

# The Epistle of St. Thomas'

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Jeff Douglas

Diocese of East Carolina  
The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, 3rd

July 2008

## Parson's Corner: A Prayer for the Church



O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

This prayer, said at every ordination in our Church is one of our most powerful. It quite accurately describes life as a struggle. Raising people who have been cast down for years and years is not easy, tranquil or without cost. Taking the old ways and rebirthing them into new life-giving ways does not come without pain.

Ask any woman who has experienced labor without the benefit of anesthesia and she can tell you about the pain of birth. Our own process of personal sanctification is one of struggle. We struggle with the parts of our lives that we wish to hold on to, to control, and not give over to the will of God. To live is to struggle.

In the Episcopal Church, our theology is based on prayer and particularly our Book of Common Prayer. This idea is known by the Latin phrase, *lex orandi, lex credendi*, which literally translates as the law of prayer, is the law of belief. Loosely translated, it says – what we pray is what we believe. If we truly believe this prayer, then the Church must stand with the disenfranchised even though it is difficult, unpopular, and painful. All births, even being born-again, come with both joy and pain. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr. King, Jonathan Daniels, Janani Lwum, Bishop, and Martyr of Uganda remind us vividly of the cost of discipleship.

This summer our bishops will gather at Lambeth Palace for their once a decade meeting with other Anglican bishops from around the globe. These conferences began in 1867 and they have now become one of the communion's four "Instruments of Communion" (The Archbishop of Canterbury; The Lambeth Conference; the Anglican Consultative Council; the Primates' Meeting). The Most Rev. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury stated, sent out invitations to Lambeth 2008 stating: "...the Lambeth Conference has no 'constitution' or formal powers; it is not a formal Synod or Council of the bishops of the Communion..."

Nonetheless, the conference is very influential and represents the 'mind of the communion' on such substantive issues as women's ordination (1968, 1978) and homosexual behavior (1998). My prayer is that during the upcoming Lambeth Conference, our Anglican bishops will pray this prayer and remind themselves of who we are called to be and reach for it.

Peace  
Jeff †

## Upcoming Events

**July 18 – 20 - Upper Cape Fear Deanery** – Liturgy Day at Holy Trinity, Fayetteville.

**August 3 – 7**



### Multi-Church **Vacation Bible School**

August 3 - 7, 2008

6:00 – 8:30 pm

Supper Provided!

At St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
Corner of Church St. & Carolina Ave.

It is an intergenerational experience where children (beginning with age 4), teenagers, adults, and senior adults are invited to experience the culture and teachings of Jesus. For more information, please call one of the following sponsoring Ahoskie churches:

The United Methodist Church, 332-2203

First Baptist Church, 332-4003

First Presbyterian Church, 332-2145

St. Charles' Borromeo Catholic Church, 332-2939

St. Thomas' Episcopal, 332-3263

Registration Forms for participants and leaders are included at the end of this newsletter. Please fill out and email or mail to the church.

**August 17 – Albemarle Deanery** – For the **125th Anniversary Celebration** there will be a festival Eucharist at the Waterside Theatre at the Lost Colony in Manteo as a commemoration of the baptisms of Manteo and Virginia Dare in 1587. Please reserve this date on your calendar! This will be the largest 125th Anniversary event of the year.

As part of the Albemarle Deanery, St Thomas will help provide refreshments.

**August 21 – 24** - The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Church Music at Trinity Center. Registration forms are available in the front office and are also available through our website at [www.saintthomasahoskie.com](http://www.saintthomasahoskie.com).

**August 24 – Trinity Deanery** – Trinity Family Day.

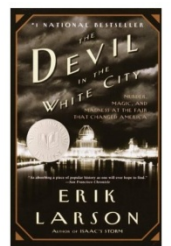
**September ECW Book** - The ECW's book for September will be *Devil in the White City*, by Erik Larson. Jerrie Taylor will present the book.



Erik Larson

Bringing Chicago circa 1893 to vivid life, Erik Larson's spellbinding bestseller intertwines the true tale of two men—the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair, striving to secure America's place in the world; and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. Combining meticulous research with nail-biting storytelling, Erik Larson has crafted a narrative with all the wonder of newly discovered history and the thrills of the best fiction.

*From amazon.com*



**September 21 – Upper Cape Fear Deanery** – Farm Workers Ministry Gathering – Newton Grove.

**October 26 - Pamlico Deanery** – St. Paul's Greenville (401 East Fourth Street) will host a special Festive Evensong at 5:00 pm.

