

Saint Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
CANTERBURY TALES

∞ AUGUST 2020 ∞

Participation, Language, Culture, Word Use

By the Rev. Julie D. Bryant, DMin., Priest-in-Charge

Interpreters of American Sign Language are regularly asked to set aside their own perspective or opinion in order to fairly represent the views of those for whom they interpret. All interpreters are similarly tasked, and must select from among similar words those which best convey the tone and intent of the communication.

Lani-Karyn Jones, a gifted interpreter, voice and physical actor, and member of the Saint Thomas congregation, forwarded this video to me, and I invite you to watch it. Rorri Burton is regularly called upon to interpret for local news and civic events, and conveys here not only her experience, but much for us all to ponder regarding the use of particular words, and the manner in which particular events or points of view give rise to distinct signs.

While her delivery is calm and straightforward, my mind and heart are stirred and swirling by the importance of her message and the many layers of culture and communication addressed here.

I invite you to watch the video, and to join me in some conversation about its many threads: via Zoom, this Sunday, August 2 at 11 a.m. Meeting ID 835 3915 6552, no password required.



*Rorri Burton, ASL Interpreter for Los Angeles County.
Photo: Los Angeles Times/Facebook*

Yours in Christ, Julie +

An ASL interpreter's message: Black Lives Matter – YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGxL-o5CsOY>

St. Thomas Continues to Meet Online

Join us online for regular worship and many activities including Christian formation, fellowship, and ministry meetings that take place daily. For the latest schedule please refer to the Weekly Announcements, the church website at episcopalchurchtemecula.org, or your email. All worship gatherings and meetings are easily accessible via the internet on your computer or internet-enabled smartphone. Please call Rev. Julie at 310-625-9377 with any questions or concerns



Join the plenary sessions led by Rev. Dr. David Jackson on this important program at the Feast of the Transfiguration service Sunday, August 2 and again on Sunday, August 23. See pages 8-9 of this issue for detailed information provided by Dr. Deb Mitchell including how we hope you will participate.

St. Thomas Rocks—A Reminder

At Eastertime some of us started the St. Thomas Rocks outreach, a little distribution of cheer and thoughtful prayer represented by creatively painted smooth stones and given or stealthily deposited throughout the community. We know some of these have ended up in LA and San Diego County, but also reappear in interesting ways in our area. This greeting and message was found on a doorstep in the morning light in Temecula in late July.



A mission of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, St. Thomas is a “pet-friendly” church that cares deeply for our beloved pets. We work with local senior citizens to provide food for their pets and support the Animal Friends of the Valleys. We also hold a blessing for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, and welcome well-behaved pets to attend worship with us.

CANTERBURY TALES

AUGUST 2020 Vol 41 Issue 8

“Regathering” Info.....	3
Backpack Sunday.....	4
Finance 101.....	5
Meet the Rosses	6
CMoH Thank You.	7
Sacred Ground.....	8-9
Health Update.....	10
Sponsors.....	11

Anticipating “Regathering”—In-Person Worship

Worshiping and Meeting in the Church Building or on the grounds in these pandemic days will be a complicated proposition, but we hope to offer a ‘hybrid’ of both in-person and digitally accessed Worship when approved by Bishop Susan Snook and the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. We are praying that our region’s rate of hospitalizations will decrease. Details on attending will be provided at that time but prayerfully consider assisting.

We will need help with the following when we Regather for Worship

Reservations Team (2-3 people per event)

People who will reach out to the Congregation, asking whether they intend to participate in person or if they would like Eucharist brought to them after viewing the service digitally
Produce seating charts and Packets for Home Communion
Plan and distribute Home Communion to Volunteer Drivers

Set-up/Clean/Takedown (2-3)

Ensure seating is properly arranged; work with Res Team re layout and identifying seating
Clean chairs and all shared surfaces between services as needed
Disassemble after service

Greeters/Ushers (3-4)

Open the Church, check signage, check ventilation
Monitor arrivals for health check and sanitation, escort to/from seating, assist with bathroom use
Constantly monitor safe distancing
Assist with securing Church after worship

Tech Team (2-3)

Arrange and test cameras and monitors for readiness
Confirm readiness of digital ‘Bulletin’
Monitor and pace worship, interfacing with live and digital participants

Home Communion Team (5-10)

Assemble and Distribute Home Communion to those participating digitally
Interface with members from a safe distance
Confirm distribution for Register
Share any pastoral concerns noted during delivery

