

Vicar
The Rev. Sharon Sheffield

Bishop's Committee
Allen Stout, *Bishop's Warden*
Shelley Arnold, *People's Warden*
Andrea Utzman, *Clerk*
Lynne Richmond, *Minutes Secretary*
Lance Brooks, *Treasurer*
John Mitchell, *Bookkeeper*
Jane Gordon-Topper
Camelia Jolly
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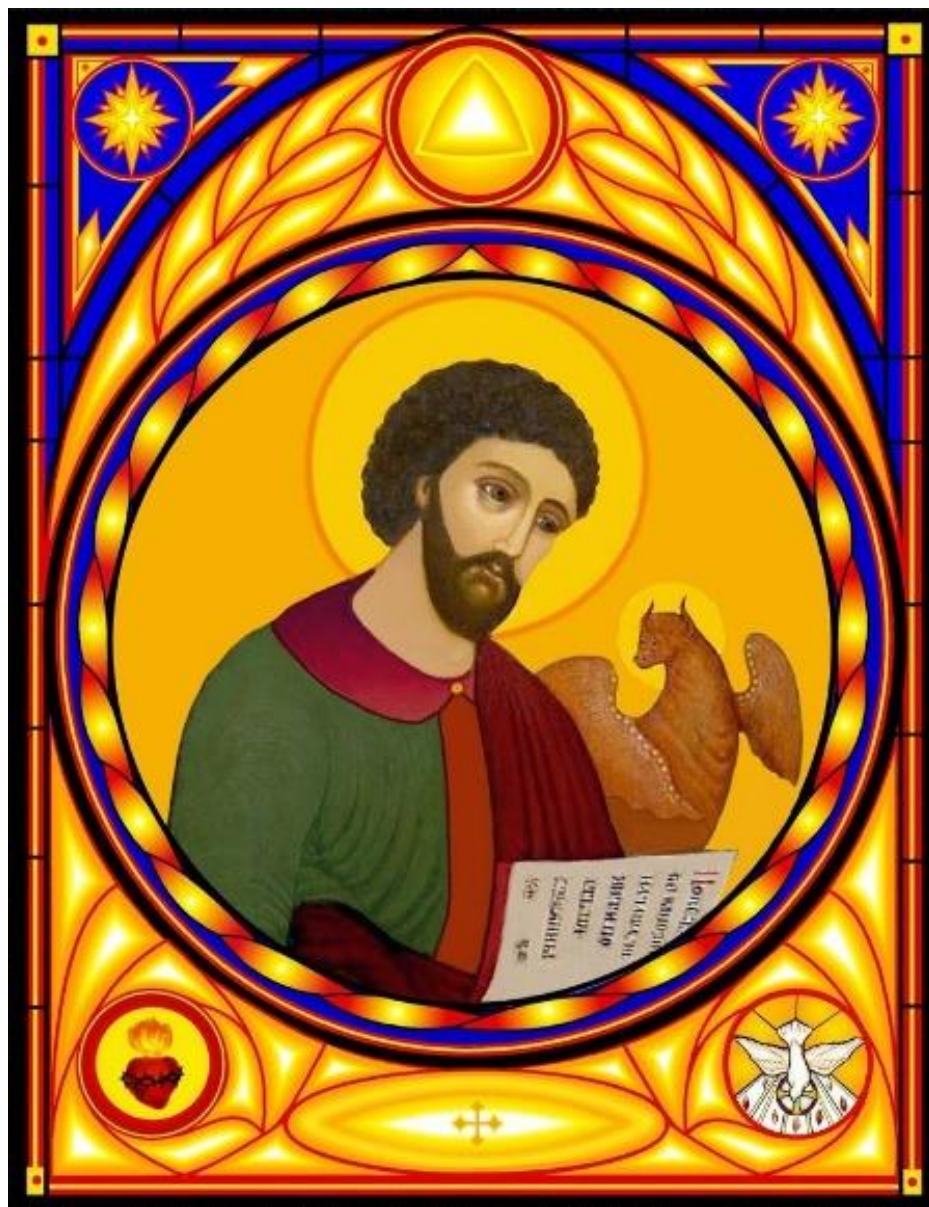
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CANTERBURY TALES

OCTOBER 2023



ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST
OCTOBER 18

Bishop's Warden Report

"Ordinary time" continues in our liturgical world, though the advent of Advent is beginning to arrive on our worship radar. The Fall is in full swing at school and in our Mission. Many events are on the schedule, and we are looking for ideas for additional events. Upcoming dates are listed in the weekly bulletin, as well as in Sharon's weekly email to everyone (if you aren't receiving it, let us know so you can be added to the distribution list).