## Announcements

From the desk of Bea Vaughan



While sitting in a hospital waiting room, time passes like the proverbial watched pot. Anxiety associated with the waiting news of a loved one or simply waiting for a procedure can also feel like time has stopped completely.

Regardless of ones personal hobbies or interests, magazines are a great way to allow idle hands and wandering minds the chance to focus on other matters. No matter the premise or content of a magazine, people merely browse through or read an article completely out of their normal interests just to reduce this anxiety.

Do you have magazines no longer wanted? Would you like to donate your unwanted magazines to our local Roanoke Chowan Hospital (or a hospital or doctor's office closer to you)? Did you know Roanoke Chowan Hospital has a Valet Parking Attendant that would accept your donated magazines and take them to the front desk for drop-off? Imagine... you do not even have to get out of your vehicle! How easy is that?

St. Thomas' **Bea Vaughan** still collects donated magazines from the church; however, during the summer months they are collected less often. Dropping your magazines with the Valet is just another way they can be donated.

From the desk of Larry Overton

**Larry Overton** will be leading services at Grace Church, Woodville and St. Mark's Church, Roxobel on the third Sundays of each month at 11:00 am. The services will include Eucharist from the reserve sacrament obtained from Father Jeff's St. Thomas' 8:00 am service the same morning. The services will rotate between the parishes each month but are subject to change depending upon the needs of the two congregations. These services are part of an effort to keep worship alive among the smaller parishes and to provide a regular Eucharist to members who are unable to drive far distances.

From the desk of Elaina Dobay



As most of you have heard, Elaina accepted a full-time position at Southampton Memorial Hospital in Franklin, VA. The offer came at a very significant time, as not thirty minutes prior her husband was told the company he worked for would be closing their doors within the year.

Although it was not hard to make the decision for her family, it was a sad decision knowing the loss she would have with St. Thomas. She has truly enjoyed being here, getting to know you, and working for all of you - especially Jeff. She has never felt so welcomed and appreciated from such a large group of people. The very first day she worked and even after she announced she would be leaving, the appreciation was felt. Your attitudes and assistance made her job very easy and she will miss working here.

Elaina says, "Thank you for allowing me to work for you and even though I do not want to see you at my new job (remember.... I will be working in a hospital!) I certainly hope to see you around town. I will take with me very fond and happy memories. Thank you."

What goes on in the Parish Hall...?

Have you ever wondered what organizations book or the types of events that take place in the Parish Hall? Some are private parties like bridal or baby



showers and others are open to the public, such as Weight Watchers. Then there are the companies that want to have meetings or luncheons for their employees or provide a service to the community.

On April 23, 2008, Life Line Screening provided medical testing to the community. The company screened over 150 people for four major tests which included: carotid artery disease, peripheral arterial disease, abdominal aortic aneurysm, and osteoporosis. In addition to these major tests, many also received blood test results for risks associated with total cholesterol, HDL and LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose level diabetes, and hs-CRP level cardiovascular disease.

St. Thomas recently received a test results breakdown and of the four major tests listed above, 20 people were rated either high risk, abnormal, or in need of immediate attention. This is such an important service to community and we should look forward to their next screening in May 2009.

### Prayer List

Please pray for the following **Parishioners**, their family and friends, those who are serving in our military, and for the families of those who have died.

**ANN MACMILLAN**  
 BETTY HARDEN  
 BETTY WHITE  
**BRAXTON BRITT**  
*BRENDA HEWITT*  
 BRIAN JONES  
 BOB BURKE  
**BOBBY BROOKS**  
**BOBBY HENSON**  
 CONNIE HAYNES  
 ELIZABETH GILLAM  
**EMILY JENKINS**

FAMILY OF MACK BELL  
 GEORGIA LEBEDA  
 GLADYS WEILAND  
 HAZEL HERBERT  
 HINTON MEYER  
**JIM JOHNSON**  
 KATHY DOUGLAS  
**LANNY COWAN**  
 LARRY WYNNIS  
 LEE BRITT  
 LOLA SIMMONS  
**LOUISE GUTTU**

MARIANNE WHEELER  
 MOLLIE BURGWIN  
**NANCY COWAN**  
 PAUL POSTON  
**RACHEL PITTMAN**  
**ROBERT GATLING**  
 ROD HILL  
 RUSSELL JONES  
 SAMMY BRINKLEY  
**WILLIAM MILLER**



