

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

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

**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**

**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**

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

# St. Thomas Tidings January 2019

**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)**

**WORDS FROM FR. TED**

Blessings to you all as we begin 2019 together! It is my prayer that we will grow ever closer to God, and that we will continue to make every effort to follow the **Great Commandment** as it was added to by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ: Not only that we love God and one another, but that we do so as did Jesus!

Another tall order, but one indeed worth attempting, knowing that from time to time we will fall short of His call to us.

Last month, I reminded all of us that we are called, and that the correct response, the response hoped for by our Creator, is that we should answer: **“Here I am, Lord!”**

I also mentioned that the lyrics of that great old Hymn, *“Just as I am”*, are helpful for all of us to remember, and we should digest and know them well. However, just knowing the words is truly not enough. We are indeed called, and the hoped for answer is that we will say, **“YES”....** but then there is the doing. It is never enough to only know the words. It is not enough to just come to church, saying and singing all the right words. We must then **DO** what we say we will do – **actually do it, live it, be it.**

No one who knows all the right words to say, to pray - and then behaves like a racist or a bigot, for example; no one who behaves in those evil ways can truly be a follower of Christ – No One, no exceptions, no how!

No one who claims to have never asked for forgiveness from God for their behavior, – No One, no exceptions - can truly be a follower of Christ. It is not enough to just know the words, to be a follower; one must act/ behave like a follower of Christ. No one, who diminishes others, by word or deed as a regular practice of their behavior . . . No one who willfully, chronically, lies . . . The list goes on. I have known many folks in the church who behave in such ways, and I am fearful for their salvation. Their only hope is true repentance freely offered in God's Grace – available to all who earnestly and truthfully desire it.

We are called, we know that, but we also must **do** as a result of being called.

I am reading a history of our presidents right now [a wonderful, insightful, eye-opening, chapter on Teddy Roosevelt]. Once again, the title caught my eye, and the sub-title is especially wonderful: The Soul of America, The Battle for our Better Angels, by Jon Meacham, Pulitzer prize-winning author of a number of histories of America.

Meacham in one line makes such a difference for me, and I would hope for most of us. He writes: *“But we must keep steadily in mind that no people were ever yet benefitted by riches if their prosperity corrupted their virtues.”*

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

## FR TED'S ARTICLE – CONTINUED

Our Savior has called us to do everything in our power to be faithful, good, kind, stewards of all that God has given us – everything! If someone has two coats, and another none . . .; if one has a goodly amount of food, and another hardly enough . . . When we answer God's call to us, we must then, as a matter of course, do our best in every case.

We know that we cannot be perfect, we should not even try to be; but we can always, always, be excellent – doing our utmost for the enhancement of God's Kingdom.

Once again: *"What Will You Do?"* as we enter another year together.

With God's help, with God's grace so freely offered – be excellent, and know that God loves you, and so do I.

Peace & Joy in 2019

Fr. Ted

### PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not filled out a pledge card yet, please take the time to fill out a pledge card and turn it in to the offering plate OR mail it to us to help with the 2019 Budget. Extra cards can be found in the Church Narthex or phone the church office to have one mailed to you.

### ADULT FORUM

Sunday Adult Forum Classes will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am in the Parish Hall. We gather in our Parish Hall for an opportunity to learn, share & grow. No materials required; just show up!



### THRIFT SHOP

**IT'S A NEW YEAR!** The Thrift Shop reopens **January 10<sup>th</sup>** with terrific, brand new, **AWESOME** gift shopping opportunities. See the wide selection & browse the 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. If able to join the Thrift Shop Volunteer Team – please phone Sandy Pettitt 352-551-4225 or Gail Norris 352-357-2518.

### THANK YOU!

To **Lauren & Leon Stricklen** for the fantastic donation of furniture for the office area. And to **Gail & Tom Carlson** (and Bob) for moving the furniture to St. Thomas. What a wonderful addition this furniture makes to St. Thomas – and what **wonderful** and caring spirit you have all shown.

And thank you to Marilyn Pierson for making and donating the beautifully delicious **Gingerbread House - \$200 was raised** and Pam Ray was the lucky winner in the drawing. We so truly appreciate these contributions to St. Thomas!

### OFFICE CLOSURE

The Church Office will be closed **Tuesday, January 1, 2019 for New Year's Day** and on **January 21, 2019 for MLK Day.**



### 2019 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

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

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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

### STEWARDSHIP 2019

We've received **52** pledges for a total of **\$163,982**. 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

### BOOKSTORE

Visit St. Thomas' Bookstore in the Parish Hall. Open EVERY Sunday between services and after the 10:30 service! And please continue to drop spare change into the **Miles of Pennies** jug in the Parish Hall to help complete our 5<sup>th</sup> mile. *Betty Carr*, CPC Chair, Book Store

☞ 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!

