

Welcome Adam Thomas!

Since the departure of Colette in August, the Vestry and Margot have been discerning the will of God in our search for a new assistant to the rector. Would He bring us a priest? A transitional deacon? A seminarian? We held to our faith that the right person would emerge to help our parish and rector minister to our congregation.



Just this month, that discernment was answered in the person of the Rev. Adam Thomas, a young priest with a zeal for spiritually forming the lives of kids and Millennials (those 20-somethings anxious to take on the world). His arrival in late February or March will usher in a new spirit of energy and organization that should be felt immediately by the youth and young families of this parish. Amazingly, he also is skilled at the pastoral needs of folks of nearly every living generation and we will all benefit from his deeply centered faith and precocious wisdom.

Ordained a priest on June 14, 2008, Adam became the Curate at Trinity Episcopal Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia. Adam publishes a blog at www.wherethewind.com and has added video series, The Moving Picture Bible Study, via You Tube.

Adam writes: *The possibility of sharing in ministry with members of my generation at St. Stephen's delights me, as does St. Stephen's commitment to music and Christian formation. (You have a Carillon!) I believe that we connect most closely with the Creator when we ourselves are creating, whether that creation takes the form of singing, writing, acting, teaching, caring, serving, building, embracing, or loving. As a guitarist and singer/songwriter, I find joy in inviting others to make music with me during worship. As a writer, I find inspiration in the lives of those I encounter. And as a servant, I find sustenance in the relationships that form when we take seriously our call to seek Christ in all persons.*



Visit his blog at www.wherethewind.com and check out his great video blog series at *Moving Picture Bible Study* at www.youtube.com/user/wherethewind

The arrival of Adam Thomas underscores the abundance and the grace that God bestows upon this parish every single day. I hope you will all join me in welcoming him to our parish.

Submitted by Keith Conforti

Lent: A Time for...

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English and more penitential language, to remind us of our connectedness to our forebears and our brokenness as human beings. The scripture lessons and the hymns during Lent (some of the most beautiful, by far!) nudge us to go further and deeper on our journey.

Like last year, we'll begin our Sunday Lenten services with a quiet organ prelude, after which the congregation will be invited to kneel for the *Decalogue*, which takes the place of a hymn during the procession. We'll remain kneeling through the Collect of the Day (the opening prayer we say together, that "collects" our thoughts) to remind ourselves "who's God and who's not." Of course, for those unable to kneel, sitting with one's head bowed is another way of humbling our selves before God.

We'll also be using the traditional "hosts" or wafers this year during the Eucharist, rather than pita bread, and singing the "Agnes Dei" or Lamb of God at the Fraction. And finally, remember that we've put away the "A" word until the Great Vigil of Easter, so no more you-know-what's at the dismissal.

I hope you're Lenten journey this year is a rich one as a traveler on the way—whether you count yourself among the seekers, the doubters, the faithful or even all three! Our God is a God who meets us *wherever* we are; may you open your heart to invite him on your journey this Lent.