

St. Thomas' Parish Newsletter

Chapel of the Incarnation, Brandywine
Thomas' Church, Croom

St.

The Rev. Debra Brewin-Wilson, Rector

Volume 1, Edition 4

February 1, 2012

From the Rector



St. Thomas' Parish Annual Meeting is coming up on Sunday, February 12th, following the only worship service we will have that day, at 10 am in Croom. A potluck luncheon will follow the meeting, so please plan to bring your favorite dish to share!

Why bother to attend an Annual Meeting?

A parish's Annual Meeting parallels the Diocesan Convention for a Diocese, or General Convention for The Episcopal Church. It's an opportunity for everyone to have their say about the mission of the Church. An Annual Meeting is where the eligible members of the Parish vote for their lay leaders. It's where the annual budget of the Parish is approved. It's where important points for thought and discussion may be raised. It's where you gain a sense of where the parish is headed in the coming year, based on the comments made by the lay and ordained leaders and who gets elected to the Vestry and Senior Warden positions for the coming year.

We're printing information in this newsletter to help you know who is running for a position on the Vestry. We don't do campaigning, but the information provided helps you to know the people running for a position a little better. I hope you'll attend the Annual Meeting and stay for the luncheon.

The Sunday following the Annual Meeting is the end of the season of Epiphany. Ash Wednesday falls on February 22nd this year, beginning the season of Lent. Stay tuned in church to learn more about our Lenten adult education program!

In peace,

Debbie

The Rev. Debbie Brewin-Wilson
Rector

Annual Election

Vestry Members-Class of 2013

(not up for re-election)

- Greg Gill – Senior Warden
- George McLaughlin
- Milt Crump – Junior Warden
- Sharon Voros
- Terry Windsor

Vestry and Delegate Candidates for Election

Delegate Positions to be determined:

(vote for one for each position)

- Delegate - Franklin Robinson, Jr.
- Alternate Delegate – Debbie Kirk.

Franklin Robinson, Jr.

Franklin has been a lifelong member of the parish. In addition to having served on the vestry many time and three years as senior warden, he has been the parish historian since 1995. He has been delegate and alternate delegate to Diocesan Convention for more years than he cares to count. He has served on many parish committees, taught Sunday School, sung in the choir, and has assisted in successfully applying for historic property grants from the county for on-going renovations at both the church and the chapel. He is currently chair of the Cemetery Committee, Parish Historian, as well as Bishop Budde's appointment to Diocesan Council until 2015 following his previous appointment to Council by Bishop Chane in 2009.

** Not seeking re-election on Vestry

Deborah Kirk
Janice Diggs

Candidates' Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Richard J. "Dick" Bergren

(Present Incumbent)

Member of St. Thomas Parish since 1985. Retired Naval officer and college teacher. Married to Gayla Bergren, six children. On Vestry since 2008. Previously chairman of the Property Committee. Served on Antique Show and Cemetery committees.

Brenda B. Duvall

(Present Incumbent)

Brenda is finishing her first two-year term on the Vestry. She has attended St. Thomas' for almost 34 years, during which she supported the church in a variety of voluntary ways. While on the Vestry, she has chaired the Pastoral Care Committee. In that capacity she coordinates the Parish's "Casserole Patrol," providing meals to church families during times of illness, and organizes a monthly "Lunch Bunch" outing for church members and friends. She currently volunteers in the church office each week,

inputting current data into the Parish's computer system.

Iona C. Harrison

Born in San Juan Puerto Rico, attended Georgetown University and received a B.S. in history from the University of Maryland. A licensed Realtor since 1976, she has served as the President of the Maryland Association of Realtors®, Inc.

I am a life-long Episcopalian; I am deeply committed to not only the survival, but also the flourishing of St. Thomas's. I have twice served on the Vestry and hope to make a contribution once again, if elected.

Bill Scott

Bill has been a member of St. Thomas Church for 37 years. He and Gabrielle live on a farm on Candy Hill Road in Nottingham. Bill is a former Vestry member, Jr. Warden, and Property Committee Chairman and is presently on the Farmers Market Committee (Our Local Bounty), Property Committee and Chairman of the Antique Show. Bill is a retired Architect with degrees in Architecture, Design and a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning. Bill was formally President of The Croom Citizen's Association for four years and was also a member of the military in the Naval Air Reserve for eight years. Bill's Great Grandfather Henry H. Fenno and his children came to Nottingham in 1863 from Davenport, Iowa. Bill is dedicated to helping our Parish flourish during these hard times.

Jack Thompson, Junior

(Present Incumbent)

Attending St Thomas Parish since 1992, I have been an alternate and convention delegate several times and served on the vestry in 1994 for two consecutive terms. I currently serve on the Vestry, and if elected, this would be my second term. Presently, I hold the position of the Clerk of the Vestry and the Parish Registrar. I also chair the stewardship committee and serve on the finance committee and throughout the years, I have served

on many different committees. I regularly serve as a Eucharistic Minister, and count money.

Lucille Ward Walker

I was baptized and confirmed at St. Philips Episcopal Church in Acquasco, Maryland, and attended that church until it burned. I was married here at St. Thomas' in 1997, and both our sons were baptized here. A theater professional for a good part of my life, I received my B.A. in Drama from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and studied Shakespeare and Greek Drama at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Oxford University, England. My Master's degree is in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. My professional life has also included grant writing and other development related work with a variety of educational and artistic institutions, and I was the Associate Director (and, later, Interim Director) of Foundation and Corporate Relations for the University of Georgia. I am currently the business plan writer and consultant to the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. Additionally, I have created my own company, *Farm Resource Strategies*, to assist the farming community in the five county Southern Maryland region.



Serving Breakfast at the Upper Marlboro Food Bank





Charlotte



Iona, Franklin, Charlotte, & Mildred get ready.



Jean & Jane are on a roll!

Bi-Monthly Parish Newsletter

St. Thomas' Parish
14300 St. Thomas Church Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Birthday List

February

- 2 Dick Bergren
Jeff Colburn
- 3 Dan Dufford
- 11 Kaye Johnson
- 12 Regina Thomas
- 16 Janice Diggs
- 19 Gary Hogue
- 21 Viola McKenzie

March

- Zuri Thomas
- Shirley Duvall
- Michael Downing
- Virginia Downing
- Jeff Bishop
- Dylan Adams
- Mildred Stewart
- Margaret Thomas
- Gayla Bergren
- Gay Scott
- Penny Murphy
- Sheila T. Hood