

THE WAYFARER

June/July 2009 Issue

A monthly journal for Christians who worship at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Berea, Ohio
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Rector's Musings...

Hard to believe that almost half the year is over!!! And hasn't it been a good one for St. Thomas?! People are joining, good things are happening, we are serving Christ and our neighbors!!! In fact, we have had 12 new people join since the beginning of the year and many regular visitors. God is so good to us!!!

At the annual meeting this year I set forth several goals. I said that we would start a Saturday Night Service, which has had a marvelous beginning. I said that we would be looking at our stained glass windows, and a dedicated group of people is raising money and awareness about that. And I said we would apply for grants to fund our programs. We have applied for grants for campus ministry, a musician for Saturday night, the STAR program, and some repairs and updating around the church. I am confident that we will end up receiving most of them.

With these goals in play, I have one more to accomplish, and that is the exploration of nontraditional revenue sources for our church. To be clear, this means money that doesn't come from pledges and our Harkess fund. We have been blessed with a congregation of generous givers, but it is just not enough. Most of us could probably give more to the church and will as needed. But we also give to other charities, our family, many good causes. And it is rare for someone to leave a large gift of money when they die, which was a traditional source of income as well.

So the Finance Committee spent some time generating ideas to make money. Many good plans were discussed. Most of them, however, require a lot of work by the parish. Weekends at the ballpark or amusement park, opening our hall for rental and other ways to raise money are very labor intensive. And we don't have the level of availability among our parishioners to make these things work. They also don't bring in the serious money we need to do ministry here, another \$20,000-30,000 per year.

I was talking with the Bishop about this, and told him how frustrating it is to try to bring Jesus Christ into the world and grow our church without having any money for ministry. All of our money is spent on the building and salaries. I told him how aggravating it is to agonize over spending \$25 on a video for adult forum or having to ask our staff to cut their hours over the summer. Our spending is under control

because we have so little to spend. I don't want this to be our future. God deserves better and so does this parish!!!

So we need to do something bold. Something that no one has ever tried before. Something that will make enough of a difference that it will be worth all of the time and effort that it will take. After much prayerful deliberation and many, many hours of research, the vestry has agreed to start a Home Health Care business that will be operated out of St. Thomas. It will be a private, for-profit corporation, which will protect the church from liability. But it will also give all of its profits to St. Thomas and any investors. St. Thomas will gain income from the business and not incur any risk. We will have an attorney draw up the necessary papers to ensure our protection. Initial research shows a great need in our area for these services.

Parishioners will not be expected to run this business. I will be the administrator until the business is large enough to hire someone to take on this role. So for a few years, I will essentially be a part time rector. While this is not an ideal situation, and will change the way things get done at St. Thomas, in this case, it will be temporary. If we do not do something to raise our income level, the time will come soon enough when you will not be able to pay a rector a full-time salary, and either I would have to leave, or become part-time anyway. We have looked into sharing a rector with other parishes. If we do that, you will have a part-time rector permanently. This way, as the business becomes successful, I will be able to move back into working full-time for the ministry of the church, a role I infinitely prefer.

This is about growth. And so as rector, even as I am working for the health care business, I will still be working full-time and more for the church. Just doing a different job than I do now. However, be clear I see this business as a ministry!

The long term benefit is financial security. If we don't invest in that now, we will not have the church we are accustomed to having, the staff we are accustomed to having, or the programs we value. Personally, I want to give our staff a raise, and I haven't been able to do that in 3 years. I want a huge outreach budget. I want to be able to hire a youth and Christian education coordinator. I want to hear your dreams for this church and make them happen!!! I want an abundant future for St. Thomas!

I am sure you have many questions. So do we. The Bishop has approved our idea, and we are in the process of developing a business plan. If you would like to help with any part of this, we would be grateful. Please contact me. We may not have all the answers right away, but we are working on it. Months of research have gone into this venture already and more will come. I hope you will be positive. Please don't gossip. I hope you will pray for the success of this dream. I hope you will ask your questions reasonably and calmly. I hope you will look at the big picture and the good of the whole parish. This is very exciting and very hopeful!!!! God bless us!

