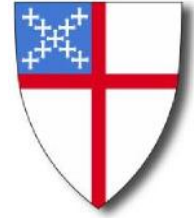


# St. Thomas Episcopal Church

September 2011 Newsletter



## *A Message from Father Reid*

Today marks the end of our sixth month together! My, how time flies when you are having fun! Jackie and I are grateful to be with you and serving our Lord with you, the great people of St. Thomas. As our summer comes to a close and as we begin our fall ministry together, I am excited with the progress we are already making in many areas of our shared ministry.

Your vestry and search committee met in mid-August and we had some spirited and encouraging conversation. Out of that conversation came a strong desire to get “back on track” with our Christian formation programs, re-engaging our youth in the life of the church, enhancing our worship and expanding our community presence by providing offerings that many people outside St. Thomas would be blessed by experiencing, especially our music programs. We all agreed that our worship is our greatest strength and everything else is impacted it. Obviously there is more to come, but we are already off to a great start as evidenced by our activity in the past few weeks since our retreat.

As we renew our commitment to Sunday Christian education, we are excited about the combination of offerings for people of every age. We are renewing our use of the Worm Hole program for children in grades one through six, our youth will assist in music and puppet ministry with the younger ones, our youth (and their parents) will be involved with the youth program at First United Methodist Church on Sunday evenings, and I will lead adult education on Sunday mornings. There is an opportunity for everyone to participate, contribute to and lead in some aspect of our Christian formation vision.

I can promise you that we will only reach our greatest potential if you do two things: **1) show up and 2) engage in our opportunities to be together!** In my short time here, I have experienced first-hand the many talents and gifts that all of you have in your own unique ways. Please keep sharing and increase the sharing of your gifts for the vital ministries of St. Thomas in this community. TCGB. Reid

## *Prayer List*

Pray daily for the church, + Katherine our Presiding Bishop, +Phillip, 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 and firefighters, the sick, the needy and the bereaved: Al, Alcie, Ann Price, Ann Wyman Black, Betsey Vincent, Beveridge Moore, Bill, Bonnie, Camille Fuller, Dianne, Daphne Holcombe, Dianne, Evelyn, Gerald, Janice Lehman ,Jim, John Sewell, Jordan, Lee, Logan, Lynn, Martha Speir, Mary Ann, Morrell, Olga, Oneida, Paggie McSpadden, Ralph, Roberta Bernard, Sarah, and Trish

The Jail Ministry, Earthquake and Tsunami Victims and the victims of the Alabama and Midwest tornadoes and floods . The victims of Hurricane Irene.

We are constantly updating our prayer list. If you are responsible for placing someone on the prayer list, please call the church office and give us an update. Thank you.

## Announcements

***Don't forget...worship starts at 10:30 on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>!!***

### **First Sunday September 11**

It is time to pull out your favorite recipes and share them with us after the church service. We will provide the fried chicken and tea and lemonade. This will also be your opportunity to sign up for the many ministries at St. Thomas. We look forward to seeing everyone.

### **The Worm Hole returns on Sunday Mornings!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

We are excited to announce the return of the Worm Hole Curriculum on Sunday morning for grades 1 through 6, beginning Sunday September 18! As you remember, the entire congregation is involved in this program. Jennie Hamilton has graciously agreed to assist in coordinating the program but she will need your help and participation to make this a meaningful and fulfilling experience for our young people. So, when Jennie or one of her committee calls upon you to serve in some capacity, be prepared to reply with an enthusiastic **YES**. Thank you.

### **Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

We are merging our middle and high school youth groups with the First United Methodist Youth Group! Beginning September 11, all middle school and high school age students are invited to participate in the program held on Sunday nights from 5:30PM until 7:00 PM. The youth will share a snack, participate in a weekly Bible study and will work together in planning a ski trip and a mission trip. Parents of participating youth will be called upon to provide snacks as well as chaperone upcoming events. If you have any questions, please contact Nedra Crosby.

Please add Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> to your calendars. This day our youth will help prepare the December Food Basket for distribution.

### **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 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.

## Stewardship Message

When I was asked to write down my thoughts on stewardship, I could not help but look back over the thirty-seven years since Suzie and I were confirmed into the St. Thomas family. Through the years we have witnessed many positive changes involving our church life. In the beginning, I took for granted that somehow the Vestry stretched the finances to operate our little parish and keep us going.

It was not until I first served on the Vestry that I understood that a sound stewardship program

was vital to our existence. The needs of the church, our mission in community and the contributions to our outreach programs were totally dependent on the generosity of our congregation.

As I reviewed my first yearly parish budget, I realized first how far -reaching my church activities were. Stewardship affected not only the whole life of the parish, but also the Diocese, the national church and the Christian world as a whole. It was a sobering revelation.

To quote from the Vestry handbook. "Parish finances begin and end with stewardship. All that we have belongs to God and is entrusted to us to use for God's purposes."...a far reaching ministry.

Stewardship is a Biblical priority of which Jesus spoke frequently about as well as the use of our possessions. It should not only involve monetary giving, but also include a variety of other types of giving (i.e.) time and talent. A stewardship pledge is not only a sign of the financial health of our parish, it is a sign of our spiritual health.

