



The Words of St. Thomas

May 2008

Dear St. Thomas Family,

The Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori visits the Diocese of Kentucky this May 16-18.

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church is required to visit each of the diocese during his or her tenure. Normally, these visits coincide with either the ordination of a bishop or the diocesan convention. Bishop Katharine's visit will be a bit unique as neither of these events will occur at her visit. Instead, we are using her visitation as an opportunity to meet this unique leader of the Anglican Communion.

Keeping the church in dialog during these days of division is one of her primary callings; therefore, there will be two events centered around conversations between Episcopalians and their Presiding Bishop. Because of the demand for seating, these will be ticketed events. (If you have not yet signed up, see Fr. Mike asap)The central event will be a Baptism and Confirmation service at All Saints Camp. This will be a "Tent Meet'n" Episcopal-style! We have several candidates who will be Confirmed, so please keep them in your prayers.

This meeting of the whole diocese is a symbol of the unity that we pray for as Christians. It is especially important to pray for our leaders as they strive to understand what the Spirit is saying to the church. The Bishop is a symbol of the unity that Christ is calling us all toward, and our prayers work in concert with the will of God.

I cannot imagine the burden or the joys that Bishop Katharine must encounter each day. We can, however, help bare the weight of the highs and lows by keeping her, our church and the Anglican Communion in our prayers. That is why each Sunday the Prayers of the People contain prayers for the world, those in need and our spiritual leaders.

The people of Kentucky are working to welcome our spiritual leader, but more importantly, we are supporting the unity of the church that Christ so longs to see.

Blessings,
Fr. Mike

In Recognition of Our Staff...

Vladimir Tunyakin



I was especially glad to interview Vladimir Tunyakin and introduce you to a fine man who is our church groundskeeper and handyman— on a part time basis. This is his “second” job. His full-time job is with IED, where he is a final assembler. His Company is in the Electronics business in communication.

He was born and raised in Russia, in a city named Voronezh, which is about 300 miles South of Moscow. He was educated there as a Civil Engineer working in large-scale metal construction of factories similar to Toyota in Georgetown, KY.

He and his first wife were parents to two sons and three grandchildren. His wife passed away, and his sons and grandchildren still reside in Russia. He later remarried Larisa. She is a Computer Programmer. Larisa has a daughter. They left Russia for personal reasons to begin life anew in America in 1995. He has returned once during that time to visit his two sons and grandchildren. Both of his sons have made separate trips to America to visit their father.

Vlad has a step-daughter and son-in-law, along with a grandson, of whom he is very proud. He is a member of St. Michael’s Orthodox Church.

As for hobbies, he says “I don’t have time. I like to work around the house and the yard”. He is one who “likes to keep busy”.

Vlad said he had noticed the many changes since he first came to St. Thomas. He credits Fr. Mike with having “so much energy” to keep things moving. He has been at St. Thomas for 10 years now and enjoys the warmth of so many people here.

If he ever retires, he thinks he would like to play golf! He has never played, but is certainly enjoying the Masters’ Tournament in Augusta, Ga. on television.

Vlad is one who works “behind the scenes” – says he needs to have the second job for money. We are fortunate to have this educated man taking care of St. Thomas and hope he stays with us for many years to come.

- Evelyn Mudd

Vladimir’s Retirement

We regretfully announce the retirement of our sexton, Vladimir Tunyakin. Vlad has been taking care of the cleaning of our three buildings for over ten years, and May 10th will be his last week of work. You may not have met him through the years because he quietly goes about his work in a diligent and faithful manner on Friday and Saturday.

As a token of our gratitude, we are collecting an offering to say “thank you” and send him into retirement. Please write “Vlad” or “Sexton” in the memo line of your check that is made out to ‘St. Thomas’.

Thanks so much Vladimir!

Godly Gab: Mass in the Grass Sunday, May 18th

It is May, and in May we have "M.I.T.G." where these things happen: Godly Play stops for the summer (BOO!!!); we honor the helpers of the Christian Education (YEH !!!); we have a picnic, play games, and do the service outside (YEH!!).

So, you see M.I.T.G. means a lot to us.

My favorite things about M.I.T.G. are the games. And, last year we had a bluegrass band -- How fun was that! We also start to talk about vacation bible school (more on that next month). Also, some people think God is closer to them outside because, nature is not man-made.

Bye for now,

Rebecca L. Goldberg

Social Events

The Under the Hill Gang will be going to Mellwood Arts and Entertainment Center on Thursday, May 8th, leaving the church at 10:45 a.m. Lunch will be at PattiCakes Cafe at the Center. No admission charge. Lunch is reasonably priced. They have art exhibits, boutique shops, artists at work and many interesting things to see. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Need to know how many will be going by Sunday, April 27th.

CHURCHILL DOWNS is having Senior Days during the racing season. The Under the Hill Gang will be going on Thurs., June 26th, and will be seated in Millionaire's Row in the new Clubhouse. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis and non-refundable. MUST HAVE paid admission charge of \$19.50 each by SUNDAY, APRIL 27th to Evelyn Mudd. Will leave church parking lot at 10:45 a.m. - gates open at 11:30 a.m. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Church Spring Cleaning

V O L U N T E E R S N E E D E D
Spring Cleaning Day this year will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10th. Please contact Kevin Link at (502) 241-5533 if you would like to help clean our Church, Fellowship Hall, and grounds on this date.

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. 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 invite all the children that have attended during this week and their families to come and enjoy backyard games and picnic food.

We will need extra volunteers on Friday to help cook and serve food to the children and their parents. Please let us know if you would be available to help. Be on the lookout for our VBS donation list, in the entry of the church. It will have the specific items that are needed this year.

We will have classes for ages 4 through 5th grade. Registration will begin on Sunday, May 4th. We are asking for a donation of \$10 per child /\$25 per family.

Thank you for all your support. It is going to be a great VBS this year!

We are looking forward to a awesome week.

Kim Lager, Janelle Foster, and Julie Patterson

United Thank Offering

The Spring UTO Ingathering will be Sunday May 24, 2008. See the attached UTO notice, with offering envelope.

The UTO mission is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve the mission we encourage daily prayers, offering and awareness of the abundance of God's blessing.

If your offering is in the form of a check, please make the check out to St. Thomas Episcopal Church and mark UTO on memo line.

New UTO Blue Box's will be available on May 24th for those that wish to build their offering over the coming months. The needs around the world are great, and UTO provides a personal and meaningful way for you to help.

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

May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Black, Tim	5/10
Boling, Sam	5/21
Boyd, George	5/20
Childs, Rylee	5/09
Davis, Marguerite	5/08
Eichhorn II, Pete	5/15
Hayden, Heather	5/19
Hayden, Penny	5/19
Johnson, Charlie	5/16
Kronfli, Caroline	5/09
Lager, Madison	5/27
Madsen, Jerry	5/14
Pitsenberger, Sally	5/14
Roper, June	5/03
Roseberry, DeeDee	5/17
Roth, Jim	5/11
Starr, Donna	5/24
Webster, Kathy	5/28
Wind, LaDonna	5/11

May Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to:

Bentley, Jennifer & Donovan	5/18
Goldberg, Hannelore & Todd	5/16
Johnson, Susan & Charlie	5/26
Montgomery, Alice & Keith	5/27
Pitsenberger, Sally & Tom	5/19
White, Sharon & Fred	5/31

Bulletin Boards

Have you noticed the new bulletin boards? Check out these beautiful boards filled with pictures and information about church activities. Lucy Boyd designed and made them just before moving to Washington D.C. Thanks for a beautiful going away gift!