Gayle+

**Parish Meeting to discuss establishing a Home Health Care business
is June 21 after the 9:30 service.
All are welcome to attend!!!**



**FROM THE SENIOR
WARDEN...**

The Parish Health Team has been working very hard attempting to determine the level of spirituality at St. Thomas by raising awareness through questionnaires and activities. As many of you know, my husband, Al, was recently in ICU at St. John's West Shore Hospital for a week, and then in "step down" for three days. He had excellent care, but I can tell you personally that "passionate spirituality" is alive and well at St. Thomas. We have both been overwhelmed with your love, concerns, thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards, e-mail and visits. We are very blessed and fortunate to be a part of such a supportive, caring community which really steps up to the plate in times of crisis. Al is recovering well at home now, and we are so grateful for each and every one of you. We really didn't know the kindnesses and blessings until we were in the heat of the struggle.

Thank God and God Bless!

Alice Amos



Los Amigos Episcopales –



After a well-attended dinner meeting in May to prepare for the upcoming annual appeal, Los Amigos members will spend June "on vacation". The next meeting will be on Friday, July 17 at 7:00pm in the chapel at St. Thomas Church. Come join us for a

very invigorating, planning meeting. See you there!
- Ruth Ihde

Episcopal Church Women

All women of St. Thomas are members of the Episcopal Church Women. We operate through our local congregations then through the Diocesan ECW Boards, Provincial ECW and the National Board of ECW. Our Mission is to support all women in their Mission and Ministry in the world. Additionally our goals are to strengthen the lines of communication through the Communiqué, which is the three time annually published newsletter, website, and diocesan and provincial visitation. These tools of communication keep us in touch with the ECW in our province, Province V, and the other United States provinces. Please join us when we meet on September 12, 2009 to learn more about this organization in your church.

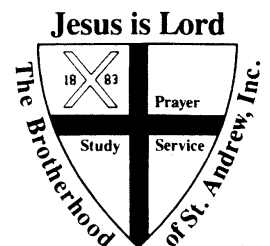
During the course of the year we have held events: i.e. the Devonshire Tea, the Annual Rummage Sale, and the SOS dinner. Therefore, the ECW takes this opportunity to thank all members of St. Thomas for their wonderful support. These events help fund the various needs of this church.

Sonia Miller, President



**THERE WILL BE
NO MEETINGS
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE!! WE
HOPE TO RESTART
IN THE FALL.**

The Brotherhood of St.



**The Brotherhood
of St. Andrew**

Andrew is an organization devoted to fellowship, prayer and projects.

Please join us.

Contact Dave Miller (440-826-1652) or the church for more information.



A Summer Prayer

Long warm days...

The pace of life slows...

A time for picnics and rest in the shade...

Lord, help me to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence.

Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people.

Amen.

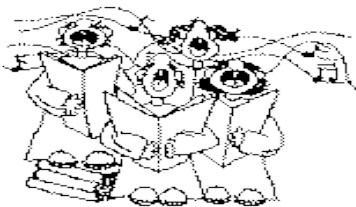


Saturday Night Service

Don't forget the Saturday Night Service at 5:30 will continue throughout the summer!!! See you there!

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Unsung Heroes



One of the most stressful jobs at St. Thomas in these tough economic times is Treasurer. The treasurer not only has to make sure money is well spent, but that we have money to spend at all. Tom Halliday continues to safeguard our parish finances and guide the vestry in keeping us solvent. He has offered sound advice that has protected our investments, improved our cash flow, and made finances more

understandable. I am grateful for his expertise and the many hours he volunteers to the church and the diocese! Please thank him for the fine job he is doing for our church!

PASTORAL COVERAGE DURING THE SUMMER

There will be several weeks this summer when Gayle is gone on vacation. According to the budget, there was money allotted for 2 of those Sundays to be covered by clergy. The other Sunday will be Morning Prayer. While it is provided in the Book of Common Prayer that the Eucharist is preferred for Sundays, Morning Prayer is solidly in the tradition of the church. I am grateful to the Worship Leaders in our parish who support the church in this ministry of providing Morning Prayer when there is no priest. I know you will offer them your support as well. It costs \$200 to pay for supply clergy for 2 services on Sunday. Your patience and support is appreciated.

