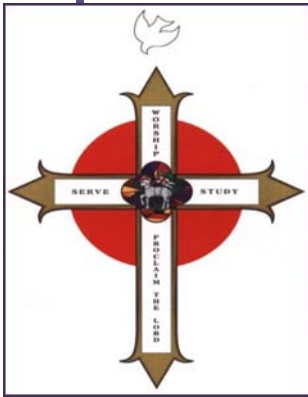
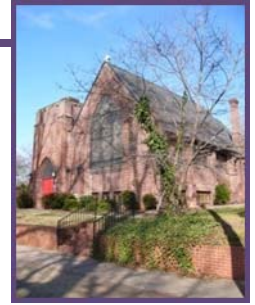


Cross Ties

July 2010



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



From the Rector's Desk

The troubles in the Episcopal Church continue. On May 15th, as many of you know, a second bishop, living in a sexual relationship outside of marriage, was consecrated in Los Angeles. Despite the pleas of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primates, and other instruments of unity in the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church has set its course.

Since Gene Robinson was elected and consecrated in 2003, there were those of us that had hoped that our church would observe a moratorium on ordaining non-celibate homosexual persons to the episcopate. The church even passed a resolution at the 2006 General Convention pledging the same, and the bishops assured Archbishop Rowan Williams that the moratorium was in force. However, when the very next gay candidate since Gene Robinson for the episcopate (Mary Glasspool) was elected, her election was easily confirmed by a majority of the diocesan bishops and Standing Committees around the church. This can hardly be termed 'exercising restraint'. Same sex blessings now occur in virtually all of the dioceses, including our own, and same sex marriages are being blessed by the church in dioceses whose states have made that legal. As you can no doubt tell from the tone of this article, this is all very discouraging to me.

Just as all this news was flowing in, the Treasurer, Senior Warden, and I received a letter from the Rev. John Tampa, rector of Emmanuel, Southern Pines, and chair of the finance committee

of Diocesan Council. In the letter we were reminded of the new canon passed by the last 2 diocesan conventions, which require every parish of the diocese to pay a set percentage of its income (12%) to the diocese and the National Church. This canon has some teeth in that parishes not in full compliance can have their seat and vote at convention removed and even be reduced to mission status, which could mean replacing your priest and vestry. While there is an appeal process for parishes that do not believe they can afford to pay the diocese in full, there does not seem to be any provision for parishes that object to paying for reasons of ideology and conscience.

This year we are giving the diocese \$24,000 of our budget. They are asking, on the basis of this policy, that we increase that amount to \$36,500 for 2011, an increase of 52%! On the basis of our budget this year, that amount would rise to \$40,600 in 2012. At its June meeting, the Vestry took up the question of how to respond to this new policy.

Four options were considered: One, pay nothing to the diocese. Two, come into full compliance by paying \$36,500 in 2011. Three, stay at the giving level of \$24,000. Four, enter into a plan to be in full compliance at the end of 2 or 3 years. After discussing these options, along with some variations of them, the vestry found some consensus, but wished to delay a final vote until July, so they would have opportunity to hear from you folks in the parish.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Here is the consensus the vestry reached: They will pay the same amount of \$24,000 to the diocese in 2011. The reasons for that decision will be communicated to the diocesan Finance Committee and are primarily related to the matters raised in the first part of this article. However, the challenge of increased giving is one that the vestry is only too happy to take up. As such, the vestry pledged to attempt to raise an additional \$12,500 for our 2011 budget. This represents the difference between what the diocese is asking and what the vestry is willing to pay. This extra money raised will be devoted entirely to our outreach budget. At present that budget figure is \$18,000 (up \$6,000 from a year ago). These additional monies would raise that figure to \$30,500. Responding to a challenge like this with sacrificial giving made sense to the vestry members.

This was a difficult discussion for the vestry. It was clear that the easiest path was the one of least resistance in simply giving the diocese the amount it was asking. The road ahead may have some bumps in it for all of us. That is why I encourage you to speak to the members of your vestry about this issue. In the end it has to be their decision, but they truly do want to know how you feel about it, and now is the time to tell them before a final choice is made. Wherever you may come down on all this, please keep your Rector, Wardens, and vestry in your prayers.

Father Craig Lister



July Prayer

The following is the prayer for the month July and is taken from the Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Junior Warden Report

1. Re-work (additional caulking) was needed on the Bell Tower roof. We also had to repair part of the church roof adjunct to the Bell Tower (not related to the above problem). We will need a soaking rain to see if these two fixes worked.
2. The secretary's office is finished and moving in day was Monday June 21. The storage room is also finished stock and organized.
3. Work on Fr. Lister's office (the former secretary office) is now under way. We should finish sometime in July.
4. Bids have been received for the four outdoor security cameras, DVR, and necessary installation (all hard wiring and electrical).

Dave Zeph



WOMAN OF THE CHURCH...MARK YOUR CALANDERS NOW!

