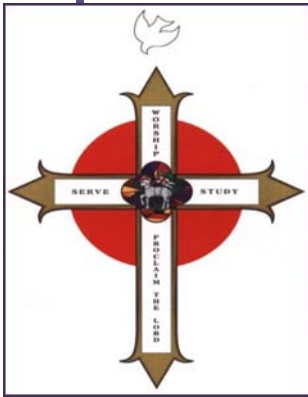
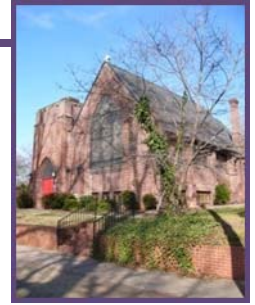


# Cross Ties

August 2010



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



## *From the Rector's Desk*

Last month a parishioner of ours shared an article with me from the New York Times. It was written by a man named Bob Herbert and concerned the high level of apathy among Americans these days. "Being an American has become a spectator sport," writes Mr. Herbert, "Most Americans watch the news the way you'd watch a ballgame or a long-running TV series, believing that they have no more control over important real-life events than a viewer would have over a coach's strategy or a script for "Law and Order.""

The author's point is that we are facing too many serious problems in our nation to have a citizenry that is unable or unwilling to make the attempt to solve them. Having the attitude that nothing I can do can make any difference is an invitation to the wrong people to take control. Having the attitude that we can make a difference is what has led to the most positive social changes in our history. As Bob Herbert points out, Rosa Parks helped transform a nation by refusing to budge from her seat on the bus. It was a small step that led to big things.

Apathy cannot be the stance of a Christian. We are obligated to be active in ministering to our culture. Indeed, part of that ministry is to be witnesses against that culture. To some this may mean getting involved in the political process in order to bring change. There is nothing wrong with this as long as we understand that no human

institution will ever be able to bring about the Utopia of which many have dreamed, and that people may honestly disagree about the right solution to an acknowledged problem. I hear a lot about the need for "justice" from people in the Church today. Unfortunately it usually can be translated into one particular political view or another.



This is why I believe that the most effective way for Christians to 'get involved' is through the practice of evangelism. Winning souls for Christ will do more to solve social problems than any political solution ever could. I say that because political solutions are all about regulating the behavior of people. Evangelism, though, changes the heart of a person to want to please God. If that is your motive your actions will be based on love and caring for others. It is hard to go wrong with that.

Every now and then I like to make a mental list of all the ministries of our parish. It is impressive to me how many there are. As I go through that mental list, I ask myself, "How are we offering Christ to others through this ministry?" If the answer is not apparent, then it is time for renewal or replacement of that program. The more intentional we are about sharing the Lord Jesus with others, the sooner we will begin to see signs of true change pleasing to Him!

Father Craig Lister

## *July Prayer*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## *Special Choir Rehearsals Coming Soon*

Saturday mornings in August, the 7th and the 21st, the Adult Choir will assemble for “in-house music retreats.” During those rehearsals special attention will be given to music for the Bishop’s Visit on September 26th, and for preliminary practice on music for the Advent Program. That program is slated to be given on the second Sunday in December (the 12th) at the 10 a.m. service. We have really good singers at St. Thomas’, some members of long-standing and some new parishioners, who have never sung in the choir and whose talents are very much needed. Please, don’t be shy, come to the August Saturday rehearsals (they begin at 8:30 a.m.) and enjoy the gift of shared music-making. Try it...I am confident you will like it!!!

Jo Ann Bowman

## *New Bible Studies Class*

Acts: The Sequel

Empowerment - Community - Reconciliation - Persecution

Learn how the Gospel quickly spread from Jerusalem to all parts of the Roman Empire.

We will begin in September and end/break by December 9.

Thursday mornings 10:30 AM to Noon -- The class manual is your Bible.

Peggy Nelson

## *Be Certain You are “On Board” for the September Meeting of the Women of the Church*

The Women of the Church will begin their new 2010-2011 year with an exceptional and enjoyable opportunity. On Monday, September 13, at 10 a.m., a caravan of women will depart from the side parking lot of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church for a trek to Raleigh. Their destination: the church museum of T. V. Oommen. The museum contains many Christian items collected by Mr. Oommen during his visits to Israel. Following the museum visit, some of the ladies will continue to a Raleigh restaurant (yet to be announced) for lunch. Others, with afternoon responsibilities, will depart for Sanford. The museum will accommodate only 25 people, so it is important that you call or email Frances Granger or Pat Clark to be certain your name is included on the list of visitors to the museum.



