

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

NEVER FORGET



WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

November 10th and 11th, 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.—Remembrance Day Service



Weekly Notices



Basics Concepts of Dementia Care—a Workshop for Thunder Bay Deanery, Saturday, November 24th, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 228 Pearl Street, Thunder Bay. The workshop will be presented by Cindy Backen, Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant for Thunder Bay area. The discussion will focus on how to provide care to someone living with progressive dementia. Please call St. John's office @ 345-6898 by November 15th to confirm your attendance and leave your name and phone number. The registration fee is \$5.00 payable at the door. Refreshments will be served.

There will be an **ACW Meeting** on Tuesday, November 13th @ 1:30 p.m. in Haddon Hall. Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child will be packed. All Parish Women are invited.



The **2013 Church Calendars** are available from Ellen Zimmerman in the Church Office or during Sunday fellowship time—for only \$5.00. Hurry to get yours as we have a very limited supply!

The **2013 Offering Envelopes** will soon be available. If you wish to begin using Offering Envelopes in the new year, or need to make changes to name/addresses, please advise Ellen Zimmerman in the Church Office.

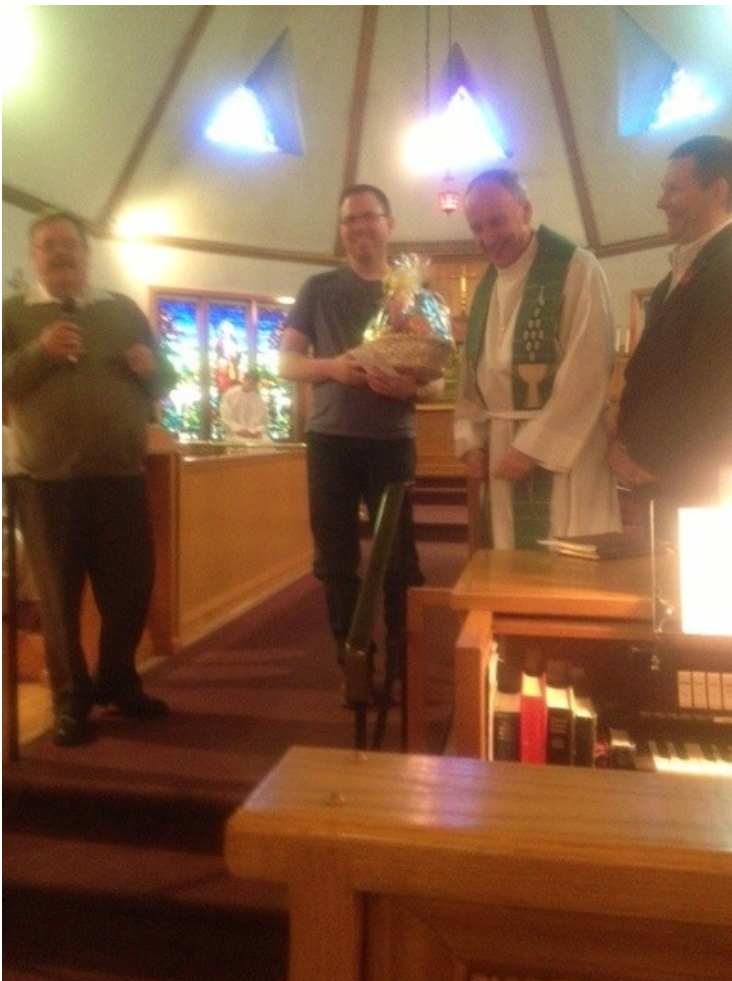
A **Deanery Family Day** is planned for Sunday, November 24th from 2:00—5:00 p.m. at Gammondale Farm. This will be fun for all ages, and proceeds will go in support of Deanery Child & Youth Ministry through the 'Joshua Jordan Memorial Fund.' Cost is \$10 per family and includes games, pony rides, hot dogs, and hot chocolate. For more information, contact Erin Ezack @ 473-7309 or edmead27@hotmail.com.

Our '**Tree of Warmth**' will be put up on November 15th for contributions of warm mitts, gloves, scarves, etc. to be donated to Christmas Cheer by December 18th to help those in need this winter. Let's surpass the 400 items we donated last year!!

Weekly Notices continued...



The St. Thomas Annual Tea was a great success again this year thanks to our organizer Monica Gibson (pictured on the left) and to so many other volunteers who worked tirelessly to make sandwiches and dainties; set up tables and decorate; serve and pour coffee and tea; and clean up afterwards. Many hands make light work! Well, Pastor Doug's wife Lesley doesn't look like she's working too hard. Quit laughin' girl and start pourin'!



