

CANTERBURY TALES

∞ JUNE 2018 ∞

A Special Announcement from Our Vicar, Rev. Tim True

“Call for Catechumens!”

You probably know by now, the bishop is planning a visit on Sunday, September 9. And the reason you probably know this by now is because I have announced it a few times, perhaps even intoning some excitement in my voice and maybe even flapping my copious vestment sleeves up and down and back and forth and every which way in anticipation. Whenever the bishop visits, it's a good day.



Especially important to me on bishops' visits are confirmations. Confirmations, you see, are beyond my job description: confirmations—and their related sacramental rites like receptions and reaffirmations—are privileges reserved in our theology and practice only for bishops. As a priest I can baptize and celebrate Eucharists; but only the bishop can confirm. Confirmation, then, is kind of a big deal.

We look at it today and might be tempted to think, “Well, why? Jesus commanded us to be baptized and break bread together. Baptism and Eucharist. So, where does Confirmation fit in? Isn't this just a coming of age ceremony, where a child has grown mature enough to declare the Christian faith as her or his own? Maybe the Baptists have it right. Maybe we should just wait until the child becomes of age before baptism. Then there'd be no need for confirmation.”

But—hold the phone! —confirmation is actually a key part of the sacrament of baptism. In the early church the two started out as one.

Baptism and confirmation were part of the same rite. The bishop would visit. For some three years prior, followers of Christ desiring to be baptized would sit through a kind of class. Three years! These students were called catechumens. At the end of the three years, those who passed the class—always capable of articulating their own faith, and thus “of age”—would be both baptized and confirmed by the bishop. The baptism part of the rite was going under the water—dying to one's old life and rising anew in Christ. The confirmation part of the rite was the bishop welcoming the newly baptized into the fold, formally receiving the catechumen into the church.

That's how it was originally done: one sacramental rite that included both baptism and confirmation, effected by the bishop and only the bishop: priests had not been granted authority to baptize in those days. But a couple significant things happened in the early church. One is that it grew extremely quickly and thus made bishop visitations fewer and farther between. The other is that the church began to include children (not to mention the mentally handicapped) in their theological understanding of church members. The outcome of these changes was that bishops decided to delegate their authority to baptize to priests. But not to confirm. Confirmation (and the later developments of reception and reaffirmation) would continue to fall under the authority of the bishop. Straight through to today.

(Continued on Page 2)

So that's why we wait for the bishop's visit to confirm and receive and reaffirm. It's out of a profound respect for the sacrament of baptism (not to mention the Church and, ultimately, Jesus).

Anyway, since the bishop is coming, it's time to determine who among us would like to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed. Baptized, too! Thus, this is a calling for catechumens. And, so you know, our class won't be three years in length, but eight weeks.

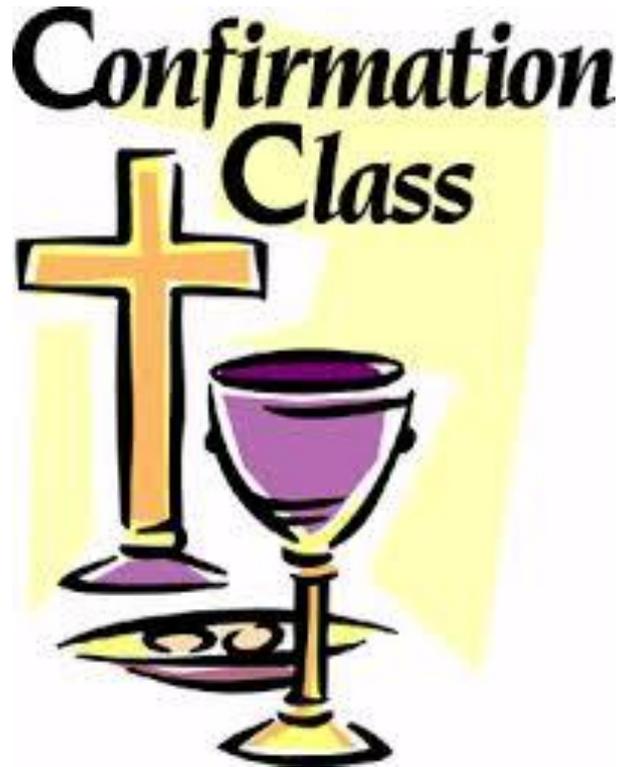
So then, for whom is this class?

