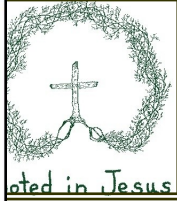


St. Thomas' Anglican Church



WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

March 10th and 11th , 2012

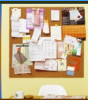
Come and worship with us on:

Thursday—10:00 a.m.—Quiet Communion

Saturday—5:00 p.m.—Contemporary Communion & Irish Beef Dinner

Sunday—8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion

Sunday—10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion & Sunday School



Weekly Notices



Those who wish to help beautify the church for Easter with **Easter lilies** may drop them off at the church before 10:00 a.m. on Holy Saturday, April 7th.

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

We at St. Thomas want to be an **inviting church.** Is there someone you might invite to one of our four weekly services? Let us invite someone we love to something we love.

Please support the **bake sale** for **Camp Gitchigomee** on Friday, March 30th from 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. at Victoriaville. St. Thomas' and St. Stephen's are hosting this year.

Lenten coin folders are still available at the back to take as part of your Lenten journey, in support of our Missions outreach.

There is **no Advisory Board meeting** this Sunday; this month's meeting is replaced by the **Retreat Day on March 24th** for Advisory Board members.

Join Pastor Doug in sharing the Love of Jesus with residents at **McKellar Place** on Tuesday, March 20th @ 2:00 p.m. and at **Grandview Lodge** on Wednesday, March 21st @ 10:30 a.m. with songs and a service of Holy Communion.

Please join in an **HOUR OF PRAYER** each Tuesday from 11:30—12:30 in the Chapel. We will pray for the needs of our city & nation, for our families & friends, for our church, and much more. Charlie & Margie Wilson from 'Nation of Prayer' will be on hand this Tuesday, March 20th to help kick off this new ministry at St. Thomas. Everyone welcome.

Camp Gitchigomee monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 20th in Haddon Hall @ 7:30 p.m.

Weekly Notices continued...

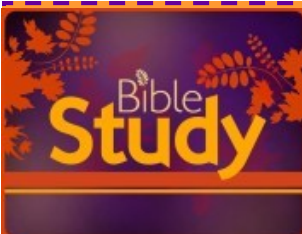


St. Patrick's Day Irish Roast Beef Supper
following the 5:00 p.m. service this
Saturday, March 17th

Hosted by the Mother's Union
(Free will offering)



Please join us for the service and supper.
And wear green!



A new Lenten Book Study has begun Wednesdays, from 7:00—9:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. This is a 5-week study of the book *"God: The Rumours Persist! Signs of Faith in a Skeptical World"* by former Anglican Bishop Bill Hockin. Please consider making this a part of your Lenten journey, and register with Pastor Doug (623-3608). Cost is \$15.00.

A great time was had by all at our Flipper Flanagan Concert last Thursday, March 8th. St. Thomas raised \$1,350.00 to put towards the purchase of our new audio-visual equipment for the church. Thank you to so many who came out in support of this fantastic fundraiser, and to all those who bought and sold tickets for the concert. Special thanks to Diane Simmons, the driving force behind the concert, Garry Barker for selling tickets and 'manning' the ticket sales the night of the concert, Sid Turner for looking after ticket and CD sales, Rob Brooks for handling the elevator, Walter Retzitnyk for helping with the setting up/taking down of equipment and removal of choir pews with the help of Wayne Clarke and his friend Dave Horner.



Peggy Garriock, our Deputy People's Warden is doing what she does so well—smiling and having a great time with the people she loves!



Gerald Ainsworth is one happy fella'! I heard you clapping your hands. :-)



Garry Barker, Rector's Warden, is the 'man with the money.' Great job Garry!



Pastor Doug with Administrative Assistant Ellen Zimmerman and her son Jared, had a really fun, toe-tapping time!

In my Bible, I have prayers that I've written on egg-shaped pieces of paper. On one side of the 'egg' is the prayer request, and on the other side are the words: 'Lord, hatch this prayer in your perfect timing.' Some of these prayers go back 25 years. The prayers are for many different things: for my children—for their health and happiness, future partners, careers, etc.; for other family members to come to know the Lord; healing prayers for many, many people; for guidance and direction in where God is calling us. Some of the prayers are for immediate needs, while others have taken years to be answered. The common denominator in all these prayers, however, is that I 'expect' them to be answered.

