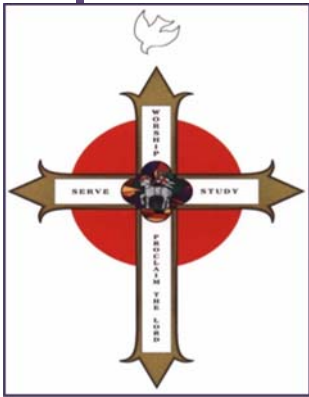
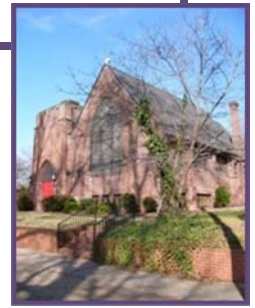


Cross Ties

September 2009



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



From Father Craig Lister

Last month I wrote to you about my eager anticipation of the beginning of the parish's program year in September. Well, now it is upon us, and I hope that all of you will begin looking for ways to get involved in all the fun, learning and service. It is important, however, that we do this for the right reasons, not just for the sake of activity itself.

I believe that all of us need to re-commit ourselves to Christ and serving Him through our parish. This means we need to re-commit ourselves to St. Thomas' as a community of Jesus' disciples. This is not a commentary on anything that has gone on before, rather it is an acknowledgement of what we have been given, and the need we always have to go deeper in our life with the Lord. I think this is especially important now.

The Episcopal Church is going through a difficult time right now. People on all sides of every issue acknowledge that nationally we are a church in decline. This was admitted in a number of in-house reports given to this past General Convention, and you can see it in the statistics of every diocese. At the General Convention, just completed in July, our church took further steps that cannot help but continue the process of alienation from the rest of the Anglican Communion as well as much of the rest of Christendom. There are many of us that find this discouraging, and I am certainly one of them...BUT...

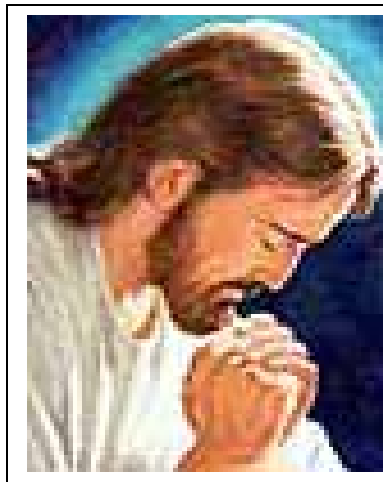
I am not ready to give up on the Episcopal Church! I would not be here with you in Sanford if I felt that way. It seems to me that there is often something like a pendulum effect in matters of the church, plus we are blessed with many folks committed in faith to the Lord. That cannot help but continue to reap fruits of the Holy Spirit. That is why what we do right now at St. Thomas' is so important!

Together we can make a witness to the rest of the church and to the world that we cannot make as individuals. Together we can encourage and minister to one another. Together we can celebrate our faith in and love for Christ without letting any differences split us. As long as we put Him first, and commit to submit to His will, God, I know, will bless our efforts.

Sometimes, as Episcopalians, we wonder what we have to offer the world and then forget to offer what we have! We have a lot! We have a sacramental/liturgical way of presenting the Lord as He promised to be present. We have a tradition of basing all doctrine and salvation in the pages of Holy Scripture. In these we have a depth of riches indeed. All we need do is pull together in commitment to our God.

I pray that each of you will prayerfully re-commit yourself to Christ this very month, and to that part of His beloved Family we call St. Thomas!

Father Craig Lister



Coming This Fall!

Coming this Fall: A short-term Disciple class entitled *An Invitation to the New Testament...* Coordinated by , the sessions will be held from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on eight Wednesdays, beginning on the third Wednesday in September.

Using Matthew's Gospel as a starting point, this study will explore how the new Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus--His life, actions, mission, death, and resurrection--and the implications of His arrival for their lives and their communities of faith.

We will explore who Jesus is and what His significance is for our lives? Participants are invited to study afresh this story of Jesus, and to learn more about their calling to discipleship and to community.

In the Gospel of Matthew, themes from this story of Jesus will provide the topics for each of the eight sessions. Each theme will be traced through related passages in the New Testament.

