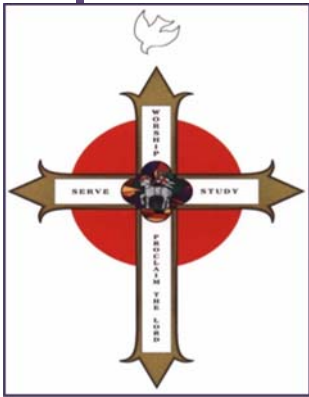
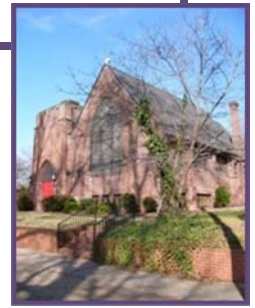


# Cross Ties

August 2009



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



## *From the Rector's Desk*

I don't know about you, but I start to get excited every year as September draws near. In my last parish the town used to empty out for the summer. In some ways it was nice; you could walk right into restaurants and sit down, where normally you would have to wait. The traffic was slightly less insane, and everything seemed to go along at a slower pace. Church attendance dropped, of course, and we went from 4 services each weekend down to only 2. In the beginning of the summer all this seemed fine. I was ready for a rest! However, around this time of year, I always started looking forward to the fall and the resumption of the normal schedule. It always feels like a new beginning.

You people of St. Thomas' are to be commended for the way the energy level sustains through the summer. Our attendance has been good, and several dedicated individuals continue to offer church school to the children. Nonetheless, I hope you are also excited about what I call the reunion that takes place in churches everywhere in September. After all, most of us are away for some portion of the summer, and then there are those many weekends we spend away. After Labor Day we all come back together. We all know that the 'official' church year begins with the season of Advent, but functionally it starts the second weekend in September!

In light of all this, I would like to dub September 13<sup>th</sup> as "Homecoming Sunday." I would like it to be a celebration of our common life together as members of a very special group: the

parish family of St. Thomas.' You know, I truly believe that God calls us together; it is not just happenstance, and I believe He has called us together for many and good reasons. There are a number of occasions throughout the year to recognize and appreciate that, but none more appropriate than the fall! I hope that all of you will make plans to be in church that Sunday so we can celebrate and pray for discernment of the adventures God has planned for us this program year.



To help with the celebration part of the day, there will be an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social following the 10 o'clock service. We will have ice cream, of course, music, and perhaps some entertainment. You might want to dress in some clothes you wouldn't mind a few spills on! I want to make sure that the 8 o'clock crowd knows that they are not only invited, but are expected at the Social!

In my mind, coming to church should be an experience involving 4 things: Inspiration, challenge, fellowship, and fun. Each of these is equally important, but the last two are perhaps the easiest to forget. We need to need each other, and we need to have fun in the process. I believe that we have a lot to celebrate here at St. Thomas, a lot for which to be grateful. Thanks be to God for having formed us into a parish family. See you all on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Father Craig Lister

## *The Garden of Daily Living*

For the inside gardeners who would like advice on how to plant “For the garden of Daily Living”,

### **Plant three rows of Peas:**

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

### **Plant four rows of Squash:**

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

### **To conclude our Garden we must have Thyme:**

1. Time for each other
2. Time for our family
3. Time for friends

### **Plant four rows of Lettuce:**

1. Lettuce to be Faithful
2. Lettuce to be Kind
3. Lettuce to be Patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

### **No garden is without Turnips:**

1. Turn up for meetings
2. Turn up for service
3. Turn up to help one another



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow. This garden will grow in any season of the year, but at this time of the year with a new corps of officers, it is an excellent time to start planting! Let’s urge it on. Wishing it might make it so.

Submitted by Jo Ann Bowman

## *The Story of Atewini by Rob Radtke*

Last week I returned from visiting Episcopal Relief & Development and NetsforLife® programs in northern Ghana. Now I remember why I do this work!

In each village the elders and the women gathered to tell us their stories of lives transformed.

Atewini struck me as an elegant and dignified woman, as she stepped to the microphone.

