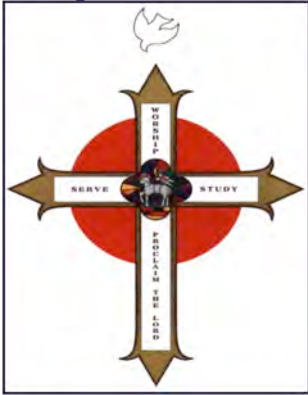
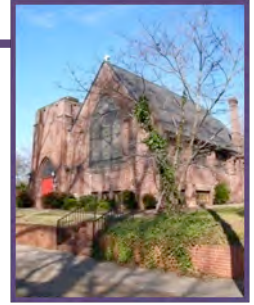


# Cross Ties

March 2010



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



*From the Rector's Desk*

I have been sitting here doing my taxes which is something on everyone's mind even if you haven't started yours yet. The only people who aren't thinking about taxes this time of year are the ones who have already completed their return and have deposited their refunds!

Most of us look at taxes as one of those unpleasant certainties in life, and most of us think we should pay them! After all, we are privileged to live in a great country and we understand the need to support the society from which we derive so much benefit. I know we aren't always happy about writing those checks to the IRS, but we accept the premise of it.

What if we had to file a return every year to God? Just as our Federal 1040 represents a financial summary of our year, our Heavenly Return would be an accounting of all aspects of our life to our Heavenly Father. Now that would be interesting!

On the income side, we would have to submit an exhaustive list of all our blessings and the answers received to all our prayers. We would need to recall all those gifts we receive which are unearned and undeserved, marking them down in the Grace column. This would be a large amount indeed! We would not want to forget entries in the 'Taken for Granted' category, for that could result in a penalty!

On our federal return we tend to look at deductions as good things, but on the heavenly version deductions against our 'income' (blessings) would fall under the category of 'sin.' These are

those things we think, say, and do that tend to nullify the gifts God gives, and separate us from Him. We can get into this sort of trouble merely by forgetting large portions of the 'income' we have received. Remember, forgetting to file, or filing an incomplete return can get us into trouble. Procrastinators are in real danger, because it is so easy to forget that everyone's Heavenly return is due on the same date: Now!

Once we complete our return, each of us will discover, no matter how virtuous we may be, that we owe God a rather large amount:

Everything. It doesn't matter if you are a tither, a saint, or even a one-year-old; no one can give back enough to get a refund or even begin to pay back what we owe. Our debt of back 'taxes' keeps mounting up with every year that goes by.

We would all be in deep trouble were it not for our Benefactor. Each year Jesus goes before His Father and asks, "Well, what does [insert your name here] owe now?" Once He is told the amount (again, Everything), He pulls out a checkbook, writes a check, and receives a receipt with your name at the top marked 'paid in full.' At the same time, we need to write a check as well. We can make it out to Jesus Christ and sign it just like we always would. However, in the box where the amount goes, instead of a number, we should write two little words: Eternally Grateful.

Father Craig Lister



## St. Thomas Prayer for March 2010

The following is the St. Thomas prayer for the month of March. The prayer is taken from the Book of Common Prayer. Let us all pray each day during March.

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose years bring them weakness, distress or isolation. Provide them homes of dignity and Peace; give them understanding helpers; and the willingness to accept help; and as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

## Stewardship is Solutions

When I took command of a U.S. Navy ship a few years back I had one week to assess the conditions aboard the ship. At the end of that week I had to sign a letter detailing any discrepancies or short-comings I had found. Once I signed and sent this letter to the admiral the problems were mine to solve. If things did not improve in the coming months, the admiral would not be interested in hearing me complain about the conditions I had inherited. The only thing on his mind was what have you done about it, captain?

Unfortunately this doesn't seem to apply to current events. Countless times in the last year or so we have been reminded by politicians that things were bad when they took office and consequently they shouldn't be blamed. They seem to have lost the perspective that they were voted in to solve problems.

As Christians, you and I cannot expect to be let off the hook so easy. God knows what the problems are, He sent us here to solve them. Whether there are issues in the community, our parish, our neighborhoods, or more global, He sees them as opportunities for us to make good on our promise to love our fellow man and do more than just cheer for him. As Jesus often prompted his disciples, God expects us to provide solutions. We are accountable for what we are doing now, as well as when our time is finished on earth.

