

December 2018

# We Have A New Rector!

"Hi, I'm Tom," is the way our new rector, the Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Thoeni, introduced himself to opening day visitors at our Farmers' Market, his third day on the job. He greeted each of the vendors as well, and joined the hot dog circle for a nibble. He was right at home.

Fr. Tom joined us Nov. 1 and will be officially installed as the fifth rector of St. Paul's on Jan. 6, 2019, the day of Epiphany.

On his first day he met the corps of workers who keep our property looking nice and operating smoothly, known as God's Gardeners.

Then at noon he met with the stewardship committee where he helped craft a theme for the year: "Invest With God." He said his leadership habit is to not micromanage, but his contribution was fully embraced, and we can hope to see more offerings from him, with his fresh perspective.

One of the first big changes we experienced with our new pastor is his ritual of consuming remaining consecrated elements and purifying the sacred vessels after Holy Communion. It's a practice he says is very meaningful for him. He promised to present an Instructed Eucharist, perhaps during Lent, in which he will explain the liturgical actions and their meanings.



From left, Susan Joy, widow of our second rector, the Rev. Larry Smellie, Rector-elect the Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Thoeni and his wife, Quincey, following a service on Fr. Tom's first Sunday.

Numerous parishioners have expressed their fondness for Fr. Tom and note that he has a lot of energy. They also appreciate his succinct sermons.

Fr. Tom and his wife, Quincey, will

live in a newly renovated rectory, on the Estey Avenue end of our church property. The Thoenis (pronounced TAYnee) have two sons in college in Florida.

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Fr. Tom and Quincey spent some time with parishioners at coffee hour after the 8 o'clock service on Nov. 4. From left: Ginny Harper, Nancy Conner, Peter Lund and Donna Ninds, (standing) Gail Bones, the Thoenis, Michelle Bright and Bobby Holt.



### Q & A with our new rector

## > Where did your religious life begin?

I never remember not having an awareness of God, though it wasn't until I was in my early 20s that I gave God much purposeful thought or attention.

#### > Episcopal life likewise?

I was raised in the Episcopal Church but, like many in my generation, I disappeared just after my Confirmation. I returned to the Episcopal Church in my early 20s, after a brief and unsatisfactory sojourn among our fundamentalist brothers and sisters.

> What did your 15 years at St. Peter's of Plant City FL do to develop what you are today? Or lessons learned? Or maybe better said ideas that come with you.

St Peter's took a risk on me in the sense that I had never been a rector. So, in a very real sense, St Peter's taught me how to be a rector. Because I stayed at St. Peter's for so long, I also was able to gain a wider perspective and approach challenges with a broader vision.

### > How do you see Quincey's role at St. Paul's?

That remains to be seen. Quincey will be delaying her arrival in Naples until she finds a job. We hope she will be able to settle in by Christmas.

### > Any long range thoughts for SP's future?

One thing I suspect we all realize is that the next 50 years for St. Paul's will be a lot different than the first fifty. Our challenge will be to seek the future God has for us and to pursue it faithfully. At this point I don't have a great number of answers but I have a lot of questions!

> I understand you are willing to live in the rectory while remodeling is underway. Maybe just comment on that change in our environment that comes with you living so close.

For the last 15 years I have lived in a rectory just across the street from the church I served. The funny thing about St. Paul's is that the length of my "commute" to work will quadruple!

> Are you a Rite 1 or 2 guy?

Rite I Prayer 2, Rite II Prayer B are my favorites. I will say, though, that I prefer the Rite I Burial Office over Rite II. My favorite liturgy in the Prayer Book is Compline and my favorite service of the whole year is Christmas Eve Midnight Mass.

#### > Any music preferences?

Not really. My primary direction to church musicians is to make sure whatever hymns are chosen are eminently singable.

### > What kind of schedule do you intend to follow?

I generally take Fridays as my day off. Most mornings I will be in the office or out and about by 9 a.m. I will say, though, I have never been much of a morning person.

#### > What books are by your bed?

I am slowly reading "A Short History of Drunkenness" by Mark Forsyth. It is an overview of how alcohol has been engaged across history and across cultures.

# > How are you both dealing with the "empty nest syndrome"?

Not too sure yet. Just a couple of weeks after both our boys moved

### **Q & A**

(continued from previous page)

out we started preparing for our move. As I have been joking, "Our nest is empty, now we're flying the coop!"

