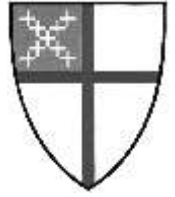




# Tidings

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



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

August 2006

## The Vestry

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Scotty Reeder - Christian Education  
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Dot Reilly - Communications  
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Open Vestry Meetings are every third Monday at 6.45 p.m.

## Bill's Corner

The Rev. William D. Oldland



I would like to begin this reflection by offering two short pieces of scripture. The first piece of scripture is from Matthew 24: 6-8.

*"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places; and all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs."*  
NRSV

The second piece is also from Matthew, chapter 28, verses 19 and 20.

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*  
NRSV

These two verses are rather interesting from where we are right now. Tensions are high all over the world. North Korea has tested missiles and has claimed the capacity to develop enriched nuclear material. Israel and the Hamas are fighting in Lebanon. We have soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The new leader in Iran has made bold statements concerning the state of Israel. We have among us wars and the rumors of wars. Nations are indeed rising up against nations all over the world. We have had

earthquakes, floods, famines, hurricanes and a host of other disasters. It does seem we are falling apart at the seams. This first verse is apparently being fulfilled.

And yet, Jesus says don't be alarmed. The end is not near. So what do we do? How do we respond to what is happening around us? Part of the answer, I believe is found in the Great Commission, the other verse before us. We are to go into the world and teach and preach and baptize. We are to teach what Jesus taught, the love of God. We are to show what Jesus showed us, the compassion of God. We are to share what Jesus shares with us, the peace of God. As we do all of these things in many ways, we can take great comfort in the knowledge that Jesus is with us.

I would like to share with you why it is important to keep these verses before us. As you know the youth of three churches went on the Mission Trip. We worked hard all week to accomplish the tasks before us to help two families. These were families we

*continued on page 2...*

## Inside This Issue...

> Bible Studies / General Convention	2
> Summer Reading - Don Gwarek	3
> Men's Club / ECW Fall Bazaar	3
> Vestry News from the Sr. Warden	4
> Youth Group Activities / Mission Trip 2006	5
> Environmental Commission Tips	6
> Musical Notes from Ed	6
> Library Improvements	6
> Finance Committee Reminder / Pledge Report	7
> Parish Register / Thanks	7

## Bill's Corner

*continued*

had never met. We met them on our trip. We spoke with them and shared some time with them. We got to know one another. We shared our hopes, our love, and our compassion with one another. The team also exhibited this sharing and caring for each other. It was a great week.

On Friday, our play day, we learned of the new strife in the Middle East. We heard about the lives lost, the pain and the suffering. We heard about the affect these events had on the world. Climbing gas prices and a falling stock market does not affect just one nation, but many in today's economy. For a minute we might have gotten a little discouraged. We might have felt disheartened. I know I did. I felt disheartened until I remembered the words of Jesus, "I will be with you always."

We might not have the power to make a difference in every aspect of the world at one time. In fact, we don't have that ability. We can't fix all of the problems in the world. We can have an impact on the world where we are. We can teach about God's love, compassion and caring in many ways. It might be serving food at the Soup Kitchen or packing bags at the Outreach Center. It might be in prayers for our youth and financial support to send them on their way. For they did a great job this week in representing God and you. They had a positive impact on the lives of two families and they used very few words. The actions said it all.

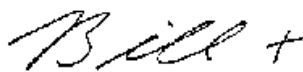
So, we don't have to worry about the wars and rumors of wars. They will be with us. It only matters what we do in our daily lives, in the places where we are in our response to God. There we can make a huge difference by responding to the needs of the world with love and compassion in the name of Christ.

I would like to leave you with one

thought that we learned on this weekend. We were studying the lives of missionaries and martyrs. We looked at how they responded to the needs of the people around them. Many of them did not have great educations and masses of money. However, they all did one thing and seemed to do it well. They responded where they saw a need. If a person was hungry they helped with food. If a person was sick they responded with compassion and healing if they could. If a person was naked they gave clothing and shelter. As a result of the stories and the lives of these missionaries and martyrs we came to one conclusion. One of the worst sins we could commit would be not to respond at all.

