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 9th and 10th, 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.—Sunday School Presentation & Parish Picnic



Weekly Notices



Volunteers, both men and women, are needed to set up, serve, and clean-up at the **Fellow-ship Hour** after the 10:30 a.m. service. 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.

- St. Thomas will host a **Celebration of New Ministry** between our parish and new Incumbent, **Rev. Doug McClure**, on <u>Monday, June 18th @ 7:00 p.m.</u> Archdeacon Deborah Kraft will be the Officiant and the Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of the Diocese of Athabasca will be the preacher. Please be on hand as we, the people of St. Thomas, along with Pastor Doug, commit ourselves to a shared ministry in this parish.
- St. Thomas will host a **Deanery of Thunder Bay special event** on <u>Tuesday, June 19th from 7:00—9:00 p.m.</u> Guest presenter will be the Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of Athabasca (Northern Alberta), and includes an uplifting time of prayer and praise followed by refreshments and fellowship. No cost, no registration—just come as you are and bring a friend in need of encouragement.

<u>This Sunday, Sunday, June 10th</u> will be a special **CHILDREN'S SERVICE** featuring our IBM Sunday School children and teachers.

Our **Parish Picnic** will follow—rain or shine—either in the Rectory yard next door, or in the hall. Please join us for food and fun!

Highlights of May 27th Advisory Board Meeting: In Spring 2013, a Diocesan Team will assess St. Thomas' based on 'benchmarks for a healthy congregation' established by the Diocese. This provides a measure of the general health of our Parish. / Mary Sherwood, a missionary from Madagascar, will speak at the 10:30 service on September 16th. There will be a potluck lunch following. / 'Back to Church' Sunday will be September 30th. Pastor Doug invites volunteers to join in helping to plan and prepare for this event.

Weekly Notices continued...

The **Camp Gitchigomee Ladies Auxiliary** is having a Camp Clean-Up Day on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>June 20th beginning at 10:00 a.m</u>. Bring a lunch and help get the camp ready for the season. Call 622-0020 if you need a ride.

Camp Gitchigomee is hosting an **Open House** on <u>Sunday, June 24th</u>. You can see what the camp has to offer and enjoy a hike, swim, or canoeing.

Camp Gitchigomee staff training (paid and volunteer) will take place June 14th @ St. Luke's. Further information is on the posters on the bulletin boards.

Additional **Ushers** are needed for the Sunday 10:30 a.m. services. Feel good about serving God and His Church by greeting people, handing out bulletins, and helping to keep things tidy and orderly. If you're interested in volunteering to serve one Sunday/month, contact **Greg Koza** @ 623-2842 or the Church Office @ 623-3608.

Diocesan Youth Synod at Camp Manitou, Whitefish Falls, ON will be August 4th—7th. Information and registration forms are available from the Parish office. Please advise Pastor Doug as soon as possible if you are applying.

Thunder Bay Anglicans will host a **Community BBQ** on the grounds of Shelter House for those who do not have access to camps, backyards, or BBQ's. St. Thomas is helping to supply food and volunteers. Please speak with Bonnie Shipston if you can donate one hour of your time on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>June 23rd</u> to this worthy event.

Pastor Doug is planning an **Adult Christian Preparation Class** for this coming Fall. For adults wishing to reaffirm their faith or be Confirmed, or be officially received into the Anglican Church by our Bishop. For more information, contact Pastor Doug.

The Property Improvement Committee Report from May 22, 2012

Submitted by Greg Koza

Four primary goals were agreed to:

- 1) Painting and freshening up the main entranceway, narthex and all the way up the stairs to the balcony.
- 2) Rooms off Haddon Hall:
 - Moran Room (new Jr. Sunday School room): New flooring (not carpet), painting, child safety protection of hot water pipes and radiator grill.
 - Thornburrow and Nicholas Rooms (Nursery): New flooring (not carpet) to be installed.
 - Bathrooms: New flooring, new vanities, painting.

