



# *THE WAYFARER*

*December 2011/January 2012 Issue*

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

The first blossom is opening on my Christmas cactus. It is a little early this year, but no less beautiful. And when all the buds open, it will be stunning. One more reason I love to come to work, and a reminder of the beauty of the Advent season. When I imagine Advent, I experience it through my senses. The deep purple of the altar hangings; the flicker of candles and the smell of their burning; the melodies of my favorite Advent songs; turkeys and cranberries that take us into the season and cookies and fudge that take us out; the cold of darkness surrendering to the heat of light. Advent is a season that is a treat for all of our senses, a season of depth and beauty; a gift of the church that we should receive in gratitude and accept as a challenge.

The beauty might lull us if not for the challenge. Advent pushes us to focus on the reason for the season. It beckons us to calm down, to slow down, to breathe. Advent whispers that the season isn't about shopping or parties or who gets the best present. Advent is about expectancy and preparing, about anticipation and obedience. Advent asks us to define hope in our lives, and then live into it.

So don't just observe the season, actively participate. Come to the offerings that the church will have over the next few weeks. I especially recommend the quiet morning on the feast of St. Thomas (Dec. 21). Come for a few minutes or the whole morning and sit with God. Pray a little more. Give a little more. Smile a little more. Make someone's day with a random act of kindness. Say thank you to someone who isn't always thanked. And do all of these things or whatever you choose in the name of Jesus, and making ready for him.

May your Advent practices be a blessing! Love, Gayle+



## Advent at St. Thomas

- 12/6  
Tuesday  
Christian Education topic is Advent Saints and Practices by The Rev. Gayle Catinella 7 pm
- 12/17  
Saturday  
Concert featuring the Tri-C and St. Thomas Choirs and Friends at 7:30 pm  
Pot luck then concert following 5:30 service
- 12/18  
Sunday  
Greening of the Church  
Following the 10:30 service. Please help!!
- 12/18  
Sunday  
Youth Group Christmas Party 12 noon
- 12/21  
Wednesday  
Quiet morning with meditations and prayers
- 12/24  
Saturday  
Christmas Eve Services at 5 pm and 10 pm
- 12/25  
Sunday  
Christmas Day Service at 10 am

Watch for daily meditations on your email!  
Healing Prayer available at all services!



## Twelve Months' worth of Sustainability Facts/Tips!



8 of 12. The natural wonder:  
There's not much baking soda can't do for you and your home. Buy it in bulk and use it to polish silver, clean sinks and stovetops, whiten teeth, deodorize anything, boost laundry detergent, soothe bites and stings, alleviate heartburn ...and bake cakes and cookies, of course!



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

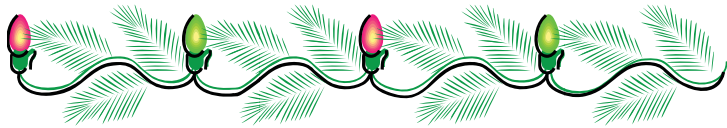
Christian Education is for all ages and is on the first Tuesday of every month. The next class is on December 6. Gayle will be the adult education speaker. She will be speaking about the Saints and customs of Advent. If you would like to share some soup, come at 6:30 pm. If you would like to just attend the program, come at 7:00 pm. The January 2012 class will be on 3<sup>rd</sup>! Please be a part of this new effort to get everyone involved!



# OUTREACH

## UNSUNG HERO

This month I want to thank Julie Kalbrunner. Not only is Julie the most positive and hopeful person, but she works so hard for this church! Julie is an usher and chalice bearer for the 8 am service. Julie is one of the chairpeople for our STAR program. She helps cook the meal every month and reminds us of how we can help. Julie is also the head of the St Thomas Learning Center (a low cost tutoring program that matches BW education majors with students from our area). That program makes money for St Thomas, and Julie is the one who keeps it going. We are so blessed by all of her hard work! Please say thank you to Julie when you see her!



## Family-Friendly Service

On November 27, we celebrated the church's New Year with party favors and treats! And on December 4, John the Baptist will be coming to visit!!! Thank you to everyone who brought kids clothes for our clothing offering to St. Luke's! So much is happening. Please tell your friends—and invite them!!!



