

Tidings

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street
Reidsville, NC 27320

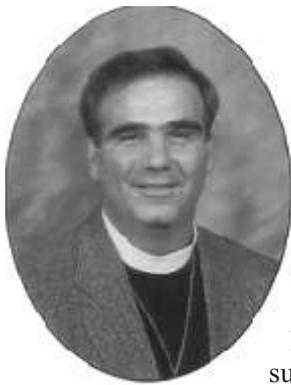
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July 2005

From the Rector's Desk

The Rev. William D. Oldland



Thoughts for the Season

Currently, we are in the season of the year after Pentecost. As seasons go, it is not flashy like Christmas or Easter. It is not contemplative like Advent or Lent. It is also a long season that covers the summer months and most of the

fall. Finally, the color is green, which is not as bright as the purple, white or red of some of the other seasons of the church year. So, the season after Pentecost often doesn't receive its due.

However, during this season we have some of the most interesting readings for the church. For example, the readings for July during this year are from Matthew. They offer to us; the Body of Christ; comfort, challenge, and opportunity. We are offered comfort in Jesus' call to come to him. He offers rest for the weary, love for the hopeless, gentleness and humility (Mat 11:25-30). His call is open to all who want to know more about and are searching for God's presence in their lives. God wants us to experience the depth of care offered by God through the Son.

As God wants us to be comforted, God also offers us challenge. We are challenged to listen to Jesus' words and to respond. The parable of the sower, (Mat 13), is the core of this teaching. The Word of God is sown among us and we are the hearers and we are the bearers. The parable describes both conditions for us. We are to hear the Word of God and bear fruit. We only bear fruit by following the example of Jesus Christ in sharing God's love by our words and our deeds. So we are receivers and we are bearers of God's love. The challenge is definitely present for us in the teachings of this parable.

And yet, along with the challenge we also have opportunity. During the month of July the last two weeks are full of parables about the kingdom of heaven. These parables are found at the end of the thirteenth chapter of Matthew. These parables offer us great opportunity. They offer us the opportunity to reflect on what we believe the heaven is really like. I know I have heard many stories and tales from individuals about heaven. Some people say the streets are paved with gold. Others say it is like the Garden of Eden. It is what God intended for the creation to be from the beginning. Of course, no one really knows. The parables we have this month imply that the kingdom of heaven is greater than our imaginations will allow us to see. In fact, being able to enter into the kingdom of heaven

continued on page 2...

The Vestry

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

Inside This Issue...

> Paul Yoder Band & Picnic-July 3	2
> Fall Christian Ed. Opportunities	2
> Welcome Ed Spencer!	3
> Musical Notes from Ed	3
> Youth Trips & Events	4
> Vacation Bible School	5
> Know Your Saints - 101	6
> EDS: Day School Now Enrolling	7
> Congratulations & Parish Register	7

From the Rector's Desk

continued

is worth everything we have. The reason it is worth so much is because it is so wonderful that mere words can not describe it. Entering the kingdom of heaven is an opportunity open to everyone.

During the next month of this season we see comfort, challenge and opportunity being offered and taught to the Body of Christ in the readings of the church. This season is definitely one of teaching and reflection. It is a time for us to learn about God and our relationship to God and to one another. It is not a season of personal reflection and introspection like Lent, but one of reflection as we are called as the Body of Christ. It is a time when the Holy Spirit opens our hearts and our minds to the love of God in new and wonderful ways. I pray the next month will be one of discovery as we reflect on these readings as the Body of Christ at St. Thomas.

Have a wonderful July,

Bill +

Sunday July 3rd Celebration!



Instead of going to The Summit for our Fourth of July celebration, we will be staying at St. Thomas. On Sunday, July 3rd, we will have services at 8:30 and 10:00 am. The 10:00 am service will be on the grassy area of our new property. **The Paul Yoder Band** will play during the service at the time of the sermon and the offertory. Wear comfortable clothes, bring lawn chairs, blankets, and something to share for the picnic to follow.

