

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Without A Doubt

MAY 2009

Dear Friends,

We are fast approaching the season of the Holy Spirit. By the time you read this newsletter Pentecost will be upon us. Christ has burst from the tomb and we have received the resurrection with joy. Now, like those original disciples, we stand paused before his going from us and the coming of the promised Spirit to nurture us in lives of faith. Like those first disciples, we sit huddled in an empty room contemplating his final words - waiting to celebrate the birth of the church at Pentecost, ready to be called into the service of the Lord.

Jesus final words to his disciples were to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:19-20) We, his disciples, are his witnesses. We were baptized and gifted with Holy Spirit, to tell of the life giving love of God and God's unquenchable and profound love for the creation and all that is in it.

Many in our world live outside this good news. They seek something they have not found. We live at a time when the Christian good news is no longer common knowledge. Christians today are often guilty of thinking others already know of the love of God. We assume everyone knows the stories of our faith. We imagine the words of our prayers and our music comforting and familiar to all. Nothing could be further from the truth.

God has bestowed enormous blessings upon this congregation, not least the many opportunities for ministry and fellowship we experience. More, we have been graced with a spirit of hospitality and kindness that welcomes the stranger and encourages the timid. In seeking Christ for ourselves we have been called to invite those who seek Christ to share with us at the table. Daniel Rigsby once observed, "...many in our community are on this same search and have seen and experienced God's presence among our congregation. This miraculous presence is drawing more people to our church and we are seeking to celebrate their arrival and honor God's presence."

As we reach out to our neighborhood and community in the days and months ahead give thanks for the people of God in this place, continue to be kind and hospitable, seek the Lord. Remember, we are his witnesses.

Blessings,

Sue

The Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend Peter James Iee
Diocesan Bishop

The Right Reverend Shannon Sherwood Johnston
Bishop Coadjutor

The Right Reverend David Colin Jones
Suffragan Bishop

The Reverend Susan N. Eaves
Rector

The Reverend Susan Daughtry
The W. Smith Assistant Rector

June Hardy Dorsey
Lay Associate for Ministry

Dr. David McCormick
Organist/Choirmaster

The Reverend Doctor Lindon J. Eaves
Priest-in-Residence

Amy Harr
Youth Minister

Amelie Allen
Seminarian

Mistique Primar
Parish Secretary

Kelly Kane
Day School Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MUSIC	2
DAY SCHOOL	3
ECW	3
SCHOLARSHIPS	3
PRAYER LIST	4

FROM THE ORGANIST'S BENCH



It's hard to believe that "the year" is over, but for purposes of planning, we are already into summer. Pentecost, which is the last day of May, will mark the end of our two-service schedule, and basically the end of the choir year, with the children's group singing at second service, and the adults ending their schedule at the annual picnic on June 7. After that we move into Summer mode. This means:

Summer Choir. Many people - especially men - have told us that they like to sing, but thus far have not gotten to the point of being able to commit to regular Wednesday evening rehearsals. If you are one of these, this is your chance to enjoy the choral experience without the week-night commitment. We rehearse only for the hour prior to worship each Sunday from June 14 to August 2. You can come one Sunday or all eight. We would like you to let us know what part you sing, and which Sundays you will likely be in town, so that we can plan music appropriately, but this is not a hard and fast commitment; if you plans change, we'll understand, though it would be appreciated if you would let

us know. Singing in the choir is fun, and you'll be providing a very important service in our worship.

Voice Class. Last summer we instituted one-hour vocal exploration classes on Wednesday evenings, open to anyone high school age or older, whether or not they have done group singing or not. Those attending came away with a better understanding of healthy vocal production, sometimes being surprised at how good they could actually sound! Valuable instruction, and it's free! Hard to beat a deal like that. And we're not locked into the night if another will work better for the majority.

Treasures of the Hymnbook. It has become apparent that the most convenient and probably most fruitful time for becoming familiar with some of the unused gems of hymns or service music in our hymnal, which is one of the finest collections of congregational music in existence, and still considered a standard in college courses in church music. This is so because the whole congregation is together in the summer, and at least in June and July has the support of the a choir. So we'll be looking at

some hymns that will enrich our worship throughout the year, and perhaps making at least a nodding acquaintance with both old and newer hymns for specific seasons like Christmas and Easter. What would you think about a hymn sing some evening(s), with a mix of old favorites and lesser known hymns?

Please let me hear from you on the above opportunities at dmcormick@stthomasrhcmond.org, preferably by mid May.

Finally, some of you will remember the concert last May at St. Thomas' by **City Singers Children's Choirs**. We are returning on May 3 at 3 p.m., and it will be the last I will be conducting the advanced group. (I will be continuing with the group as accompanist and rehearsal assistant for both choirs.) The program will be even more varied than last year's, and the performance level considerably higher. We hope a large number of you will come to hear them. Let me also say that auditions for next year's choirs (grades 2- 5, and 6 through high school) right now. Please check our web site citysingerschoir.org and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.



Just A Reminder...