At St Thomas, through stewardship, we have opportunities to provide time, talent, and treasure towards the priority issues around us. Don't wait for The Admiral to ask, "What are you doing about it?"

Fellow Steward,

Ron Hewett

## HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Seth Cox	1	Oliver Crawley	5	Elizabeth Schrull	20
Kathryn Vaccarello	1	Jack Noetzelman	9	Doug Wilkinson, Jr.	25
Edith Boys	2	Bob Bennetts	10	Kevin Noel	26
Mary Lee Dutton	2	Emily Hewett	10	Callie Steger	26
Alice Anne Ford	2	Betty Barber	13	Billy Freeman, Jr.	28
Lara Noetzelman	3	Priscilla Gille	13	Louise Spofford	28
Alice Rainey	4	William Puckett	14	Brenna Steger	29
Larry Wright	4	Ben Wright	16	Charlie Crompton	31
		Nathan Wright	19		

*From the Treasurer*

- Giving statements not picked up by February 12<sup>th</sup> were mailed.
- If you know your envelop number please include it on your check. It will assist us in ensuring accuracy.
- The 2010 budget as presented below was adopted at the February meeting of the vestry.
- JJ Cuff has agreed to head up the audit team for the 2009 year.

Met with the Women of the Church for their February meeting and reviewed their 2009 end of year and January, 2010 results for the church. Discussions also included bookkeeping procedures and sales tax saving strategies we are trying to employ.

**General Fund**

Revenues during January of \$39,034 exceeded 2008 same month revenues by \$19,750. We have now had two years with snow in January which obviously affects revenues.

Expenditures will continue to run higher than 2009 because of having a full time rector vs interim.

The following presents the 2010 budget and month ended January 31, 2010, with comparative 2009:

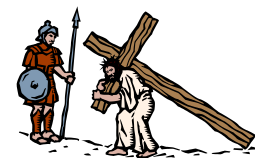
Bob Nelson

	<b>2010 Budget</b>	<b>1/31/2010</b>	<b>1/31/2009</b>
Revenues	\$324,742	\$39,034	\$19,284
Caring for our Clergy	157,500	16,358	9,904
Caring for Our Facilities	34,177	4,883	3,194
Making It All Work	35,194	1,960	2,720
Making a Celebration	32,723	2,228	2,305
Making a Difference In the Word	19,800	650	0
Making Disciples	10,718	743	995
Caring for the Larger Church	28,000	2,000	2,336
Caring for Each Other	6,630	1,110	167
Totals	324,742	29,932	21,621

*Egg-cellent Scripture Sharing*

You can use Easter eggs to teach children the biblical message of Easter. Purchase a dozen plastic eggs and number the outside of the eggs from 1-12. Write the twelve Scripture references on small pieces of paper. Fill each egg with the corresponding verse and the small object listed.

1. Cotton ball sprayed with perfume (Matthew 26:6-13)
2. Dime (Matthew 26:17-19)
3. Bread crust (Matthew 26:17-19)
4. Olive in plastic wrap (Matthew 26:30, 36-40)
5. Piece of paper with a lipstick kiss on it (Matthew 26:47-68)



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**“Cross Ties”**

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**Office Hours**

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*

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 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

6. Small, dried chicken bone (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75)
7. Piece of string or yarn and a clod of dirt (Matthew 27:1-10)
8. Piece of red cloth (Matthew 27:11-31)
9. Two twigs tied with dental floss to form the shape of a cross, and two nails (Matthew 27:32-44)
10. Piece of a sponge (Matthew 27:45-56)
11. Rock or marble (Matthew 27:57-65)
12. Nothing (Matthew 28:1-8)

Have the children place the eggs in a carton on their dining room table or wherever their family gets together. Twelve days before Easter, they should open the first egg, read the scripture passage, and discuss the egg’s relevance to the Easter story. Tell them to open one egg a day, in order, through Easter Day. Hearts will open with the newness of life these eggs will foster.

Jo Ann Bowman

## *The Angel Rolled the Stone Away Resurrection Rolls*

- 1 tube crescent rolls
- Melted margarine
- Large marshmallows
- Cinnamon
- Sugar



Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Help children wash their hands before working with the food.