Thank you to everyone who helped with our October/November outreach to feed the hungry kids in Berea. We stuffed 50 bags with food and delivered them to Church Street Ministries! In whatever way you helped, you made a difference in the life of a child!



## FIRST CHURCH CHILDCARE

Last week the children prepared their annual Thanksgiving Day feast. They prepared all the food themselves and then enjoyed their efforts. Thanks to everyone that helped with food donations.

We are excited to be marching again in the Light-Up Berea Parade on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>! We are very excited to be marching with Frosty the Snowman again! Please wave if we happen to pass you by.

Our annual Christmas program is on Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. We are very pleased to announce we will be doing the program in Harkess Hall this year! We are looking for a volunteer to serve in a red suit and would welcome anyone that wants to come see the children perform and join us for pizza and desserts!

~First Church Childcare





FEBRUARY 2012  
WAYFARER ARTICLES



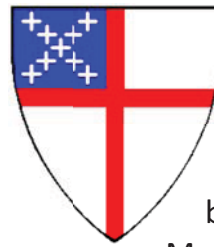
The deadline for submitting articles for the February 2012 issue of the Wayfarer is January 25, 2012. Please drop off articles to Ginny in the church office or e-mail to: [stec1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stec1@sbcglobal.net). Thank you!



FREE GAS CARD GIVE-AWAY!

Congratulations to Alice Amos, our November gift card winner! Our next drawing will be on January 1, 2012 after the 10:30 am service!

It's not too early to start your holiday shopping! Just in time for the holidays, we have added new retailers to our stock, including: Barnes & Noble, Game Stop, Sears, K-Mart, BP Gas, Burlington Coat Factory, Taco Bell, Wendy's, Buca di Beppo, JC Penney, iTunes, Old Navy/Gap, and \$25 Starbucks. **In order to receive gift cards before the holidays, all orders must be placed by December 18, including on-line Shop with Scrip orders!** If you don't see a retailer, please ask! We can place an order for you or check to see if a retailer gift card is available!



## Senior Warden Report

The 195<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Ohio was held on November 11-12, 2011. The session began on Friday afternoon at the

Marriott Cleveland East with a dinner and Eucharist that evening at Trinity Cathedral. Mary Jane White, Sonia Miller, Dave Miller (alternate) and I were your representatives.

The following Resolutions were presented and passed:

1. Resolution on Clergy Compensation for 2012.
2. Resolutions on Companion Relationships with Belize and Tanga.
3. Resolution to Continue the Diocesan Health Ministry Task Force.
4. Resolution Concerning High-Volume, Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking). This passed with 2 amendments.
5. Resolution of Thanksgiving for the Life of Richard T. Watson.

Bishop Jean-Zache Duracin of Haiti addressed the Convention Friday afternoon and gave the sermon at the Eucharist Friday evening. He spoke about the progress taking place after the devastating earthquake that destroyed much of his country. Bishop Hollingsworth, in his Episcopal Address, reported on the year-long exploration of a new camp and retreat in the center of the Diocese. We will be hearing more about this in the future.

My notebook with all the resolutions and reports may be found in the Church library. Please feel free to read through it and ask me or any of the other delegates if you have any questions.

Doug and I wish all of you a joyful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. Please continue to pray for St. Thomas Church and all who work so hard to keep it "on course".

Remember, God loves you and so do I.

~Marion Sewell, Senior Warden



If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please, please do so now!



## Wii Bowling

Happy Holidays from your fun-loving, or I should just say crazy Wii bowlers. Our season ends Dec. 2nd with our catered banquet on Dec. 6th, beginning at 6:30 pm. The party this time is at Joe and Rosie's house.

Our new season begins Jan. 20th from 7– 9 pm and goes through April 20th. The next banquet is on April 27th. The cost of bowling is \$3 per week. Money goes towards banquet and donation to church. If you are interested in joining this group and laughing until you can't breathe, call Rosie or Carole!

~ Carole Pozek



# 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 duffle bags/backpacks. Please label the gift as "man's" or "lady's". Individual items will 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 no later than December 11.

