

The St. Thomas Times and Tidings

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October 2007

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God Calls us to Stewardship

Stewardship is a year-round spiritual discipline through which God calls us to faithfully use and care for all that he has given us. As the church plans for its mission and ministry in 2008, we begin to think of the financial aspects of this larger and ongoing stewardship obligation. We now are asked to consider how we can return to God a portion of the blessings that we have received.

We begin by acknowledging that stewardship in its larger context extends to all parts of our lives because life itself comes from God, and because all that we have are gifts of God’s grace. Of course, we work hard to be successful and to provide for our families. And certainly we can look back and see important crossroads and turning points where our decisions and our efforts led us to achieve our objectives.

God, however, was with us at those times. He is the source of our opportunities to work and be productive. Our abilities, skills, and talents all come from God whether or not we actually think about it on a daily basis. And the decisions and choices we make can be influenced by the Holy Spirit even though we might not realize it at the time.

Once each year we are asked to decide how we will support our community at St. Thomas through our financial stewardship. As we plan for 2008 we are challenged by two things. One is that Diamondhead is changing and is becoming home to younger families. The other is that the Diocese of Mississippi no longer will be able to continue to supplement our budget as it has done during the last two years.

These realities are illustrated by our Stewardship Theme for 2008, which is “Building for the Future through God’s Grace Today.” It emphasizes the need for additional resources to expand our youth programs so that we can reach our ever-increasing younger population. It also anticipates filling the gap previously filled by diocesan assistance. And most importantly, it calls upon us to respond to God’s grace and his blessings by prayerfully reflecting upon how we can meet these needs through faithful stewardship.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul stated that “each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” But he also spoke to the future in the preceding verse when he said that “one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” As we plan for the future at St. Thomas I pray that we can cheerfully give and bountifully reap.

Your Stewardship Committee is developing a program to explain how our financial realities affect our future goals. Your Budget Committee is working on options for next year’s spending. And your Vestry is committed to ensuring that your increased financial support will be wisely and prudently used. Together, we ask that each of you prayerfully consider how Christian stewardship can be part of your life in the church as our stewardship program goes forward.

Fr. Bill

The St. Thomas Times and Tidings is published monthly. Articles and ideas are solicited.

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Special Events and Parish Life by Bobbie Stephens

October 7 is NEWCOMERS SUNDAY at St. Thomas, and we plan to have a reception in Johnson Hall following the 10:00 o'clock service. We have sent invitations to all families who have moved to Diamondhead during the last four months. Please make a special effort to welcome any newcomers who may be sitting near you in church that day as well, of course, as any day. Please ask them to fill out one of the visitor's cards, available in each pew, if they did not receive one on their way in to church.

We still are looking for pictures and news items from early days of St. Thomas to use at our 25th Anniversary Celebration in December. Please search to see if you have any of these items. They will be copied and returned to you.

TLC!

The St. Thomas Samaritan Guild, which comforts those in our church family who are ill or infirm, is expanding its ministry to include helping family members and others who are burdened with caring for those loved ones. This ministry would include preparing and delivering meals, home visits, and help with errands. This is an important ministry that can help prevent caregivers from becoming patients themselves. Please sign up in Johnson Hall.



Wednesday Healing and Eucharist Service



A service of Holy Communion and Healing is offered each Wednesday at 6:00 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 for yourself, and for others about whom you might be concerned.

****There will be no service on October 3** when Fr. Bill will be at clergy conference. **

Rest in Peace



Richard "Hoppy" Hopkins, a long time member of St. Thomas, left this life and went to meet the Lord September 10. A service of celebration was held at St. Thomas on September 13, and burial followed with full military honors at Biloxi National Cemetery.

Hoppy is survived by his devoted wife, Betty Hopkins, of Diamondhead; his children, Audrey Tillman and her husband, Kenneth, of Baton Rouge, and Barbara Torrey and her husband, Burke, of Vicksburg; a sister, Beverly Brown of Coosbay, Oregon; his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Hoppy was retired after twenty years of service with the U. S. Air Force and seventeen years with the U. S. Postal Service. He was an avid fisherman, shrimper, gardener, and builder of model airplanes. He was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Toast to the Coast



Join the Coast Episcopal School Parents Organization for its 24th annual "Toast to the Coast" on Friday, October 12 at 7:00 at 845 East Scenic Drive, in Pass Christian. This annual event to benefit the school features specialty dishes from many of the finest Gulf Coast restaurants and caters, a live and silent auction, and music and dancing. Call (228) 452-9442 for more information.

Watch our Building Grow

Construction will begin in October for our storage building and pavilion west of the church. A mission team from one of our partner parishes, St. Cross By-The-Sea Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, California, will arrive on October 27 to start work and to be part our parish life for a week. This storage facility will result in additional space in the main building, and the pavilion will be used for outside events.