Place a sheet of wax paper in front of each child to use as a work surface. Hand each child a triangle of crescent roll. Tell the children that this represents the cloth that Jesus was wrapped in when He was laid in the tomb. Give each child a marshmallow to represent Jesus.

Place a bowl with warm, not hot melted margarine in front of each child and let them dip their marshmallow in it. Explain that the margarine represents the oil that was used to protect and preserve Jesus' body.

Prepare another bowl with cinnamon and sugar. Let each child roll the marshmallow representing Jesus in the mixture. Tell them the cinnamon and sugar represent the spices that were used to anoint Jesus' body for burial.

Wrap the coated marshmallow tightly in the crescent roll. Pinch the sides together, making sure that the dough is completely sealed. Let this step represent the wrapping of Jesus’ so body after His death.

Place the wrapped marshmallows on a cookie sheet and place in the oven. Bake 10 to 12 minutes at 350 degrees. The oven represents the tomb, while the baking time symbolizes the three days that Christ was in the tomb.

When the rolls have cooled slightly, have the children open their rolls (grave cloth). They will discover that the marshmallow (representing Jesus) is gone. Christ has risen!

Jo Ann Bowman

### Notes on the Easter Season

Wednesday evenings in Lent: Join us after the 6pm service for dinner and a Lenten program discussion and discovery. We began meeting Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. March 24<sup>th</sup> will be our last class. Katie Y. will be present for nursery care.

April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am: Bring your spring flowers in a basket to the Easter service and participate in the flowering of the cross.

The egg is the beginning of life for the chick.

The resurrection was the beginning of life for a follower of Christ. Spring is the beginning of life for many animals in God's world. At 11:30 am after the Easter service, bring your empty flower baskets to the parish hall's side door for an egg hunt to celebrate New Beginnings.

Pam Kerley

### Godly Play Schedule

<b>March</b>					
7	The Great Banquet	YC&W	Dalia/Katherine	The Parable Games	Cindy/Pat
14	Jesus and the Children	YC&W	Katherine/Debbie	St. Patrick	Cindy/Marcy
21	Jesus and Bartimaeus	YC&W	Debbie/Dalia	Faces of Easter	Pat/Marcy
28 Palm Sunday	Jesus' Last Passover	YC&W	Dalia/Katherine	Faces of Easter	Pat/Marcy
<b>April</b>					
4 Easter	Easter Break – Flowering of the Alter & Egg Hunt				
11	Jesus is risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene	YC&W	Katherine/Debbie	Jesus and the Twelve	Pat/Marcy
18	Jesus is risen: The road to Emmaus	YC&W	Debbie/Dalia	The Crosses	Cindy/Marcy
25	The Good Shepherd and the Wolf	YC&W	Dalia/Katherine	The Story of the Child's own Life	Cindy

### Women of the Church – February 2010

Fourteen women gathered at eleven o'clock on Monday, February 8, for the Women of the Church Meeting, presided over by President Mari Hann. Following a devotional by Peggy Nelson, Bob Nelson, Church Treasurer, gave a comprehensive report on the 2010 church budget and explained the importance that WOC monies play in the budget. President Hann, on behalf of the ladies, expressed appreciation to Bob and to Tom Reese, Assistant Treasurer, for all the financial work they do for the church. Several items of business were discussed:

- A follow-up report of the 2009 Fall Festival was presented by Barbara Yuskevich. Suggestions for improvement were shared.

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(Continued from page 5)

- Charlotte Hohenstein, treasurer, gave an overall report of all WOC monies.
- A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to purchase a Shark Floor Cleaning unit for the church kitchen.
- Betty Pittman suggested that another person relieve her as the “ham lady.” She was thanked by all the ladies present for her long and diligent service.
- Frances Granger volunteered to add that duty to her list of ladies who cook for the sick and bereaved in the parish.
- It was decided that the WOC will obtain a credit card to use for WOC purchases. Frances Granger will follow up on this request, reporting at the March meeting.
- A nominating committee comprised of Frances Granger and Betsy Parnell will submit a list of proposed WOC officers at the March meeting for the 2010-2011 year.
- Frances Granger suggested that the secretary send a letter of appreciation to Roland Frechette for all he did to support the WOC during the Fall Stewardship Spaghetti Supper.
- It was decided to have a salad luncheon at the May meeting, the last WOC meeting of the year until fall.
- The March meeting is slated to be held on Monday, March 1, at eleven o’clock. Father Craig will speak on the season of Lent.

