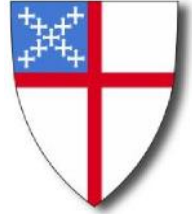


St. Thomas Episcopal Church

November 2011 Newsletter



Message from Father Reid

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journey and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

Where can I go then from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Portions of Psalm 139

During the next seven weeks, the men's breakfast group will begin exploring issues of science and faith. We will be reading a book titled "Coming to Peace with Science" written by a college biology/genetics professor named Darrel R. Falk. Falk grew up in a Christian family and began to struggle with the issue of the Genesis creation story and evolution as a result of his seventh grade science class. His book chronicles his conclusions that it is possible to be Christian and at the same time accept the discoveries of science in that regard.

I am not writing a book review here, nor am I endorsing Falk's body of work in its entirety. However, I firmly agree with much of what I have read to this point. What is more important to me is that we bring to resolution our understanding of God as creator and as the sustainer of all that exists. The conversations about God that will occur on Thursday mornings are not exclusive issues for men.

I believe that our desire for absolutes whether it concerns our faith life, science or any field of endeavor is in itself God-given and God-inspired for every human being. Coming to terms with creation and God's providence and omnipresence is nothing new. The Psalmist dealt with it thousands of years ago as we read Psalm 139. I would encourage you to turn to your Bible and see for yourself. Read the entire Psalm, allow the words to sink in and reflect upon them.

Acknowledging God's involvement in our life can be a continual challenge. The Psalmist teaches us in simple words what we often overcomplicate as a result of believing there has to be a more complex formula to the faith equation in order to be a "true" believer. Quite often, we take credit for discovering the intricate nuances of the created world through our scientific research and experimentation, all the while neither wondering nor giving credit as to how and why we have the ability to examine and discover such breakthroughs to begin with. Additionally, we have been conditioned to believe (by

Christians and scientists alike), that we cannot be people of faith and uphold the facts of a scientist's discovery.

Oh, if we could just begin as the Psalmist begins, wouldn't living come easier for us? "Lord you have searched me out and known me....I will thank you because I am marvelously made." With that perspective, how could we ever act or believe that any other method of existence is possible? God is searching us out and has known us; may we jubilantly proclaim His activity in our lives!TCGB Reid

[Announcements](#)

[The Worm Hole is alive and well on Sunday Mornings!!!!!!!!!!!!!!](#)

The Wormhole got off to a great start in mid-September. Each Sunday, the children had a different workshop relating to the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. The class, ranging in ages seven through three, included, Emily and Caroline Hartley, Stirling and Stephen Hamilton, Addie and Ward Hickman, Charlotte Anderson, and Colin Fuller. Each child worked on memorizing a verse from Genesis 50:20, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God made it for good."

The first workshop was cooking . The children were given an Oreo cookie. The teacher went around and crushed their cookies, and led them in a discussion about having something bad happen and trying to make good come out of it, as Joseph did in the story. The something good that came for Joseph after he was sold into slavery by his brothers, was placing Joseph in a position where he could save everyone from an upcoming famine. The something good that came from the crushed cookies was dirt pudding, where we made chocolate pudding with gummy worms and added the crushed Oreos on top.

The second lesson was taught by the Sadowski duo. They led the children in the art workshop, making windsocks of many colors, that each child got to decorate. The children discussed the many colors in the streamers used for their windsock, and were asked what feelings each color might represent.

Video was the third workshop in the series, where the children got to see a cartoon movie about the bible story of Joseph, which they had been reading about each week.

Rebecca and Bryan Reynolds taught the Bible Knowledge workshop, where they discussed how God gives us tasks in life so that we will develop into the kind of people God wants us to be. They made construction paper stepping stones, and on each, they were to write an important event from their lives. The lesson was tied together discussing the major events in Joseph's life and that God was with Joseph as he walked the stepping stones of his life.

The final workshop was drama, where the children were asked to act out how each part of Joseph's story made them feel.

The unit ended on Celebration Sunday, with the much anticipated trip to the Bible Bucks Store. The children got to spend their hard earned Bible Bucks, which they received each week for participation, behavior, etc. Dressed in colorful coats like Joseph's, the children shared some of what they had learned with the adult Sunday school class.

Wormhole will begin a new unit about the birth of Jesus, starting Oct. 30. The schedule for this seven weeks is as follows: 10/30- Art with Janis Odom, 11/6-Mission with Lori Nielsen, 11/13-Video with Susie McIntyre, 11/27-Drama with Jim and Lucy McGowin, 12/4-Game with Cemira Powell, 12/11-Cooking with Mary Dearing, and 12/18-Celebration Sunday.

