

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

September 15th and 16th, 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



An **Adult Christian Learning Class (ACLC)** is planned to begin on Wednesday, October 10th for eight weeks. Adults wishing to be baptized, reaffirm their faith, be confirmed, be officially received into the Anglican Church, or simply grow in their knowledge of the faith, please contact Pastor Doug **as soon as possible**.

The **Shelter House morning team** is seeking new members to help out once a month the 4th Wednesday of the month, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to prepare the noon meal for the Shelter House clients. If you would like to contribute to this worthy and rewarding outreach, please contact Diane Simmons.

In preparation for **Back-to-Church and Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday**, the Sunday School invites you to join in delivering invitations to homes surrounding St. Thomas' on Saturday, September 22nd. We'll meet at the church @ 9:30 a.m. and then fan out to deliver invitations on the neighboring streets. At 12:00 noon, we'll return to the church for a neighborhood lunch and will be offering hot dogs to passers-by as part of our 'Feed the Hungry' initiative. Please advise Carolyn Napierala if you can help out.

September 30th will be our **Back-to-Church** and also **Harvest Thanksgiving** service. We have invitation cards available for you to give to someone you invite to church. Please plan to stay for a '**Stone Soup Lunch**' that day after the service as well.

There will be an **ACW Meeting** on Tuesday, September 18th @ 1:30 p.m. in Haddon Hall. All women of the Parish are invited.

Advisory Board members, please note that the Board meets next Sunday, September 23rd @ 7:00 p.m. in Haddon Hall. All parishioners are welcome.

Join Pastor Doug at **Grandview Lodge Chapel** this Wednesday, September 19th @ 10:30 a.m. for an uplifting service with the residents. St. Thomas' volunteers greatly appreciated.

New St. Thomas' Men's Group begins Friday, September 21st @ 7:30 a.m. in the Education Centre with a 35 minute video series, "Wild at Heart—a Band of Brothers" about discovering God, authentic masculinity, and the spirit of adventure. Group Facilitators are Charlie Wilson, Missionary and Co-Director of Nation at Prayer, and Pastor Doug. All men are challenged to attend.

The **Church Office will be closed** Monday, September 17th and Friday, September 21st due to staff absence.

Weekly Notices continued...

Please join us downstairs this week for a 'Soup Dinner' after the 5:00 p.m. Saturday service, and a 'Soup Lunch' after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service with our guest, **Mary Sherwood**, a missionary from Madagascar. The soup is provided by the Mothers' Union—freewill offering. Thank you.

Thank you to **Carolyn Napierala** for the exceptional job she did in coordinating our Pot Luck Supper on Wednesday for Mary Sherwood's presentation. Thirty people attended, many from other parishes in the Thunder Bay Deanery. Thank you also to **Hawley Gareau** and **Sheila Valliant** for helping serve and clean up at the supper.



Becky Winnett-Day, St. Thomas' custodian, was congratulated for her recent graduation from Everest College as a Personal Support Worker. Bonnie Shipston, an officer of the college, made a presentation to Becky on behalf of the congregation at the 10:30 a.m. service on September 9th. Pictured above is Becky (on the left) and St. Thomas' Administration Assistant, Ellen Zimmerman.



Walter and Monica Gibson have been busy painting areas of the church to give it a fresh, clean appearance. They have worked very hard in getting the front entranceway and vestibule painted. What a beautiful, professional look they've given St. Thomas' church. Many thanks for a job well done!

Parish Reports

What a wonderful response we have had to our "Feed The Hungry Sunday's". Both a generous amount of canned and packaged food plus some cash donations have been received for the food cupboard. It is wonderful to receive food that matches what we put in each bag that we hand out.

The food cupboard here at St. Thomas provides groceries for the 10 – 15 bags (for singles, couples & families) twice a month. Since people are asked to come only once per month that means we touch the lives of as many as 30 people (or couples/families). As you can imagine it takes a lot of food to fill these bags. The grocery bags we use were generously donated by Metro. The money we receive as part of the church budget provides for a large portion of that food but your generous donations is what allows us to consistently provide enough food for almost one week.

Every week I carefully read each flier making a list of where I can buy food cupboard items for \$0.99 or less. Also who has case lots on sale. It is always my objective to get the most for the least.

