

The Steeple Bell

Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, November, 2009

From the Vicar

Dear Family of God at St. Thomas,

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)

Holy Scripture contains many promises of God, and the above Scripture quotation from the Gospel of Luke is one such promise. **But what a promise it is!** Basically it says that when we give (from a pure heart: with no hidden motives) we will receive back far more than we gave. In other words, we will be the ones who are blessed simply because none of us can out give our God.

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons with their anticipated cherished rituals, family gatherings, reunions, entertainment, parties, holiday food, gifts given and received, it would be easy for us to get caught up in enjoying all of these special occasions of sharing and caring only among our own circle of family and friends. **But at the heart of Christmas, for instance, is the awesome, incredible and eternal “Good News” that God gave everything to us, His people: He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

In grateful response for this eternal gift, may each of us remember at all times, but especially during the holiday season, to reach out to include and give to others: to all those persons who live in our neighborhoods, distant family members, old friends, work colleagues, those with whom we play bridge, the single mother down the street with several kids trying to make it on her own, to seniors or grandparents living far from their families, to those living alone or in nursing homes.

The list is endless providing abundant opportunities to individually demonstrate how thankful you and I are for all the blessings we have that should never be taken for granted. So, let us look beyond our own circle of family and friends and see whose lives we can bless by inviting and including them in our holiday celebrations. What can we give? The best gifts are our attention, time and most of all our selves.

Finally, thanks to all of you for the many ways you have given to Gary and me and also for inviting us into your hearts and lives. We are blessed!

In Christ,
(Rev) Shirley +

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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 2010</u>	<u>Term expires 2011</u>
Peter Boylan	Wayne Boylan (Warden)
Janet Coutts	Emily Krupa
Jim Hussey	Ron Puchalski
Ralph Vidusic	Diane Puchalski

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

The Work of Our Hands

Sunday, November 15th, is the Harvest Ingathering and Commitment Sunday when we will offer to God the fruits of our lives and make a financial commitment from all that God has blessed us with to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ in the world through St. Thomas Church.



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

At the 10am worship service you are also encouraged to bring and place at the altar your commitment cards and any items you have made with your hands (baked goods, art crafts, wooden items, etc.) These items will be raffled off during the Harvest Ingathering potluck luncheon that is planned for after the 10am worship service. There is a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule for those who plan to attend. Meat will be furnished, but donations of side dishes and desserts are requested.

Thanks be to God for the bounteous blessings of our lives and for the provision and graciousness of our God.

Stewardship Team
Paul Gauthier
and Rev. Shirley

Thanksgiving Eve Service November 25th, 7:00pm

There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 25th at 7:00pm. Donations of pies to be served following the service will be appreciated.



Bishop's Committee Summary

At the October 18th meeting the treasurer's report showed these **monthly figures for September:** Income \$11,775.54, expenses \$31,080.30 (including expenses for fixing the flat roof) for a net balance of \$19,304.75 in the red. The year-to-date balance as of October 11, 2009 is \$22,094.69 in the red. Pledges are being paid at 74% of the total pledged for the year. Money is being withdrawn from the Money Market Account each month to meet the monthly bills.

Olan Mills will be taking pictures at St. Thomas for our new church directory on Friday, October 30th, Saturday October 31st and Tuesday November 17th.

Proceeds from the recent Outreach Ministry Team Soup Sunday will be used to provide the meat for a dinner for the ChristNet clients at the Woodhaven Bible Church on December 1st and lunch for the Daytime ChristNet Warming Center clients once a month for three months.

The Fourteenth Annual Advent by Candlelight Evening will be held on Tuesday, December 8th, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A raffle of home baked/handcrafted items will be held at the Harvest In-gathering on November 15th. Proceeds will go towards carpeting on the stairs at the vicarage.

In keeping with the results of the worship survey, Christmas Eve services will be held at 7:30 and 10:00 this year.

