





# Tidings

## St. Thomas Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street  
Reidsville, NC 27320

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 (336) 349-3568

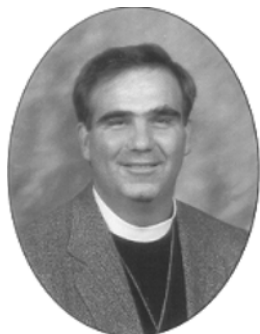
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www.stthomasreidsville.org

**December '04 & January '05**

### From the Rector's Desk

*The Rev. William D. Oldland*

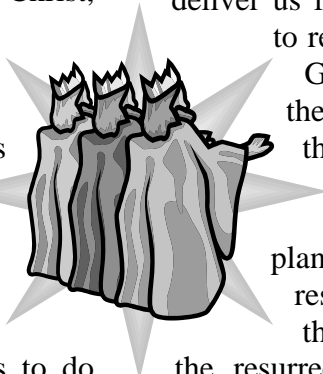


This newsletter will be for two months but will actually be a part of three major seasons for the church year. During December and January, we will worship in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We literally move from preparation, to celebration, to recognition. We will prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at his Incarnation and at the second coming. We will celebrate his Incarnation among us. Finally, we will recognize that Emmanuel, the Light of Christ, has indeed come into the world.

I don't believe it is an accident that we chose to combine the newsletter this month. For what it has done is allowed us to see the full breadth and meaning of these three seasons at one opportune time. We tend to think of Advent as preparing for the birth of a child. In many ways, we do prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. It is a busy time with lots to do before the expected date. Just like a family expecting a child, we work hard to get everything done before the bundle of joy arrives.

Advent is also a time for reflection and reassessment. We reflect on our lives and on our own mortality. We wait in expectation, not just for the birth of Christ, but for Christ coming again. We know that when Christ comes again, all of creation will be different. The difference will be for the better. We don't know exactly what it will look like or feel like, but we do know that it will be better. We know that God's love will be supreme--and nothing is more glorious than God's love.

This time of preparation leads us to the Christmas season. We celebrate the miracle of God Incarnate. Our hope comes into the world to deliver us from our own sins and helplessness to restore us to a right relationship with God. Our hope has indeed come into the world. Jesus shows us the hope that is possible through his ministry of teaching and healing. He shows us the true meaning of God's plan for us as he dies on the cross to be resurrected on the third day. The three events, the birth, the death, and the resurrection, are inextricably linked and woven together as one. We cannot think of one without being reminded of the others. Jesus is the hope of the world!



*(continued on page 2)*

### Vestry

Sr. Warden - Donna Van Ness	349-9956	doodle@netpath-rc.net
Jr. Warden - Mavis Simon	349-7622	
Finance - Joanne Piazza	349-5827	joanne_piazza@vfc.com
Pastoral Care - Melinda Rice	349-9770	mrice@elon.edu
Christian Ed. - Jim McCloskey	349-3354	jimmccloskey@adamselectric.com
Outreach - Todd Walker	342-9632	twalker@fnbsoutheast.com
Long Range Planning - Paul Barrett	361-0793	barrett8@mindspring.com
Worship - Dot Reilly	634-1828	irishbr@aol.com
Parish Life - Anne Montaigne	349-9441	amontaigne@yahoo.com

**Open Vestry Meetings are every third Monday at 6:45 p.m.**

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Finally, we are reminded through Epiphany that Jesus came for all. Yes, it is true that Jesus has Jewish heritage. On the night he was born, Mary, Joseph, some shepherds and the angels were the ones who knew the glorious news. And yet, Epiphany reminds us that something new happened on that night. Three men came from different lands to pay homage to a baby born of a peasant mother and father. These three men are wealthy. They are wise. Yet, they recognize the birth of one greater. They are by the world's description of the time Gentiles. They are not Jewish, and in that fact alone lies our hope. Through their knowledge and their faithfulness, we learn that salvation through Christ is offered to all. Even at his birth we learn it is God's plan to redeem the whole world.

