



The St. Thomas Times and Tidings

March 2007

Volume 1, Issue 6

In This Issue	It's In The Script
<i>Sr. Warden Notes</i> 2	<p>Most of us have watched action movies where the heroes and heroines always manage to escape through the danger and violence. People crash through windows and run away, fall off buildings and jump right up, walk away from spectacular car wrecks, and emerge unscratched though all sorts of perils and chaos.</p> <p>How do they do it? How is it possible for these people in the movies to avoid death or serious injury in situations that most likely would produce those results in real life? The answer is: it's in the script! Read the script and you will know what's going to happen. Read the script and you will understand that all of those miraculous escapes were intended, planned, and designed from the very beginning.</p> <p>And how do we feel when we walk out of a movie theater back into the real world? To some of us it might seem that we are caught up in the drama of life and are being swept along as we wonder what will happen next. Others of us might think that everything is under control, which usually means that things only are under control for now. In either case times will come when we need guidance or deeper understanding.</p> <p>What do we do when that happens? We can talk to friends, seek solutions through prayer, or any number of other things. Sometimes we might just ask, why doesn't God just send us a memo, or an e-mail, telling us what to do. Or don't we just wish that an angel would appear, or a heavenly voice would speak, and just point the way.</p> <p>That probably won't happen. But we are not without resources to help us along the way. Just like the action movie heroes who always prevail because that's the way the script is written, there is another script that can help us to prevail as we deal with our lives.</p> <p>That script is the Bible, and it's real; not Hollywood. It is God's Word given to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and it tells us how we can find strength and guidance in our lives. Our help is there. It's in the script. All we have to do is read it, ask the Holy Spirit to open its meaning to us, and then believe.</p> <p>As we continue through this Lenten season I pray that we always will turn to this script to seek understanding when we are uncertain, and that it will show us the way through the twists and turns of life.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Fr. Bill</i></p>
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<p>The St. Thomas Times and Tidings is published monthly. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month. Articles and ideas are solicited.</p>	
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Notes from the Senior Warden—*Dick Park*



I would like to call your attention to a couple of recent developments. At its last meeting, the vestry voted to start paying off the principal of our building loan, a hold-over from our remodeling, at the rate of \$1,000 per month. We still owe about \$36,500, and we have been paying on it periodically as we receive contributions. At that rate, it will take about three years to retire the debt. Of course, we would be happy to receive donations to help retire it more quickly.

Many of you know that St. Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, California has been concerned about our recovery ever since shortly after Katrina. They have held fund raisers and given us significant money toward building a storage shed. The vestry has not approved a specific building plan yet because we would like to finish a master plan to determine what the church grounds should eventually include. Meanwhile, Susan Tucker from St. Cross visited last Sunday to discuss the project and to tell us that they are holding another Shrove Tuesday party for us, complete with the sale of beads and king cake. The unselfish support from so many people is indeed gratifying.

Ideas under consideration for the master plan are whether the storage shed should have an extended roof as a pavilion, a possible in-ground barbeque pit, relocating or expanding the playground, building a memorial garden and constructing an outside chapel that might house the columbarium. Other ideas might arise and some of these might be rejected. Please contact Joe Floyd if you have comments.

Diocesan Annual Council



The 180th Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi was held in Vicksburg February 2 through February 4. Delegates and alternates attending were Joe and Janis Floyd, Bobbie Stephens, Nell Frisbie, and Lynda Gilmore. Betty Hopkins, who was elected as a delegate by the Vestry, was unable to attend at the last minute. Fr. Bill was the clergy delegate, and Sally Kappus was the St. Thomas banner bearer in the Eucharistic procession on Sunday.

Highlights included a report on Katrina recovery, including the debut of a video titled "A New Wind" that will be shared with the larger church. Copies are available through the diocese. Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of the United Methodist Conference of Mississippi spoke on progress being made to establish interim Eucharistic sharing between the Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church.

Two resolutions were debated and adopted. One expressed strong disagreement with the decision of the Episcopal Church's Executive Council to affiliate with the Religious Council for Reproductive Choice, a pro-choice advocacy organization. Additional details about this resolution were in the February newsletter. The other established anti-racism training twice each year for church leaders. The council also adopted a balanced budget totaling just under \$2.6 million dollars.

Candidates from the coast fared well in diocesan elections. The Rev. Paul Stephens from Coast Episcopal School and The Rev. Edward O'Connor from St. Peter's by-the Sea in Gulfport were elected to the Executive Committee. The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones was elected to the Standing Committee.

