

The St. Thomas Times and Tidings

October 2009

Volume 4, Issue 2

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"Receiving Through Grace, Giving In Faith"

As September gives way to October, we once again begin to implement our stewardship campaign for the church.

The stewardship theme for 2010 is "Receiving Through Grace, Giving In Faith." In a way, that says it all. What we have been given to us though God's grace, and the way in which we respond is grounded in our faith. We are stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us, and faithful stewardship means returning a portion of those gifts to God in thanksgiving.

This leads to an important point. Many of us can look with pride on how those gifts, skills, and abilities enabled us to be successful. And while we might naturally give ourselves credit for our accomplishments, we also are called to realize that none of us are where we are entirely on our own merit. God was there too, and through his unfathomable grace helped us and blessed us along the way even though it might not have been readily apparent.

Our belief in God prompts us to acknowledge that God, not ourselves, is the source of what we are in the world. And while we might do or have done things that are worthy achievements according to the standards of society, they ultimately flow from the blessings that God has given us. Unlike the old Sinatra song, we cannot tell God, "I did it my way." The truth is God enabled us to do the things in which we might have a sense of accomplishment.

It therefore is appropriate and necessary to honor God as he blesses us. Stewardship is a spiritual and biblical way to do that. Because all we have belongs to God anyway—we are merely temporary custodians—we are called to return to God and his church a portion of the blessings we enjoy. And wholly apart from the church, it is important to do so as a way of life. There will be more on this idea as the stewardship campaign goes forward.

Our guidance as we embrace the spirituality of stewardship is the biblical tithe of ten percent. Where a tithe is not possible, we are asked to prayerfully decide on a percentage of income that can be returned to God, with the tithe as the objective when possible. You also will receive more information about this approach to stewardship in coming weeks. Please pray and listen for the Holy Spirit to lead you as you decide how to acknowledge God's grace in your life.

Fr. Bill

Senior Warden's Report—Stewardship Socials



Beginning on October 18 and continuing through the rest of October, we will begin a "user-friendly" every member canvass. Rather than scheduling individual visits to talk about stewardship, which is a traditional way of doing it, we are planning a series of eight to ten small group meetings where we can discuss our ideas about stewardship in small groups.

Everyone will be invited to one of the meetings. They will be low-key. No one will be given a pledge card, and no one will be asked to make a commitment. But we will be able to enjoy a social setting as we talk about the meaning of stewardship in the church and in our lives.

We are doing this to follow up on the special meeting of the congregation last summer when we reviewed the church's financial position for the future, and made the point that our stewardship response in 2010 would be very important.

Please accept your invitation, which you will be receiving soon. If you have a conflict please so indicate when you RSVP, and you will be invited to a different gathering.

Patty



*Receiving Through Grace,
Giving In Faith*

Stewardship Committee Report, Let's Try for 100%

Your Stewardship Committee for 2010 is underway. Members are Sid Mizell and Mary Mizell, Chairs, Lou Crowe, Dee Daigle, Newton Daigle, Lynda Gilmore, Tom Goeman, David Hector, Dick Park, And Tyrone Sartin. Patty Hourin serves in her capacity as Senior Warden, and Darlene Park serves as the Vestry Stewardship Liaison.

This year's theme is "Receiving Through Grace, Giving In Faith," which Fr. Bill discusses more fully in his article on the first page of this newsletter. We would like to reiterate one of Fr. Bill's points, which is that stewardship is about faithfully giving our lives to God. That not only includes how we treat and deal with each other, but also how we express our thanksgiving to God for his blessings.

Mary and I joined St. Thomas at the beginning in 1982. We have pledged to the church every year since that time. Our daughter's was the first wedding at St. Thomas, and our kids were among the first acolytes. This church has been an important part of our lives, and we have been blessed by being able to support the church's work in a meaningful way.

In Patty Hourin's article right above this one, she outlined a series of small group "stewardship socials" in the homes of church members to discuss stewardship at St. Thomas. We urge everybody at St. Thomas to accept their invitation to attend, and we also urge everybody to join in making a pledge to the church. If you have not pledged before, please try it this year. We believe you would find it a worthwhile experience. Pledge cards will be mailed in November, and our goal is 100% participation. As we receive through grace, let us give in faith.