Yes, we have three seasons before us in this newsletter. We have an opportunity to see the entire breadth of God's love in just a few short weeks. We see the beginning of God's redemptive plan through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the promise of the fulfillment of that plan to come. What a wonderful time of year! So for the next eight weeks, I hope we take the opportunity before us to reflect and prepare, to celebrate, and to recognize that Jesus Christ has come among us and that Christ will come again. Perhaps we will see the fruition of the words we pray so often, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

Have a blessed Advent, a Joyous Christmas, and a Wonderful Epiphany.

Peace,

*Bill +*

## Special Services December & January

As you are all aware, this time of year has several special services for the church year. In addition, we will also have one major special event on January 9. This event will recognize and celebrate the ministry of **David Zoernig** among us before he leaves to begin his new ministry in Greensboro.

The calendar for these special services and events are as follows:

## December

- 19<sup>th</sup> 8:30 - HE I  
11:00 - Christmas Pageant
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 - Healing Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 - Family & Children's Service  
10:30 - Special Music  
11:00 - Christmas Eve Service
- 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 - HE II Christmas Day Eucharist-  
(Dress is casual)
- 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30 - HE I  
11:00 - Lessons and Carols

## January

- 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - HE II Epiphany
- 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon following the 11:00 service to recognize David's Ministry and wish him the best in his new position.

Please mark all of these festive and important dates in your calendar.

## Welcome Back to New Cursillistas!

During the weekend of November 11-14, St. Thomas' was well represented at Cursillo #92. We had eleven members of St. Thomas' on the team and four members of the church as participants. The team members were: **Tom & Martha Balsley, Ed & Laura Felts, Tom & Mary Jane Ham, Kris & Anne Rogers, Bill & Ellen Oldland, and Donna Van Ness.** The candidates were **Jennifer Allen, Dot Ferneyhough, April Hall, and Teresa Ruhland.** Jennifer, April, Dot, and Teresa are now the newest Cursillistas in our parish. The next Cursillo gathering will be at St. Francis on December 4 from 10:00 to 2:00. Everyone is welcomed to attend.



# Thank You from the Oldlands

By: Bill, Ellen, William & Daniel

Words fail to convey the depth of our gratitude to all of you during Ellen's surgery and recovery. We thank you for the food, the flowers, the daily assistance, and the thoughtfulness of everyone. Most of all we thank you for the prayers. We are extremely grateful to have such a wonderful church family.

All our love,

*Bill, Ellen, William, and Daniel*

(likeness of The Apostle John)



## Adult Education Opportunities

The Adult Christian Education classes are continuing the studies of the parables offered by the writer Joseph Girzone and the book of Revelation. The study of the parables occurs at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday mornings, and the study of Revelation is at 12:00 Noon on Mondays. All one needs to participate is a Bible of any translation and an openness to discussion. Come and join these classes. They are both stimulating and fun.



## Weekly Youth Bible Study:

We are continuing our Wednesday night Bible study from 7:00 - 8:00 PM at The Fergusons' house. Every week, we discuss a new topic. It is not a continuing study week to week, so please feel free to join us at anytime.

# Episcopal Youth Community

By Danny Hall

## DECEMBER

- 5<sup>th</sup> Making Christmas stockings for parishioners and/or adopt-a-family for Christmas.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Planetarium visit for Christmas program and Ice Cream Social afterward.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas program - EVERYONE MUST ATTEND!
- 26<sup>th</sup> Christmas weekend - No EYC.

## JANUARY

- 2<sup>nd</sup> No EYC
- 9<sup>th</sup> Game Night
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dinner at Servant House - off Monday
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Popcorn Theology
- 30<sup>th</sup> Preparation for Wing-Ding fundraiser and Mission Trip planning

## Pastoral Care Ministry changing January 2005

By Dot Ferneyhough

In order to meet the needs of our growing Parish, the Pastoral Care Commission is implementing a course of action that we pray will maximize our communication process. The office should be notified immediately of a major event of any church member's (or family member's) birth, serious illness, or death -- *as it applies*. The Secretary then calls the chairperson scheduled for that month who will work with the other members of the committee -- and any other St. Thomas' members she needs to provide pastoral care.

### January Pastoral Care Commission Members:

Martha Balsley (*chair*)  
Betty Melchert

Priscilla Foster  
Judy Yarborough

# Endowment Fund News

By the Endowment Committee

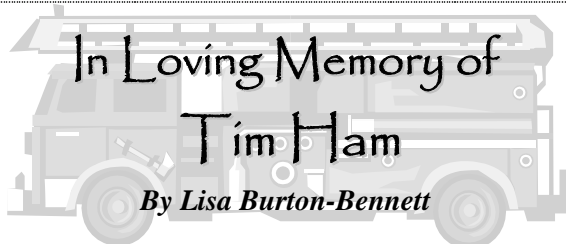
Just a reminder that a gift to the Endowment Fund is the gift that keeps on giving. The interest from this fund is dispersed to the church yearly, and there are specific guidelines for this distribution. Please remember this fund when you make a gift in honor or memory of someone special.

## Recent Contribution:

### Suzanne & Ken Howard

In Memory of: Alan Campbell, Maggie Cooke,  
June Graham, Frank Lane

If you have any questions, the Endowment Committee members are **Anne Donecker, Laura Felts, Star McHugh, Bill Sutton, & Steve Worth.**



Every time I pass a fire truck, I think of **Tim Ham**. Its just amazing the impact he made on people in his short lifetime. I was working at South End Elementary School this year when they awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Tim Ham Good Citizen Award**. I wish everyone who knew Tim could hear this presentation. It is so touching how they honor him.

In today's world, it is my hope that **Craig** and **I** will raise good citizens in **Carson** and **Cole**. We can only hope that with God's grace that they will grow up to be kind, God loving, helpful and productive citizens like Tim.

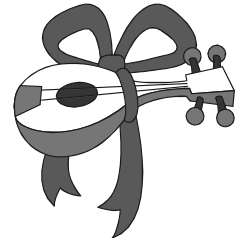


I wanted to do a little something to honor Tim. Cole, Carson, and I recently planted "fire-engine-red" tulip bulbs and placed a garden cross between the Parish House and sanctuary for Tim. Thank you Tim! We miss you!

# Calling All Musicians

By Bill Oldland

All musicians in the church are invited to stay after church on December 5 to discuss the possibility of creating a church music group to play contemporary Christian music. This meeting will take place in the church immediately following the service.



Please bring a calendar and any ideas for musical selections (*books with chords or sheet music would be helpful*).

This group will discuss the possibility of playing during Sunday services at least once a month and the possibility of assisting with a mid-week service as well.



## Coffee in the Pipkin Parlor

By The Men's Club  
(Tommy Thorn, President)

The Men's Club sponsors "Coffee in the Pipkin Parlor" each Sunday following Worship through Fall and Winter. We invite all members and visitors to stay after Worship for the fellowship.

Below are the Men's Club members heading up the coffee time in the next 3 months:

December '04

**Kris Rogers & Don Gwarek**

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January '05

**Bob Lee Watt & Chuck Rhodes**

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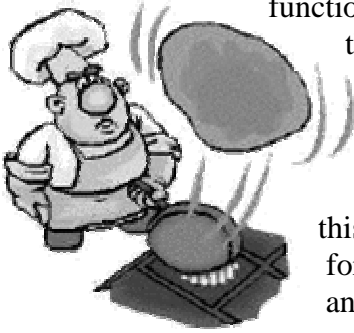
February '05

**Bill Horsley & Bill Sutton**

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

By Richard Piazza (with John Bullock)

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on February 8, 2005. The men's club could use help in all areas of this function. We would like all men in the church to get involved and make this day a successful function this year. Please attend the next two men's club meetings and volunteer your help.



The Men's Club sponsors this annual affair to raise funds for the upkeep of our building and grounds. We view this as an opportunity to invite our friends in the community to join us in fun and good food. Approximately three hundred people annually attend this event on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Here's a good description of Shrove Tuesday and the tradition of pancakes from the "Universitetsforlaget" web site:

*"Shrove Tuesday: Also known as Pancake Day. In the old days the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday was the day when the priest "shrove" his parishioners -- meaning that he heard their confessions, so that they could enter the fasting season, Lent, with a clear conscience.*

*People were not allowed to eat milk, eggs or fat during Lent, and to use up all these things they made pancakes. Traditionally the pancake is turned in the pan by tossing it in the air. In many places this is done by women while running in a pancake race! An ancient ceremony at Westminster School, called the Pancake Greeze, involves the cook tossing a large pancake over a high bar before the boys scramble for it."*

Men's club meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month. 6:30 PM in the Parish House.

