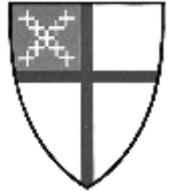




Tidings

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



315 Lindsey Street Reidsville, NC 27320 336-349-3511 www.stthomasreidsville.org

February 2006

The Vestry

Joanne Piazza - Sr. Warden
Parish Life Assistant
349-5827
rjpiazza@bellsouth.net

Tommy Thorn - Jr. Warden
Membership
616-0800
lthorn@netzero.net

Martha Balsley - Parish Life
339-3638
cardsfan@triad.rr.com

Paul Barrett - Finance
361-0793
barrett8@mindspring.com

Phillip Dalton - Outreach
613-9695
phillipesi@triad.rr.com

Don Gwarek - Pastoral Care
349-5074
dgwarek@bellsouth.net

Jeanne Horsley - Worship
342-2869
susyandbill@bellsouth.net

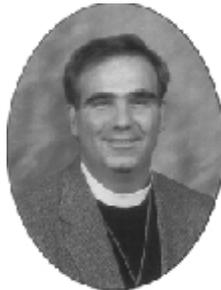
Scotty Reeder - Christian Education
342-0027
rhiannonr@bellsouth.net

Melinda Rice - Communications
349-9770
melindarice@bellsouth.net

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

Bill's Corner

The Rev. William D. Oldland



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8b

The month of February often brings visions of love to mind due to St. Valentine's Day. We picture pink and red hearts on cards. We see heart shaped boxes of chocolates. We see winged cherubs with their little bows and arrows ready to shoot someone with a dart of love. After they have been pierced they are to find their significant other and profess their undying devotion.

I'm not trying to sound cynical here. I really do believe in love. I believe in the sharing of love even in heart shaped boxes of candy. In fact, there really is a St. Valentine. History records three of them to be exact. All three of them were martyrs. The first two were a priest at Rome and a bishop of Terni. They were both around during the last half of the third century. Very little is known about them historically. What is known is legend. The other St. Valentine was later. He suffered and died in Africa with some other companions. The funny thing is that no part of their lives or their martyrdom has anything to do with the holiday we celebrate. There is no

connection at all.

Valentine's Day actually seems to come from a pagan ritual. The name of the ritual was "Lupercalia". It was celebrated in Rome, even Christian Rome, until the fifth century. It was a courtship festival that involved choosing one's valentine from a member of the opposite sex.

However, even though the history of Valentine's Day is a bit obscure, there is a good thing about it. It promotes the concept of love. Now, I know it can be tacky with all of the cards and the candy. Yet, I would like to suggest there are some good ways to think about and to celebrate this day.

1. Expand the day to include the concept of more than just one special person. The card stores already have. There are cards for parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, and a host of others. Think broadly on this day about who it is that is important in our lives. Who do we really love?

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From the Rector's Desk

continued

2. Remember them in ways beyond the cards and the box of chocolates. After all, many people are trying to still lose those Christmas pounds. Is it wise to give them candy? Instead, we could try:

- = Doing something nice for them.
- = Spend some individual time with them in person or on the phone.
- = Share with them the reason they are so special in your life.
- = Make a donation to a charity or the church in their honor. If the loved one is a child perhaps the donation could go to something like Thompson's Children's Home or a home for single mothers.
- = Say a special prayer thanking God for the loved ones in our lives.

3. Include someone in the day that doesn't have anyone close by or that we know is alone.

4. Finally, remember that these ideas can be used on the other 364 days of the year.

The best definition of love ever written is the 1 Corinthians passage above. If we really want to make a difference in the world in which we live, we might take this definition to heart in a new way. We might attempt to live each day as if it was a valentine's day. We might attempt with all of our hearts to be patient and kind. We might try to be more trusting and more caring. We might praise more for the things people do well instead of cutting them down when they do wrong. We just might try to live each day with a little more hope and a little more compassion. It is a funny thing about love. Love doesn't end. Love grows. The more we give love away; the more we receive. The more we receive the more we have to give away. There is a never-ending supply.

Perhaps we can take the next thirty days to share love just a little more. Maybe at the end of that time we can see just how much more love we have to share.

Here's to a happy month of St. Valentine's Days.

