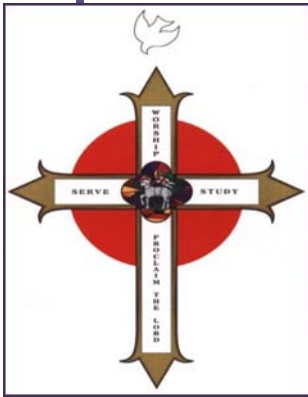
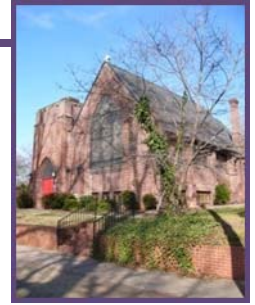


Cross Ties

June 2011



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



From the Rector's Desk

June is, amongst other things, a time when people often think about weddings. I honestly do not know if there is truly more weddings in June than any other month, but a lot of us think there are! Anyway, that got me thinking about weddings and the Sacrament of Christian Marriage.

The important thing about weddings is not flowers, weather, or gowns. The important thing about weddings is that they mark the beginning of a Christian Marriage. That is why, if we get too concerned about the day as a social event, it is easy to lose sight of the true significance of the occasion.

The Prayerbook teaches us that Christian Marriage has three purposes: One, that we enjoy intimate fellowship physically, emotionally, and spiritually; Two, the help and comfort that we can give each other in both good times and bad; Three, when it is God's will, to bring children into the world and raise them in the Christian Faith. Perhaps needless to say, nothing can encompass all that without a major commitment on our part.

Marriage takes on its sacramental life in being a sign of God's saving work in the world. "In it is represented the unity between Christ and His Church," says the Book of Common Prayer. How about that for a daunting task? Our marriage relationships are to stand for the unity of Jesus and His body, the Church! What couple could live up to



that standard? The answer is none, if they try to do it on their own. When a man and a woman establish the sacrament of marriage between each other, by the exchange of solemn vows, and by the giving and receiving of rings, they then receive, by way of the officiating priest, the blessing of the Church and the Holy Spirit on their marriage. What is being conveyed is nothing less than the power of God to assist them in the faithful keeping of their vows. That power is always available to them unless they forget it is there.

In any Christian marriage, the man and the woman have an opportunity to be a sign to the world of the Kingdom of God. If they treat each other with love and selflessness, believe me, other people will notice and be moved. If they also together reach out to others in care and concern, the witness is that much more effective.

On many occasions, I have had the pleasure of officiating at the occasion of a couple's renewal of vows. Usually these take place around anniversaries ending with a '0' or a '5.' However, the time to renew your marriage vows with your spouse is always now. Each day God gives us to be together should be one rededication, not only to our love, but also to the One who created us to experience it in the first place!

Father Craig Lister

Stewardship – We Need Your Input

There are two challenging areas that we at St Thomas could get involved with if the parish is so inclined. I would like to present them to you here and let you provide feedback as to how much interest there is in the parish.

There is a growing movement in some communities to take on more of a support role for our aging population. Church groups and other organizations now provide day-to-day services to aging members who need some simple tasks performed from time to time. For instance, just getting up on a ladder to change a light bulb or do some periodic grocery shopping or talking with a contractor or service technician is a chore for someone who has physical impairments or is just a little past the point of understanding some modern technology. If the person doesn't have family in the area to call on, sometimes the most routine chores become impossible and consequently unattended. This is truly a shame when there are often people out there who would be more than happy to take a few minutes to lend a helping hand.

Some organizations actually receive an annual fee to defray the costs of consumables or other resources. In the case of a parish like St Thomas, perhaps we could pool our resources and offer to be available to parishioners that might be in need at some point. I would hope someone could come to me and let me know they need a favor, but I believe if we set up a simple system, more folks would be likely to come forward with a request when they have a need. What we do now to address this need will eventually help us all out at some point as we age. Stewardship is about taking care of others in need. This is a great way to practice. If you agree that there is such a need in our parish or you might be interested in helping out, please come forward.

The second opportunity addresses disaster relief. For the Sanford community that means what is going on now. Emergency relief deals with the immediate requirements after a disaster. We have been blessed by local and regional and federal response to our needs. Now we need to go into a phase called long-term disaster relief. We need to address long-term needs that may range from psychological counseling to financial aid to those who "fell through the cracks." Needs are being assessed by organizations such as Red Cross and the local emergency services. Once that is done, volunteers and resources need to be pooled to step in and see what help can be provided.

On May 19, JJ Cuff attended a preliminary meeting of non-profits, community organizations, government organizations and interested private citizens to begin the process of pooling resources to see how we as a community need to go forward and transition to long-term disaster relief. The meeting basically reinforced the concern that the need will be great and it will be long-term. Follow-up meetings will deal with more specific issues such as leadership and organization.

