



The St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Evangel

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

October 2009

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I recently became a fan of country music. My daughter told me I needed to "listen to the words – they always tell a story." So, I started listening. Some country music songs tell happy stories, and some tell very sad stories, and it sounds to me as though they are often about what the song writer is experiencing in life.

I have always loved music; I have said before that the lyrics to the hymns that we sing in church on Sundays are very prayerful for me. I feel the same way about a few country music songs: one Rascal Flatts song that I listen to every morning became a prayer routine for me--I listened to the song and then prayed for my children. After a month, these daily prayers for my daughters expanded to include ALL the young people whom I have gotten to know and have grown to love at St. Thomas. I feel that the lyrics to this song state something that we, as adults, all want for our youth:

*"I hope that the days come easy and the moments pass slow,
And each road leads you where you want to go,
And if you're faced with a choice, and you have to choose,
I hope you choose the one that means the most to you.*

*And if one door opens to another door closed,
I hope you keep on walkin' till you find the window,
If it's cold outside, show the world the warmth of your smile,
But more than anything, more than anything,
My wish, for you, is that this life becomes all that you want it to.*

*Your dreams stay big, and your worries stay small,
You never need to carry more than you can hold,
And while you're out there getting where you're getting to,
I hope you know somebody loves you, and wants the same things too.*

*I hope you never look back, but ya never forget,
All the ones who love you, in the place you left,
I hope you always forgive, and you never regret,
And you help somebody every chance you get.*

*Oh, you find God's grace, in every mistake,
And you always give more than you take."*

(My Wish, Rascal Flatts)

Christian fellowship is so important to all of us in the church, but especially in the lives of our youth. While children are so much busier today than they were years ago, the distractions numerous and the time commitment difficult for them, we still must provide as many opportunities as possible for their growth as Christians. We have to be committed to showing them and sharing with them what God's love is all about. We want them to feel loved and accepted,

as well as safe and secure in who they are. At every service of Holy Baptism, we are reminded of our promise to support our children in their life in Christ. Christian Education opportunities, church services, and church youth groups are some of the ways that we can fulfill that promise.

Participation in a youth group can present so many positives to young people. Youth group activities can reinforce spiritual messages in subtle ways, and outreach and mission work can enhance a child's understanding that God expects us to serve others. Our youth need a safe place—a safe community where they feel accepted as children of God, where they can learn and grow in Christ, and where his love for them is reinforced. At the end of the day, our prayer, our wish for all of our youth is that each one grow into the individual that God created him or her to be, secure in the knowledge of His love.

- Tracy Edgar, Youth Minister

Clergy and Staff Comings-N-Goings

Music Minister Pam McCaslin will be away the weekend of October 11th, cheering on Lisa McCaslin and Jamie McCurry as they run the Chicago Marathon.

Tracy Edgar is away October 14th through 18th serving on the Cursillo Team at Honey Creek.

Fr Richard & Deacon Geri will have a 'mini-vacation' October 22nd & 23rd; last's month's get-away was changed at the last minute because of duties involving the Bishop's election.

The Clergy will attend the Savannah Convocation Council Meeting at St. Michael's, Savannah, on Sunday afternoon, October 25th.

The Clergy are also away Monday through Wednesday afternoon, November 2nd-4th, attending the semi-annual Diocesan Clergy Conference at Honey Creek.

**Vestry meets Monday,
October 19th, 6:30pm, in the Library**

St. Thomas "set the tone" for Bishop Nominees

On Thursday, August 27th, our parish hosted the first "Walk-About" for those nominated to be our next Bishop. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who volunteered to assist with the evening, under Gayle Crawford's superb leadership, and also to those 'anonymous angels' who underwrote the cost of the Nominees' reception in the St. Thomas Room.

Fr Richard received a very kind letter from the Chair of the Diocesan Transition Committee, The Rev. Louis Miller, Rector of Christ Church, Dublin. Fr. Miller wrote, in part: *I want to personally thank...the good folks at St. Thomas' for the outstanding Walk About kickoff event hosted by your parish...it set the tone and proved to be the pacesetter as this series unfolded. I want to thank you and your team for the wonderful reception...following the event...the provisions you made for the candidates and their wives...(that) showed a great warmth and concern...your folks and your parish were deeply engaged from the moment the candidates hit the ground...and in no small measure contributed to the overall success...all your team are to be commended for...the gentle hospitality for these candidates.*

Our Bishop-Elect

The Rev. Scott Benhase was chosen to serve as the 10th Bishop of Georgia, at the Special Convention on September 12th. Fr. Benhase received the necessary majority of votes in both the Clergy Order and the Lay Order on the second ballot. The Ordination and Consecration of Fr. Benhase will be on Saturday, January 23rd, at the Savannah Convention Center. *Everyone is invited*, and we hope for a huge turnout of St. Thomasians.