Musicians, Lectors, Visual Elements (2-3)

Work with Clergy to select and prepare instrumental and vocal music; perform same
Prepare for and Serve as Lector in this modified worship style
Work with Clergy to select and present appropriate visual enhancements to the space and materials used in-person and digitally

For any questions, or to volunteer to serve in any of these capacities, please contact Mother Julie at 310 625 9377, or juliedbryant@yahoo.com

Backpack Sunday

For our Youth and Children, and those at Rancho Damacitas



It has always been a tradition for St Thomas to celebrate the return to school with Backpack Sunday. Since we are currently worshipping online, this year the Children and Youth of St Thomas will focus outwards. We have partnered with Rancho Damacitas to provide school supplies for the children living in their home.

The Youth and Children of St. Thomas plan to deliver these items to Rancho Damacitas on Monday, August 10th. Donations in kind from the list below or gift cards (from Walmart, Target, The 99 Cent Store, or Dollar Tree) should be delivered to the church by Friday, August 7th. We are supplying 6 students in grades K- grade 4 as well as siblings at home. **Supplies needed:**

Water bottles- reusable
Erasers- pink rectangular
Wide / Broad tip markers-WASHABLE
Small hand sanitizers to attach to backpacks
Hand sanitizer large size to use as refill
Dry erase markers
Dry erase erasers
3 ring binders (various sizes not over 1.5")
Spiral notebooks- wide-ruled
Spiral notebooks—college ruled (a few)
Composition books-wide-ruled
Crayons pack of 24
Construction paper assorted packs; any size
Face masks—child
Sidewalk Chalk
Hand soap
Coloring/Activity Books (under age 6)
Reinforced notebook dividers with tabs
Notebook Paper- wide or college ruled

Number 2 pencils
Erasers—cap type
Glue sticks
Boxes of tissue
Packets of tissue
School Glue (bottles, washable)
Pencil sharpeners (any type)
Pencil grips
5 x 8 index cards
White copy paper
Rulers
Sheet protectors
Watercolors
Watercolor brushes
Scotch Tape
Sanitizing Wipes
Composition books-college-ruled
Finger Paints and paper
Staplers- mini and regular

Backpack Sunday—from the previous page

Backpacks and Lunch Bags – 6 of each already donated; more needed for new arrivals

Pocket Folders w/3 holes & brads inside (heavier material preferred)

Plastic Pocket Folders w/3 holes & brads inside

Fiskar BLUNT round tip scissors (Some schools ban scissors with points.)

Pencil bags: Desired themes—dolls, princesses, Superwoman, cars, trucks, superheroes, Batman, Superman, Pokemon, dinosaurs, Transformers, Paw Patrol, Ninja Turtles

Please contact Kathy Foxen at kfoxen2931@ca.rr.com or Allan O'Neil at aone830@aol.com with any questions.

Finance 101—An Opportunity

Have you ever wanted to know more about the church finances or just how to read financial reports? As announced at the Town Hall, to be completely transparent with the congregation, Richard Ross and Russell Higgins are willing to go through the financial reports of the church with you in detail. This will be an hour-long review of the financials and there will be time to ask any questions. Besides going through the financials of the church, we will review basic accounting terms and meanings such as assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, profit, earnings, expenses and cash flow, to name a few. This is a unique opportunity and we hope you take advantage of it.

The class size will be limited to seven people and if needed, other classes will be added. The first class will be on Saturday, August 15th on Zoom starting at 9am.

We look forward in seeing you on zoom.

Please RSVP to vernnonvipers@gmail.com (Russell) or richard@rrossinc.com (Richard).

Thank you.

Russell Higgins and Richard Ross



Meet St. Thomas' Business and Accounting Management Team



Marva and Richard Ross

Marva and Richard were born and raised in Princeton, Indiana. Beginning at preschool age their families attended the local Baptist Church. One of Richard's earliest memories is pulling Marva's ponytail in Sunday school. A little later Marva's family switched to the Presbyterian Church.

After Marva received her Registered Dental Assistant certification, they were married in June 1966. Shortly thereafter Richard joined the Army, training in military intelligence and as a Vietnamese interpreter and interrogator. When Richard headed to Vietnam, Marva moved to Lafayette, Indiana, continuing to work as a Pedodontic Registered Dental Assistant.