I would like to hear from parishioners as to who would like to participate in these efforts and what might St Thomas be willing to contribute in regards to volunteering. We do not want to over-commit because this will be a long-term effort and even with the best intentions, we want to make sure we live up to a long-term commitment. Also, we have already provided generously to organizations helping in the relief efforts and financial resources are restricted. But where does the parish want to go? That is up to you.

If you have any inputs or comments about the above issues, please talk to anyone on the Vestry or Stewardship Committee or Father Craig and pass along your ideas. I would be grateful to anyone who contacts us for comment. My email is rehewett@aol.com and my mobile number is 704-236-0727.

Please reflect prayerfully.

Fellow Steward, Ron Hewett

Our Prayer for June

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of the bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Junior Warden's Report

1. The floor in the lower parish hall has been stripped and cleaned and (3) coats of wax applied. Please try not to scrape the chair legs or table legs across it. Let's keep the floor looking good. Thanks.
2. The wrought iron railings and gates have been sandblasted and primed with a red-oxide primer then coated with a rust inhibitor black satin top coat.
3. We had a great yard cleanup the Saturday before Easter. Thanks to all that helped. There is still some more work we can do, I would like to schedule a Saturday morning before it gets too hot. You will more about this in the next several weeks.
4. Several big trees had to be taken down and the work was done the week of May 29th.

Dave Zeph

MAY	Day
John Stallings	2
Sargeant Aylies	2
Pat Caviness	3
Dave Zeph	4
Sydney Swann	5
Heather Fox	6
Syndey Michael	7
Brenda Brown	8
Nancy Stewart	8
Henry Sinks	10
Mike Griffin	12
Jean Wright	15
Bob Granger	16
Gordy Reese	17
Marg Downing	18
Darian Houston	20
Sarah Payne	20
Sarah Puckett	22
Joshua Walker	23
Jane Miller	29
Marcy Sherbourne	31

JUNE	Day
Jody Griswold	1
Carena Walter	1
Jack Burrus	4
Pat Clark	6
Betty Davies	6
Ken Jeffries	6
Jack Beyer	7
Drusy Schaeffer	7
Katie Smith	8
Fred Brown	8
Steve Dummit	9
Jane Escher	9
Ellie Mathews	11
Marc Houston	12
Ann Osmolak	12
Wally Jones	14
Jeanie Ellwood	15
Virginia Caviness	19
Warren Puckett	21
Charles Burrus	21
Michael Brosch	21

Birthdays



JUNE	Day
Ryan Childress	22
Kenneth Lauria	23
Mike Pate	24
Jim Bonti	26
Kathy Shaw	27
Bob Downing	27
Jon Kerley	27
Colin Watson	27
Billy Heins	28
Cindy Julich	30
Mary Beth Puckett	30
Brian Riser	30

Updates on the Augustine Literary Project at St. Thomas

Augustine Literacy Project announces its Advisory Board: Charlotte Hohenstein, Doug Wilkinson, Leslie McKay, Alice Rainey, Joyce Marks, Sarah Reese, Jeff Ward, and Barbara Yuskevich. A deep debt of gratitude goes out to each person who is so willing to serve our community by helping St. Thomas' Episcopal Church begin to train desperately needed tutors to help struggling readers in our local schools.

Augustine Literacy Project Director, Debbie McCarthy met with each of the replication site Directors in March. The focus of meeting was to update post-instruction testing. We measure and track each pupil's progress following instruction. Each replication site reports the test results back to Debbie. St. Thomas (Sanford) has now been added to the main internet page and a special thanks goes out to Jo Ann Bowman who was instrumental in having the Augustine Literacy Project added to our very own webpage. **WE ARE NOW AN AUGUSTINE LITERACY TRAINING SITE!**

*****SAVE THE DATE:** St. Thomas' Episcopal Church announces our very first training class here **July 11 - 22nd from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM** in the lower parish hall. Enclosed is the registration form to attend the class and a **\$100 deposit** is required to hold your spot by June 10th. We will train you how to evaluate a student's literacy level, show you how to write your own lesson plans and start them at the correct level, and post-test them when they finish at the end of the year. Our class allows plenty of time for questions, role-play lessons, and 5 practice lessons with an Augustine student before you begin tutoring your own student. As you can see, it is a very hands on kind of learning experience with supervision once you begin tutoring your Augustine child. If you have questions contact Barbara Yuskevich at 774 - 1156 or plan to observe a lesson to see how it is done.

