
THE EPISTLE OF ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
The Rev. Jeff Douglas

September 2015

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving

To Fellow Doers of the Word

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

James 1:22-24

At St. Thomas' we are the movers and shakers in our community. We are the people who do. You want it done? Call us. We work and play hard. We work hard at supporting our community and supporting our church. This fall will be no different. September will be busy. Weekly Evening Prayer resumes Wed. Sept. 9th at 6PM. We will house the annual Heritage Days Art Show on the 12th. Adult Sunday School commences a survey of the Old Testament Sunday, Sept. 20th at 9:15am. October will be filled with the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct 4th and our annual Lobster Feast on Friday the 9th. Reminder: *Sell Tickets!* The whole community looks forward to this every year. I've already had inquiries about when and how much. Prices have gone up because our costs have risen with the increased demand for lobster from China. November will be filled with our All Saints' celebration and the ECW luncheon. New reminder: *Sell Tickets!* This is always a great day in our community.

Then comes Thanksgiving with all the normal pre-Christmas celebration parties and shopping chaos: it's enough to make you order an oxygen bottle. In all the hubbub of the doing this fall make a promise to yourself. Don't forget that many of the miracles that God gives to us are the small, fleeting moments of timeless beauty that surround us: the strong embrace of a loved one; the rainbow of color as leaves change and fall to the ground; the smile and squeal of a new baby that recognizes your face; and the cool crispness of an evening sky inviting you to stick around and see the stars. I don't know who first said it, but the line is true: "Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

In all our doings let us also remember that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Let us be these things as we do the many tasks we have before us. And let us thank God for them and each other.

Peace.

Jeff+



Announcements

Evening Prayer begins Sept 9th at 6PM.

Ahoskie Heritage Day Art Show @ St. Thomas: Sept 12th

SINGERS of all ages! You are cordially invited to dinner at the Ahoskie First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St, Tuesday, September 15th, 6-7:30 to eat a little, sing a little and talk about forming a community choir. RSVP to 332-2145. The repertoire of the choir will be drawn from the American folk tradition and will emphasize spirituals from the 18th-19th centuries.

Adult Sunday School - Fall 2015: begins Sunday Sept 20th



Amy-Jill Levine, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University will lead us through a survey of the Old Testament. Professor Levine reads the Bible from a Jewish perspective and is a widely sought after speaker and lecturer. Lectures will be 1/2 hour leaving us time for a good discussion afterward. Topics include:

1. In the beginning
2. Adam & Eve
3. Abraham, Sarah & Hagar
4. The Jacob Saga
5. Moses & the Exodus
6. King David
7. From King Solomon to Preclassical Prophecy
8. The Prophets and the Fall of the North
9. The Southern Kingdom
10. The Babylonian Exile

Special Guests speakers this fall will include Dr. Bonnie Revelle recounting her experiences while on an African Medical Mission and Anne Early with updates on the fight to save the elephant from extinction and the ivory trade. 2nd Sundays will feature current events discussions. Join us at 9:15 on Sunday mornings for good learning and fellowship.

The Albemarle Deanery will meet Wednesday Sept. 23rd 7PM @ Christ Church, Elizabeth City to discuss General Convention, East Carolina's new policy on marriage and the next steps in renewing Deanery life. Bishop Skirving will join us for these discussions. Anyone interested in attending please speak to Jeff so we might carpool and save the environment.

Blessing of the Animals: On Sun. Oct 4th, please join us in the yard beside the church for a time of fun and frolic with our furry friends, as we pause to appreciate and bless those other non-human animals who bring such joy to our everyday lives...our pets. Invite your friends and neighbors and plan to take part in this festive event. Bring your pet (leashed or otherwise safely restrained) and join us in singing – or howling - praises to all God's Creation. Stay for fellowship with all the 2 and 4 legged animals -there will be refreshments for all.

