

Saint Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church
CANTERBURY TALES

✚ MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW VICAR ✚

Dear People of St. Thomas,

It is with much joy that I write to you, eager to enter your fellowship and navigate the waters of ministry with you into our future together.

Some months ago, I received a phone call from Bishop Mathes, in which he asked if I'd be willing to put my name in the vicar search for St. Thomas. "As I've gotten to know you," he said, "I've come to believe you have the gifts and talents that most align with what St. Thomas wants and needs for a leader. Tim, I think you're the person for the job; I think you'd be a great fit."

Of course, I agreed to put my name in the pool – this was the bishop calling, after all. I then began to do my homework, and as I did, the question to frame my analysis was, what is it about me the bishop sees? Here's what I've assessed....

Especially exciting to me is your music ministry. Music in the Anglican choral tradition has played a large role in my own spiritual journey. To work with accomplished musicians to craft effective liturgy is something I've longed for in recent years.

I'm also excited to establish and develop a strong working relationship with the day school, its board, director, staff, and families. Prior to ordination I was a career teacher in private parochial and independent schools, experience that should go a long way in a school/church relationship. Along these lines is Christian formation. As a lifelong learner, I look forward to strengthening the already strong Christian education program for all ages.

And as for the location! It's no secret that Temecula is beautiful, nestled between the California Coast and desert, a perfect opportunity to exercise hospitality.

You can see by what I've written, focuses of ministry for me are music and liturgy, preaching, teaching, and formation. I consider my leadership style to be flexible yet organized, collaborative, and innovative, willing to go in new directions when old ones tire out or fail. Maybe I'm more an artist than a scientist (more a Greek than a Roman), though I believe the two are not mutually exclusive.

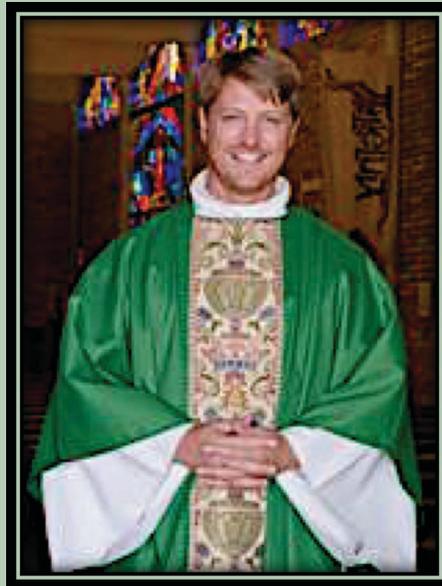
For fun, I like to hang out with my family, cooking, eating, playing bridge, and walking our 12-year-old Labrador, Arwen; and as I'm able, I like to hike, compose, write, and ride my motorcycle.

Anyway, put these together and it's plain to see that as the bishop stated, here is a great fit!

Moving from Yuma to Temecula will not be our only transition. My wife Holly, a teacher, is looking for work; and another one of our kids, number three, is heading off to college in the fall. Please pray for me and my family in the months ahead.

May God richly bless us in our new life together.

Father Tim



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.

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Important News
UPCOMING EVENTS

AN EVENING WITH DEAN NORRIS – *has been rescheduled to a later date*

A special night is being planned with our very own Dean Norris. Having starred in several highly-acclaimed television series – Breaking Bad and Under the Dome – Dean Norris will be presenting an engaging evening of insight to be held at St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego. The new date will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.



MEN OF ST. THOMAS (MoST) – Saturday, May 13 at 8:00am

MoST is an informal fellowship that meets each second Saturday of the month at 8:00am for a potluck breakfast, brief Bible Study, and assisting afterwards with maintenance and property projects at the church. All are welcome including friends and neighbors. The emphasis is on fellowship. Come join the fun!

CPR AND AED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION CLASS – Saturday, May 13 at 11:30am

You now have an opportunity to get trained in CPR and learn how to use our new life saving device, the AED. Please join us for this important training program, sponsored by the American Heart Association. For more information please contact Beth Vega: email beth_hpkn@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC – Saturday, May 20, 11:00am to 4:00pm

St. Thomas' Annual Church Picnic will be held at our own St. Francis Courtyard this year! Hotdogs, hamburgers, and all the fixings will be provided. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

EPISCOPAL NIGHT AT THE PADRES – Friday, June 23 at 7:10pm

Plan on attending the always fun annual Episcopal Night at the Padres. This year's game will match up the San Diego Padres battling the Detroit Tigers on Friday, June 23 at PetCo Park. Please contact Lee Eisenhut to order tickets by June 2nd.

