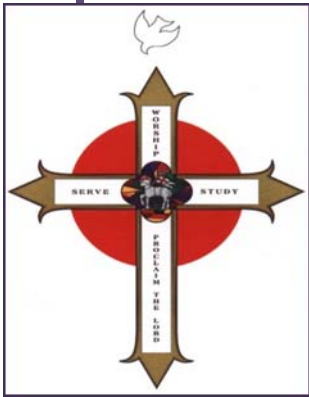


Cross Ties

April 2011



*Walking in the Way of the Cross
United and Empowered by the Holy Spirit*



From the Rector's Desk

On a recent day off, a friend and I drove out for my first trip to the beautiful Outer Banks of North Carolina. One of the places we stopped was the Wright Brothers' Memorial at Kitty Hawk. What an impressive place that is! I was particularly struck by the stones that marked the length of each of the four flights the brothers attempted on that December morning in 1903. The first three flights were very short, but the 4th and final flight covered the length of the field, some 852 feet, and lasted 59 seconds! That flight ended with a minor crash and some damage to the aircraft, but it was nonetheless a triumph! I found myself thinking about how the world had changed that day without anyone really knowing how much! It was really a special experience to be there.

Then I remembered it was not my first trip to the Outer Banks. It was not even my first trip to Kitty Hawk! I was surprised to recall that I had been there once before. It was when I lived in Sanford back in the 80's and I was in the process of getting my pilot's license. It is required that you take several long, cross-country trips and, on one of those, I stopped in Kitty Hawk. The airport is right next to the Wright Brothers Memorial, but I don't even remember seeing it. I was so focused on landing, getting refueled, and getting out of there that I failed to notice much of anything. All I could think about was the next stop and getting back home to Sanford. Now, as I think back on that and on my recent trip I now realize what a lesson it was.

It is easy to fall into the trap of living life as a series of destinations, where, upon our arrival at one, we begin thinking only about the next. It is

easy not to appreciate the present as we hurry on toward the future. I cannot tell you how many people told Nancy and me to truly cherish the years when our children were young and living at home. You know, they were right! The years just fly by. Well, I tried to cherish those years, but let's face it, that can be difficult at times, especially if you are a goal-oriented person, and there's diapers involved!

Now that I am older and, I won't say wiser, but let's say, less stupid, I realize the wisdom of taking the time to see all the blessings God showers into the moments of our lives. I want to give myself the time to enjoy the present and cherish the many wonderful memories I have been given as well. One of the things I appreciated about my friend, with whom I rode to the Outer Banks, was his willingness to stop along the way to check out various attractions along the way. We stopped for coffee, for seafood, to see fish (in an aquarium store), and for peanuts. We even went to Duck! It made the trip a lot more fun and memorable. If I'd been driving, we might have set a speed record between Sanford and Nag's Head, but missed everything along the way!

This time, when I stood there in the warm breeze at Kitty Hawk, my soul truly took flight, and it had nothing to do with aviation. Rather, it was the joy of the moment, the wonder of God's creation, and the peace in the knowledge of the Final Destination he has prepared for all of us who trust in His Son.

Father Craig Lister

Wednesday Evenings During Lent

Join us after the 6pm service for dinner and a Lenten program discussion and discovery. We have been meeting since the first Wednesday in Lent.

April 17th at 10:00am: Bring your family to the Palm Sunday Service and participate in the Passion of The Christ.

April 24th at 10:00am: Bring your spring flowers in a basket to the Easter service and participate in the flowering of the cross.

The egg is the beginning of life for the chick.

The resurrection was the beginning of life for a follower of Christ. Spring is the beginning of life for many animals in God's world. At 11:30am after the Easter service, bring your empty flower baskets to the parish hall's side door for an

egg hunt to celebrate **New Beginnings**.

Pam Kerley

Rebel Without a Clue

"Everyone has something to say to God...sometimes positively and sometimes negatively. But sometimes we need to stop and hear what God has to say to us! Jonah was a minor prophet with a major lesson for everyone. Considered by some to be a children's story, the book of Jonah packs very adult and very contemporary lessons and insights for us today." The Rev. David Roseberry, Rector; Christ Church Plano

What: *Rebel Without a Clue* will be a four week study based on the sermons given by Fr. David Roseberry at Christ Church Plano, Texas.