Sid and Mary

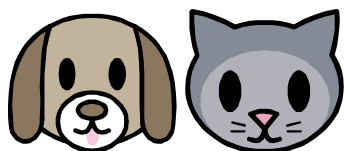
Dates To Remember

- Oct 03 Blessing of the Animals
- Oct 04 Fall Clean-up (One Service Only (9:00 a.m.))
- Oct 04 Brown Bag Sunday
- Oct 06 Acolyte Training, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct 09 Popcorn Theology
- Oct 10 ECW
- Oct 10 Lobster Fest
- Oct 11 Mission Sunday/Bring a Friend Sunday
- Oct 13-16 Fr. Bill at Clergy Conference
- Oct 17 Men's Breakfast
- Oct 20 Vestry Meeting
- Oct 25 Confirmation classes begin



LOBSTER FEST

Please mark your calendars for the October 10 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. It is always great fun, and certainly a worthwhile cause. Tickets will be on sale in Johnson Hall along with sign-up sheets for helping with the event. You may pick up your lobsters between 2:00—4:00 pm or join us for a full lobster dinner in Johnson Hall at 6:00 pm.



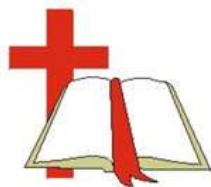
Blessing of the Animals on October 3

Join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 3, for a service of "Blessing of the Animals." Bring your pets and animals to the front of the church to receive a blessing in a celebration that remembers the love of St. Francis of Assisi for all creatures. We welcome small kittens, large horses, and everything in between. Please have your animal in a carrier or cage, or on a leash.

Fall Clean-Up



Sunday, October 4, is our Fall Clean-Up Day, and there will be only one service at 9:00 a.m. Both inside and outside work opportunities will be available after the service. If you prefer to work outdoors and have tools to share such as rakes, clippers, etc., they would be most welcome. The Men's Breakfast Group will provide refreshments at the end of the work session. Even if you are not on the work details, please come join us for fellowship.



Confirmation/Reception Classes

Classes will be on Sundays at 9:00 am (between services), beginning October 25. This start is one week later than previously announced. These classes are for all wishing to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. Confirmation is for baptized Christians who have not yet been confirmed in the Episcopal Church. The alternative of reception is available for those who have had the equivalent of confirmation in the Catholic or Lutheran denominations, and wish to become members of the Episcopal Church. The classes also could be interesting to anyone who wants to refresh their knowledge or learn more about the church. All are invited to attend! Please prayerfully consider your interest, and contact Fr. Bill if you are interested or have questions.



October Birthdays

October 1 Barbara Ford
 October 2 Maleah Austin
 October 8 Finn Cowan
 October 10 Lil Bryan
 October 13 Georgia Pickens
 October 19 Peter Casano
 October 25 Judy Gaupp
 October 29 Nell Frisbie



Wednesday Eucharist and Healing Service

The Wednesday Eucharist and Healing services are held at 6:00 pm. Please consider attending either or both parts of this service. The Eucharist is celebrated first, followed by a dismissal. The healing service begins shortly thereafter.



Birthday and Anniversary Blessings October 4

Everyone with a birthday or anniversary during October will be invited to come forward and receive a blessing at the one service on October 4 at 9:00 am. This will be done just before The Peace. A special church bank will be available so that everyone who receives a blessing may deposit one penny for each year of age or marriage.



Woodland Village Ministry

Nursing Home Ministry Each Friday we conduct a worship service at the Woodland Village Nursing Center on Gex Road, south of the church. We celebrate 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. It would be very helpful to have someone play the piano while the residents sing. Please see Fr. Bill if you are interested in serving in this ministry in any capacity.



Silver Screen Movie Night Rescheduled

Our next movie night will be Friday, **November 6**. This is rescheduled from Friday, October 16, because that is the night of *Toast To The Coast* to benefit Coast Episcopal School (article on page six).

Regular gatherings are on the third Friday of each month at 6:00 pm, and the movie starts around 6:45 pm. A sign-up sheet is in Johnson Hall if you will be able to help serve as hostess/host and bring "finger food" or anything that does not require a knife. Soft drinks, coffee, and popcorn will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Bobbie Stephens (255-1241).



ECW News Attention all ladies of St. Thomas!

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will meet **Saturday, October 10 10:00 a.m. Johnson Hall**

We invite all ladies of the church to join us. We will be decorating and setting up for the Lobster Fest after the meeting.



Men's Breakfast

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

We had great attendance for our September meeting. Thanks to all who came! For information about ECW, please call Dee (228-586-6132) or Judy (228-216-3518).

Adult Education

Oct. 4 No Adult Education (Fall Clean-up)
 Oct 11 The Book of Revelation (Part II)
 Oct 18 The Book of Revelation (Part III)
 Oct 25 Sunday Morning Gumbo
 Nov 1 The Book of Revelation (Part IV)
 Nov 8 The Book of Revelation (Part V)
 Nov 15 The Book of Revelation (Part VI)
 Nov 21 The Book of Revelation (Part VII)
 Nov 29 The Book of Revelation (Part VIII)
 Dec 6 TBA
 Dec 13 TBA
 Dec 20 TBA
 Dec 27 No Class

Sunday School



Our new Sunday School hour is 9:00 a.m. This means that parents can come to either the 8:00 a.m. or the 10:00 a.m. services. Kids can attend either the 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. services with their parents. Parents can also attend the Adult Christian Education class at 9:00 a.m. while the kids are in Sunday School, and there will be more time for instruction.

