

Tidings

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street
Reidsville, NC 27320

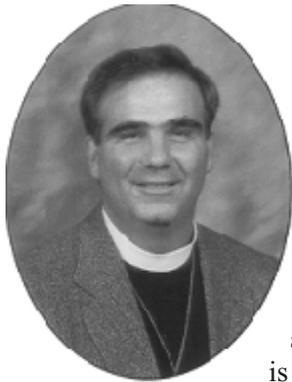
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November 2005

From the Rector's Desk

The Rev. William D. Oldland



During the month of November we have two very special events. They are All Saints' Day and Thanksgiving. All Saints' Day recognizes all of the Christian saints known and unknown. It is a remarkable day. For on this day we recognize the saints we know and the ones we don't know. There is no way we can know all of the

people who have lived saintly lives in our world. Furthermore, we believe in the communion of all the saints. So, we recognize not only the ones who have lived and are living now, but also, the ones who are to come. It is a marvelous day because we recognize that our lives have eternal meaning and significance. We recognize that saints come in many shapes, colors, creeds, and nationalities. It is a truly a day when we can see the wonder of the Church led by Jesus Christ. The service on November 1st will take place at St. Thomas at 7:30. We will be joined by the choir and members of Zion Baptist. We look forward to a joyous and wonderful celebration.

Towards the end of the month, we will celebrate another special day: Thanksgiving. On this day we offer thanks to God for the many blessings we have received. As is our

custom we will have a simple celebration of the Eucharist at 9:30 that morning. Following the service we will go to the parish hall and fix plates to deliver to those who wouldn't be able to participate in a Thanksgiving Dinner. We will also open the parish hall to everyone in the community who would like to come out and join us in this wonderful celebration. The Soup Kitchen and other agencies will be closed and we will offer a meal to anyone who comes in the door. If you would like to help, then please call the church office and we will be sure you are contacted by someone of the Outreach Commission.

I find these two events intricately linked. In both cases we are offering thanks to God and celebrating life. We celebrate the lives of those who have gone before. We remember what they taught us and the legacies they left behind. We celebrate the lives of special people among us now. Oh, they may never have a day named in their honor, but they are still saints to us. They are saints to us because in their lives they taught us about the incredible love of God. They may have been family members, teachers, or friends. Some action they took touched us so deeply that we were forever changed and forever mindful of God's love. At the same time we thank God for all of the blessings we have received. We thank God for the good earth, for family, and friends, for our health and for our bounty. The key word is thanksgiving and thankfulness. In this month we are reminded of who the "author of all life" and "from whom all good things come" really is. We are reminded

continued on page 2...

The Vestry

Sr. Warden - Joanne Piazza	349-5827	rjpiazza@netzero.net
Jr. Warden - Tommy Thorn	616-0800	lthorn@netzero.net
Worship - Dot Reilly	634-1828	irishbr@aol.com
Pastoral Care - Tommy Thorn	616-0800	lthorn@netzero.net
Christian Ed. - Scotty Reeder	342-0027	rhiannonr@bellsouth.net
Parish Life - Anne Montaigne	349-9441	amontaigne@yahoo.com
Outreach - Todd Walker	342-9632	todd.walker@smallenoughtocare.com
Outreach - Phillip Dalton	613-9695	phillipesi@triad.rr.com
Communications - Melinda Rice	349-9770	melindarice@bellsouth.net
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

wonderfully of the goodness of God.

