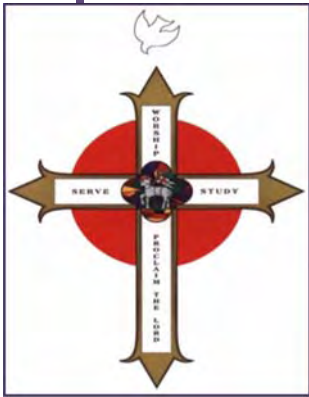


Cross Ties

June 2009



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



From The Rev. Craig Lister

There is an old saying that you have only one opportunity to make a first impression. I think I may be getting a second chance! It is truly a joy for me to rejoin you as Rector (once again) of St. Thomas' church. It has been almost 25 years since I came to you way back in 1984, but I remember vividly the mixture of joy and anticipation I felt then, and it is much the same now.

One of the most interesting questions asked of me by your Search Committee and Vestry was: "In what ways have you changed in the 18 years since you were here at St. Thomas' as Rector the first time?" That required some thought! When I came here in 1984 I was 31 years old. Since then I have gotten older, grayer, fatter (10lbs.), and I hope a bit wiser as well. St. Thomas' was, after serving in two parishes as assistant, my very first parish on my own as rector. While those assistantships prepared me, nonetheless I was still green, and I was scared stiff! Actually I think 'stiff' would have been a good word to describe me back then. I remember early on telling the ladies of the ECW that they could no longer serve wine at their monthly meetings. That went over real well with them, as you can imagine! Suffice it to say, I think I am a bit more relaxed about things these days.

Steve Yuskevich asked me to share with you what my vision for St. Thomas' might be. To

be honest about it I am not sure how clear that vision is right now, but I think there is a good reason for that. Whatever vision there is needs to be one we share and not just mine. As I come to better understand your dreams and goals for the parish, my own ideas and vision will become clearer as well.

For right now, my main goal is to get to know all of you here at St. Thomas', especially those of you I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. That is very important to me, because, in the process of getting acquainted, the Lord brings love and trust into the mix, which is an essential part of getting things done in a church.

One thing I have very clear in my mind and heart is that Jesus has great expectations of all of us in this time. He has also provided the power through His Holy Spirit to see that we accomplish the many tasks and challenges before us. I find that exciting indeed!

In Christ's love,
Fr. Craig Lister



Seventeenth Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, You know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful, but not moody. Helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but You know, Lord, I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the endless recital of details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

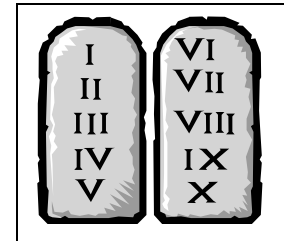
I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally, I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with. But a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

By: Author Unknown

Submitted By: Debbie Noel



Here I go again, thinking about Stewardship. I read some statistics recently. They are from 2005 (even before our current financial troubles). According to these statistics, the average American family enjoyed an annual income of more than \$43,000. The U.S. has more radios, televisions, and personal computers per capita than any other large nation.

But we Americans donate only 1.12% of our income to charity. Giving to churches, overseas missions, seminaries, and local outreach ministries dropped to a 36-year low. Approximately half of all churchgoers give nothing to the church.

The following quote is interesting. May we take it to heart.

If church members were to tithe 10% of their income, churches would reap an additional \$156 billion If 60% of that extra income were designated for overseas missions, that would come to \$94 billion—enough to feed, medicate, and evangelize the underdeveloped world.

Gene Edward Veith in World Magazine

Happy Hank

Women of the Church May Update

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Office Hours

Tuesday –Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Parish Staff

The Rev Mary Curtis

Interim Rector

Pam Kerley, *Director Of Children’s Ministries*

Dr. Jo Ann Bowman, *Choir Director*

Sophie Johnson, *Organist*

Kathy Stancar, *Secretary*

Marci Warren, *Nursery Care*

Lay Leaders

Bob Nelson, *Treasurer*

Tom Reese

Asst. Treasurer

Mari Hann,

Women of the Church

Mary Lee Dutton

Parish Life Committee Chair

Pat Kirkman

Outreach Committee Chair

The Parish Vestry

Serving through 2009

Steve Yuskevich, Sr. Warden

James Jessup

J.J. Cuff, Vestry Clerk

Serving through 2010

Seth Cox

Bob Nelson

Mike Griffin

Serving through 2011

Oliver Crawley, Jr. Warden

Charlene Jeffries

Gordy Reese

The 2009 May meeting of the Women of the Church was held on Monday, May 4, at 11 a.m., in the Lower Parish Hall.

