

OCTOBER 2021

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Thomas Presbyterian Church Member Spotlight: Evelyn Dolanch



Evelyn Dolanch has been an official member of Thomas Presbyterian Church since 1974, although her history with the church dates back to attending the Mt. Prospect United Presbyterian Church and Fairview Presbyterian Church. In fact, Evelyn was born and raised across from the Thomas Church ball field. She was baptized at the Mt. Prospect United Presbyterian Church.

Evelyn's husband, Kenneth, lived on Bower Hill Road and was raised Catholic. According to Evelyn, he complained that she was never

home when he wanted to see her because she was always doing something at her church. Evelyn told Ken that if he wanted to see her, he needed to come to church. And the rest is history, as they say. Ken began attending activities at Evelyn's church and eventually left the Catholic church to join her church. It also was at this time that he entered military service.

It was 1942 and Ken was home on leave when he and Evelyn decided to get married. The Rev. Mulholland married them in his house. Ken and Evelyn had 6 children, 2 sons and 4 daughters. All the children were baptized in Mt. Prospect United Presbyterian Church and her 4 daughters were married in Fairview Presbyterian Church. All of her grandchildren were baptized at Fairview Presbyterian Church. Linda Jaberger did the funeral services at Thomas Church for Evelyn's two sons and her husband.

The Rev. Simpson of Thomas Presbyterian Church approached Evelyn and Ken about taking on position of custodians at the church. The couple had been in the position for 4 years when Ken died. Evelyn continued in the position for 20 years after his death retiring after 24 years of service and at the age of 81. Evelyn remembers some folks asking her if she didn't want to continue one more year to have a total of 25 years of service. Her response was that she'd made the decision to retire when she felt she wasn't able to do a good job. It was time.

In addition to serving as the church custodians, Ken served as an Elder and Evelyn served as a Deacon.

Evelyn has faithfully attended Thomas Church for 47 years. She is 96 years old, in good health, still driving, doing jigsaw puzzles, walking and having lunch with her daughter after church on Sunday.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

at

THOMAS CHURCH

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

COMMUNION

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Pastor Debbie's Corner

Each month in the Lamplighter, Thomas Presbyterian will give you a look inside what Pastor Debbie is reading, listening to, or watching to help build her faithfulness and ministry. She has recently started a daily devotional from Lectio 365. It is an app on her phone 'to help you pause and pray at the start and end of every day'. <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

DEADLINE: Information to be included in the *Lamplighter* must be received by the 20th of the month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and space.

THOMAS CHURCH
SESSION ELDERS

Peggy Flynn
mfllynn8@hotmail.com

Kristen Heinze
mtnlaurel3@hotmail.com

Jackie Riebel
knowie824@yahoo.com

Mike Clopp
driller96@yahoo.com

Kathi Durkin
kdurkin6@verizon.net

Jim Hixson
jehixson@verizon.net

Tom Walton
twalton1018@verizon.net

Keith Korintus
pkkorintus@verizon.net

Eric Mitchell
Mitchell.eric@verizon.net

Stephanie Modar
smodar@comcast.net

Sharon Richards
jmrsrvr@comcast.net

WHOLISTIC CARE DEACONS

Laurie Lersch
muffie40@hotmail.com

Cheryl Dudra
sherry386@comcast.net

Cathy Skinner
skinnermom7@yahoo.com

Pat Butto
patwvu76A@verizon.net

Denise Dahl
denisedahl@comcast.net

Linda Mahoney
1lazybonz@comcast.net

Amy Clopp
driller96@yahoo.com

Marge Tonecha

October Monthly Mission:

**Domestic Violence Services of South-
west PA**

October is Domestic Violence awareness month. In support of this, our monthly mission for October is Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The mission of Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania is to increase awareness of domestic violence and its effect on the community, to empower those victimized by providing advocacy and safe and effective services, and to work for social change designed to eliminate domestic violence.

Domestic violence is the number one public health issue facing families in the U.S. today. One out of every four women and one out of every seven men in this country will experience abuse in their lifetime. Unfortunately, **domestic violence was already an epidemic before COVID-19, but the pandemic has caused an increase in incidents of abuse and calls for help.** Many times, survivors of domestic violence are isolated from friends and family and the church may be the only place they can turn. While the signs of physical abuse may be obvious, other kinds of abuse such as verbal, emotional, sexual, digital, or financial can easily remain hidden.

