

# St. Thomas Tidings December 2018

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

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## WORDS FROM FR. TED

It seems almost unreal that I have been your interim-rector for a year already. I am so very thankful that I am doing this ministry with you and look forward to whatever time we have left together in this way. I have been called, and my answer has been to y'all – “Here I am!”

Throughout Holy Scripture we find individuals saying to God, “Here I am.” When God calls to Moses from the burning bush, Moses answers, “Here I am” [Ex.3:4]. When God summons Samuel in the middle of the night, Samuel responds with, “Here I am” [1 Sam. 3:4]. And when God asks the prophet Isaiah, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah replies, “Here I am; send me!” [Is. 6:8].

Those three short words, “Here I am” indeed make a beautiful prayer. Here I am. Not there. Not where I used to be or where I will be someday [when I think I'm ready], or where I wish I were. But here, now – ready or not – here I come!

Amid whatever circumstances I happen to be in at the moment – “Here I am!” Again, not as I was yesterday or as I will be tomorrow or as I wish I were. But “Just as I am! Here, now!” In this condition, in this shape, with these particular current thoughts and feelings – I answer your call, Oh Lord! If you have a moment, take a look once again at the lyrics for the familiar hymn – Just as I am – [Hymnal 1982 #693]. These familiar lyrics speak for us in answer to God's call to us all:

*Just as I am, without one plea, [excuse] but that thy blood was shed for me, [remember how much was sacrificed for us] and that thou biddest me come to thee [we're all called], O Lamb of God, I come, I come. [our most important response – just do it, answer the call].*

Perhaps all prayer should begin with a simple, “Here I am, God.” It should begin with the humble acknowledgment and acceptance of where we find ourselves and who we are on this particular day. Only then can we hope to move forward and beyond – with God's Grace, of course. YOU are called!

What will you do?

Peace & Joy,

Fr. Ted

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

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Robert & Kathy Easter 12/12/67

Jack & Marjorie Carter 12/17/83

## 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**

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

## 2018 PLEDGE STATUS

Please phone the office at (352) 357-4358 if you wish to find out your current 2018 pledge contribution status.

**STEWARDSHIP 2019**  
**COMMITMENT SUNDAY is**  
**on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Pledge Cards and Stewardship letters have been mailed. Extra pledge cards are located in the church Narthex, Vestibule, and Office. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you might be able to pledge to St. Thomas Church for 2019, fill out a 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 a **Celebration of Fr. Ted Koelln's One-Year Anniversary** as St. Thomas' Interim Rector after the 10:30 service (noonish). This will be a wonderful **covered dish/potluck** (drinks will be provided). Please join us in the Parish Hall to celebrate Fr. Ted's ministry here with the Lighting of the Christmas Tree – and a GREAT Meal! Feel free to bring your favorite **hearty** recipe dish to share.

**2019 DIOCESAN CONVENTION**  
The Diocesan Convention will be Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

**NOTICE:**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
*The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church will be Sunday, February 3, 2019* 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 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS EVE &**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**December 23** – Regular 8 am & 10:30 am

**Christmas Eve (Monday):**

Music Program **6:30 pm**

Eucharist Service **7:00 pm**

**Christmas Day (Tuesday):**

H.E. Service **10:00 am**

*NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY!*

**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 Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**2018 PLEDGE STATUS**

Please phone the Church Office 352-357-4358 to find out your 2018 pledge contribution status. Final Statements will be sent after the 2018 books have been closed in January, 2019.

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

THANK YOU to all those who generously contributed on UTO Sunday for missions, **\$382.00** was raised, and on Thanksgiving Day in support of the Diocese of Honduras, **\$255.00** was donated.

**HEALING – 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAYS**

On **December 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 Fr. Ted 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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15 am.** Any requests for funding must be received prior to the meeting.