Dates and Study Topics:

- September 16 - Jesus Calls Us Into God's Redemption Story
- September 23 - Jesus Calls Us to a Transformed Life
- September 30. Jesus Calls Us to Minister to a Hostile World
- October 7 - Jesus Calls Us to Complex Communities of Faith
- October 14 - Jesus Calls Us to Serve One Another
- October 21 - Jesus Calls Us to a New Relationship With Tradition
- October 28 - Jesus Calls Us to Live in Light of His Coming Again
- November 4 - Jesus Calls Us to Experience the Gifts of His Dying and Rising



Stewardship Committee

Fellow Parishioners,

The Stewardship Committee has been at work making preparations to gather the resources to support the energy and renewed sense of purpose within the parish. With our new rector and expansion of programs, we all seem to feel the sense of rejuvenation.

As we develop a year-round approach to stewardship, we are reminded that a parish that believes in stewardship is a prayerful, welcome, and Eucharistic centered community with a common vision: God Is the Source of All. In gratitude, we joyfully give back a portion of our God-given gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure.

On Sunday, September 27, the parish and the Stewardship Committee will have a chance to share ideas and dreams and realities. The Women of the Church in conjunction with other church groups will host a Spaghetti Lunch after the 10:00 AM service. An ice-cream social will be the main attraction for dessert. Everyone is invited to come and participate in the discussions and meal.

In addition, after the 8:00 AM service there will be pastries and coffee and opportunity to discuss year-round stewardship prior to setting up for the noon lunch.

Please mark your calendars and be part of this important event.

Ron Hewett



St. Thomas Women of the Church

St Thomas Women of the Church will meet Monday September 14 at 11am in the LPH. **Note the date change!**

We will be organizing our Fall Projects and discussing our goals for the coming year. We are hoping to add “new faces” to our attendance this year and all women in our congregation are invited to join us for fellowship and fun. We hope to see you there!

Blessings, Mari Hann President



Treasurer’s Report By Bob Nelson

As you can see current year to date revenues exceed same period revenues of 2008 by \$8,111 but we’ve still a ways to go before the budget year is over. Expenditures are running behind the budget amount mainly due to timing of expenditures such as outreach and insurance.

We are beginning to enter the months where our response to God’s plan really shines. All can be thankful for the response made this year to re-formalize our pledge campaign, being more open to discuss stewardship and finding ways our giving can strengthen our trust in God. It’s a baby step from what we are capable but a nice step from where we were. Stewardship 2009 will carry us to yet a higher step. Fr Craig’s sermon (8/9/09) hit the nail on the head. We don’t want there to be a flat line in our spiritual growth. Your giving provides so many opportunities to grow spiritually at St. Thomas beyond the routine Sunday attendance.

| Finances to July 31, 2009 | 2009 Budget | Current Year To Date | Prior Year To Date |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Revenues | \$307,922 | \$125,671 | \$115,516 |
| Caring for our Clergy | 128,429 | 56,807 | 57,608 |
| Caring for Our Facilities | 43,575 | 22,782 | 20,282 |
| Making It All Work | 47,413 | 19,667 | 15,303 |
| Making a Celebration | 29,975 | 15,852 | 18,191 |
| Making a Difference In the Word | 13,800 | 1,787 | 1,263 |
| Making Disciples | 13,325 | 6,237 | 5,776 |
| Caring for the Larger Church | 25,000 | 11,276 | 13,029 |
| Caring for Each Other | 6,400 | 2,293 | 3,033 |
| Totals | 307,922 | 136,706 | 131,495 |

Kathy Stancar on Vacation

My husband and I will be leaving for London to visit our oldest daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter. We will be leaving for London on Wed., Sept. 9th after work and I will return to work on Thurs., Sept. 24th. We will be celebrating our granddaughters 1st birthday and her Christening while we are there.

Thanks and have a blessed day, Kathy

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has identified another opportunity to be of service to those less fortunate than we. The former residents at Loving Care Rest Home whom we have remembered at Christmas the past 2 years are doing well in their new homes since Loving Care closed. While they currently have no physical needs, they would benefit greatly from some personal attention as none have families. We are asking for members of our parish to befriend each of these residents on special occasions such as birthdays, holidays, etc. during the coming year. Cards, small gifts and even more appreciated, occasional short visits for a chat or a hand of cards will enrich their lives and reap great rewards for you! On Sunday, August 30, there will be a Friendship Tree in the Lower Parish Hall with some information about each of these residents. Please pick a leaf and make a friend! Contact Pam or James Jessup for more information. 774-4296

