



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

Robert & Kathy Easter 12/12/67  
Kenneth & Karin Catalino 12/15/90  
Jack & Marjorie Carter 12/17/83

**Clergy, Office & Staff**

Interim Rector – The Rev'd Ron Peak

**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, Rick Kiefer, Thelma Martin, Diane Mullen

**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

**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'd Janet Clarke

**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 December 2017

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

**Email: [stthomasec@earthlink.net](mailto:stthomasec@earthlink.net) Website Address: [www.stthomaseustis.com](http://www.stthomaseustis.com)**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we approach a very busy time in the Christian life and year it is sometimes difficult not to be overwhelmed by what lies ahead. As I write this, the Liturgical Calendar, for the end of November and December, is filled with important and extremely meaningful events. Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday (otherwise known as The Last Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost), the beginning of the Liturgical Year (The season of Advent) and, of course, Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hopefully, Advent will be an exciting time for the family of Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church. Advent is a time of new beginnings, and new opportunities in our corporate and individual lives. It is a time when we can consider our dedication to Christ, and revel in the mystery of God coming, in the form of Jesus, to be among us, and to show us the way to forgiveness and eternal life. Advent is a time when we can celebrate God's love for each of us, even though we are who we are, and even though we have done the things we have done. Hopefully, for the Family of St. Thomas, it is a time when we can find a way to increase our support of the parish, and perhaps, find the strength to invite folks we care about to join us in the life of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.

The month ahead (December) is one of the most exciting times in the Christian faith and life. I pray each of us will allow ourselves to become immersed in the beauty and mystery of our faith during this time. I pray, too, that each of you, during Advent, will pray that God's will be done in this congregation, and that you might, during this ever so special season, be moved to invite your friends to join us as we worship God through Jesus Christ and as we are filled by the Holy Spirit.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Your brother in Christ,  
and Servant of the Lord,

The Rev'd Ronald R Peak

## THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop is very, very merrily stocked with lots of terrific Christmas delights, gifts, and holiday treats, but hurry – the shop will close at NOON on December 16<sup>th</sup>

and will not reopen to the Public until January 11, 2018 (closed for 3 weeks). Please 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. We also need great condition kids' clothing & toys, knick-knacks, household items, and jewelry.

**Thrift Shop Phone: (352) 589-0641**

## 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 leave a message with the Church Office at (352) 357-4358.

## SUNDAY "LET'S TALK"

At 9:15 am on Sundays – we gather as a group called, "*Let's Talk*", 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 the Thursday Healing/H.E. Service that is held at 10 am.

## 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!**

## 2017 PLEDGE STATUS

Please phone the Church Office 352-357-4358 to find out your 2017 pledge contribution status. Final Statements will be sent after the 2017 books have been closed in January, 2018.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Leon Stricklen, held its third meeting to discuss the results of the Parish Survey conducted in September. Members of the committee will be conducting "Focus Groups" with parishioners in various areas to look for what is not showing up in the survey and to ask specifically what the group wants the Search Committee to address. Subcommittees have been established to write the Parish Profile, report to the congregation on progress, and to establish budget parameters for the committee. Please pray for your Search Committee as it works through this important process.

## CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

The following Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service Schedule has been set:

**Christmas Eve: (Sunday)**

Morning Holy Eucharist Service

**8:00 am**

Evening Music Program

**7:30 pm**

Holy Eucharist Service

**8:00 pm**

**Christmas Day: (Monday)**

Holy Eucharist Service

**10:00 am**

## Christmas Flower Intentions

If you wish to donate toward Christmas flower costs, please fill out a Christmas Flower Intention card that will be available in the church pews and place your donation in the Offering Plate. Intentions will be printed in the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day bulletins. Please place your payment in the Offering Plate or mail to the Office. Memo: "*Christmas Flowers*". Deadline for Christmas flowers is Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## STEWARDSHIP 2018

Pledge Cards and Stewardship letters have been mailed. Extra pledge cards are located in the church Narthex. **COMMITMENT SUNDAY will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you might be able to pledge to St. Thomas Church for 2018, fill out your card, sign and return it to us on Commitment Sunday. We'd love to see everyone attend on this day to join us in worship and for fellowship.

