

Tidings

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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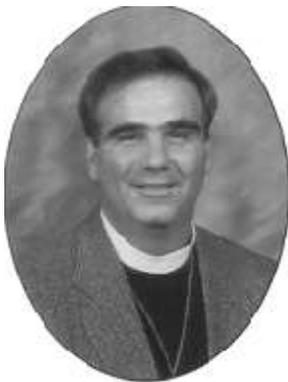
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June 2005

From the Rector's Desk

The Rev. William D. Oldland



Summertime is quickly approaching us and, as we all know, many of us will be going on vacations and other fun activities. These long days are often described as lazy days and afternoons. Many of us find the summer to be a time to recharge our batteries. With these thoughts in mind, some ideas for this time of relaxation come to mind.

juiciness of fresh peaches or ripe tomatoes. The juice kind of dribbles down our chins and tends to make our fingers sticky. The enjoyment of these foods might remind us of the richness of God's grace towards us.

Enjoy the summer sun. The days are long and the sunshine feels good. We can enjoy the warmth of the sun on our skin. Perhaps we will recall the One who created the sun that brings us warmth and light.

We might feel a soft summer breeze on our face particularly in the mountains or at the beach. The wind is refreshing when it gets to warm. We just might recall the Spirit of God moving over the face of the earth when sea and land appear.

Enjoy the rich taste of a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables. It is hard to deny the wonderful taste and

Read a good book. Enjoy a good novel or some other favorite form of literature. We might thank God for the wonderful gift of intelligence we have been given. We can choose to enjoy the time of rest and refreshment offered.

Laugh continually. One of the greatest gifts we have been given is joy. The summer can be a time of great joy and fun. Have a good time and laugh heartily.

Share some of this summertime with someone else. Enjoy the company of good friends and family. Summertime offers us the opportunity to gather without the pressure of holidays and family events. It is just time to be, to be present with others in God's kingdom.

Finally, enjoy sitting in a comfortable chair or swinging in a hammock. Rest was also a part of creation. On the seventh day God rested when the universe was finished. While we rest, we have the opportunity just to be with God and offer thanks for all of the wonder God

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The Vestry

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Jr. Warden - Tommy Thorn	616-0800	espywiz@nuvox.net
Worship - Dot Reilly	634-1828	irishbr@aol.com
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Finance - Paul Barrett	361-0793	barrett8@mindspring.com

Open Vestry Meetings are every third Monday at 6:45 p.m.

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From the Rector's Desk

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made in creation.

I pray each of us has a wonderful summer blessed by God. I also pray we will be protected on our journeys and in our travels. Most of all, I pray each of us will have some special moments with God during these months ahead. I pray these moments will enrich our lives and allow us to see the wonder, and feel the love of amazing and wonderful God.

Have a great summer.

Bill +

Mission & Ministry Fair

On Saturday April 30, 2005, at least twelve St. Thomas' parishioners participated in the diocesan Mission & Ministry Fair held at Canterbury School in Greensboro.

The morning and afternoon Workshops sessions covered a variety of topics and those who attended reported back with a brief summary to our Vestry at their monthly meeting on May 16.

Between the Workshop sessions we worshiped at the **Acolyte Festival Eucharist** celebrated by **Bishops Michael Curry, Gary Gloster and Chip Marble**, and enjoyed browsing through the displays and a time of fellowship over lunch.



*Bettie & Chuck Rhodes
registering at the Mission & Ministry Fair
at Canterbury School.*

Adult Christian Education Opportunities

During the summer months we will be taking a hiatus from our regular schedule on Sunday morning. In place of the prepared lesson, we will use this time to **discuss current events and how we as Christians might respond**. These gatherings will be informal and open to everyone. We will gather at 10:00 in the Vestry room after everyone has had a chance to get a cup of coffee.



Also, **Monday noon studies on Revelation** will continue during June. Currently we are in chapter 10. Everyone is invited to attend and join in the discussions.

Paul Yoder Band Concert

Be sure to be here on Sunday July 3 for our annual **July 4th Parish Picnic** and a special worship celebration featuring the Paul Yoder Band.

We will have one **10:00 a.m. combined service** here on the grounds and the musical sermon will be done by the band.