The youth of our communities responded well. They saw the need and with God's help and yours, they responded. They took to heart the words of Christ and they learned that Jesus' promise was and is true. Jesus will be with us always.

Peace,



Bill+

## Bible Studies



The Sunday School class will continue meeting at 10:00 in the Vestry Room to finish its study of stewardship. The class on the book of Revelation has completed its study. We will begin a new study in the fall on the Nicene Creed. We will be using a text by Luke Timothy Johnson as our study guide. This class might be offered at noon on Mondays and during an additional time at night. Please pray about this opportunity and see if you would like to be involved in this study.

## General Convention



During the month of August the diocese will be holding meetings to report on The General Convention. At these meetings the bishops and the deputies will be present to share reports on the committees on which they served. They will also share their views on the actions of the votes on the floor.

**Our area will hold its meeting on August 22nd. The meeting will be at St. Andrew's in Greensboro and last from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.** If anyone would like to attend please notify the church office. It is possible for us to carpool and save a little on fuel consumption. These meetings are open to all.

## Summer Reading

by Don Gwarek

Ah! It's summer once again and folks will be heading out to the beaches or wherever to have fun. But when the sun gets too hot or you get rained out you just might want to stay inside, get in your favorite chair, kick off your shoes and grab a good book.

Let me recommend a couple of good ones.

If you only read one book in the whole year let it be **The Five People You Meet In Heaven** by **Mitch Albom**.

This is a beautifully written story about a man named Eddie, an eighty year old amusement park maintenance man who is killed in an accident on one of the rides. On his journey to heaven he meets five people who have been in his life for a reason. As the first person Eddie met said, "You may not have known the reason at the time, but that is what heaven is for. For understanding your life on earth."

The book is small and has only 195 pages but it is loaded with some of the most beautiful word pictures you will ever find in a book. Once you start it, you won't be able to put it down and it is a book that you will want to read again and again.

The second book is called **Dakota Cross Bearer** by **Mary E. Cochran**. It is the biography of Harold S. Jones, the first Native American to become an Episcopal Bishop. It's an inspiring book that you will find hard to put down.

Harold was raised by his maternal grand-parents after his mother died giving birth to a younger brother and his alcoholic father abandoned him. His grandfather, an Episcopal Priest and grandmother were very loving and were his inspiration throughout his life. He lived in poverty on Indian reservations almost his entire life except for the times when he attended Southern State Teachers College and later Seabury Western Seminary. He experienced racism even from his church leaders. After becoming a Deacon and then a

Priest, his Diocese assigned him to the worst situations possible where he would have to learn new languages each time. When he started to show success he would be reassigned. The Diocese admitted that they didn't want him or the Indian missions to succeed. But with all of the trials that Bishop Jones faced during his lifetime he never lost faith in either God or man.

The history of Native Americans in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas and the word pictures of reservation life painted by the author, Mary Cochran, are very descriptive. I think it's a book that you'll remember for a long time.

Of course an all time favorite good read is the **Bible** by **Various Authors**. Here is a book that has been an international best seller for a long time and is loaded with some pretty good, exciting stories. I'll bet you'll want to read it over and over. I recommend it highly for those quiet times in your day.

Another is **The Book Of Common Prayer**. Now here's a book that's been around since the 16<sup>th</sup> century so you know it's got to be good. Of course, now and then it goes through a few revisions just to make it better. And while you can read the **BCP** by yourself, it is a lot more fun when it's read together on a Sunday with your friends.

Why not give it a try this Sunday at St. Thomas.

Don't keep your pain bottled up inside you  
If your hurting, we can help!  
If you would like to talk, we're all ears!  
Everything is confidential.  
Give us a call.

**The Stephen Ministers of St. Thomas**  
Call the parish office 349-3511  
for more information

## Men's Club

It is that time of year again. The **Shrimp Fest** will be on **September 16, 2006**. We will need all the help you can give us. Men of St. Thomas should plan to attend the August planning meeting for the Shrimp Fest, on August 03, 2006 at 6:30 PM.