“Friends are the sunshine of life.” John Hay

The Parish Staff
 The Rev Craig Lister
 Rector

A Word from Happy Hank

WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALMOST FALL? WHAT A QUICK SUMMER! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT I CAN'T WAIT FOR BIBLE STUDY CLASSES TO START BACK UP. SPEAKING OF BIBLE STUDY, I'VE BEEN READING THE PSALMS. NOW, HAVE YOU EVER SPENT ANY TIME READING PSALMS? THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH MUSIC WRITTEN TO THE WORDS FROM THIS BOOK BUT THEN THAT'S WHAT THE PSALMS ARE, SONGS OF PRAISE. EVERYONE KNOWS THE 23RD PSALM. BUT ARE YOU

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|---------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Ron Hewett | 1 | Rich Quinn | 15 | Zelletta Fergusson | 24 |
| Ami Hurst | 1 | Frankie Quinn | 17 | Helen Ward | 25 |
| Ray Hyer | 3 | Jeff Venrick | 18 | Quinn Griffin | 26 |
| Ryan Noetzelman | 4 | Dana Garrett | 19 | Dylan Quinn | 26 |
| Joann Thanxton | 5 | Laura Gay | 19 | Van Harris | 28 |
| Mari Hann | 8 | Rad Holton | 19 | Retta Gilman | 29 |
| Blair Gille | 9 | Marci Warren | 21 | Pam Jessup | 30 |
| Alex Quinn III | 10 | P. J. Gay | 23 | | |

Bob Nelson



To Bob Nelson and Pam Kerley for their extra help with this month's newsletter!!

Where in the world is Happy Hank? Answer: Ephesus.

Where in the World is Happy Hank?

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

1. Paul's life was threatened when the city's Diana idol makers realized Paul's preaching of repentance and salvation was a threat to their livelihood (Acts 19.)
2. It is thought that the apostle John lived in Ephesus before and after his exile to Patmos.
3. This city is one of the seven churches of Revelation.



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

The answer for Hank's last trip was Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9).

You ever find yourself in conversation about what is going on at St. Thomas, the Diocese or maybe even the National Church (TEC) and you feel a bit left out? You hear comments from the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Presiding Bishop and would like to read the text. Here are a few of the websites I like to visit to keep me current and informed. These have not been endorsed by the Rector or the Vestry.

www.stthomassanford.org/ is our website.

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/> is the website of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

<http://ecusa.anglican.org/> is the official church web site, containing information about TEC, its dioceses, provinces and parishes; there is a news release section carrying highlights about the church.

<http://www.episdionc.org/> is the official website for the NC Diocese.

<http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/> is a great resource for clergy, vestries and lay leaders.

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> is a great website to visit prior to attending church on Sunday.

<http://www.americananglican.org/> is a website where individuals, parishes and ministries affirm biblical authority and Christian orthodoxy within the Anglican Communion.

<http://www.anglican-mainstream.net/> is a community within the Anglican Communion committed to promote, teach and maintain the Scriptural truths on which the Anglican Church was founded.

www.kendallharmon.net/t19/ a weblog of the Rev. Canon Dr. Kendall Harmon. A free floating commentary on culture, politics, economics, and religion based on a passionate commitment to the truth and a desire graciously to refute that which is contrary to it....

www.virtueonline.org/portal/ is the Anglican Communion's largest Biblically Orthodox online news service.

www.standfirmfaith.com/ this sight deals with traditional Anglicanism in America and covers a variety of National Church matters.

Within each of these sites are additional links which can assist you in your understanding.

Submitted by Bob Nelson

Godly Play Schedule for 2009 - 2010

This is the revised Godly Play Schedule for this year. My Sunday School class will meet on the same days as Godly Play, however we meet at 9:10 am. Godly Play begins at 10 am on the carpet in each Godly Play Classroom. Teachers please be there 10 minutes early to begin accepting your students and preparing them for class. Parents please hold your children outside the classroom until they are prepared by their teacher to enter.

Samantha Michael is holding choir practice in the lower parish hall at 9:45 on the Sundays when Godly Play is in session.

