

The View From The Pew

St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Thunder Bay, Ontario

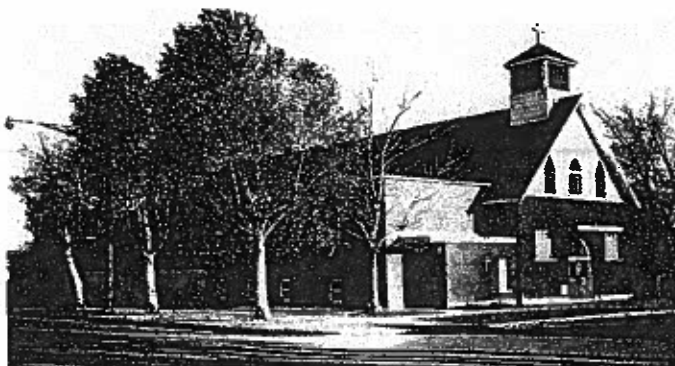
A Note From the Editor's Pew

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)*

We are now half-way through our Lenten journey and hopefully, we have been able to include times of quiet reflection, focussed prayer and Bible study into our busy lives. Perhaps the Lord has even led you to incorporate some type of self-denial throughout this time. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus chided His disciples three times for falling asleep while they were praying. Overcome with soul-wrenching grief, Jesus told His disciples to *"watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the body is weak."* (Matthew 26:36-46). How true that is! I'm not very good in the self-denial department and my journey through Lent tends to leave me feeling like a failure in that regard. But, because I know the Story – the Easter Story, I take comfort in knowing that Jesus understands my weaknesses and forgives me. He won that victory for me on the Cross. May you continue your journey through Lent knowing that God's love is great, His compassions never fail and his mercies are **NEW EVERY MORNING!!**

Blessings,

Carolyn Napierala



April



The View In Front Of The Pew

Archdeacon Andrew Hoskin

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are ... Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when He is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. And all who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure." 1 John 3:1-3

Dear Friends,

'Surprise, surprise, God is a surprise!'

Our God is a God of surprises and He is on the move - which should not surprise us but often does because we too easily think of God as though He were static. He is unchanging, yes, in His character, in His nature, but He is always active, sustaining creation and moving His plans forward. (In fact His activity is part of His nature; He is after all the Creator.)

God has called us to participate in forwarding His plans - in fact we are a part of His plan.

It is very important then for us as St. Thomas' to take the time to hear from the Lord His vision for us. What part of His overall plan are we called to play? Gaining this focus is an essential task for us at this juncture in our history. We heard this message from Dr. Jay Koyle our Congregational Development Officer on February 21st and again at our Visioning Renewal Event on March 26th. Check out the reports on these in the March *View from the Pew* and in this issue and plan to join your fellow parishioners for the next step on Thursday, April 14 at 7:00. This process is vital for the present and future life of this parish.

As we seek to follow the Holy Spirit's lead in all of this we can see that God is on the move through this process, blessing us and giving us hope.

On a related theme, the scripture above reminds us that we are God's children and we must trust our Father who loves us so much. Our having become His children is of course part of His plan and this relationship brings us hope for the present as well as the future.

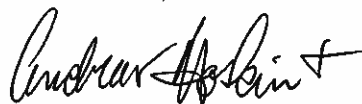
Our Lenten Bible Study is based on a book called 'Surprised by Hope' by Bishop N.T. Wright. This study explores our present and future hope and our charge to be people of hope. Parts of it dovetail nicely with our visioning process.

We have this hope to bring to the world which includes us being like Him by allowing the Holy Spirit to work His transforming power in us.

As Lent continues let us persevere in our Lenten discipline whatever it is in order that we will draw nearer to Jesus and be more deeply rooted in Him.

We will then enjoy a fantastic Easter!

Yours in Christ,



Andrew Hoskin+
Rector



Mission Matters

Submitted by Barb Hogarth

Cree pastor shares his dream---God's River, Manitoba

Sport fishermen from around the world come to God's River for the challenges of landing the meter-long Lake Trout and Pike, but the people who live in this region of Northern Canada year-round face more serious challenges, as most Canadians know.

Cree pastor Marcel Okemow, who has travelled to 40 communities in Northern Manitoba and Ontario as a pastor-evangelist, teaching and encouraging others, says only faith and hope in Jesus Christ can provide the ultimate breakthrough for Canada's First nations. "People need God to miraculously touch them," he told Life Link by phone from his home in God's River, 585 km north of Winnipeg. "If we don't have a vision, we can get sidetracked. We must stay the course to overcome the challenges. We must run the race..." "I live by the mandate 'Go' - just go. Go and teach. Go and disciple. I have a passion to help the communities where people are less privileged." Pastor Okemow grew up at God's River and accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour in 1982. For the 1980s revival at God's River, he credits local elders who called upon the name of the Lord to save their community. Okemow himself went on to serve as Chief of the God's River First Nation from 1986 to 1991. Five years ago, he had a vivid dream.

"The Lord told me there was going to be a little airplane. 'Marcel,' He said, 'There's a plane...and it will take you to the surrounding communities.' Hallelujah! This dream is coming alive now."

