

## A Word from the Weiss

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As mentioned in previous Parish Posts, your Vestry has formed an ad hoc Fundraising Committee to address the cost of replacing our roof—that is, the cost not covered by a gracious grant from the diocese! Conversations among this Committee, and the Vestry as a whole, led to the matter of unexpected building and maintenance costs this past year and the idea of creating an ongoing Building and Maintenance Fund. In short, these parish leaders believe that it may be better stewardship to plan more specifically for such costs, and I'm inclined to agree.

This means, then, that the St. Thomas family will be called upon to do something it has not done in recent years, which is plan for “a rainy day”. To explain this plan, we will do the following:



- October 2—Members of the Fundraising Committee will introduce the Building and Maintenance Fund during Announcements;
- October 16—Vestry members will share their personal thoughts on Stewardship during Announcements;
- October 23—A Stewardship Letter, asking for prayerful reflection on both Annual Pledge, and the Building and Maintenance Fund, will be distributed. We will also have a Coffee Chat including “The Great Stewardship Quiz”!

While this is a new venture for us at St. Thomas, I am excited about the optimism among the Vestry and Fundraising Committee about it! It is clear that they are excited about our future together.

Please feel free to speak with me, any Vestry member, or any member of the Fundraising Committee (Amy Jennings, Jerry DeRiso, Gary Naeser) about this matter.

*Along with you on the journey of faith,*

*Fr. Chuck Weiss*

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## *Thanks for your Patience*

With the sudden news about Bob Senay leaving to serve at Laboratory Presbyterian Church, we may need to adjust the worship schedule mentioned in last month's Parish Post. On behalf of “The Band”—Pam Gardner, Nickolas Vayansky, Lori Stebler, and Chris Phelps—I thank you for your patience.



*—Fr. Chuck*

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## Women's Lunch

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*On Saturday, October 1, at Noon, the Ladies of St. Thomas will gather for their monthly lunch.*

*This time, they'll meet at Juniper Grill, 4000 Washington Road, McMurray.*

*RSVP to Pam Gardner at 724-873-0794.*



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## MEN'S GROUP-POKER NIGHT!



**On Friday, October 28, at 7:00 PM, all St. Thomas men are invited to a Poker Night at the church!**

Each person is asked to contribute \$20 for chips; all money will go toward The Race to End Hunger. The winner, of course, does receive bragging rights.

Snacks and drinks provided.

RSVP to the church (724-745-2013) or [revcsw@aol.com](mailto:revcsw@aol.com).

Also, if anyone actually knows how to play poker, that would help.

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## "INTERNATIONAL" PARISH POTLUCK!

On Sunday, October 9, we'll share in a Parish Potluck with an international flair!

Feel free to bring your favorite ethnic dishes.

(Grandma's favorite recipes can remain secret.)

Contact Sue Rodgers at 724-745-2457 with any questions.

This will be a wonderful feast for the St. Thomas family!



Oct 2—Naeser/Rodríguez

Oct 9—POTLUCK

Oct 16—Rodgers/Bing/Vayansky

Oct 23—O'Lear

Oct 30—Senay

Nov 6—Weiss

Nov 13—Carey/Greaves

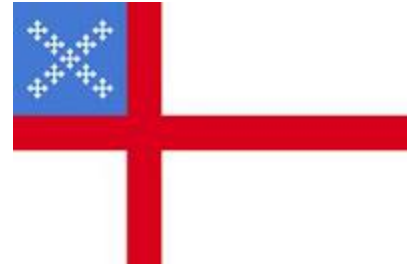
Nov 20—DeRiso

Nov 27—Freeman

## Vestry Highlights

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From our September meeting:



- At Oktoberfest, we earned \$612 to address hunger. This money will go to Episcopal Relief and Development, the Washington City Mission, and the Canonsburg-Houston Ministerium Food Vouchers program. We also had two families at Oktoberfest express an interest in receiving parish information.
- The Bishop Nomination Committee has received many names of potential candidates. The Committee is in the process of screening candidates; an official slate will be announced in January.
- Amy Jennings visited the Vestry on behalf of the Fundraising Committee. This Committee, the Vestry, and Fr. Chuck will share ideas on Stewardship during October.
- We approved a resolution to purchase a new refrigerator.
- A display rack for Episcopal pamphlets will be mounted in the Narthex.
- Fr. Chuck reported on some continuing education he will participate in— A Town Meeting on *Religion in the Public Square*; a showing of *Food, Inc.* (part of The Race to End Hunger); a conference on *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*.

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In October, we'll share in three Coffee Chats after Worship:

October 2: "Living the Questions" Part 1—Taking The Bible Seriously

October 16: "Living the Questions" Part 2—Thinking Theologically

October 30: The Great Stewardship Quiz!



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## Fr. Chuck's Churchy Challenge

St. Francis of Assisi Day is October 4.

Where can we find St. Francis around St. Thomas Episcopal Church?

*See Fr. Chuck with your answer by October 31.*

*Winners may receive valuable prizes and/or bragging rights.*

*Being under 18 will increase chances of winning.*

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Max Weiss—Oct 12  
Rita McIlwain—Oct 20  
Mary Hill—Oct 20  
Sue Rodgers—Oct 21  
Emma Brannen—Oct 23  
Michelle Lucarelli—Oct 25

*Are we missing  
your birthday or anniversary?  
Please call the church office  
and let us know!*

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

How nice to see the Ladies gathering again for their monthly **Lunch!** But—does a mouse ever get to pick the spot?.....  
Can someone please explain why **Oktoberfest** is in September?  
After funnel cakes, I checked out the St. Thomas booth.  
Good to see you all working to help folks in need. And who can resist BUBBLES? By the way, who were those guys flirting with Amy and Pam?.....**Games Night** was fun, as always, but why did Rita keep saying “Nothin’ up my sleeve”?.....I was so SAD to hear that **Bob** is leaving to serve at Laboratory Presbyterian Church.  
What a gift he has been to us! (I’ve always loved to stick around for the Postlude .) He says he’ll visit now and then;  
we can always hope!

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

**TOM**



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