







St. Thomas Episcopal Church
276 South College Avenue
Newark, DE 19711-5613
(302) 368-4644

The Carpenter

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church

July 2011

In this issue ...

-  *"Is it HOT in here?"*
-  NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS
-  CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
-  PRAYERS, NEEDS & THANKS
-  REGULAR GATHERINGS
-  PARISH REGISTER
-  BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Up-Coming Events

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Worship The Lord Wherever You Are!

The lazy days of summer invite us to times of rest and re-creation. Two things that can help your parish family during the summer: First, keep up with your pledge, please! Although you may be away, St. Thomas's operations continue, and your pledge is an important part of ensuring we can do this day by day! Second, when you are vacationing in another place, go to a local church on Sunday, and bring a copy of the bulletin to share with us! No, I am not checking up on your faithfulness to worship. It is helpful to see how other churches DO CHURCH, the information they include in the bulletin, ministries they offer, and so on. You can leave the bulletin copy in the basket on the Nametag Table any Sunday during the summer, and please put your name on it so we can talk about your experience ... and no, I am not checking up on you!



May your summer be blessed with all joy of friends and family, sun and fun, rest and relaxation!

Fr. Paul+

Let's Have Fun in the Sun at Memorial House!

Marilyn & Fr. Paul will once again be hosts & chaplain at Memorial House in Rehoboth from **Friday, August 26 through Friday, September 2**. Memorial House is our diocesan conference and retreat center, and is a wonderful retreat for your rest and recreation for this week. Very comfortable accommodations, two meals prepared by a great chef, two blocks from the beach and less than one-half mile from the town center and boardwalk. A wonderful fellowship with others, and a remarkable week's rest for a very affordable price! Reservations are first come/first serve. You will find more information and application available through the diocesan website www.dioceseofdelaware.net and click on the "Memorial House" link. We look forward to hosting all who join us with grace, warmth, and lots of restful fun together!

Marilyn & Fr. Paul+



"Is it HOT in here?"

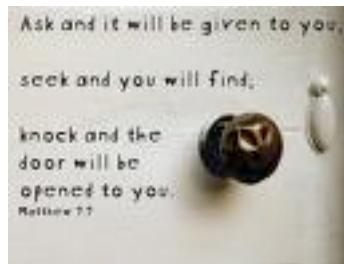
"A man lame from birth was being carried in ... Peter looked intently at him [filled with the Spirit of God], as did John, and said, 'Look at us ... I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ stand up and walk.' ... Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God." Acts 3:2a, 4, 6, 8

The Season of Pentecost is the longest season of the liturgical calendar year. Pentecost was the time for the early church to take shape and form into what we have come to know today. It is the time in which the teachings of Jesus unfold through the appointed Gospel of the liturgical year, which is Matthew this year, and the formation of learning to live the **discipling life**. For people in the parish, it seems long and green and boring, not the pizzazz of Christmas or Easter. For a priest like me, it is a **wonderful time** of consistency, rhythm in worship and church life, and rest and re-creation before the next round of the shorter, more intense, and more pizzazzing seasons.

On the Day of Pentecost, I shared in my sermon the clarity of call to living the discipling life this year in the form of three questions - **Where is your fire ... What don't you understand ... What are you waiting for?** The clarity of these questions is revealed as the next chapter of my mutual ministry with you, the people of St. Thomas's, now unfolds. In the Spring of 2008, before my call to St. Thomas's, the property adjacent to the church known as **The Grove** became available for purchase. The Trustees of our diocese took the initiative and purchased this property on behalf of St. Thomas's future. Over the past three years, two groups of parishioners walked through a prayerful and careful planning process, looking at the strategic possibilities for this future. The faithful work of these parishioners and their recommendations have led to the unanimous

Preparing for Worship - Weekly Lectionary Readings on our Website!

