



# The St. Thomas Times and Tidings

May 2008

Volume 2, Issue 9

## In This Issue

Notes from the Sr. Warden	2
Retiring St. Thomas Debt	2
Check Out The Pavilion	2
TLC	3
Wednesday Healing and Eucharist Service	3
Gray Center Sunday	3
Dates to Remember	3
Ministry Sign-Up Sheets	3
Congregations for Children	3
May Birthdays	4
Congratulations to Betty and Bruce	4
Walk the Bible	4
Missing Something?	4
Brown Bag Sunday	4
Mens Breakfast	4
Prayer Shawl Ministry	4
Womens Bible Study	4
Youth Ministry	5
Pancake Breakfast and EYC Youth Sunday Pictures	6
May Serving Schedule	7
May Calendar	8
ECW News	9
Summer Newsletter Schedule	9
More Bulletin Bloopers	9
Help for Habitat for Humanity	9
Adult Education Sunday Morning Gumbo	9
Sunday Serving Schedule	9
Prayer Ministry	10

## **Trust in God, God Will Provide**

*Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:25-26, 28-30, 33*

These verses from Matthew echo two timeless themes that are at the foundations of our faith. One is that we are called to trust in God, and the other is that God will provide.

Jesus' words tell us that if God will so abundantly care for the birds and flowers, then there is no doubt he will care for us. And he consistently said that worry, concern, and anxiety about worldly things will not be helpful because we always can count on God to provide those things that are important.

Paul said in Philippians, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:6-7).

Some of us might recall the 1969 Rolling Stones hit song, "You can't always get what you want, but you get what you need." Although the context of those lyrics is not what Jesus was talking about in the verses from the Gospel quoted above, they can make the point in a contemporary way.

But that point does not mean that we all should stop working and just wait around for God to provide. Jesus' teaching was addressed to our priorities. What do we seek first? Who takes precedence in our lives? If we worry only about the world, we will not know God. If we make God our first priority, then we also will have things of the world that we need.

This is not always an easy idea to accept. When we experience hardship or suffering we might wonder where God is in those times. Even then, however, he is with us, and when we turn to him he will help us through our difficulties in ways that we might not understand, but which will enable us to know his peace and love.

This probably confirms what we already implicitly believe. In God is our hope, and we can draw strength from our faith. Certainly, we are called to do the best we can, to make wise decisions, and to care for our families. But in the end, if we are faithful, and if we do our part, and if we seek God first in that process, then we will have what we need.

*Fr. Bill*

## NOTES FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN by Dick Park



You will be receiving a parish survey soon, and I urge you to answer and return it. You will not be asked to identify yourself. This information will help the Vestry and our committees as we plan for the future. In many cases a parish survey is the first step in creating a parish profile when starting the search for a new rector. That process was not completed at St. Thomas because of Hurricane Katrina, and so a lot of information we have is out-of-date. In addition, both the demographics of Diamondhead and the priorities of St. Thomas have been evolving. As a result, we would like to know more about what our current congregation thinks about a variety of issues as we move forward.

Some of the survey questions will deal with matters such as our Sunday worship, youth programs, outreach into the community, adult education, and ways to balance our operating budget, which has not been balanced since several years before Katrina. What are reasonable levels of expense and reasonable levels of giving? How do we increase church membership and attendance? We still have not gotten back to our pre-Katrina Sunday attendance. We also want to make sure that we are properly attending to the needs and concerns of people in the church through fellowship, discipleship, and pastoral care.

The survey will be organized with both multiple choice responses, and opportunities to offer narrative responses and suggestions. This information will be very helpful, and we urge you to participate. We expect to have the survey ready before the next newsletter.

*Dick*

### Retiring St. Thomas Debt



On April 15 Paul Montjoy sent a parish-wide letter with a one-time request that you consider allocating a portion of your Economic Stimulus Payment to St. Thomas to

help retire the church's debt. We now owe about \$19,000 from construction of our building addition in 2002-03. This is a special request that is not part of our stewardship campaign in the fall. Anything from 0% to 100% would be appropriate, depending on your own circumstances. It will be fully tax deductible for you next year.

We ask that you return the cards that Paul sent to you if you are able to participate in this, and then follow up with your check when the federal funds are received. The Vestry thanks you for your consideration.

### Check Out the Pavilion



The pavilion is nearing completion! It recently was used for food preparation during our spring cleanup, and now has been stained to match the church building. Landscaping has also begun with Indian hawthorns and Sasanqua camellias. Still to be completed are grading, construction of an entry ramp, and installation of outdoor lights and fans. Volunteers from St. Cross-by-the Sea, of Hermosa Beach, California, one of our Katrina sister parishes, constructed the building, and provided most of the funding. We hope to use the pavilion on a regular basis for church events and activities. Please let us have your ideas about how else we can use this facility to benefit St. Thomas and the community



**TLC!**

The St. Thomas Samaritan Guild, which comforts those in our church family who are ill or infirm, also helps family members and others who are burdened with caring for those loved ones. This ministry, called TLC, includes 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.