- All persons entering seventh grade and older.
- Haven't been baptized yet? Fine! You can be baptized and confirmed at the same time.
- Were you baptized and confirmed in another church but desire to be received into the Episcopal Church? Fine too!
- What if you've been away from the church for a long time and now want to reaffirm your faith? Yes, this class is for you too!
- What if your child is younger than seventh grade? The bishop will baptize when she visits too, but the catechumen class is not necessary; let Father Tim know.

And when will it be?

- Sundays in July and August, beginning July 8.
- 11:30am-1:00pm.
- In the Benedict Conference Room.

Call the office to sign up, or email Father Tim at vicar@temeculaepiscopalchurch.org.



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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

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP--Monday, June 4, Noon-1 PM

Meets in the St. Benedict Conference room. The group this month will discuss *The Coming Race*, by Edward Bulwer-Lytton. The author was a well-known British writer in the 19th century and this is a short, unusual, visionary work. Even if you have not been reading the book, please come and share your views and interests. This informal group meets on the first Monday of the month and is open to anyone interested in lively discussions on diverse subjects. Please call or email Bill Liesman asiabill@aol.com for more info.

BEANIES FOR KIDS—Monday June 4, from 7-9 PM

At Barbara Bundy's home. Contact Barbara at bjbundy@verizon.net

NOYE'S FLUDDE—Friday and Saturday June 8-9 at 7:30 PM

Benjamin Britten's opera performed at All Souls' Episcopal Church conducted by our own Stephen Sturk

MEN OF ST. THOMAS (MoST) – Saturday, June 9 at 8:00 AM

MoST is an informal fellowship that meets each second Saturday of the month at 8:00 am in Julian Hall for a potluck breakfast, brief Bible Study, and sometimes 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!

CHURCH PICNIC—Saturday, June 9 from 11 AM to 3 PM. See page 10

GRADS CELEBRATION SUNDAY—Sunday June 10. See page 7

CREDO— FREE CONCERT WITH ST. PETERSBURG MEN'S ENSEMBLE—Sunday, June 17 at 4 PM. See Page 9

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING—Thursday, June 21 at 6:30 PM

All Congregation members are welcome to non-executive portion of the meeting. In St. Benedict Conference Room.

Welcome Fr. Tom Wilson as our Eucharist Celebrant Sundays June 17 and 24!
Evening Prayer will be conducted at 5 PM on Saturdays June 16 and 23

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



S.T.E.P. registration for summer and the 2018-2019 school year has started! For information please call Darlene Karnes-Versteegh at 951-302-8498. www.steptemecula.org

Last WOW event until fall

WINE TASTING



Saturday May 19, Chantel and Catie Blas hosted an afternoon wine tasting get together for WOW at Curry Vineyards and Winery.

The event was well attended and people brought and shared a tasty array of appetizers while sipping Curry Vineyard's superb wines.

