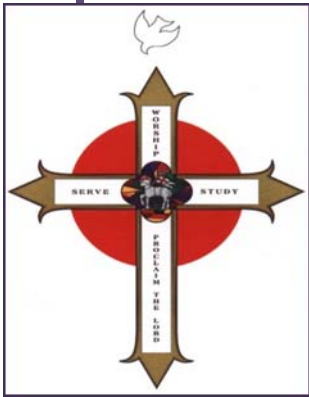


Cross Ties

October 2010



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



From the Rector's Desk

In some ways I was glad to see this summer end. It seemed that we spent most of it wrestling with the questions around our diocesan assessment for next year. The vestry engaged the input from the parishioners, with many different positions represented. The vestry members struggled with trying to synthesize their own viewpoints on how best to proceed. The bottom line was that it was a lot of work that took up the lion's share of the June and July meetings. Finally, a decision was made to pay the full asking of the Diocese, and a letter was sent to the Bishop explaining the vestry's thinking. As I thought about all this the other day, I realized that, as difficult as all that had been, now the real work must begin!



The real work, of course, is raising the money we need to fund all the ministries of our parish, including the work of the Diocese. In order to accomplish this, we must move ahead in our stewardship for 2011. There is no question that the events of the summer showed us that we are not all of one mind on the issues facing the Church. To this I say: "So what! When were we ever?" Now it

is time to put that aside, come back together, and move forward in unity. I have no doubts as to the ability of the congregation to meet the goal, but it will only happen if we renew our common commitment to Christ and to each other as well. I know often we think about our pledge as an individual decision. I find it helpful, however, to keep in mind how that individual decision ends up affecting others. If I don't support my parish to the best of my ability, I let down myself, my Lord, and some of the people my parish (and diocese) would otherwise have helped over the course of the year to come. Yes, each of us must prayerfully figure out what is the best we can do and if we can give it cheerfully. In so doing, I am confident great and Godly things will happen!

Over the course of the next few weeks you will be receiving correspondence from the Stewardship committee and myself. Also, two of your fellow parishioners will be speaking to you about their stewardship journeys. I hope you will all give it your careful attention that together we can keep St. Thomas' moving forward! Remember, don't give till it hurts; give till it starts to feel good!

Father Craig Lister

A Prayer for October

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Junior Warden Report

September

1. Fr. Craig's office is now complete. We have a few more ceiling tiles to replace in the foyer then we will begin the painting of the walls, doors and casings. We should be through by the time this Cross ties comes out.
2. We had a significant rain on Aug 19th and the bell tower stayed completely dry. This means that we can close up the hole in the ceiling and start to investigate ways to clean and seal the interior face of the bricks.

More on this as information becomes available.

3. The security system is up and running. We added a fifth camera to provide a more optimum coverage of our grounds.
4. We will have a work day this fall. It will be about the same as we had in the spring.



October

1. Fr. Craig's office is now 100% complete.
2. The surveillance cameras (5) and the DVR are in place and recording. We will be installing two signs advising the public that our outside church grounds are being video recorded.
3. Our Bell Tower is still dry. We are waiting for at least two more downpours (whenever that might happen) to make sure that the roof has been taken care of before we start cleaning and sealing the inside brick face.
4. The foyer in the upstairs parish hall has been repaired and painted. We had several large cracks and holes that needed to be repaired by professionals so we had Bobby Hurley do the work on this.
5. Peggy Nelson and her group of volunteers will be putting the Shaw Library back in order.
6. There will be a clean-up Saturday in late October or early November. Fr. Craig will announce the date well in advance and it will be listed in several Sunday bulletins.



Dave Zeph

Piano Donated to St. Thomas

Charlie Stoehrmann, longtime faithful member of St. Thomas', has responded generously to a real need! The choir has been without a piano in the Lower Parish Hall for several months. Though old and definitely not in the best shape, the piano was used for "warm-ups" on Sundays and individual "part practicing" during in-house rehearsal occasions. Charlie has donated his family piano to the church, and it definitely will be used...and often. In giving the piano Charlie spoke of his love for St. Thomas' and the love and care shown him by his parish family. Thank you, Charlie, for your generous contribution, and thank you for witnessing to Christian giving: sharing what you have in your love for Jesus Christ and in expressing that love in such a caring and thoughtful way. Please thank Charlie when you see him. He is truly a hero to all of us in the music program!

Jo Ann Bowman



Mark Your Calendars Now!

A planning meeting for 2010-2011 events of the Women of the Church was held in the Lower Parish Hall on August 31, at 11 a.m. Present were Pat Clark, Frances Granger, Sue Comstock, Barbara Yuskevich, and Jo Ann Bowman. Some of the year's highlights discussed were:

October 4 – First of four chicken pie-making sessions (Three more sessions will be held on October 11th, 18th, and 25th.)

October 9 - Work session for the Stewardship Luncheon – 9 a.m.

