



# ***THE WAYFARER***

***December 2009/January 2010 Issue***

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

"Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee." I love the hymns of Advent. They are filled with such longing and hope. They hold the promise of our salvation born in this child who we know has come. And we know is coming again. There is the balance. Advent is a preparation for Christmas in that it puts our lives right for the coming of our Savior. And at the heart of it, Advent reminds us that Jesus is coming again. That is what we are really preparing for, our souls rest.

In Advent, we use light as a symbol of Jesus' light coming into the world. Maybe you will light a candle when you pray. Or maybe you will have an Advent wreath, which you will light at supper and pray with as the weeks pass. We light an additional candle each week to grow the light as we watch for Jesus to come.

Advent demands of us prayer and preparation. And I am not talking about, "Please God let all of my twinkle lights work this year" or "Please let me find the Wii game that my nephew wants." When we pray in Advent, we ask God to come into our hearts and help us to light up the dark places in us. What do we have to clean up in our souls? What gifts should we offer to Jesus of our very selves? How have we ignored the needs of the world? These are the preparations and prayers we offer in this season.

Christmas shopping, decorating, baking, cleaning, wrapping, consuming, fussing—none of these have anything to do with Advent. In fact, they are great distractions. Pray to keep them in balance with the real work of the season. We remember and embrace that Jesus will come again. And we work and pray to be ready in that amazing moment.

"By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone, by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne" Amen!!!

Love, Gayle+

## Advent at St. Thomas 2009

### Adult Forum:

December 5: 6:30 pm. The Rev. Peter Faass will present a program on his pilgrimage to Turkey, where he gained insight into the teachings of Paul.

### Advent Programs:

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath each Sunday  
December 6: St. Nicholas play at the 10:00 service

### ECW Craft & Bake Sale

December 6 following each service

### Healing Prayer

Available each Sunday by our prayer teams after each service!

### Lessons and Carols

December 13 at 4:00 pm with a reception following.


### Greening of the Church

December 20 after the 10:00 service  
Youth Christmas Party immediately after!

### Opportunities for Giving!!


Duffel Bag Collection for St. Luke's, Cleveland  
Dody's Mitten Tree

### FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN...



Over the years I have attended several diocesan conventions, and I always find them to be uplifting, enriching and humbling experiences, also a privilege to be a delegate.

This year the format was different.



On Friday, we were asked to be the "Hands of Christ" and select a project in which to be involved. I chose to be an advocate for the homeless, and worked with about 50 people to make 50 fleece blankets to be distributed at the homeless stand down in February. Others raked leaves, picked up litter, worked at a Habitat house, soup kitchen, etc. Afterward, we gathered together over a simple supper of soup and salad to discuss our day with people from other parishes. It was interesting to hear about the struggles we have in common and also the blessings that we share.

Saturday we celebrated the Eucharist, and the altar was piled high with the t-shirts that were donated. During Bishop Hollingsworth's address, he paused several times and asked that each person pray for 30 seconds with a partner about inclusion, also Cedar Hills (which is having financial difficulties), and we sadly learned the Trinity Book Store is closing at the end of the year. Then it was all business. Elections conducted, resolutions discussed and voted upon.

It is truly a blessing to worship at our diocesan cathedral with representatives from all the parishes and to feel the wide influence of our faith. Thank you for allowing me to represent you

as one of the delegates.

Alice Amos



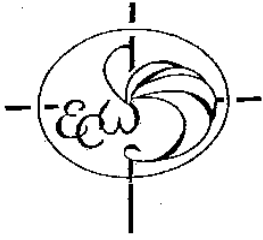
*Los Amigos Episcopales* – The guest speaker at our November meeting was The Rev. Mark Robinson. He was very much interested in our program and encouraged us to pursue our many ventures, with help from his office.

Have you ever wanted to go to a third-world country on a mission trip? Los Amigos is planning a trip to El Salvador in early 2010, and we are looking for more northern Ohioans to join our mission. This is an opportunity to get to know many poor Salvadorans and learn how they live, how they manage with such little personal resources, and what we can do to help them.

