

Tidings



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street P.O.B. 72
Reidsville, NC
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September, 2003

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

Where did the summer go? It doesn't seem possible the days could have gone by so fast. However, when we look back at the summer we can see that St. Thomas' has been very busy. St. Thomas' sponsored its fourth mission trip for our youth and advisors. We held our first Vacation Bible School in several years. We also sent three people to the Stephen's Ministry Training Program. We had a busy and very fruitful summer.

Fall is now upon us and school is back in session. We have many activities planned. One of our most important activities is Sunday School. At the Christian Education meeting, we determined that we had a large number of children for our classes. The lowest number of possible children for any one class is six and we have four classrooms. We have teachers for each class at this point. However, we could use two more assistants. We also have the best curriculum available for our children and youth.

If it sounds like I am beating the drum for Christian Education, I am. Providing a good quality program is every church's responsibility. Education in the Christian life is a part of our baptismal covenant. When we are baptized, whether as infants or adults, promises are made by parents, godparents and the members of the church to support one another in our Christian walk. Every person in the church promises to continue to grow in their knowledge of the love of God through education, fellowship, communion and prayer. This promise is found in our prayer book on page 304.

St. Thomas has fulfilled its obligation to our children and our parents. We have the material, the best we can find. We have the teachers and they are wonderful. We have the place, our parish hall. Parents, godparents, youth, and children are all welcome to participate in our Christian Education program. We encourage everyone to attend. We hope to provide a solid Christian base for everyone to learn about and experience first hand the incredible love of God in Jesus Christ.

I know the fall is full of school events, sporting events, and other activities. Please consider making the commitment and placing Christian education on the top of the list.

God bless you and peace in Christ,
Bill +

VESTRY

<u>Sr. Warden</u> - Donna Van Ness	349-9956	doodle@netpath-rc.net
<u>Jr. Warden</u> - Tom Ham	349-7261	tjhamiii@vnet.net
<u>Finance</u> - Bob Lee Watt	342-2305	fwatt@bellsouth.net
<u>Pastoral Care</u> - Larry Johnson	349-7688	lkjohnson100@hotmail.com
<u>Christian Ed.</u> - Jim McCloskey	349-3354	jimmccloskey@adamselectric.com
<u>Outreach</u> - Todd Walker	342-9632	TWalker@fnbsoutheast.com
<u>Long Range Planning</u> - Grace Moffitt	342-3905	gracemoffitt@mosescone.com
<u>Worship</u> - Caitlin Ferguson	342-3991	weswim2@earthlink.net
<u>Parish Life</u> - Anne Montaigne	349-9441	amontaigne@yahoo.com

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

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Tom Balsley's Thoughts on Stewardship

Earlier this month, I received a lot of questions about the Rev. Gene Robinson's confirmation as Bishop of New Hampshire.

Friends at work know my religious affiliation and were interested in my thoughts. Their inquiries went from "What do you think about the Episcopalians now?" to "Your denomination doesn't really stand for anything."

One parishioner (not from our community) told me he was seriously thinking about leaving the church.

This is a "hot-button" topic and one that will be debated for some time.

I can remember when the outcome of the O.J. Simpson trial was announced. Some people were angry, while others were jubilant. It revealed to all of us the deep division between

the races in our country.

The only way we, as a people or denomination, can bridge any gap is to have open and honest conversation. In our dialogue, we must remember that our life experiences aren't the same and we must respect each other. Many times we can look at the same event and come to a different conclusion.

I seriously wonder what Jesus would say about all of this. When you think about it, Jesus wasn't into the condemnation business. Jesus essentially advocated that "we should love one another" and "treat others as we would want to be treated."

There are times when we think we may know the judgment of God but we do not.

Jesus is a voice for love in a world filled with conflict and dissension. We, too, need to have a strong belief in that same love.



Calling All Fried Apple Pie Makers !

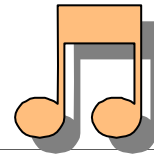
Pam Allen announces that we have an opportunity to participate in making apple pies for the Reidsville Antique Alley Festival coming up October 11th.

Each Tuesday night in September at 7:00, pies will be assembled and then frozen until THE BIG DAY in October. Dough-Makers are needed to bring dough to the church each Tuesday night.

Join in the fun and fellowship in September—each Tuesday night at 7:00 in the St. Thomas kitchen!



MUSIC NOTES



Concord Choir Joins Voices At St. Thomas

By David Zoernig

The St. James Lutheran Church choir (Concord, NC) will sing with the St. Thomas choir at the 11:00 service on Sunday, September 28.

Led by Mark D. Frye, the St. James choir toured Austria, Germany, and Italy during a 15-day journey in July. The Italy portion included masses sung at St. Mark's in Venice and St. Peter's in Rome.

Featured works for the September 28th service at St. Thomas include *Locus Iste* by Anton Bruckner, a setting of *Psalms 19* composed by Luke Flintoft, *Jubilate Deo* by John Ireland, and *Ubi Caritas* by Maurice Durufle. The St. Thomas choir performed the Durufle composition at Bishop Curry's consecration at Duke Chapel in 2000.