After Vietnam Richard graduated from Ball State University and went to work for Ford Motor Finance in Dearborn Michigan, training as a credit analyst, bank participation specialist, and leasing specialist. Later Richard was recruited by Michigan National Bank in Detroit to start a tangible personal property leasing company engaged in complex tax oriented leveraged lease transactions. While Richard was working for Michigan National Bank as Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer and a member of the Board of Directors, Marva located a small Episcopal Church in Warren, Michigan. Thenceforth began a lifelong journey with the Episcopal Church.

In 1982 they moved to San Diego to work for a former bank customer and joined St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Del Mar. In 1986 Richard started a bank consulting company. For several years, they were engaged by the State of California's Superintendent of Banking to examine financial institutions for compliance with banking laws, rules, and regulations, and Marva was part of the examination team.

For the past 20 years they have been contracted as the Chief Credit Officer and administrator of 16 special purpose bank subsidiaries in Indiana responsible for loans and investments. As part of these responsibilities Marva and Richard administer and maintain all the accounting books and records for these entities. For the past year they have been winding down these activities, and as of September 2020 will have exited all these positions.

Another aspect of their business is litigation support for attorneys regarding banking laws and regulations. Richard has been involved in over 500 litigation matters, providing expert witness testimony in over 100 state and federal cases. Marva provides office management for this business segment.

Richard also serves on the Governing Boards for the City of Indianapolis Community Development Entity and the Town of French Lick Community Development Entity, each of which provides loans and investments to create or preserve jobs in Indiana.

In October 2017 they sold their house in Del Mar, moved to the Red Hawk area of Temecula and began attending St. Thomas in May 2018. Since joining St. Thomas Richard has served on the Strategic Planning Committee, the Finance Committee, and agreed as an unpaid volunteer to serve as the interim accounting and business manager when Brian Hopley resigned in January to move to Arizona. Marva assists as a volunteer in accounting areas and is active in the Prayers & Squares, Knit WITS and other outreach activities.



SToC + CMoH = HOPE



From late June to mid-July, St. Thomas partnered with the Community Mission of Hope to help those who are in difficult circumstances now, for whatever reason. Ably coordinated by BC member Allan O'Neill, the St. Thomas family rallied together and on July 15th delivered more than two-dozen bags of groceries, paper goods and

personal care products to this outstanding organization. A huge THANK YOU to all who donated and a special THANK YOU to the Simpson's, the Ross's and the Bowen's who loaded up their trunks and joined Allan to drive over to the Mission to drop off the supplies. CMoH were incredibly appreciative and add their thanks for all who participated with their generosity and caring.

RECYCLABLES WANTED

Please continue to collect your recyclables and bring them to the church on the second Wednesday of the month (August 12th) between 7am - 11am. Leave them in front of the courtyard gate. It would be very helpful if cans, plastic, and glass are already separated! Thank you, and thanks to BC member Chantel Blas for doing the hard work to benefit our St. Thomas Episcopal Preschool (STEP).

“Sacred Ground” at St. Thomas

All Encouraged to Attend Plenary Sessions—First One on Aug. 2

“Sometime in 1619, a Portuguese ship, the *São João Bautista*, traveled across the Atlantic Ocean with a hull filled with human cargo: captive Africans from Angola in southwestern Africa. Half of the captive men, women, and children, most likely from the Kingdoms of Ndongo and Kongo, died before the ship was seized by two English pirate ships. The remaining 20 or so negroes were taken to Point Comfort, a port near Jamestown, capital of the British Colony of Virginia. Forced labor was not uncommon — Africans and Europeans had been trading goods and people across the Mediterranean for centuries — but enslavement was not solely based on race. The trans-Atlantic slave trade introduced a system of slavery that was commercialized, racialized and inherited. The sale of these 20 negroes set the course for slavery in the United States.”

Mary Elliot, Curator of American Slavery, Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture. (The 1619 Project)



A historical marker notes this stretch of shoreline in Hampton, Virginia, is where the first enslaved Africans were said to have been bought ashore in British North America in 1619. Photo: David Paulsen/Episcopal News Service

All are invited to join this important spiritual journey with Fr. David Jackson and our facilitators as we contemplate and reflect upon racism in our nation while focusing on the words and ways of Jesus in the face of the subjugation and oppression he faced throughout his life.

