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# *The Steeple Bell*

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

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## From the Vicar . . .

Dear Family of God at St. Thomas,

There is something very appealing in anticipating and beginning a New Year. This old year of 2009 has been just fine. **It has been full of the grace of God**, because God has been present with me and each one of you: present in all the laughter, pain, challenges, sadness, joy, encouragement or discouragement. In just two weeks from now, though, this current year will be over and the New Year of 2010 will begin.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> every year, I always feel full of a sense of anticipation and excitement about how the new year will unfold and what it will contain. I hope you do too. But I've learned somewhere along the way that to fully embrace any new year, **a new beginning or a fresh start requires the ability to let go of what lies behind, jump into the present moment and look with expectation to the unknown horizon ahead.**

Now, many folk begin a new year with an actual or mental list of resolutions of things they would like to do or accomplish in the year ahead: places or family to visit, a healthy life-style to maintain, a promotion to achieve etc. This is commendable: to begin a new year with purpose and goals. However, we who are followers and disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ also need to look to God and prayerfully ask these questions, **“What would God have me be or do in this New Year of 2010? What work does God need to accomplish in me as well as through me?”**

As the church of St. Thomas, there's also a question to ask of ourselves as a congregation: **Who is God calling us to be for each other, in our surrounding communities and in His world in the New Year of 2010?** Whatever the answers are individually or collectively, it is sure as this year comes to an end and the New Year of 2010 dawns that **we need our God, His grace, love and mercy to receive and live all that He desires for us.** Therefore, our task for the end of this year as well as any new year to come is to pray, reflect, worship and learn from God's Word, from one another and from the context and world in which we live and move and have our (daily) being.

**Finally, I commend this prayer to pray, daily:** *O God: Give me strength to live another day; Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties; Let me not lose faith in other people; Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness; Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them; Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity: Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things; Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth; Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness; and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls; in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Have a blessed New Year of 2010!***

In Christ,  
(Rev.) Shirley +

## The Steeple Bell

A monthly Publication  
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 2010</u>	Term expires 2011
Peter Boylan	Wayne Boylan (Warden)
Janet Coutts	M. Janet Mans
Jim Hussey	Ron Puchalski
Ralph Vidusic	Emily Krupa

Term expires 2012  
Scott Abernathy  
Fran Felty (Secretary)  
Paul Gauthier (Warden)  
Cindy Jenzen

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

## From the Church Register:

**Burials:** *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Hilda Louise Damron Hagerty  
Died November 22, 2009

William Warren White  
Died November 26, 2009

## Notice

### The Annual Meeting of St. Thomas Sunday, January 24, 2010

**Reminder-** There will be only ONE SERVICE at  
**9:00am**

**Time-** The Annual Meeting will begin at  
about 10:30am.

**Business:** Our agenda will include election of  
new members to the Bishop's  
Committee, review of the 2009  
financial statements, presentation  
of the budget for 2010, reports on  
the ministries of the congregation,  
and other items of business that  
may properly come before an  
Annual Meeting.

**Voting-** Any member of St. Thomas who is  
at least 16 years of age, is a giver  
of record and has received Holy  
Communion at St. Thomas at least  
three times in the past year is  
eligible to vote.

**Hospitality-** A "Finger Food Brunch" will be  
served before the Annual Meeting.  
Therefore, you may wish to bring  
food to share with your friends.  
Please bring ONLY such foods as  
may be eaten with fingers, without  
utensils. This will avoid delays in  
the meeting and simplify clean-up  
afterward!

## Bishop's Committee Summary

At the December 13th meeting the treasurer's report showed these **monthly figures for November**: Income \$15,039.00, expenses \$16,152.77, for a net balance of \$ 1,113.77 in the red. The year-to-date balance as of December 5, 2009 is \$29,076.63 in the red. Pledges are being paid at 86% of the total pledged for the year.

As of December 11<sup>th</sup> 61 pledges for 2010 have been received. There are several previously-pledging families still to be heard from. The Finance Ministry Team will present a final 2010 budget at the next Bishop's Committee meeting on January 10, 2010.