Additional teachers are needed who will be asked to commit for one month (four weeks) of Sundays. The curriculum will be user friendly and will help lead teachers through the lessons. With enough teachers, the one-month rotation would come up infrequently. Please seriously consider being a Sunday School teacher. Contact Penny Edwards (255-2984) or Fr. Bill.

There are two rooms: Ages 3 through Kindergarten, and First through Fifth Grades.

Bulletin Blooper

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Bible Study



We have been studying the book of 2 Samuel and have come to know King David intimately. The Bible is a wonderful adventure, and we would love you to join us in our study. We meet every Monday from 3:00—4:30 p.m. at the church.

TLC!



The St. Thomas Samaritan Guild, which comforts those 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 important ministry can help prevent caregivers from becoming patients themselves. Please use the sign up booklet in the foyer.

Brown Bag Sunday



October 4 will be the next Brown Bag Sunday at St. Thomas. Please bring nonperishable food items on Sunday or during the following week for delivery to the Hancock County Food Pantry. We are told that the need is greater than ever; that approximately 600 families per month are being served. Any help is appreciated.

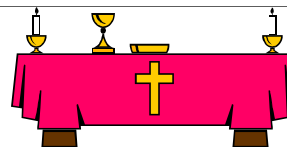
Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

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 might be interested.



Andrew Jackson ("Jack") Boice, Jr.

Our Christian brother, friend, and faithful member of St. Thomas, was laid to rest on September 4 at Evergreen Cemetery. Jack went home to the Lord after a courageous battle with cancer, and his example inspires us all. Our prayers are for Nancy and the family as they remember their lives with Jack.



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is always looking for members to help in this vital ministry of the church. If you are interested, please contact Patty Hourin (255-1203).

Toast to the Coast, October 16



Join the Coast Episcopal Parents Organization for its 26th annual "Toast to the Coast" on Friday, October 18 at 7:00 pm 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.



Newcomers Committee and Greeters Ministry

The Greeters Ministry led by Paul Montjoy and the Newcomers Committee coordinated by Dick Park are carrying forth the church's ministry of hospitality, welcoming, and evangelism. Greeters are the important point of first contact for visitors to the church, and also are responsible for introducing them to others in the church and ensuring that they are made known to the Newcomers Committee for follow-up later in the week. Follow-up will include delivery of a loaf of bread baked by Sue Stewart, and mailing or delivery of other welcoming materials. The Newcomers Committee also will reach out to new residents of the community and others who have not come to St. Thomas on their own initiative, but who might respond to an invitation. If you are interested in helping with these important ministries, please call Paul (255-4321) or Dick (255-0241).

Questions on Stewardship? Open Forum Saturday, October 31

There will be an open forum at the church on Saturday, October 31, at 10:00 am for anyone who has questions or suggestions about stewardship, the budget, or any other financial matters. Copies of a preliminary draft budget for 2010 will be available. Please come to participate or listen. This program is separate from the "Stewardship Socials" mentioned in Patty Hourin's article on page two, and is offered to ensure that all questions are answered.

Help with Sunday Hospitality



Helpers are needed to organize hospitality for the coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sundays. This is an important ministry that gives us an opportunity to have fellowship with each other after worship. You would be part of a team that would serve on specific Sundays. Contact Corny Swayze, 255-6573, cornyswayze7@aol.com.

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 am Sa- maritan Guild 4:30 pm Finn & Feather	2 12:15 AA 3 pm— Woodland Village Service	3 12:15 AA
4 <i>Fall Clean Up</i> Brown Bag Sun- day 9:00 am ONE SERVICE ONLY	5 12:15 AA 1:30 pm Shawl Minis- try	6 7pm Choir 7:30 Al-Anon	7 12:15 AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	8 10 am Sa- maritan Guild	9 12:15 AA 3 pm— Woodland Village Service	10 10 am— ECW 12:15 AA 6 pm—
11 8 am—HE I 9 am—Sunday School 9am—Adult Education	12 12:15 AA 1:30 pm Shawl Minis- try 3pm Bible Study Group	13 6:30 Great Decisions 7pm Choir 7:30 Al-Anon	14 12:15 AA	15	16 12:15 AA 3 pm— Woodland Village Service	17 8:30 am Mens Break- fast 12:15 AA
18 8 am—HE I 9 am—Sunday School 9 am—Adult Education 10 am—HE II	19 12:15 AA 1:30 pm Shawl Minis- try 3pm Bible Study Group	20 6 pm Vestry 7pm Choir 7:30 Al-Anon	21 12:15 AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	22 10 am Sa- maritan Guild	23 12:15 AA 3 pm— Woodland Village Service	24 12:15 AA
25 8 am—HE I 9 am—Sunday School 9am—Adult Education 9am—Classes for Confirmation begin 10 am—HE II	26 12:15 AA 1:30 pm Shawl Minis- try 3pm Bible Study Group	27 7pm Choir 7:30 Al-Anon	28 12:15 AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	29 10 am Sa- maritan Guild	30 12:15 AA 3 pm— Woodland Village Service	31 10:00 a— Stewardship Forum 12:15 AA

