



June, July, August 2008

— The Deadline for the September Evangel is August 19th!

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"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me". (Rev. 3:20)

In the book of John, Jesus says "I am coming to you". How would you greet Jesus if He knocked on your door?

Would you treat Him as a long-lost friend coming for a visit? Would you excitedly open your door and greet Him on the front steps of your home as He walked down your driveway?

Or, would you treat Him like your neighbor who likes to talk for what seems like hours in the heat of the summer with sand gnats abuzz? Do you open the door only wide enough for your neighbor to see your face?

Would you let your guard dogs greet Him at the door in hopes that He would leave? Would you hide, as you might when a group of church women (not from St. Thomas) approach your front door right after the two young men dressed in black pants and white shirts pedal away on their bicycles?

I have a confession. I have heard Jesus knock at the door of my heart many times over the last few years. I wish I could say that I flung open the door and said "Welcome." Instead, I greeted Him as if He were selling magazines door to door. Christ knocked gently. I cracked open the door and said, "I am busy. Can you come back next week?"

Many "next weeks" passed and He came back. And as I busied myself with distractions,

His knockings grew louder and louder. My heart felt His calling. I just could not bring myself to open the door to my heart fully.

Then came the day when He brought in the bull horn and the heavy equipment. He knocked loudly and said "I am here, and I am coming in. You might want to open the door!" Deacon Geri, Foreman, and her crew of Wednesday night Bible study attendees showed me what He had wanted to tell me.

This question was asked: who is the person who stands out in your mind as the one who powerfully shared Christ's love for you and his/her love for Christ? I realized that I wanted to do this! My passion is to help our children at St. Thomas experience a relationship with Jesus Christ! I want them to understand how to call upon the Holy Spirit for guidance and how to use the Bible for life instruction!

Deuteronomy 6:6 states, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Psalms 78:5 states "Which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they would tell their children. They would put their trust in God." Christ says in John 15:14, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." I love the Lord, and working with the children at St. Thomas is one command I want to follow. I have opened the door to my heart and accepted Christ's invitation to serve as the EYC director!

I am praying that you will be able to answer the door excitedly when He gently knocks and invites you to serve our youth!

In service to Him and to our children,

Lisa McCaslin

Endowment Fund Receives Generous Bequest

We have gratefully received a gift from the estate of Jay McCaslin V for our Endowment Fund. Begun just a handful of years ago, the Fund stands at almost \$77,000. We thank the McCaslin family, and we give thanks for Jay's dedication to St. Thomas.

Have you provided for the future of St. Thomas in your will? There are information packets available through the Church Office, or speak with a member of our Endowment Fund Committee: David Slatinsky, Eleanor Foster, Jamie McCurry, and Jeff Wallace.

Vestry Meetings This Summer
**Mondays, June 16th, July 21 &
August 18th**
6:30pm, in the Library.

Clergy and Staff Comings-N-Goings

Fr Richard & Deacon Geri are on vacation June 1st through June 10th, visiting family in Michigan. They will return to duties on Wednesday, June 11th.

Fr Richard has been invited to teach and preach at Christ Episcopal Church, Savannah on June 15th. He will teach a class, "It's All In The Punch Line: The Parables of Jesus", at 4pm, and preach at their regular Sunday afternoon Holy Eucharist at 5pm. Since the former Clergy and Vestry of Christ Church abandoned their ordination vows in and fiduciary responsibility to the Episcopal Church, refusing to vacate the premises of Georgia's 'Mother-Church', the Episcopalians of Christ Church have met at St. Michael and All Angels, Waters and Washington, on Sunday afternoons. Many Savannah Convocation and other clergy have been invited to guest preach.

Deacon Geri will attend the Cursillo Day of Deeper Understanding in Vidalia on Saturday June 21st.

Clergy Days Off

Fr Richard & Deacon Geri take Friday as their day off.
Fr. Craig's day off is Monday.

Tornado Relief Offering

On Sunday, June 8th, we will collect a special offering for the relief of those in Southeast Georgia affected by the recent tornadoes. Please make your check to: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, noting that it is for Tornado Relief.