We invite all men to come for dinner and the meeting! ☺



## Financial Report

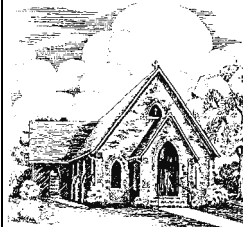
YTD - November 2004

**Pledges YTD - \$124,028.00**

**Budget YTD - \$127,571.07**

**Difference (\$3,543.07)**

Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name...



Date	Service	Attendance
10/24	8:30	9
	11:00	47
10/31	8:30	9
	11:00	67
11/7	8:30	18
	11:00	54
11/14	8:30	13
	11:00	58
11/21	10:00	72

**Annual Parish Meeting** →

There I am in the midst.

(Matthew 18:20)

Thank You  
from Reidsville  
Soup Kitchen



The Reidsville Soup Kitchen sends thanks for our **\$66.26** October Loose Offering that they received in early November.

# Thank You from The Reidsville Outreach Center

The Rev. Dr. William C. Hayes and The Reidsville Outreach Center send great appreciation for our **October offerings** of both the **\$762.00** from the **apple pie sale** & the **230 POUNDS** of **RICE!**

## More of Our Members' Thoughtfulness!



Kate Nelson

(from Church Directory by Olan Mills)

Our special thanks to Kate Nelson for her generous gift of a crochet round table cloth. We have proudly displayed it in the Pipkin Parlor on our round table.

Truly, this gift is a result of a labor of love, and we are truly thankful to Kate.

## Year-Round Care Packages Military Personnel

By Teresa Ruhland

Following are items we need to send in the Military care packages. (Call Teresa Ruhland at 349-2464 for pick up of items)

- Lip Balm
- Sun Screen (45 SPF or higher)

- Crackers (*no chocolates or other items that melt*)
- White athletic tube socks (*long for boot wearing*)
- Stationary and pens/pencils
- Toiletries (*personal size – NO aerosols*)
- Feminine products
- Combs/Brushes
- Current Magazines (**US** and **People**)
- New Releases of paperback books

## 15 One-Liners

Contributed by Dot Ferneyhough  
(from anonymous e-mail)

1. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face-lift.
2. When praying, don't give God instructions – just report for duty.
3. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
4. We don't change God's message – His message changes us.
7. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
8. Plan ahead – It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
9. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
10. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.
11. Exercise Daily – walk with the Lord.
12. Never give the devil a ride – he will always want to drive.
13. Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
14. Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
15. He who angers you controls you.

# Episcopal Day School

## Combined Class Report

*By the Teachers*

It's hard to believe that our school year is almost half over. We are busy working on the winter program. The program is Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm and everyone is Welcomed.

Our Christmas Party is on December 16 during school hours. We look forward to learning about how Christ came to Earth.

This year we are sponsoring a family through the Salvation Army. There are two girls and one boy that we are providing gifts.

It was a lot of fun being in the Christmas Parade, our picture was in the Reidsville Review. We also have some shots in this newsletter (*see right*).

We are looking forward to watching a play at the Caswell County Civic Center entitled "Moosletoe."