Canon Bob Neily will continue to conduct the services while Rev. Shirley is recovering from knee surgery. Rev. Shirley plans to be back in the office and celebrating Eucharist on November 1st.

The next Bishop's Committee meeting will be held on November 8th at 11:30 a.m.

Acknowledgements and thank yous

1. The Outreach Ministry Team for the delicious soups on October 4th.

2. Canon Bob Neily for filling in on Sundays while Rev. Shirley is recuperating.

3. The whole church for their support for Rev. Shirley during her surgery and recovery.

4. Jan Mans for organizing the outing to see "The Church Basement Ladies" musical comedy.

Grateful Thanks!

Gary and the Rev. Shirley McWhorter would like to give their heartfelt thanks to the congregation of St. Thomas for all of your good wishes and prayers prior to Shirley's knee surgery and also for all the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and food during her recovery. Your concern and love has been very touching and encouraging during the challenging time of recovery. Thank you all! You are the best!

Gary & the Rev. Shirley McWhorter +

Think Scrip

With the holiday season fast approaching, please do yourself a favor and remember our scrip program. A scrip gift card is the gift which fits all. There are many additional vendors available which won't fit on our order form. You can see the complete list by going to glscrip.com on your computer, or there is list posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

For our newcomers, our scrip program is an ongoing fund-raiser which consists of certificates or gift cards which can be used as cash at a variety of restaurants, retail stores, theaters, and more. The church receives a percentage of the face value for each piece of scrip sold. Orders are usually taken on the first and third Sundays of the month. In December scrip orders will be taken the first two Sundays, the 6th and the 13th to insure delivery before Christmas.

Keep swiping your Kroger cards, and if you are not yet signed up for the Kroger Community

Rewards Program, please do so. There are sheets of instructions in the church vestibule explaining how to link your card to St. Thomas.



- 01 Sarah Curtis
- 01 Emily Zahodne
- 05 Charles Kromer
- 06 John Zahodne
- 08 Karen Zahodne
- 13 Emily Krupa
- 14 Alex Sherry
- 16 Nan Morrish
- 16 Sadie Parker
- 18 Priya Pockyarath
- 20 Doris Rice
- 23 Erin Stanley
- 24 Rachel Kerns
- 28 Mary Verduce
- 28 Lynne Cook
- 29 Richard Pearce
- 29 Andrew Pearce

St. Thomas Thrift Shop

The Christmas Shop at the Thrift Shop will be opening soon in the carpeted room in the church basement. Because we need to staff this extra room, and because so we have so many shoppers during November and December, we are seeking additional workers. It would be ideal to have at least three St. Thomas members working each Saturday from 8:45-noon during the holiday season. It's not hard work and you meet some terrific people.

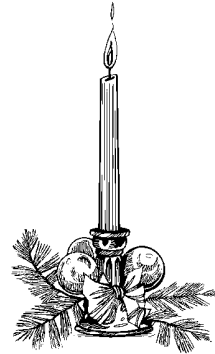
The Thrift Shop will be open every Saturday until July – including Nov. 28th, Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd. There's a sign-up sheet in the church foyer. Have questions? Call Fran Felty.

Pictorial Directory

We have had a wonderful response in the number of people participating. If you have not yet had your picture taken you can still schedule an appointment on Tuesday, November 17th.

Women of St. Thomas

The Ladies' Handcrafts group is meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 on Mondays this fall. Yes, the "Tuesday" group is now meeting on Mondays. We are currently working on simple quilts and pillows for the Harvest In-gathering on November 15th and craft projects (including greeting cards and gift tags) for the Homemade Christmas Cookies and More Sale on December 13th. We also do a lot of chatting and laughing. Children are welcome.



Please note that the date for the Advent by Candlelight Evening has been changed – to Tuesday December 8th. That's when St. Thomas ladies and their friends will gather in the guildhalls at 6:30 for a relaxing candle-lit evening of fellowship, consumption of delicious desserts and singing of Christmas carols. What a great way to start the holiday season. There is no charge to attend but we are collecting items (paper goods, canned food, dry pasta, etc.) for the ChristNet Warming Center. Look for a sign-up sheet in the church foyer.

