



# ST. THOMAS MORE

A Community of Parish and University Ministry

## YARD SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Parishioners,

While the Yard Sale has been a great tradition at STM, a number of factors have changed over the years and we have had to re-examine the pros and cons of holding the event again this year. After consulting with the Stewardship Committee and St. Thomas More staff, I have come to the difficult decision NOT to hold the annual Yard Sale this year due to the following considerations:

- The highly successful UNH Trash-to-Treasure sale has captured many of our former customers and UNH student patronage of the Yard Sale has continued to decline;
- Our Yard Sale volunteer base is aging and very few others have stepped up to replace or support them;
- Department Chairpersons could not be found for some of the popular departments;
- The labor involved with setting up and cleaning up after the event as well as for sorting, cleaning, and pricing donating items is not cost-effective relative to the greatly reduced income the Parish has been getting from the event in recent years;
- Faith Formation classes, Campus Student Organization meetings and events, and the normal routine duties of the Parish staff are greatly impacted by the preparations and performance of the Yard Sale; we have very limited parking and availability for workers/patrons; and finally,
- The solidarity of the Durham Churches' community vision of planning and organizing certain aspects of the Yard Sale together in unison, has changed. The Episcopal Church no longer takes part and the Community Church has changed their focus. This puts more strain on our wonderful volunteers and resources.

Over the years, the Yard Sale has been a great community building event, has raised a significant amount of money to pay for Parish programs, has supplied clothing to worthy charities and needy individuals, and has been a great way for the Parish to connect with the campus and Durham communities.

Over the last two years, we have implemented other fund raising activities such as the **Matching Gift Campaign** and the **200 Club** which are raising as much or more money for the Parish than the Yard Sale has in recent years and are much less labor intensive. We are exploring a Welcome Back community event in the fall. We can also hold dedicated clothing drives, similar to those held by our High School Youth Ministry for homeless teens and veterans to meet specific needs.

If you are spring cleaning or moving and have items to donate, we encourage you to reach out to other organizations such as Echo Thrift Shop, Habitat for Humanity, or Catholic Charities.

So, while we give the Yard Sale a sabbatical year, please give us your suggestions on revitalizing the Yard Sale and we can look to the future.

L'Shalom, and Yours in the Risen Lord,

6 Madbury Road • P.O. Box 620 • Durham, New Hampshire 03824-0620

TEL: 603-868-2666 OR 603-868-1043 • FAX: 603-868-3765