

St. Thomas LifeLines

Volume 33, No. 2

February 2026

Dear St. Thomas Family,

I think the vast majority of you would agree with me that we have had enough of the cold weather and ice. I can't remember the last time we had to cancel in person worship two Sundays in a row. One thing we learned during the pandemic was how to convene online. We did that once on Zoom and then you had the opportunity to join the closing Eucharist of the 107th annual convention of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

It was a momentous and historic convention, because we elected the Reverend Karin McPhail our seventh diocesan bishop, and the first female to hold that office. Karin is already one of us, having served as rector of St. Elizabeth's Church, Roanoke for the past eight years. It only took three ballots to choose her from among a very impressive and deserving slate of candidates. Her consecration will be at St. John's in Roanoke in June. (June is something to look forward to from a February point of view, right?) She brings wonderful gifts and experience to her new leadership role, and we will be keeping her in our prayers.

In the meantime, the season of Lent is rapidly approaching. Ash Wednesday is February 18, a mere two weeks away. As is our custom, we will be gathering for *Koinonia* in the homes of members, beginning Wednesday, February 25 at Val Tweedie's. This year our theme will be *An Unlikely Lent: An Invitation to a Different Type of Lenten Journey*. We will consider some of the "lesser" characters in the story leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Oh yeah, and we'll also enjoy each other's company and share a meal together. I hope you can join us and please keep a look out in announcements for further details.

Another wonderful and recurring opportunity for Lenten reflection is a Quiet Day hosted by our Ann Frances chapter of the Daughters of the King. I will be leading this one and it will also have an "unlikely" theme: *Unlikely Courage: the Women at the Cross*. This quiet time together will be held on Saturday, February 21, beginning at 8:45 in the church. Over the years, these have become one of my favorite happenings at St. Thomas, and I encourage you to join us.

The days will get longer and warmer over the coming weeks. In this time of uncertainty, concern, and fear, coming together in the name of Jesus is a powerful source of peace and balance. St. Thomas is a family dedicated to sharing the love of God and shining the light of Christ in a sometimes cold and dark world.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

Mark

Did You Know?



One of the many contributions parishioners have made in recent years is the hand embroidered furnishings in the area of the altar. In the 1980s Mike Alexander designed cushions and the Bishop's chair using symbols from the diocesan seal and the Latin motto, "Benedicite Montes Domino" (Bless the Lord, O mountains and hills).

He and Ann did the needlepoint on the Bishop's chair, while a member of the Grubbs family worked on cushions given in memory of Dr. Ray Grubbs, a longtime member of St. Thomas.

Do go up to the rail and see the cushions and the Bishop's chair.

The History Group: Mary Stuart, Lora, Ann, Ruth and Jenny. Questions and comments welcomed!



Room at the Table

St. Thomas sous chefs gathered at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church Tuesday, January 20. Big shout out to the team, which included Kathleen Fowler, Sue and Joel Hagan, and Tom and Danielle Bland. It was our first rodeo preparing this menu, which included rigatoni pasta and meatballs in marinara sauce, salad, roll, mandarin orange fruit cup and cookie. 100 meals were prepared and distributed. Our next scheduled date to prepare a meal will be Tuesday, February 17. Come join us!

Forward Day by Day

We provide Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life. The February, March, April issue is about to begin. Pick up a regular or large print copy at the church entrance or parish hall.

Save the date!

The Ann Frances chapter of the Daughters of the King will sponsor a Lenten Quiet Day on February 21st. This year's theme is "Unlikely Courage: the Women at the Cross" based on the book "Unlikely Lent" by Rachel Billups. More details to come in the bulletin and email announcements.

20th NRV Glean Team Potato Drop

The next potato drop will be on Friday, Feb. 13th and Sat., Feb. 14th at the Montgomery County Christmas Store near 10 Hickok St SW, Christiansburg, VA 24073. Contact the church office for a link to volunteer. We ask for no drop-ins because of overcrowding – we must all work inside in cold weather. Groups of 6 or more are urged to contact John Galbraith, ttcf@vt.edu, to coordinate for other events where large numbers are needed.

This event is at the back of the building near the loading dock. Volunteers should park at near the Lewis Gale building at 6 Hickok St SW, Christiansburg, VA 24073, which is the across the street.

Birthdays!

2/2 – Cameron Graham

2/7 – Cindy Stone

2/23 – Jim Earp

2/27 – Andrew Earp, Rachel Earp

2/28-Bobbie Wines



The Choir Epiphany Party



February 2026**Food Bank Sunday**

On the first Sunday of the month we collect donations of non-perishable food for the food bank which are taken to MCEAP later in the week. Food donations can be put in the baskets at the entrance to the church. If you would like to make a monetary donation, be sure to mark "Food Bank" on your check or envelope.

In January we collected 30 items and \$15!

Backpack Program

In January we collected 26 boxes of granola bars!

Trex Update

In January, we collected 73 lbs. of plastics towards our next bench. Please remember pet food bags are not accepted.

Hospitality Sunday

Join in fellowship and enjoy some refreshments after church on the first Sunday of the month. Everyone is invited to bring a dish of finger food to share!

The next hospitality Sunday is March 1.

St. Thomas LifeLines**Ways to give to St. Thomas**

Along with the Sunday collection plate, donations and contributions can be mailed to the church, paid through online banking, or made through PayPal using the link on our website.

Zoom Information for Sundays

Join from a computer:

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdz09>

Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 646 931 3860 and Enter Meeting ID 817 3954 4575 and Passcode 845478 .

Zoom Information for Thursdays

Join from a computer:

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/89544248014>

Meeting ID: 895 4424 8014

Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 309 205 3325 and Enter Meeting ID 895 4424 8014.

Contact Us

Email: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com

Phone: 540-382-4365

Website: <https://stthomaschristiansburg.org>

Email List Signup: <http://eepurl.com/gxP6Dj>

February Server Schedule				
	1	8	15	22
Altar Guild	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist Crystal Priddy	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard
Announcements	Kathleen Fowler	Joel Hagen	Bill Kennan	Harvey Leist
Chalice Bearer		Mark Priest		Danielle Bland
Lay Reader	Jane Ellis	Bill Kennan	Jennifer Miller	Mark Priest
Ushers	Bill Kennan Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Joel Hagen	Bill Kennan Joe Straub	Harold Ashworth Kathleen Fowler
Zoom Operator	Val Tweedie	Mark Priest	Val Tweedie	Joel Hagen

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The 4 th Sunday after the Epiphany Food Bank & Hospitality Sunday 10 am Morning Prayer in person & on Zoom	2	3 7 pm NA	4 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm NA	5 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	6 8 pm NA	7
8 The 5 th Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am Worship Committee Meeting 11:20 am Adult Forum	9	10 7 pm NA	11 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm NA	12 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	13 8 pm NA	14 
15 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Loose Plate Offering ~ Rector's Discretionary Fund 10 am Morning Prayer 11:20 am Adult Forum	16	17 5-7 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7 pm NA	18 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service 8 pm NA	19 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	20 8 pm NA	21 9 am Lenten Quiet Day
22 The 1 st Sunday in Lent 10 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Adult Forum 11:30 am Vestry Meeting	23	24 7 pm NA	25 6-8 pm Koinonia at Val Tweedie's 8 pm NA	26 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	27 8 pm NA	28