



THE WAYFARER

October 2009 Issue

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

At last month's vestry meeting we were talking about evangelism, and I asked the vestry from their perspective what were the three things that stood in the way of people coming back to St. Thomas after their first visit. The first thing they identified was that it is hard for newcomers to find their way through the service. The second was not being welcomed at coffee hour. We talked about how to remedy those issues.

The third problem that was listed surprised me. It was the way we do the peace. Now in my experience, half the people at St. Thomas love the way we pass the peace (boisterous, effusive, and lengthy) and half the people tolerate it. We have talked about this before. But it never occurred to me that the peace might be a cause for discomfort in new people. Imagine everyone else being hugged and talked to, and not being included. Imagine being shy and anxious in a new place and being hugged by people you don't know. It can be overwhelming and off-putting.

We need to remember the purpose of the peace, which is a sign of reconciliation. When we say the confession together, we offer to God our sorrow for all the people we have hurt by things done and left undone. And then we pass the peace, a symbol of reaching out in love to those we have hurt by our sins and making peace. To accomplish the liturgical purpose of the act does not require greeting everyone (or hugging them or talking to them). It is symbolic so greeting those in your immediate area is plenty. We have to be careful we do not confuse the purpose of the peace of Christ with coffee hour.

I would recommend 2 things to help remedy this issue. The first would be to make sure new people are greeted at the peace in a kind and reserved manner, so they feel welcome and not overwhelmed. The second is to remember that greeting everyone is not the purpose of the peace and to help keep it reasonable. All of the love we show each other is wasted if everyone does not experience that love.

Please pray about how you can help everyone feel welcomed at St. Thomas!
Thank you!!! Gayle+

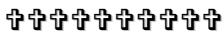


FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN...



Did you know that we have an angel in our midst? Yes, an angel at St. Thomas. When Al had emergency surgery last month, she appeared in the waiting room and stayed with the family until the surgeon arrived to give us the good news. She went into ICU with us, prayed over Al, made sure that I made it to my car safely at 2:30 AM. Every day she visited and prayed. When he had his second surgery, she was with me once again bringing me coffee and cookies. When his beard grew shaggy she shaved him, always praying. After he was transferred to a regular room, flowers and notes appeared, and again when he moved to West Bay Rehabilitation Care Center, she appeared. We are very blessed to have an angel, this very caring, devoted person, and her name is Barb Emigh.

Alice Amos



MURDER IN EL SALVADOR - *Los Amigos Episcopales* – As you have heard from our communication with Bishop Barahona of El Salvador, there has been a horrific murder in an Anglican Church (Santa Maria Virgin) in that diocese. We are all devastated by this awful occurrence, but are just that much more resolved that education is the key to combating violence there. We have now contributed \$4100 of our \$6000 pledge for salaries and supplies for a new school (La Divina Providencia) and we are working diligently to supply the remaining funds.

Do join us for a great meeting with a diocesan speaker on Friday, October 9 at 7:00 in Ogilvy Chapel, beginning with coffee and dessert. We will also be making plans for a trip to El Salvador in early 2010. See you there!

Ruth F. Ihde

Episcopal Church Women

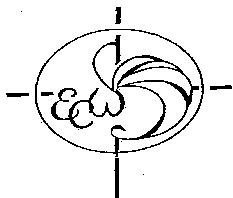
The first ECW meeting of our year was held on September 5, 2009. At that meeting we discussed the upcoming events:

- October 3, 2009: business meeting.
- November 7: Sammi Dyer from St. Paul's will be our guest speaker. She will give a talk on Honduras and on her ministry with the women prison inmates at Marysville Prison.
- Bake and Craft sale is scheduled for December 5, 2009; therefore, there will not be a business meeting in December.
- No Meeting is scheduled for January.
- The February 6, 2010 meeting is to finalize the preparations for our annual Devonshire Tea on February 27. Please mark your calendars for this event. Last year everyone who attended was looking forward to 2010 tea.
- A Big Surprise is planned for the March 6 meeting.
- April 1-2 is our Annual Rummage Sale therefore no business meeting this month.

