



September 2007

The Deadline for the October Evangel is September 25, 2007

		OVERFLOWING BLESSING
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We are just about at that time of year which sets my heart thumping and my spirit soaring! I am, of course, referring to the time every fall when we are challenged to consider our Stewardship commitment to God at St. Thomas. Perhaps I have a cock-eyed approach to giving for God's kingdom: I find joy in giving to the Church. When I think about my family's commitment to God and all of you through our giving, I cannot help but be joyful. God has called Geri and me to be part of this faith community; we are so grateful to God for that. God has blessed us with dedicated, supportive people at St. Thomas; we are so grateful for that. God continues to work mightily in and through St. Thomas; we are so grateful for that. God blesses us super-abundantly, and simply asks that we express our thanks in joyful giving, so that we become more a part of God's blessing in, for and through St. Thomas.

I was also blessed in having terrific role models while growing up. My parents were dedicated church-members, giving expansively of their time, talents and treasure to support the work of God's kingdom in my childhood parish. Their witness influenced who I am today. I am so thankful for their example and hope my example influences my children.

Joy in God's blessing is what motivates my stewardship. Truth to tell, I don't think much about the budget. If I concentrated on the ministry budget I could easily reach the conclusion that my tithe doesn't mean much: after all what's 10% of my salary compared to St. Thomas' budget? Some would say it's a proverbial "drop in the bucket". I remember that my stewardship is not isolated. I join with all of you in giving to God's Kingdom.

Neither do I think of my giving in terms of a raw dollar amount. One of the joys of tithing is that after a while one truly lives the advice of Jesus on giving: "*When giving alms do let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...*" (Matthew 6:3). Here's how I do it: at the beginning of the year I reckon the 10% of my salary for my tithe; I divide that by 12 (for each month) and then I write my checks as the year progresses. When I write the check for my tithe to the parish I don't even think about the amount. I simply pray that God will accept and use my gift for the many ministries at St. Thomas, and beyond St. Thomas, so that Jesus will be glorified and God's people blessed. I *always* feel joy. Sure, there are times when a bill or two has to be juggled, but my commitment to God and all of you at St. Thomas comes first.

It took Geri and me a number of years to work towards tithing. We did not do it in one big jump. And like any family with five children, we have had the usual stresses and strains on our family budget. Yet we were determined to pattern our family life in accordance with Biblical principles, and over time God has strengthened us to do it. Every year we increased our giving proportionately, and after several years of this strategy we came to tithe to the Church. Working toward tithing has not always been easy, but it has been spiritually rewarding. And we have been blessed in ways that truly 'money cannot buy'.

I am motivated to give in response to God's blessing. I am also motivated to give in anticipation of God's blessing. There is a curious passage in the writings of the prophet Malachi (the last book of the Old Testament): "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house...see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing" (3:10). For us these are not just pretty words. In giving, we are blessed. In joyful giving, we share ever more in God's blessing to all. It seems to be a mark of God 'economy' that the more we give, the more we receive. Giving expands our hearts and souls, so that we may receive more from God. This is hard to explain, or even to testify to, yet Geri and I have found it to be true. Giving to the Church results in God's blessing to us. And what "overflowing blessing" God has 'poured down' on Geri and me at St. Thomas.

Fr. Richard



## Fisher House

On September 9, 2007 we will again take up a designated offering for the Fisher House Foundation. The collection is to remember the "9/11" attacks, the victims

of it, and to support our troops who protect us day-and-night. The Fisher House Foundation has built and operates 38 "Fisher Houses" that provide no-cost or low-cost lodging for family members of wounded soldiers requiring in-patient treatment at many of our military hospitals in the U.S. and in Germany. The Foundation receives no federal funding and relies totally on donations for its mission to provide needed support to the families of wounded soldiers. They hope to have as many as 59 Fisher Houses in operation by 2010.



## CLERGY DAYS OFF

Fr. Richard and Deacon Geri take Friday as their day off.

Fr. Craig's day off is Monday.

## Clergy Comings-n-Goings

Fr. Richard & Deacon Geri will be away August 26<sup>th</sup> through Sept. 7, visiting family in Michigan and enjoying a bit of R-n-R in North Carolina on the way back.

Fr Richard, Fr. Craig and Deacon Geri will attend Diocesan Clergy Conference at Honey Creek beginning Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>; they return to the office in the afternoon on Wednesday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Guest Preacher— September 16th

We are proud to announce that Fr. Richard Kunz, of El Hogar Ministries in Honduras, will be our guest preacher and adult Sunday School leader on Sunday, September 16th. Fr. Richard is visiting the U.S. and has graciously agreed to come to St. Thomas and share his story about the powerful ministry which serves the children of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

**The St. Thomas Mission Team to El Hogar Ministries will present a slide show and tell of our experiences in Tegucigalpa on Sunday, September 16th after the 10am service.**

Please join us for these offerings.



**Next Evangel Deadline is  
September 25<sup>th</sup> for the October Issue  
Please submit your concise articles  
to the Church Office before that date**

## Vestry Meeting

Vestry meets Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm in the Library. Regularly scheduled Vestry Meetings are open to all parishioners.

## REACH OUT!



After many months of research, the St. Thomas Outreach committee has decided to focus funding and volunteer efforts towards Greenbriar Children's Center.

Greenbriar is a private, non profit agency whose mission is to provide services which promote the healthy development of children and the strengthening of families.

The committee has developed a year-long project called "Reach Out!" that will include clean-up, renovation, educational programs, etc. Throughout the year we will be cleaning and renovating the gym, teen room, playground, and other areas of the Greenbriar Center. Gym equipment, books, and additional items will be collected to enhance these spaces. There are plans to develop a garden that the children can help plant and sustain and educational programs will be developed through music, sports, and reading. The partnership is very exciting and will help make an impact on many children's lives.

The Outreach committee's vision is to develop new mission programs that St. Thomas can join together to support. We are hoping that all parishioners will help in some way to "Reach Out!" to Greenbriar over the course of the project.



The program will be kicked off with a Greenbriar "Clean Sweep" Saturday on September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am-5:00pm. The Outreach committee will be cleaning out the gym, teen room, and cutting fence at the center. Many volunteers are needed to complete this project! Please contact Sandy Champion (355-3258) if you can Reach Out!



## The Bishop Visitation,

**November 25, 2007:**

## Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation

We will welcome our Bishop, Henry Louttit, on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Now is the time to prepare. Adult Confirmation Classes, with Fr. Richard, will begin on Sunday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am, in the St. Thomas Room. These classes are for those whom God is calling to an adult commitment of faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation or the Rite of Reception (for those already confirmed by a catholic bishop in another faith community). Information about the preparation of those younger than 18 years of age, who are ready to make an adult commitment to Christ and His Church, is elsewhere in the Evangel.

This year we also encourage parishioners to make a Reaffirmation of Baptism Vows in the presence of our Bishop (cf. Prayer Book, page 419). If God is calling you to reaffirm, please come to the Confirmation Classes as a way of preparing for your renewal. Of course, anyone who desires to know more about the Faith may come. We will meet nearly every Sunday until the Bishop's visitation, with some Saturday meetings. A complete class schedule will be available at the classes.

## We Are Looking for YOU!!!

Are you looking for a little fun, some games, a nutritious meal and great camaraderie? Join us on Tuesdays between 9am and 2pm at Senior Friendship Days in the parish hall.



We enjoy bridge, dominoes, making lap robes for nursing homes, light exercise and line dancing. And of course, lots of talking!

Our schedule: 9:00-11:30 games and handwork  
11:30-12:00 exercise  
12:00-1:00 lunch  
1:00-2:00 line dancing

Please join us and enjoy the fun. Everyone is welcome. You can participate in all or part of the program. If you have any questions, call Jim Jeffers at 598-8119.

## Fall is coming!

The Thrift Store has had a busy summer with donations arriving consistently. Thanks for your continuing support! We are putting out fall merchandise now, so keep the shop in mind when updating your wardrobe.



**On September 20, 2007** there will be a Volunteer Appreciation event for all Thrift Store volunteers as well as others interested in the ministry. All are welcome! Just let Sue or Dede know so that we can plan for lots of good food! The Board of Directors of the store traditionally provides the goodies for this event.

We are exploring new ways to maximize income from donations and are considering an internet venture on eBay. Being e-commerce novices, we need a tech-savvy individual who has the time and interest to work with us on setting up and operating the venture. If you have an interest in helping with this project, or if you have experience in selling things on eBay, please contact Sue (352-9252) or Dede (352-2114). Any help or advice that you can provide will be appreciated!

Please keep the Thrift Shop Ministry in your prayers as we explore new avenues to serve the Lord!

## Unseen Guest



Summer has been a joy this year, with generous contributions of food from Atlanta Bread, Panera, Publix, and a new friend at the Farmer's Market. God doth provide!

Early Bird volunteers have become "The Magnificent Seven". Bunny and Bob Outlaw, Claire and Bob Harrison, Lavon and Oscar Nelson (with a little help from me) produced 188 meals in one morning. That is almost double our usual number.

Cooks' Night Out volunteers went on vacations at different times, so we were never short on help on Monday nights. In spite of the hot weather and malfunctioning air conditioning everybody worked hard and our quota of 375 meals was met every month! These volunteers deserve a big hand!

