

You Are Invited to Join

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE!!!!!!

By Chuck Rhodes

Frequently journalists seek definitions from dictionaries as an introduction to an article or column. Not that I am a journalist, but it seems particularly suitable in this instance to reflect on the definition of *communication* since you are being invited to join this committee.

Among my favorites from the dozens of variations of definitions that seem appropriate are:

- ◇ To convey information about; make known; impart
- ◇ To be connected, one with another
- ◇ Intercourse by words, letters, or messages
- ◇ To receive Communion; participation in the Lord's Supper

As human beings, and especially Christians, we have a strong desire to be "connected, one with another." Simply stated, the role/goal of the St. Thomas' Communications Committee is to seek ways to enhance our ability to carry out the definitions listed above within the context of our church community.

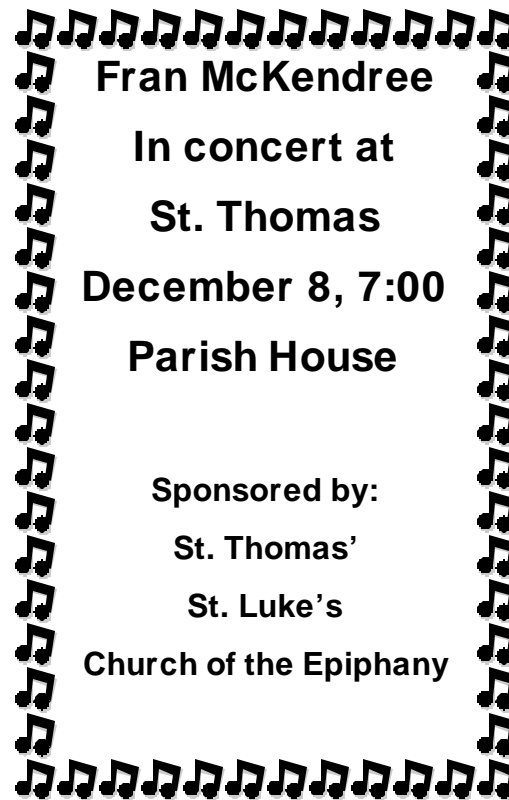
The intent of this committee is to include information in the newsletter and on the web site about all facets of St. Thomas. From the old saying, "Many hands make light work," we can achieve our objective better and more efficiently with greater parish involvement. Designated representatives from every committee, group, organization, etc. should provide monthly information/updates/digital pictures for the newsletter. Committee members will be responsible for "collecting the data." Additionally, feature stories about individuals or events can be submitted for the newsletter. Personal stories and experiences are welcome. We can also recognize "silent servants" and tireless volunteers in our church community. You don't even have to serve on the committee to contribute these kinds of articles. Diocesan and national church news can also be included.

I truly believe that our spiritual lives at St. Thomas can be enhanced through improved communication. Your efforts to help us remain "connected, one to another," either by serving on the committee or by contributing information, will be rewarding, fun, and enrich the lives of the St. Thomas family. To participate in the work (newsletter and web site) of the Communications Committee, you may contact the church office 349-3511 or email me at: chuck@reidsvilleofficecity.com

PLEASE CONTACT ST. THOMAS TO REQUEST:

- * Home Eucharist
- * Names to be added or deleted from the bulletin Prayer List
- * Home visit
- * A date to honor or remember a loved one with flowers on the altar
- * A wedding date
- * Adding or deleting a name to the church mailing list
- * Adding your email address to the church data information
- * A Baptism date

349-3511 or stthomas@vnet.net



Fran McKendree
In concert at
St. Thomas
December 8, 7:00
Parish House

Sponsored by:
St. Thomas'
St. Luke's
Church of the Epiphany

This and That



Flower Power

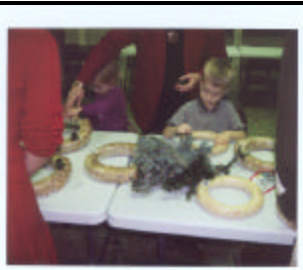
The Worship Committee voted to make a change in the way people may sign up to offer flowers for the altar. The purpose of the new policy is to give everyone an equal opportunity, rather than a stampede when the "new flower calendar" is posted each year.