A presentation was made to Ken Koza after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 3rd to thank him for all his hard work as Project Manger in renovating the rectory. Ken has worked non-stop for months (with the help of his Dad, Greg) to not just get the rectory up to standard but to go beyond our expectations to making it a beautiful place for our rector and his wife to live in. The work has been done with such excellence that it will last for decades to come. The fruit basket was for Ken's wife Cindy who had to endure many months of her husband's absence while he worked on the renovations.

In a recent thank you letter to the Executive, Ken writes:

"I wanted to thank you for the card and generous gift certificates. I'm not sure who I'll take but whoever it is, we'll be having a great time! :-) Cindy was very pleased and thanks you for her fruit basket and of course said it wasn't necessary as she didn't do anything. However, I appreciate the fact that even though she didn't labour with the project, it was recognized that it was very much a part of our life for several months. The open house yesterday went great and there were many fabulous comments about the house. It was wonderful to hear and have quite a few people that want me to start on their home next!...It's hard to believe it's all done now and I think will take a bit of time to sink in. Thanks again for everything and everyone's support throughout the project." ~ Ken

At this time of year, we spend time remembering those who gave their lives for our country. I believe for many, there are mixed feelings about how one should feel as we reflect on lives lost to war. We long for peace on earth and yet this is so often not the case. It has not been my personal experience to lose a son or daughter to war but many parents have experienced this loss and it must be painful. Pride and sadness all mixed together to leave a person feeling somewhat empty inside.

But regardless of the cause of the loss, most of us have experienced the loss of a loved one and at this time of year, I think about my father-in-law who passed away in November about 25 years ago. He was the kind of person who would light up a room as soon as he stepped into it and he always had people in stitches as he told his hilarious life stories. We miss him terribly, but we know that he is in a better place. And that is the hope we have as we remember those who have gone before us. Sometimes, however, in the midst of our sufferings, we forget or perhaps don't really understand what a glorious life God has planned for us.

Loss can take on many forms really. As we pack up to move again, I look around at this house and it brings back so many memories. Both the 2 1/2 years we spent here with our children when Doug was a curate at St. Thomas and now the most recent 2 1/2 years. It's five years of memories that I will always treasure. My daughter said to me the other day, "Mom, it must feel strange for you to leave that house again." And it does feel strange and even a bit sad, but I know that God has prepared a new place for us, a better place, a place where new dreams and new memories will be made. And He gives that promise to you and to me for our eternal lives. God has prepared a special place for us in heaven. Psalm 23:6 says, "And I will live in the house of the Lord forever." That's one of the most important connections we see in the Bible. It connects yesterday with today and then connects them both with tomorrow. God says, "I've got this great life planned for you, and surely goodness and mercy will follow you through it, but that's not the end! I've got something else at the end!" God builds it to a crescendo. He saves the best until last. We're going to heaven! With God, it just keeps getting better and better. The best is yet to come—"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

I'd like to close with a story from the November 11th entry in 'The Friendship Book.' It goes like this:

The Hollywood director Cecil B. DeMille was well known for his lavish Biblical epics like "King Of Kings" and "The Ten Commandments", but one of his most profoundly spiritual experiences can be described as a much lower budget affair.

Canoeing with friends one day, he saw water beetles swimming beneath the surface of the lake. One of the beetles climbed on to his canoe and died. After a while in the hot sun the creature's shell dried and cracked. And then a dragonfly emerged!

DeMille watched the shimmering creature buzz the surface of the water, but he knew the beetles beneath the water would never begin to understand this new and more glorious version of their creation.

"Would the creator of the universe do that for a water beetle," DeMille asked, "and do less for a human?"

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)

May God richly bless you with His peace and love and hope in knowing that the best really is yet to come.

Lesley Joy McClure



One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Johnny standing in the foyer of the church, looking at a large plaque that hung there.

After the young man of seven had stood there for some time, the pastor walked up beside him and said quietly, "Good morning, son."

"Good morning, Pastor," replied the youngster, not taking his eyes off the plaque. "Can I ask you, Sir, why are all these names listed on here?"

"Well, son, these are all the people who have died in the service," replied the pastor. Soberly, they stood together, staring up at the large plaque.

Little Johnny's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, "Which one, Sir, the 8:30 or the 10:30?"

Little Johnny was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he got his engineers to build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his i-phone to call headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and saved the Israelites." "Now, Johnny, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it."

