

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 17, 2008

Welcome to Our Visitors and Newcomers! We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting us today. We are glad you are here, and invite you to enjoy our hospitality at the coffee hour after the 10:00 am service. Please pick up a packet of Visitor Information to the left of the front doors, and we encourage you to sign our guest register.

No matter what your religious experiences might have been, and no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, please know that you are welcome here, and that you are invited to participate in our worship, fellowship, education, and parish life.

The Rev. William R. White

Prayer Ministry Today: Members of the Prayer Ministry will be available in the Loft during Communion at the 10:00 service, and will be in the rear of the church after the service. You are encouraged to share in this ministry if you desire prayer for yourself or others.

Wednesday Eucharist and Healing Service, No Service August 20 and 27: We usually offer a service of Holy Eucharist and Healing at 6:00 pm each Wednesday. This service is designed so that you can come to either or both parts of the service. Eucharist is celebrated first, and there is a dismissal for those who leave at that time. You may remain for healing prayer and anointing, which can be offered for yourself or for others about whom you might be concerned. Fr. Bill will be away for the next two weeks, however, and there will be no Wednesday service those dates. Services will resume September 3.

Sunday Morning Gumbo Continues: Our Sunday Morning Gumbo Adult Education program continues during August. These sessions provide an opportunity to gather for a free flowing discussion of any kinds of theological, biblical, or church questions and issues that are of interest. Fr. Bill will continue to offer his own recipe of a dash of Scripture, a pinch of history, a tablespoon of Catechism, and a smidgen of theology to add to the discussions. The group plans to meet while Fr. Bill is away (see below).

Combined EYC Resumes August 24, Tie-Dye Party: St. Thomas, St. Peter's by-the-Sea, Christ Church, and St. Patrick's will begin their third year of combined EYC activity starting on Sunday, August 24 at Mission on the Bay (behind the Christ Church property) in Bay St. Louis at 5:00 pm (912 South Beach Blvd.). There will be food, friends, fun, and a tie-dye party. The EYC shirts to be tie dyed will be provided. Bring extra shirts if you want to tie-dye some for family or friends. There will be no EYC on Labor Day week-end (August 31), and the regular program will resume at St. Thomas at 5:00 pm on September 7. For further information please contact Penny Edwards at 255-9213, or penny@stthomasdiamondhead.org

Father Bill Away August 24 and August 31, No Wednesday Services: Father Bill and Susan will be away the last two weeks of August. Fr. Jim Galbraith, who is well-know to many of us, will be here to celebrate the Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 on the 24th and 31st. There will be no Wednesday services on August 20 and 27. Services on Wednesday will resume September 3.

Ministry Sign-Up Sheets: Sign-up sheets for St. Thomas' ministries and programs are on the table in the foyer under Bishop Gray's picture. Please consider areas in which you can assist the church as we extend ourselves to each other and to the community.

COMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendars for the events and activities set forth below. Additional dates will be added as they become known.

August 19	Vestry Meeting
September 1	Labor Day
September 7	Newcomers Sunday
September 9	First Stewardship Committee Meeting
September 10	First Stewardship Letter mailed
September 12	Popcorn Theology
September 13	ECW
September 14	Stewardship Campaign Begins
September 16	Vestry Meeting
September 18	Parents Meeting
September 20	Mens Breakfast
September 21	Mission Sunday
September 25	Acolyte Training
September 28	Youth Sunday

October 1	Life Line Screening
October 4	Blessing of the Animals
October 5	Fall Clean-Up (one service only)
October 10	Popcorn Theology
October 11	ECW
October 12	Confirmation Classes Begin
October 16	Parents Meeting
October 18	Mens Breakfast
October 19	Youth Pancake Breakfast
October 21	Vestry Meeting
October 25	Lobster Fest
October 26	Youth Fall Fest
November 8	ECW
November 9	Stewardship Dinner
November 14	Popcorn Theology
November 15	Mens Breakfast
November 14-15	Healthy Congregations Workshop
November 16	Stewardship Sunday
November 18	Vestry Meeting
November 20	Parents Meeting
November 27	Thanksgiving Day
November 29	Gathering to make Advent Wreaths/Candles
November 30	First Sunday in Advent
December 12	Parents Meeting
December 13	ECW
December 16	Vestry Meeting (approval of 2009 budget)
December 18	Acolyte Training
December 20	Mens Breakfast
December 21	Bishop Gray's Annual Visit (Youth Xmas Party)
December 22	Celebration of the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle