

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

September 29th and 30th, 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 for eight weekly sessions beginning on Wednesday, October 10th from 7:00—9:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. Adults wishing to 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. Registration forms are also available at the back of the church.

A **New Men's Group** has begun at St. Thomas with a video series, "Wild at Heart—a Band of Brothers" - about discovering God, authentic masculinity, and the spirit of adventure. This new group will be facilitated by Charlie Wilson, Missionary and Regional Co-Director of Nation at Prayer, and by Pastor Doug. All men are challenged to come join the group Friday mornings @ 7:30 a.m. in the Education Centre.

Please remember to bring '**fruits of the harvest**' (i.e. donations from your gardens or colourful gourds) to help decorate St. Thomas' for **Harvest Thanksgiving**. Please come out and help decorate on Saturday, September 29th @ 10:30 a.m.

A special **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS, LUNCH BOXES and BRIEFCASES** is happening this Sunday. Children and adults are encouraged to present their school backpacks, lunch boxes, and/or briefcases for a blessing to be pronounced by Pastor Doug during our Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday School Presentation at the 10:30 a.m. service. Join in as we lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory at the beginning of a new school year.

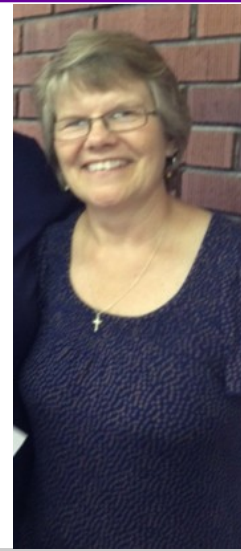
There will be **NO CHOIR PRACTICE** this Thursday, October 4th.

Please remember to bring your **food offerings** on Sunday, October 7th, the first Sunday of the month. Financial contributions to 'Feed the Hungry' or the 'Food Cupboard' are also welcomed with thanks.

There will be a **Mother's Union meeting** on Tuesday, October 2nd @ 7:00 p.m. in Haddon Hall. Everyone welcome.



At Clericus, on Tuesday, September 25th, our clergy welcomed new Incumbent, Chris Harper from St. Michael's in Thunder Bay. Chris is pictured here (4th from the left) with our other Thunder Bay Anglican clergy, Doug McClure, Deborah Kraft, Paul Carr, Nancy Ringham, Ed Swayze, and Gordon Holroyd. We extend a warm welcome to Chris and his wife Tracy to our deanery and diocese.



Congratulations!

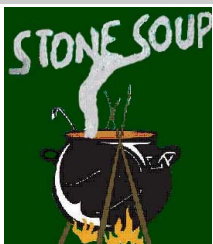
to Ellen Zimmerman who recently achieved an A grade from Thornloe College in 'Understanding the Bible', part of a Certificate of Anglican Lay Leaders Course. Ellen is a Lay Reader at St. Thomas in addition to being our Administrative Assistant.



Some of St. Thomas' Sunday School children and teachers head out to deliver invitations to our Harvest Thanksgiving service and Stone Soup Lunch (September 30th). Nearly 500 homes received invitations for several blocks around the church.



Christa Novasat enjoys hot dogs with a few Westfort folk who came by for St. Thomas' Neighbourhood Lunch on Saturday, September 22nd. Thank you to Christa for organizing yet another 'Feed the Hungry' initiative.



Please join us for our 'Stone Soup Lunch' after the 10:30 a.m. service this Sunday, September 30th.

This Sunday, September 30th, is our **Back to Church Sunday**. We've been busy promoting this concept for a few weeks now in the hopes that we will see some new and/or returning faces in our congregation. It's not complicated or even that difficult: Invite someone you know to something you love. Invite a friend, a family member, a neighbour. Invite those who used to attend church and/or those who have never attended church. The important part is to invite someone and then give them a special warm welcome. It's one of the most natural and effective approaches to 'evangelism' there is—an effective way to share our gifts of faith and worship: one friend invites another friend to church? How simple is that?

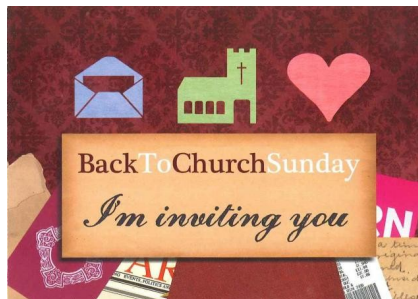
We often express that we have a burden for the people in the community around us and so we try to invite them to special events happening at St. Thomas. Once again, some of our young people (and not so young people) were out last Saturday inviting people in the Westfort community to join us this Sunday. This type of 'back to church' initiative is an effective way to mobilize our church to engage the community through the power of one simple tool: a personal invitation. This is perhaps one of the best outreach tools we know: Christians personally inviting their friends, family and neighbours to church.

This personal invitation is how many of us began our new life in Christ. The church is where we met many friends who encouraged us to live strong for Jesus. It's where we found healing and hope in difficult times. So many positive things happen when the followers of Christ are in community with one another—encouragement, edification, growth to name a few. Yes, God is the one who gives us these things, but He does it through other Believers, and we forfeit the chance to receive these blessings when we avoid community. We must get back to church on a regular basis!

