











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

September 2011

In this issue ...

-  **WHERE IS YOUR FIRE? (PART 2)**
-  **NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**
-  **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**
-  **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**
-  **PRAYERS, NEEDS & THANKS**
-  **REGULAR GATHERINGS**
-  **PARISH REGISTER**
-  **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Up-Coming Events

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| September 11 | September 11 Remembrance |
| September 11 | Sunday School Start-up |
| October 2 | Saint Francis Day Celebration |

Special Attachments

St. Thomas FUNraising Flier

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

We remember September 11

This year will be the 10th year remembrance since the horrific events, seared into our world consciousness, of September 11, 2001 at the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a farm field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. At our worship services this day, we will include special prayers and choral offerings to allow our hearts to remember, and to never forget those who died, and those who live seeking to bring peace to our broken world, people of faith like you and me. In honor and remembrance of this day, I share this poem written by poet Marge Batzer. Paul+

Cross Amidst the Ruins

*On an early September morning;
 Hatred reared it's ugly head.
 Terrorism struck Manhattan;
 It's wake left thousands dead!*

*It truly was a miracle ...
 How many lives were saved.
 Over-shadowed by the horror;
 Of the war-like rubble grave!*

*Time seemed frozen, hope was lost;
 For loved ones left behind.
 Trying to hold onto their faith,
 Praying, "God give us a sign!"*

*Uncovered from the wreckage;
 A sight that seemed unreal.
 A cross that stood 'bout twenty feet ...
 From twisted beams of steel!*



WHERE IS YOUR FIRE? (PART 2)

"Teach a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn away from it."

Little Amy came bouncing out of the church after Sunday School to greet her parents returning from breakfast to pick her up. Buckled in her seat, her mother asks what she learned in Sunday School this day. **"We learned all about the baby Jesus being borned, and it was real exciting."** Her eyes grow wide as she continues in a most serious voice. **"Did you know Baby Jesus was borned in a barn, with all the animals standing around? I wonder if it was as stinky as the zoo? Then they had a fire, because three firemen came. After they put out the fire, they gave the baby Jesus some presents - one gave him gold, one gave him Frankenstein, and the other gave him Smurfs!"** Now Amy's parents were not very regular in their church attendance, and not well versed in the Bible or its stories, but the mother was pretty sure she knew the story of the birth of Jesus. **"Now honey, I think you mean three Wise Men came to give Jesus gifts, not three firemen."** Amy's look grew more serious as she shook her head vigorously. **"No, no, no, Mommy! Mrs. King says these three men came FROM AFAR!"**

Yes, I can hear you groaning as you read this old preacher's story, but it does hold an important reminder and invitation for us to this day, young and young at heart. September returns us to the routines of school, work schedules, and renewed activity in our parish life and ministries. I pray you enjoyed the gift of time with family, with the rest and recreation that summer offers. As you return to those routines, how about making regular participation in ALL your church has to offer in the year ahead? In my years serving the people of God at St. Thomas's, I have heard many of your stories. I have heard your cries, **"We need to do more for our children and youth"** ... yet less than half of the children in the parish directory attend

“All Creatures Great and Small” - Blessings of the Animals on St. Francis Day

Sunday, October 2, is closest to the day we remember and honor the life and ministry of Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order and patron saint of all God's animals, flowers, and fauna. His feast day of remembrance is October 4th.



In honor of St. Francis, we will celebrate this feast day with a special liturgy for the Blessing of the Animals and Holy Eucharist on Sunday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the grassy area in front of the Great Hall, or in the Great Hall if weather is not permitting. We again will joyfully share in worship with our sisters and brothers of St. Nicholas and Good Shepherd parishes. The Reverend Elizabeth Masterson, Rector to St. Nicholas, will be our preacher, and the Reverend George Karney, vicar to Good Shepherd, will celebrate at the Holy Eucharist. Music will be led once again by musicians from our three parishes.

You are invited to bring those special friends and members of your family we call our pets for a blessing and to join in worship. I simply ask that you leash or cage as needed, and do not bring your friend if they usually do not play nicely with other pets or humans. My preference is that they do not bite or slither too much, but the more the merrier! We will have treats to share during communion with our furry friends, and do our best with those non-furry varieties!

Come and join us in this festive celebration of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 2, and share in the blessings we receive from our special family members. Fr. Paul+

Come to Bible Study!

Being part of an ongoing weekly bible study group has been part of my life for over 25 years. I usually found some group of “early risers” to meet with prior to going to my work in business, and now as a priest. It nourished my soul for understanding and living my faith in the world, the fellowship nurtured Christian friendships that continue to this day, and the physical food was pretty good, too!

