

# ST. THOMAS' QUEST - JANUARY 2011

## THE VICAR'S CORNER



The end of each year it seems customary to look over one's past year, take stock, and see what the next year might bring. Often, these take the form of New Year's Resolutions. And for the next month or so the funnies are full of pithy little jokes about keeping – or not keeping – one's resolutions.

Often these involve food or fitness or some such self-improvement.

At our most recent meeting of the Executive Committee, we did the same thing. I asked the Wardens and members to take stock about our past year in the parish. I invited them to simply start naming things that had been accomplished at the parish in 2010. And soon the suggestions came fast and joyously, so much so that Karen Scott, our recording secretary, could barely keep up. In the order they were recorded, here's what was said:

### 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT ST. THOMAS

- 1) Church painting and power washing.
- 2) Over grown shrubs removed.
- 3) 109 Sunday Eucharists, 192 total Sunday services.
- 4) Baptized 4 people and performed 2 weddings.
- 5) Performed 4, baptisms, 5 burials, and 2 weddings
- 6) \$7,000.00 net income from fundraisers.
- 7) Boy Scout painted vestibule.
- 8) Written plans now on septic.
- 9) Changed Footprints lease.
- 10) Saved money- cut deficit by \$30,000
- 11) Roof repairs.
- 12) Elevator repaired.
- 13) Updated bathrooms.
- 14) Hired a replacement sexton.
- 15) Open house at the vicarage.
- 16) Fall Festival.
- 17) Mass on the Grass/Church Picnic
- 18) Doubled attendance at VBS.
- 19) EC members' attendance at meetings.
- 20) ECW bought a projector.
- 21) Moving forward on the Steele Memorial.
- 22) Outside lighting.

- 23) 60 plus home and hospital visits.
- 24) Provided for IHN and hiker hostel.
- 25) Provided coffee hour.
- 26) Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets.
- 27) Christmas presents for 37 children.
- 28) Fish and Chips Dinner.
- 29) Belgium block curb installed.
- 30) Snow removal.
- 31) Schwan sales and gold exchange.
- 32) Cell phone collection and Wells Fargo mortgage benefit offer.
- 33) Pot Luck Supper.
- 34) Progressive Dinner.
- 35) Wonderful choir.
- 36) Talented organist.
- 37) Diocesan Convention
- 38) Monthly newsletter.
- 39) Evening prayers on Sundays
- 40) Girl Scouts weeding the gardens.
- 41) Parish workdays.
- 42) At least 6 new members.
- 43) Came close to balancing budget.
- 44) Decorating and undecorating the church for Christmas and Easter.
- 45) Dave Rowe Trio.
- 46) Sunday School.
- 47) Pancake Supper
- 48) Mother's Day Breakfast
- 49) Hosted other organization's meetings/presentations (AA, NA, Community Chorus)
- 50) Skylands Baseball Game
- 51) Pampered Chef Party
- 52) Sunday School Bake Sale for bell repair
- 53) ECW
- 54) Harvest House

Until we wrote down all the things we did, both regular as well as special, we rather thought we were just a little parish doing little things. And we clearly aren't. Thanks be to God for the ministries of St. Thomas' in 2010! At the annual Meeting on January 23, we'll begin the second part of our task – what is it we want to do and be in 2011? As part of that, I invite each of you to find a tangible item that represents a hope or idea or dream for St. Thomas for 2011, and bring it to the Annual Meeting. We'll use them as we begin to hope and plan and ream together for the new year. See you then!

Fr. Bob

## “FUN” RAISERS FOR 2011

We are holding a **cell phone-raiser** on a continuous basis all year long. Any kind of cell phone with the batteries plus any brand of inkjet or laser cartridges can be recycled. Help protect the environment and also help St Thomas in its fundraising efforts. Ask for donations from your employers, neighbors & friends. Please help!

**Wells Fargo** will pay St Thomas \$ 300.00 for any refinance or new mortgage that is obtained through Bob Goldwick, Mortgage Representative. Please pass the word on to friends and family. Bob can be reached directly on his cell phone at 973-713-1416 or ask Linda Lazicki for more information. Remember you must mention St Thomas for us to get the check!

