

The St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Evangel

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

September 2009

Deadline for the next issue: September 29, 2009

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Making Memories

In my first years of attending Sunday school in Rhode Island, Miss Florence Fafford (she was definitely a “Miss,” and she seemed to be six feet tall!) led us week after week in the singing of “Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam.” I can still sing that song...BOTH verses!

Years later, when I was working with special needs children, I taught one of my little ones to remember his phone number by putting it to the tune of “Old McDonald.” I still can’t get that number out of my head!

Even more recently, during my four years of EFM, but most often in the years of studying the Old and New Testaments, a passage of scripture would cause the choristers in our group to look at each other and exclaim, “We have an ANTHEM for that”.....or a hymn stanza mirroring the text would come to mind. Sometimes we’d even burst into song!

Stories abound of situations in which music has played a significant role: the downed pilot during World War II who attributed his staying alive as he waited to be rescued to his recalling and singing hymns of the church again and again; the atheist husband who sang at his wife’s baptism and was so moved by the text he’d never seen...Amazing Grace...that he was baptized himself six months later; the quadriplegic on a ventilator (no voice) who found peace and comfort in his times of hopelessness by remembering and singing in his mind, “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” and other hymns he could recall from his childhood.

What is this power that music....and so very often, the music of the church...holds over us? The first people to understand how music really works were the ancient Greeks: MUSIC and ASTRONOMY, they said, were two sides of the same coin!

Astronomy was seen as the study of relationships between observable, permanent, external objects.

Music, on the other hand, was seen as the study of relationships between invisible, internal, hidden objects.

One writer described music as “something that has a way of finding the big, invisible moving pieces inside our hearts and souls and helping us figure out the position of things inside us.” Music can slip beneath our conscious minds to get at what’s REALLY going on inside.

For the past five or six weeks, our lectionary readings at the Epistle have featured the Book of Ephesians, and on our last Sunday of readings from this powerful text, we were reminded that our one “offensive weapon” as Christians is “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” And that word can be even MORE powerful when set to music. It finds a place in our hearts and makes its home there.

Earlier in Ephesians we were admonished to “be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (another word for our praise music!), singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks....”

On August 23, three of our musical selections mirrored the words Fr. Richard speaks each week (in the Prayer Book, but from the Bible) as he consecrates the bread: On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ TOOK bread (our anthem was “Take Our Bread”), and when he had given thanks, he BROKE it (our Fraction hymn was “For the

bread which you have broken”), and gave it to his disciples and said, take and EAT (our first “spiritual song” during Communion was the Taize piece, “Eat This Bread.”).

Now, while I DO put a great deal of thought into planning hymns, anthems, and praise music each week that will reflect that Sunday’s readings, I did NOT plan that meticulously to sing three songs in a row that reflected “take, break, and eat.” That was the Holy Spirit at work! The choir can tell you how pleased and amazed I was to discover that our three consecutive texts so closely mirrored “the sword of the Spirit” on this particular occasion!

My point here? Allow the music of the church to become an important part of your life, something you can call upon in time of need, something that speaks to your heart and soul when your mind just cannot fashion the appropriate words.

But more important...if you are a parent of our parish’s children...help THEM to “make memories” with the music of the church. Much as I love “praise music,” I think we would do our children (and ourselves) a great disservice if we were to limit our music to the “spiritual songs” without giving equal time to our rich heritage of psalms and hymns. They should KNOW “A Mighty Fortress,” “Amazing Grace,” and “O God, Our Help” when they reach adulthood. If they DON’T, then shame on us, either as parents or as teachers in the church. We will never know when their recalling a text like that might be a “memory” that will touch a soul....or even save a life!
- Pam McCaslin

VESTRY MEETING
September 21st
6:30pm in the Library:

First Saturday Praise and Worship

We keep to our regular first Saturday schedule in September despite the fact it is Labor Day Weekend, since all the clergy will be away the next weekend. So, take a break from your holiday reveries for worship on Saturday, Sept 5th, 5pm in the Chapel.

Clergy and Staff Comings-N-Goings

Deacon Kirk will assist Bishop Louttit with his visitation to St. Luke’s, Effingham County on Sunday, Sept 6th.

Fr Richard & Deacon Geri are away Thursday and Friday, September 10th & 11th for a brief getaway in north Florida.

