



The St. Thomas Times and Tidings

In This Issue

Summer 2007

Volume 1, Issue 9

Sr. Warden Notes	2	<p>St. Thomas is 25! Come Celebrate And Bring a Friend</p> <p><i>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)</i></p> <p>Twenty five years ago a vision to expand the Body of Christ in Diamondhead became a reality. In August, 1982 a small group of Episcopalians petitioned the Diocese of Mississippi to become a mission church. Our first worship service was held in December, 1982.</p> <p>We will celebrate both events this year. On Sunday, August 5 immediately after the 10:00 service, we will gather for a picnic at Twin Lakes Pavilion. Our second celebration will be on Sunday, December 16 when Bishop Gray makes his annual visit to St. Thomas.</p> <p>During the last quarter century St. Thomas has had a rich and vibrant history. Sometimes things went as planned and sometimes they did not. But the Holy Spirit always was with us, and the congregation always persevered and carried out our mission.</p> <p>The lives and memories of many long-time residents are intertwined with St. Thomas, and many newer members look upon our church as a place of spiritual growth and renewal. In my time here I have been blessed to witness people of the Body of Christ come together in true fellowship to worship and do the Lord's work.</p> <p>As we continue to move beyond the consequences of Katrina and rebuild our congregation, I urge you to think about St. Thomas and what our community of faith means to you. I hope that you look upon our church as an integral part of your life, and as a resource to help minister the Gospel in the community.</p> <p>One way to minister the Gospel is to invite people to worship with us, or to participate in our events, or to come to us with their questions about faith. Studies and surveys have shown that over eighty percent of people who visited a church for the first time did so because an existing member reached out to them and invited them into the family.</p> <p>Although every Sunday provides an excellent opportunity to welcome new people, I especially would like you to consider inviting a friend or neighbor to join us on August 5 for worship and our church picnic. It is "Bring a Friend to Church" day. There will be activities for children, and fellowship and hospitality for all.</p> <p>Invitations to the picnic and envelopes are in the foyer under Bishop Gray's picture if you want to invite someone in a more formal way.</p>
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The St. Thomas Times and Tidings is published monthly. The submission deadline is the 15th of each month. Articles and ideas are solicited.

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As Christians we have certain values and beliefs that influence and shape our lives. And even though we might not always realize it, those values and beliefs can be very evident to others with whom we associate. On a regular basis I have been pleasantly surprised by the willingness of many people to learn more about our faith if someone else brings it up in conversation. In some cases a little nudge is all the Holy Spirit needs to become more active in someone's life.

I know that Christ's love is evident in the many ways in which we relate to each other here at St. Thomas. All we have to do is reach out to others in the same way.

Fr. Bill

Notes from the Senior Warden—Dick Park



After a hiatus of several years, the Episcopal Friendship Groups are starting up again this fall. This is an excellent opportunity to become better acquainted with those with whom we worship. It is also a way to welcome newcomers into our parish family. Darlene and I will again chair this fellowship. Mark your calendars: the organizational potluck supper will be at 6:00 pm, August 26 in Johnson Hall. We will have sign-up sheets available in the preceding weeks. As before, we will divide into small groups for dinner (or luncheon) meetings in various homes.

We will randomly assign members (both singles and couples) to groups for a period of several months. A group would probably consist of six people, and hosting will rotate among the members. The reason for the smaller size is that it will allow for newcomers or Bill and Susan White to be invited; it will also encourage people with smaller dwelling places to participate. (People in temporary or remote housing can use Johnson Hall or host the group in someone else's home.) Because of the smaller core groups, we may decide to remix the groups after everyone has had an opportunity to host a meal. Each group will be able to decide their own venue. For example, people who do not like to drive after dark may opt for lunch instead of dinner. Plan on participating — it will be a lot of fun!

On a different subject, two representatives from St. Cross, our companion church in Hermosa Beach, California, will attend our anniversary picnic on August 5th. Susan Tucker and Ricardo Reznichuk have kept in close touch with us since Katrina, and "Dr. Ricardo" plans to lead a team to build us a much-anticipated storage shed over Thanksgiving break. Please make them welcome.

Sunday School



Sunday School begins September 9, at 10:00 a.m. for pre-school/ kindergarten and elementary aged children (grades 1-5). Teachers are needed! Please contact Georgia Saucier (228-255-4127) if you would like to be a part of this important ministry.