After the service we'll conclude with our annual **Parish Picnic** right here at St. Thomas'!

Vacation Bible School

(by Polly Yeago)



Vacation Bible School will be June 13 - June 17 from 5:30 - 7:00 each night.

The children will be "going on Safari" with our theme, **Safari Adventure: Discover Jesus The King**. For more information, please call **Polly Yeago** at 643-7708. Register now.



St. Thomas' first annual **Spring Festival, Cookout and Ministry Fair** was very successful. Even the weather cooperated.

The Men's Club kept the grills hot and filled with delicious food.

The ECW's flea market to date has collected a total of \$1,331.55.

Thanks goes out to all who helped make this a great celebration!



Youth Group Activities: Mission Trip and Rafting

The youth group activities wind down a little bit during the summer months. We do have two major events before us. First, we have the mission trip. So, the next two months will be full of preparations for this trip. The trip will take place from July 31st to August 6th. Currently, we have three churches attending the trip. They are Church of the Epiphany and St. Luke's in Eden, and St. Thomas. Church of the Epiphany is sending three adults and six teenagers. We have eight teenagers, two college students and eight adults attending. They are:

Bill Oldland
Danny Hall
Richard Piazza
Gayle Ferguson
Megan Ferguson
Joseph Kinnarney
Tom Ham
Cheri Barrett
Jeffrey Kinnarney
Heather Gentle
Katie Fraser
Ben Fraser
Clair Fraser
Lauren Ruhland
Daniel Oldland
William Oldland
Caitlin Ferguson
Colin Ferguson
Travis Roberson (St. Luke's)

The list is not complete yet. We may have more who want to come. Please keep all of the individuals in your prayers.

Rafting in August

The youth group is going rafting in August. We will be going to the Chattooga River. The tentative dates for this trip are August 17th through the 19th. Anyone who wants to attend, please contact the church office. We will need a head count in order to reserve our places. Before we go, we will have a day of practice in canoes at the 4-H camp. Stay tuned to your mail for details.



St. Francis Youth Group Summer Event

The Youth Group of St. Francis has invited our youth and advisors to attend **Friday Youth Nights at St. Mike's**. They have recently refurbished St. Mike's. They now have a pool table, foosball table, and ping-pong table in their youth house. They are purchasing a large screen TV with surround sound for the downstairs. These events will take place on the first and third Friday night in June from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. **Danny Hall** extended an open invitation to all of us to come join the fun!

Congratulations to our Grads!

Congratulations to our St. Thomas' graduates in the class of 2005!



Sherrie Donecker

Katie Fraser

Heather Gentle



Sunday School Closing Picnic

Sunday May 22, 2005

Photos courtesy of Tom Ham



Inspiration

by Don Gwarek

In those quiet moments when you are sitting in the church waiting for services to begin, take a look at some of the beautiful stained glass windows. Not only are they a joy to look at but the people they depict can be an inspiration to us.

There's Jesus, and Mary, His mother, Mathew, Mark, Luke, John, and Martha.

Martha?

What did she do that was so great? She didn't write any books of the Bible. She wasn't some kind of super hero. Tradition holds that after the Crucifixion, Martha, Lazarus and Mary were set adrift in a rudderless, oar-less boat that eventually landed in France where they preached. And legend also has it that she killed the dragon "La Taresque," in Avignon, but I think we can agree that might just be a stretch of someone's imagination. So just what did Martha do that can inspire us?

Well, for starters, she is mentioned in the Bible twelve times, three times in Luke, and nine times in John. We know that Jesus loved Martha and her brother Lazarus and sister, Mary Magdalene and was a frequent visitor to their Bethany home. Whenever He visited, Martha would make supper and serve Him. Of course she complained that Mary wasn't helping but was listening to Him instead. Jesus told her that Mary was doing the right thing.

And then, at the death of Lazarus, Jesus made His most important revelation to Martha. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, even if he dies will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha replied, "Yes Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

And there you have it. What did Martha do? Nothing showy or fancy. She was just an ordinary person who complained once in awhile but who believed and was ready to serve Jesus and Jesus loved her.

She was just like you or me.

Now that's what I call inspiration.

