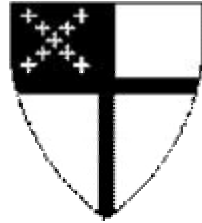


Tidings



315 Lindsey Street - P.O.B. 72
Reidsville, NC 27323-0072

336-349-3511 FAX: 349-3568

Email: stthomas@vnet.net

Web Page: www.stthomasreidsville.org

of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

NOVEMBER, 2002

From the Rector's Desk - The Rev. William D. Oldland

November is upon us. November begins with the celebration of All Saint's Day and ends with the celebration of Thanksgiving Day. As I reflected on these two days, I suddenly realized how appropriate these celebrations are for the last month of the church year. Advent, which begins in December, is the beginning of the church calendar year.

Here we are in November, the last month of the church calendar year preparing for two wonderful celebrations. First, we celebrate the lives of those who have passed on before us. We celebrate their gifts to us, to our communities and to the church. Most of all we celebrate their ministry for God. Every one of us is present today in this church because of the influence of someone before us. For me, it was an older priest by the name of Sid Holt. He could listen to the youngest of people. He could share a joke. He could tease and be teased. Most importantly, he could teach about the love of God through word and deed. I will always be grateful for his ministry to me as my priest and as my friend. I know I was positively influenced by his Christian witness.

After we celebrate the gifts of some of the important people in our lives, then we offer thanks to God. The last major celebration of the church year specifically gives thanks. Isn't it appropriate to give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received during the last year? We have so many things for which to be thankful; the beauty of the earth, the laughter of children, the love of friends and family, the influential people who have gone before us, the ability to love, laugh, cry, and express joy. For all of these wonderful gifts we give thanks to God who creates us, redeems us and sustains us. What a wonderful way to end the church year.

As I have pondered these two major events, I have found myself thinking of many people who influenced my life. I have also thought of the wonderful gifts with which I have been blessed. All Saint's Day and Thanksgiving will take on a richer and deeper meaning for me this year. I hope and pray we all have a wonderful and blessed November.

Peace,
Bill



Daniel and Ellen Oldland assist Bill in harnessing Chip's energy in order to offer him blessing on St. Francis' Day.

VESTRY

Sr. Warden - Bill Horsley	342-2869	wfh@horsley-peraldo.com
Jr. Warden - Tom Ham	349-7261	tjhamiii@vnet.net
Finance - Bob Lee Watt	342-2305	fwatt@bellsouth.net
Pastoral Care - Larry Johnson	349-7688	lkjohnson100@hotmail.com
Christian Ed. - Jim McCloskey	349-3354	jimmccloskey@adams-electric.com
Outreach - Donna Van Ness	349-9956	ddvdoodle@yahoo.com
Long Range Planning - Grace Moffitt	342-3905	gracemoffitt@mosescone.com
Parish Life - Richard Piazza	349-5827	rjpiazza@netzero.net
Worship - Bettie Benton Rhodes	342-4897	brhodes3@triad.rr.com

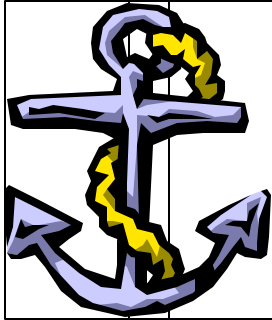
Open Vestry Meetings are every third Monday at 6:45 p.m.

Inside This Issue . . .

- ? ? Blessing of the Animals
- ? ? Bishop Curry's Visit
- ? ? Mission Trip Dinner
- ? ? All Saints' Day
- ? ? ECW Fall Flea
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- ? ? Thanksgiving Dinner
- ? ? Addison Marin's Baptism
- ? ? Much, Much More!

Tom Balsley's Thoughts on Stewardship

If someone were to ask me to name the gifts in my life I value most, I would answer, "family and friends." However, these are treasures I tend to take for granted, especially if my life is going well. As for family, I am linked to certain people and they have to put up with me in spite of my worst moments. Even in the poem, "Death of the Hired Man," Robert Frost says, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."



Friends are the people we have chosen to be our companions. At the same time these people have, to a great extent, chosen us. We have old friends we grew up with, new friends, church friends, work friends, social friends, and even family members who are our good friends.

