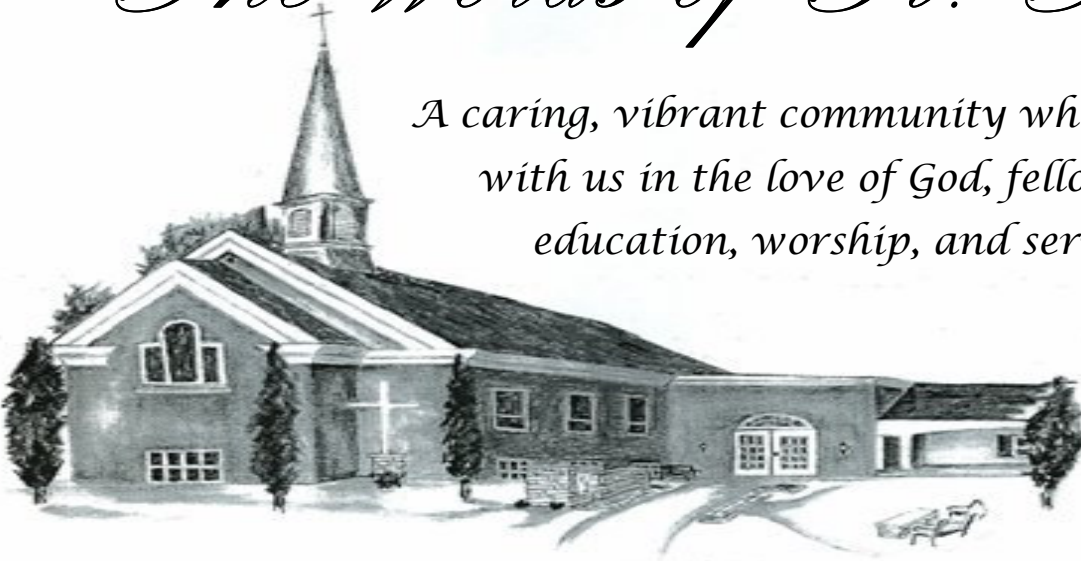


The Words of St. Thomas

A caring, vibrant community who invites all to grow with us in the love of God, fellowship, Christian education, worship, and service to others.



Words from the Rector

It's hard to believe it was almost nine years ago that the Vestry of St. Thomas called me to be the Rector at St. Thomas. It seemed unthinkable that the section in our 'Letter of Agreement' addressing a Sabbatical would ever come to pass.

However, the Diocese's desire is that churches and ministers should stay fresh and vibrant. A sabbatical is an important piece in ensuring good ministry and energized parish life. As you may have heard at the Annual Meeting, the Vestry granted me a sabbatical leave this year. We selected the dates May 19- August 4, because that is the quietest time in the program year.

I want to thank Father Jim Wilson who will be taking my place during these weeks. He knows and loves this parish from the depth of his heart. He and Colleen have been a part of our congregation since the 1990's. Most of all, he is a trusted priest, friend and colleague.

The theme for my Sabbatical is "*Connect, Reconnect and Renew: Connecting with my Anglican Heritage, Reconnecting with the Call to serve and a Renewing time with my family.*" Our plans are still coming together, but we will travel to England as a family, spending time as tourists seeing that wonderful country. Kim and the girls will return to Louisville and I will travel to Wales to study at a residential library (called St. Deiniol's) and participate in a Celtic Pilgrimage.

The sabbatical will also have a "hands on" piece. I'll spend time focusing on ministry to people on the margins of society, with special emphasis on "faith-friendly" programs that help break the cycle of poverty. Specifically, I'll work with The Salvation Army, The Family Scholar House and a homeless shelter.

I know I will miss being here each week; however, I know I'll return fresh and filled with new things to inspire our lives.

With a grateful heart,
Fr. Mike

February 2009

Highlights

Sally and Tom
Pitsenberger are V.o.t.M.

New Children's Class

Annual Meeting
Highlights

St. Thomas Bridge Club

Motet Singers

Worship Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:30 p.m. Holy
Eucharist

Sunday Morning

8:00 a.m. Holy
Eucharist Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy
Eucharist Rite II

(Godly Play for children during 10:00 a.m. Eucharist)

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:15 a.m. The Rector's Bible
Study

Volunteers of the Month

Sally and Tom Pitsenberger

By Evelyn Mudd



Both Tom and Sally were born in Louisville and grew up in eastern Jefferson County. Tom said “I remember standing in the middle of Shelbyville Road on Saturday, where Whipps Mill Rd. intersects, and not seeing a car. How times have changed!”

Sally graduated from Eastern High School and attended Centre College. Tom graduated from Saint Xavier High School. After High School he joined the U.S. Army serving in Korea at the end of conflict. He returned to Louisville and attended the University of Louisville Speed School.

They met through friends and were married by the Rev. Jonas White (Renate White’s husband) at St. James Episcopal Church on May 27, 1978. Tom had been a Roman Catholic until they were married. Sally was a member of St. James, but attended Youth Group meetings at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Lyndon Lane.

Sally mentioned Janie Forbes Troop and Mary Parker as being the ones who introduced her to St. Thomas. At first they came to the 8 a.m. service and after Tom retired, they started attending the 10 a.m. service. They have been at St. Thomas now since 1996.

Sally lived in Pennsylvania for 18 years until 1976. Tom had worked in Lexington for 10 years and Cincinnati for 1-1/2 years. They returned to Louisville in 1989. Tom joined Louisville Tin & Stove Co. and retired in 2005.

They are proud parents of Sally’s children – David and Carrie, and Tom’s children – Elaine, Tom, Amy and Libby. Their grandchildren are Katie, Dennis, Jamie-Lyn, Tyler, Kyle, Cory and Noah. It is easy to see that “family” is an important item for this couple.

Editor’s Note

Articles for *The Words of St. Thomas* can be sent to wordarticles@bellsouth.net. Submissions must be received by the 20th of each month. **No formatting**, please. For all other communication, please contact Laurel Armar at 426-5535.

When asked how St. Thomas fills their needs – the following is their response: “We get positive power and strength at St. Thomas –Father Mike is a very important asset to this parish”. Sally said “It makes you feel good to give back where you can. We feel we receive comfort, support, - it’s like the air you breathe – you can’t do without it”.

She has helped with Health Ministry, the Women’s Circle, with Godly Play and with Vacation Bible School.

Tom has helped with the Gardening (especially when Dave Pearson was here), is an usher and a regular member of MOST. He has filled in for Bill Kirkland when he is out of town.

Tom’s hobbies include playing Bridge at St. Thomas, remodeling work, and sports (especially U.of L., and U. K. when U.of L. is not playing).

They also keep very busy with Cory, their grandson, who lives with them.

Sally said that as a grandmother taking care of her grandson, she hardly has time for hobbies. She does, however, enjoy reading, collects angels, watching football, and “taking care of my boys”. Travel and family are both important for her.

Their goals are to see more children in the congregation, which means more young families; for the young people to grow in numbers; and values to remain and grow.

It was most interesting to have a heart-to-heart talk with this fine couple. We are fortunate to have such dedicated persons here at St. Thomas.

St. Thomas Bridge Club

The St. Thomas Bridge Club met on Thurs. Jan. 15th with Harry and Aleece Stanton serving as host/hostess. First place winner was once again, Charlie Wilson. We had two tied for second place - the first time we have had a tie - Elizabeth Pelle and Sandy Callahan. It was a COLD day, but everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church 2008 Annual Meeting Highlights

By Laurel Armar, Editor

The State of the Parish is positive and the projected outlook is encouraging.

Highlights from the meeting include the Changing of the Vestry, the Endowment Fund, Father Mike's Sabbatical, and a very encouraging financial report by church treasurer Sherri Boling. Karen Strader reported on the state of the Day School and Parents'-Day-Out, and Bill Beam shared the results of the Holy Cow! survey.

- The outgoing Vestry members, Katie Winkelhake, Steve Rauh, and Renate White, were applauded for their hard work, dedication, and the positive changes they helped bring to our parish. Three new Vestry members, Nii-Nii Armar (the better half of your editor) Joyce Horrel, and Carrie Pitsenberger were accepted by acclamation and warmly welcomed by all in attendance.

- Larry Starr spoke on behalf of the endowment committee about the official St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Lyndon, Inc. Endowment Fund. He expressed excitement about the long-term impact this will have on St. Thomas. Questions regarding donations, bequests, and estate planning should be directed to Larry Starr, Fred Davis, or Father Jim Wilson.