The Clergy and Lay Delegates Ron Crawford, Tracy Edgar & Dede Roberts are at the DuBose Porter Convention Center in Dublin, Georgia, Saturday, September 12th, for the Special Convention to elect our new Bishop.

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The Church Office is closed Monday, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day.

Education for Ministry Class (EFM)...

begins Wednesday, September 9th at St. Thomas at 6:30pm. For more information contact Pattie Wainright 692-1090 or Vicky Posey 354-6818.

An Isle of Hope Christmas

St Martha's will present the St Thomas Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 13th from 4-8pm. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 354-5839. Admission includes a reception in the church parish hall as well as musical entertainment. This is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season and support your community (all proceeds will be donated to local children’s charities) so please buy your tickets now! Volunteers are needed so please contact Dede Roberts or Tracy Edgar if you are willing to help.

**Deadline for the October Edition of our
Evangel Newsletter is
September 29, 2009**

The Pastoral Care Committee and the parishioners of St. Thomas provided a reception after a funeral on May 26th. The reception was held in the parish hall and attended by approximately 150 people. The ladies of the church brought delicious dishes, and one of the ladies arranged a beautiful bouquet of flowers for the center of the table. During the month of June through the Connections of Hope at St. Thomas, Pastoral Care delivered seven casseroles/suppers to the homes of parishioners who had been hospitalized. Two casseroles were delivered in July. A sympathy card was sent to a parish member at the death of a loved one. If there are any needs in the parish, please contact Gayle Crawford, 598-9254. St. Thomas is a caring parish, and we have volunteers waiting to serve.

“Miles for Mission”

Lisa McCaslin and Jamie McCurry will be running the Chicago Marathon on October 11, 2009. They will be collecting dollar pledges for every mile they complete of the 26.2 miles in the marathon.

This fundraiser is planned to replenish clergy discretionary funds in order to meet the increasing demands for financial assistance during these difficult times. Each year your clergy receive numerous requests (from outside and inside our parish) for assistance with light bills, rent, groceries, school uniforms, medications, etc.

Please pray for these two wonderful young people and make your pledge NOW to support the generous effort of these two devoted St. Thomasians! Any dollar amount is gratefully received by calling the church office 355-3110, or signing up on Lisa or Jamie's Pledge Sheets.

Unseen Guest

The Unseen Guest volunteers have really shown their dedication this summer. Several have taken on extra duties to lighten the responsibilities that go with leadership of the ministry.

Bob Outlaw has agreed to shop for groceries, Bunny picks up donations from Fresh Market, Oscar Nelson takes care of the thawing and cooking large meats that must be done at home, and he and LaVon help cook on Monday morning prior to Cooks' Night Out. Jim Joyce has agreed to head up Cooks' Night Out. Sue Tengg and Laura Knarr have taken charge of Cooks Night Out more than once during the summer. It is wonderful to see shared duties, as this is EVERYONE'S ministry.

At Cooks' Night Out in July volunteers had just placed 169 warm meals in the freezers when the storm hit and Isle of Hope lost power. Needless to say, the long outage caused the meals to spoil, and believe me, tears were shed as almost half of the monthly quota went into the dumpster. God's never failing care of our ministry certainly was reaffirmed when Phyllis Posey graciously donated the splendid food left over from her birthday party....98 meals. Phyllis, you really saved the day. Thanks!

A generator to be used in future outages could avert another disaster. Anyone who can donate one (or even a contribution towards one) please call Selina Johnson at 355-5054.

In October, Unseen Guest will be 15 years old. This is quite a landmark. That the ministry has prospered is a credit to wonderful volunteers, St. Thomas Thrift Store, generous individuals, and donations from community sources, but most of all, THE GRACE OF GOD. Over 60,000 meals have been supplied to HIV/AIDS sufferers. The need is just as great as it was 15 years ago.

If you can volunteer to work with or donate to Unseen Guest please call. Food donations for the holiday meals are needed. It is not too early to think turkey, ham and canned pumpkin pie mix. Piggly Wiggly Greenbax Certificates are very helpful as they pay for staples.

Thanks to each and every one of you who have made this ministry strong. Let's keep it going! Watch for news of a fund raiser coming soon. It will be exciting!

St. Thomas Fall Sunday School Program Begins.....

