



THE EPISTLE OF ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving

March 2022

From the Senior Warden

In his penultimate sermon as our Rector, Jeff said that we are changed and transformed forever by following our faith, “and isn’t that the point of Christianity? Rebirth.” We are reborn in the church and as followers of Christianity, and that rebirth occurs each and every day that we live into our Baptismal Covenant.

Baptism in the Episcopal Church is, of course, a truly communal sacrament. When a priest performs a Baptism and when the Bishop confirms new members, we welcome the newly baptized and join with those making proclamations of their faith as a corporate body. The decision to baptize a child or to be confirmed may seem individual, but it is made through the support and strength of the community. Just as those individuals are joining the church, we each welcome them and join with them, as we reaffirm our own dedication to our faith. While the evidence of God’s grace manifests itself differently with and within each individual, we agree as a congregation to support our newest members just as we already support each other in walking the way of Christ. We have the privilege at various points in our spiritual lives to repeat this covenant and renew our commitment to our continual rebirth as members of the church. The powerful words of our Baptismal Covenant are found on page 292 of our Book of Common Prayer, and those words, drawn from the Apostle’s Creed (which we recite each time we complete the services of Morning and Evening Prayer) are a help and comfort to me when I think about my role in the church and my service to others.

I am especially comforted at those times that we can renew our covenant in a worship service, for there is a power in our unified voices, one that reminds me we are unified in our mission. The people’s antiphon in this covenant—“I will, with God’s help”—is a further powerful echo that we are not alone, nor need we ever think we are. Our church is small, but we are vibrant, and we are supportive and welcoming to all who are newly baptized and all seeking support and a spiritual home. We are changed and reborn, and we seek to change others.

We have proclaimed, by word and example, the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being. We may break bread fewer times in the upcoming months because of the dearth of supply, but we will break bread metaphorically throughout this new phase of church life, and we will most assuredly continue the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship. The Vestry will face and meet many challenges, but we will do so knowing that challenge—and change—are good things that lead to a healthy parish. We will embrace our new phase while still honoring our past; we will look to a vibrant future for us all. Will St. Thomas’ succeed in bringing Christ’s mission to Ahoskie and beyond? We will, with God’s help.

Respectfully submitted,
Hugh H. Davis, Senior Warden

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
February 15, 2022

Present: Hugh Davis (Senior Warden), Barbara Outland, Becky Johnson, Sue Liverman, Colin Jones (Junior Warden), Cecelia Jones (Clerk), Jeff Douglas (Rector), and Ernie Carter (Treasurer).

Absent: Carolyn Cockerham Wiggins.

Meeting held in person in the Parish Hall. The Rector called the meeting to order at 6:08pm with a prayer.

Colin Jones moved, and Barbara Outland seconded, that the January minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Hugh Davis moved, Colin Jones seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, and said report was accepted unanimously. The Treasurer presented the 2022 proposed Budget. Cecelia Jones moved, and Hugh Davis seconded, that the 2022 Budget be approved. The 2022 Budget was approved unanimously.

Regarding the sacristy remodel, by next week, cabinets and drawers should be installed. Estimate for the painting is forthcoming. Sacristy would be back in place by mid- to end- March.

Parochial Report was presented. Colin Jones moved, and Barbara Outland seconded, that the Parochial Report be approved. The Parochial Report was approved unanimously.

Hugh Davis presented information about the Model Policies being implemented by the diocese.

Convention was moved to June 3.

Ed Mullins will be the supply priest for Easter. Thanks to Hugh Davis for securing Ed's services.

Ash Wednesday is scheduled for March 2 at 3:00pm with Daniel Cenci.

Bishop Skirving will meet with Vestry on March 1.

Barbara Outland moved, and Hugh Davis seconded, that the Junior Warden have the authority to determine what items are given to the ECW "Gave It Up For Lent" Yard Sale and what items are to be thrown away.

The Rector thanked the church leadership for the support of him and Beth over the years, and to express his gratitude for St. Thomas.