On September 18, at St. Thomas Church there was a memorial service with a reception following the service; thank you to the ECW members that furnished bakery and especially to Barb Pertz, Betsy Linville, Rev. Gayle, and Lynn Vincent for the set up and clean up. Thank you to ECW members Elaine Willis, Rosalie Ferline, and Betsy Linville for your help setting up breakfast for the Parish Health Team Day at St. Thomas on September 19; a Diocesan event.

Sonia Miller
President

2009 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE BEGINS!!



The 2009 Stewardship drive kicks off Sunday, September 27! Pledge packets were mailed September 23.

Upcoming Stewardship Events:

October 11 come spin the Wheel of Evangelism for fun and prizes!

October 25 we will come together to do something special for special people in our community.

November 8 is Renewal Sunday. Bring your pledge cards to the service you attend and hear stories from the heart. Renew your commitment to God and this church!

Unsung Heroes



This month, we thank Elaine Willis. This is a quiet but very thoughtful and powerful woman! Elaine is the clerk of the vestry. She heads up the marketing committee on the vestry. She has taken responsibility for all the advertising and most of the social networking that happens at St. Thomas. She creates ads and handouts. She is on the evangelism committee. She is a Daughter of the King and a chalice bearer. I have been grateful for Elaine's big ideas for growing this church, and the time and care she puts into letting people know what a great place St. Thomas is. I am sure there is more that Elaine does for us. Hers is a gentle leadership that often takes place behind the scenes. Please thank her for all she does for our church!!



STAR

St. Thomas Adult Recreation, also known as "STAR", is back in full swing with programs the first Wednesday of each month at 12:15 P.M.

The October 7th program features the Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory Percussion

musicians. Lunch follows with brats, baked beans, salad and dessert.

The November 4th program features B-W students playing the organ followed by a lunch of homemade vegetable soup and apple dumplings with ice cream.

Please remember to call the church office to reserve your spot for lunch.

Campus Ministry

He gave out free food...



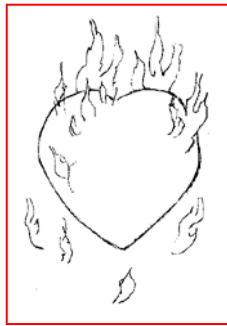
...and so do we!

Well, all of our work the past years is really paying off! We have had huge turnouts of kids this year, and so we need more help than ever! We need people to sign up to help with meals. Don't get anxious! You don't have to do the whole thing. You can make a dessert or bread. You can bring a salad. You could make a main course dish for 20 people, partnering with someone else. You could donate frozen mac and cheese (party size) for our vegetarians. You could come help set up or clean up (you get food if you do that!!!). We will be so grateful for any help you can give us. Remember that young adults have conflicting feelings about church, and you can help them experience the love of Jesus Christ in a safe and yummy way. Thank you to all who help and pray!!!! This ministry makes a difference!



Stay tuned next month for another installment of *From the Heart of the Parish!*

Dody's arm is in a cast! Prayers for her speedy recovery, as well as for those listed in the service bulletins.



sometime in November. Watch for the rededication celebration!!! Thank you to all who donated and to the SOS committee for their organizational efforts!!! What a blessing!

T-shirts and mouse pads are still available!



FARMER'S MARKET PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

The Cleveland Food Bank will be providing 10,000 pounds of fresh produce through St. Thomas on October 1, 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 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. to help set up, hand out produce and clean up. There will also be a registration table for people to sign in. This is the final Farmer's Market for this season.



SOS UPDATE

Stained Glass Window Update

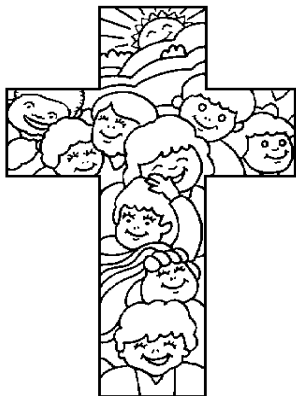
To date we have raised \$11,624.62!!The chapel window coverings are currently out being vented. The window will return

PARISH HEALTH TEAM

What a beautiful Harvest Season here at St. Thomas! The weather is fantastic and the crops are bountiful! It is now time to reap the rewards of our efforts. The Parish Health Team has spent the better part of the last year+ gathering information from the Parish as to what **you** wanted us to focus on.