The meeting was adjourned by the president.

### *Women of the Church – March 2010*

Eighteen ladies were present for the March 1 meeting of the Women of the Church. President Marie Hann called the meeting to order. Next, a devotion was given by Peggy Nelson on becoming closer to God in prayer and contemplation.

Father Craig Lister shared a comprehensive and meaningful talk about understanding and observing Lent. He included the history of Lent, contemplation on the Passion of Jesus Christ, and the development of Lenten observances over the centuries. Recalling the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert following His baptism, Father Craig cited Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. “ He reminded the WOC members of the real meaning of Original Sin, the desire of men to be God. He summarized his talk, “Lent is a time to focus on the fact that we need the Savior to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.”

Following the reading and approval of the minutes, Charlotte Hohenstein gave a treasurer’s report, citing the total of \$6,754.27 in the WOC’s account.

The ordered credit card has arrived and will be used by designee, Frances Granger, for WOC purchases.

A report from the Nominating Committee revealed that ladies were reluctant to accept the office of WOC president. The comment was made that President Hann had performed such an outstanding job it was daunting for others to follow her in that position. Peggy Nelson suggested that everyone pray about the matter of WOC officers.

President Hann reminded the WOC membership of the generosity of WOC to community service activities, asking if it would be appropriate for WOC to donate \$500 to support St. Thomas’ youth activities. A motion to this effect was made by Frances Granger, seconded by Mary Quinn, and unanimously supported.

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A short discussion ensued concerning reprinting the updated history of the church.

Frances Granger challenged all women present to bring another woman with them to the next scheduled meeting, March 1, at eleven o'clock, in the Lower Parish Hall. There being no more business, President Hann adjourned the meeting.

### *From the Senior Warden*

As I write this article, awaiting the next winter rain to descend upon us, I draw from the previous year's Cross Ties contributions. I read the past six months editions on-line to remind me how very fortunate we parishioners of St Thomas' are to have one another. The enthusiasm within us to discern God's calling, to help others, and to embrace His gifts that we share is heartwarming.

The first person to come to mind in action and grace is Dr Marty Pate. Marty, husband, father, and physician has given of himself recently on two occasions to share God's loving care with others in Haiti. He has shared skills God bestowed upon him with those in true need, and used his hands to assist our Lord's work. He has done this same work previously in such ways as founding the Helping Hands Clinic in Sanford to provide free medical care and prescription drugs to those in need. Thank you Marty!

Another parishioner, Barbara Yuskevich, is a board member of Lee County Industries, LCI. Last year Barbara coordinated with our Out Reach Committee to paint a room at LCI. The work was performed on a Sunday morning and improved the room's looks. She also directed the LCI display and sales efforts in our LPH to help raise money for LCI after governmental funding was reduced. Barbara shares her faith in God by helping in our community.

I used the two parishioners as examples of many in St Thomas. The continued association with CUOC and the efforts to help our neighbors on Steele St. are ways St Thomas reaches out with helping hands.

I accepted Farther Craig's request I serve as Sr. Warden to help continue the stewardship demonstrated by our parishioners. I am excited to be a part of the Stewardship Committee and the year-round charge to use our talent, treasure, and time. This spring we are initiating the time and talent drive to welcome and encourage continued participation in our parish. I strongly believe there are many among use with untapped talents. One may find God's service being on the Alter Guild, helping young children, or many other needed activities. Outside our property on Steele St. you may find you can influence others in the community to listen to God's word.

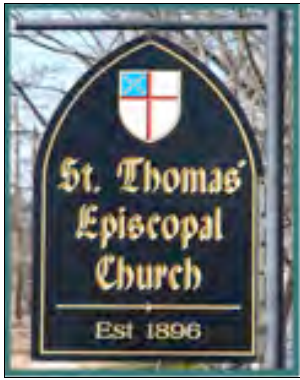
This is Lent and I hope you will attend the Wednesday services and dinner. Make time in your schedule for a few minutes of quiet time in church and remember the meaning of Lent.

Your Vestry is available to listen and learn. Please contact a member should you have a need to question or complement your parish.

Thank you all for your prayers, support, and participation.

Oliver





## 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.”*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