These two goals to be completed by mid-August.

- 3) Main Front Doors—to be replaced, including arched frame, to admit more light, more inviting, energy efficient, safer and easier to open. Completed by mid-October.
- 4) Front windows made of glass blocks—to be changed to something more attractive and energy efficient. Completed in the Spring of 2013.

Quotes for the new main doors, flooring samples and advice from a consultant regarding paint colours to be discussed, along with funding ideas, at the Wednesday, June 6th meeting.

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PARISH GOAL TO BUILD BRIDGES WITH FIRST NATIONS

On Saturday, June 2nd, Pastor Doug, Gail and Rob Brooks, Ellen Zimmerman, Ton Knijnenburg, and Elsie MacDonald gathered to explore how St. Thomas can enhance relationships with First Nations people. A rich and fruitful discussion included Elsie's personal story of growing up in Webequie where she is presently Deputy Chief and Lay Reader at Church of the Messiah (Anglican). Ton described his journey from Holland to working the past twenty some years as a financial manager/consultant on reserves in N.W. Ontario, including Kassibonika where he presently works. This time of story telling and sharing ideas resulted in EIGHT NEW INITIATVES to help St. Thomas 'Build Bridges with First Nations.'

- 1. Elsie and two members of the Church of the Messiah in Webequie have been invited to help lead a special service at St. Thomas' early this Fall. Their team will lead Gospel singing, lead in the prayers and readings, give the message for the day, etc.
- 2. St. Thomas Sunday School will partner with and support the Sunday School in Kassibonika by sharing our IBM Sunday School program.
- 3. St. Thomas will look into erecting a sign of welcome to First Nations people in aboriginal language on the outside of the church building.
- 4. Elsie and her daughter Cherilyn will be added to our Scripture Readers list for Sunday services.
- 5. Elsie will read the Gospel at the Celebration of New Ministry on June 18th.
- 6. Gail Brooks will investigate the possibility of St. Thomas hosting a traditional native Blanket Ceremony.
- 7. Rob Brooks will look into the possibility (and cost) of commissioning an Aboriginal painting with a Christian theme for St. Thomas.
- 8. We will purchase and display woodland style prints done by Metis artist Ovide Begetty depicting Christmas the Creator's Gift. St. Thomas presently displays this artist's art in Haddon Hall, representing the Easter Story.

Other ideas discussed included inviting First Nations guest speakers, choirs, music groups, clergy, bishops, etc. to participate in St. Thomas worship services and/or educational events.

Please contact Gail Brooks if you wish to participate in future gatherings, planning new initiates, or implementing the above.



Participants at the first gathering of 'Building Bridges with First Nations,' on June 2nd.

From left to right:
Gail Brooks, Ton Knijnenburg,
Elsie MacDonald, Rob Brooks.

Why is it important to share our stories about how God has worked in our lives? Because it builds up our faith. When we tell others about the good things that God has done, it helps us to stay in an attitude of faith and to remain grateful. It's hard for us to be negative and veer off into unbelief when we are always talking about God's blessings and favour in our lives. After all, God is the giver of all good things. There is no such thing as coincidence when our lives are directed by God. He is the One who causes us to be at the right place at the right time. When something good happens to us, we not only need to recognize that it is the work of God, we also need to share those happenings with others. When we recall how God opened up a door for us, how He protected us, restored us, and healed us, it increases our faith. And when we tell others—it increases their faith.

