
THE EPISTLE OF ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
The Rev. Jeff Douglas

FEBRUARY 2015

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving

Letting Your Light Shine

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." and he also says to us, "You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." As disciples of the Way, as early Jewish-Christians were called, we are obligated not only to try and live the Way, but also light the Way for others.



We don't have to walk on water, or calm raging seas to light the path for others. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Unselfish acts are the real miracles out of which all the reported miracles grow." And Mother Teresa said, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." So, let your light shine. So here are five little ways to let yours shine:

- Be positive. Start your day with praise. Sing a favorite hymn. Sing out loud in the shower and hum it all day long. It will put a smile on your face, a spring in your step and brighten not only your day but the day everyone you see.
- Be good news to an old friend that you have lost touch with. Make contact. Reconcile if an old quarrel keeps you apart. Heal yourself and someone else by making peace with an enemy.
- Give a child a gift. Love your children or grandchildren with the gift of your time, read a book together. Make something with your own hands and give it to them. Give them something you treasure and they will treasure you. Give a gift to a child you know who has little in life. Be a tutor, mentor, benefactor to a child in need.
- Be a Wise Man or Woman. Give an extra gift of gold, frankincense and myrrh to a charity or family in need. Your treasures in heaven will be far greater.
- Expand your circle of love. Make a new friend. Buy them a cup of coffee or lunch. Ask them about their parents, kids, brothers or sisters. Learn their story and then share some of yours. You will have much in common.

That's it. Be positive. Be Good News. Give yourself to children. Be wise in the ways of heaven. Touch and be touched by another human being. Who knows? Your light might lead another potential Wise One to the manger as well.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but this I know: the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." – Albert Schweitzer

Peace.
Jeff+



VESTRY NOTES by Daniel McCamish, Vestry Clerk

The Vestry and Rector of St. Thomas met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish House. Present were the Rector, Jeff Douglas, the Treasurer, Ernie Carter, and Vestry members, Hugh Davis, Claudia Griffin, Jamie Johnson, Patsy Jones, Fred Liverman, Daniel McCamish, Gretchen Simons, Mike Steczak, and Lindsay Vaughan.

The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer.

December Minutes. The minutes of the December Vestry meeting were reviewed and approved.

Election of Officers. Vestry members elected the following officers for 2015: Gretchen Simons, Senior Warden; Mike Steczak, Junior Warden; Ernie Carter, Treasurer; and Daniel McCamish, Clerk.

Treasurer's Report. The proposed budget for 2015 and the treasurer's report for December 2014 were both read and approved.

Service. The Soup Kitchen will be held on Thursday, January 22nd and 29th. A donor has made funds available to help with the cost of providing food for the Soup Kitchen. The Diocesan Convention will be February 5th – 7th in New Bern. Hugh Davis and Daniel McCamish have been selected as delegates.

Worship. Joint services with St. Thomas, Windsor at Grace in Lewiston Woodville were proposed for every fifth Sunday in 2015: March 29th (Palm Sunday), May 31st, August 30th, and November 29th (Advent 1). It was agreed that May 31st and August 30th could be scheduled, but that the other two dates should not.

Education. In February, the topic for Adult Sunday School will be Living the Questions. For the coming Lent Study, it will be The Power of 1.

Jr. Warden's Report. The heater in the Parish Hall was fixed by replacing a panel. There are still issues with the heating system in the church, which will be addressed.

Other. The annual Parochial Report is being prepared. The Vestry will see a copy in February. Vestry members signed the Vestry Declaration and Promise, and the Sexual Ethics Policy. Anti-Racism training will be made available to the new vestry members later in the year. The Leadership Report to the Diocese will also be prepared, containing a list of names and addresses of the Vestry officers. Anyone interested in helping with the Bazemore lot/garden project should see Patsy Jones.