The September meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13th, and a special one it will be, too. Plans are in place to visit a most unusual museum in Raleigh: A Bible Discoveries Museum built, stocked with many Christian items, and completely paid for by Mr. T.V. Oomen. Many of you might recall an article in the News and Observer telling of Mr. Oomen's project. At 75 he heard a call to build his 400-square-foot Museum, complete with two strained-glass windows, in his back yard. The museum opened in April and includes many items collected during his travels to biblical lands. Following the museum tour, members will have lunch together in a near-by restaurant. Please sign up now, as the museum will accommodate only 25 people at most, by calling the church, calling Frances Granger or Pat Clark. More information will be included in the August newsletter.

David: A New Disciple Class



A disciple class entitled *David* will begin in September. King David's life has all of the ingredients of an action packed box office hit. He went from being a keeper of his father's sheep to being Israel's greatest king. David had many victories in his life, but he also made many mistakes. In this study we will discover that King David was no different than we are. All of us have victories in our lives, but we also make many mistakes. However, like David, we too can be "a man after God's own heart." Being a Christian doesn't mean we will never make a mistake. Rather, it means that no matter what circumstances arise, we will keep our faith in God. Please plan now to be a part of this exciting study of one of the bible's most important and intriguing people.

Thank You All!

Thank all of you from St. Thomas for the outpouring of generous support to me since Harvey's death. Thanks for the food immediately brought and the transportation and friendship offered since. I love and appreciate your demonstration of Christ's love. Thanks again.

Your sister in Christ,
Carolyn (Arnold)

Free Piano?

Are you interested in having a free upright piano? The piano in the Upper Parish Hall needs a new home, because the UPH needs the room. It's free...all you have to do is have it moved. Contact Dave Zeph if you are interested.

And, at the same time, we are asking for the donation of a spinet piano for the Lower Parish Hall. The one we have is "on its last legs." We need a piano for LPH events and for choir warm-ups before church. If you have a spinet piano that is just occupying space in your home, please consider giving it to St. Thomas'. We REALLY need it. Again, call Dave Zeph if you will contribute your small piano. By the way, so all may know, the spinet in the church is on loan from Sophie Johnson. Thanks, Sophie, for sharing your piano.

Taps

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps...' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes.

But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia . The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment..

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out.. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done.
Gone the sun.
From the lakes
From the hills.
From the sky.
All is well..
Safely rest.
God is nigh.
Fading light.
Dims the sight.
And a star.
Gems the sky.

Gleaming bright.
From afar.
Drawing nigh.
Falls the night.
Thanks and praise.
For our days.
Neath the sun
Neath the stars.
Neath the sky
As we go..
This we know.
God is nigh.

The American Creed

As we celebrate the 234th birthday of our country you will find it interesting to learn about William Tyler Page, author of The American Creed

William Tyler Page (1868 - 1942) was born in Frederick, Maryland. The family roots of William Tyler Page go back to 1650, when the first progenitor of his family, John Page, settled in Williamsburg, Virginia. Carter Braxton, Mr. Page's great-great grandfather, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia which adopted the resolutions of Patrick Henry. Mr. Page was both a lineal and collateral descendant of President John Tyler.

In 1881, at the age of 13, he traveled to Washington D.C. to serve as a page at the U.S. Capitol, thus beginning a 61-year-long career as a national public servant.

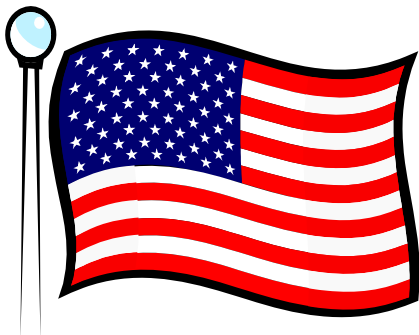
In 1917 at age 49, Page wrote the American's Creed as a submission to a nationwide patriotic contest, the goal of which was to have a concise but complete statement of American political faith. Drawing on a wide variety of historical documents and speeches, including the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and others, he crafted a simple yet profoundly moving expression of American patriotism. His submission was chosen above more than 3000 others. On April 3, 1918 it was accepted by the U.S. House of Representatives, on behalf of the American people. Today it also often comprises part of the Naturalization Ceremony for new Americans.

Page died on October 19, 1942, after serving his country his entire adult life, humbly but always proudly. The House of Representatives adjourned the following day in his honor. That day, Rep. Eaton of N.J. said: "He believed that the Constitution of the United States was next to the word of God: the most spiritually illuminated and divinely inspiring political document of modern times. So he sat here, a philosopher, a friend, a Christian gentleman, and we sat at his feet and received from him new strength, new courage, new understanding."

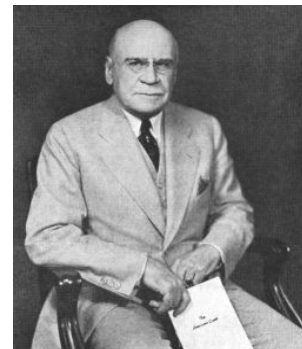
William Tyler Page is the grandfather of the The Rev. Mary Page Curtis.

