thomas, now deceased, memorial gifts will go to The Fr. John Thomas Leadership Fund at Calvary Camp. The St. Thomas family will be sending a gift; if you would like to contribute, please give cash, or a check made out to St. Thomas Episcopal Church (memo to Fr. John Thomas Leadership Fund), to Marie DeRiso or Fr. Chuck by February 26. Thank you.



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

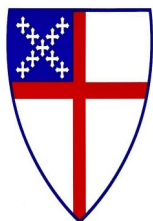
On Tuesday, February 21, from 5:30-7:00 PM, we're invited to join our friends at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for a Pancake Supper. All we have to do is RSVP (724-745-5962) and show up!

## "Souper Bowl" Sunday



On Sunday, February 5, all of our loose offering will go to the City Mission in Washington, to support their mission of "Ending Homelessness, One Life at a Time". This is part of a nationwide Souper Bowl effort—a ministry started by a youth group over 20 years ago with this prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

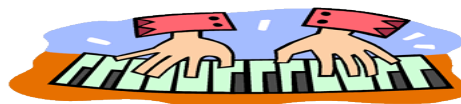
## Coffee Chats—Episcopal 101



On February 5 and February 19, we'll take a little time at Coffee Hour to look at our peculiar way of following Jesus Christ.

You may be surprised what you learn!

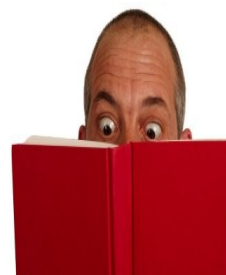
## Our New Organist!



On Sunday, February 5, St. Thomas will have a new organist—Jordan Carey, an organ student from Washington and Jefferson College. Jordan will be with us for at least a few months, depending on his plans after graduation. Please offer him a warm St. Thomas welcome!

## Lenten Book Study

Lent is a good time to reflect on what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. Toward that end, Fr. Chuck will lead a study on The Rev. Buzz Thomas' short book, *Ten Things Your Minister Wants To Tell You (But Can't Because He Needs The Job)*. This is an entertaining and engaging way to explore important questions of faith. The group will meet on the following Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall: March 1, 15, and 29. You may come for any or all of these discussions. Please contact Fr. Chuck by February 15 so he can order books.



## Vestry News

*Congratulations to our new Vestry members, Ben Hill and Amy Jennings!*

*Your Vestry will be meeting on Saturday, February 25, for their Annual Retreat—to pray and discuss where God may be calling St. Thomas. Feel free to share your thoughts with any Vestry member.*

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Martha Weiss—Feb. 2  
Jenn Turney/Nathan Brannen—Feb. 4  
Martin O’Lear—Feb. 6  
Jeremy Brannen—Feb. 14  
Maggie O’Lear—Feb. 24

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

The Bedillions—Feb. 10  
The Edlers—Feb. 11

## **COFFEE HOUR**

Feb. 5—Rodgers/Bing  
Feb. 12—Senay  
Feb. 19—Nickolas and Kelly Vayansky  
Feb. 26—Meacci

## **NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE!**

Well, it was nice to kick off the year with our friends from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church! I really like their church mouse, Paul .....What a great turnout at the Annual Meeting! If I had a vote, I’d vote for the Vestry to provide lunch every year.....I hear we’re getting a new organist! In the meantime, THANKS to Chris, Pam, and Nickolas for leading us in song. (Of course, they’ll continue to help.)..... I sneaked into Fr Chuck’s suitcase to join Martha and him in Middletown, DE, for the ordination to the priesthood of their friend. I learned a new phrase that’s longer than my tail (!): “apostolic succession”.....The Sunday School kids were talking about Needs and Wants, and they decided that we *need* bubble wrap to protect things when we mail them, and we *want* bubble wrap to POP! Fun!

Well, see you around (but you won’t see me),

**TOM**



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