Wednesday Healing and Eucharist Service

A service of Holy Communion and Healing is offered each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. during the summer. 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.

"Let's Go Walking!"



A group of gals are walking the path in front of the Country Club on Wednesday evenings after the 6:00 p.m. service. If you would like to join us, please meet us there. You are encouraged to bring a friend both to the service and to walk. For further information, please contact Judy Gaupp, 228-216-3528.

We Are Considering a Sexton:

The church currently pays outside contractors who care for and clean the church, and mow the grass. The Vestry is considering whether this work could be done by a staff member paid from funds currently allocated to contractors. This position in the Episcopal Church is called a Sexton. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Bob Saucier (255-4127). The position could require approximately 10-12 hours per week, and possibly more on some weeks.

Summer Birthdays!

June 5—Frank King
 June 6—Scott Ruzicka
 June 12-Gary Gilmore
 June 21-Bob Bruce
 June 23-Nancy Boice
 June 23-Mary Griffin (90 years young!)
 June 25-Tyrone Sartin
 June 27-Georgia Saucier
 June 30-Ray Badgett



July 3—Patty Hourin
 July 8—Jacob Ruzicka
 July 12-James DeDeaux
 July 15-Al Stephens
 July 17-Darlene Park
 July 19-Marilyn Meilleur
 July 20-Sydney Ruzicka
 July 20-Heather Haines
 July 21-Bob Saucier
 July 23-Debbye Jones
 July 29-Jack Boice
 July 30-Darwin Helms



August 11-Phyllis Buford
 August 13-Christian Haines
 August 16-Travella Dabler
 August 25-Kay Gillam
 August 26-Connie Gebbia
 August 31-Don Young



St. Thomas Amazing Praisers



The Amazing Praisers are on hold for the summer but are planning on future productions for your entertainment and spiritual enjoyment. John Maxwell, the gifted actor from Jackson, who did an interpretation of St. Paul during our Lenten Programs this year, will lead an actor's workshop in the fall. If you would like to join, or for more information, please call Susan White (255-2568).

On the Move.....

Long time St. Thomas communicants and friends, Dr. Jim and Arlene Bills, have moved to be near their children and grandchildren. These faithful members usually worshipped at 8:00 a.m., and Fr. Bill gave them a warm send-off and blessing during their last service with us in early June. They will be dearly missed. They are now at home at: 102 Park Garden Terrace, Madison, MS 39110-7636 (phone 601-856-0980), email: rjbills@comcast.net.



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. This is being organized by Krista Cairns, Penny Edwards, Catherine Tibbs, and DeAnna Ruzicka. **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 Krista Cairns (586-5697).

ECW News

After having no singular president or vice president this past year, the ECW has a wonderful full slate of officers for the coming ECW year, which begins in September. The new officers are: President Mary Sartin; Vice President Judy Gaupp; Recording Secretary Dee Daigle; and Treasurer Betty Hopkins. They are working over the summer to plan an exciting year. Look for details in the September newsletter!



Left to right in photo: Judy Gaupp, Dee Daigle, Betty Hopkins, Mary Sartin at the end of the year luncheon meeting, in the home of Sue Stewart.

Rest in Peace



Our beloved Evelyn Thompson, an active member of St Thomas for many years, went home to the Lord on Wednesday, June 20. A service of Celebration of Evelyn’s life was held on June 25, with many friends and family members in attendance. Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Leon Thompson; her daughter, Janet Lynn Cantrell; her son-in-law, Laverne Cantrell. She is survived by her loving daughter, Sharon Lee Wolfe of Edmond, OK; her sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Joe McDonald of Bethany, OK; her brother, Bill Johnson of Fort Worth, TX; her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Marge Millar and Pete Jones former members of St. Thomas, also went home to the Lord in June. Marge was living in Connecticut and Pete in Texas.

Notable Achievements



The United States Achievement Academy has announced that **Heather Haines** of Diamondhead and a student at Hancock Middle School, has been named a U. S. National Award Winner in *mathematics* and *science*. This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. The Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students. Heather is the daughter of Connie and John Gebbia, all members of St. Thomas. Congratulations, Heather!

