

# St. Thomas Tidings April 2017

Church Phone (352)357-4358 / FAX (352)357-9963 Newsletter Editor: Lisa Labud  
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## WORDS FROM FR. JOHN

The Christian life is a life of tension between the prayer for *My will* to be done or *Thy will* to be done. This tension is a lifelong struggle, not a one-time conflict. Being a Christian is a process, not a point; a marathon, not a sprint; an epic film, not a snap shot. Yet, we inhabit a culture that insists upon immediacy, quick fixes, and instant everything. When it comes to growing in Christ we MUST be committed to the long haul, and not get discouraged and quit when it doesn't happen instantly. God's way insists upon slow, steady persistence and eventual change. God views our lives as narratives, not as individual scenes. In other words, we are not defined by one event or one decision, but rather our lives are taken as a whole, a narrative, a lifetime of decisions and events. It is astonishing to read about the patience of God in relation to significant figures of the Bible. We see how they wrestled with the tension of God's will versus their wills, and in all cases, we see God's patience and their persistence. Abraham is not defined by one faulty decision to lie about his relationship to Sarai, Jacob is not confined to his earlier primary characteristic of being a deceiver, and Peter is not forever bound to his threefold denial of Christ. In all of these cases, and many more, God graciously and patiently allows lives to unfold, and what God is looking for is not momentary perfection but rather long-term progress and persistence. As Christians we should never stop growing, and growth inevitably involves times of failure, especially the failure to pray and live, "not my will, but thy will be done." As we grow in our faith we learn how to live consistently in and under the will of God. God graciously realizes that growth takes time. This is why forgiveness is God's response to our sins and failures. God can and wants to work with us when we are willing to learn and grow even in light of and in spite our mistakes. However, God cannot work with people who are unwilling to learn and grow, which explains why St. Gregory of Nyssa (c. 4th century) defined sin simply as our **refusal to grow**. Keep praying and growing, stagnation is not an option.

Peace,  
Fr. John

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
317 South Mary Street  
Eustis, Florida 32726

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

John & Monika Potter 4/07/90  
Tom & Gail Carlson 4/15/72  
Rob & Linda Wilhelm 4/19/81  
Ed & Wing Sigler 4/20/68  
Chuck & Janet Clarke 4/22/79  
Tom & Georgiana Wright 4/25/92  
George & Kay Ikeler 4/25/64  
Jerry & Evelyn Fields 4/28/60  
Sean & Lara Lahey 4/28/05  
George & Janet Gizelt 4/30/71  
Bobby & Nancy Morgan 4/30/04

### Clergy, Office & Staff

**Rector** – John W. Lipscomb III

**Deacons** – Dick Labud & Janet Clarke

**Administrator** – Lisa Labud **Treasurer** – Marjorie Carter

**Organist/Choirmaster** – Richard Mangiagli

**Sexton** – James Sellers **Nursery** – Bess Short

Office Hours Mon.—Thurs. 9 am - 4 pm, Fri. 9 am – Noon

### Vestry

**Sr. Warden** – Bette Dufour

**Jr. Warden** – George Pawliczak

Joan Allen, Gail Carlson, Nancy Conley,

Janet Gizelt, Thelma Martin, Diane Mullen

### Ministries Chairs/Small Groups Volunteers

**Acolyte Director** – Rev. Dick Labud

**Prayer Shawls** – Rev. Janet Clarke

**Prayer Chain** – Nancy Conley

**Fellowship** – Mike Christensen,

Bev Cox, Nancy Conley

**Memorial Garden** – Ruth Squire **Book Store** – Betty Carr

**Bereavement** – Kay Ikeler **Haven** – Arlene Karwacki

### MOST

Pres. – Jerry Fields V.P./ Treas. – Bert Grace

### E.C.W.

Secretary – Leigh Clark Programs - Winnie Luche

Treas. – Carol Ann Luché

CPC – Betty Carr UTO -Evelyn Wright

Hospitality – Nancy Conley

Chaplain – The Rev. Janet Clarke

### Needle & Craft Group Hours:

Carol Ann Luché /Chair Wed. @ 10 am in Wisdom Hall

**St. Thomas' Thrift Shop: Staffed by Volunteers!**

Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9 am – Noon

Ph. (352) 589-0641

### Office Volunteers:

**Office Assistants** – N.Conley, M. Winslow, K. Easter



### THRIFT SHOP

Find a shower of delightful April gifts, apparel and so much more at our Thrift Shop this month. And don't miss out on the designer clothing in the very chic boutique. We'd love to receive your good-quality donations of kids' clothing & toys, knick-knacks, household items, and jewelry. Come any Wednesday between 9 – 11 am to volunteer on a **WORK DAY** to help with light-duty tasks. Open to the public Thurs. & Fri. 9 – 3 and Sat. 9 – Noon. Phone the shop – **589-0641**.

### SUNDAY LOOSE PLATE

Our **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** Loose Plate Collection is designated for the **Rector's Discretionary Fund**. Memo checks: "*Rector's Discretionary Fund*" and place in the offering plate. Your donations enable Fr. John to assist those with financial difficulties.

### LIBRARY

St. Thomas' Library is open on the honor system any time the office is open. Please take the time to visit - located in the old Conference Room.

### PRAYER CHAIN

St. Thomas' Prayer Chain is ready to pray for any ongoing needs. Need prayers? Call Nancy Conley at 483-2947, cell (352) 350-4184, or leave a prayer request with the office.

### JESUS' MIRACLES STUDY

Bess Short is leading a 26-week study of the healing miracles of Jesus each Sunday at 9:15 am in our church Library.

### CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets in Wisdom Hall every Wednesday morning at **10 am** – rain or shine – to create wonderful hand-made items. All are welcome to join the group, no prior crafting skills are required! And check out their sale gift table in the Parish Hall- all hand-made and seasonally-themed!

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join Fr. John's Adult Sunday Class; "*Thinking Aloud, Allowed*"; held each Sunday in our Parish Hall at 9:15 am.

### WEDNESDAY FITNESS CLASSES

Bess Short offers a half-hour **Beginners** fitness class on Wednesdays at Noon in our Parish Hall. Bess also leads an intermediate class at 12:30 pm each Wednesday to help you improve your daily lifestyle.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**WANT TO USHER? WE NEED YOU!**  
**CALL THE OFFICE 352-357-4358.**

\*\*To receive a copy of the church directory, email us at [stthomasec@earthlink.net](mailto:stthomasec@earthlink.net)

### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

This month, Children's Chapel will be offered on April 2, 9, and 30 for our younger children attending the 10:30 am service (none on Easter Sunday). On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we invite children to participate in various parts of the service on Family Worship Sunday.

### GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

The Good Friday Offering will be collected during Holy Week and at our Good Friday Service on April 14<sup>th</sup> in aid of the Jerusalem Church in the Middle East. Last year, we collected \$619 through the generous donations of our parishioners.

### EASTER CANDY

Please bring your wrapped Easter Candy to the Church Office for the Easter Eggs.

### HOLY WEEK

**PALM SUNDAY** – April 9<sup>th</sup> – At our 10:30 am service *only*, we'll gather in the **Parish Hall & process to the church**. In the church, the Passion Narrative will be read by members of the congregation (8 & 10:30). Children will enter with palms.

**The church will be open for those who wish to come in and pray, although there will be no services on April 10-12.**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** – April 13<sup>th</sup> – Our HE/Healing Service will be at 10 am. In the evening, we will have a **7 pm Traditional Footwashing Service** and Stripping of the Altar, followed by the Watch of the Repose throughout the night.

**GOOD FRIDAY** - April 14<sup>th</sup> - **Stations of the Cross is at 11 am. At Noon, the Traditional Good Friday Liturgy** service with the congregation taking parts in the narrative will take place.

**HOLY SATURDAY** – **Great Vigil of Easter** – April 15<sup>th</sup> at **7 pm** ushers in Easter with the lighting of the Paschal Candle.

**EASTER SUNDAY** – April 16<sup>th</sup> – Holy Eucharist with Music at **8 & 10:30 am**. Brunch in the Parish Hall at 9 am & Egg Hunt @ 9:45 am. Children – bring a basket for the Egg Hunt!

### PLEASE SIGN UP

*We have sign-up sheets for the Watch of the Repose* - a night vigil held in our church Maundy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (following the Stripping of the Altar) – through Good Friday morning, by parishioners in one-hours shifts. If you're able to keep vigil during the night, **please sign-up on the bulletin board** in the Parish Hall by the hours you will keep watch.

### FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

The Vestry of St Thomas has regretfully accepted the resignation of Rev. John Lipscomb effective May 28, 2017. We are sad to lose our knowledgeable, fun-loving priest with whom we have been blessed for the past six years. The Vestry members are pledged to prayerfully and sincerely search for our new priest and ask you to uphold us in your prayers. We wish nothing but the very best for John and Karen and their family in their future. Bette Dufour, Senior Warden

### ECW APRIL NEWS

The ECW meets on **Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm** in the Parish Hall for: "*Faith, Food, Fun & Fellowship*". ALL women of the Episcopal Church are members of the ECW and are welcome.

A big **THANK YOU** to all who supported our recent Spaghetti Dinner by working and/or attending. St. Thomas' ECW approved the following outreach gifts from that \$918 profit at our March 6, 2017, meeting: CPC (Church Periodical Club)-\$100, UTO (United Thank Offering)-\$100, The Haven-\$100, The Rev. Stephen Dass (Brazil)-\$100, and \$100 for Easter gifts for the girls at Turning Point Ranch. We also gave \$100 to our Diocesan ECW in January. Carol Ann Luche, Treasurer

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The Pancake Supper fundraiser held on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> was a huge success, thanks to Fr. John and our vestry members, who hosted the event. In addition to being such a wonderful evening, it was also a financial success, serving over 71 folks throughout the evening!

## MOST NEWS

The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) group meets this month on **Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in our Parish Hall.** Contact *Jerry Fields*, President - 343-0007 with program ideas or input on future events.

## MOST DINNER/DANCE EVENT



The MOST is hosting a **“Spring Fling” Dinner/Dance** on **April 29<sup>th</sup>.** There will be a live band, a terrific meal, and plenty of fantastic gift prizes. This special event will begin at **6 pm in our Parish Hall.** See the flier following this newsletter.

## EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

Easter flowers (Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>) will be purchased with gifts from members of the parish, as memorials & thank offerings. *It is our hope that donations received will be generous once more to enable our Altar Guild to cover increasing flower costs.* Please fill out an Easter Flower intention sheet (in Sunday bulletins). Print your intention & amount you wish to donate toward Easter flower costs. Mark *“Easter Flowers”* on your check’s memo and place your check & intention sheet in the Offertory Plate or mail to the Office. **Intention Deadline: APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday.**



## QUIET DAY

There will be a Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday, **April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:45 am – 2 pm** led by Deacon Janet Clarke. The theme of the Quiet Day is, **“God so Loves the World”**. This will be a low key, quiet day, with time for meditations. Silence will be observed between meditations for time to reflect. We will begin with a brief fellowship at 10 am in the Parish Hall. Lunch will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

St. Thomas’ Church Office will be closed Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## PRAAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

If you know of anyone for whom you would like to have a prayer shawl, please call Janet Clarke (728-0929). We are in need of those who can knit and would like to be part of this ministry.

## 2017 ALTAR FLOWER DONORS

The flower chart is available on the usher stand by the sacristy. Select any Sunday to donate flowers: they are \$60 each week. To ensure that your intention is listed correctly in the bulletin: **Fill out a green flower donor sheet located by the chart and place slip in the offertory plate with check or money for the flowers OR send in to the Church Office.**

## SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Mike Christensen is our Sunday Fellowship Coordinator, with lite refreshments in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. Contributions are needed to help with weekly costs – just a small donation from each person attending will be a huge help! Contact **Mike [spikes0213@aol.com](mailto:spikes0213@aol.com)** or phone 352-205-3314 to help.

## ST. THOMAS BOOK STORE

### Easter Gift Exchange



This month is a great time for special gift giving for Easter and springtime. Come check out the Bookstore! for a variety of unique items: Jewelry, angels, books, plaques, key chains, and more - all are reasonably-priced and thoughtful. Almost everything in the shop is religious-inspired, (All profits go to outreach).

Thanks to the generous contributors to the **Miles of Pennies** jug in the Parish Hall, over ¾ of a mile. So, please continue to drop spare change, and dollar bills into the jug to buy books for children, both here and abroad. Many thanks for your continued support. *Betty Carr, CPC* Chairman, Book Store

## HEALING – 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAYS

On **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, those wishing prayers or anointing may do so after all have received the Eucharist. All are invited to come to the altar rail, (or please notify one of our ushers and one of our clergy will come to you in your pew).

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

St. Thomas’ Fellowship Luncheon is every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at **11:30 am** in our Parish Hall, with plenty of food & fellowship. Bring a dish to share; it’s a great way to get to know other people better and have a delicious lunch. This month: **April 26<sup>th</sup>**.

## PLEASE LET US KNOW...

Contact us if you are **hospitalized** and would like a visit. We rely on your help, or someone on your behalf, to provide us with details. Office Phone: 352-357-4358



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

<b>Wayne McSwain</b>	<b>4/02</b>
<b>Connie Wilhelm</b>	<b>4/04</b>
<b>Marjorie Carter</b>	<b>4/04</b>
<b>Cliff Martin</b>	<b>4/05</b>
<b>Logan Haggerty</b>	<b>4/05</b>
<b>Millie Gulston</b>	<b>4/09</b>
<b>Will Townsend</b>	<b>4/11</b>
<b>Martha Herron</b>	<b>4/16</b>
<b>Linda Wilhelm</b>	<b>4/17</b>
<b>Jean Swain</b>	<b>4/18</b>
<b>Bernice Nolan</b>	<b>4/21</b>
<b>Jack Geeslin</b>	<b>4/24</b>
<b>Jane Carlson</b>	<b>4/25</b>
<b>Chuckie Clark</b>	<b>4/26</b>
<b>Nance Kauffman</b>	<b>4/26</b>
<b>Charlotte Taylor</b>	<b>4/27</b>
<b>Matt Carlson</b>	<b>4/28</b>
<b>Diane Mullen</b>	<b>4/29</b>

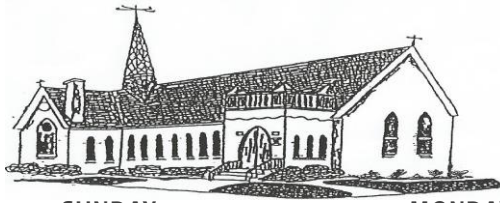
\*If you haven’t already done so, please give the church office your email address, birthday, anniversary date, and any contact changes.

## CHILDREN’S NURSERY

Our church Nursery is open and staffed every Sunday during our 10:30 am church service. The Nursery is conveniently located directly behind our Parish Hall in the Sunday school building.

Please continue to donate Forever Stamps, paper products, or printer ink HP 61XL to St. Thomas. Your donations are a terrific way to keep costs down.