Yet, there is still one more link. On All Saints' Day, we remember the love God shared with us through the saints before us. On Thanksgiving we have the opportunity to be like saints ourselves. We can come and prepare meals and deliver them. We can come and sit with someone and talk with them and share a meal with them. We have the opportunity to be a saint in a small way to someone else. I do find these two events to be strongly linked, a remembrance and an action. A remembrance of the love that has been through all time exhibited in sharing a meal together on a special day with strangers and friends in our community. I remember the words of the old song,

*"And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God and I mean,
God helping, to be one too."*

Have a Wonderful All Saints' Day and a Happy Thanksgiving

Peace,

Bill +

Directions for Nominating Vestry Members

The **annual meeting** for St. Thomas will take place on **Sunday, Nov 20th**. There will be one combined **10:00 a.m** service that day. Nominations for vestry are now being received. Nominations may be given to Dot Reilly, Ann Montaigne or Todd Walker. There are three main qualifications for serving on the vestry. They are a part of the definition of being a member in good standing.

1. The person should attend church on a regular basis.
2. They contribute financially to the glory of God and to the working of the church.
3. They take an active part by involvement in at least one ministry of the church.

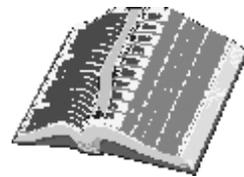
Please be sure to talk to the person you might nominate before you give their name to the committee.

Thanksgiving Offering

There will be a Thanksgiving Offering for **Thompson Child & Family Focus** (formerly Thompson Children's Home/Thompson Orphanage) on Sunday, November 20th.

Adult Christian Education Opportunities

Currently there are two opportunities to participate in Christian Education at St. Thomas.



The first class is at **12 noon on Mondays on the book of Revelation**.

The class is currently in Chapter 14.

Bring a Bible, something to eat or drink if you would like, and a desire to learn and question. Currently the class ranges in size from five to ten.

The second opportunity is taking place on **Sunday mornings at 10:00 am**. This class is doing a **biblical study of stewardship**. We are trying to see how the scriptures describe stewardship and how it relates to our lives today.

~ REMINDER ~

**Bishop Curry's Visit
Sunday October 30th**

*** Combined 10:00 Service ***

Cursillo 94 to be at Betsy Jeff Penn
Nov 10th-13th

For the first time in many years, Cursillo is back at Betsy Jeff Penn. Cursillo first started at the Betsy Jeff Penn center and now many years later it is returning. Cursillo is a Spanish term meaning short course. The weekend is a short three-day course on Christianity. Anyone can come to the events. The cost of attending the weekend is \$160.00. There is some scholarship money available. St. Thomas has four members on team. They are **Tom and Mary Jane Ham, Bill Oldland, and Melinda Rice**. If anyone would like more information about Cursillo or about this upcoming weekend, please feel free to contact them with any questions.

All Saints' Day Service

Tuesday November 1

7:30 p.m.

Here at St. Thomas

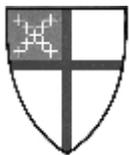
**Combined Service:
Zion Baptist Church**

&

St. Thomas

Let's Talk about Flags & Shields

by Don Gwarek



Countries, states and cities have them. Many churches, organizations and even businesses have them. And yes the Episcopal Church has one too.

Considering our historical roots you would think that our flag would be very old, but it is not. It was only adopted as the symbol of our church in 1940 although the flag was first made in 1918. You can credit Mr. William M. Baldwin, a member of the Cathedral of the Incarnation of Garden City, New Jersey for its' design and creation. Here's how it all began.

It seems that Mr. Baldwin was in charge of a Diocesan celebration involving a great procession. A glorious spectacle of 170 banners representing the diocese, archdeaconries, parish societies, churches and missions were flown in various colors and design. Flags represented everything but the Episcopal Church itself and this saddened Mr. Baldwin and others. A commission with Mr. Baldwin as its' secretary was formed to find a design and it was he that came up with the plan for our flag.

His first model of the flag was too small so he purchased some Turkey red cotton, some pale blue material, and a child's crib sheet. Then in a Kansas City hotel room, using nothing but a pair of scissors, a thimble, needle and thread he created the first flag of the Episcopal Church.