Summer Bible Study



A women’s summer Bible study is meeting on Thursdays at 3:00 pm at the home of Fr. Bill and Susan White (6730 Alewa Place, Diamondhead), and will continue weekly through August 30. A video on St. Matthew will be shown and discussed. It is not necessary to have been coming since these meetings began.

For those who would like to stay and take a dip in the swimming pool, please bring or wear your swim suits or something comfortable. Refreshments will be served



Monday meetings at the church will resume on a regular basis beginning September 10.

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.

Bulletin Bloopers

Laughter is good medicine.



These didn’t come from our St. Thomas bulletins, but they do come from actual church bulletins.

“Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husband”.

“The sermon this morning: “Jesus Walks on the Water.” The sermon for tonight: “Searching for Jesus”.

**“Popcorn Theology”
Movie Night**



Every second Friday of the month, a movie night is being held at the church for kids ages five through twelve. 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. The first movie night was on Friday, July 13; the next one will be Friday, August 10. Showtime is 6:00 p.m. *St Thomas kids are urged to invite their friends!*



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 for the balance of the 10:00 a.m. service for those who do not wish 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* praying during the week for written request *or* the prayer corner, *or* all of these. Plans are to have a prayer ministry workshop. Be watching for more information to come!

RECENT HAPPENINGS

The Youth Bell Choir, organized by Denise Austin, gave its first performance at the 10:00 service on Sunday, July 1. The children gave a beautiful rendition of "Jesus Loves Me." Awesome! Photo shows children after the performance.



Vacation Bible School was held June 25-29 with Diamondhead Methodist Church and a terrific group of volunteers from Kentucky who planned and led the week's events around the "Plunge into Jesus" theme. Among other things, the children learned obedience, courage, and faith.



Photos were taken on the final day: after a happy assembly, participants were treated to giant water slides, pop-

25th Anniversary Celebration

By Bobbie Stephens, Parish Life & Public Relations

St. Thomas is twenty-five years old. That's right! It is our anniversary year, and we plan to celebrate with two special events. In recognition of the first meeting of Episcopalians interested in starting a mission church in Diamondhead, we plan to have a really happy celebration.

What:



Date: August 5, 2007

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Twin Lakes Pavilion

This Sunday also is: **"Bring a Friend to Church Sunday."** As you all know, we are growing but our membership is not yet back to its pre-Katrina numbers, and we hope that you will take this opportunity to invite a friend or friends who might enjoy meeting our parish family and consider joining us.

Please wear comfortable clothes to the 10:00 service and find your way to the Twin Lakes Pavilion here in Diamondhead. Food and drinks will be provided, *AND there will be a very large water slide* to help keep the children happy. At this writing, music is not yet settled. T-shirts are being sold to help defray expenses.

Please register on the clipboard in Johnson Hall if you plan to attend, or you may call Bobbie Stephens (255-1241).

Details will be announced later about the second, more formal gathering, which will be December 16th when Bishop Gray will be with us for his annual visit.



"Red, White & Blue" Sunday Brunch followed the 10:00 service on July 1 in celebration of Fr. Bill and Susan White's one year anniversary at St. Thomas. Great food and fellowship were had by those in attendance, as well as expressions of thanks for the Whites' presence here.



Next Cursillo in October



Cursillo is a worldwide movement of the Episcopal Church which focuses on more deeply appropriating our Christian experiences into our lives. It also has been called a "short course on Christianity" that begins 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. There was one this past March, and the next weekend is scheduled for October 18-21. Men, women, and young adults of college age are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity for husbands and wives together to share a deeply enriching spiritual experience.

Please see Fr. Bill if you are interested. A little lead time is required to complete the process and arrange for your sponsors. The national Cursillo website is at <http://www.nati-cursillo.org/>

Dates To Remember

Aug. 5 - First 25th Anniversary Picnic at Twin Lakes after 10:00 service

Aug. 26 - Friendship Dinner program kick-off

Sep. 3 - Labor Day (office closed)

Sep. 9 - Sunday School resumes

Sep. 16 - Youth Sunday

Sep. 23 - Mission Sunday

Sep. 30 - Confirmation classes begin

Oct. 7 - Newcomers Sunday

Oct. 13 - Lobster Fest

Oct. 14 - Fall Clean-up (one service at 9:00 / Rain date Oct. 21)

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



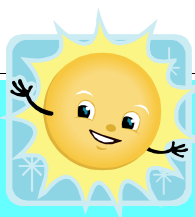
Revisions of the Parish Directory. New Photos.