Last year, a two-hour flight with a Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) pilot took Pastor Okemow across the Manitoba border to connect with a congregation at Big Trout Lake, Ontario. Although God's River is situated at the 55th parallel and Big Trout Lake near the 54th parallel, no roads connect these places. Normally when

he makes this trip, it takes two days each way, the first day flying to Winnipeg, then driving to Sioux Lookout. The next day taking another commercial flight to Big Trout Lake.

Over the years Pastor Okemow and his wife have helped many churches start up, but he wants to keep going and do more. "Fifteen years ago, some communities I visited didn't want Christians, but now they're so happy they have a church. Walls are breaking down!" he exclaims.

The pastor says his favourite song comes from the Cree Hymn Book. It contains this message: "Come to the Saviour. Why? He waits to show you the way."

"...and your old men will dream dreams." (Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17)

(From MAF Life Link magazine)

We Gave Up

By William Faulconer

We gave up anger
And found contentment,

We gave up suspicion
And found trust,

We gave up grandiosity
And strived for humility,

We gave up lying
And told the truth,

We gave up misery
And enjoyed happiness,

We gave up hatred
And discovered love,

We gave up fear
And replaced it with faith,

We gave up our obsessions
And returned to life,

We gave up.....

To God.



Messages From The Pulpit

A brief summary, submitted by Carolyn Napierala

Listen Daily to the Voice of Jesus

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011: Archdeacon Andy Hoskin – Matthew 17:1-9 tells us that Jesus took Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain. There the disciples witnessed the Glory of God revealed in the Transfiguration of Jesus and heard God's voice speaking to them from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" Listen to Jesus. Let our 'watchword' throughout Lent be a resolution and commitment to take time daily to listen to the voice of Jesus – in prayer, in scripture, in reading devotional books, in worship, or when sharing with other Christians. Listen for the voice of Jesus in the world around us. "Listen to Him!" These words of God are emphatic words – not just hear but "listen", do what He says, believe what he says. These are words of action. Respond in loving obedience to Jesus and you will benefit and so will those around you. Listen to what God is saying to you personally, 'you are my son, you are my daughter, with you I am well pleased.' Listen and respond to what He says.

Forgiveness

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011: Pastor Doug McClure The heart of the Gospel is that Jesus died for the forgiveness of sins. However, Jesus said, "if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:15) Martin Lloyd-Jones wrote, "It is idle for us to say that we know God has forgiven us if we are not loving and forgiving, ourselves." Our attitude toward others is a litmus test of our acceptance of God's forgiveness. As part of our Lenten self-examination we might ask ourselves. "Do I forgive easily, as one who has been forgiven much? Or, do I hold grudges? C.S. Lewis wrote, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." Unforgiveness toward some is sin causing spiritual death and separation from God. (Romans 6:23) We must pray for God to give us power to truly forgive others and heal relationships, to be merciful to others as God has been merciful to us.

How do we get to heaven?

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011: Archdeacon Andy Hoskin – What do we think when we think of heaven? Where our loved ones are now and where we are going to go when we die? As

Christians we look for the resurrection. A new heaven and a new creation is the picture the Bible paints – a new order of life, life unending. How do we get there? It is by faith in Jesus Christ that we will enter into that resurrection. Faith is not just intellectual assent, it is trust and relationship with Jesus Christ. When sin entered the world, so did death. When the time was right Jesus Christ came to set things back on the right track. By his death on the Cross, He broke the power of sin, death and evil and made it possible for us to live in relationship with Him. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ we receive eternal life – we are being changed, transformed into his friends. The Lord is calling us to come to Him. Jesus is wanting us to know how much God loves us, then we can become the people God wants us to be, sons and daughters of God. The Spirit stirs our hearts to recognize our need for Jesus and our need for forgiveness. The Spirit renews and strengthens us to know Jesus more and trust Him more. Jesus stands at the door of our heart and is waiting for us to let him in. Open your heart to Him.

Living Water

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011: Archdeacon Andy Hoskin - In Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well, He speaks of Living Water (John 4:5-42). Water is valuable and very vital for life and a real metaphor for life. In His encounter with the woman at the well, Jesus is not talking about physical water but about the Living Water that He has come to give. Jesus tells her that the water that He gives "will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14) When Jesus talks about Living water He is really speaking about the Holy Spirit. He comes to pour the love of God into our hearts and to fill us with His love so that we can share with others that Living Water. The Living Water that Jesus gives us is to be shared, starting with the people closest to us. It is not given just as a blessing for us, but is to flow through us as a blessing to others.

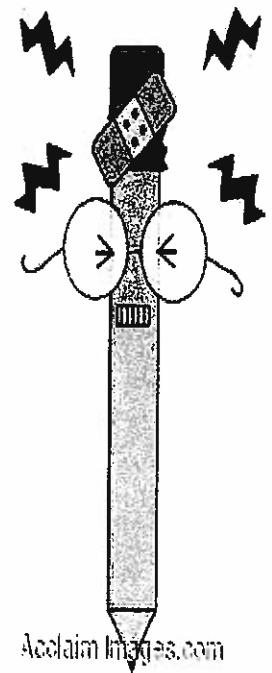
"POWER QUOTE" - by Cal Pierce

"Jesus died that you could live; now you must die that He can live."

Medical Terms ?