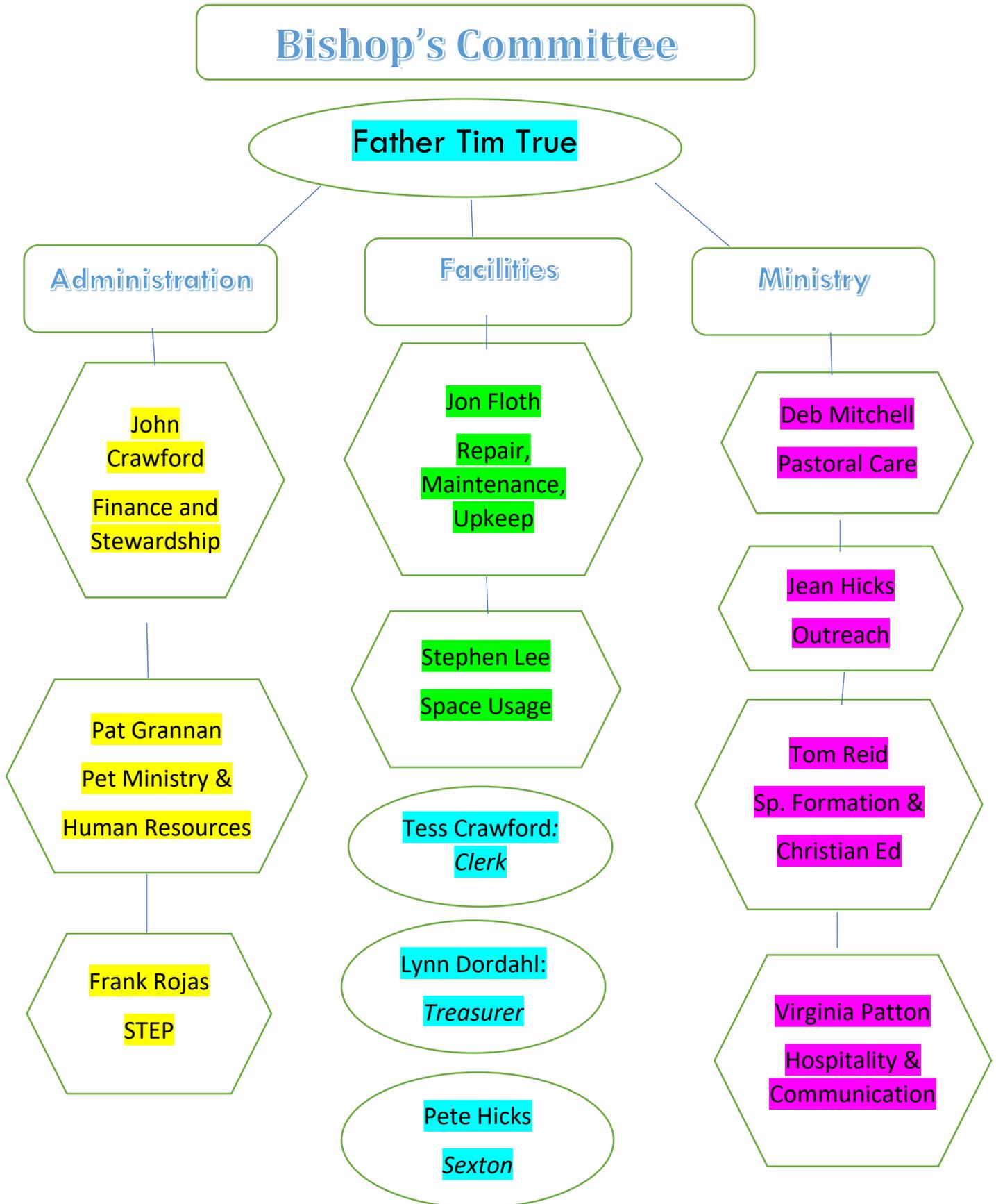
A big thank you to Chantel and Catie for organizing the get together.

Stay tuned for information on WOW's next meeting.



Bishop's Committee: Form and Structure

At the Bishop's Committee Retreat earlier this year, Father Tim led a discussion and discernment of a new approach to the structure of the Bishop's Committee. The result is the formation of three "commissions" and within each commission specific duties apply to all committee members.



Health Update

Environmentally Conscious Skin Protection, and Skin Cancer Awareness

It is that time of the year that we need to be thinking about sun protection. Sunscreens are in the news because it has been found that certain chemicals in them such as oxybenzone and octinoxate are a detriment to coral and the coral reefs surrounding many of our landmass areas. Hawaii has recently banned these agents without a doctor's prescription. According to the Smithsonian Institute, coral reefs are the most diverse of our marine ecosystems and provide 25% of all ocean species with food and shelter. With the addition of climate change disrupting coral reefs with warmer ocean water, we are presented with a true conundrum.

In a recent article in the magazine *Travel and Leisure*, it has been estimated that there are 82,000 different chemicals from personal care products that are making their way into our oceans. This is information determined by the Marine Life conservation organization. Also, approximately 14,000 TONS of sunscreen are ending up in the world's coral reefs every year. These chemicals bind with the coral and destroy it. This does not mean that we should give up using sun protection. There are things that we can do very simply to protect our skin from damaging ultraviolet. First, use a sunscreen that is basically either zinc oxide or titanium dioxide and look on the labels to make sure that it says coral reef safe. Also, the ever-growing availability of sun protective clothing is an obviously good choice. Although some of us are addicted to lying in the sun, it is not the best idea. However,



we must remember that we do need 15 to 20 minutes of ultra violet three times a week for vitamin D conversion. Other than that, there is no such thing as the "healthy tan"! So, when we are at the sea coast, we should use sunscreens without the chemicals that are potential disruptors of the ocean environment and coral. I presume that using these sunscreens elsewhere when we are in the mountains or other areas not associated with oceans, such as outdoor sporting events, outdoor working, hiking, etc., should not be a problem. I will once again emphasize that sun protection is of utmost importance to avoid skin cancer. Look for more on sunscreen chemicals as we gain new information.

