

The Steeple Bell

Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, March, 2012



From the Vicar . . .

Dear Family of God at St. Thomas,

There's a song that our children at St. Thomas often play the bells to on Sunday morning's during worship. It's called "**Let there be peace on earth . . .**" But an often overlooked phrase in this song that comes after the title above, is, "**but let it begin with me!**" In other words, there will never be peace on earth unless it first begins with you and me desiring peace and then being willing to change and be a model of peace for others. **The old maxim comes into play here, too; that you can't change other people but you can only change yourself. So, begin there!**

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Lenten season here in the church. I don't know about you but I'm not ready. I'm never ready but I'm so glad that this penitential church season comes along each year to pitch me into the reality of remembering "**that you are dust, and to dust you shall return!**" It is life changing, or needs to be each year, when we are reminded of our mortality as we receive the sooty ashes on our heads. The truth, the reality we all have to embrace during Lent is this; **you and I will not live for ever!**

There are things we ought to have done in our lives and many things left undone. Ash Wednesday and Lent remind us that you and I need to stop putting off things and get them done; forgive that person or family member, end that feud, say you are sorry, make amends, decide to be a different person and really go in a whole new direction. **Just imagine the world and how it would be a totally different place if we were all to go in this whole new God direction.**

The truth is heartbreaking! Family life for many is in shambles. Many individuals go about living the conviction that he or she is entitled to do exactly as he or she pleases. Addiction to alcohol, drugs, prescription drugs, gadgets, video games is rampant. All are suffering in this world because of many people's lack of a moral compass in life. **I have to add that a huge addiction in the nation of America is what I call "Me-ism." In other words it's all about me!**

Sadly, the Church is in a similar mess to our society and the world because, **we who call ourselves human beings are often human "doings" who are willful and rebellious.** What if you and I were to remember that in Holy Scripture that God says that willfulness and rebelliousness are as the sin of witchcraft? Why? Because, when you and I think we are the most important person in the world and can do exactly what we want, we elevate ourselves above God. **Remember, Satan was thrown from heaven for presuming to put himself in the place of God!**

Our planet needs to embrace the truth that every person has sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God! I pray that here at St. Thomas all will, therefore, take Lent seriously and do the work that desperately needs to be done in our hearts and lives. "**Let there be peace on earth but let it begin with me!**"

In His love,
Rev. Shirley +

The Steeple Bell

A Monthly Publication
of
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
2441 Nichols Drive
Trenton, MI 48183-2486
734-676-3122
Web Site:
stthomastrenton.org
E-mail: stthomas2007@att.net

The head of the Church, Jesus Christ!

The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.,
Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan
& Rector of St. Thomas Church

The Rev. Shirley McWhorter
Vicar

Colleen Lough
Candidate for Holy Orders

Ramona Moyski
Secretary

Barbara Conroy
Music Director

Gerald Eory
Custodian

Bishop=s Committee

<u>Term expires 2013</u>	<u>Term expires 2014</u>
Stephen Chapman (Warden)	Jim Hussey
James Kerns (Warden)	Janice Gorham
John Hall	
Pamela Pearce	
Nancy Sutherland	

Term expires 2015
Nan Morrish (Secretary)
Sam Messineo

Treasurer: Rob Sherry

Worship Services:

Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00am Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, 10:30am Holy Eucharist (Sept-May)
and Seasonally as Announced

Christian Education

Children & Youth 10:00am Sundays
Adults-Wed 11:00am (Sept-May) and
Seasonally as Announced

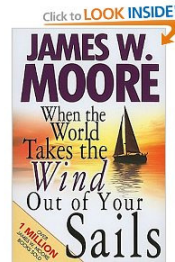
Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm



Easter Flowers

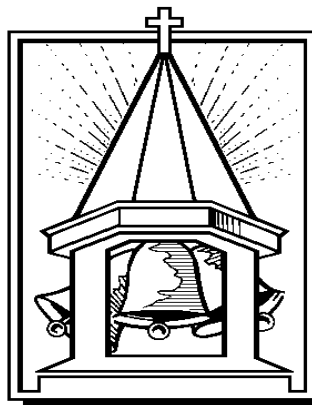
Just a reminder that, in observance of the penitential season of Lent, we will not be ordering altar flowers this month. If you had planned to request flowers during this time period, please consider contributing toward the Easter flowers instead. The Altar Guild members invite you to help beautify and brighten the church for Easter! To express gratitude for all your blessings or as a memorial to a loved one. Please contribute, in any amount, by using the envelopes which will be in the pews later this month or by calling the church office. Please have name requests in by noon by Friday March 23rd.



Lenten Program and Services

Beginning Tuesday, February 28th for six(6) consecutive Tuesday's there will be stations of the cross at 6:15pm followed by soup and bread and our book study ("When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails" by James W. Moore).at approx 7:15pm. Program ends at 8:15pm

STEEPLE BELL NEWSLETTER



Starting in March we will not be able to mail out the Steeple Bell to friends and family of members that are not currently active in St. Thomas Parish due to the increasing cost of stamps and supplies. We do have the Steeple Bell posted on our web site each month at stthomastrenton.org, or you can email the church at stthomas2007@att.net and request a copy be sent by email. Thanks for helping us to be good stewards of the treasure of St. Thomas



Bring your beads!