BISHOP MATHES' FAREWELL – Saturday, July 1, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

A fond and final farewell to Bishop Mathes will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego. The bishop's last day will be Saturday, July 1. He will begin his new role as associate dean of Virginia Theological Seminary in August.

THE CHANE GANG CONCERT – JULY 14

To benefit Episcopal Community Services, Friday, July 14, at The Lafayette Hotel, San Diego

A Message from THE BISHOP'S WARDEN

When we first began this journey seventeen months ago, many challenges were awaiting us. With your support and assistance, these have been overcome and now stand behind us in the dust. With the guidance and blessing from Mother Eleanor, our time of preparation to receive Father Tim is now upon us. Easter has brought forth to us the Risen Christ, Eastertide provides us opportunity to prepare ourselves for the next leg of this journey in hope and faith anew.

As we await Father Tim and his family joining us at St. Thomas, we need to listen with our hearts and souls; what are we called to do? The words unsaid, the action undone, what is asked of us in the unspoken words? Quietly we sit awaiting the direction to be shown bright and bold. What has God called the people of St. Thomas to do? What actions must be taken to help those in need? What are the words to be spoken that will inspire others to join this adventure? How does our heart

speak to our mind? What must be done to empower others to find inner courage and desire their spirit to seek out this resurrection Eastertide?

We have opportunities befalling us in the next few months to celebrate, while inviting others into our church. Seeing Christ in everyone we meet might be a difficult in our day to day ventures. A challenge hard to overcome. Yet we find a way, guided by the creed that all are welcome at the Lord's Table. The upcoming Church Picnic will provide us a time together with the breaking of bread, sharing a meal together, enjoying the fellowship that strengthens our resolve, and our congregational family. An occasion to meet others that worship in the same space at a different time. Making new best friends, and sharing those with others. Finding our place in the crowd.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as the Bishop's Warden to

this congregation of St Thomas. The experiences have served me well. You have blessed with your unending support during this transitional period, sharing the burden of a difficult and trying time. Your Bishop's Committee has taken a new and exciting attitude in teaming together. They have recognized their role as stewards of all the congregational resources and ministries. Leadership by Laity has found its place at St. Thomas. We are charged in service to those who have placed their trust wholly upon us. As we continue to build up this church, let us reflect, discover, and push our boundaries ever so slightly further to appreciate those gifts from above that are bestowed upon us. Let us always remember the simple commandments to love and serve in the way of our Lord God, Jesus Christ.

Forever in Your Service,
--Peter Mandery

What Do We Do While We Wait for Our New Vicar?

See Peter Mandery!

In accordance with the canons of the Episcopal Church, the Bishop's Warden (Peter Mandery) will either handle each individual matter himself or direct it to Canon Alyson Thomas to be handled by the Diocese. The duty of our supply priest (Fr. Schuneman) is to be here for Saturday night and Sunday services only. Any other needs for a priest beyond that, including pastoral care requests, should be directed to Peter Mandery at (760) 535-14889.

Let's pray that this will be a smooth time in our parish journey!

Wednesday Night Holy Eucharist with Healing

The Wednesday night Holy Eucharist with Healing will be replaced with Evening Prayer until Father Tim arrives in August. The Wednesday Evening Prayer service will remain at the same time at 7:00pm.

Member Spotlight

THE COLE FAMILY

Introducing the Cole Family -- Mack, Jennifer, Trevor (13) and Emma (10) -- as told by Jenn Cole

In 2001 Mack and I bought our first home in Temecula. It wasn't long before we started looking for our new church home. A look through the yellow pages showed St. Thomas Episcopal Church in a store-front on Jefferson Avenue. We decided to check it out one Sunday morning and attended the 9:00am service, conducted by Fr. Sean Cox. We were welcomed with so many smiling faces from friendly parishioners and thoroughly enjoyed the service! A few days later, we arrived home to find a sweet note on our doorstep from Marlon and Joan Wanner - longtime greeters at St. Thomas. Along with the welcoming note was a loaf of yummy sweet bread and some chocolate! We were so impressed that they took the time to come all the way to our home. It's then that we knew we wanted to call St. Thomas our home.