Calendar. Ash Wednesday: February 18th. Soup Suppers & Lent Study begin Wednesday, February 25th. Rector's Birthday Dinner: Friday, February 27th. Palm Sunday: March 29th. Easter: April 5th.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish House.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Tommy Tucker
3 Mitzi Benhart
5 Mollie Carter
7 Henry Jones
12 Ben Benhart
16 Jamie Johnson
17 Joe Henry Jenkins
20 Jeff Douglas
23 Bea Vaughan
26 Hinton Carter



*“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor; we pray, on your servants, **Tommy, Mitzi, Mollie, Henry, Ben, Jamie, Joe Henry, Jeff, Bea, and Hinton**, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**”*

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

26 Clyde and Ann Hughes



*“O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon **Clyde and Ann**, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**”*

Soup Kitchen Dates for February

Thursday, February 19th at 5:00 pm

Thursday, February 26th at 5:00 pm

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be located in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

THE ECW'S VALENTINE REMEMBRANCES-



Becky Johnson will again chair the committee for Valentine Remembrances for our university/college boarding students and shut-ins. Please donate to this caring ministry by making a monetary contribution to St. Thomas' ECW. You can bring your contribution (marked in an envelope) by the church office.

This is a friendly reminder, the 2015 ECW dues are \$10.00 and the dues are payable any time.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church – Schedules for February 2015

Acolytes

1 Charles Sawyer
8 Jerrie Taylor and Mary Outland
15 Bill Blanchard and Robbie Outland
22 Hugh Davis and Gretchen Simons

Altar Flowers

1 Family of Nelle Burgess
8 Barbara O' Herron
15 Dr. and Mrs. Colin Jones
22 Flower Guild

Altar Guild

Sarah Davis and Becky Johnson

Food Pantry (Note-Wednesdays)

4 Dicky Hoggard
11 Jim Shotwell
18 Peggy Vann
25 Bubba Peele

Lay Readers

1 10:30 am Holy Eucharist- Hugh Davis
4 6:00 pm Evening Prayer- Colin Jones
8 8:00 am Morning Prayer- **OPEN**
10:30 am Holy Eucharist- John Davis
11 6:00 pm Evening Prayer- John Davis
15 10:30 am Holy Eucharist- Jim Shotwell
18 6:00 pm **Ash Wednesday Service**
22 10:30 am Holy Eucharist- Hugh Davis
25 6:00 pm Evening Prayer- Hugh Davis

Ushers

Dicky Hoggard and John Davis

Yard Work

1 Dicky Hoggard and Johnny Griffin
8 Jim Shotwell and Fred Liverman
15 Jim Shotwell and Fred Liverman
22 Ernie Carter and Benjie Brown

Lenten Book Study.....begins *Wednesday, February 25th*

How many people does it take to **make a difference?** **1**

The Power of 1 written by Dan Zadra and Kobi Yamada

“The purpose of life is to discover your gift. **The meaning of life is to give your gift away.**”

Throughout your life there’s a voice that only you can hear. It’s a call to the true value of your life- a call to make a difference that only you can make. If you never hear it, something magical will be lost. But if you hear it and heed it, then your life will become a wonderful romance and adventure. (David Viscott)

Instead of asking, “What can I get from life? Watch what happens when you ask, **“What can I give?”**”

A Note from The Ahoskie Food Pantry:

“The Ahoskie Food Pantry appreciates so much the \$4,281.12 donation you gave to us and the \$50.00 to the Backpack. This charitable project could not survive without the continuing help of friends like you. You have helped your neighbors. God Bless You!”

Sincerely,

Dicky Hoggard

“P.S. You are so good to us. I am so proud to call St. Thomas my church!”

25th Anniversary Celebration

Dickie Hoggard (on left) received, on behalf of the Ahoskie Food Pantry, a ceremonial check representing donations from members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, in honor of their rector the Rev. Jeff Douglas (on right). The gift was given in celebration the 25th anniversary of Rev. Douglas's ordination as a priest and in recognition of his continuing concern for and service to the poor in the Roanoke-Chowan



area. The check facsimile represents 25 donations at \$25 each, in keeping with his years in the priesthood, but actual donations exceeded \$1,700.00 and will be passed on to the Food Pantry. The donation was announced on Sunday, January 25, and the church further honored Rev. Douglas with a reception after that morning's services. (Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald)

Soup Supper Assignments

St. Thomas Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday, February 25th, following Evening Prayer (at 6pm) and will continue through Wednesday, April 9th.