To find out more about Fr. Benhase visit the St. Thomas website – stthomasioh.org – on which there is a link to an interview he did for Christ Episcopal Church, Savannah.

**DEADLINE FOR THE
NOVEMBER / MID-DECEMBER EDITION
OF OUR EVANGEL NEWSLETTER
IS OCTOBER 27TH.**

St. Thomas Room Renovation

The St. Thomas Room has received a major 'face-lift', accomplished just in time for the Bishop Nominees' Walk About in late August. This is a project that has been talked about for at least five years.

Among the renovations: the original ceiling was restored, new lighting, crown molding, plantation shutters, new floor covering, drywall to cover cinder block, and a fresh, lovely coat of paint. Thanks to Mark Gompels, Dede Roberts and Millie Green for all of their hard work!

We are not done with the project. The funding for the work accomplished to date came from a Building and Grounds reserve fund. Now we are looking forward to furnishing the room (for which, at present, we do not have funds). If you would like to contribute to the furnishings, please make your check to the parish, noting that it is for St. Thomas Room furnishings.

Why the renovation? We want to change the usage of the St. Thomas Room. Previously it was a multi-purpose space used for everything from meetings, social gatherings, Christian Education, storage of unwanted items and, even, exercise classes. Fr. Richard's and the Vestry's vision is to make the St. Thomas Room more of what used to be called a 'church parlor': a pleasant, 'homey' environment for small meetings, a place where families may comfortably gather before funerals, and a welcoming bride's room. The St. Thomas Room will no longer be for anything and everything. Therefore, Mark, Dede and Millie have carefully chosen colors, fixtures and materials in keeping with the intent of the new St. Thomas Room. We will bring the same intent and vision as furnishings are chosen.

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.

Daughters of the King

The Diocesan Fall Daughters of the King will be held at St. Michael's Church on Saturday, November 14th beginning with coffee at 9:00am. Registration fee is \$5.00. Lunch will be provided.

"Miles for Mission"

Lisa McCaslin and Jamie McCurry will be running the Chicago Marathon on October 11, 2009. They are 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. Thomasinians! Any dollar amount is gratefully received by calling the church office 355-3110 or returning the insert from the church bulletin.

Art Needed

Please support Interfaith Hospitality Network's (IHN) Annual Art Auction. If you are an artist and would like to donate art from your collection, please call Montie Acuff at 236-6395, by Thursday, October 15th. All art media is accepted. (Artists receive 40% of the sale.)

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK PRESENTS

4TH ANNUAL ART AUCTION FOR A FUN AND POWERFUL EVENING OF ART AND JAZZ

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2009
AT THE DESOTO HILTON 6:30PM-9:30PM
\$50.00 per person / \$80.00 per Couple**

Piano Jazz & Silent Auction

Heavy Hors D'oeuvres, Beer & Wine included

Call (912)790-9446 for reservations

Tickets will be Available at the door

We Are Waiting To Serve

If you know of someone who needs help with meals, errands, etc please contact Gayle Crawford at 598-9254. With the Pastoral Care Committee and Connections of Hope we have volunteers waiting to serve.

Unseen Guest

The Unseen Guest Ministry has greeted the season gladly welcoming the donations from church dinners and sharing the labors as a team. The donations toward a generator are deeply appreciated. A few more and the protection needed for the kitchen will be in place. Isle of Hope has “blackouts” even when the hurricanes pass us by and the loss of those meals does not have to be repeated. Joe Roberts is looking around for a good bargain. Wish him well!

Plans for the fundraiser are still incomplete but will be announced as quickly as possible. It will be worth waiting for.