We have some fun activities planned for 2011.

The first one is a **LADIES NIGHT OUT** on Friday evening January 21, 2011 in the community room. Representatives from Tupperware, Chocolate Discovery and Lia Sophia Jewelry will be there to demonstrate their products, Enjoy refreshments and a nice night out. Please bring along a friend, neighbor or relative with you.

Another January event will be a **MOVIE NIGHT** for kids and adults to see the Movie: “Despicable Me” rated PG. The movie starts at 7pm on Friday night January 28, 2011. Tickets are \$1.00 each for all ages. Have the kids bring a friend or two for a fun evening. Concessions stand is available with soda, coffee, popcorn and miscellaneous goodies.

If you have any ideas on fundraising or social events for adults and/or our children that you would like to share, please email Linda at [c21lazicki@aol.com](mailto:c21lazicki@aol.com). Plans are underway for our Live auction on February 11, 2011 and a Beefsteak Dinner on April 9, 2011 in conjunction with Casting for Recovery, a breast cancer organization. Please mark your calendars now!

## MEMBER TO MEMBER

*By Parishioners, for Parishioners. To add an item, please call or email the office!*

**Items Wanted and Items Offered:** For Rent, 1 BR Condo, 1200 sq. ft. Call Irene Engel at 973-827-5579.

**Help Offered, Help Wanted:**

### WHAT’S THAT?

Notice the candle hanging near the door to the Sacristy? It’s called the “Presence Lamp” and by ancient tradition it signifies that the Reserved Sacrament is somewhere close by, in our case inside the Aumbry in the sacristy directly behind the Altar. We try to never let it go out, and the color changes to match the liturgical season. Some choose to offer a bow toward the Lamp or the Aumbry if it’s visible in honor of the Presence when they see it in a church. The chain and bracket for the Lamp were originally in the Chapel but had the Lamp had not been used in many years. Thanks to Reba MacPeck for the donation to light the Presence Lamp again!

### DONORS’ ROLL

*St. Thomas’ depends so much on the free gifts of time, talent, and treasure from members and friends as well. Here’s what has recently been contributed for the well-being of the parish:*

Ongoing support for the bulletins  
Flowers for the Altar  
The Bagel Tree in Franklin for bagels for our Community Hours.

*Thank you to all our donors. If you know of or donated something yourself, please let us know!*

### WORSHIP ON SATURDAYS!

Can’t be with us on Sundays? Come on Saturdays instead – 5 PM, in the church, for an informal Eucharist with opportunity for discussion, reflection, and perhaps even some singing from time to time. Come check it out!

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the parish will take place on **Sunday, January 23rd beginning at 9 AM** in the Steele Community Room. We will offer a single worship service that day, so that all members can worship together and as we conduct our elections within the context of our worship. After elections are completed, we will have a short break and reconvene in the Church for Installation of new officers and Wardens and Holy Communion. As of January 15, 2011, the following members have declared interest in running:

Senior Warden – Nancy Hansen  
Junior Warden - Linda Lazicki

Executive Committee:       Doreen Edwards  
                                      Dan Kadish  
                                      Doug Vince  
                                      Mindy Wiedbrauk  
                                      Bob Winter

Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Michael Rehill

If you are interested in serving in any of these offices, please speak with Fr. Bob or a Warden as soon as possible.

**Qualifications:** To run for any office, a person must be at least 16 years old, baptized, regularly attend services at St. Thomas's and have been a regular financial contributor. In addition, to run for Warden or Convention Delegate, a member must be Confirmed or Received, or express the desire to be Confirmed or Received.