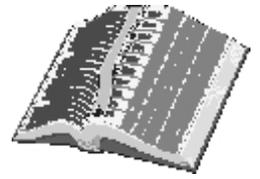
Peace,

Bill +



Adult Christian Education Opportunities

Our current classes are on Sunday at 10:00 and Monday at 12 noon. The Sunday morning class is doing a biblical survey of stewardship. We have reviewed several of the Old Testament references already. We will begin reviewing New Testament references in the middle of February. It is not necessary to have knowledge of the previous classes to participate. The Monday class is in chapter 17 of their study of Revelation. We have learned a great deal about apocalyptic literature and the end times, but we are not yet in the New Jerusalem. Everyone is welcome to attend.



The **Lenten Dinners** this year will have a very specific topic. We are going to share the insights we learned from our Mutual Ministry Review. Each night we are going to see what we learned about ourselves in the areas of Stewardship, Worship, Evangelism, Education, Pastoral Care and Service (Outreach). The time schedule for the evening will include:

- 5:45 – Evening Worship
- 6:00 – Dinner
- 6:30 – Program

We hope these evenings will be opportunities for great fellowship, reflection and observation. Please remember there is no charge for the meals but we do ask for a donation. Also, child care will be provided.

Special Services in February & March

During the month of February and in March there will be several special services. On February 5th, we will celebrate the baptism of **Bailey Gatton**. The celebration of new birth will take place at the 11:00 service.

Also, on March 1st, we will have **three Ash Wednesday services**. These services will be Holy Eucharist Rite I with the imposition of ashes. The times of the services will be 7:30 am, 12 noon, and 7:30 pm. The twelve noon service will be followed by a time of healing prayers with the laying on of hands for any who wish to stay. Please mark your calendar for this special day of worship.

It is also a tradition within the church that Ash Wednesday be a day of fasting and prayer. We are encouraged to reflect on all aspects of our relationship with God on this special day.

Stephen Ministry Training Almost Complete

The training for our three new Stephen Ministers will be complete at the end of March. Our first three Stephen Ministers are **Dot Ferneyhough, Don Gwarek, and Melinda Rice**. They will be commissioned for their ministry on the first Sunday after Easter. For us that day holds special significance because the readings are about St. Thomas.

Some people may wonder what a Stephen Minister is. A Stephen Minister is a person who has been trained for the purpose of being a Christian spiritual companion. They minister to a person who might be in need of a companion for any number of reasons. Some of the reasons are a loss of a job, a death in the family, a divorce, retirement, the birth of a child, or moving to a new area. The Stephen Minister is a companion for a one-year contract. It is possible for that time to be renewed for another six months to one year. It is always important to remember that the Stephen Minister is a listening companion..

In fact, the main part of the ministry is built around listening skills. Every Stephen Minister undergoes fifty hours of training. The Stephen Minister is called the caregiver. The person to whom they minister is called the care receiver. They are strictly confidential. A Stephen Minister cannot reveal the name of their care receiver. The care receiver might tell someone, but the Stephen Minister will not. They are also not allowed to share the contents of any discussions they may have. This level of confidentiality allows the two people to talk about any subject.

Anyone may request a Stephen Minister as a companion. Requests are to come directly to Bill Oldland at this time. These requests are also confidential. So, if anyone would like to have a spiritual companion these three individuals will be available in April. We look forward to the addition of their ministries to the Pastoral Care of this church.

Spotlight on Pastoral Care



Pastoral care is the ministry of the church that cares for our own members. Currently, this ministry involves delivering tapes, sending flowers or cards, and delivering meals in times of illness, birth or death. This ministry also includes preparing receptions at times of death for members of our own parish family. There is also a need at times to assist our own members with transportation to doctor's visits, appointments, or errands. Sometimes it is important for us to take time to visit those who are unable to come out or are in respite care. All in all, pastoral care is single ministry that ministers to the individual needs that arise in the lives of our members. It is a wonderful and gratifying ministry in which to be involved.

Last year, the ECW had a monthly list to help organize this ministry. Four people were on this list for each month. They are the front line for the church. They help get others to assist in times of need. They also help deliver the items of food, tapes, flowers, etc., to the members or families in need. Anyone can be a part of this ministry. The men, the women and our youth can all be present to help share the love of Christ particularly at a time of crisis. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please call the church office. We need your name, a phone number where you can be easily reached and a month you would like to help organize.

If anyone in the parish knows someone who would benefit from receiving pastoral care, please call the church office. Please do not assume someone else will call. We would rather receive twenty-five calls about one person than not hear anything at all. Once a call is made to the office, the church secretary calls the chairperson of that month and the priest. The chairperson then calls the members of the team that month. With the priest they coordinate the help required to take care of the need. The task is really quite simple and many hands make the work easy and enjoyable.

