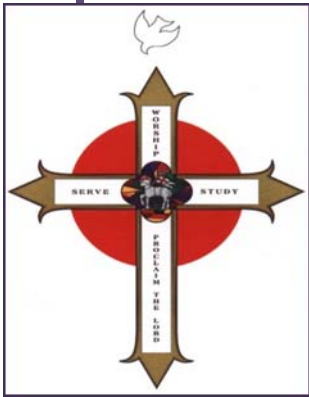


Cross Ties

January 2011



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



From the Rector's Desk

As most of you know, the calendar of the Christian Church revolves around the day on which Easter falls. This year it comes on April 24th, which is only one day shy of the latest date on which it can fall. Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21st (the Vernal Equinox). Therefore Easter cannot be before March 22nd or after April 25th. Interestingly only three years ago Easter fell on March 23rd, only one day later than it can possibly come. You may be asking yourself: why is he writing all this about Easter in January? The reason is that we are going to have a long season of Epiphany this year. The season begins on January 6th and goes all the way till March 9th, Ash Wednesday.

What are we going to do with all that time? We are going to hear a lot of Scripture telling us about the manifestation of Christ. That is what the word 'Epiphany' means: manifestation. We will hear all kinds of stories about Jesus, beginning with the Magi coming to visit Him, His Baptism, and many other Bible passages pertaining to how He was revealed to the world in the time of His earthly ministry.

As we come into this season of Epiphany, it

would be a good time for us to be asking about the ways Christ has been manifest in our lives. In other words, we ought to be asking ourselves: what difference is it making in our lives that we are Christians? What effect is it having that we take the name of Jesus for ourselves? Fr. Terry Fullam used to ask the question in this way: If it became a crime to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?



No matter how we might answer that question, one thing is clear: we can all improve in the ways we manifest Our Lord in our lives. Let me make a few suggestions: One, improve your knowledge of Christ. We are fortunate to have a wide selection of Adult education classes here at St. Thomas'. If you haven't yet joined one, do so! Two, improve your communication with Christ. Devote more time to prayer and meditation, and thus find out more of His will for you. Three, increase your love of Christ. You can do this primarily through your treatment of others. If you are loving to them, they will see Christ manifested in you, and you will find yourself closer to him in the process.

If you make a serious effort to improve your efforts to manifest Christ in your life over this long season of Epiphany, I can promise you one thing: When the season ends, and Ash Wednesday is here, you will be so holy that Lent will be a snap!

Father Craig Lister

Women of the Church – December Meeting

The December 6, 2010, meeting of the Women of the Church began at 10 a.m. About twenty ladies were present, and, after an opening prayer by Peggy Nelson, prepared over 80 gift bags for the J. Glenn Edwards School chorus members. During this time Barbara Yuskevich, the 2010 Food Fair chair, reported on the Food Fair. She shared that this year's fair was extremely profitable, netting over four thousand dollars, which was higher than last year's total. Barbara thanked all women for their contributions and diligent work.

At 11 a.m. the Women of the Church adjourned to the church, and joined some 35 other people, both parishioners and visitors, to hear the musical program presented by the Edwards Chorus, directed by Dr. Daniel Hester. Father Craig welcomed the chorus members and commented briefly on the meaning of Advent, explaining the meanings of the blue altar hangings, the Advent wreath and its candles, and the Jesse Tree. He then opened the concert with a prayer. Dr. Hester explained that this year's concert included both patriotic songs, honoring our service men, as well as Christmas music.

The children sang four patriotic numbers, including the highly entertaining singing of the 50 states, in alphabetical order (with the question to the audience, "Can you do this better than fifth graders?"). The musical program ended with a two-part Christmas anthem, "The Angels." At the request of the listeners Dr. Hester performed an organ selection, to the delight of the audience. Dr. Hester shared with the listeners his appreciation of the annual support by the St. Thomas' Women of the Church and displayed a white board containing ten ledger lines. He explained that the boards had been utilized by over 700 students, kindergartners through fifth grade, in learning to read notes in both treble and bass clefs.

Pat Clark, co-president of the Women of the Church, presented Dr. Hester with a check for \$100 for his use in the music program at J. Glenn Edwards. In addition to bus drivers and teacher assistants who escorted the singers, Ms. Patricia Coldren, Principal, and Mike Riddle, art teacher, were present at the concert. **Error! Reference source not found.**, senior warder and avid photographer, took several group pictures of the chorus.