March Birthdays!

- Mar 2—Walter Schlessman
- Mar 3—Jim Bills
- Mar 8—Gracie Gebbia
- Mar 10—Sue Stewart
- Mar 11—Sid Mizell
- Mar 18—Katie Hector
- Mar 19—Janis Floyd
- Mar 21—Sally Kappus
- Mar 25—Bruce Pennington
- Mar 26—Fr. Bill White



New Youth Group at St. Thomas

St. Thomas has joined an EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) group created last year by Christ Episcopal Church in Bay St. Louis, St. Peter's by the Sea in Gulfport, and St. Patrick's in Long Beach. The group, which at present consists of 20-30 young people from the original three churches, uses St. Thomas as a center for its weekly Sunday activities.

The youth director, Andrew McClarty, also is on the staff of Coast Episcopal School and has worked in youth ministry for many years.

The group is divided into 6-8th grade students who meet from 4:00-5:15, followed by dinner from 5:15—5:45. The 9-12th grade students will also join in the dinner and then have their program from 5:45 -7:00pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to meet teens from other Coast communities. If you have children or grandchildren in this age group, or have friends or neighbors who do, please encourage them to join in. All are welcome! Come by St. Thomas on Sunday and check it out!



"Brown Bag Sunday" and the Hancock County Food Pantry

On Sunday, March 4, and on the first Sunday of each succeeding month, St. Thomas will collect nonperishable food items to donate to the Hancock County Food Pantry. ECW will deliver the items to the Food Pantry. The official kick-off was Sunday, February 25, when the Sunday School children distributed grocery bags to each family after the 8:00 and 10:00 services. Each family was asked to return the filled bags to church on "Brown Bag Sunday," March 4. If you missed receiving your brown bag, you may still contribute the food items in a bag of your choice.

Congratulations to Lynda Gilmore



Our own Lynda Gilmore has been selected as Teacher of the Year at Bay Waveland High School. This is a high honor that certainly is richly deserved. Congratulations!

Celebration of the Life of Lewis Irvine Davis



A Service of Celebration and Commendation for Lewis Davis, beloved husband of Helen Davis, was held at St. Thomas on Saturday, February 17. Daughter Rachel and son John attended along with many from our St. Thomas family. Lewis was remembered for touching the lives of others with his warmth, sense of humor, and a way of being an uplifting and encouraging presence. We pray for Helen and the family, and draw comfort from knowing that he is safe with our Lord and is waiting there for us

Dates to Remember

- March 4—Brown Bag Sunday
- March 10—Quiet Day
- March 17—Men's Breakfast
- April 1-7—Holy Week
- April 8—Easter

Samaritan Guild

This group of volunteers brings Christ's love to church members who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend services on Sunday. There are note cards in the narthex for you to use for family and friends who are also not members of St. Thomas. Please feel free to use this gesture of caring. This group meets every Thursday at 10:00 am in Fr. Bill's office.

Prayer Ministry



The St. Thomas prayer ministry emphasizes intercessory prayer on behalf of members of the church, their families and loved ones, and the church as a whole.

A *24 hour Prayer Line* for emergency or immediate needs is available and staffed by people in the church committed to offer prayer for these needs. Please call Susan White at 255-2568 (home) or (228) 229-4881 (cell) to alert the prayer ministry team.

An *Intercessory Prayer Letter* for anticipated or long-term needs invites you to write a prayer request on a form available on the table in the sitting area outside the sanctuary, and leave in the box on that table. Each Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. service this prayer letter will be sent to a group of prayer warriors who will pray for these needs during the week.

A *Prayer Corner* during Eucharist and the balance of the 10:00 a.m. service will begin later in March. Two prayer team members will be available in the choir loft for anyone who would like personal prayer. During communion and after the service those wishing to be prayed for may go upstairs for private prayer.

All requests will be treated with confidentiality. If you would like to become a part of any of these prayer ministries, please call Susan White at 255-2568

Vestry Retreat on Youth Programs

The St. Thomas Vestry met at a retreat at the church all day on Saturday, February 24. The entire agenda focused on developing the church's youth program. The Rev. Chuck Culpepper from Jackson, who worked for many years with youth programs on the Diocesan staff, facilitated the meeting and discussions.

The retreat reflects the Vestry's commitment to reach out to young people in Diamondhead and the surrounding area, and to offer them a church home where they can strengthen their faith in the Lord and their friendships with one another.