St. Thomas is strong and healthy

At our May Vestry Meeting, Treasurer Thomas Tengg reported that through April we are right on target with our corporate financial support of God's ministry at St. Thomas: the difference between budgeted income and actual income is negligible. We are just 1.6% over budget for expenses, which includes unforeseen budget demands caused by air conditioner problems in all of our buildings. We are completely up-to-date on all of our financial responsibilities. We owe less than \$57k on our mortgage. We are in very good financial condition. Thanks be to God! And thanks to everyone who generously supports the parish.

Of course, we are now facing what might be called the 'summer doldrums'. Let's make the next few months the 'summer of commitment' by keeping our pledges and contributions completely up-to-date. In this way, we can greet the fall in the same kind of financial health that we are enjoying right now.

Don't forget, our Bishop's 70th Birthday - Friday, June 13th.

Cards and notes of congratulations from our St. Thomas family are appreciated.



The “Episcopal” Way Of Prayer ~ Give it a try



What makes us Episcopalians? Part of the answer involves how and what we pray. We are a so-called “Liturgical Church”. When someone uses that term they usually have in mind Sunday morning; that’s only part of the story. We may use the Prayer Book each day.

When Thomas Cranmer compiled the first *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549 he had an ideal in mind. He adapted the monastic and cathedral prayer services for parish and family use: these we know as *Morning* and *Evening Prayer*. His vision was that the faithful pray to God each day and that, like Sunday, daily prayer be centered on Scripture and consistent with Christian tradition. Thus we use prayers that are ‘tried and found true’ by generations of Christians.

Navigating through Morning and Evening Prayer may seem confusing. Here is a simple way to pray Morning Prayer.

Begin on page 80, with “Lord, open....” and response, and “Glory to....”

Turn to page 82 and pray the “Venite” (ven-nigh-tee), which is the first 7 verses of Psalm 95

Pray the Psalm(s) appointed for Morning Prayer; each Sunday the bulletin notes where the schedule of Psalms and readings may be found in the Prayer Book. This year it is easy to find the right schedule in the back of the Prayer Book, since the date for each week matches exactly with the secular calendar. As an example, the readings for the week of June 8, are on page 971. The first notation for each day is the morning Psalm(s).

After praying the Psalm(s), read *one* reading. For each day there is an Old Testament, an Epistle and a Gospel reading. Read *one* reading – slowly and thoughtfully.

After the reading, pray one of the Canticles found on pages 85 – 95; there is a schedule for the Canticles on pages 144-45 if you desire to follow it.

After the Canticle, say the Apostles’ Creed on page 96

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, page 97

Pray one of the sets of Suffrages on pages 97 – 98

For the Collect (Prayer) of the Day after the Suffrages, use the Collect from Sunday which is on the Reading sheet you take home. You may forego this prayer.

Pray *one* of the Collects (prayers) on pages 99 - top of page 100

Pray *one* of the three Collects (prayers) on pages 100-101

Offer your own prayers of petition, intercession, praise, etc.

Pray the Prayer of St. Chrysostom, page 102

“Let us bless....” and response.

Say one of the three concluding sentences on page 102

Sound like a lot?! Not really. Praying Morning Prayer with this scheme takes about 15-20 minutes; that’s a very small amount of time to exercise your Episcopal prayer muscles.

Christian Education Committee

The newly-formed Christian Education Committee will meet Wednesday, June 25th at 7pm in the Church library. As we discuss possible educational opportunities for adults and children at St. Thomas for the 2009-2010 year, we will develop a mission statement for educational development building on the existing mission statement of our parish. The St. Thomas Mission Statement follows: "Our mission is to love and serve God and to share the love of Christ with others."

If you are interested in making a commitment to the families at St. Thomas through the development of Christian education and formation within our parish, please contact Deacon Geri.

Women's Bible Study ~ "You Matter More Than You Think!"

Begins Thursday, June 19th at 10am in the St. Thomas Room. In order to provide enough workbooks, PLEASE send in your registration by June 12th.

This study is for all ages of adult women, and child care will be provided if needed—so please let me know if you need nursery care! Thanks. Deacon Geri.



Unseen Guest



It is hard to believe that summer is here again. The volunteer picture changes, but Unseen Guest continues to supply the never changing need for nutrition.

Our ministry has received several very generous donations since the publicity regarding the 50,000 meals came out in the newspaper. Within one week we welcomed 4 hams, 72 large hamburger patties, almost 20 pounds of chicken, 15 pounds of hamburger, 8 pounds of country sausage and very large amounts of breads and cakes from Fresh Market twice a month. That translates into about 550 meals! We are GRATE-FULL!