## ECW LUNCHEON

There will be a special "*Getting to Know You*" Luncheon in the Parish Hall at **Noon on December 5<sup>th</sup>**. **ALL ladies of the church are invited**. If you need transportation, please phone Janet Clarke at 352-728-0929 or the church office at 352-357-4358.

## MOST DECEMBER NEWS



The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) group meets this month on **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** in our Parish Hall Please feel free to contact *Jerry Fields*, President @ 343-000 with any program ideas or input on future events.

## NEWS OF RECORD

### **Deaths:**

*Edith Dill* on 11/09/2017

**John "Bozie" Kauffman** on 11/12/2017

Cards of Caring may be sent to –  
Jeanne Kauffman 1761 Nightingale Ln.,  
Apt. 316 Tavares, FL 32778

And

Jack & Marjorie Carter 1333 Elizabeth Cir.  
Eustis, FL 32726

**NOTICE:**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

*The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church will be Sunday, January 28, 2018* in our Parish Hall after the 10:30 am service. Please bring a covered dish to share—meat & drinks provided. \*To include your St. Thomas' Group Report in our Annual Parish Report – the deadline is January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**QUIET DAY- DECEMBER 2**

Deacon Janet Clarke will be leading an Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:45 am - 2 pm, with lunch provided. This year's theme is, **"God's Persistent Love"**. There will be 3 meditations on what God's love looks like in the Old & New Testaments and in our own time. With all of the disasters that occurred his year, we truly need to take a time out to focus our hearts and minds once again on God's love for us. This is especially true as we prepare to celebrate the coming of His Son, Jesus, God's love incarnate. Sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall to let us know how many will be attending to help us prepare lunches.

**THANKSGIVING DAY & U.T.O.**

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

THANK YOU to all those who generously contributed on UTO Sunday for missions, and on Thanksgiving Day in support of the Diocese of Honduras.

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

**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.



**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!**

**HURRICANE FUNDRAISERS**

Thanks to Mike Christensen and his wonderful helpers at the recent Saturday Hot Dog meal fundraisers near the Thrift Shop, a total of \$699 in donations was received. An additional \$588 was received from the BBQ Chicken Dinners at our Craft Faire – for a total of **\$1,287.00** to help the victims of our past hurricanes through ERD. Thank you to all who supported this cause.

**CRAFT FAIRE**

Many hands worked together to create a successful 2-day event at St. Thomas' November Craft Faire. Thank you to all who participated and donated items for the faire. There was a good turn-out and each booth earned the following to be sent to **ERD**:

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Crafts:      | \$ 915.10         |
| Bake Sale:   | \$ 350.00         |
| Plants:      | \$ 95.00          |
| Bookstore:   | \$ 20.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$1,380.10</b> |

**2018 DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

The Diocesan Convention will be Friday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Episcopal Church in Vero Beach.

**WORK DAY**

The next church campus Work Day at St. Thomas will be on **Saturday, December 9, 2017** from 8 am – Noon. We need lots of helpers to get ready for Christmas. Please join us!

**BOOK STORE**



*Seeking holiday gifts?*

Betty Carr can help you with your search. St. Thomas' Book Store has the perfect selection – key chains, jewelry, statues, books, pins, bookmarks, plaques, and an amazing

assortment of religious-themed giftables. **Open Sundays in our Parish Hall after each service.** All Bookstore profits go to outreach. \$20 was raised at the recent Craft Faire for ERD! Please continue to bring to Betty Carr: **Labels for Education** (soup, cereal, many products) for Boys Home-Episcopal-Covington, VA, **Box Tops for Education** for Eustis Elem., **pop tops** for Ronald McDonald House, **PLUS** coins for the Miles of Pennies jug. Many thanks for your support. Betty Carr, **CPC/ Bookstore Chair**