October Birthdays!

- 01— Barbara Ford
- 02—Maleah Austin
- 10—Lil Bryan
- 13—Georgia Pickens
- 19—Peter Casano
- 22—Mary Minor Fargason
- 29—Nell Frisbie
- 30—Karen Hector



Need Childcare Volunteers for Mom's Day Out



A Mom's Day Out program will soon be launched where Moms (or Dads) from the community can bring their children (up to age six) to the church on Thursdays from 9:00 to Noon for child care while they have free time. However, we still need additional people to serve on the teams that would supervise the children on Thursdays before we can activate the program. This is an important ministry, and we need your help. Please call the church office to volunteer or for information.



LOBSTERS FOR SALE!

Please mark your calendars for the October 13 Lobster Fest benefiting Wilmer Hall, a children's home in Mobile, Alabama, serving abused and neglected children over the entire Gulf Coast area, and affiliated with the Episcopal Church. The sale of lobsters is the primary fundraiser for Wilmer Hall. This is a time to enjoy a wonderful dinner together and help children in need at the same time. You can pick up your lobster, live or steamed, or join us for the lobster feast in Johnson Hall the evening of October 13. Tickets (\$20 each) will be on sale in Johnson Hall following the Sunday services or you can contact Mary Sartin (586-9007) or Judy Gaupp (255-3627).

ECW News

Reminder! The October ECW meeting will be the first Saturday of the month, October 6, since our Maine Lobster Event for Wilmer Hall will be held on Saturday, October 13. We are still discussing plans for the coming year so we would like as many ladies of the church as possible to come to the meeting and help make decisions about how to best serve our church.

Please continue to save your labels (with barcodes) from any Shurfine, Shurfresh and Price Saver products you use (exclusive of milk, bread and produce). Choice Supermarket will redeem these labels for nonprofit organizations at the rate of three cents each. Donated labels should be placed in the little wooden church in Johnson Hall. Remember to also turn in your unwanted stamps being given at Diamondhead Supermarket. We prefer they not be pasted on the sheets.

For information about ECW, please call Mary Sartin (586-9007) or Judy Gaupp (216-3528).

St. Thomas Amazing Praisers



Our St. Thomas drama group, the Amazing Praisers which re-enacts biblical stories, will meet Wednesday, October 3, 5:00 p.m., at the home of Fr. Bill and Susan White. (No Wednesday evening service on this date since Fr. Bill will be at clergy conference.) All interested persons are encouraged to join in even if you are not sure you can participate and only have questions. Volunteers (youth and adult) are needed for set design, costumes, and actors. For further information, please contact Susan White (255-2568).

Men's Breakfast



Men's Breakfast meets on the third Saturday of each month, 8:30 a.m., in Johnson Hall. The next meeting will be Saturday, October 20. For more information, call Gary Gilmore (255-4396).

Vestry Elections

Three of our Vestry members terms expire this year (Joe Floyd, Bobbie Stephens, and Katherine Wilson). They constitute our Vestry Nominating Committee. Please see one of them if you believe you might be called to Vestry Service.

Sunday School



Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. for pre-school kindergarten, and elementary aged children (grades 1-5). Please contact Georgia Saucier (255-4127) if you would like to be a part of this important ministry.

Youth Group

Our Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Group, which includes not only youth from St. Thomas but also St. Peter's by-the-Sea in Gulfport, St. Patrick's in Long Beach, and Christ Church in Bay St. Louis, meets at 5:00 on Sunday afternoons for dinner in Johnson Hall at the church. After dinner, the Jr. High and Sr. High groups meet separately for their own programs. Both programs end at 7:00. This is an active group, and we urge you to participate.

"Popcorn Theology" Movie Night



Every second Friday of the month, a movie night is enjoyed at the church for kids ages five through twelve, more or less. The movies will lend themselves to discussions of some aspect of faith, or ethical, or moral, or Christian issues. Father Bill and parents are facilitating the discussions after the movies. Next movie night will be Friday, October 12. Showtime is 6:00 p.m. *St. Thomas kids are urged to invite their friends!*

Young Families Supper Club



The Young Families Supper Club will come together with the Community Church Supper Club when they meet next on Saturday, October 6, 6:00 p.m., for a meal and fellowship at the church in Johnson Hall. For further information, please contact Georgia Saucier (255-4127).