Sometime shortly after we became greeters ourselves! We met some great people that would become lifelong friends. Mack joined the Bishops Committee and served as the Junior Warden for some time. Jenn became a member of the inaugural Daughters of the King order for St. Thomas. We joined a small group ministry to learn more about what it meant to be an Episcopalian. We led a marriage small group and met Tom and Marion Trollan. We were newlyweds and they had 30+ years on us! It was a wonderful combination!!



Fast forward to 2003, our first child, Trevor, was on his way. He came early at 33 weeks' gestation and our church family was there for us. Fr. Sean came to bless our baby at the hospital and sent fellow parishioners Linda and Richard Stone for moral support, as they were parents of two preemies. We were so grateful for all the visits so far away at Sharp Mary Birch in San Diego. Trevor was Baptized by Fr. Sean and Bishop Hughes. Our congregation made it a wonderful celebration!

As a new mom anxious to meet other parents, Jenn formed a small group ministry for Moms with toddlers -- affectionately called SWAT -- Saint Thomas Women and Toddlers. This ministry included a short bible study and concluded with a walk outdoors for the moms to enjoy some fresh air. Through this ministry, more life-long friendships were formed.

After two losses, in 2007 we were blessed with our rainbow baby, Emma. She was healthy and full term and our church rejoiced with us! She was also baptized at St. Thomas with a beautiful ceremony and hand-picked music by our soloist Rosalie Porter.

Through the years, Trevor attended St. Thomas preschool, Jenn served on the Altar Guild, as a nursery attendant, and was a part of the Women of St. Thomas, and even did a short stint on the Bishop's committee. Mack was on the building committee and helped to find our property on Avenida de Misiones. That was a long road, but one that certainly paid off! He also served on the calling committee bringing us Fr. Robert. He's also been an usher for many years, and now enjoys having Trevor joining him for this ministry.

Mack and Jenn were married 19 years ago at St. Johns Chula Vista by Fr. Keith. As a family, we are avid music lovers. Trevor is a drummer and has played for church events as well as performing at open mics around town. Last year, under the lead of Mother Eleanor, Trevor received his confirmation. He will be heading off to high school this fall. Emma will be entering 5th grade this fall and keeps busy playing volleyball.

Jenn works with a group called Heavenly Bound Gowns that makes infant burial gowns out of donated wedding dresses. Jenn also spends a lot of her time at her kids' schools serving on the PTA. Mack is a Master Mason. We have three cats -- Samantha, Princess and Cece.

It has been such a privilege to be members at this church. Lifelong and lasting friendships, support from a loving church, and our Lord at the center of it all!



Health Update

CPR and AED TRAINING

This month, I thought we could discuss three things of importance to us all. As I write this article, I want us to be as actively updated on what is going on as far as our medical needs are concerned.

- 1) First, as most of us know, our AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is now mounted in the Narthex on the angled wall leading into our Julian Hall meeting and socializing area. It has been placed there with an accompanying wall sign so that there is easy access if it is ever needed, either by church or school. Beth Vega, working with Virginia Patton on the Bishops' Committee, oversees the unit and its upkeep. She has made plans for a CPR and AED joint educational meeting that we all need to attend so that we will know its proper use and have the ability to assist in event of a cardiac emergency. Dates for this are listed below.
- 2) I hope that most of us are familiar with CPR and have even had training. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation has evolved over the years, and there are different methods used for adults and children/babies which are instrumental in saving lives of those who have been in **accidents, near drownings, heart attacks, choking**, etc. The standard has been open airway, victim on back, initial breaths after checking pulse, and then **2 breaths for every 15 chest compressions** and, of course, **Calling 911!** The newest data shows that the chest compressions are the most important. We should **never be shy about doing this**; being shy and doing nothing never saves anyone.
- 3) Lastly, with effects of that controversial Climate Change, it is very important to think how even slight changes in weather patterns, humidity, standing water, melting ice and snow, increased temperatures, and the like concern us. The main thing, other than the obvious, is the increased number of insects and the diseases they carry. So, avoidance of and protection from all insects, particularly those awful and pesky mosquitoes, is very, very important. Various insect repellents are available, including DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, Permethrin, and Citronella, to name a few. Remember, any of these, even with mild toxicities, would be better than exposure to many life-threatening diseases. So, as we are outside more frequently with the pleasant weather, find one that you are comfortable with and don't forget sunscreen!

Best wishes to all for the upcoming summer.

