



THE WAYFARER

March 2011 Issue

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

As the holy season of Lent approaches, I encourage you to spend some time praying about confession. Confession is not a big concern among Episcopalians, even though we have means in the prayer book to confess our individual sins to a priest, and to confess our corporate sins as a church during the service. The Church provides us a way to confess, but do we?

I started to pray about this recently when I realized how little silence we actually observe between my calling you to confess your sins and our reciting of the confession. How many of us actually consider our sinfulness and our sins during the 1.5 seconds allotted? How many of us recite the words of the confession with any sincerity, or are they just another prayer that we have to say to get to the end of the service?

While I am not a big proponent of guilt, we all need some. And I think we avoid feeling guilty as much as we can. But confession really is good for the soul, and you cannot receive absolution unless you are truly sorry for your sins AND plan to amend your life (meaning that you will try not to commit that sin again).

During our worship services this Lent, we are going to spend a bit more time on confession, and we are going to look a little more deeply at the meaning behind what we are saying. There will be extra questions to contemplate, and I hope you take the opportunity to do so.

I also encourage you to spend some time with God each day evaluating how things went. Remember several years ago, we did a daily examen? Same thing. Spend time with God acknowledging what you have done well, what you are thankful for and how you can be better. Ask God to guide you. Take your sins seriously.

When we confess our sins, we can be forgiven. When we are forgiven, we can let the sins go. That freedom allows us to grow in God's love and share God's love much more effectively. That freedom is a grace from God. Don't waste this gift! If you would like to schedule a private confession, please call. There will also be a Healing Prayer and Reconciliation Service on April 14 at 6 pm. I hope you will join us.

Blessings in this Lenten season, Gayle+



The Heart of the Parish

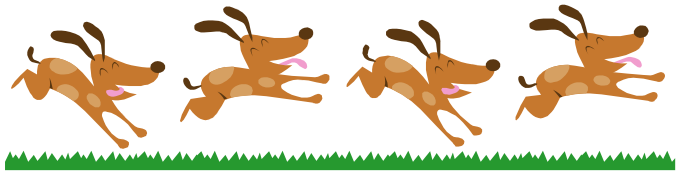
- ♥ Prayers for Evelyn Singer as she continues to recover from brain surgery. Evelyn is at Metro Health Center, but should be home by March 1st. She would love to receive a card.
- ♥ A big thanks to Tim Staehr, his friend Mike and Spencer Griffith for painting the ladies bathroom.
- ♥ If you noticed the wonderful Campus Ministry sign on the corner of Bagley and Seminary, you can thank our Junior Warden Joe Ferline!
- ♥ Alice Amos and Sandy Gardner have been busy cleaning and straightening up storage areas that really needed their expertise.
- ♥ Camp Cedar Hills is a wonderful experience for young people of all grade levels and there are scholarships available! More information is on the table...See you there!
- ♥ We have noticed that there are quite a few children who do not take advantage of our wonderful Sunday school program. Your support is vital to the Christian education of our young people.
- ♥ Two of our little sweethearts celebrated their first birthday in February. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Ally Demaline and Arielle Kluth!
- ♥ Our Spirit Night at Damon's Restaurant was a big success! We had over 40 people participate and the wait staff said we were the nicest, most polite crowd they have ever had!
- ♥ Spring is just around the corner!



Lotts Creek Community School in Cordia, Kentucky is the last of over one hundred "settlement schools" built in the mountains in the early 19th century. Every summer the St. Thomas Youth Group goes down to Lotts Creek to help get the school ready and clean

for the students. St. Thomas youth wants to help Lotts Creek Community School at Cordia by raising money from donations. Let's come together; please help us to help them. There are donation envelopes available on the table in the hall of the church. Please pick one up and help our Lotts Creek students.

-Bart Hancock



Winter 2011 TDI (Therapy Dog International) Preparation Classes and Testing

Have you wondered if your loving, well-behaved dog would make a good therapy dog? Come to the orientation on March 6th to discover what it takes to certify a dog through TDI. Once the dog is certified to do therapy the rewards are endless. You will have the opportunity to visit residents in long-term care facilities, hospitals, go to schools and work directly with children in their classrooms or specialized programs, help children become better readers as they share the adventures of books with your dog at libraries. Once certified the dog and handler are insured for one million dollars each under the Therapy Dog International organization. Preparatory testing classes are \$8.00 per class, with the test costing \$20.00. Below is the schedule for this next class. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sue Griffith (216-521-2017) or Dolly Doyle (216-521-5663).

