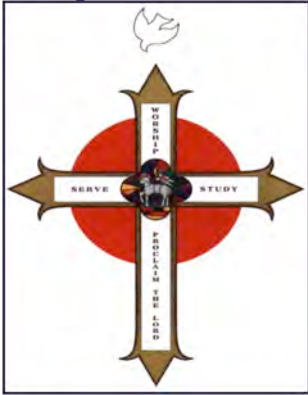
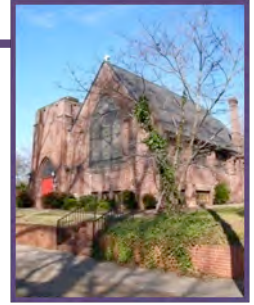


Cross Ties

April 2010



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



From the Rector's Desk

As I travel around our area these days, I am amazed at the explosion of color that marks the beginning of spring. It is also amazing that it comes so early down here in the southlands. In New England, when there is a spring, it seems to show up only in late April, and, even then, a bit half-heartedly. One of our former members, Jack Wolfe (now on to his heavenly reward), used to say that North Carolina around the first of April was like “a fairyland!”

Of course we all know that there is biology behind all the colors we see this time of year. All of it points to one thing: new life. My daughter and I visited the county animal shelter while she was here (always a dangerous thing to do; you don't know how many critters you might be bringing home). Anyway, we remarked to the woman who worked there that there were only a few cats there. She replied, “Just wait, spring is here, and we will soon be overwhelmed with kittens!”

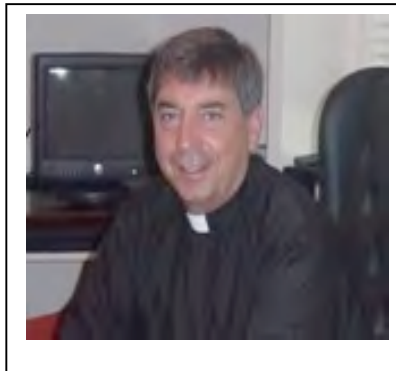
New life is a concept at the heart of our faith. We celebrate it at Easter, remembering that Jesus' resurrection was far more than a resuscitation of someone who had clinically died; it was the beginning of a whole new and eternal life for the Lord. Rightly so Paul tells us that, “if anyone is in

Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has begun” (2 Corinthians 5:17). I wonder how many of us feel that way about ourselves?

The trouble is that our spiritual lives definitely have their ups and downs. There are times when everything feels new and fresh like spring, and others where we feel like we are in a real rut and God is far away. It is not easy to feel like a new creature when we are in those doldrums. Let me offer a suggestion.

The other day a lady in our parish came up to me and asked if we could meet sometime to discuss some spiritual matters that were on her mind. I replied that I would be glad to do this, and offered that it would be like getting a ‘spiritual checkup.’ I think this is one important thing a clergyperson can offer to his people. Most of us think it important to have a physical checkup with our doctor on some kind of regular basis. Why not do the same with your priest? Getting a spiritual checkup can really help to get you out of those ruts we all get in, because you can be pointed toward resources and practices that can truly refresh your spirit. If everyone in a parish made this an annual commitment, imagine the spiritual harvest that would be reaped!

Fr. Craig Lister



A Message from the Senior Warden

The first quarter of 2010 is almost complete. I will briefly review a few of the activities at St Thomas'.

Last year five committees were organized to coordinate the many activities. Michael Griffin has worked tirelessly to create a calendar to help manage activities and usage of Parish Hall space. He continues to improve the "Digital Cross Ties". The EYC attended the Bishop's Ball with his and Pattie's help. As the vestry liaison to the Christian Education Committee, he and Pattie have taken on a meaningful mission.

Gordy Reese is the liaison to Parish / Family Life Committee. This group has been the leader in planning Lenten dinners. The reception for Fr. Craig and Nancy was hosted by these faithful contributors.

The Outreach Committee has the guidance of James Jessup who was the vestry liaison last year. David Puckett has followed James. Last fall the committee helped with Christmas Angels, WATS Sunday, the Backpack Program to feed school children over weekends, and Military Outreach to support the families of our soldiers.