This ministry is vitally important to the people of St. Thomas. It follows closely in the footsteps of Christ whose ministry was full of love and responding to the needs of the people around him. Through this ministry we truly care for our closest friends and neighbors: the members of our church family.

Vestry News from the Sr. Warden

The Vestry Retreat was held January 13th and 14th and was a great success. We met on Friday evening and had some refreshments as we shared some personal stories to help us get to know one another a little better and we talked briefly about our hopes for St. Thomas in the future. We selected our commissions for the coming year and we hope that being a part of a commission will be as important and exciting for our entire parish.

This year, **Jeanne Horsley** will serve as liaison for the Worship Commission. She will announce when the meetings will be held and anyone who has an interest in planning our worship services will be welcome to join the group. It is very challenging and also very rewarding to serve on this commission. Please let Jeanne know if you are interested.

Martha Balsley will chair Parish Life, and I will be her assistant. This commission has the responsibility of planning the Lenten Dinners, Lemonade on the Lawn, the July 4th celebration and any other social gatherings of interest. It's a fun commission and we welcome your interest and participation. We will announce when the first meeting will be held to begin planning the Lenten Dinners. Volunteers will be needed to prepare dinners for 5 Wednesday evenings as we gather for a program and fellowship and share a meal. The dinners do not have to be anything elaborate – simple is best. We accept an offering to offset the expenses of providing the food for the evening, so you are not expected to cover these expenses. Please be thinking about how you can help with this commission and give one of us a call.

Don Gwarek will head up Pastoral Care. The ECW pretty much schedules people to cover these needs each month, and this year, we would like to expand this program into the community and would like to get the Men's Club involved in this very important ministry. We want to know if you know of anyone in our community who has a need we might be able to fill. If you know of anyone, please pass the information to Don. If you want to be available to help out when needed, please let him know that, also.

Tommy Thorn will continue his role as Jr. Warden this year and he will head up the Membership commission, working closely with Rev. Oldland. A committee is in place and has been diligently working on cleaning up our membership roles so a new directory can be put together in the near future. Tommy also is our clerk, so he has a lot on his plate and will also welcome anyone who wants to work with him.

Melinda Rice will continue as liaison for the Communications commission. **Scotty Reeder** will continue with Christian Education and **Paul Barrett** will continue with

Finance. Please feel free to contact any of these leaders if you feel you might be interested in serving on their commissions.

One of activities we did on Saturday concerned role-playing and proved quite interesting. We pretended to be people with special needs who had moved to our area and wanted to find an Episcopal Church. We actually got into Rev. Oldland's vehicle and drove around the neighborhood, looking for signs for the Episcopal Church. When we finally located St. Thomas', we had to find answers to individual concerns, i.e., is the building handicap accessible? where are the restrooms?; where is the office?; where is the nursery?; where is Sunday School? I think you get the idea...we need to make it easier for newcomers and we discussed different things we can do. This will become a project and will probably be done in steps. Some of the things brought up were better signs for the rest rooms, better directional signs throughout the building, name badges for the ushers and greeters. The only sign that says "PARISH HOUSE" is located very close to the office entrance and there is nothing near the obvious first door someone would use to get to the nursery and Sunday School area. We need to make visitors comfortable with asking the greeters or ushers any questions they have to assist them when needed.

All in all, we had a very productive meeting. A special thanks to **Tom Ham** for taking our sandwich orders to Subway and delivering lunch to us. You know how important food is to Episcopalians. We would also like to thank **Steve Worth** for visiting with us and explaining the financial reports to us. We discussed many issues and ran out of time before we got to everything we wanted to highlight, but that's another meeting...

*Joanne Piazza,
Sr. Warden*

Vestry News from the Jr. Warden

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to serve as your Jr. Warden for another year. We will have much to do this year. We will be working to make our church more easily accessible to visitors by adding indoor signs above doors to let them know where rooms are, maps inside and outside to show them how to move around the grounds, and improving our signs at the street level. Do one thing for me; the next time you see **Dr. John Ferguson** and **Mavis Simon**, say thanks. They have contributed to the upkeep of our grounds. Mavis has continued to work with the yard crew to remove trees, weeds, leaves and such to beautify our grounds. Dr. John broke out the saw and removed a dead tree for us that was a hazard to our power lines and our church buildings. He also removed a large dead piece of the maple tree near the columbarium. They both deserve our gratitude and thanks!