Here is the list of foods we put in each bag.

- 1 pasta (bags are best as they are easier to pack)
- 1 pasta sauce.....cans please, we don't want to risk glass jars breaking
- 2 boxes of Macaroni & Cheese
- 2 cans vegetables
- 1 can pasta.....e.g. Beef –a-roni, Alphagetti, Ravioli etc.
- 1 can pork and beans
- 1 can fruit
- 2 packages of Flavoured rice, pasta or potatoes e.g. Sidekicks
- 2 instant noodles (flat packages are easier to pack in the bag)
- 1 tin tuna or salmon
- 10 tea bags

For families, we do a second bag with as many of the extra items as we can. Cereal, juice, peanut butter, jam, honey, cookies, crackers, granola bars and extra soup and tuna. We also have bags containing, 3 rolls of toilet paper, a box of Kleenex, toothbrush and toothpaste and sample size soap, shampoo etc. These extras are really appreciated by the recipients.

Please, no expired food, and no pop.

Thank you for the food stuff and cash donated to our food cupboard. Please continue your generous donations. We are making a difference in the lives of many Westfort residence. We truly are "Feeding The Hungry".

Janis and Garry Barker (and Peter Toohey)



Parish Reports continued...

FEED THE HUNGRY' COMMITTEE REPORT

"A generous man will himself be blessed,
for he shares his food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

The 'Feed The Hungry' Committee has been busy planning a number of upcoming events in which YOU play a very important part. Your continued support and participation in all of these events is crucial and appreciated.

The first is a free neighbourhood 'BBQ Hot Dog' lunch on Saturday, September 22nd. Posters, signs and invitations will be handed out in our neighbourhood and everyone participating in delivering invitations that morning is invited back to the church for lunch. **THANK YOU** for your generous donations for this event!!

Harvest Thanksgiving is Sunday, September 30th and you are invited to join the Sunday School downstairs following the service for a 'Stone Soup' lunch. The children will be presenting a skit during the service explaining the Stone Soup principle. However, beforehand over the next couple of weeks, you may receive a phone call with a simple request. Watch for the magic! Don't miss it!!

Beginning in November we will be collecting your favourite recipes. In particular, we are looking for recipes that utilize ingredients given out in our Food Cupboard's grocery bag. These recipes will be duplicated and handed out to those receiving groceries. Next year, a cookbook will be produced and sold with profits going to the work of St. Thomas' Food Cupboard.

In December, throughout Advent, we will be challenged to raise a 'Ton of Food'. We will be asking for the donation of a different food item for each of the four weeks in Advent, including Christmas Day: 1st week: canned fruit; 2nd week: canned vegetables; 3rd week: canned tuna / salmon; 4th week: prepared packages of rice and pasta (such as 'Sidekicks'); Christmas Day: packaged pasta and pasta sauce. Start watching for the sales and collecting now!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

SUBMITTED BY CAROLYN NAPIERALA

Excitement has been mounting!!!! Our first lesson has been presented and I wanted to give a short update on Sunday School.

The Sunday School team has worked through the summer to prepare an exciting, dynamic, and interactive year. All lessons have been outlined, crafts and games are ready, skits and songs have been scheduled with Pastor Doug for the children to present in Church. Everything for the year is in our Sunday School binder and on our computer.

Last year was our first presentation of Video Lessons; these were based on the Old Testament, and we enhanced the lessons with games, songs and crafts. Our presentations in church were videos along with action songs used to help our children feel more comfortable expressing their faith. This year our lessons will be from the New Testament and we will be spending more time on activities to increase our children's comfort with Prayer.

Some highlights will be the children learning and then making their own Lord's Prayer book, they will make Anglican Prayer Beads and a Prayer Cube. Each child will have one to take home with them. A few other highlights are the Fisher's of Men bulletin board, the Last Supper craft, the splash game and the lost sheep game. Our presentations in church will be skits and songs. This year the children will be actively involved in inviting friends and the Westfort community to our Stone Soup Sunday.

It is difficult to show on paper the excitement and passion I have seen from the SS leaders as we prepared this year, but everyone is welcome to visit our class or speak with any of us.

Submitted by Bonnie Shipston on behalf of the Sunday School Team.

