



The Steeple Bell

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

From the Vicar . . .

Dear Family of God at St. Thomas,

The season of Lent is upon us and with us. It began on February 17th with our Ash Wednesday service when we were reminded of our mortality by having a cross signed on our foreheads with ashes made from burnt Palm Sunday crosses.

Now, the Church sets aside this penitential season each year so that we might make the spiritual pilgrimage with Jesus to the cross and along the way examine our lives to see how my or your life is being lived before a holy God. It is a time to individually confess specific sins to God and seek forgiveness as well as make any needed changes.

Below, I share an Ash Wednesday prayer that speaks to the Lenten journey in the wilderness on the way to the tomb and beyond to the glorious oasis of Easter and Resurrection. May each of us be willing and have the courage to make the journey with Jesus for the joy of Resurrection and eternal life set before us:

***The darkness asks us questions.
You are out there and we do not see.
You invite us into the night, the stillness, the loneliness, the desert place.
We cannot see our shadow;
The cold damp of unknowing rises up from beneath our feet.
We tread cautiously, tentatively.
We are afraid, afraid of ghosts haunting us with specters of guilt and shame.
We would like to run back, reach the river bank, swim the Jordan,
Sit in the sun by the sea, mending our nets.
But you have brought us here---with no bread.
When we look we can see only ourselves, our darkness.
When we read, it is invisible words which cannot be grasped,
Thoughts we cannot clutch, hope we cannot capture.
Yet the wild honey remains a taste in our mouth, a memory for a new day.
Why have you brought us here?
What miracle will you perform for us?
The darkness sighs around us,
Dense with your unseen presence,
Close to our breathing,
Close to our breathing.
O darkness, enlighten us, embrace us with your invisible love.
Let us see your glory in the ashes.
Take us by the hand that we may trust the darkness.
Minister to us by your Spirit that we may not be afraid.
Jesus, keep the beasts away***

(William Loader quoted in a church bulletin.)

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

Term expires 2011

Wayne Boylan
M. Janet Mans
Ron Puchalski
Emily Krupa

Term expires 2012

Scott Abernathy
Fran Felty (Secretary)
Paul Gauthier
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

From the Church Register:
Burial; *Let light perpetual shine upon her.*

Luella Marie Pepper- died February 19th



St. Patrick's Day

The **Eleventh Annual St. Pat's Dinner** will be held on Saturday, March 13th at 5:00pm. We will have corned beef, cabbage and potatoes, ham, macaroni and cheese, desserts and beverages and more. Tickets are available in the office or from Marcia Gauthier at \$12 for adults, \$7 for children 4 – 12 years, under 4 free and \$35 for families: parent(s) or guardians and children. Get your tickets early; only 90 will be sold. Plan on attending, this should be a fun evening! Take outs will also be available.



Easter Flowers

Just a reminder that, in observance of the penitential season of Lent, we will not be ordering altar flowers this month. If you had planned to request flowers during this time period, please consider contributing toward the Easter flowers instead.

The Altar Guild members invite you to help beautify and brighten the church for Easter! To express gratitude for all your blessings or as a memorial to a loved one, please contribute, in any amount, by using the envelopes which will be in the pews later this month or by calling the church office. Please have requests in by noon on Monday, March 29th.

Bishop's Committee Summary

At the February 21st meeting the treasurer's report showed these **monthly figures for January**: Income \$10,458.31, expenses \$ 9,549.05, for a net balance of \$ 909.26 in the black. The year-to-date balance for 2009 as of February 18, 2010 is \$ 514.53 in the red.

Kimberly Abernathy, Janet Coutts and Barb Hewison are spearheading the committee to plan a St. Thomas garage/rummage sale to be held on Saturday, April 14th during the Trenton Spring City-wide garage sale.

As landlords for the vicarage St. Thomas is responsible for upkeep on the vicarage. Thus, when the old microwave at the vicarage died, a new microwave was purchased, tax free, from Busen's Appliance in Lincoln Park for \$209.99.

The topic of voting via e-mail poll or phone poll was discussed at the annual meeting on Jan. 24th. A motion to amend the St. Thomas by-laws was made, and passed, to allow the Bishop's Committee to communicate with one another and vote on emergency business items as defined by the vicar and wardens between regular monthly Bishop's Committee meetings, in accordance with diocesan canons. Bishop Gibbs sent the following communication pertaining to this topic: "It would be OK for the vestry to have a "phone poll" or even an "e-mail poll" on certain non-critical items. In addition, however, any phone or e-mail poll needs to be ratified by a regular vote at a vestry meeting with members present. But under no circumstances is there to be electronic or any other kind of voting at the annual meeting where the individual casting a vote is not present at the meeting."

Note: When a church is a parish, the priest is referred to as a "rector", he/she lives in the "rectory" and the elected representatives serve on a "vestry". When a church is in mission status, as we currently are, the bishop is the "rector", the priest serving the congregation is referred to as a "vicar", he/she lives in the "vicarage", and the elected representatives serve on a "Bishop's Committee".

The next Bishop's Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, March 14th at 11:30.

Acknowledgments (people to be thanked)

1. Bob and Sarah Walz and their helpers for putting on the Feast of St. Thomas brunch on January 31st. The \$223.00 profit will go towards replacing the door to the Thrift Shop.

2. Gary McWhorter, Paul & Marcia Gauthier, Sabrina Taylor and Beth Ann Mace for running the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 16th. The \$270.00 will go into the St. Thomas Operating account.