Our goal is to continue to improve the health of our parish and your voice was critical to helping us to set our plan to do just that.

Based on your feedback, much thoughtful discussion and a lot of prayer, we focused on three areas: 1) Prayer; 2) Passionate and Positive; 3) Harvesting our faith through Evangelism. We thank all of you for supporting the first 2 steps in the PHT Plan! Let's look at the first two steps of our plan as the "planting and the tending" to our faith "crop". We Pray and therefore plant the seeds of hope, love, kindness, forgiveness, compassion and the list goes on. We have faith in those prayers by passionately tending to them with great care and love, always remaining positive and faithful that the work that we do will be pleasing to God. We now see the "sprouts" of our labor and can enjoy the bounty of the Harvest.



The last phase for us “farmers of faith” is to reap what we have sown. We’ll do that by growing in comfort with our faith and embracing personal Evangelism by sharing the love of God. As you’ve seen by the Sunday Bulletins and the Random Acts of Kindness Bulletin Board, we’re diving head first into the first stage of

Harvesting our Faith! We’re asking everyone to choose some activities on the board to accomplish each week and simply share our love with one another. We’ll be asking groups to participate in projects as well. Stage 2 will involve learning to recognize opportunities to share our love of God with one another, be it silently or out loud. Each relationship we encounter every day provides us with this opportunity. The PHT will provide the parish with some tools to help us better recognize those moments and put into action the mighty power of the Holy Spirit! The third and final stage will test us. We’ve all worked very hard this past year, tending to the crops of the Lord. We now must take the next step and help this parish grow.

We now must look around us for those people that have not had the opportunity to experience God at St. Thomas. There are people out there that simply need an invitation ... to a STAR event, to an Outreach program, to a Sunday (or Saturday!) service. Perhaps they just need a pew mate. Please take the opportunity to experience this Harvest season at St. Thomas and share it with others!

What is a KidFriendly Church??

I was recently told by an angry parent that St. Thomas is not a child-friendly place. And so I have been praying about this, and would like for you to reflect with me on this very important issue as well. As I have prayed, it seems to me that for St. Thomas’ children to feel loved and regarded, everyone has to do their part, the church, the community, the church members and the parents.

The church tries to do its part by providing

childcare during the services, excellent Christian education, and several child-friendly spaces. We need to look at childcare during the summer, and that will be a part of our budget discussions. If anyone has ideas for programming or equipment that would improve the comfort of our young members, please let me know.

The community. When we lived on the farm, Wednesday was church night. No activities were planned and no homework was given because all of the churches in Wisner, Nebraska had their youth programs that evening. And the stores were not even open Sunday until noon. In our world, kid’s soccer games are scheduled Sunday mornings, teens have to work all weekend and schools schedule activities and lots of homework every night of the week. We are not going to get a break here, though we can suggest to those in power that they be more church-friendly. We have scheduled a variety of service times to try to accommodate everyone.

When Martin was a baby, Dan would have him in a backpack in church so that he could manage the other children. One of the church members was making fun of this one day, and received a withering look from me.

We church members promise at every baptism to help parents raise their children in the church. How do we help them do that most effectively? We can be understanding when a baby is having a bad day, we can recognize that 3 year-olds aren’t meant to sit for an hour and appreciate it when they try, we can look beyond the fashions of teenagers and be grateful they are present. The church family should always be making families feel welcome and supported, especially when a child is at a challenging age. I raised 3-year-olds and I remember what that was like. They need to know that church is an important place to be, and we want them here.

Parents are ultimately responsible for making sure their children are at church. You promised at their baptism before God and the congregation that you would do this. Believe me, I know what it means to have 6 small children in the pew messing around during the sermon. Not

my most spiritual moment. But it is an investment. It is an example to my children about what is the most important thing in my life, my relationship with God. Sit your kids in the front so they can see the action. Let me know what you need. Ask for help. We are a community together, all of us being raised into new life with Jesus Christ. We all need each other, and we especially need children present and worshipping with us.

The Gospel of Mark says, Jesus took a little child and put it among them, and he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name, welcomes me."



FALL FAMILY FRIEND FEST!

Mark your calendars for October 24 and an evening of fun and fellowship. There will be tickets sold for ribs and hot dogs. We will have a potluck for salads and desserts. There will be a stunning array of games and activities for all ages.

