



# ***THE WAYFARER***

***August/September 2009 Issue***

*A monthly journal for Christians who worship at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Berea, Ohio  
Phone (440) 234-5241 E-mail: Stec1@sbcglobal.net*

---

## ***Rector's Musings...***

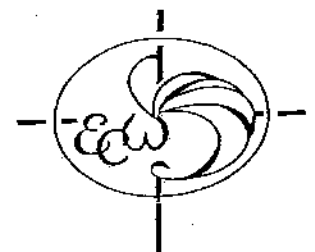
Great news!!! Since the beginning of 2009 we have had 12 new families join the parish. Evidence we are growing in Spirit and in numbers! Do you know who they are? Have you met them? They have all been to parish fellowship functions, and most of them have been to coffee hour. Have you sat with them? Have you introduced yourself to a new member recently?

People come to St. Thomas because it is a warm and welcoming place. Most say they are overwhelmed when they first arrive at how nice everyone is. However, we must also pay attention to being nice to them the 3<sup>rd</sup> visit and the 7<sup>th</sup> visit and the 27<sup>th</sup> visit. We need to make sure our new members feel like they are a part of our community, that they matter here (because they do!!!) What can you do to make that happen?

Most people stay at church because they find people like themselves with whom they can connect. I hope you have a group of friends here at St. Thomas and that they make a difference in your life! And I hope you see that group as an expanding circle. There is always room for one more person at the table, one more friend to be included. Try to enlarge your circle with a new friend on a regular basis. That will extend the welcome.

Some people are naturally good at welcoming and others have to work at it. Included in this issue is an article on ways to welcome newcomers that might give some tips. One newcomer said to me recently, "I don't think people who have been here a long time realize how hard it is to fit in and find your place." That is true in every new situation. As Christians, we are called to make that easier. If you have any ideas about how we might do that, let me know!!!

That the church continues to welcome everyone every time,  
we pray!!!  
Gayle+





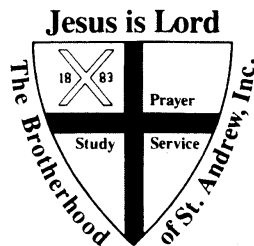
## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN...

I am very fortunate to live just a few minutes away from my grandchildren. I am very much a part of their lives and get together with them several times a week. Therefore, three years ago, Al and I decided to rent one of the garden plots in our "over 55" development. Here was a perfect teaching opportunity for our grandchildren. They have helped plant, weed, water (favorite thing to do) and harvest. Nothing tastes better than a carrot pulled from the earth or a tomato right off of the vine. During all of this, we marvel at the miracles and mysteries that God created, taking advantage of every teaching moment. Then at dinner time, we thank God for all of our blessings and share our day. They keep us grounded and also "young". Recently I took Emma, 7, shopping for school supplies. I told her that I was going to buy extra for those children less fortunate, and she said, "Gramma, you are so lucky to belong to a church that helps other people". Yes, we are!

Alice Amos



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



**The Brotherhood of St. 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.**

**The Brotherhood  
of St. Andrew**

## Episcopal Church Women

ECW members in St. Thomas are dedicated to servicing the church in various ministries. There is at least one member in every ministry and outreach at St. Thomas with the exception being the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Our Logo has four parts: The Cross which represents Christ and our service to Him in the world, the Circle which stands for our hope for the wholeness in our lives, the out flowing lines from the center depict the many works of Episcopal Church Women going out into the world, and the intertwined lines represent our lives centered in Christ. This Logo sums up the mission, vision and goals of our ministry.

The ECW, of which all women in the church are members, meets the first Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is September 5 at 10:00. Please circle the date and find out what we do as an organization in your church.



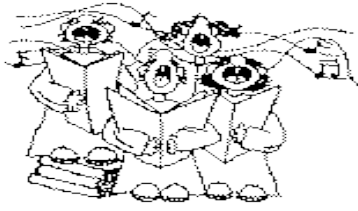
**Los Amigos Episcopales** – In a very invigorating meeting on July 24, Los Amigos members made plans to participate in the large garage sale at Hunter's Hollow Apartment Complex on August 6. We are seeking items that might sell for \$25 or more. If you have a contribution, please let Ruth Ihde (440-572-9425) know. Please do visit the garage sale which will include more than 16 homes! Hunter's Hollow is off Pearl Road, near Marc's in Strongsville.



We are also anticipating a mission trip to El Salvador early in 2010. We would welcome St. Thomas parishioners who would like to participate in this very worthwhile, soul-changing event.

