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Newsletter

February & March
2019



Winter fog over Clarkdale

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

(Mark 12:29-31)

In this edition

Announcements

A word from our Vicar

A word from our Deacon

News from the Senior Warden

A note from the Parish Administrator

Celebrations

Readings and Schedules

Calendars

Prayer List

Photos

Announcements

St. Thomas has a New Vicar!

As most of you know by now, Saint Thomas has a new Vicar, The Rev. Susan C. Armer. She began as our new Vicar on Sunday, December 16, 2018. We are happy to have her with us and look forward to wonderful things in 2019. For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to introduce yourself to Susan, we encourage you to do so.

Please welcome our 2019 St. Thomas Bishop's Committee

Barbara Evans – Senior Warden
Jim Gemmill – Junior Warden
Lee Worthen – Treasurer, term ends 12/31/19
Tim Flannery – Member, term ends 12/31/20
Carl Hadermann – Member, term ends 12/31/20
Marilyn Shreve – Member, term ends 12/31/19
Jean Vickers, term ends 12/31/21
Beverly Baker, term ends 12/31/20
Win Hjalmarson, term ends 12/31/21

Spirituality in the Second Half of Life

Saturday, February 9 from 10am to noon in the Parish Hall. We all optimistically embark on a new phase of our lives in our 50s as we begin to contemplate retirement and a whole new way of living. But this exploration of new ways continues into our 90s and beyond – seemingly ever changing. We want to spend some fellowship time with you considering what we want this second half of our lives to look like – and how God desires to enter into both the adventure and the challenges – and how we, as a community of faith, can share the journey together – perhaps deciding together on a variety of stage- and age-related activities and gatherings. We hope that you will join us to explore ideas for St. Thomas's “family of sages”. We will spend two hours thinking and planning together followed by lunch together at 11:30. We hope to see you then.

Safety Sunday

C.A.R.T. is happy to present Safety Sunday, February 10, immediately following the morning worship service. Please plan to attend this fun-filled event with free give-a-way items, a door prize, food and very helpful information that can save your life.

Chili Cook-off and Bakery Auction

Saturday, February 23rd beginning at 5pm in the Parish Hall. People's Choice Chili judging begins at 5pm. All entries must come from St. Thomas Parishioners only. Love offering requested for samples of chili with cheese, tossed green salad, tortillas, non-alcoholic beverages and cookies for dessert. The ECW Bakery Auction follows dinner. Invite your friends and neighbors! All are welcome to attend!

Consecration of Arizona's new Bishop Elect, The Rev. Jennifer Reddall

The Rev. Jennifer Reddall will be consecrated as our new Bishop on Saturday, March 9 at Church for the Nations, 6225 N. Central Ave., Phoenix 85012. The service begins at 11:00am. Tickets will be required and each congregation within the diocese will receive more information about getting tickets. We will keep you posted.

Delegates and Alternates to this year's Annual Diocesan Convention

Barbara Evans – attending as Senior Warden
Doug McFayden – Delegate
Lee Worthen – Delegate
Alexa Hokanson – Alternate
Win Hjalmarson – Alternate

In Memoriam

Sadly, Dave Gilbert died on January 27, 2019. A few years ago he served at Saint Thomas as a substitute organist during the summer months.

A word from our Vicar, The Rev. Susan C. Armer

It has been a very short time that I have been part of this parish as the Vicar, yet I feel so blessed to be here! So far I have seen a congregation that has a strong faith, deep loyalty, and great compassion. I am happy to see how readily parishioners step up to help, and the good humor that accompanies each activity whether worship, outreach, or social gathering. I am looking forward to 2019 with all of the members and staff of St Thomas here in Clarkdale.

A word from our Deacon, The Rev. Deirdre Moulinier

Dear Family,

Save the date! Please plan to attend Spirituality in the Second Half of Life lecture for Seniors on FEBRUARY 9, 2019 @ 10:00am in the Parish Hall.