**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.

**BOOK STORE**

*St. Thomas' Book Store* is **OPEN** in our Parish Hall after Sunday services, with a great selection of religious-themed giftables. Thank you to our recent donor of 30 Box Tops for EES. And thank you to our donors to the **Miles of Pennies jug** in the Parish Hall. We're still working on Mile 5 – help us reach this goal. This all adds up to buy books for children. Thank you! Thank you! Please continue to drop coins & dollar bills into the jug. Thanks for your continued support. *Betty Carr & Carol Ann Luche*, CPC Chair, Book Store

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

Ann Mikell	12/01
Kailand Carlson	12/03
Richard Cotter	12/03
Walker Lenninger	12/05
Christopher Harrison	12/07
Charlene McKinley	12/10
Odalys Garcia-Carter	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
Ted Koelln	12/26
Shirley Holt	12/27
Betty Carr	12/27
Shelly Thomas West	12/30

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Loose Plate Collection:**

Our **December 23<sup>rd</sup>** Loose Plate Collection is designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Please memo checks: “*Rector's Discretionary Fund*” and place in the offering plate.

**CONTACT US**

If you haven't already done so, please give the church office your email address, birthday, anniversary date, and contact changes. **Phone: (352) 357-4358.**  
**Email: [stthomasec@earthlink.net](mailto:stthomasec@earthlink.net)**

**NEWS OF RECORD**

**Deaths -**

Harry Nolf 11/17/2018  
Your cards of caring may be sent to Harry's wife: Kathy Nolf 513 Galloway Ct.  
Leesburg, FL 34788

### St. Thomas Christmas Purse

We are once again offering parishioners the opportunity to make voluntary donations to our 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. **The deadline to turn in your gift will be Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for showing your recognition of our staff and your appreciation for all they do at St. Thomas Church.

### THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Bess Short leads **Bible Study** in the Parish Hall on **Thursdays at 11 am (following the 10 am Healing Eucharist service).**

### THANK YOU SO MUCH!

*To St. Thomas Church for the generous gift of 15 Thanksgiving baskets for our neediest students: Thank you from all of our staff, students and families at Seminole Springs Elementary School! You have made a difference in the lives of these families for the holidays!*

### THRIFT SHOP IN DECEMBER



**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 Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**and will not reopen to the Public until January 10, 2019 (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 need great condition kids' clothing & toys, knick-knacks, household items, and jewelry. **Also, your donations of CHRISTMAS ITEMS are needed.**

If you can volunteer at any time - We would appreciate your help.... Call call Sandy Pettitt 352-551-4225 or Gail Norris 352-357-2518.

### WEDNESDAY FITNESS CLASSES

Bess Short offers a 1/2-hour **Beginners** fitness class on Wednesdays at Noon in our Parish Hall. An **Intermediate** class follows immediately after that at 12:30 pm.



### EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Can you donate a package of children's diapers, new underwear & socks, or crayons and art supplies for local children ages 3 – 5 years old? Please place these items in the large boxes located in our Narthex & Vestibule. **Your contributions are greatly appreciated** by the staff and children of ECS, located here in Eustis to assist children from this community with financial needs. Thank you!

### 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.



### MOST NEWS

The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) meet on Thursday, **December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** in our Parish Hall, with a guest speaker and dinner provided. Contact *Jerry Fields*, President @ 343-000 with any program ideas or input on future events.

### SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

The Forum **is held on Sundays at 9:15 am with a relevant Topic of Discussion.** We gather in our Parish Hall for an opportunity to learn, share & grow. No materials required; just show up!

### HOLIDAY THANK YOU

To *everyone* who donated in *any* way to fill the Thanksgiving bags for the families at Eustis Elementary and Seminole Springs Elementary Schools. Your kindness and generosity are so very much appreciated. St. Thomas was able to fill 32 complete bags with \$40 Publix gift cards in each to help make the holidays brighter for these families (over \$2000 donated!). And for all their help – thank you to Vicki Tubb and Diane Mullen. St. Thomas' love always comes through! Thank you from Nancy Conley

## BAZAAR 2018 UPDATE!

**Thank you to all who assisted, donated, spread the word, or made purchases – your contributions made our Bazaar a tremendous success!**