The Wormhole has such an effective way of teaching lessons; the children have fun and remain interested and are coming back for more. I would like to thank everyone who has helped in getting the Wormhole going again, the teachers and volunteers, and Staci Anderson, who has helped me each week getting set up. It's very exciting that we can use this wonderful curriculum for this new batch of children. We are all truly blessed! -Jennie

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Every Sunday the Youth meet at the First United Methodist Church at 5:30 for a snack supper and Bible Study from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. (This is a 12 week Bible Study)

HOSTESSES FOR THE SNACK SUPPER FOR NOVEMBER ARE:

November 6th---Regina Parker and Shannon Hartley

November 13th---Cemira Powell and Ramona Martin

NOVEMBER 20TH AND 27TH -THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY



Intergenerational Advent Wreath Event - You don't want to miss this opportunity to make your own wreath that you can take home and use as a devotional focal point during the Advent season. Please plan on joining us in the Parish Hall on Sunday November 20th at 9:30 AM. We will provide all of the components necessary for making your wreath including candles and a small devotional booklet. Father Reid will also provide a brief teaching on Advent. Call the Church office if you would like to assist in coordinating this event. Thank you.

Why and who are we as Episcopalians? Why do we do what we do? Find out on Sunday mornings!

These may seem like odd questions; maybe you have all the answers, and if you do, you can contribute even more as a participant in the Adult/Teenager Education program led by Father Reid this fall. During our time together, we will explore the Bible, relive some history, learn how our worship shapes us, laugh a lot and hopefully come to a greater understanding of our relationship with our Lord. So please join us at 9:30 AM on the scheduled Sundays for this opportunity to gain perspective on the foundations of our faith.

FIRST SUNDAY

First Sunday luncheon will be held, Sunday November 6, following the Holy Eucharist. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided. Please bring either a dessert, vegetable or salad.

STEWARDSHIP BEGINS

We kicked off Stewardship at St. Thomas in October with the Pony Express. If you have not returned your pledge card yet, please pray about your pledge and think about how God and His church impact your life. Your pledge is a financial expression and reflection of that relationship. Please pray for the entire stewardship program at St. Thomas.

Advent Lessons and Carols DECEMBER 15th

Your choir has begun rehearsing for Advent Lessons and Carols which be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday December 15th. Please mark your calendars for this special evening when we will take the opportunity to reflect on the coming of our Lord through the reading of Scripture and singing hymns and anthems. This event is intended to be a community event, so please invite your friends whom you believe could enjoy our music ministry and an evening with the St. Thomas family.

SOUP SUNDAY

Thanks to everyone who participated in Soup Sunday on Sunday October 16th! It takes a group of dedicated hands and hearts to produce 87 quarts of soup. Thanks to all who made it happen.

CURSILLO

Cursillo #146 will be held at Camp Beckwith November 3-6. Judy Gettys, Bill and Magoo Hamilton will be serving on staff. Please remember all the staff and attendees (pilgrims) in your prayers as they prepare for this "short course in Christianity". If you are interested in attending a Cursillo, please contact Fr. Reid McCormick or anyone who has attended a Cursillo weekend. The web site for our Diocesan Cursillo is www.coastalpilgrims.com.

Men's Group Breakfasts on Thursday Mornings @7AM - BACON!

Yes, we will enjoy some bacon, eggs benedict, pancakes, strada, waffles, and other culinary delights, thanks to the great cooking team that has become famous throughout the southeast. Besides that, we will enjoy fellowship and discuss issues surrounding science and faith. We will use **Coming to Peace with Science** by Darrel R. Falk as jumping off point for discussion. We have a few books available at the church office, so please drop by and pick one up. The cost is \$12. You do not have to read the book to participate in the fellowship and food. Come join us.

Pictures please!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We are upgrading our website and need your pictures. If you have digital photos of good quality of gatherings and St. Thomas events, please copy them to a flash drive and drop them off at the church office.

Vestry Notes

Annual Meeting **December 4**- Our annual meeting will convene immediately following worship. This is an important meeting. In addition to the normal business of electing new vestry members and adopting the budget, we will adopt a set of by-laws for the first time in the history of St. Thomas. The First Sunday Luncheon will immediately follow the close of the annual meeting.

By-Laws

The vestry is working to finalize by-laws for the St. Thomas. This has been a daunting task and we hope to have a finalized set approved at our October 17 meeting. The by-laws will be presented for congregation approval at the annual meeting, along with the 2012 budget, vestry member election and diocesan convention

Vestry Election

Gantt Hartley, Morgan Mann, and Mack Russell represent the nominating committee for the election of the upcoming vestry members. If you feel called to serve, please notify Gantt, Morgan or Mack of your interest and desire to serve. If you are interested in nominating someone from our membership, please speak with that person first to make sure that they are willing to serve before submitting their name for nomination. All nominees will need to meet with Father Reid in advance of the election to be held during the annual meeting.

Thoughts and Announcements from Father Reid

Confirmation 2012

Bishop Duncan has tentatively scheduled his visitation for June 3, 2012. This may seem like a long way away but it is not if you plan to be confirmed or received as a member into the Episcopal Church. Please contact me if you would like to be confirmed and/or received into the Episcopal Church.

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.