### > Comment on Gatorland experience.

My undergraduate degree is Bachelor of Design from the College of Fine Arts. I was a Graphic Design major. My art work wasn't the best but I was strong on developing concepts. My time in Gainesville, or as I call it, the City of Champions, was very significant. It was there I met my wife, married her, and discerned my call to the priesthood.

# > How did you pick the seminary you attended?

I told my bishop that I would like to either go to Seabury-Western or Virginia. His reply was to the point. He said simply, "You have my permission to apply to Seabury." The decision was made very easily after that!

#### > Athletic teams you follow.

Gators, of course. I don't have much of a connection for other teams or other sports which is handy because I can watch games simply for the enjoyment and not have the angst about whether my team will win or not.

Questions posed by Alan Cragg

# Farewell, Fr. Bill

The ten o'clock service opened with a solo of "I'll Walk With God" by Nora Broszeit. The sermon was "performed" in Fr. Bill's signature style of becoming one of the characters in the Gospel. This time it was Bartimaeus, a blind beggar whose faith in Jesus restored his sight. The choir sang the Offertory for the first time since the summer hiatus. The service was well attended, a tribute to Fr. Bill since many of our seasonal parishioners had not yet returned to Naples.

After the service we were treated to a hot dog lunch grilled by Ken Eastlack and served with all the trimmings.

Fr. Bill was presented with his portrait that will hang in the hall with his predecessors. Marcie Cragg wrote a little song as a sendoff and dragged Tom Connolly up to sing it with her. Gifts were presented by Dick Breithaupt from those who donated to the Rector's Purse.

Several people then provided anecdotes about Father Bill's time at St. Pauls. Van Geoghegan told us the reason for hot dogs at this lunch was that whenever Fr. Bill went out to the parish lunches nine out of ten times he would order hot dogs and Angry Orchard Cider. She presented him with a six pack of that brew. The Rev. Kay Richardson thanked Fr. Bill for leading us these past three years. Michelle Bright told us a little story of when Fr. Bill went to the Lely Nursing Home to offer the Eucharist,



one lady didn't know what to do with it and stuck it in her bra!! Deb Avery also said a few words of farewell to Fr. Bill. Ken Eastlack told of how welcoming a group we are and even got his home through the church.

A beautifully decorated cake was then served to all.

-Nora Brozeit

Here are some parting words Fr. Bill was asked to pen for Pathway:

That year-long celebration (Jubilee) proved to be healing.

Then it was time to face the future. We assessed strengths, weaknesses, things we should be doing and things we should stop doing. This information was used in our search for a new rector.

Now your future is here. Fr. Tom is exactly the kind of person St. Paul's needs. He is experienced with a proven record. I know you will soon come to love him and together you will move forward.

It has been a joy to be with you these five years. I wish you God's very best. I will miss you all.

# Presiding Bishop a big hit for busload

Van Geoghegan and Senior Warden Dick Breithaupt were talking about plans to car pool to see and hear Presiding Bishop Michael Curry at our diocesan convention. It occurred to them there might be enough interest to charter a bus. Thus on Oct. 12, 19 St. Paul's parishioners boarded a bus and headed for Punta Gorda.

The ride to and from the convention was congenial with abundant conversations that made the time speed by.

Not one in the group was in the least disappointed by the lengthy, enlightening, inspiring, and often humorous address delivered by the bishop. But you do not have to take my word for it.

#### Van Geoghegan:

"...the thrill of seeing our presiding bishop in the flesh was the highlight of our day. People who were near me in the front were saying how glad they were to have come to see him and enjoyed the parts of the convention. I have received many compliments from all the passengers on deciding to have the bus."

#### Eileen O'Grady:

"I thought Bishop Curry was the most talented professional public speaker I have ever listened to in my more than 70 years of listening. It was astounding that he held such a large group of people absolutely spellbound for such a long period of time. He is a fascinating man and it was a fabulous experience."