The combined choirs will meet for rehearsals on September 27 at The Summit, where the St. James ensemble meets for their annual choir retreat.



As the number of choristers will exceed 60 voices, the St. Thomas congregation might find tight seating. Thus, you may wish to plan for early arrival on September 28th.

Please join the choir in a big St. Thomas welcome for our guests!

Darlene Zschech & Hillsong Music Australia In Greensboro

September 19 @ 7:00

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

By Chuck Rhodes

About five years ago, several members from St. Thomas traveled to Cary to hear John Michael Talbot in concert. It was a very uplifting and worshipful experience for all of us who attended. I truly believe that a similar opportunity is available to us on September 19th.

For me, Darlene Zschech (pronounced "Check") is the "Shout to the Lord" lady. In the contemporary Christian music genre, "Shout to the Lord," written and recorded by Darlene, is widely considered a major hit. The St. Thomas choir has sung the song as an anthem on a couple of occasions.

In fact, the anthem at St. Thomas on August 24th, "Potter's Hand," is a Darlene Zschech composition. She is the Worship Leader in the Hillsong Church of Sydney, Australia. Along with the Hillsong team, Darlene has recorded at least a dozen albums and has a very strong international following.

On her albums, there are many musicians and vocalists who perform magnificently with Darlene. In my humble opinion, Darlene sings with the purity of Olivia Newton-John and the soul of Aretha Franklin. The venue of the concert is in one of Greensboro's mega churches, Zion Baptist Church, featured in the Greensboro *News and Record* on August 17th.

For additional information about the concert, please contact me, Chuck Rhodes, at 342-4897 349-8770, or chuck@reidsvilleofficecity.com. If there is enough interest, we will travel as a group to the concert shortly after 5:00 p.m. Seating is first come first serve, and there is a love offering. Click "music" at www.hillsong.com to learn more about Darlene Zschech.

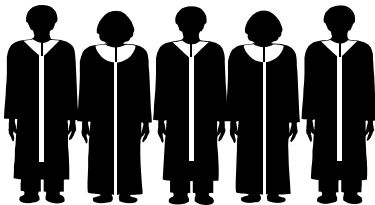
ECW Has A Full Fall!

By Jeanne Horsley
President of the ECW

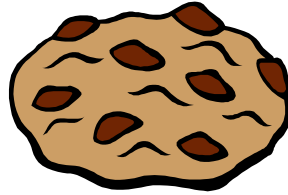
The Episcopal Church Women have a busy fall ahead. Open to ALL women of St. Thomas, activities of the ECW cover a wide range of interests.

Chapter Meetings give us the opportunity for study and worship, retreats offer us times for worship and fellowship, and General Meetings allow us to plan stewardship.

The church women serve on the Altar Guild and maintain choir and acolyte



robes. We also provide
receptions and meals



for special events.

The ECW sends care packages to St. Thomas' college students during exam times. We also bake cookies for shut-ins, staff, and friends of St. Thomas at Christmas.

The church women assist in keeping the kitchen clean with their parish house kitchen cleaning committee.

This past year, the ECW gave contributions to the Soup Kitchen, Help, Inc., Battered Women/Children Shelter, Episcopal

Day School Scholarship Fund, Council on Aging Pharmacy Assistance Program, Reidsville Free Clinic, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Ecumenical



Family Life Council, and Thompson Children's Home.

Important Dates

9/9 Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Vestry Room

9/10 Chapter Meeting, 10:30 a.m., at Dot Trent's home

9/14 General Meeting, Noon, Parish House (Bring a sandwich.)

Stephens Leaders Attend Pittsburgh Training Course

By David Zoernig

The Stephen Leaders Training Course (LTC) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was attended by the Reverend Bill Oldland, Gayle Ferguson, and David Zoernig from St. Thomas.

From across the country and around the world, 8,209 congregations are enrolled in Stephen Ministries.

As of 2002, nearly 43,000 individuals had completed the Stephen Leaders Training Course.

Stephen Ministry is a program that equips lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-to-one care to those experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances, both in our congregation and community. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of initial training in important caring ministry skills and concepts.

They commit to serve for at least two years, are committed to preserving the confidential nature of the caring



relationship, and they participate in regular support and supervision under the guidance of our Stephen Leader Team.

The LTC did not train us how to be Stephen Ministers; rather it trained us how to lead the training for future Stephen Ministers. By introducing resources included in the leaders training manual,

acquainting us with Stephen Leaders from across the country, and by interfacing with Stephen Ministers who were trained by their leaders, we were brought to an understanding of how a caregiving ministry might fulfill God's dream for our parish.

Rev. Oldland, Gayle, and David have identified individuals within our parish family who would benefit from a Stephen Minister. We hope to train Stephen Ministers by June, 2004, to aid both in caregiving and raising awareness of Stephen Ministry within the parish and community.

Please speak with Rev. Oldland, Gayle, or David for more information about Stephen Ministry training.