I am pleased to report your Junior Warden, Dave Zeph, has been busy maintaining the building. Many may remember the overhead fan that scared parishioners one Sunday morning. Dave had the fans inspected and secured. He recently has begun the effort to make the narthex a dry space again with Seth Cox's help. The new ceiling lights in the sanctuary are one more of Dave's projects.

The Vestry will hold its retreat April 16 and 17 at Haw River State Park, formerly known as Browns Summit Conference Center. I look forward to sharing time and enjoying the fellowship with other Vestry members and Fr Craig.

Oliver Crawley

WOMEN
WOMEN

Judi Crompton	1	Linda Pate	11
Melissa Lauria	2	Sudi Sakurada	11
Steven Michael	2	Carol Bradford	15
Matthew Sakurada	2	Katie Kerley	16
Donna Smith	3	Dana Ponsell	16
John Rainey	4	Katie Yuskevich	19
April Stephenson	6	Wendy Seymore	21
Lauren Wortman	7	Julianne Alexander	23
James Jessup	8	Frances Granger	23
Kaitlin Schrull	8	Dede McKenzie	25
Pat Kirkman	9	Sean Cummings	26
Connie Watson	10	Daniel Wright	28

The WOC will meet on Monday April 5th at 11 am. All women are welcome and needed. Please plan to attend.

Thank you so much, Mari Hann WOC

Stewardship Lends a Heart

Stewardship may be a Hand, may be a Shoulder, always a Heart.

I've noticed several occasions lately in the local and Raleigh paper and on TV pictures of neighbors consoling neighbors. Often the head of one is resting on a neighbors shoulder after a personal tragedy or area disaster. The pictures are worth a thousand words.

They also remind me of a story my sister often relates when we get together. Emily had joined me for a few days in Europe and my sister was providing loving care for our two children at our Norfolk home. Rebecca was 6 and Richard 5 at the time. One evening Rebecca was feeling bad, probably missing Mom as much as anything, and my sister had her on her lap consoling her. Richard joined them and grabbed Rebecca's hand and said, "Don't worry, Rebecca, it'll be all right." He kept saying it over and over.

No matter how old or how young you are, you never out grow the need for a shoulder or a hand. You're never too old or too young to offer one. At St Thomas we have ministries that provide those shoulders and hands. From the Stevens Ministry to the Shawl Ministry and others, I am thankful that we have caregivers who are so inclined and I'm thankful that there is someone there for me and others.

Please consider finding out about our many ministries if you need a hand or shoulder, or if you want to offer one. In either case, I am sure it will all be from the heart.

Fellow Steward,
Ron Hewett



A Word from Happy Hank

Weren't the Wednesdays in Lent fun? What fun it is to get together, eat a meal, and learn! Speaking of learning, have you noticed all the people who are taking Bible study classes? Wow! Don't you agree that it's important to know the Word of God? How else can we know Jesus if we don't know his story? How else will we know if someone is trying to lead us astray? How else will we know how to share the Good News about Jesus Christ? How else will we know and feel the love of God? How else will we know how to be like Jesus? Spend some quality time with your Bible. Happy Easter!

Happy Hank

News from Your Librarians

Books in the library are now easier to find. There are printed lists in each section (by book title) as well as two master lists. The master lists are by title and by author and are on the "Return Books" shelf. We also have some new books so drop by and check out some reading material.

Happy Reading!



Easter in Other Parts of the World

“Cross Ties”

is published monthly by
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
 312 N. Steele St., Sanford, NC
 Mr. Bob Bennetts, *Editor*
 Email: rbb239@windstream.net

Office: (919) 774-8644

Fax: 776-5883

Email: stsncc@windstream.net

Website:

www.stthomassanford.org/index.html

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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*

Marci Warren, *Nursery Care*

Lay Leaders

Bob Nelson, *Treasurer*

Tom Reese

Asst. Treasurer

Mari Hann,

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

England:

Easter is celebrated by exchange of Easter Eggs and other nifty gifts. Gifts range from money and clothes to chocolate. Sometimes friends go on holidays together. Some people make Easter bonnets or baskets, which have things like daffodils or mini eggs in them. Children sometimes go to a local community center to enter an Easter bonnet competition to see whose bonnet is the best; the winner gets an Easter egg.

