SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00 am Eucharist with hymns

9:00 am Fellowship

9:15 am Education for Adults,

Youth, and Children

10:30 am Choral Eucharist

11:45 am Fellowship

MONDAY AND SATURDAY

9:00 am Centering Prayer, Chapel

MUSIC REHEARSALS

CHORISTERS

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 pm

SCHOLA CANTORUM

Tuesdays, 5:45-7:00 pm

ST. THOMAS CHOIR

Thursdays, 7:15 pm Sundays, 9:30 am

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2 - 4

High School Retreat, "Spirituality and Snow"

FEBRURARY 10

6:30 pm, Love @ St. Thomas, Great Hall

FEBRUARY 13

6:30 pm, Fat Tuesday Feast, Great Hall

FEBRUARY 14

Ash Wednesday Services: 7:30 am, *Chapel*; 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm, *Church*

FEBRUARY 17

9:00 am, "Where There's a Will There's a Way, *Trinity Parish*

FEBRUARY 18

11:30 am, All Things Bright & Beautiful Update Preview Meeting, *Church*

6:00 pm, High School Youth Group, *Hayes Youth Center*

FEBRUARY 19

Presidents' Day, Office Closed

FEBRUARY 22

Staff Retreat, Office Closed

FEBRUARY 25

12:00 pm, All-Parish Annual Meeting, *Great Hall*

5:00 pm, Middle School Youth Group, *Hayes Youth Center*

COLLECT

February 2018

St. Thomas Episcopal Church • P. O. Box 124 • Medina, WA 98039 425.454.9541 • www.stthomasmedina.org

FROM THE RECTOR

By The Rev. Lex Breckinridge

Dear St. Thomas Family:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

After eight years of ministry together, the time has come for me to take a sabbatical. God willing, I intend to continue as rector of St. Thomas until my retirement, which is still quite a few years off. My work here at St. Thomas brings me so much joy and satisfaction, and I believe a period of renewal and refreshment will reinvigorate my ministry and energize the way forward.

With the support of the vestry, I have applied for and been awarded a grant by the Eli Lilly Foundation's Clergy Support Program to fund my sabbatical plans. The program "allows congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from ministerial duties and responsibilities for reflection and renewal. Pastors use the respite ... to engage in renewal experiences that often include travel, scholarly research and immersive experiences with different cultures and traditions."

In the spirit of the Lilly program, Zonnie and I will embark on our sabbatical journey mid-April. We will spend part of the time hiking the Amalfi Coast in Italy and travelling through Umbria. We will then head to Portugal, where we will walk the ancient Camino de Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route. We will walk along the Atlantic Coast of Portugal to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, spending time afterwards in the Spanish countryside. We will then enjoy the month of July in a cottage on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia. Our sabbatical will conclude with our children and grandchildren joining us in Leavenworth for hiking, tubing, and general tomfoolery. We will return home on August 15.

During my time away, St. Thomas will be served by Fr. Steve Best and our very capable staff and lay leadership. I am also pleased to report that The Rev. Canon Joan Anthony, former Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Olympia, will serve as our Interim Senior Priest Associate. Many of you already know Joan, a highly experienced priest, wonderful preacher, loving pastor, and good friend. Joan is eager to join the St. Thomas community in this role, and I will send more information about her in another note.

Since I joined St. Thomas in 2009, we have accomplished a great deal together. Our achievements include the adoption and implementation of a forward-looking strategic plan, two successful capital stewardship campaigns, growing staff to

[continued on page 2]

FEBRUARY 2018

FROM THE RECTOR

[continued from page 1]

support the work we are called to do, thriving programs for children and youth, a superb music program, and continuing and deepening connections to those on the Eastside experiencing homelessness. And there is much more ahead that we can and will do.