Even God Laughed... Children's Letters to God

Dear God,
I went to this wedding
and they kissed right in church
Is that ok?
Neil

Dear God,
Instead of Letting people die
and haveing to Make new ones
why don't you just
Keep the ones you got now?
Jane



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www.stthomassanford.org/index.html

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*

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 2011
Oliver Crawley, Sr. Warden
Charlene Jeffries
Gordy Reese

Serving through 2012

David Puckett
Colin Watson
Dave Zeph, Jr. Warden

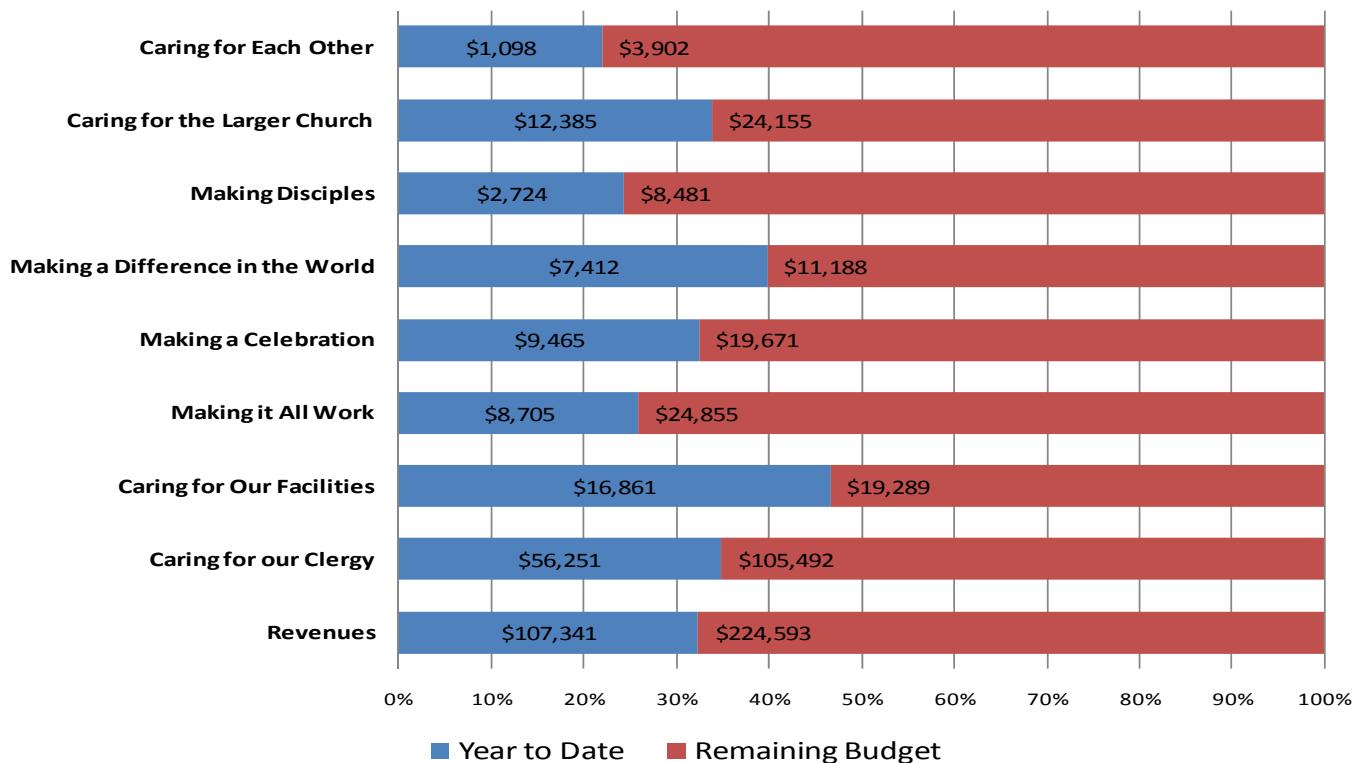
Serving through 2013

Wally Jones
Marty Pate
Dean Thorndike

Treasurer's Report by Bob Nelson

St. Thomas Episcopal Church					
Statement of Activity To April, 2011					
	2011 Budget	Year to Date	Remaining	Percent of Budget	Year Ended 2010
Revenues	\$ 331,934	\$ 107,341	\$ 224,593	32%	\$ 344,917
Caring for our Clergy	161,743	56,251	105,492	35%	155,380
Caring for Our Facilities	36,150	16,861	19,289	47%	44,032
Making it All Work	33,560	8,705	24,855	26%	31,328
Making a Celebration	29,136	9,465	19,671	32%	31,467
Making a Difference in the World	18,600	7,412	11,188	40%	17,340
Making Disciples	11,205	2,724	8,481	24%	11,524
Caring for the Larger Church	36,540	12,385	24,155	34%	26,160
Caring for Each Other	5,000	1,098	3,902	22%	4,292
Totals	331,934	114,901	217,033	35%	321,523
Cash over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ (7,560)			\$ 23,394

