

Under the Ice

The drop through the ice came without warning. I quickly recognized the “monster” of too many recent nightmares. The “monster” was the current, and he was an aggressive foe, relentlessly working to pull me under the ice shelf. To make matters worse, the sudden cold was literally breathtaking. I was in big trouble and all alone. I had more problems than a 14-year-old could quickly solve.

It would be much later that I would ask the questions: Why did I not heed the foretelling nightmares? Why did I not respect the story of the two boys who experienced much the same the previous year? Why had I not assimilated parental warnings of early season ice?

As I flailed my arms about, struggling against “the monster” pulling me under, the ice broke in front of me. That was fortunate, as I suddenly felt the bottom of a sandbar beneath my feet and shoved with all my might to get atop the ice. Many blessings, I have found, come when we have not the time nor the inclination to ask.

As I lay exhausted and frozen on the bank of the 40-foot-wide creek, I wondered how I’d survive the half-mile trek through the woods in 5-degree weather to get back home. As I fell onto the back porch, my eldest brother, watching TV in the nearby room, looked to see what caused the commotion. I was too frozen to speak, or to speak coherently, for some time. Subsequent nightmares would give voice as I woke the entire family when the “monster” relentlessly dragged me along again and again beneath the ice against all of my physical protestations. The nightmares were my “reward” for carelessness, or obstinance, or arrogance, or forgetfulness. It seems not to matter now, as the incident foretold in my nightmares, took place, regardless.

The Bible is filled with warnings of sudden catastrophe and running out of time. Perhaps one of the most poignant is the parable our Lord tells of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:27-31). While it should speak to us individually and collectively, here is the haunting part, *“If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”* Jesus rose from the dead. What does it take to grab our attention and to so embed in our hearts that we wander not? What does it take?

My first girlfriend told me, “I hope you never change.” But we do change. The unrelenting current of life drags each of us along, willingly or unwillingly. After a year of this drawn-out crisis, you and I should be different. I am more tired and less patient with the “voices” that seek to draw me back to the past, --*“the way we used to be,”* as if “the fall through the ice,” these days of the pandemic, never took place.

The incident described above was the second of what was to be three near drowning incidents in my life. That is enough; yet, I’ve earned the right to tell you that drowning is an intensely silent affair.

Don’t fall through the ice and struggle silently. Take advantage of our times together in these very different days. Making the effort to reach out is wonderfully therapeutic. We are social creatures. We need each other. Participate in our Sunday services and virtual coffee hours, our Tuesday studies, calls to involvement articulated in The Cross Ties newsletter, and read our weekly eblasts.

Don’t fall through the ice. It’s not a pleasant experience.

Fr. Bruce+

St. Thomas' Plans 125th Anniversary Events

St. Thomas' will be 125 years old in August, 2021. Currently we are planning monthly projects to commemorate the important celebration. The cookbook and kneeler projects are two of the events.

If you would like to serve on the committee and help plan this important milestone, please send an email to crossties2018@gmail.com or to dbakerfortworth@hotmail.com.

New Cookbook ...We Need Recipes!

We have now reached over 160 recipes! Take time during our "quarantine" to include your favorite culinary delights into the new cookbook. This is one of the projects to celebrate St. Thomas' 125th anniversary celebration.

Here's how:

1. Enter the Website *typensave.com*.
2. Find *Log In*.
3. Enter User Name: *woc27330*.
4. Enter Contributor Password: *juice219*.
5. Follow the instructions to enter your recipes.

Thank you for preserving these recipes for our church community.



Bible Study Returns to Tuesday Mornings

Join the St. Thomas' community on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 am for a Bible Study and Formation class based on the Lectionary readings for the following Sunday. Connect via Zoom for this interactive and informative discussion. Each week, a new Zoom connection is sent from the church office via email.

2021 Worship Resources

St. Thomas' YouTube Live Feed
St. Thomas' Facebook page

Watch for instructions in email
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomas1896/>

Washington National Cathedral

<https://cathedral.org/>

Forward Day by Day

<https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/>
<https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/podcast.php>
<https://amato.podbean.com/>

Audio Daily Morning Prayer
Presiding Bishop Curry's Way of Love
podcasts

<https://wayoflove.episcopalchurch.org/>

Lectionary Lessons
The Episcopal Church
The Diocese of North Carolina

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>
<https://episcopalchurch.org/>
<https://www.episdionc.org/>

Karen Huey—Our Senior Warden

Whenever you hear the musical blending of everything from organ to viola and accordion, please thank Karen Huey, the Senior Warden of St. Thomas'. Karen frequently shares her talent playing viola and violin during our services and is responsible for forming the St. Thomas' Episcopal Musicians, our very own orchestra comprised of members who play various instruments.