President Mari Hann called the meeting to order and reviewed the officers selected by the membership for the 2009-2010 year.

They are:


- President: Mari Hann
- Devotions: Peggy Nelson
- Programs: Francis Floyd
- Secretary: Jo Ann Bowman
- Treasurer: Charlotte Hohenstein
- Vestry Liaison: Gordy Reese



Following a devotion by Peggy Nelson, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.


Topics discussed included:

- * A separate bank account for the Women of the Church. Members asked Gordy Reese, vestry liaison, to bring the question to the vestry at the next meeting. She will report to the WOC at the next meeting.
- * The current state of the kitchen microwave is unacceptable. It is old and needs to be replaced. Members unanimously requested the matter be taken care of. Charlotte Hohenstein volunteered to be responsible for purchasing a new microwave.
- * The need for repair of the bathrooms in the Lower Parish Hall. Following a discussion of needs that should be addressed, members authorized Barbara Yuskevich to draft a letter to be signed by President Hann. It will be presented to the vestry at the May meeting. The letter will request that the LPH bathrooms receive attention, including: washing walls, painting of walls and baseboards, and gluing of wallpaper where it has pulled away.
- * A motion was made by Frances Floyd and seconded by Jo Ann Thaxton to hold a WOC spaghetti lunch/fund raiser in September. The motion was approved.
- * Gordy Reese was instructed by the membership to ask the Vestry to host a reception following the ten o’clock service, honoring the arrival of The Rev. Craig Lister, on June 7th, the first Sunday in June.
- * The meeting was adjourned, and members enjoyed a “salad lunch.” Each member brought her favorite salad to the meeting for the luncheon.



Jane	Escher	2	Jeanie	Ellwood	15
Jack	Burrus	4	Virginia	Caviness	19
Pat	Clark	6	Charles	Burrus	21
Betty	Davies	6	Bob	Downing	27
Jack	Beyer	7	Jonathan	Kerley	27
Drusy	Schaeffer	7	Colin	Watson	27
Ellie	Mathews	11	Billy	Heins	28
Marc	Houston	12	Cindy	Julich	30
Wally	Jones	14	Mary Beth	Puckett	30

The Treasurer's Report

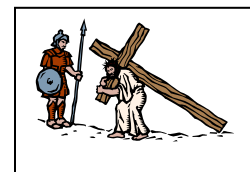
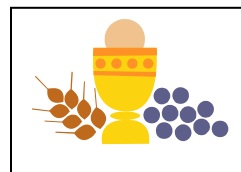
		2009 Budget	Current Year To Date	Remaining
	Revenues	\$307,922	\$68,255	\$239,667
	Caring for our Clergy	128,429	26,213	102,216
	Caring for Our Facilities	43,575	8,578	34,997
	Making It All Work	47,418	10,186	37,232
	Making a Celebration	29,975	8,961	21,014
	Making a Difference In the Word	13,800	600	13,200
	Making Disciples	13,325	3,796	9,529
	Caring for the Larger Church	25,000	7,436	17,564
	Caring for Each Other	6,400	1,523	4,877
	Totals	307,922	67,293	240,629
		\$ -	\$962	(\$962)

Each of you should have received the first quarter record of your contributions to the church. By returning to this reporting format we hope it will better inform you of where you are in your commitment to God's plan here at St. Thomas.

Our revenues seem to be tracking our expenditures through April 30, 2009. With four months behind us you might imagine we would have spent 33% of the budget but expenditures are only at 22% of the budget. There are several areas where expenditures will accelerate during the second half of the year though, so we will catch up. It's important that our revenues accelerate accordingly.

Our economy has yet to give us much of any signs that things are improving. Several of our members are dealing with issues that threaten their livelihood. There's nothing wrong with asking God to give us the strength and focus to maintain our faith that He will provide. May not be exactly what you're looking for but He will provide. Your mission of spreading the Good News continues at St. Thomas. It is no further away than attending on Sunday, seeing His love in the fellowship and music and then watching it get carried out into the mission fields. Don't go through this time alone, it is very possible to see the face of Christ in those closest to you and to give those closest to you a chance to see Christ's face in you. See you at church.

Bob Nelson



Where In The World Is Happy Hank?

Where in the world (Bible) is Happy Hank?

Happy Hank has become a world traveler. Can you guess where he went this month?

1. A 95 square mile island in the Mediterranean.
2. A well known person shipwrecked at this island.
3. There was a "snake" incident here.