Finally, as your Men's Club president I would like to remind you of our upcoming pancake breakfast/supper on shrove Tuesday, February 28. Talk it up to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. The more money we raise, the more we can put back into our church!

Sincerely,
Tommy Thorn
Jr. Warden

Free Income Tax Help

The AARP, in cooperation with the IRS, will be providing free help in the preparation of individual federal and state income tax returns for the tax year 2005. This free service will be available at the two locations shown below. Although walk-ins are welcome at both sites you are encouraged to phone for an appointment. Please bring the following with you: all W-2s, form 1098s, 1099s, Social Security Cards for self and dependents, Social Security payments for year, etc., and tax returns for the year 2004.

EDEN LIBRARY: EVERY THURSDAY from 2:00pm to 7:00pm beginning February 2 thru April 13, 2006.

EVERY FRIDAY: from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Beginning February 3 thru April 14, 2006

Each Saturday in February only 10:00am to 2:00pm.

For appointments call before 7:00pm 623-7651.

REIDSVILLE SENIOR CENTER 210 Washington St.
Every Wednesday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm beginning February 1 thru April 12, 2006.

Saturdays by appointment only.

For appointment call before 7:00pm 349-5827.

Episcopal Day School



January has been an exciting time for the preschoolers at St. Thomas!! **THE PLAYGROUND IS COMPLETELY READY AND THE CHILDREN HAVE HAD A BALL BREAKING IT IN!** What a wonderful surprise for them when they came back from Christmas break to find it was ready to use. A minor let-down came in the form of rain the first day back so they had to longingly look out the window at the equipment for one more day. What a time they've had since.

Thank you to everyone that contributed towards the playground equipment. The EDS board and the teachers appreciate the generosity of those who contributed. If you could see the children having such fun on the playground, you would know they appreciate it, too. We are currently researching the best piece to purchase to add to this base unit. We'll keep you updated.

The children seemed glad to be back in school (especially the parents) after the Christmas break. After a little reviewing of some things we've learned over the first four months of school we moved right into the next letters, numbers, colors and shapes. During Jj week we played with jacks and jump ropes. Kk week brought us kittens and kangaroos. We held a Kangaroo broad jump contest to see if we could jump as far as a kangaroo. (Did you know that a kangaroo can jump up to 30 feet in one hop?) Ll week we talked about llamas, lion, and love. We had a luau with beach towels and Hawaiian wear and a limbo contest. During Mm week we talked about manners. We learned the importance of saying "Please", "Thank you", and "I'm sorry". We also learned about table manners.

I know this sounds redundant but please continue to clip the pink Boxtops off most General Mills products. We were hoping to get 1,000 by mid February but we have just over 200 at this time. Keep saving, though! We can continue to save as long as we need to reach our goal. We get 10 cents for each Boxtop. Tyson chicken labels and Campbell soup labels are also collected.

We would like to say "Thank you" to **Leslie and Brad Baker** (parents of Brett) for their donation of a new laminating machine for the school. What a wonderful surprise for the teachers!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 26th. Our preschool class is coming to the 11:00 a.m. service at St. Thomas' to present you with some songs we have been working on. We hope you will be able to attend.

Don't forget that we will begin registration for the 2006-2007 school year starting February 1st. Jenny will have some applications in the church office and the teachers will also have them available.

God bless you all.

Ms. Edie & Ms. Jeanette

Why Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday?

by Don Gwarek

The day before lent begins is known as Shrove Tuesday although to many it is also known as Fat Tuesday.

To “shrive” is an old English term for acknowledging your sins such as in confession and to do some act of penitence. One of the ways English Christians “Shrove” themselves in preparation for lent was to rid their households of fat and meat which were traditionally abstained from during lent. Rather than throwing it away, the people wisely made foods that would use it up. Pancakes used a lot of lard so pancakes became synonymous with Shrove Tuesday.

In many English churches, the congregation would gather and hold pancake feasts. Since such gatherings were forbidden during lent so this was the last celebration before the Lenten disciplines began.

The English custom was brought to America by Anglican settlers so that today, almost every Episcopal Church holds pancake festivals on Shrove Tuesday.