This is how Mr. Baldwin described the design and symbolism of the new flag: "The red cross is the oldest Christian symbol dating back to the third century. The white represents purity and the red, the blood of the martyrs. The blue is ecclesiastical blue, light in color, and used in the clothing of the Blessed Virgin Mary and on this flag represents the human nature of our Lord which He got from His virgin mother. The nine cross-crosslets or Jerusalem crosses represent the nine dioceses that convened in Philadelphia in 1789 when the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church was adopted with its House of Bishops and House of Clerical and Lay Deputies and the Book of Common Prayer. The nine cross-crosslets are set in the form of St. Andrew's cross in memory of the fact that, to avoid swearing allegiance to the British Crown, Bishop-Elect Samuel Seabury of Connecticut had to go to Scotland to be consecrated by Scottish Bishops."

To me, whenever I see the shield in front of the church I see not a red cross but a Risen Christ, smiling with His arms outstretched saying "All are welcome here. Come in and share the bread and wine at my table. Experience the love and peace within these walls and when you leave share the love like my children of St. Thomas do."

Musical notes from



For All the Saints Up Yonder

The leaves are falling and things are happening in our midst. Three granddaughters did not wait for all the leaves to fall before being born! Neither have the Confirmation Class students waited to prepare to be confirmed in their Christian faith. Two upcoming baptisms mark the beginning of Christian life, and then there is the celebration of the "great cloud of witnesses" who encourage us to "run with patience the race that is set before us". On and on we go, finishing up the church year and looking for the "end times" before we begin the circle again, tying the "end times" to the first time Jesus appeared in our midst, anticipating both.

I have read lessons and looked through several hymnals in preparation for All Saints' Day, and I will be studying more as we finish up the Pentecost season. Some common themes run through most of what I've read: Life is hard sometimes; we look for help to God; we hope to be a part of a great reunion of the Saints one day. Whether we sing "For All the Saints" or "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder", the message is similar. Someday we want to be with Jesus and be happy for all time.

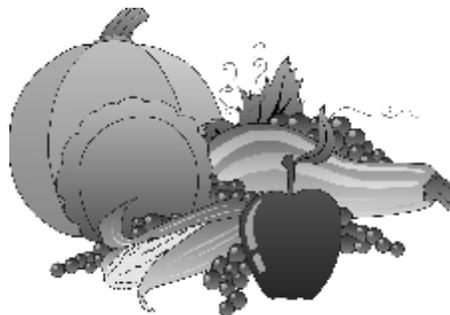
Let us live our lives with the thankfulness and hope that God's love gives us. Alleluia!

Ed Spencer

UTO Fall Ingathering

The Mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, we encourage daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings.

The Fall Ingathering will be Sunday November 6. Envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter.



Vestry Notes

St. Thomas' Vestry was happy to welcome **Susan Brown** and **Bill Wren**, representatives from our Diocese, on Saturday, October 15th, to assist us with our **Mutual Ministry Review**. It was a gorgeous day and I want to thank those members of the Vestry and laity who were able to spend the day reflecting on what we are doing, where we are going, and our overall spiritual wellness.

We began the process at our September Vestry meeting, when Susan came and briefly gave us an overview of what the MMR is all about. She passed out surveys that she would later use to highlight the topics she would be covering on October 15th. We also supplied her with information she could use to get a good overview of St. Thomas, such as copies of our Newsletter, parochial report, financial information, web site, etc. She will furnish us with a detailed report in the near future and at that time. Rev. Oldland will be able to share more information with us.

Some of the things we discussed included our adult and youth education opportunities, evangelism, outreach, membership, lay leadership issues and facility problems we are facing. Susan and Bill both feel we are doing a good job at St. Thomas' despite our busy lives. One of the questions we asked ourselves was – Would the community feel a loss if something happened to our church and we were no longer able to serve them through our various outreach programs? Our eyes were truly opened as we really took a good look at what we do and how God is working through us to do his work in Reidsville.

We are developing a "TO DO" list and you will be hearing more in the near future of our vision for St. Thomas and the community we serve with God's help.