October 10 - Stewardship Luncheon with food prepared by Women of the Church

November 20th - Food Fair

December 6th – Celebration of St. Nicholas' Day with a concert by the J. Glenn Edwards Chorus

Annual Yard Sale – March 5

A southern minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." Sermon complete, he then sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365: 'Shall We Gather at the River'."

“Cross Ties”

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 312 N. Steele St., Sanford, NC
 Mr. Bob Bennetts, *Editor*
 Email: rbb239@windstream.net

Office: (919) 774-8644
 Fax: 776-5883

Email: stnec@windstream.net

Website:

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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*

Katie Yuskevich, *Nursery Care*

Kenneth 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

Psalm of Single-Mindedness

Lord of reality, make me real,
not an actor playing out his part - a hypocrite.

I don't want to keep a prayer list
but to pray,

I don't want to agonize to find Your will
but to obey what I already know,

I don't want to argue theories of inspiration
but to submit to Your Word.

I don't want to explain the difference between eros and philos and agape
but to love.

I don't want to sing as if I mean it
I want to mean it.

I don't want to tell it like it is
but to be like You want it.

I don't want to tell others how to do it
but to do it;

I don't want to have to be always right
but to admit it when I'm wrong.

I don't want to be a census taker
but an obstetrician

Nor an involved person, a professional
but a friend.

I don't want to be insensitive
but to hurt where other people hurt

Nor to say "I know how you feel"
but to say, "God knows"
and "I'll try if you'll be patient with me"
and meanwhile I'll be quiet.

I don't want to scorn the clichés of others
but to mean everything I say - including this.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ." (Philippians 1:9-10)

Contributed by Alice Anne Ford



Women of the Church Visit Church Museum

Women of the Church assembled at St. Thomas' Monday morning, September 13, for the first meeting of the year. The planned activity, a trip to Dr. T.V. Oommen's "Church Museum" in Raleigh, was taken by twelve women.

The Church Museum visit included a guided tour of exhibits, with Dr. Oommen as commentator. The museum building was constructed specifically by Dr. Oommen to accommodate his collection. Displayed were biblical pictures and reproduced objects, with one wall devoted to Old Testament items and another to information dealing with the New Testament.

There was information and pictures of Noah's Ark, Mt. Sinai, Masada, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the shroud of Turin. A collection of bible copies from throughout history were featured. One end wall contained a painting of the Ark of the Covenant as conceived by the artist, following descriptions in the Old Testament. The wall was covered by a curtain, representing the veil shielding the Holy of Holies.

There was a separate presentation by a friend of Dr. Oommen. Authentic copper items from Old Testament times were displayed and discussed. On display were cymbals from the era of Moses, a scythe of the kind used by workers in the fields of Boaz, and parts of weapons used by the early armies of David. Highlighted in the collection was a recreated Davidian spear.

Following the museum visit the group enjoyed lunch in a private room at the Olive Garden. During the meal, co-presidents Pat Clark and Frances Granger briefly discussed plans for the annual Food Fair, to be held this year in November on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 4. All women of St. Thomas' are encouraged to attend.



Attending were (left) Frances Granger, Betsy Parnell, Charlene Jeffries, Marie Hann, Jo Ann Thaxton, Nancy Stewart and (below) Amy Hurst, Pat Clark, Frances Floyd, Claudia Cox, Jo Ann Bowman and Mary Lee Dutton .



From the Treasurer

General Fund Activities

August revenues were \$31,372, while expenditures totaled \$23,652. Same month revenues for 2009 were \$18,837. Actual revenues year to date are ahead of budgeted revenues by \$3,771. August was a nice recovery from a weak July.

The church is the donee of shares of Comcast, transferred into our Great American brokerage. However, we have been unable to identify the donor. We wish to acknowledge the gift for your tax records. Please contact me if you are the donor. Properly identifying the number of shares will assure we have the right donor. ☺

The following presents the 2010 budget and the seven months ended August 31, 2010, with comparative 2009 totals:

	2010 Budget	8/31/2010	8/31/2010	Percent of Budget
Revenues, Fund Transfers & Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 356,128	\$ 242,069	\$ 167,221	68%
Caring for our Clergy	158,000	105,123	68,628	67%
Caring for Our Facilities	63,063	56,009	25,664	89%
Making it All Work	35,694	20,648	21,679	58%
Making a Celebration	33,723	20,681	18,301	61%
Making a Difference in the World	19,800	9,269	2,382	47%
Making Disciples	11,218	7,999	5,616	71%
Caring for the Larger Church	28,000	16,000	15,356	57%
Caring for Each Other	6,630	2,569	2,455	39%
Totals	356,128	238,298	160,081	67%
Cash over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ 3,771	\$ 7,140	

Noteworthy;

- Renovations to the UPH offices are complete, a total of \$25,934 was transferred out of the building funds to provide the resources to perform this work.