She told me that she was embarrassed that she couldn’t speak English and that she hadn’t finished school. But that she wanted me to understand how her life had changed since becoming part of the women’s empowerment program under the auspices of ADDRO (Anglican Diocesan Development and Relief Organization), our partner in the Diocese of Tamale.

Atewini’s first step was to take out a small loan (less than \$100) that allowed her to set up a business to parboil rice that she was able to sell to her fellow villagers. With the profit she made from this business, she was able to buy some farm animals, including some goats, a pig and a cow.

Once the goats had multiplied under her careful husbandry, she sold a few of them to put her children in school. They excelled—they were no longer hungry and could devote time to their studies.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

Atewini told me with pride that her eldest child is now attending university and the other is in secondary school.

She is rightly and fiercely proud of what she has been able to accomplish for herself and her family. Her children are now fulfilling and indeed exceeding the dream that she had for herself.

Such wonderful things can be done with so little.



Reid Joyner  
 Episcopal Relief & Development Coordinator  
 Diocese of North Carolina  
[erd-nc@hotmail.com](mailto:erd-nc@hotmail.com); 704/554-6359

*The Treasurer’s Report by Bob Nelson*

Ron Hewett has agreed to assist us in better understanding stewardship, one of those words we’ve hidden in our worship. In recent years, we have changed the way we look at the annual budget to “God’s plan for us and our response to God’s plan.” The challenge for all is to gain knowledge and experience of the greater call led by the Holy Spirit. God gave us dominion to rule His world, as free moral agents. We can bless him or curse him with our actions. *“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.* (Malachi 3:8) If I were to rob someone, the last person I would want to rob is God. Action of disobedience is a reproach unto God. Tithing is a blessing unto God. Ron, we look forward to your stewardship leadership and becoming a spirit led giver.

<b>finances to June 30, 2009</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>Current Year To Date</b>	<b>Prior Year To Date</b>
Revenues	<b>\$307,922</b>	<b>\$125,671</b>	<b>\$115,516</b>
Caring for our Clergy	<b>128,429</b>	<b>39,697</b>	
Caring for Our Facilities	<b>43,575</b>	<b>16,919</b>	
Making It All Work	<b>47,413</b>	<b>17,153</b>	
Making a Celebration	<b>29,975</b>	<b>13,777</b>	
Making a Difference In the Word	<b>13,800</b>	<b>1,737</b>	
Making Disciples	<b>13,325</b>	<b>5,449</b>	
Caring for the Larger Church	<b>25,000</b>	<b>9,576</b>	
Caring for Each Other	<b>6,400</b>	<b>2,144</b>	
Totals	<b>307,922</b>	<b>106,502</b>	<b>113,627</b>

I want to finish up by saying thank you to Sue Comstock, who for years performed many of the administrative duties related to bill paying, payroll and other accounting functions, not to mention the assistance to the treasurer. With her help we have turned these duties over to the Church secretary. Join me thanking her for the countless, unselfish hours she devoted to maintaining financial responsibility at St. Thomas.

## Coming This Fall!

**“Cross Ties”**  
is published monthly by  
**St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church**  
312 N. Steele St., Sanford, NC

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### 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 2009

Steve Yuskevich, Sr. Warden

James Jessup

J.J. Cuff, Vestry Clerk

#### Serving through 2010

Seth Cox

Bob Nelson

Mike Griffin

#### Serving through 2011

Oliver Crawley, Jr. Warden

Charlene Jeffries

Gordy Reese

Coming this Fall: A short-term Disciple class entitled *An Invitation to the New Testament*. Coordinated by Jo Ann Bowman, the sessions will be held from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on eight Wednesdays, beginning on the third Wednesday in September.

Using Matthew’s Gospel as a starting point, this study will explore how the new Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus—His life, actions, mission, death, and resurrection—and the implications of His arrival for their lives and their communities of faith.

We will explore who Jesus is and what His significance is for our lives? Participants are invited to study afresh this story of Jesus, and to learn more about their calling to discipleship and to community.

In the Gospel of Matthew, themes from this story of Jesus will provide the topics for each of the eight sessions. Each theme will be traced through related passages in the New Testament.