Spending/ Collections as a Percentage of Budget to April, 2011



Women of the Church Minutes

The May meeting of the Women of the Church was held on Monday, May 2, at 11 a.m. in the Lower Parish Hall. Co-President Frances Granger called the meeting to order and shared a devotion called "Have Mercy" with the group. She then introduced Samantha Michael and Pam Kerley who volunteer with Matt 6. The name – Matt 6- is based on the following scripture from the Gospel of Matthew:

"Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on their streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be done in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

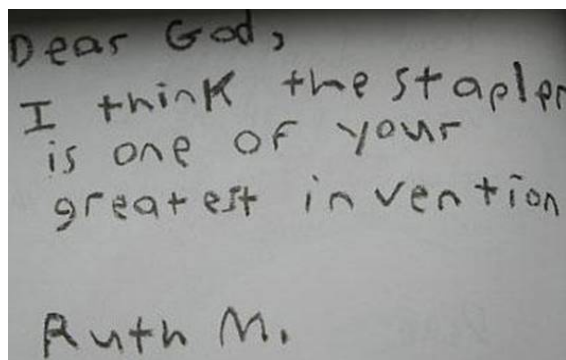
Samantha explained that Matt 6 had been inspired by an accident involving Fisher Hamilton. The little boy fell down an elevator shaft and the elevator fell on him. Mothers joined together to pray for him. Fisher is healed, and, in fact, many of his injuries that paramedics discovered initially, seemed to "disappear" on the helicopter ride to Chapel Hill. Since prayer had worked so mightily in that instance, the mothers decided to gather again and pray for the tornado victims. Matt 6 is now gathering needed items for the tornado victims.

Facebook was the avenue the group used to alert people of needs and to direct them to a gathering/dispersal location. Within the first hour, a building was obtained to house all the supplies. As needs arose, the women prayed and rejoiced as the needed item were brought in. Currently Matt 6 is asking for the following items: diet soda, individually wrapped snack items for children's lunches, laundry detergent, flashlights and batteries, house wares and canned goods. Monetary donations are always welcomed. The first storage location was 1501 Douglas Drive (in the old Sanford Finishing Building, past Wilkinson's Car Dealership). Hours of operation are 2 - 7 PM, weekdays. Contact information is the following: (910) 489-2224 or matt6sanford@yahoo.com.

Following the program, Frances Floyd made a motion, seconded by Pat Clark, to donate \$1000 to Matt 6. The motion passed unanimously. (The Outreach Committee will be asked if they can split the donation with WOC.)

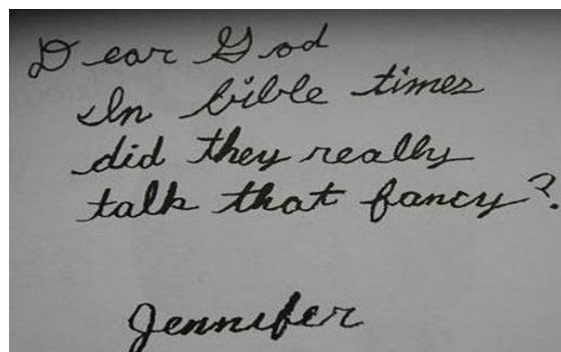
Frances Granger gave an update on the kitchen remodeling project. Father Craig has asked for the storage closet in the kitchen to remain. A freezer and new refrigerator will be ordered. The church will be paying for electrical charges.

Following prayer, the meeting was dismissed.



Dear God,
I think the stapler
is one of your
greatest invention

Ruth M.



Dear God
In bible times
did they really
talk that fancy?

Jennifer



At PandaMania, kids discover that God is wild about them. A fact that will change them forever! PandaMania is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences 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 PandaMania 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 evidence of God in everyday life with something we call “God Sightings”. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot.

Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called Operation Kid-to-Kid, that will let the kids in our community show God’s love to children in Latin America.

Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to join us in the VIP section each day at the close of the program for the rowdy Wrap Up, a daily celebration of God’s love you won’t want to miss.

So mark these dates on your calendar: Sunday, June 26th - Thursday, June 30th. The fun begins after church on Sunday at noon with a hotdog lunch kickoff. On Monday we will begin at 9am and will end by 11:30. Fill out and return to the church office the registration form to register your child for this life changing adventure.

Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Home Church: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions:

In case of emergency, contact: _____

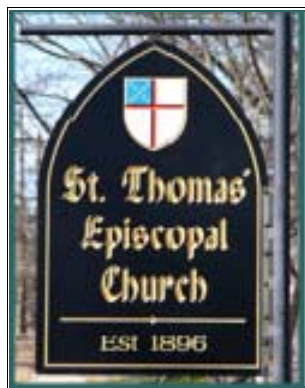
Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

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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.”*