### DIOCESAN REVIVAL SERVICE

**"WE HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU AS WE  
CELEBRATE THE**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FORMATION OF OUR DIOCESE."**

**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) TO A WORSHIP SERVICE**

**FEATURING: \*Music that reflects our  
cultural diversity \*Heartfelt testimonies**

**from people of faith \*Enthusiastic,**

**interesting, often funny preaching that  
brings people in and calls them to a**

**deeper relationship with Jesus. Please get  
your RESERVATION TICKETS online:**


**"Keep Saying Yes to Jesus 50<sup>th</sup>**

**Anniversary Revival Tickets"**

### MOST NEWS

The MOST (Men Of St. Thomas) group meets next on **Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in our Parish Hall.** Last month, they were able to donate **\$200** to Episcopal Children's Services – thank you gentlemen! 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. 



**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>.

**HEALING – 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAYS**

On **January 6<sup>th</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**

St. Thomas' Fellowship Luncheon is every 4<sup>th</sup> 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 January 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

**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).**

**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**

Wendy & Jack Geeslin  
1111 Lakeshore Drive Unit B-5  
Eustis, FL 32726  
(352) 308-8181

Jim & Jane Anthony new email:  
janejim111@gmail.com

**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.

**2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

Final Contributions Statements will be sent after the 2018 books have been closed in January, 2019.

**THANKS TO ALL DONORS TO THE "CHRISTMAS PURSE"**

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.*

**DECEMBER OUTREACH FUNDING MEETING**

Our Outreach meeting was held Sunday, December 23, 2018. Monies from Thrift Shop sales were disbursed as follows:

ARC Sunrise	\$ 2,400.00
Eustis Elementary School	\$ 1,000.00
Open Door of Eustis	\$ 2,400.00
The Haven	\$ 2,400.00
Turning Point Ranch	\$ 2,400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,600.00</b>

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

Our **January 27<sup>th</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.



**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
Jill Malony	1/20
Ruth Pawliczak	1/20
Edward Riley	1/23
David Waters	1/24
Steve Luche	1/25
Leslie Waters	1/25
Bert Grace	1/26
Charles Garland	1/31

**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](mailto:stthomasec@earthlink.net)

# JANUARY 2019

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 January 6<sup>th</sup>                      Coffee Hour in Parish Hall – 9 am                      Adult Forum in Parish Hall – 9:15</p>		<p><b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>                      Church Office                      Closed</p>	<p><b>2</b>                      12 pm – Beginner's Fitness                      12:30 pm – Fitness Class                      7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3 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>4 THRIFT SHOP                      CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>5 THRIFT SHOP                      CLOSED</b></p>
<p><b>6 HEALING</b>                      *SUNDAY SCHEDULE                      The Epiphany</p>	<p><b>7</b>                      7-8 pm – AA Meditation                      Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day                      12 pm – Beginner's Fitness                      12:30 pm – Fitness Class                      7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>10</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>11</b>                      9 am – 3 pm –                      Thrift Shop                      1:30 pm – Healing/HE                      at Lakeview in Altoona</p>	<p><b>12</b>                      9 am – Noon –                      Thrift Shop</p>
<p><b>13</b>                      *SUNDAY SCHEDULE                      1 Epiphany</p>	<p><b>14</b>                      7-8 pm – AA Meditation                      Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>15</b>                      7 pm – Vestry</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day                      12 pm – Beginner's Fitness                      12:30 pm – Fitness Class                      7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>17</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>18</b>                      9 am – 3 pm –                      Thrift Shop</p>	<p><b>19</b>                      9 am – Noon –                      Thrift Shop</p>
<p><b>20</b>                      *SUNDAY SCHEDULE                      2 Epiphany</p>	<p><b>21 MLK HOLIDAY</b>                      Church Office                      Closed                      7-8 pm – AA Meditation                      Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 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><b>24</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>25</b>                      9 am – 3 pm –                      Thrift Shop                      11 am – Harry Nolf                      Funeral                      1:30 pm – Healing/HE                      at Lakeview in Altoona</p>	<p><b>26</b>                      9 am – Noon –                      Thrift Shop</p>
<p><b>27 DISCRETIONARY</b>                      *SUNDAY SCHEDULE                      3 Epiphany</p>	<p><b>28</b>                      7-8 pm – AA Meditation                      Group in Wisdom Hall</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 9-11 am – Thrift Work Day                      12 pm – Beginner's Fitness                      12:30 pm – Fitness Class                      7 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</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>		