St. Thomas' will switch to the Summer Worship Schedule on May 31. Summer worship services will be held at 10am.

DAY SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS

Another wonderful school year is coming to an end. But don't worry, we are offering programs throughout the summer for children ages 3-5 and we also have a few openings for the 2009/2010 school year. For information on either the summer programs or for openings next year please contact Kelly Kane at 329-1117. Happy Summer!



ECW OUTREACH SEWING GROUP COMPLETES 23 QUILTS

On Wednesday mornings the smell of coffee and chocolate chip cookies fills the church office hallway. It is not a bake sale or pastry cart, but coffee break time for the Sewing Group. According to one of the members, this group faithfully gathers on Wednesdays from September to May to "drink coffee, tell jokes, eat cookies and if we have time, to sew."

All kidding aside, they evidently have been busy sewing because last week they completed 23 baby quilts. These quilts will be donated to the Crisis Pregnancy Center, St. Joseph's Villa and the YWCA Emergency Shelter. Throughout the many years of its existence, this group has created and donated baby caps and blankets to organizations serving young children.

Supported by the St. Thomas' ECW (Episcopal Church Women), the group currently includes Patti Heindl, Judy Lusk, Ginny Richards, Betty Turner, Pat Tyree, and Lucy Woody. So, if you smell coffee on a Wednesday morning, know that the Sewing Group is busy at work in this important outreach ministry.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Since 1979, the Women of St Thomas' have awarded scholarships to high school seniors and some adults to help with educational expenses. Criteria for consideration include (1) Financial need and (2) Service to St Thomas'. Service includes such activities as Youth Group participation, acolyte service and reliability, ushering, Nursery worker, etc. In other words, the applicant should be not only a member of St. Thomas' but an active participant in the life of the Parish.

The procedure for applying this year is as follows. Applicants should write a letter to the Scholarship Committee by May 10, 2009. In the letter, applicants should state their reasons for requesting a scholarship from the Women of St. Thomas'. The letter should also indicate their institution of choice.

REMEMBER THAT THE PROCEEDS FROM THE YARD SALE, ORNAMENT SALES, AND PECAN SALES BENEFIT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

- Scholarship Committee Jennie Eckert, Fay Eure, Ann Fuqua, Patti Heindl, Judy Lusk



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3602 Hawthorne Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Phone: 804.321.9548
Fax: 804.321.4481

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.STTHOMASRICHMOND.ORG](http://www.stthomasrichmond.org)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those dioceses, churches and clergy remembered this month in the Anglican and diocesan cycles of prayer, and:

- The Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Nord Kivu - (Congo) The Rt Revd Methusela Musubaho Munzenda; Assistant Bishop of Nord Kivu - (Congo) The Rt Revd Enoch Kayeeye
- Those in the congregation: Priscilla Roser
- And others we love: Stephanie Jun, James and Talia Buckhouse (family of Amy Harr), Veronica (friend of Steve Hennessee & Bob Wheatley), Janice & family (sister-in-law of Sara Coxon), Claiborne Fogelman (friend of Allyson Petty), Tom Schumaker (friend of Relling Westfall)
- For those who have died: Jane Tipton (aunt of Margaret Sharp), Jody Groobey Bowker, Will (friend of Steve Hennessee & Bob Wheatley), Paula Halde (cousin of Katie Baughan), Gilda Madeira (grandmother of Aimee Perron Seibert), Jacqueline Diggs
- In thanksgiving for the births of Ana Sierra Lockhart Tornabene to Mandy & Billy Tornabene, Charlotte to Kristy and Charlie Broaddus, and Jackson to Katie and Drew Cosby;
- For the guidance and prayers of St. Thomas'
- For our enemies;
- For all women and men serving in our armed forces: Sergeant Joshua Craig, CW2 Erik Sabiston
- Thanksgiving for the lives and ministries of those who celebrate their birthday this month including: Bill Sanderson, Aidan Murphy, Walker Cosby, Susannah Raine-Haddad, Drew Fulton, Will Rigsby, Berge Kambourian, Matt Bryant, Kim Kacani, Barbara Haas, Michael Southam-Gerow, Cam Scott, Clara Ballou, Betsy Scott, Courtney Durrett, Evy Southam-Gerow, Raine Haddad, Tim Rhea, Jenny Kacani, Sarah Masters, Arlen Bolstad, David Durrett, Thomas Bolstad, Grace Sparks, Erica Cummings, Evan Massey Peay, Deborah Rau, Houlder Hudgins, Graham Henderson-Best, and Hep Hull

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3602 HAWTHORNE AVENUE
RICHMOND, VA 23222

FOOD PANTRY OPENINGS If you've thought about how to Minister at St. Thomas here's your chance. The Food Pantry has openings for Volunteer Substitutes. Training is provided, all you need to be able to do is provide back-up on Thursday's when called by a regular who has a conflict. Interested members, or others, should contact Barbara Hass, Ray Jackson, or Linc Sparks. We're all in the Church Directory.