Technology has become a quick and easy way for stalkers to monitor and harass. One in 13 people who have experienced stalking have said that electronic monitoring of some kind was used. Video or digital cameras are likely to be used as listening devices or bugs to track. More than **one in four** stalking survivors reports that some form of cyberstalking was used against them, such as email (83 percent of all cyberstalking survivors) or instant messaging (35 percent).

Abuse can affect anyone, including the elderly. Declining health and need for care put the elderly at risk of abuse by not only partners, but caregivers as

well. Examples of elder abuse can include withholding medication, taking Social Security checks, threats to institutionalize or remove from an institution, and refusal to take care of them. Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania provides the following services:

24 hour hot line

Safe Housing is available when it is needed anytime, day or night. Also, transportation to the safe house is available if needed.

Individual Counseling – The safe houses are staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days per week by trained domestic violence Counselors/Advocates and volunteers.

Support Groups

Assistance with Goal Planning, Safe house residents are asked to identify the goals they wish to accomplish during their stay.

Children's Services. Children's Advocates are available to work with children in the safe house.

Food, clothing, and personal care items.

Individual Empowerment Counseling

Community Support Groups

This month please help us help Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania continue its work in the community,

NOVEMBER

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

Mystery's Most Wanted Presents:
An Evening of Comedy, Mystery, &
Dinner

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2021

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

DINNER SERVED AT 6:00 PM

THOMAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1068 LINDEN ROAD

EIGHT FOUR, PA

PHONE 724-941-8910

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR TICKETS
OR STOP BY THE CHURCH OFFICE BE-

TWEEN 9 & NOON

TICKETS \$25 PER PERSON

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY PROMISE

On **October 28, 2021** FPSWPA will host a fund raiser at **Wigle Whiskey** on the Southside. A portion of each patron's bill will be donated to FPSWPA. Stay tuned for more information!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 MEETING

Fellowship and Hospitality. Discussed ways to provide more opportunities for fellowship and connection among members. The October 10th Name Tag Sunday and Breakfast is designed to help members get to know more about each other. Christian Education is considering a luncheon to introduce the Advent study.

Mike Clopp reported that most of the congregation has been vaccinated against COVID and there are no current issues that would change the way we are currently meeting. The Task Force continues to monitor guidance and conditions. Mike completed the COVID report for the PC(USA) and has requested to receive the final report/information from the PC(USA) once all data is processed.

Member Care: Discussed the growing need for providing support, especially for transportation, for some elderly members who can no longer drive.

Resources for Ministry/Mission – Finances: The first draft of the 2022 budget was presented. Jeff Bowman was unanimously elected as the chair of the Stewardship Team. It was suggested that the Stewardship Team be made up of a representative from each of the Teams. Mission and Outreach indicated that if a Stewardship Dinner is scheduled, they would like the opportunity to have a Mission Fair so the congregation can weigh in on the monthly missions to be supported in 2022.

Capital Campaign: With the current level of giving to the Capital Campaign and the ability to borrow from the endowment internally, the balance needed for the Capital Campaign will be met without securing an outside loan. The borrowed amount will be repaid by Range Resource revenue and future contributions.

Administrative: There will be a very brief congregational meeting on Oct. 10th to complete the slate of people needed to serve on the Nominating Committee.

MISSION TEAM UPDATES

- **Local: Food Helpers** was successful on Sept. 15. Please continue to think of those that may benefit from this local food mission. Tentative next date: Dec. 22
- **Regional: Mister Rodgers Neighborhood Sweater Drive.** We will participate in November...save those sweaters!
- **National: Ronald Mc Donald House:** Aluminum tabs will be delivered to RMH at Children's Hospital in early October. Please save/bring in any tabs you have collected.
- **International: Pumpkin Sales** to benefit the Literacy Project for South West Bethel Synod in Ethiopia will take place in the CLC lobby in October.

