

CANTERBURY TALES

❧ DECEMBER 2018 ❧

Focusing on Advent's Generosity

The Rev. Timothy True

What is to be our focus during Advent?

The season of Advent is a time of expectation. Like an expectant mother, we turn our attention from our daily routines to the approaching birth of Christ. What will this new life mean for us? As we wait in expectation, we are filled with both hopes and fears.

One of the virtues we see rise to the surface during this time of exciting and a-little-bit-scary expectation—a virtue to which we are called in our new life in Christ—is generosity. God generously gave his Son to the world. Mary accepted God's will for her life, generously magnifying God in her soul and womb. The Wise Men from the East generously gave gifts befitting royalty.

So, as we prepare to give and receive gifts during this season, think about all the various shapes generosity takes on. It wells up in the child who



creates a card for her grandparents out of construction paper and crayons. It flows forth in the smile when one person gives a gift to another. The receiver of the gift himself, too, shows generosity in his genuine joy expressed toward the giver's thoughtfulness and preparation. How else does generosity express itself?

During the four Sundays of Advent this year—December 2, 9, 16, and 23—you are invited to join in a conversation about generosity during our Adult Forum, from 9:15 to 10:00 a. m. in Julian Hall. Living Compass's booklet, *Living Well Through Advent 2018: Practicing Generosity with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*, is our guide. (continued page 2)

Each week looks at a different aspect of practicing generosity. From the booklet’s introduction: “The daily practice for week one is ‘being generous with ourselves,’ week two is ‘being generous with others,’ week three is ‘being generous with God,’ and the daily practice for the fourth week in Advent is ‘receiving the gift of generosity.’”

Please be sure to grab a copy of this resource on the table in the narthex for a suggested donation of two dollars and begin your Advent meditations with our community. And I hope to see you Sunday!

May God richly bless you in your generosity this Advent!



Christmas Eve December 24

5 PM: Christmas Pageant and Eucharist

10:30 PM: Lessons and Carols

11:00 PM: Festive Eucharist

Christmas Day December 25

10:00 AM Eucharist



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT STUDY BETWEEN THE SERVICES: December 2, 9, 16, 23

See Fr. Tim's message and page for details

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP—Monday December 3 Noon-1 PM

Meets in the St. Benedict Conference room. The group is reading *Killing England* by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard, a fresh take on the history of the American Revolution. 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 email Bill Liesman asiabill@aol.com for more info.

SAINT NICHOLAS IS COMING---Wednesday December 5 from 6:30-8:15 PM

See p. 12 for details

MEN OF ST. THOMAS (MoST) – Saturday, December 8 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!

CANTERBURY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Saturday, December 8 from 9-12 AM—Set up for Church Christmas Party; CYG Party December 15 or 16

CHRISTMAS PARTY---Saturday, December 8 from 6-8:30 PM

All family members welcome! Sign up in the Narthex. See p. 10 for details

CHRISTMAS CAROLING—Saturday, December 15

Led by Fr. Tim. See page 13 for details

KNIT W.I.T.S.* (*With Intent To Serve)—Monday December 17 from 7-9 PM

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

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING—Thursday, December 20 at 6:30 PM

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

GREENING OF THE CHURCH---December 23 after the 10:15 AM Eucharist

CHRISTMAS SERVICES—December 24-25

See page 2 for details

WOMEN OF WORTH (WOW)---No meeting in December—Next Meeting January 26

Informal breakfast meeting open to all women of St. Thomas meets each fourth Saturday of the month in Julian Hall.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY (AND THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY):

The Good Book Club is encouraging all Episcopal congregations to read Paul's Letter to the Romans each day during Epiphany (January 7th – March 5th). Martin Luther called Romans, "The chief part of the New Testament, and the very purest gospel." Please plan on participating in the reading of Romans. You can find more information on the Good Book Club at www.goodbookclub.org. Here at St. Thomas, we will also have a weekly guided discussion group starting Sunday, January 13th between the two services.