#### Fr. Albert Pike:

"The total experience of the day was imprinted on my memory forever. The fellowship on our bus



trip to and from the conference, the reaquaintance of old friends at the conference, and the making of new friends while there were wonderful. The culmination of the special day was the appearance of our primate and presiding bishop, Michael Curry. His demeanor, his enthusiasm, his energy, and his humanity make this special man a gift to the Episcopal Church and to the world-wide Anglican Communion. Sharing

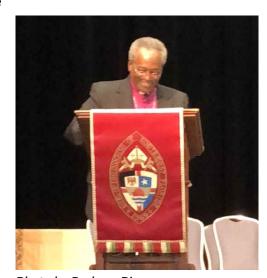


Photo by Barbara Pierce

# **See Bishop Curry's Talk and sermon**

Click on these links to see and hear Bishop Curry.

Worship service, including the bishop's sermon.

Bishop Curry's keynote address

Eucharist with so many sisters and brothers from the Southwest Florida Diocese of the Episcopal Church celebrating its 50th anniversary was a privilege and a unique gift for me and many who participated.

"In these dark days of superficial religious practice, Bishop Curry cut to the chase and em-phasized and illustrated what being an Episcopalian and a follower of Jesus really means: love of God and love of all our brothers and sisters with no strings attached and no exclusion. We are blessed to have this man of God among us leading us into the future with hope and joy..."

#### Laurie Harvey:

"Absolutely beautiful. Great time. Thank you, St. Paul's."

#### Joan Allison:

"The bus trip was exceptional from start to finish. The bus was very clean and comfortable. It is something I would do again."

#### Judy Cimaglia:

"This was my first time attending the diocesan conference. I was impressed with the group of people that attended from St Paul's. It was good to see a nice bunch of people. The chance that I had to see and hear our Primate Michael Curry was very gratifying. He is truly an exceptional speaker and I enjoyed his jolly disposition. It was well worth taking the day from work. Another great advantage was to get to meet our new Rector Tom for the first time and to shake his hand. Thanks to St Paul's to extend this opportunity!"

#### Adriane McGrain:

"...Everything went well, everyone seemed to enjoy the ride."

Lynn LaMarca says the speaker for November 's ECW meeting was so inspiring "you went home and put your small halo oranges in a bowl sprinkled with cranberries and a few green leaves from the yard!" That speaker was Diane Breithhaupt, master gardener, who showed the ladies how to make creative arrangements from flowers, fruits, vegetables, household items and



candies. She gave "other suggestions galore!"

Next meeting is Dec. 5 at 11: 30 a.m. in Trinity Hall for lunch catered by Panera, at \$12.00. Christmas Music and a singalong will be led by The Keynotes.

Please bring an unwrapped child's Christmas gift which will be distributed to a needy child.

# Busload thrilled with bishop (continued from previous page)

#### Gail Cooper:

"What can I say? Great fun being with friends from St. Paul's and a treat hearing the dynamic Fr. Curry. Also very nice not having to drive!"

#### Evelyn & Paulette Dickerson:

"What a wonderful surprise the convention trip was. Inspiring, motivating, spiritual and a message of love."

#### Barbara Pierce:

"Enjoyable from the very start to the end. Would do it again in a heartbeat."

#### Linda Condon:

"Wonderful day. Just love our bishop! Such a beautiful setting. I used to live in in Punta Gorda when it was a very small town (1960-61)."

#### Ken Eastlack:

"I was completely blown away by Bishop Curry's stage presence, spiritual vigor, and marvelous sense of humor. He presented a whole new vision to me of what it means to be an Episcopalian in today's world, and I was very proud to be one as his keynote address unfolded.

His "down home Southern Baptist" delivery mixed with his intellectual

acumen had me spell-bound at times. He presented a church, a body of Christ if you will, that begins and ends with a loving God and mission.

"I felt blessed to be there and hear this dynamic man affirm what I have come to believe. I've rarely been so moved."

The rest of the "bus pilgrims" included Joan Menslage, Judy Allen, Frances Nadeau, Lee Perry and Eleanor Phelps.

-Ken Eastlack

# **Getting to know you**

All ministry is relationship, says our new pastor, Fr. Tom. Thus, we should get to know one another.

Relationships are based on shared histories and experiences and by talking and listening.

Coffee hour is fellowship time, but some folks can't always make that commitment. Another way to share and learn about your fellow parishioners is at your fingertips:

https://saintpaulsnaples.org

Registering is easy, using your name and a password. Once you are logged in you'll notice an "update profile" line in the blue strip on every page. Clicking that will take you to a simple form that prompts you to write about your life.