Many thanks to the people of St. Thomas Church (and other churches in this diocese) for donating to the relief fund for Salvadoran victims of the Hurricane Ida floods and mudslides. This is just one more tragedy that will impact this wonderful, third world country for years to come.

Please join us as we celebrate our "after the holidays" party on Saturday, January 2, 2010. We'll have more information later. - Ruth Ihde





## Episcopal Church Women

December is the month the ECW has its annual bake and craft sale. The monies from this sale and our various other money-raising activities are for the youth projects of St. Thomas. The ECW is requesting bakery and crafts for our December 6<sup>th</sup> sale. By both contributing and purchasing, you are helping the youth of our Church.

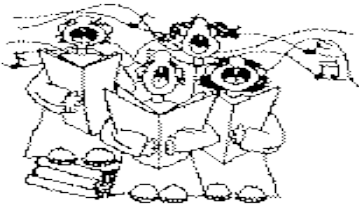
February 27, 2010 is the Devonshire Tea! For tickets, please contact Rosalie Ferline at (216) 226-8026. The 11:00 seating is almost sold out!

Please join us at our next meeting and Christmas luncheon at Clementine's Restaurant in Olmsted Falls on Saturday, December 12th at 12:00

Sonia Miller, President



## Unsung Hero



*This month, I would like us to appreciate Nancy Bradford. That certainly isn't hard to do. Nancy is a member of our lovely choir, the coordinator of our Bread Bakers Guild, and serves as a chalice bearer, a lay Eucharistic visitor and a member of the altar guild. Probably other things that I have*

*forgotten as well.*

*But what I want to thank Nancy for is the way she has supported the gift card program. In the office the other day, Nancy was telling me how she plans ahead so she can use the maximum number of gift cards to support the church. She uses them for everything she can think of, and goes online to research what gives the best returns. It is this kind of effort that will make the gift card program a huge help to our budget. Other people do this as well (thanks Bart), and the thanks of the parish goes out to all of you. Please thank Nancy for her dedication to helping this parish in so many ways!*



## Save Our Stained Glass

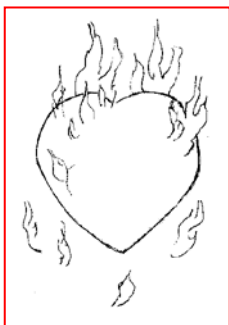
The folks from Poremba are working on putting our window back together. They are hoping to have it installed by January. In the meantime, there is a plastic cover over the hole that will keep out the cold. We look forward to the installation and the party that will go with it! If you still owe money toward your pledge, now would be a great time to pay it off!!! Thank you!! It will be lovely!!

## Campus Ministry

One word: WOW!!!! Our numbers have blossomed as we have been able to provide a meal and hospitality to more kids than ever before. We are serving about 30 kids at each meal, and the fellowship is wonderful. Thank you to Chris Molmen, who does such a wonderful job hosting and coordinating the meals and other activities. Thank you to our regular volunteer staff: Dody Sandt, Mary Jane White, Paulette Melillo, and Meg Donovan, and all the others who helped as well. And a heartfelt thank you to our cooks this semester: Linda Kerbusch, Linda Hoakiko, Jeanette Petrich, Amy Upchurch, Linda Short, Maryanne Cline, Eric Kluth, Carole Posek and Peggy Ryel, Jane Newman, Jan Bell, Meg Donovan, and Jackie Mantle. Yum!!!! Please join us in bringing a dessert, bread, salad or main course next semester!



### From the Heart of the Parish!

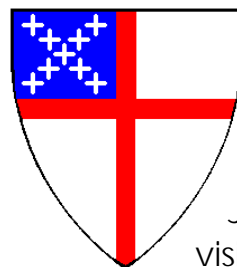


- ❖ Prayers for Al Amos as he battles a lung infection. He is home after being in St. John's Westshore Hospital.
- ❖ Prayers for Bill Peacock. Bill had open heart surgery at St. John's and is doing well.