As Paul observed to the Church in Rome, renewal of mind, body, and spirit leads to transformation. I am eager to embrace such change not only for Zonnie and me but also for our entire community. The rector's absence can and should be a time of renewal for the whole parish. How will we be transformed as we live into the next chapter here? What does the Holy Spirit have to teach us during these months? Plenty, I am quite sure, and I will say more about this in the weeks to come. For now, suffice it to say that a tremendous opportunity lies before us, for every member of this blessed community.

Faithfully,

Let

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

FEBRUARY 19 (PRESIDENTS' DAY) & FEBRUARY 22 (ANNUAL STAFF RETREAT)

ALL THINGS BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

UPDATE & SCOPE PREVIEW MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The Vestry, along with the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, St. Thomas Legacy Foundation, and the Finance and Facilities Committees, have been hard at work discerning the final scope of the capital repairs and improvements, outreach tithe and endowment funding. In addition, these groups have worked to develop a process to gather parishioner input to guide the final design for the repairs and improvements.

On **Sunday, February 18** following the 10:30 am service, you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and come back to the church to hear a preview of the project scope and design review process. Please plan to be part of this important next step as we prepare to make "All Things Bright & Beautiful."



Come to the Ebsworth Life Center for an evening of Love-themed open mic performances!

Saturday, February 10 from 6:30 pm to close. Coffee and dessert served.

Singing, instrumentals, poetry, spoken word, comedy, soliloquy, karaoke, and more! Email office@stthomasmedina.org to let us know what you want to sing/play/ say or just sign-up for the line-up when you arrive for the show!

WELCOME OUR ASSOCIATE INTERIM PRIEST

THE REV. CANON JOAN ANTHONY

We are continuing our nationwide search to fill the Senior Associate Priest position. This position is a most desirable one, and we are being highly selective! While we await the call of just the right person, and as I prepare to go on sabbatical, we need clergy support. So I'm pleased to advise that The Rev. Canon Joan Anthony, former Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Olympia (i.e., the Bishop's right hand staff person) who has most recently served as Interim Priest -in-Charge at Grace, Bainbridge Island, will be joining us in April as Interim Associate while I am on sabbatical. Joan is a wonderful preacher, a skilled pastor, an experienced administrator, and a valued colleague and friend.

Here's Joan's Introductory Hello to us:

To the People of St. Thomas,

I am looking forward to being with you all beginning in April 2018 while your Rector Lex Breckinridge is on a well-deserved sabbatical. Let me tell you a bit about myself.

I was raised in the Episcopal Church, baptized and confirmed at St. Alban, Edmonds, and a worshiper at St. Timothy, (now Holy Cross), St. Luke Sequim and St. John Kirkland. While at St. John I served on the Vestry, was both Junior and Senior Warden and the Treasurer of the newly established Moss Bay Preschool. I also taught 3rd grade Christian Education which was an adventure.





When I finished college, (Washington State University) I entered the management training program of what was then Peoples National Bank. Over the next 16 years I was in the Audit division, an Operations officer, Assistant Manager and finally Commercial Lending Officer with the Business Banking Division. I also spent 2 years as a part time accountant with a public relations firm in Bellevue. During that time I attended Seattle University where I eventually earned a Masters Degree in Pastoral Ministry.

While at Seattle University, I entered the discernment process for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese. When that process affirmed my call to ordained ministry, I went to Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston Ill., earning a Masters in Divinity.

On returning to the Diocese, I served as the assistant priest at St. John's Olympia, as an associate at St. Francisin-the-Valley, Green Valley, Arizona and then returning to Lacey as the Vicar of St. Benedict. I then moved to the Diocesan offices, first as the Canon for Congregational Ministry in charge of Total Common Ministry programs and then as Canon to the Ordinary when Bishop Rickel came to Seattle.

In 2003 I married the Rev. Robert Bethea, who was a retired priest. We lived aboard a 42' Hans Christian sailboat at the Winslow Wharf. Bob had Parkinson's disease and when the sailboat was no longer an option we moved to Port Ludlow and took up golf and fly fishing. I'm not very good at either of these but do enjoy both sports.