The next meeting will be a picnic on Friday, September 11 at the Strongsville home of Maggie and Ray Boswell. See Ruth for details – all are welcome!

## Unsung Heroes



This month I want to recognize the tremendous contributions of Ruth Ihde. Ruth has graced us this summer with music at the 9:30 service. She has been out pulling weeds and watering our gardens. She recently played the piano for the nursing home service when asked at the last minute. She is the driving force behind our learning about the Millennium Development Goals. Ruth visits the sick and the shut-ins. She bakes for every ECW function. In fact, there isn't much Ruth doesn't do, and if she is needed, Ruth is always there. I know there are other things that should be listed and contributions that go back for years before I even arrived. I am grateful to Ruth for her integrity, for the way she holds me to the highest standard, and for all of the generous and unsung work she does for this parish! Please thank Ruth when you see her next!



### Daycare Update

The First Church Daycare has settled in nicely at St. Thomas. They are positive, work well with our staff and have helped us in many ways. The kids have been fun to have around. As of this writing, they have not asked the vestry to consider a permanent position here. We have given them until August 1 to ask us, as we have to see if they would be a good long term fit for us. The primary question we need to answer is if they will be able to make it financially since we would not be able to help them. The vestry will do due diligence to make sure all questions and concerns are addressed before we would agree to them staying. Please pray that God makes clear God's will for this parish in regard to the First Church Daycare. Please ask Gayle or Alice Amos if you have any questions.

### From the Heart of the Parish...

~~XXXX~~ Prayers for John Vincent and his family. John was released from Southwest General Health Center after tests.

~~XXXX~~ Congratulations to Matt and Heidi Demaline who are expecting their first child in February!

~~XXXX~~ A big thank you to Bart Hancock, for once again leading our kids in the mission trip to Lotts Creek Kentucky! They will be working hard painting, building, and whatever else is needed to help the people of that area. Evangelism is in action!

~~XXXX~~ Congratulations to Rosemarie and Richard Brokenshire on the birth of their first grandchild, Noah. Noah weighted eight pounds six ounces, and his proud parents are Jonathon and Laura.

~~XXXX~~ Lu Hardman is home from the hospital, but still needs prayers for a speedy return to full mobility.

~~XXXX~~ Thanks, thanks, thanks to Ruth Ihde, Betsy Linville, Randy Molmen, and Pat Wielinski for filling in and doing a great job while Cliff took a much deserved vacation!

~~XXXX~~ St. Thomas week at Cedar Hills camp was a roaring success! Shane Wilson stayed for an extra week and I hear tell that first time camper Evan Mette had a great time and is looking forward to next year. P.S. Cedar Hills needs your support to continue this wonderful camp experience for our children and for those less fortunate.

~~XXXX~~ We can add the Monday Bridge Club to our list of growth ministries - lots of new faces!

~~XXXX~~ Our choir enjoyed a much deserved summer-break party at the home of Marion and Doug Sewell.



## ONE SMALL KEY

Thank you for your generous response to this program to provide home furnishings to the homeless who are moving into their own apartments this summer. Two laundry baskets were filled. In fact, the Book Discussion Group that Rosalie Ferline leads put together one entire basket on their own. These two baskets will be presented in August to Ed Gemerchak, the Director of the One Small Key ministry. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated these items.

## Fall Service Times!!!

The goal of the vestry at St. Thomas is to grow this parish in Spirit and numbers. In order to do that, I believe we must offer opportunities for worship and fellowship that include everyone, and offer everyone a way to grow closer to God. Worship is the cornerstone of our Episcopal faith. It shows who we are and what we believe. As we look to be a balanced community it is clear that we need to engage young people and young families more effectively. One way we can do that is to offer opportunities for the contemporary style of worship that appeals to younger people (and many other people as well). To meet the needs of those who look for contemporary worship on Sunday mornings, we are going to add a service of contemporary worship at 11:30 am.



**The worship schedule starting on September 12 will be as follows:**

- Saturday Night Contemporary: 5:30 pm**
- Sunday morning—**
- Rite 1 - 8 am**
- Rite 2 - 10 am**
- Sunday School - 11 am**
- Contemporary worship -11:30 am**

Thank you to everyone who gave feedback in our worship survey. Please let me know if you have any questions!!!



## NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Cleveland Food Bank will be providing 10,000 pounds of fresh produce through St. Thomas on August 6th, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in our parking lot. Anyone meeting income guidelines is welcome to come to the "Farmer's Market" and pick out fresh produce. We will need 18-20 volunteers from St. Thomas to help hand out the produce and put it in bags for them to carry home. Please say that you will come by between 4-6 p.m. to help hand out produce. There will also be a registration table for people to sign in. This program will continue on a monthly basis until the season is over. Isn't this great?

## SOS UPDATE

To date, we have collected \$9,186.69 toward our goal! The vestry has engaged Poremba Stained Glass to vent the chapel stained glass windows to preserve them longer and prevent the bowing that you will see if you look at them now. That work will begin this month and will cost \$1,800.00. We still have pledged dollars coming and will hopefully have all the pledged money in by fall. We will let you know how much we are short of our goal at that time. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way!!!

T-shirts and mouse pads are still available!

	<b>Derby Day</b>	<b>Childcare Rent</b>	<b>Gifts</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	\$494.00	\$3,100.00	\$444.31
<b>Mousepads</b>	\$525.00		
	<b>Purses</b>	<b>T-Shirts</b>	<b>Plant Sale</b>
	\$54.00	\$471.88	\$365.50



## THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT ST. THOMAS

A while back, we asked members of the congregation to fill out survey forms called "Things I Love about St. Thomas." This was part of the "Passionate & Positive" phase of our Parish Health Team program. We received 30 survey forms back from members.

Here are the top 10 things people said they loved

about our parish (not necessarily in order):

1. Friendly, caring people
2. Our rector
3. The music program - organ & choir
4. Worship and liturgy
5. Many excellent activities and programs
6. Strong community outreach
7. The beautiful sanctuary and excellent facilities
8. The hard work of many parishioners in ministries and projects
9. Fellowships times, such as coffee hours
10. Acceptance of all people.

There were many other positive elements of our parish noted in the surveys, but these were the most frequently mentioned. Here are a few of the comments from the surveys:

"The feeling of the presence of the Lord every time I walk into the sanctuary."

"It is more like a family than just a church."

"The people - they are the most loving and caring people I have ever seen."

"Wonderful worship - outstanding music - organist/choir director - excellent Anglican worship tradition."

"The sermons - they enlighten me, are humorous but also have the seriousness that is needed to help you in your spiritual life."

"I love that there are different services, not just the same mass at a different time."

"The parishioners who work so hard on projects at St. Thomas."

"There are plenty of different events for all interests."

"I love how I was accepted by everyone and no cliques. Everyone is the same - no one is different."

"The monthly concerts by B-W students."

"The babies!"

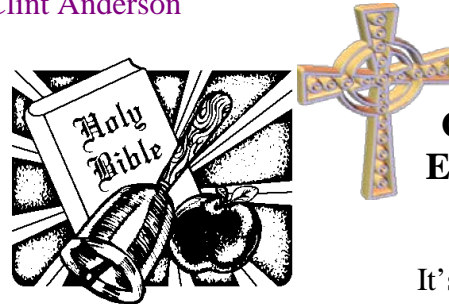
"I love the activities and being part of them. We should do more advertising. This church is the greatest ever!"

As you can tell, there is a lot of love for St. Thomas Church! As we ponder these things, let us remember that we need to remain positive!

Sometimes it is easy to get bogged down in the negative in any church. Things such as personality conflicts, power struggles, and disagreements on what the church should be doing can take a toll on any congregation. Let us pledge to work these things through for the greater good, that St. Thomas can be everything our Lord wants us to be!

Hopefully, by now, most of you have seen the "Passionate and Positive" banner in the entry way to the church hall. Let us all work together to be what the banner urges us to be - passionate and positive!

Peace & blessings from your Parish Health Team  
Clint Anderson



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It's hard to believe that in a little over a month summer will be over, the kids will be back in school, and we will be approaching another year in our Christian Education program. As I think about this I am trying to figure out a way to attract more of our youth to our Sunday School classes. Any ideas you have would be welcome. I am especially concerned about our junior high/middle school and high school age group. Last year we had a fairly good elementary class, but on many Sundays the older kids were hard to find. I am a firm believer that regular attendance at Sunday School is an important part in the education of our young people. The future of our church (and country) will soon be in the hands of the present youth of our parish. I know we have talented young people who would be an asset to our Christian Education program. If you have school age children, please try to encourage them to attend class during Coffee Hour on Sunday morning. And if you have any ideas on how to make this program more attractive to them, be sure to let Mary Jane White or Rev. Gayle Catinella know. Also let one of us know if you would like to be one of the adults helping with the education of our youth.