Welcome North Family!

by Joanne Piazza, Sr. Warden

Owen North was baptized here at St. Thomas' on Easter and we feel truly blessed to welcome the entire family into the fellowship of our church. **Jeff and Kate North** are the proud parents of Owen, age 4 months, and **Hannah**, age 2-1/2.

I asked Kate what brought them to St. Thomas' and she said they wanted Owen to be baptized and the family priest had retired, so they went looking for an Episcopal Church and found us. Kate was raised in the Episcopal Church, but it is new to Jeff. They are hoping to enroll Hannah in the Day School next semester.

Kate is a stay-at-home mom and keeps very busy with Hannah and Owen. She said she doesn't have much time for herself, but does enjoy reading when she can find the time. Jeff is the Director of the B-Jeff Penn 4-H Education Center and he enjoys outside activities and Xbox.

Please introduce yourself to Kate and Jeff if you haven't already done so.

**Jeff & Kate North
(and Hannah & Owen)
804 Cedar Lane
Reidsville, NC 27320**

Thanksgiving & Farewell for The Summit

The Board of the Summit Invites the People of the Diocese of North Carolina to

A Liturgy of Thanksgiving and Farewell for The Summit

Saturday June 4, 2005 • 2:00 p.m.
Rt. Reverend Michael Curry, Officiant
Light refreshments will follow

Where Two or Three are Gathered Together...



DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	
May 1	8:30	11	
	11:00	55	
	2:00	17	Blessing of the Animals
May 8	8:30	20	
	11:00	65	
May 15	10:00	14	
		58	
May 22	10:00	58	Last Day of Sunday School

Welcome Ed Spencer!

On Wednesday June 15 we will be welcoming our new organist/choir director, **Ed Spencer**. Ed will be conducting choir rehearsal that evening for the first time and will be playing for the 11:00a.m. service beginning on Sunday June 19.

Watch the next issue of "Tidings" for more about Ed but in the meantime, we hope that you'll take a minute to give him a warm St. Thomas' welcome!

In Memory Of
Hugh Erskine Fraser, Jr.
 May 22, 2005
 father of
 Dr. Hugh Fraser

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Lape** and **Betsy Smith** who will be celebrating their **60th** wedding anniversary on Sunday June 12!

A Friendly Stewardship Reminder

We all know summertime is a wonderful time to get away and relax. Spending time in relaxation and reflection is part of the stewardship to which we have been called. Please remember that the church still needs to operate during the summer. When you are away on your vacation please consider an arrangement to keep up to date on a pledge or financial support to the church. Having these funds available during the summer makes the operation of the church flow more smoothly. Thank you for your help and consideration.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Committee of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church presented a check to the Vestry for \$1,819.14 during their May Vestry Meeting. This amount represents the interest accrued during the year 2004 from the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund, established in 1997 has continued to grow and is very close to reaching a balance of \$40,000.

When the Endowment Committee was appointed by the Vestry in 1997, it was agreed that the interest income from the fund would be distributed back to the church each year. It was also agreed that the money was to be used by St. Thomas' in the following manner: A minimum of 25% would be used for outreach, a minimum of 25% would be used for capital improvements and a maximum of 50% would be used for operations. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to prepare for the future of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church ensuring financial stability. Contributions may be made to the Endowment Fund throughout the year by making memorial contributions, sharing stock, remembering the Endowment Fund in Estate Planning.

Members of the Endowment Committee are: **Ann Donecker, Laura Felts, Starr McHugh, Bill Sutton, and Steve Worth.**

Rockingham Ultreya - June 3

Friday, June 3rd, at 7:00 PM in the St. Thomas' Parish House, the Rockingham Ultreya will meet. Bring a covered dish to share and a voice ready to sing songs of Cursillo!

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315 Lindsey Street
Reidsville, NC 27320

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June 2005



Who's Who

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LAY WORKERS:

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- Greeters Coordinator -
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Dot Reilly 634-1828
- Pastoral Care Chair -
Tommy Thorn 616-0800
- Outreach Chair -
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- Webmaster -
John Bullock 349-9232
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WANTED!!!

INFORMATION - STORIES - PICTURES - IDEAS!
Newsletter Deadline: the 20th of EVERY month
news@stthomasreidsville.org OR Call the church office 349-3511