
THE EPISTLE OF ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
The Rev. Jeff Douglas

MARCH 2015

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving

The Power of Life

Christians refer to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as the Paschal Mystery. This metaphor encompasses our belief that Jesus has defeated Death, our eternal enemy and open for us the way to eternal life. "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life." (John 12:24-25)



Jesus' way of compassion and love gave hope to the poor who lived in crushing poverty, not knowing if they would get their daily ration of bread. Jesus' healing hands gave dignity to the crippled and those with chronic disease, who were marginalized, thought to be accursed in their society. Jesus spoke truth about the corruption of politico-religious hierarchy and acted out of God's desire for their society to be more just. This made Jesus many enemies in the ruling classes and so they decided to silence him in the most brutal way imaginable. He embraced this death in the faith that God would not allow his life which embodied God's desire for all people to be so easily snuffed out.

And he was right!

Jesus lives and we who follow him celebrate that God's breath of Life is more powerful than Death, that God's desire for a society, where the abundance that God has given us means enough for all, where the lines, the barriers, we create to separate ourselves and label people as "alien," "different," and "enemy" are torn down, continues to find voice.

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. (Mark 8:24-25)

The only way to embrace Jesus is to allow his life to become our own: to live with compassion, grace and forgiveness, tear down barriers and work for justice. This is not an easy choice or an easy life. It may not lead to our physical death, it will require us to lose our taste for more than our share and the power to enforce our desires on others or ostracize them or judge them more harshly than we do ourselves. Dying to these temptations are the crosses that wait for us. Embracing our death to our egocentric life is Jesus' Way, Jesus' Truth and Jesus' Life.

The Paschal Mystery is that death brings Life, and each little cross we embrace brings life in all its varied richness, until finally we are one with the True Life of All and the grave will hold no power over us too.

Resurrection Happens!

Peace,
Jeff+

Soup Supper Assignments

Lent 2015

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

Martie Tayloe – team captain

Gail Carter

Amy Brown

Glenna Sullins

Sue Liverman

Gretchen Simons

March 4

Libby Jones – team captain

Patsy Jones

Becky Johnson

Claudia Griffin

Mary C. Pierce

Bea Vaughan

March 11

Cheryl Steczak – team captain

Jerrie Taylor

Beth Douglas

Julie Shields

Barbara Outland

Nonie Turville

March 18

Sarah Davis – team captain

Lindsay Vaughan

Mac Griffin

Anne Aycock

Margaret Newbern

Anne Hughes

March 25

Amy Braswell – team captain

Lois Sawyer

Linda Shotwell

Brenda Hewitt

Carolyn Peele

Becky Hoggard

[Get your tickets!! St. Thomas' in Windsor Fundraiser](#)

Corned Beef & Cabbage Irish Stew Dinner: Tuesday, March 17th, at 5:30-7:30 pm at St. Thomas' (Windsor). Adults and Teens \$10.00. Purchased at door \$12.00. Eat in or take out. Get your tickets NOW at The Opportunity Shoppe or from St. Thomas' Church members. You can purchase tickets from Jeff too!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Will Carter
6 Amy Brown
9 Will Blanchard
11 Jim Shotwell
12 Bill Burgess
18 Mike Steczak
21 Robby Outland
30 Cecelia Jones
31 Becky Johnson



*“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor; we pray, on your servants, **Will, Amy, Will, Jim, Bill, Mike, Robby, Cecelia, and Becky**, 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.”*

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

16 John and Sarah Davis
31 Kevin and Carolyn Wiggins



*“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 **John and Sarah**, and **Kevin and Carolyn**, 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 March

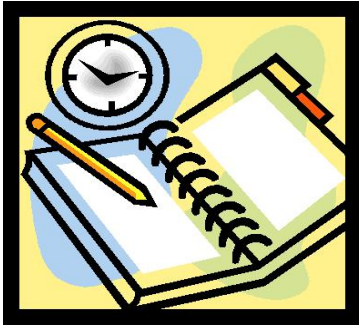
Thursday, March 19th at 5:00 pm
Thursday, March 26th at 5:00 pm



Thank you for your support.



Daylight Savings Time: Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7th. Spring Ahead! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church - Schedules for March 2015

Acolytes

1 Daniel McCamish
8 Charles Sawyer
15 Jerrie Taylor and Mary Outland
22 Bill Blanchard and Robby Outland
29 Hugh Davis and Gretchen Simons

Altar Flowers

1 Mr. and Mrs. Julian Taylor
8 Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Johnson
15 Dr. and Mrs. John Davis
22 Mr. Buddy Jones
29 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Steczak

Altar Guild

Brenda Hewitt and Tomma Jenkins

Food Pantry (Note-Wednesdays)

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

Lay Readers

1 10:30 am Holy Eucharist- Buck Suiter
4 6:00 pm Evening Prayer- Buck Suiter
8 8:00 am Morning Prayer- **OPEN**
10:30 am Holy Eucharist-Claudia Griffin
11 6:00 pm Evening Prayer- Martie Tayloe
15 10:30 am Holy Eucharist-Martie Tayloe
18 6:00 pm Evening Prayer- Claudia Griffin
22 10:30 am Holy Eucharist- Colin Jones
25 6:00 pm Evening Prayer- Colin Jones
29 10:30 am Holy Eucharist-John Davis

Ushers

Johnny Griffin and Jack Vaughan

Yard Work

1 Ernie Carter and Benjie Brown
8 Tom Newbern and Charles Pierce
15 Tom Newbern and Charles Pierce
22 Charles Sawyer and Beth Douglas
29 Charles Sawyer and Beth Douglas

News from ECW....

