



November—December 15, 2008

Deadline for the Mid December, 2008—January 2009 Evangel is December 9th

Parish News & Events	2
Unseen Guest, Thrift Store Sale	3
Men's Club Oyster Roast	3
Youth News & Happenings	4-5
Advent Angels, St. Nicholas Visit, Children's Pageant	5
"Seasons of Grief"	6
From the Parish Register	7
May I Introduce...Did you Know?	7
Insert—Calendar for November & December	

## GIVE US GRATEFUL HEARTS

Gratitude is to the life of faith what rich soil is to a garden. With it all sorts of beautiful, nourishing things grow; without it, things are not as healthy and productive as they might be. I have found that actively practicing gratitude is a way to short circuit so much of what would otherwise distract and potentially de-rail me. It is wondrous that the antidote for pessimism, fear and so many other things that can afflict us is not optimism, bravery and the like; the antidote is gratitude. Jesus provides the example: when only a few loaves of bread and a couple of sardines could be found to feed a vast crowd Jesus took them and *gave thanks*, then broke and gave them to a multitude (Matthew 14:13ff; Mark 6:30ff; Luke 9:10ff; John 6:1ff); once when He became aware that town after town in Galilee had rejected him Jesus *gave thanks* that God's will was for the least likely candidates to receive and believe in Him (Matthew 11:20-30). In the face of scarcity and rejection, Jesus gave thanks! Even in anxious economic times the best response of those who follow Jesus is gratitude.

Of course, gratitude is more than a feeling. Genuine gratitude is an *active* attitude. Gratitude *shows*: in our relationships, our demeanor, our actions and (obviously) in our giving. It is possible to check out one's *Gratitude Attitude*. I receive a number of parish newsletters every month and I usually read the rectors' articles. Two days ago I read these questions and they certainly provoked thought for me:

In times of economic uncertainty do you allow fear to govern your spending decisions, including your giving to the Church?

Is the parish just another 'charity' in the long line of contributions that are solicited from you in a given year?

Does your giving resemble a 'dues approach' that takes into account only the parameters of maintenance and survival, and not the challenges of growth and outreach?

How one answers such questions gives insight on one's *Gratitude Attitude*.

The most important thing I think I have learned about gratitude is—like all the spiritual gifts—it is not a personal quality that I must somehow manufacture. Gratitude is a spiritual gift which the Holy Spirit will bestow and grow in us. We must simply ask for it, and put into practice what we have been given so that it will grow and develop through the Holy Spirit's power at work in us. I urge you to ask for the gift of gratitude for yourself, for me, for everyone at St. Thomas.

I hope GRATITUDE will be our theme as we consider the future of our parish for 2009. I hope this will be the rich ground on which we base our decisions, corporately and individually, for the future. We have much for which to be grateful. I hope our gratitude will define our relationships, infect our demeanor, inform our actions and enlighten our giving. Many years ago I saw this prayer in a simple frame in a side hallway of a parish hall building. After reading it I wanted to put it in five foot letters behind the Altar and over the main door so it was unavoidable at worship and when leaving. It's a great prayer

Gracious Father, thou hast given us so much. Yet, one more thing do we ask of thee: Give us grateful hearts.

AMEN!

Fr. Richard

## Clergy and Staff Comings-N-Goings

Fr Richard will attend Diocesan Council November 14-15 at Honey Creek. Fr Richard is the elected clergy representative for the Savannah Convocation.

Deacons Geri and Kirk will be away December 5-7, Friday through Sunday, attending the Annual Diocesan Deacons' Retreat at Honey Creek.

## Annual Parish Meeting is Sunday, November 2 at 9am

You should receive your Evangel newsletter almost on the eve of our Annual Parish Meeting. Your attendance is important! At the Annual Meeting we discuss and approve the Ministry Budget for 2009, elect 4 new Vestry Members, receive ministry reports, and more. This year we are combining the Annual Meeting with our usual First Sunday Breakfast. Serving will begin at 8:45 am; those who attend the 10 am Eucharist are urged to come as close to 8:45 as possible.

## First Sunday Breakfasts

First Sunday Breakfasts are scheduled for 8:45am on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>! Bring the whole family - \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children.

## November Vestry Meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, in the Library.

According to the Parish by-laws the Vestry elects Delegates to Diocesan Convention. This election will take place at the November Vestry Meeting. In 2009, Diocesan Convention will be in Albany, February 5, 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday afternoon through Saturday afternoon). Three persons are elected to represent the parish as Delegates; three additional persons may be elected as Alternate Delegates. Expenses for Delegates are paid by the parish; Alternates may attend, but we are not able at this time to underwrite the expenses for Alternates.

Any adult member of St. Thomas, who is regular in their attendance and pledges to the Ministry Budget of the parish may serve. For the sake consistency, the three laypersons who served in '08 will be nominated to serve in '09; they are Ron Crawford, Dede Roberts and Tracy Edgar. If you would like to be nominated, or would like more information, please speak with Fr. Richard.

**Deadline for the  
Mid-December through January  
Evangel Newsletter is  
December 9<sup>th</sup>**

## Isle of Hope Ecumenical Worship Service

This year the IOH Churches will gather at Isle of Hope Baptist Church on Sunday, November 23, at 7pm for our yearly Ecumenical worship. A combined choir will provide special music, with The Rev. Mark Ross, St. James Roman Catholic Church, preaching.

## First Saturday Community Praise and Worship Service

We will gather on November 1 at 5pm, and December 6 at 5pm for informal Eucharistic worship and praise music. These services are proving to be appealing: in October 52 attended!

## Advent~Christmas Concert at St. Thomas

Mark your calendars and be at your parish for a delightful Advent~Christmas Concert on Sunday afternoon, **December 14**. Proceeds will benefit our Endowment Fund. The Savannah Arts Ensembles and the Savannah Children's Choir will perform. A reception follows, hosted by the St. Martha Guild.

## Newcomer's Gathering

The Newcomer's Gathering is scheduled for Sunday evening, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 5pm – 7pm at the Isle of Hope Marina. This evening is to celebrate those who have come to St. Thomas within this past year and to share information about our parish. We are asking our numerous ministry leaders as well as our vestry and wardens to attend this evening to share information about their respective ministries!

## EYCS Annual Appeal

The Episcopal Youth and Children's Services is a committee of the Diocese of Georgia that assists the youth of our Diocese who have financial needs with college or vocational school tuition, medical problems or emergencies, as well as scholarships to the Diocesan Camp at Honey Creek. In 2008, EYCS granted over \$72,000.00. This is possible only by the generous giving of the people of our Diocese.

Each of you should have received a gold "Ingathering" envelope in the mail. Please bring the envelope with your gift to church on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, or before, and place it in the offering plate.



## Unseen Guest

So now we are FOURTEEN! Much ground has been covered in these years of the Unseen Guest Ministry. A steady increase in the number of meals prepared for HIV/AIDS sufferers bears testimony to the loyalty and hard work of the volunteers.

The total number of meals stands at 53,106. In addition bread and desserts have been made available with donations from Fresh Market. Volunteers with the ministry are: Lou Adami, Paige Case, Emory Heidt, Bob & Claire Harrison, Jim & Cathy Joyce, Kitty Hill, Sis & Dave Kintzing, Laura Knarr, Joanne Leaf, Mary Lee, David McColum, Lavon & Oscar Nelson, Bob & Bunny Outlaw, Charlotte Quaile, Chris Roberts, Sue Tengg, Dick & Mary Wilson, Nancy Young and Selina Johnson.

Additional volunteers are always welcome. Cooking sessions are the 2nd Friday at 8am and the last Monday at 6pm. JUST COME! We have happy fun get-togethers while doing this important work in His Name.

Selina Johnson



## Thrift Store Annual Holiday Sale

**The St. Thomas Thrift Store will hold its annual Holiday Sale on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. till 3:p.m.** Last year the event was a tremendous success, and with your cooperation, will be equally successful this year.

Please bring in your no longer needed holiday decorations. Also, donations of festive clothing, accessories and jewelry for men, women and children as well as "giftable" items for personal use or home decoration are needed. The Thrifties believe that "Twice is nice!", so let us turn your orphan items into someone else's treasures.



If you cannot bring your contribution to the shop, please call Sue Tengg at 352-9252, and we will try to arrange pick up.

Let's keep the spirit of giving alive this Christmas season! God gave his only Son to be our Saviour, so the least we can do is to give of our abundance in support of the Thrift Store outreach ministry which benefits many of Savannah's families in need.

Thank you, and may the Lord bless you for your generosity.

## MEN'S CLUB OYSTER ROAST

Saturday, November 22nd

At 1:00pm



Oysters, Grilled Chicken,  
Red Rice, Cole Slaw & Beverages

\$13.00 Adults

\$5.00 children (age 6-12)

## JAM'ers & EYC'ers on October Scavenger Hunt — What a Blast!



### HAPPY SWEET 16 !-



CRYSTAL



## SUPPER PROCEEDS to BENEFIT ORPHANS

The proceeds from the Wednesday night Youth Suppers (held on the first Wednesday of each month) will support two children at an orphanage in India operated by the Central India Christian Mission. A child can be supported at the orphanage for \$15 per month. Photographs and appropriate information about the children will be received by the youth group.



## Christmas Card Fundraiser.

The EYC will gather November 9th at 6:pm to assemble hand made Christmas cards. The cards will be offered to the congregation in prepackaged bundles of 10 for \$15. A youth representative will staff a table with the Christmas cards outside the Church, beginning November 16th. The money raised will go towards adopting a family for Christmas through Interfaith Hospitality.

## ADVENT ANGEL TREE

St. Thomas offers an opportunity to provide for others during the Christmas holiday. There will be an "Advent Angel Tree" in the Parish Hall beginning Sunday, November 30th. We are asking that you choose one or more of the "Angel Tree Tags" which will be hanging on the tree, and provide a Christmas gift related to the needs of the child listed on the Tag. The individuals chosen to receive these gifts are families referred to us from the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Please save your "Angel Tag" and keep it with your gift. **There is no need to wrap your gift - the Youth Groups plan to wrap them and deliver the gifts the week of December 21st.**

Thank you so much for your kind generosity!

Tracy Edgar



## ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION

St. Nicholas Celebration is scheduled for **Wednesday evening, December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Bring the children at 6:00pm for a fun evening with "Old St. Nick"!



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Children's Christmas Pageant and Reception is scheduled for **Sunday evening, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm** in the Church, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

All ages are welcome to join us for this special evening.

## Dates to Note for our Youth!

Sunday, November 2nd	4-6pm	JAM'ers	Bowling
Sunday, November 2nd	6-8pm	EYC	Movie Night
Wednesday, November 5th	Youth Cook for Parish Supper		
November 7th-9th	New Beginnings, Honey Creek—Middle Schoolers		
Sunday, November 9th	6pm	EYC	Make Christmas Cards
Friday, November 14th	5pm	JAM'ers	leave for overnight campout
Sunday, November 16th	6pm	EYC	Bowling
Sunday, November 23rd	6pm	EYC	Park Place Outreach
Sunday, December 7th	4pm	JAM'ers & EYC	Shopping for Interfaith Family
Sunday, December 14th	6pm	EYC	Wrap presents from Angel Tree

## From the Parish Register



### **Birthdays: November**

- 1) Wesleigh Shellman
- 2) Kirk Duffy, Laura Knarr
- 3) Alice Blank, Matthew Carpenter, Elaine Hodgkins, Charlotte Quaile, Jerry Simpson
- 4) Karen Knight, Jane Lyon
- 5) Emily Knopf
- 8) Frances Conner
- 9) Anna Fowler, Ricky Woo
- 11) Sarah Eve, Kai Everard, Mattie Thompson
- 13) Jane Stanley, DeLinda Statts, Bill Wall
- 15) Jeff Conner
- 17) Hunter Benting
- 18) Khristine Clark, Kara Stanley
- 22) Taylor Edgar
- 23) Bob Harrison
- 24) William Gompels
- 25) Jennifer Meyer
- 27) Elizabeth Carpenter, Ken Conner, John Varnedoe
- 28) Dancy Eve, Robert Figureido, Nathan Hoyt, Dick Young
- 30) Madelyne Epting, Brooks Gaudry, Phil Hodgkins

### **Birthdays: December**

- 2) Sandy Champion
- 4) Will Poppell
- 5) Charlton Benting
- 6) Claudia Welch
- 7) Mollie Poppell
- 8) Melissa Figuerido, Liza Summerell
- 9) Steve Carpenter, Dorie Nichols, Joe Wyant
- 10) Morgan Roberts
- 11) Sheldon White
- 13) Sam Stuber
- 14) Matthew Gompels
- 16) Raiford Ennis, Jane Shuman, Carole Tutan

### **Anniversaries: November**

- 1) Chip & Paula Caldwell
- 27) Jim & Kathleen Simons, David & Florence Slatinsky
- 29) Jan & Kathryn Mastrangelo
- 30) David & Sally White

### **Anniversaries: December**

- 1) Brooks & Dianne Gaudry
- 5) David & Leigh Powell Gallagher, Cliff & Kathy McCurry
- 8) Hobart & Marilyn Manley, Harry & Landon Shore
- 11) Jim & Betty Jeffers
- 14) Scott & Liesl Tanner



### **Baptisms:**

Oct. 12—Olivia and Larkin Lotter, twin daughters of Chris and Melissa Lotter

Oct. 26—Matthew Stamper, son of Willie and Cecilia Stamper; Jerry and Crystal Simpson, son and daughter of John and Candace Simpson.

### **Deaths:**

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of Tom Stanley who passed away in October and to Claire Harrison for the loss of her mother Alice Evans.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## 2009 Gratitude Attitude: “Give us grateful hearts.”



### THE CLERGY & STAFF

BISHOP THE RT. REV. HENRY I. LOUTTIT, JR.  
RECTOR THE REV. RICHARD NELSON  
MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—  
THE REV. DEACON GERI NELSON  
DEACON THE REV. DEACON KIRK DUFFY  
YOUTH MINISTER TRACY EDGAR  
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 PAPY  
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 DEDE ROBERTS  
JAM'ERS, EYC TRACY EDGAR  
FLOWER GUILD JUDY OCHSNER,  
LIESL TANNER  
GREETERS FLORENCE SLATINSKY  
LAY MINISTERS BILL FRIEND  
MEN'S CLUB HUGH PAPY  
COOK'S NIGHT OUT SELINA JOHNSON  
USHERS DON FOWLER  
THRIFT STORE  
SUE TENGG/ DEDE ROBERTS

### ADULT CHOIR

STETSON FLEMING, KEVIN FLEMING,  
ELAINE HODGKINS, PHIL HODGKINS,  
EMORY HEIDT, JACK KINZIE, LAURA KIN-  
ZIE, RITA LEWIS, KATHY MCCURRY, ANNA  
MULLINGS, JOLYNN BENNETT, MIKE MULL-  
INGS, DEBORAH BOWEN, PHIL HOPE,  
LAURA LAWTON, PAULETTE FIGUERIDO,  
BARRETT BENTON, PAM BENTON, DEIDRE  
DORN LINDA SOUTHERLAND, WAYNE  
WELCH, DEBBIE FRIEND, BILL FRIEND,  
STEWART MARSHALL, MARION STAPP,  
FRANK STAPP, SANDY CHAMPION, CRYST-  
AL 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

EVANGEL EMAIL CONTACT:  
EVANGELONE@AOL.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.STTHOMASIOH.ORG  
WEBMINISTER: JACQUI BELCHER,  
JRBELCHER@GMAIL.COM

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MID-  
DECEMBER, 2008—JANUARY 2009  
EVANGEL IS DECEMBER 9TH