For all of us, these people are important. Two individuals who mean a great deal to me are John and Alice, two of my associates at work. Like me, they are both Human Re-

source Managers with the company for which we are employed. On the surface they appear to be quite average and ordinary. However, like anyone else, there are many aspects of their lives that make them special. John's wife works at one of our plants. He has two children; a daughter who got married a short time ago and a son who just completed his duty in the

Marines. John seems to call whenever I need a "pick-up" in the day. He has such a positive attitude and it seems to rub off on those around him. One aspect of John I admire is that he kept his grandmother in his home for about 10 years prior to her death – a real labor of love. He talks unashamedly about his faith and never fails to say grace before a meal – and it doesn't matter where we are.

Alice and I have known each other for about 30 years. We have watched our children grow to adulthood and have shared in their ups and downs. Alice has seen a young granddaughter die and

is now worried about her oldest daughter who not long ago learned she has cancer. She is a faithful member of her church choir and also sings in a gospel group. Although her life has had its tragic moments, she is an upbeat person and is always a good listener.

I feel so fortunate to have these two persons in my life. Not only have they helped me solve problems at work but they have been spiritual anchors for me as well. They have made my life richer for having known them.

As believers in Christ, it is our duty to encourage and inspire those around us. However, from time to time, we may need to ask ourselves, "What value do we add to the lives of those who are important to us – our family and friends?" Hopefully we are able to contribute something of lasting significance to those people we love and cherish.

Tom Balsley
Year Round Stewardship
Chair



Stewardship Chair for 2002, Bill Sutton reminds everyone to turn in their pledge cards by November 3 in order that the Finance Committee can set the 2003 budget.

A New Outlook For Our Newsletter— Find Out Why

At the August Vestry Meeting, Chuck Rhodes made a proposal to expand the duties of the existing Website Committee. The Vestry wholeheartedly approved this proposal.

Formerly, this committee had focused its energies toward the ongoing St. Thomas Website, created by a talented and committed parishioner, John Bullock—our Webmaster.

Increased responsibilities of the new Communication Committee include:

?? Producing a NEW newsletter that is in a format compatible with our church website as well as in a form that can be mailed.

?? Placing ads in The Reidsville Review and promotional flyers for special events like ShrimpFest, Pancake Dinner, and worship services.

?? Actively recruiting additional parishioners to contribute to the newsletter and/or to join the Communication Committee—using untapped talents in our church.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ Parishioners will continue to receive mailed newsletters. ★
 ★ Internet users will soon be given the opportunity to receive the newsletter thru email notification. ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Why a new newsletter????

1. To offer an on-line newsletter in a 21st century format—color pictures and graphics.
2. To eliminate duplication of work in the church office and on the website.
3. To provide better communication and involvement in the life of the church.
4. To promote resources and information on our church website.
5. To reduce copy paper, postage, and labor expenses.

Bishop Michael Curry's Convocation Visit

Being in the center of a three-day whirlwind Greensboro Convocation visit requires Popeyish energy. Our Bishop has it!

Michael Curry must eat spinach every day. In a mere three days, October 20-22, he managed to:

- ?? have a dinner/discussion with youth leaders
 - ?? answer questions in informal parish gatherings
 - ?? meet with and encourage vestries from area Churches
 - ?? host discussions with elected public officials and non-governmental officials
 - ?? have time with lay leaders
 - ?? lead a live internet chat focusing on youth
- 2



Marian Safriet, formerly on the Diocesan Search Committee when it "found" Bishop Michael Curry, gives him a warm greeting at the conclusion of his informal meeting with area parish members.

- ?? eat breakfast with paid and unpaid lay workers
- ?? participate in a reception for older adults
- ?? enjoy another breakfast with clergy and others to brainstorm

storm for the next Greensboro Convocation Visit

Church members, including Laura Felts, Donna Van Ness, Susan Fitzgibbon, and Jay Donecker, hosted the dinner for elected public officials and service agency leaders, held in the Parish House.

Various people at St. Thomas' were fortunate enough to spend time with Bishop Curry, including those at the Tuesday afternoon informal meeting.

Bishop Curry reminded parish members, "The church exists, not as an end in itself, but with a greater mission—to lead people to God."

**Additional pictures of Curry's visit with St. Thomas' parishioners may be seen @ stthomasreidsville.org

St. Thomas' Youth Update

By: Caitlin Ferguson & Katie Fraser



Our lasagna dinner on Sunday night, October 20 for mission trip sponsors was a big hit!

The Saturday morning before the dinner, Adam Wilson, Caitlin Ferguson, Liz Fulton, Ben and Katie Fraser, Daniel and William Oldland, Gayle Ferguson, Cheri Barrett, and Bill Oldland worked hard to assemble meat and vegetarian lasagnas, and two pans of brownies.