Submitted by Lynda Viau

Artery:	The study of paintings
Bacteria:	Back door to the cafeteria
Barium:	What you do when CPR fails
Benign:	What you will be after you be eight
Bowel:	A letter like a,e,i,o,u and sometimes y
Caesarean Section:	A neighbourhood near Rome
Cat Scan:	Searching for Kitty
Cat Scan:	What dogs do when they enter your yard
Cauterize:	Made eye contact with the nurse
Colic:	A sheep dog
Coma:	A punctuation mark
Congenital:	Friendly
D&C:	Where Washington is located
Dilate:	To live long
Enema:	Not a friend
GI Series:	Baseball between teams of soldiers
Grippe:	A suitcase
Hangnail:	A coat hook
Impotent:	Distinguished, well known
Labour Pain:	Getting hurt at work
Medical Staff:	A doctor's cane
Morbid:	A higher offer
Nitrate:	Cheaper than the day rate
Node:	Was aware of
Outpatient:	A person who has fainted
Pelvis:	Cousin to Elvis
Post-operative:	A letter carrier
Protein:	In favour of young people
Recovery Room:	Where you have your upholstery done
Rheumatic Fever:	Amorous feeling
Secretion:	Hiding anything
Seizure:	A Roman emperor
Tablet:	A small table
Terminal illness:	Sick at the airport
Tibia:	North African country
Tumor:	An extra pair
Urine:	Opposite of you're out
Varicose Veins:	Veins which are very close together



Open Letter from Sharon & Allan Gilbert

G'day to all our friends at St. Thomas':

Allan and I have enjoyed discovering many of Australia's interesting places and World Heritage sites: the Great Barrier Reef; the Winton outback where "Waltzing Matilda" was written; the heaths and mountains of Tasmania's Southwest National Park; and birds, lots of birds for Allan in Queensland's rainforests. Sometimes while out exploring the bush we felt like pinching ourselves to believe it was real, as we marvelled at the kangaroos and wallabies hopping around. Happily only Allan has seen venomous snakes. We have seen many other mammals, including pademelons, bandicoots, possums, koalas, platypus, and Tasmanian Devils. We watched the devils feed on road kill at a wilderness resort in north-western Tasmania. The joke is that Tasmania is the perfect place for a murder because at night the devils will find and devour the body, including the bones.

Since mid-November we have been based in Penrith close to my friend, Grace. Penrith is an hour train ride from downtown Sydney. We have enjoyed our daily routine here. Allan has completed writing up most of his research papers and he enjoys going birding in the nearby Blue Mountains for a break. I have been making a 40th wedding anniversary quilt (next July 17!) in a quilting group here and I really enjoy swimming in Penrith's outdoor pool. At the beginning of May we will travel by train to Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, and Darwin so Allan can see more birds before we return home in June. So far Allan has seen over 430 species of birds, the latest being the Yellow-nosed Albatross seen yesterday on a rather rough pelagic birding trip out of Wollongong. The small fishing boat was called the "Sandra K.", but judging by his green complexion on his return, the "Vomit Comet" might be a more apt name.

We are thankful that we have not been caught in any of the flash-flooding that happens in a La Niña year. The higher temperature of the ocean offshore creates weather conditions that are responsible for the cyclones in Queensland, and

flash flooding in Queensland, in New South Wales, in Victoria and in the Northern Territory. The State Emergency Services personnel have been busy since December and some of them are still busy. So many Australians have been affected this year by unusual weather.

We have enjoyed attending two Anglican churches in Penrith which is in the Sydney Diocese. St. Stephen's was across from our first apartment and St. Phillip's is down the street from where we live now. Both churches have services at 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and a 6:00 p.m. service for college and university students. Both offer Bible Studies, have groups for all ages, active Sunday schools and support many missionaries. St. Stephen's offers Anglicare ministries to immigrants and I have enjoyed volunteering in the English as a Second Language program on Friday mornings.

The churches here are much more involved in public life than in Canada. The Sydney Diocese has always offered high fee schools but within the last 10 years it has decided to offer lower fee schools to parents who want their children educated in a Christian environment. The Diocese has created the Anglican School Corporation and its task is to determine where schools are needed and to help those schools organize themselves. The Diocese purchases the property and builds the school. The NSW government gives the school an allowance per student, but parents pay for school uniforms and a school fee. The Diocese has built 40 schools in Sydney and in the outlying areas. One very large combined primary and secondary school in Penrith has a staff of about 200. Christian teachers are preferred although, by law, those who hire staff can only ask if the candidate is anti-Christian. Parents must agree that their children will participate in the compulsory Divinity studies and Chapel up to year 11, even though eighty percent of parents indicate that they are not Christian. In the Penrith school, a church has also been established to provide a link to these people, and it currently has 80 members.

Continued...

Sharon and Allan Gilbert

...Letter Cont'd

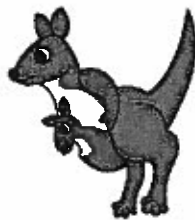
The Sydney Diocese is actively involved in setting up retirement villages, such as the Lutherans and Roman Catholics do in Thunder Bay. All Australian dioceses have their own relief funds and Sydney Diocese has helped out in flooded communities. The Anglican church in New South Wales still has a strong influence on government policy, and so, for example, New South Wales is the only state where homosexual marriages are not recognized.