On March 31st from 9:00am to 1:00 pm Saint Thomas will host a Lenten quiet day of prayer. Workshops will be offered on contemplative prayer, praying in color, making Anglican prayer beads and bracelets, or feel free to walk the Labyrinth in prayer. There is no cost associated with this workshop. However if you could look through your jewelry box, perhaps you have some beads you don't wear or are broken that could be donated to this project. Beads may be left in the main office with Ramona. Please sign up if you plan on participating so we know how many to plan for. The signup sheet is located in the church vestibule. If you have any questions please contact Colleen at colleenlough@gmail.com.

Adult Education- Sue Anne Messineo
Outreach- Nan Morrish
Finance- Rob Sherry
Children & Youth- John Hall
Marketing & Social Fellowship- Pam Pearce
Communications- Jim Kerns
8 & 10am Members- Nancy Sutherland
Evangelism- Everyone on BC
Pastoral Care- Sue Anne Messineo

Action Taken

Payment for replacement of the main gas valve on the boiler was ratified. Payment was approved for weed and feed applications for the summer. The amount of \$75 was authorized to be paid toward the cost of a new microphone for the Vicar's use; the balance will be paid by the McWhorter's.

Other Business

Several Building and Grounds projects have been completed as shown in the thank you section.

New membership directories have been published, and most of the new name tags have been made. Members are encouraged to wear them.

There will be a potluck on Sunday, March 25th, in honor of the Bishop's visit. As the Bishop is lactose intolerant, it was suggested that dishes be labeled as "Bishop friendly" or not.

Bishop's Committee Summary

At the Bishop's Committee on February 12, 2012, the treasurer reported that income (not including the \$20,000 gift) was \$15,341.51 and expenses were \$11,643.00 putting us \$3,698.51 in the black for the month. So far pledges have been coming in ahead of schedule.

People to be Thanked

1. Bob Walz for helping with the recent boiler problems (again).
2. Steve Chapman, John Hall, Scott and Kimberly Abernathy, Scott's partner, Frank, Mark Swanson, Rob Sherry and Jim Kerns for moving the piano into the main church.
3. The Abernathy's for taking over the Scrip program.
4. Lowell for removing and reinstalling the lyre on the piano.
5. Steve Chapman for removing the slate and tiles in front of the main church door.
6. Steve Chapman, Gary McWhorter and Ron Puchalski for removing the dead trees at the side of the church.
7. Scott Abernathy for removing the motor from the vent fan over the stove.

Bishop's Committee Liaison Assignments for 2012

Stewardship- Jim Kerns
Worship- Sue Anne Messineo
Building & Grounds- Steve Chapman



Scrip Update

I am delighted to announce that the Abernathy's have volunteered to take over our scrip program. Kimberly will be taking your orders and delivering them from now on. Please continue to "think scrip" and support this fund raising program.

Nan Morrish

Outreach Committee

Treat bags for the Veterans Hospital. The Outreach Team is sponsoring a new project this spring. Beginning in March we will be collecting items such as:

Grooming products- tooth paste, tooth brushes, combs, disposable razors, shave cream or gel and lotion, manicure set, Kleenex.

Entertainment- playing cards, books, magazines, puzzle books, pens, pencils, colored pencils.

Snacks-candy, gum, chips, crackers.

Misc-socks, T-shirts, writing paper, stamps.

for the residents of the John D. Dingell Veterans Hospital in Detroit. Look for collection boxes at the back of the church and chapel. We will create Treat Bags for the Veterans and deliver them later this spring.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

03 Paul Gauthier
06 Haskel Ray
07 Janet Ottenbreit
10 Rebecca Sherry
12 Elaine McHenry
12 Shirley McWhorter
12 Kimberly Abernathy
14 Ralph Freeman
16 Stephanie Tessin
17 Barbara Elgin
21 Harold Felty
23 James Holden
27 Roselynn Moore
28 Judith Dabanian
28 Tim Jenzen
28 Natalia Zahodne



Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be at St Thomas Episcopal Church on Friday April 20, 2012 at 8:30am to 5:00pm offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and live longer for yourself, your family, and your community, call to register at 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

For only \$139 you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease. There is no time like the present to take action!

Identifying Your Risk = Disease Prevention

St Thomas Episcopal Church will host a preventive health Screening event on Friday, April 20, 2012 for residents in and around your community.

Life Line Screening will perform screenings for:

- 1) carotid artery blockage (stroke)
- 2) atrial fibrillation
- 3) abdominal aortic aneurysm
- 4) peripheral arterial disease
- 5) osteoporosis (bone loss)

These screenings are recommended for anyone 50 and older, or 40 and over with cardiovascular risk factors. They are non-invasive, painless, and take 60-90 minutes to complete. The results, which are mailed directly to you, will help you and your doctor protect your health. Stroke, Vascular and Heart Rhythm Package for \$139.00 Call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners to schedule your appointment.

The Steeple Bell

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
2441 Nichols Drive at Andover
Trenton Michigan 48183-2486
[734] 676-3122

TO:

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

March



All Wednesdays	10:30am- H.E. followed by Bible study at 11:00am
Tuesdays During Lent	6:15pm- Stations of the Cross, Soup and Study; there is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide soup.
Wednesday 3/21	Steeple Bell Deadline
Sunday 3/25	Bishop Gibbs Visitation Potluck luncheon following The 10am service
Friday 3/30	Making of Palm Cross' open to all 9:30am in the Guild Hall
Saturday 3/31	Quiet pre-Holy Week time Come join Colleen in making prayer bracelets, and walking prayer labyrinth. Sign-up sheet will be in the church vestibule.