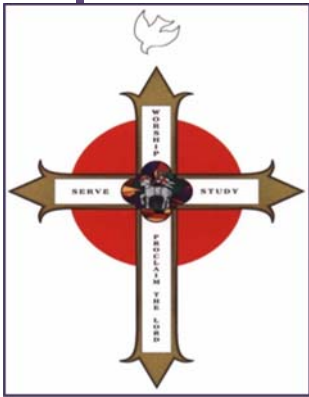
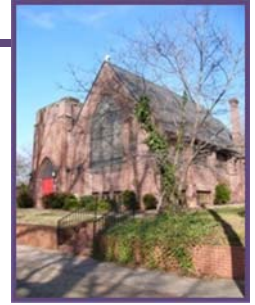


# Cross Ties

November 2009



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



## *From the Rector's Desk*

Every now and then it occurs to me just how fortunate and blessed I am to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I know that could sound 'gushy' or whatever, but it's one of those things that is just so easy to take for granted. My faith is so much a part of who I am, that it is not hard to sometimes forget just how remarkable it is! Most of us are Christians, you know, because we happened to be born into a Christian home. Many of us are still Christians because someone in our family or circle of friends shared with us the joy of Jesus, and we have never forgotten. How could we ever describe what a gift that was to us!

I read last week that there are now well over a billion Muslims in the world, one in every four human beings! That is a lot of people who do not know the Lord, and who are missing out on the peace and joy of knowing Him. I pray for the followers of Islam three times each week, and for our Christian brothers and sisters who are working in Muslim nations and where there are lots of them around. They are missing so much, and they are not the only ones. I think about the 'new' atheists we are hearing and reading about (although there is really nothing new in their arguments). I have read a couple of their books, and they are so filled with bile and negative polemic against the



Church and faithful people it is not to be believed. How sad to see people whose only identifiable ethic seems to be the survival of the fittest! If they could know the Living Christ in their hearts, what a difference it would make.

I am not sure what we can do about these folks, but we can certainly do something about ourselves and our attitudes and practices. One thing we can do is to realize that we can never be grateful enough to be a Christian. We could spend 24 hours of every day thanking God for our salvation and our life with Jesus, and not scratch the surface of the thanks He deserves. We could spend 7 days of every week serving the needy and the sick and not come anywhere close to repaying Christ for the gift He has given us. I think, though, that it might be quite pleasing to Him if we would just realize all that on a regular basis!

I don't know why Jesus chose me to be a follower of His; I don't deserve it, but I am so glad that He did, and I do want the rest of my life to be one great big expression of gratitude to Him. I see what my faith has done for me and for so many others, and I want that for everyone living on this planet. I can tell you this: I won't be waiting for Thanksgiving Day to express my appreciation for it!

Father Craig Lister

## *From the Senior Warden: "Feelin' Good" about St. Thomas*

I have a question for all of the Parishioners of St Thomas. I may sound like a politician when I ask this. But, is St Thomas "better" now than we were three years ago? My personal reply is a resounding YES! I hope your reply is a resounding YES too. Much hard work has been done by the Vestries and committees of 2007, 2008 & 2009. We have created a Parish Profile, a Search Committee, Web site, Parish Life, Outreach, Stewardship, Christian Education committees just to name a few. All of these groups have dedicated leadership and members helping to keep the Church vibrant. As Sr. Warden, this past year I have served three priests, Barbara Cooke, Mary Curtis and now Fr Craig. It has been an unusual task that I will never forget. They each have "their unique way" of doing things and getting things done. Over the past 3 years I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly of St Thomas. Yes, that's right. There have been bad and ugly times over the past three years. But, for some reason, with prayerful intervention and God's Grace, St Thomas has managed to weather all of the storms. Our enthusiasm to do God's Good Work was never tarnished.

Over the past few weeks I've been "Feelin' Good" about St Thomas. The Institution of Fr Lister as our new Rector, the ceremony, the Bishops, the music and the reception left me "Feelin' proud" to be a part of this special Church family. All of the hard work done by everyone over the past three years seemed to me, that night, to complete a process of bringing "Faith & Hope" back to our Church. It is a church that has been without strong pastoral leadership much too long.