Facilities repairs have been made on a number of smaller projects, and we continue to see what we can do to manage the major projects, like the roof, while protecting our financial stability.

A repeat from last month:

We continue to have an online presence, and this presence is becoming ever more important to us.

While in-person attendance and participation is very important (including for the online experience), and we encourage everyone to attend in person if possible, we should not be overly discouraged by the seemingly small number of people in the pews on any given service. We are offering spiritual and liturgical opportunities to people across the country (and indeed, the world). Our online attendance is on par with either of the in-person Sunday services. And this is not counting Morning Prayers.

For all intents and purposes, we have 3 service congregations: 8:00, 10:15, Online.

Granted, there is some overlap (just as Shelly or I am counted twice on a Sunday when we are at both services). Still, that should not distract from the underlying reality of our changing congregation.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more (or all) of the October events that are planned.

We are also kicking off our **Fall pledge campaign**. It is important that we receive pledges so we can use that information to develop our 2024 budget. We can estimate using past receipts, but actual numbers from pledge forms is much more reliable, and we want to be able to budget effectively. So, please prayerfully consider what your pledge could be in 2024, and submit the form when it is distributed. And sign up for the various boards, committees, or **activities** that we need to operate our enterprise.

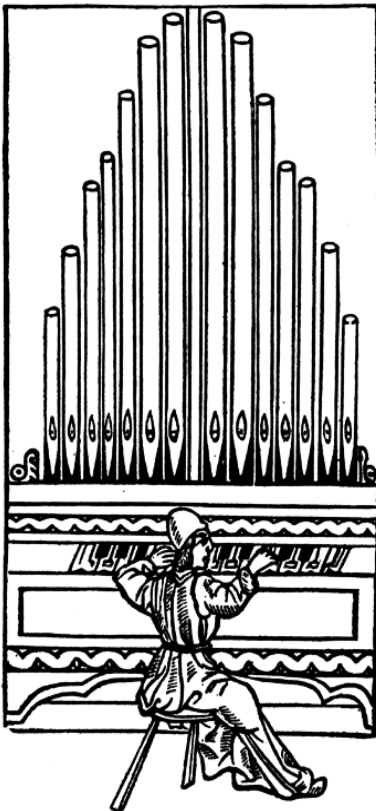
One final reminder: **Important**: If you have questions about the schedule, the buildings, upcoming events, etc., please reach out to myself, Shelley, or another member of the Bishop's Committee for answers. Of course, you can also reach out to Mother Sharon if needed, especially for pastoral concerns. **Sharon's normal weekly day off is Friday**. Please use the Bishop's Committee as your first resource for most non-pastoral questions. My phone number is (714) 381-5910. I can be reached by phone or text, or I can be reached by email at astout1176@gmail.com.

Allen Stout
Bishop's Warden

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are having a very successful Capital Campaign so far. We have raised \$20,000 of our \$25,000 goal for the year. What is most exciting is that we have pledges from St. Thomas members, community members, friends outside the diocese, renters, diocesan staff, former clergy... a wide cross-section of the people whose lives have been touched by St. Thomas in some way. As we continue to raise funds for our various repair projects, over and above our yearly pledges, the Bishop's Committee and I are very grateful for the love and generosity being shown to our church. Stay tuned for updates on repair plans and further campaign developments. – *Mother Sharon*

WHAT'S UP WITH OUR 8:00 MUSIC?



With Marc Skuster's departure, we have a big hole to fill at our 8:00 services. Marc's music each Sunday was a generous gift of time and talent to St. Thomas. We have no budget for this year to replace him with a paid musician, and we can't count on friends and neighbors to just chip in Sunday by Sunday. This is an opportunity for us to talk about what our services might look and sound like in the future, and how this might be an outreach opportunity for a local student or musician. In the short term, we will have no music at 8:00 while we pray and discern together what God might have in mind. The Bishop's Committee encourages everyone to see this as an opportunity for growth and a chance for everyone to brainstorm possible solutions. *Please talk with Mother Sharon and the Committee about any questions, concerns, or ideas for music at 8:00.*

BISHOP'S VISITATION



Bishop John Harvey Taylor, our Bishop Diocesan, will be visiting St. Thomas on Sunday, October 29. We will have **one service at 10:15** so that Bishop Taylor can meet and talk with all of us together. Please plan on coming to the service and staying for a festive reception hosted by our Hospitality Committee.