The Vestry recognizes the need to not only provide meaningful programs for our youth (see article on p.3), but also to increase young family membership in the church with the resultant growth in youth membership

Wednesday Healing and Eucharist Service

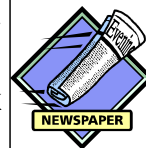


A service of Holy Communion and Healing is offered each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. The service is designed so that you may participate in either or both parts of the service. Eucharist is celebrated first. Healing and prayer can be offered or yourself, and for others about whom you might be concerned.



Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

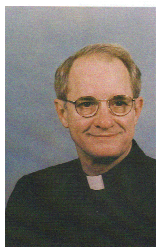
Sign-up sheets for St. Thomas' ministries and programs continue to be available on the table in the foyer under Bishop Gray's picture. If you have not reviewed one of these sheets, then Fr. Bill and the Vestry urge you to do so. Something might strike you as an area in which you could participate in the church's ministries to its members and the community. You might see something of interest to which you have given little thought. Sometimes a call to service can rest beneath the surface, and needs only the slightest invitation to come to consciousness.



St. Thomas Ads in the Sun Herald

We have begun advertising our church services in the Saturday religion page of the *Sun Herald*, and in the "Around South Mississippi" page (back page of Section A) on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please mention these to your friends and associates who might respond to information about our services.

ECW Quiet Day



Men, women, and young people of the Diamondhead area are invited to participate in a Quiet Day program (there will be some conversation) at the church from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on March 10 facilitated by the Rev. Bronson Bryant, former rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Pass Christian. Please bring a sack lunch. Drinks, dessert, and childcare will be provided. Reservations are requested by calling Bobbie Stephens at 255-1241. This also will be an opportunity for reflection, meditation, and thinking about the period of Lent.

Wednesday Lenten Program

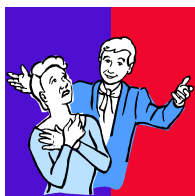
Our traditional weekly Lenten program, began on Wednesday, February 25, at the church at 6:30 pm, and will continue through Holy Week. The program begins with Eucharist, followed by a soup and salad dinner and a presentation. The presenter at first program was Dr. John C. Maxwell, a well known Christian speaker who has participated in our Lenten programs in the past. Additional programs will include dramatic readings and presentations by the St. Thomas Amazing Praisers. The entire Lenten and Holy Week schedule is at page 7 in this newsletter.



The dinners are provided by various groups within the church, such as ECW, Mens' Breakfast, Altar, Guild, Choir, Flower Guild, and Vestry. These groups are asked to contact Bobbie Stephens (255-1241) to schedule your night

St. Thomas Amazing Praisers

From the casting call to produce our Lenten dramatic productions has emerged the St. Thomas Amazing Praisers. This will be our ongoing in-house troupe that will perform Christian plays, skits, other productions from time to time throughout the year. The group continues to recruit people who are interested in performing, as well as those handy with a hammer or needle to construct sets, make costumes, and do other related things. There still is a need for volunteers to make simple costumes for the Lenten skit on March 21. Please contact Susan White at 255-2568 if you feel called to this ministry



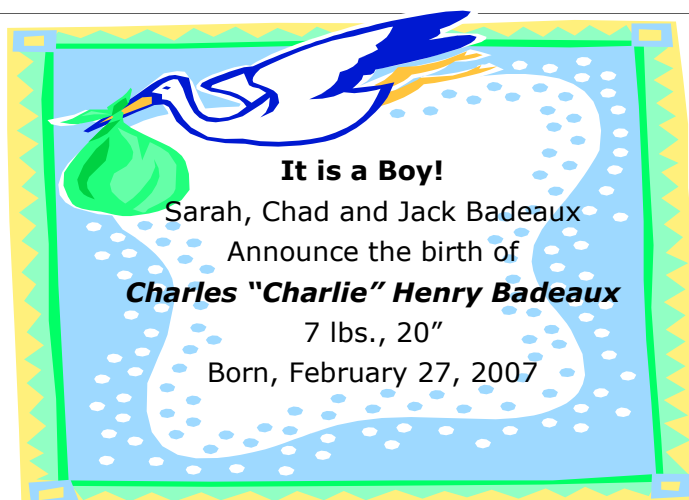
Christian Education During Lent



Our Christian Education program continues between the services at 9:00 a.m. with an exploration of the church's Lenten discipline.

The program uses the letters to the seven churches of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 2:1-3:22) as points of departure to study and discuss how those letters speak to the contemporary church in the context of Lent. Each letter raises timeless issues against which we can measure how we carry out the church's mission today.