TDI CLASS SCHEDULE

Orientation (no dogs)	Sunday, March 6th	7:00 p.m.
Class 1 – with dogs	Sunday, March 13 th	7:00 p.m.
Class 2 – with dogs	Sunday, March 20 th	7:00 p.m.
Class 3 – with dogs	Sunday, March 27 th	7:00 p.m.
Class 4 – with dogs	Sunday, April 3 rd	7:00 p.m.
Testing:	Saturday, April 9th (time to be determined)	





Education For Ministry

Are you interested in an in-depth study of our Christian faith? The Education for Ministry (EFM) program is especially designed for church folks who want to ground their ministry in study, reflection and prayer. An EFM group consists of at least six members and a trained mentor. Every week throughout the nine-month academic year, the group meets for several hours to discuss and reflect on our Christian tradition through our personal experiences, study and worship.

It is expected that this commitment includes homework and personal prayer. Insights and learnings are shared in group meetings. The most important component of the program is theological reflection, examining our own beliefs and the experiences of our culture in light of our faith tradition. St. Thomas is exploring the foundation of an EFM group. Information on cost, materials and level of commitment is being gathered. Please contact Gayle if you are interested in learning more. It will be a life-changing opportunity!

If interested, please join us on Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00 pm for an informational meeting. A sign-up sheet is on the office window.



Unsung Hero

This month I would like to thank Marcy Molmen. Not only does Marcy sing in the choir and help lead the Bible Study (and maybe other things that I don't even know about), Marcy has been the primary worker on the Community Garden. Marcy has been instrumental in the planning, done much of the gardening last summer, supervised Berea Youth Works kids and our BW intern, and been so thoughtful about the good this garden can do. Please thank Marcy for the many, many hours she is

putting in to this new way of feeding our neighbors!!!!



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Come join us on Sunday nights for Campus Ministry! We need help cooking for 20-30 people. You can do all or part of a meal. Thank you to everyone who has done something yummy for our students who attend and receive this wonderful hospitality.



Berea Youth Works

Once again the churches in Berea are coming together to help our youth this summer. Last year we met the goal of finding every interested 16-18 year old youth in Berea a summer job for at least some time during the summer. This year we intend to do that again. However, volunteers are needed.

The North End Foundation, through People's Church, will once again administer the program. But volunteers are needed to help transport and oversee the workers, as well as some office help.

Can you spare a few hours a week from the middle of June through the first week of August? Do you have work at your home in Berea that needs to be done? Can you make a financial donation to offset costs and make sure every kid who wants to work can get paid? Please let Gayle know if you are interested!



This is the new name for the organization that is gaining momentum among churches, synagogues and mosques in our area. Several members of the parish are committed to providing leadership and information as the work progresses.

On Sunday, March 6 and Saturday, March 12, Maryanne Cline, Meg Donovan, Sonia Miller and Marcy Molmen will be asking your opinion in small group meetings after the 10:00 am and 5:30 services. Please take some time to sit with them and let your voice be heard! In April, all of the data will be gathered and the organizations will set their priorities for the coming year.

Be a part of this exciting forum for community action. Tell us what you think are the critical issues of our area. Talk to any of these leaders or Gayle if you have questions.



Restaurant Night Out

The next Restaurant Night out will be on Saturday, March 26 at Sullivan's Irish Pub &

Restaurant located at 13368 Madison Avenue in Lakewood. Hope to see you there!



SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

As I write this, we are recovering from our third or fourth (I have lost count) snow storm of winter. Last week, I was sitting in the warm sunshine. That's Cleveland weather! If you don't like it, wait a minute.

But the season of awaking is not far away. I expect that when this snow melts there will be green shoots showing, and that means spring is not far behind.

Spring is a season of renewal and awaking for us also. It is a time to brush off the gloom of winter and look forward to the joy of newness.

My name is Marion Sewell and I am your new Senior Warden. Doug and I have been members of St. Thomas since 1966. This is my third year on the Vestry and I look forward to serving you in this capacity.