I retired as Canon to the Ordinary in 2014 to be able to spend time with Bob. We continued to fish in Montana and had a driving trip to Florida and many points in between. Bob died in 2015 and in 2016 I came back to full time employment as the priest in charge at Grace Bainbridge. That assignment is about to end and I am going to re-retire as of March 1. I am planning two trips, the first to California hiking in Death Valley. It will be the first long trip in my newly purchased travel trailer. When I return in March I am going to go on a cruise through the Panama Canal.

I have a ten year old Jack Russell terrier, Dolly, who is looking forward to meeting you all as well. She needs lots of exercise which is a good thing for me. While I am at St. Thomas, I am going to move the travel trailer to my brother's home and eliminate the commute from Port Ludlow. It will give me time to do some hiking and playing in the Seattle area.

Coming to St. Thomas is an opportunity to do the priestly things I love to do. I'm looking forward to celebrating, preaching, teaching and engaging with folks. I've already met your wonderful staff and am excited to be a part of the team for awhile. I am grateful for the opportunity to be with you all and get better acquainted. See you in April.

EVENTS @ ST. THOMAS



The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Parish & St. Thomas Legacy Foundation will be held after the 10:30 am service on **Sunday, February 25**. In addition to electing the 2018 Vestry class and Diocesan Convention Delegates, we will look back at the activities 2017, review the finances of the parish and Foundation and review the scope of improvements for "All Things Bright & Beautiful Campaign." Lunch will be served. Please come and be part of this important look at the life of our parish.



It's time for our annual Fat Tuesday Feast! Party goers of all ages will enjoy a pancake bar, sausages, King cakes, games, music, face painting, crafts, and more!

RSVP via our website: www.stthomasmedina.org

KNITTING GUILD

Calling all lovers of yarn! Bring your projects and ideas and join us for a meeting of the St. Thomas Knitting Guild. Our first February meeting is February 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Vesta Loyd Parlor. All skill levels are welcome! Questions? Please email Gretchen Dalquist at gretchen.dalquist@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH & HOLY WEEK EVENTS

March 1	Five Thursdays on the Road to Calvary Luncheon Series Begins
March 18	Evensong at 5:00 pm
HOLY WEEK	
March 25	Palm Sunday, Services at 8:00 am & 10:30 am
March 26	Service of Reconciliation 6:00 pm Confessions & Music
	7:00 pm Service
March 27	Holy Week Service for Middle & High School Youth (time TBD)
March 28	Screening of J. S. Bach's St. John Passion at 6:00 pm
March 29	Maundy Thursday at 6:00 pm
March 30	Good Friday Services at 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm
March 31	Easter Vigil at 7:30 pm
April 1	Easter Sunday, Services at 8:00 am & 10:30 am

FORMATION

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Christ calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. As you look at your St. Thomas family surrounding you during worship this morning, do you notice anyone missing? You are invited to "be the church" by contacting your fellow parishioners and offering them an encouraging word, a listening ear or a helping hand. If you discover needs that are best served by a member of the clergy (pastoral visitor) or the larger congregation (parish visitor, meal or transportation) please contact Sunni Bannon, Interim Associate for Youth and Pastoral Care at sunni@stthomasmedina.org.



YOUTH GROUP DATES

FEBRUARY

February 2

High School Retreat 2018 "Spirituality and Snow"

February 4 -

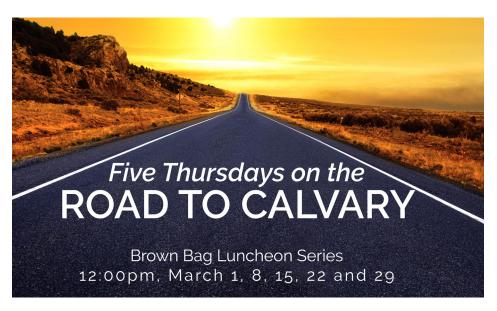
Youth Group Super Bowl Party, Hayes Youth Center

February 18

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm High School Youth Group

February 25

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Middle School Youth Group



That Friday afternoon on the road to Calvary was at once the worst and the best moment in human history. How can this be? Join us for five Thursdays during Lent when Father Lex will offer a series of teachings that will illuminate both the biblical story of the Road to Calvary and the spiritual road that leads to our own Calvary experiences, a road filled with the possibility of blessing and healing and growth.

