

Parish Goals for 2012:

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

*With God,
all things
are possible!*

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

June 30th and July 1st, 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

HAPPY CANADA DAY!



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



Please Note: this Saturday, June 30th will be the **LAST SATURDAY 5:00 P.M. SERVICE** until September. Thank you to Lesley McClure for all the wonderful music on Saturdays. Enjoy the summer break.

Our weekly **Tuesday Hour of Prayer** will resume in the fall.

An **Adult Christian Preparation Class** is planned for the Fall. Adults wishing to reaffirm their faith, or be Confirmed, or be officially received into the Anglican Church, please contact Pastor Doug.

The **church office will be closed** on Monday, July 2nd.

A new **sign-up schedule** has been posted just outside the kitchen for **Fellowship Hour**. Volunteer teams are encouraged to choose which Sundays they can provide this important ministry of providing refreshments after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Pastor Doug will be away and so there will be **no Thursday morning services on July 5th or 12th. Sunday services on July 8th and 15th will be Morning Prayer** services.

Update of Rectory Renovations: We thank the many who have responded so generously to this need—so far, you have contributed over \$10,200 to assist with this project. Thank you and thanks be to God!!!

We're pleased that **Lillian Rodtke** has agreed to be our '**Card Secretary**' and we thank her for taking on this important ministry.

Mission Happenings: On **July 22nd and August 5th**, **Diane Littleton** from Malaysia will be speaking to us of her walk there. On **July 24th**, **Len Bachiu of the Canadian Bible Society** will be with us for our morning Prayer Gathering. On **September 16th**, **Mary Sherwood** plans to be with us to bring us up to date on her walk in Madagascar. These are all great opportunities to learn about current happenings in other areas of ministry in the world.

This summer, it is **critical** that your **weekly financial offering** to the work of the church be maintained even if you are away. Last summer, we reached a crisis point because of seriously low offerings. Let's not allow that to happen this summer. The church depends on your weekly offering all 52 weeks, as our fixed costs don't take a holiday!

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

Prayer Garden

We followed up on the motion that was passed last year and had our first planning meeting on Wednesday June 20th. We set the purpose as the development of a prayerful, peaceful outside space that will beautify the church property and the Westfort community.

To assist us with this, John Soyachak from Landale Gardens has generously donated his services as designer. The plan will include all the green space from the fence by Westfort Foods and continue northward to Amelia Street. We will ask John to design a low maintenance garden and to divide the project into 4 stages with a quote for each individual section. This would be an ongoing project.

Cost savings could come from parishioners who would donate plants from their own gardens. In doing this, the original plan would still be followed.

Donations will be invited. A book containing the names of all those who've given, will be placed in a central location for all to see.

We estimate that when the garden is completed, it will cost approximately \$800 per year to maintain it. Cost savings could come from parishioner participation.

The committee will be an ongoing one and may or may not include the original members. The present committee would welcome additional members.

~ Submitted by Linda Smout, Chair, St. Thomas Prayer Garden Committee

A letter from Mary Sherwood's sister, Marjorie:

To the Congregation at St. Thomas:

Thank you very much for your support for the children in Madagascar. It is wonderful to know that the young people at Akany Famonjena (orphanage) and Akany Tafita (inner city mission) are being well provided for.

*You will have fairly recently received a newsletter from Mary Sherwood bringing you up to date with what is going on at the centres in Madagascar. It is great to know that the children are all well and pursuing their various educational programs. And **YOU** have helped to make this possible.*

At this particular time, Mary is visiting churches and groups in the North Bay area. Having just completed two months of travels from South Carolina to New York State, she's planning a summer breathing space before heading west to the Soo and Thunder Bay, and places 'round and about.

Again our thanks, and may God's blessing be upon you and yours.

Celebration of New Ministry Service June 18, 2012





A picture of Pastor Doug with his new stole, presented to him at the reception and creatively drawn by Julie-Anne Koza. The actual stole should arrive in a few weeks.



Monday, June 18th was the final step in the fulfillment of a dream. It began many, many years ago on an 'egg prayer' when I wrote, "God please bring us back to St. Thomas and 'hatch' this prayer in your perfect timing." At the end of Pastor Doug's curacy in 1996 we were so sad to leave St. Thomas. But of course God blessed us in many ways in our ministry in other parishes. But the dream remained in our hearts. God brought us back to St. Thomas in July of 2010 when Doug became part-time Associate Pastor, then Interim Incumbent, and now your new Rector. Step by step, God has unfolded the desires of our hearts and the dream has been fulfilled.

Entertainer, Liza Minnelli once said, "Dream on it. Let your mind take you to places you would like to go, and then think about it and plan it and celebrate the possibilities. And don't listen to anyone who doesn't know how to dream." And I would add, with God, those dreams become stepping stones to achieving His purpose in our lives. When we allow God to guide us as we dream and plan, He helps us achieve our goals and makes them possible.

Of course, the fulfillment of a dream is a journey. The journey begins when the seed is planted and watered, and when we stay rooted in Jesus, we see the dream bloom and grow. The journey continues as we carry out, the 'plans He has for us' (Jeremiah 29:11) and bear much fruit. Our dream to be back at St. Thomas has just 'hatched' but our journey has just begun. Although God has worked everything together for our good, we need to continue to do our part and trust Him completely in the months and years ahead. We don't really know all the plans He has for St. Thomas, but we believe with all our hearts that those plans are wonderful!

Since coming back to St. Thomas, Doug and I have received 'blessing after blessing' - too numerous to list. And so we give thanks to God and all the people of St. Thomas for your tangible gifts to us, and your constant prayers, love and support. We are excited to see what His plans are for us as we journey together to do His work here on earth. We are His hands and His feet. And because our God is a **BIG GOD**, we will have **BIG DREAMS**.