**Dates To Remember**

- May 4 Brown Bag Sunday
- May 4 Gray Center Sunday
- May 4 Congregations for Youth
- May 9 Popcorn Theology (6:00 pm)
- May 10 Youth for Christ Waterpark outing
- May 11 Day of Pentecost
- May 11 Sunday Morning Gumbo (9:00 am)
- May 11 Plant a Tree (EYC Fundraiser)
- May 15 St. Thomas Day for Habitat for Humanity
- May 15 Parents' Meeting
- May 17 ECW meets at Country Club (11:00 am)
- Men's Breakfast (8:30 am)
- May 18 Trinity Sunday
- Sunday Morning Gumbo (9:00 am)
- May 20 Vestry Meeting
- May 22 End of Year Dance-Children

**Wednesday Healing and Eucharist Service at 6:00 pm**



Our Wednesday 6:00 pm service of Holy Eucharist and Healing has returned to its regular time of 6:00 pm. The 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.

**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.

**Gray Center Sunday**



Sunday, May 4 has been designated by Bishop Gray as Gray Center Sunday. Recognition of the Gray Center is a long-standing tradition in the Diocese of Mississippi, and we remember its important work in operating the youth camps at Camp Bratton Green nearby, and its many other family and outreach ministries. Additional information about the Center is on the diocesan web site at: <http://www.dioms.org>.

**Congregations for Children**

This Sunday, May 4, we will be pleased to welcome The Rev. Carol Stewart. She will preach at both services, and meet with us at 9:00 am during Adult Education time to speak about "Congregations for Children," a diocesan initiative to help with "at-risk children." We already are participating in a mentoring program at Hancock Middle School. Please stay late (8:00 people) or come early (10:00 people) to hear what else St. Thomas can do in this important area.

### May Birthdays

May 06—Marge Edwards  
 May 07—Jack Joseph Badeaux  
 May 07—Harry B. Kelleher, Jr.  
 May 07—John Boos  
 May 07—DeAunna Ruzicka  
 May 07—Ashton Hourin  
 May 10—Lou Crowe  
 May 13—David Hector  
 May 18—Shannon Hourin  
 May 21—Lynda Gilmore  
 May 28—Janet Fiveash  
 May 29—James North



### Brown Bag Sunday



The first Sunday of each month is Brown Bag Sunday at St. Thomas. These dates are May 4, June 1, and July 6. Please bring nonperishable food items on Sunday or during the following week after each Sunday for delivery to the Hancock County Food Pantry. Place your items in the designated area in Johnson Hall. The demands on the Pantry are increasing as people are being required to move out of their FEMA trailers, and your help is sincerely appreciated.

### Congratulations to Betty and Bruce

Bruce and Betty Pennington will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Friday, May 10. We all join in recognizing this wonderful event. God has blessed them in their lives together, and we celebrate his grace.

### Men's Breakfast



The Men's Breakfast Group meets on the third Saturday of each month, at 8:30 am, in Johnson Hall. The next meeting will be Saturday, May 17. For more information, call Gary Gilmore (255-4396).

### Walk the Bible!

Please join us as we walk the Bible. This exercise includes walking and discussing passages with no preparations needed. Just bring your walking shoes! This is good exercise for our bodies and souls, physical and spiritual.



**Where: Walking Path, DH Country Club**  
**When: Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:00 a.m.**

For more information or to see if weather permits the walk, please call Maren Casano (255-4117) or Susan White (255-2568).

### Prayer Shawl Ministry



St. Thomas' KnitWits need you! Our prayer shawls have become so popular, we are having trouble keeping up with requests. Join us at the church on Mondays at 1:30 and bring friends. Yarn and needles will be supplied (and instructions, if you like). Donations to defray the cost of yarn are always welcome as there is no charge for the shawls.

### Missing Something??

Are you missing a dish, crockpot, or some other serving ware from your kitchen? Well, it just may be in our church kitchen! There are several items that were left from the Wednesday evening Lenten suppers, and we're not sure who they belong to. If you think something here might be yours, please stop by and get it.

### Women's Bible Study



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

**Youth Ministry** by Penny Edwards  
penny@stthomasdiamondhead.org



**"Popcorn Theology" Movie Night**

Our next Popcorn Theology night will be Friday, May 9, which will be the one year anniversary for this important youth ministry. We will be showing "Enchanted." This Disney film has gotten great reviews. Please bring friends! Special treats will be provided.