Anglicare is a national organization that provides resources and leaders to all communities. It offers English as a Second Language training courses, classes for immigrants, provides marriage and family counselling services and runs op shops to raise money to continue its programs. In port cities it also runs Mission to Seamen.

It was interesting to observe on TV, a prayer being said by the Speaker of the House of the Australian Parliament and the Lord's Prayer being recited by members at the beginning of question period. Otherwise question period seems as raucous as our Canadian Parliament.

It certainly has been an interesting seven months. Hope you are all well.

Sharon Gilbert



+ + +

EASTER BREAD

2 Packages (1/4 Ounce each) active dry yeast
1/2 cup warm water
4 eggs
6 egg yolks
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup butter or margarine (melted)
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon lemon juice

cont'd... ➡

2 tablespoons grated lemon peel
A few threads of saffron (for color)
2 cups warm milk
9 3/4 - 10 1/4 cups all purpose flour
1 cup golden raisins

In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in water, set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs and yolks until lemon coloured, gradually adding the sugar. Add butter, salt, vanilla, lemon juice and peel and saffron, and beat well. Blend in milk and yeast mixture. Add 6 cups flour, beat until smooth. By hand, stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a lightly floured surface, knead until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes. Sprinkle with raisins, knead for 5 minutes more. Place in a greased large bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface, divide into thirds. Cover and let rise for 10 minutes. Shape each piece of dough into a loaf shape and place in greased loaf pans. (I divide my dough into fourths or fifths and make small round breads instead) [I also take some dough, roll into a rope and use this to make crosses on all of my breads]. Cover and again let rise in a warm place until almost doubled, about 30 minutes. Brush with some beaten egg white and bake in a 325 degree oven for 45 minutes or until golden brown on top. Remove from pans and cool on wire racks.

NOTE:

I make the smaller round loaves so that I can share this bread with neighbours, friends and relatives (an Easter tradition). This is a little bit of work, but I find it very yummy and so worth it! Also makes awesome toast.

Enjoy !!!!!

Peggy Garriock



Planning and Visioning Meeting

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Moving Forward!

A brief summary, submitted by Carolyn Napierala

The meeting was well attended by 16 people and guided by Archdeacon Andy Hoskin and Rev. Doug McClure. We began the meeting by breaking into groups and discussing the question, "Describe a time you felt 'plugged-in' to the life of the congregation." After a time of sharing we realized that at the times we felt most plugged-in was when we were contributing in some way to the life of the Parish. What we seek to do as a church is all rooted and founded on God's Word. We need to foster a sense of communal belonging that celebrates and enacts the 'God-Story'. We are on a mission to bring the lost of the world into the life of the church, taking our focus off of the maintenance of buildings, how many people are in the pews, beyond our own fulfillment, and focus on our part in fulfilling God's larger purpose. Our members need encouragement and recognition!

Questions: How do the things we are doing play together to fulfill God's purpose? What is our role in the Westfort Community? What is our mission? We need to support one main vision and not be fragmented following after 5 or 6 different missions – that is what's burning people out. Looking at our resources, we don't have the people for 5 or 6 visions. "Rooted In Jesus"

To solidify our vision requires a combination of prayer, Bible study, meeting and discussion. Vision brings focus to our: Identity – Purpose – Action.

We then broke into groups for the study of Scriptures referring to the Disciple Thomas.

John 11:7-16

John 14:1-6

John 20:24-31

SCRIPTURE IMAGES: St. Thomas' Church is a type of Lazarus. The Westfort area is waiting to see proof of life at St. Thomas'. Belief is essential – some need proof. Sacrament of healing – a place of healing. Stand-up for faith, teaching disciples of Christ.

The Disciple of Thomas: loyalty – trust – inquisitive – unafraid to ask questions

CD PRODUCED BY WILLOWCREEK MINISTRIES, PRESENTED BY CRAIG GRAESCHEL. **"IT"** is a Spiritual something – feel IT – see IT – almost touch IT – from the people serving you – they have IT – they get IT – "God, can I have IT?" The local church is the hope of the world. 'IT' is that something special of God that when people come in they would sense the Spir-IT of God. Some have IT, some don't, but all have the Spirit. "IT" is the special working of the Holy Spirit, through some very special people. Some have IT – some don't have IT – some had it and lost IT. What is IT? We don't know but it has a lot to do with the Holy Spirit. We can't create IT. It is rare for one person to bring IT, but one person can kill IT. IT can't be taught, but IT can be caught. The BAD NEWS: If you have IT, you can lose IT. The GOOD NEWS: If you don't have IT, you can still get IT.

Looking at Acts 2:42-47 – devoted themselves – everyone – many wonders – all together – everything in common – gave to everyone – saved daily.

MINISTRY OR ORGANIZATION – be laser focused. We have the mistaken impression that more ministries is better BUT fewer but better ministries is better. What can you be the very best at? In order to reach people that no one is reaching you have to do things that no one else is doing. But to do things that no one else is doing we must stop doing the things that everyone else is doing. Which ministries are producing maturing disciples? What can we best do? Cut everything but **five** things:

1. Worship on weekends;
 2. Small group ministries;
 3. Kids ministry under 18;
 4. Student ministry – get them on fire;
 5. Missions
- Do these well – and do everywhere.