### Duties of Executive Committee Members:

- Attend monthly and occasional special meetings of the Executive Committee
- Commit specifically to attend the Planning Retreat on Feb. 19-20.
- Attend worship regularly, including special liturgies
- Be present at parish events and occasions
- Commit to lead or participate in at least one major parish ministry or project
- Commit to proportional contribution (a specific percentage) toward the parish operating budget
- Be willing and able to participate in discussion and decision-making via email when required.
- Pray daily for the vicar, leaders, and members of the congregation

- Be available to discuss any and all concerns with members of the congregation; avoid making hasty judgments, encourage those with concerns to speak directly to those involved, discuss problems with the Vicar
- Show leadership by example for the parish

### In addition, Wardens have the following additional duties:

- Meet regularly (usually twice monthly) with the Vicar to review the life and work of the congregation, plan ahead, anticipate and resolve problems
- Provide leadership in the Executive Committee and congregation to implement the vision, mission and goals of the congregation, spearhead plans, assess progress and celebrate achievement
- Facilitate communication among Executive Committee members and between Executive Committee and the congregation
- Demonstrate a consistent positive attitude that seeks to solve problems and learn from mistakes, recognizes accomplishments and gives thanks for those things that build community and further the mission of the Church
- Be available to discuss any and all concerns with the Vicar; maintain confidentiality where appropriate
- Work to foster understanding, reconciliation and distribute accurate information in cases of conflict, especially when the vicar, executive committee, or staff are involved.
- Ensure that policies and procedures regarding employee and volunteer misconduct are in place and enforced; take any questions, complaints and concerns to the Vicar and appropriate authorities immediately
- Support the Vicar in taking action should employees or volunteers be charged with misconduct or inappropriate behavior
- Encourage the Vicar to maintain a healthy workload, take days off, and practice clergy well being.
- Assist in identifying persons for leadership roles, and participate in inviting them to serve in those roles
- Execute other specific canonical duties as circumstances arise

**Diocesan Delegates** are required to attend Diocesan Convention, usually held the last weekend of January on Friday and Saturday. Delegates elected in 2010 do not begin their terms until the 2011 Diocesan Convention.

**PRAYERS FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (PP. 830-831)**

*Before Worship*

O Almighty God, *who pourest* out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to *thee*, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship *thee* in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Before Receiving Communion*

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*After Receiving Communion*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy passion: Grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*After Worship*

Grant, we beseech *thee*, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through *thy* grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Grace at Meals*

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all *thy* mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*  
*or*

Bless, O Lord, *thy* gifts to our use and us to *thy* service; for Christ's sake. *Amen.*  
*or*

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*  
*or*

For these and all his mercies, God's holy Name be blessed and praised; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God - Romans 15:7*

The Rev. Robert F. Solon, Jr., Vicar  
Mrs. Nancy Hansen, Sr. Warden Mr. Dan Kadish, Jr. Warden  
Mrs. Kathy Moore, Treasurer Mrs. Paulette Beer, Clerk

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**OUR VISION**

*We are a growing church family that reaches into and beyond the community. We have a welcoming and supportive environment, steeped in Christian tradition. We value new opportunities to enrich the minds and souls of all who come here.*

**GOALS**

1. *Inspire and energize our church community for growth.*
2. *Continue to develop our inreach and outreach ministries.*
3. *Enhance our existing Christian education programs.*
4. *Achieve parish status.*

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*The year next to each name indicates the last full year of elected ministry.*

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Primary Leadership</u>
Chairperson	Fr. Bob
Education	Fr. Bob Nancy Hansen (2010)
Fundraising	Linda Lazicki (2012)
Financial/Administration	Kathy Moore (2012)
Hospitality, Social Events	Karen Scott (2011) Paulette Beer (2011) Linda Lazicki (2012)
Inreach	
Outreach	Paulette Beer (2011) Emilie Dupont (2010)
Property	Dan Kadish (2011), John Mohr (2010), Bob Winter (2010)
Stewardship	Nancy Hansen (2010) Tom Brath (2010)
Worship, Pastoral Care, Communications	Fr. Bob

**DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES**

Ginny Mohr (2011), Kathy Moore (2012), Francine Vince (2013)

**STAFF AND APPOINTMENTS**

Music Director	David Christensen
Sexton	Ginny Mohr
Parish Accountant	Diane Bryan
Pledge Accountant	Rich Poplaski
Sunday School Director	Nancy Hansen