The format encourages interactivity. Those attending the class take responsibility for presenting one of the letters to the group for discussion. Maren Casano made the first presentation on February 25 about the letter to the church at Ephesus. We will hear presentations from Paul Montjoy, Sally Kappus, and Mary Minor Fargason later in the month. Additional presenters still are needed. Anyone interested in presenting one of the letters should contact Fr. Bill, who would be more than willing to help with organizing



Remaining Lent and Holy Week Schedule		
Sunday March 4	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist-I Adult Education, Letter to the Church at Smyrna Holy Eucharist-II
Wednesday March 7	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Holy Eucharist-II, Holy Unction (Healing Service) Holy Eucharist-II, Soup and salad supper, Dramatic Reading, John 10:11-18, I Am the Good Shepherd (Follow the Leader)
Saturday March 10	10:00 am	Quiet Day, the Rev. Bronson Bryant
Sunday March 11	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist-I Adult Education, Letters to the Churchs at Pergamum and Thyatira Holy Eucharist-II
Wednesday March 14	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Holy Eucharist-II, Holy Unction (Healing Service) Holy Eucharist-II, Soup and salad supper, Dramatic Reading, John 14:1-12, I Am the Way (Did You Bring the Map?)
Sunday March 18	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist-I Adult Education, Letters to the Churchs at Sardis and Philadelphia Holy Eucharist-II
Wednesday March 21	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Holy Eucharist-II, Holy Unction (Healing Service) Holy Eucharist-II, Soup and salad supper, Lenten Play, the St. Thomas Amazing Praisers
Sunday March 25	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist-I Adult Education, Letter to the Church at Laodicea Holy Eucharist-II
Wednesday March 28	12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Holy Eucharist-II, Holy Unction (Healing Service) Holy Eucharist-II, Soup and salad supper, Christ in the passover (DVD), also possible youth presentation
Sunday April 1 Palm Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist-I Holy Eucharist-II
Monday April 2	12:15 pm	Holy Eucharist-II
Tuesday April 3	12:15 pm	Holy Eucharist-II
Wednesday April 4	12:15 pm 7:00 pm	Holy Eucharist-II, Holy Unction (Healing Service) A Service of Tenebrae
Thursday April 5	12:15 pm 7:00 pm	Holy Eucharist-II, Holy Unction (Healing Service) Maundy Thursday Service, Stripping of the Altar
Friday April 6	12:15 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Good Friday Liturgy Stations of the Cross Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday April 7	10:00 am 8:00 pm	Holy Saturday Liturgy Easter Vigil
Sunday April 8 Easter	8:00 am 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist-I Holy Eucharist-II

March Serving Schedule

	Sunday, March 4 Eucharist	Sunday, March 11 Eucharist	Sunday, March 18 Eucharist	Sunday, March 25 Eucharist
Altar Guild	<u>Team 3</u> Boos, Crowe, Pickens, Swayze	<u>Team 4</u> Allen, Floyd, Giffin, Gilmore	<u>Team 1</u> Breen, Davis, Hourin, Thissell	<u>Team 2</u> Bryan, Casano, Ford, Park
Flower Guild	No Flowers in Lent	No Flowers in Lent	No Flowers in Lent	No Flowers in Lent
Lector—MP Chalicer—HE	Ed Weidlich—Chalicer	Ed Weidlich—Chalicer Jackie Calvert—Reader	James DeDeaux— Chalicer	Ed Weidlich—Chalicer Jackie Calvert—Reader
Usher—8	Bruce Frallic	Don Young	Bruce Frallic	Don Young
Acolytes—10	Ashton Hourin Shannon Hourin	David Hector Matthew Saucier	Jake Penrose Evan Ruzicka Ciara Ford	Sydney Ruzicka Alan Bruce
Lector(s)	Bob Eddy	Sue Stewart	Paul Montjoy	Susan White
Chalicers	Katherine Wilson James DeDeaux	Skip Giffin Sally Kappus	Bobbie Stephens Susan White	Darlene Park Bill Frisbie
Greeter	Paul Montjoy	David & Karen Hector	Gary Gilmore	Steve Austin
Usher—10	Bob Eddy and John Boos	Bob Eddy and Gary Gilmore	Bob Eddy and Paul Montjoy	Bob Eddy and Lou Crowe
Hospitality	Judy and Frank Gaupp	Georgia Pickens	Corny Swayze	Travella Dabler Mary & Tyrone Sartin

Vestry Liaison Responsibilities

At its February meeting the Vestry determined its liaison assignments for areas of church operations. Each Vestry member was encouraged to develop committees, comprised of church members not on the Vestry, to assist them in their work. The areas are:

WARDENS

Dick Park '08, Senior Warden. (1) Rector's Warden, (2) Mission and Outreach

Joe Floyd '07, Junior Warden. (1) People's Warden, (2) Facilities Planning (future facilities)

Vestry Members

Bobbie Stephens '07. (1) Parish Life, (2) Public Relations

Katherine Wilson '07 (1) Prayer and Spiritual Formation, (2) Mission and Outreach

Nell Frisbie '08. (1) Liturgy, Music, and Seasonal Programs, (2) Lay Caring Ministries

Lynda Gilmore '08. (1) Administration, (2) Youth

Jack Allen '09. (1) Christian Formation, (2) Youth

Patty Hourin '09. (1) Stewardship, (2) Financial Planning and Implementation

Bob Saucier '09. (1) Family Programs, (2) Buildings and Grounds (existing facilities)

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Lou Crowe, Treasurer.

Debbie Jones, Parish Administrator and Financial Secretary.

Mary Sartin, Clerk.

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 10 am — Samaritan Guild 8pm—AA	<i>2</i> 10:00—World Day of Prayer@ Community Church 12:10—AA	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Brown Bag Sunday</i> 8 am HE 10 am HE 10 am Sunday School 4-5:15 Jr. High EYC 5:15-5:55 Meal 5:45-7 Sr. High EYC	<i>5</i> 12:10— AA 1:30—Shawl Min. 3:00—Bible Study	<i>6</i> 9:30— 11am— D'head Cont. Ed. Classes 5-7pm—Yoga 6:30 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Al- Anon	<i>7</i> 10am—OA 12:10pm—AA 12:15pm—HE & Healing <i>6pm—Lenten Program</i>	<i>8</i> 10 am — Samaritan Guild 4:30pm Cub Scouts	<i>9</i> 12:10—AA	<i>10</i> 10-3pm—ECW Quiet Day—Lead by The Rev. Bron- son Bryant
<i>11</i> 8 am HE 9 am Christ. Ed 10 am HE 10 am Sunday School 4-5:15 Jr. High EYC 5:15-5:55 Meal 5:45-7 Sr. High EYC	<i>12</i> 12:10— AA 1:30—Shawl Min. 3:00—Bible Study 6:30pm—Girl Scouts	<i>13</i> 9:30-11am— D'head Cont. Ed. Classes 5-7pm—Yoga 6:30 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Al- Anon	<i>14</i> 10am—OA 12:10pm—AA 12:15pm—HE & Healing <i>6pm—Lenten Program</i>	<i>15</i> 10 am — Samaritan Guild	<i>16</i> 12:10—AA	<i>17</i> St. Patrick's Day  8:30 am— Men's Breakfast Group
<i>18</i> 8 am HE 9 am Christ. Ed. 10 am HE 10 am Sunday School 4-5:15 Jr. High EYC 5:15-5:55 Meal 5:45-7 Sr. High EYC	<i>19</i> 12:10— AA 1:30—Shawl Min. 3:00—Bible Study	<i>20</i> 9:30-11am— D'head Cont. Ed. Classes 5-7pm—Yoga 7pm—Vestry 6:30 pm—Choir	<i>21</i> 10am—OA 12:10pm—AA 12:15pm—HE & Healing <i>6pm—Lenten Program</i>	<i>22</i> 10 am — Samaritan Guild 4:30pm Cub Scouts	<i>23</i> 12:10—AA	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 8 am HE 9 am Christ. Ed. 10 am HE 10 am Sunday School 4-5:15 Jr. High EYC 5:15-5:55 Meal 5:45-7 Sr. High EYC	<i>26</i> 12:10— AA 11:30—Shawl Min. 3:00—Bible Study 6:30pm—Girl Scouts	<i>27</i> 9:30- 11am— D'head Cont. Ed. Classes 5-7pm—Yoga 6:30 pm—Choir 7:30 pm—Al-	<i>28</i> 10am—OA 12:10pm—AA 12:15pm—HE & Healing <i>6pm—Lenten Program</i>			

Easter Lilies and Flowers

Donations for Easter Lilies and Flowers are
\$20.00 and should be sent with this form
To the church office no later than

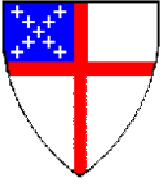
Monday, April 2, 2007

PRINT ALL INFORMATION

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church
5303 Diamondhead Circle
Diamondhead MS 39525