1. LASER FOCUS – What are you now doing that you need to stop doing?
2. See opportunities where others see obstacles. You have everything you need to do, everything God is calling you to do. God often guides by what He does not provide. What is God trying to show you through your greatest limitation.
3. Organizations that have IT are ruing because of failing. Failure is not an option, it's a necessity. The first step into seeing God is to step out of the boat – walk on water. Peter was willing to get out of the boat. He stepped out and sank. Shake off your failure, fear, what people have said. You are not what others say of you. You are a child of God and have everything God called you to do. What has God called you to do? What are you afraid to attempt? When are you going to do it?
4. Organizations that have IT are organizations that are led by people who have IT. Ephesians 2:8 -9. "not by works but by grace" – the difference between building God's Kingdom and building his church. When you get it in here (your heart), you tend to get it out there.

Some of us have lost IT. If you don't have IT, what are you going to do to get IT.

Don't eat, don't sleep, until you fall in love again with Jesus.

END of CD



After a time of brainstorming we came up with a list of 36 ASSETS that St. Thomas' has (the following list is just a few of them):

First Nations leader –connection

Handicap access

New signs

Large well functioning kitchen

Youth

Monthly newsletter

Beautiful sanctuary

Location in Westfort – visible

Food Cupboard

What are we passionate about??

Jesus

Holy Spirit

Fellowship

Renewal

Bible

Relationship with the Father

Youth

'IT'

Looking at the 'Needs and Opportunities' around us. Unique needs of surrounding community.

- First Nations Population and its issues (suicide, alcohol, drug abuse, gang activity)
- the need for integration into Thunder Bay and the community
- we need teaching to better understand First Nation culture
- Drug / alcohol culture in Westfort area
- Low and fixed income population
- Loneliness
- Single parent families
- Unemployed
- Salvation



Our Ultimate Goal – To Be LASER FOCUSED

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. "

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH AT 7:00 PM

LOOKING AHEAD

Lenten Evening Communion Service

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Rector's Bible Study 'Surprised by Hope'

Tuesdays at 8:00 pm

Ministries Meeting

Sunday, April 10th at 7:00 pm

Moving Forward! Parish Visioning Renewal

Thursday, April 14th, 7:00 p.m.

Social - Games Night

Sunday, April 17th at 7:00 pm

Joint Anglican / Lutheran Service

St. John's Anglican Church

Tuesday, April 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

April 21st, 10 am & 7:30 pm

Good Friday, April 22nd

Devotions 10 am

Last Hour - 2:00 pm



Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 23rd, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 24th

Holy Communion 8:30 am & 10:30 am

ACW Spring Deanery

At St. Michael's and All Angels

Thursday, April 28th at 10:00 am

Craft Show at St. Thomas'

Saturday, April 30th, 11 am to 3 pm

(proceeds from table rentals go to support the missionaries going to Angola)

Altar Guild

Corporate Communion

Sunday, May 1st at 10:30 am

Alpha



Alpha in a relaxed, friendly setting!

*An opportunity to explore
the meaning of life*

Wednesdays, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

until May 18th, 2011

St. Thomas' Church (Haddon Hall)

It's not too late to come out.

Holy Spirit Retreat

Friday & Saturday, April 15th and 16th

Open to anyone interested in learning about the Holy Spirit and how to be filled with the Spirit's power. No prior Alpha experience necessary.

To Register contact Carolyn at 345-9223 or
At cbnapier@shaw.ca

How can you help?

Donations of homemade soups / stew throughout the 10 weeks is required.

For more info call Janice Koza at 623-2842

Mother's Union

[Meet 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm]

Meeting Tuesday, April 5th, at 7:00 pm

GUEST SPEAKER: 4th year Pharmacy student
speaking on health supplements, what's good
for you and what's not.

Donation for food cupboard item is pasta and sauce.

Collecting this Month to fill 2012 Conference Bags

This month it would be great if you can donate:

*** KLEENEX PACKAGES, ANY KIND ***

Please put them in the Mother's Union box
under the table in the Narthex.

**A BIG thanks to those who are putting
items in the box for us!**

We very much appreciate the support!

**Congratulations to
Garry Barker!**

**Volunteer Recognition
* 5 Years Service *
With Mission to Seafarers**

Angola Team 2011

To assist Steve & Peggy Foster's ministry. If you would like to donate towards the cost of the team, please make your cheques payable to St. Thomas' and write on memo line – "Angola Team 2011"

FINANCIAL NEEDS

- * Travel & accommodation – approx. \$4,000 ea.
- * Teaching Supplies
- * Library cataloguing program

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Meet at 8:00 am every 2nd Saturday
In Haddon Hall for breakfast, Bible study & fellowship
April 16th and April 30th

EVENING GROUP

Meet 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm
Next Meeting: April 12th

Touching Lives in Madagascar

Submitted by Barb Hogarth

Akany Famonjena orphanage is celebrating its 15th Anniversary this year. The Board, staff and children are planning several anniversary events between now and December including a special musical, a huge dinner and opening and concluding celebrations. One of the boys has composed a theme song for the anniversary year. God has worked marvels through this children's ministry. "Many thanks go out to all who have been so very supportive in every way".