*Italicized name indicates new prayer request*

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Carolyn Peele
- 2 - Gini McDonald
- 8 - Dawn Carter
- 13 - Vicki Blanchard
- 15 - Larry Overton
- 15 - Kim Schwartz
- 19 - Fred Liverman
- 20 - Mike Steczak
- 24 - Edward Blanchard
- 29 - Susan Joyner
- 31 - Miles Newbern



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 - Jack and Martie Tayloe
- 13 - Charles and Mary C. Pierce
- 13 - Larry and Susan Joyner
- 18 - Colin and Patsy Jones
- 20 - Lee and Joan Fitzwater
- 21 - Bubba and Carolyn Peele
- 29 - David and Gretchen Simons

*“Happy Birthday to You”*



*“First Time Ever I Saw Your Face”*



## An Eye on You

May and June saw many graduations. The May issue of *The Epistle of St. Thomas* dedicated a section to some of these graduates and their plans for the future. One graduate not mentioned in the earlier newsletter was **Suiter Pierce**. **Mr. and Mrs. Overton Suiter** had the pleasure of attending their granddaughter's graduation at the end of May.

Suiter graduated from Cape Fear Academy and plans to attend North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Suiter were proud to announce that Suiter was tasked with the Graduation Ceremony's Welcome Message to all attendees and graduates.

**Loftin Johnson**, of St. Mary's, helped lead her team to the Final Four of the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association 3-A soccer tournament. The first goal, scored by Loftin, was the only difference in the match for almost an hour and a half after the game started. In the finals minutes of the game, St. Mary's scored three more for a win of 4-0.



**Bradford Alexander Futrell** was baptized Sunday, June 29, 2008. Many attended and enjoyed holding Bradford, eating cake, and delighted in great fellowship. Here are some pictures of the event following the baptism.



Elected Deputies and alternates to General convention 2009 traveled to Hendersonville for the Province IV Synod meeting at Kanuga Conference Center in June. **Betsy** and **Larry Overton** enjoyed seeing many old friends as well as making new friends from first time deputies. Province IV includes the Dioceses in the southeastern states and is the largest province in the Episcopal Church.



The Standing Commission on insurance and pension issues is attempting to negotiate new health insurance coverages which will provide better benefits at lower costs if possible. Betsy and Larry heard from Charles Fulton, the Director of Church Development regarding the continuing decrease in membership nationwide as well as efforts to revitalize existing parishes and nurture new ones. Charles led one of our parish retreats several years ago when we talked about the present and future needs of St. Thomas.

Bishop Daniel, along with all Anglican bishops around the world, will be attending the Lambeth Conference. They will discuss the possibility of a written covenant for the Anglican Communion whereby all constituent members of the Communion would agree to adhere to certain basic tenets of Anglican polity, faith, and worship.

Unfortunately, while the idea of a covenant may seem certainly reasonable and sensible, many are afraid that certain groups simply want a written covenant in place so they can point out the transgressions of others who are deemed to stray from the terms of the covenant, thereby continuing to impair the Anglican Communion. The deputies for East Carolina find that adoption of such a covenant, in its proposed form, would not be at all helpful to the Episcopal Church or Communion.

We are asked to pray daily for the 2009 General Convention in Anaheim, California and its deputies and bishops as we move toward it next summer.

Sunday, June 22, was Hot Dog Day at St. Thomas. Ernie, the Hot Dog King made sure everyone had enough to eat and a great time was had by all...



Ernie, the Hot Dog King, and Hinton, waiting on a dog.... or, learning the ropes?!



A meeting of the minds with Becky, Steed and Patsy.



Gini McDonald enjoying the day.



Bea Vaughan asking for, "Just one more hot dog!"



Jamie, Miles, and Henry discussing college (or hot dog grilling techniques?).

## Vestry Notes

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry and Rector was held Tuesday, June 17.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report revealed that expenditures for the month of May exceeded income by slightly less than \$1,500.00 and that expenditures for 2008 have exceeded income by approximately \$5,400.00.

### **Committees:**

**Parish Life:** Jeff and Beth Douglas will host a Summer Solstice Party at their home on June 20. Ernie Carter will coordinate a Hot Dog Cook-out following the 10:30 a.m. service on June 22.

**Christian Education:** Community Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 3-7 at St. Thomas' with the Jerusalem Market Place as the theme.

