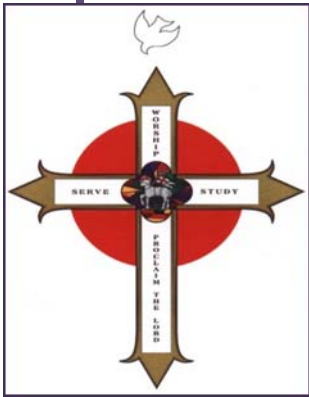
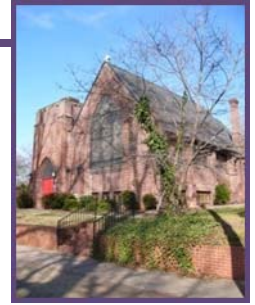


# Cross Ties

August 2011



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



*From the Rector's Desk*

I wonder if any of you have been hearing the term “Open Communion” being used around the Church these days? What people mean by this is the practice of inviting those who are not baptized to receive communion at our altars. This is a direct violation of the canons of the Episcopal Church, which specifically require individuals to be baptized in order to receive Holy Communion. I have not heard of any of this going on in our diocese, but, when I was in Massachusetts, it was commonplace among the clergy, and even two of our three bishops would very deliberately invite the unbaptized to Communion. I guess what bothered me most about this is that they would do it even in parishes that were obeying the canons of the Church.

Calling this “Open Communion” is really a misnomer in the first place in that the term better describes the already established policy of the Church. We practice “Open Communion” already in that we invite all baptized Christians who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist to receive at our Altar. The term that would better describe the new and illegal practice would be “Communion of the Unbaptized.”

So, why is this a problem? Does it really matter? Well, if you think the canons of the Church should be obeyed it certainly matters, and frankly it is just one more sign of the lawlessness that pervades our Church nowadays. If someone identifies something as a “justice issue” or claims to

be speaking “prophetically” then he feels licensed to violate the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church. Many clergy feel free to alter or abandon the liturgies in the Book of Common Prayer as it suits them. This resulted in several diocesan Confirmation services I attended where neither the confirmands nor I could even recognize the liturgy that was used!

More importantly I think this matters on a theological level. Holy Communion has always been the visible sign of unity amongst Christians, specifically unity in belief. Baptism is the means by which we become Christians in the first place, and that is one reason we can only offer Communion to those who have received that sacrament. Also, at the Eucharist we hear the Word of God from both Testaments read and preached, affirm the core of our beliefs in the Nicene Creed, confess our sins and receive absolution, all of this before we receive Communion. If we cannot wholeheartedly affirm those beliefs, or if we have not truly confessed our sins, or if we are in open conflict with another member, then we should not receive the sacrament until all these things are resolved.

Since Holy Communion is as important as the Bible and the Church proclaim it to be, then we must always approach it with reverence and care. We need to be prepared not only before we receive it for the first time, but also prepare for it every time we might go to the Altar.

Father Craig Lister

## *Prayer for August*

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you, all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit and turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

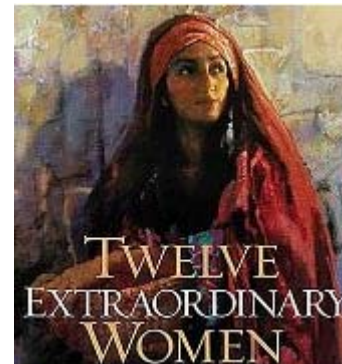
## *Did You Know?*

THAT THE BEAUTIFUL PAINTING OF THE MADONNA HOLDING THE CHRIST CHILD THAT HANGS OVER THE FIREPLACE IN THE LOWER PARISH HALL WAS DONATED BY CHARLOTTE HOHENSTEIN.

***BUT DID YOU ALSO KNOW THAT CHARLOTTE WAS THE ARTIST OF THAT MAGNIFICENT WORK?***

## *Twelve Extraordinary Women*

Beginning Tuesday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m., in the Lower Parish Hall, twelve outstanding biblical women will be the subjects examined in a class led by Jo Ann Bowman (actually 13 as Mary and sister Martha comprise one study). Each of them had a deep reverence towards God and trusted His promises, whether they looked forward to a time when the Savior would come, or whether they looked back at his death and resurrection. Some of them stood between the New and Old Testament eras, even witnessing with their own eyes the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



A high position is given to women within scripture. They are never relegated to a secondary status and, unlike so many other religions, are never degraded and considered less important than men. From the beginning of the New Testament era to the close of the canon of scripture we see God granting extraordinary privilege to women. There are countless women in the Bible who stand as examples of faithfulness, integrity, hospitality and every other admirable virtue.

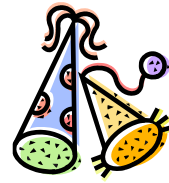
As we meet them in scripture and get to know more about their lives and characters, they will challenge us, motivate us, encourage us, and inspire us with love for the God whom they trusted and served. May our hearts be set ablaze with the very same faith, may our lives be characterized by a similar faithfulness, and may our souls be overwhelmed with love for the extraordinary God they worshiped. Their lives remind us that we, too, can be extraordinary through the power of God.