Akany Tafita students had an excursion to the seaside on the west side of Madagascar---a time of fun and excitement.

Support sent through Mary Sherwood for these two homes provides the children with a safe house in which to live, healthy food and needed clothing, extra daily multiple vitamins, schooling at every level, loving house parents and a truck to help them. The children experience God through the love and care of all those who contribute to this work.

(excerpted from Mary Sherwood's
February / March newsletter)



Frances Street Home Group

Submitted by Gail Brooks

The past few weeks the Frances Street Home Group have been studying the 'The Angel Network' as presented by Dr. Tim Sheets. This has been a very interesting study describing the work and ministry of angels. The following is a brief definition:

ANGEL – def'n from The Handy Bible Dictionary & Concordance (Merril C. Tenney & Alexander Cruden)

A supernatural or heavenly being a little higher in dignity than man. Angels are created beings (Ps. 148:2-5); spirits (Heb 1:14; do not marry (Luke 20:34-36). Created holy (Gen 1:31; Jude 6), some fell from their state of innocence (2Pet2:4), and of these some are held in chains (2Peter 2:4), while others are free to oppose the work of God. Both Testaments tell much about angels. Good angels worship God and assist, protect, and deliver God's people (Gen 19:11; Ps 91:11). Evil angels oppose God and try to defeat His will and frustrate His plans (Dan 10:12,13; Matt 4:3)

EDITORS NOTE: Unfortunately we don't have space in this Newsletter to look at the many scriptures and teachings covered by this study. However, we will attempt to provide more information in the May Newsletter.

“Learning Christ”

Teach me, my Lord to be sweet and gentle, in all the events of life—

in disappointments,
in the thoughtlessness of others,
in the insincerity of those I trusted,
in the unfaithfulness of those on whom
I relied.

Let me put myself aside
to think of the happiness of others,
to hide my little pains and heartaches,
so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes
across my path.

Let me so use it that it may mellow me not harden
nor embitter me;

that it may make me patient, not irritable,
that it may make me broad in my
forgiveness, not narrow, haughty
and overbearing.

As I go my rounds from one distraction to
another, let me often whisper a word of love to
Thee,

May my life be lived in the supernatural,
full of power for good, and strong in its purpose of
sanctity.



“I’ve Learned”

I’ve learned....that the Lord didn’t do it all in one
day. What makes me think, I can.

I’ve learned....that to ignore the facts does not
change the facts.

I’ve learned....that when you plan to get even
with someone, you are only letting
that person continue to hurt you.

I’ve learned....that love, not time, heals all
wounds.

I’ve learned....that the easiest way for me to grow
as a person is to surround myself
with people smarter than I am.

I’ve learned....that everyone you meet deserves
to be greeted with a smile.

I’ve learned....that there’s nothing sweeter than
sleeping with your babies and
feeling their breath on your cheeks.

I’ve learned....that no one is perfect until you fall
in love with them.

I’ve learned....that life is tough, but I’m tougher.

I’ve learned....that opportunities are never lost;
someone will take the ones you miss.

I’ve learned....that when you harbour bitterness,
happiness will dock elsewhere.

I’ve learned....that I wish I could have told my Dad
that I love him one more time
before he passed away.

I’ve learned....that one should keep his word soft
and tender, because tomorrow he
may have to eat them.

I’ve learned....that a smile is an inexpensive way to
improve your looks.

I’ve learned....that I can’t choose how I feel, but I
can choose what I do about it.

I’ve learned....that when your newly born grand-
child holds your little finger in his
little first, that you’re hooked for life.

I’ve learned....that everyone wants to live on top
of the mountain, but all the
happiness and growth occurs while
your climbing it.

I’ve learned....that it is best to give advice in only
two circumstances; when it is
requested and when it is a life-
threatening situation.

I’ve learned....that the less time I have to work
with, the more things I get done.



Food for Thought

I don't know if you happened to read the Daily Bread Devotional for March 13th, but it started by saying that British auto technicians have found a surprising use for chocolate. Apparently, scientists at the University of Warwick have built a racecar that runs on vegetable oils and chocolate. The fuel provides energy so that the car can reach top speeds of 135 mph. Now, I can just hear some of you saying... "You see, I knew chocolate gave me energy!" And the 'chocoholics' may be thinking, "what a waste of chocolate!"

Whatever your feelings about chocolate, it is usually a culinary source of pleasure for most people – especially women. So I thought I would give you a little 'history' lesson about this sweet treat because I suspect that many will be indulging – just a little – on April 24th.

We can pretty much blame Columbus for this temptation, as his returning crews brought the first cocoa beans from the New World to Europe in 1502. The Spanish eventually combined them with vanilla and other flavourings, sugar, and milk to arrive at a concoction that, as one writer noted at the time, people "would die for!"

For the first couple of centuries after its introduction in Europe, chocolate was served only as a beverage. A solid form – probably more like marzipan than the chocolate we know – was touted as an instant breakfast in 18th century France. The stimulant effects of chocolate were thought to make it a particularly useful food for soldiers standing watch during the night. In 1828, the Van Houten family of chocolate purveyors in Amsterdam, seeking to make a less-oily drinking chocolate, invented a screw press to remove most of the cocoa butter from the beans. Not only did it make a better drink, but they also found that by mixing the extracted cocoa butter back into ground cocoa beans, they could make a smoother, more unctuous solid paste that would absorb sugar; this eventually led to "eating chocolate."

