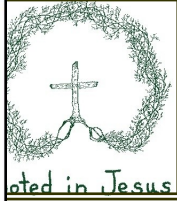


# St. Thomas' Anglican Church



## WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

March 24th and 25th , 2012

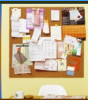
**Come and worship with us on:**

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 & Sunday School



## Weekly Notices



**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.

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.

Our new **HOUR OF PRAYER** sessions have begun. 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.

Everyone is welcome to **join Pastor Doug** this Wednesday, March 28th @ 10:00 a.m. at **Isabella Retirement Home** (main floor) for a half-hour service of song and informal Communion.

Come worship with our **Lutheran** brothers and sisters in Christ at a **joint Anglican/Lutheran service** on Holy Tuesday, April 3rd @ 7:00 p.m. at Hilldale Lutheran Church. Archdeacon Kraft will preach.

There will be a **'Women of Faith' meeting** on Tuesday, March 27th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre for discussion about attending the October event in Minnesota, "Celebrate What Matters."

**Thank you to Judy Bascello** for doing such a fantastic job cleaning and raking church property following the recent early snow melt.



## Weekly Notices continued...



### Special Holy Week Services at St. Thomas'

**Palm Sunday—April 1st—8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**  
**Maundy Thursday—April 5th—7:00 p.m.**  
**Good Friday—April 6th—10:30 a.m.**  
**Holy Saturday—April 7th—5:00 p.m.**  
**Easter Sunday—April 8th—8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**

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.



### **Easter Lilies**

**We forget all about them  
 In the year's darkness, in the long winter  
 Without a sound they are there one morning  
 A kind of sunlight grown from the ground**

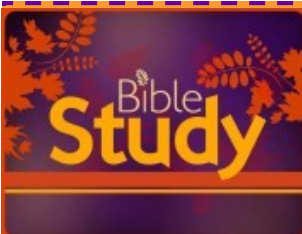
**As if some call had woken them  
 From the underworld of their sleep**

**Out into the middle of March  
 To Easter the earth with their heads**

**Flapped and flayed by the wind  
 Broken yolks splashing the air**

**All that we hope for  
 An answer to prayer.**

*~ Kenneth Steven*



**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.

According to the calendar, it's officially Spring. And although the sun is not shining as I write this reflection, the Spring rains are washing away the dirt and grime that has been buried under the snow all winter. The refreshing rains are also a pleasant relief as they rid our yards of the odour from the 'yellow' snow that many of us pet owners must endure. Having said that, our dog Bailee has an aversion to anything wet—even to the point of walking ten feet around a drip from the roof. So putting him outside in the rain comes with loud growls and howls of protest. But when push comes to shove, that's exactly what he gets when it's time to go outside, along with my very compassionate words of ... "Buck up Bailee!"

Spring is not just a season—it's an action. The dictionary defines the word spring as "to grow, to begin or come into being." We spring or move forward with our clocks, and our lives. We think of flowers and plants springing from the ground and the renewal of life after months of cold and lack of growth. And, of course, as Christians, we are preparing for the Resurrection of our Lord, and springing forth with new life and hope for our world.

I've taken the winter wreath off our door and I'm beginning to prepare for that newness and change that Easter brings. I've filled a big yellow basket with silk tulips, lilies, daffodils, and gladiolas and added spring flowers to my other floral arrangements in the living room. And Doug bought me a beautiful potted Chrysanthemum to put on our front step, in anticipation of the blooming and unfolding of the buds that will soon become part of the spring and summer landscape.

Life changes. It is the essence of life to change. The brown grass will turn green—whether we like it or not. The trees will blossom—whether we admit it or not. The birds will return—whether we want them to or not. To say that we don't like change, is to say we don't like life. It is the spiritual character of life to make demands, to bring new challenges, and to goad us into living it. So whether it's the changing seasons of nature, the changing seasons of our lives, the changes in our relationships, changes in our jobs, changes in where we live, or changes in our church...the attitude we take to it will make all the difference in the world. The frame of mind we bring to change not only gives meaning to the end result, it also determines the spiritual depth with which we start this new phase. So rather than looking at change as some kind of enforced pause between the way it is right now and the way "I" want it to be, we need to look at this new 'season' as a time that has hope and meaning for others.