October is the month when Thanksgiving dinners are prepared and frozen for the sick and needy served by the Unseen Guest Ministry. All year long every effort is made to fix meals that are appealing, balanced, and tasty but special effort goes into holiday meals. That means turkeys and hams are needed. The best bargains are Publix semi-boneless ham and any turkey over 15 pounds. Extra weight means more meat and less bone per pound. Piggly Wiggly Greenbax certificates are very helpful. Fresh Market (Bless 'em) is doing a fine job with desserts.

Anyone wishing to participate in this most rewarding ministry will be welcome. Just show up in the St. Thomas kitchen at 8:30am on the second Friday or 6:00pm on the last Monday.

As Father Stacy Sauls wrote for the *Evangel*, “The real experience of walking in the footsteps of Jesus comes in the living out of our discipleship. Our Lord was found in life among the poor, the sick, and the outcast. That is where we will find him still.” How true!

- Selina Johnson



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

From the Parish Register

Birthdays: October

- 2) Jim Chambers, Lynn Dyers
- 4) Regan Smith
- 5) Crystal Simpson
- 7) Harry Meyer
- 8) Jean Papy, Parsons Summerell
- 10) Rene Abeles, Boo McCullough
- 11) Rebecca Gay, Nancy Gooch, Anna Rovolis
- 12) Frederick Knarr
- 13) Luke Howerter, Anne Quaile
- 14) Ryan Chandler
- 15) Bryce Bailey, Karen Gwinner
- 16) Rudy Bairas, David White, Jennifer White
- 17) Wayne Welch
- 18) Laura Kinzie, Thomas Tengg
- 20) Jay McCaslin VI
- 23) Patricia Bacon, Ronnie Hall, Geri Nelson
- 24) Dominique Dyers, Mary Haley,
Matthew Knarr, Elizabeth Simpson
- 25) Pat Paruso, Campbell Thompson
- 26) Dede Roberts, Sallie Stanley, Nellie Story
- 29) Bruce Nichols

Anniversaries: October

- 2) Billy and Amanda Groves
- 10) Dick and Mary Wilson
- 12) Andy and Carol Giles
- 13) Bucky and Elizabeth Johnson
- 16) Ken and Sylvia Hoyt
- 18) Chris and Dana Thompson
- 21) Clive and Marilyn Benting
- 26) Robert and Paulette Figuerido
- 27) Robert and Julie Rodgers
- 30) Phil and Elaine Hodgkins

Sages of St. Thomas!

If you are having your 80th birthday this year (2009), please sign up on the sheet in the PARISH HALL on the table at the entrance.

2010 Stewardship Campaign Begins

Within the next two weeks, you will receive a letter from our Stewardship Committee kicking off our Annual Stewardship Campaign. Please begin prayerfully reflecting on your many blessings in preparation and anticipation of making a generous pledge to St. Thomas. Unlike an investment in the stock market, your investment in St. Thomas will begin paying dividends immediately and will continue to do so throughout the year.

A special "Stewardship Supper" will be held on Wednesday, October 28th at 6:00pm. Hugh Papy and his crew will be the featured chefs' supreme! Watch the Sunday Evangel-lite each week for updates.

St. Thomas Men's Club and Youth Honey Creek Fundraiser

October 11th, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Want a chance to wash your wheels and pick up a Men's Club dinner to go?

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Honey Creek. The meal includes grilled chicken, red rice, cole slaw. Tickets are \$8.00 per person for dinner only, and \$12.00 per ticket for dinner and car wash. Tickets may be purchased from any St. Thomas EYC member.

EYC, grades 6 – 12, Ghost Tour, Sunday, October 25th at 6:00. Take a ride if you dare and hear the tales of ghost and spirits. On our travels you will experience historic Savannah like never before. You will be riding in a real hearse that was in service for over 15 years. We will pass through cemeteries and through the beautiful and historic streets of Savannah and hear the grisly tales of some of the most beautiful homes.

Other dates in October - JAM'ers, October 18th 4:00 – 5:30

PJ's, October 25th 4:00 – 5:30

Adult Choir Rehearsals
Thursdays, 7 p.m.

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

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Stewardship "Kick-Off" Supper Wednesday, October 28th 6:00PM

THE CLERGY & STAFF

BISHOP THE RT. REV. HENRY I. LOUITTIT, JR.
BISHOP ELECT THE REV. SCOTT BENHASE
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, ANNA QUANTE,
SARAH FIGUERIDO

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