Also you will notice that Cliff will be taking the summer off. He has agreed to do this as the summer is the busiest time for his business. But he was asked to consider this because we need to save money. Stephanie will be cutting her hours this summer from 25 to 20. While we all wish that nothing ever had to change, money is very tight. Please thank the musicians who will be playing for us this summer, and also thank Cliff and Stephanie for all they do for St. Thomas. The vestry is trying to stay positive and proactive in our church finances.



First Church Child Care News

The entire staff and board of First Church Child Care would like to thank everyone at St. Thomas for hosting us for the summer. We appreciate the opportunity to continue our ministry and to continue to serve our families and the community. We will be having an Open House on Sunday, June 7th



following your Coffee Hour so our families can see your beautiful facility. Please come and meet a few of our teachers and some of our families and share some cookies and punch. Opening Day for First Church Child Care will be June 15th and we are excited about our plans for a fun-filled summer at St. Thomas. Thanks for the wonderful welcome and we look forward to meeting you all!



From the Heart of the Parish...

γ Prayers for Jenna Staehr, who is battling Lupus.

γ Prayers for Jean Willis, who has severe hip pain.

γ Thanks for prayers for Dody's son Dave, as he continues to heal.

γ Al Amos is home from the hospital and on the road to recovery. Praise God!

γ Lucille Gartner was hospitalized to have a stint put in her leg. She is home and doing well.

γ Marion Sewell's granddaughter, Stephanie Lasch, is back home from studying in China

γ Ian Carmichael was in the state Lacrosse tournament for his age group.

γ Congratulations to Alyse Hancock Philips, who was crowned Berea Princess 2009 during the annual Rib Cookoff at the Fairgrounds.

γ Congratulations to Katie McGuire, who was voted Outstanding Senior Student in the Food and Deli program at Polaris Career Center.



γ Florence Mayer's first great-grandchild, Lucas James, was born April 29th. Congratulations!

γ Sue Griffith's 12 week old puppy, Dasha (Russian for Dorothy) is a black Newfoundland. When she is older she will probably follow the late Clifford's path in the Loving Paws pet therapy ministry.

γ Congratulations to our 2009 High School graduates: Chrissy Hamley, Chrissy Hartman, and Katie McGuire.

Dody Sandt

Marketing: What is it and Why Does St. Thomas Need It?

Since the Vestry unveiled the parish growth plan last fall, there has been a lot of confusion about marketing and community involvement. In order to clarify, we have decided to 1.) separate marketing from community involvement and 2) give the parish a brief lesson on marketing so you can better understand why it is so important for St. Thomas. So, here is your "Marketing 101" class!

What is marketing? For our purposes, marketing is simply how we get the word out about St. Thomas. It is communicating to others about our wonderful parish using a variety of methods. Advertising is probably the first thing that comes to mind for most of us, because it's hard to escape it. But there are many other techniques: direct mail (those postcards you get in the mail and immediately trash!), promotions (contests, events), public relations (community newsletters and stories in the media), and in our high-tech world, Internet and mobile communications.

In a professional setting, you decide who you want to use your service or buy your product (or figure out who is most likely to) and appeal to them using words, visuals, and the media they're likely to use. If you do it correctly, they'll beat a path to your door. And that's something we want and need, if St. Thomas is to grow and thrive and remain vital.

So, our plan is two-fold. We'll continue advertising in the local Sun Newspapers, focusing on our geographic area (Berea, Middleburg Heights, Olmsted Falls, Strongsville, and Brook Park). But, we're also beginning to focus on the Internet, and our efforts there will continue to grow. Studies show that more and more people are switching from print to the Internet for news, entertainment and community, and surprisingly, the age range using it is not as young as you would

expect (a majority of those in their 50s and 40s report using it regularly, for example).