Thankful for our Church and School **INGATHERING 2018**



Sunday, Nov. 18, members of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church and School observed our 2019 annual Pledge Campaign Ingathering where we presented our pledges to God for the upcoming year. Father Tim received the pledges at the altar and blessed our giving. After the service, the celebration continued with a delicious potluck luncheon in Julian Hall.





A big thank you to everyone who worked hard at making the pledge campaign a success: John and Tess Crawford, Frank and Lisa Simpson, Steve and Michelle Lee, Ed and Kay Rather, Doria Lore, Brian Hopley, Virginia Patton, Rick Barclay, Bill Liesman, and the Women of Worth (WOW).

And last, a special gratitude goes out to our members at St. Thomas for making it what we are today. It's not too late for anyone still wanting to make a pledge and while they will be gladly accepted at any time, it is particularly important for budgeting purposes that pledges are received within this year.

St. Thomas Family
CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to our Junior Warden, Jon Floth on receiving the Bishop's Servant Ministry Award from St. Thomas. Jon was presented with the award at the recent Diocesan Convention.



SWEETHEART CAR SHOW

Sat. Feb. 16 2019

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**



Health Update

Important Year End Notes from Dr. Rather

This month, let us end the year with a few thoughts concerning various medical problems.

Recent data shows that a little over 30% of parents are not going to get flu vaccinations for their children. I personally do not think that is a very good idea! And, I hope you are getting the flu vaccine yourself.

We are seeing an influx of cases of measles, chickenpox, and mumps in children that have not been vaccinated around the country. Each one of these illnesses can have debilitating consequences, some of which are lethal.

Speaking of vaccines, there have been very successful early stage trials with vaccination for the Zika virus. It is a two-dose vaccine given approximately one month apart. No serious side effects have been noted thus far.

Those of us who are of Medicare age must continue to review our Medicare options for parts A and B plus part D and supplements. Andrea Liesman gave us good information last month concerning this at the end of the medical article.

A recent study at the University of Delaware amongst 1800 older adults with the knee arthritis proved rather conclusively that a brisk walk of no more than five minutes daily decreased arthritic pain significantly. This cannot be a stroll!

With some of us traveling long distances over the holidays, be aware of moving around, doing knee and foot exercises, and even getting up to walk around when flying or stopping the car to get out and walk at a rest area! This simple procedure can help us avoid developing a deep vein thrombosis in our legs.

And, one cute note of history concerns President Reagan when he was going into surgery after the attempted assassination in 1981. He told the surgeon that he hoped that everyone in the operating room were Republicans! Everyone laughed, and ironically, he did not know that his surgeon was a liberal Democrat! A great story... probably true!

Merry Christmas to everyone and have a great holiday season.

Your friendly, but retired, dermatologist.

Ed

Thankful for My Church & School

Some more comments from the "leaves" left on the "tree" for Ingathering Sunday:

"I am thankful for the support and unconditional love from my family and friends."

