

THE CANTERBURY TALES

SEPTEMBER 2022

NOTES FROM MELESA +



Dear ones,

As we continue to say our farewell to summer, and ease back into the rhythms of fall, we are working to rebuild and reimagine the various ministries of St. Thomas of Canterbury. We begin another program year on the wobbly terrain of pandemic. We know we cannot go back to pre-COVID norms, because both we and the world have been changed over the past two and a half years. Still, we have much to give thanks for including the gifts of gathering in person, breaking bread together, singing, and a renewed appreciation for this community.

In September we will be focusing on rebuilding ministries that support our shared Sunday and Wednesday worship as worship is the cornerstone of our life together at St. Thomas. It is through our worship and liturgy that we are fed at the table each week and sent out to love and serve God in our world. This is not the work of the priest, the choir director, or the lay leaders, but rather the work given to the full assembly - to each of us that gather week after week. We make worship happen with and for each other.

On the next page you will find brief descriptions of the various ministries that support our worship. If you are not currently involved in one of these ministries, please prayerfully consider how you might get involved. If you're uncertain what ministry might be a good fit for you, come to church on Sunday, September 18th, to take *the What Liturgical Ministry Best Suits You Quiz!*

Grace and peace,

Melesa+



Liturgical Ministries that Support Our Shared Worship

Altar Guild

Year commitment, scheduled 1-2 times a month

The Altar Guild helps prepare for Eucharist by getting all the “stuff” ready: bread, wine, dishes, table linens, and cleaning up afterwards. Time spent in preparation is its own form of worship.

NEW! Communion Server

Scheduled once every 4-6 weeks

We are looking to bring back communion wine this fall and will be using a station with individual cups for receiving communion wine. Communion servers will pour wine into the individual cups as each person approaches to receive.

Music Ministry

Choir: every week during program year with Thursday night rehearsal;

Instrumental offerings: scheduled with Scott Eakins

Counter

Scheduled once every 6 weeks

After the 10am service counters count all checks and money given at the services. Per our cash handling procedures, the offering plate must be counted by two unrelated people and secured in the safe before you leave.

Coffee Hour Host

Scheduled by you

Sign up in the gathering space or via the link in the weekly eNews to host coffee hour after the 10am service by bringing light refreshments to share.

Lector

Scheduled once every 4-6 weeks

If you have a strong, expressive speaking voice, you can use it to read our scripture lessons. No one cares if you mispronounce something (just say it with confidence)!

NEW! Intercessor

Scheduled once every 4-6 weeks

Lift up the needs and concerns of our parish by leading the Prayers of the People. Our hope is that you will not simply read the intercessions, but take on a posture of prayer.

Usher/Greeter

Scheduled once every 4-6 weeks

Help people feel welcomed and oriented to worship, paying particular attention to visitors or newcomers.

Acolyte

10am Scheduled 1-2 times a month

The acolytes assist with worship duties like: candles, processions, and helping set the table. You also get to learn some Latin.

Building and Grounds Team

Four meetings a year; tasks as assigned and available

Help us care for the space in which we worship. The Building and Grounds Team meets quarterly to review annual tasks that need to be completed as well as new projects to enhance and care for our building.

SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

This is the time of year that some of us start new routines. It might be because the kids are starting school and we have to figure out to get them from point A to point B. Or it might be we have to start a new routine, as we no longer have kids in the house and are like “now what?” In our home, Maggie has returned to college, so we are back to being empty nesters. We are navigating simple chores, like who unloads the dishwasher and who brings in the mail and the garbage now that Maggie is not here? I know these seem so small in the grand scheme of life, but it is part of our day-to-day life. What is your routine? Does it change with the start of school year too?



As I was putting together this article, Queen Elizabeth passed away. Most of the people reading this have known Queen Elizabeth as the only British monarch. I will admit it is a little weird to hear King Charles the 3rd.

What does this have to do with us?