The new Vestry began its year with a two-day retreat the first weekend of February. Friday night we met at the Olive Garden for a social gathering then back to the church for a business session, where we elected the officers for the coming year. Elected were: Tom Halliday, Treasurer; Sue Griffith, Clerk; Joe Ferline, Junior Warden and myself as Senior Warden. The rest of the Vestry members are as follows: Helen Downie, Jim Emigh, Spencer Griffith, Carole Pozek, Linda Short and Richard Stowell.

The retreat reconvened on Saturday morning at 9:30 am. The Vestry members divided into groups with each receiving a category to discuss. The categories were: Strategic Planning 2011, Worship, Christian Education and Finances. We would appreciate your input on any of these subjects.

I would also like to consider this phrase and/or sentence: "Forward together". I will be referring to it in future articles.

Thank you again for your confidence in me and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

God Bless,

Marion Sewell



OUTREACH



Many, many thanks to all those who donated to our "Souper" Sunday canned soup drive. Over 200 cans of soup were donated and distributed between Church Street Ministries and Columbia Park. Your generosity helped many in need!

~Pat Wielinski, Outreach Coordinator



Lent at St. Thomas – 2011

Education: Community Lenten Program
Wednesdays beginning March 16 at 5:45 pm
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
23114 West Rd
We will gather for supper and a reflection on mission and outreach.

Prayer: Lenten Retreat: March 19 from 9:00 am to 12 noon – Ogilvy Chapel
Healing Prayer and Reconciliation: April 14 at 6:00 pm
Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 12 noon, April 8 at 7:00 pm

Confessions available upon request.
Prayer Garden in Chapel available for private prayer.

Ash Wednesday: Services at 12 noon and 7:30 pm
(Liturgical sign-up sheet on office window)

Holy Thursday: Agape Supper at 6:30 pm, Service at 7:30 pm
(Dinner sign-up sheet on office window)

Good Friday: Gathering at crosswalk at 12 noon at Berea Children's Home.
Liturgy of Good Friday at 7:30 pm

Easter Vigil: Service at 9:00 pm, Saturday, April 23

(no 5:30 service)
(Liturgical sign-up sheet on office window)

Easter Morning: 8:00 am and 10:00 am Services (no 11:30 service)



2011 Youth Group Schedule of Events

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
February 27	Glow in the dark putt putt	Meet at church at 12:30
March 26	Lock-in over night	Sleep over at the church
April 27	Laser tag	Meet at church at 12:30
May 22	Garden day & bowling	Meet at church at 12:30
June 11	Fundraiser for Lotts Creek	Spaghetti dinner at church
July 16	Canoe trip	Meet at church at 9:00 am
July 30 – Aug 6	Lotts Creek	Kentucky
September 18	Hiking/picnic in Metro parks	Meet at church at 12:30

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES RETREAT*

Jesus Prayer

Movement

Journaling

Fasting

Intercession

Forgiveness

Spiritual Practices

Retreat

Saturday,

March 19, 2011

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tithing

Centering Prayer

Come and experience
new ways to grow
closer to God!

Service

Art

Worship

Bible Study

Spend some quiet time with God this Lent!!

*Please Note the Date is March 19 not March 26!



S.T.A.R.

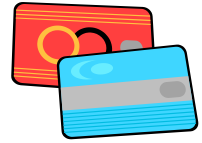
(St. Thomas Addult Recreation)



Even though the groundhog predicted an early Spring, we had to cancel the February STAR concert because of the horrible weather. We are ready to "GO" on March 2, with mac and cheese, applesauce, broccoli, and desserts. April 6, May 4, and June 1 round out our year. Please remember to make your STAR reservations by Monday of the concert week.

~Submitted by Julie Kalbrunner

St. Thomas Gift Card Program



Thank you for your generosity. Each time you purchase a gift card, St. Thomas benefits.

We have had several new additions to our program including Outback Steakhouse; Bed, Bath and Beyond; Marathon Gas; Target and Bob Evans Restaurant, just to name a few. If you don't see a card you would like please feel free to ask Tim Cooper or call the church office to see if it is available for order through the Shop with Scrip program.

Thank you again for all your support.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Welcome to Martina Jozanovic, our BW Sustainability Intern!!! She will be working with us this semester to plot out the garden, publicize our efforts and help us to update our sustainability within the garden. Plans for this summer include adding a compost pile and water barrels. She and Marcy are also looking at what to plant to meet the nutritional needs of the people who are poor in our area.