On Sunday afternoon, the cooking group, plus more youth,

Jeffrey Kinnarney, James Smith, Heather Gentle, Hutch Wheless, and Kameron Griggs returned to the church to prepare for their guests.

The teens set tables, prepared salads, cut brownies, buttered bread, and got ready to serve the 35 sponsors who attended the appreciation dinner.

During dessert, brownies a la mode, Tom Ham entertained the guests with a slide show of the mission trip.

The youth would like to thank all sponsors of the mission trip who attended the dinner and those who were unable to attend.

P.S. Because there were so many comments on the delicious vegetarian lasagna served at the dinner, the recipe, credited to Ginger Waynick may be found on the St. Thomas Website, along with mission trip pictures—

www.stthomasreidsville.org



Halloween Gathering

On the Sunday before Halloween, October 27, St. Thomas' Youth collected food for the Reidsville Outreach Center.

In only an hour and fifteen minutes, four car loads of energetic youth collected over 200 cans of food!

Not only did they gather the food, but they also sorted it and put it on the shelves of the Reidsville Outreach Center. When their work was finished, the youth and adult leaders remained at the R.O.C. to enjoy pizza and chocolate cake.

To inject some fun into the project, prizes were awarded to the following youth in various food categories:

Scavenger Hunt List: all but one item - Caitlin Ferguson and Heather Gentle

Most Cans Gathered: Hutch Wheless and William Oldland

Most Unusual Item - Crab Boil: Jeffrey Kinnarney and Daniel Oldland

Least Nutritious Item - Sugar Free Jello: Scottie Frohock and Amber Yanis

Youth Leaders who drove cars were Cheri Barrett, Gayle Ferguson, and Bill Oldland. Special thanks to Hazel Post for driving a needed extra car for this activity.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

November ★

Youth Schedule ★

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. ★

Sundays ★

★ Nov. 3: ★

★ Movie Night ★

★ Nov. 10: ★

★ No Youth Meeting ★

★ Nov. 17: ★

★ Discussion on Stress ★

★ & Meditation ★

★ Techniques ★

★ Nov. 24: ★

★ Make Dessert for ★

★ Community ★

★ Thanksgiving Dinner ★

★ **Bring a friend!** ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ECW Fall Flea & Lunch Draws Record Crowd!

Fall Flea Co-Chrs. Dot Reilly and Mavis Simon are delighted with the ECW's wonderful success in 2002!

On Friday, October 25, ECW members served lunch to over 300 people. Long known for being homemade, lunch consists of soup, pimento cheese sandwiches, salad, and desserts.

Not all bills have been paid and not all checks received, but an early report was that the gross amount taken in was nearly \$5,000. The income resulted from lunch tickets, a raffle, the sale of canned and baked goods, and flea items.

During the upcoming year, the ECW will make donations to



ECW members hard at work cooking homemade soup include Mavis Simon, Dot Reilly, and Betty Melchert.

To see additional pictures from the Fall Flea, you may visit the St. Thomas Website: www.stthomasreidsville.org

community service agencies and special needs within the church.

Special thanks go to everyone who contributed and volunteered, especially the following Committee Chrs.:

Tickets - Laura Felts and Grace Moffitt

Set-up - Parker Graham and Suzanne Howard

Baked Goods - Dot Trent

Flea Market - Willie Mae Atkins, Dot Ferneyhough, and Polly Yeago

Luncheon - Harriet Garrett, Jeanne Horsley, and Freda Watt

Cashier - Cindy Teague

Upcoming November ECW Meetings

Morning Chapter

November 14th, 10:30 a.m.
Home of Tymesia Forbes, 601 Country Club Dr.
Program by Mavis Simon: St. Matthew

Evening Chapter

November 21st, 7:30 p.m.
Pipkin Parlor at St. Thomas
Program: Making Baptism Banners

**All women in the church are welcome.
Bring a friend!**

ECW Officers:

President - Laura Felts
349-4554
Vice Pres. - Jeanne Horsley
342-2869
Secretary - Martha Balsley
349-3638
Treasurer - Willie Mae Adkins
349-5565
Sec. Chris. Ed. - Mavis Simon 349-7622
Sec. Devotional Life - Dot Ferneyhough
349-3630
Sec. Parish Life - Dot Trent
349-3179
UTO Chr. - Mildred and Mary Cummings
349-9545

UTO (United Thank Offering)
In Gathering is November 10.