Karen was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and lived nearby until the age of 13. Her family moved to Charlotte, NC when she was in 8th grade. She attended Appalachian State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education with a specialty in Strings. "My first (and only) job was in Sanford," said Karen. She was hired to teach strings in the Sanford/Lee County schools, and spent lots of time driving from school to school. The string program grew to 400 students. "I spent the first 15 years of my career as an itinerant teacher teaching strings at many schools and the rest of my career teaching only at Lee County High School. I taught strings, chorus, humanities, music theory, AP, and Art 1. I was also the Fine Arts Department Chair, as well as the Graduation Coordinator for nearly three decades. I loved my job (most days) until I retired in 2013 after 37 years in the classroom," states Karen.



Her roommate, Carol Rothstein, taught Latin at Lee Senior. "Carol and I lived together and shared expenses and lots of fun times until she died of Stage 4 breast cancer in 2008 after fighting the disease for eight years. She could often be seen at St. Thomas' when I was playing violin. Carol was St. Thomas' Jewish friend," exclaims Karen.

She has been involved with Cannon Music Camp on the ASU campus and has worked at the camp in various capacities since 1973, currently serving as Special Consultant to the Director.

"I love my church and do what I can to support it."

—Karen Huey

After she retired, she had extra time on her hands for the first time since living in Sanford. "I felt a void and it was the lack of any formal religious experience in my life," states Karen. Her long-time friend and mentor, Jo Ann Bowman, invited her to St. Thomas' to meet the new rector. Karen was asked to sing in the choir on Fr. Bruce's first day. She soon became a member and is now the chairperson of the Red Door Bazaar and in her second year as Senior Warden. Karen also participates in the My Brothers' Keeper project, the Cookbook committee, and in the Women of the Church. "I love my church and do what I can to support it," says Karen.

In addition to her church activities, Karen is also one of the founding members of the Lee County Community Orchestra and serves as violist, manager, librarian, and board member. She heads a string quartet that plays for private and community events and teaches private lessons in violin and cello to adults and children. You will often see her crocheting beautiful items for gifts and bazaar sales.

"I consider the people at St. Thomas' to be one of the blessings in my life. I love the people here and can't wait to be able to see them and to hug them and to gather with them when the pandemic is over!" says Karen. We appreciate Karen for her willingness to serve this church in so many ways.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

"The Church with the Red Doors on Steele Street"

312 N. Steele Street

Sanford, NC 27330

Phone: (919) 774-8644

Email:

stthomasnc@icloud.com

Due to coronavirus pandemic, services are cancelled until further notice.

We're on the Web!

<http://stthomassanford.dionc.org/>

Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal Church—Sanford

The Parish Staff

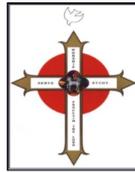
The Rev. Bruce Heyvaert, Rector

*Dr. Jo Ann Bowman,
Director of Music*

*June Burbage,
Organist*

*Beth Wood,
Parish Administrator*

*Katie Yuskevich,
Nursery Caretaker*



The Vestry

*Karen Huey, Sr. Warden
Randy Seymore, Jr. Warden
Sue Bullwinkel, Clerk*

Serving through 2021

*Kim Hager
Karen Huey
Randy Seymore*

Serving through 2022

*Sue Bullwinkel
David Patterson
James Jessup*

Serving through 2023

*Cindy Julich
Michelle Van Orden
Colin Watson*

Our Mission:

"To grow in the knowledge and love of God through our worship of Him, our service to Him, and our study of His Word; and to bring others to know Jesus Christ as Savior within the fellowship of the Church"



We extend a warm welcome from our church community.

We at St. Thomas' believe that:

- ◆ **Whatever your religious background**
- ◆ **Whatever your history**
- ◆ **However you have come to be drawn to the Lord**

You are welcome to walk your journey of life with us at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.