Look for the answer somewhere in this issue of Cross Ties.

The answer for Hank's last trip was Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29).

To Celebrate Growing Older...

I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written... My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

Written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, column writer for The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. God 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. 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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! |
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Are your kids ready to sink their teeth into big fun? That's just what they'll do at Crocodile Dock, where fearless kids shine God's light! Crocodile Dock is filled with incredible Bible-learning that kids see, hear, touch and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats are just a few of the Crocodile Dock activities that help faith flow into real life. Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.

We will help kids discover how to see God in everyday life – something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project called Operation Kid-to-kid that involves millions of other children across North America! Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to join us each day at 11:30 because that's when we'll be having Firefly Finale – a daily celebration of God's love you won't want to miss.

Mark these dates on your calendar: June 22nd – June 26th
The fun starts at 9:00 am and will end at 12:00 noon.

Pick up a registration form at the church or go to this website <http://www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/stthomassanford> and register your children, grandchildren and neighbor's children for this awesome power-packed adventure! Make copies of the registration form and hand it out. Let people know about the easy online registration.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS – please sign up to volunteer if you can help in any way. Prayers, food, crew leaders, teachers, donations, and many more opportunities are available for you to participate in this year's VBS. I have been excited to hear many people talking about how important our young ones are. Here is your chance to put your words to work. VBS is a huge outreach to parents and children in our church and community. I hope to have more volunteers than jobs by the end of this month. Every member of this church should help out in some way. Please pray about how you can help this year and don't waste time letting me know.

Where in the World is Happy Hank? Answer: Malta

Godly Play at St. Thomas

Godly play is a wonderful way for our children to experience the Bible using figures and props. The children hear a story followed by “wondering questions” that invite children to think about the story they have just experienced. Here is a list of the Godly Play teachers and stories and we will present in June and July

May			
3		Baptism	Dalia
10		Heifer Sunday – Combined Classes	Pam/Debbie
17		No Sunday School	
24		Ascension	Dalia/Pat
31	Penticost	Pentecost	Pat/Debbie
June			
7		Paul’s discovery – Vol. 4 pg 126	Debbie/Dalia
14		Heifer Sunday – Combined Classes	Pam/Debbie
21		No Sunday School	xxxxx
28		No Sunday School	xxxxx
July			
5		No Sunday School	xxxxx
12	1 st day of SS	The Light	Debbie/Dalia
19		Circle of the church year	Dalia/Pat
26		The Holy Family Vol 2 Enrichment Lesson	Pat/Debbie

God’s Adventurous Lambs and Sheep. The GALS program is as follows:

May 3 – Sam teaching – Fourth Sunday of Easter - John 10:11-18

May 10 – Pam teaching – Heifer Sunday – combined classes meeting in LPH after announcements.

May 17 – No Sunday School

May 24 – Sam teaching – Seventh Sunday of Easter - John 17:6-19

May 31 – Pam teaching – Pentecost - Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

June 7 – Sam teaching – Trinity Sunday - John 3:1-17

June 14 – Pam teaching – Heifer Sunday – combined classes meeting in LPH after announcements

June 21 – No Class

June 28 – No Class

July 5 – No Class

July 12 – First day of Sunday School

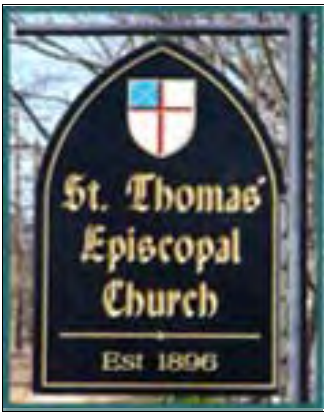
July 19 – Blessed is the Ordinary – Mark 6:14-29

July 26 – Blessed is the Ordinary – John 6:1-21

GRAPPLE will be taking summer break so see Lara Noetzelman for Grapple Dates.

Even if you don’t have children participating in the Godly Play program there are still ways you can be a part of it:

- **Participate in Bible School – June 22-June 26. You are needed.**
- **You can sign up to bring the food for our “feast” or even assist in the classroom.**
- **We have a wish list of supplies and right now we are in need of green, red and purple cocktail napkins for our feast table.**
- **I would like to purchase some new Godly Play stories. If you would like to sponsor one of those stories please let me know.**
- **I would also like to have a “Godly Play clean up and arrange existing stories day” on Saturday, June 20th.**



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
312 N. Steele Street
Post Office Box 759
Sanford, North Carolina 27331-0759
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