Just a reminder that you can Prepare for Worship by reading the offering of each Sunday's appointed lectionary readings on our website <http://www.stthomasparish.org/> This service is updated weekly by Church Publishing, and you can access last week, this week, and the upcoming week readings by clicking the icon found on our website. It also includes a description of the passage, a prayer, and reflection questions. *"Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; AMEN" Collect for Proper 27, Book of Common Prayer p. 236*



Education for Ministry (EfM) Class



Do you:

- have an interest in learning more about the Bible,
- want to zero in on your own personal ministry,
- want to learn to reflect theologically all while sharing fellowship and laughter in the process?

Education for Ministry, affectionately known as EfM, is a program of theological education-at-a-distance from the School of Theology at the University of the South. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program which covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. The seminar group is the nucleus of the program. Each group meets weekly and consists of a minimum of six and a maximum of eleven participants.

Grace Episcopal Church will be starting its 9th year of EfM in September 2011, and we invite you to join us. We meet on Monday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. We take two breaks during the year: one during the summer months and another between Thanksgiving and New Years. There is a cost associated with the courses, but funding help can be found if needed. Please give us a call for more information. Grace Church: 302-478-9533 and Brenda Trageser, Co-Mentor: 610-361-9537.

"Is it HOT in here?" (Continued)

agreement by your Vestry that we now go forth and begin the next chapter by purchasing this land from the diocese and planning for its use in our future. A pastoral letter will soon arrive with more details and our next leadership team's charge. Moving into this next chapter speaks deeply to these Pentecost questions, and so I will use them as reflections in my Carpenter articles during the coming months of the Season of Pentecost. What do they mean to my life and ministry? What do they mean to you? What do they call us to be and to do together, as people of faith at St. Thomas's Parish, now?

There is one comment I can count on hearing most Sunday mornings after worship. The comment IS NOT how the sermon so stirred the heart and soul of a person, radically changing their life for God. The comment IS NOT how the liturgy and music stirred the heart and soul of a person, bringing deeper meaning to the presence of God in this moment of time for their faith. No, the comment I DO HEAR most Sunday mornings after worship is "It's TOO COLD in here!" [or "It's TOO HOT in here"]. John Wesley, prolific hymnodist, Anglican priest, and founder of The Methodist Church we know this day, was moved by "the heat" of a worship experience in his life, but in a different direction than the comments I more often hear. In a quote from Wesley's journal, *"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."* It is my continuing prayer that ALL our hearts will be **powerfully and profoundly warmed** to seek and serve our loving and living God, our community, and our world, together, and now move forward in faith into our future, together.

NOW IS OUR TIME as the people of faith, gathered this 169th year of our history at St. Thomas's.

Are you getting HOT yet?

In peace always, your servant in Christ,

Paul+

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

Summer Children's Worship for children 3 years and older will begin on June 5 and run through August 28 during the 10:30 service. Children will begin the service with their families and then process out together during the Gloria. The children will then rejoin their families during the Peace. Our theme this year is God Rocks! At our own Camp Son Rock, the children will hear a story or do an activity (art, drama, music, games, etc.) based on one of the many scripture passages which mention rocks as important guides to our faith and ministry. Check out Matthew 7:24-27!

Vacation Bible School



Last month, St. Thomas again joined other area churches to provide vacation bible school to our own children and those of the surrounding community. It was a great opportunity for ecumenical fellowship and outreach for adults and children as well as a great way to provide fun and education to our children. The theme was PandaMania: Where God is Wild About You! Keep an eye out next March for information about next year's VBS.

Special Requests:

1. Photos of our children or youth engaging in any activities at St Thomas over the past year or so, we would love to have them for our Children and Youth Ministries bulletin board in the Great Hall.
2. Please consider becoming a member of St. Thomas Children's Worship Team next program year. Teaching involves an average commitment of two Sundays a month and an hour or two of preparation the week you are the lead teacher. This ministry is an act of both giving and receiving. The children teach and inspire us as much as we do them. Trainings for Godly Play and Living the Good News for anyone who needs it will be held in August. If you feel called to be a part of children's ministry in any way, please speak to Belinda Young-Payne.