Pam Kerley

| Date | GP1 Lesson | Book | Teachers | GP2 Lesson | Teachers |
|------------------|--|---------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| August | | | | | |
| 30 | No Sunday school | | | | |
| September | | | | | |
| 6 | No Sunday school | | | Labor Day Weekend | |
| 13 | Ice Cream Social Prep time | | | | Debbie/Cindy |
| 20 | Abraham & Sarah | Sacred | Katherine/Debbie | The Story of Daniel | Cindy/Pat |
| 27 | Exodus | Sacred | Debbie/Dalia | The Story of Ruth | Pat/Marcy |
| October | | | | | |
| 4 | 10 Best Ways to Live | Sacred | Dalia/Katherine | | Cindy/Marcy |
| 11 | Promised Land | Sacred | Katherine/Debbie | 10 Best Ways to Live | Pat/Marcy |
| 18 | Jerusalem | Sacred | Debbie/Dalia | The Prophets | Pat/Cindy |
| 25 | Exile & Return | Sacred | Dalia/Katherine | Jonah, The Backward Prophet | Pat/Marcy |
| November | | | | | |
| 1 | Jonah | Sacred | Cindy/Debbie | The Books of the Bible | Cindy/Marcy |
| 8 | No Sunday school | | | | |
| 15 | No Sunday school | | | | |
| 22 | No Sunday school | | | | |
| 29 I | Advent I Thanksgiving Break – No Class | | | | |
| December | | | | | |
| 6 II | Advent I & II | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | Advent I & II | Pat/Cindy |
| 13 III | Advent III & IV | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | Advent III & IV | Cindy/Marcy |
| 20 IV | Christmas Break – No Class | | | | |
| 24 | Christmas Eve Children's service | Pageant | | | |
| 27 | Christmas Break – No Class | | | | |

| Jan-10 | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|---------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 3 | Epiphany | LC | Dalia/Katherine | Epiphany | Pat/Cindy |
| 10 | Boy Jesus in the temple | YC&W | Katherine/Debbie | Holy Baptism | Cindy/Marcy |
| 17 | Jesus is Baptized | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | Parable of the Good Samaritan | Pat/Marcy |
| 24 | Jesus in the Wilderness | YC&W | Dalia/Katherine | Parable of the Great Pearl | Pat/Cindy |
| 31 | Mustard Seed | YC&W | Katherine/Debbie | Parable of the Sower | Cindy/Marcy |
| February | | | | | |
| 7 | The Leaven | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | Parable of the Mustard Seed | Pat/Marcy |
| 14 | The Great Pearl | YC&W | Dalia/Katherine | “St.” Valentine | Cindy/Pat |
| 21 | The Sower | YC&W | Katherine/Debbie | Parable of Parables | Cindy/Marcy |
| 28 | The Good Samaritan | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | Parable of the Deep Well | Pat/Marcy |
| March | | | | | |
| 7 | The Great Banquet | YC&W | Dalia/Katherine | The Parable Games | Cindy/Pat |
| 14 | Jesus and the Children | YC&W | Katherine/Debbie | St. Patrick | Cindy/Marcy |
| 21 | Jesus and Bartimaeus | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | Faces of Easter | Pat/Marcy |
| 28 Palm Sunday | Jesus’ Last Passover | YC&W | Dalia/Katherine | Faces of Easter | Pat/Marcy |
| April | | | | | |
| 4 Easter | Easter Break – Flowering of the | Alter & | Egg Hunt | | Cindy/Pat |
| 11 | Jesus is risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene | YC&W | Katherine/Debbie | Jesus and the Twelve | Pat/Marcy |
| 18 | Jesus is risen: The road to Emmaus | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | The Crosses | Cindy/Marcy |
| 25 | The Good Shepherd and the Wolf | YC&W | Dalia/Katherine | Child’s Own Life Story | Cindy/Pat |
| May | | | | | |
| 2 | The Good Shepherd and the Lord’s Supper I | YC&W | Katherine/Debbie | Good Shepherd and World Communion | Pat/Marcy |
| 9 | The Good Shepherd and the Lord’s Supper II | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | The Circle of the Holy Eucharist | Cindy/Marcy |
| 16 | Ascension | YC&W | Dalia/Katherine | The Holy Trinity | Cindy/Pat |
| 23 | Pentecost | YC&W | Katherine/Debbie | The Mystery of Pentecost | Pat/Marcy |
| 30 | Baptism | YC&W | Debbie/Dalia | Paul’s Discovery | Cindy/Marcy |
| June | | | | | |
| 6 | Paul’s discovery – Vol. 4 pg 126 | Sacred | Dalia/Katherine | Unwritten part | Cindy/Pat |
| 13 | Heifer Sunday – Combined Classes | | | | |
| 20 | No Sunday school | | | | |
| 27 | No Sunday school | | | | |
| June VBS | June 21 st - June 25, 2010 | | | | |



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
312 N. Steele Street
Post Office Box 759
Sanford, North Carolina 27331-0759
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