*Joanne Piazza
Senior Warden*

ECW News



Ladies, remember that at our last **General Meeting** for the year we are going to share heritage clothing as a display after church prior to our meeting. Men's women's and children's clothing all are needed. If you don't have the clothing, bring a picture of yourself in a special outfit from days of yore!

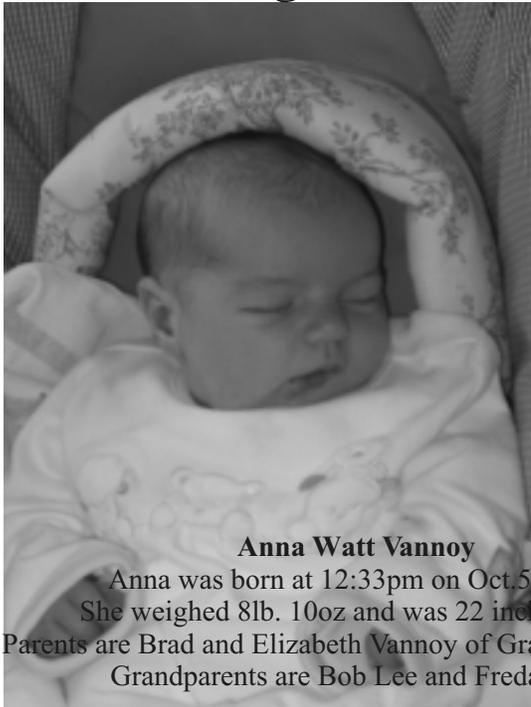
Many thanks to everyone who participated and to all who worked so diligently and energetically to make this year's **Fall Luncheon and Bazaar** another great success! Thank you for all of your donations and for helping on the day of the Bazaar.

Outreach: Fried Apple Pies

Photos courtesy of Tom Ham

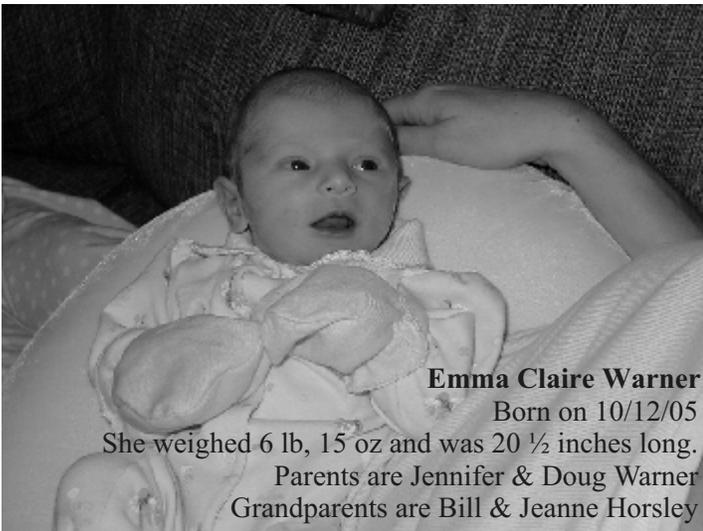


Congratulations!



Anna Watt Vannoy

Anna was born at 12:33pm on Oct. 5, 2005.
She weighed 8lb. 10oz and was 22 inches long.
Parents are Brad and Elizabeth Vannoy of Grand Haven, MI.
Grandparents are Bob Lee and Freda Watt



Emma Claire Warner

Born on 10/12/05
She weighed 6 lb, 15 oz and was 20 ½ inches long.
Parents are Jennifer & Doug Warner
Grandparents are Bill & Jeanne Horsley



Elizabeth (Betsy) Stocks Shepherd

Born October 5, 2005
8 lb. 2 oz., 20" long
Daughter of Lizzie and Ben Shepherd
Grand-daughter of Bettie and Chuck Rhodes

Episcopal Day School

October at EDS

Dear Members of St. Thomas',



We've had a fun month at preschool! The change of weather has our class singing songs about raking leaves and celebrating autumn. We've also talked about the letters Bb, Cc, Dd, Ee, and Ff. During Bb week we talked about birds, Cc week we learned about cats, caterpillars and crocodiles. Dd week we got to read about dogs. Ee week couldn't pass without talking about eggs and Ff week we learned about fish and being good friends! In addition to our letters we learned about the numbers 1, 2, 3, & 4, squares, circles and the colors yellow and orange.

