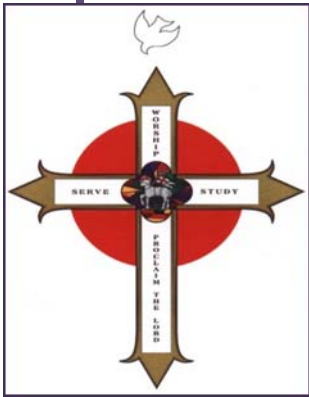
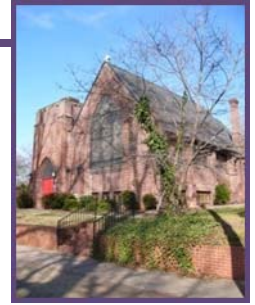


Cross Ties

September 2011



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



From the Rector's Desk

How can the summer already be over? Fortunately the fall is a beautiful time in North Carolina and the winters aren't too severe. Fall is a beautiful time in New England also, but I could never take much pleasure from it knowing what was to follow!

Fall is usually the time most churches begin their program year. Ministries and classes that have been on hold for the summer resume to the point that I have always felt that the busiest time of the year is the stretch from September through Christmas. Certainly this has been the case at St. Thomas.'

One thing I think we do very well at our parish is adult education, and I would like to use this column to encourage all of you fit one of those classes into your schedule. Starting soon we have classes beginning on Paul's letter to the Galatians, another on some extraordinary women found in the Bible. We have another disciple class resuming which has the title, "Remember Who You Are." There is a Bible class, taught by yours truly, held twice per month down at Carolina Trace, and please don't forget the Adult Sunday School class which

meets most weeks right after the 10 o'clock Eucharist. Sprinkled through the year there are special classes in Lent and for adults considering reception or Confirmation into the Episcopal Church.



A commitment to adult education is so important because, quite frankly, it makes us better Christians! The more we know about Our Lord and the better we understand His teachings, the more effective we are as His ambassadors to the world. How deep can our commitment to Jesus be if we

don't know what He taught, or understand how He wants us to follow Him? So many folks who grow up in the Church end their formal Christian education around the time they are in the 6th grade! Educating children about Christ is certainly important, but I believe it is even more important for us grownups.

If you have not been involved in one of our adult classes previously, I hope you will seriously consider signing up. You will not regret it. If you have been attending, I hope you will continue your commitment to learning and the service of our Lord Christ.

Father Craig Lister

Pictorial Directory – Sign-Up Dates

August 28 and September 4 after the 8 am and 10 am services. If you are unable to be in church either day please call the office between 9 am & 1 pm to arrange a date and time for your pictures to be taken.

Picture dates and times:

Tuesday, October 11	11am – 6pm	Thursday, October 13	2pm – 9pm
Wednesday, October 12	11am – 6pm	Friday, October 14	2pm – 9pm



We need you to make our new family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

We look forward to seeing you!



Each family will receive a Complimentary 8x10 Portrait & Directory for participating



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Father Craig's Tenacity

Parishioners always look forward to telephoned birthday greetings from the rector. Before departing for Tanzania I teased him that he would be unable to wish me happy birthday this year. Wrong! Sitting in the expanse of the Serengeti, surrounded by family (and animals of every description), a text was received: "Happy B Day." Another home run, Father Craig.



Jo Ann Bowman

Stewardship: "It's the Fight in the Dog" by Ron Hewitt

I think most of us have heard the saying, "it's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog." I can't help but believe that this applies to our efforts at St Thomas as well. From time to time, in discussions with members of other churches in the community I am told they are amazed at the amount of support for our community that comes from such a small parish. You probably have heard it too from friends. It's something we can be proud of, our church family takes pride in helping the community.

Again this year, we have continued to expand our role in the community. We have not only kept up our efforts of the past, like regular visits and support of CUOC and LCI through the We Are the Sermon (WATS) Sunday program and support of individuals through the Stephens Ministry and other ministries, but we have added others.

Barbara Yuskevich has provided tireless efforts to build the St Augustine Project which trains tutors for students needing an extra hand with their academics. The National Night Out for the St Thomas neighborhood was a huge success. Scholarships for the children of Haiti are off to a good start. In addition, the parish raised the bar in its response to the Diocese in regards to financial support. And, we have been forthcoming in financial support to the community for tornado recovery through Matt 6.

Internal parish improvements include adding a new refrigerator and freezer in the parish kitchen and continuation of a vibrant Vacation Bible School program and other ministries. The list keeps growing each year and I cannot give justice to all the great deeds and efforts going on at St Thomas. But I will say that the members of St Thomas seem to want to go after new challenges each year. Now is the time to decide that we want to continue by making that commitment as we approach the time for our annual stewardship campaign.

We will be kicking off our Stewardship Campaign in October and will be holding the Stewardship Dinner on October 29. Please put that date on your calendar and plan to join together to celebrate a great Stewardship year and get ready to take on another year of challenges. You'll be hearing much more about specifics over the next two months. We want to keep working for the community and this is where it all begins.