Let others know you; get to know others in the family of God.



There's also a Facebook-like feature on our website (without the rancor and ugly politics and meanness!). You can post pictures and text to the page and learn whose birthday it is or who among us is celebrating an anniversary. Click "Activities," then "Family Ties."

# Stewardship: a year-round ministry

Stewardship and the three Ts of Time, Talent and Treasure, are the talking points you will be hearing for the next couple of months leading up to Consecration Sunday in February.

The Stewardship Committee decided to wait until the church is filled with our winter members before launching the campaign to underwrite the good and necessary works of St. Paul's.

Invest with God is the theme for the 2018-19 season. It is a reflection on Fr. Tom's first sermon with us, on Nov. 4, when he quoted the words spoken by Moses to the people of Israel: Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. (Deut. 31:6).

Speaking from the lectern in November were Bev Whiteman, stewardship chairperson, and newcomer Gail Bones. Here's from Bev:

"This year we want you to think of stewardship as a year long ministry! Not just in the Fall and not just bringing out your check book although we do need that!!

"There are lots of ways to spend your time at St. Paul's: God's Gardeners, men and women who tend to the needs of our property; mowing, planting, getting the parking lot and grounds ready for the Farmers' Market, plus many other things.

"Parking lot helpers, Altar Guild, Gift Shop and Boutique – they can always use more volunteers. The choir needs volunteers to help spread a 'joyful noise.'

"Counters and office help...

"I have only touched on a few of the areas where you can provide your time and talent."



Here is Gail's message:

"When I was going to be away a few days, I would arrange for someone to feed the birds. When I heard the neighbor girl was beginning to accept small paying jobs, I talked to her mother, we arranged a price. She asked me to make one of

the dollars in quarters. When she saw my quizzical look, she said, 'We have taught our children that the first portion of any money that comes into our house gets put aside for God's work. If they have 10 pennies one is set aside for God.' I asked what her daughter's reaction was.. she said her reaction was: 'You mean I get to keep nine and God only gets one? That's not fair. I can do better than THAT!'

"Jesus asks us to come to him as children. Maybe this is why."

## A bank for your skills!

A Resource Bank is available to parishioners that might have need of the talents, time and/or tools of his/her brothers and sisters in Christ.

Each parishioner will soon be contacted and asked to offer up whatever they feel they have to offer. The concept is based on the belief that everyone has something of value to share. This could be such resources as time: visit an ailing parishioner, or sitting with someone during a stressful event, talent: an art or crafts skill, or carpentry ability, or tools: gardening or other specialty.

Would you be willing to offer a ride to and/or from the airport? Perhaps you might like to read to someone who enjoys books but no longer can do so on their own. How about providing transportation to church? Are you particularly knowledgeable about senior living housing and services? Again, you all have some-

thing to place in the Resource Bank and in making your offer available to your fellow parishioners, you are contributing to St. Paul's becoming not only a very friendly church but one that will grow stronger as a loving and caring community of followers of Christ.

If you already have something to offer, do not wait to be contacted. Zip it off to me via email: KenEastlack@msn.com.

In the coming weeks I will be looking for a few volunteers to assist in fine tuning the structure and operational details. If you have previous experience in this sort of effort or you find this a new ministry you wish to pursue, I am just an email or conversation at coffee hour away.

Prayers for accomplishing our Resource Bank would be warmly appreciated.

# A plan for traveling to the promised land

The concepts of travel and God's presence are at the core of Fr. Tom's recent sermon. As he points out, the word travel derives from the word travail, and that means ordeal, trial, hardship, stress. In other words, work. For most of us, God's presence is more a feeling than a physical presence. These concepts capture the conceptual basis of a strategic plan as developed with the help of parish leaders and communicants.

The strategic plan for St. Paul's is intended to guide parishioners and worshippers to a new land. As with the Israelites, we hope our wanderings lead us to the promised land but we cannot be certain. The bible speaks of wandering 40 years. There was probably a lot of walking in circles.

We have a vague notion of where we want to end up, but during our day-to-day wanderings we cannot be certain if we have arrived yet at the promised land or if we are still on the road with no end in sight.

