

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

September 8th and 9th, 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

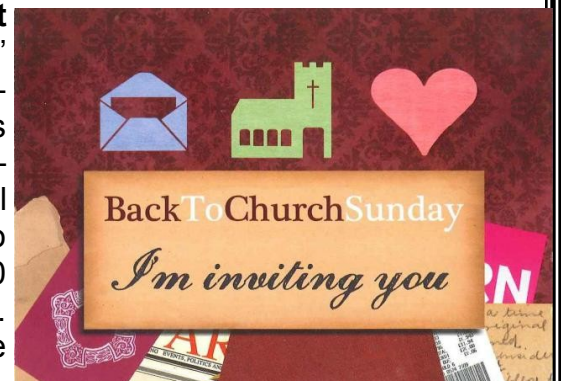


An **Adult Christian Learning Class (ACLC)** is planned to begin on Wednesday, October 10th for eight weeks. Adults wishing to be baptized, reaffirm their faith, be confirmed, be officially received into the Anglican Church, or simply grow in their knowledge of the faith, please contact Pastor Doug *as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

Members are needed urgently to join the **Shelter House morning team**. This team gets together the 4th Wednesday of the month, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to prepare the noon meal at Shelter House. This is an important and rewarding outreach. Many hands make light work. Please contact Diane Simmons to help.

There will be a **Mothers' Union Meeting** on Tuesday, September 11th @ 7:00 p.m. in Haddon Hall. Mary Sherwood will be the guest speaker. Everyone welcome!

In preparation for **Back-to-Church and Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday**, September 30th, St. Thomas' Sunday School will have invitation cards to be distributed throughout Westfort. 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 to enjoy a pizza lunch. All ages are welcome to join us as we invite the people of Westfort to this special service on September 30th.



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

W e e k l y N o t i c e s continued...

We have a special guest joining us for several events in September. **Mary Sherwood**, a missionary in Madagascar, will be here:

Tuesday, September 11th: Prayer Group @ 10:45 a.m.
 Hour of Prayer @ 11:30 a.m.
 Mothers' Union Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 12th: Deanery Potluck Supper @ 6:00 p.m.



Saturday, September 15th &
Sunday, September 16th: Mary will be at our Saturday and Sunday services to speak about her work in Madagascar. Mothers' Union will have a soup supper on Saturday and a soup lunch on Sunday by free-will offering at both of these services.

For the Deanery Potluck Supper on the evening of September 12th, please RSVP to Carolyn Napierla @ 345-9223.

Mary will also have several 'piggy banks' with her. Donations will be gratefully received for them. One bank is to help pay for multiple vitamins to take back to Madagascar. The second bank is to help give the children at both centres a special Christmas.

Mary will also be bringing some Madagascar crafts for sale!

Mary has founded two excellent ministries for young people at Akany Famojena (orphanage) and Akany Tafita (Inner City Mission). She is a vibrant servant of the Lord and marvelous speaker. Please come join in these events to hear Mary speak and to make her welcome at St. Thomas'.



Weekly Notices continued...

A letter from Gail and Rob Brooks:

Dear Pastor Doug,

Thank you so much for the wonderful send off and heartfelt wishes. St. Thomas' will always have a warm place in our hearts. Imagine our surprise when we arrived at church and our names were on the sign! Thank you for all the lovely gifts. Thanks to Laura for that beautiful song. Thanks to Carolyn for that wonderful framed poem which will find a special place in our new home. Thank you for the lovely clock with scripture and the chalkboard for Rob's workshop. I have been playing the CD and I'm enjoying it as I am packing. The clock will go in our kitchen as a reminder of you all. Thank you for the delicious lunch and the hands that prepared it as well as the special cake. Also, thank you to the ladies of the Altar Guild for the lovely flowers.

We have always thought of St. Thomas' as our village. You know that old adage, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' Well, it takes a village (parish) to raise a Christian. We came to St. Thomas' as unbelievers searching for something and now we leave with Christ in our hearts. We are so thankful for that. God has blessed our lives with all of you.

Love,

Gail and Rob



...Gail and Rob for your wonderful contribution to St. Thomas' over the years and for being such faithful servants of the Lord.

Life in the Parish



Physical limitations don't keep our parishioners from attending worship services at St. Thomas.

Shirley and Len Koza (on the left), usually attend the Saturday evening service as Shirley can find mornings difficult, but throughout the summer they have managed to faithfully attend Sunday mornings until Saturday Services resume again on September 8th.

Nothing stops **Bob Day** (on the right) from joining us in worship. Rumour has it that he calls his E-bike a 'chick magnet' because it has a 'Babe seat' on it! Way to go Bob! Keep bringing those babes to church.

Please join us
for worship



HOOR OF PRAYER resumes its weekly gathering on Tuesday, September 18th @ 11:30—12:30 noon in St. Thomas' Side Chapel. Every second week, prayers are led by Margie Wilson, Regional Co-Director of Nation at Prayer. It's a wonderful opportunity to pray for our Parishes, our City, our Region, our Province, and our Nation. Everyone is welcome. Contact either Margie @ 343-3686 or Pastor Doug @ 623-3608.

To the left are some of our faithful participants in the weekly Hour of Prayer:

Ellen Zimmerman, Dawn Schibler, Arlene Hyslop, Margaret Irwin, and Barb Hogarth.

How was your summer—besides hot? Doug and I were blessed to have some of our children here while we were on vacation. Of course, it went by too quickly but we treasured every moment with them.

In July, our son Sean, spent a week with us and it was so good to have him home. He hadn't been back to Thunder Bay for three years and although we've seen him several times while we were out in Calgary for visits, his being back in 'God's country' as he calls it, was a reminder to him that we do live in a beautiful part of the world. Being with him reminded me of what a 'brainy' person he is. Of course, his academic achievements have let me know how smart he is, but what surprised me was how he continues to 'challenge' his brain even now that he's officially out of school. He does continue to study and learn and work on certifications for his job but it's the little everyday things he does to keep his mind alert. For example, he tries to memorize as much as he can. He never uses a list for anything. His to-do list is in his head. His grocery list, for example, is stored to memory and he has no difficulty recalling what he needs once he is at the store. When I had a look of doubt on my face, he said, 'Look, I'll prove it to you,' as he picked up a deck of cards, shuffled them, slowly turned each one over to read it, and then put the deck back in his hand and then told me the number and suit of all 52 cards before turning them over. Needless to say, I was impressed!

So why should we try to memorize things? From a physical perspective, it may prevent or help delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Although the exact cause of Alzheimer's isn't clear, it does appear to be influenced by a combination of genetic, environmental, and other factors such as mental stimulation. Research shows us that people who participate in mentally stimulating activities as well as learning new ones are at a lower risk for developing Alzheimer's. The theory is that challenging intellectual activity builds up rich neural connections that function as insurance against later brain tissue losses.

From a spiritual perspective, memorizing Scripture can 'grow trees in our brain.' Let me explain. Christian author Gary Smalley never really understood why it was important to memorize scripture when he was younger. "But now," he says, "as I memorize them and meditate on them during the day, it's getting clearer and clearer in my own brain that I'm growing trees in my brain. And the fruit of those trees are changing my life. It's the truth and it's setting me free." He goes on to say, "I can't remember the last time I wavered. I'm going through some of the same junk that we all go through but I'm doing something today that I never dreamed I'd live long enough to do. I actually am rejoicing in my difficulties, and my hardships. I can actually do that today. Where is it coming from? Not from me. It's coming from the power of God, the scriptures of Jesus words, His commands, His teachings, and we get them in our hearts." Gary Smalley's comments on the importance of memorizing scripture concludes with: "When we memorize God's word through the Bible, people are going to see the love we have for one another and then they're going to know that He's real. So, it's just living out what He gave us while He was on this earth. And knowing God's word helps us to light the way for others during their own struggles in life."

God has given us this wonderful gift of His word to not only help us with our own struggles, but to help others during their time of need. If you're not in the habit of reading your Bible every day, then why not give it a try. The habit of reading, meditating, and memorizing will help your brain and change your life. There isn't anything that God can't help us with and help comes from the Lord through His word. If you don't know where to start, then devotional booklets like 'Our Daily Bread' and 'Today' are both available for free from St. Thomas' church. If you scan the topic index in the Daily Bread devotional, for example, you'll see help for doubts, encouragement, faith, grief, hope, love, service, temptation, trials, etc., etc. Most Bibles also have a subject index or concordance in the back of them with scripture references to help you with a particular concern.

Whatever approach you take for reading the Bible, do it faithfully. All the books of the Bible are inspired by one Author, the Spirit of God, and are therefore trustworthy in giving us wisdom and direction for living, training for service, and solutions to all of life's struggles. Have a great week!

~ **Lesley Joy McClure**



Before our church could afford its own building, we used to use the gymnasium of a local high school. We also used a few of their classrooms to teach Sunday school. As Sunday School Superintendent, I decided to check in on one of our new teachers. As I walked out into the hallway, I saw this new teacher standing outside her classroom with her head against a locker. I heard her mutter, "How did you get yourself into this?" Knowing that she had been assigned to a rather 'difficult' class, I tried to offer my support. "Are you okay?" I asked. "Can I help?" She lifted her head and replied, "I'll be fine as soon as I get this kid out of this locker."

A new neighborhood church had offered to send a bus to pick up the neighborhood children. When one of the youngsters got home, his mother asked the young boy, "How did you find the new church today?" The boy answered, "I simply hopped off the bus—and there it was."

Sarah: I think we need a new Sunday School teacher.

Rev. Bob: Why is that?

Sarah: Our teacher doesn't know anything. She keeps asking us for the answers.

The summer holidays are over and young David returned to school. Only two days later his teacher phoned his mother (the pastor's wife) to tell her that David was misbehaving and using language that was unacceptable, especially for a pastor's son. "Wait a minute!" said the pastor's wife. "I had David with me for eight weeks and I never called you once when he misbehaved."



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Thanks to Charles Dunleavy (See 1 Kings 11:1-9)

08-19-2005

SOLOMON RECONSIDERS HIS POLICIES ON WIVES AND CONCUBINES

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08-24-2009

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A BENEVOLENT GOD CAN LET BACK-TO-SCHOOL HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