The more places we are on the Internet, the greater the opportunities for someone to find out about us there, so we plan to establish a strong Internet presence. We will soon launch a St. Thomas page on Facebook and explore advertising on Facebook. We'll let all you Fbers out there know when it's up and running so you can connect with it! Down the road I would also like us to start posting photos of our events on Flickr, perhaps set us up a Twitter account, and an account on Ning.

But to do that I need help. If you know what any of those sites are and how they work, enjoy hanging out online, are creative, and would be willing to set us up on them, please let me know. If you're interested in creating print ads for us, let me know too – I will definitely put you to work! Call me at home – 440-930-5291 or e-mail me at ewillis@oh.rr.com.

The marketing team will have a meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20. If you're interested, please join us!



Hello everyone, I know we are all excited about summer, as short as it is in Cleveland, and what will be happening at St. Thomas this summer. Over the past couple weeks you have read the PS Corner, seen the bulletin boards, and filled out surveys pertaining to a life that is Passionate and Positive. We on the Parish Health Team encourage you to continue to do these things. These are great things, but we would suggest that we have to take what we are reading and seeing and apply it to our lives. Over the next couple months as we transition into the next phase, keep your eyes open for displays that will be around St. Thomas that point to who we are as a Church and who we are as a community.

I know we love each other at St. Thomas, but in what ways can we express this in even more passionate and positive ways. I John 4:19 says "We Love because he loved us first." What does this love look like? Who do we love? Verse 22 continues to say it is our fellow brothers and sisters that we should love. We can love as Jesus not only commanded us to do as he said "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and your neighbor as yourself", but also as he did. Jesus loved everyone, even those who disagreed or rejected him, showing them his compassion, mercy, and grace. Jesus believed in

people by caring, accepting, consoling, encouraging, and rebuking. Jesus was passionate and positive about his ministry in a way that the lives of others were transformed. As a church we can do this, we have this opportunity to create an environment where the love of Jesus can transform our lives and the lives of others.

Peace and Blessings from
the Parish Health Team

To our St. Thomas friends...

Bonnie, my mom Betty, and I want to thank you so much for your kind "farewell wishes" expressed over the past weeks, and especially for the touching farewell breakfast you held for us on May 3rd.

As we journey to Southern California to spend the next stage of our lives, we will fondly remember St. Thomas and all its wonderful people. One of the great strengths of the Christian Church is that as Christians move along on their own journeys, they take with them the memories and associations from those churches where they have worshiped and served and are often able to apply lessons learned there in their new parishes.

And so in a very real sense, we take St. Thomas with us as we go, hoping to pass along the warmth and caring we have experienced here to others, who though far away, are all part of the "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" we all share.

May God continue to bless St. Thomas parish - and each of you - in the years ahead!

We'll keep in touch.

Dave Warburton

Millennium Development Goals – Many thanks to those children who turned in their MDG mite boxes and to the adults who augmented the project with a gift of their own. We will keep you informed about this international endeavor.

- Ruth Ihde



HEALTH MINISTRY



Judges 18: 5. *“And they said to him, “Inquire of God, we pray thee, that we may know whether the journey on which we are setting out will succeed”. And the priest said to them, “Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the Lord.”*”

Walking to the Convention

As a parish, we are going to challenge ourselves (again) with a chance to improve physical fitness this summer through a sensible walking program. Last year, we walked to match St. Paul's journey. This year, we will get to the General Convention in Anaheim, CA by walking, swimming, biking, jogging, horseback riding, golfing, or canoeing. Even if your miles are estimated, please post them on our bulletin board each week. Some of our most valued miles last summer were the fewest ones: miles logged during a parishioner's recovery of a broken hip in physical therapy. Through teamwork we will go from St. Thomas Church to California for a total mileage of 2,331 miles. For those of you who have pedometers, now is the time to get them dusted off. For those of you who don't, we have a limited number to pass out.

Studies have proven that a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate activity on most days of the week will reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, cancer and obesity by 55%! It is said that a trip of a thousand miles begins with the first step; so if you are a beginning walker, do not be discouraged! Just take the first step! While getting to the Convention, we will be part of the spiritual team of St. Thomas. We can reflect on the issues of our Church family, we can pray, and we can enjoy the bounties of nature.