### Dates and Study Topics:

September 16 - Jesus Calls Us Into God’s Redemption Story  
September 23 - Jesus Calls Us to a Transformed Life  
September 30. Jesus Calls Us to Minister to a Hostile World  
October 7 - Jesus Calls Us to Complex Communities of Faith  
October 14 - Jesus Calls Us to Serve One Another  
October 21 - Jesus Calls Us to a New Relationship With Tradition  
October 28 - Jesus Calls Us to Live in Light of His Coming Again  
November 4 - Jesus Calls Us to Experience the Gifts of His Dying and Rising

## Spouting News about Women of the Church



St. Thomas’ Women of the Church will meet Monday, September 7, at 11 a.m., in the Lower Parish Hall. The aims for the day will be organizing Fall Projects, and discussing and setting goals for the coming year.

We are hoping to add “new faces” this year. All women in our parish are encouraged to join in the fellowship and fun. We will look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Blessings,  
Mari Hann, President

Hi Y'all! This is your ole' dog friend, Happy Hanna. Comin' at ya again. Do you know why I'm so happy all the time? Because I am a part of a lovin' family here at St. Thomas. What a wonderful family we are! We've been talkin' bout time, treasure and talent. I hear we should be prayin' about new spiritual leaders. Could God be pullin' at your heart? We need youth

Sue Comstock	1	Roland Frechette	18	<b>A</b>
Malissa Holder	1	Joy Gilmour	18	<b>U</b>
Joi Brown	3	Warren Barber	19	<b>G</b>
Ron Brown	4	Mary Louise Matthews	19	<b>U</b>
Aslan Freeman	4	Todd Spofford	19	<b>S</b>
Jack Morgan	4	Lynda Turbeville	21	<b>T</b>
Verneta French	5	Marian Mills	23	
Joe Ryan	7	Phyllis Venrick	23	<b>B</b>
Beth Puckett	10	Scott Brown	24	<b>I</b>
Debbie Noel	13	Kristy Walker	24	<b>R</b>
Perry Payne	13	Tammy Steger	25	<b>T</b>
Donald Marks	15	Charlie Hann Jr.	26	<b>H</b>
Mary Quinn	15	Matt Bullard	28	<b>D</b>
Karen Burrus	17	Samantha Michael	31	<b>A</b>
Stanley Yachovitz	17	Haley Mitchell	31	<b>Y</b>
				<b>S</b>



### *Where in the World (Bible) is Happy Hank?*

Happy Hank has become a world traveler. Can you guess where he went this month?

1. A major city in Macedonia and a Roman administrative center in the region.
2. Paul led many Greeks and some of the leading women to faith in Christ while he was visiting this city.
3. Local Jewish leaders became jealous of Paul's success and had a follower named Jason arrested.

Look for the answer somewhere in this issue of Cross Ties.

The answer for Hank's last trip was Athens (1 Thess 3:1-13; Acts 17:1-16).

### *Correction*

The email for Dave and Elizabeth Zeph is incorrect in the church directory. Their correct email address is dezeph@windstream.net.

### *Course Announcement for Fall 2009*

#### **Short Term Disciple Course on the Gospel According to John is coming this Fall!**

*Invitation to John* is an eleven-week Bible study. We will meet on Thursday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:45 PM beginning October 1, 2009 and ending December 17, 2009. Course manual is \$10.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

In this Gospel we overhear Jesus talking with Nicodemus, a Samaritan woman, and Mary Magdalene. We marvel at Jesus turning water into wine, calling Lazarus from the tomb, and washing his disciples' feet. We linger over Jesus' great promises: "For God so loved the world...." "I am the bread of life...." "I am the resurrection...." "Peace I leave with you...." In the very first chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus issues two invitations: "Come and see," and "Follow me." They echo the invitations of this study: to come and see this Jesus—to hear him speak, to see his signs—and to consider anew what it means to be his followers.

Watch for sign-up sheets for this class and others in the Lower Parish Hall or call the church office or Peggy Nelson to enroll.