**Stewardship:** The committee is beginning to plan the Fall Stewardship Campaign.

**Worship/Pastoral Care:** The Rector reported 3 hospital visits, 8 counseling sessions, 1 home communion, and 6 home visits.

**Junior Warden's Report:** The Junior Warden reported on-going, as-needed maintenance, such as repair of tiles around the altar and attention to the Ladies' Restroom in the Parish hall.

### **Other Business:**

**Millennium Congregation:** The Vestry discussed St. Thomas' becoming a Millennium Congregation. Launched in April 2008, the Millennium Congregations Project, in conjunction with the Millennium Villages Project, will develop a network of congregations "to support the end of extreme poverty and promote justice, compassion, and reconciliation." A committee, consisting of Benjie Brown, Buddy Jones, and Jeff Douglas with Martie Tayloe, ex officio (representing the Christian Education Committee), will prepare a presentation to the parish about the Millennium Congregation Project.

**Rector's Advisory Committee:** The Rector's Advisory Committee (Jim Shotwell, Buddy Jones, and Lois Sawyer) meets monthly and welcomes input—positive or negative about any aspect of the parish--from any parishioner.

**Commemoration of Baptisms of Virginia Dare & Manteo on August 17:** The possibility of St. Thomas' chartering a van or arranging car-pool transportation to Waterside Theatre in Manteo was discussed. Interested persons should contact Sarah Davis.

**Bazemore House:** The Bazemore House will be demolished as soon as possible after June 30.

**Discipleship:** The vestry discussed the expectation of discipleship of each parishioner and the responsibility that each bears in maintaining a vibrant congregation at St. Thomas' with a visible presence in Ahoskie.

**Rector's Vacation:** The Rector will be on vacation July 16-30. During his absence, Morning Prayer will be read at 8:00 a.m. The 10:30 a.m. service will be Holy Eucharist with the Rev. John Eberman Celebrant July 20 and the Rev. Ted Bishop Celebrant July 27.





# July 2008

## St. Thomas Episcopal Church Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
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**Ahoskie, North Carolina  
July 2008**

**LAY READERS--10:30 AM**

Jul 6 John Davis  
13 Larry Overton  
20 Jim Shotwell  
27 John Davis  
Aug 3 Clyde Hughes  
10 Colin Jones

**LAY READERS--8 AM**

**ACOLYTES**

Jul 6 Larry Overton, Miles Newbern, and Hinton Carter  
13 Charles Sawyer, Hanes Joyner, and Alexis Urquhart  
20 Jerrie Taylor, Ben Newbern, Bill Blanchard  
27 Nelle Burgess, Josh Boyd, and Stan Jenkins  
Aug 3 Larry Overton and Hinton Carter  
10 Charles Sawyer, Hanes Joyner, and Alexis Urquhart

**FLOWERS**

Jul 6 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rowe  
13 Mr. and Mrs. David Shields  
20 Gini McDonald  
27 Open Date  
Aug 3 Mr. and Mrs. Dicky Hoggard  
10 Mr. and Mrs. David Simons

**FOOD PANTRY (NOTE – Food Pantry is on Wednesdays)**

Jul 2 Patsy Jones  
9 Dicky Hoggard  
16 Bubba Peele  
23 Peggy Vann  
30 Jim Shotwell  
Aug 6 Patsy Jones  
13 Dicky Hoggard

**YARD SCHEDULE (NOTE – always list the NEXT week's crew)**

Jul 6 Dicky Hoggard and Johnny Griffin  
13 Dicky Hoggard and Johnny Griffin  
20 Jim Shotwell and Fred Liverman  
27 Jim Shotwell and Fred Liverman  
Aug 3 Ernie Carter and Benjie Brown  
10 Ernie Carter and Benjie Brown

**Attention Yard Crew:** PLEASE MOW GRASS IN BAZEMORE YARD AND CHURCH YARD. IT IS ALL CHURCH PROPERTY. Yard debris such as leaves, grass clippings, and small twigs should be bagged up and put on Main St. (or Church St.). Larger branches, of no more than four feet long, should be put on the street no later than Tues. night for pick up by the city on Wed. DO NOT put yard debris of any kind in the large roll out containers because the Waste Disposal Company will not pick them up. The large containers are for normal garbage pick up and are to be placed on Main St. each Tues. for pick up on Wed. AM.