United Thank Offering Ingathering

Did you know that your United Thank Offering often benefits our own diocese? Wilmer Hall Children's Home was able to purchase vans; St. Luke's Schoolin Mobile received funds for the library; St. Anna's, the mission of the Creek Poarch Indians, has also benefited from contributions. St. John's in Robertsedale received funds to build a drive-through handicap entrance to the church. These are just a few "close to home" examples of UTO grants. Vince Currie, diocesan administrator, says that UTO had been very good to our diocese over the years.

On Sunday, November 20th, we will offer the proceeds of our thankfulness for the past year. You don't need to bring in your blue box. There are envelopes in the back of the church and in the office. Just convert the coins in your blue box to cash or check and bring the envelope to put in the UTO offertory basket.

November 2011 Worship Assistants

SUNDAY November 6, 2011

Greeter: Ellen Glasscock
Acolytes: Team 3
Lay Readers: Julian and Morgan
Altar Guild: Lucy, Fay and Cissi
Ushers: Bob and Harry
Flower Guild: Joanne and Rosa

SUNDAY November 13, 2011

Greeter: Norma Hartman
Acolytes: Team 1
Lay Readers: Mack and Jim
Altar Guild: Mary and Ramona
Ushers: Dent and Garry
Flower Guild: Mary Dearing

SUNDAY November 20, 2011

Greeter: Mike Norman
Acolytes: Team 2
Lay Readers: Steve and Dent
Altar Guild: Mary and Ramona
Ushers: Everett and Mike
Flower Guild: Mary Dearing

SUNDAY November 27, 2011

Greeter: Marge Conway
Acolytes: Team 3
Lay Readers: Bill and Cleve
Altar Guild: Susan, Claudia and Cemira
Ushers: Herbert and Don
Flower Guild: Advent, No flowers



November Birthdays

Don Lewis.....	2
Kathryn Till.....	2
George Wacha.....	4
Steadham McGowin..	4
Hannah Richard.....	5
Pat Richard.....	7
Alie Hartley.....	8
Jeff Fuller.....	9
StirlingHamilton, Jr...	10
Frances Frakes.....	11
Jan Ackerman.....	12
Brooks Neilson.....	13
Mary Glenn Fuller.....	14
Peter McGowin.....	14
William Till.....	19

November Anniversaries

Mr.&Mrs.Thorne McIntyre.....	9
Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Parker.....	9
Mr. & Mrs. William Lewis.....	18
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Watts.....	26

October Birthday OOPS

Left out of the last newsletter, a Halloween birthday. Happy belated birthday Joseph Price.....October 31

ST THOMAS PRAYER LIST

DATE

10/25/2011

PARISHIONERS

Olga Morton
Stirling Hamilton
Janice Lehman
PaggieMcSpadden
Joanne McGowin
Jim Jernigan
Martha Speir
Mike Chappelle

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Donna Smith	Friend of the Glasscock Family
Ralph Mejia	Father of Ramona Martin
Evelyn Mejia	Mother of Ramona Martin
Bill	Anonymous
Willene Taylor	Tanya Spiers' mother
Sarah Berry-Dove	Susan Andrews' sister
Morrell Aldridge	Personal childhood friend of Jean Katz
Win McGowin	Daughter of Steve and Rosie McGowin
Ernie Jones	Mother of Don Jones
Wayne Jones	Father of Don Jones
John Sewell	Son-in-Law of Lynn and Dot Watson
Ray Braden	Brother of Fay Bennett
Oneida Shirling	
Beveridge Moore	Rosa McGowin's Grandson
Tyler Lee	Nephew of Bill Lewis
Joseph Watts III	Son of Marshall and Kala Watts
	Daughter-in-law of Joe and Laura Watts
Kala Watts	
Taylor Merry	Junior Student at Fort Dale Academy
Linda Rogers	Friend of Stirling and Jennie Hamilton
The Jail Ministry	

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Dent Neilson	
Robert Brenizer	Afghanistan
Scott Hauser	Iraq

NOVEMBER

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sunday School, Wormhole and Adult Education begin at 9:30.
Worship begins at 10:30
Youth Group meets Sundays at 5:30 at First Methodist Church. A snack supper will be served. **NO YOUTH NOVEMBER 20TH OR 27TH FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
Youth are also invited to meet on Wednesdays. Dinner (cost of \$4.00) begins at 5:30 and Bible Study is from 6:00 to 7:00. Call 1st Methodist (382-5872) to add your youth to the meal list.

1 2 3 4 5
Choir 6:15

**6
21ST
Sunday after
Pentecost
First Sunday
Lunch** 7 8 9 10 11 12
Choir 6:15

**13
22ND Sunday
after
Pentecost** 14 15 16 17 18 19
Choir 6:15

**20
Last Sunday
after
Pentecost
WREATH
EVENT 9:30** 21 22 23 24 25 26
Choir 6:15

**27
20TH Sunday
after
Pentecost** 28 29 30