On weekdays only the parking lot will be plowed – so walk carefully. On weekends, it will be salted and plowed, as necessary. Volunteers are needed to salt the sidewalks during the week, as needed.

The Outreach Ministry Team disbursed \$3600.00 from Thrift Shop proceeds to various groups, organizations and accounts including the vicar's discretionary account and the St. Thomas Operating account.

Jan Mans has been appointed to serve on the Bishop's Committee to fill Diane Puchalski's unexpired term.

The Outreach Ministry Team will sponsor a "Soup Sunday" on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go towards the monthly lunch St. Thomas provides at the ChristNet Daytime Center.

Information about summer camps for our youth through the Living Water Ministries is available at the church.

The next Bishop's Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 11:30. The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### Acknowledgements and Thank you's

1. Bob Walz for working on the heating system.

2. Mike Krupa for making a beautiful oak frame for the bathroom in the basement.
3. Nan Morrish for her dedication and for putting in extra hours when needed.
4. Those who worked on the Pictorial Directory.
5. Jane Aller for donating money for parts for the organ and Jim Hussey for continuing to work on the problems with the organ.
6. Those who helped with the Harvest Ingathering Pot Luck.
7. Those who provided food and/or a helping hand for the ChristNet dinner on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and for the ChristNet Daytime Center lunches.
8. Kathy Zook for organizing the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent by Candlelight Evening held on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.
9. Those who purchased gifts for the Angel Tree Project.

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### Address Update

If anyone would like to send a card to Lynne Ward who broke her second hip last month her current address is:

Astoria Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  
14040 Astoria Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342

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### A Prayer for the New Year

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him; Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.* [BOS, 43]



04 Arthur Mawditt  
04 Carl Elgin  
09 Cam Wilson  
10 Luella Peffer  
13 Wayne Boylan  
14 Greg Gill  
16 Harold Kienbaum  
16 Barbara Kalnick  
16 Chester Budziak  
16 Jay Pockyarath  
19 Almeda Andreololi  
19 Conner Jones  
23 Barbara Rothwell  
24 Karen McKenzie  
30 James Mans  
30 Emi Mitsusada-Boylan  
31 Janet Coutts  
31 Beth Gill

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### Thank You

The family of Hilda Damron Hagerty want to thank you all for your kindness, not only at this difficult time but throughout the years. Our Church family has always been there for us. We especially give kudos to all the worker bees who made this illness and Memorial service go so smoothly and with such comfort. May God bless you all !!!! Jan and Chuck Kromer; Amanda, Ralph, and Andrea Vidusic; and Jan's sisters, Jean Kovacs and Kathy Rasmussen and their families.

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### Soup Sunday

The Outreach Ministry Team will be sponsoring a Soup Sunday on January 10<sup>th</sup> following the 10am service to help fund the once monthly lunches being served at the ChristNet day time center. Please watch for a sign up sheet, and see how you can help.

### Women of St. Thomas

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent by Candlelight evening was held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The tables were beautiful as usual. And we had a choice of ten yummy desserts on the dessert bar. A big thanks from Kathy Zook, the chairperson, and from me, to Barb Conroy for leading us in song again, and to Jim Zook for taking the paper goods and personal care items to the ChristNet Daytime Center.

The Third Annual Homemade Christmas Cookies (and More) sale was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to those who worked on Monday afternoons to make craft items and to those who baked goodies for the bake sale. We took in over \$250.00 which was given to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund.

And a special thanks to the many ladies (and gentlemen) who jumped in to decorate, set up, serve, clean up and generally help these occasions be so successful. What a wonderful group of "elves" we have at St. Thomas!!

There will be a general meeting of the Women of St. Thomas on January 17<sup>th</sup> at about 11:30. We will be making plans for our spring activities including a meal for the church in February, the spring salad luncheon in April and the graduation reception in June. We will also be talking about the future of the Monday Handcrafts group. It's great to get together, be creative (and chat), but we need ideas for projects to work on. Please plan to attend the meeting and share your thoughts.