Mark your calendar! - Feb. 28th

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast & Supper



**6:00-9:00 a.m.
and
5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Breakfast 3.00	Supper 6.00
3 Pancakes	(18.00 Max. for family)
2 Sausage or Bacon	All You Can Eat
Orange Juice	Pancakes
Coffee or Milk	Sausage or Bacon
	Orange Juice
	Coffee or Milk

See any member of the Men’s Club for tickets

ECW



The purpose of the organization shall be to enable the ECW in the Parish.... through worship, study, service, stewardship and fellowship ... to share more fully in the mission of the church.

The membership of the organization shall be composed of those women of the parish who share in its program of worship, study, service and gifts. Every baptized woman is potentially a member.

The ECW Morning Chapter will meet on Wednesday February 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Pipkin Parlor. Hostesses will be **Priscilla Foster** and **Mildred Cummings**.

Officers for 2006 are the following:

Dot Trent and **Marian Safriet**, co presidents

Susan Dalton, vice president

Mavis Simon, secretary

Hazel Post, treasurer

Dot Ferneyhough and **Ann Donecker**, Devotional Life

Teresa Ruhland and **Kate North**, Christian Social Relations

Betty Melchert, UTO

Donna Van Ness, Christian Education

EYC: Youth Activities



Our February activities include the following events.

Feb 5th – **Cooking and Delivering Hot Wings followed by a Superbowl Party.** We will begin cooking on Sunday morning. So far, we have sold over sixty dozen. Be here at 9:30 a.m. on the 5th.

Feb 12th – **A fun day in Greensboro.** We will go to Greensboro for an afternoon of fun and dinner out. Be at the church at 4:45 pm.

Feb 19th – **Movie Night.** We are watching the “Star Wars” series and examining it from a Christian perspective. What does it say to us from our understanding of the scriptures? Be at the church at 4:45 pm.

Feb 26th – Be at the church at 4:45 pm. **We will begin to look at plans for our Mission Trip.**

190th Annual Diocesan Convention

The 190th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina was held Thursday January 26th through Saturday January 28th at the M. C. Benton Convention Center, and the Marriott and Embassy Suites hotels in Winston-Salem. Delegates representing St. Thomas' again this year were **Bill Oldland, Paul Barrett and John Bullock.**



Bishop Michael Curry set the theme for this year's convention during his address on Thursday evening - "**Turning the World Upside Down**". During the evening's business session, late resolutions and late nominations were presented and the Youth delegates read a statement encouraging more participation by the youth and more nominations of younger leaders to youth committees.

Presentations were also heard from "Stop Hunger Now", Raleigh, NC, The Rt. Rev. Macleord Baker Ochola, retired bishop of Kitgum, Uganda, and from the School of Ministry. New clergy in the diocese were also introduced.

Later in the evening we broke into smaller meeting groups and all three delegates from St. Thomas' decided that the forum on the Mission Action Plan (MAP) was of greatest interest to our parish. Phase I (2006) will primarily focus on Youth, Campus and Young Adult ministries. Planning for Phase II (2007-2012) is set to begin in February 2006. Phase III (after 2012) will focus on creating and sustaining new congregations.

A more detailed presentation on the MAP was made to the entire body of the convention on Friday morning. Following lunch the delegates broke into smaller groups at their tables for a School of Ministry Workshop.

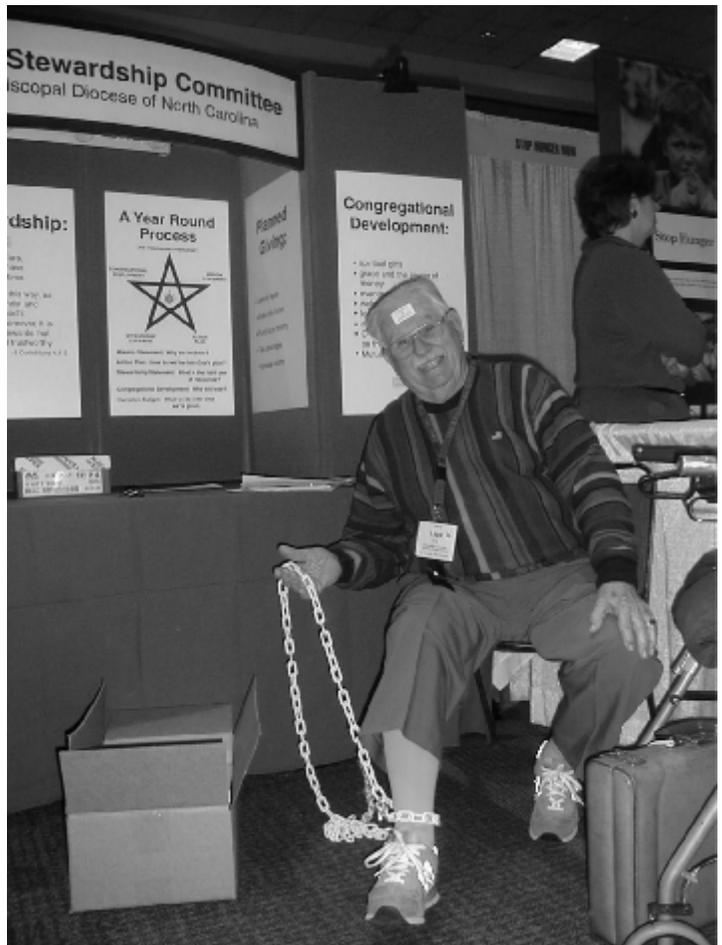
The convention Eucharist was held at St. Paul's, Winston-Salem, on Saturday evening. St. Thomas' was prominently represented with our banner during the processional. The sermon was delivered by The Reverend Canon John Peterson, and afterward a reception was held in the Colhoun Room of St. Paul's.