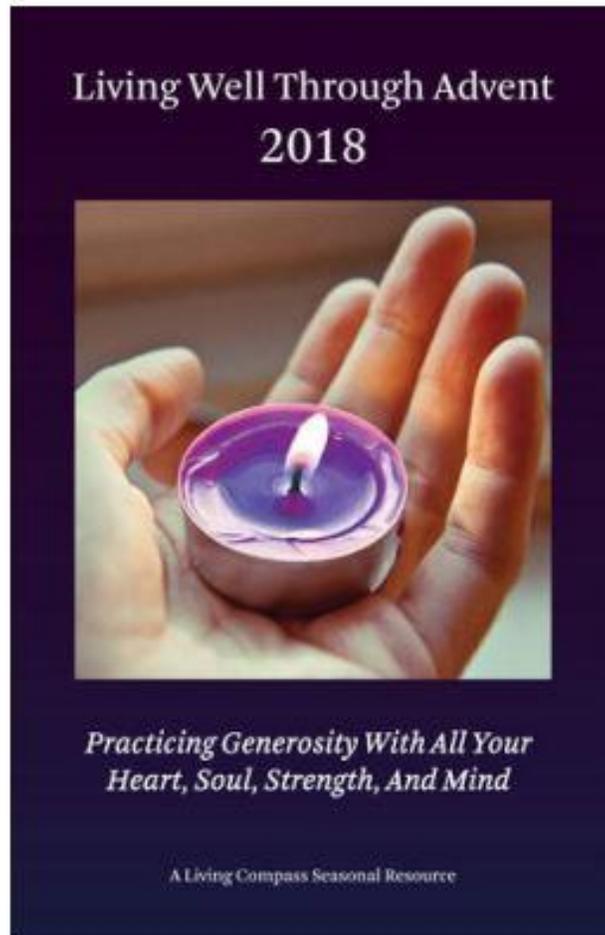
"I am grateful for escaping the madness and drama of the world for a bit...to focus on God."

"I am thankful for my school because I like the food for snacks."

"I am thankful that love will always overcome hate, anger, and divisiveness."

Advent Study

Please make plans to join us for an Advent Study during the four Sundays of Advent. This year we will be studying the booklet *Living Well Through Advent*. The sessions will be at 9:15 AM, between the two Sunday Morning Services, beginning December 2nd.



Living Well Through Advent 2018

Practicing Generosity With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

Designed for use as an individual reflection or for group study, this guide provides a foundation for seeking a deeper experience of Advent, an experience that will help prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas.

Books will be available in the next few weeks.

Advent



Advent Outreach Program: A Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of opening doors to receive a gift of candy on an Advent calendar, what if we used this season of waiting and preparation to give a gift to help those in need? The idea is simple: you will be provided with a bag and a list. Each day of Advent, starting on Sunday, December 2, add one item from the list to the bag. You could choose to add the same item every day, put in one of each item on the list, or mix it up however you wish. The items collected will go to [Project T.O.U.C.H.](#), an organization which is working to overcome homelessness in the Temecula Valley and establish effective methods of homeless prevention. Bring your bag back to church with you at Christmas or any time during the Twelve Days of Christmas. Volunteers from W.O.W. will take our Advent offerings to Project T.O.U.C.H. to be distributed.



All Family Members Welcome! See Sign Ups in the Narthex

Dinners All Around Productions Presents...

Starry Starry Night at St. Thomas!



Saturday, Dec. 8 6 to 8:30 pm

Join us under the stars for St. Thomas' Christmas Party at the church following the Saturday night service.

Enjoy a delicious dinner with turkey and ham and sign up to bring other festive dishes. There will also be a silent auction and raffle.

Enjoy good food, great company and fun for all!

Sign up in the Narthex

“Ministry of the Month” for December

[Editor’s note: The Bishop’s Committee has introduced the Ministry of the Month concept. Each month, on the second Sunday, a ministry will be featured following the 8:00 am and 10:15 services with a display and members to provide information on their ministry. This will not only let you know about the various ministries provided here at St. Thomas but also to let you know that your time and talents are always welcomed. The Ministry of the Month, to be featured on Sunday, December 9th, is Stephen Ministry.]



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What is Stephen Ministry?

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, NRSV). Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Speak with our Stephen Leaders, Deb Mitchell and Jo Ann Dreyfus, about becoming Stephen Ministers and supporting the ministry on December 9th after the Sunday services.



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (DOK)

The DOK is an order for women who undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ’s Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. As a part of their monthly business meetings, they not only conduct business and plan, but study for their own spiritual development as well. The order is open to all women in the Episcopal Church who feel a calling to a deeper spiritual life of prayer, service, and evangelism.