"The 'Back to Church Movement' is about more than just attending the local church. When Christians are faithful in their attendance to the local church, Jesus Christ becomes paramount to our families, the lost become a priority to our lives, and fellow Believers become partners in our efforts to transform our society." ~ *Dr. James O. Davis (Co-founder of the Billion Soul Network)*. If the Church loses its voice and becomes invisible, it will become irrelevant. The Church is not irrelevant and neither are the teachings of Jesus Christ. In fact, a strong Church is the best gift we can give our communities and its families.

God's Word tells us to spur one another on toward love and good deeds, and not give up meeting together. (*Hebrews 10: 24, 25*). He is all about relationships and we are to walk through life with other Believers. We have a wonderful opportunity at St. Thomas to do this and so I encourage you to not only join us in worship this Sunday but also to invite 'someone you know to something you love.'

Lesley Joy McClure



The following page has an article by Michael Harvey, a founding team member of the 'Back to Church Sunday Movement.' It is very insightful and encouraging.

The power of perspective in invitation

Perspective comes originally from the Latin perspicere, "to see through". We need to see people in our congregation, better than they presently are. Very often I hear church leader's say to me. I can see invitation work well over in that church over there "but you should see my congregation!" I can almost hear Jesus saying "you should see my disciples!"

Jesus 'saw' Simon differently than he saw himself. In fact he renamed him "Cephas" the rock. It's just that Simon didn't act like a rock. He was all over the place. But Simon Peter became very influential for Christ.

Never underestimate the power of perspective. Indeed, the perspective influence of those around us is so powerful! Many times we don't even realize we're being strongly affected because influences generally develop over an extended period of time.

I have been concerned for a while that we have a tendency to write off our congregations that have a majority of senior citizens. In a recent study of churches, the Back to Church Sunday Team in the UK discovered that even if a congregation is senior it can still have powerful influence over younger people. In fact, the survey found that 60% of those invited by our senior congregations were under the age of 50. Why is this so? I think we have for far too long called our congregations elderly, rather than elders. There is a difference between the two. Elders have respect, and have over a long time done a lot for their kith and kin. Therefore, their adult children and grandchildren will often be open to an invite from Grandma and Grandpa. It may well be by using phrases like aging, and elderly that we have spoken death to the church and many of our best people have become "Road" Christians (Retired on active duty). We need to re-recruit the senior members of the congregations and envision them of their position of elders and of their powerful influence on those around them.

Everyone ought to have a dream which leads to a perspective that lasts beyond a lifetime, to leave a legacy behind. A legacy is something that someone has achieved that continues to exist after they die. Many of us are someone else's legacy. We were probably invited by someone, to enable us to cross the threshold of a church building, and many of us would not be here if someone had not come alongside us, at key points in our spiritual life.

Jesus of course left a massive legacy behind but I want to finish on his final vision 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' This legacy has led down the years to you and me. Now we have a chance to leave our own legacy behind by offering an invitation that may very well last beyond your own lifetime, and remember Jesus ends his final words of legacy by saying (and as you go) 'I am with you always' Matt 28:20 KJV

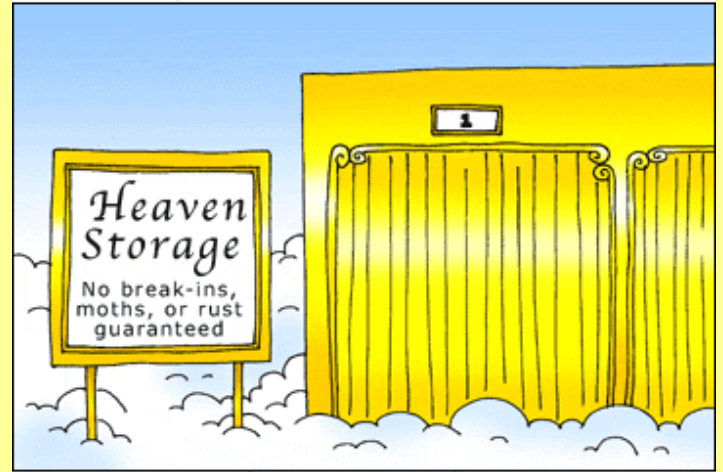
Borrow my eyes and gain a new perspective to see beyond your fear and offer an invitation which might also change the perspective of your friend or relative.

By Michael Harvey, Author of [Unlocking the Growth](#), available through Augsburg Fortress



The vicar was out of town and his wife was home alone. Just as she was going to bed she noticed people in their shed stealing things. She phoned the police but was told there was no one in the area to help. The policeman said they would send someone over as soon as possible. She hung up, said a prayer, and said, 'Lord, forgive me for what I am about to do.' A minute later she rang again. 'Hello', she said, 'I called you a minute ago because there were people in my shed. You don't have to hurry now, because I've shot them.' Within five minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area, plus helicopters and an armed response unit. They caught the burglars red-handed. One of the officers said: 'I thought you said you'd shot them.' To which she replied: 'I thought you said there was no one available.'

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Thanks to Katie Stamm (See Matthew 6:19-20)

09-23-2002



I'm getting so old that all my friends in heaven will think I didn't make it

Reverend Bill was asking some of his parishioners how they liked the new exercise class for seniors that was being offered in their parish. One little 90-year-old lady told Reverend Bill, "I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join the exercise class. I was so excited when I started to bend, twist, gyrate, jump up and down, and perspire for a whole hour. But, by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over."

Computer Compact Mouse



And just when you thought you had all the latest computer gadgets!



Computer Coffee Maker

