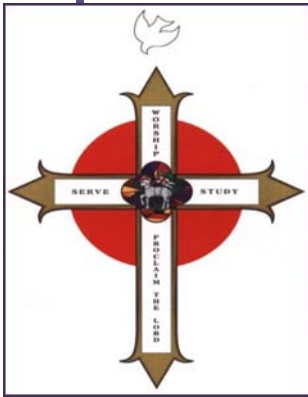
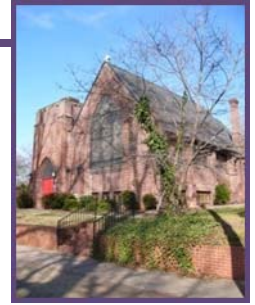


Cross Ties

November 2010



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



From the Rector's Desk

Given that November has already arrived, it is time for us to begin thinking about our Annual Parish Meeting. This year the meeting will be held on December 5th, right after the 10 o'clock service. The Annual Meeting really only has one important piece of business on the agenda and that is to elect new members of the Vestry. Generally each year three members of the vestry conclude their three year terms, so that is how many we elect, unless there is an unexpired position to be filled.



Serving on the vestry is a huge responsibility. The vestry has sole control of the parish's finances and the buildings and grounds. Even things that are the canonical prerogative of the Rector, such as questions concerning the worship of the parish and who may use the church's sanctuary are matters with which that Rector (is he is smart) should consult the vestry. We therefore need to be careful and prayerful about whom we elect!

The main purpose of this article is to remind you of the process by which we elect the vestry members. Last year I spoke at some length about the process found in the diocesan canons and my concerns thereto. As you may remember, this required the sitting vestry to find two people to run for each open position. Not only was this difficult

to accomplish in some years, but it required that half the candidates lose the election. I would not want to see elections year after year where only three candidates for three positions stood for election; there is certainly nothing wrong with contested elections. However, I think it much better if that happens naturally through whatever number of people who are interested offering to stand for election. Also, I checked around the diocese and with the Bishop and could not find any parish that was strictly adhering to the canon.

What this means is that the vestry as a body is not going to be formally recruiting anyone to run for election. When you think about it, this really would not be proper anyway. Any individual is welcome to speak to any other about being on the vestry, and any communicant in good standing, who is at least 16 years old, is welcome to stand for election. There should always be at least three people interested in serving, and most probably there will be more!

I am deeply grateful for the people who are now serving all of us on our vestry, and for the people who will offer to do so on December 5th. Please do not neglect to pray for all of them!

Father Craig Lister

Stewardship – It's About the Tough Times

I believe we were all moved by Gordy Reese's talk to the parish on October 17. For those that might want to share it with those that missed the talk, here are some excerpts with Gordy's permission.

"During the tough times, I learned to replace a lifelong habit of worry with one of thanksgiving and praise when a friend called one day—when I was worrying about our finances—and, not knowing my situation, not knowing that she was reading me the exact words I needed to hear, read me Philippians 4:4-8, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

With God's help, we gradually got back on our feet financially, but money was really tight. For months, I would pay the bills, always hoping that this would be the month I could finally get back to paying off a pledge we had made in flusher times to a diocesan giving campaign. I can remember making the commitment after attending a meeting at a parishioner's home to hear about the campaign. He was telling everyone about how he and his wife had decided to tithe some years before and had never looked back.

It had sounded wonderful to me and we had made pretty good pledge, but after our "personal depression," I just kept putting the statements from the diocese at the bottom of stack of bills to be paid when we had enough money left over one month to do so.

Finally, after going through that drill for about a year, I prayed about it, took a leap of faith, and paid that pledge as the first bill of the month. That month, miraculously, we were able to pay all our bills. So I did it again the next month, and the next. Once the pledge was paid off, we decided to step out in faith again, and start tithing.

We did as God suggests we do in Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

We gave and God gave so much more. As William Volker, the inventor of the roll-up window shade, once said when asked about the money he gave away, "I have been shoveling it out, but God has been shoveling more of it right back to me, and God has a bigger shovel!"

We are called to reflect God's character. God expresses love by giving. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Faithful use of material blessings is one way to express our love and thanksgiving to God. "Whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

In these tough economic times, when the needs in our lives, in our community, and in our world are so great, is tithing something you would like to commit to so God will have the means to meet the needs?