The American's Creed is as follows:

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. "I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."



William Tyler Page



From the Treasurer

General Fund Activities

May revenues were \$20,486 while expenditures totaled \$25,187. Same month revenues for 2009 were \$23,148. Actual revenues year to date are ahead of budgeted revenues by 2%. Be nice if it holds through the lean summer months.

The following presents the 2010 budget and the five months ended May 31, 2010, with comparative 2009 amounts:

	2010 Budget	5/31/2010	5/31/2009	Percent of Budget
Revenues, Fund Transfers & Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 338,642	\$ 144,649	\$ 68,259	43%
Caring for our Clergy	158,000	65,913	27,004	42%
Caring for Our Facilities	45,577	21,540	8,579	47%
Making it All Work	35,694	13,188	9,415	37%
Making a Celebration	33,723	13,533	8,960	40%
Making a Difference in the World	19,800	7,934	1,200	40%
Making Disciples	11,218	5,584	3,197	50%
Caring for the Larger Church	28,000	10,000	7,436	36%
Caring for Each Other	6,630	2,009	1,523	30%
Totals	338,642	139,701	67,314	
Cash over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ 4,948	\$ 945	

Caring for our facilities is running ahead of budget largely due to more items coming to our attention than originally budgeted. This will be revisited at the July vestry meeting for budget adjustments. Making a difference in the world reflects activities of our Outreach Committee. At its May meeting the Vestry approved the recommendations of the Outreach Committee. Amounts were remitted to Haven (\$1,000); CUOC (\$1,000) and

- April revenues include 2 gifts of stock totaling \$4,886
- Lenten Soup Bowl proceeds of \$1,021 were donated to Boys & Girls Club.

Bob Nelson

Library Update

There is still work being done in the offices consequently, the library will be on a limited schedule. It will be open during church office hours but there are some "obstacles" around as that room is being turned into a storage area. If there is a book you need and you cannot get there when it is open, call Peggy Nelson or Sally Neal and we can try to get it for you. This will all be worth it when the final move is made so we just need to be patient. Your Friendly Librarians

Vacation Bible School Scenes



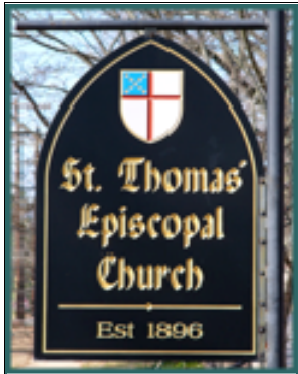
Happy Hank at Vacation Bible School

As I write this, there is a lot of organized chaos going on in the Lower Parish Hall, er, I mean on the ship. It is Vacation Bible School and everyone is having a blast, a "High Seas" blast! If you were not here you have missed having a wonderful time. There are activities all over the 'lower deck' and also outside on the 'islands'. Captain Pam is doing a great job running the ship as are the several crew leaders of all ages. If you missed it this year be sure and make plans to attend or help out next year; this 'ole dawg plans to. Bon Voyage!

Happy Hank

JUNE BIRTHDAYS				JULY BIRTHDAYS			
Jody Griswold	1	Virginia Caviness	19	Thomas Brown	1	Edna Ryan	15
Carena Walter	1	Warren Puckett	21	Darlynda Patterson	1	Elisabeth Ponsell	16
Jack Burrus	4	Charles Burrus	21	George Walter Jr.	2	Tammy Bennetts	17
Pat Clark	6	Ryan Childress	22	Bob Carlson	4	Don Osmolk	18
Betty Davies	6	Kenneth Lauria	23	Lena Kerley	6	Jeff Ward Jr.	19
Ken Jeffries, Sr.	6	Mike Pate	24	Steven Michael	7	Margaret Puckett	20
Jack Beyers	7	Jim Bonti	26	Jack Matthews	8	Kelly Griffin	21
Drusy Schaeffer	7	Kathy Shaw	27	Carolyn Arnold	11	Deirdre Stephenson	22
Katie Smith	8	Bob Downing	27	Diane Thorndike	13	Amy Earnhart	24
Steve Dummit, Jr.	9	Jonathan Kerley	27	Chuck Calhoun	14	Jo Ann Bowman	26
Jane Escher	9	Colin Watson	27	Liliana Ignat	14	Claudia Cox	26
Ellie Mathews	11	Billy Heins	28	Anne Layne	14	Dean Thorndike	26
Marc Houston	12	Cindy Julich	30	Michael Crumpton	15	Shelby Davis	26
Ann Osmolak	12	David Von Canon	30	Molly Crumpton	15	Betsy Parnell	27
Wally Jones	14	Mary Beth Puckett	30	David Puckett	15	Frederick Von Cannon	29
Jeanie Ellwood	15						

The Great Commission



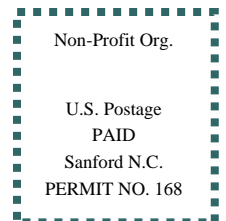
“Jesus came and said to the disciples, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, 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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Sanford, North Carolina 27331-0759

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED