

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
David & Leslie Waters 4/23/88
Tom & Georgiana Wright 4/25/92
George & Kay Ikeler 4/25/64
Jerry & Evelyn Fields 4/28/60
George & Janet Gizelt 4/30/71
Bobby & Nancy Morgan 4/30/04

Clergy, Office & Staff

Interim Rector – The Rev'd Ted Koelln
352-446-1205

Deacons – Dick Labud & Janet Clarke

Administrator – Lisa Labud

Treasurer – Marjorie Carter

Organist/Choirmaster – Richard Mangiagli

Sexton – James Sellers

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, Bev Cox,
Rick Kiefer, Thelma Martin, Diane Mullen

Search Committee

Leon Stricklen (Chair), Kay Ikeler,
Jerry Fields, Maggie Kaiser (Alternate)

Ministries Chairs/Small Groups Volunteers

Acolyte Director – Rev'd Dick Labud

Altar Guild – Sue Kiefer

Search Committee Chair – Leon Stricklen

Prayer Shawls – Rev'd Janet Clarke

Prayer Chain – Nancy Conley

Fellowship – Mike Christensen, Kathy Easter

Bev Cox, Nancy Conley, Maryann Winslow

Memorial Garden – Ruth Squire Book Store – Betty Carr

Bereavement – Kay Ikeler Haven – Arlene Karwacki

Newcomer Baskets – Louise Dixon

MOST

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

Needle & Craft Group Hours:

Chair – Carol Ann Luche

Wednesday @ 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

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

St. Thomas Tidings April 2018

Church Phone (352)357-4358 / FAX (352)357-9963 Newsletter Editor: Lisa Labud

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Many times, in what appears to be casual conversation, some pretty serious topics arise. Recently, the topic of “change” came up; a somewhat uncomfortable topic at times, because we are so very comfortable in “things as they are”, for better or worse.

I remember telling a story, something I often do, about change.

My boss at City Hall in Sioux Falls quit smoking by using a method that he read about in *Reader's Digest* magazine. His wife had begged him to quit for a long time and he was finally successful this time. His health and family history demanded that he quit; his wife, a cardiac RN, hoped that he would, so they could live together for a long time. Mike encouraged others of us in the office to also try to quit smoking; and I too was successful using the RD method. The method is very simple: make a change, adding or subtracting, for 30 days – one day at a time. At the end of 30 days you most likely will be successful.

That was how Mike quit; and I did as well, after having been a smoker for 28 years. For us, as followers of Christ, when we take up the cross and follow Him, there is going to be change. No doubt about it! When we take on Christ – Christ increases, and we decrease.

Walter Brueggemann writes about this very thing in one of his sermons. He writes:

“Decrease what is old and habitual and destructive in your life, so that new life-giving power of Jesus may grow large within you.

**Decrease what is greedy, what is frantic consumerism, for the increase of simple, life-giving sharing.*

**Decrease what is fraudulent and pretense, for the increase of life-giving truth-telling in your life, truth-telling about you and your neighbor.*

**Decrease what is fearful and defensive, for the increase of life-giving compassion and generosity.*

**Decrease what is hateful and alienating, for the increase of healing and forgiveness, which finally are the only source of life.*

I didn't tell you that this would be easy; it isn't!

But, change is inevitable and change is most often necessary for us as followers of Christ.

Brueggemann goes on to tell us: *“God will not do our work of redeciding our life. There is for us, only us, the staggering possibility of choosing real life and turning away from the killing in which we are much practiced.”*

Change, a heavy topic for casual conversation!

It is demanding, it is difficult, but with God's grace we are not without assistance. God gives us the free-will to do the work, or not. It is up to us, our choice, whether we take up the cross and do the work.

Peace & Joy

Fr. Ted

THRIFT SHOP
BEGINNING ON APRIL 19th –
WE ARE LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN
WORK AT THE THRIFT
SHOP ON THURSDAYS –
ONE PERSON for the 9
am–NOON SHIFT, and
ONE PERSON for the NOON-3
pm SHIFT...Please phone the shop at 352-589-0641 and leave a message if you would like to volunteer for this valuable ministry. We also need help on ANY Monday or Wednesday morning – work is light duty for just one or two hours.