- ❖ Prayers for Carole Pozek. She is feeling better, but still battles the H1N1 flu.
- ❖ A big thank you to all those volunteers who helped with the H1N1 flu shots in Olmsted Falls!
- ❖ Ellen Schleger has passed away and a private funeral was held at St. Thomas. Ellen was a dear friend to so many. She was our custodian, but was always there to help above and beyond.
- ❖ Thank you to Bob Englund and Gary Carlsen for fixing the outside door by the chapel!
- ❖ Thanks to all the hard working folks who pruned, chopped, and swept on outside cleaning day!
- ❖ Thanks to Barb Pertz and Sonia Miller for organizing our very successful wine tasting party. Thanks as well to the servers: Clint Anderson, Cliff Hill, Robert James, and David Miller, and to Elaine Willis for the colorful flyers that advertised the event. The authentic Italian décor was beautifully put together by Dolly Doyle, Rosalie Ferline, Barb Forst, Sue Griffith, and Becca Knappe. And last, but certainly not least, to our choir for the absolutely fabulous hors d'oeuvres!!
- ❖ Congratulations to Philip McGuire for obtaining his letter in Cross Country at Strongsville High School. Way to go, Philip!



Are You interested in joining the Episcopal church???



Classes for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation will begin in January for the Bishop's visit at the end of 2010.

Please let Gayle know if you are interested. You must be in good standing (regular attendance and pledged) and, if a child, in high school at the time of confirmation. Pray for those in discernment!



### Yard Maintenance at St. Thomas

Many thanks to the following parishioners who worked on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> maintaining our grounds: Harry Newman, Tom Grey, Tim Cooper, Peggy Zambounis, Elaine Willis, Doug and Marion Sewell, and yours truly. We have accomplished most of our autumn goals, and will be looking forward to spring greening activities. "If winter comes, can spring be far away?" Thanks again.

- Ruth Ihde



### OUTREACH

Thank you for your continued generosity! Our main focus in **December** is the **Duffel Bag Ministry**. The filled duffel bags will be given to those in need through St. Luke's Church (Episcopal West Side Ministries). The bags

will contain socks, gloves, toiletries for men or for women, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, brush, comb, etc. You may want to designate one bag for a woman that contains necessities, or a bag for a man with shaving needs, etc. and you could mark it as such. Or you could just bring in generic items that would be suitable for any person. You might think about ear muffs, a scarf, or a hat. See the article written by Barb Emigh elsewhere in this Wayfarer.



In **January**, we will again be having our **Winter Coat Ministry**. If you have warm coats in the back of the closet that you are no longer wearing, bring them to St. Thomas and we will distribute them to those in need through St. Luke's Church. Perhaps the children have outgrown their winter jackets and would want to donate them. Any size, any age - just be sure they are clean and in good condition, with no stains and no rips or tears.

**On-going outreach.** Please continue to bring in canned food for the food pantry at Church Street Ministries and Columbia Park. Soup is always a winner as well as tuna, beans, canned fruit and canned vegetables. The need in our area is so great and your generosity is so very much appreciated.



### Pledge Results

We are still collecting pledge cards as of this publication date. As of today we have about 35 cards still unreturned. Please return your card if you have not already done so. We need one from everybody, no matter what the size of your pledge can be. Thank you so much for your faithful giving. We look forward to a tremendous year ahead!



## **THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT**

St. Thomas is again participating in a special Christmas project sponsored by the Episcopal West Side Shared Ministry. As a gift to the homeless and impoverished, we have been asked to donate 80 (40 men's and 40 women's) filled duffel bags/backpacks. Please label the gift as "man's" or "lady's". Individual items will also be accepted. These gifts will be presented as part of a Christmas dinner gathering and later distributed to other people throughout the area. Contributions should be turned in as soon as possible but by no later than Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to give some much-appreciated, practical help to those in need! If you have any questions or can help with this project, please call Barb Emigh at 440-465-7720.