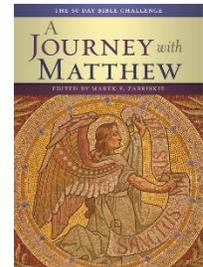
A short history lesson. The Episcopal Church, is part of the Anglican Communion, beginning from the Church of England. This began at the time around Henry the 8th. When Henry asked the then Pope for an annulment for his 1st marriage and the Pope said no, Henry started the church of England with the British Monarch in charge. This was around 1534. There were some changes throughout the years, but around 1558 the Church of England was official, and the 1st book of common prayer was put together. There have been many changes since then, but it all started with the British monarchy.

I encourage everyone to go to: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/who-we-are/history-episcopal-church/>.

Erika

FALL BIBLE STUDY

This Fall you're invited to spend 50 days reading through the Gospel of Matthew with the St. Thomas Community! We will be using the book, *A Journey through Matthew: The 50 Day Bible Challenge*, edited by Marek Zabriskie. We will meet on Thursday evenings at 7pm from September 22 - November 3 in person. If you would like to participate, please email Melesa+.



*Blessing
of the
Animals*

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

This year's Blessing of the Animals will take place on **Sunday, October 9th, at 2pm** near the meditation garden. All pets, their owners, and any animal lovers are invited! If your pet does not play well with others or is unable to travel to the church, please bring a picture of them!

NEWCOMERS BRUNCH

Have you joined the parish within the past year? If so, please plan to join us on **Sunday, October 16th**, following the 10am service for a Newcomer's Brunch. This will be an opportunity to connect with other St. Thomas members, and hear more about our parish. To RSVP, please email Melesa+.

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWS FROM OUTREACH

Giving Update

Month	Recipient	2022
January	Guest House	\$810
February	Milwaukee Rescue Mission	\$1,027
March	Repairers of the Breach	\$877
April	Community Projects for Seniors	\$972
May	The Gathering	\$1,362
June	Franciscan Peacemakers	\$1,052
July	Sojourner Family Peace House	\$1,060
August	Ukrainian family newly relocated from war zone to Oak Creek	\$1,117
September	House of Peace	
October	Street Angels	
November	Penfield Children's Center	
December	Salvation Army	
Jan. 2023	Guest House	

About the August Outreach Collection



Dymtro, Maryna, and 22-month-old Tymoti

Our August Outreach Recipient was a Ukrainian Family who recently relocated to Oak Creek from the war zone.

The war separated them in the beginning but they were reunited in Estonia and then flew to Chicago. A friend was able to find them an apartment in Oak Creek. They are here on a 6-month visa so their future is uncertain but they are grateful for the support the Greendale community has given them.

Back to School Supply Drive Results:

Delivered August 29, to Next Door Foundation

Backpacks – 20
 Pencil Bags and Boxes – 26
 Glue – 126
 Crayons – 944
 Pencils – 909
 Erasers – 238
 Spiral Notebooks – 10
 Folders – 167
 Notebook Paper – 22 packets
 Rulers – 27
 Whiteboards – 2
 Graph paper – 420 sheets

Pens – 279
 Markers – 294
 Dry eras markers – 20
 Dry eras erasers – 2
 Post-it Notes – 20
 Earbuds – 2
 Notecards – 1000
 Highlighters – 151
 3 Ring Binders – 31
 Kleenex – 2
 Calculator – 1
 Locker Shelf – 1
 Book Covers -3

White Out – 10
 Composition Notebooks – 18
 Scissors – 15
 Twistable Markers – 1
 Compass/Protractor Kit – 1
 Accordion Folder – 1
 Mini notebook – 1
 Scotch Tape – 2
 Pencil Sharpeners – 4
 Notepads – 2
 Binder Dividers – 7
 Paperclip set – 1

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH COLLECTION: HOUSE OF PEACE

Our Mission: Inspired by the gospel of Jesus and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Capuchin friars of the Province of Saint Joseph, together with our partners in ministry, prayerfully build sister-brotherhood in the world. We attend simply and directly to spiritual and other basic human needs, especially those of people experiencing poverty and disenfranchisement, promoting justice for all.