After communion we will have the picnic on the lawn with more music from this wonderful group. Bring blankets and lawn chairs and a dish to share. We will supply hot dogs, tea, and lemonade for all. We might even have some ice cream for dessert. Please set this date aside on your calendar and pray for clear skies and sunny weather.

Christian Education Opportunities Arise This Fall Using Gifts and Talents

Beginning in September there are multiple opportunities for a variety of educational purposes. The classes will cover the topics of Bible Study, confirmation, identifying gifts and talents and using some specific gifts and talents.

The **Bible Study** will take place on Monday at noon. This class will concentrate on the last half of the book of Revelation. If you are interested in Biblical imagery concerning the end times this class is a wonderful opportunity.

Confirmation this year will be with Bishop Curry on October 30th. **Confirmation classes** will begin on September 11th and continue through September 16th. The classes will be on Sundays at 1:30 in the afternoon. These classes will concentrate on the teachings of the church including the ministry of the laity, sacraments of the church, some church history, and church polity. These classes are open to everyone. If you are interested in attending these classes please contact the church office or Bill Oldland.

In addition to these opportunities **two evening classes** will be offered as well. **The first class will be an examination and a discovery of gifts and talents.** These classes will be on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. There will be seven sessions in all. These classes will begin on September 22nd and end on November 3rd. The minimum size for this class is four people. If you are interested in exploring and discovering what gifts God may have given to you, please register for this class. The class will be one of self-reflection, but it will also be fun and joyful.

Finally, we have an opportunity to be a part of a **Stephen's Ministry Training Program** at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Greensboro. They are starting training classes for Stephen ministers on Tuesdays beginning September 13th. Stephen Ministers are specially trained in a ministry of companionship and listening. The training dates are every Tuesday night from September 13th through November 22nd, and Jan 10th through the end of March. Anyone interested in becoming a Stephen's Minister has to commit to the entire training program and be willing to be assigned to a care receiver after training is complete. Interested individuals should contact Bill Oldland directly concerning the class and the training. Also, more information about Stephen's Ministry will be available in the Parish Hall and the Narthex of the church.

Welcome Ed Spencer!



On Sunday June 19th we had the pleasure of welcoming our new Organist/Choir Director, **Ed Spencer**.

Actually, quite a few of us had the opportunity to meet Ed when he worshiped with us on Sunday June 5th and he also sat in with the choir at their rehearsal earlier that week. Needless to say, since he sings tenor, he was most warmly welcomed that evening!

A native of Idaho, Ed earned his B.S. degree in Music/Organ Performance from Old Dominion University in 1976 and his M.C.M (Masters in Church Music and Ministry) from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ed is currently taking courses toward teaching certification at Old Dominion University. He has spent the past 20-plus years in the Martinsville and Collinsville, VA

Musical notes from



Thank you already!

Greetings from Virginia by way of Eden! I am happy to be here as your new organist and choir director, and what a wonderful welcome I have received from you thus far! Thank you to **Bill Oldland** and **John Bullock** for the hours you have already spent with me in orientation for

area and comes to us from his most recent position at Christ Episcopal Church (Freda Watt's home parish) in Martinsville where he had played since 2002. Prior to that he had also played and directed for a Lutheran and a United Methodist church, and served as Minister of Music and Youth in Baptist churches in Collinsville, VA and Alma, GA.

Along with his wife, **Kay**, he has been Co-Owner of Spencer & Spencer Music Services since 1984. He teaches Private Piano and Brass, is a Piano Technician, Soloist, Organist and Trombonist for concerts, weddings, funerals and receptions. Ed is a Composer/Arranger with 23 published works! Kay is currently the music specialist at Leaksville-Spray Elementary School in Eden.

Ed and Kay have two sons, **Nathan**, a recent graduate of Longwood University, and **Joel**, currently a rising senior majoring in music at Appalachian State University.

