

THE PARISH POST

September 2010

A WORD FROM THE WEISS

"THERE IS ROOM AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE"—CONCLUSION

Given some complications with the plans we considered regarding the Chancel steps, your Vestry and I are suggesting an entirely different approach to the safety concerns there. Beginning on Sunday, September 12 ("Kickoff" Sunday—see below), we will do the following:

- The Prayer Desks used by the Rector and Lay Eucharistic Minister will be turned to face the altar.
- At Communion, folks will have the option of receiving the bread and wine while kneeling at one of the Prayer Desks, or while standing between them.

From parish feedback, we received two main concerns: not spending too much money, and not changing the sanctuary architecture. This plan addresses both.

So—we will take this approach beginning September 12. Your Vestry and I would welcome your feedback. Ultimately, we want to make it safer and easier to partake in the Lord's Supper.

Along with you on the journey of faith,

Fr. Chuck Weiss

"KICKOFF" SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 12

St. Thomas' "program year" kicks off on Sunday, September 12. On this day, we will:

- Adopt our new pattern for receiving Communion (see above)
- Commission our various Sunday Servants during worship
- Gather a loose offering to support the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, helping our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, who are in special need
- Begin Sunday School
- Share in a Brunch after the service!

I look forward to sharing this day with you!

—Fr. Chuck

"BREAKING BREAD"

—Social gatherings for St. Thomas folks in small groups—

will take place at 7:00 PM on Sunday, October 3.

Please mark your calendars.

OCTOBERFEST

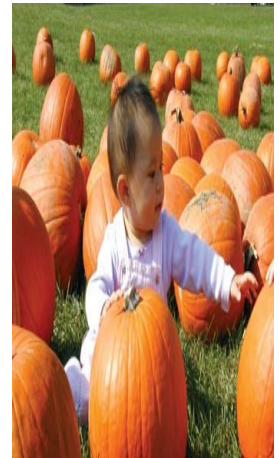
Friday, September 17—Sunday, September 19

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Friday, October 8—Sunday, October 10

Oktoberfest is the Canonsburg Chamber of Commerce major fundraising event. The Pumpkin Festival is the Houston Fire Department's fundraiser. We will have a booth at both to introduce St. Thomas to the people attending. Our approach is low key: we use bubbles to draw a crowd, and simply ask folks if they have a church, and if not, whether they're interested in attending one. Last year, we found that many people hadn't heard of us or where we were. We don't use a hard sell approach—you really can't while blowing bubbles!—but we do have a lot of fun. Please consider signing up to host the booths. (Sign-ups are for 2-hour slots.) See Pam Gardner or Chuck Meacci with any questions or to reserve your time.

Thank You!



WOMEN'S LUNCH

On Saturday, September 11, the ladies will gather for their monthly Lunch, this time at

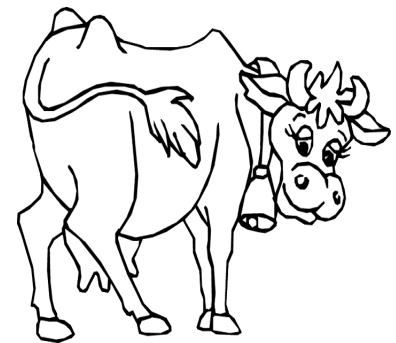
The Springhouse Country Store, Creamery, and Eatery.

If you've never been there, it's a real treat!

The Springhouse is located at 1531 Route 136 in Eighty-Four, PA.

The ladies will rendezvous at Noon.

RSVP to Sue Rodgers at 724-745-2457.



GAMES NIGHT AT CANON HOUSE!

Thursday, September 30, 6:30-9:00 PM

The Outreach Committee has received feedback that St. Thomas members are interested in hands-on ministry. Because we are already meeting with folks from Canon House for monthly worship and fellowship, we decided to focus more energy on them. One way we will do this is with an occasional Games Night, which they are really excited about! We will be bringing games to play and desserts to share. Look for a sign-up sheet, or contact Cindi Lowden at 724-916-4819 for further information.



DIOCESAN EVENTS



There are a lot of things happening around the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh! Some which may be of interest to St. Thomas folks include:

“Sowing Seeds” Christian Formation Conference

Saturday, September 11, 8:30 AM-4 PM

A gathering at St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park, for all people called to Christian Education with children, young people, and adults.

Episcopal Day at PNC Park!

Sunday, September 19, 1:30 PM

Tickets are FREE, and will be distributed after 1:15 PM at the Roberto Clemente statue.

Please register with Fr. Chuck by September 5.

Diocesan Convention

Friday, October 15—Saturday, October 16

Any Episcopalian is welcome to come as an observer.

(Please let Fr. Chuck know so we can help the diocese plan for meals, etc.)

More info is available at episcopalpgh.org.

Notes from the Senior Warden: “God Calling”

As you read this month’s Parish Post, you might be thinking,

“St. Thomas sure has a lot going on!

How can we possibly do it all?!”

The Vestry, in working to live out our mission of growing in faith and numbers, has through its committees provided many opportunities to do just that – grow in faith and numbers.

The question is not —How much can we do?—
but rather—What is God calling me to do?

Everyone cannot do everything, but everyone can do something. This might mean volunteering time, attending a workshop, providing a dessert, or contributing money to offset costs.

Please consider where God is calling you to support our mission and become involved in the ways that you are led.

Pam Gardner, Senior Warden



BIRTHDAYS



LAURA WASZIL—SEPTEMBER 6
AMANDA WASZIL—SEPTEMBER 8
SYNDEY HARES—SEPTEMBER 14

ANNIVERSARIES



THE HILLS—SEPTEMBER 2
THE WASZILS—SEPTEMBER 17

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE!

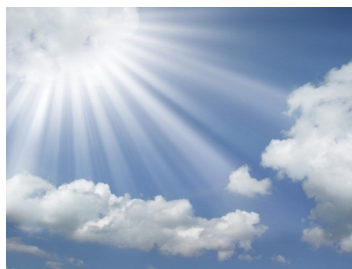
Wow! I love Parish Picnics! You just don't get crumbs like that on a "regular" Sunday. Plus, those St. Paul's folks are nice; you should hang out with them more often.....The Women's Lunch at Nunnie's Place was lots of fun. The people who run the place are awfully friendly—sort of like my Grandmouse (isn't that what "Nunnie" means?).....Boy! Two Visiting Clergy in one month! Fr. John sure loves to come here. But what did he mean, "I hope that Calvary Camp is still okay with Chuck and Martha vacationing there"? Fr. Dave has a long, long history with our church; my Grandmouse knew him!..... I overheard Fr. Chuck say that he has to take "his baby" back to college...isn't a baby too young for college?.....I also heard that things are going to "kick off" again soon; that means more people, and more crumbs! Well, see you around

(but you won't see me!),

TOM



In Memoriam: Robert Bing



On Friday, July 30, we marked the death of JoAnn Bing's husband, Robert, with a service at Sollon Funeral Home.

Please continue to hold JoAnn and her family in your thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

—The Burial Office of The Book of Common Prayer