And, on Sunday, December 13th we will hold our Homemade Christmas Cookies and More Sale as a fund-raiser for the vicar's discretionary fund. As you are making your Christmas cookies, plan to set aside a couple of dozen for the sale. Those families who don't bake will appreciate having homemade goodies to offer their guests over the holidays.

If you have questions about the Women of St. Thomas or our activities please contact Fran Felty.

Ladies' Night Out

Just a reminder that all ladies are welcome to join in the Ladies' Night Out dinner at 6:00pm on Tuesday, November 3rd at the Rhapsody Restaurant on Northline in Southgate.

Outreach

The Outreach Ministry Team has taken on a new project. Once a month we are going to cook and serve lunch at the Christnet Daytime Center in Taylor. Proceeds from our Soup Sunday on October 4th will fund this project.

The daytime program is housed at West Mound United Methodist church on Eureka in Taylor. It is open from 7:00am to 3:00pm Monday thru Saturday. It provides a warm and safe environment for anyone in need.

If anyone is interested in assisting cooking/serving the meal. Please contact Kathy Zook at 671-8479. We will try to put together different teams each month. Volunteers will be needed from 9:00am to 12:30pm once a month on a Thursday.

Christnet Night Time Program

For the last few years we have assisted Woodhaven Bible Church in providing a meal during the week that they host the Christnet night time program. This year we will be providing dinner on Tuesday, December 1st. Sign-up sheets will be in the church vestibule in mid November.

Christnet Fundraisers

Christnet presently has two fund-raisers benefitting the Daytime Center as well as the night time program. The first is a hand embroidered, hand quilted quilt. The quilt was designed by Mary Horvath and sent to a mission church in Appalachia to be quilted and embroidered. The queen size quilt is named Mary's Tulip Garden. Tickets for the quilt are \$10.00. The drawing will be held December 4th at 5:00pm at the Christnet Day Time Center.

The second fund-raiser is an Equal Exchange fundraiser. Equal Exchange consists of worker owned cooperatives in Latin America, India, Sri Lanka and Africa. Organic coffee, chocolate, cocoa and teas grown by small family farmers are available for purchase. Forty percent of the profits for this fund-raiser will go to Christnet; sixty percent will go back to the cooperatives. If anyone is interested in purchasing any of these products Kathy Zook will be available after the 10:00am service on November 1st and November 8th, or you can contact her at 671-

8479. These items would make great Christmas gifts.



Angel Tree

It's time to think Christmas, so it must be time for our Angel Tree to go up. We will once again receive thirty-five names of children from the Flat Rock Head Start Center.

The names will be available on Sunday, November 15th. When you pick an angel be sure to sign your name next to the corresponding name on the sign out sheet. As in the past there will be various clothing sizes as well as a suggestion for a toy on the back of the angel. Please buy an outfit and a toy. We ask that each child have two wrapped packages. Some children are siblings, so we want to be sure that everyone gets the same number of gifts. All gifts are due back at church on Sunday, December 6th. Gifts will be delivered to the Head Start Center on the 7th.

The Record Weekly

The Record Weekly is e-mailed on Monday morning as a newsbrief and as announcements for what is upcoming that week. It is the most current and reliable news source for the Diocese of Michigan. It is very easy to sign up by turning your name and e-mail address in to the office of go directly to www.the-record.org/signup.html.

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TO:



Coming Up:

- | | |
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| Tuesday,
11/4 | 6:00pm
Ladies' Dinner Out |
| Sunday,
11/15 | 11:30am- Harvest
Ingathering Potluck |
| Tuesday,
11/17 | Olan Mills final
photography day |
| Sunday,
11/22 | Angel Tree
Names Available |
| Wednesday,
11/25 | 7:00pm- Thanksgiving
Eve Service |

Watch for information on an upcoming Identity Theft Prevention presentation