We had our Sunday School Kick-off last week with a special commissioning at the beginning of the service. You'll see from the report in this week's E-newsletter that our team of leaders have a wonderful and exciting year planned for the children. They have 'caught the spirit of excitement' that so often happens when you 'hang' with young people.

I know when my grand-daughter, Jazlyn Joy was home this summer, I found her exuberance to be contagious. Even the tiniest of things would make her eyes light up. In our bathroom, I had a hook on the wall that was a sunflower and on the sunflower was a tiny ladybug. Apparently, Jazlyn loves ladybugs! In fact, that was the first costume she ever wore when she was less than a year old. (*see picture to the right*). When she went to visit her other Grandma for a few days and then came back to our place, she said, "I have to see your bathroom." So I followed her in and she quickly took her tiny two-year-old finger and pointed to the sunflower hook and said with delight, "there's the ladybug!" Her enthrallment in one of God's tiniest creations got my creative juices going and I've been busy preparing for the room in the rectory where she will sleep the next time she visits. I've been collecting rocks and painting them. I made two look like ladybugs; on another I made a ladybug house; and on another I made a ladybug car. I repainted a small table, put ladybug and flower stickers on the top and then varnished over it. I ordered a ladybug comforter set, and found a cute ladybug lamp shade on Etsy. I even found some fabric with ladybugs on it to make some curtains for the window. That one little comment from a tiny child lifted my spirits and stirred up the creativity within my mind.



Children have the capacity to see the wonder in the smallest of things. And they are like sponges in absorbing their surroundings. They laugh and play so much more than we do as adults. Perhaps that's why God wants us to have a child-like faith. That innocent, accepting faith that brings joy into a child's world, can do the same for us.

Bringing our children up to have Jesus in their hearts not only changes them, it changes us—it changes the family—it changes the church—it changes the whole world. Let us not miss the opportunity in our homes and in our churches to teach our children well. And when we have occasions to engage in activities with the children, may they inspire us to have a passion for life, a hunger and thirst for our Lord, and a thankfulness for all the wonder and beauty of God's creation.

~ **Lesley Joy McClure**

"Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children."

~ Chuck Swindoll.

"Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven." ~ Henry Ward Beecher.

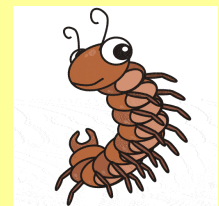
"You may speak but a word to a child, and in that child there may be slumbering a noble heart which shall stir the Christian church in years to come." ~ Charles Spurgeon

"The soul is healed by being with children." ~ Fyodor Dostoevsky



A four year old was at the pediatrician for a check up. As the doctor looked in her ears with an otoscope, he asked, "Do you think I'll find Max and Ruby in here?" The little girl stayed silent. Next, the doctor took a tongue depressor and looked down her throat. He asked, "Do you think I'll find the Cookie Monster down there?" Again, the little girl was silent. Then the doctor put a stethoscope to her chest. As he listened to her heart beat, he asked, "Do you think I'll hear Dora in there?" "Oh, no!" the little girl replied. "Jesus is in my heart. Dora is on my underpants."

A young man decides life would be more fun if he had a pet. Unfortunately, he had allergies so he couldn't get anything with hair on it. So he goes to the pet store looking for something a bit unusual. He finally settles on two things: a talking centipede, the kind that really does have a hundred legs, and a talking ladybug. The next day being Sunday, he decides to take his new pets to church. He goes up to the little box and says, "Would you guys like to go to church with me today?" The ladybug says with excitement, "Yes, I'd love to go!" But there's no answer from the centipede. A few minutes later he tries again. "How about going to church with me?" The ladybug says, "I'm almost ready!" but there's still no answer from the centipede. After a few more minutes, he says, more urgently, "Are you coming centipede?" A tiny, bug-like voice comes out of the box. "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes."



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

MISSIONS OFFERING TODAY



"Her methods are a bit unorthodox, but you've got to admit she's effective!"

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



Two pastors were riding very fast on a motorcycle. They were promptly stopped by a policeman who said, "What do you think you are doing? What if you have an accident?" The pastor driving said, "Don't worry, Jesus is with us." "In that case," the policeman said, "I have to book you. Three people are not allowed to ride on a motorcycle."