



## Quit, When?

He was born during the Great Depression and grew up on a farm in western Massachusetts in what he calls a “profoundly dysfunctional” family. He left home in his teens without finishing high school and joined the U.S. Marines. The military recognized his intelligence and facility with machines. Today, he is 85 years old.

Along the way, he earned multiple doctorates. He’s a surgeon and a supremely accomplished pilot with instructor ratings in aircraft ranging from gliders to jets. Story Musgrave is the only astronaut to have flown on all six space shuttles. For the past three years, he has mentored high school students working to build an amphibious airplane. Did I mention he grew up in a profoundly dysfunctional family, on a farm, where for too long it seemed nobody gave a rip?

On Sunday, August 22 of this year, there is a reading (Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18) that strikes at the heart of our commitment together as we now begin 2021. In his farewell address to Israel, Joshua presents to the leaders a choice between serving the gods of their ancestors (the past) or the God of Israel. In another manner, the challenge can be articulated in this way: serve the dead past or move forward into the future with the ever-present God of Israel.

For Joshua and his household, there was no question; they would serve the Lord. But the matter is not only of individual commitment, but also of the will of the community. Serving the Lord is a communal decision. The communal answer? “... we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

It is striking that neither Story Musgrave’s family nor the early community in which he lived recognized his talents, or if they did, they did not care. The military took on the responsibility that others abdicated. We as a society have been well-served in this instance by both the military and Story Musgrave’s commitment. Is it not obvious that at 85 years strong, the man does not have *quit, until things improve* in his psyche, but rather *commit until things improve*?

Some have told me, “I’ll be back when we’re back to normal.” The one-year marker of the Covid-19 pandemic is now within view. “Normal,” now looks different. “Normal,” requires me to look backwards. Why would I do that when Scripture constantly portrays God pulling us forward in time, place, in our commitments, and attitudes? That looks like *faith*. Faith in God. Faith in the future to which he’s calling us.

Commitments are forward-looking, as is evident in Joshua’s community’s response, “... *we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.*” That same commitment is embedded in our Baptismal Covenant. It is in the Apostle’s Creed. It is in the Nicene Creed. It is certainly implied in The Lord’s Prayer. Quite simply, it begs the question, why would we quit our most fundamental commitment before our time? Our story together is yet to be written, for it is yet to be lived.

If you’re still looking for a New Year’s resolution, one that will take you through the rest of time, try this one:

*I will serve the Lord, for he is God, day in and day out, every day, fully, through the end of my days – and at the end of each day, I will review it until I find convicting evidence – for better or for worse.*

Happy New Year.  
Fr. Bruce+

# St. Thomas' Plans 125th Anniversary Events

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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](mailto:crossties2018@gmail.com) or to [dbakerfortworth@hotmail.com](mailto:dbakerfortworth@hotmail.com).

## New Cookbook ...We Need Recipes!

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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 [www.typensave.com](http://www.typensave.com).
2. Find *Login*.
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.



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## Bible Study Is Now on Tuesday Evenings

Join the St. Thomas' community on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm 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

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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/>

# Livestreaming Ministry: Tom and Jennifer Kuntz

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Due to the pandemic closing our church for several months, a decision was made to have services available via YouTube, but the question remained... How?!? Our awesome members, Tom and Jennifer Kuntz, volunteered to source the equipment needed and provide technical expertise every Sunday. What a difference they have made to each of us at St. Thomas! We are thankful for the livestreaming services they generously provide each week.

They moved to Raeford, North Carolina in 2003 for Jennifer's job at the Throckmorton Library on Fort Bragg. "We moved to Sanford in 2007 and purchased our first home," they said.

Tom and Jennifer joined the St. Thomas' community in 2016 when Jennifer's mom, Sue Bullwinkel, moved to North Carolina. Originally, Tom was baptized Methodist and confirmed Lutheran; Jennifer was baptized and confirmed Roman Catholic. They stated, "We had not found a church we both liked until we came to St. Thomas'. We love the family feeling of the congregation and the message of God's love in the church teaching. We want our son Nathaniel to grow up with a connection to Christ and the church community."

Jennifer was born at Fort Benning, GA, and moved several times before settling in Clarks Summit, PA. Tom was born and raised in Greensburg, PA. They met in Western PA at a medieval Christmas party and were married in 2000. She has a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh and worked as a children's librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Tom served in the Marine Corps from 1992 to 1996. He was a mortarman and forward observer who served on TRAP missions in Bosnia/Herzegovina, and provided security for Haitian refugees at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. After his service ended, Tom earned a degree in Computer Information Management in 2001.

***"We had not found a church we both liked until we came to St. Thomas.' We love the family feeling of the congregation and the message of God's love in the church teaching."***



Tom currently works as a software and hardware test technician with Jacobs, Inc. on Fort Bragg. He enjoys video games, fencing with Nathaniel, shooting, gardening, camping, and Ham Radio. Jennifer is a medical librarian at Womack Army Medical Center on Fort Bragg. She enjoys reading, sewing, and crafting. Cooking ranks high, but not doing the dishes! Together, they enjoy traveling and spending time with Nat and family. Both serve on the Communications Committee at St. Thomas.'

Their son, Nathaniel, was adopted in 2013 through a foster placement with Harnett County. He likes to sing, play on the computer and build with Legos. He has a great time at Godly Play and enjoys making the crafts.

Their qualifications are a perfect fit for the live broadcasts and recordings for our church. Jennifer has video production and theater experience from college. Tom figures out software as part of his job, as well as having hobbies that involve recording video and sound. "We also watched a lot of YouTube videos to learn about livestreaming church services," they said. The challenging part of producing the livestream is dealing with the unanticipated issues that come up between the hardware and software. However, they research and solve problems that arise to ensure a smooth broadcast of the service, which by now is mostly automated. Anyone who is interested to learn the process of livestreaming is welcomed to learn from our resident experts.

We are grateful to Tom and Jennifer for the outreach expertise that allows the message of St. Thomas' to be broadcast to such a large audience. Thank you for your service to God.

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

*"The Church with the Red Doors on Steele Street"*

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312 N. Steele Street  
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Email:  
stthomasnc@icloud.com

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

We're on the Web!  
[www.stthomassanford.org/](http://www.stthomassanford.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"*

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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.

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