The children presented a beautifully prepared musical program and underscored the presentation with excellent per-



Godly Play Schedule

Jan-11				
2	No Class			
9 Epiphany Sunday	Epiphany	L.5 Vol.3	Katherine – Storyteller Dalia	Debbie Marcy
16	No Sunday School for remodeling			
23	No Sunday School for remodeling			
30 5 th Sun. Lunch	Parable of the Good Shepherd	L.7 Vol.3	Debbie – Storyteller Marcy	Pat Nancy
February				
6	Parable of the Good Samaritan	L.8 Vol.3	Marcy – Storyteller Pat	Nancy Katherine
13	“St.” Valentine	Enrich. L.4 Vol.7	Pat – Storyteller Nancy	Katherine Dalia
20	Parable of the Great Pearl	L.9 Vol.3	Nancy – Storyteller Katherine	Dalia Debbie
27	No Class			

2011 Lenten Booklet

Be thinking about and even getting a head start by writing something for the 2011 Lenten Booklet. The topic this year is: "Excluding the birth, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I would like to be able to witness..." There will be more information to follow in bulletins and the next newsletter.



Reminder

Please don't forget the yard/rummage sale coming in March. We'll be looking forward to seeing the "treasures" donated for this worthy effort!

Shaw Library

The Shaw Library is now in its new (old) home and is open. Please come by and check out some books. There are many fiction books, spiritual books, educational books, as well as numerous reference volumes. You can check books out or sit at one of the desks in the library and read or use the reference books on site.



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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*

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 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

From the Treasurer

November revenues were \$34,967, while expenditures totaled \$28,056. Same month revenues for 2009 were \$52,032. Actual revenues year to date are on line with budgeted revenues. Spending is slightly below budgeted amounts. The net results are revenues are ahead of expenditures by \$10,737.

Other noteworthy items:

- We have yet to identify the donor of the Comcast stock.
- Giving during the year has been right in line with expenditures, a first for St. Thomas.
- Investments were flat during November; year to date we are down \$1,654 over January 1 balances.
- Would like to finalize 2011 pledges.
- December is shaping up nicely.

The following presents the 2010 budget and the eleven months ended November, 2010, with comparative 2009 totals:

	2010 Budget	11/30/2010	11/30/2009	Percent of Budget
Revenues, Fund Transfers & Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 359,628	\$ 329,681	\$ 274,202	92%
Caring for our Clergy	158,000	143,751	108,601	91%
Caring for Our Facilities	66,563	67,695	38,575	102%
Making it All Work	35,694	27,568	39,484	77%
Making a Celebration	33,723	27,616	26,010	82%
Making a Difference in the World	19,800	16,040	9,682	81%
Making Disciples	11,218	10,454	7,994	93%
Caring for the Larger Church	28,000	22,000	19,976	79%
Caring for Each Other	6,630	3,820	3,472	58%
Totals	359,628	318,944	253,794	89%
Cash over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ 10,737	\$ 20,408	

Bob Nelson



Special Women of the Church Meeting – January 3

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Women will meet on January 3rd at 11 o'clock in the lower parish hall. We are honored to have as our guest speaker the daughter and son in law of Kathy Tinsley. All women of the church are welcomed to come and hear these wonderful speakers.

John and Jenny McLamb are missionaries with the International Mission Board of the Baptist Church. They are currently on stateside assignment, having completed their first term consisting of one year in language school in Costa Rica, and two years in Peru. They served in both a small, indigenous Andean town as well as Lima, Peru. They have four children: three boys (Caleb, Luke and Elijah) and a baby girl (Hope). Before going into the mission field, John was a pastor in North Carolina. In January, they will relocate to southern Mexico to work with an unreached people group, the Zapotecs. Jenny is the daughter of Kathy Tinsley; granddaughter of Sam and Jeanne Tinsley

A Tribute to Betsy Parnell

The following poem was presented to the folks attending the Annual Meeting. It was written by Frances Granger:

There's a tiny kitchen angel roaming around this house.....
She's not very big - sort of small, like a mouse.

Now when the kitchen's a mess, it becomes quite a hassle.
She starts to clean and leaves that kitchen looking like a castle.

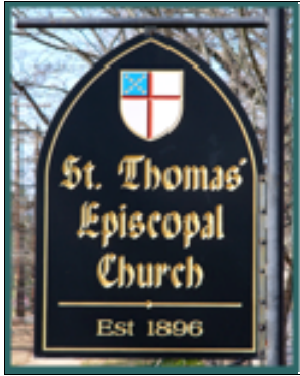
She scrubs and she polishes...It's a sight to behold.....
Then she makes sure the MESS MAKER is sufficiently told.....
That a mess in this kitchen is no laughing matter
So get with the program, this is not idle chatter.

Seriously, this person is a wonderful example for us all.
Her faith and sincerity is beyond the call.
She trusts in the Lord, and turns to him with her prayers.
Showing the rest of us that God really is always there.

Do you know who she is? Are you really aware?
Thank you, Betsy Parnell. You're the answer to our prayer.



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