Join Father Lex at 12:00pm in the Great Hall on any or each Thursday in the month of March (March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29), for these brown-bag luncheons that will include teaching, fellowship and good conversation.

HEALING PRAYER SERVICES

Each Thursday in Lent, Fathers Lex or Steve will lead Healing Prayer services in the Chapel at 11:30 am. Any and all who wish to share in the restorative powers of prayer are invited to attend these services which honor the sacred season of Lent.

CONFIRMATION

A confirmation class for high school students will begin on **Sunday, February 4** and culminate with the opportunity to be confirmed by Bishop Greg Rickel at Cathedral Day on **April 28, 2018.** Confirmation classes will be held weekly during the Formation Hour each Sunday from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. To receive more information, students/parents should send an email to Ashley Boaeuf at ashley@stthomasmedina.org with the name and grade of the potential confirmand.

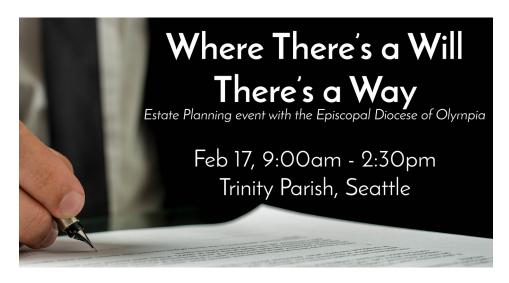
ST. THOMAS HIGHLIGHTS

LOTS OF FUN AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT By Sunni Bannon



singing, playing, dancing, and good food

In January, sixteen middle school students and three adult mentors from St. Thomas Church joined youth and mentors from seven local Episcopal churches for the 2018 Middle School Retreat at Miracle Ranch in Port Orchard. The weekend was filled with singing, playing games, dancing and good food as well as discussions about the difference between having a good life and living a good life. A highlight of the weekend was the chance for each attendee to participate in an adventure activity: rope swing, paintball or horseback riding. St. Thomas is fortunate to have a great group of middle school students involved in our church and youth programs. It was lots of fun for so many of us to spend time together at the retreat. If you will be in Middle School next year you should definitely plan on attending the 2019 retreat! Huge thanks to Fred McConkey and Eric Schwager who attended the weekend as youth mentors and to Margaret Chorlton and Anne Bentley who helped with driving.



Sponsored by the Joint Life
Planning Ministries of Saint
Mark's Cathedral, Cathedral
Foundation of the Diocese of
Olympia and Office of Stewardship
and Development

What is your hope for your legacy?

Explore this question with us! Bishop Greg Rickel and Dean Steve Thomason will talk about transformative gifts and the importance of planning ahead. Workshop will feature a panel discussion on wills, followed by table talks with clergy, estate planning attorneys, and financial consultants. Good advice, great resources, time for Q&A.

Date: **Saturday, February 17**. Check in at 9:00 am, program starts at 9:30 am and ends at 2:30 pm.

LOCATION: Trinity Parish, 609 8th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Cost: \$20, includes lunch and several resources.

Registration deadline is Feb. 8, 2018.

Register online: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/where-theres-a-will-theres-a-way-registration-39881443471





WOMEN'S RETREAT

By Mary Waldmann

spiritual growth, good times, friendships, lasting peace, and joy...