Letters and numbers are fun but we've also started our studies on different cultures from around the world. This month we had a special guest, **Minira Rehman**, share some interesting things about her native Pakistan.

We took a field trip to the Fire Station for Fire Prevention week and a trip to the pumpkin patch. All the children got to pick out and bring home their own pumpkin. We went trick-or-treating at some area businesses during our Halloween party. We continue to make our monthly trip to the library for story time.

We also started out Sr. Friends/Jr. Friends project that will last through the remainder of the school year. We have paired each child in our preschool class with a "Sr." member of St. Thomas'. The Jr. Friends will correspond via mail with their Sr. Friend throughout the school year. This month the Sr. Friends received a letter of introduction and an autumn theme picture that the children made for them. We hope this outreach will be a blessing to both the children and adults.

Thanks so much for your participation in the **Box Tops**, **Tyson labels** and **Campbell soup labels**. We were able to send in 1,000 box tops to General Mills and that will qualify us for a donation of \$100 to our school! Please continue to drop your labels into the box in the Parish house. We'd like to send 1,000 more Box Tops by the next quarter. Look out at the playground - our new equipment is going up - YEAH! - the kids are gonna' love this! Until next month.....

Mrs. Edie & Mrs. Jeanette

Fall Plant Sale a Great Success!

The Episcopal Day School's Fall Plant Sale was a great success! We sold 565 Mums and made a **\$750 profit**. We would like to thank everyone in the church for their support.

THE FALLPLANT SALE COMMITTEE
ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Christian Ed. - Godly Play

by Jim McCloskey



on a given Sunday. Thanks to all parents and grandparents for your support. Currently, Godly Play is exploring Creationism.

Christian Ed. does have an opportunity for one (or more) adult participants in our upcoming Christmas Pageant. We recognize the need for “new blood” in this endeavor. Pray on the matter and if God leads you to us, please contact **Polly Yeago** or **Bill Oldland**. It’ll be a blessing on your heart.



I hope everyone has heard of the new Christian Ed. Program for our kids, called “**Godly Play**”. Godly Play is patterned after the Montessori style of teaching and interacting with children at their level, both physically and developmentally. We feel like this is a big plus for St. Thomas and all our kids, from kindergarten thru 5th grade. Our attendance is holding strong, generally with 4 to as many as 10

Youth Group & Activities

For the last month the youth group of St. Thomas has been attending some youth events at St. Francis and doing projects at St. Thomas. One of our projects has been to purchase trash cans and containers for recycling. They have been labeled and

placed in the parish hall and the office. We have receptacles for paper, magazines, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. We also are collecting printer cartridges as well. Please help us by recycling at the church for all church activities.

Events for November include...

Date	Time	Place	Event
11/6	5:00	Meet at St. Thomas	Combined youth group activity at St. Francis
11/13	5:30	Meet at St. Thomas	Topic Night led by Danny Hall
11/18	7 - 11:00	St. Francis Youth House	All teens welcome to attend this Friday Night Social Parents responsible for transportation
11/20	5:30	Meet at St. Thomas	Planning for Spring Semester
11/27	5:30	No Meeting at St. Thomas	Thanksgiving Holiday

On December 10th the youth group will have an opportunity to play **paintball**. Interested teens should contact **Bill Oldland** or **Danny Hall** about attending.

Where Two or Three are Gathered Together...



DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
September 25 <i>19 Pentecost</i>	8:30	10
	11:00	59
October 2 <i>20 Pentecost</i>	8:30	10
	11:00	50
October 9 <i>Baptism of John Hern</i>	8:30	16
	11:00	92
October 16 <i>22 Pentecost</i>	8:30	10
	11:00	56



To keep your directory up-to-date, please make note of this email address change:

Tommy Thorn
lthorn@netzero.net

Thank You!



The **Reidsville Soup Kitchen, Inc.** would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere appreciation for your recent expressions of goodwill.

Support such as yours ensures the continuation of this much needed community project.

ShrimpFest 2005

The final tally for the Men's Club's September ShrimpFest to benefit their various ministries was a profit of over **\$1400.00**. Many thanks to all who participated and to everyone who helped with this annual event!

Pledge Report

	September	Year-to-Date
Total Income	8,497.44	112,073.32
Total Expenses	11,445.73	118,258.82
Difference	-2,948.29	-6,185.50

Endowment Committee

As we near the end of 2005, and the special "Season of Giving" approaches, we ask that you consider a gift to the Endowment Fund. It is the gift that keeps on giving. The principle, which ensures a secure future for Saint Thomas, is earning interest everyday. The interest is given back to our Church each year. This year that amount was \$1819.14. The Vestry allocates this money to facility improvements, outreach and operations under the guidelines adopted when the Endowment Fund was created.

Gifts can be made in honor of someone, in memory of someone, or just because you want to be one who plans for our future viability. Checks should be made to **St. Thomas' Endowment Fund** and given to the Endowment Committee Treasurer, **Steve Worth**. Other members of the Endowment Committee are **Anne Donecker**, **Laura Felts**, **Starr McHugh** and **Bill Sutton**.

According to the By Laws of the Endowment Committee, the members are appointed by the Vestry for a term of three years. After two terms the committee member must retire from the committee for at least one year. Bill Sutton's second three year term will end in December 2005. **Bob Lee Watt** has agreed to serve a three year term, replacing Bill Sutton.. His name will be presented to the Vestry for approval.

Flower Calendar: 2006

The Flower calendar for 2006 is ready for sign-ups in the church office.

Laptop Desired



If anyone has a laptop that they are thinking of discarding or not using and would like to find a home for it, then we would love to use it in the church office. A letter recognizing the donation to the church would be sent to any donor of this gift.

Men's Club

The **Men's Club** will meet on Thursday November 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish House.

The November 3rd meeting will feature the following menu:

Chicken Fricassee
Mashed Potatoes
Baby Carrots
Tossed Green Salad
Biscuits
Dessert

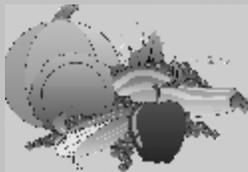
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Who's Who

CHURCH STAFF:

- Rector - The Rev. Bill Oldland
349-3511
rector@stthomasreidsville.org
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Ed Spencer
music@stthomasreidsville.org
- Director of Christian Ed. -
Polly Yeago 643-7708
jyeago@worldnet.att.net
- Office Manager & Rector's Secretary
Jenny Wilkins
349-3511
office@stthomasreidsville.org
- Sexton -
Cori Anderson 349-3541
eds@stthomasreidsville.org
- Episcopal Day School Administrator
Shay Johnson

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Jan Wheless 342-4011
- Youth Leaders -
Gayle Ferguson 342-3991
weswim2@bellsouth.net

Cheri Barrett 361-0793
Barrett8@mindspring.com
- Altar Guild
Suzanne Howard 349-7046
- Layreader & Chalice Bearer
Coordinator
Tom Ham 349-7261
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- Usher Coordinator -
Steve Worth 349-7538
- Greeters Coordinator -
Freda Watt 342-2305
fwatt@bellsouth.net
- Worship Chair -
Dot Reilly 634-1828
- Pastoral Care Chair -
Tommy Thorn 616-0800
- Outreach Chair -
Tom Balsley 349-3638
cardsfan@triad.rr.com
- 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