When: Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM to Noon, beginning April 28 and ending May 19, 2011.

Where: The LPH

Who: Led by Peggy Nelson

Cost: Free

Sign-up sheets will be in the Lower Parish Hall during April.

Peggy Nelson



Women of the Church Minutes for March 2011

The March meeting of St. Thomas' Women of the Church was held on Monday, March 7, 2011, in the Lower Parish Hall, with seventeen women present. Following the devotion by Peggy Nelson, Frances Granger, WOC Co-President called for the reading of the minutes. They were approved as read.

Error! Reference source not found., Treasurer, gave a complete financial report of WOC monies, sharing that the recent Yard Sale, chaired by Charlie and Mari Hann, had raised over \$1,700. Additional contributions and checks are still being received. The Women gave warm and heartfelt thanks to Mari for all the work she and husband Charlie had done to make the sale such an outstanding success. Additionally, Joann Thaxton was recognized for the advertising campaign she coordinated.

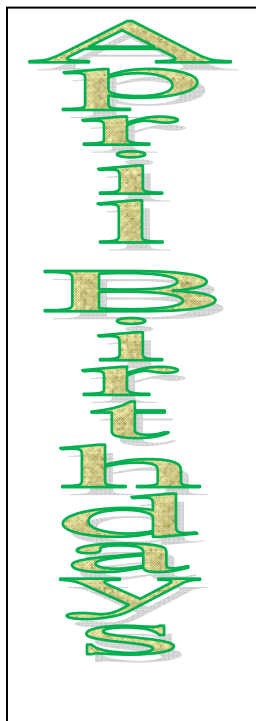
Information was distributed by Frances Granger and Mary Quinn. It contained illustrations and specifications about appliances being considered for installment in the kitchen when it is redone. A lengthy discussion followed, centering on appliances, companies to be considered for the remodeling, and different ideas for the kitchen re-do. Members were asked to submit to Frances Granger any suggestions they had regarding the kitchen remodeling.

There being no additional business, the meeting was closed with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned. The April meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7.

Thank You!

A special thanks to all the helpers and to those who donated items for the yard sale. A huge success (\$1700.00 +).

Many Blessings
 MARI & CHARLIE HANN



Judi Crompton	1
Melissa Lauria	2
Matthew Sakurada	2
Steven Michael	2
Donna Smith	3
John Rainey	4
Anderson Meadows II	5
April Stephenson	6
Lauren Wortman	7
James Jessup	8
Kaitlin Schrull	8
Pat Kirkman	9
Connie Watson	10

Linda Pate	11
Sudi Sakurada	11
Wil Wilkinson III	13
Carol Bradford	15
Katie Kerley	16
Gary Phelps	16
Katie Yuskevich	16
Dana Ponsell	16
Wendy Seymore	21
Julianne Alexander	23
Frances Granger	23
Dede McKenzie	25
Sean Cummings	26
Erin Dowling	29

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 312 N. Steele St., Sanford, NC
 Mr. Bob Bennetts, *Editor*
 Email: rrb239@windstream.net
 Office: (919) 774-8644
 Fax: 776-5883
 Email: stsnrc@windstream.net
 Website:
www.stthomassanford.org/index.html

Office Hours

Tuesday–Friday
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
 Monday 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon

The Parish Staff

The Rev Craig Lister
 Rector
 Pam Kerley, *Director Of Children’s Ministries*
 Dr. Jo Ann Bowman, *Choir Director*
 Sophie Johnson, *Organist*
 Kathy Stancar, *Secretary*
 Katie Yuskevich, *Nursery Care*
 Ken Lokey, *Sexton*

Lay Leaders

Bob Nelson, *Treasurer*
 Tom Reese
Asst. Treasurer
 Frances Granger & Pat Clark
Women of the Church
 Mary Lee Dutton
Parish Life Committee Chair
 Pat Kirkman
Outreach Committee Chair