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Tuesday–Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Monday 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon

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 Rector

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Sophie Johnson, *Organist*

Kathy Stancar, *Secretary*

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Gordy Reese

Serving through 2012

David Puckett

Colin Watson

Dave Zeph, Jr. Warden

Serving through 2013

Wally Jones

Marty Pate

Dean Thorndike

Augustine Literary Project

The Augustine Literacy Project completed its very first training session from July 11th - 22nd in the lower parish hall of the church. The following people who completed the class were Terri Wind, Vicki Bloodworth, Mari Martin, Sherry McDonald, Susan Johns, and Patsy McBryde. Each of the Augustine tutors will be working with a child in the Lee County Schools. The two weeks were filled with many kinds of learning experiences which prepared each tutor to assess what level their students are on and what literacy skills each student lacks. The Boys and Girls Club welcomed us into their facility to complete the practicum, where each tutor assessed a child, prepared 5 individual lessons plans, and actually taught 5 lessons to their student. The Augustine Coaches (Alice Rainey, Joyce Marks, and Barbara Yuskevich) supervised their lessons and gave feedback to each tutor. Following the first two weeks of school, Barbara will contact local principals, providing each school with information about the Augustine Project, and discuss with them the possibility of tutoring a child in their school.

A thousand thanks go out to the following people who helped our church make this first class possible! To Sue Porr, an occupational therapist, who came to instruct the class in the value of teaching "Handwriting" to a child who struggles with literacy skills. Charlotte Hohenstein, Pat Kirkman, Emily Hewett, Katie Hyer and Doug Wilkinson, who sponsored the lunches for the class on Mondays and Fridays. Each member of the class talked about how our church had made them feel so welcome and how delicious the lunches were. Fr. Craig who came down to eat lunch with us and patiently answered the questions the women had for him, and as a result, we have two members of the class now coming to visit our church during Sunday morning worship! Peggy Nelson shared her expertise with computers and audio-visual equipment with us. And last but certainly not least, Alice Rainey and Joyce Marks, both of whom are Master's level instructors, who were amazing and dedicated instructors for the training session!

What's next for the Augustine Literacy Project? I am currently drafting letters to the appropriate local principals informing them of available tutors who would like to tutor a needy student in their school. I will hand deliver each letter and introduce myself to each school. I will also ask that the school place a letter of commendation in the record of an employee (we had 2 teacher assistants who took the class). I currently have had requests for evaluations of 10 children and placement with an Augustine tutor. Placement will take a few weeks following the opening of school. We are currently organizing our materials into a lending library for the tutors to use throughout the school year. Our next Augustine Board meeting will be held at the church on September 29, 2011 at 5:30PM. Currently, we already have a waiting list for the next training session and the dates are yet to be determined. The word is spreading about what the Augustine Literacy Project has to offer!

Please plan to attend church on Sunday, September 25th and celebrate the blessing of the Augustine Literacy Project tutors during the morning worship!

Barbara Yuskevich

Did You Know?

There is a closet in the sacristy that was added in the mid to late eighties. This closet has a unique purpose and design. It was built with a sturdy rolling frame work that permits it to roll out from the closet. These sturdy closet frames are where the heavy Altar Hangings are hung and stored when not in use. The monies for construction of the closet and rolling frames were given by an anonymous couple who wanted it to be built in Honor of the Rev. David V. Guthrie our interim Rector from 1983 to 1984 and was loved by all.

Monthly Prayer for September and the Upcoming Fall Season

O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Junior Warden's Report

We want to thank Steve Yuskevich for his help when our air conditioner went out during one of our hottest spells. This was one of the air handlers that services the church. Even though Steve was on vacation and not even in the state he directed his men on the repair and had us up and running within days. We only had one Sunday in the church that was slightly warmer than normal. Thanks Again Steve for a task well done

A date has not been settled on for our Fall parish clean-up. Please keep looking in the Sunday Green News Letter for we will run the time and date as soon as possible so you can make plans to turn out.

Dave Zeph

The Jars

The preacher placed two identical jars on the table next to the pulpit. He quoted 1 Samuel 16:7 *"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"*

"These jars came from the same factory, were made of the same materials, and can hold the same amount. But they are different," he explained.

Then he upset one of the jars and it oozed out honey. He turned over the other jar, and vinegar spilled out.

"When a jar is upset, whatever is in it comes out. Until the jars were upset, they looked alike. The difference was within, and could not be seen. When they were upset, their contents were revealed.

Until we are upset we put on a good front. But when we are upset, we reveal our innermost thoughts and attitudes, for "out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks' (Luke 6:45)"

What if someone tipped you over today?? What would flow out??

Would you reveal the "honey" of grace and patience, or the "vinegar" of anger and sarcasm??

