

St. Thomas LifeLines

Volume 33, No. 5

May 2026

Dear St. Thomas Family,

May arrives as a season of becoming. The earth around us is visibly alive again—trees fully leafed, gardens starting to take shape, light lingering longer each evening. In the life of the Church, this month invites us to notice the quiet but persistent work of God bringing new life where we are planted.

The great fifty days of Easter carry us forward, teaching us that resurrection is not a single moment, but a way of life. The risen Christ continues to meet us—not always in dramatic moments, but in ordinary faithfulness: shared prayer, acts of kindness, honest conversations, and the steady love that binds a community together.

As we move through late Easter and toward Pentecost, our attention turns to the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost reminds us that God's life does not remain safely contained, but is poured out—animating the Church, stirring courage, and sending ordinary people into the world with extraordinary love. The Spirit meets the disciples not when they have everything figured out, but right in the midst of uncertainty, fear, and hope. That same Spirit meets us today—guiding, challenging, and encouraging us as we seek to follow Christ in our time and place.

May is often a month of transition. School years draw to a close, schedules shift, and summer approaches. Transitions can be energizing, but they can also be unsettling. Faith gives us a grounding presence amid change. The promise of God is not that life will stay the same, but that we will not walk through it alone.

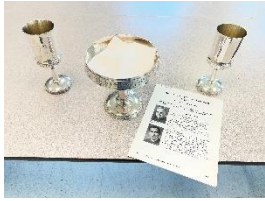
I invite you this month to pay attention to where you notice signs of resurrection and renewal in your own life and in our shared life as a parish. Where do you see the Spirit at work—opening new possibilities, deepening compassion, or calling us beyond our comfort toward service and witness?

The Church is strongest not because it avoids uncertainty, but because it trusts God as we move through it. We are a people shaped by prayer, sustained by sacrament, and empowered by the Spirit to bear Christ's love into the world. This calling continues—not only on feast days like Pentecost, but in the daily rhythms of faithful living.

As the days grow warmer and brighter, may we remain attentive to God's presence among us. May we listen deeply—to Scripture, to one another, and to the Spirit's leading. And may we continue to grow together in faith, hope, and love.

With gratitude for each of you and for our shared journey in Christ,
Mark

The Vestry would like to commend those who hosted and prepared food for the Koinonia gatherings during Lent. It was well appreciated.



History Group

Members of the St. Thomas, Christiansburg, History Group, along with Lora Beeken from the Altar Guild were at Coffee Hour April 26th to show off three of

the silver communion pieces given to our Parish in its founding days...in 1888! Pictured are two cruets and a ciborium, all used regularly to this day during eucharistic services at St. Thomas. Ask Mary Stuart for all the interesting details! You can also access the history of St. Thomas on our website.



Boys Home Trex Bench

On April 25, 2026, several members of St. Thomas traveled to Boys Home in Covington, VA, to dedicate a Trex bench in memory of Tom Bernard, a dedicated member of the church. Also pictured is the cottage that St. Thomas sponsors. Boys Home was one of Tom's favorite organizations to support our youth. On Sunday, April 26th, St. Thomas dedicated a plaque in the gardens in Tom's memory. It was a beautiful weekend as we honored his love, joy, kindness, and generosity to all those that touched his spirit! We miss you Tom!



Spring Cleaning

Saturday, April 11th, was our Spring cleaning day. We had help from a great group of kids volunteering through the VT Big Event. Among many other tasks, the rector and secretary offices were successfully swapped and the kitchen was sorted and cleaned!



Psalms Are for Singing: Something New This Summer

Our Eucharistic liturgy typically includes a portion of the book of Psalms, 'the songbook of the Church.' Did you know that early Christians would be as disconcerted by our speaking psalms as we would be by saying the 'Happy Birthday' lyrics rather than singing them? In fact, so central to early church worship was psalm singing that our term 'Gradual Psalm' (Latin *gradus*, a step) refers to the platform from which the cantor (lead singer) intoned the verses. This summer, while our beloved choristers are taking a well-deserved break, we'll further explore early church practices by sometimes using responsorial (aka antiphonal) settings of the Gradual. In this version, a cantor sings a set of psalm verses; the congregation responds by singing the appointed refrain. The back and forth between cantor/verses and congregation/refrain continues to the end of the assigned verses. I'm looking forward to hearing your responses – both during responsorial psalms and to this new-to-St. Thomas worship practice. Blessings, Amy

Birthdays!

