



The Words of St. Thomas

April 2008

Dear St. Thomas Family,

Rites of passage are few and far between, but they are a treasure chest of meaning. They mark our identity; our accomplishments; our place in the world; our standing in our community; the significance in our family. They mark important landmarks in our development. Many are common, such as starting elementary school, getting your driver's license, graduations, registering to vote. Our society acknowledges these important milestones with differing emphasis. Some are public spectacles (like graduations) while others are celebrated at home (like a child entering Kindergarten).

The church, in contrast, is particularly mindful about the importance of Rites of Passage. In March, we celebrated the Baptism of little Devin Miller (Williams' grandson) and acknowledged his entrance into the Body of Christ. Marriage is a public covenant that brings two souls to be spiritually one and represent Christ's love. Our Burial office is the sacred service that acknowledges a person's journey in this life has ended, but the glorious growth into God's presence has taken new wings.

The program that our Youth attend each week is entitled, "Rite 13". It draws its name from the maturation process that takes place around that age. The young people are entering a new place in life's journey as they move into manhood and womanhood. Their bodies are changing as are their souls. They are coming to know God in new and expanding ways. The church looks on them in a new way as well. On April 27th (at the 10:00 a.m. service) we will celebrate a Rite of Passage liturgy for our youth who have turned 13 years old. Their parents will publicly acknowledge this change from childhood to young adulthood. The church will affirm their new identity as well. As a congregation, we've watched many of these young people grow out of childhood and into their teen years. You won't want to miss this impressive service.

Eastertide Blessings,
Fr. Mike

In Recognition of Our Staff...

Ann Yates



Ann Yates was more than reluctant to be recognized for her work here at St. Thomas. I explained that she was chosen because she goes beyond the call of duty and we certainly enjoy the results of her hard work.

Ann was born in Whitesburg, Kentucky and lived there through college. Ann says she's "a first and last generation 'hillbilly' and proud of it!" she received her Bachelor's Degree from Montreat College in Black Mountain, North Carolina, majoring in voice and piano. Her Master's Degree in Music Education (M.M.E.) was awarded from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky. ECU offered her a Graduate/Assistantship. When she received her M.M.E., she was married with 3 children.

At the age of five, Ann began taking piano lessons. From the eighth grade on, she sang in the choir and played piano and organ. She has taught music in schools that range from kindergarten to college.

Family is extremely important to Ann. She has three children—Sabra and Scott, from her first marriage, which ended after 20 years, as well as her step-son Herb, from her marriage to the late William Yates. Ann has six wonderful grandchildren—Benjamin, Kristen, Rebecca, Jeff, Jordan, and Brittany.

Ann married William Yates in 1982 and enjoyed 26 years with him until his recent death. William left behind a son, Herb. Ann spoke fondly of Herb and recalled a recent conversation. She informed Herb that "he had been hers for 26 years and therefore was no longer a step-son."

Ann has been the Organist and Choir Director for twelve years. Prior to that, she subbed for two years. She decided to stay on at St. Thomas because of the friendliness of the parishioners. Also, the Rev. John Allen and Ken Bannister wouldn't take no for an answer.

In Lexington Ann sang with the Lexington Singers while she taught at Christ the King Catholic School and Whitehall in Richmond.

While with the Lexington Singers, she had the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall. She also sang with Collegium Musicum, a Renaissance Group affiliated with the University of Kentucky. In Louisville she has sung with the Bach Society.

Ann is the kind of person who sees what needs to be done and does it. When asked how much time she spends in preparation during one week, she said it is typically four and a half hours on Wednesday and two and a half hours on Sunday. The music planning, hymnal selection, writing the "alleluias", ordering music, having the piano tuned and arranging guest musicians requires an addition five to six hours per week. She also helps the young children prepare and rehearse their Godly Play appearances. She has helped with Vacation Bible School.

In addition to her work at St. Thomas, Ann plays about twenty weddings per year at the Caldwell Chapel at the Presbyterian Seminary.

Ann was raised Presbyterian and is a member of Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church where she served as Organist and Choir Director for eleven years before she retired. She was an Elder in her church.