The strategic plan is our best effort to plot a map. It reflects our sense of how to get there and to identify the kinds of tasks and activities that will help. The tasks will be challenging. And, as we travel, unanticipated and unknown obstacles will force us to adjust course.

Our shared journey and shared sense of destiny is captured within the Strategic Plan. It allows us to walk together as a community of God's people. God's purpose for us will be unveiled over time as we travel together.

View the Strategic Plan as a shared document that refocuses our journey. We have already traveled a long way but we know we have not yet reached the promised land. The Strategic Plan is our map with God's hidden presence being the compass that allows us to continue our

journey and overcome whatever obstacles come our way.

--Gerald Tysiak

Chairman, Strategic Planning



### **Sponsorships Drive under way**

Tom Connolly will be soliciting sponsorships in December for our children in the Dominican Republic. Our relationship with the Albergue El Buen Samaritano is now in its 18th year and serves 100 children who would be otherwise on the streets of San Francisco de Macoris.

Sponsorships are \$275 and cover a portion of the cost of providing a safe, loving, nurturing day care while indigent parents are at work. Please pray for these children and their families, and help out financially, too, if you are able.



January 27, 2019, Trinity Hall Fun between playoffs & Superbowl



#### **Pathway**

is a periodical
written for and by the
people of
St. Paul'sEpiscopal
Church, Naples FL

Join the team. We're looking for writers, editors, photographers, social media, website and video helpers.

#### **Publisher**

Fr. Tom Thoeni

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Fr. Tom, ex officio

## Senior warden's report

What a year it has been. I hope that all of you, by now, have had an opportunity to meet Fr. Tom. If you are still up



north and have not met him yet, you are in for a treat. Congratulations to the search committee (Linda Connelly, Don Anderson, Dave Abernethy, Tom Connolly, Connie Cunningham and Ginny Harper) and our vestry for finding Fr. Tom.

Many highlights were during the last quarter but the primary one is our Rector-Elect Tom Thoeni. Please put on your calendar Sunday, January 6, 4 p.m. That is the date of the installation of Fr. Tom as our official rector. The Right Rev. Dabney Smith, Bishop of Southwest Florida, will install Fr. Tom. Earlier that day will be the bishop's visitation to St. Paul's at 10 a.m.

We had a very successful convention at Punta Gorda in October with about 30 of our members in attendance with the highlight being Presiding Bishop Curry's informal talk followed by his sermon at the

evening Eucharist. If we did not have the largest congregation in attendance, we were very close. We also had a very enjoyable last service by Fr. Bill on Oct. 28, followed by a tasty lunch hosted and prepared by Van Geoghagen and Ken Eastlack.

In addition to the date of Fr.
Tom's Installation, please mark Sunday, Dec. 23, at 5 p.m. for our
Christmas Pageant, directed and produced by Charlene Connolly.
Although our Sunday morning services do not have enough children, our Holy Name of Jesus Congregation always provides lots of children for the pageant. Don't miss it.

Finally I would be remiss if I did not speak about Stewardship. This year we are changing a little and pledge cards will not be distributed until January as we wish to have our northern snowbirds here at home when the cards are distributed. If you wish envelopes, they will still be available in December. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

-Richard Breithaupt Senior Warden

# Important times

Christmas Pageant......Dec. 23, 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve.....Dec. 24, 9 p.m.

Rector's installation.....Jan. 6, 4 p.m.

### **Obituaries**

#### **Bob Anson**

Robert "Bob" Anson died at age 99 on Thanksgiving Day. He will be missed at St. Paul's, where his kindness, generousity and quick, sincere smile touched many lives.

Bob and Peggy moved to Naples in 1994 and became active members

of St. Paul's. We recently celebrated with them their 75th wedding anniversary. From the first day of the Farmers' Market ten years ago until quite recently, Bob was at his post every Saturday morning directing drivers where to park. A member of God's Gardeners, he planted and nursed hybrid hibuscus plants, among other chores.

Our church was filled with friends for his memorial service on Nov. 29. An Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, his ashes will be placed in the columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery.

#### **Paul Larson**

Paul Darrel Larson died Sept. 19 at 87.

Paul was very active at St. Paul's as a God's Gardener and irrigation specialist for the grounds. He served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force and 20 years working in aviation electronics for the U.S. Government.