On the weekend of Jan 19th-21st, sixteen women of St. Thomas traveled to the St. Andrew's Retreat house on Hood Canal. We came in search of enlightenment, wisdom, grace and sisterhood, as well as—of course—fun. We found all in abundance.

As we arrived at the beautiful timbered lodge, we were greeted with coffee, tea and fresh cookies. Our beds were spread with cozy, hand-made quilts and homey touches abounded throughout the St. Andrew's space. Nestled among the trees, we looked out upon the sight of beautiful mountains rising above Hood Canal.

After dinner, the first of six amazing meals, Mother Elizabeth Appling led us on the first of our explorations of the feminine divine, the special blessings femininity brings on our spiritual journeys, as well as the role of women in scripture and the early church.





Weaving together scripture, psychology, anthropology and language, she shared her wisdom and knowledge as she led us through learning, discussion, personal and group discovery.

Saturday, we continued our journey of learning and faith, with more presentations, discussions in small and large groups, plus plenty of quiet time for walks, reading, meditation and art. We also joined together in fun times at the conclusion of our evening programs, enjoying wine and single malts and sharing of our personal stories in front of the fireplace or around Saturday's outdoor fire. Throughout the weekend our friendships grew and we each found new ways of thinking about ourselves and our individual faith journeys.

The weekend culminated in our Sunday morning Eucharist. We decorated our sacred space, chose readings and music, wrote the Collect and the prayers of the faithful, as well as our creed. Mother Elizabeth and Deaconess Karen Eaton offered guidance as we crafted a service with deep personal meaning for us. The liturgy was at once a summary of our weekend experience and a moving celebration of God's love for us and our love for each other.

After fellowship over one last meal, we said our good-byes and received one final blessing: the sun broke through the clouds and a beautiful and vivid rainbow appeared against the mountains. We could feel our Mother-Father God smiling on us and guiding us on our way. It was a weekend filled with spiritual growth, good times, newfound and strengthened friendships, and a lasting peace and joy we carried home with us. Our feelings can be summed up in "Thanks be to God!"



MUSIC @ST. THOMAS

MUSIC NOTES

By Doug Cleveland, Director of Music & Liturgical Arts

I'm delighted to announce some highlights of our 2017-2018 season. Please come and enjoy these upcoming Sunday events. - Nounce

March 18 5:00 pm Choral Evensong

April 1 8:00 am & Festal Choral Eucharist for Easter with Brass,

10:30 am Organ, and Choirs

June 3 5:00 pm Choral Evensong



Choral Evensonge ST. THOMAS

a service of music and prayer

Sunday, March 18 5:00pm

www.stthomasmedina.org



YOUTH CHOIRS

St. Thomas Youth Choir rehearsals are on-going!

Chorister rehearsals for the 2017-2018 season are as follows:

- Choristers (beginning/intermediate singers): Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm
- Schola Cantorum (advanced singers): Tuesdays from 5:45 to 7:00 pm

Both groups sing during the 10:30 am service on the second Sunday of each month, with a rehearsal from 10:00 am to noon the preceding Saturday.

We are always excited to welcome new singers! If your child is interested in singing with a youth choir at St. Thomas, please email Tim Blok, tim@stthomasmedina.org for more information.

MEN'S RETREAT RESCHEDULED

The annual Men's Retreat has been rescheduled for **April 6 - 8** at Camp Casey on Whidbey, Island. If you are interested being part of the organization of this retreat we would very much appreciate hearing from you. Please stay tuned for additional information regarding this event and other Men's group activities and gatherings over the next months. May Christ richly bless you and your family, Steve and Lex



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry

Anne Corley, Senior Warden Michael Greenberg, Junior Warden Fred Barkman, Treasurer Andrea Sato-Borgmann, Chancellor Pat Hughes, Clerk

Anne Bentley Mark Nelson
Bill Cahill David Paranchych
Jim Hughes Kathy Smith
Yvonne Lamey Fred Williams
Molly McConkey Stephanie Bentley
Lorraine McReynolds Isabel Williams