At St. Thomas's, we offer TWO bible study groups you can join. The **Breakfast & the Bible** group meets on Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. - a great way to start your day and make it to work or class at the university in plenty of time! The **Wednesday Bible Study** group meets at 10:30 a.m. each week in the Great Hall classroom, and you can stay around for the 12:10 Holy Eucharist service afterward. No preparation is needed, nor seminary training required - just bring yourself, your soul, your interest, your wonderings, your hunger for knowing YOUR story that is the bible, and sharing with others in this journey. On Tuesday morning, we almost always share in some scrumptious bagels, donuts, or other treats to nourish your body as well! Currently, the Tuesday group is studying the Acts of the Apostles, and the Wednesday group is studying 2 Corinthians. You can join at any time; you will quickly catch up to what is going on in what we are learning.

Throughout scripture, people began their journey of deepening their faith through this complex invitation - *Come and see!* I look forward to this journey together ... come and see!

WHERE IS YOUR FIRE? (PART 2) (Continued)

Christian Formation classes on a regular basis, if at all. Parents are quick to remind me HOW BUSY the lives of their teens are these days, BUT they want to have an active youth group ready for them when convenient to their busy schedule! Many adults tell me of how they really do not understand the Bible, yet when I ask if they can make time to attend one of our Bible study groups at St. Thomas's, or if I could help them to start a study discipline or group on their own, I am met with a resounding ... SILENCE. As another Fellowship truthfully knows, “If you keep doing what you are doing, you will keep getting what you got in the past, again and again and again ...”

Growing in our Christian life and faith, as sealed by our Baptism, is a lifelong journey of learning, growing, and serving God individually and communally. It is **up close and personal ... it is a family affair ... it is our community in action!** Together, through faith and gathering and listening and learning, WE become the Body of Christ, the Church, to a world that is desperate to SEE the Good News of God alive in our world. If you think you can simply be a good Christian staying home every Sunday, I suggest you try looking at that old car in your garage, and HOPING it becomes the Mercedes S Class you would like to have. Let me know how that works out for you, okay?

I invite you to commit you and your family to be present and active in YOUR community of faith at St. Thomas's for the upcoming year! How about it? Are you willing and able to commit yourself, your soul and body to God for AT LEAST one year? Would you be disappointed in God when, in your deepest time of need, God answered, “You know, I am taking this year off from saving people. You are on your own. Good luck!”

How about it? What do you think? **Where Is Your Fire?**

In peace always, your servant in Christ,

Paul+



“I know why King Solomon was so rich — All those wives of his had jobs!”

Adult Education

This year the theme for adult education is "God, Politics and the Global Society"

Meet with us in the parlor at 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM for a lively discuss on how God plays a part in our society today.

September 11, 18, 25 and October 2nd - The History of Christianity
We will continue with Larry Duggan's discussion about the history of Christianity. To know the why and what of today, we need to know where we come from in the past.

October 9, 16, 23, and 30th - God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It.

Come discuss how separation of church and state does not require banishing moral and religious values from the village square.

January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19 and 26th - God and Globalization
Come discuss how we can be part of the global society even in our small corner of Delaware.

For questions please email Ronnie Wilbur at veronica.f.wilbur@wilmu.edu or Jim Hiebert at hiebert@UDel.Edu

Forward-in-Faith Update

A broad committee of parishioners called "Forward-in-Faith" is gathering information and ideas about whether the grove fits into the parish's future. In 2007 the diocese bought The Grove so that St. Thomas would not miss the opportunity of this adjacent land for parish use while we were undergoing the processes of calling and adjusting to a new priest. The diocese now wants us to determine whether the grove fits our parish mission and, if so, how to assume ownership of it. There has been no final decision if our parish will acquire or abandon the grove.



The committee is seeking the perspective of internal and external parties who have a stake in the grove, and would like ideas, suggestions, opinions, and perspectives from any parishioner. Watch for a parish survey in September and please complete it promptly and thoughtfully.

We expect to decide whether the grove has a place in our future by the end of this year.

Please keep Forward in Faith in your prayers this autumn and if you have a passion about the future of The Grove, consider joining the Forward in Faith committee.

BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Theresa Adams
September 1	Mary Sonnenberg
September 2	Pam Bailey
September 3	Roby Roberson
September 6, 1994	Sarah Doggett
September 7, 2000	Shannon Murray
September 8	Teri Quinn Gray
September 11	Ed Twardus
September 14	Sue Houghton
September 14	Sally Price
September 15, 2006	Zachary McGough
September 17	Rob Seward
September 20	Brenda Tunis
September 20	Dom Berta
September 21	Myrt Davies
September 21	Jack Boeggeman
September 21	Brook Kortvelesy
September 27	Jackie Fossler
September 28	Connie Lee Prettyman

ANNIVERSARIES

September 5, 1992	Brian and Denise Smith
September 11, 1965	Roby and Linda Roberson
September 27, 1997	Bill and Dorri Holstein
September 30, 1961	Bob and Carolyn Browning

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Sunday School






Regular Sunday School will begin again on September 11 for children 18 months to 6th grade. Sunday School normally runs from 9:30 to 11:10. Registration for Sunday School will begin at 9:15 in the Great Hall on September 11. We will be using Godly Play for children 18 months to 3rd grade and Living the Good News for children in grades 4 to 6. In each of the classrooms, we will follow a worship schedule that mimics the liturgy of the Episcopal Church: greeting and opening prayer, liturgy of the word, response in the form of art and prayer, then feast and fellowship. The older children will also participate in activities which will give them a deeper understanding of our Episcopal faith and traditions. This year our children's worship team leaders (Sunday School teachers) will include Mariah Payne, Donna Weaver, Brandi McGough, Belinda Young-Payne, John Werner, Joan Bennett, Debbie Grabowski, Giorgio Melloni and Annette Rickolt.

This year we will continue to have Family Church Sundays on the last Sunday of the month. On these days, instead of Sunday school class, all children will attend the 10:30 service with their parents, several children and youth will have integral roles in the service such as readers, ushers and communion assistants. Father Paul will be giving Grab Bag sermons on a few of these Sundays. On October 30, the children will be giving a presentation about UNICEF and collecting money as part of the Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign.

More Teachers Needed

Our goal is to have four classrooms this year. In order to do this in the best way that we can, we need at least one more teacher. Teaching involves an average commitment of two Sundays a month and an hour or two of preparation the week you are the lead teacher. We teach in teams of two so you would be lead teacher an average once a month. If you are more comfortable being the helper teacher each time, that is fine too. This ministry is an act of both giving and receiving. The children teach and inspire us as much as we do them. Training for Godly Play and training for Living the Good News for anyone who needs it will be held in early September and as needed. If you feel called to be a part of children's ministry in any way, please speak to Belinda Young-Payne or Kelly Tompkins as soon as possible.

Other Ways to Support Children's Ministries:

-  Volunteer to supervise the children in library from 9:15 to 9:30 so that the teachers can pray together and prepare for worship with the children.
-  Donate food (e.g., goldfish crackers, popcorn, animal crackers, cheese crackers, pretzels, light colored juices and water) or money to purchase supplies for the weekly feast (the children's version of the Eucharist).
-  Volunteer to help once or twice in the classroom.
-  Give us any photographs of our children or youth engaging in any activities at St Thomas over the past year or so for our Children and Youth Ministries bulletin board in the Great Hall.
-  Renew your Christmas spirit by volunteering to coordinate our annual Christmas pageant.

REGULAR GATHERINGS

Children's Choirs

The Children's Choirs will restart practices on September 6th. The Lights Choir is for 3 year olds to 2nd graders. The Step By Step Choir is for 2nd - 5th graders. The practices are on Tuesday evenings. The choirs sing monthly during church.

If you are musically inclined and love kids, please consider the wonderful opportunity to share with our children by leading the Step-By-Step Choir this year. Contact Fr. Paul or Linda Roberson if you have an interest.

Novel Theology

Novel Theology will meet at 9:15 AM, Sept. 11 in the classrooms. We will be discussing "World Without End" by Ken Follett.

Welcome back, All! Come join us!

Questions? Call Bettie von Frankenberg or Jeanne Licht.

	TITLE	Author
Sept. 1	WORLD WITHOUT END	Ken Follett
Oct. 9	OLIVE KITTERIDGE	Elizabeth Strout
Nov. 13	ISLAND BENEATH THE SEA	Isabel Allende
Dec. 11	THE SOUND OF SLEIGHBELLS	Cindy Woodsmall

The Carpenter's Helper

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

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Confirmation

The sacramental rite of Confirmation reaffirms our baptismal vows and involves a significant decision to live faithfully in prayer, study, and participation in the Christian life. Our Youth Confirmation program this year is for youth who will be in 7th or 8th grade (no exceptions). Classes will be held in the Aiden House (next to the pre-school building) on Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10:15 AM from September 2011 to May 2012.

