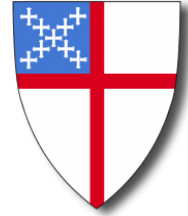


St. Thomas Episcopal Church



August 2011 Newsletter

A Message from Father Reid

As I write this article, Jackie and I are in the process of moving into the rectory located at 408 North College Street. In one sense it has been a long five months, living in what I learned is known by many in the community as the “fish bowl house” at 327 Fort Dale Road. On the other hand, our five months with you has literally flown by. In my own experience, we have enjoyed a wonderful Lent and Eastertide and our summer worship and activities have been fun. We have enjoyed many moments of meaningful worship and fellowship. Thank you all for your part.

As I have shared with you in previous communications, we are grateful for your outpouring of concern and care for us. We feel loved, welcomed and very much a part of St. Thomas and the Greenville community. We have enjoyed coming to know many of you and look forward to spending more time with you in the years ahead.

The search committee and vestry will gather with me in a couple weeks and spend intentional time casting a vision of what our ministry should look like and (begin to) develop a plan to accomplish our goals. Now that we know each other a little better, we can share in the next step of our journey. This gathering should be more about making sure we are clear about our priorities and knowing what is most important for us to be as a community of believers. I am excited about the prospect of our future together and I hope you share my feelings. Please keep our meeting and time together in your prayers.

In the next few weeks, Jackie and I will be going back to Maitland, FL to oversee the packing of the rest of our “stuff” and moving it here. While we are excited about having all of our belongings in one place, we are facing the reality that we are leaving a place that we have called home for 13 years. We have made many friends who have loved us dearly and we are thankful for them. At the same time, we are looking forward to finally settling in here and calling Greenville home once and for all. We are excited about being a permanent part of you. I pray you have a safe and restful end to your summer. TCGB

Prayer List

Pray daily for the Church+, Katherine our presiding Bishop,+ Philip, our Bishop, previous Bishop, +Charles, Our Priest Reid and Jackie, our vestry, our nation and city, our president, governor, mayor and other elected leaders, our military (Dent Neilson, Alabama National Guard), law enforcement officers, firefighters, the sick, the needy and the bereaved. Olga Morton, Bonnie, Alciefarnum, Betsey Vincent, Bill, Logan, Camille Fuller, Janice Lehman, Gerald, Buzzy, Martha Speir, Mary Ann Jordan, Judy, Lynn, Ann Price, Ralph, Lee, Pauline, Evelyn, Sarah, Morrell, Trish, Ernie Jones, Roberta B., Paggie, Ray Braden, Daphne Holcomb, and John Sewell. The Jail ministry, Earthquake and Tsunami Victims and the victims of the Alabama tornadoes and the Midwest tornadoes and floods

We are in the process of updating and purging the prayer list. If you are responsible for placing someone on the prayer list, please call the church office to confirm your request. Thank you.

Announcements

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

We are in the process of determining how we can best serve our youth and young adults in the ministry at St. Thomas. We are planning a gathering for all parents of our young people to discuss meaningful ministry for our young ones. We will have a dinner with a discussion to follow at a time after school has started and everyone can attend. Please make this event a priority to attend. Thank you.

Food Basket

The Food Basket has been blessed with an abundance of food to redistribute, as a result of the postal carriers annual food drive. We are grateful to them for their trust in us to give this food to those in need in our area. This is over and above anything we have ever received. Therefore, we would like to step up food distributions to twice a month. Presently we do this the 4th Wednesday of each month. We want to increase our distribution too include the 2nd Wednesday. We need volunteers who will lend a hand for about an hour, packing the food on the Tuesday prior to each 2nd Wed. each month. My thoughts are that we do this at 5pm, so as to include men, women and our young folks, and those who work. We will need a minimum of 6 workers for each of the Tuesdays. We can therefore provide for forty families each month, working with DHR, as we do now, with them picking up the food from the church basement the following morning.

Below is a proposed sign up sheet for your convenience. Please study it carefully, and call me ASAP to volunteer your assistance for a specific time. The youth need community service time and this would certainly count toward that goal. A member of the regular FB crew will be there to assist and direct this project each time.

Thanks---Jan (382-8605) Upcoming Opportunities: August 9 @5pm

Stewardship Message

Dear St. Thomas family,

It is the time of year once again when we are approaching the end of the old year and beginning to make plans for a new one. Just as we plan for our families and businesses, we must also make plans for our church community. God has blessed us all with many gifts, and giving a portion back to our church is expected by us all. From some, much is expected; remember, Jesus praised the giving of two small coins from the woman who had so little. The important thing is that we give what we can, knowing the need is great. Just imagine how we would feel if many of the things we enjoy at St. Thomas were no longer available. Suppose we had to do without our wonderful music, or Sunday school programs, or fellowship events, or even air-conditioning or heat. What we give is a good indication of how important our church is to us.

Money however is only part of our stewardship. In this time of great upheaval and unrest in many churches, we need to remember that Jesus gave us the great commission to go out and make disciples of all nations. The way we spend our extra time is an indication of how seriously we take this

responsibility. There are so many needs right here in our community and I urge you to find one you have an interest in and get to work.

