

# St. Thomas' Anglican Church



**EASTER**  
**3**

## WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

April 21st & 22nd, 2012

**Come and worship with us on:**

**Thursday—10:00 a.m.—Quiet Communion**

**Saturday—5:00 p.m.—Contemporary Communion**

**Sunday—8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion**

**Sunday—10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion**



## Weekly Notices



Last chance to purchase tickets to the **Mission to Seafarers' Fundraising Dinner** on April 30th. Tickets are available from our reps, Margaret Irwin and Garry Barker. Further details are on the poster in the entry.

Please join Pastor Doug for **HOUR OF PRAYER** on Tuesdays from 11:30—12:30 in the Chapel. Prayer is offered for our city & nation, family & friends, our church, and much more. Everyone is welcome to join in this important work of our church.

**Mothers' Union Flea Market/White Elephant Sale**—will be on Saturday, April 28th. Please set aside donations (no clothing). For more information, call Georgine @ 475-0139. Proceeds to go to M.U. and Camp Gitchigomee.

The **2012 Women of Faith Event**, "Celebrate What Matters", will be in St. Paul, MN Oct 19-20! **Janis Barker** is our contact for further details. Registration is requested by April 30<sup>th</sup> so that transportation arrangements can be confirmed.

The **A.C.W. Spring Deanery meeting** is in Nipigon this coming Tuesday, April 24th. A bus is being chartered so that all may enjoy the ride. The cost will be approximately \$10 per person. Contact Joyce Fossum @ 577-7381.

**Mother's Union Soup Lunch** will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service this Sunday, April 22nd; either sit down or take out; by freewill offering. Takeout will be available after the 8:30 a.m. service as well.

Please encourage youth aged 13-24 to register early for this year's **Diocesan YOUTH SYNOD** to be held at Camp Manitou, Whitefish Falls, Ontario, Saturday, August 4th—Tuesday, August 7th. For more information and registration forms, contact Ellen in the Parish Office.

If you or a loved one are **in the hospital** and would like **Pastor Doug to visit**, please let him or the Church Office know, 623-3608.

## Weekly Notices continued...

### St. Thomas Vision for 2012

'**Feeding the Hungry**' is one of St. Thomas' major goals for 2012. If you have a passion or interest to serve in this area, please join us for a planning meeting on Wednesday, April 25th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. For more information, please contact Carolyn @ 345-9223.

'**Improvement in Church Property**' is also a major goal for 2012. If you are interested in helping enhance the appearance of our church and property, join us for a planning meeting on Monday, April 30th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. For more information, please contact Greg @ 623-2842.

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**Parish Executive** has begun the planning to bring the **rectory** next to the church into good repair in order to enhance and protect our equity in the property. In addition to having a professional building assessment, **Ken Koza** has been appointed as Project Manager to ensure all necessary work is done in a cost-effective and timely manner. The exact work required is being determined by Executive and Ken this week, after which cost estimates and quotes will be obtained. A Diocesan loan will be applied for and repaid largely from rent to be received from our second rectory on North Edward, which will become available, hopefully in the fall of 2012 when the McClures move into the primary rectory. Our A.C.W. has pledged a generous donation of \$1,000 to assist with this project! Parishioners also wishing to assist with the cost of the rectory renovations may designate their donations to our **Parish GIFT Fund**.

**Thunder Bay North Shore Anglicans 2012 Annual Deanery Day** — "Enhancing Relationships" will take place Saturday May 5th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. @ St. Paul's Anglican Church. Speakers: Bishop Stephen Andrews, Bishop of Algoma and Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, Bishop of Keewatin. **Cost is \$10/person** which includes: Coffee/Tea, Muffins, & Lasagna Lunch. Pre-Registration by April 30th appreciated. Please contact: Irene 344-8049 or yeozubsb@hotmail.com. Registration @ 9:00 a.m.—Eucharist @ 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!



Have you seen our new Easter sign? Some of the younger members of our congregation sure love it!



Who are these three good lookin' guys? **Greg Koza** (People's Warden), **Pastor Doug** (our new Incumbent), and **Bill Beavis** (the instigator of our new signs).

We are living in a generation of hurting people who want to know that someone cares about them. To care means “to have thought or regard toward another, or to feel concern about.” We, at St. Thomas, are a church that desires to please God. We show this by the many ways that we care for the people in our congregation and beyond. It can be a healthy exercise, however, to evaluate, from time to time, what we’re doing and ask ourselves — “Are we doing enough? Is there more that we could do?”