Find a shower of April gifts at our Thrift Shop this month....come see the wide selection of apparel and so much more at the Thrift Shop. And don't miss out on the designer clothing in the very chic boutique. We'd love to receive your good-quality donations. Please continue to leave donated items on the SIDE porch of the church office or bring to the shop during store hours: Thurs. & Fri., 9 am - 3 pm; Sat., 9 am - Noon.

PRAYER CHAIN

St. Thomas' Prayer Chain will pray for any ongoing parish needs. If you can pray for those in need and contact others on the Prayer Chain, phone Nancy Conley, (352) 483-2947, or cell (352) 350-4184, or phone the Church Office at (352) 357-4358.

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

There is **NO** Adult Forum on April 1st and April 8th. It will resume at 9:15 am on Sunday, April 15th – we gather as a group in our Parish Hall. This is an opportunity to learn, share and grow. No materials are required; please just show up and join in.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Bess Short leads Bible Study in the Parish Hall on Thursdays at 11 am, following our Healing Holy Eucharist Service held at 10 am each Thursday.

WEDNESDAY FITNESS CLASSES

Bess Short offers a half-hour **Beginners** fitness class on Wednesdays at Noon in our Parish Hall. An **Intermediate** class follows immediately after that at 12:30 pm each Wednesday.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

DONATIONS FOR THE HAVEN

The Haven of Lake & Sumter Counties for Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault thanks you for the donations of soaps, shampoos, and assorted toiletries. Contributions are accepted in the basket located in the Parish Hall. Contact Arlene Karwacki 352-385-3838, for information.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Mike Christensen is our Sunday Fellowship Coordinator, with a wonderful offering of meals and refreshments available in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. **Helpers are needed to clean up after Fellowship** on Sundays to ensure that this ministry continues to enrich St. Thomas' parishioners each week. Please contact Mike at spikes0213@aol.com or phone 352-205-3314 to help.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1st – 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! And please bring flowers from home to help flower the cross.

EASTER BRUNCH

Our Easter Brunch on Sunday, April 1st will be served in our Parish Hall between church services, beginning at 9 am. In order to allow our volunteers to go home and enjoy the day with their families, there will be **NO FELLOWSHIP** after the 10:30 service that day. We thank you for your consideration and wish you all a blessed Season of Easter.

CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets in Wisdom Hall Wednesday mornings at 10 am to create wonderful hand-made items. All are welcome to join this creative group – just show up! Carol Ann Luche, Chair 589-6181.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS

Many heartfelt thanks for the generosity of all those who contributed to this year's Easter Flower Offering.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

St. Thomas' Church Office will be closed Monday, April 2nd.

MOST APRIL NEWS



The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) group will meet **Thursday, April 12th at 6 pm in our Parish Hall.** Join the men of St. Thomas for an evening of great fellowship & fun! There will be a guest speaker and a meal. For details, contact Jerry Fields, President @ 343-0007.

ECW

At the February 5, 2018, meeting, the 8 members present voted to disband St. Thomas' ECW at this time. Hopefully, we can still have some social events, and our ECW will resume as a faith and service organization in the future. We voted to pay the Diocesan ECW dues of \$100 for 2018 and \$100 for St. Thomas' Rector's Discretionary Fund, which has always received the money from our monthly Blessings Box. For further information, contact Carol Ann Luche, Acting-President, Acting Secretary, Treasurer (304-920-2251 or 589-6181).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Phone Deacon Janet Clarke @ 352-728-0929 to join this ministry, or if you know of anyone who would benefit from a prayer shawl while they are ill or indisposed for whatever reason.

SUNDAY LOOSE PLATE:

The Loose Plate Collection on Sunday, April 22nd is designated for the **Rector's Discretionary Fund**. Memo checks: "Rector's Discretionary Fund" and place in the offering plate.

2018 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.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

St. Thomas' Fellowship Luncheon is every 4th 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.

Join us next on April 25th.

☞ Please continue to donate **Forever Stamps**, Paper Products, or printer ink **HP61XL** to St. Thomas – your donations are a terrific way to keep down costs!



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

BOOK STORE



Betty Carr can help you find that special gift for Easter and Spring events. St. Thomas' Book Store always has the perfect

selection – butterfly pins, crosses, key chains, jeweled necklaces, statues, books, pins, bookmarks, plaques, and an amazing assortment of religious-themed giftables. **The Book Store is OPEN Sundays in our Parish Hall after each service.**

Betty Carr wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the **Miles of Pennies** jug in the Parish Hall. We now have finished our **4th Mile**. This is almost \$3400 that you parishioners have contributed since this project was started. We have already deposited \$30 on **Mile 5**; so, please continue to drop your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills into the jug in the Parish Hall. **Miles of Pennies** is the branch of **CPC (Church Periodical Club)** that buys books for children, both here and abroad.