REGULAR GATHERINGS

Adult Education

On May 1st, we will resume Adult Education for 6 weeks with Larry Duggan who will be discussing the "History of Christianity." If you have never heard his presentation of this subject, it is well worth your time, and if you have heard this before it is still well worth your time on Sunday morning. Please consider joining us as we explore our mutual faith in God. For any questions about adult education at St. Thomas please contact Ronnie Wilbur at vwilbur910@verizon.net or Susan Hector.

Novel Theology

Novel Theology is on vacation for July and August. However, if you are looking for "good reads" during the summer, here are our chosen books:

TITLE	Author
WORLD WITHOUT END	Ken Follett
OLIVE KITTERIDGE	Elizabeth Strout
ISLAND BENEATH THE SEA	Isabel Allende
THE SOUND OF SLEIGHBELLS	Cindy Woodsmall
THE UNDERTAKING: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade	Thomas Lynch
MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME	Marcus Borg
THE TOWER, THE ZOO, AND THE TORTISE	Julia Stuart
JESUS WAS AN EPISCOPALIAN AND YOU CAN BE ONE TOO	The Rev. Chris Yaw
THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS: The epic story of America's greatest migration (American Negro)	Isabel Wilkerson

The Carpenter's Helper

See The Carpenter's Helper published in the weekly church bulletin for more information on regular gatherings.

PRAYERS, NEEDS AND THANKS

Christmas in July!

As the economy continues to grind slowly toward stability and recovery, the needs of many in our area are served through wonderful ministries and programs. I continue to receive requests for help in numerous ways that have depleted my discretionary funds, and in other ways that money simply does not cover. I ask your prayers and help to live in the spirit of Christ that Christmas brings in July! If you can make a monetary donation to supplement my discretionary fund, and/or would purchase a gift card that could help provide a tank of gas, or to buy some needed grocery staples at a local store [preferably those in walking distance such as Acme, Pathmark, or Wawa], this would be a wonderful way to meet the needs of others in very specific ways. Thank you for your prayerfulness in considering a way to help those whose needs are greater than ours through the summer holidays. *Fr. Paul+*



With Gratefulness from Bishop Wright

I thank the people of St. Thomas's for the offering of \$465.06 that was offered during my visit to St. Thomas's Church on May 15th. The Bishop's Discretionary Fund is used to meet special charitable needs in our diocese and beyond. I thank you all for your generosity and commitment to outreach ministry. I enjoyed the time we spent together. I am grateful to serve with you in the Diocese of Delaware.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop of Delaware



Pentecost Celebration & Picnic

Thank you to all who helped to make our Pentecost Celebration and picnic a wonderful experience. The Holy Spirit could be felt throughout the day in the singing, sermon, food, fun & flowers.



BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Rev. Paul Gennett
July 1	Bob Rys
July 3	Linda Landini
July 3	Juliana Fincher
July 4	Bernadette Blair
July 5	Carly Landini
July 5	Donna Rotandi
July 5	Ingrid Thomas
July 6	Patricia Gilhooley
July 7	Ian Drake
July 8	Fred Fortunato
July 8	Dennis Landini
July 8	Colleen Murray
July 9	Sonja Exley
July 12	Thomas Fincher
July 26	Rick Rotandi
July 28	Bill Redd
July 31	Sarah Mahaffey

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike and Sue Houghton	July 7, 2000
Rev. Paul and Marilyn Gennett	June 10, 1971

PARISH REGISTER

Memorial Services and/or Interments

Gladys Druce Fischer
 Born: July 25, 1926
 Died: May 23, 2011
 Service of Thanksgiving/Requiem Eucharist: June 1, 2011
 St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
 Burial: Private

Lillian Adams Mancill
 Born: March 31, 1918
 Died: May 27, 2011
 Service of Thanksgiving/Requiem Eucharist: June 10, 2011
 St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
 Burial: Private

C. Mitchell Justice
 Born: May 27, 1918
 Died: May 17, 2011
 Memorial Service: July 16, 2011
 First Presbyterian Church
 Burial: Mount Rest Cemetery; La Plata, Maryland