Cecelia Jones moved, and Hugh Davis seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecelia D. M. Jones, Clerk



**Farewell Reception
February 27, 2022**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Will Carter
- 6 Amy Brown
- 9 Will Blanchard
- 10 Anna Schmelzer
- 11 Jim Shotwell
- 18 Olivia Douglas
- 18 Gracie Griffin
- 18 Mike Steczak
- 21 Robby Outland
- 22 Yvonne Smith
- 29 Grainger Pierce
- 29 Janine Wren
- 30 Cecelia Jones
- 31 Becky Johnson



*"O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor; we pray, on your servants, **Will , Amy, Will, Anna, Jim, Olivia, Gracie, Mike, Robby, Yvonne, Grainger, Janine, Cecelia, Becky,** as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 John and Sarah Davis
- 31 Kevin and Carolyn Wiggins

*"O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon **John and Sarah, Kevin and Carolyn,** that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."*



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March 2022

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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13 Holy Eucharist 10:30am The Rev'd Canon Mollie Roberts DST BEGINS	14 Book Guild 5pm	15 Vestry Meeting 6pm	16 Evening Prayer 6pm John & Sarah Davis Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm	17 Yard Sale Drop Off 4-6pm AA Meeting 8pm	18 Mike Steczak Olivia Douglas	19																																																	
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St. Thomas Episcopal Church – Schedules for March 2022

Acolytes

- 6 Bill Blanchard
- 13 Hugh Davis
- 20 Gretchen Simons and Mac Griffin
- 27 Charles Sawyer

Altar Flowers

- 6 Ms. Brenda Hewitt
- 13 Dr. and Mrs. Julian Taylor
- 20 Dr. and Mrs. John Davis
- 27 Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Johnson

Altar Guild

Hugh Davis and Sallie Barnes

Food Pantry (Note-Wednesdays)

- 2 George Owens
- 9 Jeff Douglas
- 16 Peggy Vann
- 23 OPEN
- 30 Patsy Jones

Lay Readers

- | | | | |
|----|----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2 | 6:00 PM | ASH WEDNESDAY | Hugh Davis |
| 6 | 10:30 AM | Holy Eucharist | Martie Tayloe |
| 9 | 6:00 PM | Evening Prayer | Martie Tayloe |
| 13 | 10:30 AM | Holy Eucharist | Claudia Griffin |
| 16 | 6:00 PM | Evening Prayer | Claudia Griffin |
| 20 | 10:30 AM | Morning Prayer | John Davis |
| 23 | 6:00 PM | Evening Prayer | John Davis |
| 27 | 10:30 AM | Holy Eucharist | Colin Jones |
| 30 | 6:00 PM | Evening Prayer | Colin Jones |

Ushers

Johnny Griffin and Jack Vaughan

Yard Work

- 6 Fred Liverman and David Simon
- 13 Ernie Carter and Benjie Brown
- 20 Ernie Carter and Benjie Brown
- 27 Tom Newbern and Charles Pierce



2022 SOUP SUPPER ASSIGNMENTS

Soup Suppers are almost here! – A fun time of *wonderful* fellowship.
Please come and enjoy each chef's culinary delights.

The donation is \$2.50 per person per week OR \$10.00 for a season ticket.
Children 7 and under are free.

Please bring bread or crackers with your soup.

On your week, arrive at the Parish Hall between 5:00-5:30 p.m. for setup.

Plan to stay an hour after to help with cleanup.

If you need to change your date with someone, please do so and notify your team captain.

Let me know of any changes in this schedule as well. – Sarah

THANKS IN ADVANCE TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATE

I appreciate your help.

March 9

Martie Tayloe
Cecelia Jones
Lindsay Vaughan
Carolyn Wiggins

March 16

Brenda Hewitt
Amy Brown
Claudia Griffin
Ann Hughes

March 23

Jerrie Taylor
Sarah Davis
Patsy Jones
Janine Wren

March 30

Gail Carter
Sue Liverman
Barbara Outland
Carolyn Peele

April 6

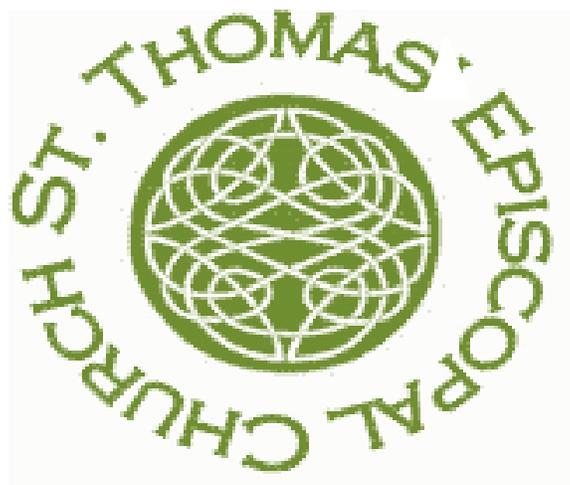
Gretchen Simons
Becky Johnson
Mary C. Pierce
Lois Sawyer

First name listed is the team captain.

Join us for Evening Prayer at 6:00 p.m., followed by Soup at 6:30 p.m.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 263
Ahoskie, NC 27910



A Place to Belong ... A Place to Believe