

Tidings

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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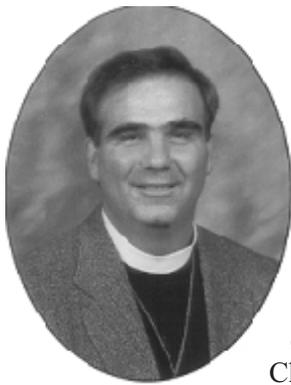
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August 2005

From the Rector's Desk

The Rev. William D. Oldland



As I write this letter to you I have just returned from vacation in Charleston. During the vacation two events caused me to stop and pause and reflect. The first event was the bombing in London. The second event was the opening of a new massive bridge over Charleston Harbor. I have been struck by the strange and amazing dichotomy of the two events.

I don't know if we will ever know the thoughts of the four young men who carried out the bombing in London. For me, it brought back memories of the World Trade Center. Once again, I saw innocent lives lost. Once again, I saw families' lives change. Once again, I saw four young men convinced to carry out a dastardly act planned by someone else. This action was carried out in the name of a group who claims a religious foundation. They claim to be carrying out these acts in the name of God.

By using the name of God in their actions they are appealing to the people on both sides. They attempt to

rally those who will fight and die for their cause and they hope to affect the hearts of their perceived "enemies". They believe the hue and cry of the masses will change the hearts of those with the ability to change policy. Instead of using right means and actions to promote their cause, they attempt to use fear, death and destruction. They do not want to unite people. They want to separate people. They create gaps, valleys, even chasms, between people to achieve their ends.

By contrast, I saw the opening of a bridge in the Charleston area. This bridge is a huge suspension bridge over the harbor connecting the communities of Charleston and Mt. Pleasant. It will provide opportunity for the communities to travel safely. It will allow for all people of the surrounding areas to mingle and meet. It overcomes the natural obstacle of the river and allows people to live more comfortably with one another. The bridge became for me an opposing symbol to the destruction and death in London.

As a result, I began to reflect about building bridges and spirituality. Since the beginning of time God has built bridges with humanity. Of course the ultimate bridge for humanity is found in the presence of Jesus Christ. He exemplified for us the incredible love of God by offering

continued on page 2...

The Vestry

Sr. Warden - Joanne Piazza	349-5827	rjpiazza@netzero.net
Jr. Warden - Tommy Thorn	616-0800	espywiz@nuvox.net
Worship - Dot Reilly	634-1828	irishbr@aol.com
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Christian Ed. - Scotty Reeder	342-0027	rhiannonr@bellsouth.net
Parish Live - Anne Montaigne	349-9441	amontaigne@yahoo.com
Outreach - Todd Walker	342-9632	todd.walker@smallemoughtocare.com
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Communications - Melinda Rice	349-9770	mrice@elon.edu
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

continued

himself for us. Do we realize that we worship a God who is always more ready to forgive, grant mercy and love us, than we are able to respond back to God?

As I reflected on this question one other question arose: How do we at St. Thomas build bridges with others? Bombs and bullets take lives and tear apart families, but so do words and other actions. Unkind words and acts of meanness destroy relationships. Holding on to hurts and grudges creates chasms and voids of emptiness between people. Not forgiving others for their actions also causes separation and pain. Of course, the opposite words of kindness, actions of love, releasing hurt and forgiving others are the tools that build friendship and companionship, promote mercy and help love grow. In this community, in our churches, in our lives, with friends, neighbors and strangers, how are we reacting and acting? Are we living our lives with God and building bridges? Are we following the example of Jesus Christ? Are we living our lives in a small world of fear and trepidation? These are a few thoughts and questions to ponder.

Peace,

Bill +



When nobody seems to love you

And trouble's everywhere

When skies turn dark above you

And joy turns to despair

When everything just falls apart

And no one seems to care

Just look down deep inside your heart

And know that God is there.

BC, Johnny Hart ~ Thanks to Don Gwarek for sharing

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.

An **Adult Bible Study** will take place on Monday at noon in the Vestry room. 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 October 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 policy. 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 also be offered. 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.

The other evening class is 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 Jenny Wilkins!

by Joanne Piazza



Our newest addition to St. Thomas' staff as church secretary is Virginia (Jenny) Wilkins. Please let Jenny know we are happy to have her with us. Jenny started her new job on July 5th, which was the first week Rev. Oldland was away on vacation. What a way to begin, with the boss not there for support and direction, but Jenny rose to the occasion, proving she is capable of taking charge in running the office. Rev. Oldland was able to spend some time with Jenny before she started to acquaint her with the office and her responsibilities and she is doing a great job! She said that everyone has been very nice to her and she appreciates our patience as she learns her new job.

