

The St. Thomas Times and Tidings

November 2009

Volume 4, Issue 3

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God's Way, Not My Way

Over the years I have been drawn to a brief passage in the Book of Proverbs; a passage that is elegant in its simplicity, overwhelming in its message, and a mystery in its fulfillment. Proverbs 3:5-6 states, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Is this not at the heart of Christian aspiration? More than almost anything else, don't we want to know God's will for us? Don't we just wish that an angel would appear, or a heavenly voice would tell us what God wants us to do?

It doesn't work that way. God wants a relationship with us of our own free will. He waits for us to draw near to him and accept his love. St Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:9, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."*

But our own ideas often get in the way. We are tempted to ask God's blessing for solutions we already have worked out rather than truly seeking his will for us. It can be easy to become so involved in the decisions of our lives that we only turn to God at the end to ratify our agendas rather than prayerfully discerning his guidance in forming those agendas in the first place.

This passage from Proverbs calls us to do otherwise. We are to trust God; not just ourselves. And we are called to seek and place his will above our own understanding, even though we cannot fully grasp God's plans for us. Perhaps we need only contemplate the depth of St Paul's faith when he said in Romans 15:13 *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

These brief verses from Proverbs shimmer with the promise that God will care for us. They tell us if we truly trust God rather than ourselves when circumstances become difficult, then God's way will overcome. And if we trust in God's way, we can be confident that bumpy roads of our own making will yield to smoother ones of God's design.

Fr. Bill

Senior Warden's Report



We have completed our program of stewardship socials hosted by church members. Everyone in the church was invited to one of these events. We enjoyed social time together and had some fruitful small group discussions about stewardship and the church.

A unique format was used for our discussions. We passed around a basket containing slips of paper, with a question written on each slip. People drew slips out of the basket (with the option to exchange it once), and then commented on the question. Others also were free to comment.

A lively discussion covered areas such as our dreams and visions for St. Thomas, how God has blessed us, what it means to be a good steward, and why giving to charity is not the same thing as giving to the church. These are examples of the sixteen questions that were in the basket.

One of the socials focused on our young people, and we had a good discussion about youth programs. This included not only the needs of our youth at St. Thomas, but also participation in youth activities in the larger Diamondhead community.

Our response to this stewardship program is very important this year. Even though we made several budget cuts this year, it still was necessary to use funds in our reserves to cover our costs. Please help the church to achieve financial stability so we can grow and reach into the community.

Patty



*Receiving Through Grace,
Giving In Faith*

Stewardship Committee Update

Your Stewardship Committee is continuing to implement our stewardship campaign for 2010. We just finished a series of eight stewardship socials hosted by members of the church in their homes. Patty Hourin's article, right above this one, discusses these socials in greater detail.

You soon should be receiving an invitation to our annual Stewardship dinner at the church on Sunday evening, November 15 at 6:00. You don't have to bring anything. Just come and enjoy dinner with us. This always is a fun time with good food.

Pledge cards for 2010 will be mailed around November 10. By that time you should have received an update from the church on your 2009 pledge. This all is in preparation for Stewardship Sunday on November 22, when we ask that you return your completed pledge cards during the regular collection at the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services. Our goal is 100% participation.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation we have received and the good will that has been so evident as we have worked with you on stewardship since September. We are glad that St. Thomas is our church home, and we want to do all we can to help the church in its worship and work.

Sid and Mary

Dates To Remember

Nov 08	Adult Education, Revelation, Part V
Nov 10	Pledge Cards Mailed
Nov 14	ECW, Gourmet-to-Go
Nov 15	Adult Education, Revelation, Part VI
Nov 15	Stewardship Dinner
Nov 17	Vestry Meeting
Nov 20	Silver Screen
Nov 21	Men's Breakfast
Nov 22	Adult Education, Revelation, Part VII
Nov 22	Stewardship Sunday
Nov 28	Making Advent Wreaths
Nov 29	First Sunday in Advent
Nov 29	Adult Education, Revelation, Part VIII
Dec 12	ECW
Dec 13	Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:00 am (regular service at 8:00 am)
Dec 15	Vestry Meeting
Dec 18	Silver Screen
Dec 19	Mens' Breakfast

The St. Thomas Budget for 2010

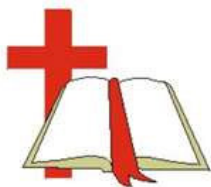


The draft parish budget for 2010 was submitted to the Vestry at its October meeting based on data through September. An updated version with data through October will be provided at the November 17 meeting. The plan is to approve a final version at the vestry meeting on December 15. Copies are available in the church office. Members of the church are invited to offer comments and suggestions about programs or other budgetary items. Please submit comments and suggestions to Fr. Bill, Lou Crowe, Patty Hourin, or Debbye Jones

Pledge Receipts Still Behind

We continue to be a little behind in receiving our 2009 pledges. If you are not yet current on your pledge for this year, we request that you catch up as soon as possible. You will be receiving a statement from the church with an update on your 2009 pledge.

