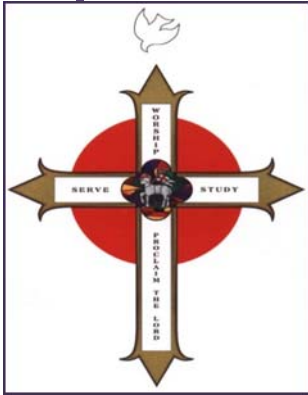
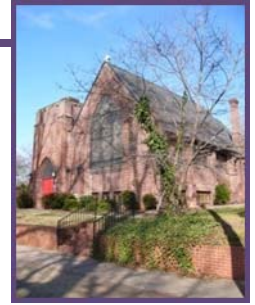


Cross Ties

October 2011



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



From the Rector's Desk

“All good things around us
Are sent from Heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
For all His love.”

The words above are from Hymn 291 in our hymnal, and they convey a great truth: Everything that is good, meaningful, and enjoyable in our lives comes from God. How often we forget that and let ourselves slip into that terrible trap of self-congratulation, which truly can ruin us.

It helps me in such moments to remember that not only does everything come from God, but that everything belongs to God as well. Have you ever considered that even the atoms which make up your body are a result of God's Creation, and that when you are finished with them, they will go on to fulfill some other purpose of His?

Fortunately, as the hymn reminds us, the

things that God loans us for as long as we are in this world, are given in love. They should be received in the same manner. When we talk about Christian stewardship most people immediately think of money, and certainly that is a part of it. I prefer, however, to define stewardship as what we do with that which God has put in our charge. Thinking of it that way helps us to understand that our entire life is a response to the One who brought us into being. That is a lot of responsibility!

If we receive what God loans us in love, then we are enabled to share it in the same way. Our lives become opportunities to rejoice with others of faith at what we can share, celebrating the Good News with folks who may not realize what they are being offered, nor where it comes from in the first place.

As we enter this season of Stewardship, let us all begin by true thankfulness to God for all the blessings He has showered into our lives.

Father Craig Lister



Prayer for October

O Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Junior Warden Report

In the next several weeks you will observe scaffolding being erected around all four sides of the Bell Tower. St. Thomas has retained Capital Restoration & Waterproofing Inc. out of Raleigh. They come highly recommended. After the scaffolding is in place the work will begin.

Exterior

Clean exterior masonry. Rust stains to be cleaned as best as possible but some staining may remain.

Locate ALL cracked and open mortar joints.

Tuck Point these open joints with mortar to match as closely as possible to existing.

Apply two coats of commercial grade, clear water repellent to exterior masonry.

Install sealant where necessary around windows and doors.

After completion of all work a water test will be performed to ensure problem has been addressed

Interior

Apply plastic to Narthex floor tight against the walls.

Lightly pressure clean the interior walls of the Bell Tower to remove staining from moisture infiltration.

Excess water will be vacuumed up.

I am asking everyone to say a prayer that God will bless this effort. St. Thomas has been working on this problem for many years.

Dave Zeph

Did You Know? By Dave Zeph

That the corner stone for the first St. Thomas church was laid on Oct 9th 1893. The site was at the corner where First Citizens Bank now stands. On Oct 11, 1896 the first service was held at a still unfinished church. A painting of this first church can be seen on a wall in the Gilman Room. For some reason that has never been clear, the Rev H.O. Nash in 1910 decided that the church would be moved to a site across the railroad tracks to a site reported to have been on North St. This was no small feat, but the church was dismantled board by board, 2x4 by 2x4, transported by wagon and assembled on the new site. The present church corner stone was laid by Bishop Penik on Oct 4th 1928

St. Thomas Steps Up to Help Firemen



Pat Kirkman presents a check to members of the Sanford Fire Department for the burn center at UNC-Chapel Hill. Parishioners contributed \$1,300 in memory of those who died in the Twin Towers, Pentagon, and in Pa. on September 11, 2001.

Stewardship 2011

Our 2010 campaign was a big success thanks to the generous and caring parishioners of St Thomas. As a result, we have had a very active 2011 church year by expanding our worship opportunities and our role in the community.