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Ann Johnson and Linda Williams, Ph.D, CSD, who will be sharing their ministry called Spirituality for the Second Half of Life. Both of these amazing women have talked to, and more importantly, have listened to seniors throughout the Arizona Diocese to develop this ministry for those of us who are entering the *third phase* of our lives.

The focus of this ministry is on the spiritual aspects of the journey, not on specific pastoral care needs. The four groups that were identified during the *listening phase* of developing this ministry include:

- ●Those in their 50s and 60s approaching retirement, or in the process of transitioning, to explore, *Who will I be when I am no longer who I have been for the past 30-40 years?* This change of life is often defined by career, vocation, or family. This group explores what some have called *re-inventing themselves* and perhaps finding a new ministry in retirement.
- ●Those in retirement who remain active and are interested in further awakening their spirituality and experiencing their spiritual journey in new ways. The focus for this group will include ideas for

spiritual engagement in small groups, fellowship events and outreach projects that offer meaning and purpose in their lives. This may include people who are limited by mobility and transportation.

- ●Those who are less active, reside in residential living communities or in their own homes, and could benefit from additional opportunities to engage with parish life or one-on-one visits that offer deeper conversation and spiritual direction. For this type of spiritual companionship, a training program will be offered for potential spiritual visitors to better understand how to walk alongside someone on their spiritual journey, rather than lead the way.
- ●Those who are care givers and family members who could benefit from assistance in coming to grips with the spiritual aspects of end-of-life decisions.

Personally, I cannot think of a more important time in our church to have Ann and Linda come and share this ministry with us. There is no registration required but we have opened this program up to the public so seating may be limited. Come early to insure yourself a seat!

Again, this event is on Saturday, February 9th in the Parish Hall from 10:00am to 12:30pm, with lunch being served from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Blessings, Deirdre

A word from our Senior Warden, Barbara Evans

The Annual Meeting has come and gone. We have a new budget and we have three new members to the Bishop's Committee to help make decisions for our church. Yeah!

I want to personally thank the two retiring Bishop's Committee members, Alexa Hokanson and Bobby Lucas. Alexa has given so much of her time and efforts to us. Even though she's leaving her duties as the clerk for the Bishop's Committee, she cannot go far from us. She is heavily involved in the disaster planning for our church with C.A.R.T.,

the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Alexa is still planning events for us as the Chairperson of the MOST LOST Outreach Committee. She is an active member of ECW as well. So you can see, Alexa will always have something to do here at St. Thomas.

And now, of course, our delightful Bobby Lucas. A big Thank You to her for all her past involvement in so many aspects of our church. Her long reign as Senior Warden, her participation in ECW and many years as ECW Treasurer, and her most recent three year stint on the Bishop's Committee. Besides all that, Bobby sings with our choir. She is not leaving us, she's just taking a well-deserved break to sit on the sidelines for a little while. As Bobby says, "I have no real obligations now. I can just relax and enjoy my church."

As you can see, our new Bishop's Committee members have big boots to fill. We'll keep them busy for sure.


This Newsletter takes us into February and then March which bring us into the season of Lent. February will be a busy and fun time as we continue with our Food Pantry. Also in February we have the Spirituality in the Second Half of Life lecture, our Safety Sunday event, and the special Chili Cook-off and Bakery Auction. Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent is in March. Wow! Who knew just how many good things this church could do?! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at these events and anticipating many more events in our future.