**<http://www.myspace.com/xtremesportsarcadeandcafe>** This is the website with the Extreme Café information. This business is located in Waveland, open every Saturday night, \$5 admission, lots of games, pool table, basketball court, outdoor skate park and more! Check out the website to see if you are interested.



Please turn in youth surveys to Penny or Fr. Bill. This important information helps us to plan. The survey also will help us decide what to purchase for the Youth Rec Room! Extra survey sheets are available under Bishop Gray's picture.

**Youth for Christ Waterpark Outing** will be Saturday, May 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at Gulf Islands Water Park. Cost will be \$23 per person which includes all day admission, lunch, and a Christian concert. If you are interested, please sign up in Johnson Hall or e-mail [mle12@bellsouth.net](mailto:mle12@bellsouth.net) for reservations.



On Sunday, May 11, the EYC group will meet at 4:00 to participate in the "Plant a Tree" fundraiser. The monies will go toward defraying the cost of the Houston trip this summer. We are asking people to sponsor a tree planting in honor of the donor or the donor can designate the honoree. We will meet at St. Thomas, then head over to Bay St. Louis and Pass Christian for the plantings. We will have a picnic dinner afterwards. Sponsor cards will be available in Johnson Hall. The last EYC meeting until fall will be Sunday, May 18. Plans still are being made for an EYC mission trip to Houston in late July.



**Our Pancake Breakfast** was a great success. Thanks are due to all the youth and parents who participated. We presented \$70 to Rev. Barry Thiering for the Food for the Poor ministry, and a little more than \$70 will go into the St. Thomas youth fund.



**End of School Year Dance for Sunday School and Elementary School Children**

This event will be held Thursday, May 22 (last day of school for Hancock County schools), 6:00—8:00 pm, at the church. Cost is \$5, payable at the door. Parents may drop children off! There will be DJ music by "Kat," pizza and other refreshments. Friends and neighbors are welcome!



A big **Thank you** to the Men's Breakfast group for donating \$400 to help furnish our new rec room. We really appreciate the help!



Breakfast



EYC Youth Sunday

# May 2008

	<b>May 4</b> <b>8 HE: Rite I</b> <b>10 HE: Rite II</b>	<b>May 11</b> <b>Day of Pentecost</b> <b>8 HE: Rite I</b> <b>10 HE: Rite II</b> <b>(Mother's Day)</b>	<b>May 18</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b> <b>8—HE: Rite I</b> <b>10—HE: Rite II</b>	<b>May 25</b> <b>8—HE: Rite I</b> <b>10—HE: Rite II</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<u>Team 4</u> Allen, Fairchild, Floyd, Giffin	<u>Team 1</u> Ball, Bentson, Breen, Hourin	<u>Team 2</u> Bryan, Casano, Gilmore, Park	<u>Team 3</u> Boos, Crowe, Pickens, Swayze
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Rusty Cobb	Barbara Boos	Sue Stewart	Arva Kyger
<b>Chalicers—HE Reader—</b>	Chalice—James DeDeaux Reader—Jackie Calvert	Chalice—James DeDeaux Reader—Jackie Calvert	Chalice—James DeDeaux Reader—Jackie Calvert	Chalice—James DeDeaux Reader—Jackie Calvert
<b>Usher—8</b>	Don Young	Bruce Frallic	Don Young	Bruce Frallic
<b>Acolytes—10</b>	Matthew Saucier Sydney Ruzicka Ciara Ford	Evan Ruzicka Heather Haines Devin Lockard	Matthew Saucier Sydney Ruzicka Ciara Ford	Alan Bruce Sydney Ruzicka Devin Lockard
<b>Lector(s)</b>	Paul Montjoy	Maren Casano	Jim Williams	Patty Hourin
<b>Chalicers</b>	Susan White Frank Gaupp	Darlene Park Bobbie Stephens	Bill Frisbie Sally Kappus	Skip Giffin Joe Floyd
<b>Usher—10</b>	Eddy and Montjoy	Eddy and Gilmore	Eddy and Boos	Eddy and Crowe
<b>Greeter</b>	Paul Montjoy	Barbara Ford	Chad Badeaux	Gary Gilmore
<b>Hospitality</b>	Judy and Frank Gaupp	Georgia Pickens Helen Davis	Corny Swayze	Travella and Ed Dabler Mary and Tyrone Sartin
<b>Bulletin Helpers</b>	May 2 Mary Minor Fargason Genie LeBlanc Barbara Ford	May 9 Mary Sartin	May 16 Mary Sartin	May 23 Ed and Travella Dabler May 30 Helen Davis