Staff

The Right Rev. Greg Rickel, Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia The Rev. Lex Breckinridge, Rector The Rev. Stephen W. Best, Associate for Couples & Family Life Doug Cleveland, Director of Music & Liturgical Arts Tim Blok, Director of Youth Choirs Sunni Bannon, Interim Associate for Pastoral Care Ashley Boaeuf, Associate for Youth Lisalynn Reed, Godly Play Coordinator Kathleen Higgins, Kids' Club Coordinator Maria Pineda and Benigne Ibyishaka Childcare Providers

Connections

Doug Anderson, Day Porter

Greg Murray, Chief Operating Officer

Natalie Ham, Executive Assistant to the

Rector

Carey Sheffield, Director, Community

The Collect

Natalie Ham, Layout and Production Editor

Deadline: For the **March** issue, please submit all articles by **February 16**. Please submit copy to office@stthomasmedina.org or leave in the mailslot marked "Collect" at the church. All articles will be edited. Questions? Please call Natalie at 425-454-9541.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

THE SOPHIA WAY

Please consider joining the team that provides lunch on the 4th Thursday of each month. Minimal time/\$ commitment but maximum impact for the ladies and for your fellow parishioners. For inquiry please call Beth Zobel at 425-503-4036 or email at <code>ewzobel@comcast.net</code>

SOUP-ER BOWL

The Outreach Committee along with the JustFaith group and Middle School Faith Formation class will be having a canned soup drive on **Sunday**, **February 4** (Super Bowl Sunday). Please bring cans of hearty soup (no broths or tomato soup) or canned meals (chili or stew) to the boxes in the ELC on February 4. For inquiry please call Beth Zobel at 425-503-4036 or email at ewzobel@comcast.net

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Once a month, the Neighbors in Need crew gathers in the kitchen to assemble bags filled with donated food, socks, water, and other basic necessities for those in need. For more information and a list of needed supplies, contact Claude Rogers at 425-641-1350 or clauder37@gmail.com

SANDWICH MAKERS

On Wednesday, February 21, all are welcome to join the St. Thomas crew and lend a hand in the kitchen. Every month we make sandwiches for the hungry men at the Compass Center in Seattle. Contact: Nancy Nelson, 425-885-1657 or nancy@jnelson.net



February 2018 @ St. Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR . CALENDAR!

FEBRUARY 13 - Fat Tuesday Feast

FEBRUARY 14 - Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18 - Capital Campaign Preview Meeting

FEBRUARY 25 - Annual All-Parish Meeting

MARCH 25 - Palm Sunday

MARCH 26 - Service of Reconciliation

March 27 - Youth Holy Week service

MARCH 28 - Screening of Bach's St. John Passion

March 29 - Maundy Thursday

March 30 - Good Friday

MARCH 31 - Easter Vigil

APRIL 1 - Easter Sunday

May 20 - Pentecost Picnic

JULY 30 - AUGUST 3 - Vacation Bible Camp

AUGUST 19 - Mass on the Grass

SEPTEMBER 9 - Homecoming Fair

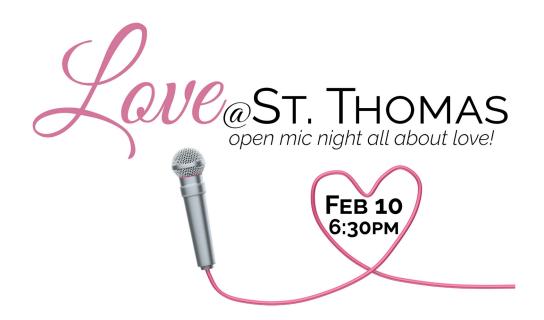
NOVEMBER 18 - Ingathering Feast

DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day

DECEMBER 31 - New Year's Eve Concert & Reception

JANUARY 5 - Fourth Annual Twelfth Night Celebration





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED