



The St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Evangel

A Publication of
St. Thomas
Episcopal Church,
Isle of Hope, Georgia

February / March 2009

Deadline for the next issue: March 24, 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Parish News	2
Missions & Ministries	3
Central India Christian Mission	4
McCaslin Conference	5
Adult Christian Ed.	6
Kanuga Conference	6
Youth News / Parish Reg.	7
INSERT: February/March Calendar	

INCLINE YOUR HEART TO UNDERSTANDING

“If you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasure – then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.”
Proverbs 2:1-5

I have been blessed with two wonderful experiences recently. One is the Wednesday evening book study. We began October 22 and regrettably had our last class on January 21. Back in October I did not know what to expect. The book, *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright does not sound like a page turner. Yet, at our first class meeting we had 18 people, with several unable to attend until week two. The class attendance never fell below 13, with over 20 at times. The discussions in class were lively and insightful. Many perspectives were shared. It was fun and gratifying. And, those who attended want more.

I have been awed, too, by the response to the “Called to Question” classes I convened on three Sundays at 9am. The lowest attendance was 27 with the high being 33. The questions parishioners brought were thoughtful and challenging. We had good discussion even with a large group and severe time restraint (only about 45 minutes). Many attendees asked for more; a request was even brought to the Vestry. In part to answer these requests, an evening version of “Called To Question” will be offered in February. Details are elsewhere in this Evangel.

For many years I have believed there is a great hunger for learning among Christians. I know others are of the same opinion. For four years we have labored to feed that hunger at St. Thomas, not always seeing the results I would have wished. Our recent “success” has reminded me powerfully that results are always up to God. We ought not be fixated on our notion of results, and not be discouraged if one’s own idea of “success” is not promptly met. For the past weeks our Adult Christian Education offerings have born much fruit. I’m not forgetting Paul Meyers’ adult Sunday morning class on Judaism and Christianity, which is simply excellent. My prayer is that we continue to enjoy such blessings.

Of course, as the old saying goes, “It takes two to tango.” Paul and I, or our other adult teachers, can offer the best classes possible but it doesn’t matter— except for our own growth in learning – if no one attends. Therefore, a second part of the Christian Education for spiritual growth equation involves motivation. We all want involvement in something that will pique our interest or answer a perceived need. We can all be so used to the marketers’ hype that we unconsciously ignore that which does not “grab us.” Such are the techniques of secular culture (and some Churches enthusiastically use hyped-up PR strategies to attract people). In the Church, we are motivated by something deeper and higher. As the writer of Proverbs testifies, we seek wisdom diligently so we may know the glory of God; and I would add, so we may more transparently open ourselves to be known by God. And in the mutual knowing, be changed.

Seek the wisdom of the Lord, “incline your heart to understanding”; seek it like silver, search for it as a treasure. St. Thomas and our Christian Education offerings – such as the McCaslin Christian Life Conference on C.S. Lewis - are a way and place to do this.

Fr. Richard

CLERGY / STAFF COMINGS-N-GOINGS

Fr. Richard will be away Wednesday, February 11, attending one of Bishop Louttit's "Priests' Days with the Bishop" at his home in Georgetown.

The Clergy will be away Tuesday, March 24, attending the annual Diocesan Clergy Day of Preparation at Christ Church, Dublin.

Deacon Kirk will be serving on the Kairos Weekend March 26 through 29. Kairos is a renewal weekend for prison inmates patterned after Cursillo.

VESTRY

The February Vestry meeting is on the 16th; Vestry meets in March on the 16th. Regular Vestry Meetings are open to the public. We meet in the Parish Library at 6:30pm.

SAVANNAH CONVOCATION LENTEN SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Again this year St. Thomas will host the Convocation School of Religion during Lent. The dates are the Tuesdays in March: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st. As last year, there will be five 5-week courses offered, taught by Savannah Convocation Clergy. The classes are

- ✠ The Geography of the Holy Land, with the Very Rev. William Willoughby, III
- ✠ Desert Spirituality, with the Rev. Deacon Eddie Atkins
- ✠ Evil 101: Theodicy, with the Rev. Cheryl Parris
- ✠ In the Beginning: Major themes in Genesis, with the Rev. James Parker
- ✠ The Decalogue: The 10 Commandments as Moral Guide, with the Rev. Gavin Dunbar

We will have Wednesday Parish Suppers during Lent but there will not be a separate Lenten Christian Education Program. We urge parishioners to attend Tuesday evenings.

CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

The parish maintains and administers Discretionary Funds for each of the clergy. Discretionary Funds are used to assist people in the parish and people in the community who are facing extraordinary economic difficulties. Normatively checks are not given to individuals. If, for example, someone needs help with a utility bill, the check is issued to the appropriate institution and sent from the parish to the institution with an accompanying letter. Sometimes a person may need help with fueling a vehicle, in which case the clergy will go to a gas station and purchase a tank of gas for the individual.

How are the Discretionary Funds funded? It is customary when clergy officiate at weddings and funerals (and sometimes baptisms) for family members to give a gift to the parish; these gifts generally go into the clergy Discretionary Funds. Unlike most parishes, in Fr. Richard's tenure we have not collected special offerings for Clergy Discretionary Funds. However, during these difficult economic times, more situations are arising for which the expenditure of Discretionary Funds is appropriate.

If you would like to help in addressing the practical needs of parishioners and others through the Clergy Discretionary Funds, please make your check to "St. Thomas Episcopal Church", noting that your gift is for "Clergy Discretionary Fund". If you would like your gift to go to a particular clergy person's Discretionary Fund, please indicate this. Undesignated gifts to the Clergy Discretionary Funds will go into the rector's Discretionary Fund.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and, if so led, for your generous gift.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

On Tuesday, February 24th at 6:00pm, St. Thomas invites you to a "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper".

Since this is the day before Ash Wednesday when the church practices numerous Lenten disciplines, we can enjoy an evening of eating more than we should, laughing and relaxing together."

**Deadline for the April—May
edition of our Evangel Newsletter is
March 24, 2009**

SEASONS OF GRIEF ALUMNI

The Alumni of Seasons of Grief Support Groups at St. Thomas are invited to the Nelson's home, 7607 Lynes Court, IOH, to enjoy a time of fellowship and sharing. We will meet at 2:30pm on Sunday, February 15th. Please RSVP to the church office, 355-3110. Thank you!

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NEEDS YOU!

If you have been seeking a way to have a hands on volunteer experience in this time of financial uncertainty and great need, please come and meet the director of Interfaith Hospitality Network, Kesha Gibson-Carter. This organization, that St. Thomas was instrumental in establishing in Savannah, helps homeless families with children become self sufficient once again. This help is given in a very unique manner by churches all over town. A meeting will be held in the St. Thomas room at 9 AM on February 15, 2009. You'll learn what makes this organization different and successful!

An opportunity to once again be involved with this amazing organization has presented itself. Isle of Hope UMC will be a host church and has asked us to be a support church for them. Three times a year, for a week, they will host three homeless families with children. The families will be saving their money and working to solve the problems that caused their homelessness. We would assist by preparing and delivering meals, visiting with the families at dinner, helping with homework, and filling in with other needs.

A prayerful consideration of this important ministry could lead you to a very fulfilling volunteer experience right in your own neighborhood. **FEBRUARY 15 AT 9 A.M. IN THE ST. THOMAS ROOM.**

“PROJECT HOPE HOUSE CHILDREN’S HOME”

(Central India Christian Ministries)

On Wednesday evening, March 4th, our usual Wednesday night supper will be conducted at the IOH United Methodist Church. Pastor Ajai and Indu Lall will be there to share with us about their powerful Christian ministry to the people of Central India.

The youth of St. Thomas are asked to please come to the IOH Methodist Church by 5:45pm to assist in serving and cleaning up that evening.

UNSEEN GUEST

What a wonderful start on the New Year!

Cooks' Night Out was splendid with the return of several volunteers to the ranks and the holidays no longer taking its toll on our "regulars." With enthusiasm and dedication 184 meals were added to the 54,312 already delivered. Early Birds, those always faithful Friday morning cooks, are not only producing meals but are helping with the shopping, packing for delivery to My Brothaz H.O.M.E., and preparing the slow-cooking meats for Monday night.

Please remember that every one of these volunteers make the Unseen Guest Ministry successful and that you, too, can be a part of this important outreach. If cooking is not "your thing" contributions of cash or food are gratefully received.

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only..."

James 1:22

“Do” ers with Unseen Guest are:

Lou Adami	Bob and Calire Harrison
Paige Case	Bill Holden
Emory Heidt	Jim and Cathy Joyce
Mary Lee	Kitty Hill
Laura Knarr	Sis & Dave Kintzing
Joanne Leaf	David McCollum
Charlotte Quaile	Lavon & Oscar Nelson
Chris Roberts	Bob & Bunny Outlaw
Sue Tengg	Dick & Mary Wilson
Nancy Young	Selina Johnson

THE HISTORY OF ST. THOMAS

St. Mary's Guild ECW is selling copies of "The History of St. Thomas Isle of Hope Episcopal Church, 1868-1998" (published in 2000). We have over 50 copies, so line up to spend \$10.00 for an interesting read.



Central India Christian Mission



In ways big and small, CICM is changing the lives of thousands of people and introducing the Gospel changing all of India.

Ajai and Indu Lall started *Central India Christian Mission (CICM)* in December 1982, with a dream to obey Jesus' Great Commission by establishing a mission center in their homeland.

From the very beginning they focused on evangelism, church planting and leadership training. ***The work of these two faithful servants*** has grown into a multifaceted mission helping thousands of people each year through evangelistic and benevolent ministries.

Our Chance to Make a Difference for Christ's Sake!

**ON MARCH 4TH AT 5:45PM,
JOIN US FOR "WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER"
AT THE
IOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**AJAI & INDU LALL WILL SPEAK TO US OF THE
AMAZING WORK GOD IS DOING IN CENTRAL INDIA.**

THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN THREE YEARS AND OLDER.

RESERVATIONS WILL NEED TO BE MADE FOR NURSERY CARE: FOR CHILDREN UP TO THREE YEARS OLD AND FOR CHILDREN 3 YEARS TO FIRST GRADE.

**THIS ECUMENICAL MISSION EVENT IS SPONSORED BY
IOH BAPTIST CHURCH, IOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH AND ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**

**SINCE SEATING IS LIMITED, PLEASE *RSVP NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEB. 27TH*
BY CALLING IOH UNITED METHODIST AT 355-8527.**

**THE COST FOR THE SUPPER IS \$6.00 FOR ADULTS
& \$4.00 FOR CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF NINE YEARS.**

MCCASLIN CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, FEB. 20 – SUNDAY, FEB. 22, 2009

TRUTH, GOODNESS AND BEAUTY IN THE WRITINGS OF C.S. LEWIS



From *Narnia* to his *Space Trilogy*, C.S. Lewis' books are filled with unforgettable, rich imagery, and we are delighted that Dr. Louis Markos returns to St. Thomas for the 2009 McCaslin Christian Life Conference to talk about the rehabilitating beauty in Lewis' fiction.

Dr. Markos, the keynoter at our inaugural McCaslin Conference, is a professor of English at Houston Baptist University. The author of numerous books, Dr. Markos is a well-sought-after speaker on C.S. Lewis across the US, and we are honored that he has agreed to be our speaker once again.

One 2006 MCL Conference attendee says, "I'm excited that Dr. Markos is coming back! Can't wait to hear more about C.S. Lewis." Others have called his talks "unforgettable" and "riveting."

So mark your calendars and invite your friends! We all need more beauty in our lives.

Friday, February 20, 2009 – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Rehabilitating Beauty: The Good, the True and the Beautiful in C.S. Lewis' fiction (I)

Saturday, February 21, 2009 – 10:00 – 12:00

Rehabilitating Beauty: The Good, the True and the Beautiful in C.S. Lewis' fiction (II)

12:00 - LUNCH provided at St. Thomas

1:00 – 3:00

Screwtape 's Millennial Toast – A Dramatic Presentation

Q & A

Sunday, February 22, 2009 – 10:00 Service

How C.S. Lewis can help us wrestle with The Problem of Pain

11:30 – The Chronicles of Narnia -Prince Caspian, From novel to film

The nominal charge of \$10 per participant will help defray cost of food and incidentals.



**“GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:
A LOOK AT THE JOURNEY OF JEWS & CHRISTIANS”**

- + HOW DO WE SEE OURSELVES AS DIFFERENT & SIMILAR TO THE JEWS?**
- + HOW DO WE THINK ‘SPIRITUALLY’ WHILE LIVING IN OUR WORLD?**
- + HOW IS THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOUNDED ON THE JEWISH TRADITIONS?**

Paul Meyer leads this adult series in the library at 9:00am through March 8th.



Bring someone with you who has never come to S.S. before!

“CALLED TO QUESTION: WHY & HOW DO I FORGIVE?”

- + WHAT DOES JESUS TEACH IN SCRIPTURE?**
 - + FORGIVE *AND* FORGET???**
 - + LETTING GO OF GRUDGES...**
 - + ARE SOME THINGS UN-FORGIVEABLE?**
 - + WHAT ABOUT SELF-FORGIVENESS?**

Fr. Richard will present this adult series to adults and Teenagers on March 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 9:00Am in the Parish Hall.

Bring someone with you who has never come to S.S. before!

COFFEE HOUR AFTER THE 8:AM SERVICE IS IN THE ST. THOMAS ROOM

KANUGA RETREAT

As a child, what did you want to be?

Do you still think about being and becoming?

Scripture promises that we can be whatever God wants!!

We hope that some of YOU, the people of St. Thomas, are interested in these challenges. This summer, the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina, hosts a 5 day retreat which addresses these questions. The title of the conference is “Becoming the Person God Wants Me to Be.”

The Keynoter will be Bishop Mike Hill, bishop of Bristol, England, a dynamic speaker, as well as a leader of the Anglican Communion’s renewal movement.

The dates for this conference are June 28, 2009 – July 3, 2009, and additional details will follow.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2/1/09 JAM'ers meet in the Parish Hall; 4:00 - 5:30.

2/4/09 Youth Wednesday Night Supper

2/8/09 EYC Savannah Convocation Youth Celebration at St. Francis.

2/13/09 EYC leaves at 12:00 for the ski trip to Lake Junaluska.

2/15/09 JAM'ers go bowling. Leave from church at 4:00 and return at 6:00.

2/22/09 Kindergarten - 2nd grade meet in Parish Hall from 4:00 - 5:30

2/22/09 EYC game night from 6:00 - 7:30

2/27/09 JAM'ers overnight Camp out at Minis' Farm.

New Beginnings, March 27 - 29, 2009, is a weekend of fun & music at Honey Creek for teenagers in grades 7-9. The weekend is led by a team of mostly teens, a few adults, and a spiritual director or two. The weekend is especially designed for and by teenagers and takes us through a discovery about ourselves, our friends, our families, our faith and how to live out our faith in our daily lives. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS GREAT WEEKEND!** Ms. Edgar will be taking our teens in the van, so please call to reserve your seat.

From the Parish Register

Birthdays: February

- 1) Chris Gwinner
- 2) Gladys Baker
- 5) Anne Shore
- 6) Pam Benton, Wendell Buckhaults
- 7) Tim Garner, Jack Norris
- 8) Betty Anderson, Stetson Fleming
- 10) Andre Dyers
- 12) Robert Clemons
- 13) Kathleen Simons
- 15) Mike McCullough
- 16) Graeme Baker
- 19) Allyn Case
- 20) Ashton Green
- 21) Millie Green
- 22) Walker Groves, Hugh Papy
- 23) Allison Caldwell
- 24) Florence Slatinsky, Sally White

February Birthdays, cond.

- 25) Tina Norris
- 26) James Shuman, Nancy Skaliy
- 27) Sue Tengg
- 28) Robert Knarr, Julia Rodgers

Anniversaries: February

- 9) Arthur and Candace Peagler
- 13) Alan and Donna Dunn
- 14) Mark and Paige Case
- 16) Vernon and Erin Nelson
- 22) Don and Anna Fowler
- 28) Henry and Dorie Nichols

Birthdays: March

- 1) Rebecca Caldwell, Pat Martin
- 2) Ben Richardson
- 5) Lauren Statts
- 6) Jennie Thompson
- 7) Julia Carpenter
- 8) Rita Lewis, Alexis Moreau
- 9) Dianne Gaudry, Eleanor Rodgers
- 11) Dana Thompson
- 12) Phil Hope
- 13) Jeff Wallace
- 14) Andrew Joyce
- 15) Dan Poppell
- 16) Steve Calver, Logan Hall
- 18) Jo Lynn Bennett, Paula Caldwell, Sarah Wyant
- 19) Kegan Kurinij, Larkin and Olivia Lotter
- 20) Mary Flanders
- 21) Margaret Minis
- 22) Scott Tanner
- 23) Michelle Conner
- 24) Jack Flathman
- 27) Fred Abeles, Virginia Lee
- 28) Connie Burke, Paulette Figureido, Austin Hall, Jim Jeffers
- 31) Toni Paruso, Will Quaille

Anniversaries: March

- 9) Joe and Sally McCaughan
- 10) Mike and Boo McCullough
- 20) Rudy and Viola Bairas, Steve and Sandra Calver
- 22) Ronald and Elsie Clark
- 23) Ronnie and Jameson Hall, Pat and Polly Paruso
- 28) Sax and Reba Daniel

Baptisms:

December 28, 2008 Charlotte Lewis, daughter of Amanda and Wesley Lewis, Jr.

Births:

Sunday, December 21, 2008; Thomas Wiley Chandler, son of Tori and Ryan Chandler. 6lbs. 3oz; 19 1/4". Big brothers are Ryan and Jack.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 427
SAVANNAH, GA



PLEASE JOIN US FOR:
McCaslin Christian Life Conference, Feb. 20-22nd at St. Thomas
Louis A. Marcos, Ph.D Truth, Goodness and Beauty in the C.S. Lewis Writing
March 4th, Central India Christian Mission, Wednesday Supper at the IOH United Methodist Church

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

SR. WARDEN—TO BE ELECTED
JIM CHAMBERS, MARK GOMPELS - JR. WARDENS
MITCH GREEN, TREASURER
MARIANNE CHAMBERS, CLERK

BARRETT BENTON MARK GOMPELS
HUGH PAPY DON FOWLER
DEDE ROBERTS BECKY MILMINE
BRUCE NICHOLS ARTHUR PEAGLER
PAM SMITH JUDY OCHSNER
BILL FRIEND

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 FELLOWSHIP HUGH PAPY
UNSEEN GUEST SELINA JOHNSON
USHERS DON FOWLER
THRIFT STORE CANDACE BAXTER

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
MARCH 24, 2009.