Teams of soup makers and their dates are provided below. If you cannot make soup on your assigned week, please find someone to swap with and be sure to let your team captain know.

On your assigned Wednesday, come to the Parish Hall between 5 and 5:30 pm to set up: tables, bowls, spoons, napkins, cups, salt and pepper, ice, tea, and water. Each team should provide bread and/or crackers to go with their soups.

The cost is \$2.50 per person per supper or you may pay \$10 for the "season". There is no charge for children under seven.

February 25

Libby Jones – team captain

Cheryl Steczak
Amy Brown
Vicki Blanchard
Sue Liverman
Gretchen Simons

March 4

Beth Douglas – team captain

Barbara Outland
Becky Johnson
Jerrie Taylor
Mary C. Pierce
Bea Vaughan

March 11

Gail Carter – team captain

Claudia Griffin
Martie Tayloe
Julie Shields
Patsy Jones
Nonie Turville

March 18

Tomma Jenkins – team captain

Lindsay Vaughan
Mac Griffin
Margaret Newbern
Sarah Davis

March 25

Amy Braswell – team captain

Lois Sawyer
Linda Shotwell
Brenda Hewitt
Carolyn Peele
Becky Hoggard

Diocese of East Carolina Announcement

Accountants Needed to Help with Parish Audits

On a Paid Contract Basis

For more information, please call Bonnie Holton

At 252-522-0885, ext. 229

February 2015

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 & 10:30 am HE 9:15 am SS Candlemas	2 Tommy Tucker Boy Scouts @ 7:00 pm	3 Mitzi Benhart	4 EP @ 6:00 pm	5 Mollie Carter AA @ 8:00 pm Convention	6 Convention	7 Henry Jones Convention
8 10:30 am HE 8:00 am MP 9:15 am SS Epiphany 5	9 Book Guild @ 5:00 pm Boy Scouts @ 7:00 pm	10	11 EP @ 6:00 pm	12 Ben Benhart AA @ 8:00 pm	13	14
15 8:00 & 10:30 am HE 9:15 am SS The Last Sunday after the Epiphany	16 Dame Julian Prayer & Study Group @ 5:00 pm Jamie Johnson Boy Scouts @ 7:00 pm	17 Joe Henry Jenkins Vestry Meeting @ 6:00 pm	18 Ash Wednesday @ 6:00 pm	19 Soup Kitchen @ 5:00 pm AA @ 8:00 pm	20 Jeff Douglas	21
22 8:00 & 10:30 am HE 9:15 am SS The First Sunday in Lent	23 Bea Vaughan Boy Scouts @ 7:00 pm	24 RSVP- Jeff's birthday dinner	25 EP @ 6:00 pm Lenten Study begins Soup Suppers begin @ 6:30 pm	26 Clyde and Ann Hughes Hinton Carter Soup Kitchen @ 5:00 pm AA @ 8:00 pm	27 The Rector's Birthday Dinner @ 6:30 pm	28

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Rector's Birthday Dinner

Friday, February 27th at 6:30PM

Menu

Roasted Beef with
Chimichurri Herb Sauce
Herbed Pommes Anna
(an Herbed Potato Stack)
Roasted Asparagus
Butter Lettuce Salad with
Gorgonzola & Pear
Dressing

Wine, Water & Tea to drink

Reserve by noon Tuesday Feb. 24!

Suggested minimum donation \$35 per person

Your donation supports the
Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic.

Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, February 24th.



St. Thomas is a vibrant, welcoming Christian community cultivating mind, body, and spirit through worship, fellowship, and service, loving our neighbors as ourselves.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 263
Ahoskie, NC 27910