The Easter bunny is very much a part of the Easter tradition in England. The shops are filled with thousands which people buy to give to each other. The Easter bunny 'hides' the eggs in the houses and children on Easter Sunday search to find these treats.

Hot-cross buns are popular foods on Good Friday. These are sweet fruit buns with crosses on top. Some people still make these with yeast, but shops now sell dozens in the week before Easter.

France:

The French call it Paques.

The main celebration begins on Good Friday on a solemn note. Church bells do not ring for three days starting from Good Friday till the Easter Sunday. This is a token of mourning for the crucified Christ. Early on Easter morning the children rush into the garden to watch the bells "Fly back from Rome." As the small folk scan the sky for a glimpse of the returning bells, their elders hide chocolate eggs.

Italy:

Italians call it La Pasqua.

The Easter is celebrated with a really big feast in this Mediterranean country. The Paschal feast is celebrated with Agnellino, Italy's special popular dish for the Easter. This is a roasted baby lamb. Children enjoy rich bread made especially for Easter. It is shaped like a crown and studded with colored Easter egg candies.

Germany:

The German call it Ostern, possibly by the name of the Anglo Saxon goddess of spring, Eostre. School children have a three weeks' holiday at Easter. No one works on Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday. Many people eat fish on Good Friday and on Easter Saturday evening there is often a big Easter bonfire. This is very popular and lots of people gather to watch. These Easter fires are burnt as symbols of the end of the winter and to destroy any bad feelings.

On Easter Sunday families have nice breakfasts together. Parents then hide Easter baskets with sweets, eggs and small presents. Hand-painted eggs decorated with traditional designs are exchanged among friends. Earlier, it was customary in many regions for the village girls to present their suitors with a red egg. Many eat fish on Good Friday.

The Netherlands:

The Dutch call it Pasen or Pasen Zondag.

Throughout the country Easter is celebrated as a great spring holiday. People lay tables for Easter dinner with charming decoration of colored eggs and early flowers. Sweet bread, stuffed with raisins and currant, is one of the favorite dishes of the Easter feast.

(Continued on page 7)

Godly Play Schedule

April					
4 Easter	Easter Break – Flowering of the Alter & Egg Hunt				
11	Jesus is risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene	YC&W	Katherine/Debbie	Jesus and the Twelve	Pat/Marcy
18	Jesus is risen: The road to Emmaus	YC&W	Debbie/Dalia	The Crosses	Cindy/Marcy
25	The Good Shepherd and the Wolf	YC&W	Dalia/Katherine	The Story of the Child's own Life	Cindy/Pat
May					
2	The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper I	YC&W	Katherine/Debbie	Good Shepherd and World Communion	Pat/Marcy
9	The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper II	YC&W	Debbie/Dalia	The Circle of the Holy Eucharist	Cindy/Marcy
16	Ascension	YC&W	Dalia/Katherine	The Holy Trinity	Cindy/Pat
23	Pentecost	YC&W	Katherine/Debbie	The Mystery of Pentecost	Pat/Marcy
30	Baptism	YC&W	Debbie/Dalia	Paul's Discovery	Cindy/Marcy
June					
6	Paul's discovery – Vol. 4 pg 126	Sacred	Dalia/Katherine	The part that hasn't been written yet.	Cindy/Pat
13	Heifer Sunday – Combined Classes				
20	No Sunday school				
27	No Sunday school				
VBS	June 21 st - June 25, 2010				
July					
4	Holiday Break – No Sunday School				
11	The Story of Samuel – Combined Classes				Cindy/Marcy
18	The Story of the Prophet Elijah – Combined Classes				Katherine/Dalia
25	Heifer Sunday – Combined Classes				Pam/Debbie
August					
1	The Story of the Prophet Jeremiah – Combined Classes				Pat/Cindy
8	The Story of Daniel – Combined Classes				Katherine/Marcy
15	Heifer Sunday – Combined Classes				Pam/Debbie
22	No Sunday School				
29	No Sunday School				

From the Treasurer

If the response to “God’s Plan For Us” continues, we are on schedule to have a pretty good first quarter, primarily due to members who have chosen to modify their giving from an annual basis to giving more frequently.