Sacred Ground presents sensitive, prayerful resources through documentaries, videos, and books that create space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. We will be retracing history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to the present, while sharing and reflecting on our own family histories and stories. As part of Bishop Curry's vision of **A Beloved Community**, we are called upon to honor, protect and nurture each other as beloved children of God while each of us stands on our personal “Sacred Ground” to share our stories.

“Sacred Ground”—continued from p. 8

On Transfiguration Sunday, August 2nd, following spoken prayers, music and the homily, Fr. David will present the first of two plenary sessions introducing “Sacred Ground.” The Transfiguration provides an excellent lead-in to Sacred Ground by reminding us that a spiritual experience is supposed to change the way we look at life, the way we approach life, and the way we react with others. Strong spiritual experiences are meant to change us so that we can have a positive effect on the world around us. *Sacred Ground* is just such an experience. Our second plenary session will be held on Sunday, August 23rd and dialogue groups will begin the week of September 13th.

Information on signing up for dialogue groups will be announced soon. If you haven’t yet reviewed the materials on the website (episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground), please do, especially the Introduction video featuring the author, Katrina Brown. Suggested books: *Waking Up White* and *finding myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving; *White Fragility: Why it’s so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. Available on Amazon.com Suggested documentary: Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am. (2019) Streaming online: Netflix, Hulu and Prime Video.

The Episcopal News Service has recently published an in-depth article reviewing Churchwide interest in the program, specifically mentioning the new groups forming in our diocese. You can find it at this link: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2020/07/28/finding-sacred-ground-thousands-connect-with-episcopal-churchs-film-based-series-on-racisms-historic-roots/>



Thank you for keeping pledges current! Pledges can be mailed in the already addressed pledge envelopes, you can have your bank mail it through “bill pay” (for these two options there is no cost to the church), or you can pay by credit card or PayPal. The directions for the last two options are on the church website. There are four special plate envelopes for August—if you can send a little extra in them this month it would be greatly appreciated, and your account will be credited

9



Health Update

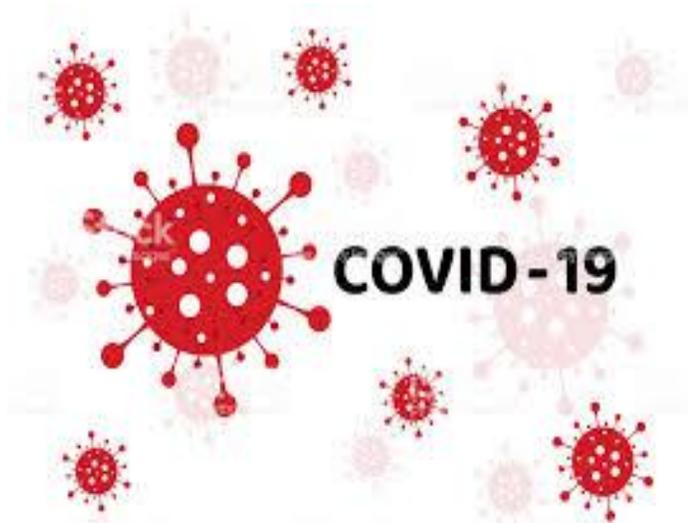
Dr. Ed Rather Comments on the Current Covid-19 Developments

First some disturbing data:

Over 150000 dead now in the US

25% (over 4 million) of known cases in the world are in USA.

Now then, numerous vaccines are being evaluated and some going into phase 3, but then need to be followed for efficacy and possible side effects. We don't know how long that will take.



There seems to be no continuity of leadership nationally in care, testing with irregular results, and results taking significantly different lengths of time from 30 minutes up to 10 days. No desire by some to protect themselves or those around them. Following the three basic preventatives (frequent hand washing/sanitizing, wearing an effective mask, and social distancing) is a matter of personal responsibility and yet some seem to disregard them.

There has been a resurgence, too—not the dreaded “second wave” but a surge in cases—in parts of the world that seemed to have things under control. Spain, southern Germany and even Hong Kong come to mind. Most reports attribute this to complacency about social distancing

There is no conspiracy by the medical profession... some doctors, nurses, and medical assistants are dying daily with this virus... Why can't we focus on the needs of the people in our country and the world instead of touting so-called experts who quote hedonistic dreams that are saying things with no actual evidence or scientific studies to back up the anecdotal experience?

We need to face the facts here and do our part to help each other. I care and I hope you all do as well.

Your friendly, but retired, dermatologist,
Ed



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Fax (951) 302-4633

www.episcopalchurchtemecula.org

