



THE EPISTLE OF ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Rev. Jeff Douglas

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving

May 2019

Losing all and Gaining Everything

The Tomb is empty! The women come to anoint the body of Jesus in his tomb and find it empty. The guards have fled, the stone sealing the tomb is rolled away and no one is there! The burial cloth is there, but Jesus is not!



What follows are stories in which Jesus appears to the disciples in many ways and in many forms. He appears to Mary but she doesn't recognize him until he speaks. He appears bodily and eats, he appears with his wounds from the crucifixion, and he chats with disciples who only recognize him in the breaking of the bread. In all these ways, the gospels tell us that Jesus lives.

Because Jesus lives, we can be "in Christ", as St. Paul's says, living through him, participating in the risen life here and now. When we share in the sufferings of Christ: his compassion for the lost and broken-hearted; his feeding of the hungry; his tender care for the sick and suffering; we bear our crosses just as Christ bore his cross. When we count everything as loss in order to gain Christ, we become the servant and slave of all. When we understand that the world's needs come before ours, we are truly "in Christ" and live in the power of his resurrection.

This road is not easy to travel. But our God is so awesome! God's love is so powerful, so strong and mighty that nothing can stop us when we choose His Way, His Truth and His life. As St. Paul writes in Romans 8:35, 37-39:

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

At the end of Matthew's gospel Jesus promises to be with us always, even to the end of time. This gives me hope and in that hope the strength to move forward... to walk my road to Emmaus, to press on... to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness (1 Timothy 6:11). I am inspired to "fight the good fight of the faith" and claim for myself and others the eternal life to which we are called for which we were made.

The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jeff+

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Buddy Jones
- 4 Milly Vaughan
- 6 Cheryl Steczak
- 7 Jackson Vaughan
- 9 Tom Newbern
- 11 Gates Vaughan
- 13 Betty Suiter
- 15 Mary Outland
- 21 Kenny Braswell
- 22 Laura Brown
- 22 Briley Johnson Rascoe
- 23 Sarah Griffin

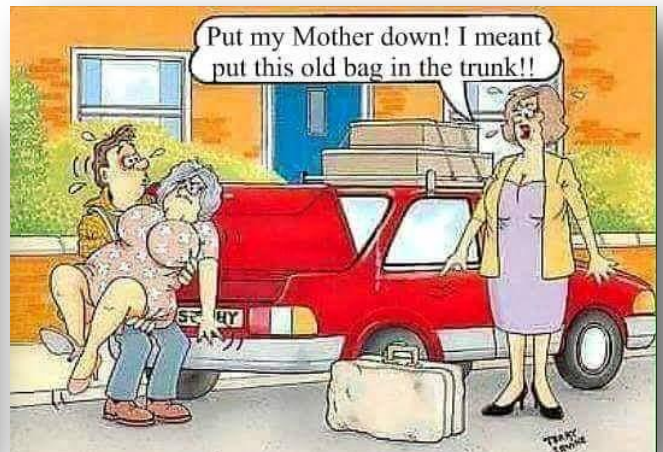


*“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor; we pray, on your servants, **Buddy, Milly, Cheryl, Jackson, Tom, Gates, Betty, Mary, Kenny, Laura, Briley, Sarah**, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**”*

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 Ben and Mitzy Benhart
- 25 Jim and Glenna Sullins

*“O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon **Ben and Mitzy, Jim and Glenna**, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**”*



St. Thomas Episcopal Church – Schedules for May 2019

Acolytes

5 OPEN
 12 Charles Sawyer
 19 Jerrie Taylor and Cecelia Jones
 26 Bill Blanchard

Altar Flowers

5 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Wiggins
 12 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sullins
 19 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Steczak
 26 OPEN

Altar Guild

Lindsay Vaughan and Hugh Davis

Food Pantry (Note-Wednesdays)

1 George Owens
 8 Jim Shotwell
 15 Peggy Vann
 22 Bubba Peele
 29 Patsy Jones

Lay Readers

1	6:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Claudia Griffin
5	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist	Martie Tayloe
8	6:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Martie Tayloe
12	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer	OPEN
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist	Buck Suiter
15	6:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Buck Suiter
19	11:00 AM*	Rogation Sunday	Colin Jones
22	6:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Colin Jones
26	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist	John Davis
29	6:00 PM	EP STOPS FOR THE SUMMER	