At long last, officially, we have full time permanent Rector. Fr Craig, we're glad to have you back and may peace of St Thomas be with you always.

With Peace & Respect,  
Steve Y



Thank you to all who have participated and donated to the Heifer Project. We have purchased a flock of chickens and a heifer cow so far this year. For those of you who don't know how this program works at St. Thomas here is an explanation.

The children spend a Sunday learning about an animal we can purchase from Heifer International. This class is called Animal Crackers and we use a curriculum provided by Heifer International. The kids then come into the service the following Sunday to "teach" the congregation about their animal and how it is useful to Heifer families. Two children then pass a basket around to try to collect enough money to purchase the animal. A suggestion was made to use a wagon instead. If a clean one can be found we might try that. We have accepted IOU's from choir members since they don't usually have money in their robes!

The next Heifer Sundays are scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. I know this is a long time to go between programs but we have a super Godly Play schedule lined up and I couldn't find any lesson I was willing to take out. If you have any Heifer Project questions please see me.

Pam Kerley

## *Stewardship Is Legacy*

At the October 11 services, Mike Griffin spoke about what stewardship meant to him. One of his points was that stewardship is legacy. He encouraged us to think of our gifts of time, talent, and treasure as a way of establishing our legacy at St Thomas. How true.

My wife Emily's most vivid recollections of her father, Richard E. Shaw were his involvement throughout his life in the parish of St Thomas. He gave his all in regards to time, talent, and treasure. Emily and many of Dick's friends still remember that. To honor his commitment to St Thomas and his dedication to scripture and other Biblical study, the family dedicated a library at the church to their father after his death. Dick Shaw's passion for the church is an example of legacy and quite an inspiration to his son-in-law.

At the October 18 services Jo Ann Bowman gave her message of stewardship and her feeling of renewal when she gives her time, talent, and treasure. God bless her, she didn't have to tell me. She lives it. Thirty-two years ago when I met her for the first time as she sat down with Emily and me to plan our wedding music, I knew she had a talent. Best of all though, she has been a good steward of that talent and turned it into a gift to all of us. Through Jo Ann's lead, our devoted choir has channeled their call to stewardship and provided us all with wonderful music Sunday after Sunday. I don't think anyone will ever speak of St Thomas without mentioning the choir and music. That is legacy.

At first glance, these examples may appear to be a legacy to our parish or the community, but they are also in essence a legacy to Christ. Though He preceded us, He will follow us. What will He find that says that you and I were here in His name? That we can answer through stewardship. And, it can be done in many ways, whether subtle or on a grander scale because He will know what we really contributed from the heart. Consequently, we each have to ask ourselves, "What will our legacy be?"

Your fellow steward,  
Ron Hewett

## *Stewardship Lunch*

Our October 11 Stewardship Lunch was a success. Over 100 parishioners attended the lunch and morning coffee hour. Great food. Many thanks for the numerous individual efforts as well as special thanks to the Women of the Church for cooking and the Men's Group for clean up. Let's start thinking about a special event we can plan for next year to mark the same occasion. Please pass along your thoughts to the Stewardship Committee or Vestry.

A couple of notes on questions during the lunch. The vestry will discuss at a future meeting how St Thomas will address the Millennium Development Goals. In regards to the Heifer Project, the Sunday School will continue this project and are always open to suggestions on how to make their fund raising more effective and fun.

## *Take My Son: Contributed by John Rogerson*

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art..

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

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## *Women of the Church Minutes*

### “Cross Ties”

is published monthly by  
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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 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 September meeting of the Women of the Church was held in the Lower Parish Hall on September 14, at 11 a.m., with 18 members present.