Beginning now, the 2003 Flower Calendar will be kept by the church secretary, Debbie Powell. Anyone wishing to sign up for specific dates may call her at 349-3511 or email her at: stthomas@vnet.net



Dear Church Members,
 Thank you for your gift to the Greater Reidsville Habitat for Humanity. Your generous support helps us accomplish our mission to provide affordable housing for the residents of Reidsville. Currently we are working on house number 12 with hopes of starting on house number 13 very soon.
 Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.
 Sincerely,
 David Huggins
 President G.R.H.H.
 The Reidsville Soup Kitchen, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation for your recent expression of goodwill (\$371.74). Support such as yours ensures the continuation of this much needed community project.

November Church and Sunday School Attendance



Dillon Gourley makes a wreath!

	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
8:30 Service	18	13	18	10
11:00 Service	71	42	66	60
Nursery	2	0	6	Instead of Sunday School - Everyone (42) Made Advent Wreaths!
Pre-Sch-2nd	2	0	3	
3rd-5th	4	0	4	
Middle Sch.	2	1	1	
High School	2	1	1	
Tiny Saints	3	0	1	
Adult Class	15	10	14	

Congratulations St. Thomas!!

Last month the St. Thomas' Endowment Fund surpassed \$30,000! Many thanks to all who helped make this happen.

The Fund pays St. Thomas the interest it earns each year. It's a continuing source of income the church can depend on.

Your gift to the Fund will provide income to the church for many years to come. Make gifts of stocks, real property, and other assets. Honor friends and give memorials. Remember St. Thomas in your will.

For more information, contact Bob Watt (342-2305) or John Garrett 342-2577).

Music Ministry

By David Zoernig

Perhaps more than any season, Advent and Christmas are associated with music. Caroling, lessons and carols services, love feasts, and Christmas concerts leave no doubt as to the season.

Imagine my disappointment when our interim rector, the Rev. Nelson Hodgkins, informed me years ago that Easter is the true highlight of the Church calendar year! Did he forget to tell the folks at Belk, and the crew that decorates the downtown streets? Why no Easter hymns in the stores, or resurrection scenes hanging from street lights?!

Undaunted, the choir now begins new traditions of our own. New service music is being gradually introduced over the next three weeks: a Fraction Anthem during Communion (for the breaking, or fraction, of the bread), a



(Left) Choir Director & Organist, David Zoernig leads Jeanne Horsley, Mavis Simon, Marian Safriet, John Bullock, and Tom Ham in practicing special songs for Advent and Christmas.



new Rite I Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy), and a new Rite I Agnus Dei (Lamb of God).

The penitential season of Advent calls for the Rite I service, and its traditional language. Using some new forms of service music brings a new sound to those traditions, with the reminder of our call to preparation.

One of my favorite traditions is Christmas Eve and the beautiful music it brings (at long last- those Christmas hymns!). Several talented string play-

ers will be with us that night- Betty Kelly and Hong Mei Zhou on violin, Monika Patyra on viola, Ryane Dunagan on 'cello, and Virginia Masius at the string bass.

And rumor has it that Zion Baptist will be teaching our choir a few new tricks for this year's service. What they don't know is that we've got a few surprises slipped inside of our choir robes for them, too!

"He who sings prays twice"
—St. Augustine

LIFT EVERY VOICE ! By David Zoernig

My sister asked me several months ago if I'd heard of Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer, editor of the *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* (LEVAS II) hymnal, produced in 1993. I had, but didn't know much about him. She'd seen one of his workshops near her home (and his) in Northampton, MA. Her enthusiasm fueled my curiosity, particularly when *The Communicant* announced Boyer's workshop November 2, at St. Ambrose Episcopal church in Raleigh, NC.

I signed up, not quite sure what to expect. I was surprised to see vanloads emptying into the parking lot—from Church of Christ, Pentecostal Holiness, Methodist, and oh yes, Episcopal parishes!