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

*Cori Anderson*  
Kindergarten Teacher

*Lisa Walker*  
Preschool Teacher

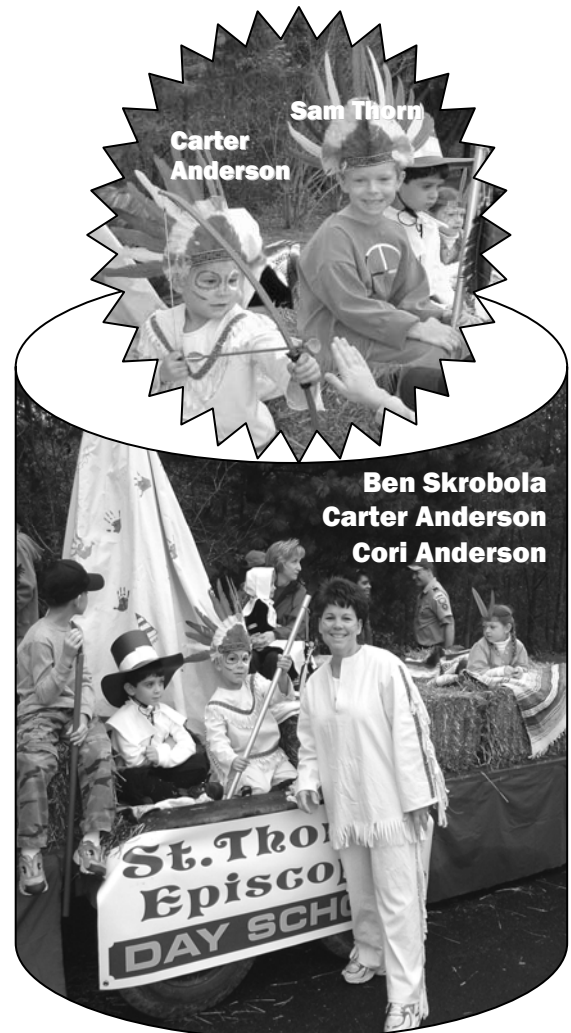
*Cheryl Scott*  
Preschool Assistant

### **Our Students:**

*Carter Anderson, Claudia Benfield, Adam Boswell, Katherine Bradford, Connolly Gick, Mary Beth Hardy, Jillian Harrison, Noah Johnson, Sara Leasure, Jackson Mackey, Jamar Rose, Ben Skrobola, Alex Stadler, Helen Thorn, Sam Thorn, Curt Walker, Haley Walker*

## EDS Christmas Parade Snapshots!

*(From Saturday, November 19, 2004)*



**Sam Thorn**  
**Carter Anderson**

**Ben Skrobola**  
**Carter Anderson**  
**Cori Anderson**



**Helen Thorn, Curt Walker,**  
**Haley Walker**



**Lisa Walker, Mary Beth Hardy,**  
**Jillian Harrison**

# St. Thomas Episcopal Church

315 Lindsey Street  
Reidsville, NC 27320

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #19  
Reidsville, NC

## **Return Service Requested**

# December 2004



# January 2005

## Who's Who

### CHURCH STAFF

- Rector - The Rev. Bill Oldland  
349-3511  
rector@stthomasreidsville.org
- Organist & Choir Director -  
David Zoernig 273-4543  
music@stthomasreidsville.org
- Director of Christian Ed. -  
Polly Yeago 643-7708  
jyeago@worldnet.att.net
- Office Manager & Rector's Secretary  
Margaretta Guinn-Rose  
349-3511  
office@stthomasreidsville.org
- Sexton -  
Cori Anderson 349-3541  
eds@stthomasreidsville.org

### LAY WORKERS

- Acolyte Coordinator -  
Jan Wheless 342-4011
- Youth Leaders -  
Gayle Ferguson 342-3991  
weswim2@bellsouth.net
- Cheri Barrett 361-0793  
Barrett8@mindspring.com
- Danny Hall 286-0633/301-3700  
eycdanny@yahoo.com
- Altar Guild  
Suzanne Howard 349-7046
- Layreader & Chalice Coordinator  
Tom Ham 349-7261  
tjhamiii@vnet.net
- Usher Coordinator -  
Steve Worth 349-7538
- Greeters Coordinator -  
Freda Watt 342-2305  
fwatt@bellsouth.net
- Worship Chair -  
Dot Reilly 634-1828
- Pastoral Care Chair -  
Melinda Rice 349-3630
- Outreach Chair -  
Tom Balsley 349-3638  
cardsfan@triad.rr.com
- Webmaster -  
John Bullock 349-9232  
john@mygraphicdetails.com

# WANTED!!!

Information – Stories – Pictures – Ideas!  
Newsletter Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month  
news@stthomasreidsville.org OR call the church office @ 349-3511