Our “We Are the Sermon” (WATS) programs have been successful and the Stephens Ministry continues to support many in the parish. The St Augustine Project which trains tutors for students needing an extra hand with their academics is a success. The National Night Out for the St Thomas neighborhood was also well received and we have continued a vibrant Vacation Bible School program along with other ministries. The scholarship program for the children of Haiti was an overwhelming success. We have been forthcoming in financial support to the community for tornado recovery through Matt 6. In addition, the parish met an increase in its assessment from the Diocese.

(continued on page 4)

Stewardship 2011 (continued from page 3)

Maintenance projects and infrastructure improvements have been completed. We are meeting our commitments to our clergy and staff. Now we can look forward to another year of joyful worship programs and fulfilling parish programs!

But we can't take anything for granted. It all begins with careful reflection and prayerful consideration by every parishioner in deciding how much we are willing to contribute to our continuing efforts at St Thomas, thus, the 2011 Stewardship Campaign.

On October 29 we will have a Stewardship Dinner at 6 PM in the Parish Hall and celebrate our church year as we plan the next. The menu will include BBQ pork and chicken served with slaw, baked beans and rolls along with desserts, soda and tea. Cocktails of beer and wine will also be available. Please plan on bringing the entire family and join in the celebration. Sign-up sheets will be provided in the Narthex and parish office.

During the week after the dinner, you will receive a letter from Fr Craig asking for your support in the pledge campaign. November 6 is designated Pledge Sunday and you will be asked to submit your pledge either to the church office or at one of the Sunday services.

This year, the Stewardship Committee has decided that our goal is 100 per cent participation in the pledge campaign. Over the last three years we have slowly grown to almost 100 per cent participation and we hope this is the year that we achieve that exceptional goal. For some, tithing is a consideration, but for many, a proportional gift to the church is more practical. We are all asked to consider what St Thomas means to our personal and spiritual life and commit what we feel is an appropriate portion of the blessings that have been bestowed on us. It isn't all about what we have received, but rather what are we willing to share with others as members in Christ. Your gift will have a ripple effect throughout our parish, our community, the Episcopal Church and the world. Please give the call to pledge prayerful consideration.

We look forward to the upcoming stewardship campaign as a joyous opportunity to reconfirm our commitment to action for Christ.

The St Thomas Stewardship Committee

Mark your calendar now for the annual Food Fair, scheduled for Saturday, November 19, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, beginning at 9 a.m. It's a wonderful opportunity to stock your refrigerator and freezer with delicious foods: chicken pies in family and single meal sizes, Brunswick stew, soups, casseroles, pies, cakes, jellies, pickles and much more. Let the Women of the Church do your Thanksgiving cooking this year.



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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

Stewardship is Commitment

Each year at this time we are asked to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge for the support of our parish and the good works it continues to address. Behind this request is an equation.

On one side of the equation is the church financials—the money given through pledges and weekly offerings goes to keeping our commitments to our clergy and staff, keeping the lights on, the a/c on in summer, and the building heated in the winter. The only non-fixed costs is what we will need to keep up with maintenance and more importantly, what we will dedicate to outreach and internal support ministries and other works in Christ's name.

The other side of the equation is much more complex.

Opposite the financial side is commitment. This side is much more democratic. It allows every single member of the parish to make a personal decision as to what they should give during the next year. However, unlike a mathematical equation that seeks balance, the principle concern is what can I give back to Christ that would represent my gratitude for His sacrifice, and what can I do to help continue His message of love and forgiveness.

At St Thomas we have a community of believers. From the clergy and staff, to lay leaders, ministry leaders, and down to the congregation we share a common belief that our efforts through St Thomas are an attempt to show our gratitude. We are committed to a Christian belief that we can make a positive impact on those around us through good works.

Consequently, we should not take the act of signing a pledge card lightly. We should realize that the act of signing is an act of commitment and a statement of belief. We are saying despite the uncertainties of life over the next year, we are prepared to give something in return for the blessings we have received. We are making a commitment to support the hope that we can make a difference in this world by spreading the good news of Christ's resurrection. Can you believe that a few pen strokes would be such a bold gesture?

The Stewardship Committee has made it a goal this year that all parishioners would accept the commitment to be part of the pledge drive. We have come close to this goal in recent years and feel that achieving it this year would provide a timely lift to us all.