So please, take the summer to dream—and **dream big**! Dream the impossible for yourself and for your church and watch what God will do. Have a fabulous summer! Get rested and rejuvenated and rejoice in all God plans for you and for this congregation. I'll join you again in September with more E-newsletters and reflections. Thank you for the honour and privilege it has been to touch base with you each week. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Love and prayers,

~ Lesley Joy McClure

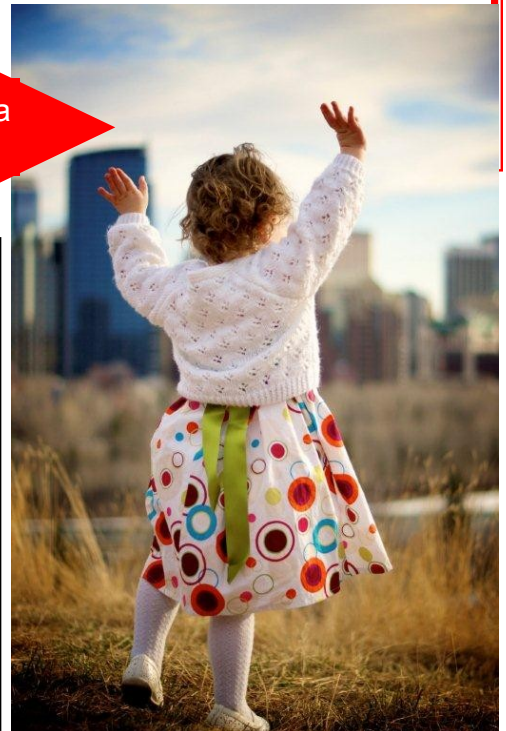
I have a dream!

**A dream is in the mind of the Believer,
and in the Hands of the Doer.
You are not given a dream
without being given the
Power to make it come true.**

~ Author Unknown

- I have a dream that all people will be treated equally.
- I have a dream that people would lay down their differences and be friends.
- I have a dream that people will respect themselves and others.
- I have a dream that hunger will end and that peace will begin.
- I have a dream that my dreams will become your dreams too.
- I have a dream.

~ Trey, 5th Grade Student.





A man flops down on the seat of a London trolley bus next to the vicar. The man's tie is stained, his face is smeared with red lipstick, and a half-empty bottle of gin is sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opens a newspaper and begins reading.

After a few minutes the guy turns to the vicar and asks, "Say, Reverend, what causes arthritis?" "Loose living; cheap, wicked women; too much alcohol; and contempt for your fellow man," answers the vicar. "Well, I'll be darned," the drunk mutters, returning to his paper.

The vicar, thinking about what he said, nudges the man and apologizes. "I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to be so harsh. How long have you had arthritis?"

“Oh, I don’t have it, Reverend. But it says here that the Archbishop does.”

Sisters Mary Catherine, Maria Theresa, Katherine Marie, Rose Frances, & Mary Kathleen left the Convent on a trip to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and were sight-seeing on a Tuesday in July. It was hot and humid in town and their traditional garb was making them so uncomfortable, they decided to stop in at Patty McGuire's Pub for a cold soft drink.

Patty had recently added special legs to his barstools, which were the talk of the fashionable eastside neighborhood. All 5 Nuns sat up at the bar and were enjoying their Cokes when Monsignor Riley and Father McGinty entered the bar through the front door.

They, too, came for a cold drink when they were shocked and almost fainted at what they saw



On the difference between Praise Choruses and Hymns...



A man accustomed to a mainline church went to a seekers' service one Sunday. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," he said, "it was interesting. They did something different. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses?" said his wife. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay, I guess. They're sort of like hymns, only different," said the man.

"What's the difference?" asked his wife. He replied, "Well, it's like this. If I were to say to you,

'Martha, the cows are in the corn,'
that would be a hymn.
Suppose, on the other hand, I
were to say to you:

"Martha, Martha, Martha,
Oh, Martha, MARTHA,
MARTHA,
the cows, the big cows, the
brown cows, the black cows,
the white cows, the black and
white cows,
the COWS, COWS, COWS are
in the corn.

are in the corn, are in the corn,
are in the corn,
the CORN, CORN, CORN.' Then, if I were to repeat the whole thing five or six times, that would be a praise chorus."

As luck would have it, the same Sunday a young woman accustomed to seekers' services attended a mainline service. She came home and her husband asked her how it was.

"Well," she said, "it was interesting. They did something different, however. They sang hymns instead of praise choruses."

"Hymns?" said her husband.
"What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay, I guess. They're sort of like regular songs, only different," said the woman.

"What's the difference?" asked her husband. She replied, "Well, it's like this. If I were to say to you,

'Ernest, the cows are in the corn,'
that would be a regular song.

Suppose, on the other hand, I were to say to you:
*'Oh Ernest, dear Ernest, now hear thou my cry;
 Incline thine ear to the words of my mouth.
 Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by
 To the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.*

For the way of the animals who
can explain?
There is in their heads no
shadow of sense!
Hearken they not in God's sun
or his rain.
Unless from the mild, tempting
corn they are fenced,

Yea, those cows in glad
bovine, rebellious delight
Broke free from their shackles,
their warm pens eschewed.
Then goaded by minions of
darkness and night.
They all my mild Chilliwack
sweet corn have chewed.

So look to that bright shining
day by and by,
Where all the corruptions of
earth are reborn,
Where no vicious animal
makes my soul cry,
And I no longer see those foul
cows in the corn!

Then, if I were to sing only verses one, three and four, and if I were to do a key change on the last verse, that would be a hymn."

Author unknown
(perhaps with reason!)