Thank you to Becky Johnson, who again coordinated sending out Valentine remembrances in February to our students away from home and to our members in retirement homes.

We mourn the loss of Gini McDonald, who died on February 11th. Her funeral service was held at St. Thomas on Feb. 19th, with lunch for family and friends afterwards. Thank you to Lois Sawyer and to her team of women who organized and prepared the meal that day.

Easter Baskets - ECW will prepare and distribute baskets of food for needy families at Easter with key help from Julie Shields. A ham for each basket will be bought by the ECW treasury. All are asked to make donations of food for the baskets or, if you prefer, you may make a monetary donation to Claudia Griffin, ECW treasurer. Plastic laundry baskets will be in the Parish Hall the second week of March where you may deposit your contributions of food. Donations should all be in by Palm Sunday, March 29th.

Cheers,
Martie

If any of our St. Thomas women would like to attend the upcoming Diocesan ECW meeting in Goldsboro (see below), please contact me. Although I am unable to attend, I will serve as the point person to learn of those interested in going and connect you with one another.

Cheers,
Martie

[127th Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of East Carolina Meeting](#)

St. Francis Church
503 Forest Hill Drive, Goldsboro
April 15, 9:30am

The topic of the 127th ECW meeting is 'Stir Up The Spirit' with guest speaker, The Rev. Deacon Nancy Crawford, President of the National Episcopal Church Women. The cost for attending the meeting is \$15 which covers lunch and refreshments. Registration begins at 9:30am. Please mail check, made payable to St. Francis ECW, no later than April 1 to:

Norma Powell
207 Forest Dr.
Goldsboro NC 27534



Please remember to give Claudia Griffin your annual ECW dues (\$10.00).
Thank you!

Thank you to the ECW for cleaning and organizing the kitchen! Please remember to keep the kitchen clean.

ECW APPROVED BUDGET

ALTAR GUILD	\$ 300.00
BENJAMIN HOUSE	\$ 100.00
CANCER/AHOSKIE	\$ 100.00
C.P.C.	\$ 100.00
DIOCESAN/ECW	\$ 100.00
DISC. FUND ST. THOMAS	\$1600.00
DOM. REPUBLIC (SCHOLARSHIP)	\$ 200.00
ECW NEEDS	\$1000.00
EPISC. FARMWORKER	\$ 200.00
FOOD BASKETS	\$ 750.00
FOOD PANTRY	\$ 200.00
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	\$ 100.00
RED CROSS	\$ 100.00
SAFE	\$ 100.00
SAINT MARYS	\$ 200.00
SPECIAL OLYMPICS	\$ 100.00
THOMPSON CHILD/FAMILY	\$ 200.00
TRINITY CENTER	\$ 100.00
U.T.O.	\$ 100.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 5,650.00
INCOME 2014	
DUES	\$ 220.00
LUNCHEON	\$4,903.00
SOUP SUPPERS	\$ 500.00
TOTAL.....	\$5,623.00

Parish News.....

The Rector's Birthday Dinner has been rescheduled to Friday, March 13th at 6:30 pm.

There are no Vestry notes this month in the newsletter due to February's inclement weather. Because of last month's snowy weather, the Vestry did not meet on Tuesday, February 17th or Tuesday, February 24th. The Vestry will meet Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00 pm.

Remember the Buckets.....

North Carolina farmworkers earn 1 1/4 cents per lb. for harvesting sweet potatoes. A five-gallon bucket holds approximately 30 lbs. of sweet potatoes (see bucket in back of the church!). This means that a farmworker must haul 133 1/3 buckets to earn \$50.00. Think about this the next time you enjoy NC sweet potatoes. Farmer worker labor is only 1.25% of the cost of your sweet potato. Would raising that to 2% be devastating to your household budget? Is their dignity and hard work worth it?

Flower Guild News.....

*The St. Thomas Flower Guild will be adorning the church with blooms-a-plenty for Easter Sunday and invites you to contribute to this effort, perhaps in honor or memory of someone. You may contribute in any amount you choose; please designate in the memo of your check "Easter Flowers" and fill out an Easter flowers form (found in the narthex) for Lisa to acknowledge your remembrance in the bulletin. We will be accompanied by a **floral storm** when we finally get to proclaim the "A" word again!*



March 2015

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 Lent 2 8 & 10:30 am HE 9:15 am SS	2 BS @ 7:00 pm	3 Ace Blood Drive (Ahoskie) 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Will Carter	4 EP @ 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper	5 Rotary Pancake Dinner AA @ 8:00 pm	6 Amy Brown	7																																																																																																		
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