A week ago, Deacon Geri telephoned to ask if I would be able to teach S.S. again this year. It was very sad and difficult for me to explain that because of my very poor and failing eyesight, I couldn't possibly take on the responsibility again.

I started teaching our S.S. classes ten years ago. I volunteered to teach for two reasons. One, I knew I could increase my knowledge about our God; and two, I wanted to share my faith with believers and potential believers! It was no surprise to me that, in preparing for each lesson, th I, indeed, learned a great deal new about our Lord, and every opportunity I got, I shared my faith and life experiences.

Each year, after the first few weeks went by, I found that something nice was happening to me. Something that I didn't plan on or expect...I fell in love with every boy and girl in our class! This is not too far-fetched, when you consider that every week we learned together, we shared together, we laughed together and we prayed together. I also got to know their likes and dislikes and some of their dreams.

Deacon Geri explained to me that we were using a new format to our classes this year. I thought about that, and I stated it would probably result in more student interest and better attendance.

We concluded our conversation by agreeing that S.S. attendance, in large measure, depends on the parents....they are the ones to arouse sleepy youngsters, get them dressed, put some food in their tummies and get them to St. Thomas in time for classes. I want to state very honestly, that I intend to pray constantly that our parents will dedicate every Sunday morning to this task and ministry (Yes, it can become a worthwhile ministry!).

Finally, as usual, whether or not our children at St. Thomas gain knowledge and love of their Father in Heaven depends so much on the example set by their parents!

Sincerely,

Dick Wilson

Adult Confirmation Classes

There are three ways adults may become members of the Episcopal Church.

For those not baptized, the Sacrament of Baptism brings one into full fellowship with Christ and the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

For those baptized but *not* confirmed in a Church which possesses the Apostolic Succession of Bishops*, or in a Church in Communion with the Episcopal Church**, the Sacrament of Confirmation by a bishop is the means through which membership is bestowed.

* Churches with the Apostolic Succession include the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Churches, Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Old Catholic Church and certain other Churches. ** the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Moravian Church are in full communion with TEC

For those baptized and confirmed in a Church possessing the Apostolic Succession, people are received by the bishop into this branch of the catholic Church.

Regardless of the path to formal affiliation, adults are asked to attend Confirmation Classes. Bishop Louttit will make his last visitation to St. Thomas on December 13 at which time adults will be confirmed and received. Therefore classes will begin this fall in anticipation of his visit. This year the schedule of classes will be a bit different. Unlike in years past when confirmation classes took place on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, Fr. Richard asks that adults attend a six-week 9am Adult Christian Education Class beginning September 20 *and* the Adult Confirmation Classes which also begins September 20 at 11:30am. The six-week 9am class is: *What Episcopalians Believe: A Journey through the Catechism*. The 11:30am class will take up other topics necessary for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. A flyer with the schedule and other information is on the Tract Table.

Anyone may attend these classes: those preparing for Confirmation, anyone wanting to find out more about the Church, and long-time parishioners who want a 'refresher course'.

**TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASSES
BEGIN SUNDAY, OCT. 18TH AT 9:00AM
IN THE YOUTH ROOM
CLASSES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DEC. 6TH, 2009.**

**CONFIRMATION: DECEMBER 13TH
AT THE 10:00AM SERVICE**



**CHILDREN'S FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES
(FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO CAN READ)**

**SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 3RD; OCTOBER 10TH &
OCTOBER 17TH
1:00PM - 2:00PM**

SEPTEMBER YOUTH EVENTS AT ST. THOMAS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6TH LABOR DAY WEEKEND (NO YOUTH)

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 13TH PARISH PICNIC AT CAMP VILLA
MARIE (BRING YOUR BATHING SUITS, A TOWEL AND YOUR
BALL GLOVE! WE'LL BE PLAYING SOFTBALL AND KICK-
BALL. COME READY TO PLAY!)**

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20TH JAM'ERS BOWLING 4:00 - 6:00

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 27TH PJ'S 4:00 - 5:30
EYC WAL-MART SCAVENGER HUNT 6:-7:30PM**



**LOOKING AHEAD: OCTOBER 11TH EYC CAR WASH
AND DINNER!!**



**TEACHING SERIES
AT ST. THOMAS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH , 2:30P – 4:00P
ST. THOMAS PARISH HALL
“THE ROOTS OF GOSPEL MUSIC
COME ALIVE!”**