Unseen Guest ministry is, without a doubt, a very rewarding experience knowing that the incurably sick and very needy are being helped through our efforts is a great comfort, and helps us realize our own blessings. Want to join us? Just come on either the last Monday of the month at 6pm or the second Friday at 8am. You will be most welcome. - Selina Johnson



## Blessing Of The Animals

Again this year, on the Saturday closest to the Feast of St. Francis, we will gather for the blessing of the animals. Since St. Francis Day is Oct 4 (Thursday), we will gather with owners and critters on Saturday, Oct 6, 9:30am in the Church yard on St. Thomas Ave. between the Church and Chapel. Please have all dogs on leashes; cats and other animals in cages or otherwise restrained.

## Newcomers' Gathering

If you are new to St. Thomas in the last six months, or if you were unable to attend the last Newcomers' Gathering, you are invited to Fr. Richard and Deacon Geri's home on Sunday, September 30, for a "Newcomers' Gathering". We will begin at 4:30pm and end at 6:30pm. Please RSVP to the Church Office: 355-3110 or to [evangelone@aol.com](mailto:evangelone@aol.com). Looking forward to seeing everyone new to our faith community on Sunday, 9/30, at 7607 Lynes Court (on the Isle of Hope, off Paxton Ave.)



## Parish Suppers resume September 12th.

We want to thank all of the cook teams leaders and volunteers returning for another season and welcome the newest addition of Stewart and Kelley Marshall. We are all looking forward to the wonderful fellowship and great food shared each Wednesday evening. Please remember to sign up each week so to make sure there is plenty of food for all!



## Wednesday Night Parish Suppers 2007

- Sept. 12 Choir Comestibles
- Sept. 9 Youth Mission Work Team
- Sept. 26 Men's Crew with Hugh Papy
  
- Oct. 3 Kelley & Stewart Marshall
- Oct. 10 Choir Comestibles
- Oct. 17 Youth Mission Work Team
- Oct. 24 Men's Crew with Hugh Papy
- October 31 **Halloween Night – No Supper**
  
- Nov. 7 Kelley & Stewart Marshall
- Nov. 4 Choir Comestibles
- November 21- No Supper**
- Nov. 8 Covered Dish Supper



### The donation of stock

is a wonderful way to support the church. If you would like to pay your pledge or just make a contribution to St. Thomas in this way we ask that you contact the church office in advance. We will give you instructions as to our account number, etc We will then contact our agent, and will know who to credit after the transaction is complete.

Sometimes a stock "appears" in our Wachovia portfolio and we are unable to ascertain the donor's name, especially if a different brokerage firm is used for the trade.

**Wachovia recently received a gift of some bank stock issued to them through another brokerage firm with no identification as to agent. It is impossible for us to know who made this wonderful contribution. If you sent us this gift through Sterne Agee, please contact the church office, 355-31110.**

If you have any questions contact Frances Conner in the church office or speak with Thomas Teng our Treasurer.



### December 5 St. Nicholas Supper with Youth Crew

This will be the final Parish Supper for 2007.



## From the Parish Register



### September Birthdays:

- 1) Alexander Bemis, Mary Hardee, Kathryn Mastragelo
- 2) Don Fowler, Genell Hendrix
- 3) Eleanor Foster
- 4) Toby Aldrich, Dan Biggerstaff III,
- 5) Sax Daniel, George Mulholland
- 7) Judy Baker
- 9) Ben Gwinner, Lindsey Knopf
- 10) Sylvia Hoyt
- 11) Sandra Quante, Robert Rodgers
- 12) Mary Jane Meyer
- 14) Judy Ochsner
- 15) Jan Mastrangelo, Victoria Quante
- 16) Christopher Knarr, Khiem Nguyen
- 17) Lisa McCaslin
- 18) David Dolack, Michael Slatinsky
- 19) Mark Bemis, Frank Stapp
- 20) Sally McCaughan
- 21) Carlton Thompson
- 23) Melissa Lotter, Brian Smith
- 25) Chip Caldwell, Jamie McCurry, Charlie Milmine
- 26) Polly Brooks, Carol Giles
- 28) Wes Lewis, Jr.



### September Anniversaries:

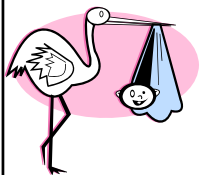
- 1) Charlie and Becky Milmine
- 2) Jack and Tina Norris
- 6) Charlie and Nancy Belin
- 7) Barrett and Pamela Benton
- 10) Bobby and Margaret Minis
- 11) Graeme and Judy Baker
- 12) Bill and Debbie Friend
- 15) Bob and Bunny Outlaw
- 17) John and Peggy Varnedoe
- 30) Jack and Angela Oliver



### Deaths:

Kathleen Johnson, mother of Bucky Johnson.  
Bette Hurst, mother of Frances Conner.