When we wait with expectancy for God to answer our prayers, it means we are hopeful and positive. We are on the lookout to see what God is going to do. We not only talk as if what we believe is going to happen, we act as though it's going to happen. And that means we start to make preparation. If, for example, a young couple decides that some day they want to have children, they start to think about the kind of house they might need, the size of car that would be suitable, the job that would support a family, the safe environment to raise their family, access to schools, etc. They not only expect to share their lives with future children, they begin to prepare for that to happen.

The same is true for our faith life. Pastor Joel Osteen says: "When God puts a dream in your heart...The first thing is, you have to let the seed really take root. But you can't stop there. You must move on from believing to expecting...you start acting as though God's Word is true, being positive and hopeful—you are putting actions behind your faith. That gets God's attention. That's what causes Him to work supernaturally in your life—Why not take a step of faith, plant a seed, do something that indicates to you and others that you are planning to succeed?"

Getting back to my 'egg prayers' - it's been exciting to watch God's answers unfold and see my prayers 'hatch' in His perfect timing. Some of my prayers weren't there for long while others are still in waiting. Some are for major issues of concern or life decisions, while others are for less critical, yet none-the-less important prayers. After talking to the kids via Skype the other day, they were saying that potty training Jazlyn is still a bit of a challenge. And I thought perhaps an 'egg prayer' was in order. Her parents have planted the seed in Jazlyn's heart, they not only believe but expect her to succeed, they are being positive and hopeful, and they are putting actions behind their faith. They recently purchased a book and video called, 'Hannah, The Potty Training Movie for Girls.' My son-in-law is a little concerned though because the movie has a catchy tune to it that he can't get out of his head and he keeps humming it at work. He's so afraid that he's going to accidentally sing the words out loud. The song is to the tune of 'Bye, Bye, Love' but the words are changed to 'Bye, Bye, Poop.' Ah, the things we do for our children!

In reviewing my 'egg prayers' I see that there are a couple that are getting very close to 'hatching' and I am both excited and a little anxious to see how they work out. I'll let you know the outcome. In the meantime, let us all ask ourselves this question: 'What might happen if we could get up every morning, expecting God to turn our problems around for good? Well, if we could stay positive and hopeful and start making preparations, I believe He would give us supernatural strength that would cause us to 'soar like the eagle, run and not get tired, walk and not faint.' In other words, we might be down, but we wouldn't stay down, and we would overcome life's challenges.

So, whatever it is that's in your heart right now, keep praying, keep believing, keep pressing closer to God. Keep moving deeper and deeper into believing and expecting that God is going to do great things. Move from believing to expecting to receiving. Do everything you can to make your dreams come to pass. Then God will have an open invitation to pour out His favour in your life.

Lesley Joy McClure



A True Tale:

Father Sean O'Leary, a Dublin parish priest, was jumping up and down as he urged his choir to put more effort into singing the hymn: "I Wonder Where I'm Bound," when an iron grid collapsed and he disappeared into a heating duct.

Dermot McCann opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend Reilly.

"Did ye see the paper?" asked Dermot. "They say I died." "Yes, I saw it," replied Reilly. "Where are ye callin' from?"

Father McGee walked into the church and spotted a man sitting cross-legged on the altar. "My son," said the holy man, "what are you doing? Who are you?" "I'm God," said the stranger. "Pardon?" "I'm God," he repeated. "This is my house!" Father McGee ran into the presbytery and, in total panic, rang the archbishop. "Your reverence," said he, "I hate to trouble you, but there's a man sat on me altar who claims he's God. What'll we do?" "Take no chances," said the archbishop. "Get back in the church and look busy!"

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Happy St. Patrick's Day, Maggie. By the way, did you ever fix that old grudge that was between you and your neighbor?

There be ye no grudge atol between us. We have a carport.



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Gee, it's too bad that Brodie didn't come with us. We could have gotten this job.