St. Thomas Popcorn Theology Movie Night



Youth Sunday, September 16, 2007



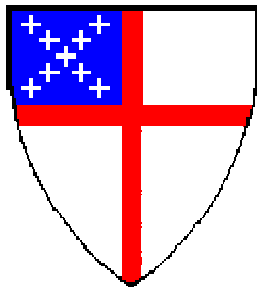
Cursillo

Cursillo is a worldwide movement of the Episcopal Church that focuses on more deeply appropriating our Christian experiences into our daily lives. It also has been called a "short course on Christianity" beginning with a three-day weekend at the Gray Center that provides a living and sharing experience where men and women can meet Christ, meet fellow Christians from around Mississippi, and experience Christ's love in community

Cursillo weekends usually are held twice each year. The next weekend is scheduled for October 18-21. St. Thomas communicants Darlene and Dick Park will be attending. Please pray for them as they prepare for and experience this ministry.

The national Cursillo website is at <http://www.nati-cursillo.org/>





House of Bishops Meeting

The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops concluded its New Orleans meeting with action that pledged restraint by not consecrating gay and lesbian bishops, and that also pledged not to authorize official rites to bless same sex unions.

This action did not undo or roll back any prior positions of the church, which is a source of contention with theologically conservative Episcopalians because some liberal bishops individually do permit same sex blessings anyway. Some moderate leaders, however, have indicated that the Bishops' action adequately responded to concerns of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Some liberal leaders would have gone further.

The Bishops' resolution is being reviewed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Conservative Anglicans and Episcopalians are meeting in Pittsburgh to discuss their future in the church as this article is being written. Bishop Gray plans to make a statement on this matter by the end of September (after the deadline for this newsletter) and to address the matter in detail at the Diocesan Clergy Conference next week (October 1-4).

Some observers, both liberal and conservative, speculate that a new round of departures from the Episcopal Church will begin later this year, including possible efforts by at least four conservative dioceses to leave. They believe that additional departures are inevitable, and that nothing could have happened in New Orleans to change that fact.

On two occasions last month Bishop Gray sent letters to clergy in which this matter was discussed. In the first letter he said, "Regardless of what happens in New Orleans there will still be a Diocese of Mississippi and there will still be congregations with whom we share a common mission. May we never forget that we are *"One Church in Mission."* In the second letter Bishop Gray stated, "I have no desire to expend energy in creating a new church. I believe that the Episcopal Church will remain a part of the Anglican Communion through its relationship with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Other parts of the communion may choose to sever its relationship with Canterbury. That is their choice. I have chosen otherwise."

Bishop Gray opposed the consecration of Gene Robinson at the 2003 General Convention, and supported a candidate for Presiding Bishop other than Katharine Jefferts Schori at the 2006 convention.

We are fortunate that this dispute within the church has not detracted from our mission and ministry at St. Thomas. We will continue to focus on recovering from the effects of Katrina, and to work with Bishop Gray as we rely on the Gospel and the truth of Scripture to minister to each other and the community.

Fr. Bill

October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12:10pm—AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:00pm—Bible Study Group	2 6:30pm—Choir 7:30pm—Al-Anon	3 12:10pm—AA NO SERVICE THIS EVENING	4 10am—Samaritan Guild	5 12:10pm—AA	6 10am—ECW in Johnson Hall 6pm—Young Families Supper Club in Johnson Hall
<i>Fr. Bill out for Clergy Conference at Gray Center 1-4th</i>						
7 NEWCOMERS SUNDAY 8am—HE Rite I 9am— Confirmation Classes 10am—Sunday School 10am—HE Rite II with Baptism	8 12:10pm—AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:00pm—Bible Study Group	9 6:30pm—Choir 7:30pm—Al-Anon	10 12:10pm—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	11 10am—Samaritan Guild	12 12:10pm—AA 6:00pm—Popcorn Theology Movie Night	13 6:30pm—Lobster Fest—Johnson Hall
14 FALL CLEAN UP ONE SERVICE @ 9:00am—Rain Date will be Octo- ber 21 5-7pm—EYC	15 12:10pm—AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:00pm—Bible Study Group	16 6:30pm—Choir 7:30pm—Vestry 7:30pm—Al-Anon	17 12:10pm—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	18 10am—Samaritan Guild	19 12:10pm—AA	20 8:30am—Men's Breakfast
21 8am—HE Rite I 9am— Confirmation Classes 10am—Sunday School 10am—HE Rite II 5-7pm—EYC	22 12:10pm—AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:00pm—Bible Study Group	23 6:30pm—Choir 7:30pm—Al-Anon	24 12:10pm—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	25 10am—Samaritan Guild	26 12:10pm—AA	27
<i>Debbye will be out of the church office on vacation 22-26th.</i>						
28 8am—HE Rite I 9am— Confirmation Classes 10am—Sunday School 10am—HE Rite II 5-7pm—EYC	29 12:10pm—AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:00pm—Bible Study Group	30 6:30pm—Choir 7:30pm—Al-Anon	31 12:10pm—AA	November 1 All Saints Day		