If so, here's how. With each paycheck, immediately move 10% of the gross to a separate account from which to write checks to church, vital charities and others who are being faithful servants of God, then do it! I believe you'll discover two things. You will find great joy in writing those checks and you won't miss the money."

Thank you Gordy for your example of stewardship!

Ron Hewett...Fellow Steward



WOC – October Minutes by Jo Ann Bowman

The October meeting of the Women of the Church was held on Monday, October 4, 2010, at 11 a.m. There were thirteen ladies present. Prior to the meeting, women had met at nine a.m. to assemble 26 pies. (Note: Due to circumstances beyond control, these pies thawed and had to be discarded. Not to be outdone, ladies convened the following Monday and prepared a greater number of pies!)

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Pat Clark, and the devotion was shared by Peggy Nelson. Following the reading of the minutes, Barbara Yuskevich gave a complete overview of the upcoming Food Fair.

Committee chairs were named:

Food Fair Committee: Frances Granger, Sue Comstock, Pat Clark, and Barbara Yuskevich

Radio and Newspaper Advertising: Jo Ann Thaxton

Church Bulletins and Newsletter: **Error! Reference source not found.**

Church Sign: Sue Comstock

Goods Purchase: Frances Floyd

A discussion ensued concerning the Church Building Fund monies. Women of the Church traditionally contribute half of their earnings each year to this fund. It was moved by Betsy Parnell and seconded by Joann Thaxton that no further funds be designated for the Building Fund by Women of the Church until clarification of funds usage is ascertained. This motion passed unanimously. An additional motion was made by Joann Thaxton that this motion be presented in written form. Seconded by **Error! Reference source not found.**, the motion passed unanimously.

After further discussion of Food Fair donations, Barbara Yuskevich reminded members that additional chicken donations were needed. Also it was announced that items to be for sale at the Food Fair will include chicken pies of three sizes, Brunswick stew, soups, cakes, cookies, pimento cheese, pickles, casseroles, and other assorted goodies.

The November meeting of the Women of the Church will be held on Monday, November 1st, at 11 a.m. in the Lower Parish Hall. At that time final plans for the Food Fair (scheduled to be held Saturday, November 20th, at 9 a.m.) will be reviewed.

Brother Martin's Henhouse

A priest in a little church had been having trouble with the Collections. One Sunday he announced, "Now, before we pass the collection Plate, I would like to request that the person who stole the Chickens from Brother Martin's hen house please refrain from giving any money to the Lord. The Lord doesn't want money from a thief!"

The collection plate was passed around, and for the first Time in months everybody gave.

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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*

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 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

From the Treasurer

General Fund Activities

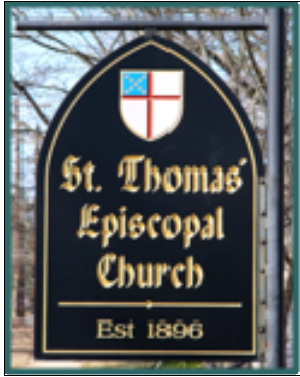
September revenues were \$22,783, while expenditures totaled \$22,704. Same month revenues for 2009 were \$35,777. Actual revenues year to date are behind budgeted revenues by \$4,718 but spending is also below budget. The net results are revenues are slightly ahead of expenditures by \$3,773.

Noteworthy:

- We have yet to identify the donor of the Comcast stock.
- Approximately \$3,500 will be appropriated from the operating fund's fund balance to accomplish required roof replacement on the parish hall.
- Investments saw a nice improvement in September; however, year to date we are still \$6,700 behind January 1 balances.
- October will be a heavier month for expenditures due to quarterly billings of insurance and pension costs.

The following presents the 2010 budget and the nine months ended September, 2010, with comparative 2009 totals:

	2010 Budget	9/30/2010	9/30/2009	Percent of Budget
Revenues, Fund Transfers & Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 356,128	\$ 264,773	\$ 202,997	74%
Caring for our Clergy	158,000	116,251	79,656	74%
Caring for Our Facilities	63,063	59,247	29,665	94%
Making it All Work	35,694	23,053	34,559	65%
Making a Celebration	33,723	22,968	20,460	68%
Making a Difference in the World	19,800	9,269	3,432	47%
Making Disciples	11,218	9,354	6,290	83%
Caring for the Larger Church	28,000	18,000	16,885	64%
Caring for Each Other	6,630	2,858	2,883	43%
Totals	356,128	261,000	193,830	73%
Revenues over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ 3,773	\$ 9,167	



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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