In the coming weeks everyone will receive a pledge card and have the opportunity to reflect on their faith and what St Thomas means to each of us. Please take the time to consider what your commitment will mean to our church and the community at large. More importantly, let's join together in that commitment.

Your fellow steward,

Ron Hewett

A Church We Didn't Know About

If you enjoy history, you will find this most interesting. EVERYONE NEEDS TO WATCH THIS ONE! This is something we were never taught in school! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlfEdJNn15E>

Jo Ann Bowman

Women of the Church Minutes

The September, 2011, meeting of the Women of the Church took place on Monday, September 12, with 23 ladies present. Following a welcome by co-president, Frances Granger, Peggy Nelson gave a devotional from Heartlife, based on Nehemiah 9:5 - God's Will.

An interesting and informative program was presented by Marty Pate on his mission trips to Haiti. Commenting on pictures in his slide presentation, Marty explained what state the country was in following its devastating earthquake and shared heartbreaking facts about everyday life in Haiti. Of special interest was his explanation of everyday life: difficult travel because of almost impassable roads, "houses" made of any available material, unavailability of clean water, and diseases needing medicines that were not readily available. Marty also answered questions about the school that St. Thomas' has targeted for scholarships. At the conclusion of his program, Marty generously shared his time to respond to questions. Co-president Pat Clark announced the WOC had presented two scholarships to the school scholarship fund.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, and a financial report was given. Both were approved as read.

Information about the upcoming Food Fair, scheduled for November 19, was covered by Barbara Yuskevich, Food Fair Chair. She announced the following committee heads: Purchasing-Frances Floyd, Frances Granger, and Mary Quinn; Telephoning-Jane Escher; Publicity-Joann Thaxton and Jo Ann Bowman.

Foods to be offered at this year's Food Fair include: chicken pies in three sizes, Brunswick stew, casseroles, soups, pimento cheese and other sandwich foods, cakes, cookies, breads, jellies, pickles, muffins, and pies, as well as other items. The doors will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Mary Quinn reported on kitchen purchases and installations, and explained coming additions.

The nominating committee for 2012 officers was announced. A sheet was passed around for members to sign up for specific months for the Food Ministry, and programs for the year were announced. It was also announced that the WOC had donated \$300 to funds presented to visiting firemen for the Children's Burn Center in Chapel Hill.

Following a dismissal prayer, ladies were treated to lunch - delicious corn chowder cooked by Frances Floyd and tasty pimento cheese sandwiches prepared by Barbara Yuskevich.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3rd, and will be a pie-making session.

Contributed by
Dr. Jo Ann Bowman

Calling all St. Thomas chefs! If you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to share with our parishioners then email it to me at rb23994@gmail.com. I'll put as many as I can in Crossties in the order that I receive them.

Thanks...Bob Bennetts



Great Groaners!

1. King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan.

Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it."

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

2. Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss league records were destroyed in a fire,...and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

3. A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

4. Back in the 1800's the Tate's Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products, and since they already made the cases for watches, they used them to produce compasses. The new compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression -- "He who has a Tate's is lost!"

5. An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it to the chief, telling him to bite off, chew, and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

6. A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

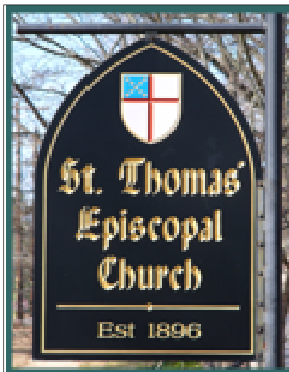
Contributed by
Gordy Reese



October Birthdays

Name	Day
Silas Sherbourne	1
Nancy Anderson	5
John Crumpton	5
Mark Hamilton	6
Bennie Thaxton	6
Jerry Sherbourne	6
Nina Bonti	7
John Kirkman	7
Lisa Meadows	7
Deborah Watson	8
Meg Crumpton	9
Bobby Bracken	10
Annie Freeman	12
Sally Neal	12

Name	Day
Tina Drew	12
Barbara Yuskevich	13
Kathy Tinsley	14
Kathy Reeves	14
Ken Miller	16
Kathy Stancar	18
Sue Porr	18
Amanda Schmidt	20
Mark Lister	22
Joyce Marks	24
Marty Pate	28
Rick Quinn, Jr.	28
Jason Stone	29
Mary Curtis	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.”*