So – are there any health benefits to chocolate? Well, yes, as long as we are eating the good stuff. Good dark chocolate (with at least 70% cocoa) is a healthy treat we can consider – in moderation. Chocolate is a source of polyphenols, the same kinds of antioxidants found in red wine and green tea. The fat it contains is mostly stearic acid, which doesn't raise cholesterol levels. And the flavonoids in dark chocolate are good for the heart – they reduce the stickiness in platelets, inhibiting blood clotting and reducing the danger of coronary artery blockages.

Let us not forget, however, while we are celebrating and nourishing our physical lives this Easter, that we need nourishing food for our spiritual lives. God's Word is "sweeter...than honey and the honeycomb." (Psalm 19:10) and feeds our souls. It makes "wise the simple" (v.7) and provides both nourishment and energy for life's long journey.

As we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection on April 24th, may we 'splurge' on the sweetness of His love and compassion for each one of us. On Easter, we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the grave, triumphantly and victoriously! And now He lives forever with His saints to reign! If that's not an energy boost, I don't know what is!

May God richly bless you with health, peace, and joy this coming Easter Season.

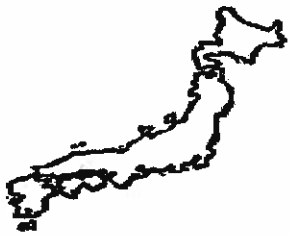
Lesley Joy McClure, B.Sc., M.Sc. (Nutrition)

If you would like to get health tips sent to your email inbox each month, then email me at lesleyjoy@shaw.ca and I'll send you a complementary issue of my newsletter. If interested, you can take out a yearly subscription.

Also - check out my new blog:

<http://www.mumbasmusings.blogspot.com>.

You'll find health tips, reflections, recipes, and more.



A Letter from Sendai, Japan

The author, Anne Thomas, is a teacher of English as a second language living in Sendai, Japan. Published online @ Ode Magazine.

Things here in Sendai have been rather surreal. But I am very blessed to have wonderful friends who are helping me a lot. Since my shack is even more worthy of that name, I am now staying at a friend's home. We share supplies like water, food and a kerosene heater. We sleep lined up in one room, eat by candlelight, share stories. It is warm, friendly, and beautiful.

During the day we help each other clean up the mess in our homes. People sit in their cars, looking at news on their navigation screens, or line up to get drinking water when a source is open. If someone has water running in their home, they put out a sign so people can come to fill up their jugs and buckets.

It's utterly amazing that where I am there has been no looting, no pushing in lines. People leave their front door open, as it is safer when an earthquake strikes. People keep saying, "Oh, this is how it used to be in the old days when everyone helped one another."

Quakes keep coming. Last night they struck about every 15 minutes. Sirens are constant and helicopters pass overhead often.

We got water for a few hours in our homes last night, and now it is for half a day. Electricity came on this afternoon. Gas has not yet come on. But all of this is by area. Some people have these things, others do not. No one has washed for several days. We feel grubby. Living fully on the level of instinct, of intuition, of caring, of what is needed for survival, not just of me, but of the entire group.

There is a strange parallel universe happening. There are houses a mess in some places, yet then,

a house with futons or laundry out drying in the sun. People lining up for water and food, and yet a few people out walking their dogs. All happening at the same time.

Other unexpected touches of beauty are first, the silence at night. No cars. No one out on the streets. And the heavens at night are scattered with stars. I usually can see about two, but now the whole sky is filled. The mountains around Sendai are solid, and with the crisp air we can see them silhouetted against the sky magnificently.

The Japanese themselves are so wonderful. I come back to my shack to check on it each day, now to send this e-mail since the electricity is on, and I find food and water left in my entranceway. I have no idea from whom, but it is there. Old men in green hats go from door to door checking to see if everyone is OK. People talk to complete strangers asking if they need help. I see no signs of fear, resignation yes, but fear or panic, no.

They tell us we can expect aftershocks, and even other major quakes, for another month or more. And we are getting constant tremors, rolls, shaking, rumbling. I am blessed in that I live in a part of Sendai that is a bit elevated, a bit more solid than other parts. So, far this area is better off than others. Last night my friend's husband came in from the country, bringing food and water. Blessed again.

Somehow at this time, I realize from direct experience that there is indeed an enormous Cosmic evolutionary step that is occurring all over the world right at this moment. And somehow as I experience the events happening now in Japan, I can feel my heart opening very wide. My brother asked me if I felt so small because of all that is happening. I don't. Rather, I feel as part of something happening that is much larger than myself. This wave of birthing (worldwide) is hard, and yet magnificent.

Thank you again for your care and love of me,
With Love in return, to you all,
Anne Thomas (March 14, 2011)

View From The Back Pew

Submitted by Bruce Petersen

Good Friday presents us with an immense mystery. As we contemplate the crucified Jesus we are on holy ground. Our response must be: "Woe is me! I am ruined! For I am a person of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." (Isaiah 6:5)

The account St. Mark gives of the passion of our Lord is a nightmare. We are told, "They were on their way to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid." For the third time, Jesus takes the Twelve aside and tells them, "...the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." (St. Mark 10:32-34) They don't understand him.