A group of ladies from Southside Baptist Church will soon start supplying soup. Our Unseen Guests rely on soup when they are not able to handle solid food, and this is a time when nutrition plays an even more important role than ever in their survival. We welcome Southside!

Those who have free time during the summer, please consider helping with the Unseen Guest Ministry. There are spots for all skills!

If gasoline prices limit your vacation plans consider how good it will feel to spend that time doing something for the sick and needy.

Baby Rockers



May 25 was the last Sunday until September for the Baby Rockers to be in the nursery. We would like to thank all the parents who allowed us to enjoy caring for your precious children. It has been a joy to watch each one of them grow and become charming little people. Our goal is to provide loving care for your children so that you can have a peaceful time of worship and renewal. We are looking forward to "Rocking" again next fall.

With love,

Kitty, Angela, Rene, Erma, Nancy,
Becky, Sue, Peggy, and Linda

Bishop's Search Committee

Deacon Geri has been invited to serve on the Bishop's Search Committee of our Diocese as the clergy representative from the Savannah Convocation. As this process moves along over the next 18 months, Deacon Geri will make regular reports to our parish about the development and stages of discernment of this Search Committee. Also, there will be numerous intentional opportunities for our parish to have input about the needs of our diocese and the desired characteristics of the new Bishop of Georgia.

St. Thomas Community Praise & Worship Service

The St. Thomas Community Praise and Worship Service is scheduled for the first Saturday of each month during the summer. **The dates are: June 7, July 5, August 2, and Sept. 6 at 5:pm.** Come join in the lively music and worship with our IOH neighbors.

Guitar Jam—Whether you play guitar a little bit or a bit more, you are welcome to our weekly guitar 'jam' on Tuesdays at 5pm in the Choir room under the leadership of Pam McCaslin.

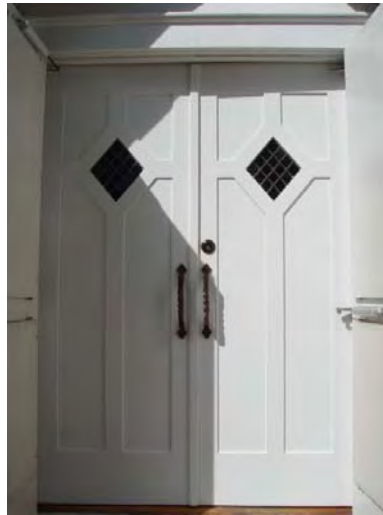
The weekly jam begins Tuesday, July 2nd at 5pm—see you strummers then!



New Doors Make Our Chapel Even More Beautiful, Inviting

Thanks to the generosity, and elbow-grease, of a parish family beautiful new doors now welcome people to our Chapel. The 'old' doors, while functional, were in need of replacement and the Building and Grounds Committee decided to replace them with something as close to the original as possible. For inspiration we consulted a photograph from 1923 which appeared in the Diocesan Newspaper. This photograph is on permanent display in the Library. Although probably not in the original doors, leaded glass was put in the new doors which carry the same pattern and colors of the windows high over the Altar. The arrangement of the doors also makes access easier for those who need to use the handrails.

We are very grateful to our kind benefactors for this wonderful gift.



St. Thomas Youth Outing “Playing in the Sun” Scheduled

Young people in 3rd grade through high school ages are welcome to join in this fun-filled, water play day on Sunday, July 22nd. We will meet after church at noon to go about several boats (owned by parishioners) for picnicking, swimming and fun together. Parents are welcome to join in this fun event. Please let Lisa McCaslin or Deacon Geri know if you plan to participate. We need to arrange many details, so the RSVP date must be June 17th.



“God’s Power Lab”

St. Thomas invites children and adults to our summer Vacation Bible School—“God’s Power Lab”. The dates are Sunday, August 3rd—Thursday, August 7th, 2008, beginning with a simple supper at 5:30pm and ending at 8pm. There will be lots of wonderful activities for children aged 3 years and up, with nursery care provided for those under 3 years.

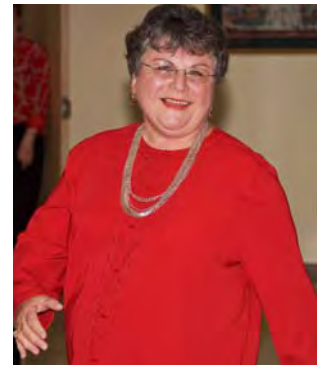
Our adult class is entitled “Parenting the Early Years—10 Biblical Traits Your Kids Will Remember You For.” This DVD and discussion series focuses on Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott’s humorous and wise instruction about raising children in a Christian home.

Registration may be done on-line www.stthomasioh.org or by calling St. Thomas at 355-3110.

WHAT A SHOW! AND WHAT A SUCCESS!

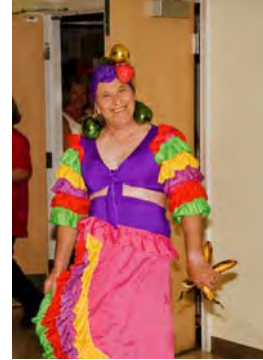
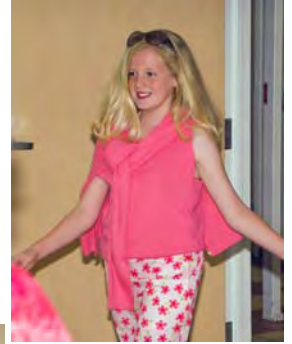


The annual Thrift Store Fashion Show and Silent Auction was an unprecedented success! Profit from the event exceeded \$3400.00, a tremendous increase over last year's results! Once more the St. Thomas family supported the Thrift Store ministry with generous donations, outstanding participation and enthusiastic bids, thus helping the outreach ministry to grow and prosper.



Numerous volunteers contributed to the success of the evening, and your hard work is greatly appreciated. For fear missing a name, I will not try to list you all. Just know that you have the sincere thanks of the Board and volunteers, and that the Lord knows who you are! May many stars light up your crown!

The summer months are the slow months at the shop, but we frequently need extra volunteers. If you would like to put your toes in the water by working a day or two at the store just call Dede at 352-2114 or Sue at 35551-9252. The Thrifties know how to have fun!



CURSILLO #113

We had a great group of St. Thomas folks at Cursillo #113, this past May at Honey Creek! The team of 26 included several from St. Thomas: Hugh Papy as the Lay Rector, Pam McCaslin (Music Team Leader), Eli Irvin, Tracy Edgar & Geri Nelson as the Music Cha's, Pattie Wainright & Sandy Champion as Cha-Cha's. Our St. Thomas candidate/participants were Frank & Marion Stapp, Kelly & Stewart Marshall, Arthur Peagler & Peggy Varnedoe (and Chris Conner, ex-officio member of St. Thomas!). It was a fun & spirit-filled weekend. Special thanks to all who drove down to the closing service from St. Thomas!



Fr. Richard is committed to continuing support and growth for the Cursillo movement at St. Thomas. We will be coordinating new Reunion Groups for these "newbies", and also developing a steering committee for the future organization of Cursillo in our parish.

From the Parish Register

Birthdays:

June

- 1) Donna Dunn, Kendra Dunn, Amy Graham
- 2) Judy Macolly
- 3) Khang Nguyen
- 4) Jameson Hall, Dale Hendrix
- 7) Trey Murphy
- 8) Shelly Compton
- 10) Becky Milmine
- 11) Henry Louttit (Bishop of GA), Jim McClure
- 13) Cathy Joyce, Jack Kinzie
- 15) Betty Jeffers
- 16) Viola Bairas, Kelley Marshall
- 17) Deidre Dorn, Lynn Wright
- 18) Sissy Hill
- 20) Anna Mullings, Vernon Nelson, Bunny Outlaw
- 21) Ruby Gray Buckingham, Jim Joyce, Julie Schwartz
- 22) Craig Dolack, Chris Tower
- 23) Elsie Clark, Mary McClure
- 26) Alan Dunn, Suzanne Waller
- 29) Dennis Hall, Kathryn All Waller



July

- 1) Leisl Tanner
- 2) Landon Shore
- 3) JJ Haley, Joe McCaughan
- 4) Trey Ochsner
- 5) Eliza Bass
- 6) Mark Edgar, Blake Everard, Pam McCaslin
- 8) Anna Ruth Clark, Cliff McCurry
- 9) Marilyn Benting
- 11) Mike Mullings, Usher Gay
- 12) John Knopf, Dee Williford
- 13) Ingrid Poppell
- 14) Megan Roberts
- 15) Sis Kintzing
- 16) Debilyn Friend, Richard Nelson
- 17) Paige Case, Carl Quante
- 18) Sarah Figuerido, Nancy Young
- 20) Al Kennickell
- 22) Debbie Friend, Clegg Roberts
- 28) Ev Bartlett, Ron Crawford
- 29) Lee McCurry
- 30) Mattox Hall, George Malone



August

- 1) Mary Hill, Callan Papy, Jane Quante
- 2) John Gooch
- 3) Hunter Murphy, Anne Keese Wallace
- 4) David Slatinsky
- 5) Ansley Edgar, Reed Lotter, Erin Nelson
- 6) My Nguyen
- 7) Elizabeth Johnson
- 8) Charles Belin, Linda Garner, Kathy McCurry, Taylor Summerell
- 9) Arthur Peagler
- 10) Courtney Dunn, Charles Waller
- 11) Gay Hawkins, Kitty Hill, Mary Page McCaslin, Leigh Powell
- 13) Stacie Kurinij, Linda Southerland
- 15) David Knopf

- 16) Bill Burke
- 17) Hiram Tanner
- 18) Harold Moore
- 19) Linda Kelly Fleming, Phyllis Posey, Gary Smith
- 20) Polly Paruso, Pam Smith
- 21) Grace Carpenter
- 22) Genevieve Sue White
- 24) Jacqui Belcher, Henry Nichols, Devin Woo
- 26) Stewart Marshall
- 28) Peggy Varnedoe
- 29) Jackson Thompson
- 31) Brian Clemons

Anniversaries:

June

- 2) Jack & Laura Kinzie
- 4) Bob & Claire Harrison, Joe & Lizann Roberts
- 6) Ron & Gayle Crawford, Dan & Ingrid Poppell
- 8) James & Jane Shuman, Carlton & Jennie Thompson
- 9) Richard & Geri Nelson
- 10) Jeff & Lea Anne Wallace
- 15) Andre & Lynn Dyers
- 17) George & Will Quaile
- 25) Jim & Mary McClure
- 26) Dave & Sis Kintzing
- 29) Mark & Susan Gonzales, Jay & Lisa McCaslin
- 30) Jim & Cathy Joyce

July

- 6) Gage & Judy Ochsner
- 8) Gus & Betty Anderson
- 18) David & Gail Knopf
- 25) Bruce Nichols & Judy Macolly
- 26) Mitch & Millie Green
- 29) Paul & Jennifer Meyer

August

- 2) Jamie & Kendall McCurry
- 4) Lake & Jennifer White
- 14) Tim & Linda Garner
- 16) Dan & Elisabeth Biggerstaff, Frank & Marion Stapp
- 21) Kelly & Andrea Epting
- 23) Carl & Jane Quante
- 25) Joe & Sarah Wyant
- 27) Bill & Betsy Franklin

Deaths: Hunter Leaf, Jr., April 10th, Our prayers and sympathy go to his widow Joanne and his family.



Congratulations to: Mark Gonzales on his graduation with his Bachelors of Arts in Religion and a Minor in History from St. Leo University. Graduation ceremonies will be held in Savannah on June 21st at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, downtown. Baccalaureate is at 1pm and commencement is 2:30. Mark has earned his degrees while going to school throughout his deployments (including Iraq!) Susan wrote, "his [Mark's] success was made possible with the love and support of his St. Thomas family!" Congratulations, Mark!



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“God’s Power Lab”

Vacation Bible School—August 3—7, 2008; 5:30-8:pm

THE CLERGY & STAFF

BISHOP THE RT. REV. HENRY I. LOUITTIT, 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

MELINDA BAILEY, SR. WARDEN
JIM CHAMBERS JR. WARDEN
THOMAS TENGG, TREASURER
MARIANNE CHAMBERS, CLERK

BARRETT BENTON MARK GOMPELS
JACK KINZIE HUGH PAPPY
JAY MCCASLIN MITCH GREEN
DON FOWLER DEDE ROBERTS
BECKY MILMINE BRUCE NICHOLS

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
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,
CRYSTAL SIMPSON, 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

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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER
EVANGEL IS AUGUST 19TH!**