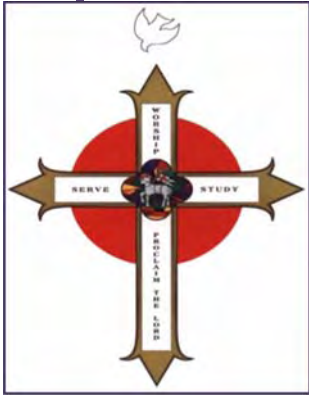


Cross Ties

October 2009



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



From the Rector's Desk

“STEWARDSHIP IS THE MAIN WORK OF THE CHURCH.” So read a banner at a neighboring Episcopal Church when I was out in California. I thought that was a bit strange. Wouldn't preaching the Good News be the main work? How about serving others? What about evangelism? It had not occurred to me that stewardship would be regarded as the main work of the Church. The more I thought about it, however, the more sense it began to make.

Christian stewardship may be defined as what we do with what God has given to us. If you believe, as I do, that God has given us all that we have, then everything in our lives, and every decision we make is part of our stewardship. Furthermore, we are accountable to God for all that we do with all that we have. I am not sure how you feel about it, but, for me, that is a sobering thought. I am not sure I would want God reviewing my checkbook! Trouble is, I think He already has.

God's judgment is a concept getting less play these days than times past, but that is not because He's changed His mind about the whole thing. Somehow many of us have convinced ourselves that God either doesn't know or doesn't

particularly care what we do in this life. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus' death on the cross shows us that God's caring is beyond limit, and that Jesus would have sacrificed His life for you or me even if there had been no one else on earth for whom to die. God cares passionately about the decisions we make in life.

This is why the key to Christian living is gratitude for what God has given us, and a deep commitment to respond to that gift with actions we know are pleasing to Him. Taking good care of our church is one of those things that pleases God. He smiles, I know, on the many ways that pooling our resources allows the St. Thomas' parish family to further His Kingdom

right here in Sanford.

We are all so blessed to have what God has given, and our little parish is one of those gifts! God has given us an abundance of resources to accomplish the work before us; we need only direct those resources in the right direction. Stewardship is the main work of the Church. The surprise comes in discovering how much fun we will have in the process of getting to it!

Father Craig Lister



Treasurer's Report: Getting His Money's Worth

We must talk about wealth. How we achieve it, hold it, give it away and spend it. Though some pundits say the recession is over, I'm not sure if they're trying to convince themselves or us. Through discipleship we relearn that the Bible in today's economy is just as relevant as it was in the day of its writers. When asked the question, "Who is the ultimate owner of everything?", our immediate response is God. Yet all too often we fail to consult the instruction manual.

"All things come from thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee." (1 Chronicles 29) Everything you have has been given to you. God gave it, but it is ultimately all His. What goes through your mind when we recite that prayer? However such wealth was given to you, it comes with the following warning. Wealth can make you numb to God; indifference to what He is commanding us to do. I've heard it said that it is like a frog in a pot of water. You can turn the heat up slowly and he'll sit there until he boils to death. We've all watched it happen.

When a person becomes rich, God either gains a partner or the person loses a soul. Matthew 6:24, "Man can not serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other." What's it been for you? Over the ebb and flow of your life, your accumulation, your giving, your spending, what's it been for you? How much have we made up our own rules and how often do we refer to the manual of life?

Tim Tebow eye black verse of the game. Mark 8:36," What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"

Bob Nelson

| Finances to August 31, 2009 | 2009 Budget | Current Year To Date | Prior Year To Date |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Revenues | \$307,922 | \$168,068 | \$161,364 |
| Caring for our Clergy | 128,429 | 67,836 | 63,181 |
| Caring for Our Facilities | 43,575 | 25,664 | 24,427 |
| Making It All Work | 47,418 | 22,438 | 23,178 |
| Making a Celebration | 29,975 | 18,301 | 20,428 |
| Making a Difference In the Word | 13,800 | 1,782 | 1,263 |
| Making Disciples | 13,325 | 7,066 | 5,776 |
| Caring for the Larger Church | 25,000 | 15,356 | 14,133 |
| Caring for Each Other | 6,400 | 2,455 | 2,374 |
| Totals | 307,922 | 160,898 | 154,750 |

EYC is starting on Sun. Sept. 20. It will be every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 12-2. It is for middle school and high school ages. The EYC leaders are Cindy Julich, Mike and Patti Griffin, Ryan and Lara Noetzelman.



St Thomas' Choir Retreat

St. Thomas' Choir members and spouses spent the last week-end in August at Trinity Conference Center, located at Salter Path. It was the annual choir retreat where members begin preparation for Advent Music and learn new anthems. This year, there also was preparation of an anthem especially chosen for the rector's coming service of institution when he will be formally installed by the bishop as the rector of St. Thomas'.