## *Shout Out for Volunteers*

Many of our elementary school students in Lee County depend on the free breakfast and lunch programs to provide them, in some instances, the only meals they will receive all day. What happens to these children over the weekend? Backpack Pals is a volunteer organization that packs these children a backpack with simple canned meals and snacks for the weekend. The backpacks are stuffed Thursday mornings, delivered to the guidance counselors at each elementary school and distributed to the students on Friday. The empty backpack is returned on Monday to the counselor. With the help of volunteers, food and monetary donations this organization stuffs 250 backpacks each Thursday morning during the school year from 10:00 – 11:30 in the Simpson Construction Building on Wicker Street. Your Outreach Committee sees this as a very important ministry to our community. In the past we have made monetary donations. I would like us to do more and give some time to this worthwhile organization. I am looking for a team from St. Thomas who would be willing to donate 1.5 hours a MONTH to help stuff these backpacks for our children. If you are interested in helping or in need of more information, please call me, Emily Hewett at 776-8870.



## *Stewardship: A Matter of Perspective*

I saw an entertaining interview last week on ABC-TV with the Tuohy family of Mississippi. The Tuohys, Sean and Leigh Anne, are known for adopting Michael Oher, a black youth from the ghetto who, with love and encouragement, went on to become a high school football standout, all-American at the University of Mississippi and then drafted by the Baltimore Ravens. This was well documented in a recent movie starring Sandra Bullock.

In their TV interview, the Tuohys shared their faith-based perspective on giving. They feel blessed that they have the economic means to give money to causes in their community. They feel that they are obligated to do that. But they feel that giving of their personal time, and in the case of Michael, giving someone a home, really gave them a sense of fulfillment. As they described it, it is this person-to-person giving that is truly what the Bible refers to as “cheerful giving”.

The first time they saw Michael on the street they just went passed him and it wasn't until Leigh Anne said, “Stop the car!” that Sean slammed on the brakes and looked back at Michael. It was this calling to look back that the Tuohys explain as a God-given opportunity that we are all faced with everyday to get involved and connect person-to-person.

The Tuohys embody the spirit of giving that we all can learn from. Giving of our resources is truly a sacrifice, but when we give of our time and talent we get even more of a sense of fulfillment through “cheerful giving.”

Fellow Steward,

Ron Hewett



## *King David: A Fall Disciple Class*

In an age characterized by pressure and change, we want to be successful and secure. Yet we also long to become people, like the biblical character David, “after God’s own heart.” Although David was a mighty king and victor in battle, his future success came in growing closer to God. Even when we, like David, face disillusionment, conflict, and the struggle to maintain personal integrity, God is at work in our lives. Studying the life of David will help deepen our faith and our assurance that throughout the joys and challenges of life, God will continue His good work in us until its perfect completion.

Plan now to enroll in the *King David* class. It will begin on Wednesday, September 8, in the Lower Parish Hall. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., all eleven classes will conclude at 5 p.m. Please notify the church or sign the sheet located in the LPH on the table next to the entry, if you plan to participate in the class. Your study guide will be ordered to be on hand for you before the class begins. If you have any questions please contact Jo Ann Bowman at (Tel.) 776-4444 or (email) [jacob1809@charter.net](mailto:jacob1809@charter.net).



## *A Word from Happy Hank*

Y' know, I live in the Upper Parish Hall and I have big ears so I hear all kinds of things. Recently I was listening to the Adult Sunday School class. They were talking about how to 'combat' the push for secularism in today's society. So, of course, that got me thinkin'... One way to get the Gospel message to people who don't know about it is to show them what it is like to be a Christian by how we live our lives. People learn more about us by observing our behavior than by what we say. So I'm going to be aware of how I live my life, how I handle the everyday things—good and not so good. I'm going to be more aware of my habits and my attitude. Just maybe my behavior will cause someone to ask me how I came to be the way I am. And I will ask my Lord Jesus to help me each minute of every day. Your devoted dog,



Happy Hank

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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*

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 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



## Sunday School Update

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer break.

