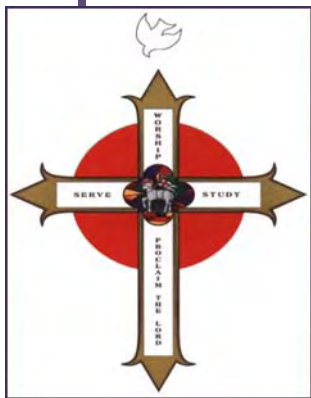


Cross Ties

January 2012



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



From the Rector's Desk

Sometimes this 'Jesus' thing is really inconvenient! Over the Christmas weekend one of our parishioners brought a homeless man named Mike to me. Mike needed a place to stay, but he wanted no part of the cheap hotel down on Carthage St. He wanted to stay at the Quality Inn up on Horner Blvd. I gave him money for a night and our parishioner contributed a second night, and I gave him a \$50 card for Lowe's Foods. The parishioner was nice enough to take him to the hotel, the grocery store, and even brought him to church on Christmas Day. Well, I thought that was the end of it. Wrong again!



I had resolved to take a few days off after Christmas, but I knew I needed to spend some time at the office getting bulletins and other things together for the coming Sunday. Not long after sitting down at my desk Kathy told me I had a call. It was Mike. He was at the hospital emergency room, getting some treatment. Now he wanted money for a train ticket etc. I frankly was irritated with him and told him that I thought the church had done more than enough for him. I also told him about CUOC (Christian United Outreach Center) and suggested they could help him. After I hung up I didn't feel real great about it, but I thought the matter was closed. Wrong again!

Thirty minutes later he called back again. He truly was sorry, but he had no way to get to CUOC, he wanted to go to Florida where he had some family, and he needed a ride to an Amtrak

station. I told him I would give him \$100.00 for his ticket, but I had no time to take him to the station. This time when I hung up I really felt bad. A parishioner came in and I asked him if he could take Mike to the station in Cary. He couldn't do it. Well, I decided to just take Mike the \$100 and let him figure it out himself. End of story, right? Wrong again!

I sat down at my desk again and happened to glance at the Crucifix hanging on my wall. It turned out to be more than a glance. A few moments later I said to myself, as I looked at the image of Christ, "Okay, okay, I get it." I picked up the phone and called a cab company asking what it would cost to drive Mike to the Southern Pines train station. The answer was 80 dollars! I looked back at the Crucifix and said, "Alright, I get the message!"

I arrived at the ER waiting room at the hospital, and located Mike, telling him I was going to take him to Southern Pines. Mike said, "I can't go to Southern Pines; they told me never to come back there. You need to take me to Fayetteville." I glanced upward, sighed, and said. "Let's go, Mike."

I'd love to tell you that, while we drove down to Fayetteville, I was filled with joy, but that would be a lie. Mike chattered away while I listened to him in silence for the most part. After I dropped him off,

(continued on page 2)

From the Rector's Desk (continued)

and had some more time to think, I realized something: being a Christian is sometimes inconvenient, especially to sinful people like me. Until I'm totally free of sin, I guess it's going to continue to feel that way. I'll tell you one thing, though, I sure am glad I happened to look at that Crucifix!

Father Craig Lister

2011 First Communion Class



Congratulations to Ellie White, Harrison Wilkinson and Blake Lauria.

Learn from the Epistle of James

Come join us and learn what James has to say about Faith and Works; taming the tongue; boasting; patience; and prayer and how it applies to us today. A new Bible study class on The Epistle of James will begin on February 9, 2012. We will meet on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30 am. The class will be led by Peggy and Bob Nelson. Looking forward to seeing you then.



The Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve whole months

Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or

Thirty-one different parts,

But don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith,

One part of patience, one part of courage,

And one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope,

Faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.

Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation,

And one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits,

A sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play,

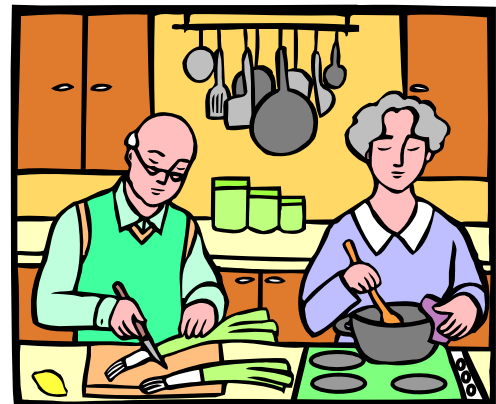
And a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.

Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile,

And serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!





Sophia Michael	4
Carol Phelps	4
Mollie Schrull	4
Craig Lister	4
John Rogerson	6
Brandon Steger	7
Sarah Reese	8
Marlys Rutledge	8
Cody Venrick	10
Christopher Gille	14
Judy Laughinghouse	15
Erika Edwards	15
Morgan Gille	17
Peggy Nelson	18
Freddie Rainey	18
Mike Manolios	19
Ken Lokey	21
Shelby Fulton	25
Jan Carlson	27
Ruth Cameron	27
Charlie Puckett	28
Rachel Payne	28
Rebekah Payne	28
Jack Stewart	30
Nancy Lister	30
Joan Norlander	30

“Cross Ties”

is published monthly by

St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church

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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*

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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 2012

David Puckett

Colin Watson

Dave Zeph, Jr. Warden

Serving through 2013

Wally Jones

Marty Pate

Dean Thorndike

Serving through 2014

Jack Beyer

Sue Comstock

Tom Reese

J. Glenn Edwards Choir Performs at St. Thomas

Ninety-seven singers from J. Glenn Edwards School, under the direction of Dr. Daniel Hester, presented a music program at St. Thomas' on Monday, December 5. Seasonal selections were sung by students of individual grades as well as two-part singing by the entire chorus. A highlight of the presentation was "Look at the World" by John Rutter. The program concluded with Dr. Hester's playing three compositions that demonstrated the wide range of stop combinations, capacity of expression, and responsiveness available on St. Thomas' Schantz organ.