After another address by the Rev. Canon Peterson, the final business session on Saturday morning consisted mostly of Committee Reports including Constitution & Canon, ECW, Environmental Ministries, Budget, Diaconate, Youth Ministries, Investments, Global Missions, Faith & Morals, Program of the Church, and Social Concerns. Resolutions were approved repudiating anti-Semitism and affirming our debt to, and respect of Judaism, a resolution in celebration of the sesquicentennial celebration of St. James Church,

Mooreville, and also one affirming Bishop Curry's decision for a sabbatical in 2007. The resolution that seemed to have the most discussion to fine-tune the wording was the following, introduced by Delegate Linda Winikoff:

"Resolved: That the 190th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina calls upon the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina and the Governor to abolish the death penalty in the next legislative session as being inconsistent with the Gospel's call of reconciliation and love, and immediately to commute the sentences of those already sentenced to die at the hands of the State."

Following passage of Courtesy Resolutions, the Necrology, and Noonday prayers, the convention was adjourned.



Seen around the convention: St. Thomas' own **Lape Smith** "chained" to his customary post at the Stewardship Committee table.

by Don Gwarek

On February the 14th, people young and old will exchange cards, men and women will profess their love for each other and ladies will receive flowers or candy all in the name of Saint Valentine. So who was this guy and why do we remember him this way?

Much of Valentine's story is obscured by various stories but what is known is that he was a priest in Rome during the reign of an emperor called Claudius the Cruel. St. Valentine incurred Claudius' wrath and was martyred by being clubbed to death on February 14th.

So how did he wind up with the love connection?

Well according to one popular story, the Emperor Claudius wanted a large army but had a hard time getting recruits because the men didn't want to be gone from their homes for long periods of time which sometimes would be ten to twenty years. Claudius thought it was because young men were getting married and didn't want to leave their loved ones. So Claudius banned marriage. Valentine felt this was unfair and married the young couples in secret. Unfortunately his secret was soon discovered and he was arrested and sent to prison. While awaiting death in prison he was befriended by the jailor's daughter. Before his execution he left her a note and signed it "from your Valentine."

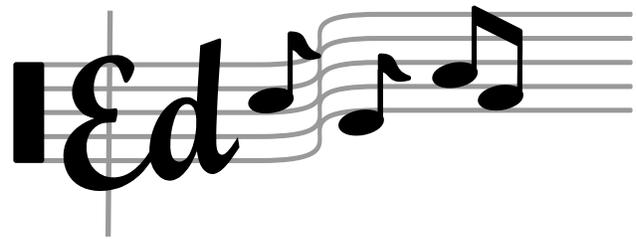
His death coincided with a time when young Roman men and women, normally kept apart, drew named lots and were paired off for a year, some to be married later.

Later in England, the poet Chaucer noted that birds started pairing off in mid February and wrote a poem saying that on Saint Valentines Day each fowl chooses a mate. The 14th of February became a popular day to become betrothed or profess their affection for one another.

And there you have it. Saint Valentines Day. For some, the day is a reason for an outward sign of affection to someone special.

But at St. Thomas we know that everyone is special and deserving of our love not for just one day but everyday. But I don't have to tell you because from what I have seen you all do that so well.

Happy Valentine's anyway.



How do I love thee?

