

## Announcements

November 27, 2016

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**Happy New Year! It's Advent!** The new church year began TODAY, the First Sunday of Advent. We have switched from Mark to Matthew as the primary source of our gospel readings. We are using a Eucharistic prayer from *Enriching Our Worship*, the supplement to the *Book of Common Prayer*, which provides more expansive language for God. We will also its version of the Nicene Creed and other service elements.

**Advent Resources.** See Tuesday's Enews for links to Advent resources. **The linked Advent calendar is a great resource for families, so copies are available at the church doors.**

**Coming Up: ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS: Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.** The most beautiful worship service of the year! The St. Thomas's Choir will lead a liturgy of scripture, carols, and anthems. Featuring favorite hymns, as well as selections from the rich tradition of Anglican choral music.

**Cabaret Night.** Cabaret Night last Friday was really fun, the performers were wonderful, and a good time was had by all! Thank you to all who performed or attended.

**Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.** The ECCT convention last weekend was a great success. The Eucharist on Sunday featured an awesome sermon from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. You can stream it from the ECCT website, under Annual Convention 2016.

**New Book Club.** You are invited to participate in an Advent Book Club at St. Thomas's. The group will meet on Thursdays (12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22) following Day School Chapel (8:30 a.m.), to which you are also invited. We will meet weekly in the Lounge, at about 9 a.m., for 45 minutes. The book is poet Mary Oliver's *Upstream: Selected Essays*. Please enter through the main Day School entrance (located at the back of the building on the Ogden Street side) and register with the receptionist. No homework before we start. You will be given a book at the first meeting. We will read aloud from some of the essays, get to know one another, and make a plan. If the group is successful, we will extend into the new year. Please email Denise Terry ([terry.df@gmail.com](mailto:terry.df@gmail.com)) if you plan to come, or if you have questions.

**Student Care Packages.** Near the end of each semester St. Thomas's sends care packages to students away from home in college or boarding school. We'd appreciate your contributions to these packages: homemade cookies and treats are best, but we'd also welcome store-bought snacks, toys, and other diversions for mental health breaks. Please package goodies in 12 individual bags, and let us know if they include tree nuts or peanuts; we'll need things in hand by Sunday, December 4, when we'll package them up after church. We will be in touch with the families of students we know are away, but if you know of someone we may NOT know about who is away at school—or if you want to help or have questions—please contact Mark Branch at [mark.branch@yale.edu](mailto:mark.branch@yale.edu) or 203-671-5281.

**Stewardship Update.** A hearty word of thanks to everyone who has submitted their pledge. If you haven't submitted your pledge, it's not too late! You can find printed pledge packets at the doors of the church.

**It's Nominations Time.** Nominations are now being accepted for Vestry members and officers. **We are also electing two delegates and two alternates for the Annual Convention of The Episcopal Church in Connecticut.** Elections are held at our January parish meeting. For nominations or info, contact Mark Branch.

**Keri Away.** Keri is away on vacation through Tuesday. For pastoral needs during that time, contact Senior Warden Ricardo Chavira or Junior Warden Mark Branch.

**Alternative Giving for Christmas.** Are you tired of trying to find the perfect gift for someone who has everything? Try alternative giving. Please consider supporting: Loaves & Fishes, the St. Thomas's Day School Scholarship Fund, Episcopal Relief & Development, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Information about these organizations is available online. You can donate through St. Thomas's using the DONATE button on the home page or our website. Look for information during Coffee Hour on December 11 and December 18.

**Try Your Tablet in Church.** Remember, we now post Sunday service bulletins on our website by the end of the day the *previous* Thursday. Either at home or at church (using the new wifi hotspot), you can download bulletins to your tablet or other electronic device for use in church, thereby saving printed copies. If enough people start doing this, we can reduce printing - and that's good stewardship of money and trees.

## Serving Today

**Celebrant:** Ricardo Chavira

**Organist and Choirmaster:** Simon Jacobs

**Emcee:** Dorothy Asch

**Crucifer:** Chris Martinez

**Torchbearers:** Ozan Say, Michael Dunlap

**Lectors:** Laura Bower-Phipps, Robert Herdt

**Intercessor:** Don Edwards

**Sacristan:** Joan Hogan, Bill & Sally Nanfeldt

**Ushers/Greeters:** Gary Robison, Mary Ann Nelson

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Tracey Meares, Sue Richmond,  
Ken & Debbie Hilliard

## Prayer Intentions

**Pray for those in any need or trouble, including:**

Bill M., Bill R., Bob, Bob H., Coral, Donna, Jane,  
Jeannie, Jonathan, Katie, Lee, Marj, Marilyn, Meg,  
Phil, Suzanne, Timothy

**In St. Thomas's Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**

Derek Stefanovsky, Katherine Vaillancourt, Dan  
Edoma, Matthew Babcock

**Pray for those who have died.**

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**

Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam;  
Postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; the  
Commission on Ministry and its members

**Prayer for Social Justice (BCP, p. 823)**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit  
may so move every human heart, and especially the  
hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which  
divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and  
hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may  
live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.

## Church Leadership

The Rev. Keri Aubert—Priest-in-Charge

Simon Jacobs—Director of Music and Organist

Julie Kelly—Administrator, Parish and Property

### Officers and Vestry

Ricardo Chavira (Senior Warden)

Mark Branch (Junior Warden)

Alexander Scherer (Treasurer)

Sarah Insley-Say (Clerk)

Dorothy Asch (Deanery Representative)

Anne Harrison (Assistant Treasurer)

Laura Bower-Phipps

Michael Fournier

Daniel Harrison

Jennifer Herdt

The Rev. Julie Kelsey

Chris Martinez

Erika Nemeti

Jennifer Regan

Christopher Ritacco

### Associate Priests

The Rev. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

The Rev. Julie Kelsey

The Rev. Bill Loutrel

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp

The Rev. Lee McGee Street

The Rev. Dr. Parke Street

The Rev. Dr. Lynda Z. Tyson

### Ministry Coordinators

Dr. Dorothy Asch—Volunteer Lay Assistant

Jennifer Ricker—Children and Youth Ministries

Jennifer Herdt, David Kelsey—Adult Formation

## Day School Leadership

Gina Panza—Head of School

Eric Gregory Snow—Chaplain

### Board of Managers

Gina Panza—Head of School

The Rev. Keri Aubert—President, Day School Corp.

Jennifer McTiernan (Chair & Parish Rep)

Jonathan Macey (Vice-Chair & PTO Rep)

Tracey Meares (Treasurer & Member of the Parish)

Gina Criscuolo (Secretary & PTO Rep)

Mark Branch (Warden Rep)

Frank Chang (Community Rep)

The Rev. K. Dexter Cheney (Parish Rep)

Lois DeLise (Community Rep)

Don Edwards (Parish Rep)

John Forrest (Alumni Rep)

Michael Fournier (Vestry Rep)

Greg Mokotoff (PTO Rep)

Kenneth Paul (Community Rep)

Kathryn Scherer (Parish Rep)