**PRESENTED BY
MR. SKIP JENNINGS, GOSPEL MUSIC AFICIONADO!**

*THIS PRESENTATION ON THE BEGINNING AND PROGRESSION OF GOSPEL MUSIC
WILL HAVE YOUR FEET TAPPING AND YOUR FACE SMILING
AS WE LISTEN TO SOME OF THE CLASSIC PERFORMERS!
IT WILL TOUCH YOUR SOUL AND REMIND YOU OF THE HYMN SINGING
OF YOUR CHILDHOOD.*

*THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS FUN EVENING BUT
PLEASE RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE – 355-3110!*

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Welcome Fall!

- ◆ Adult Choir practice resumes Thursday, Sept. 10th at 7:00pm.
- ◆ The Daughters of the King resume their monthly meetings on Sept. 16th at 5:00pm.
- ◆ Young Singers (ages 4—2nd grade) resumes Wednesday, Sept. 16th at 5:30pm.
- ◆ Parish Suppers—Wednesday Night Parish Suppers Resume on Sept. 16th at 6:00pm.

From the Parish Register

Birthdays: September

- 1) Mary Hardee, Kathryn Mastrangelo
- 2) Don Fowler, Genell Hendrix
- 3) Eleanor Foster
- 4) Dan Biggerstaff, Willie Stamper
- 5) Sax Daniel
- 7) Gus Anderson, 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) Michael Slatinsky
- 19) Frank Stapp
- 20) Sally McCaughan
- 21) Carlton Thompson
- 22) Connie Davis
- 23) Melissa Lotter, Brian Smith
- 25) Chip Caldwell, Jamie McCurry, Charlie Milmine
- 26) Polly Brooks, Carol Giles

Anniversaries: September

- 1) Charlie and Becky Milmine
- 2) Jack and Tina Norris
- 7) Barrett and Pam 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 Varmedoe
- 21) John and Nancy Gooch
- 30) Jack and Angela Oliver

**St. Thomas, IOH, Savannah will be hosting a 10-week course in
Pastoral Care for Laity,
beginning Monday, October 12th ~ 6 - 8:30pm**

(The Rev.) **Cheryl A.E. Parris, Rector of St. Matthew's, Savannah** is a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor and Rehabilitation Counselor and holds an MA, MDiv, and CASAC credentials.

The cost for the 10 week class is \$25.00 and covers the cost of the text

Developing the Caring Community: A 10-Week Course in Pastoral Care Ministry for Laity

by Dennis L. Butcher of the Alban Institute.

Some of the topics which will be covered are: Introduction to Caring; Historical, Biblical, Theological and Personal; The Art of Listening, Developing a Telecare Ministry; Visitation of Hospital Patients; the Sick & Shut-In; Death and Dying; Dealing with Stress and Crisis; How and When to Refer; The Art of Touch; Healing and Hospitality, Christian Resources and Communication.

Please contact Deacon Geri Nelson - (912) 355-3110 (church office) or (912) 844-4888

Or email at: GeriLeeNelson@aol.com for further information or to register for this class.

You may also complete this form below and return to church office.

Pastoral Care for Laity

Yes, I want to attend: _____

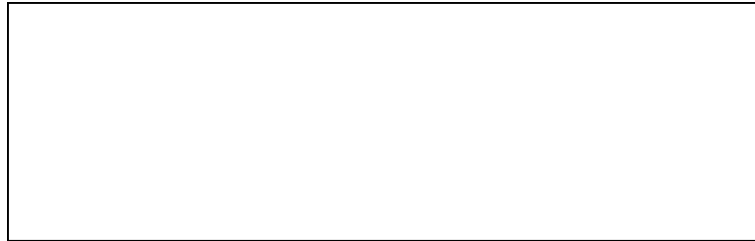
Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

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



**Parish Picnic, Sunday, September 13, 2009
Immediately following 10am Service
Camp Villa Marie**

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, DON FOWLER
JIM CHAMBERS, MARK GOMPELS - JR. WARDENS
MITCH GREEN, TREASURER
MARIANN CHAMBERS, CLERK

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

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
VOLUNTEER WEBMINISTER:
JACQUI BELCHER,
STTHOMASIOH@GMAIL.COM

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009.