- Senior Warden Kevin Foster shared details of Father Mike's upcoming eleven-week Sabbatical to the United Kingdom. Father Jim Wilson will be the interim priest. Editor's note: Father Mike and his family are a blessing to this parish. We are all recipients of Father Mike's dedication and the many sacrifices and contributions of Kim, Madison, and Bentley. It's heartwarming that our little church is able to send them on this journey. This leads to the financial report... (continued)

Children's Communion Class

A new class is forming to help your children learn about the importance of Holy Communion in our Church service. It is entitled "Rite of the Holy Eucharist."

We are offering this Worship Class for Children Grades 2-5 on Sundays during the Children's Chapel time during the 10:00 a.m. service. The Class will meet weekly from February 1 through March 15 and the Class will culminate with a Reception with the Bishop on March 22!

Contact Molly Rauh (228-7008), Tina Link (241-5533) or Fr. Mike Lager (425-3727) ASAP.

The cost is just \$10 for the booklet and supplies for a special commemorative plate.

Annual Meeting Continued

- Treasurer Sherri Boling shared a very encouraging financial report, despite the economic downturn of 2008. We finished 2008 with a surplus of over \$14,000. 2009 has a budget deficit of over \$7,000 but the outlook is great. Our relationship with the community is strong.

- Karen Strader, director of St. Thomas Pre-School and Parents-Day-Out, gave an extremely positive report. The school is teaching *and* exhibiting the values of our faith and exceeding the requirements set forth by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

- Bill Beam shared the results and data of the Holy Cow! survey: all in all, people are attending more, they are mostly satisfied with the parish, there is little to no conflict, and we are in the 99th percentile of happy Episcopal Churches of a similar size.

Please keep our church in your prayers. Pray for the new Vestry members to help lead us in accordance with their conscience and faith; pray that the financial momentum continues so that St. Thomas can exceed its commitments to God, the Diocese, and the community. Please pray that the Lagers enjoy a safe and healthy journey; pray for our school's staff and families; and pray that the families and individuals of our parish have an equally positive outlook for 2009.

Our Lord's abundant blessings and the generosity of each and every parishioner made 2008 one of the best years in St. Thomas' 101 year history. Your editor's hope is that she can write the same when she prepares the summary for the next annual meeting.

Peace.

Diocese Convention

Each year, the Episcopal Churches throughout the Diocese of Kentucky gather in council at the Annual Diocesan Convention.

This year we gather at Grace Church in Paducah on February 27-28, to do the business of the Diocese. Deputies being sent from St. Thomas' are Kevin Link and Steve Rauh, and Peggy Roth is the Alternate.

Deputies are asked to vote their conscience rather than carry a "representative" vote. This invites the Holy Spirit to lead freshly on all decisions made as a corporate body. Please pray for our Deputies as they discern the mind of Christ on behalf of the Diocese.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
 9616 Westport Road
 Louisville, Kentucky 40241
 502-425-3727

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Laura Black	02/04	Shawn Morton	02/15
Eric Boling	02/18	Betty Owen	02/15
Mary Gilkinson	02/22	Ed Parker	02/07
Rebecca Goldberg	02/20	Carrie Pitsenberger	02/14
Leila Kronfli	02/06	Aleece Stanton	02/02
Robin McCoun	02/19	Margaret Ward	02/07
Rick Melton	02/01	Helen Wetherton	02/10
Alice Montgomery	02/06	Doug Winkelhake	02/19
Amy Morton	02/24	Henry Winkelhake	02/15

Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to:

Verna & Tom Bailey	02/24
Linda & Larry Baltra	02/11
Dottie & Sam Black	02/06
Joy & Bill Gaunt	02/21
Lisa & Paul Logsdon	02/14
Alison & Rick Melton	02/10

The Motet Singers at St. Thomas

MOTET SINGERS will begin their 2009 concert series here at ST. THOMAS on March 8th at 6:00 p.m. The evening begins with a sacred concert in the church. After a brief intermission, the MOTET SINGERS present a popular music concert highlighting Broadway tunes and classics from the past. The evening is a great night out, so invite your friends, family and neighbors. There is no cost, but a freewill offering is taken to help cover their expenses.