I want to share two stories with you. They are sure to increase your faith. The first is, about a woman who was a successful entrepreneur. She was also a committed Christian. Her philosophy was that everything she had came from God, so she was quite generous in giving away her money and her time. She believed that God has given us everything to use for His purposes. The story goes that her pastor asked her to speak to the church on behalf of the building campaign for the new children's center: Fundraising had been tepid at best. When her time came in the service to speak, she said, "You know, we've been talking about building this building for some time...but at this rate, the children are going to have grandchildren before the building is built. We must do something about this ... Well, I'll match whatever you give today ... [no pledges, only cash or checks.]" She waited for the phone call from the committee chair telling her how much had been raised. The first thing the chair told her was that she didn't have to keep the promise. She began to wonder how much had been given. Maybe \$5,000 or \$10,000? She assured the chair that she would keep her end of the bargain and give the amount. How much was raised? He told her \$107,748. She was stunned. She was going to keep her word, but she knew she would have to take out a loan to fulfill that kind of commitment. And then that afternoon, she received a phone call from her son who had convinced her to invest in some oil wells several months before. He called to tell her that the two oil wells had just come in as gushers—her share for the month would be \$100,000. This is a true story. The lady in question was Mary Kay Ash, founder of Mary Kay Cosmetics. Mary Kay concluded the story with this: "This incident reminded me of something I learned as a little girl in Sunday school ... You never need to be afraid of giving for God—because He will always see to it that you get back a hundredfold. That's what the parable of the talents is all about. The more you give, the more you get. You can't out give God."

The second story is more personal. It's about our daughter Cari. As some of you may know, Cari is starting seminary in September. She has long felt this call on her life but has only recently decided to step out in faith and follow this path. Getting her Master of Divinity degree means giving up her present career and settling into several years of financial uncertainty. When she made this decision, she had no idea how it would all work—especially financially. But she forged ahead and got accepted into one of the most expensive seminaries in the U.S. It's a new hybrid program where she can do much of the work from her home in Calgary but she'll need to travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan for two weeks at the end of each semester over the next five years. Still trusting that God was working it all out, her heart sank when she found out last week that as a Canadian citizen studying in the U.S., she would have to prove via a bank statement that she had the money to cover her tuition. Her courses are between \$1500 and \$1600 each. Multiply that by 30 courses and well, you do the math. She most certainly didn't have that kind of money in the bank. If ever there was a time to trust God and believe in the power of prayer it was now! And so she prayed. As I write this reflection, it's just a few hours after receiving a text message from our daughter. She told us that their church Classis (which would be like our Diocese) is going to pay for all her tuition and books for all five years! Now is God good or what?! What an affirmation of her decision. And what a faith-builder for us. God is indeed a God of miracles.

If there is something in your life that you know God wants you to do—do it! Don't wait until you have all the details worked out. God is constantly at work in our lives. He is working behind the scenes, orchestrating every step, getting everything arranged in our favour. All He asks of us is to have an attitude of faith. When we do, we will see Him do great things in our lives and then we can share our story with others, and increase their faith.

~ Lesley Joy McClure



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I SHOULD PROBABLY START PREACHING TO THE CHOIR AGAIN

The gas station attendant was accustomed to seeing tired and sunburned occupants in their cars on hot summer days. When a rusty old station wagon containing a very tired looking couple and seven screaming children pulled into his station, the attendant tried small talk to cheer the occupants. "Hope you had a good day!" "Were you just at the church picnic down the street?" "Nice looking kids there. Are they all yours or is this just the gang from the picnic?" Wearily, the driver relied, "Yes they are all mine and it is NO picnic!!!"

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter. "This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?" The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

The choir needs your help. Please see the following description to see if would like to join our choir:

- Positions open in soprano, alto, tenor and bass. No others need apply.
- Physical Qualifications: Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the sanctuary.
 Must have sufficient vision to see the director.
- Experience: No applications will be accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the bathtub or shower at some time.
- Beginning Wage: Increased satisfaction and joy in the service of God.
- Fringe Benefits: Social Security. We promise you the security of social fellowship with other choir members.
- Hours: Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 PM & Sunday mornings. There is occasional opportunity for overtime.
- Retirement: Generally determined by the printed notes getting too small, the hymnal too heavy, notes too high, the sanctuary too hot or too cold, or the organist unable to play the notes you sing.
 We are an equal opportunity employer!