An orientation meeting for the potential Confirmands and parents will be held in the Great Hall on Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 AM. Contact Bob Rys at (302) 463-0538/ brys@printpack.com or Teri Quinn Gray at (302) 226-6069/ tquinngrey@verizon.net for more information."

Sunday Teens Breakfasts

The Sunday Teen Fellowship Breakfast will be held once a month at the IHOP in downtown Newark. All post-confirmation teens are welcome. The intent of the breakfast is to build fellowship among the St. Thomas teens, and to encourage them to continue in the path of Jesus after they complete their confirmation. The following is the current schedule for this school year:

9/11/2011	1/8/2012
10/9/2011	2/12/2012
11/13/2011	3/11/2012
12/11/2011	4/15/2012
	5/13/2012

PRAYERS, NEEDS AND THANKS

ECM Dinners

With classes beginning again at UD, Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM) is gearing up for a new year. One of the highlights of last year was the home-cooked meals that members of the parish provided at our weekly meetings on Wed at 5:30. We need more volunteers for this semester. If you are interested in whipping up some home-cooked food for our college students (and getting to know them over a meal) please contact David Coker to learn more (738-2008 or dcoker@udel.edu).

Thanks for all your support of ECM. David

Sunday Prayer List Request

Every Sunday, St Thomas prays for many who have on-going needs. Pastoral Care is asking your help to keep our Sunday Prayer List up-to-date. If you know of someone who is not currently on the list but needs to be, please contact the office. When you think the person can be removed from the prayer list, please call the office and let Cami know that person can come off the "permanent" list. If you have placed someone on the prayer in the past and think it is time to take them off, please contact the office.

We also have several military personnel on the Sunday Pray List. If you know that they are no longer serving in a war zone, please call the office and let us know if it is appropriate to remove their names from the "permanent" list.

As always, anytime you know of a need, please let the office (Cami and/or Fr Paul), Teresa Coons (Pastoral Care) or Estelle Smith (Prayer request coordinator) know so the Prayer Group and add your requests to our daily prayers.

PARISH REGISTER

Memorial Service

Jane Shanklin Warter
Born: August 8, 1932
Died: August 5, 2011
Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving
Saturday, August 13, 2011

Marriage

Michael Nicholas Mount and Manada Leigh Brant
Married by The Rev. Paul Gennett, Jr.
July 23, 2011

Baptisms

Ally Marie Berkowitz
Daughter of Allan and Cynthia Berkowitz
Born: June 14, 2010
Baptized: August 7, 2011

Cameron John Mathias
Son of Matthew and Nicole Mathias
Grandson of Duncan and Velda Pike
Born: April 29, 2008
Baptized: August 7, 2011

Owen Nathaniel Mathias
Son of Matthew and Nicole Mathias
Grandson of Duncan and Velda Pike
Born: June 3, 2006
Baptized: August 7, 2011

Sophia Lee Schubert
Daughter of Paul and Tracy (Tunis) Schubert
Born: January 18, 2011
Baptized: August 7, 2011

It's that time of year again!

St. Thomas "FUNraising"

is here for the fall.
Mark your calendars!
Remember:

These events are open to EVERYONE so ask your friends, family & co-workers!



What - Hayride at Milburn's Orchards
Where - 1495 Appleton Road
Elkton, MD 21921
When - Saturday October 29th
Arrival - 5:30pm
Departure - 8pm
(hot dogs & veggie dogs, water, cider, chips & s'mores provided)
Cost - \$10 per person (except under 1yr - free)
Payment required at signup
Checks made out to St. Thomas Parish (funraising in memo line)

St. Thomas Hayride Form - Due No Later Than September 15th!

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ (required) Email: _____ (required)

of adults: _____ # of children: _____

Please circle: Hot dogs Payment: Check _____ #

Veggie dogs Cash

(Give to Cecily Harmon-Sawyer or her mailbox, Debbie Supplee or Oneta Applewaite)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!



What - NYC Bus Trip
When: Saturday **December 10, 2011 (Note the New Date)**
Time: TBA (all day)
Cost: TBA



Leave from St. Thomas in AM to drop point in NYC
Return NYC to St. Thomas Parking lot in evening
A la Carte Style again this year

Take the bus and enjoy a day in NYC visiting sites, shopping or catching a show
St. Thomas will be purchasing group tickets for "The Lion King" on Broadway 2pm show (price TBA) and/
or tickets to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall
(Please email debsupplee@yahoo.com ASAP if you are interested in attending. Send # of people going & what shows if any you would like to see. (shows are approximately \$80-\$90 per person group rate)