There will be an adult forum in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 27 at 11:30 am entitled: "Sustainability and our Community Garden". Please stay for this informative discussion and meet our Baldwin-Wallace Sustainability Intern Martina Jozanovic. Cookies will be provided!

We received a Jubilee Grant for \$750 from the National Episcopal Church to add more beds and the compost pile. We also applied for a grant from the OSU Suburban Garden project to pay for the water barrels. We continue to look for more money and volunteers. We have folks raising seedlings and folks with greenhouses standing by to harden them off. All of it is very exciting! Please consider how you can help!!!





APRIL WAYFARER ARTICLES

The deadline for submitting articles for the April 2011 issue of the Wayfarer is March 25. Articles can be emailed to the church at: stec1@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!



“Men anpil chay pa lou.”

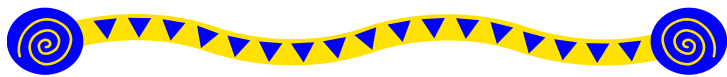
(Many hands lighten the load.)



When the earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010, it effectively leveled the most populous diocese of The Episcopal Church. Seventy percent of church buildings were considered a total loss. Diocesan-run schools, clinics, and hospitals that served over 100,000 Episcopalians, as well as countless community members, were wiped out in thirty-five seconds. Join the Episcopal Church’s campaign to rebuild the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti. *Brick by Brick*. Bishop Jean Zachè Duracin and the people of Haiti have asked for our help. To begin, all we need is a brick or two, or ten, or a thousand.

To learn more, visit: www.episcopalchurch.org/HaitiAppeal. Also look for additional information in an upcoming church bulletin.

If you wish to make a donation by check, please mail it to: Holy Trinity Cathedral Fund c/o Episcopal Church Foundation, 815 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017.



Los Amigos Episcopales is thrilled to be hosting the visit of The Rt. Rev. Martín Barahona, Bishop of El Salvador. The response of the parishioners of St. Thomas on Sunday, February 27 was humbling and gratifying. Thank you all for your gracious hospitality, including the wonderful reception (with all that delicious



food), and your participation in the forum following church.

I hope he was able to answer all your questions, but if not, do let us know and we will get answers for you. AND we want to thank you especially for your generous donations toward the work of the schools in El Salvador, and the two large boxes of book bags/back packs, which you have contributed. You are an amazing group! And the bishop was very much impressed with our rector.

Please join us for the next meeting of Los Amigos Episcopales, which will be on Friday, April 1 at 7:00 in Ogilvy Chapel. We will be preparing for a presentation at the coming ECW Annual Meeting.








~ Submitted by Ruth F. Ihde



WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR PAPER?

Remember to bring your paper to church to be recycled. Please place it in the green and yellow Paper Retriever dumpster in the parking lot. St. Thomas earns money on how much is recycled!

There are many items that can be placed in the dumpster besides regular paper including:

-  Newspaper
-  Magazines
-  Catalogs
-  Shredded paper
-  Phone Books
-  Envelopes (including window envelopes)
-  Construction paper

During the month of March, we earn double on the amount that is recycled in our dumpster!



MARCH

March 2
12:15 pm S.T.A.R.

March 5
6:30 pm Mardi Gra Kick-off and Potluck

March 8
7:00 pm Vestry Meeting

March 9 – Ash Wednesday
12:00 pm Service
7:30 pm Service

March 11
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross

March 12
12:45 TORCH at St. Paul's

March 15
6:00 pm EFM Information Meeting
7:30 pm Evangelism Committee Meeting

March 16
5:45 pm Community Lenten Program
St. Andrew's

March 18
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross

March 19
12:00 pm Lenten Quiet Day - Chapel

March 20
12:30 pm Worship Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

March 23
5:45 pm Community Lenten Program at St. Andrew's

March 25
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross

March 26
7:00 pm Youth Group Lock Down at Church
7:00 pm Restaurant Night Out at Sullivan's in Lakewood

March 27
11:30 am Adult Forum – Sustainability and our Community Garden

March 30
5:30 pm Berea Community Meal
5:45 pm Community Lenten Program at St. Andrew's

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