President Hann called the meeting to order, and after an opening prayer by Peggy Nelson, the minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Topics discussed during the meeting included:

- Father Craig interrupted his “moving in” to spend time with WOC, touching upon several items:
  1. Placement of the WOC monies in the list of monies handled by the church treasurer.
  2. Expression of appreciation for the cooperation of the WOC in the Stewardship Spaghetti Luncheon.
  3. Suggestion and ideas for future consideration by WOC for a comprehensive annual Harvest Festival.
- A brief overview of WOC finances by President Hann. Handouts included previously voted-on obligations, upcoming expenses, and projected expenses of several areas. After a lengthy discussion of earned monies and disbursements, a motion was made by Jo Ann Bowman and seconded by Jane Escher to begin all financial record keeping at the present date. The motion was passed unanimously.
- A second motion concerning WOC monies was made by Charlotte Hohenstein and seconded by Frances Floyd. It was moved that all communication concerning WOC monies be handled by Treasurer Hohenstein and that all communications be in written form. The motion was passed unanimously.
- President Hann shared information with the members about her meeting with the Stewardship Committee, She announced that she offered, on behalf of the WOC, that the spaghetti luncheon, earlier planned as a fundraiser, be the occasion of a Stewardship Luncheon. It is planned for the 11th of October. Earlier plans are to be used, with the additional help of Roland Freschette who graciously offered his aid in preparing for the event
- A comprehensive discussion of the annual Food Fair was held. Barbara Yuskevich and Pat Clark volunteered to head up this year’s Food Fair
- An overview was shared of several parish families’ health and possible needs they might have.
- Programs for November and December have been scheduled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Hann, who then served a delicious lunch to all members.

The October Women of the Church meeting took place at 11 a.m., October 5, in the Lower Parish Hall. Though only 13 women were present, lively discussions took place about different subjects, and several projects, most prominently the Fall Food Fair, were planned in detail.

President Mari Hann opened the meeting. After devotion, given by JoAnn Thaxton, the minutes were read by the secretary. No corrections or additions were made to the minutes.

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Charlotte Hohenstein, treasurer, made a report of on-hand monies (\$3,889.67). She outlined newly designed procedures for checks from the WOC fund and for requesting payments for individually purchased items.

Subjects discussed during the meeting were:

- Barbara Yuskevich, a Food Fair co-chair, presided over a lengthy discussion of Food Fair subjects. Due to the unexpected death of Pat Clark's grandson, Pat asked to be relieved as co-chair of the Food Fair. Sue Comstock volunteered to replace her.
- Various WOC members volunteered to head up advertisement, church and paper announcements, purchasing, updating of the Food Fair sign, decorations, and menu committees. A change in the annual date was made, and this year's event will be held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.
- An expanded menu of foods will be offered for sale. Among these are: lentil, broccoli/cheese, vegetable, and taco soups, corn chowder, Brunswick stew, and other favorites. There will be six additional tables of food: jams, jellies and pickles; breads; pies; cakes; cookies; and sandwich spreads/casseroles. The ever-popular chicken pot pies, in family and individual sizes, also will be available.
- In addition to the church sidewalk sign, ads will be placed in the local paper, and other information will be shared with parishioners in the Sunday bulletins, the Cross Ties newsletter, and the web site. Recipe request forms for parishioners other than WOC members will be distributed, in the hope that many cooks in the parish will donate their cooking specialties.
- As usual, many chickens (cooked, cut-up, and "picked") will be needed. Sign-up sheets, marked by drawings of colorful chickens, are posted in the LPH for volunteers. "Pie-cooking days" will be announced.
- \$1449 was donated by Women of the Church to the St. Thomas' Building Fund.

### *News from Godly Play and Sunday School*

Sunday School schedules are now available on our webpage.

The Godly Play classrooms are in need of some clean-up and rearranging. Anyone able to help please come to the church on November 21st at 8am and stay as long as you can.

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Godly Play program. I have been able to purchase 8 new Godly Play stories this season.

We only have Sunday School one Sunday in November. Parents you need to know that we have prepared some Fidget Bags to help your children keep their manners during the service. Thank you to Kathy Stancar for making these bags.

Katie Yuskavich is doing a wonderful job as our new Nursery Worker. She is available from 9am until 12:30 when Adult Sunday School is over. We are still looking for volunteers during the service from 9:45 until 11. Most days you won't be needed but everyone once in a while the room is overflowing with lovable little ones in need of special attention. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

*From the Treasurer: IRS Notification*

I'm sure each of you has noticed the statement, "that goods or services the organization provided in return for the contribution consisted entirely of intangible religious benefits" on our gift acknowledgement. The IRS requires such a statement. Intangible, by definition, means incapable of being perceived by the sense of touch, as incorporeal or immaterial things; impalpable.