### **SUGGESTED ITEMS TO PUT IN A MAN'S OR WOMAN'S DUFFEL BAG**

Duffel bag	Disposable Razors	Hairbrush
Soap	Hand lotion	RTA bus pass
Shampoo	Candy	Books
Conditioner	Gloves	Blankets
Deodorant	Hats	Toilet paper
Toothpaste	Socks	Comb
Toothbrush	Cough drops	Chapstick

### **OPTIONAL ITEMS FOR MEN**

After-shave  
Shaving cream  
Underwear

### **OPTIONAL ITEMS FOR WOMEN**

Shaving cream  
Tampons  
Maxi Pads  
Panty liners  
Underwear  
Small notebook  
Pen





## GOING FOR THE GREEN

With the holiday season and new year around the corner, now is a great time to make some changes to be more environmentally friendly! Here are a few suggestions:

- Pledge to buy less “stuff” this season and during the upcoming year! There are so many resources now for obtaining used items...it makes sense to check them out, especially if the item is something you'll use just a few times!
- When you *are* purchasing new things, look for items that contain some recycled content. Also, seek out Fair Trade items.
- Take a good hard look at your home and de-clutter! Do you really need 4 frying pans? When is the last time you used THAT whatever ?! Suggestions for what to do with the items you de-clutter will appear in the next issue.
- Thinking about buying a gift for a teacher? A gift card to a bookstore or education store would be most appreciated! (Check the St. Thomas gift card program to see if any are available). Home-baked goods are also a treat. Unless you really know the teacher, items such as coffee mugs or designer coffees, candles or potpourri, decorative art, etc., just may not be something they can use. While it *is* the thought that counts, wouldn't you rather give a gift that will be used and treasured (instead of contributing to someone's clutter)?

**Enjoy time with your family and friends  
and have a blessed Christmas and  
Happy New Year!**



## Thank you from Marlene Carlsen:

Thank you for all the lovely cards and much needed prayers. I shed many a tear each day as I read your cards, because, you see, you all think that I am so much better than I really am. If you knew my true heart and all of its failings, I'm sure that you would love me anyway. That's what we do here at St. Thomas, love one another and love the Lord. Talk about “Passionate Spirituality”, we abound in it, and I am so very grateful. Thank you, thank you. I am blessed by your love.

Marlene



### **St. Thomas Vestry**

Rev. Gayle Catinella, Rector

Alice Amos, Sr. Warden

Marion Sewell, Jr. Warden

Elaine Willis, Clerk

**Tim Cooper**

**Helen Downie**

**Carole Pozek**

**Rich Stowell**

**Peggy Zambounis**

Tom Halliday, Treasurer

# DECEMBER

## DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

7:30 AM STAFF MEETING  
6:00 PM VESTRY MEETING

## DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

12:15 PM STAR CONCERT & LUNCHEON

## DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

6:30 PM ADULT FORUM & POTLUCK  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER, THE REV. PETER FAASS

## DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

ECW CRAFT & BAKE SALE

## DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

12:00 NOON ECW CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
12:45 PM TORCH

## DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

4:00 PM LESSONS & CAROLS  
WITH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

## DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

9:30 AM DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

## DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

11:00 AM THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH  
12:30 PM YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

## DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 FAMILY SERVICE  
10:00 CHORAL EUCHARIST

## DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST

## DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

5:30 PM BEREA COMMUNITY MEAL



## JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> HAPPY NEW YEAR!

9:00 AM RITE II EUCHARIST

## JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 PM VESTRY MEETING

## JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

12:15 PM STAR CONCERT & LUNCHEON

## JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

12:45 PM TORCH  
5:30 PM EPIPHANY PLAY AT THE CONTEMPORARY  
SERVICE

## JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

9:30 AM RITE II SERVICE WITH ANNUAL MEETING  
TO FOLLOW

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