Love God and love our fellow man. This is our responsibility as directed by Christ. What better way to accomplish this than through prayerful stewardship! Enough said!

Everett Snow

### *Thoughts and Announcements from Father Reid*

#### **House Blessing at Midge Bennett's on September 18**

Our first house blessing is scheduled for Sunday September 18 at 5PM at the home of Midge Bennett. Midge wants to make sure that everyone knows they are invited to share in this joyous occasion. Light refreshments will be served. Thank you Midge for opening your home to God's presence and blessing.

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 overlook. More importantly, the service is a reminder to keep Christ in our home, the place where we spend most of our time.

#### **Confirmation 2012**

Bishop Duncan has tentatively scheduled his visitation for June 12, 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 [www.saintthomasgreenville.org](http://www.saintthomasgreenville.org) - Page 3

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**

Let me share a story with you as to how your discretionary fund contributions have made a difference; In mid-July, a family of 8, who were driving North on I-65 on their way to their new home in New York, were involved in an automobile accident that totaled their vehicle and ruined their belongings. As a result, this family was stranded with limited funds and no means by which to finish their journey to their new home. Two of the children were severely disabled and the parents were literally at their wit's end. The Butler County Ministerial Association gathered enough funds to house the family, feed them and rent a U-Haul truck that would allow them to be on their way. Your contributions made a lot of these arrangements possible. Thank you for that.

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.

### **Butler County Ministerial Association News**

As you know I am involved with the Butler County Ministerial Association. Over the past few months we have addressed and covered several issues during our meetings held the first Wednesday of every month. We are in the process of creating a system by which we work with DHR regarding assisting families in need of food and utility bill payments in an effort to identify those in dire need of support. We already have a system in place to care for transients in coordination with the Greenville Police department.

### **United Thank Offering Ingathering**

“Practicing gratitude, acknowledging the blessings of our lives, and making a point to recognize the good things can change us positively.” This thought comes from a book by Deborah Norville called *Thank You Power*. Putting aside the benefits we derive from making a conscious habit of being grateful, we also know that doing so is pleasing to our God. It is a form of worship, one of the ways to give praise. For over a hundred years, the Women of the Church have had a wonderful way to focus our hearts and minds on being thankful: the United Thank Offering. The annual ingathering of UTO at St. Thomas will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 20th. We will take our pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars out of our blue boxes and write a check made out to UTO to place in the special offering basket.

**Count your blessings to the glory of God!**

## *September 2011 Worship Assistants*

### **SUNDAY September 4**

**Greeter:** Mike Norman

**Acolytes:** Team 3

**Lay Readers:** Dent and Jim

**Altar Guild:** Mary and Ramona

**Ushers:** Bob and Harry

**Flower Guild:** Magoo and Jean

### **SUNDAY September 11**

**Greeter:** Marge Conway

**Acolytes:** Team 1

**Lay Readers:** Bill and Steve

**Altar Guild:** Mary and Ramona

**Ushers:** Dent and Sumpter

**Flower Guild:** Magoo and Jean

### **SUNDAY September 18**

**Greeter:** Mamie Brown

**Acolytes:** Team 2

**Lay Readers:** Julian and Morgan

**Altar Guild:** Susan, Claudia and Cemira

**Ushers:** Garry and Mints

**Flower Guild:** Anne Feathers

### **SUNDAY September 25**

**Greeter:** Priscilla

**Acolytes:** Team 3

**Lay Readers:** Cleve and Mack

**Altar Guild:** Susan, Claudia and Cemira

**Ushers:** Everett and Mike

**Flower Guild:** Anne Feathers



### September Birthdays

Dakota Berry -----	5
Sumpter McGowin --	7
Kara Halford -----	10
Anne Feathers -----	16
Gant Hartley-----	16
Nell Jernigan -----	17
Joe Watts-----	17
Jennifer Idland -----	18
Marion Norman -----	20
Van Speir -----	21
Ed McFerrin -----	25
Bill Hamilton -----	27
Jim Jernigan -----	28
Larry Lehman -----	28
Herb Morton-----	28



### September Anniversaries

---

Mr.& Mrs. William Till -----	1
Mr.& Mrs. Stirling Hamilton -----	4
Mr.& Mrs. Don Jones-----	9
Mr.& Mrs. Lynn H. Watson -----	11
Mr.& Mrs. Stirling Hamilton III -----	23
Mr.& Mrs. Don Lewis -----	25

# September

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Twelfth Sunday  
after Pentecost  
Worship 10:00

Choir Rehearsal  
(If needed)  
6:15pm

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Thirteenth  
Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Christian Ed 9:30  
Worship 10:30  
First Sunday  
Luncheon  
Youth Group @  
FUMC 5:30

Choir Rehearsal  
(If needed)  
6:15pm

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Fourteenth  
Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Christian Ed 9:30  
Worship 10:30  
Youth Group @  
FUMC 5:30

Choir Rehearsal  
(If needed)  
6:15pm

25

26

27

28

29

30

Fifteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost  
Christian Ed 9:30  
Worship 10:30  
Youth Group  
TBA

Choir Rehearsal  
(If needed)  
6:15pm

2011