



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

St. Thomas Tidings February 2019

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. TED

So many things have an effect on our well-being, on our wholeness. It is God's desire for us that we have wellness, that we are, when we're at our best; blessed with wholeness.

In this New Year, many have made resolutions with very good intentions. Some of the resolutions are pretty simple, many having to do with food. Other resolutions we make are not so easy because they involve attempts to truly change something about us, about our behavior, about our own sense of wholeness – and this often requires us to Repent. To truly repent means to turn around, to go in another direction away from that which threatens our wholeness. This ultimately threatens our relationships with one another and, more significantly, threatens our relationship with God.

Repentance usually involves aspects of forgiveness; almost always - forgiving others, and so importantly, even forgiving ourselves and asking God for forgiveness. In fact, in actual fact, one cannot actually be a follower of Christ without asking God for forgiveness from time to time for things done or left undone. God will forgive us, over and over again – but, and this is essential – we have to *ask* for it even though it is freely offered by God. To say one has never asked God for forgiveness would be then an admission that one is not in relationship with God – is not a Christian in actuality.

Listen to some words from a magazine article that I recently discovered:

“When it comes to health-enhancing products freely available on the open market, surely one of the best is a healing ‘ointment’ that has been around since time began. A fortunate few of us are able to acquire it naturally, but for many it has to be entirely man-made through considerable hard work – and it can take as long as a life-time to produce. Though the properties of this ‘ointment’ may be hard to pin down, one thing’s for sure: unless you’re a saint or a machine, it’s certainly not easy to get hold of – which is, of course, what helps make it so precious.

The balm of forgiveness – that ability to finally let go of a hurt or grievance, whether it’s been self-inflicted or inflicted by another – is the ultimate cleanser. It sees an end to bitterness, resentment and anger that can fundamentally damage our day-to-day well-being. [our wholeness]”

We make our confessions each and every week before we receive the Holy Eucharist, and before we receive God's blessings to restore us to wholeness in Christ. To not participate in this act of repentance and forgiveness is to not participate as a Christian.

(FR. TED'S ARTICLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Jack & Keith Barker 2/02/74
 Stephen & Carol Ann Luché 2/13/16
 Rick & Sue Kiefer 2/17/73

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 – Ryland Cox

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

Memorial Garden – Ruth Squire

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

FR TED'S ARTICLE – CONTINUED

God's Grace is always there for the asking and is given when one asks in true repentance and faith. Not to do so means that one is not in relationship with God, and therefore, in our believing, is living in sin.

Ask for the 'Balm of Forgiveness' – it is truly available, and essential for anyone claiming to be a follower of Christ our Savior.

Peace & Joy

Fr. Ted

ADULT FORUM

Sunday Adult Forum continues **each Sunday** at 9:15 am in the Parish Hall on: *"God Is Closer Than You Think"*, authored by John Ortberg, Evangelical Christian author, speaker, and senior pastor of Menlo Church (ECO Presbyterian Church with 4000+ members), in Menlo Park, CA. Our first chapter is entitled: God's Great Desire for People. We will have a short video and discussion for our forum sessions on this book.

We gather in our Parish Hall for an opportunity to learn, share & grow. No materials required; just show up!

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Church Office will be closed **Monday, February 18th** for Presidents' Day.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop Loves you this month! Come see our great Valentines' Day-themed gifts from the Thrift Shop & Boutique. We have hearts & cupids and so much more for your sweetheart.

"The Thrift Shop was blessed with lots of sales recently and we need donations of your plastic (grocery) bags."

Thank you to ALL our volunteers – new and long-time – for your dedication to this ministry. In recognition of their service, all Thrift Shop volunteers are invited to the upcoming:

THRIFT SHOP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

to be held in our Parish Hall on Tuesday, **March 5, 2019 at 11:30 am**. Please RSVP by signing up on the sheet on the front desk at the shop – or phone the shop to let us know -- 352-589-0641. Please phone Sandy Pettitt 352-551-4225 or Gail Norris 352-357-2518 if you are able to volunteer. Regular shop hours are - **Thurs. & Fri., 9 am - 3 pm; Sat., 9 am - Noon**. Donations of good, clean items are always welcome. You may continue to bring donations to the shop or SIDE porch of the Church Office.

2019 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.**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

From Eustis Elementary School for the Christmas Luncheon at St. Thomas: *"Wow!" "Great!" "Wonderful!" "The VERY BEST!" "Terrific time!" "What a blessing!" "Amazing generosity!"*

From Marjorie Carter for Christmas Bonus: *"Thank you all so much for the Christmas bonus! It's very much appreciated, and comes at such a wonderful time of year! I'm truly grateful!"*

STEWARDSHIP 2019

We've received **54** pledges for a total of **\$164,662**. Blank pledge cards are located in the Narthex. Please fill out a pledge card as soon as possible to help with the 2019 budget – leave in the offering plate. Thanks for your support of St. Thomas Church.

☞ 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!

**To receive a copy of the church directory, email us at

stthomasec@earthlink.net



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!**

2019 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Diocesan Convention will be Friday, February 1st and Saturday, February 2nd, 2019 at Trinity Prep in Winter Park. Our Lay Delegates are Gail Carlson & Thelma Martin. Please keep them in your prayers.

DIOCESAN REVIVAL SERVICE

OUR DIOCESE IS CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FORMATION. FRIDAY, FEB. 1, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.) FEATURED SPEAKER: Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. FIRST BAPTIST ORLANDO, 3000 S. JOHN YOUNG PKWY, ORLANDO . BRING A FRIEND (OR SEVERAL).