Ed led his first choir practice on Wednesday evening the 15th and all went very well. The choir was especially pleased with his directing abilities as well his choices of some very familiar music for his first Sunday with us. He is looking forward to working with the choir and the congregation and to getting to know us. If you haven't already done so, be sure to give him your Summer 2005 Hymn Blast requests. This will be a big help to him as he tries to learn more about our taste in music.

Besides the notes he'll be giving us on the organ and piano, be watching for some "**Musical Notes from Ed**" both here and in future issues of "Tidings".

this job and in beginning what I hope will be long-lasting friendships. I sense in you, Bill, a pastor's heart, a love for your people here at St. Thomas', and a mandate to share God's love with the world outside the church walls. I sense in you, John, a grace which looks after the needs of others, a quiet helpfulness which is truly a blessing. I have been eager to get back to choir rehearsal since I visited on June 1, and the warm reception I have received from the choir is most welcome indeed!

You will soon find that I love hymns, and apparently so do you! John has graciously donated choir and accompaniment books of Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and the Hymn Blast 2005 is in full swing (yes, "Amazing Grace" and "A Mighty Fortress" on June 19 were both Hymn Blast hymns, as was "Lift High the Cross" on June 26!) Lift your voices and SING!

Again, thank you already. We're going to have a great time together!

Youth Mission Trip to SC July 31 - August 6

The Mission Trip is scheduled to leave after the 10:00 am service on July 31st. Members of St. Thomas, Church of the Epiphany, St. Luke's and St. Francis will be on our trip this year. We will be working on one home and helping out in various shelters and food pantries as well. For those who are not attending personally we offer the following ways to participate with us:

Pray for us daily. We really feel the prayers of those at home while we are away.

Send e-mails to Tom Ham. We will have an e-mail address for you in the church bulletin.

Bring in soap, shampoo and other toiletry items for the shelters for us to distribute.

Finally, monetary donations are always accepted and greatly appreciated.

Danny Hall is leading the trip for our group with the help of a wide variety of adult and college advisors from our churches. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

August Rafting Trip

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.

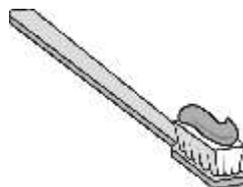


St. Francis Youth Group Summer Event

Remember, 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 nights in July from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. **Danny Hall** extended an open invitation to all of us to come join the fun!

REMEMBER!...
COMBINED 10:00 SERVICE
SUNDAY JULY 31
YOUTH MISSION TRIP SEND-OFF!

Needed... Soap!



One of the groups we will be working with on this year's mission trip is a homeless shelter in the Charleston area. In talking to the volunteer coordinator there, she said that one of their on-going needs is for toiletries for their residents. **Travel soaps** and **shampoos** that folks bring back from vacation are great for this.

- Danny Hall



Vacation Bible School

(by Polly Yeago;
photos from Friday's picnic taken by John Gillette.)



The theme for this year's VBS was an African Safari. On June 13 St. Thomas' Episcopal Church sent 10 kids on an African Safari to discover Jesus. With the help of some wonderful adults the children had a great time discovering Jesus.

I want to thank **Teresa Ruhland** for her creative cooking, **Jim McCloskey** and **Lauren** for teaching the 6 younger children, **Scottie Frohock** for working

with the 4 older kids.

Bill Oldland taught the kids some great songs which they sang for the adults on Friday night at **Kris and Anne Rogers** home. Friday night was the big highlight for everyone involved with VBS. We had a cookout, a scavenger hunt, and the big event was fishing thanks to the generosity of Kris and Anne Rogers. I'm not sure who had more fun fishing, the kids or the adults. Kris saw to it that if you put a fishing pole in your hand you caught a fish. Next time you see Kris ask him his secret.

Again I want to thank everyone involved with this year's VBS. Because of your help I believe that we had the best VBS ever. I hope that next year more children can have this wonderful experience.



Know Your Saints ~ 101

by Don Gwarek

How about a short pop quiz? Ready?