Our guests come from all walks of life. Each one of our guests has a story. Those who frequent the House of Peace are often employed, but unable to make ends meet, or are experiencing chronic poverty. When our guests arrive at the House of Peace, they find a place where someone cares and where they can get the little extra help they need.

At St. Ben's Community Meal, many of our guests are experiencing extreme poverty and homelessness. Some of our guests are affected by mental illness and/or a substance use disorder. Hundreds of guests gather each evening to share a meal and companionship with each other. The Meal staff coordinates the sponsor groups and volunteers to provide a nourishing dinner to be enjoyed by all in a friendly and peaceful setting.

LOOKING FORWARD

October Outreach Collection: **Street Angels** [Street Angels](#)

Street Angels Inc. is a mobile outreach program that assists our neighbors without homes in Milwaukee County. Our supporters, small staff and volunteers make it possible for our team to travel throughout the county three nights per week, 156-nights per year, via two outreach buses providing hot meals, bag lunches, drinking water, hygiene items, clothing, blankets, tents, and HOPE to those who are experiencing street homelessness. We are often first responders to a homeless crisis.

Socktober Returns!



Soctober is returning this year starting on:
Sunday, October 1st - 30th
More information to follow!

Peanut Butter and Jelly Club

Monday, October 10 at 4:00 we will meet at church to start the Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich assembly line. We will stay until we are done but please if you can only help for a little while you are welcome and appreciated. Please join us, the more hands the quicker we will finish.

Canterbury Crafters

The knitting needles and crochet hooks continue to fly and create lap robes for hospice. Barb Miller would like me to remind everyone to please start creating winter mittens, scarves, and hats. Even in August, people who are homeless and sleeping near Lake Michigan start to feel the cold. Please place your creations in the collection box in the cloakroom and outreach will see they are blessed and delivered promptly. **Two more bags of lap robes were donated to Hospice in August and a bag of scarves and hats were given to Deacon Kevin Stewart to distribute through Collars on the Corners and other people in need.**

Ongoing parish supports for the Milwaukee Community

Gently used paperback and hardcover books and magazines to be distributed at the prison and jail. There is a bookcase in the gathering area where you can drop them off. This collection will continue, watch for signs for an ongoing total of books delivered. New location in the library next to the gathering space.

1370 paperback books | 423 magazines | 178 hardcover books

As of August 2022

Gathering Request: Because food is given to guests at the door (take-away) clean used plastic grocery bags are needed. If you would like to reduce your stash please drop off at church on Sundays or during Office Hours 9:00 - 1:00 Monday - Thursday. There is a box in the cloakroom to leave your bag of bags.

Food Box: Some parish members have been bringing food to donate on a regular basis. We now have a box in the cloakroom where you can drop off these items. We take the food to the House of Peace Food Pantry. **Latest delivery August 31.**

Volunteer Opportunities

The Gathering opportunities to serve:

[Volunteer Sign-Up — Gathering of Southeast Wisconsin](#)

House of Peace and St. Ben's Meal Program and other needs, opportunities to serve:

[Volunteer | Capuchin Community Services](#)

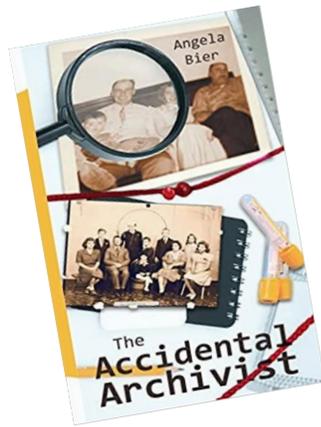
New number for help: Call 988

A new 24-hour phone number that people in the United States can call to talk to a trained counselor about issues like: **DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, OR THE URGE TO HARM THEMSELVES.** It's like 911 but for mental health emergencies.

John & Linda Cram



PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



St. Thomas's own, Angie Bier, will discuss her new book, *The Accidental Archivist*, at the Franklin Public Library on **Monday, October 10th at 6:30 PM**. No registration is required.

