



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

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

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, Larry Block, Nancy Conley, Janet Gizelt,
 Thelma Martin, Diane Mullen, Mary Shriner

Ministries Chairs/Small Groups Volunteers

Acolyte Director – Rev. Dick Labud
Prayer Shawls – Rev. Janet Clarke
Prayer Chain – Nancy Conley
Fellowship – Mike Christensen,
 K. Easter, J. Gizelt, M. Winslow, Bess Short
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
 Treas. – Carol Ann Luché Sunshine – Joan Pagliarulo
 CPC – Betty Carr UTO -Evelyn Wright
 Telephone Tree – Monika Potter
 Program - Sonia Carter
 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

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

On the first, second, third and fifth Sunday of each month, St. Thomas offers Children's Chapel for our younger children attending the 10:30 am Sunday service. On fourth Sundays, we invite them to participate in various parts of the service on Family Service Day.

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

St. Thomas Tidings December 2016

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

Email: stthomasec@earthlink.net Website Address: www.stthomaseustis.com

WORDS FROM FR. JOHN

Christmas is God's wild display of radical grace extended to all! We read in Titus 2:11, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all." That grace is Jesus. Christmas demonstrates how far God will go in order to connect with us. The Christmas story reveals God interrupting heaven and earth so as to usher in The Christ in the person of Jesus. God interrupted the lives of John and Elizabeth to bring John the Baptist, Jesus' forerunner, into the world. At Jesus' birth, the lives of wise men were abruptly altered as they rescheduled their routines, in order to visit King Jesus. Shepherds who were tending their flocks experienced a divine interruption. Their night shift was anything but usual, thanks to the advent of Jesus. Even angels had to change their plans to go and announce the arrival of God on earth. Jesus' birth brought great interruption to politics as Herod crafted new policies to deal with this threat to his power. Furthermore, think of the way the presence of Jesus completely changed the lives of Mary and Joseph. Perhaps, they had their lives planned out and they were content on living out their days in quietness and obscurity as a small family in Palestine. Yet, God's stubborn unbound love coming into the world changed everything! When God shows up, plans change, lives are altered, interruptions occur, and routine is cast aside. This phenomenon continues to this day. During the Christmas season we must be reminded that God has disrupted the course of human history. To be more specific, Christmas should remind us that the coming of Jesus for each one of us must rearrange our lives. We are not allowed to stay the same after we acknowledge Immanuel, "God with us." Just as the coming of Jesus in the 1st century interrupted lives, so too our lives should never be the same. God breaks the status quo and the ho-hum of daily life with the transformative power of love and grace in the coming of Jesus our Lord! So, ask yourself, where does my life need to be divinely disrupted? What patterns in my life do not reflect the presence of Christ? Let's be open to God interrupting our lives with Jesus; only then will be able to disrupt the badness in this world with the goodness, peace, and grace of God.

Merry Christmas
 Fr. John

THRIFT SHOP IN DECEMBER

Thank you to our “Thrift Shop Angels” for decorating and setting up the Thrift Shop for Bazaar Day - \$419.35 was earned! **The Thrift Shop will close at NOON on December 17th and reopen to the Public on January 12, 2017 (closed for 3 weeks).** 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 need great condition 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. Phone the shop – **589-0641**.

SUNDAY LOOSE PLATE

Our **December 18th** Loose Plate Collection is designated for the **Rector’s Discretionary Fund**. Memo checks: “*Rector’s Discretionary Fund*” and place in the offering plate.

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.

☞ 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!

CRAFT GROUP IN DECEMBER

The Craft Shop is open in Wisdom Hall on **SUNDAYS after services**; please, buy some holiday presents and spoil yourself. Proceeds go directly to the church - \$343.50 was raised at the Bazaar. Thank you to the wonderful crafters who work so hard all year long. The Craft Group will not meet until after the first of the year. *There is no December Fellowship Luncheon.* Carol Ann Luche’, Chair **589-6181**.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join Fr. John’s Adult Sunday Class; held each Sunday in our Parish Hall at 9:15 am.

NEW STUDY COURSE

Bess Short is leading a 26-week study of the healing miracles of Jesus each Sunday at 9:30 am in our church Library.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN’S OFFERINGS

Our church **Nursery** is open and staffed every Sunday during our 10:30 church service. Our Nursery is located behind the Parish Hall.

