

St. Thomas' Anglican Church



EASTER
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WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

April 28th & 29th, 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



W e e k l y N o t i c e s



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 this 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 30th so that transportation arrangements can be confirmed.

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.

'**Improvement of Church Property**' is a goal for 2012. If you wish to help enhance our church property, join the planning meeting on Monday, April 30th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. For more information, contact Greg @ 623-2842.

Highlights of the January 22nd Advisory Board Meeting: debriefing March 24th Retreat and resulting goals for 2012; planning meetings set for Goals 1 and 3; finances are slightly behind parish needs; date of Parish Picnic will be June 10th; St. Thomas has sponsored a table for May 9th Mayor's Breakfast; also sponsored a table at the Ishaawin Counselling Centre breakfast on April 14th.

Mothers' Union Meeting on Tuesday, May 1st @ 7:00 p.m. in Haddon Hall. All are welcome.

Weekly Notices continued...

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!

Missions to Seafarers is holding a fund-raiser with meats from European Meats. Contact Marg Irwin or Garry Barker to order by Monday, May 7th (delivery, Wednesday, May 16th).

Volunteers, both men and women, are needed for setting-up, serving, and clean-up at **Fellowship Hour** after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays. This is a crucial ministry for the health of St. Thomas by nurturing bonds of affection and unity in our church. Please prayerfully consider volunteering even one Sunday per month. Teams of 2-3 would be ideal. Training will be provided. Contact Pastor Doug if interested, 623-3608.

Men's Simulcast Conference, ‘Game Plan for Life’ is on Saturday, May 26th from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon at Redwood Park Church, featuring 3-time champion Super Bowl Coach, Joe Gibbs. Tickets are \$10, including a full breakfast, and are available from Pastor Doug or Redwood Church.

Pastor Doug will be attending the **2012 Diocesan Clergy Conference** in Sault Ste. Marie from April 30th – May 2nd. Please pray for spiritual renewal and safe travels for all clergy of the Diocese.

Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, June 10th in the Rectory yard with BBQ, games, songs, and more. Invite your family and friends! Contact Ralph and Wendy Day.



“Feed the Hungry Sunday” begins May 6th. Bring your cash and non-perishable donations for St. Thomas' Food Cupboard. Our Sunday School children will present them at the altar for a blessing at the 10:30 a.m. service. This practice will continue the **first Sunday of each month** as our **Food Cupboard** needs continual replenishment.

The following report was submitted by Carolyn Napierala...

ISHAAWIN COUNSELLING CENTRE

VISION...to see, Aboriginal people empowered by the Spirit to experience life, identity and purpose in Christ as God the Father intended.

MISSION...to restore wholeness found in Jesus Christ to First Nations and others in the Thunder Bay area through counselling based on Biblical principles; to equip and empower First Nations to continue healing within their own communities.

ISHAAWIN...Ojibway for 'The Way'

ISHAAWIN COUNSELLING CENTRE (a Division of Rising Above Abuse Counselling Agency) held their annual 'Partner's Breakfast' Saturday, April 14, 2012. This year the event was held at Thunder Bay Christian Fellowship and was widely supported by various churches sponsoring a table and encouraging members to attend. Attending from St. Thomas' were Greg Koza, Diane Simmons, Georgine Salmonson, and Carolyn Napierala. Lynnette Oja was also there, volunteering for kitchen duty.

The excellent breakfast was provided by a number of volunteers from various churches. Master of Ceremonies for the morning was Pastor John Beardy with entertainment and worship provided by the Rising Above Band. Rising Above Board Members from Manitoba, Northern Ontario, and New Brunswick were introduced along with Executive Director, Daren George from British Columbia and Terry Martin, Director of Operations from Niverville, Manitoba. Ishaawin's full-time counsellor, Liz Beardy, and Associate Counsellor, Bonita Ledua and other local volunteers were also introduced. Ishaawin Counselling Centre provides counselling for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals, families, groups, youth, and children. Counselling is also available in Oji-Cree. An inspirational message was given by Rev. Mervin Cheechoo who is a founding member and President of the Rising Above Board. Also, sharing her story and testifying to the value and the need of the Centre, was an individual who has been helped by their service.

The morning was informative and entertaining and most definitely a worthwhile Christian ministry to be supported.



*With God,
all things
are possible!*

Parish Goals for 2012:

- Feeding the Hungry
- Building Bridges with First Nations People
- Improvement in Church Property

If you look at the notices in this week's E-Newsletter, you'll see that we are very busy at St. Thomas these days. There are so many opportunities to get involved with the life of our parish, as well as deanery and community-wide activities that need our help. We are on a journey as a church family and like all journeys, there are times when the road is a bit rocky and we may even hit a few raging storms. But too, like most journeys, the joy far outweighs the rough spots.

The key to reaching our destinations in a Christ-like way is to make sure that we have invited Jesus along with us. If we travel alone, we will stumble and fall and get off track. If we journey together and invite 'Joy' in our hearts, we will reach our destination. The Message Bible version of Philippians 1:6 says, "There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears." A "flourishing finish" - what a beautiful description! Whatever the task at hand, if we 'finish the race' together, with God on our side, then we will indeed experience a 'flourishing finish.'

Author Jim Kethmer, in his work, *The Gift of Mercy*, tells the story about an unusual race. It looked like any other 100-metre dash. The contestants were lined up in the starting blocks and the crowd was on the edge of their seats. When the starter fired the gun, the contestants started running. That's when it became obvious that this was a 'special' race in the very 'Special Olympics.' The contestants were all developmentally and/or physically challenged. However, it was special for another reason far greater than that.