**HEALING – 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAYS**

On **December 3<sup>rd</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**

*There will be no December Fellowship Luncheon.*



**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE**

**The Church Office will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Day.**

**OUTREACH MEETING**

The next Thrift Shop Outreach meeting will be held on **December 31<sup>st</sup> at 9 am.** **Any requests for funding must be received prior to the meeting.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Ann Mikell           | 12/01 |
| Kailand Carlson      | 12/03 |
| Richard Cotter       | 12/03 |
| Walker Lenninger     | 12/05 |
| Christopher Harrison | 12/07 |
| Odalys Garcia-Carter | 12/11 |
| John Potter          | 12/11 |
| Naomi Townsend       | 12/11 |
| Robert Carter        | 12/12 |
| Cynthia Lenninger    | 12/12 |
| Emma Boreske         | 12/15 |
| Kirteen Calliste     | 12/17 |
| Wilmateen Chandler   | 12/17 |
| Margaret Emerson     | 12/19 |
| Jerry Fields         | 12/24 |
| Rick Kiefer          | 12/25 |
| Kay Ikeler           | 12/26 |
| Shirley Holt         | 12/27 |
| Betty Carr           | 12/27 |
| "Buzzie" Anderson    | 12/27 |
| Shelly Thomas West   | 12/30 |



\*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 behind our Parish Hall in the Sunday school building. Please ask an usher to direct you.

# DECEMBER 2017

| Sunday                                                                                                                                             | Monday                                                                                                                                | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                    | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                 | Friday                                                                                            | Saturday                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                       | <p><u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p>Holy Eucharist Services: Traditional - 8 am    Family - 10:30 am    with Healing at each service on December 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>Adult Class in Parish Hall – “Let’s Talk” - 9:15 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am    Fellowship in Parish Hall - Noon</p> |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop</p>                                                    | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop</p> <p>9:45 am – 2 pm – <b>QUIET DAY</b> in Parish Hall</p> |
| <p><b>3 HEALING</b></p> <p><u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p>1 ADVENT</p> <p><b>COMMITMENT SUNDAY</b></p>                                             | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>                                                                    | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Noon – ECW</p> <p>“Getting to Know You” Luncheon in Parish Hall</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>9-11 am – Thrift Work Day</p> <p>10 am – Craft Group</p> <p>12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness</p> <p>12:30 pm – Fitness Class</p> <p>7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop</p> <p>10 am – HE/Healing Service</p> <p>11 am – BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>6:30 pm – AA Group</p>                                    | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop</p> <p>1:30 pm – Healing/HE at Lakeview in Altoona</p> | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop</p> <p>8 am – Noon <b>WORK DAY</b> at St. Thomas</p>        |
| <p><b>10</b></p> <p><u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p>2 ADVENT</p>                                                                                    | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>                                                                   | <p><b>12</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>9-11 am – Thrift Work Day</p> <p>10 am – Craft Group</p> <p>12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness</p> <p>12:30 pm – Fitness Class</p> <p>7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop</p> <p>10 am – HE/Healing Service</p> <p>11 am – BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>6 pm – <b>MOST Meeting</b></p> <p>6:30 pm – AA Group</p> | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop</p>                                                   | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop</p>                                                        |
| <p><b>17</b></p> <p><u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p>3 ADVENT</p>                                                                                    | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>                                                                   | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>7 pm - Vestry</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness</p> <p>12:30 pm – Fitness Class</p> <p>7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>                                                             | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Thrift Shop CLOSED</p> <p>10 am – HE/Healing Service</p> <p>11 am – BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>6:30 pm – AA Group</p>                                        | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Thrift Shop CLOSED</p> <p>1:30 pm – Healing/HE at Lakeview in Altoona</p>     | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Thrift Shop CLOSED</p> <p>Decoration of Church for Christmas</p>                     |
| <p><b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b></p> <p>8 am – Eucharist Service</p> <p>7:30 pm – Christmas Music</p> <p>8 pm – Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Service</p> | <p><b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b></p> <p>10 am – Christmas Day Holy Eucharist Service</p> <p>7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p> | <p><b>26</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness</p> <p>12:30 pm – Fitness Class</p> <p>7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>                                                             | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Thrift Shop CLOSED</p> <p>10 am – HE/Healing Service</p> <p>11 am – BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>6:30 pm – AA Group</p>                                        | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Thrift Shop CLOSED</p>                                                        | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Thrift Shop CLOSED</p>                                                               |
| <p><b>31 NEW YEAR’S EVE</b></p> <p><u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p>1 CHRISTMAS</p> <p>9 am – Outreach Meeting</p>                                   |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                          |