Community 3for1 Donations/Volunteers Needed –

Thomas Church has signed up for additional dates in our partnership with Community 3for1 to provide bagged meals to those in need. Community 3for1 provides a takeout meal and communion for residents of Brookline on Wednesday nights. If you would like to help or need additional information, please reach out to Kristen Heinze 724-986- 0681 or mtnlaurel3@hotmail.com

October 20-
Wedding soup makers
Italian sandwich makers (ham & salami on a burger bun)
Individual chip bags purchaser
Apple purchaser
Sweet treat maker
Drink purchaser

November 24 - We have been asked if we could provide a Thanksgiving type meal, to which I quickly replied 'Yes, we would be honored'!
Turkey makers
Stuffing makers
Mashed potato makers
Cranberry sauce makers
Dinner roll purchasers
Pumpkin sweet treat maker
Drink purchaser

THOMAS STAFF

Debbie Smith
Interim Pastor
724-941-8910
pastordebbiesmith@gmail.com

Bob Lutz
Business Manager
724-941-8910
thomasbsmgr@gmail.com

Emily Carroll
Administrative Assistant
724-941-8910
office@thomaspres.org

Dennis Luisi
Custodian
Cell: 724-554-3002

Julie Galati
Music Ministry Coordinator
Home: 724-746-2620
juliegالات@gmail.com

Michelle & Dave Zimmerman
Keyboards
tdzimn@verizon.net

Terri Kleinhaus
Director
Thomas Christian Preschool
724-941-8910

Kathy Gaab
Thomas 2s
724-941-3845



SUNDAY SERVICES PREVIEW FOR

OCTOBER

October 3, 2021: Job offers us an interesting perspective on suffering and faithfulness. Are we in a contract with God? Does He owe us prosperity for our loyalty? Are we in control as much as He? We know life doesn't happen that way. Hebrews reminds us that life didn't happen that way, even for Jesus. But for Jesus and Job, we see that God is with us through the good and bad times to give us strength and hope.

October 10: Job asks God to explain himself and the Zebedee brothers ask for seats next to Jesus. The response in both cases is to expand their imagination about who God is.

October 17: Today we'll consider Jesus' response to the rich young man. Can the rich truly not receive eternal life simply because they are rich? Jesus shows how the pursuit of wealth can get in the way of our relationship with God and others. He assures us that placing our trust in God and relying on Him alone is way more powerful than our bank balance. Experiencing eternal life has more to do with cultivating a relationship with God first and foremost in our lives.

October 24 Jesus talks about The Great Commandment: Love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and body and love your neighbor as yourself. We'll consider how the story of Naomi and Ruth gives an example of Jesus' summing up all of the law & the prophets.

A Story About Black Pepper (and Relationship Surprises)

I (Emily Carroll) received a random call on my cell phone. Would I like to receive a donation of 16 cases of black pepper? "How did you get my cell number? Where are you calling from?" After many questions and answers...Vicki was finally able to explain that she was from a trucking distribution center in Chicago, and our local Estes terminal in 84 had A LOT of black pepper with damaged boxed that was refused on the delivery end. The company is trying to ensure this type of thing is donated rather than thrown out. I called Patti Korintus to confirm that the Mission Team and specifically the new Food Helpers program would be interested in 16 cases of black pepper (and we tried to imagine what that might look like!) After many emails with Vicki and Chris at Estes, and an accidental reroute of the pepper to Wilmington, DE and back, I made arrangements to meet Chris at the CLC to deliver the black pepper for Food Helpers. As Chris and I talked, he mentioned how much he liked Thomas Church. I asked him if he had been a member, and he said, "No, my mother-in-law is Peggy Shannon, she used to be a pastor here." As I have repeated this story several times to the people at Thomas, all have commented on what a small world we live in, and how many connections we have with people daily that we may sometimes miss. I am glad I followed through with the strange request about black pepper. Vicki and Chris are wonderful people and Chris is going to keep our Mission in mind when more stuff shows up at Estes. I will answer that call!

2021 Monthly Mission Offerings

MONTH	MISSION	AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED
January	<i>Family Promise</i>	\$145
February	<i>Health For Her</i> <small>(formerly Pittsburgh Women's Clinic)</small>	\$145 + diaper collection
March	<i>Pine Springs Camp</i>	\$405
April	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	\$272+ food drive
May	<i>Pentecost</i>	\$315 (40% Go Time Ministry)
June	<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	\$345.00
July	<i>Deacons</i>	\$270.00
August	<i>City Mission</i>	\$620.00 + food drive
September	<i>Peace & Global Witness</i>	
October	<i>Domestic Violence Services</i>	
November	<i>Adopt-a-Family</i>	
December	<i>Christmas Joy</i>	

THOMAS CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SPECIAL MISSION PROGRAMS CONTINUES

Each month Thomas Presbyterian Church designates a particular mission to be the recipient of the monthly mission offering. With the exception of the mission programs designated by the Presbyterian Church, the congregation chooses the mission programs that will receive these offerings. The chart to the right provides information on the 2020 mission programs and the church's response.