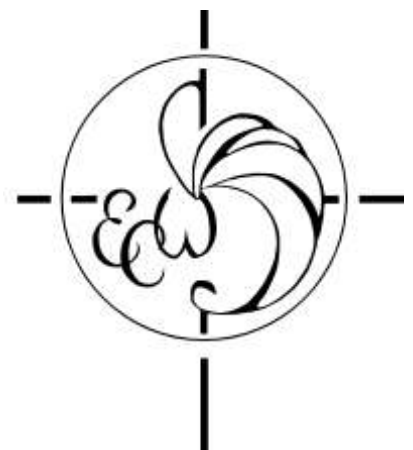
The menu for this meeting will be, Grilled Chicken Breast, Potato salad, String beans, cold drinks and dessert.

## ECW Fall Bazaar

Planning has begun for the **ECW's Fall Bazaar and Luncheon** set for **October 20<sup>th</sup>**. Make sure you put that date on your calendar and plan to help and attend. The luncheon will begin at 11 AM and will be served until 2 PM. Since we held the Flea Market this spring we will only be selling homemade baked, canned or preserved items. If there is an interest in crafts we would welcome your items to sell.

This year our raffle will include the last grouping from **Tymesia Forbes'** 'Heritage Village Collection - New England Village Series' donated by **Parker Graham** and **Suzanne Howard**. Other items to be raffled will be announced soon.

We will be calling soon to ask each of you to either chair or help on a committee. We need everyone's help to make this another success.



## Vestry Highlights from Joanne Piazza, Sr. Warden

The Vestry did not meet in July, as it is the one month of the year that we take a “break”, so to speak. Instead of bringing you highlights from the latest Vestry meeting, as I normally do, I would just like to mention some of the activities that kept our parishioners busy during July.

First, the **Annual Picnic and Independence Day celebration** was held on Sunday, July 2nd. We had an approximate turnout of 75 people, with one combined service that was held outside on the lawn. We were so fortunate that the weather was perfect – dry, sunny and not too hot! **The Paul Yodis Band** played some service music and then entertained us later. **Tommy Thorn** cooked the hot dogs on the grill and the side dishes and desserts were wonderful, as usual. It amazes me every year that we always have such a great variety, with little or no planning. I think we have some divine intervention. It all came together smoothly and everyone who attended had a great time!

**Vacation Bible School** was held on two Saturdays – July 1st and July 8th. The kids had a great time both days and finished up with a cook-out on the 8th. Thanks to those who helped with this event – **Kate North**, our Christian Ed Director, who offered the facility at the 4-H Center, where **Jeff** is the Executive Director and planned the program, along with **Father Bill**; to teachers, **Jim McCloskey**, **Scottie Reeder** and **Lauren Ruhland**, who worked so diligently with the children and to **Leslie Phipps**, **Tammy Melchert**, **Dot Reilly** and yours truly, who managed to help Kate, Scottie and Lauren assemble some birdhouses for the children to paint; to **Teresa Ruhland** for providing lunch both days, to Tommy Thorn and Jeff North for getting the evening meal going, and to Father Bill Oldland for the spiritual and musical inspiration he so uniquely brings to the children. This was a great event and the children who were there took with them an experience they will always cherish when they look back on their childhood.

Finally, the **Youth Mission Trip to Charleston** was held the week of July 9th. This mission trip was the first one that did not involve putting on a new roof, but they did a lot of painting and fixing. We heard from some of our youth and adults who went on the trip the Sunday after they returned home and already, they can't wait for next year's Mission Trip. They learned that it is better to give than receive and they all gave of themselves so that others might have a better way of life. They all experienced the true meaning of stewardship and got a little closer to each other and to God. And that's what it's all about! When they returned, **John Bullock** had put together a memory book, using the photos that **Tom Ham** took while on the trip. A very special thanks to John for his thoughtfulness and stewardship!

Peace,

*Joanne Piazza, Sr. Warden*





The center of our news for the last month of course was the Mission Trip. We actually worked on two homes. In one home the group did some repair and replacement work in the kitchen area and in a bathroom. They replaced part of the floor in the kitchen and put in a new vanity and sink. They also did some other minor work as well.

The other home required a great deal more work. This home has been completely rebuilt from the ground up. Our jobs included caulking, puttying, priming and cutting in all the walls of the nine rooms in the house. We also had to put in all the trim on the floor and some windows. We helped clean the house for painting the next week, fix some weak spots in the floor, repaint the tin roof, transport and polyurethane the kitchen cabinets, and build one porch on one door and start the second. Major construction on this house will be completed before August, but the carpet will not be finished until the end of the first week of that month.

In addition to completing all this work, the group went to the beach and a fun park. They fished, water skied, dived, swam, and got very muddy. A great time was had by all.

The spiritual program was great. **Gayle Ferguson** did a wonderful job of pulling together stories and “tangibles” to go with the scripture lessons and missionaries we chose for each day. We are very grateful for her work. Please look at the pictures on the website for more details. Also, if you want to know more about the trip, talk to our youth and advisors who attended. They can help share what “tangibles” is all about.

During August we have been invited to go to **Tuesday Afternoon Movies** with the youth of The Church of the Epiphany until school starts. Anyone wanting to attend has to be at the church at 11:30 each Tuesday with some money to go. Please talk to Bill and let him know you will be attending.



## Environmental Education Commission Tips

### A MUST SEE MOVIE! An Inconvenient Truth

Playing at the Carousel Cinemas in Greensboro this movie is for all who are interested in saving our environment. Roger Ebert writes in his review on 6/2/06 "Global Warming is real. It is caused by human activity. Mankind and its governments must begin action to halt and reverse it."

### Join the Environmental Commission for a trip to the movies-date and time to be announced later.

### From: 50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth

There are a surprising amount of toxins in your home, hidden in everything from oven and drain cleaners to personal care products. There are many inexpensive, easy-to-use, natural alternatives that you can substitute

- Permanent-press clothes and bed linens are treated with formaldehyde
- Use Natural fibers whenever possible
- Air Fresheners may contain chemicals like xylene, ethanol, naphthalene
- Use Herbal mixtures or vinegar and lemon juice
- Mothballs are made from Para

dichlorobenzene which is harmful to your liver and kidneys.

Use Herbal products that act as repellents, cedar chips, and cedar oil

• Permanent-ink pens and markers contain harmful solvents like toluene, xylene, ethanol

Use water-based markers and pens

Store hazardous materials properly

• Keep them in original containers with labels securely fixed

• Keep them in a cool, dry place-out of the reach of children

Dispose of hazardous products properly.

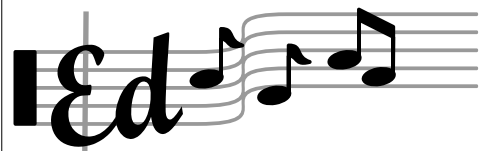
• Used motor oil, car batteries, paint thinners, and some solvents can be refined and reused.

### C L E A N H A R B O R S ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES in Reidsville's Watlington Industrial Park accepts household wastes, such as paints, solvents, oils and batteries.

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Anyone interested in participating in the Commission's meetings or projects should contact members **Lauren Ruhland, Paul Barrett, Jeanne Horsley, Marian Safriet, or Kris Rogers.**

## Musical notes from



### What hymns shall we sing?

First of all, THANK YOU for your HYMN BLAST participation! I have a whole page of hymns from you, including 8 from Lape Smith in a book with 44 marked in the index! Thanks, Lape! In our hymnal, H490 got 4 votes; H293 got 4; there were a few other perennials, and some hymns new to Hymn Blast as well, including quite a few from WLP and LEVAS II. We've used about half of them already this summer, and we'll see the remainder in weeks and months to come.