OCTOBER 7

All well-behaved pets and their two-legged friends are invited to gather on the front plaza at 10am on Saturday, October 7 for our annual Blessing of the Animals. If your pets are shy, or if you would like to remember a loved one who has died, you are welcome to bring pictures to be blessed. See you there!



Due to some scheduling issues, our second pulpit swap has moved to Sunday, November 26. Father Michael will preach and preside at St. Thomas while Mother Sharon will preach and preside at St. Gregory's. Thanks for your flexibility!



ROCKING WITH THE PIANO MAN

We had a fantastic time on September 16 with Kevin Wood! Our fundraiser was filled with music and energy, thanks to Kevin's wonderful talents and generosity. Thanks to everyone who came and helped us raise **\$870** for our capital campaign! We hope you enjoy a few pictures of the event, and we look forward to Kevin's next concert.



Join us for some Spooktacular Halloween fun!

Sunday, October 22nd at 11:30

Halloween movie classic

Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein
and a movie style lunch.

Pumpkin raffle and some fun!

Donations will go toward our new roof!!!

Suggested donation \$10

BLESSING OF THE COSTUMES



Since Bishop Taylor is coming on October 29, and since we want to have as much fun as possible on October 22, we'll also have the annual Blessing of the Costumes that day. People of all ages are invited to come in costume for our services and the party.

People's Warden Report

We've had the stained-glass windows assessed. The good news is that our Thomas of Canterbury windows and the tall window over the narthex doors are in good shape and need only minor maintenance. However, the Rose Window in the narthex and the panels facing the Memorial Garden need some conservation work, especially the Rose Window. We are seeking grant money from the Diocese to cover the majority of the repair work, and we will schedule the work as we can raise the funds.



BEGINS THIS MONTH

This year's theme for our pledge drive is "Path to Parish: Rooted in Abundance." As usual, we will have bulletin inserts beginning October 1 that invite us to think and pray about where we see God's abundance in our lives, and how we as a community can use our gifts to make our surrounding community and the world a better place, with God's help. You will receive letters from the Vicar, the Bishop's Warden, and the Stewardship Chair during our pledge drive. Look for your letters and pledge cards and pray about how you are called to serve St. Thomas with your wisdom, your works, and your wealth. Our pledge card ingathering will be Sunday, November 19 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving).



ST. THOMAS NEEDS YOU!

With several beloved members having moved away recently, we have some holes to fill in our monthly servers' rota. For the 8:00 service, we need an usher for the 4th and 5th Sundays, and another lector and Lay Eucharistic Minister to take some of the burden off those folks who are doing double duty. For the 10:15 service, we really need two more Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and three would be better. Another 10:15 usher wouldn't hurt, either. Some people signed up to help during our Welcome Back Sunday, but we can still use more willing hands and voices. Please talk with Mother Sharon if you have questions or are interested in learning how to serve at the altar.

ALL SAINTS NECROLOGY

All Saints Sunday falls on November 5 this year. As is our custom, I will take time during both services to read the names of our beloved saints. The necrology notebook will be in the narthex starting in mid-October, and you are invited to write in the names of those you would like mentioned. If you will not be at church, you may email the names to stlb47@verizon.net no later than October 30 for inclusion. Please note: I do not repeat names from year to year, so even if you entered names in the notebook last year, please re-enter them for this year. That way there's no confusion. Thanks for your help. – *Mother Sharon*

Holiday



November 18

Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors for our annual Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, November 18 from 9am-3pm (or whenever we sell out). This is one of our major fundraisers and is always a lot of fun. We will have many of our regular vendors on hand and will also be offering lunch this year! This is a great opportunity to buy holiday presents and help support our ministries. If you would like to contribute crafts or baked goods, or help with setup and cleanup, please sign up in the narthex.