Ed (your friendly, but retired, Dermatologist)

CPR and AED CLASS

Saturday, May 13 11:30 a.m. - Julian Hall (\$40.00, pre-registration required)

Most likely you're already familiar with what an AED is: It's the portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart to get it beating again after cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly. If not treated within minutes, it quickly leads to death. Knowing these techniques could save your child, grandchild, spouse, or best friend's life — and not just at St. Thomas. AEDs are becoming increasingly available in public facilities everywhere for use by anyone who knows how to use them. You now have an opportunity to get trained in CPR and learn how to use this life saving device. After completing the course you'll receive the American Heart Association "HeartSaver" certification good for 2 years.

HOW TO REGISTER: There will be a signup sheet in the narthex. Beth Vega will email you a link to the website that allows you to pay for your class and submit the info for your CPR card. Please wear comfortable clothes, as you will be down on the ground to demonstrate and practice CPR on a mannequin. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Beth at 661-334-0631 or beth_hpkins@yahoo.com.



Bishop Committee Spotlight
VIRGINIA PATTON

Introducing the newest members of St. Thomas' Bishop's Committee . . .

VIRGINIA PATTON
Communications



Virginia and husband Joel Patton

Virginia was born and raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia and still carries the New Jersey “shore” in her blood. The youngest of 4 children, she attended the University of Pennsylvania, and majored in Sociology with a heavy dose of Art History coursework. While at the university she played field hockey and lacrosse and was the first woman to sit on Penn’s Athletic Board. After college, she spent six months in Europe where she continued exploring her love of art. Upon her return, she worked for the City of Philadelphia, supervising long term care foster and adoptive homes and volunteering with the city’s Junior League. She then moved to San Francisco where she worked as a Research Analyst for 14 years with the Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART) and continued her involvement with the Junior League.

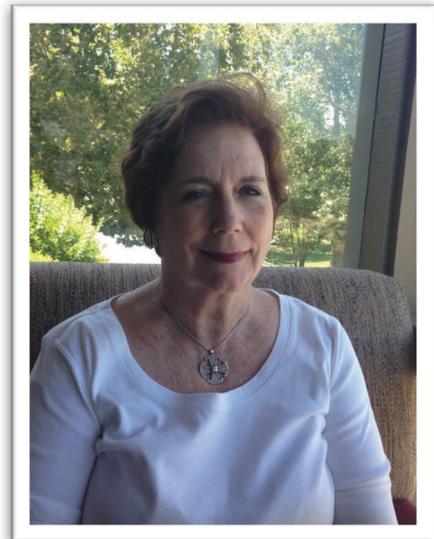
Virginia was married to Bill Hilligoss from 1974 until his death in 2001. Together they developed a deep and lasting passion for the southwest desert and its art. Soon after, Virginia was thoroughly involved with the specialized area encompassing Early California and Western art, with a passion for Native American art. To expand her knowledge, she began visiting museums, galleries, auctions, and bookstores. She became actively involved in the Western Art Council while living in Palm Springs. She established a private business called Larkspur Fine Arts for more than 30 years and exhibits at the Antique Gun Show in Las Vegas once a year. Her collection includes photography, paintings, baskets, jewelry, and antiques.

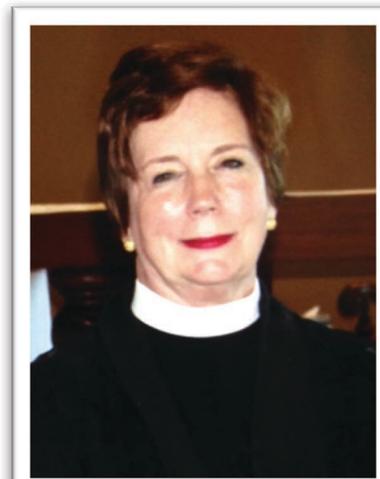
A “cradle” Episcopalian, Virginia was delighted to meet Joel Patton, a retired Police chief, and the two were married at St. Thomas in 2015. She is active in the Prayers 4 Squares ministry and serves on the Altar Guild.