AND EVERYONE NEEDS TO BRING A FRIEND!!!!!!!

Introduce a friend or family member to this wonderful church community. You could even attend the Saturday Night Service. The party runs from 4-8. Watch for more details as they become available!

LOTTS CREEK MISSION TRIP

After some year's absence, the youth from St. Thomas have returned to Lotts Creek Community School for the past four years. They have gone to help the school and the local community. They have also experienced an unfamiliar culture. The students have recounted their experiences in their own words.

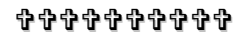
Bart Hancock



Philip McGuire:

This year at Kentucky I was excited as usual. Not only to help people out and serve the poor, but to see old friends. Also this year at Lotts Creek instead of doing yard work the whole week I got to dig a drain ditch which was fun. This ditch was to help a widow to drain water from her basement. The water was caused by the strip mining going down the top of her mountain and flowing into her basement. I had fun meeting other people and making new friends. And if you really like

to help people and like to meet people then this mission trip is something you should really consider doing. Also we could always use some extra hands, and trust me, you will really have a good time.



Ascia Phillips:

Kentucky Happening 2009 was a great experience for the members of my family and me. This was my third year going and I would love to keep returning to Kentucky. During this trip I helped out Lotts Creek by gardening, cleaning and preparing the school for the children of the community. Throughout the week I learned a lot about life, the community of Lotts Creek and different things about different people. Going to Kentucky isn't just about working, it's about having fun and getting to know the people you have to work with and live with for the whole week. Another thing about Kentucky that I love is that I get to spend a great amount of time with my two favorite cousins and my lovely grandpa. This year at Kentucky the Pilgrim Church from Cleveland came back, and out of all the churches I made a real close bond with almost all of the kids who attend Pilgrim. For example, after Kentucky ended last year I still spent time with Zac Zupancic and Robert Nicolino, hanging out with them almost every weekend or whenever we had spare time. But this year I met a couple new people from a church in Lakewood. All the people I met in Kentucky leave footprints in my heart, especially Patrick Nicolino. One of the main reasons I always look forward to going to Kentucky is to see Patrick. He is the youth minister from Pilgrim Church. All three years that I have gone to Kentucky, he's been there and I have gotten to know him and learn from him. He preaches to me about life, love, and happiness. The man is truly the greatest person I have come across. I admire him because even though he's blind he doesn't let that get him down. Patrick fools me about being blind; if you got to know him like I have you'd think that he just was kidding about being blind. Over the last two years I have taught Patrick how to kick a soccer ball, run up hills and to shoot a foul shot on the basketball court (with a little help from Zac). Lotts Creek is an amazing place where you meet amazing people who just might change your life, and I hope to keep returning for years.



Martin McGuire:

This year on the Kentucky trip I spent my time and effort tearing down gutters and replacing them with brand new ones. I was able to see some old friends and get more acquainted with them. But I was also able to make some new ones and get close to them.



Kyle Winfield:

During my third year of attending Kentucky I had many more new experiences. Every year I always meet tons of new people, like this year a new group of people came from Lakewood and I made plenty of new friends from that group. Every year I get to work on something new such as using an electric hedge trimmer to cut down 10 foot tall hedges, weed Alice's garden and take care of the butterfly garden down by the school that was dedicated to Alice's granddaughter that died in a car accident, and cook a meal that served 72 people. I would love to keep coming to Lotts Creek because I learn lots, meet new people and work with kids my age. Traveling to Kentucky is worth the 8 hours we spend crammed in a car because once you get there you have so much fun!



Emme Winfield:

In Kentucky I did plenty of work to keep myself busy. I helped clean toilets in the new school, my cousin and I put books back into a newly painted bookshelf and a couple of kids and I went down to the new school where we washed the crayon marks off the bookshelves. We also all pitched in and helped wash the playground where the younger kids spend their recess playing. Another thing I enjoyed doing was cleaning out a janitor's closet with Patrick Nicolino. Other than all the hard work I did I met a lot of people who I became good friends with. Kentucky is a lovely place and I'm glad my grandpa got me into going because now I never want to stop attending this once a year event. I wish that instead of staying in Kentucky only for week I wish we could stay in Kentucky longer. I have such a good time going there and enjoy every minute of it.