### *From the Senior Warden*

I would like to start by saying "Thank You" to everyone for their kind support and prayers during my recent surgery and illness. All prayers, emotional support and "good eats" were greatly appreciated. I especially want to thank

Sue Comstock for knitting a beautiful "Prayer Shawl" for me. It came in very useful during my most painful times. And, a special thanks to my wife Barbara for putting up with one miserable, hard headed patient.

Again, Thanks for all of your support.

Looking ahead to the "Dog Days" August, the Vestry has plenty of work to do. Here are some of the topics that will be discussed.

- 1) Fair Share Giving to the Diocese for 2010
- 2) Church Audit report for 2008
- 3) Start-up Christian Education Circle w/ Lara Noetzelman & Mike Griffin
- 4) Fifth Sunday Luncheon, August 30th
- 5) CrossTies going digital (E-mail)
- 6) Stewardship Training w/ Ron Hewett



Parishioners should feel free to speak with any Vestry member and Fr. Lister about any of the above listed topics. It is always helpful to the Vestry when we know the "Pulse" of the Parish. Do not be shy about giving us your input and opinion on what is taking place at St Thomas and the Diocese. As many of you know the General Convention was held last week in California. The Convention itself is now an issue of huge debate. Let us know what you think. We the Vestry, work for you, the Parishioners of St Thomas. Without your input, we are working and making decisions with little information.

Thanks for your Prayers and Support.

With Peace & Respect, Steve Y

### **SAVE THE DATE – SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Who Doesn't Love a Good Party?

Certainly no one I know. So let's have one! On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, please make plans to join together in the Lower Parish Hall for our First Annual St. Thomas' Ice Cream Social! Planning is in progress – if you would like to help, please contact me at any time.

Samantha Michael 777.9951

Where in the world (Bible) is Happy Hank? Answer: Thessalonica

**"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise."  
Psalms 98:4**

During Vacation Bible School in June, I decided that the children of our church should have the opportunity to sing, dance and be silly together more than just once a year. There is now a children's choir meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 9:55. I realize that sounds like a very short amount of time, but it is amazing how quickly children learn new songs! This is also in an effort to hold choir practice at time that is easy for parents to manage. We will be performing for the congregation soon!

Samantha Michael

### *A New Project!!*

Jo Ann Bowman and Jane Escher are undertaking a new project for St. Thomas': locating pictures of all past vicars and priests who have served at St. Thomas'. Once the photographs are found, they will be copied (originals, of course, will be returned to those who loan pictures), dated, framed, and displayed (in an area yet to be determined). Your assistance is requested and is sorely needed to ensure a successful outcome.

Listed below is a chronological listing of those who served and a check indicating pictures on hand. You can see there are many pictures needed. If you have a picture of any of the folks listed or know someone who can be contacted, please telephone either Jane at 776-1234 or Jo Ann at 776-4444. Perhaps you have a group picture containing\* one of the former vicars or priests or a single photograph. Either can be used. Help is needed to make this planned project a reality, so pull out those old church publications, church pictures etc. Thank you for your interest and support.

Missing    On Hand

X		The Rev. R. B. Sutton, Visiting Vicar
X		The Rev. F. L. Bush, Assisting Vicar
X		The Rev. C. T. Bland, Shared Vicar
X		The Rev. R. G. Shannonhouse, Shared Vicar
X		The Rev. F. Craighill Brown, Shared Vicar
	X	The Rev. James Daniel Gilliam, First Resident Deacon/Vicar (Elizabeth Mawyer, wife of Mr. Gilliam's son, responded immediately with a picture when requested.)
X		The Rev. R. C. Baird, Jr., Vicar
X		The Rev. Joseph A. Hayworth, Vicar
X		The Rev. R. Hampton Price, First Rector
X		The Rev. Sidney S. Holt, Rector
X		The Rev. Donald W. Frazier, Rector
	X	The Rev. Craig J. Lister, Rector
	X	The Rev. Douglas G. Hodsdon, Rector
	X	The Rev. Mary P. Curtis, Associate Rector
	X	The Rev. Craig J. Lister, Rector



After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said "Let me see if I've got this right. You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning. You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride. You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job. You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and make sure that they all pass the final exams. You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card. You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps. You want me to do all this and then you tell me. . . I CAN'T PRAY?"



## 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.”*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