JEWELRY & MORE	346.75
BBQ CHICKEN LUNCH	1,455.00
PARISH SWEETS & TREATS	620.50
SILENT AUCTION	2,345.00
BASKET DRAWINGS	558.00
BOOK STORE	58.50
CRAFT SHOP	247.50
PIE & COFFEE CAFÉ	280.00
PLANT BOOTH	138.00
THRIFT SHOP (and CLEARANCE)	539.75
YARD SALE	320.00
BOOKS & MORE	67.70
CHURCH TOURS	6.00
POPCORN & DRINKS	32.00
<b>TOTAL PROFIT</b>	<b>\$ 7,014.70</b>

### *Special thanks to all of our Bazaar venue chairs:*

*Sue Kiefer (Jewelry & More), BBQ Lunch (Mike Christensen & Nancy Conley), Grill-Master (Rick Kiefer), Sweets & Treats (Naomi Townsend), Silent Auction & Basket Drawing (Carole Warner), Book Store (Bette Dufour), Craft Shop (Janet Clarke), Pie & Coffee Café (Marie Fentz), Plants (Bert Grace & Kalia Baillene), Thrift Shop (Sandy Pettitt, Gail Norris, & Elaine Moecker), Thrift Shop Clearance (Beverly Cox), Yard Sale (Mary Shriner & Sally Hartenstein), Books & More (Lynn Bailey), Church Tours (Diane Mullen), Parking & Signs (Jerry Fields, Rob Wilhelm & Rick Kiefer), Fliers (Marilyn Pierson), Money (Lauren Stricklen &, Leslie Waters), Popcorn (Sean Lahey)*

# DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            Holy Eucharist Services: Traditional - 8 am    Family - 10:30 am            Healing on December 2<sup>nd</sup>            Adult Forum in Parish Hall – 9:15            Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am</p>					<p><b>1</b> 9 am – Noon – Thrift Shop</p>
<p><b>2 HEALING</b>  <b>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            1 Advent  <b>COMMITMENT SUNDAY</b>            Noon – Fr. Ted's Anniversary            Celebration Potluck</p>	<p><b>3</b> 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            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 – HE/Healing Service            11 am – BIBLE STUDY            1:15 pm – Stained Glass            6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p><b>7</b> 9 am – 3 pm – Thrift Shop</p>	<p><b>8</b> 9 am – Noon – Thrift Shop</p>
<p><b>9</b>  <b>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            2 Advent</p>	<p><b>10</b> 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day            12 pm – Beginner's Fitness            12:30 pm – Fitness Class            2:30 pm – Christmas Lunch for EES in Parish Hall            7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9 am – 3 pm – Thrift Shop            10 am – HE/Healing Service            11 am – BIBLE STUDY            1:15 pm – Stained Glass  <b>6 pm – MOST Meeting</b>            6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9 am – 3 pm – Thrift Shop            1:30 pm – Healing/HE at Lakeview in Altoona</p>	<p><b>15</b> 9 am – Noon – Thrift Shop  <i>(Closes at Noon for Christmas Break)</i></p>
<p><b>16</b>  <b>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            3 Advent            Deadlines for Christmas Bonus and Christmas Flowers</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7 pm – Vestry</p>	<p><b>19</b> 12 pm – Beginner's Fitness            12:30 pm – Fitness Class            7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>THRIFT SHOP CLOSED</b>            10 am – HE/Healing Service            11 am – BIBLE STUDY            1:15 pm – Stained Glass            6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>THRIFT SHOP CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>THRIFT SHOP CLOSED</b></p>
<p><b>23 DISCRETIONARY</b>  <b>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            4 Advent            9:15 am – Outreach Meeting</p>	<p><b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b>            6:30 pm – Music Program            7:00 pm – Holy Eucharist Service            7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b>            10 am – Holy Eucharist Service</p>	<p><b>26</b> 12 pm – Beginner's Fitness            12:30 pm – Fitness Class            7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>THRIFT SHOP CLOSED</b>            10 am – HE/Healing Service            11 am – BIBLE STUDY            1:15 pm – Stained Glass            6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>THRIFT SHOP CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>THRIFT SHOP CLOSED</b></p>
<p><b>30</b>  <b>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            1 Christmas</p>	<p><b>31</b> 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>					