All profits from St. Thomas' Book Store go for outreach, such as our recent \$200 donation to Eustis Open Door.

Please continue to also bring to Betty Carr your **Box Tops for Education** for Eustis Elementary, and **tops** for Ronald McDonald House. (Ask Diane Damon about **cancelled stamps**). These are ways to help others that cost us nothing.

Many thanks for your continued support.
Betty Carr, CPC Chairman, Book Store

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who participated in the Lenten Program and **big thanks** to those who brought soup and bread for the event, with 22-26 people there each Thursday. Also many thanks to all who worked so hard over Holy Week & Easter – clergy, staff, altar guild, servers, ushers, choirs, and all who volunteered in any way! You help make St. Thomas a wonderful Community of Faith.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone who donated Easter candy to help make the children's Easter Egg Hunt a joyous success once again. We filled over 19 dozen eggs!

HEALING – 1st SUNDAYS

On **April 1st**, those wishing prayers or anointing may do so after all have received the Eucharist. Please come to the altar rail, or notify an usher and one of our clergy will come to you in your pew.

VESTRY MINUTES ONLINE

Our website, www.stthomaseustis.com, has current information regarding our many ministries and events, including *“Newsletters and Vestry Minutes”* on the Home Page. Click on that heading to find the minutes from our vestry meeting. No internet? Vestry Minutes are also posted on the Parish Hall Bulletin Board. Our website is a terrific resource for both newcomers and long-time members, with service times, Upcoming Events (click on that on the Home Page), and even a brief history of the church. Even if you've visited St. Thomas' Website before, please take the time to revisit it. See everything that's been added to keep you abreast of St. Thomas' happenings!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

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



JOIN THE CHOIR!

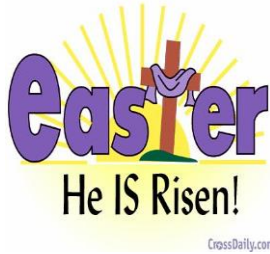
Choir Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Wisdom Hall. Join us as we sing unto the Lord. **New Members Welcome!**

4th Sunday Loose Plate Collection:

Our **April 22nd** Loose Plate Collection is designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Please memo checks: *“Rector's Discretionary Fund”* and place in the offering plate.

**To receive a copy of the church directory, email us at stthomasec@earthlink.net

APRIL 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 EASTER 8 am & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Services 9 am – Easter Brunch 9:45 am – Children’s Easter Egg Hunt No Fellowship Time after 10:30 Service | 2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall | 3 | 4 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day 10 am – Craft Group 12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal | 5 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop 10 am – HE/Healing Service 11 am – BIBLE STUDY 6:30 pm – AA Group | 6 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop | 7 9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop |
| 8 <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 2 EASTER No Adult Class Today | 9 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall | 10 | 11 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day 10 am – Craft Group 12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal | 12 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop 10 am – HE/Healing Service 11 am – BIBLE STUDY 6 pm – MOST Meeting 6:30 pm – AA Group | 13 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop 1:30 pm – Healing/HE at Lakeview in Altoona | 14 9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop |
| 15 <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 3 EASTER | 16 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall | 17 7 pm - Vestry | 18 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day 10 am – Craft Group 12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal | 19 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop 10 am – HE/Healing Service 11 am – BIBLE STUDY 6:30 pm – AA Group | 20 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop | 21 9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop |
| 22 <u>DISCRETIONARY</u> <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 4 EASTER | 23 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall | 24 | 25 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 | 26 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop 10 am – HE/Healing Service 11 am – BIBLE STUDY 6:30 pm – AA Group | 27 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop 1:30 pm – Healing/HE at Lakeview in Altoona | 28 9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop |
| 29 <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 5 EASTER | 30 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall |  | | <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> Holy Eucharist Services: Traditional - 8 am Family - 10:30 am Healing on April 1 NO Adult Class on April 1 and April 8 – Resumes April 15 in Parish Hall – 9:15 am Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am Fellowship in Parish Hall - Noon | | |