Bob Nelson

Birthdays Galore!!

For all you folks wondering what happened to the birthday lists, let not your hearts be troubled. At last, they have returned!

AUGUST

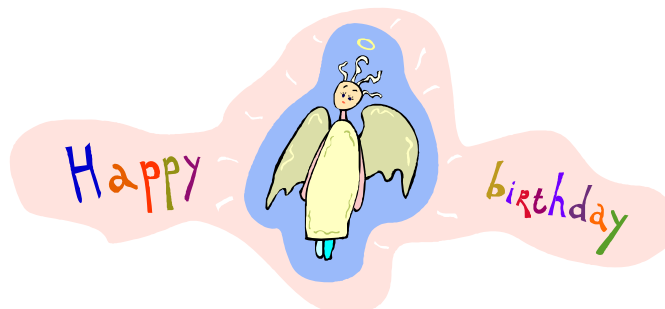
Sue Comstock	1
Malissa Holder	1
Joi Brown	3
Ron Brown	4
Jack Morgan	4
Verneta French	5
Joe Ryan	7
Beth Puckett	10
Debbie Noel	13
Perry Payne	13
Donald Marks	15
Mary Quinn	15
Karen Burrus	17
Stanley Yachovitz	17
Roland Frechette	18
Joy Gilmour	18
Warren Barber - Parkview	19
Mary Louise Matthews	19
Todd Spofford	19
Lynda Turbeville	21
Gwen Bowers	22
Marian Mills	23
Kristy Walker	24
Tammy Steger	25
Hunter Wilkinson	25
Charlie Hann Jr.	26
Phyllis Venrick	28
Samantha Michael	31

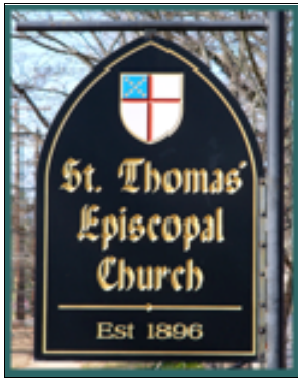
SEPTEMBER

Ron Hewett	1
Ami Hurst	1
Ray Hyer	3
Anne Johns	4
Ryan Noetzelman	4
Joann Thaxton	5
Mari Hann	8
Blair Gille	9
Alex Quinn	10
Rich Quinn	15
Charlie Bowers	17
Freddie Quinn	17
Jeff Venrick	18
Dana Garrett	19
Laura Gay	19
Rad Holton	19
Danielle Wright	20
Marci Warren	21
PJ Gay	23
Zelletta Fergusson	24
Helen Ward	25
Quinn Griffin	26
Dylan Quinn	26
Van Harris	28
Retta Gilman	29
Pam Jessup	30

OCTOBER

John Kirkman	7
Lisa Meadows	7
Deborah Watson	8
Meg Crumpton	9
Bobby Bracken	10
Annie Freeman	12
Sally Neal	12
Bill Ormsby Jr.	12
Barbara Yuskevich	13
Kathy Tinsley	14
Kathy Reeves	14
Ken Miller	16
Kathy Stancar	18
Sue Porr	18
Whitney Brown	19
Amanda Schmidt	20
Mark Lister	22
Joyce Marks	24
Ed Shaw	25
Marty Pate	28
Rick Quinn Jr.	28
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.”*

Stewardship—End of the Year Means Beginning of the Year

It’s been a great 2010 at St Thomas and we have a lot to celebrate. With that celebration also goes reflection and the need to plan for 2011. We will do both over the next month as we conduct several stewardship activities.

On the evening of October 23 we will hold a Stewardship Dinner to celebrate the work we have accomplished over the past year and reflect on what we are about as a community of believers. The dinner will be an all you can eat shrimp boil with coleslaw and corn bread and dessert. Hot dogs will also be available for those who prefer an alternative. Refreshment will include adult beverages and tea.

On consecutive Sundays, October 17 and 24 after the 8 AM and 10 AM services we will have opportunities to discuss the parish budget during coffee hour. Father Lister, vestry members, Treasurer, Bob Nelson, and Stewardship Committee members will be available to members of the congregation for discussion on where your offerings have gone over the past year, as well as what challenges are ahead of us in the 2011 budget year. In particular, an increase in our budget of \$12,500 to support the diocese will challenge our pledge campaign efforts. You can discuss this and other budgetary and stewardship concerns or ideas in a relaxed setting over coffee and doughnuts.

November 7 will be our Pledge Sunday and all parishioners will be asked to submit their pledges to support the work of the church that Sunday. Letters will go out to parishioners ahead of that Sunday reminding all to participate in our continuing efforts to do the Lord’s work in our community as well as farther afield.

Yes, it’s the end of a great year of toil, but isn’t it wonderful that the Lord has given us another year to look forward to!

Fellow Steward,

Ron Hewett