Lobster Feast: Friday, Oct. 9th

Clergy Conference: Sun. Oct 25th (evening) - 27th

ECW Bazaar, Luncheon, and Bake Sale: Mark your calendars now for Thursday, November 19th as our ECW's annual luncheon and fundraiser. Tickets will be distributed after the Lobster Feast. Please be thinking of what you might contribute to our sale of Baked Goods and Ready-To-Go Foods. Every dollar taken in for

those items is pure, usable-for-outreach money. We plan to have a centerpiece workshop the evening before the luncheon again this year, "For Love of Vine and Bloom," details coming soon.

From Jeff:

The Rev. John Bonner has announced his retirement from active ministry effective October 1st. John's father was priest in this diocese for several years, including some time at St. Thomas, I believe. John serves Holy Trinity in Hertford and has been the Dean of the Albemarle Deanery for many years. We thank him for his many years of devoted service and wise counsel.

From the Vestry:

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting, August 18, 2015
Minutes

The Vestry and Rector of St. Thomas met on Tuesday, August 18, 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, Fred Liverman, Daniel McCamish, Gretchen Simons, Mike Steczak, and Lindsay Vaughan.

The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer.

Prior Minutes. The minutes of the June 16th Vestry meeting were reviewed and approved with two minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report. The treasurer's report for June – July, 2015, was read and approved.

The Personnel Committee will consist of Steve Kelly, Lois Sawyer, Buck Suiter, Jeff Douglas, and Mike Steczak. Search has begun for a new Parish Secretary. A detailed job description was read and approved, along with a copy of the advertisement for the position.

A new cleaning service has been hired on a two-month trial basis: Mary Breeden began on August 1st. She is a housekeeping supervisor at Chowan University with years of experience, and comes highly recommended. The Vestry will consider whether to retain her permanently, at the September meeting.

The Soup Kitchen will be held on Thursday, August 20th and 27th.

Lobster Feast will be on Friday October 9th. Tickets are available now. Daniel McCamish has agreed to take over maintenance of the database of ticket sales. He will contact Linda Shotwell to get the list for initial ticket distribution, and work with her to learn the tracking system that has been used.

Changes have been made to the **Rental Agreement** for the Parish Hall. Weddings will not be allowed, nor will playground equipment such as inflatable bouncy rooms. A deposit will be collected to reserve the facility. Everyone will be charged a flat fee of \$125 for 4 hours. To prevent abuse of the kitchen, renters will only be allowed to use it to store food that has already been prepared.

The supply clergy who led worship services – The Rev. Elizabeth Webster on July 26th and The Rt. Rev. David Bane, Jr. August 2nd – did well.

Adult Sunday School begins on September 20th. Jeff will lead, with Carolyn Peele handling the second Sunday current events programs.

Plans are still forming for the **Children's Sunday School**. New instructors are needed, and we need to find out who will be attending.

Pastoral Care. The Rector has been visiting with several parishioners who are dealing with major health issues. It was mentioned that Stan and Tomma Jenkins and their family would appreciate visits and offers of help to run errands.

Jr. Warden's Report. A big thank-you was extended to Jamie Johnson and his crew for helping us over the summer with A/C, cleaning, mold removal, water spots in the ceiling, and much more.

As mentioned earlier, **Mary Breeden** has been hired on a two-month trial basis to do our cleaning. With 26 years of experience, and a full time supervisory position at Chowan, she does not need to be followed or micro-managed. It is recommended that if someone has a suggestion for her, they first speak with Jeff or Mike.

The locks in and around the Parish Hall have been re-keyed. New digital locks were installed in the Sacristy.

A new 50 gallon electric water heater has been purchased for \$525. We are waiting on the installers.

Yardwork projects will be postponed until after Lobster Feast. Several other maintenance items are in the works, as detailed in the Jr. Warden's Report.

Calendar:

Sunday, August 23rd – Tuesday, August 25th: Anti-Racism Commission Retreat.

Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m.: Evening Prayer begins.

Saturday, September 12th: Ahoskie Heritage Day and Art Show.