Choir members worked diligently - a total of 15 hours was committed to concentrated rehearsal. All sessions began with meditations centered on biblical figures who were musicians. Different choir members presented the meditation materials. At the conclusion of the Friday night rehearsal, members adjourned to the Dame Julian Chapel for a service of compline, led by Seth Cox. On Saturday evening Ray Hyer led a service of evening prayer.

While music rehearsal was the focus of the retreat, there were opportunities to meet and greet newly returned choir members (Cindy Julich and Alice Rainey) and to welcome Carena Walter to the group as a new member. The bonds of friendship, strengthened through fellowship, are special to the choir. Members feel especially blessed to be able to share their love for Jesus Christ and to praise Him in song.

Jo Ann Bowman



St Thomas' Library Update

While Fall comes at the end of the calendar year, it is really more of a beginning for us. We are starting up Bible study classes, organization meetings, and Sunday school classes (some kept going). Seems like a good time to start a daily devotion. And it just so happens that there are plenty of devotional books in the library! With Bible study classes starting back up you may want to check out all the reference material available in the library. We still have plenty of fiction books. With the kids going back to school, perhaps you would like to spend some mornings propping up your feet and reading a good book. There is a book series that we do not have in this library. Would you believe that there is not one book from the Mitford Series by Jan Karon? And these are about an Episcopal priest! If anyone happens to have any of these books and would like to donate them to the library, well... So come into the library, browse around and take home some reading.

Your devoted librarians

Where in the World (Bible) is Happy Hank?

Pam K

Dr. J

Happy Hank has become a world traveler. Can you guess where he went this month?

1. This month Hank visited a river.
2. It is the largest river in western Asia, flowing some 1,800 miles from Armenia to the Persian Gulf.
3. This river was one of four rivers branching from the Garden of Eden.

Look for the answer somewhere in this issue of Cross Ties.

The answer for Hank's last trip was Ephesus (Acts 19:21-41; Rev 2:1-7).

Parish Life Committee Chair

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

Out

Ste

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Nancy Anderson | 5 | Sally Neal | 12 | Whitney Brown | 19 |
| John Crumpton | 5 | Bill Ormsby Jr. | 12 | Amanda Schmidt | 20 |
| John Kirkman | 7 | Barbara Yuskevich | 13 | Dorothy Felix | 24 |
| Lisa Meadows | 7 | Kathy Reeves | 14 | Joyce Marks | 24 |
| Deborah Watson | 8 | Kathy Tinsley | 14 | Ed Shaw | 25 |
| Meg Crumpton | 9 | Ken Miller | 16 | Marty Pate III | 28 |
| Frank Miller | 9 | Sue Porr | 18 | Rick Quinn Jr. | 28 |
| Annie Freeman | 12 | Kathy Stancar | 18 | Mary Curtis | 30 |

Serving through 2011.

The WOC will meet on Oct 5th Monday for updates on the Food Fair.
All women are invited.

Mari Hann

A Word from Happy Hank

Last week after church I started thinking about our St. Thomas' family and all the things about us that make me glad. So I decided to make a list:

- Our sweet small church so warm and inviting
- People worshipping together
- The love that I see each Sunday and every day in our congregation
- Father Craig, who brings such joy and teaching through his sermons and his love for each of us
- All who bring music to us each week with a lot of dedication and hard work (and a little fun on the side
- 5th Sunday luncheons and ice cream socials (although a large bowl of gourmet dog food would be great at one of these)
- Most of all for the love of God who gave His Son for me so that I may have life abundantly

Why don't you take some time to make your own list. You can post it on your refrigerator or bulletin board so that you can refer to it when your life gets a little dark and remember that we are one in the Spirit.

Happy Hank

THESE ARE A FEW EPISCOPAL THINGS

Flowers on altars and people on kneelers,
Bright colored windows and prayers that are healers,
In the high tower, a loud bell that rings-
These are a few Episcopal things.

Listening to sermons and kind, handsome ushers,
Candles that flicker and parents as "hushers",
Praising the Father, the joyful choir sings-
These are a few Episcopal things.

Red velvet cushions and plates for the money,
Wine from the chalice and bread that tastes funny,
Passing the peace and the love that it brings-
These are a few Episcopal things.

When your day stinks,
When your night sinks,
When you're feeling sad,
Just simply remember Episcopal things-
And then you won't feel so bad!!!

Where in the World (Bible) is Happy Hank? Answer: Euphrates River

From the Children's Ministries

I have begun planning for the Christmas pageant. If you will be in town on Christmas Eve please let me know by signing the sheet in the Lower Parish Hall. I need a head count before I can choose the program and begin practices. I am calling all ages. The more the merrier Christmas.