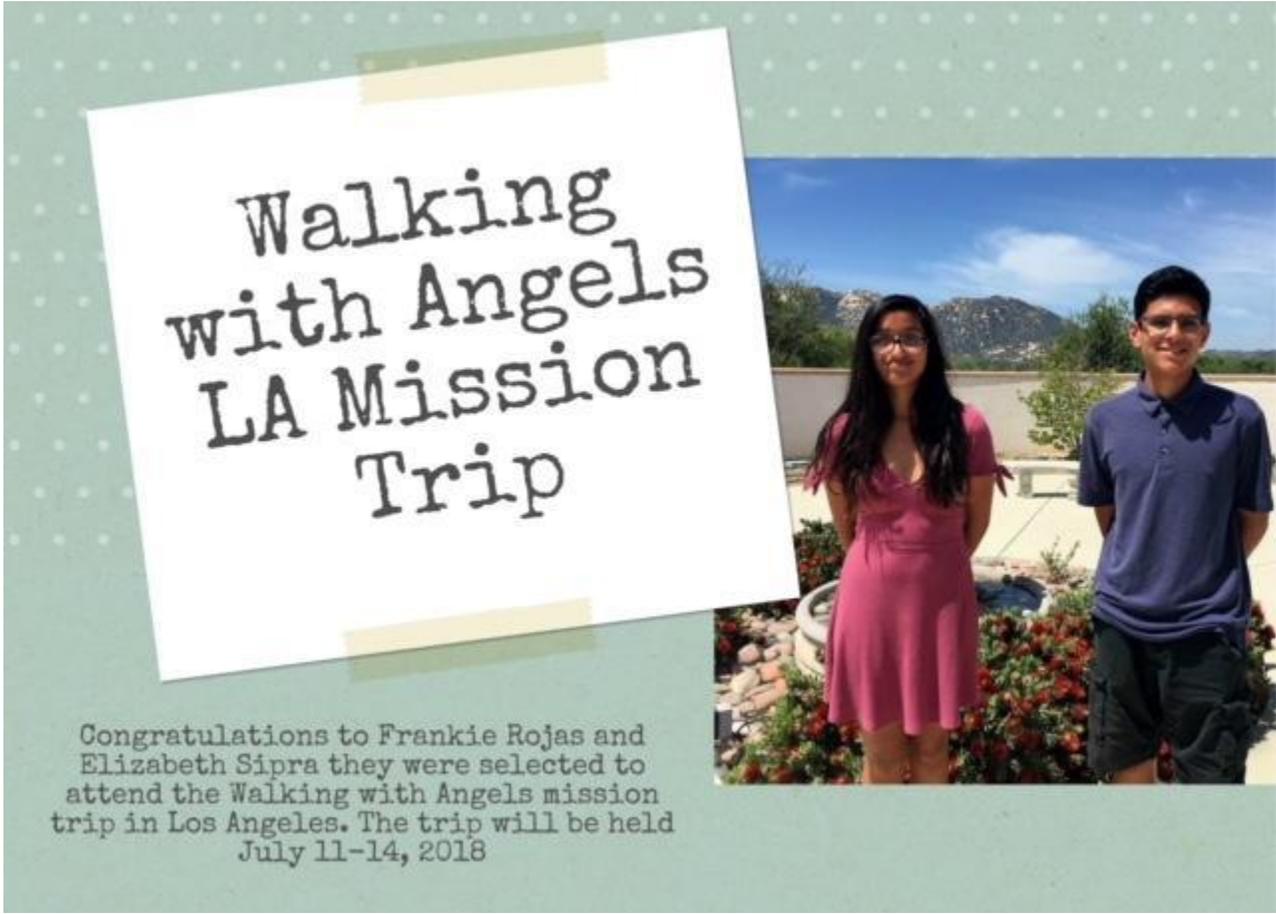
Now, I want to remind everyone once again about the signs of skin cancer. Basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers basically involve shiny or crusty, often red and inflamed, nonhealing lesions that hang around for more than a few weeks. Melanoma, of course, is more serious. Remember for melanoma the ABCDE algorithm includes asymmetry, border change, color change, diameter increase, and evolution of a mole. I have always liked the addition of the "ugly duckling sign" which makes one mole or skin lesion stand out from all the others. This is a very easy thing to notice. We should check our skin monthly to look for anything different and always have a significant other examine our back.

Be aware, be careful, and have a good summer. As always, your friendly (but retired) dermatologist.

Ed



We will be honoring our 2018 Graduates and Promotions on Sunday June 10. If you have or know of High School Grads, Collegiate Grads and promotions from 5th or 8th grade in the congregation, please call the church office by June 4 so that we can honor their accomplishments at the service.



Update from Deb Mitchell

St. Thomas' Stephen Ministry Training

Our four Stephen Minister trainees are Lani Jones, Elena Gimpel, Suzie Grindle and Pete Hicks.