Youth Sunday

October Serving Schedule

	The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 4 <i>ONE SERVICE ONLY; 9:00am</i>	The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 11	The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 18	The Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost October 25
Altar Guild	<u>Team 2</u> Casano, Gaupp Gilmore, Park	<u>Team 3</u> Boos, Crowe, Pickens, Swayze	<u>Team 4</u> Allen, Fairchild, Floyd, Giffin	<u>Team 1</u> Ball, Bentson, Breen, Hourin
Flower Guild	Barbara Boos	Janis Floyd	Sue Stewart	Arva Kyger
8 am Chalices—Reader—	No 8:00 Service	Chalice—DeDeaux Reader—Calvert	Chalice—Weidlich Reader—Allen	Chalice— DeDeaux Reader—Calvert
10 am Chalice Readers	Service @ 9:00 am Chalice— Stephens DeDeaux Reader—M. Sartin	Chalice— Park Giffin Reader—Laurel Bruce	Chalice— Floyd Cuervo Reader— P. Hourin	Chalice— Wilson Gaupp Reader—M. Casano
Acolytes	Ciara Ford Heather Haines	Matt Saucier Alan Bruce	Reagan Edwards Allie Edwards	Matt Saucier Heather Haines
Usher—8		8 am —Frallic	8 am —Young	8 am —Frallic
Usher—10	9am —Eddy, Crowe	10am — Eddy, Boos	10am — Gilmores	10am —Eddy, Floyd
Greeter-10am	Paul Montjoy	Paul Montjoy	Paul Montjoy	Paul Montjoy
Oblations 10 am	Nell Frisbie	Georgia Saucier	Betty & Bruce Pennington	Lou & Charlotte Crowe
Hospitality	Karen & David Hector	Georgia Pickens	Corny Swayze	Mary & Sid Mizell
Bulletin Helpers	For Thursday Oct 1 Pris Williams	For Thursday Oct 8 Barbara Ford	For Thursday Oct 15 Mary Sartin	For Thursday Oct 22 Georgia Pickens For Thursday Oct 29 Judy Gaupp



Choose Prayer

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

St. Thomas is a praying church and committed to bringing requests from His people to Him through members of the St. Thomas Prayer Team. You are invited to seek and offer prayers for yourselves and others.

Prayers are essential in our Christian life, and gathering others to pray with you and for you is very powerful.

The prayer team is also committed to confidentiality and to respect each other's privacy. Prayers can be offered for a need, a request, for protection, healing, or in thanksgiving, a revelation, and intercessory prayer — or anything else that needs to be supported by others.

"For when two or three come together in My name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:10 NIV



As we experience the Holy Spirit together when we pray, His power is released to enhance our prayers, bring us peace and comfort, and to encourage the joy of this life.

The Prayer Ministry has three ways of offering and lifting to the Lord our requests:

† **The Prayer Chapel** ~ a team of two people from the Prayer Team will pray for you each Sunday. The team will be in the Prayer Chapel (the columbarium) during communion and after services;

† **The Prayer Box** ~ a black box with forms next to it is located in the foyer. These forms are used for prayer requests which are sent out by e-mail to others in the Prayer Team. There is no need to sign the requests or to name others.

† **24-Hour Emergency Prayer Requests** ~ members of the Prayer Team are alerted should a situation arise that needs immediate prayer.

On Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., there is a Holy Eucharist and a Healing Service at St. Thomas. At the healing service, Fr. Bill prays with each person as they kneel at the altar. He also offers Holy Unction for those wishing to be anointed. Also at this time, when requested, members can gather around and lay hands on a person for a need.

Please make use of these powerful prayer ministries. We are here to serve and to minister to each other.



Newsletter Distribution

In an ongoing effort to reduce expenses, we will make newsletter copies available in the foyer and on the website: www.stthomasdiamondhead.org/.

Serving schedules and church calendars for each month, as well as the weekly News and Announcements in the Sunday service bulletins will also be on the website.

We will use snail mail for the few out of town copies we send, and for anyone in the parish who specifically requests it. Please contact Debbye in the church office for this service.

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