General Fund

Revenues during February of \$31,436 exceeded 2009 same month revenues of \$14,614. This may be the best February financially at St. Thomas in my recollection.

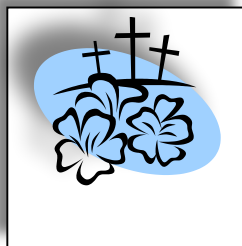
The following presents the 2010 budget and the 2 months ended February, 2010, with comparative 2009:

St. Thomas Episcopal Church				
Finances to February 28, 2010				
	2010 Budget	2/28/2010	2/29/2009	Percent of Budget
Revenues	\$ 327,242	\$ 70,474	\$ 30,654	22%
Caring for our Clergy	158,000	27,794	16,684	18%
Caring for Our Facilities	34,177	11,057	4,505	32%
Making it All Work	35,694	5,111	4,298	14%
Making a Celebration	33,723	5,871	4,210	17%
Making a Difference in the Word	19,800	800	600	4%
Making Disciples	11,218	2,175	2,372	19%
Caring for the Larger Church	28,000	4,000	4,036	14%
Caring for Each Other	6,630	1,296	280	20%
Totals	327,242	58,104	36,985	
Cash over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ 12,370	\$ (6,331)	

At its February meeting, the vestry recognized the efforts of the church staff during 2009 with a onetime supplemental compensation totaling \$2,500, which was funded from fund balance. Other noteworthy items in February included;

- Updating the computer hardware in the office
- Collections for Haitian relief now total \$1,160
- Collections for Episcopal Development & Relief were \$110, with some going directly to ED&R
- Lenten soup bowl collected \$292 in February.

Bob Nelson



(Continued from page 4)

Sweden:

The Swedish call it Påskdagen.

Throughout the country the egg, symbol of life and resurrection, is featured in all Easter food and Easter games. Every household has egg coloring parties. Egg rolling contests are the favorite Easter activity of younger boys and girls. Palm Sunday is observed with palm fronds. The Easter Eve is celebrated with bonfires. Shooting of fireworks also lives on as the tradition.

Russia:

The Easter time celebration is by far the most important in the Russian Orthodox Church. Many of the symbols of this celebration are already familiar to us. The gorgeous folk-art Easter eggs created in the same manner for centuries as a traditional Ukrainian folk art are easily identified by their intricate patterns and colors of red, black and golden-yellow. One of the former parishioners at St. Thomas', Becky Von Canon, mastered this art. Friends who received Easter eggs from Becky prize them greatly.



Equally impressive are the images of the bejeweled and bedazzling enameled eggs created by court jeweler and artist Karl Fabergé. These fabulous works of art were first commissioned in 1884 by Czar Alexander III as a special Easter present for his wife the Czarina.

The traditional Easter foods are a nut and fruit filled yeast cake called *kulich* and an accompanying sweet cheese spread called *paskha*. Often the *kulich* and *paskha* were carried to church and set out on long tables to be blessed by the priest. (In the old days, the priest would often make a "house call" to his wealthier parishioners to bless the food at home.) It was always baked in a special kind of pan-- tall and cylindrical, sort of like a coffee can. When the cake was done, it was decorated with white frosting drizzled down the sides. On the side, spelled out in pieces of candied fruit, were the letters XB, representing the Cyrillic letters for "Christos voskres" -- "Christ is risen."

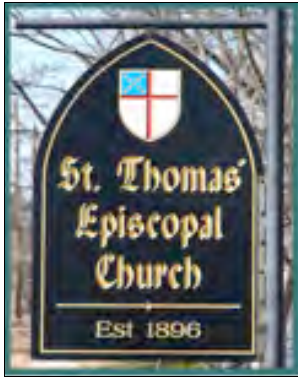
Contributed Lovingly By

Jo Ann Bowman



Happy Easter!





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.”*

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
312 N. Steele Street
Post Office Box 759
Sanford, North Carolina 27331-0759

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