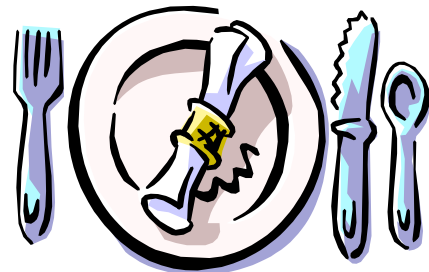
FABULOUS FALL ADULT DINNER!

October 4 at 6:30

Home of Donna Van Ness

Covered Dish

Bring Your Favorite Beverage



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street
(In Parish Hall behind church)

SHRIMP FEST



September 13, 2003 5:00PM - 7:00PM

--Menu--

- All you can eat - Shrimp
- Boneless Chicken Breast
(for those who don't eat shrimp)
- Corn on-the-cob
- Slaw
- Macaroni salad
- Ice tea & coffee

\$13.00 (Adults) \$8.00 (Children)
\$35.00 (Family - 2 or more children)

August Church Attendance

	8:30	11:00
8/3	19	48
8/10	15	63
8/17	15	75
8/24	19	65
5:00 Contemporary Service 42		

Sunday School Around the Corner

By Bill Oldland & Polly Yeago

September 7th marks our celebration of the beginning of a new Sunday School Season. We'll have hot dogs for lunch following the 11:00 service. Our first Sunday School lessons will be taught the following Sunday, September 14. There will also be special refreshments and crafts on the 14th. Parents, please make sure your children come these two Sundays to meet their teachers and classmates.

Sunday School Classes:

*Ages 2-3-Jan Wheless

*3rd-8th Grades-Jay Donecker &
Celeste Zdanski

*Age 4-2nd Grade-Teresa Ruhland

*High School-Bill Horsley &
(YOUR NAME HERE)

***Adult Class**-Bill Oldland: We are going to do something slightly different using two authors, Walter Wangerin and Martin Bell, who've written two books of short stories and vignettes. We'll read one story each week and examine the story in class. The discussion will revolve around exploring the action in the story, scriptural references and our own life experiences.

***Tuesday Bible Study**, taught by Bill Oldland, will begin September 2nd with the class deciding what they will study. The class goes from noon until 12:50; bring your lunch.



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TRANSLATION:

Meditation Guide Writers Needed

Last year's Advent Meditation Guide, written by St. Thomas parishioners was such a success that The Publications Committee has "kicked it up a notch" with a new project.

Led by David Zoernig, the Committee plans to publish our own 2004 Lenten Meditation Guide! Similar to the format in *Forward Day by Day*, our LMG will feature original works based on the Year C Lectionary (p. 911, *The Book*

of Common Prayer).

Volunteer writers may choose an available date beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 25. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Vestry Room.

After signing up, each volunteer will receive a packet which includes the printed scripture readings for your date, guidelines, suggestions, and due date. The packet even has a sam-

ple meditation from our friends at All Saints in Concord whose meditation book idea we're "borrowing."

Dave Millar leads All Saints very active Parish Life Ministry which allowed and encouraged St. Thomas in our Advent Meditation Guide last year. We thank Dave, his Parish Life Ministry, and the congregation for sharing so generously with us.

Diocesan Meetings Concerning The General Convention

By Bill Oldland

Currently, two meetings are scheduled for discussions and information on The General Convention. The first one is September 3rd at St. Andrews in Greensboro from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. This meeting is open to everyone interested in the votes and events that took place in Minneapolis.

Anyone interested in carpooling, please contact me at 349-3511. Vestry members are strongly encouraged to attend.

The second meeting is September 8 at Holy Trinity in Greensboro from 10:00 until 3:00. This meeting is for clergy and bishops within our diocese. Bill will be attending this meeting also and will share with the congregation details discussed at both meetings.



Fall Flea Silent Auction Special !!

Beautiful hand decorated wine glasses (2 dozen) by Rachel Smothers

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

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Who's Who at St. Thomas

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rector@stthomasreidsville.org
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- * Director of Christian Ed.-
Polly Yeago 643-7708
jyeago@worldnet.att.net
- * Church Secretary -
Margaretta Guinn-Rose 349-3511
stthomas@vnet.net
- * Sexton-
John Black 349-3511

LAY WORKERS:

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- * Youth Leaders -
Gayle Ferguson 342-3991
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- Cheri Barrett 361-0793
Barrett8@mindspring.com
- * Altar Guild -
Suzanne Howard 349-7046
- * Layreader & Chalice Bearer
Coordinator -
Tom Ham 349-7261
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- Usher Coordinator -
* Steve Worth 349-7538

* Greeters Coordinator -

Freda Watt 342-2305
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* Worship Chair -

Caitlin Ferguson 342-3991

* Pastoral Care Chairs-

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Dot Ferneyhough 349-3630

* Outreach Chair -

Tom Balsley 349-3638
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* Webmaster - John Bullock

616-1029
john@mygraphicdetails.com

WANTED: INFORMATION-STORIES-PICTURES-IDEAS!

Newsletter Deadline: the 25th of EVERY month

brhodes3@triad.rr.com OR Call the church office 349-3511