Mary Jane White  
Director of Education





## STAR

While STAR is still organizing for the 2009-2010 season, we anticipate the first concert and lunch to

be at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2. Check your church bulletin for confirmation and details in late August.

## HEALTH MINISTRY

*Acts 20:32 "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."*



### Is It Time To Go To The Emergency Room?

Certain conditions require a visit to the ER. Here are just a few signs that it's time to go:

- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- Chest or upper abdominal pain or pressure
- Fainting, sudden dizziness, weakness
- Changes in vision
- Confusion or changes in mental status
- Any sudden or severe pain
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Severe or persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Difficulty speaking
- Shortness of breath
- Unusual abdominal pain

Typically, with any accident or with signs of a heart attack or stroke, it is important to call 911 to speed up treatment. With a heart attack or stroke, there is a certain window of time in which best results are seen. By calling 911, the hospital staff can get those teams together. It is also important to call 911 if there is any chance that the person's condition will worsen on the way to the ER.

If we are in church and someone loses consciousness, let's not forget about that AED

(defibrillator) in the hall. It should be brought to that person's side. There is never a "wrong" time to bring it out. The cabinet is wired with an alarm to prevent theft, so when the door to the cabinet is opened, it makes a loud buzzing sound. When the cabinet door is closed, the noise goes away. St. Thomas will again offer CPR classes with a refresher on how to use our AED. Please make time to refresh or learn how to save a life. Stay tuned for details!

*Ref: Lakewood Hospital eHealth Highlights 7-09.  
submitted by Barb Emigh, RN*

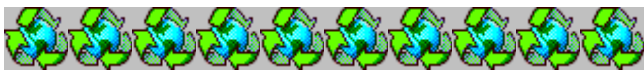
## Welcoming New Members

Helping visitors and new members to feel welcome when they arrive at St. Thomas is key to growing the parish into all that God is calling us to be. We want to be sure that everyone who walks through our doors feels the warmth and caring of Jesus Christ through our interactions with them. Also, we want to give them a good sense of who we are as a parish community so that they can discern if St. Thomas is a good fit for their spiritual future. Here are some tips about how to be a welcoming presence:

- Greet everyone! You may not be sure if the person is new, but the only way to know is to ask. I like to say, "Have we ever met?" Even if you have met the person before, everyone likes to be noticed!
- Invite people to coffee hour, and then sit with them!!! There is no bigger turn off to a visitor than sitting alone at coffee hour. Make sure there is no one left out!
- Tell them what you love about St. Thomas. They may have questions and your enthusiasm will be contagious!

- Try not to overwhelm them! Inviting someone to be on a committee the first Sunday they come feels desperate rather than welcoming.
- Find people with common interests to connect them to within the parish. If they have small children, if they are newly empty nested, if they love to sing, connect them with people who have similar lifestyles or passions.
- Invite them back. Make sure they know that we would love to see them again.
- Invite them to sign the guest book. That way we can follow up with them.
- Thank them for being with us!!!

If you have any questions or would like more ideas, you can talk to the Welcome Committee, headed by Alice Amos and Marion Sewell, or talk to Gayle+! Thank you for your help in making us a warm and passionate place to worship!



## Going for the Green

In this economy, people are really watching their finances. Others are also becoming more aware of the environmental impacts of "stuff" - consequences of throwing things in the landfill, destruction of habitats to create products, etc. Here are a few websites to help you get what you need for free (or just get rid of what you have that could be used by someone else). (In a future article, look for websites for swapping/borrowing items including books & media).

These websites have groups for the Cleveland area:

Sharing is Giving - <http://www.sharingisgiving.org/>  
 Freecycle - <http://www.freecycle.org>

Craigslist - <http://www.craigslist.org> (there's a "free" section in addition to buy/sell sections)

Currently no Cleveland-based group, but you could start one!

Reuseitnetwork - <http://www.reuseitnetwork.org>

Finally, there is Throwplace.com (<http://www.throwplace.com>).

Throwplace.com allows individuals (and businesses) to list goods they wish to give away to US and international charities and nonprofits [501(c)(3)], which will pick them up or pay for shipping. There is also an "Up for Grabs" section that functions like Freecycle, where an individual can get or give away items for free.

## **DOLLAR\$ and \$ENSE**

In this addition I would like to address 2 very misunderstood topics: building and property ownership and the Diocesan assessment.