The Upper Elementary students have begun a new program called Spark. We will spend October studying Esther using all our senses. The class meets at 9am and ends in time for choir practice with Samantha Michael. If you would like a Spark Students' bible for your child you can purchase one from me for \$20. This is a great bible and we will be using it in class. It is not necessary to purchase one to participate. They are just great bibles for all elementary readers (probably middle school students as well).

The middle schoolers will continue Grappling their way through the bible with Lara. She also meets at 9am on Sundays.

Godly Play classes are taking place during the Sunday service. Please bring your child to the upstairs classroom at 9:50 so they can begin to prepare themselves to enter the sacred space with the proper countenance.

Katie Yuskevich is doing a super job in the nursery. We are still asking for helpers during the 10am service. Often the volunteer is not needed but it is nice to have someone just in case. Please check for available Sundays on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Thanks for your support,

Pam Kerley



Who are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are members of St. Thomas who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide high-quality Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis such as grief, loss of job, divorce, hospitalization, relocation or loneliness. Stephen Ministers are each assigned a care receiver and meet with that care receiver for about an hour a week. This caring relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs it. If you would like more information on how to become a Stephen Minister or to receive care from one, please call Elizabeth Zeph at 776-3319.

From The Senior Warden

As the cool breeze of an October morning awakens us and tells us that Summer is gone, I must remind you of two unfinished Summer Church business items that needs to be tended to.

A) It is very, very important that every parishioner make sure that the Church office has your valid, most recent e-mail address. It is our goal to have the CrossTies monthly newsletter 99% electronic for our November publication. At the present time the Church office has e-mail addresses for about 60% of the parish. Also, if you do not have a computer and do not have an e-mail address please notify the church office so that we can continue to send you a paper copy of the CrossTies via the post office.

(continued on page 7)

From The Senior Warden

(continued from page 6)

B) Financially, at the end of August, giving lags our budget estimates by 45%.

What I mean is this: At the end of the 8th month of our budget year St. Thomas has received only 55% of our total estimated giving. This means that in the last 4 months of 2009 we need to receive contributions that equal 45% of the total budget or approximately \$ 140K. Think Stewardship!!!

With Peace & Respect,
Steve Yuskevich



Stewardship Update

In the Navy, we used the term “all hands evolution” to emphasize to the crew that everyone on board the vessel was needed to accomplish the task at hand. Whether we were preparing for a storm at sea or a logistics load-out in port, when you heard “all hands” mentioned, no one was exempt and everyone from officers to the junior enlisted were expected to participate in some fashion. After all, a vessel is a tight-knit group and each of us as crew members depended on every other shipmate for our success and survival.

Stewardship in our parish is the same. Everyone from the oldest members to the youngest is expected to contribute time, talent, and treasure so we can carry out the work that has been set before us to glorify the Lord.

Some may question whether or not they have the time to contribute. Others may feel they would like to participate more but don’t know how or where to get involved. Still others may have achieved a comfort zone and believe they don’t need anyone else to be involved in their committee or group.

First off, there is always something going on in St Thomas that even a person “with no time to spare” can fit into their schedule. Whether its committee work or two hours for a WATS project, or a call to clean up the parish hall one afternoon, there is no better way to meet other parishioners, share ideas, and help out than volunteering a little time.

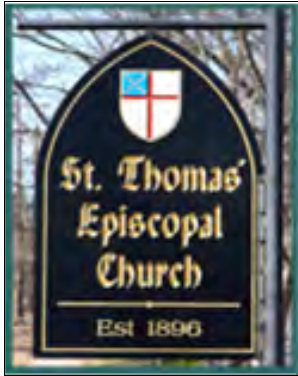
How can you let someone know you are interested in participating? Talk to some other folks in the parish and mention your interest. Better yet, tell Father Craig of your interest to get involved somewhere. He has a knack and a vested interest in matching you up with a need.

And for those of us that are working in a committee or group, keep an eye out for new talent that will rejuvenate or help sustain your efforts. Ask people to become part of your effort. The worst answer you’ll get is “I don’t have time this year, ask me next year.” Remember that and call them next year to deliver on their “promise”.

Speaking of an All Hands Evolution, on Sunday, October 11 we will have a special coffee hour after the 8:00 AM service and a lunch after the 10:00 AM service to discuss the St Thomas Stewardship efforts. You’ll be getting a letter soon with an invite. Please put it on your calendar.

God Bless
Ron Hewett, Stewardship Chair

P.S. The first person to complain about the Navy jargon gets to be the Stewardship Chair next year.



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 other 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
312 N. Steele Street
Post Office Box 759
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