

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

October 20th and 21st, 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



Weekly Notices



The **Annual Tea & Bazaar** will be Saturday, November 3rd from 1:00—3:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$4.00, or \$2.00 for children under 12.

Reminder: **Advisory Board** meets this Sunday @ 7:00 p.m. in Haddon Hall. Everyone welcome.

The **church office** will not have regular coverage for the period Friday, October 19th—Tuesday, October 30th inclusive due to Ellen being away on vacation.

Parish Executive would like to thank an anonymous parishioner who recently made St. Thomas' beneficiary of two life insurance policies. Such gifts help ensure the long term on-going work of the Church, and are greatly appreciated.

Pastor Doug invites St. Thomas' volunteers to join him this Wednesday, October 24th @ 10:00 a.m. at **Isabella Retirement Home** for an informal service of song and sacrament with residents.

TRANSFORMING WORSHIP—WORSHIP THAT TRANSFORMS A WORKSHOP FOR THUNDER BAY DEANERY

Saturday, October 27—9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church, 1408 Edward Street South, Thunder Bay

Registration: \$10—Lunch Included

Our workshop leaders, Dr. David Buley and Dr. Jay Koyle, have many years of experience animating vital worship in congregations and helping others to do the same. This workshop will equip all participants in liturgy, especially those who exercise liturgical leadership, to foster joyful, engaging, transformative worship in their own congregation.

Weekly Notices continued...

St. Thomas hosted the **Deanery of Thunder Bay Council Meeting** on Saturday, October 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thank you to Janis Barker, et al, for providing refreshments and lunch.



The Property Improvement Committee has been making improvements to the church entranceway. They were delighted to receive a donation from Linda Smout (in memory of her mother Joan Morrison) of four beautiful banners—Pentecost/Advent/Christmas/Lent—to hang in our foyer. Pictured to the left is the banner for the season of Pentecost.

I recently watched a 'God Tube' video of a man who created a masterpiece of the crucified Christ by using a bucket of paint and his hand. I watched in awe as the picture unfolded. It sent chills up my spine. I can't imagine having that kind of artistic ability but I could feel the exhilaration inside of what it might be like. I know that one of the best stress busters for me is working on craft projects and I'm getting better at painting flowers but certainly painting an image of Christ is beyond my expertise. I do, however, dream about having a space where I could have a wall size canvas and with a brush and a bucket of paint in hand try to create something wonderful. It would never be a masterpiece but it sure would be fun! And if I could erase from my mind the 'mess' that I'd have to clean up afterwards, I would definitely like to put this on my 'bucket list'.

As important as it is to have that 'bucket list' of fun things we'd like to do before we meet our Maker, for the Christian, there is another list that all of us should take seriously before we die - it's our 'spiritual bucket list.' Believing in eternal life should strongly shape the way we live our lives right now. So before we depart this earthly scene for the heavenly realm, we should all make a list that would not only be pleasing to God but show respect and love for our fellow human beings - His children. Everyone's list will be different of course, depending on where we are in our walk with the Lord, and it may even change from year to year. But as Mother Theresa once said, "God doesn't require that we succeed, He only requires that we try." Here are five suggestions you may want to think about. We'll look at five more next week.

1. Live healthier. If our bodies are truly "temples of the Holy Spirit" then we need to treat them with respect. This could mean, eating healthier (more fruits and veggies, less junk food); exercising more (walking in the fresh air); losing weight if necessary; quitting smoking or cutting back on alcohol consumption; and definitely laughing and playing more.

2. Learn something new. God may be trying to open doors or redirect our lives in a certain direction but we must be open to learning. We could read books, take a course, learn a new skill. It may even lead to a new career or at the very least become a hobby that gives us countless hours of joy. We may even want to master a new techni-gadget. Pastor Doug is having a hoot with his new cell phone and quite honestly, I didn't think he had it in him. :-) We could also be challenged to read something like A.W. Tozer's, *The Pursuit of God*. Tozer's writings are challenging, convicting, and inspiring. It's not the kind of book one would read in a whole day. You would read a page, put it down, repent, and pick it up again the next day. It's a truly cleansing experience. When we delve into something new and fascinating, and even challenging, a whole new world can open up for us. And remember, our world is God's world.

3. Forgive someone. If there is someone from the past that has hurt you and left scars on your soul - forgive them. Get rid of the anger, turn loose the ill will, and make every effort to erase those terrible memories. Our Lord is a great healer of the soul. His restoration work will, however, require obedience to God and humbling ourselves to the Holy Spirit.

4. Nurture friendships. Life is just way too hard without them. Of course, life can be hard with them too, for we all know that there may be some days that we love our friends more than on other days but we continue to do so even when they hurt us from time to time. True friends share in each other's worlds - the joy AND the pain - but in the end they can be the greatest gift God gives us. At this time of year, I think about Penny, a very dear friend of mine who lives out west and whose birthday is just around the corner. Penny and I met at a difficult time in both our lives. I was just at the beginnings of my Grave's disease, plus struggling with other issues, and she had her own set of struggles. Her husband had just lost his job, her son was being bullied at school, her house was full of black mould, and she didn't get along with the boss. Penny and I worked together and for months she came into work every day in tears. I didn't need her problems, I had enough of my own, and she certainly didn't need mine, but together we toughed it out and ended up truly caring for each other. I will always treasure her and the memories of our friendship will last a lifetime. Helen Keller once said, "Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light." And if we don't nurture friendships, we may end our lives very alone.

5. Ask Jesus into your life. If you haven't done this yet, make it a priority. No matter what your age or circumstance, get to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour and start living faithfully for Him. If you do this, you will discover that the God who created you has plans for your life beyond anything you ever dreamed of. Besides, our eternal destiny depends on this relationship. Jesus tells us that 'with Him we will bear much fruit, but apart from Him we can do nothing.' (John 15:5)

Every day we have the privilege to remember God's faithfulness. We have the opportunity to step out and achieve the goals that transform us more and more into the likeness of Christ. Each day we can make a fresh start and we can add one more item to our 'spiritual bucket list.' Start thinking about where you are in your walk with God and where you'd like to be a year from now. God will bless your efforts.

Lesley Joy McClure



What's on your bucket list?



Excuse his boring wine selection. You can't expect more from someone who has 'visiting a Walmart' on his bucket list.

Groaner

Q. What did the big bucket say to the little bucket?

A. You look a little pail.

"What is it like to be a Christian?" The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."



On the outskirts of town, there was a huge nut tree by the cemetery fence. One day two boys filled up a bucket with nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said one boy. The bucket was so full, several rolled out toward the fence. Cycling down the road by the cemetery was a third boy. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." He knew what it was. "Oh my," he shuddered. "It's Satan and St. Peter dividing the souls at the cemetery." He cycled down the road as fast as he could and found an old man hobbling along with a cane. "Come here quick," said the boy. "You won't believe what I heard. Satan and St. Peter are down at the cemetery dividing the souls." The man said, "Shoo, you brat, can't you see I'm finding it hard to walk as it is." But after several pleas, the man hobbled to the cemetery. Standing by the fence, they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been telling the truth. Let's find out if we can see the devil himself." Shivering with fear, they peered through the fence, but they were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought-iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of Satan. At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. And one last one for you. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence, and we'll be done." They say the old guy made it back to town five minutes before the boy.