- 5/4 – Scott Farmer
- 5/6 – Lilliana Richmeier
- 5/7 – Francis Webster
- 5/18 – Dianne McCarty
- 5/29 – Joanne Stauffer, Sara Stauffer
- 5/30 – Lynn Straub



Anniversaries!

- 5/22 – Scott & Sandra Farmer

RATT News

Room at the table prepared their monthly meal on Tuesday, April 28, at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church. The happy helpers included Ann Alexander, Ruth & Harold Ashworth, Crystal Priddy, and Tom & Danielle Bland. The hearty meal was a taco salad consisting of taco meat, lettuce, cheese, tomato, taco chips, salsa, sour cream, applesauce, and a cookie. Thanks to the team for all your hard work and dedication to this outreach ministry. Our next meal is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19. Anyone is welcome to volunteer, no experience necessary. Contact Danielle Bland, danielle_bland@yahoo.com, for more information.

Trex Update

As of April 30, our quarterly collection of plastics totaled 144 Lbs. If we reach 250 lbs in this quarter, we will enter a lottery, where St. Thomas could have a chance to win a prize. For more information about the new rules for Trex prizes, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the parish hall or speak to Danielle Bland.

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 June 7th.

MCEAP

MCEAP will hold its 2nd annual fundraiser and silent auction at Eastern Divide Brewery in Blacksburg on Friday, May 8, from 4-8pm.



Easter Day
April 5,
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 April we collected \$10!

Blood Drive

St. Thomas will host a Red Cross blood drive on Saturday, May 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please sign up and encourage others to sign up, too! Reservations can be made using the Red Cross app or on the Red Cross website: www.redcrossblood.org. Contact Joel (joelbhagen@gmail.com) or Sue (smchagen@gmail.com) for more information.



May Server Schedule					
	3	10	17	24	31
Altar Guild	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist Crystal Priddy	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard
Announcements	Joe Richmeier	Kathleen Fowler	Joel Hagen	Bill Kennan	Harvey Leist
Chalice Bearer	Bill Kennan	Mark Priest		Danielle Bland	Landon Cairns
Lay Reader	Val Tweedie	Jane Ellis	Bill Kennan	Jennifer Miller	Jane Ellis
Ushers	Kathleen Fowler Chris Witt	Joe Straub Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Joel Hagen	Bill Kennan Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Bill Kennan
Zoom Operator	Val Tweedie	Mark Priest		Joel Hagen	Mark Priest

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8 pm NA	2
3 5th Sunday of Easter 10 am Holy Eucharist Food Bank & Hospitality Sunday	4	5 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA	6 8 pm NA	7 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	8 8 pm NA	9
10 6th Sunday of Easter 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am Worship Committee Meeting 11:20 am Adult Forum	11	12 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA	13 8 pm NA	14 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	15 8 pm NA	16
17 7th Sunday of Easter Loose Plate Offering ~ Rector's Discretionary Fund 10 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Adult Forum 11:30 am Vestry	18	19 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA	20 8 pm NA	21 10:15 am Daughters of the King 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	22 8 pm NA	23 10am-2pm Red Cross Blood Drive
24 Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday 10 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Adult Forum	25	26 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm NA	27 8 pm NA	28 1 pm Watercolor Class 7 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Pentecost Trinity Sunday 10 am Holy Eucharist 11:20 am Adult Forum				<p align="center">Contact Us Email: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com Phone: 540-382-4365 Website: https://stthomaschristiansburg.org Email List Signup: http://eepurl.com/gxP6Dj</p>		