## *From the Junior Warden...Dave Zeph*

Because of the extremely hot and humid summer no new projects have been started. I'm looking forward to more pleasant weather this fall.



# Happy Birthday



Name	August
Sue Comstock	1
Malissa Holder	1
Ron Brown	4
Aslan Freeman	4
Jack Morgan	4
Verneta French	5
Joe Ryan	7
Beth Puckett	10
Molly Lister	11
Heather Sinks	11
Perry Payne	13
Debbie Noel	13
Donald Marks	15
Mary Quinn	15
Karen Burrus	17
Roland Frechette	18

Name	August
Joy Gilmour	18
Warren Barber	19
Mary Louise Matthews	19
Todd Spofford	19
Lynda Turbeville	21
Gwen Bowers	22
Marian Mills	23
Frances Taylor	23
Kristy Walker	24
Tammy Steger	25
Hunter Wilkinson	25
Charlie Hann	26
Phyllis Venrick	28
Roy Lawrence	29
Robert Stone	30
Haley Mitchell	31
Samantha Michael	31

## Godly Play Schedule

August				
7	The Story of the Prophet Elijah	L.10 Vol.6	Marcy – Storyteller Pat	Nancy Katherine
14	The Story of Daniel	L.14 Vol.6	Pat – Storyteller Nancy	Katherine Dalia
21	Combined class in L. Parish Hall			Pam
28	No Sunday School			

*From the Treasurer...Bob Nelson*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church					
Statement of Activity To June, 2011					
	2011 Budget	Year to Date	Remaining	Percent of Budget	Year Ended 2010
<b>Revenues</b>	\$ 331,934	\$ 145,151	\$ 186,783	44%	\$ 344,917
<b>Caring for our Clergy</b>	161,743	77,823	83,920	48%	155,380
<b>Caring for Our Facilities</b>	36,150	21,338	14,812	59%	44,032
<b>Making it All Work</b>	33,560	13,734	19,826	41%	31,328
<b>Making a Celebration</b>	29,136	14,815	14,321	51%	31,467
<b>Making a Difference in the World</b>	18,600	8,580	10,020	46%	17,340
<b>Making Disciples</b>	11,205	4,406	6,799	39%	11,524
<b>Caring for the Larger Church</b>	36,540	18,226	18,314	50%	26,160
<b>Caring for Each Other</b>	5,000	1,913	3,087	38%	4,292
<b>Totals</b>	331,934	160,835	171,099	48%	321,523
<b>Cash over (less than) expenditures</b>	\$ -	\$ (15,684)			\$ 23,394

*Support Our Troops*

Our effort to support the troops overseas was a joyful success. The many items sent including foot powder, deodorant, magazines, food, powder drink flavors and movies were placed in twelve US Mail boxes. Each box weighed approximately 8 lbs. and shipping cost was \$12.95 each, truly a bargain!

Several “thank you” notes have been received expressing appreciation to all in the parish. The boxes were shared by many. We can all be proud to have contributed towards supporting our soldiers.

Blessing to all,  
Oliver Crawley

*What is a Judaizer?*

Do Christians have to "keep" the Law of Moses?  
What authority did Paul have to teach the Gospel message?  
These questions and more will be covered in a study of this important letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Beginning September 15, 2011, the class will meet on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 AM and will be led by Bob and Peggy Nelson. Look for a sign-up sheet in the lower parish hall.

**“Cross Ties”**

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[www.stthomassanford.org/index.html](http://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 2011*

Oliver Crawley, Sr. Warden

Charlene Jeffries

Gordy Reese

*Serving through 2012*

David Puckett

Colin Watson

Dave Zeph, Jr. Warden

*Serving through 2013*

Wally Jones

Marty Pate

Dean Thorndike

## Sinner

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I'm clean livin'."  
I'm whispering, "I was lost,  
now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say, "I am a Christian."  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble  
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I'm a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting that I've failed  
and need God to clean up my mess.

When I say, "I'm a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect.  
My flaws are far too visible  
but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say "I'm a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain,  
I have my share of headaches  
so I call upon His name.

When I say "I'm a Christian"  
I'm not holier than thou,  
I'm just a simple sinner  
who received God's Grace somehow!!

AMEN!!

Contributed by Mari Hann

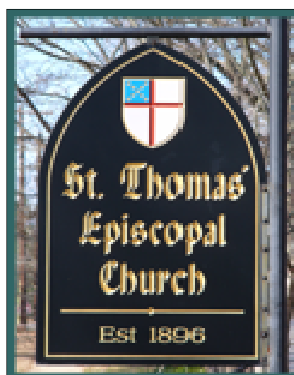


## *The Great Recovery*

[www.thegreatrecovery.com](http://www.thegreatrecovery.com)

The economy has impacted all of us. The government can't fix it. Now is the time for us to rise up together and lead our nation out of this mess-one family, one church, one community at a time. Join The Great Recovery today and lead the economic recovery.

Thanks,  
Bob Nelson



## **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.”*