Jenny was raised in Martinsville and moved to North Carolina when she married her husband, Kirby. They live in Reidsville with their two cats, Patches and Woody. Jenny leads a very busy life as she is currently a staff pastor at First Assembly of God in Reidsville, where she assists the senior pastor with worship services, does some preaching and performs pastoral care. Jenny has an Associate Degree in Biblical Counseling from Trinity Seminary and Bible College. She plans to begin on her Master of Divinity in the fall. Jenny has worked in the Ministry for eight years and was fully ordained in 2003. Jenny studied and obtained her degree while holding full-time positions in office administration.

In addition to her duties as staff pastor and wife, Jenny still manages to find time for reading, music and shopping (which she loves!) Jenny plays a little piano and enjoys singing. Kirby teaches guitar and does instrument repair.

Stop in and introduce yourself to Jenny if you get a chance. She will be in the office Monday thru Thursday from 9 am until 1 pm, and Fridays until noon.

Musical notes from



Summer Daze

The above title is only partly a play on words; summertime routine is often a bit crazy and may leave us feeling like Dorothy on her way to Oz.

THANK YOU again for sharing Hymn Blast hymns (HB in the worship bulletin) with us. We have enjoyed a half dozen during July and more are coming in August!

THANK YOU to the choir for your attendance during the summer weeks. I am really enjoying getting to know you and, on Wednesday nights, reading through some of the music you love. Your presence and leadership on SUNDAY mornings, too, is so very important in helping our worship times to be the best they can be.

THANK YOU to **Tom** and **Melinda** for the fine leadership you provided in Morning Prayer and Ante-Communion.

THANK YOU to **Mavis** for helping secure a new cotta for my use and to **Chuck** for additional help in "processing in".

One final "note", echoing the other **Ed's** sentiments: we are always eager to welcome new choir members (even if you're not a tenor!)

Ed Spencer

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.

Youth Mission Trip to SC July 31 - August 6

As you are reading this newsletter twenty adults and youth are working on homes in South Carolina. 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. There are several ways for everyone to participate in this annual ministry event.

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

Send e-mails to Tom Ham.

tjhamiii@vnet.net.

Tom will do his best to find a local internet connection to send pictures back each day and to receive your emails and share them with the group.

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.

Rafting Trip August 17 - 19

The youth group is going rafting in August. We will be going to the Chattooga River. The 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.



The Time Machine

by Don Gwarek

Let's pretend that we can walk into a special machine and take an imaginary trip through time. Here we go. POOF!

When we step out of the box it is August, in the year 1547. We are on Roanoke Island, a low, narrow island between the outer banks and the mainland. The people around us are a part of the first English settlement in America. There is excitement in the air as we gather in a circle to watch a ritual that has been played and replayed countless times since Jesus walked the earth.

A man solemnly bows his head; water is poured over it and he is baptized a member of the Church of England.

It is the first recorded baptism in the new world. And if you are wondering who that man was, it was the Indian chief known as "Manteo."

Virginia Dare was born and christened a few days later.

It would be another 155 years before the first church would be built. It was called the Chowan Parish Church and was only 25 feet long. The little church would eventually be abandoned and it's congregation move to Edenton and become St. Paul's.

And while the first settlement, now known as the "Lost Colony," was ill fated, and the little church rotted away, the religion in the New World that eventually became the Episcopal faith flourished and spread throughout the land.

In our own state of North Carolina we had grown to 48,831 baptized members attending 71 parishes and 49 missions of the Episcopal Church according to a 2003 census.

Nationwide our numbers have grown to 2,284,233 baptized members that attend 7220 parishes and missions. And it may interest you to know that there are 135,329 baptized members in 346 parishes overseas.

Incidentally, the largest Episcopal Church in the United States is Saint Martins of Houston, Texas with a membership of 7365.

We can help to make those numbers grow even more. How? Invite a friend or loved one to Church next Sunday. They'll thank you for it.

July 3rd Service - Paul Yoder Band Concert

Photos courtesy of Tom Ham



Episcopal Day School

Computers Needed

EDS is in need of some computers for the preschool and kindergarten classes. The computers we currently have are very outdated and basically non-functional. We would love to have some hand-me-downs that our students could use for educational software. If you've upgraded at home or your office and have an extra computer or two to pass on we'd love to try them out. We will eventually need 4 but anything will help!

Call Edie at 349-3511 or 342-6223 if you can help us. Thank you!

Dressing Up Is...

We are collecting "dress up" clothes for our students at EDS. We have a lot of girl stuff but we still need some dress up clothes for the boys. We need items such as western wear, men's shirts (size small or medium), clip-on ties, men's dress shoes, scarves, any type of character clothes or costumes. Please, no hats, though. Please place any donations in a marked bag or box on top of the coat rack next to the "Box Top" box in the Parish House. Thank you!

Lots more ways to help

Keep saving those box tops over the summer!

Can you help us meet our goal?