The Godly Play class for the “three and ups” begins at 10:00 am in the Godly Play classroom and ends shortly after the service in the Godly Play classroom. The members of this class will participate in the church service by receiving communion or a blessing with the congregation. After communion this class celebrates with a light snack and juice to symbolize the Communion feast taking place in church. I will be looking for volunteers to provide the “feast.” (For example goldfish, saltine crackers or cheese and juice)

Godly Play/Sunday School for the “eight and ups” will be taught by me. This class begins at 9:15 am.

I am in need of a Grapple teacher for the middle schoolers. Please volunteer or give me your recommendations as soon as you think of someone. Those students are presently taking confirmation classes to be confirmed on September 26th with the Bishop visits. We say a sad good bye to Laura Noetzelman who has been teaching this class. They meet at 9 am in the undercroft classroom.

I have included a registration form to fill out and return to me directly or through the church office.

Don’t forget the adult Sunday school class that meets in the upper parish hall at 11:30. We have nursery care, Katie Yuskavich, who will be available in the nursery from 9am until 12:30 during church and Sunday school.

August		
1	No Class	
8	The Story of Daniel – Combined Classes	Katherine/Marcy
15	Heifer Sunday – Combined Classes	Pam
22	No Sunday School	
29	No Sunday School	

The new Sunday School and Godly Play schedule will begin on September 12th with an ice cream social after the 10 am service. The Sunday School children will be your servers.

My thanks to the Godly Play teachers for next year: Debbie Noel, Katherine Crumpton, Marcy Warren, Dalia Stoutzenberger, Pat Caveness and Nancy Lister. I appreciate their willingness to sacrifice the 10 am service and lead our little ones closer in their relationship with God. We will have a training meeting on August 24th at 6 pm in the Godly Play Classrooms. All teachers are encouraged to participate and any parents who would like to know more about what is happening in the classroom are welcomed also.

I look forward to a wonderful year.

Pam Kerley



## From the Treasurer

### General Fund Activities

June revenues were \$26,660 while expenditures totaled \$24,305. Same month revenues for 2009 were \$34,268, which was also Fr. Craig's first month with us. Actual revenues year to date are ahead of budgeted revenues by 2%. Be nice if it holds through the rest of the traditionally leaner summer months.

The following presents the 2010 budget and the six months ended June 30, 2010, with comparative 2009 amounts:

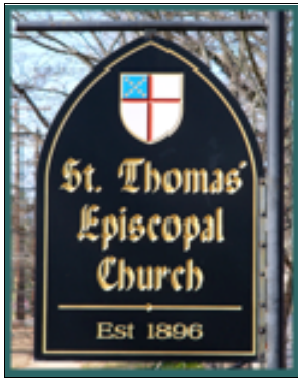
	2010 Budget	6/30/2010	6/30/2009	Percent of Budget
<b>Revenues, Fund Transfers &amp; Fund Balance Appropriated</b>	\$ 341,128	\$ 182,710	\$ 125,674	54%
<b>Caring for our Clergy</b>	158,000	77,009	40,486	49%
<b>Caring for Our Facilities</b>	48,063	37,573	16,919	78%
<b>Making it All Work</b>	35,694	15,785	15,764	44%
<b>Making a Celebration</b>	33,723	15,985	13,777	47%
<b>Making a Difference in the World</b>	19,800	8,269	2,387	42%
<b>Making Disciples</b>	11,218	6,670	4,849	59%
<b>Caring for the Larger Church</b>	28,000	12,000	9,576	43%
<b>Caring for Each Other</b>	6,630	2,117	2,142	32%
<b>Totals</b>	341,128	175,408	105,900	
<b>Cash over (less than) expenditures</b>	\$ -	\$ 7,302	\$ 19,774	

Noteworthy regarding June's transactions:

- Gift of \$5,000 toward the music program was received in memory of John and Doris Lux.
- Total cost of renovations to the offices in the UPH total \$13,886; remaining costs are estimated to be \$10,000.
- Long term investments continue to be in the doldrums, just like yours.

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.”*

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