There's a whole new world ahead of us, we just need the willingness and eagerness to try. This is a wonderful time of year to re-create ourselves in order to be creative in the world. And what better place to start than in the church? It is here that people of all ages can be steeped in purpose and enrichment. To remove the grayness of winter from our hearts, we need to do something of value and be a gift to the world—some way, somehow, for someone. A wonderful opportunity to do this will take place this Saturday at the visioning retreat. It is here that the Advisory Board of our church will set a new vision for St. Thomas. They will be setting new goals, brainstorming new ideas, and stepping out with new faith. All this 'newness' will be so exciting and perhaps a little frightening, but the willingness to try will bring about an energizing period that has the power to move our church forward and bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a hurting world.

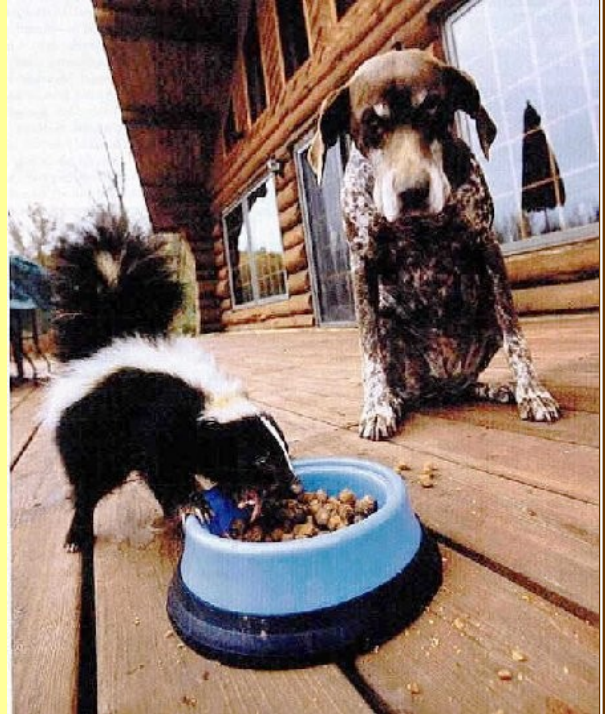
But all of us, not just our Advisory Board, can catch this same spirit of 'newness' and 'spring' into action. We can all be a glorious blessing to those around us, a kind of 'shooting star' across the sky of the human race, by hearing God's call and asking Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit. God's creative work never ceases, and neither should ours. As long as we live and breathe, there is work to be done. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can make the Gospel a reality to those around us. As we anticipate the needs within our church, outside in our communities, our country, and beyond, the church will be renewed, the body of Christ will be built up, and we will carry out the work that God has destined us to do. Let us take to heart the words from Scripture in Jeremiah 29:11 — *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good, and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*

**Lesley Joy McClure**



## I Owe My Mother ....

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.  
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside ... I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION.  
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me LOGIC.  
"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
4. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.  
"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
5. My mother taught me about CONTORTION-ISM.  
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
6. My mother taught me about WEATHER.  
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
7. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.  
"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"
8. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.  
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out.."
9. My mother taught me about ENVY.  
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
10. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.  
"Just wait until we get home."
11. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.  
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."
12. My mother taught me HUMOR.  
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
13. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.  
"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
14. My mother taught me about my ROOTS.  
"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"
15. My mother taught me WISDOM.  
"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
16. My mother taught me about CHOICE.  
"Do you want me to stop this car?"
17. My mother taught me JUSTICE.  
"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"



Two of the greatest qualities in life are:

1. Patience
2. Wisdom

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Timmy I hope you put on clean underwear today? What if you get hit by a bus, die and go to Heaven in dirty underwear?



do not forsake your mother teachings  
Pr 1:8, Pr 6:20