The Parish Vestry

Serving through 2010
 Seth Cox
 Bob Nelson
 Mike Griffin

Serving through 2011

Oliver Crawley, Sr. Warden
 Charlene Jeffries
 Gordy Reese

Serving through 2012

David Puckett
 Colin Watson
 Dave Zeph, Jr. Warden

Augustine Project Update

The Augustine Project has been very busy behind the scenes forming an Advisory Board, writing our own By-Laws for the St. Thomas’ Chapter, and planning our very first Augustine Project Training Session for tutors. As you are already aware, budget cuts are going to impact Lee County Schools in a negative way so our training class for tutors is very timely. We are planning for 5 – 10 in the first class and space is limited, so contact Barbara Yuskevich as soon as possible to reserve your spot. A deposit of \$100 is required to hold your spot. Remember that the skills taught in the training session will help dyslexic children, children who have language barriers, and even adults who want to learn how to read achieve success benefit from our instruction. Each Augustine Project tutor agrees to tutor a child for at least 60 sessions to give them the foundational blocks for reading. The tutor will be observed by a trained tutor so as to insure the quality of instruction. Every tutor receives their own Wilson Reading System materials which they may keep and use with their student. Over half of the cost of the fee goes directly to purchase the necessary materials the tutors will use. Here are the specifics for attending the class.....

DATE: July 11 – 22, 2011
 LOCATION: ST. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, downstairs in Lower Parish Hall
 TIME: 8:00AM – 3:00PM
 COST: \$600
 CONTACT: Barbara Yuskevich (H) 774-1156 or ©777-4720
 *Classroom teachers may receive 6 CEU’s

Church Bloopers

Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank goodness for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

 The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

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

 Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

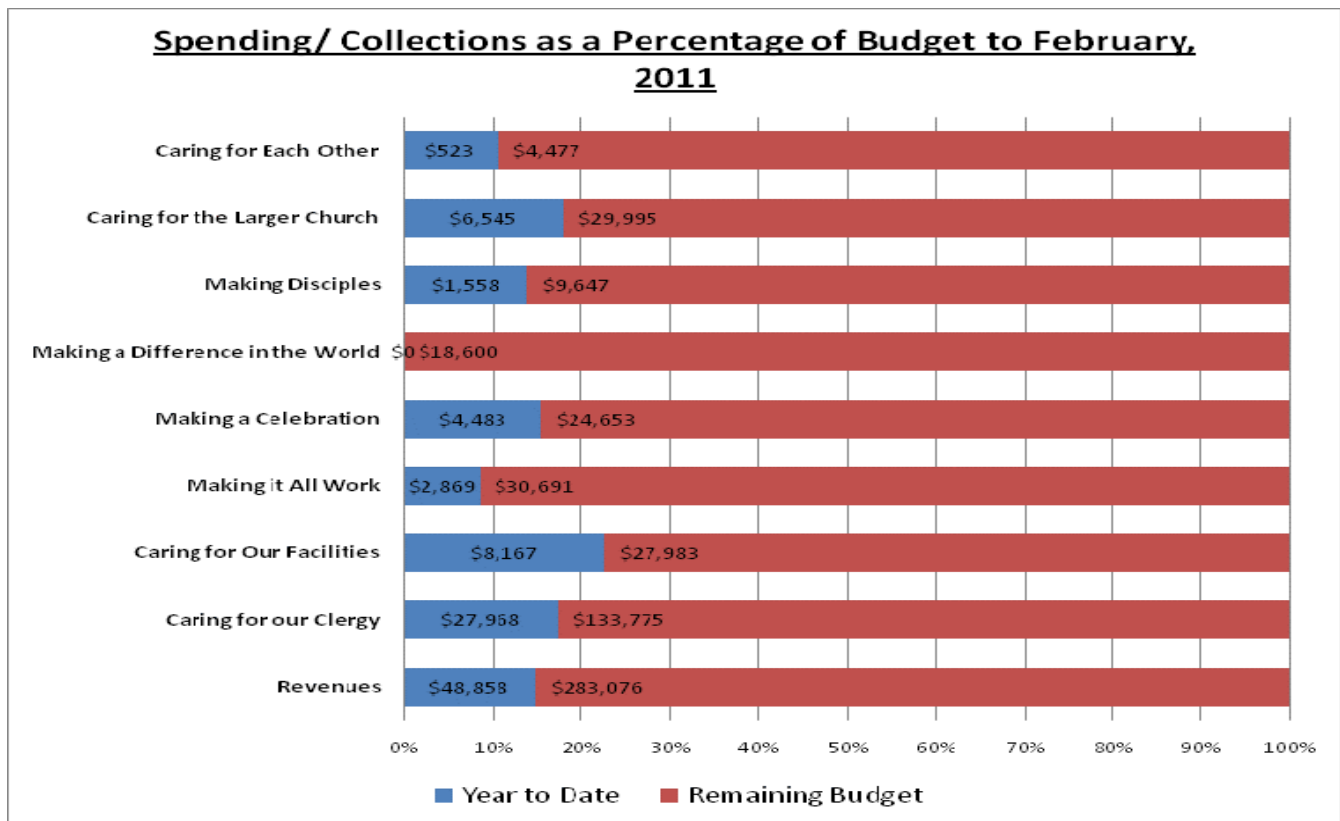
 Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

 Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

(Continued on page 7)

Treasurer's Report from Bob Nelson

St. Thomas Episcopal Church					
Statement of Activity To February, 2011					
	2011 Budget	Year to Date	Remaining	Percent of Budget	Year Ended 2010
Revenues	\$ 331,934	\$ 48,858	\$ 283,076	15%	\$ 344,917
Caring for our Clergy	161,743	27,968	133,775	17%	155,380
Caring for Our Facilities	36,150	8,167	27,983	23%	44,032
Making it All Work	33,560	2,869	30,691	9%	31,328
Making a Celebration	29,136	4,483	24,653	15%	31,467
Making a Difference in the World	18,600	-	18,600	0%	17,340
Making Disciples	11,205	1,558	9,647	14%	11,524
Caring for the Larger Church	36,540	6,545	29,995	18%	26,160
Caring for Each Other	5,000	523	4,477	10%	4,292
Totals	331,934	52,113	279,821	16%	321,523
Cash over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ (3,255)			\$ 23,394



Excuses... contributed by Alice Anne Ford

*"I'm not perfect."... "I have all kinds of problems."... "I don't know the Bible well enough."
"I have no ability"..."I don't have any gifts."... "I'm limited."... "I'm just not worthy..."*

Well, did you know that....

Moses stuttered.

David's armor didn't fit.

John Mark deserted Paul.

Timothy had ulcers.

Hosea's wife was a prostitute.

Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning.

Jacob was a liar.

David had an affair.

Abraham was too old.

David was too young.

Peter was afraid of death.

Lazarus was dead.

John was self-righteous.

Naomi was a widow.

Paul was a persecutor of the church.

Moses was a murderer.

Jonah ran from God's will.

Miriam was a gossip.

Gideon and Thomas both doubted.

Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal.

Elijah was burned out.

John the Baptist was a loudmouth.

Martha was a worry-wart.

Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse?

So did Peter, Paul - well, lots of folks did.



God doesn't require a job interview for salvation. He's our Heavenly Father. He doesn't check our bank statement or credit rating or our IQ before He uses us. He's not prejudiced or partial, not judging, grudging, not deaf to our cry, not blind to our need. He knows who we are and what we are and loves us in spite of ourselves.

Satan says, "You're not worthy"

Jesus says, "So what? I am!"

Satan looks back and sees our mistakes.

God looks back and sees the cross.

There are lots of reasons why God shouldn't call us. But if we are in love with Him, if we hunger for Him, He'll use us in spite of who we are, where we've been, what we have done, or the fact that we are not perfect!

Jesus says, "Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and you will find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asks will receive; and he that seeks will find; and to him that knocks it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8)

Author unknown

Church Bloopers (Continued from page 4)

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

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

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

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

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members & to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles & other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment & gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer & medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket & come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

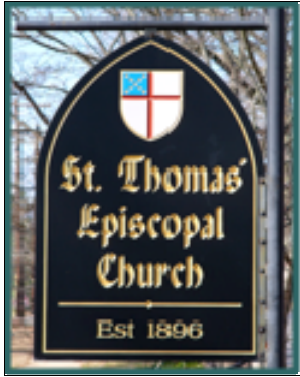
The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Editor's note: Thanks to Jo Ann Bowman for these howlers!!



The Great Commission

“Jesus came and said to the disciples, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20

It is a joy for all Christians to answer God’s call to share their faith, and bring others to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ within the fellowship of the Church. Invite someone to attend a worship service with you this Sunday.

Our Mission...

*“To grow in the knowledge and love of God
through our worship of Him, our service to Him, and our study of His Word;
and to bring others to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
within the fellowship of the Church.”*