At present she is employed full-time at Metro Parks as an Administrative Assistant. Her hobbies include traveling, and reading and listening to music. Ann spends her leisure time reading, playing tennis, and riding her bike around the neighborhood. I learned that, above all, music is her First Love.

Her goal for St. Thomas is to secure more choir members. She mentioned that the organ and piano have just about served their time and both instruments need to be replaced. Many notes no longer play.

I, for one, think Ann does a great job with the small number of singers she has in the choir. If you like to sing, she would be more than pleased to have you step forward and include Choir in your weekly plans. Reading music is a bonus, but it's not required. It is a very rewarding service—just ask those in the choir!

An Expression of Thanks

Words cannot express my deep feelings, appreciation and humbleness for my St. Thomas family. Your response to William's passing was overwhelming; the cards, donations, food, flowers, and that wonderful luncheon for the family. I may not be an actual "card carrying" member but I truly feel a part of this church! Thank you for everything and please keep me in your prayers.

~Ann Yates

Godly Gab: All Saints

It is spring and that is when parents should be looking for summer camps for the kids. If you want a summer camp that is fun, you should pick *All Saints* sleepover camp as one of those choices. It is lots of fun. There's arts n' crafts, canoeing, swimming, and more!

I have been there twice and think it is one of the best camps I've been to (And I've been to a lot of camps). There are 4 cabins two girls and two boys the cabin names are Chad, Clare, Catherine, and Nick (or Nicholas). There are lots of really nice instructors and they teach you new things. On the last day of camp the families get together for a outdoor service and picnic.

So, you should send your kids to *All Saints* during summer vacation.

See You Next Month,

Rebecca L. Goldberg

Ladies' Nights

Ready for some feminine fellowship? On the second Wednesday of each month, ladies (21 & older) are invited to meet for an evening of fun. The location of the event will vary monthly. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Molly Rauh at 228-7008 or m.rauh@insightbb.com.

Submissions to the *Words of St. Thomas* must be received by the 20th of each month. Articles can be sent to wordarticles@bellsouth.net.

Vacation Bible School *God's Big Backyard*

June 9th to June 13th

6:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

The theme for our VBS this summer is *God's Big Backyard*. This will be a fun and exciting week learning about serving our neighbors, family, and parish. If you would like to be part of this great week, we would love to have your help. VBS will again be in the evening, with one change. We will have our regular VBS activities Monday thru Thursday night, then on Friday night we will have a big picnic celebration in "God's Big Backyard".

We will need extra volunteers that night to help cook and serve food to the children and their parents. Please let us know if you would be available to help that Friday. We are looking forward to a awesome week.

Kim Lager, Janelle Foster, and Julie Patterson

St. Thomas Bridge Club

The St. Thomas Bridge Club met on Thursday, March 20th in the Fellowship Hall. Our first place winner was—once again—Ed Parker! Congratulations, Ed! Delicious refreshments were brought and served by Heni Owens and Frank Parks. The game and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Health Ministry

The next Health Ministry (HM) meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 2008 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested or would like to know more about the HM Team.

Planning for the 2008 projects and activities will take place at this meeting. Some of the projects sponsored by the HM team are: Healing Blankets, a yearly Retreat, Holiday Bazaar (to support the HM projects as well as other needs of St. Thomas and its members), cards to shut-ins, blood pressure checks and health information table during coffee hour once a month to name a few. Please call Colleen Wilson at 327-7190 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

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April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

John Bailey	04/05
Verna Bailey	04/22
Bob Biggs	04/30
Jonathan DeKay	04/14
Joe Jones	04/25
Susie Kirkland	04/08
Evelyn Mudd	04/01
Maria Rauh	04/09
Steve Rauh	04/02
Linn Robison	04/20
Lanier Siewertsen	04/07
Jean Ward	04/01
Nancy Webb	04/01
Renate White	04/08

April Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to:

Heather and Michael Hayden	4/23
Susy and Rick Lusardo	4/28
Brenda and John Strange	4/11
Nancy and Bob Webb	4/23

George & Lucy...

St. Thomas wishes you Godspeed. We are forever in debt to you for your tireless service and dedication to our church family.

It's difficult to find a place that won't miss you both. Whether it's your voice in the choir, George, or your help in the kitchen, Lucy. A thousand thanks would be insufficient.

Best wishes and God bless!