We are starting our program on June 7th and ending in August. We will track total miles walked each week and place our footprints along the map of the USA.
continued....

All of us know the benefits of walking:

- *raises metabolism
- *relieves stress
- * slows aging
- * reduces cholesterol
- *burns fat
- *lowers high blood pressure
- *increases energy levels
- *helps control diabetes
- *reduces risk of some cancers
- *promotes GI regularity
- *strengthens bones
- *improves mental alertness.

So let's commit to getting healthier together this summer!

Submitted by Barb Emigh, RN
Health Team Co-coordinator



DOLLAR\$ and \$ENSE

from YOUR TREASURER

The difficult national economy compounded by a near depression economic outlook in northern Ohio continues to put financial pressure on all churches, including St. Thomas. The fact that all churches are experiencing the same financial pressure does not make it any easier for our vestry to financially manage our parish. Gayle and your vestry continually pray for guidance and direction as they make important spending decisions. Below I will discuss the Operating Results through April 2009 and the present Balance Sheet and supporting detail.

Revenue:

Total revenue exceeds budget for year-to-date April by \$8,261.66 largely due to the prepayment of complete 2009 pledges last December 2008. Specifically, for the last 3 years you can see a steady decline in pledge revenue; 2007, \$65,286, 2008, \$55,709 and 2009, \$52,831. Annual Harkess income of \$12,762 in the first 4 months has reached its annual maximum for the next few years.

Expenses:

Expenses for the 4 months are \$5,880.33 over budget. All but 2 categories are slightly over budget. There are no major reasons to account for the slight variation in spending patterns.

Operating Results:

The negative 4 month Operating Results are decreasing compared to the previous 2 years; 2007, \$(11780.89), 2008 \$(3,956.72) and 2009, \$(2516.99).

Balance Sheet:

The Balance Sheet is simple and financially organized with all restricted gifts to the parish, approved by the vestry, in one account category, \$8,318.05. The detail of these restricted funds is shown in the supporting schedule adjacent to the Balance Sheet. Our cash position of \$45,662.24 may seem robust but that amount needs to last from now until October 2013, the date of the next Harkess draw down. There are no other cash reserves for the next 4 years and 6 months.

Treasurer's Comments:

Decreasing pledge revenue for St. Thomas means the parish through the elected vestry must begin to make serious decisions about the future operational structure of the parish. There are many alternatives before our vestry from expanding non-traditional revenue streams to the elimination of expenses and everything in-between. Ignoring this situation will not create a solution. Individual input and participation by parish members is absolutely necessary to improve the financial health of this parish.

I can be contacted, in person, by e-mail at StThomasFinance@AOL.com or by telephone @ 440.846.1466.

Thomas L. Halliday

Rev. Gayle Catinella, Rector
Alice Amos - Sr. Warden
Marion Sewell - Jr. Warden
Elaine Willis - Clerk
Tom Halliday - Treasurer
Tim Cooper
Helen Downie
Carole Pozek
Becky Shank
Rich Stowell
Peggy Zambounis



JUNE 6TH
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM CAR WASH AND
ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JUNE 7TH
BLESSING OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS
8:00 AM RITE I EUCHARIST
9:30 AM RITE II EUCHARIST

JUNE 14TH
FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 21ST
HOME HEALTHCARE MEETING IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING THE 9:30 SERVICE

JULY 4TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 6TH
BIKIN' & BAKIN'

JULY 12TH
HAWAIIAN SHIRT SUNDAY

JULY 8-17
GENERAL CONVENTION IN ANAHEIM, CA

JULY 13 - 17
ST. THOMAS WEEK AT CEDAR HILLS

JULY 17TH
7:00 PM LOS AMIGOS EPISCOPALES MEETING

JULY 19TH
SEND OFF PRAYERS FOR LOTT'S CREEK TRIP

JULY 25 - AUG 1
YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO LOTT'S CREEK, KY

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
50 EAST BAGLEY RD.
BEREA, OHIO 44017