Joanne and I enjoy the insight, sincerity, spirituality, commitment, love and inspiration they each bring to our class. We asked each of them to share a few thoughts with you.

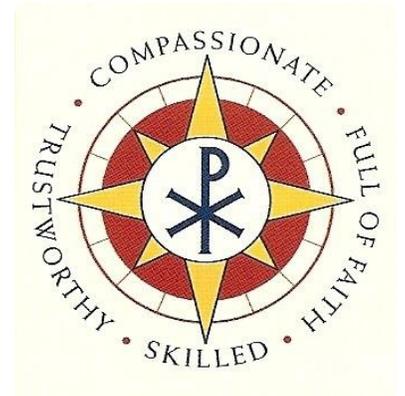


**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Lani: "About twenty years ago I took a grief recovery class. I was hooked on helping people recover from grief /crisis. How does one recover from something most of us will have to endure but have never been taught to heel or get well from. We know prayer is an effective tool for any recovery, especially grief. Even Christ said He 'came to heal the broken-hearted.' Stephen Ministries teaches us how to deal with the crisis situations of others and in doing so I have learned more about myself. The training teaches us how the power of prayer and listening skills can help heal the broken-hearted today. The class is educational, refreshing, and quite gratifying."

Pete: "When I was first asked if I would be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, I did not think too long. I realized it was a calling from God to react. At first, I felt a little nervous, but as I have proceeded in the training, I have been more confident in my calling."

Elena: "I decided to become a Stephen Minister when I first heard Deb talk about it in church as an opportunity for people in church to help others in the congregation. I am learning through our studies more about myself and how to handle situations in a caring manner. I'm learning how to study the Bible and find helpful phrases, how to better pray and pray for/with someone, and I think I am becoming a more caring person."



Suzie: "I have long admired the Stephen Ministry faith-based philosophy. I hope to make it part of my pastoral care for St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church. The impact may be a life changing journey for all or some of us due to the thought-provoking interactions and listening skills we are introduced to. This is enhancing our critical thinking as well as communication abilities."

Spotlight: Music Events

The month of June brings some wonderful music this year!

First, there are two concerts that have already been widely publicized:

1) St. Thomas music director Stephen Sturk will be conducting two performances of Benjamin Britten's children's church opera "Noye's Fludde" (Noah's Flood). This is an extraordinary opportunity to experience an exceptional masterpiece with more than 100 singers, actors and musicians! The two performances will be on **Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9** at 7:30 pm at All Souls' Episcopal Church, Point Loma, (1475 Catalina Blvd., San Diego). The program is offered FREE of charge, but advance tickets are necessary, and can be obtained by calling the church office at (619) 223-6394.



2) The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble (male vocal quartet) from Russia will present a concert of Russian church music, plus a delightful selection of lighter fare from the treasury of Russian folksongs. We are so fortunate that they have included St. Thomas of Canterbury on their annual west coast tour. This concert marks the 9th annual visit of the ensemble to Temecula. If you have not heard them in the past, this concert is a MUST: **Sunday, June 17** at 4 pm in our Sanctuary.



In our Sunday 10:15 am worship during the months of June and July we will be singing music of the celebrated Canadian composer, Healey Willan (1880-1968). Dr. Willan's service music was made popular by its inclusion in the Episcopal *Hymnal 1940*. Most of this music has been continued in the current *Hymnal 1982*, and we will sing the congregational settings of the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei (Glory be to God S-202, Holy Holy Holy S-114, and O Lamb of God S-158). These Rite I musical settings are from Willan's *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* (Mass of Saint Mary Magdalene),

composed for the Toronto church where Willan worked for nearly 50 years. Our *Book of Common Prayer* specifically permits the use of musical settings of texts previously authorized by the Church. Thus, we will be singing (with Fr. Tim's permission) Rite I music in the context of a Rite II service. During June and July, our choir will also be presenting hymns and anthems composed by Willan—all in observance of the 50th anniversary of Willan's death.



Victuals with the Vicar-Thank You, Reid Family

A big "THANK YOU" to Tom, Susan, Katie and Maggie Reid for hosting the May edition of Victuals with the Vicar. Members of the True, Rojas, Cabral, Baker families and Kathy Foxen made the occasion fun. Watch this space for the next VWTV event!

St. Thomas' SPRING Fling



**Church Picnic
Saturday, June 9
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

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

There will be games for the children and all are welcome.

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.



Reflection Courtyard at the rear of the church

Sign up in the narthex





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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