

The Steeple Bell

Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, February, 2010

From the Vicar . . .

Dear Family of God at St. Thomas,

It's that time of year when the Thanksgiving and Christmas season's are over and our 2010 New Year resolutions are either being carried out or are a mere remembrance made on January 1st and yet to be acted upon. **In short, winter is upon us!** Snow has been on the ground for several weeks, it's cold, the Michigan sky is gray and the trees extend their bare branches. They too wait for spring!

Winter can seem to be a bare and barren time if we allow the cold and sometimes dreary weather to get to us instead of using the greater amount of time spent indoors to tackle tasks or get projects done that we might not fit into our schedules when spring arrives or the sun is shining.

Personally, since winter arrived, I can't help noticing an increase in the level of crankiness and grumbling both in the community as I go about and even here at St. Thomas. I put it to us that the season of winter, therefore, is a wonderful time to make time to take care of our souls; to notice if you or I are out of sorts either health-wise or, perhaps, finding our self being critical of others, snapping at them or even losing our temper over small things. Two winter questions for each of us, then, are: **How is it with your soul? Is it well with your soul?**

A Scripture I love, one that keeps me on track and that I try to live by, though like all of us I fail at times, are these words from the apostle St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13:

***Love is patient; love is kind;
Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
It is not irritable or resentful;
It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
. . . And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
And the greatest of these is LOVE.***

St. Paul also says in Scripture that when you and I are not being loving, either within ourselves or towards others, then we are like "a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13:1b) **Whoa!** I don't know about you, but I want to be sending and projecting harmonious sounds out into our world so that others can hear and experience the music of God's love which transforms hearts and lives.

Dear people of God at St. Thomas let us all be about love in this wonderful community of faith. We all need the music of God's gracious love and the world sure needs it, too.

In Christ's love,
(Rev) Shirley +

The Steeple Bell

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of
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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The Rev. Shirley McWhorter
Vicar

Nan Morrish
Secretary

Barbara Conroy
Music Director

Gerald Eory
Custodian

Bishop's Committee

<u>Term expires 2011</u>	<u>Term expires 2012</u>
Wayne Boylan	Scott Abernathy
M. Janet Mans	Fran Felty (Secretary)
Ron Puchalski	Paul Gauthier
Emily Krupa	Cindy Jenzen

Term expires 2013
Stephen Chapman
James Kerns
Helen Kirk
Pamela Pearce

Treasurer: Rob Sherry

Worship Services:

Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00am Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, 10:30am Holy Eucharist

Christian Education

Children & Youth 10:00am Sundays
Adults Seasonally as Announced

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.,
Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan
& Rector of St. Thomas Church

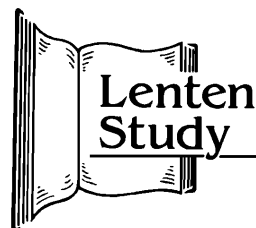
Lenten Meditations Booklets

Booklets of daily meditations with the theme "Healing ourselves and a hurting world", from Episcopal Relief and Development, are available at no cost for anyone who would like to take one.



Service Schedule

Wednesday, February 17th
**H.E. with
Imposition of Ashes**
10:30am & 7:00pm



This year at St. Thomas we will again have a Lenten study group along with Stations of the Cross (main church) and a light soup supper. There is a sign up sheet for those who would be willing to provide soup.

The study book will be *God Was Here and I Was Out to Lunch* by James W. Moore, the same author who wrote the books used the last two years.

There is a sign up sheet for the book which will cost about \$11.20. To receive free shipping the order will have to be placed this week, so please sign up or call the church office by February 3rd. When the books come in you can either pay Nan in the office for the book or pay the first night of class.

The class will begin on Thursday, February 18th. Stations will begin at 6:30pm, and the study will be from approximately 7:15 to 8:30pm with soup in between.

I encourage everyone to come to any part or all of this Lenten preparation for Easter. I believe it will offer a meaningful and profound experience that will enrich our spiritual journey.

See you there,
Rev. Shirley +

Bishop's Committee Summary I

At the January 10th meeting the treasurer's report showed these **monthly figures for December** (including \$3,970.00 received in 2009 for 2010 pledges): Income \$25,897.23, expenses \$17,233.60, for a net balance of \$ 8,663.63 in the black. The year-to-date balance for 2009 as of January 2, 2010 is \$22,213.52 in the red. Pledges were paid at 96% of the total pledged for the year 2009.

As of January 8th 65 pledges for 2010 have been received including 8 new pledges. Many pledges were increased from last year. There are several previously-pledging families still to be heard from. The final budget will be presented to the church at the annual meeting on January 24th.

Steve Chapman, Jim Kerns, Helen Kirk and Pam Pearce have all volunteered to be candidates for the Bishop's Committee at the Annual Meeting on January 24th.

A Scrapping for a Cause scrapbook day will be held on March 20th from 9:00 – 5:00 at the church. The cost is \$15.00 which includes lunch and a donation to the Trenton Food Pantry. Call Fran Felty to reserve a spot.

A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 16th.

A desktop computer and flat screen monitor have been purchased for use by the posters using money from the Bill Breil Memorial funds.