Going for the Green

Let's look at a few ways to borrow or swap used books and media. I'll also include links for information about recycling old computer CDs.

Books:

<http://www.betterworldbooks.com/> - Collects and sells books online to fund **literacy initiatives worldwide**.

<http://www.paperbackswap.com/index.php> - Helps members swap, trade & exchange books with each other for free. Don't be fooled by the title, hardbacks, audio books, textbooks and more are available!

<http://www.bookmooch.com> - Works similarly to paperbackswap.com but uses a point system. You can also donate your points to charity.

Media:

<http://www.swaptree.com/> - List the music CDs, DVDs, video games (and books) you own and want to swap then choose the items you want to receive. Easy!

<http://www.swapavd.com/index.php>

<http://www.swapacd.com/index.php>

What to do with those old computer CDs you have at home? You know, the freebies from AOL, old software installation CDs, CDs scratched beyond all use and repair...

Well, you can check with teachers at your local schools to see if they want them to make holidays ornaments with...otherwise there are a few places where you can send the disks to be shredded or recycled. Usually, there is a minimal cost to you (postage), because demand isn't great enough for this to be a free process. Here are just a few places for you to check out...some even take DVDs or game discs.

<http://cdrecyclingcenter.org/>

<http://www.cdrecyclingforfree.com/>

<http://www.secondlifedisc.com/>

DISPATCHES FROM THE CONTINENTAL DRIFTER

The fire and smoke have left the Santa Clarita Valley for the time being – and hopefully for good...during the huge "Station Fire" south of us, we awoke day after day to a pall of acrid brown smoke covering the valley and gray soot filtering down from the sky onto our homes and autos...at night we watched the flames over the mountains occasionally leaping skyward and several times we saw *huge* "mushroom clouds" (termed *pyrocumulus*) roiling up tens of thousands of feet over the San Gabriels...frightening, and yet beautiful in their own strange way, as were the sunsets, thanks to all the smoke in the air...this fire destroyed eighty homes and killed two firefighters, and was caused by arson...Bonnie and I got to thank personally a team of firemen from San Luis Obispo County (about 100 miles north of here on the coast) who had come in to help (we saw them at a restaurant)... "smokeaters" came from all over the country to help, and thank God for

them...prisoners from California were brought in too...

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church here is quite a good size (the nave and sanctuary is about 50% larger than that of St. Thomas, I'd say and Spurling Hall about the same size as Harkess)...it is in the modern style and was built in the late 1980s, I believe...they have a pre-school with its own wing and playground area...services are straight *Rite II* and with music – even the 7:45 am....attendance is decent at the early service, about what St. T has, maybe a few more...Bonnie will be attending church with me here due to lack of a nearby Lutheran church, and we are going to “newcomer orientation” this week...the Vicar is a woman, Rev. Lynn, and there are two other part-time assisting priests as well...St. Stephen's is still considered a “mission” since (as it was explained to me) they haven't paid off their mortgage yet; the Bishop of Los Angeles, Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno, is officially “Rector” of the church...

Mother W. is settled in and receiving monthly Communion now and trying to come to terms with all the Mexican food they serve in the dining room...Rev. Lynn told me that she was glad I had been “broken in to women priests” by our dear Gayle...I said, “well, as much as anyone *could* be...”

More dispatches to follow as they become available.

(Enjoy your wonderful October (the best month of the year back in Ohio as far as I'm concerned) and keep up all the good work you do for the Lord!)

Dave Warburton



St. Thomas Vestry

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



OCTOBER 1
3:00 - 7:00 PM FARMERS MARKET
PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION
6:30 PM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 3
6:30 PM EUCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING &
DINNER

OCTOBER 4
4:00 - 5:00 PM PET BLESSING

OCTOBER 7
12:15 PM STAR CONCERT AND LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 9
7:00 PM LOS AMIGOS EPISCOPALES MEETING

OCTOBER 10
9:30 AM ALTAR GUILD BREAKFAST
7:00 PM RESTAURANT NIGHT OUT

OCTOBER 12
COLUMBUS DAY - THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

OCTOBER 24
4:00 - 8:00 PM FALL FAMILY FRIEND FEST!!!

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