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote some beautiful poems about love. They are gentle and warm and moving. During the month of February much of the world also focuses on love. But what kind of love is it? Romantic love? Sensual love? Friendly love?

In our Epiphany readings we have encountered God with us in the form of Jesus of Nazareth. We read of Old Testament prophecies, and songs of praise from the Psalter. We read stories of Jesus from the Gospels and instructions to new Christians in the New Testament Epistles. Throughout these readings, God is reaching out to us, to all of mankind. God gave us a beautiful world to live in and take care of. God came to earth in the form of Jesus and healed the sick, fed the hungry, comforted the poor. Jesus called a few friends to learn more about God's love by sharing it, and through them God calls us to love others as well. This love gives of itself, freely, faithfully, consistently. This love encourages, embraces, and heals the sin-sick soul. Will we allow God's Spirit to love through us?

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." (Ps. 136:1, RSV)

Ed Spencer



From the St. Thomas' Archives ... Help?



Can you help to accurately identify any of the children in this recently-discovered "heavenly host" picture? We know that it was taken at our 1974 Christmas Pageant but there are some faces we can't identify.

So far we can only be sure of **Sally Howard** and **Bill McCarthy**.

If you can recognize any of the other angelic faces, please let the office or **Suzanne Howard** know.

Incidentally, if you have other "historic" St. Thomas' pictures that you would enjoy sharing with others here in the Newsletter, let the office know or you can email them to our "Tidings" email address: news@stthomasreidsville.org.

TV Desired

Martha Balsley is in need of a VCR-capable TV for her classroom at Reidsville Senior High. If you have an extra one in your attic, please get in touch with Martha.

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee is pleased to report that several very generous gifts have been received. **Mr. and Mrs. Leon Niegelsky** have sent a donation in memory of their daughter **Leslie Niegelsky Fagge**, our first female acolyte! **Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Trotter** (he is one of our great ex-senior wardens) also made a wonderful contribution. Also **Marion Safriet** sent a memorial for **Eugene Hodges**. Thank you, thank you for these gifts and for supporting our church in such a positive manner.

The current amount of restricted funds in the Endowment Fund is **\$46,327.41!** And the great news is that St. Thomas' will be receiving **\$1140.06** in 2005 interest from the fund to be spent by the Vestry according to the bylaws.

12/15/05 Please find enclosed check in the amount of \$ for the St. Thomas' Endowment fund as a memorial to our daughter, Leslie Niegelsky Fagge - no need to acknowledge to anyone but us. We have a fondness for St. Thomas' and remember Leslie as a first female acolyte many years ago!

*Sincerely,
Marge & Leon Niegelsky*

Congratulations!



Scout Geoff Haigler (sixth from left) was recognized for receiving his Arrow of Light award in Cub Scouts during 2005. The Arrow of Light is the highest award a Webelos Scout can receive. It is also the only award from Cub Scouting that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. This recognition occurred during the Cherokee District Banquet held at Cherokee Scout Reservation on Saturday January 21st.

Congratulations to Geoff from the St Thomas family!!

Thank You!

Hello and Merry Christmas!

This time of year is one of great significance. The true glory and warmth (eek... if only lite3rally also!... brrr!) are sometimes lost, however, in the hustle and bustle of our world today. I am continually in bewildered awe of the magnitude of the generosity of the St. Thomas Community on all levels. Generosity has many faces. One is in the traditional sense of giving "things"/gifts to others, and one is in the more spiritual sense of giving and sharing sincerity. By this I mean the opening of your hearts so others may see the inherent "goodness" that is inside you. This is most powerful. I believe it truly can move mountains as they say. It is evident in all that St. Thomas has accomplished and continues to accomplish and it is evident in the everyday workings of its many committees. I would like to say a special thank you to the ECW for sharing their generosity with me. I was totally surprised to find the Christmas bag at my door that was filled with treats and have very much enjoyed nibbling on (well, I have to admit I wasn't quite that dainty; it was more like devouring!) everything inside. This may only be a small example of St. Thomas' generosity, but it was one that put a big smile on my face and brought back that warmth of the season. Than you to everyone who helped with this project, and to everyone at St. Thomas who has welcomed me into their hearts! You are truly amazing!

Jennifer Allen

January 2006

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to our diocese for hurricane relief. There is much work to be done, and we trust God is in the midst of it.

Oh behalf of the Diocese of Mississippi,

God's Peace,

Cathy Garrett

Thank You!