Who is the best known and most loved of all the saints?

If you answered Saint Francis of Assisi you would win all the marbles. Saint Francis is known throughout the world if not by his works, then at least by his image. He is usually shown holding an animal in his arms while other birds and animals watch. His statue is a favorite among gardeners everywhere and one can be found near the rear entrance of our church. A stained glass window bearing his image graces our church as well.

His is a remarkable story.

The young Francis was an unlikely candidate for sainthood. Born of wealthy parents, it was said that nobody loved pleasure more than he. A handsome

young man, who was a favorite among the young nobles, he enjoyed fine clothes, was quick witted and loved singing. But although he spent lavishly he had an instinctive sympathy with the poor.

Francis wasn't very studious and rather than follow in his father's footsteps as a merchant, he chose a career as a soldier. That career was short lived because he was captured and spent a year in prison where because of

contracting a prolonged low-grade fever it is said that he first began to think of eternity. After his release he tried to resume his military career but he again became feverish and a voice in a dream bid him return to his home.

From that point on he was a changed man. He no longer spent lavishly or dressed in rich clothes. When he met a leper on the road he traded the poor man his clothes and gave him all of his money. He later gave away all of his wealth and privileges and preached throughout the countryside of brotherly love and peace. He fasted and prayed and suffered stigmata, the wounds of Christ.

Soon other like-minded men and women joined him and started the religious orders now known as the Franciscans and

the Poor Clares.

To Francis love was the truest of all truths. He imitated the example of Jesus as literally as it was in him to do so and he found in all things some reflection of Divine perfection.

Francis died in 1226 at the age of 45 leaving such a beautiful legacy.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith

Where there is despair, hope

Where there is darkness, light

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much

seek to be consoled as to console

not so much to be understood as to understand,

not so much to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned

it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

Saint Francis of Assisi

A friendly reminder about emailing Photos & News for "Tidings"

If you have news stories or photos for "Tidings" that you would like to send by email, please send them to our newsletter email box - news@stthomasreidsville.org. Keep in mind that our office uses a much slower dial-up internet connection and downloading even just a few pictures can tie up the computer there for up to a half hour.

Where Two or Three are Gathered Together...



DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
May 29	8:30	11
	11:00	53
June 5	8:30	12
	11:00	51
June 12	8:30	4
	11:00	50
June 19	8:30	16
	11:00	46



Please make a note of a new email address for **Joanne Piazza:**
rjpiazza@netzero.net

Also, for those who may not have it yet, **Kate Nelson's** new address is:

Kate Nelson
 Lutheran Hall - Room 118
 1265 21st Street NE
 Hickory, NC 28601

Thank You Notes

Many thanks to everyone for your patience with me and for all of your very kind words of appreciation and encouragement during my time as interim organist. It was a blessing to me to have this opportunity to serve you and to refresh one of the talents God has blessed me with. For those who may not know, it was actually a job as organist during my last two years of high school that originally introduced me to the Episcopal church.

I know that you will join me in giving **Ed** a warm St. Thomas' welcome!

John Bullock

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
John Montgomery Wagoner, Jr.
 June 16, 2005
 son of
 Susan Dalton

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Joanne Piazza** on her recent retirement from VF! Joanne, we wish you many wonderful years to enjoy all of the things you have been wanting to do!

ENROLLING NOW

for

2005-2006 school year!

3 & 4 Year Old Preschool

&



$\frac{1}{2}$ Day Kindergarten



Episcopal Day School

Activities enjoyed by the children include: daily instruction (including letter & number recognition and writing), crafts, field trips, non-denominational Bible lessons, snacks, playtime and other organized activities.

Limited Spaces!

For more information call
Edie Stadler at 342-6223.



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.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street
Reidsville, NC 27320

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July 2005



Who's Who

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- Pastoral Care Chair -
Tommy Thorn 616-0800
- Outreach Chair -
Tom Balsley 349-3638
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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