***A note from your Parish Administrator,
Shirley R. Pogany***

Christmas is over and the New Year celebrations have come and gone. Phew! Glad I made it through another holiday season! Now comes the time of year that our days are warming up slightly, the snow up north is beginning to melt and slowly making its way down the mountain to fill our water ways here in the Verde Valley. Yes, this is the time of year I start looking forward to summer. I realize it might seem early for me to be thinking of summer when spring hasn't even arrived

yet. It's just that summer is my favorite time of year and I am very happy that winter is almost over. I sometimes wish we could just skip springtime and go straight into summer. I try hard to make the most of summertime because it seems that each summer I have that awful feeling of dread knowing that winter is soon to come. Having grown up in Flagstaff, I've had enough cold to last me a lifetime. I can say with 100% certainty that I have, years ago and for the very last time, scraped ice off a windshield and shoveled snow out of a drive-way. Never again will I live in a place where it snows a lot. As far as I am concerned, the higher the temperature, the better, as long as there is no humidity involved. Yes, I am so grateful that winter is behind me and now I long for those very hot days spent kayaking on the river with friends. As soon as the river water temperature warms up enough, that's where you'll find me when I am not at work.

But now, as spring is approaching and Valentine's Day is almost here, I sense a newness of happy feelings and emotions in myself. I am reminded just how good it feels to be in love and how lucky I am to be in love with a wonderful man. Love makes your heart smile and your tummy feel funny. Love makes you feel young and energetic and happy each morning when you awake. I'm reminded that all of you are the reason it is a pleasure for me to come to work each day! You're a great and loving group of people.

Spring is always a time of new beginnings and not only am I looking forward to a new season with plenty of sunshine and warmth, I'm also looking forward to new and wonderful things for St. Thomas as we continue through 2019. 



To ALL who are celebrating in
February and March!



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February Readings	Serving in February
<p><u>February 3</u> 4th Sunday after the Epiphany Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 I Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30</p>	<p>Lector: Cody Hudson Prayers of the People: Jim Gemmill Acolytes: Evan and Ian Flannery Coffee Hour: Carl and Anita Hadermann Counters: Marilyn Shreve and Tim Flannery</p>
<p><u>February 10</u> 5th Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 I Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11</p>	<p>Lector: Ed Ausmus Prayers of the People: Dinah Gemmill Acolytes: Dinah Gemmill and Ian Flannery Coffee Hour: C.A.R.T. Counters: Barbara Evans and Carl Hadermann</p>
<p><u>February 17</u> 6th Sunday after the Epiphany Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 I Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26</p>	<p>Lector: Gordon Nichol Prayers of the People: Jeff Gerlach Acolytes: Jean Vickers and Evan Flannery Coffee Hour: Barbara Evans and Alexa Hokanson Counters: Jim Gemmill and Tim Flannery</p>
<p><u>February 24</u> 7th Sunday after the Epiphany Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38</p>	<p>Lector: Marilyn Shreve Prayers of the People: Barbara Evans Acolytes: Sarah Duffy and Ian Flannery Coffee Hour: Paul Coffey and Lee Worthen Counters: Jim Gemmill and Barbara Evans</p>

February Altar Guild: Marilyn Shreve & Diane McFayden

March Readings	
<p><u>March 3</u> Last Sunday after the Epiphany Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 II Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-43a</p>	<p><u>March 10</u> 1st Sunday in Lent Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13</p>
<p><u>March 17</u> 2nd Sunday in Lent Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35</p>	<p><u>March 24</u> 3rd Sunday in Lent Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 63:1-8 I Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9</p>
<p><u>March 31</u> 4th Sunday in Lent Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 II Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</p>	<p>Those serving in March will be announced at a later date in your Sunday bulletins.</p>