Fran Felty

**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>-**

***Feast Day of***

***St. Thomas*** (Observed)

**Breakfast** will be served following the 10am service. Watch for details and a sign up sheet.

## Outreach

### ChristNet

The Outreach Ministry Team has been serving lunch once a month since October at the ChristNet warming center in Taylor. We've become known as the "soup group". We arrive at the center between 9:00-9:30am to prepare lunch. We serve soup along with some kind of sandwich each month. In October we had barbeque pork, November grilled cheese (somewhat burned at times) and hot dogs in December. The meals are served at 11:00am, and by noon we are usually finished and saying our good byes.

Each time we've served lunch we have had approximately twenty guests. As the weather turns cold the number of people seeking shelter during the day will increase.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who cook and serve lunch each month. I would like to thank Pam Pearce, Kimberly Abernathy, Marcia Gauthier, and John and Jean Pendell and all our bakers! We get rave reviews on the cookies.

Thanks to everyone who provided food on December 1<sup>st</sup> at Woodhaven Bible Church for the night time program. A special thanks to Nan for cooking the chicken; it was a big hit. (*And Nan thanks Kathy for helping her this year*) Also thanks to Ron Puchalski, Nancy Sutherland, Helen Breil, John and Jean Pendell and Pam Pearce for all their help that evening!

### Angel Tree

On Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Bob Walz and Jack Morrish delivered the Angel Tree gifts to the Flat Rock Head Start Program. According to Bob, the staff at the center were overwhelmed by the generosity of the members of the St. Thomas congregation. They could not get over the number of gifts that were being delivered.

I want to thank everyone who took a name and shopped for a child. I hope you experienced as much joy in giving as the children will in receiving.

Kathy Zook

## Helping Hands Up-date

For as long as we can remember, St. Thomas funeral luncheons or desserts and coffee has been one of the most important and fulfilling ministries we have offered our parish. This tradition is continuing as we go into 2010. Sarah Walz is retiring as co-chairperson after filling this spot for many years. Kay Boylan is coming on board to help Jan Mans. Marge Kienbaum will continue to call for food donations.

It's here where we need more people to help. We are getting very low on volunteers to help serve the luncheon and clean up. Food donations are also in shorter supply, so please consider joining for a dish donation. We average 3-4 funerals a year. Depending on the size, we need 2-4 people to serve at the meal. Our capacity for a luncheon is now 100 guests with adequate seating and food volunteers taken into account.

Please call Marge Kienbaum at 676-0079 or any of the under-signed women below if you feel the desire to help in this important ministry. We really need you.

Thank you very much,  
Jan Mans 675-3684  
Kay Boylan 676-6221  
Sarah Walz 675-1817

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## Requested Recipe

Spinach Casserole  
Nan Morrish

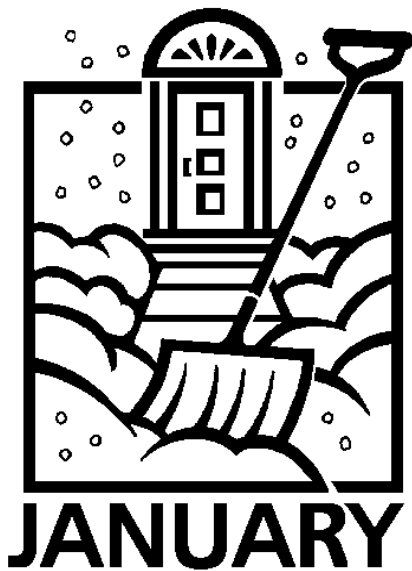
2 packages of frozen spinach, thawed  
8 oz. cream cheese  
½ cup butter or margarine  
Pepperidge Farm dressing crumbs

Drain any excess liquid from spinach. Melt butter and cream cheese together (microwave works well for this). Stir in spinach and top with crumbs. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees or until bubbly around the edges. (I have recently been reducing the amount of butter to cut down on the fat content)

# *The Steeple Bell*

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

TO:



## **Coming Up:**

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|----------------|---|
| Sunday, 1/10   | 11:30am- Soup Sunday                                    |
| Thursday, 1/14 | 7:00pm- Altar Guild Meeting                             |
| Sunday, 1/24   | 9:00am - Combined Service<br>Followed by Annual Meeting |
| Sunday, 1/31   | Feast Day of St. Thomas                                 |