EDS is still collecting (even over the summer) the **General Mills Box Tops 4 Education labels** to raise money for our school. We receive 10 cents for every label! Our goal is to collect 1,000 by October 1st. We currently have just over 600. Just drop the box tops in the box in the parish house. We'll do the rest. This is an easy way to earn money for the school. Soon, there will be a listing of eligible products on the bulletin board outside the vestry room. Thanks to everyone who has been supporting this effort so far!

We have also applied for and hope to be accepted for participation in the Tyson Project A+ label collection program and the Campbell's Labels for Education. So, please start saving these labels, too. Our goal for the school year is 1,000 labels for each program. Eligible products will be posted on the bulletin board.

Open House - Sunday August 28
School Starts - Tuesday September 6

Hey, Food Lion shoppers...

You can help Episcopal Day School raise money just by using your **Food Lion MVP card**. Just link your MVP card and every time you use it, a portion of your total purchase will be donated to our school. It's that easy!!

This program does not interfere with the MVP discounts and no specific products have to be purchased to participate.

How do you link?..... by visiting www.foodlion.com and clicking on "Lion Shop & Share" OR call Edie Stadler at 342-6223 and she'll take care of it for you.

Car Seats Missing...



EDS is missing several booster seats that we use for field trips. If you have borrowed one, please return it asap. We will be doing an inventory of seats soon and we hope to have them all back so that we don't have to replace any more than necessary. Thank you!

ENROLLING NOW

for

2005-2006 school year!

3 & 4 Year Old Preschool

&

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.



Where Two or Three are Gathered Together...



Please make a note of a new email address for
Todd Walker:
 todd.walker@smallenoughtocare.com

Also, for those who may not have them yet, a few other new addresses:

Oscar Macias
 605 Westwood Drive
 Reidsville, NC 27320

Elizabeth Vannoy
 13744 Cottage Drive
 Grand Haven, MI 49417-8977

Betty Beggs
 325B Boone Road
 Eden, NC 27288
 623-7737

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
June 26	8:30	11
	11:00	58
July 3	8:30	7
	11:00	65
July 10	8:30	9 Services led by
	11:00	45 John Broome
July 17	8:30	9 Ante-Communion
	11:00	26 Morning Prayer Rite I

From the Junior Warden

We have a few Summer projects around the church that I need your help with.

First, I have been requested to get together a work party to clear the area behind the storage building (on the west side of the property) for the new Cursillo trailer. If you can help, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can arrange to make it happen.

Second, the ECW funded the construction of a new addition to Bill's office cabinetry. I have been asked to get that painted. If you have the expertise (I do not, but can push a brush) to help with this or can help purchase the paint, please let me know.

Tommy Thorn

Cursillo & Ultreya

Due to the **Grand Ultreya** this month, there will not be a Rockingham County Ultreya in August. We encourage everyone to attend the Grand Ultreya on Saturday August 13 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Betsy Jeff Penn 4H Educational Center.

- Anne Rogers

Men's Club - August Meeting

After a summer break, the **Men's Club** will begin gearing up for our September 24th Shrimpfest and other Fall programs with their first meeting of the new season on Thursday August 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish House. All men of the parish are cordially invited to attend!

No word at press time about the dinner menu for the first meeting but with the culinary talents of our St. Thomas' men, there will no doubt be a feast for the body as well as the soul!

Spaghetti Dinner - August 20th

Mark your calendar for this fund-raising event, sponsored by the Senior Choir. Dinner will be served from 5 - 7:30 pm and will include spaghetti with meatballs, salad, beverage and dessert. Tickets are available from any choir member - \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12. All proceeds will benefit the building fund for the new property.

This should be a fun event and one you will not want to miss! Bring your friends and enjoy the evening!



**All You
 Can Eat!**

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street
Reidsville, NC 27320

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Who's Who

CHURCH STAFF:

- Rector - The Rev. Bill Oldland
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- Director of Christian Ed. -
Polly Yeago 643-7708
jyeago@worldnet.att.net
- Office Manager & Rector's Secretary
Jenny Wilkins
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office@stthomasreidsville.org
- Sexton -
Cori Anderson 349-3541
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- Episcopal Day School Administrator
Keith Anderson 616-0398
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Jan Wheless 342-4011
- Youth Leaders -
Gayle Ferguson 342-3991
weswim2@bellsouth.net

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Barrett8@mindspring.com
- Altar Guild
Suzanne Howard 349-7046
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Coordinator
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tjhamiii@vnet.net
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- Worship Chair -
Dot Reilly 634-1828
- Pastoral Care Chair -
Tommy Thorn 616-0800
- Outreach Chair -
Tom Balsley 349-3638
cardsfan@vnet.net
- Webmaster -
John Bullock 349-9232
john@mygraphicdetails.com

WANTED!!!

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