Acknowledgements and Thank yous

1. The Finance Committee for spending many hours developing the 2010 budget.
2. Rob Sherry for all the extra work he has done as treasurer in 2009.
3. The people who delivered gift bags to shut-ins in December.
4. Janet Coutts and Mike Buzimkic for providing scaffolding for changing the lights in the church and for Scott Abernathy, Gary McWhorter, Paul Gauthier and Ron Puchalski for changing the bulbs.
5. Judith Dabanian and the youth of the church for the Christmas pageant
6. The Stewardship Committee for working on the pledge/commitments drive.
7. Jim Hussey for continuing to work on the problems with the organ.
8. Everyone who served in any way this past year.

Bishop's Committee Summary II

At the Special Bishop's Committee meeting on Sunday, January 24th the 2010 Budget was approved as presented at the annual meeting

The date of the next Bishop's Committee meeting was changed to Sunday, February 21st at 11:30.

The following persons were elected as officers of the Bishop's Committee:

Co- wardens – Scott Abernathy and Pam Pearce

Treasurer – Rob Sherry

Secretary – Fran Felty

Paul Gauthier volunteered to be chairperson of the Marketing Committee/

The suggested donations for the 2010 St. Patrick's Day dinner were established as: \$12.00 for an adult, \$7.00 for a child, \$35.00 for a family (2 parents and their children). The price of a carry-out dinner is the same as above.

St. Thomas' Thrifty Ads

We are beginning a new fund raising project to help with the Church's budget shortfall. For five dollars (additional lines count as an additional ad) anyone (you do not have to be a church member) can run a 1 to 2 line or 20 word ad for one month in the Steeple Bell on-line. You may have a service to offer such as your business, you sell AVON, etc., you are having a garage sale, clothing or items you want to sell (i.e. refrigerator, washer, automobile), something you want to buy or trade, (no pets) or something that you would like to announce. Additional lines count as an additional ad. This is a new venue for you and it will help the Church. You can e-mail your ad copy to jcoutts@wowway.com or send to 3471 Brookshire St., Trenton, MI 48183. Ads will go out on the first of every month. Deadline and payment information is by the 20th of each month. A few paper copies will be available in church for those who do not have e-mail.



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02 Patricia Hall
06 Andrea Vidusic
07 Kyle McKenzie
08 Jacki Armiak
10 Susan Weston
12 James Elgin
20 Becky Kerns
25 Tom Mears
28 Beth Ann Mace
28 Bill Breil

meetings, a pattern with directions is available. You can make the pillowcase(s) at home and drop it off at the church office.

If you have any questions please contact, Marcia Gauthier at 734-671-6112.

Women of St. Thomas Lenten Project

This year, the Women of St. Thomas have chosen to work with a local quilt shop sponsor in the American

Patchwork & Quilting 1 Million Pillowcase Challenge. We will be making pillowcases that will given to three

local shelters: Methodist Home for Children, Denby Center (run by the Salvation Army) and Peggy's Place (part of COTS). A pillowcase can provide comfort for a cancer patient, hope for a foster child, encouragement for a battered woman, or beauty for a nursing home resident.

We will have a bake sale on February 14th using the proceeds to fund supplies for this project. However we will also accept donations of fabric (cotton or cotton blends and flannel) and thread to match. Each pillowcase uses about one yard of fabric.

If you would like to participate, we will begin on Monday, February 22, at 1:00pm in the guild hall. If you would like to participate but are not able to attend the Monday

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 16th, 5:00 - 7:00pm

Come and enjoy all you can eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce and beverages. Suggested donations: \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 4 - 12, 3 and under free.

Women of St. Thomas

The Women of St. Thomas will be hosting a pre-lenten Bake Sale on Sunday, Feb. 14th. Let's all bake some special goodies for our special people to enjoy before fasting begins on Ash Wednesday. The proceeds will go towards supplies for our Lenten pillow case project.

The Ladies' Craft group will be working on the 2010 Lenten Project on Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 at the church from Feb. 22 through March 29th. We need ladies who can sew, cut fabric, pin fabric or just lend support to those who do these things. Bring a friend. We will put water on for coffee and tea.

The Ladies' Salad luncheon which was scheduled for April 17th has been canceled, so we can all be involved with the church garage sale that day.

Scraping for a Cause

Mark your Calendars. Spread the word. There's going to be another scrapbooking day at St. Thomas on Saturday, March 20th from 9:00 – 5:00. For just \$15.00 you will have space to work on your projects, fellow scrappers to give you ideas, time to relax away from the house, raise money for the Trenton Food Pantry – and have lunch! Fran Felty and Karen Pockyarath are the organizers. Call one of them for information or to reserve a spot.

Our new pictorial directories are in and can be picked up! If you did not participate and would like a directory you can purchase one for \$5.00.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
2441 Nichols Drive at Andover
Trenton Michigan 48183-2486
[734] 676-3122

TO:



Lent begins

Coming Up:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sunday, 2/7 | 11:30am- Acolyte training |
| Sunday, 2/14 | Women of St. Thomas
Bake Sale |
| Tuesday, 2/16 | 5:00- 7:00pm- Shrove
Tuesday Pancake Supper |
| Ash Wednesday
2/17 | 10:30am & 7:00pm-
H.E. & Imposition of Ashes |
| Thursdays
Beginning 2/18 | 6:30pm- Stations of the
Cross, Soup & Study |
| Mondays
Beginning 2/22 | 1:00pm- Women's Crafts |