WEDNESDAY FITNESS CLASS

Bess Short leads a fitness class on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall. This is a beginner/intermediate level class to help improve your daily lifestyle.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Church Office will be closed December 26th for the Christmas Holiday.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Christmas Eve: (Saturday)

Music Program **8:30 pm**

Eucharist Service **9:00 pm**

Christmas Day: (Sunday)

Eucharist Service **10:30 am**

NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE EACH DAY!

Christmas Flower Intentions

If you wish to donate toward Christmas flower costs, please fill out a Christmas Flower Intention card 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 15th.



St. Thomas Christmas Purse

We are once again offering parishioners the opportunity to make voluntary donations to the church staff as a Christmas gift through our “*Christmas Purse*”. This will allow you to contribute to each staff member at one time. Please, no individual gifts. Special envelopes are available in the church for you to use for your gift. Make checks payable to **St. Thomas Church**, memo “*Christmas Purse*” and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. Thank you for showing your recognition of our staff and your appreciation for all they do at St. Thomas Church.

2017 PLEDGE CARD UPDATE

As of this printing, we have received **62** pledge cards for a total of **\$159,026**. If you wish to fill out a pledge card, blank cards are located in the church or contact the office. Please leave your completed card in the Sunday offering plate or mail to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for your support of St. Thomas operating costs, programs and ministries.

2016 CONTRIBUTIONS

Please call the Church Office at 357-4358 for your current pledge contribution status if you are not sure where you stand with your 2016 giving. 2016 church financial records close on Dec. 31st and statements will be sent in January, 2017.

2016 BAZAAR

Thank you to those who helped with another successful bazaar – your help was well appreciated. Details are in the insert included with this newsletter

NOTICE: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church will be Sunday, January 29, 2017 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 – they **must** be turned in to the office by January 20th.

2017 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Diocesan Convention will be Friday, Jan. 27th and Saturday, Jan. 28th at Trinity Episcopal Prep in Winter Park.

ST. THOMAS BOOK STORE

Looking for Christmas gifts? Betty Carr's Bookstore has an awesome selection of nativities, angels, jewelry, key chains, and so much more. St. Thomas' Book Store is open *every Sunday*. All profits go for outreach. Betty Carr thanks those who've contributed to the **Miles of Pennies** jug in the Parish Hall - now over \$515. Drop pennies and spare change in the jug to complete the **4th Mile of Pennies** to buy books for children, and also bring Betty Carr **Box Tops for Education, pop tops, and canceled stamps**. Thank you!



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** or phone 352-205-3314 to help.

HEALING - 1st SUNDAYS

On **December 4th**, 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).

CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Please look in our Parish Hall for Christmas Card packets for sale if you would like to purchase some for the holidays. Packets are \$2 for a selection of 10 cards.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

It's a gala affair - and you're invited! All members of St. Thomas Church are welcome to join us **Friday, December 9th from 6 - 9 pm** in our Parish Hall. Bring an appetizer, dessert, or snack food to share. Wear your favorite holiday party ensemble and come to karaoke!

ECW DECEMBER NEWS

The ECW meets this month on **Monday, December 5th at 3 pm** in the Parish Hall for: *"Faith, Food, Fun & Fellowship"*. ALL women of the Episcopal Church are members of the ECW. Please come and join us.

MOST DECEMBER NEWS

The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) group meets this month on **Thursday, December 8th at 6 pm** in our Parish Hall. Contact *Jerry Fields*, President - 343-0007 with program ideas or input on future events.

OUTREACH MEETING

The Fall Outreach meeting will be held in the Sunday School Building **Sunday, December 18th @ 9 am** to discuss Thrift Shop fund disbursement. If you have an organization that you would like to petition monies for, please put it in writing and bring it by the Church Office before the meeting!

THANKSGIVING BASKET THANKS!

In addition to the food donated for the baskets, St. Thomas members donated **\$1,050** to help purchase Publix gift cards for turkeys and meat.

ANGEL BOX FOR KIVA

St. Thomas is collecting candy, toiletries and small gift items for the 23 ladies at Kiva in Mt. Dora. The deadline to bring in gifts is **December 11th**. A wish list and the collection box are located in the Parish Hall.