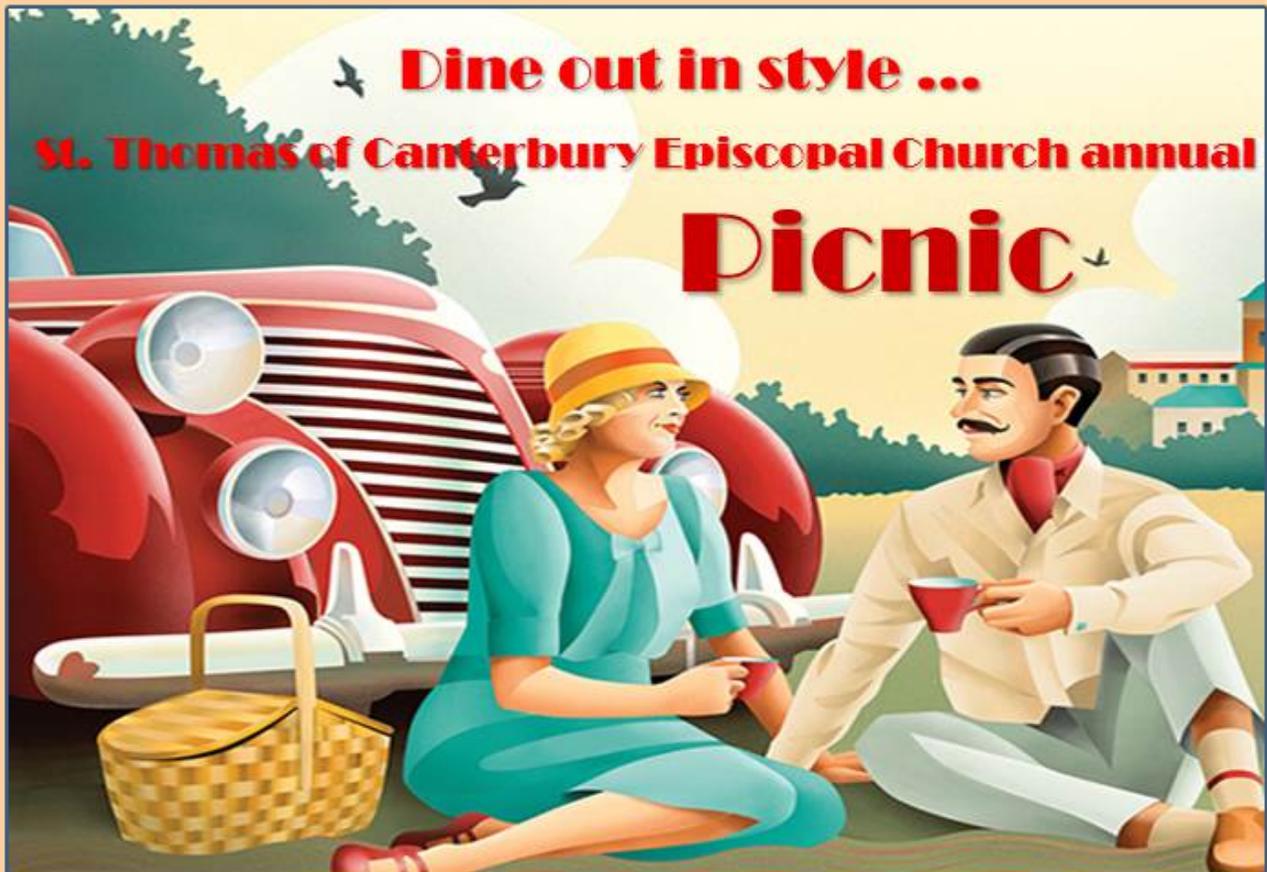
Elected to serve on the Bishop’s Committee, Virginia will oversee the Communications Portfolio for St. Thomas. Our church’s communications include the website, eblasts, Facebook, weekly church bulletins, bulletin boards, and the Canterbury Tales. If you are interested in getting involved with this important, necessary, and interesting work, please let Virginia know.

Fellowship
MOTHER ELEANOR FAREWELL

St. Thomas has been **VERY** fortunate to have had the blessing of Mother Eleanor Ellsworth as our Interim Vicar this past year. She was instrumental in nurturing our congregation and guiding us with her knowledge and empowering love. Enjoy these memories







Dine out in style ...

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church annual

Picnic

Saturday, May 20 11 am-4 pm

St. Francis Courtyard at the rear of the Church

We will be supplying the hot dogs, hamburgers and fixings, along with water and soft drinks.

Please bring a picnic side dish to share, as well as any of your favorite not-so-soft drinks which might enhance your picnic experience.



See you all at the annual church picnic ...

Your perfect cup of tea!



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:00pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Children's
Chapel/Sunday School

Wednesday

7:00pm Evening Prayer