On this day, it was special because of the **way** the 100-metre dash was run. The runners moved down the track shoulder-to-shoulder. Suddenly, one of the young contestants sprawled headlong onto the track...rolling in pain and embarrassment. The rest of them moved on for 10 or 15 metres. Then, without any communication to each other, they all stopped, turned around, and jogged back to their fallen friend. They picked her up, comforted her, and then, arm-in-arm, all ran together to the finish line. The author said, "Those runners would rather finish together than win the race individually."

The words, "finish together" are what really struck home for me in this story. As a church family, we have so many opportunities to work together, pray together, and finish the task together. When we are 'in communion' with each other in this way, we not only enter into each other's pain and sorrows, we also, like the runners who went back to help their fallen friend, get to experience the joy of finishing the race together.

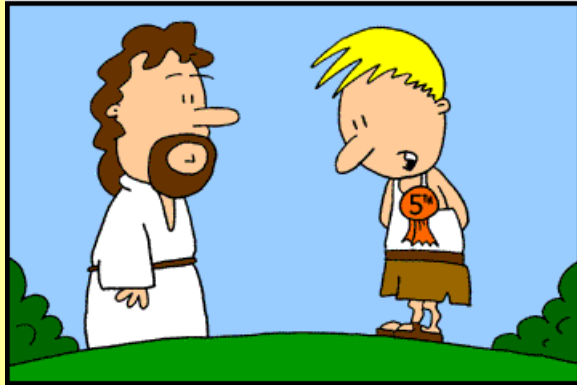
It reminds me of the message of the Cross. It's a message of committed love...courageous love...costly love. It's the kind of love we as Christians have for one another. When we are committed to what God has called us to do (like the goals we have set for 2012, for example), then we must be courageous in the midst of struggle, and finish the race together. And when all is said and done, what a flourishing finish it will be! It's been said that "...love is more than words; it is courageous and serving action." We have so many opportunities to learn and grow and serve in our journey ahead, and to experience the joy of God's hand working through us for the good of His church.

Starting on a new journey is always a little scary. We may fear the unknown. Well, Mark Twain offered this advice: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the Trade Winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." Are you ready to explore, dream, and discover all the possibilities ahead for St. Thomas? Well then—let the race begin!

~ **Lesley Joy McClure**

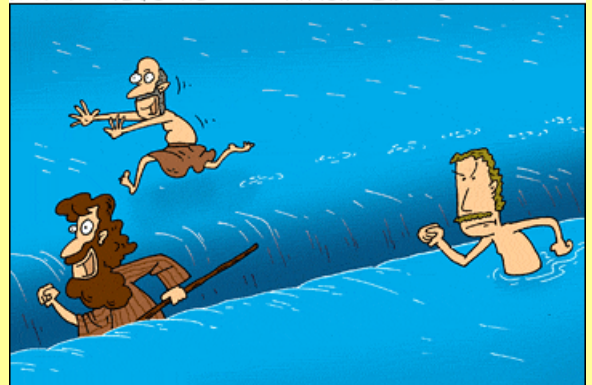


REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to David McElhinney 11-05-1998
I KNOW YOU ASKED ME TO 'COME FOURTH' ...
BUT I TRIPPED

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Colin Nelson 12-14-2009
HOZEKIAH FOUND THIS RACE WITH MOSES AND
PETER TO BE GROSSLY UNFAIR

The following are actual sayings on the grave stones of people who have died:

In a Dalhousie, N.S. cemetery:

Here lies Exekial Aikie
Age 102
The Good Die Young

In a London, England cemetery:

Here lies Ann Mann
Who lived an old maid
But died an old Mann

In a Ribbesford, England cemetery:

The children of Israel wanted bread
And the Lord sent them manna
Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife
And the devil sent him Anna

In a Ruidoso, Mexico cemetery:

Here lies Johnny Yeast
Pardon me for not rising

In a Georgia cemetery:

"I told you I was sick!"

In an Enosburg Falls, Vermont cemetery:

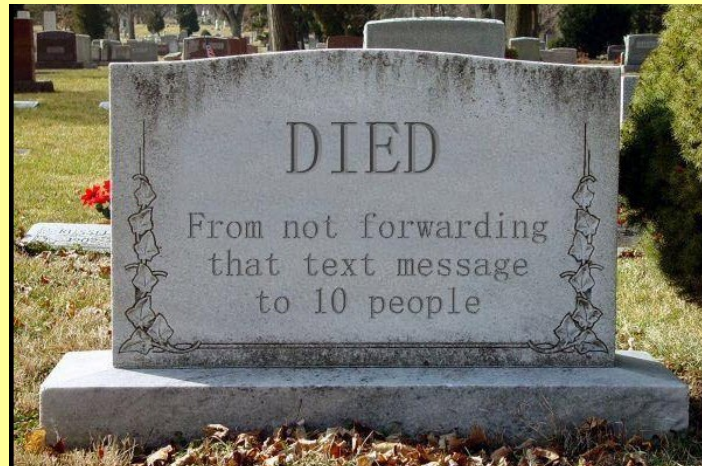
Here lies the body of our Anna
Done to death by a banana
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low
But the skin of the thing that made her go

In a Girard, Pennsylvania cemetery:

Ellen Shannon
Who was fatally burned, March 21, 1870 by the explosion of a lamp
filled with 'R.E. Danforth's Non-Explosive Burning Fluid.'

In an Albany, New York cemetery:

Harry Edsel
Born 1903—Died 1942
Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down.
It was.



Michael Johnson, the Olympic gold medal runner, was on his way to church with some friends. At the door, the usher turned to him and said, "Sorry sir, you can't come in, we have a dress code—no denim." Michael was quite annoyed at this and retorted. "Don't you know who I am? I'm Michael Johnson." "Then it won't take you long to run home and change, will it?" replied the usher.