

The Parish Post

ANNUAL MEETING and POTLUCK **January 16**

January
2011

At our Annual Meeting, our primary business is the election of new Vestry members. Each Vestry member generally serves a three-year term, and is responsible for the finances and physical plant of the parish, as well as taking part in committee work. The Vestry exists to pray and act to further the Kingdom of God through St. Thomas. According to our Bylaws, Vestry members must be baptized, at least eighteen years old, and have been regular in attendance and financial support of the parish for at least six months.

While the Nomination Committee (made up of our two outgoing Vestry members, Michelle Lucarelli and Bob Senay) has been soliciting names for Vestry candidates, anyone who wishes to nominate someone may do so. To do so, any voting member of the parish (same qualifications as listed above for Vestry members), with the second of another voting member, may submit one name to the Nomination Committee. A person may nominate himself/herself. Submissions must be in writing; the preferred method is to Michelle Lucarelli at mlucarelli128@verizon.net. Nominations should be made by January 9.

While voting takes place at the Annual Meeting, Absentee Ballots are permitted. Once the slate of candidates is complete, votes may be submitted via email or mail to Michelle. The slate will be emailed to the parish on January 9; if you do not have email, or are not on the parish email list, please contact Michelle.

In addition to the election of Vestry members, the Annual Meeting will include a Treasurer's Report, Senior Warden Report, Committee Reports, and the Rector's State of the Parish Report. As always, we will allow time for conversation about any matters which may be on the hearts and minds of the congregation.

The Fellowship Committee will provide a main course for our Potluck this morning. Everyone else is invited to bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert.

I encourage you to make every effort to attend our Annual Meeting. It is an important way to support our shared ministries and to "touch base" with each other!

Along with you on the journey of faith,

Fr. Chuck Weiss

WOMEN'S LUNCH



Once again, the ladies of St. Thomas will gather to have a WILD TIME at their monthly Lunch! This time, they'll meet at The Juniper Grill, 400 Washington Road, McMurray.

The frivolity commences at Noon on Saturday, January 8. RSVP to Sue Rodgers at 724-745-2457.

Youth Group Ski Trip



On Saturday, January 22, the Pittsburgh Youth Initiative is sponsoring a Diocesan Youth Ski Trip! Go to the "Youth Notes" section at episcopalpgh.org, or contact Fr. Chuck, for more info.

MEN'S BREAKFAST?



Calling all men! Some of the gents from St. Paul's Lutheran Church have expressed an interest in organizing an occasional men's gathering, perhaps to share breakfast and talk about church ladies. If interested, contact Fr. Chuck.

Games Night at Canon House



On Thursday, January 27, at 6:30 PM, everyone is invited to Games Night at Canon House. This is a great opportunity to get to know our Canon House friends better! Bring your favorite board games. Questions? Contact Pam Gardner at 724-873-0794.

Dear St. Thomas Family,

Many thanks for the basket of "favorite things" which you all gave me for Christmas! What a wonderful collection of stuff!

I really do appreciate your thoughtfulness. I might even share some things with my family....

Sincerely, Fr. Chuck



Vestry Highlights

- **Jean Sickles** has graciously agreed to the Vestry's appointment to fill the final year of Nickolas Vayansky's term.
- We now have **two designated handicapped parking spots** right outside the Parish Hall door. The Vestry thanks Chuck Meacci for his hard work on this project (and repainting all the lines in the parking lot)!
- We discussed the need for more **Sunday Servants**. Fr. Chuck will be looking into this matter, but anyone is welcome to speak with him if they wish to serve St. Thomas in this way.
- **Snow Removal**—We are looking for volunteers who might be available to help shovel snow, if necessary. Also—to find out if services are cancelled, parishioners should either: a) check the news on TV—Channels 2, 4, or 11; or b) call the church. As the parish grows, it may be easier to get the word out this way than via phone chain.

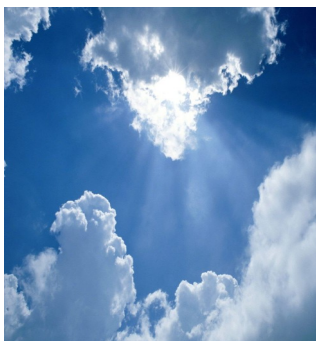
BREAKING BREAD—JANUARY 30

Given the positive response to our first "Breaking Bread" event, we decided to make this a tradition! We will once again gather in parishioners' homes, just for fun and to get to know each other better.

Watch the mail for an invitation with more information!



In Memoriam: Jacob Thomas Hudak and Alice Sneden



In December, Jacob Thomas Hudak and Alice Sneden passed away. Please continue to hold Dan and Cindi and family, and the Sneden family, in your thoughts and prayers.

Father of all, we pray to you for Jake and Alice, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

BIRTHDAYS



Pam Gardner January 2
Mary Ann Boyan January 3
Warren Bedillion January 12
Bob Senay January 14

COFFEE HOUR

January 2—Weiss
January 9—DeRiso
January 16—Potluck
January 23—Carey/Greaves
January 30—Freeman

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE!

Well, there was a lot happening in December! Ten people took part in the *Putting Away Childish Things* book study (plus a number read the book on their own), and it sounds like there might be another one in the future.....

The Cookie Exchange at Sue's was a great success, with games, food, laughter, and—my favorite—COOKIES!

.....Betsy and gang continued the good work of making lunches for the Habitat crew. (I help out with the crumbs.).....We had a fun, busy day with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, sharing worship and fellowship, and organizing the Christmas Bags that the Youth Groups delivered. Nice job, everyone!What a great crowd for Caroling at Canon House! (My favorite song is "Silent Mice")......I just love decorating the church for Christmas, not to mention the singing and the potluck that went along with it!

(Sometimes, just for fun, I talk to the figures in the Nativity scene. Do you ever do that?).....Christmas Eve was WONDERFUL, with 70 people, and fantastic music! (Thanks, Bob!)

Happy New Year!

TOM



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