**USHER TEAM**

Jul Bubby Peele and Al Vaughan  
Aug Larry Overton and Johnny Griffin

**ALTAR GUILD**

Jul Sarah Davis and Brenda Hewitt  
Aug Becky Johnson, Anne Tucker, and Tommy Tucker

# **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**ALL** St. Thomas' Parishioners are needed to help make this summer's Vacation Bible School experience a super success and a memorable experience for all the participants!

- \* Donate sheets – full size or larger, solids or geometrics (no florals, please)
- \* Loan us your tent or cabana – various sizes can be used
- \* Volunteer to help cook supper for campers on Sunday night
- \* Attend as an adult “tribal member”- no specific duties other than attendance
- \* Save and give us all your metal bottle caps (yes, beer bottle caps are fine)
- \* Invite your grandchildren, your neighbors' children, any children you know
- \* Sponsor a child or two by donating \$10 per child
- \* Volunteer to help set up and decorate the Parish Hall on Sat. 8/2 &/or Sun. 8/3
- \* Fill out the form in this newsletter (or Narthex) indicating how you can serve

*Please contact Martie Tayloe or Jeff Douglas with how you can help or with any questions.*



## **We have a mission and an opportunity.....**

We will be decorating and “suiting up” the building and our property with lots of head-turning garb of first century Jerusalem. We are even considering having the Town grant us permission to restrict all vehicular traffic in the block of Carolina Ave. between Main and Church Streets during the evening hours while Bible School is in progress. These things will create considerable stir and will invite much attention toward our parish. While we have many eyes turned toward us, let us work together in such a way that we reflect Christ's love to a world, to a community, and to a single child ..... that His love may dwell in and sustain many needy and broken hearts, young and old.



Multi-Church  
**Vacation Bible School**

August 3 - 7, 2008 ☉ 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
At St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
Ahoskie  
Corner of Church St. & Carolina Ave.

 **Registration Form**

*Please complete a separate form for each participant.*

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Are you registering as an \_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_ Teenager or \_\_\_ Child?

If participant is a child or teenager, please give Parent/Guardian Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If participant is a child or teenager, please give Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
If participant is a child or teenager, please give Last Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return or mail to one of the following sponsoring churches:

**The United Methodist Church**  
P. O. Box 665  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-2203

**First Baptist Church**  
P.O. Box 649  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-4003

**First Presbyterian Church**  
P.O. Box 159  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-2145

**St. Charles' Borromeo Church**  
P. O. Box 605  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-2939

**St. Thomas' Episcopal**  
P.O. Box 263  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-3263

Or email your information to Anita Thompson at [anita@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:anita@fbcahoskie.org)



# Vacation Bible School

August 3 - 7, 2008

6:00 - 8:30 pm

## Would you be willing to serve?

At our Annual Multi-Church

Name \_\_\_\_\_

You are \_\_\_\_\_ an Adult, or will be in (circle one) Grade 9 10 11 12 for the 2008-09 School Year.

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: VBS Servants will be asked to attend one of the following two training sessions:**

★ Sunday, July 27 at 4 pm

★ Tuesday, July 29 at 7 pm

I'm interested in serving . . . (check all that apply)

\_\_\_ as a Tribe Leader *As head of a Tribe of about 10 students, you will introduce them to the theme each day, escort them to all their activities, and provide a summary time at the conclusion each evening.*

\_\_\_ as a Shopkeeper (Crafts)

\_\_\_ as a Shopkeeper (Bakery)

\_\_\_ in the Village Playground (Recreation)

\_\_\_ as an Actor in Short Skits

\_\_\_ as a Decorator (prepare sets and help set-up on Sat., Aug. 2 & Sun. Aug. 3)

\_\_\_ as a Clean-Up Crew member (help put St. Thomas back together Thurs. evening.)

\_\_\_ as a childcare provider. *Childcare is provided for the children (birth-age 3) of VBS servants.*

\_\_\_ on the supper crew for my church (circle one)

**Sun** (St. Thomas) **Mon** (St. Charles) **Tues** (First Presbyterian) **Wed** (Ahoskie United Methodist) **Thurs** (First Baptist)

\_\_\_ as a sponsor of a child by contributing \$10. (Please send a check to any of the churches below.)

Please return or mail to one of the following sponsoring churches by **Monday, July 21:**

**The United Methodist Church**

P. O. Box 665  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-2203

**First Baptist Church**

P.O. Box 649  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-4003

**First Presbyterian Church**

P.O. Box 159  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
phone: 332-2145

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P. O. Box 605  
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P. O. Box 263  
Ahoskie, NC 27910  
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