***If you signed up for the bus from St. Thomas – meet here in our Church Parking Lot at 4:30 pm – the bus cannot wait for late-comers!**

****Although the event is now "sold out", you may get on the WAITING LIST for tickets online: "Keep Saying Yes to Jesus 50th Anniversary Revival Tickets"**

*****If you cannot attend the event, the diocese will be posting the text of Bishop Curry's speech on their website after the event on their online site: www.cfdiocese.org. They also hope to post some of the event on You tube – stay tuned for further details.**

MOST NEWS

The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) group meets next on **Thursday, February 14th at 6 pm in our Parish Hall.** Contact *Jerry Fields*, President - 343-0007 with program ideas or input on future events.

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. Please come join the group and see how quickly **your** level of fitness increases!



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 will be provided.

HEALING – 1st SUNDAYS

On **February 3rd**, 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

St. Thomas' Fellowship Luncheon is every 4th Wednesday at 11:30 am in our Parish Hall, with plenty of great 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 February 27th.

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.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

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

WEDDING ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS TO

Jane Carlson and Jeff Harvey.

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.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Ann Johnson
35947 Clear Lake Drive
Eustis, FL 32736

Nedra Updike
Lake Ridge Village
353 W. Ardice Ave. Apt. 62
Eustis, FL 32726
(352) 589-5161

PRAYERS

Our Prayer Chain prays for any parish needs. If **YOU** can pray for others and contact Prayer Chain members, phone **Nancy Conley, (352) 483-2947**, or cell (352) **350-4184**, or call the Church Office 357-4358.

4th Sunday Loose Plate Collection:

Our **February 24th** Loose Plate Collection is designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Please memo checks: **"Rector's Discretionary Fund"** and place in the offering plate.

THRIFT SHOP OUTREACH

From the Arc Sunrise: *"The individuals served at the Arc Sunrise want to say Thank You! Your gift (of \$2,400) will be used to improve the lives of adults with developmental disabilities...so they can achieve independence, self-sufficiency and participate in their community."*
John R. Riehm CEO

From the Haven: *"Thank you so much for the \$2,400. Your thoughtfulness and kindness have blessed our organization and our clients. Please know the difference your donation makes. We're most grateful for your warm and generous human spirit."*
Kelly Smallridge, Executive Director

From The Open Door: *"Thank you, thank you, thank you, 2,400 times, thank you! To say that we were thrilled by your continued support of The Open Door would be an understatement. The program is a labor of love for us, and we could not do it without your very generous support. St. Thomas has been steadfast in its support. Operated solely through fundraising...we serve 496 individuals...Our PATHways Team successfully houses 17 individuals and families. We will soon be opening HOPE House, an 8-bed permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless men (next door to The Open Door). Participants will be identified, provided services and skills to help them become fully self-sufficient within 12 months, and transition into community-based permanent housing"*

B.E. Thompson, Director of Development LifeStream Behavioral Center/The Open Door



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Janet Clarke	2/01
Laura Thomas Meyer	2/01
MaryAnn Winslow	2/02
Kent Tombow	2/02
Kathy Easter	2/04
Jeff Emerson	2/06
Tom Wright	2/08
Janet Gizelt	2/11
Mike Christensen	2/13
Zachary Hunter Boreske	2/14
Coleman Holt	2/20
Maggie Kaiser	2/21
Carl Pettitt	2/21
Bill Christiansen	2/23
Keith Barker	2/23
George Pawliczak	2/26
Dennis Hartenstein	2/28

CONTACT US:



Please contact the Church Office if you are **hospitalized** and would like a visit. We rely on your help, or someone on your behalf, to provide us with details. If you haven't already done so, please give the church office your email address, your birthday or anniversary date, and any contact changes. Phone: 357-4358

Email: stthomasec@earthlink.net

NEWS OF RECORD

Deaths -

Betty Carr 1/01/2019
Your cards of caring may be sent to:
Carol Ann & Stephen Luche
36835 Sandy Lane
Grand Island, FL 32735

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">*SUNDAY SCHEDULE Holy Eucharist Services: Traditional - 8 am Family - 10:30 am Healing on February 3rd Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am Adult Forum in Parish Hall – 9:15</p>					<p>1 9 am – 3 pm- Thrift Shop Michael Curry Revival at 1st Baptist/Orlando 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Bus from St. Thomas– meet here at 4:30 pm in our Church Parking Lot)</p>	<p>2 9 am – Noon – Thrift Shop Diocesan Convention at Trinity Prep/Winter Park</p>
<p>3 HEALING *SUNDAY SCHEDULE 4 Epiphany NOON – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN PARISH HALL – BRING A DISH TO SHARE</p>	<p>4 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day 12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 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>8 9 am – 3 pm – Thrift Shop</p>	<p>9 9 am – Noon – Thrift Shop</p>
<p>10 *SUNDAY SCHEDULE 5 Epiphany</p>	<p>11 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day 12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 9 am – 3 pm – Thrift Shop 10 am – HE/Healing Service 11 am – BIBLE STUDY 1:15 pm – Stained Glass 6 pm – MOST Meeting 6:30 pm – AA Group</p>	<p>15 9 am – 3 pm – Thrift Shop</p>	<p>16 9 am – Noon – Thrift Shop</p>
<p>17 *SUNDAY SCHEDULE 6 Epiphany</p>	<p>18 PRESIDENTS’ DAY Church Office Closed 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p>19 7 pm – Vestry</p>	<p>20 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day 12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 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>22 9 am – 3 pm – Thrift Shop 1:30 pm – Healing/HE at Lakeview in Altoona</p>	<p>23 9 am – Noon – Thrift Shop</p>
<p>24 DISCRETIONARY *SUNDAY SCHEDULE 7 Epiphany</p>	<p>25 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day 11:30 am – Fellowship Luncheon 12 pm – Beginner’s Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 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>		