October 2007

	October 7 8:00 HE: Rite I 10:00—HE: Rite II with Baptism	October 14 NO 8:00 Service 9:00—HE: Rite II FALL CLEAN UP	October 21 8:00—HE: Rite I 10:00—HE: Rite II	October 28 8:00—HE: Rite I 10:00—HE:Rite II
Altar Guild	<u>Team 2</u> Bryan, Casano, Park	<u>Team 3</u> Boos, Crowe, Pickens, Swayze	<u>Team 4</u> Allen, Floyd, Giffin, Gilmore	<u>Team 1</u> Ball, Breen, Hourin
Flower Guild	Arva Kyger	Rusty Cobb	Bobbie Stephens	Travella Dabler
Lector—MP Chalicers—HE	Ed Weidlich-Chalice	NO 8:00 am Service	Ed Weidlich-Chalice	James DeDeaux-Chalice Jackie Calvert—Reader
Usher—8	Don Young	NO 8:00 am Service	Bruce Frallic	Don Young
Acolytes—10	Matthew Saucier Evan Ruzicka Ciara Ford	Alan Bruce Heather Haines Devin Lott	Matthew Saucier Evan & Sydney Ruzicka Ciara Ford	Alan Bruce Heather Haines Devin Lott
Lector(s)	Maren Casano	Bob Eddy	Patty Hourin	Paul Montjoy
Chalicers	Sally Kappus Katherine Wilson	Susan White Skip Giffin	Bobbie Stephens Bill Frisbie	Darlene Park Frank Gaupp
Usher—10	Bob Eddy and Lou Crowe	Bob Eddy and Paul Montjoy	Bob Eddy and Gary Gilmore	Lynda and Gary Gilmore
Greeter	Gary Gilmore	Karen and David Hector	Steve Austin	Don Ball
Hospitality	Judy and Frank Gaupp	Georgia Pickens Helen Davis	Corny Swayze	Travella Dabler Mary & Tyrone Sartin
Bulletin Helpers	October 5 Mary Minor Fargason Genie LeBlanc Barbara Ford	October 12 Mary Sartin	October 19 Mary Sartin	October 26 Travella Dabler

Servers if you are unable to serve when scheduled, obtain your replacement and if possible, let Debbye know by Wednesday the changes.

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.

A *Prayer Corner* is available in the choir loft during Eucharist and in the back of the sanctuary after the 10:00 a.m. service for those who prefer not to climb the stairs. Two prayer team members are available for anyone wanting personal prayer.

An *Intercessory Prayer Request* for anticipated or long-term needs is available for you to write a prayer request on a form available on the table in the foyer outside the sanctuary in the box on that table, and each Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. service a group of prayer warriors will pray for these needs during the week.

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. For example, you may choose to be a part of the telephone chain, *or* to pray during the week in response to written prayer requests, *or* to serve the prayer corner, *or* some combination of these. Plans are to have a prayer ministry workshop. Be watching for more information to come!

Brown Bag Sunday

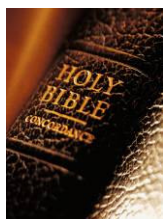


The first Sunday of each month continues to be Brown Bag Sunday when we all are asked to bring nonperishable food items to the church for delivery to the Hancock Food Pantry. Please place your items in the designated area in Johnson Hall.

Dates To Remember

- Oct 1-4 - Clergy Conference for Fr. Bill, Gray Center
(No Wednesday service)
- Oct. 7 - Confirmation classes begin
(9:00 am, church)
- Oct. 7 - Newcomers Sunday
- Oct. 12 - Popcorn Theology Movie Night
(6:00, church)
- Oct. 13 - Lobster Fest, 6:30 in Johnson Hall
- Oct. 14 - Fall Clean-up (one service at 9:00 / Rain date Oct. 21)
- Oct. 16 - Vestry Meeting
- Oct 27 - Construction team arrives from St. Cross By-The-Sea, Hermosa Beach, CA, to build pavilion and shed (through Nov. 4)
- Nov. 11 - Stewardship Dinner
- Nov. 18 - Stewardship Sunday
- Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day
(office closed)
- Dec. 2 - First Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 16 - Bishop Gray's Visit / Second 25th Anniversary Celebration

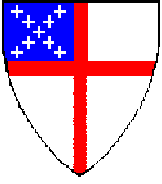
Women's Bibles Study



Women's Bible Study meets Mondays at 3:00 pm in the large Sunday school room. Everyone is welcome! For information, please Contact Maren Casano (255-4117).

Youth Concert with Fran McKendree October 8

The combined Youth Groups from St. Thomas and our other partner churches have arranged for a fall concert by guitarist, singer, and songwriter Fran McKendree on Monday, October 8 at 6:00 pm at the Coast Episcopal School gym. The cost is only \$5.00 per person. The school is a 5065 Espy Avenue in Long Beach. Fran McKendree's website is <http://www.franmckendree.com/>



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