



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Greg & Christine Reilly 1/18/03
Bert & Lynette Grace 1/22/72

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, M. Winslow, Bev Cox, Nancy Conley
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

This month, Children's Chapel will be offered on January 8, 15 & 29 for our younger children attending the 10:30 am Sunday service. On January 1 & 22, we invite children to participate in various parts of the service on **Family Worship Service Days**.

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

St. Thomas Tidings January 2017

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

Thinking Aloud -Thinking Allowed

My favorite interpretation of 1 Corinthians 13 is in The Message. Paul's sublime passage concludes with, *"Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love."* These virtues must leap from the page and be embodied in the lives of Jesus' followers. Among our New Year's resolutions, both individually and collectively, these must be foremost. St. Thomas' ongoing resolution is to be a community characterized by faith/trust, hope, and love. As we move into and through 2017, let's strive to be a place and a people wherein faith/trust, hope, and love are our identifying traits. Hope is not mere "wishful" thinking, but rather it is expectant living. Admittedly, Christians are an odd bunch precisely because of our hope in God's dream or vision for the world. While others may despair and give-up or give-in, we persist with the grand expectation that God and God's ways give beauty and meaning to life. Love is that which opens us up to make space for others. Space, in which people can be who they are as children of God. Space, in which our judgments are suspended and grace abounds. And, faith; faith is living courageously and imaginatively in this world as if God actually *is!* Faith operates regardless of our doubts and fears. Faith is not a statement, but rather a way of life. The following prayer, by Thomas Merton, captures one Christian's resolve to live in an uncertain and unsteady world with the virtues of faith, hope, and love.

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Happy New Year,
Fr. John

THRIFT SHOP

IT'S A NEW YEAR! This month, the Thrift Shop will reopen on **January 12th** with many brand new, AWESOME gift shopping opportunities. Come see their wide selection & browse the very chic boutique. 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. 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 **January 22nd** 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

The Craft Group meets in Wisdom Hall every Wednesday morning at **10 am** - rain or shine - to create wonderful hand-made items. Those who wish to join the group are always welcome, no prior crafting skills are required! Thank you to the wonderful crafters who work all year long. Carol Ann Nestor, Chair **589-6181**.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join Fr. John's Adult Sunday Class; held each Sunday in our Parish Hall at 9:15 am - this month, beginning on January 15th.

NEW STUDY COURSE

Bess Short is leading a 26-week study of the healing miracles of Jesus each Sunday at 9:15 am in our church Library, this month, beginning on January 8th.

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 CLASSES

Bess Short is starting a half-hour **Beginners** fitness class on Wednesdays at Noon in our Parish Hall. Bess also leads an intermediate class at 12:30 pm each Wednesday to help you improve your daily lifestyle.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

Email: stthomasec@earthlink.net

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

St. Thomas Church will have only ONE Holy Eucharist Service on January 1, 2017:
New Year's Day: (Sunday)
Holy Eucharist Service @ **10:30 am**

2017 PLEDGE CARD UPDATE

As of this printing, we have received **78** pledge cards for a total of **\$171,930**. 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.

ECW JANUARY NEWS

The ECW meets on **Monday, January 2nd 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 & join us.

MOST NEWS

The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) group meets this month on **Thursday, January 12th at 6 pm** in our Parish Hall. Contact *Jerry Fields*, President - 343-0007 with program ideas or input on future events.

***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



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.

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.

2017 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

St. Thomas' Church Office will be closed January 2nd for the New Year Holiday.



ST. THOMAS BOOK STORE

Looking for New Year's gifts? Betty



Carr's Bookstore has an awesome selection of angels, jewelry, key chains, books, and more!

St. Thomas' Book Store is open *every Sunday*. All profits go for outreach. Drop your pennies and spare change in the jug in the Parish Hall 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 **January 1st**, 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).

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.

DECEMBER OUTREACH MEETING

Our Outreach meeting was held Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016. Thrift Shop funds were voted for disbursement as follows:

ARC Sunrise	\$2,183.33
C.P.C.	\$ 683.33
E.R.D.	\$1,183.35
Haven	\$2,183.33
Open Door	\$2,183.33
Turning Point Ranch	\$2,183.33
TOTAL	\$ 10,600.00

2017 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 January 25th .

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS

Our church **Nursery** is open and staffed every Sunday during our 10:30 am church service.

PRAAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawls are made with prayers and blessed at the altar to bring God's healing, love, and peace to the recipients. If you know of anyone 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 ministry.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helps St. Thomas Church shine through the holidays with such beautiful & joyous Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services. Our clergy, *Fr. John, Deacons Janet & Dick*, lead us faithfully through the liturgy, the altar guild outdoes themselves preparing for services & decking the church with gorgeous poinsettias & greenery; the St. Thomas Choir & musicians present a fabulous, heavenly holy day program; our ushers greet everyone with good cheer; our lectors & chalice bearers joyfully assist through the services; and our acolytes help us throughout each service with great spirit. You are all terrific! May God bless you all with a joyous New Year!

"CHRISTMAS PURSE" BLESSINGS

Once again, the parishioners of St. Thomas showed an abundance of generosity through their outpouring of donations to the members of St. Thomas' staff through our "Christmas Purse". Your love and recognition of their dedication is deeply appreciated.

THANK YOU "CHRISTMAS PURSE" CONTRIBUTORS

"Through God's grace, we were led to the loving community of faith that is St. Thomas Church. We are so blessed to be part of this church family and continually feel God's presence here. Please know that we love you and are constantly amazed by your abundance of generosity – in all things, large and small. We wish to thank you from our hearts for your generous gift to us, and for your gifts of faith and dedication in all things. Thank You St. Thomas" – Deacon Dick & Lisa Labud.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Natalie Christensen	1/01
Albert Eckian	1/01
Ashlyn Padgett	1/04
Wing Sigler	1/07
Nancy Morgan	1/10
Greg Reilly	1/11
Noah Lahey	1/12
Dotty Fetrow	1/14
Bobby Morgan	1/14
Pat Chappell	1/15
Jack Butler	1/17
Josiah Lipscomb	1/18
Ruth Pawliczak	1/20
Edward Riley	1/23
Steve Luche	1/25
Harry Nolf	1/25
Bert Grace	1/26
Charles Garland	1/31

NEWS OF RECORD

Deaths:

Walter Derr on November 12, 2016

Cards of Caring may be sent to his

Daughter: Barbara Wagner

2775 Thomas Ct.

Pensacola, FL 32503

Edna B. Spencer on November 19, 2016

Cards of Caring may be sent to her sister:

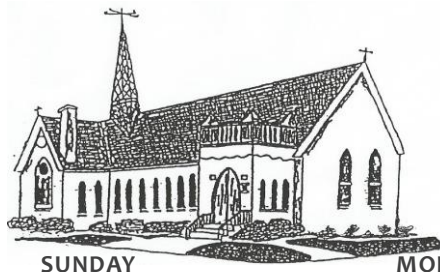
Jean Aston

640 Sun Down Circle

St. Augustine, FL 32080

MANY THANKS!

Thank you to everyone for your well wishes & cards of congratulations to **Tricia Labud**, who passed her P.E. Exam and is now a **Professional Engineer**. Your encouragement and kind words as she has reached this milestone have been a true blessing!



January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 HEALING NEW YEAR'S DAY 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist Service (ONE Service Only)	2 Office Closed 3 pm – ECW Meeting 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall	3	4 12 pm – Beginner's Fitness 12:30 pm – Fitness Class 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	5 Thrift Shop Closed 10 am – Healing Service 10:45 am – Lectionary Class 6:30 pm – AA Group	6 Thrift Shop Closed	7 Thrift Shop Closed
8 <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> The Baptism of Our Lord 1 Epiphany	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 – Healing Service 10:45 am – Lectionary Class 6 pm – MOST Meeting 6:30 pm – AA Group	13 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop 1:30 pm – Healing/ HE @ Lakeview	14 9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop
15 <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 2 Epiphany	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 – Healing Service 10:45 am – Lectionary Class 6:30 pm – AA Group	20 9 am–3 pm – Thrift Shop	21 9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop
22 DISCRETIONARY <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 3 Epiphany	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 – Healing Service 10:45 am – Lectionary Class 6:30 pm – AA Group	27 9 am–3 pm – Thrift 1:30 pm – Healing/ HE @ Lakeview Diocesan Convention @ Trinity Prep./Winter Park	28 9 am – Noon - Thrift Shop Diocesan Convention @ Trinity Prep./Winter Park
29 PARISH MEETING <u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 4 Epiphany Annual Parish Meeting at Noon in Parish Hall	30 7-8 pm – AA Meditation Group in Wisdom Hall	31	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>*SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Eucharist Services: January 1 – 10:30 am ONLY January, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 8 & 10:30 am Fr. John's Adult Class in Parish Hall: Resumes on January 15th @ 9:15 am – 10 am Healing Miracles of Jesus Study in Library: Resumes January 8th @ 9:15 am Children's Chapel at 10:30 am Service on January 8, 15, 29 Family Worship on Jan. 1 & 22 Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am Fellowship in Parish Hall - Noon Annual Parish Meeting: January 29th @ Noon – Bring a Dish to Share</p>			