The building, the church and the property are not owned by St. Thomas. The physical facilities are owned by the Diocese of Ohio. It is the responsibility of St. Thomas to maintain and improve the facilities. Neither St. Thomas nor the Diocese of Ohio pay real estate taxes on this permanent parcel number. St. Thomas is liable for any assessments charged by the city for improvements that are also billed to all other property owners. St. Thomas is not exempt from this type of charge. The organ and all furniture are the property of St. Thomas.

Each month St. Thomas is required to pay a fee of 11.43% to the Diocese of Ohio. Stephanie computes the fee based on the current month's income and mails a check to the Diocese. Annually the fee is about \$27,000. As in any large organization, the staff "at headquarters" needs to collect funds to pay their monthly obligations. Our Gayle has been very effective in getting grants from the Diocese to support activities of our parish. To list a few in the recent past; STAR, a new stove, tables and chairs, campus ministry each year, Saturday evening service, the funds to support the cost of hiring the musicians and child care on Sunday morning.

It is my position, as your Treasurer, that the assessment will be paid on time and in full. Any

discussion in the Diocese's office about St. Thomas will never be about this parish being late in paying the assessment but rather be about our wonderful caring people, our creative programs and our outstanding rector, Gayle.

I hope this provided some clarity to these 2 very misunderstood topics.

I can be contacted, in person, by e-mail at [StThomasFinance@AOL.com](mailto:StThomasFinance@AOL.com) or by telephone @ 440.846.1466.

Thomas L. Halliday

## DISPATCHES FROM THE CONTINENTAL DRIFTER

by Dave Warburton

Greetings to my "back East" friends from (very) sunny Santa Clarita, CA 91321!

...It was 104 here today. In the shade. Of course, that's "dry heat," as they tell you hereabouts, so it doesn't *really* feel like 104, only 100...

...The Warburtons made their move safely and are busily unpacking and getting used to quite a different world from ol' Ohio...

...One of her first days here, Bonnie ran into "Don The Snake Man" on her morning walk. He's the guy you call if you find a rattler on your patio or in your shrubbery. Don captures them and eats them (after cooking first - I think?). Walking out of my garage here in "Scenic Hills" to get the newspaper several days ago, I encountered a coyote sitting at the foot of my driveway sizing me up. I guess he figured I looked too tough for breakfast food, and he sauntered off down the street. You can hear the coyotes howl at night - whenever they hear a police siren they chime right in. Kinda neat, actually!...

...Planted several nice-looking annual flowers in the raised beds on the patio but they withered and died in two days despite constant watering; card said they liked "full sun," but not *that* much full sun, I guess.....now I see why the previous owner had so little planted there...roses do very well here, though (I suppose that's why they have the *Rose Bowl* just down the road a-piece...I am now starting a cactus garden instead...

...Life takes on a different rhythm here in the desert - you run your errands before 11 a.m. and then try to stay inside in the A/C until the sun starts to go down in the evening (and hope a "rolling brownout" doesn't hit your area that day). By 10 or 11 p.m. it cools off pretty well and you can open the windows to fresh air. We have slept quite well & comfortably so far...

...planning on taking Mom to see the Pacific Ocean later in the week. Look out Malibu!

...let you know what St. Stephen's parish is like next time.

*Keep the faith!*

### St. Thomas Vestry

**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**

# AUGUST

AUGUST 6

3:00 - 7:00 PM FARMERS MARKET  
PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

AUGUST 9

50 YEAR MEMBER RECOGNITION SUNDAY  
8:00 AND 9:30 AM SERVICES

AUGUST 11

6:30 DINNER AND OUTDOOR WORK PARTY

AUGUST 16

SOS MEETING FOLLOWING THE 9:30 SERVICE

AUGUST 23

8:00 RITE I  
PARISH PICNIC AT BEREA CHILDRENS'  
HOME FARM  
10:00 AM SERVICE WITH POTLUCK TO FOLLOW

EVERY FRIDAY IN AUGUST

7:00 PM TEAM WII TRIVIAL PURSUIT

# SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 3

3:00 - 7:00 PM FARMERS MARKET  
PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

SEPTEMBER 7

LABOR DAY  
BIKIN' & BAKIN'  
THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 8

7:05 PM CLEVELAND INDIANS GAME

SEPTEMBER 12

FALL SERVICE TIMES BEGIN:  
5:30 PM SATURDAY CONTEMPORARY EUCHARIST  
8:00 AM RITE I  
10:00 AM CHORAL RITE II  
11:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:30 AM CONTEMPORARY EUCHARIST

SEPTEMBER 13

BEREA ARTS FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 26

6:30 PM BALDWIN WALLACE COMMUNITY DAYS

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