3. The ladies (and youth) who work at the Thrift Shop on Saturday mornings.

4. Those who are providing desserts, cooking and serving lunch at the ChristNet Daytime warming center one day each month.

5. The gentlemen who have been helping with the salting and snow shoveling this winter.

Two Easy Fund-raisers

We have two on-going fund-raisers for our church which are easy to do and don't cost you one extra penny. The first is the Kroger Community Rewards program. Once you sign up (there are forms at the back of the church, or Nan will guide you through the sign-up process) you just swipe your Kroger card as you check out and St. Thomas gets money!! Last year we received \$1268.28!!

The second fund-raiser is the St. Thomas Scrip program. You will find green forms in the Sunday bulletins the first and third Sundays of the month. Where do **you** shop? Home Depot? Macy's? J.C. Penney's? Panera Bread? Wendy's? Trentwood Farm Market? You can purchase gift cards through the scrip program for all of these stores. There is an even longer list of participating stores on the internet at glscrip.com). Just fill out the green form and give it (and your check) to Nan. She will have the gift cards ready for you the following Sunday. You get the full value of the card – and you help St. Thomas at the same time. Last year we netted \$800.00 - just for shopping where we usually shop!



03 Paul Gauthier
06 Haskel Ray
07 Janet Ottenbreit
10 Rebecca Sherry
12 Elaine McHenry
12 Shirley McWhorter
12 Kimberly Abernathy
14 Ralph Freeman
16 Jeffrey anderson
16 Stephanie Tessin
17 Barbara Elgin
21 Harold Felty
23 Ken Scarborough
23 James Holden
27 Roselynn Moore
28 Judith Dabanian
28 Tim Jenzen
28 Natalia Zahodne



Scraping for a Cause

SCRAPBOOKING

The St. Thomas Outreach Ministry Team is sponsoring a scrapbooking day to raise money for the

Trenton Food Pantry on Saturday, March 20th from 9:00 – 5:00 at the church. For just \$15.00 you will have space to work on your projects, time to relax away from the house, and help the Trenton Food Pantry. Lunch, snacks and beverages will be provided.

A Creative Memories consultant will be there to help you with ideas, demonstrate some of the CM scrapbooking tools and offer supplies (tape, paper, etc.). Fran Felty and Karen Pockyarath are the organizers. Call one of them for information or to reserve a spot.

Women of St. Thomas

The Ladies' Craft group will be working on the 2010 Lenten Project on Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 at the church through March 29th. We need ladies who can iron, sew, cut and/or pin fabric - or just lend support to those who do these things.

Not interested in sewing? We will also be making unique greeting cards using scrapbook techniques. The cards are not difficult – or expensive – to make. We will provide the supplies.

Please join us for an afternoon out with the ladies. And bring a friend. We will put the water on for coffee and tea.

Ladies' Lunch Out

Calling all ladies. Please join us for lunch at Savannah's located in Downtown Trenton, at 2156 West Jefferson. We will be meeting there at 12:30 PM on Wednesday, March 24th. Cost is \$10 per person which includes a selection from their group lunch menu, a non-alcoholic beverage, tax, and tip. For lunch, Savannah's offer a variety of burgers, sandwiches, paninies, wraps, salads, and soups. There will be a sign up sheet at church for all who are interested. Hope you can join us!

On St. Patrick's Day

May there always be work
for your hands to do.
May your purse always carry
a shilling or two.
May the sun always play on
your windowpane.
May a rainbow chase after
each spot of rain.
May the hand of a friend
always be near you.
May God fill your heart with
gladness and cheer you.

An ancient folk blessing

January 11, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Please plan to join me on Saturday, March 20 for the thirteenth annual **Becoming the Household of God** conference at St. John's, Royal Oak. The topic this year is **Body, Mind and Spirit: Health for Holy People**. The Rev. Mpho Tutu, founder and Executive Director of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage, will help us explore how stewardship is not only about time, treasure and talent but is a creedal statement that we make with the whole of our being.

The annual **Becoming the Household of God** gathering is an important part of the on-going life and ministry of the diocese. The conference remains focused on the idea that stewardship is what we are and what we do after we say "I believe." It is my hope that every congregation will send *at least three* representatives to this 2010

Becoming the Household of God conference. However, because I believe that you will not want anyone to miss the opportunity to hear this gifted speaker, I encourage you to gather many more than three. Youth and young adult members of your congregation are especially welcome to come. Your high school students may participate in a Youth Household lock-in beginning on Friday, March 19.

For registration information, please contact Nanette Lutz at (313) 833-4423 or email household@edomi.org.

I look forward to spending Saturday, March 20, with you at **St. John's, Royal Oak**.

Faithfully,

The Right Rev'd Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.

Tenth Bishop of Michigan

The Steeple Bell

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Trenton Michigan 48183-2486
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TO:

March

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

- All Wednesdays** 10:30am- H.E. followed by Bible study
- Thursdays** 6:30pm- Stations of the Cross, Soup and Study; there is a **sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide soup.**
- Mondays,** 1:00pm- Ladies Lenten Crafts. The group is making pillow cases to be given to local shelters

Coming Up:

- Saturday, 3/13** 5:00pm **St. Patrick's Dinner**
- Saturday, 3/20** 9:00am - 5:00pm **"Scrapping for a Cause"**
- Wednesday, 3/24** 12:30pm **Women's Lunch Out Savannah's Restaurant**