Christian Education - Something for Everyone

Polly Yeago, Director of Christian Education

Sunday School Classes at St. Thomas are using the Episcopal Children's Curriculum, a three-year cycle of materials. This program is for pre-school children through high schoolers.

Classes begin each Sunday morning at 9:45 and end at 10:45. A nursery is available from 9:30 until after the 11:00 worship service. The following is a list of classes and teachers:

Nursery (0-2) - Jessica LeRoy

Pre-School - 2nd Grade - Leslie Phipps and Jan Wheless

Grades 3-5 - Tammy Melchert and Elizabeth Pugh

Middle School - Anne and Jay Donnecker and Ginny Campbell

High School - Billy Phipps and Bill Horsley

The **Adult Sunday School Class** meets in the Parish House from 9:45 until 10:30. Currently this class is led by The Rev. Bill Oldland. He is guiding the adults through a study of

The Dream of God by Verna J. Dozier. This book was recommended for parish adult Sunday School classes by Bishop Michael Curry.

A special class called **Tiny Saints** takes place during the 11:00 worship service. For children ages two through kindergarten, this group works on age-appropriate designated liturgy and Gospel readings for "Big Church." The children join their parents in the sanctuary during announcements, in time to take communion with their families.



**Advent Activity
for
All Sunday
School Classes**

Sunday, November 24th

**Make Your Own
Advent Wreath for Home**



Help Inflate the St. Thomas Endowment Fund



?? Make gifts of appreciated stocks, real property, and other assets.



?? Honor friends and give memorials.



?? Remember St. Thomas in your will.



For more information, contact Bob Lee Watt (342-2305 fwatt@bellsouth.net) or John Garrett (342-2577 garrettjw@aol.com)



Outreach Commission Stays Focused on the Community

St Francis' Day - Blessing of the Animals

Blessings on the church youth for helping sort and manage 52 people, 27 dogs, and 7 cats! Treasured pets received the traditional blessing on October 6, at 2:00, in the columbarium. There were no casualties—only a few growls here and there.

Sponsored by the Outreach Commission, The Blessing of the Animals was “a wonderful service, not only for our parishioners, but



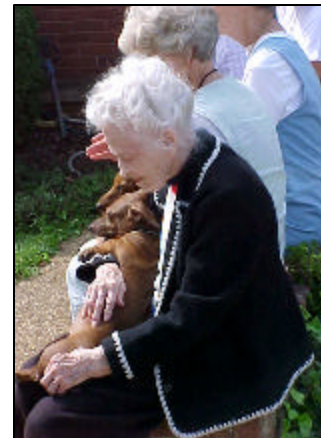
Left: Sitting in the church columbarium, Suzanne Howard strokes Trudy as Bill Oldland offers the traditional blessing; *Above:* Gayle Ferguson dogsits Tess & Becca Rhodes; *Right:* As she waits her turn, church matriarch, Josephine Irvin cuddles little Jenny.



also for the Reidsville community,” said Donna Van Ness, Vestry Liaison for the Outreach Commission, which is chaired by Tom Balsley.

Event Coordinators, Melinda Rice and Todd Walker noted that at least one third of the people who attended were from outside the parish.

Based on remembering St. Francis, the Blessing of the Animals traditionally occurs on or near October 4, the Feast Day of St.



Francis. It is a way to give thanks for the animals with whom we share our lives. The event is also a time to reflect on our role as

stewards of God’s creation.

To see more pictures of this event, visit the church website: www.stthomasreidsville.org

Fried Apple Pie Sale at The Antique Alley Street Festival

Outreach Commission members Pam Allen and Donna Van Ness coordinated the Fried Apple Pie Sale on October 12. They had lots of help, especially Tom Balsley with his new pick-up truck, and Betty Melchert.

Many thanks to everyone who made dough and pies, and to Cheri and Paul Barrett, who donated much needed freezer space.

The group sold 367 pies and net proceeds of \$700 will go to the Reidsville Outreach Center.

Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

For 16 years, St. Thomas has served and carried out dinners to needy people in our community. Last year, the number served was 300! The tradition continues.

Needed: turkey bakers, dessert makers, and non-congealed salad creators, servers, and delivery people. If you can help, please call Donna Van Ness (349-3638) or Tom Balsley (349-9956).

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
315 Lindsey Street
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Reidsville, NC 27323-0072

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rector@stthomasreidsville.org
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- * Director of Christian Ed.-
Polly Yeago 643-7708
jyeago@attworldnet.net
- * Church Secretary -
Debbie Powell 349-3511
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- * Sexton-
John Black 349-3511

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Suzanne Howard 349-7046
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