Ushers

Jim Shotwell and Buddy Jones

Yard Work

5 Colin Jones and David & Julie Shields
 12 Mac Griffin and Johnny Griffin
 19 Mac Griffin and Johnny Griffin
 26 Jim Shotwell and Fred Liverman



Hospitality Committee

Rogation Sunday

Jerrie and Julian Taylor

Ann and Clyde Hughes

May 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Apr 2019</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jun 2019</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Annual Diocesan E.C.W. Meeting, St. Mary's, Kinston</p> <p>Evening Prayer 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choir Practice 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Buddy Jones</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Milly Vaughan</p>		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																												
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																											
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																											
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																											
28	29	30																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
						1																																																																																											
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																											
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																											
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																											
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																											
30																																																																																																	
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CPC Sunday</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 8am & 10:30am</p> <p>Adult SS 9:15am</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cheryl Steczak</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jackson Vaughan</p> <p>NA Meeting 8pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evening Prayer 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tom Newbern</p> <p>Choir Practice 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">10</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gates Vaughan</p> <p>St. Mark's, Roxobel EP 5pm</p>																																																																																											
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mother's Day</p> <p>Morning Prayer 8am</p> <p>Adult SS 9:15am</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 10:30am</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Betty Suiter</p> <p>Ahoskie Rotary Club Meeting 12pm</p> <p>Book Guild 5pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NA Meeting 8pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mary Outland</p> <p>Evening Prayer 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choir Practice 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">17</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bishop Meeting with Vestry 10:30am</p>																																																																																											
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rogation Sunday 11:00am</p> <p>*Grace Episcopal (Lewiston)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dame Julian Prayer Group 5pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kenny Braswell</p> <p>Vestry Meeting 6pm</p> <p>NA Meeting 8pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Laura Brown</p> <p>Briley Johnson Rascoe</p> <p style="color: red;">Ben & Mitzy Benhart</p> <p>Evening Prayer 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sarah Griffin</p> <p>Soup Kitchen 5pm</p> <p>Choir Practice 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">24</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jim & Glenna Sullins</p> <p>St. Mark's, Roxobel HE 5pm</p>																																																																																											
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">26</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 8am & 10:30am</p> <p>Adult SS 9:15am</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memorial Day</p> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;">Office Closed</div> <p>Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NA Meeting 8pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evening Prayer 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soup Kitchen 5pm</p> <p>Choir Practice 6pm</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #800000;">31</p>																																																																																												

The Executive Council of the Diocese of East Carolina
cordially invites you to a Retirement Celebration
honoring

The Rev'd Canon Matthew E. Stockard

on Friday, May 31, 2019
from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM
at
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
107 Louis Street
Greenville, North Carolina

A light lunch will be served.

—
If you would like to attend, please email Judy Whichard at
whichardjudy@gmail.com no later than May 28.
Please include your name and number attending.

A surprise "Message Book" will be gifted to Matt - if you would like
to have your message included, please send your email, letter or card no
later than May 8 to:

Ms. Lisa Richey
piergazer@gmail.com
2116 Canal Cove Road
Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina 28450

Rogation Celebration

Sunday, May 19

Join us for our joint Rogation celebration
with St. Thomas, Windsor
and St. Mark's Roxobel
at Grace Church in Lewiston-Woodville
at 11AM.

We will also baptize
Margaret Grace Griffin
into the Church.

Join us for a great celebration.

(Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs.)



A Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for
mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count
toes and tend to our every need; May they be
blessed with patience and tenderness to care for
their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and
cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong
and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their
children because of war, poverty, conflict, or death.
May they feel the loving embrace of our God who
wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love
and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-
grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live
forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.
Amen.



CPC Sunday

May 5, 2019

The Church Periodical Club is an Episcopal
Institution; its ministry is to supply books,
magazines, tapes, videos, and computer
programs FREE to those who cannot otherwise
obtain them and raise money to do this.

Church Periodical Club is changing the world one book at a time..



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 263
Ahoskie, NC 27910



A Place to Belong ... A Place to Believe