Our St. Thomas Chapter would love to have new members. The meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Benedict Conference room. If you are interested in the order, please see any Daughter of the King: Pam Bowen, President of the St. Thomas Chapter, Jenn Cole, Irene Eisenhut, Sonya Jump, Jackie Klippert, Kay Rather, and Mary Lou Thomas (you will know them by the silver cross they wear).



Saint Nicholas is coming to St. Thomas!

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
6:30 P.M. - 8:15 P.M.

Family service and potluck with picture taking opportunities with St. Nicholas. Find the kids' slippers so they can leave their shoes at the altar rail after the service to be filled with treats during the potluck. Kids of ALL ages are welcome to attend and leave their shoes. Grandkids, neighbors with kids, nieces, nephews, the young at heart, bring them all with you.

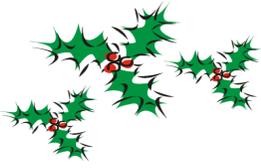
Come be a part of the fun!

The signup sheet for the potluck is available in the narthex.

Wedding Announcement



On Friday, November 16, Fr. Tim True officiated at the wedding of Helen Marx and Tricia Ortega at Saint Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church. Their children, Johanna and Isabelle, participated in the ceremony. Along with their dogs, Princess and Jack, friends, family, and members of the church community attended this festive occasion. The smell of delicious grilled meats and the sounds of a live band greeted Mrs. and Mrs. Ortega as they entered the joyous reception that was held on the large patio at the church. Canopies provided shade for the diners, caterers, and band. After dancing, lots of laughter, and many photographs, the happy couple left for their honeymoon in Ixtapa, Mexico.



**GREENING OF THE CHURCH
DECEMBER 23, 2018**



The last Sunday of Advent falls this year on December 23rd.
Please join us on that Sunday after the 10:15 AM Eucharist to
decorate the church for the Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING



Envelopes are available in the Narthex and in your pledge envelope packet (dated December 9) if you wish to make an offering for a Christmas poinsettia in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one. Please include the information on whom you wish to remember and place the envelope in the collection plate. Suggested donation is \$15. All flower requests received by Sunday, December 16th will be included in the Christmas service bulletins.

**Christmas
CAROLING**

Christmas Caroling - Saturday, December 15th at Atria Park of Vintage Hills.
(This is an Assisted Living facility). Meet at the Parking Lot of Atria Park at
10:15 a.m., 41780 Butterfield Stage Road Temecula, CA 92592. Father Tim
will be leading the singing and songbooks will be provided.



December 2018 Newsletter

From the desk of our Preschool Director, Darlene Karnes-Versteegh

Dear Parents,

In Chapel this month the children will hear the stories of Mary and the Angel, the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus.

Tuesday December 18th are classroom **Christmas parties and a book exchange**. Please have your child bring 2 books. One wrapped book will be for the gift exchange and one will be a donation to the school. Please write "donated by" on the inside cover so that when we read the book we can thank the child who donated it to us. There will be a sign-up sheet for classroom Christmas parties. At the end of our classroom fun, the children will gather in the hall to have a visit with St. Nicholas. He will have a special treat for every child who comes to talk with him. Parents are invited to this event; however, it is not necessary to attend.

All children are invited to this fun morning. If it is not your child's regular day, you may bring them and stay for the activity time –9:30 am-12pm at no charge. You may also sign up for an extra half day or full day. Please let me know in advance. Thanks!

December 20th is our **Christmas program** from 10am-12 noon. All children and their parents are invited to this special morning. You may dress your child in Christmas or party clothes. If your child will be at school after this fun event, you may bring extra clothes for your child to change into after the program. There will be a reception in the hall after the program. Please bring a finger food to share. Bring your cameras!

Parent Reminders—**Teacher in-service** 12/21- school closed

Christmas Vacation 12/24-1/1/2018

Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 21st, 2018—**Preschool Closed**

Blessings, Joy, and Merry Christmas!



Some of our wonderful preschool students participating in STEP's Thanksgiving Celebration event in November



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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