Now, back to the question at hand. There are two main characteristics to hymns we sing, in my mind. We must know them and love them (especially the processional hymns) and they must help us with our worship focus for the day. HYMN BLAST, choir surveys, and records of historical use help me to determine how well hymns are known and loved. The other part can be tricky. There is a wonderful little resource book I use, made up for musicians in Episcopal churches. For each worship day in the church year, it contains the Scripture lessons along with a list of about 30 recommended hymns. I read the lessons and look at the hymn list. Normally the list shows that there are maybe 5 or 6 that we know well, and we've recently used 3 or 4 of them (in the last month or two). So then I have to dig. I look at the lessons again, and my other lists, and eventually (often with the choir's help) we have a set of hymns that we will enjoy singing and which will communicate the message for the day as well.

So raise your voices in praise to God, and let's have a good time doing so!

Peace,

*Ed Spencer*

## New & Improved Library

Many thanks to **Theresa Ruhland** and a number of other volunteers who have devoted many hours to improving and reorganizing our library! Additional shelves have been built to accommodate our growing collection of books, tapes, CDs, and DVDs, and artwork has been donated. Later the shelves will be labeled according to themes, topics, authors, etc.

If you see something that piques your interest, just write it down in the red book on the table to check it out.

While there is already a computer available there for your use, we hope to eventually have one that's also connected for high-speed internet access.



# Where Two or Three are Gathered Together...



DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
June 25	8:30 a.m.	7
	11:00 a.m.	45
July 2 <i>4th of July Celebration</i>	10:00 a.m.	73
July 9 <i>Mission Trip Send-Off</i>	10:00 a.m.	59
July 16 <i>Mission Trip Return &amp; Report</i>	8:30 a.m. [Unavailable]	
	11:00 a.m.	58

## A note from the Finance Committee

June marks the beginning of summer vacations for many parishioners and the finance committee would like to remind everyone to please keep up with your pledges even if you have to be away for a length of time. One option to help you with this is to have your pledge drafted out of your checking account while you are away. If you would like to set this up, please notify the church office and someone on the finance committee will be in touch with you. It will be one less worry for your busy life!

## Pledge Report

	June 2006	Year To Date
Total Revenue	\$ 10,872.58	\$ 70,307.17
Total Operations Expenses	\$ 18,784.55	\$ 83,086.30
Difference	- \$ 7,911.97	- \$ 12,779.13



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

**Mrs. Laura V. Archibald**  
2121 Beverly Dr  
Charlotte NC 28207-2603

## 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.

## Endowment Fund

Contributions may be made to the Endowment Fund throughout the year by making memorial contributions, sharing stock, remembering the Endowment Fund in Estate Planning.

For more information, members of the Endowment Committee are: **Ann Donecker, Laura Felts, Starr McHugh, Bob Lee Watt, and Steve Worth.**



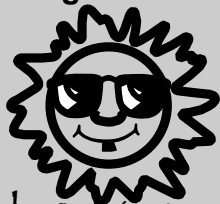
# St. Thomas Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street  
Reidsville, NC 27320

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## Return Service Requested

August 2006



### Inside This Issue...

> Bible Studies / General Convention	2
> Summer Reading - Don Gwarek	3
> Men's Club / ECW Fall Bazaar	3
> Vestry News from the Sr. Warden	4
> Youth Group Activities / Mission Trip 2006	5
> Environmental Commission Tips	6
> Musical Notes from Ed	6
> Library Improvements	6
> Finance Committee Reminder / Pledge Report	7
> Parish Register / Thanks	7

## Who's Who

### CHURCH STAFF:

- Rector - The Rev. Bill Oldland  
349-3511  
rector@stthomasreidsville.org
- Organist & Choir Director  
Ed Spencer  
music@stthomasreidsville.org
- Director of Christian Ed. -  
Kate North
- Office Manager & Rector's Secretary  
Jenny Wilkins  
349-3511  
office@stthomasreidsville.org
- Sexton -  
Carol Pruitt 349-3511
- Episcopal Day School Administrator  
Shay Johnson (2005-2006)  
Jessica Rivers (2006-2007)

### LAY WORKERS:

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Suzanne Howard 349-7046
- Layreader & Chalice Bearer  
Coordinator  
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- Usher Coordinator -  
Steve Worth 349-7538
- Greeters Coordinator -  
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- Worship Chair -  
Tom Ham 349-7261  
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- 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