

<p style="text-align:center">NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Week of January 22—28, 2012</p>

Welcome to Visitors and Newcomers! We are glad you are here, and invite you to 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 and invited to participate in our worship, fellowship, education, and parish life.

The Rev. William R. White

Prayer Ministry: Members of the Prayer Ministry will be available in the Prayer Chapel in the back of the church during Communion, and also after the service. You are encouraged to share in this ministry if you desire prayer for yourself or others.

Wednesday Eucharist and Healing Service at 12:15 pm: Services of Holy Eucharist and Healing are offered each Wednesday at 12:15 pm. Eucharist is celebrated first, followed by a dismissal. The healing service begins shortly thereafter.

Attention Parents! Roundtable Meets Next Wednesday To Discuss Youth Programs: The St. Thomas Roundtable meets on Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 pm at the church. This session will consider ways to expand and improve our Sunday School and youth programs. Parents please come to this meeting with your ideas and suggestions.

Annual Meeting Next Sunday: The annual meeting of the parish will be held next Sunday, January 29. There will be one service that day at 9:00 pm, and the meeting will begin at approximately 10:00 pm. One of the agenda items will be the election of three vestry members. The Vestry nominating committee, working with the Senior Warden, will present nominations, and nominations also may be made from the floor. Anyone nominated from the floor must be present to accept, and make a short statement about themselves, their church activities, and their vision for St. Thomas. Such information already will be in the meeting materials for the other nominees.

The Roundtable also will present an interim report and, depending on the Vestry meeting on January 24, some budget questions also might be presented.

Great Decisions Continues: For the fourth year the church is sponsoring a foreign policy discussion open to the public. It will examine eight global issues each month, and begin on February 9. The program is based on a program design created by the Foreign Policy Association, with which our program is coordinated. Topics for the 2012 series are: *Middle East Realignment, Promoting Democracy, Mexico, Cybersecurity, Exit from Afghanistan & Iraq, State of the Oceans, Indonesia and Energy Geopolitics*. Registration materials are available in Johnson Hall. Please contact Ali Grady for further information

Adult Education Continues: Part three of a six-part Adult Education series on Chapter six of the Gospel of Luke continues today between the services. The series examines how we can live Christian lives in an increasingly secular world.

Christian Education: A schedule of Christian education programs through June is to the left of the front doors in the foyer.

Receive Daily Bible Verses Or Devotionals Online: The new year has begun. Do you want to read the New Testament, or the entire Bible, in a year? The Christian Broadcasting Network will send Bible verses to you every day by e-mail. Or, you can give your family the opportunity to explore a Bible verse through engaging games and entertaining trivia questions. Go to www.cbn.com and click on "Reading Plans" to register. You also can receive daily devotionals by e-mail from Saddleback Resources at <http://purposedriven.com> by clicking on "Register for Daily Hope." Similar options are available at <http://www.thedailybibleverse.org>, or <http://www.verseoftheday.com>, or <http://www.emanna.com>. Fr. Bill also can suggest other reading plans to you. Please consider giving it a try.

Lenten Bible Study: Bishop Gray has announced that he is planning a diocesan-wide Lenten Bible Study of the four Gospels. Each church that participates will have flexibility to organize its own program. It could be group or individual study. He will provide further details in the near future.

Donations for Needy People. An increasing number of needy people from Hancock County have been visiting the office to seek assistance. We give gift cards for food and gasoline, and pay creditors directly. Fr. Bill's Discretionary Account exists for this purpose, There

is no line item in the church budget for these expenses. A box is in the narthex near the baptismal font to receive donations to help. We urge you to offer tax-deductible donations at any time.

Woodland Village Ministry Continues: Each Friday we conduct a worship service at the Woodland Village Nursing Center. There is a service of Evening Prayer, with Eucharist on the fourth Friday of each month. Much of this work is done by Lay Worship Leaders, Lay Readers, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the elderly in our community in their own setting. Please see Fr. Bill if you are interested in serving in this ministry.