The Young Couple

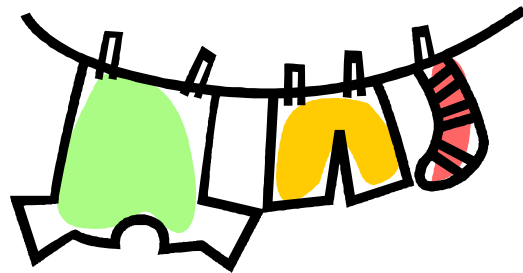
A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. That laundry is not very clean, she said. She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap. Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband...Look she has learned how to wash correctly...I wonder who taught her this?

The husband said...I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.

And so it is with life...what we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.



45 Worthwhile Tips for Life

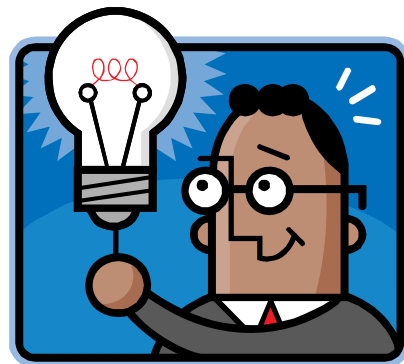
1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.



(continued on next page)

45 Worthwhile Tips for Life (continued)

14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

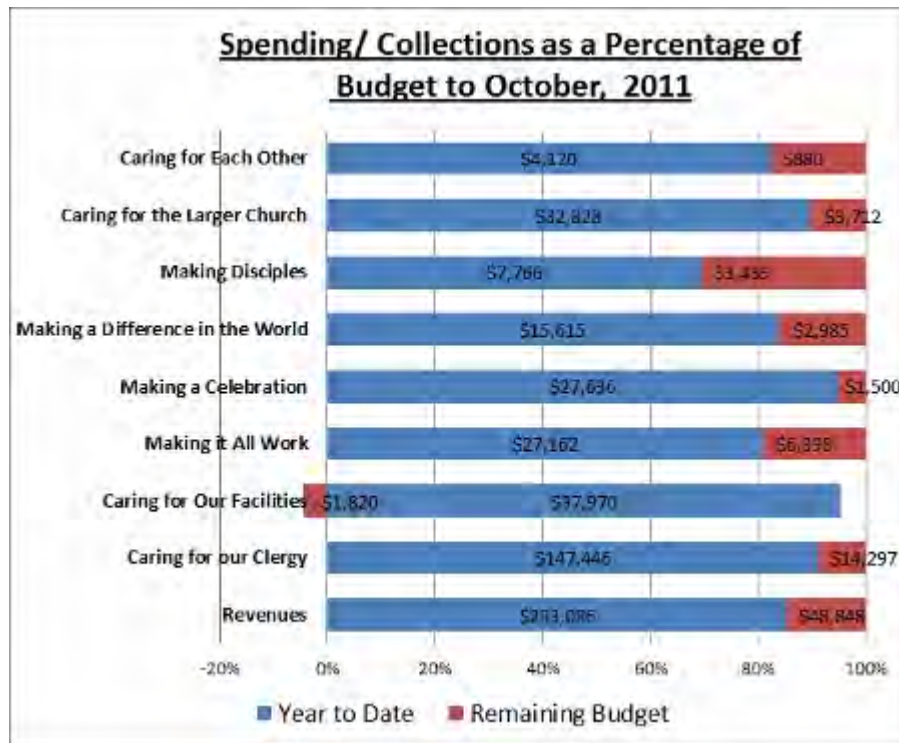


Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. ~Benjamin Franklin

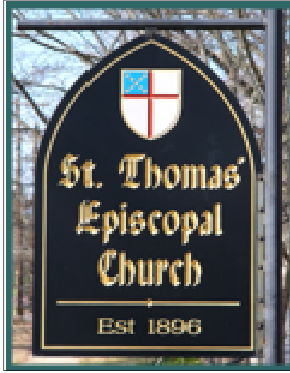
A Report from Our Treasurer – Bob Nelson

Statement of Activity To November, 2011

	2011 Budget	Year to Date	Remaining	% Budget	Year Ended 2010
Revenues	\$331,934	\$ 283,086	\$ 48,848	85%	\$ 344,917
Caring for our Clergy	161,743	147,446	14,297	91%	155,380
Caring for Our Facilities	36,150	37,970	(1,820)	105%	44,032
Making it All Work	33,560	27,162	6,398	81%	31,328
Making a Celebration	29,136	27,636	1,500	95%	31,467
Making a Difference in the World	18,600	15,615	2,985	84%	17,340
Making Disciples	11,205	7,766	3,439	69%	11,524
Caring for the Larger Church	36,540	32,828	3,712	90%	26,160
Caring for Each Other	5,000	4,120	880	82%	4,292
Totals	331,934	300,544	31,390	91%	321,523
Cash over (less than) expenditures	-	\$ (17,457)			\$ 23,394



If you have not received giving envelopes and wish to have some please contact Kathy and she will issue you some.



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.”*