Paul will be dearly missed by his wife Susan and the many people: friends, co-workers and family.

A memorial service was held on Sept. 27 at St. Paul's. Final committal with military honors will be in Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, NJ.

### **Mary Jane Friedhofer**

Mary Jane Friedhofer died Sept. 16. She was very active at St. Paul's as a Stephen Minister, visiting those who were ill or shutin; the altar guild; ECW; and as a Sunday School teacher. She was a woman who walked in God's faith. She was a wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Her loving heart knew no boundaries and her quirky

personality was sure to keep you on your toes. She was humble and honest and willing to lend an ear to anyone in need. She did not judge those before her and was guaranteed to provide some words of wisdom and comfort to those who sought her guidance.

Mary Jane lived for her family and dedicated her life to her church. As a stay at home wife she helped raise many of her grandchildren who often spent time with her at St. Paul's and by her side as she cleaned homes seasonally for her neighbors.

Service for Mary Jane was Oct. 20 at St. Paul's.

### **Evalyn Studier**

Evalyn Studier, 82, formerly of Bloomfield, Michigan, died in October. She is survived by her husband, Bernie Studier; daughter Debbie Vinuya (Rick); son, Stephen Studier (Dolores); and four grandchildren. Service was held on Saturday, Oct. 13 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield, Michigan. Evalyn and Bernard were members of St. Paul's.

### **Chuck Smith**

Charles Edward Stanley "Chuck" Smith died peacefully, but unexpectedly, Sept. 27 at age 83 in Delaware, Ohio.





Chuck had many great loves in his life including his devoted wife, Kathleen, family, golf and singing barbershop both in Marion, Ohio and in Naples. He was active in the many charities and outreach programs at St. Paul's. His family celebrates the many moments and memories created by and shared with him, and were very proud of his numerous golf accomplishments as well as his love and performance of barbershop.

A service and celebration of his life was Sept. 29 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Delaware, Ohio.

These children are working on their lessons while their parents are engaged in the Liturgy of the Word at the 5 p.m. service of the St. Paul's congregation of the Holy Name of Jesus. The service is in Creole, but all of the children either know or are learning English. Charlene Connolly not only teaches the morning Sunday School, but returns in the evening to lead a class that at times numbers a dozen. She is assisted by Rose Meggie Guerrier, Fr. Panel's daughter.



### Read the Bible In 90 days!

As Episcopalians we read the Bible every week in our worship services but only 10% of Christians have ever read the entire Bible.

You are invited to join Deacon Mary as she leads us through a program called "The Bible in 90 Days." By reading 12 pages every day, about 45 minutes to an hour, we will read the Bible from Genesis



to Revelation. We will meet together as a group at

9 a.m. on Sundays to discuss our experience of that week's reading.

Here are some of the benefits of this program:

- 1 A deepened relationship with God.
- 2 It's a Bible reading program, not a study: no doctrinal controversies.
- 3 Gain Biblical knowledge and understanding that builds confidence and faith.
- 4 It's only 90 days (not a year), and helps participants to connect key historical persons, events.
- 5 B90 groups build relationships and contribute to a higher success rate of completing the readings.
  - 6 Transformational.

We will begin the first Sunday of January and end on March 31 with a gathering to celebrate our success.

Don't worry about being away from church once in awhile. You can take your Bible with you and continue your reading schedule while you are away.

I hope you will consider this opportunity to challenge yourself and to meet with some of your St Pauls' family for what some have claimed to be a life changing experience.

-The Rev. Mary Abrams

### Men's Group Reconstitutes

Men of the parish will meet in the chapel Wednesday, Dec. 5 at noon for worship, then move to Serson Hall for lunch and discussion.

This is a new day and time for the men's group.

Fr. Tom will lead the group, and meetings will be weekly at the same time. The first Wednesday of the month will begin with worship.

All men are invited, and asked to bring a neighbor, too!

# Help Spread the Good Word

Social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the like are tools of communication that can be used for doing great evil of sowing discord, mistrust and meanness. Or they can be used for great good, such as reflecting the Light of Christ in the world.

If you would like to learn how to use social media to promote your faith and Church, call Tom Connolly, interim chair of the communications team at 285-9224.