Bishop's Committee Meeting Information

The Bishop's Committee is making a trial change to our meeting date. In order to avoid so many holidays that fall on the second Sunday of the month, we will meet on the third Sunday of the month for the rest of 2023, and then evaluate whether that works better. Everyone in the St. Thomas community is welcome to attend our meetings, which start at 11:45am in Larkin Hall.

The Bishop's Committee Wants You!

The Bishop's Committee is a vital part of our community life and is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of our programs and ministries. Members of the Committee do not do all the work; rather, they coordinate teams of folks who like to help out. At our 2024 Annual Meeting we need to elect two people for three-year terms and one person for a two-year term, as well as electing our alternates for Diocesan Convention. Please pray about whether you are called to serve St. Thomas in this way! You are welcome to talk with any current member of the Bishop's Committee or Mother Sharon about what the Committee does and how you can help.

ANNUAL

BOOK DRIVE



The logo for the Annual Book Drive features the word 'ANNUAL' in large, multi-colored letters (A: orange, N: blue, N: red, U: yellow, A: pink, L: dark blue). Below it, the words 'BOOK' and 'DRIVE' are stacked. 'BOOK' is in orange, blue, red, and yellow. 'DRIVE' is in pink, blue, orange, and light blue. A stack of colorful books is positioned over the 'D' in 'DRIVE'. A green wavy line is at the bottom.

KICKS OFF THIS MONTH

Each year we gather new and gently-used science fiction and fantasy books for the "Heinlein for Heroes" Book Drive. The books go to VA hospitals and overseas military bases for the enjoyment of service members who have a limited luggage allowance. Please bring your books during the month of October and leave them in the storage tote in the narthex. We will bless the books at both services on November 12, when we also will honor our veterans.



Birthdays

*Ana Woods 10/3, Amanda Tapia 10/6,
Jacob Utzman 10/6, John Hannan 10/8,
Bill Henderson 10/9, Ava Sanchez 10/9,
Amanda Utzman 10/10, Diane Silk 10/12,
Patrick Garvin 10/18*

ANNIVERSARIES

**PAUL & JOANNE JOVANOVIC 10/16,
LARRY & ALLYSON SHAW 10/17,
TIM & JAMIE GARVIN 10/18**



The world, especially the people of the United States, and for peace all over the world and wherever there is oppression or trouble.

Serving in the Armed Forces at home and around the world: members of the U.S. Army: **Serving in the Armed Force** at home and around the world: members of the U. S. Army: **Adam** and Boston; the U. S. Marine Corps: Sean, Adelangel and Jesse; the U. S. Air Force: Jordan, Joshua, and Carlos; the U. S. Navy: **Jonathan** and the U. S. Coast Guard: **Jennifer** and Corey.

The protection and guidance of Parishioners and Friends: Bertha, Ariana, Alyssa, Ana, Deb, Erin and her family, Joey and his mothers Beth and Jan, Penny and her family, Daniel, Chris and his family, Daniel, Becky, Sandra, Alex, Josef, Brandon, Rosie, Nathan, Paul, Gayle's doctor, Patricia's children, Michele's doctor, Sarah S., Ginny, Pam, Charlene, and baby Jordan's family.

The healing of Parishioners and Friends: **Karen, Liz, Carlene, Samantha, Patrick, Allyson, Bert, Allen, Joanne, Rosie, Jim, Bill, Lillian,** Linda M., Diana, Susanne, Ana, Rae Ann, Kathy, Linda O., Gingi, Becky, Michael, Kathryn, Asgeir and Rosa, Beverly, Paige, Eric, Diane, Toni, Rachel, Jane, Laura, Tori, Lance, Karen, Jared, Scott, Jeff, Jim L., Lu, Richard, Cindy, Pat, Jason, Gayle, Lori, Nancy W., Janice, Michele, Patricia B., Carolynacp, Carmen, Ruben, David F., Terry, Melanie, Elizabeth, Patricia, David, Jessica, Maria, Patrick M. Alan C., Russ, Paul, Brittany and support for all families and friends caring for loved ones, the people of Ukraine, India, Vietnam, Peru, Nigeria, Haiti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Myanmar, Morocco, Libya, and all parishioners and friends with health problems.

Homebound and Special Needs: **Karen, Samantha,** and the homeless, the poor and the unemployed, affordable housing for families, the end of Covid-19, Ebola, AIDS, and Cancer in the world, and for those suffering from mental illness.

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