Sunday, September 20th: Adult Sunday School begins.

Monday, September 21st – Tuesday, September 22nd: Rector will be away.

Sunday, October 4th: Blessing of the Animals.

Friday, October 9th: Lobster Feast.

Sunday, October 25th (evening) – Tuesday, October 27th – Clergy Conference.

Tuesday, November 19th: ECW Bazaar, Luncheon and Bake Sale.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish House.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel McCamish
Clerk

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Nonie Jenkins
6 Charles Sawyer
6 Christiana Vaughan
7 Jerrie Taylor
10 Emily Jenkins
11 Steve Kelly
13 Sarah Josey
13 Erin Hughes Jones
14 Carol Lyle
16 Stan Jenkins
18 Jennie Burgess Byers
22 Julian Taylor
23 Sue Liverman
28 Robbie Jernigan
28 Julie Shields



*“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor; we pray, on your servants **Nonie, Charles, Christiana, Jerrie, Emily, Steve, Sarah, Erin, Carol, Stan, Jennie, Julian, Sue, Robbie, and Julie**, 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.”*



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4 Stan and Tomma Jenkins
25 Sarah and Everett Josey

*“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 **Stan and Tomma** and **Everett and Sarah**, 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.”*

Quotation Corner for September 2015

“The word 'listen' contains the same letters as the word 'silent'.”

Alfred Brendel

“It takes two to speak the truth - one to speak and another to hear.”

Henry David Thoreau

“History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.”

Robert Kennedy

September 2015

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
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6 Charles Sawyer Christiana Vaughan	7 Jerrie Jenkins	8	9 Evening Prayer 6pm	10 Emily Jenkins	11 Steve Kelly	12 Heritage Day Art Show																																																																																																									
13 Erin Hughes Jones Sarah Josey	14 Carol Lyle	15	16 Stan Jenkins Evening Prayer 6pm	17 Soup Kitchen 5pm	18 Jennie Burgess Byers	19																																																																																																									
20	21	22 Julian Taylor	23 Sue Liverman Evening Prayer 6pm Post General Convention Discussion, Christ Church, Elizabeth City, 7pm	24 Jonathan Johnston Soup Kitchen 5pm	25 Everett and Sarah Josey	26																																																																																																									
27	28 Julie Shields Robbie Jernigan	29	30 Evening Prayer 6pm	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Aug 2015</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Oct 2015</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Aug 2015							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						Oct 2015							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	
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St. Thomas Episcopal Church – Schedules for September 2015

Acolytes

- 6 Jerrie Taylor and Mary Outland
- 13 Bill Blanchard and Robbie Outland
- 20 Hugh Davis and Gretchen Simons
- 27 Daniel McCamish

Altar Flowers

- 6 Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hughes
- 13 The Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Douglas
- 20 Mrs. Bea Vaughan
- 27 Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Carter

Altar Guild

Becky Johnson and Sarah Davis

Food Pantry (Note-Wednesdays)

- 2 Dicky Hoggard
- 9 Jim Shotwell
- 16 Peggy Vann
- 23 Bubba Peele
- 30 Patsy Jones

Lay Readers

- 6 10:30am Holy Eucharist- Hugh Davis
- 13 8:00am Morning Prayer- OPEN
- 13 10:30am Holy Eucharist- Buck Suiter
- 16 6:00pm Evening Prayer- Buck Suiter
- 20 10:30am Holy Eucharist- Martie Tayloe
- 23 6:00pm Evening Prayer- Martie Tayloe
- 27 10:30am Holy Eucharist- Claudia Griffin
- 30 6:00pm Evening Prayer- Claudia Griffin

Ushers

Johnny Griffin and Jack Vaughan

Yard Work

- 6 Dicky Hoggard and Johnny Griffin
- 13 Jim Shotwell and Fred Liverman
- 20 Jim Shotwell and Fred Liverman
- 27 Ernie Carter and Benjie Brown



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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