# May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 am Samaritan Guild	2 12:10 pm AA 5:30 pm Laser Tag Outing	3 12:10 pm AA
4 <i>Brown Bag Sunday</i> <i>Congregations for Children</i> 8am HE Rite I 9am Christian Ed 10am HE Rite II 10am Sunday School 5-7 pm EYC	5 12:10 pm AA 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 3 pm Bible Study	6 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 Al- Anon	7 12:10 pm AA 6 pm HE and Healing Service	8 10 am Samaritan Guild	9 12:10 pm AA 6pm Pop- corn Theology	10 9:30 am Wa- ter Park Outing 12:10 pm AA
11 <b>Pentecost Day</b> <i>(Mother's Day)</i> 8am HE Rite I 9am Christian Ed 10am HE Rite II 10am Sunday School 5-7 pm EYC	12 12:10 pm AA 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 3 pm Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 Al- Anon	14 12:10 pm AA 6 pm HE and Healing Service	15 <b>St Thomas</b> <b>Habitat for</b> <b>Humanity Day</b> 10 am Samaritan Guild 6 pm Parents Meeting	16 12:10 pm AA  <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Deadline</b>	17 8:30 Mens Breakfast 11am ECW at Jaden's Rest. 12:10 pm AA
18 <b>Trinity Sunday</b> 8am HE Rite I 9am Christian Ed 10am HE Rite II 10am Sunday School 5-7 pm EYC	19 12:10 pm AA 1:30 pm Shawl Ministry 3 pm Bible Study	20 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm Vestry 7:30 Al- Anon	21 12:10 pm AA 6 pm HE and Healing Service	22 10 am Samaritan Guild 6-8pm End of School Year Dance—Youth	23 12:10 pm AA	24 12:10 pm AA
25 8am HE Rite I 9am Christian Ed 10am HE Rite II 10am Sunday School 5-7 pm EYC	26 <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 	27 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 Al- Anon	28 12:10 pm AA 6 pm HE and Healing Service	29 10 am Samaritan Guild	30 12:10 pm AA	31 12:10 pm AA



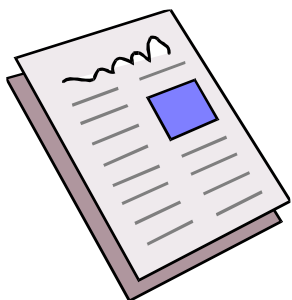
### ECW News by Judy Gaupp

We had a most informative meeting on April 12 with our guest speaker, Evelyn Gregory, president of the Diocesan Episcopal Women.

The May 17th (3rd Saturday) meeting will be a Dutch treat lunch at the Country Club in 11:00. Child care will be provided at the church. We will have a short meeting before lunch. The nominating committee will present the names for next year's officers. Hope you can join us!

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

### Summer Newsletter Schedule



Following our practice of last year, the next issue of the *St. Thomas Times and Tidings* will be a summer issue that covers June, July, and August. It will be published at the end of July. Current news and announcements during this time, will continue to be covered each Sunday with our inserts in the service bulletins. These inserts also will be available during the week on the table under Bishop Gray's picture, and also will be available on the church's website at: <http://www.stthomasdiamondhead.org>. Click on "News and Announcements" on the home page.



### More Bulletin Bloopers

A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of the members in honor of his wife.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



### Help for Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is building ten homes in the Holiday Village area of Diamondhead. Habitat has its own builders, but will need volunteers to support the building team and transport water, snacks, etc. Local churches are helping for each day of the project. St. Thomas is responsible for Thursday, May 15. Arva Kyger is coordinating our effort. Please sign up in Johnson Hall. For information please call Arva, 586-6196 or Paul Montjoy, 255-4321.

### Adult Education Sunday Morning Gumbo



Beginning May 11, we will experiment with a three week program appropriately named of "Sunday Morning Gumbo." This will offer an opportunity for people at St. Thomas to gather for a free flowing discussion of any kinds of questions and issues that are of interest. Fr. Bill will have 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.

### Sunday Serving Schedule

The serving schedule for Acolytes, Lectors, Chalicers, and Ushers for May is in this Newsletter at page 7. Because there will be one issue of the Newsletter for the summer, the serving schedules for June and July will be included in the "News and Announcements" inserts in the service bulletins. The Serving Schedule for August will be in the summer newsletter, published at the end of July. These schedules also will be sent by e-mail at the end of the month for the next month to all who are assigned. All serving schedules also will be available on the church's website at: <http://www.stthomasdiamondhead.org>. Click on "Sunday Serving Schedule" on the home page.

## Prayer Ministry



The St. Thomas prayer ministry offers intercessory prayer for 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 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* and two prayer team members are available in the loft during Eucharist and in the back of the sanctuary after the 10:00 am service.

An *Intercessory Prayer Group* for anticipated or long-term needs also is available. Please write a prayer request on a form available on the table in the foyer and place it in the box on that table. A group of prayer warriors will pray for these needs during the week.

All requests are 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.

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