Long time parishioner Gail Passler's husband Phil, passed away unexpectedly. A Memorial will be held on **Saturday, September 24th**, from 10am-11:30am at Wisconsin Memorial Park (13235 W Capitol Dr, Brookfield, WI 53005).



BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

On Sunday, September 11th, Mtr. Melesa offered prayers and blessings for all students and educators as they begin the new school year. Handwritten notes and stickers were sent to all students in 5K-12th grade who were not able to attend the backpack blessing.

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY FLEXIBLE ENDOWMENT FUND

If you have a Will or are in the process of creating one, please consider making a planned gift and naming the St. Thomas of Canterbury Flexible Endowment Fund in your Will or Trust. This fund is specifically designed to benefit the future of our church for many years to come and will be used for capital improvements and ministries of STOC. If you have any questions or are interested in finding out more about our flexible endowment fund, please contact the church office.

Thank you,
Kevin Nitka

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Still reading along? If you are, please let Melesa+ know! Send a quick email or mention it to her on Sunday that you saw this note in the September TALES. Thanks!



*Keep me as the apple of
your eye, hide me in the
shadow of your wings
(Psalm 17:8)*

A Recipe for Cooler Weather

As we begin the blessing that is Autumn, our minds turn to God's gifts of Autumn leaves, mums, pumpkins and apples. Tom and I lived in the Chicago area during the 1970's and I found a recipe in The Chicago Tribune that I bake for my family every Autumn. I thought I would share the recipe for your enjoyment.

Apple Walnut Pudding

¼ cup butter	1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
1 egg, unbeaten	1 tsp. cinnamon
2 cups shredded apples (peeled)	½ tsp. nutmeg
½ cup chopped walnuts	¼ tsp. salt

Grease and flour a 4 to 6 cup mold. Cream together butter, sugar and egg until fluffy. Shred apples and stir in. Sift together dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture. Stir in walnuts. Pour into prepared mold. Bake 45 minutes in a preheated 350-degree oven. Serve warm with Sauce.

Butter Cream Sauce

1 cup sugar	1 ½ tsp. vanilla
½ cup butter	dash of nutmeg
½ cup cream	

In a saucepan combine sugar, butter and cream. Heat for about 15 minutes until slightly thickened. Add vanilla and nutmeg. Serve hot.

THE LIGHT TOUCH by *Diane Melang*

It's September and for many the beginning of a new school year for both students and teachers. For either it can hold various degrees of excitement, hard work, questions, confusion, frustration, exhaustion but hopefully for all, lots of accomplishment, enlightenment and even ultimate (hopefully sooner than later in life!) joy.

This all applies of course also to Sunday School and so I hope you are amused and touched by the following (author anonymous):

"WHY DO YOU KEEP TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL?"

- **Because you love the Lord**
- **Because you love the children**
- **Because you cherish the old, old story**
- **Because someone once shared Bible stories with you**
- **Because you've gotten really good at punching out all those perforated take-home projects**
- **Because your favorite song is "Jesus Loves Me" and adults just can't do it justice**
- **Because you can tell stories about Noah, Jesus, Peter, Jonah and Paul using the same toy boat for all**
- **Because even if you have no children at home, you can still routinely hear praises to God for puppies, kittens, mommies, daddies and victorious ball games**
- **Because if you tell the story of Elijah and Elisha often enough, you won't get them mixed up anymore**
- **Because if you don't share your knowledge and love of Christ with these little ones – who will?**
- **Because God and all the angels surely smile when a little child learns of Him"**

"Let the little children come to Me.... for of such is the Kingdom of God". Luke 18:16.



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

Michael Greiten	September 15
Ron Thorson	September 16
Dennis McKnight	September 21
Judith Stormoen	September 22
Melanie McKay	September 28
Linda Cram	September 30
John Amenda	October 2
Pam Kasper	October 8
Teagan Amenda	October 10



ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Tammy Knapton	September 13
Jan & Marie Brzezinski	September 16
Melesa & Erik Skoglund	September 28
Gary & Veronica Heaney	October 6
Jim & Kathie Beuscher	October 10