Christian caring is all about love. The kind of love that our heavenly Father bestows upon each and every one of us. To truly see and understand the needs of others, our love for them needs to be genuine. So what are some areas where we can show genuine love, care, and concern? The list is endless, but we could begin with those who are hurting physically—someone who is in constant pain, or battling cancer, heart problems, diabetes, etc. Or perhaps those who because of physical limitations cannot attend our services—the shut-ins, for example. And then there are those whose special needs may involve psychological or emotional challenges. They have a need to be accepted, to be patiently understood, and have the opportunity to use what talents they do have. There are those who are living with addictions, or barely surviving in hurting, abusive homes.

Of special concern are the lonely. You don’t have to be shut-in to be gripped with loneliness. Some of the loneliest people I know are working and going about their daily tasks. Loneliness comes in many shapes and sizes. People who are lonely don’t wear signs saying, “I’m lonely...will you help me?” Mother Teresa once said, “Loneliness and the feeling of being uncared for and unwanted are the greatest poverty.” And Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) once penned these words:

“My soul is a dark ploughed field  
In the cold rain;  
My soul is a broken field  
Ploughed by pain.”

Remember the words to that famous Beatles’ song? “Eleanor Rigby, died in the church and was buried along with her name. Nobody came. Father Mackenzie wiping the dirt from his hands as he walks from the grave. No one was saved. All the lonely people, where do they all come from? All the lonely people, where do they all belong?” All the lonely people—let’s discover who they are in His Name.

If we have an uneasiness about the plight and needs of others then that’s a good thing. It means we care. But we need to take it a step further. The first step is to communicate that we care. Tell someone that you love and care about them. The second step requires action. To feel sorry for the needy is not a mark of a Christian — to help them is. The third step is readiness. As a church, it is our responsibility to step up and volunteer. And the final step is evangelism. Some things in life are just too important not to share—the gospel of salvation to a hurting world is one of them.

~ Lesley Joy McClure



If they can do it,  
so can we...





A wife was trying to arrange a surprise birthday party for her husband. She decided to ask his best friend over to discuss how they could do this without her husband finding out. Suddenly, she heard the key turning in the apartment door and she says to the friend. "Quick! Find some place to hide!"

The story continues in heaven...

Three men were waiting in line to get into heaven. Apparently it had been a pretty busy day, so St. Peter had to warn the first one, "Heaven is getting pretty close to full, and I've been asked to admit only people who have had particularly horrible deaths. So what's your story?"

The first man (the wife's husband) replies: "Well, for the past few days, I suspected that my wife was keeping a secret from me, so I decided to come home from work early and have a heart-to-heart talk with her. As I came into my 25th floor apartment, I could tell something was wrong because my wife had this strange look on her face. I decided to walk around the apartment trying to see if I could find something – or someone. Finally, I went out to the balcony to get some fresh air and to try to get the courage to discuss my concerns with her. I looked down and saw a man hanging off the railing, 25 floors above the ground! Now I know as a Christian man I should not lose my temper but I just lost it and I started beating on him and kicking him. I got so mad that I went back into my apartment and got a hammer and started pounding on his fingers. Of course, he couldn't stand that for very long, so he let go and fell - but even after 25 stories, he fell into a dumpster and was stunned but OK. I just couldn't control my temper, so I ran into the kitchen, grabbed the fridge, and threw it over the edge where it landed on him, killing him instantly. But I paid the ultimate price for my sin of anger and rage and all the stress got to me, and I had a heart attack and died right there on the balcony!"

"That sounds like a pretty bad day to me," said St. Peter, and he let the man in.

The second man comes up and St. Peter explains to him how heaven is full, and again asks for his story.

"It's been a very strange day. You see, I live on the 26th floor of my apartment building, and every morning I do my exercises out on my balcony. Well, this morning I must have slipped, because I fell over the edge. But I got lucky, and caught the railing of the balcony on the floor below me. I knew I couldn't hang on for very long, when suddenly this man burst out onto the balcony. I thought to myself, 'Thank God I am saved!' when suddenly he started beating on me and kicking me! I held on the best I could until he ran into the apartment and grabbed a hammer and started pounding on my hands. Finally I just let go, but again I got lucky and fell into the dumpster below, stunned and stinky but all right. Just when I was thinking I was going to be OK, this refrigerator comes falling out of the heavens and crushes me instantly, and now I'm here."

Once again, St. Peter had to concede that this sounded like a pretty horrible death.

Then the third man came to the front of the line, and St. Peter asked for his story.

"Picture this," says the third man, "I'm hiding inside a refrigerator..."

The local parish in a small village was having trouble with cars and trucks speeding in front of their church. The parish council had a meeting and decided to put up a sign that read: "Slow down. Old people crossing." It had no effect. At the next meeting, the council decided to play on the paternal instincts and put up a sign that read: "Danger—Children at Play." There was still no discernible reduction in traffic speed. Finally, the chairman had a brain wave and suggested they try a sign that read: "Church Nudist Colony." As a result, cars, vans, and trucks now crawl through the village.