We are planning to publish an updated edition of our Parish Directory to reflect the changes that have occurred in the congregation since the last directory was published. We are taking photographs in Johnson Hall after the services each Sunday through July. We will want to get pictures of new members. If any existing members want an updated picture, or if you have no picture but now want one, this will be the opportunity. We also ask that you check the directory information that is posted in Johnson Hall, and make any corrections or additions.

July 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22 8am—HE 9am—Christ Ed 10am—HE	23 OFFICE CLOSED 12:10am—AA 1:30—Shawl Ministry	24 7:30pm—Al-Anon	25 10am—OA 12:10—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	26 10am—Samaritan Guild 3pm—Women's Bible Study	27 12:10—AA	28
29 8am—HE 9am—Christ Ed 10am—HE	30 12:10am—AA 1:30—Shawl Ministry	31 7:30pm—Al-Anon				



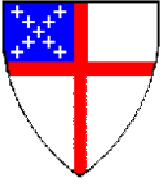
August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am—OA 12:10—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	2 10am—Samaritan Guild 3pm—Women's Bible Study	3 OFFICE Closed 12:10—AA	4
5 8am—HE 9am—Christ Ed 10am—HE 11:30—25th Anniversary Picnic	6 12:10am—AA 1:30—Shawl Ministry	7 7:30pm—Al-Anon	8 10am—OA 12:10—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	9 10am—Samaritan Guild 3pm—Women's Bible Study	10 12:10—AA 6pm—Popcorn Theology	11
12 8am—HE 9am—Christ Ed 10am—HE	13 12:10am—AA 1:30—Shawl Ministry	14 7:30pm—Al-Anon	15 10am—OA 12:10—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	16 10am—Samaritan Guild 3pm—Women's Bible Study	17 12:10—AA	18 8:30—Men's Breakfast Group
19 8am—HE 9am—Christ Ed 10am—HE	20 12:10am—AA 1:30—Shawl Ministry	21 7:30pm—Vestry 7:30pm—Al-Anon	22 10am—OA 12:10—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	23 10am—Samaritan Guild 3pm—Women's Bible Study	24 12:10—AA	25
26 8am—HE 9am—Christ Ed 10am—HE 6pm—Friendship Dinner	27 12:10am—AA 1:30—Shawl Ministry	28 7:30pm—Al-Anon	29 10am—OA 12:10—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	30 10am—Samaritan Guild 3pm—Women's Bible Study	31 12:10—AA	

August 2007

	August 5 8:00 HE: Rite I 10:00—HE: Rite II	August 12 8:00 HE: Rite I 10:00—HE: Rite II	August 19 8:00—HE: Rite I 10:00—HE: Rite II	August 26 8:00—HE: Rite I 10:00—HE:Rite II
Altar Guild	<u>Team 1</u> Ball, Breen, Hourin	<u>Team 2</u> Bryan, Casano, Park	<u>Team 3</u> Boos, Crowe, Pickens, Swayze	<u>Team 4</u> Allen, Floyd, Giffin, Gilmore
Flower Guild	Rusty Cobb	Bobbie Stephens	Travella Dabler	Sue Stewart
Lector—MP Chalicers—HE	Ed Weidlich-Chalice	James DeDeaux-Chalice Jackie Calvert-Reader	Ed Weidlich-Chalice	James DeDeaux-Chalice Jackie Calvert—Reader
Usher—8	Don Young	Bruce Frallic	Don Young	Bruce Frallic
Acolytes—10	Alan Bruce	Mathew Saucier	Evan Ruzicka Ciara Ford	Sydney Ruzicka
Lector(s)	Patty Hourin	Bob Eddy	Maren Casano	Jim Williams
Chalicers	Sally Kappus Katherine Wilson	Susan White Skip Giffin	Bobbie Stephens Bill Frisbie	Darlene Park Frank Gaupp
Usher—10	Lynda and Gary Gilmore	Bob Eddy and Paul Montjoy	Bob Eddy and Lou Crowe	Bob Eddy and John Boos
Greeter	Paul Montjoy	David and Karen Hector	Chad Badeaux	Don Ball
Hospitality	Judy and Frank Gaupp	Georgia Pickens	Corny Swayze Helen Davis	Travella Dabler Mary & Tyrone Sartin

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



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