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 DUFFLE BAG ITEMS

- † Soap
- † Shampoo
- † Conditioner
- † Deodorant
- † Toothbrush & paste
- † Disposable Razor
- † Hand Lotion
- † Candy
- † Gloves
- † Hats
- † Socks
- † Comb
- † Cough Drops
- † Brush
- † RTA Bus Pass
- † Books
- † Blankets
- † Toilet Paper
- † Chapstick

## OPTIONAL ITEMS FOR MEN

After Shave † Shaving Cream † Underwear

## OPTIONAL ITEMS FOR WOMEN

Tampons † Maxi Pads † Panty Liners †

Small Notebook and Pen



## VICTORIAN TEA

Victorian tea gift certificates are now available, and make a wonderful Christmas gift for the gal who has everything! The Victorian Tea will be held on Saturday, February 25 2012, with seatings at 11:00 am or 3:00 pm. The cost per ticket is \$20.

Call Rosalie Ferline to make your reservations at (216) 226-8026 or e-mail to [loversosie@cox.net](mailto:loversosie@cox.net).

~Rosalie Ferline



## OUTREACH FUNDRAISER –

Purchase one dozen golf balls for \$10 (regular price \$28-\$30). Bill Peacock will deliver. All proceeds go to the Outreach fund. An order form is on the office window.



## Christmas With The Legacy Family Singers

**An Invitation to the people of St. Thomas:**



Christmas with the Legacy Family Singers is a free family-friendly concert that will be performed at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Friday, December 9, at 7:30pm. **Legacy Family Singers** is an outreach of Legacy In Education, a non-profit organization working to preserve and restore music education for children in Northeast Ohio. Please join us and our guests **Harmonium Barbershop Quartet, Tri-C West Chorale and the Reserve Chorus of the Singing Angels** for an evening celebrating Christmas in song! The evening includes a complimentary gathering following the concert featuring treats from Polaris! We warmly welcome the people of St. Thomas to join us with your family and friends..... and, if you come, you may even get a chance to sing along! For more information about the concert, Legacy Family Singers, or Legacy in Education, please call 440-846-0973.

*All Are Welcome!*

**Admission is free – donations are welcome  
Complimentary Treats after the Concert Provided by:**



### CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24,

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 PM SERVICE

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM SERVICE



### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed from Monday, December 26, 2011 through Monday, January 2, 2012. The office will reopen at 9:00 am on January 3, 2012. We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS



Are you concerned about education? Do you realize that the deep cuts made in Cleveland schools will have a profound impact on the lives and safety of children? And how this issue is handled will certainly ripple to suburban communities. The Greater Cleveland Congregations is having an action on Thursday, December 8th at 7 pm to let both parties know that people are paying attention and that people care. No sides will be taken except the side of children. St. Thomas has pledged 10 people from our congregation to attend. Can you please be a voice for children??!! Gayle will coordinate transportation to Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. Please come! For more information, talk to Gayle+.



## DECEMBER

December 6

6:30 pm – Christian Education Soup Supper  
7:00 pm – Christian Education Classes

December 7

12:15 pm – STAR Concert and Luncheon

December 9

3:00 pm – Mrs. Kringle's Cookie Cupboard  
6:30 pm – Wii Bowling Banquet at Joe & Rosie's  
7:30 pm – Legacy Family Singers Concert

December 10

10:00 am – Mrs. Kringle's Cookie Cupboard

December 17

7:30 pm – A Song of Mary – Concert with Tri-C and  
St. Thomas Choirs (Potluck at 6:30 pm)

December 21

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Quiet Meditation in Chapel

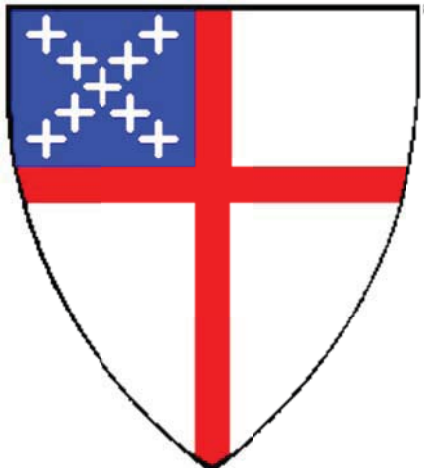
December 24

5:00 pm – Family Service  
10:00 pm – Choral Service

December 25

10:00 am – Service

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



## JANUARY

January 3

6:30 pm – Christian Education Soup Supper  
7:00 pm – Christian Education Classes

January 4

12:15 pm – STAR Concert and Luncheon

January 12 - 14

Ladies Spiritual Retreat at River's Edge