Incredibly this story is followed immediately by that of James and John, somehow blind to the secret of the Kingdom of God. They believe that Jesus will establish a kingdom which by its superior God given power will rule all the nations on earth. They want to sit on either side of the enthroned Jesus as his influential ministers. He patiently explains to his exasperated disciples that while the Roman authorities lord it over their subjects and exercise authority over everyone, it will not be so with his followers. "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." Why? "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (10:43-45)

When the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are two days away, the religious authorities look for "some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him." (14:1) Judas comes forward to betray Jesus for money. At the last supper Jesus predicts that all his disciples too will fall away, will desert him. Peter protests his resolution and is told, "...yes, tonight - before the rooster crows twice you self will disown me three times." (14:30)

In a place called Gethsemane, the disciples,

emotionally exhausted, sleep while Jesus cries to be freed from this cup. He submits to the Father's will knowing that his time has come. Judas arrives with temple soldiers and kisses him to identify their quarry. "Then everyone deserted him and fled." (14:49) Jesus is alone in hostile hands.

The supposed trial before the Sanhedrin is a charade and likely contrary to Jewish law. Jesus is asked whether he is the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One. His answer is stunning: "I am." Those words are words with which God identified himself to Moses. The trial before the Roman Governor Pilate is likewise perplexing. Why is Barabbas, the murderous revolutionary, released instead of the innocent Jesus? Why would the Sanhedrin leaders admit that Jesus is a 'king'?

Jesus endures the misuse of the Praetorian guards who put a purple robe on him and a crown of thorns hailing him in derision as "King of the Jews". They so torture him that he cannot carry his cross to Golgotha. Once crucified the chief priests and the teachers of the law mock him: "He saved others, but he can't save himself. Let this Messiah, this King of the Jews, come down from the cross that we might see and believe." (15:31, 32)

Desolate and alone, pierced and crushed, wounded and oppressed, he finally sobs: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus, the perfect human, has descended into the depths of mortal misery and taken upon himself the burden of our entire race's sin, all vestiges of evil in the cosmos. Sin is condemned in his flesh. And God turns his face from himself in revulsion.

But a battle-hardened Roman centurion, overseer of many crucifixions, has watched countless victims die. Jesus is unique. This soldier's experience allows him to penetrate the truth: "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (15:39) Victory is won.

In Jesus God died that my sins could be forgiven and all guilt and death and evil banished. He is the suffering servant. What an astonishing mystery.

I am lost in wonder, love and praise.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

1400 Edward Street, South

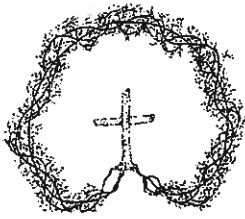
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We're on the Web! www.stthomasanglican.org



*"I am the vine,
you are the branches"*

St. John 15:5



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Rooted in Jesus

RECTOR: Archdeacon Andrew Hoskin

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: The Rev. Doug McClure

OFFICE SECRETARIES: Mrs. Donna McCormick

Mrs. Sheila Tucker

Prayer for St. Thomas'

Heavenly Father, I praise you and I adore you,
all glory be to you.

Thank you for making me a part of your
St. Thomas' family.

Encourage us in our support of one another.

Thank you for the gifts you have given us.
Enable us in using them to extend your Kingdom.
so may the Holy Spirit renew your church
beginning with me.

In the name of the one in whom we are rooted,
Jesus our Lord. Amen

Diocesan Mission Statement

To share in the gathering work of Christ,
so that His newness of life overflows
in our hearts, homes, churches and communities.

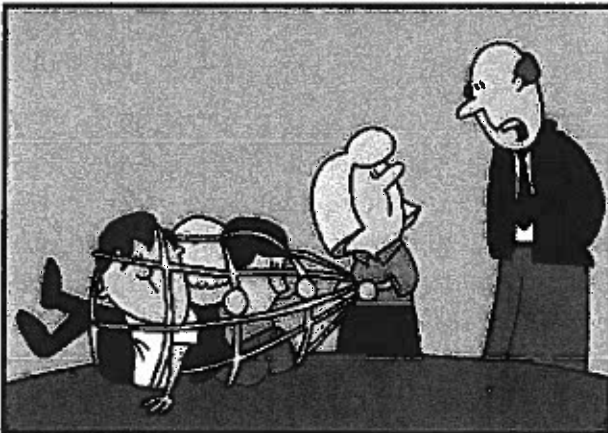
Bishops Motto for 2011

"For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope."
(NRSV) Jeremiah 29:11

Parish Vision Statement

St. Thomas' is a growing family of faith in Jesus,
seeking to empower its members to use their
gifts to extend the Kingdom of Christ.

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Thanks to Mikel Rice

03-25-1991

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR SISTER TOLD YOU,
THIS IS NOT WHAT I MEANT BY "FISHER OF
MEN"

Deadline for submissions

for the next issue of View From The Pew is:
Sunday, April 24th

E-Mail cnapier@shaw.ca

Or a hard copy can be dropped off at the church.

[Put in 'View From The Pew' folder in the
Communication Centre at side entrance.]

(to Office and Sunday School)