Rockingham County Council on Aging
Meals on Wheels Nutrition Services

January 10, 2006

Dear Rev. Oldland, Jenny and church members,

On behalf of our organization and the Meals On Wheels recipients, I wish to thank you for your kind generosity in providing a meal to our clients on Thanksgiving Day. As a holiday that is known for spending time with family and loved ones, it is sad to think that many of these people would have spent the entire day alone, with no contact from anyone, as few of them have a support network, family or otherwise. Thanks to your church these folks were not completely alone that day. Even still, they were given a traditional meal to help celebrate this special day. Many lives were touched I am sure!

Thank you again for giving so much of your resources to our community through your donations of food, time and volunteers. May God bless all of you throughout the New Year. You have truly been a blessing to our organization and our clients.

Sincerely,

Ann Boyle
Director of Meals On Wheels Services

WITH HEART &
HANDS TOGETHER

December 29, 2005



SERVING WITH
COMPASSION

Dear St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Friends,

With deepest gratitude, The Free Clinic acknowledges your generous donation of **\$500** to our worthy non-profit organization. It is because of you and others like you that The Clinic will maintain a stronghold in Rockingham County as it continues to offer medical, dental, and pharmaceutical care to our community brothers and sisters. Since health and well being create the foundation for all human endeavors, be assured that your gift holds life changing implications for those less fortunate who are employed and uninsured.

Again, it is with heartfelt appreciation that our staff and patients receive your contribution. your support will enhance the quality of life for our community neighbors. May you be inspired by the words of young heroine, Anne Frank. "How wonderful it is that nobody wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

With heart and hands together,

Leslie A. Deaton, Executive Director

Where Two or Three are Gathered Together...



DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
December 24	5:00 p.m.	40
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	10:30 p.m.	148
December 25	10:00	14
<i>Christmas Day</i>		
January 1	8:30	6
<i>Holy Name Sunday</i>	11:00	34
January 6	7:30 p.m.	11
<i>Epiphany</i>		
January 8	8:30	13
<i>Epiphany I</i>	11:00	68
January 15	8:30	14
<i>Epiphany II</i>	11:00	56
January 22	8:30	10
<i>Epiphany III</i>	11:00	70

Pledge Report

Range \$	Pledged	# Units
\$1 - 250	\$610.00	3
\$251 - 500	\$2,742.00	6
\$501 - 750	\$2,160.00	3
\$751 - 1000	\$3,340.00	4
\$1001 - 2000	\$22,500.00	15
\$2001 - 3000	\$23,480.00	10
\$3001 - 4000	\$13,700.00	5
\$4001 - 5000	\$28,624.00	8
\$5001 - 6000	\$27,520.00	5
\$6001 - 8000	\$23,500.00	3
Totals	\$148,176.00	62

Average Pledge =

\$2,389.94

Military Information... ?

If you know any military information about **Michael Everhart** or **Edward Johnson** please contact the church office at 349-3511. We are striving to maintain current information about those on our prayer list who are actively serving in the military. We need to know if they are still in the service and we also need current addresses if available. Thanks!

Ultreya

Ultreya will be held at St. Thomas on Feb. 3 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a covered dish to share. We will have good food, fellowship, a lay witness talk and music. Plan to join us. Everyone is welcome!

Men's Club

The Men's Club will hold their next regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday February 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hose. This month's menu: Chili, corn bread, salad, desert, iced tea.

Thinking ahead - the March meeting will be our annual oyster, clam and chili supper to be held at Kris Rogers house on Thursday March 9.

Lost & Found

A pair of **reading glasses**, a pair of **sunglasses** and a **black button** have been found in the church. If you have lost these items, they can be reclaimed in the church office.

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Thanks to Mikael Rice

10-02-2003

WINE, BREAD, WINGS, CHIPS AND DIP ... IT MUST BE FOOTBALL SEASON

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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February 2006



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Who's Who

CHURCH STAFF:

- Rector - The Rev. Bill Oldland
349-3511
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- Organist & Choir Director
Ed Spencer
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- Director of Christian Ed. -
- Office Manager & Rector's Secretary
Jenny Wilkins
349-3511
office@stthomasreidsville.org
- Sexton -
Carol Pruitt 349-3511
- Episcopal Day School Administrator
Shay Johnson

LAY WORKERS:

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- Youth Leaders -
Gayle Ferguson 342-3991
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- Altar Guild
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- Layreader & Chalice Bearer
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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