# April 2017

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**\*SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Holy Eucharist Services: 8 & 10:30 am

Fr. John's Adult Class, "Thinking Aloud, Allowed", in Parish Hall: 9:15 am – 10 am

Healing Miracles of Jesus Study in Library: 9:15 am

Children's Chapel at 10:30 am Service on April 2, 9, 30 (None on Easter) Family Worship on April 23

Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am Fellowship in Parish Hall - Noon

<p><b>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>          Holy Eucharist Services: 8 &amp; 10:30 am          Fr. John's Adult Class, "Thinking Aloud, Allowed", in Parish Hall: 9:15 am – 10 am          Children's Chapel at 10:30 am Service on April 2, 9, 30 (None on Easter)          Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am Fellowship in Parish Hall - Noon</p>						<p><b>1</b>          9 am–Noon - Thrift Shop          Open</p>
<p><b>2</b> <b>HEALING</b>          *SUNDAY SCHEDULE          5 Lent</p>	<p><b>3</b>          3 pm – ECW Meeting          7-8 pm – AA          Meditation Group in          Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day          10 am – Craft Group          12 pm – Beginner's Fitness          12:30 pm – Fitness Class          7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop          10 am – Healing Service          11 am – Lectionary Class          6 pm – MOST Meeting          6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p><b>7</b>          9 am–3 pm – Thrift          Shop</p>	<p><b>8</b>          9:45 am – 2 pm Quiet Day:          "God so loves the world"          9 am–Noon - Thrift Shop          Open</p>
<p><b>9</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>          *SUNDAY SCHEDULE          10:30 Service gathers in Parish          Hall for Procession of the          Palms</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>Holy Monday</b>          7-8 pm – AA          Meditation Group in          Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Holy Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>Holy Wednesday</b>          10 am – Craft Group          12 pm – Beginner's Fitness          12:30 pm – Fitness Class          7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>          Thrift Shop CLOSED          10 am – Healing Service          11 am – Lectionary Class          6:30 pm – AA Group          7 pm – Footwashing followed by Watch</p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>Good Friday</b>          Thrift Shop CLOSED          11 am – Stations of the Cross          Noon – Good Friday Service          1:30 pm – HE/Healing          @Lakeview</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b>          Thrift Shop CLOSED          7 pm – Great Vigil of          Easter</p>
<p><b>16</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>          8 am – HE with Music          9 am – Brunch in Parish Hall          9:45 am – Egg Hunt          10:30 am – HE with Music          Noon - Fellowship</p>	<p><b>17</b>          Church Office CLOSED          7-8 pm – AA          Meditation Group in          Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>18</b>          7 pm - Vestry</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day          10 am – Craft Group          12 pm – Beginner's Fitness          12:30 pm – Fitness Class          7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b>          9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop          10 am – Healing Service          11 am – Lectionary Class          6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p><b>21</b>          9 am–3 pm – Thrift          Shop</p>	<p><b>22</b>          9 am–Noon - Thrift Shop          Open</p>
<p><b>23</b> <b>DISCRETIONARY</b>          *SUNDAY SCHEDULE          2 Easter</p>	<p><b>24</b>          7-8 pm – AA          Meditation Group in          Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day          10 am – Craft Group          11:30 am Fellowship Luncheon          12 pm – Beginner's Fitness          12:30 pm – Fitness Class          7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b>          9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop          10 am – Healing Service          11 am – Lectionary Class          6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p><b>28</b>          9 am–3 pm – Thrift          Shop          1:30 pm – Healing/          HE @ Lakeview</p>	<p><b>29</b>          9 am–Noon - Thrift Shop          6 pm – MOST "SPRING          FLING" Dinner/Dance          Event in Parish Hall</p>
<p><b>30</b>          *SUNDAY SCHEDULE          3 Easter</p>						
<p><b>JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!</b></p>						



# M.O.S.T. Spring Fling

*Men of St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
317 S. Mary St. Eustis, Fl. 32726*

*Dinner, Dance, Music by  
"The Second Wind Band", Assorted Prizes  
worth over \$1000.00. Limited seating*

*Menu:*

*Pot Roast, Mash Potatoes, Gravy,  
Green Beans, Carrots,  
Beverage and Dessert **\$10.00***

*Saturday April 29th, 2017  
6 - 8:30 p.m.*

*Tickets for sale after both services,  
Church Office 357-4358  
Thrift Store 589-0641  
any further questions  
Call Jerry Fields 343-0007 President  
or ask a M.O.S.T member*