Dr. Boyer is Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. With a Ph.D. from the Eastman School, I was surprised to hear that he does not lead the music at any parish, and that to be an Episcopalian in Amherst, even a Black Episcopalian, means that you attend the one parish in town.

Boyer's first workshop in the deep South was a revelation. "Where did you find all these Black Episcopalians?!" he exclaimed years ago. Indeed, this time there were nearly eighty at the workshop (including the non-Episcopalians).

After we got comfortable, Boyer had us split into sections, arranged like a church choir. Then I knew we were in for some singing! We learned the history of Gospel, and many of the artists responsible for the Golden Age of Gospel (1945-55). The seven-hour workshop introduced us to nearly twenty-five hymns and pieces of service music from LEVAS II, which is considered a supplement to the Hymnal 1982. We learned the importance of diction, and even how to "gospel-ize" a traditional hymn by adding a triplet figure to the beats.

Among the many blessings I'll cherish are an autographed CD and copy of Boyer's book, *The Golden Age of Gospel*. I must admit one regret: that by keeping the Tenors and Sopranos together, Boyer split the couple next to me, The Rev. Dr. Clifford Coles and his beautiful wife, Marsha. I got to hear her sing, but HE was on the other side of the room with the Bass and Alto sections, filling the sanctuary with an amazing voice that is surely the envy of Church of the Holy Spirit, his congregation in Greensboro!



St. Thomas Connects with Diocesan Events

CURSILLO #88

By Laura Felts

The Summit was never more beautiful than the weekend of November 7-10 for Cursillo #88! Glorious fall leaves and perfect weather added a heightened appreciation for the beauty that surrounded us.

St. Thomas was represented on the team and among the candidates. Tom Ham served as an assistant rector and "professor" (talkgiver). Ed Felts was a member of the music team, playing upright bass, mandolin, harmonica, and tin whistle. David Zoernig served as a weekend coordinator and also gave a talk. Anne Rogers and Gayle Ferguson were dutiful "wardens," ringing their bells when it was time to assemble and whose warm smiles welcomed each candidate. On the kitchen team, Ellen Oldland delighted everyone as she revealed multiple talents in music and acting. Bill Oldland was an excellent "Spiritual Advisor," bringing special messages to both team and candidates. Mary Jane Ham gave a talk and served as a "chapel warden," whose job it is to set the table/altar for Eucharist and decorate the chapel with banners and flowers. Laura Felts was also on the chapel warden team which allowed her to be in her element arranging the many flowers



Melinda Rice was sponsored by Ellen Oldland for Cursillo #88. Pictured here, they attended the Greater Greensboro Ultreya (Get-Together) November 23 in the Parish House at St. Thomas.

brought for the weekend by team members.

Candidates from St. Thomas were Jim McCloskey and Melinda Rice. Both Jim and Melinda added enthusiasm and joy to the Cursillo Weekend, sharing and making new friends. They both shared unique talent with the group on Saturday evening which was a delight to all. Jim and Melinda are welcome additions to Cursillo!



Reflections from a Happener at #39

By Hutch Wheless

To all the youth who are interested in learning about God and learning about your true-inner self, there is a place for you – called Happening.

When I first got accepted, I was kind of like, "Man, this will be boring." But the more people I talked to, the more excited I got.

The day finally came and when I pulled up in our car, I felt like an outsider. That lasted about five seconds, because by then, three people came running up to me, hugged me, and took my stuff to my cabin. The funny thing was that I didn't even know them.

The staff, or "team", was loving, caring, and friendly.

Given by the high schoolers on the team, many talks led me to question myself more than I ever have before.

All weekend, surprises rolled out like a race car! Over the entire weekend I felt like a different person.

Happening helps you do things that spiritually change you like never before. At most times during the weekend, you are broken into groups of people just like you. These table groups become like families over the weekend. It's hard to really explain what Happening is because you just have to

experience it. The best way I can explain Happening is that when I went to the weekend, it changed me.

When I left, Happening transformed me.



187th Annual Convention-The Episcopal Diocese of NC
January 23-25 in Durham

St. Thomas' Delegates: Pam Allen & David Zoernig

Alternate: Paul Barrett

Also Attending: Lape Smith, Diocesan Stewardship