Your giving, my giving, our ministries at St. Thomas, making disciples, bringing people to Christ, becoming Christ like and our eyes on eternal life are anything but "intangible religious benefits."

<b>FINANCES TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2009</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>Current Year To Date</b>	<b>Prior Year To Date</b>	<b>Percent of Budget</b>
Revenues	<b>\$307,922</b>	<b>\$203,053</b>	<b>\$182,151</b>	<b>66%</b>
Caring for our Clergy	<b>128,429</b>	<b>78,863</b>	<b>73,786</b>	<b>61%</b>
Caring for Our Facilities	<b>43,573</b>	<b>29,667</b>	<b>28,789</b>	<b>68%</b>
Making It All Work	<b>47,413</b>	<b>33,350</b>	<b>21,999</b>	<b>73%</b>
Making a Celebration	<b>29,973</b>	<b>20,460</b>	<b>22,771</b>	<b>63%</b>
Making a Difference In the Word	<b>13,800</b>	<b>2,832</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>21%</b>
Making Disciples	<b>13,323</b>	<b>6,891</b>	<b>7,602</b>	<b>52%</b>
Caring for the Larger Church	<b>23,000</b>	<b>16,886</b>	<b>16,563</b>	<b>63%</b>
Caring for Each Other	<b>6,400</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>3,172</b>	<b>45%</b>
Totals	<b>307,922</b>	<b>193,831</b>	<b>177,545</b>	

While the IRS is paranoid about you deducting contributions on your return, seeking eternal life with God does not seem to me to be an "intangible religious benefit."

Ever wonder what you're getting in return for your contribution, how about providing a holy place of worship, providing ministries where we look for the face of Christ, fellowship with the Holy Spirit, cleaning the slate when we truly repent, giving praise to our risen Lord, studying His word and bringing others to know Him just to name a few.

No monetary gift, big or small, deductible or not, can approach the gift of eternal life. Accept Christ as your savior, recognize that you are a sinner and eternal life is at your fingertips. Oh, and by the way, one side effect, you become a joyous giver.

Note:

Several bills pending on Capitol Hill aim to extend or expand rules pertaining to tax-free gifts from IRAs to charities. Companion bills S 864 (12 co-sponsors) and HR 1250 (47 co-sponsors) would allow taxpayers to make gifts from IRAs to charities at age 59½ instead of age 70½. The measures also would eliminate the current dollar cap on such rollovers and would allow such contributions to benefit more types of charities. However, the current IRA rollover provision in the tax code is set to expire at the end of this year. HR 2435 would extend the provision through the end of 2010. For more information, visit [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov).

Bob Nelson

(continued from page 3)

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands..

He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly... He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out this package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.'

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture... 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.'

The father hung the portrait over his mantle.. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected..

The man died a few months later.. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?'

There was silence...

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.'

But the auctioneer persisted. 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?'

Another voice angrily. 'We didn't come to see this painting... We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts... Get on with the real bids!'

But still the auctioneer continued. 'The son! The son! Who'll take the son?'

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting...' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

We have \$10, who will bid \$20?'

'Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.'

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. 'Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!'

A man sitting on the second row shouted, 'Now let's get on with the collection!'

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. 'I'm sorry, the auction is over.'

'What about the paintings?'

'I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.'

The man who took the son gets everything!'

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: 'The son, the son, who'll take the son?'

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH. SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE....THAT'S LOVE**

**November Birthdays:** Steve Yuskevich – 2, Betty Pittman – 3, Peg Larson – 5, Rob Fergusson & John Neal – 10, Deborah French & Matt Pate – 13, Barbara Miller – 14, Bob Nelson – 16, Matthew Kerley – 18, Margery Overton & Roberta Rogerson – 19, Cathy Manolios – 20, Elizabeth Zeph – 21, Charles Stoehrmann & Buddy Tice – 23, Beverly Brookshire – 24, Patti Griffen, Tom Reese & Daniel Reeves – 27, Katherine Crumpton – 28, Sam Gaskins – 28, Terry Crawley, Blake Lauria & Barbara Morgan - 30



## 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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