In the first chapter of the letter of James, we read “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.” Bible study, teaching, choir, altar guild, flowers, Cursillo, food basket, disaster aid, or sitting with a shut in so a care-giver can have an hour or two off, or knitting a prayer shawl for the comfort of a sick person, or transporting a patient to receive treatment are all needs right here in Greenville. This is only a short list of things that need volunteers and there are countless others. How we respond to these needs is part of our stewardship.

Now is the time to make plans for the coming year and to examine how we are using and caring for what we have in both time and money.

Ask yourself the Question: “How do I measure up?”

God bless and keep us all.

In His love,

Midge Bennett

Thoughts and Announcements from Father Reid

House Blessings

As Jackie and I move into the rectory, I am reminded that one of the wonderful services that we “Episcopals” celebrate is the Blessing of a new Home. We will schedule the blessing of the rectory in the early fall but in the meantime, I wanted to invite any of you who are interested to have your home blessed. Whether you have lived in it for a brief or longer period of time, I am happy to schedule a Celebration service at your home. Celebrating a home blessing is a great way to invite your neighbors (especially those not involved in a church) to meet other members of St. Thomas and to share in the fellowship that we often look past. More importantly, the service is a reminder to keep Christ in our home, the place where we spend most of our time.

Funeral Planning

I want to encourage you to consider meeting with me to discuss making your funeral arrangements in advance. For some of you this probably sounds a bit odd, but I must tell you that putting off planning our funeral does not necessarily postpone our death. It is natural that we might think we can control all aspects of the future but we know that is not realistic.

Planning our funeral service does not mean planning its date; doing so provides an opportunity for spiritual growth in unimaginable ways. Besides one of the greatest gifts we can provide our loved ones is to plan our own funerals, especially if it is an untimely one. If we take this important step, our family members and loved ones will not have to deal with such important details during their time of grief; it can be burdensome and confusing. Planning your funeral will remove any guessing as to “what you really wanted” in your service.

I have been developing a set of guidelines that are close to being completed. They will assist you by asking some important questions. It will cover aspects including funeral home instructions, embalming or cremation, cemetery plots, service rites, music, prayers and any

other special instructions. The document we develop will be placed on file at the church and can be amended at any time. So please, consider beginning this process. You won't regret it.

Pastoral Care

Please call me if you are aware of anyone in our church family (including yourself) who is experiencing a concerning illness, bereavement, hospitalization and/or possible surgery. Please do not assume that we are aware of every instance that occurs in this community.

Discretionary Fund

We are continually involved with individuals and families who are in need of financial assistance for issues such as medicine, travel, food, utilities and gasoline for travel to doctors. Please consider making a contribution to continue our ministry to the needy.

Joint Search Committee Vestry Retreat

The Search Committee and Vestry will gather on Friday evening August 12 and Saturday morning August 13 to review the search profile and develop a consensus on the future vision of the ministry of St. Thomas in conjunction with father Reid. A brief vestry meeting will be held during that the weekend to address any issues that need to be addressed.

August 2011 Worship Assistants

Sunday August 7, 2011

Greeter: Gary and Mary Richardson
Acolytes: Team 2
Lay Readers: Mack and Dent
Ushers: Mints and Sumpter
Altar Guild: Janis, Paggie & Lori
Flower Guild: Joanne and Rosa

Sunday August 14, 2011

Greeter: Mary Stabler
Acolytes: Team 3
Lay Readers: Morgan and Jim
Ushers: Garry and Dent
Altar Guild: Susan: Janis, Paggie & Lori
Flower Guild: Joanne and Rosa

Sunday August 21, 2011

Greeter: Ellen Glasscock
Acolytes: Team 1
Lay Readers: Steve and Cleve
Ushers: Everett and Mike
Altar Guild: Lucy, Fay & Cissi
Flower Guild: Joanne and Rosa

Sunday August 28, 2011

Greeter: Norma Hartman
Acolytes: Team 2
Lay Readers: Julian and Mack
Ushers: Herbert and Don
Altar Guild: Lucy, Fay and Cissi
Flower Guild: Joanne and Rosa

August Birthdays

Brenda Morton.....2
Bob Crosby.....3
Ramona Martin.....3
Harry Dearing.....10
Dent Neilson.....10
Ceil Hamilton.....13
Vivian McGowin.....17
Lynn Watson.....25

August Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hartley.....5
Mr. & Mrs. MacDonald Russell.....8
Mr. & Mrs. Gantt Hartley.....13

August

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

6

Choir Rehearsal
(If needed)
6:15pm

The
Transfiguration

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

Eighth Sunday
after Pentecost
Worship 10:00

Food Basket
5:00pm

Choir Rehearsal
(If needed)
6:15pm

Vestry/Search
Committee
Retreat

Vestry/Search
Committee
Retreat

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Ninth Sunday
after Pentecost
Worship 10:00

Choir Rehearsal
(If needed)
6:15pm

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Tenth Sunday
after Pentecost
Worship 10:00

Food Basket
5:00pm

Choir Rehearsal
(If needed)
6:15pm

28

29

30

31

Eleventh Sunday
after Pentecost
Worship 10:00

Choir Rehearsal
(If needed)
6:15pm

2011