March Altar Guild: Jeff and Lorraine Gerlach

Important Dates in February 2019

- February 1, Friday, 9am-Noon, Parish Hall reserved for Clarkdale Historical Society meeting
- February 2, Saturday, 10am: ECW Meeting
- February 9, Saturday, 10am-12:30pm: Spirituality in the Second Half of Life with The Rev. Ann Johnson and Dr. Linda Williams
- February 10, Sunday, 11am: Safety Sunday
- February 12, Tuesday, 2-4pm: Food Pantry
- February 14, Thursday, 12-1pm: Grief Discussion Group
- February 20, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30pm: Parish Hall reserved for Mountain Gate Communities meeting
- February 21, Thursday, 8:30am at Randall's: MOST Meeting
- February 21, Thursday, 1pm: Bishop's Committee Meeting
- February 23, Saturday, 5pm: Chili Cook-off and Bakery Auction
- February 24, Sunday, 11am: MOST/LOST Meeting
- February 26, Tuesday, 2-4pm: Food Pantry
- February 27, Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm: Parish Hall reserved for Clarkdale Historical Society meeting
- February 28, Thursday, 12-1pm: Grief Discussion Group

- Sundays: 10am Worship Service

- Wednesdays & Thursdays: Thrift Store Open 10am-1pm

- Fridays & Saturdays: Thrift Store Open 11am-2pm

- Thursdays, 10am: Bible Study

- Fridays, 4pm: Choir Practice

Important Dates in March 2019

- March 1, Friday, 9am-Noon, Parish Hall reserved for Clarkdale Historical Society meeting
- March 2, Saturday, 10am: ECW Meeting
- March 6, Ash Wednesday, (Lent 2019: March 6 – April 18)
- March 6, Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm: Parish Hall reserved for Clarkdale Historical Society meeting
- March 12, Tuesday, 6-8pm: Parish Hall reserved for Mountain Gate Townhomes Meeting
- March 12, Tuesday, 2-4pm: Food Pantry
- March 14, Thursday, 12-1pm: Grief Discussion Group
- March 21, Thursday, 8:30am at Randall's: MOST Meeting
- March 21, 1pm: Bishop's Committee Meeting
- March 26, Tuesday, 2-4pm: Food Pantry
- March 28, Thursday, 12-1pm: Grief Discussion Group
- March 31, Sunday, 11am: MOST/LOST Meeting

- Sundays: 10am Worship Service

- Wednesdays & Thursdays: Thrift Store Open 10am-1pm

- Fridays & Saturdays: Thrift Store Open 11am-2pm

- Thursdays, 10am: Bible Study

- Fridays, 4:30pm: Choir practice

*Comfort and heal all those who
suffer in body, mind or spirit; give
them courage and hope in their*

Prayer List

Names added this week:

Doug McFayden
The McFayden Family

Continued prayers for:

Richard Jones
Sam Jones
Elizabeth J. Connolly (Doris
Gardner's Mother-in-law)
Michael (Carolann Chamber's son)
Sarah Felix
Kenneth Steidl
Roberta Steidl
Melissa Steidl
Dottie Otvos
Connie Hanks
James G. Cole
Bobby Lucas
Brandon Camp
Emily Hardwick

For the Soul of:

Mary Bidlack
Dave Gilbert

Those serving our country:

Andrew Gillis
Jesse Reeves
Mike Kellenbenz
Chris McKeag
Joshua Lawton
Buster Kellenbenz
Jason Allred
Melissa Jones
Nathan Smith
Robert Jones
Jeremiah Juhlin
Ann Henry
Taylor Zale
Michael Shaklee
Josh Edgerton
Brandon Gemmill
Rande Robinson
Caleb Edgerton
Jason Geier
Zachery Geier
Ben Jujawa

If you have an immediate prayer request call
Devon Lewis - 928-210-8929 or the Church office - 928-634-8593

Photos

Jim and Dinah Gemmill's newest family member, their great-grandson, Ronan Scott Chavez. Congratulations!



**Matt Chavez is with Bailey Chavez-
Coldwell Banker Mabery Real Estate
at Northern Arizona Healthcare
Verde Valley.**

8 mins · Cottonwood · 

Hi everyone my name is Ronan Scott Chavez .
I was born at 3:44am on Jan 16th, I weighed
7lbs 9oz and I am 20" long. Nice t... [See More](#)





Verde River at Sunrise

***It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its
circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.
(Psalm 19:6)***