### Births:



## RESERVE YOUR WEDNESDAYS FOR YOUNG SINGERS

**Ages: Four through First Grade**

**Time: 5:30-6:00pm on Wednesdays**

**Sessions Begin:**

**September 19th**

**Or**

## YOUTH CHOIR (THE ST. FRANCIS CHOIR)

**Ages: Second through sixth grade**

**Time: 6:30-7:15pm on Wednesdays**

**Sessions begin:**

**September 19th**

## FREE SUPPER FOR ALL SINGERS

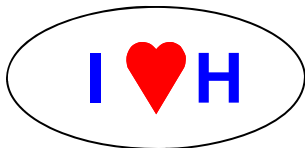
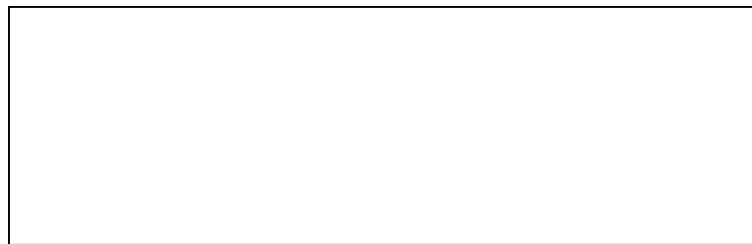
**Questions?**

**Call Pam McCaslin 661-2792**

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2 ST. THOMAS AVE.  
SAVANNAH, GA 31406

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**BUY AN ISLE OF HOPE T-SHIRT or Sticker!**

**THE CLERGY & STAFF**

BISHOP THE RT. REV. HENRY I. LOUTTIT, JR.  
RECTOR THE REV. RICHARD NELSON  
ASST. RECTOR THE REV. CRAIG A. DOLACK  
MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—  
THE REV. DEACON GERI NELSON  
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER PAM MCCASLIN  
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR FRANCES CONNER  
SEXTON NICOLE KING

**THE VESTRY**

JAY MCCASLIN VI, SR. WARDEN  
JACK KINZIE, JR. WARDEN  
THOMAS TENGG, TREASURER  
DEE WILLIFORD, CLERK

MELINDA BAILEY CHIP CALDWELL  
PAIGE CASE JIM CHAMBERS  
SANDY CHAMPION MITCH GREEN  
TIM GARNER DEDE ROBERTS  
FLORENCE SLATINSKY HART WILLIFORD

**MINISTRY GROUP CONTACTS**

ALTAR GUILD PHYLLIS POSEY  
CHOIR PAM MCCASLIN  
COUNTERS FRAN CONNER  
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING -  
LAURA KINZIE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN  
ST. MARY'S GUILD JANE WERTH  
ST. MARTHA'S GUILD  
PATTI WAINWRIGHT  
EYC NICK BUCHANAN  
FLOWER GUILD JUDY OCHSNER,  
LIESL TANNER  
GREETERS FLORENCE SLATINSKY  
LAY MINISTERS BILL FRIEND  
MEN'S CLUB HUGH PAPPY  
COOK'S NIGHT OUT SELINA JOHNSON  
USHERS DON FOWLER  
THRIFT STORE  
SUE TENGG/ DEDE ROBERTS

**ADULT CHOIR**

DEE WILLIFORD, STETSON FLEMING,  
KEVIN FLEMING, ELAINE HODGKINS, PHIL  
HODGKINS, EMORY HEIDT, JACK KINZIE,  
LAURA KINZIE, RITA LEWIS, KATHY  
MCCURRY, ANNA MULLINGS, JOLYNN BEN-  
NETT, MIKE MULLINGS, DEBORAH BOWEN,  
PHIL HOPE, LAURA LAWTON, PAULETTE  
FIGUERIDO, BARRETT BENTON, PAM BEN-  
TON, DEIDRE DORN LINDA SOUTHERLAND,  
WAYNE WELCH, DEBBIE FRIEND, BILL  
FRIEND, STEWART MARSHALL, MARION  
STAPP, FRANK STAPP, SANDY CHAMPION,  
ANNA QUANTE, CHRISTINE BURTON, ELI  
IRVIN, NICK BUCHANAN, DEBILYN FRIEND

**HANDBELL RINGERS**

DEBORAH BOWEN, EMORY HEIDT, PHIL  
HODGKINS, ELAINE HODGKINS, KATHY  
MCCURRY, ANNA MULLINGS, MIKE MULL-  
INGS, DEE WILLIFORD

**EVANGEL EMAIL CONTACT:**  
**EVANGELONE@AOL.COM**

**WEBSITE: WWW.STTHOMASIOH.ORG**

**THE OCTOBER EVANGEL DEAD-  
LINE IS SEPTEMBER 25TH .**