Confirmation/Reception Classes



Classes begin Sunday, November 1, at 9:00 between the services for all wishing to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. This is one of the sacramental rites of the church and historically has been a step in Christian development. Bishop Gray will be at St. Thomas on Sunday, February 14 to confirm and receive new members. This also would be a good Christian education course for anyone wishing to refresh their knowledge or deepen their faith. Please contact Fr. Bill if you are interested or have questions.

Vestry Elections

Vestry The annual meeting of the parish will be held in January 2010 at a date and time to be announced. One of the agenda items will be the election or reelection of three vestry members. Members whose terms expire are Jack Allen, Darlene Park, and Bob Saucier. Darlene is eligible to seek re-election as she was appointed to fill an unexpired term. Vestry members must be confirmed communicants whose membership letters are on file at St. Thomas or can be moved to St. Thomas. Members whose terms expire by tradition serve as a committee to help recruit candidates for the Vestry. Please contact one of them if you think you might be called to service in this way.



November Birthdays

November 04 Jim Williams
 November 07 Charlotte Crowe
 November 19 Stephanie Austin
 November 27 Betty Pennington



Birthday and Anniversary Blessings on the First Sunday

Everyone with a birthday or anniversary is invited to come forward and receive a blessing at both services the first Sunday of each month. 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.

Silver Screen Movie Night



Our next movie night will be Friday, **November 20**. We will see *The Caine Mutiny*, the 1935 original version starring Charles Laughton and Clark Gable.

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).

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, November 21; for information, contact Gary Gilmore (255-4396).



Wednesday Eucharist and Healing Service

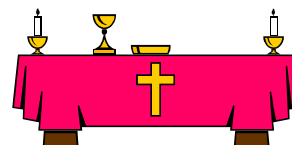
The Wednesday Eucharist and Healing services are held at 6:00 pm. Please consider attending either or both parts of this service. The Eucharist is celebrated first, followed by a dismissal. The healing service begins shortly thereafter.



Nursing Home Ministry

Woodland Village Ministry

Each Friday we conduct a worship service at the Woodland Village Nursing Center on Gex Road south of the church. There is 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. Please see Fr. Bill if you are interested in serving in this ministry.



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).



Thanksgiving Food Drive

The entire month of November is brown bag month as we collect nonperishable food items for delivery to the Hancock Food Pantry for distribution at Thanksgiving. Please place your items in or near the box in the foyer under Bishop Gray's picture.

Adult Education

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.

A Happy Event



Congratulations to Katie Morris and Tyler Brush on the birth of their daughter, Amelia, on October 12. All are thriving.

Bible Study



We are now studying the book of 1 Kings. 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.

Let's Make Advent Wreaths



We will be creating advent wreaths at the church on Saturday, November 28, at 10:00 am. Please bring ribbons, greens from nearby woods and gardens, and other decorative items. Also, if you have them, please bring clippers and glue guns, although we will have some on hand. The styrofoam wreaths and candles will be provided. This was a great activity last year, and again will be fun for everyone. There will be an area where kids can make their wreaths. Refreshments of apple cider and cookies will add to the festivities. Please contact Susan White with questions (255-2568). Sign up sheets are in Johnson Hall next week.

Lobster Fest Report



For the past several years, St. Thomas has joined in a fund-raiser 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 annual sale of lobsters is the primary fund raiser for Wilmer Hall. Lynda Gilmore and Patty Hourin, co-chairmen of this year's event, report that 71 tickets were sold by St. Thomas, and \$1455 was raised for the charity. While some purchasers of tickets chose to pick up their lobsters as carry-outs, most ticket holders (church members and non-members) enjoyed their lobsters with all the trimmings in Johnson Hall. *Many thanks to all* who worked so hard to make this event happen. Special thanks are due the cooks: Joe Floyd, Skip Giffin, and Tyrone Sartin.

Stewardship Dinner

The Stewardship Committee cordially invites you to our annual stewardship dinner on Sunday evening, November 15 at 6:00 pm. This always has been a good social time and chance to enjoy fellowship. Invitations will be mailed this week. You don't have to bring anything. Just come and enjoy dinner.



ECW News Attention all ladies of St. Thomas!

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will meet

**Saturday, November 14
10:00 a.m.
Johnson Hall**

Our guest Speaker will be Mary Ann McRaney, Diamondhead resident and author of Friends Forever. You don't want to miss this! Please come and bring your friends. Refreshments will be served after the meeting, and child care will be provided.