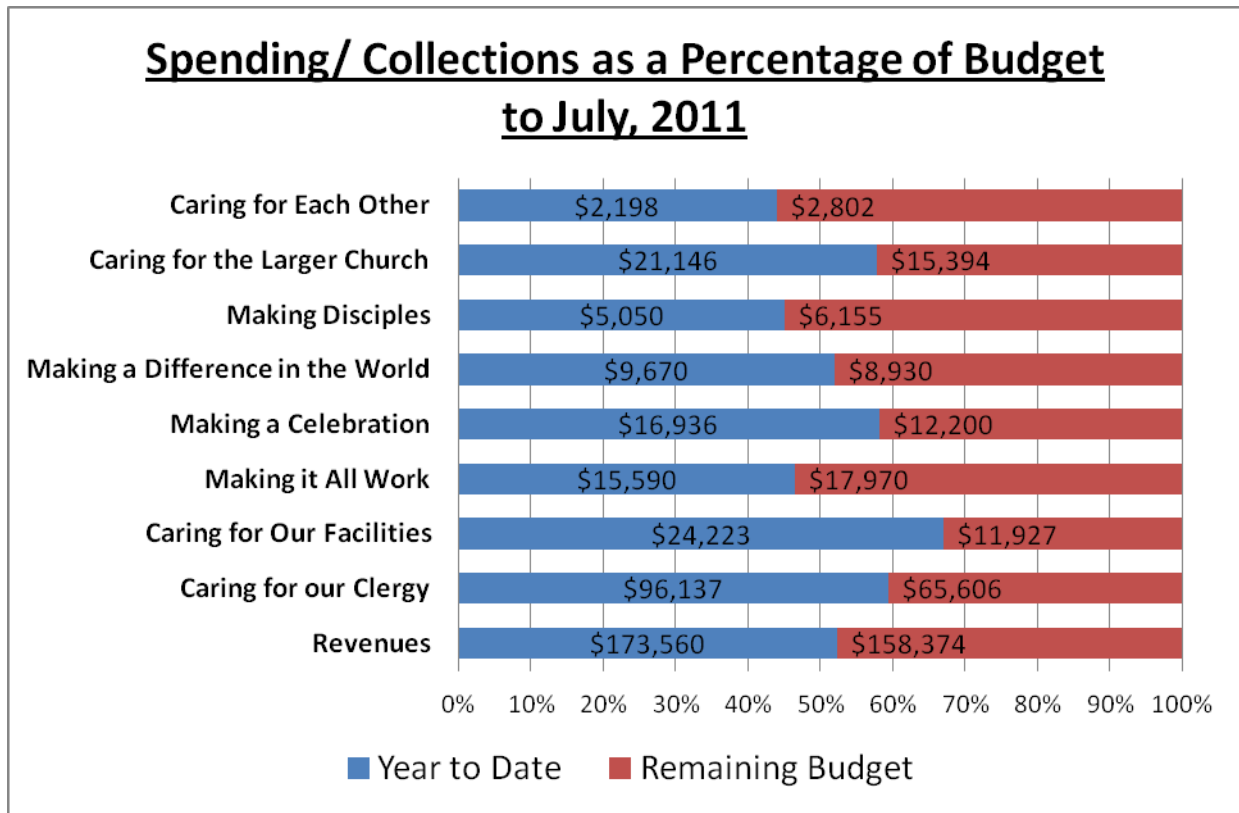
"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1Peter 4:8).



Have a terrific day knowing that the one who upsets you may be just looking for some honey.

Author Unknown

Treasurer's Report by Bob Nelson

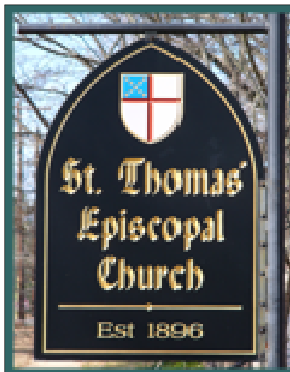


St. Thomas Episcopal Church					
Statement of Activity To July, 2011					
	2011 Budget	Year to Date	Remaining	Percent of Budget	Year Ended 2010
Revenues	\$ 331,934	\$ 173,560	\$ 158,374	52%	\$ 344,917
Caring for our Clergy	161,743	96,137	65,606	59%	155,380
Caring for Our Facilities	36,150	24,223	11,927	67%	44,032
Making it All Work	33,560	15,590	17,970	46%	31,328
Making a Celebration	29,136	16,936	12,200	58%	31,467
Making a Difference in the World	18,600	9,670	8,930	52%	17,340
Making Disciples	11,205	5,050	6,155	45%	11,524
Caring for the Larger Church	36,540	21,146	15,394	58%	26,160
Caring for Each Other	5,000	2,198	2,802	44%	4,292
Totals	331,934	190,950	140,984	58%	321,523
Cash over (less than) expenditures	\$ -	\$ (17,390)			\$ 23,394

September Birthdays!

Name	Day
Ron Hewett	1
Ami Hurst	1
Ray Hyer	3
Anne Johns	4
Joann Thaxton	5
Heather Sherbourne	5
Mari Hann	8
Lucus Edwards	8
Blair Gille	9
Alex Quinn III	10
Delores Brown	14
Rich Quinn	15
Frankie Quinn	17

Name	Day
Jeff Venrick	18
Dana Garrett	19
Laura Gay	19
Rad Holtonm	19
Marci Warren	21
PJ Gay	23
Zellea Fergusson	24
Helen Ward	25
Quinn Griffin	26
Dylan Quinn	26
Van Harris	28
Phyllis Stone	28
Retta Gilman	29
Pam Jessup	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.”*