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

VESTRY MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Please prayerfully consider serving St. Thomas as a member of our next Vestry. Nomination sheets are located in the Narthex and Parish Hall - the box for completed forms is in the Narthex.

Vestry Member Qualifications are:

1. **Confirmed Parish Member** 18+ years old.
2. One who has for the previous year been faithful in corporate worship, working, praying, and giving for the Spread of God's Kingdom at this church. Vestry Elections take place at our Annual Parish Meeting on **Sunday, January 29, 2016**.

For vetting purposes, nominations must be received by Friday, January 20, 2017.

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 baskets located in the Parish Hall. Contact Arlene Karwacki 352-385-3838, for information.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawls are made with prayers, blessed at the altar, and are intended to bring God's healing, love, and peace to the recipients. If you know of anyone (man, woman, or child) 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 wonderful ministry.

***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

Email: stthomasec@earthlink.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Ann Mikell	12/01
Kailand Carlson	12/03
Richard Cotter	12/03
Walker Lenninger	12/05
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

2017 ALTAR FLOWER DONORS

The flower chart is available on the usher stand by the sacristy. Select any Sunday you would like 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.**

NEWS OF RECORD

Deaths:

Douglas Johnson, Sr. 10/21/2016

Transfers In:

Arlene & Edward Riley from Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia

Marriages:

Courtney Paskiet & Cory Sommer on 10/15/2016



December 2016

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

***SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Holy Eucharist Services: 8 & 10:30 am (Healing: December 4)

Adult Class 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 December 4, 11, 18

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

4 HEALING
*SUNDAY SCHEDULE
2 Advent

5
3 pm – ECW Meeting
7-8 pm – AA Meditation
Group in Wisdom Hall

6

7
9-11 am – Thrift Work Day
12:30 pm – Fitness Class
7 pm – Choir Rehearsal

8 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop
10 am – Healing Service
10:45 am – Lectionary Class
6 pm – MOST Meeting
6:30 pm – AA Group

9
9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop
6 – 9 pm – CHRISTMAS
PARTY IN PARISH HALL
1:30 pm – Healing/
HE @ Lakeview

10
9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop

11
*SUNDAY SCHEDULE
3 Advent

12
7-8 pm – AA Meditation
Group in Wisdom Hall

13

14
9-11 am – Thrift Work Day
12:30 pm – Fitness Class
7 pm – Choir Rehearsal

15
9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop
10 am – Healing Service
10:45 am – Lectionary Class
6:30 pm – AA Group

16
9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop

17
9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop

18 DISCRETIONARY
*SUNDAY SCHEDULE
4 Advent

19
7-8 pm – AA Meditation
Group in Wisdom Hall

20
7 pm - Vestry

21
12:30 pm – Fitness Class
7 pm – Choir Rehearsal

22
Thrift Shop CLOSED
10 am – Healing Service
10:45 am – Lectionary Class
6:30 pm – AA Group

23
Thrift Shop CLOSED

24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Thrift Shop CLOSED
8:30 pm – Music Program
9 pm – Holy Eucharist
Service



25 CHRISTMAS
10:30 am –
Christmas Holy
Eucharist Service

26
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
7-8 pm – AA Meditation
Group in Wisdom Hall

27

28
12:30 pm – Fitness Class
7 pm – Choir Rehearsal

29
Thrift Shop CLOSED
10 am – Healing Service
10:45 am – Lectionary Class
6:30 pm – AA Group

30
Thrift Shop CLOSED

31
Thrift Shop CLOSED

BAZAAR 2016

CRAFT SHOP	343.50
PARISH PANTRY	574.00
PLANTS	94.00
SALAD LUNCH	1032.00
GENERAL STORE	1180.75
TOY SHOP	148.25
DONUTS	12.00
TASTES AROUND THE WORLD	1372.13
<hr/>	
TOTAL	4756.63
TOTAL EXPENSES	(312.00)
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<u>2016 BAZAAR PROFIT</u>	4444.63
FOR COMPARISON: 2015 BAZAAR <u>FINAL</u> PROFIT	4070.75
<i>THRIFT SHOP*</i>	419.35