Newcomers Committee and Greeters Ministry

Welcome! 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).

Gourmet-To-Go



Please get out your favorite recipes! ECW will once again present "Gourmet-To-Go" on Saturday, December 12, from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at the church. We need your help to prepare gourmet items that we will offer for sale such as appetizers, breads, cakes, candies, canned jams & jellies, cookies, casseroles, pies, soups & stews, and regional dishes. Be watching for sign-up sheets that will be in Johnson Hall after Sunday services during November. Plan to label your items with a list of ingredients as well as instructions for re-heating, etc. Further instructions such as pan sizes to use will also be available at sign-up.



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.

November 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day 8am—HE I 9am—Sunday School all ages 9am—Adult Ed 10am—HE II	2 12:15pm-AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:pm—Bible Study	3 7pm—Choir 7:30pm AI-Anon	4 12:15pm—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	5 10am—Samaritan Guild 4:30—Finn & Feathers	6 12:15 pm—AA 3pm—Woodland Village Service	7 noon to 5pm Doyle Using Johnson Hall 12:15 pm—AA
8 8am—HE I 9am—Sunday School all ages 9am—Adult Ed 10am—HE II	9 12:15pm-AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:pm—Bible Study	10 7pm—Choir 7:30pm AI-Anon	11 12:15pm—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	12 10am—Samaritan Guild	13 12:15 pm—AA 3pm—Woodland Village Service	14 10 am—1:00 pm ECW Gourmet to Go, 12:15 pm—AA
15 8am—HE I 9am—Sunday School all ages 9am—Adult Ed 10am—HE II 6pm—Stewardship Dinner	16 12:15pm-AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:pm—Bible Study	17 6pm—Vestry 7pm—Choir 7:30pm AI-Anon	18 12:15pm—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	19 10am—Samaritan Guild	20 12:15 pm—AA 3pm—Woodland Village Service 6pm—Silver Screen	21 8:30am—Mens Breakfast 12:15 pm—AA
22 Stewardship Sunday 8am—HE I 9am—Sunday School all ages 9am—Adult Ed	23 12:15pm-AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:pm—Bible Study	24 7pm—Choir 7:30pm AI-Anon	25 12:15pm—AA 6pm—HE and Healing Service	26 	27 12:15 pm—AA 3pm—Woodland Village Service	28 12:15 pm—AA
29 8am—HE I 9am—Sunday School all ages 9am—Adult Ed 10am—HE II	30 12:15pm-AA 1:30pm—Shawl Ministry 3:pm—Bible Study					

November Serving Schedule

	All Saints' Day <i>November 1</i>	The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost <i>November 8</i>	The 24th Sunday after Pentecost <i>November 15</i>	The 25th Sunday After Pentecost <i>November 22</i>	First Sunday Of Advent <i>November 29</i>
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	<u>Team 2</u> Casano, Gaupp Gilmore, Park
Flower Guild	Rusty Cobb	Bobbie Stephens	Barbara Boos	Janis Floyd	Arva Kyger
8 am Chalices— Reader—	Chalice—Weidlich Reader—K. Allen	Chalice—Weidlich Reader—Calvert	Chalice—DeDeaux Reader—K. Allen	Chalice— Weidlich Reader—K. Allen	Chalice—Weidlich Reader—Calvert
10 am Chalice Readers	Chalice— Floyd, Cuervo Reader—B. Eddy	Chalice- Park, DeDeaux Reader—L. Bruce	Chalice— Giffin, Stephens Reader— J. Williams	Chalice— Park, Gaupp Reader—T. Sartin	Chalice—Giffin, Stephens Reader—M. Sartin
Acolytes	Heather Haines Ciara Ford	Alan Bruce Matt Saucier	Matt Saucier Heather Haines	Reagan Edwards Allie Edwards	Reagan Edwards Allie Edwards
Usher—8 Usher—10	8am— Young 10am— Eddy, Crowe	8 am— Frallic 10am— Eddy, Boos	8 am— Young 10am— Eddy, Floyd	8 am— Frallic 10am— Eddy, Crowe	8 am— Young 10 am— Eddy, Boos
Greeter- 10am	Paul Montjoy	Paul Montjoy	Paul Montjoy	Paul Montjoy	Paul Montjoy
Oblations 10 am	John & Barbara Boos	Sue Stewart	Bruce & Betty Pennington	Lou and Charlotte Crowe	Georgia Saucier
Hospitality	Karen & David Hector	Georgia Pickens	Corny Swayze	Mary & Sid Mizell	Katherine Wilson
Bulletin Helpers	For Thursday Nov 5 Pris Williams	For Thursday Nov 12 Barbara Ford	For Thursday Nov 19 Mary Sartin	For Wednesday Nov 25 Georgia Pickens	



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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