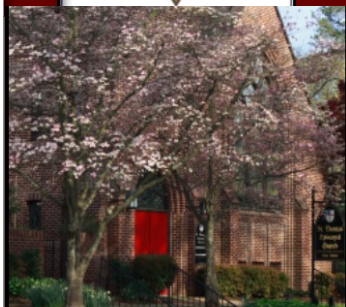
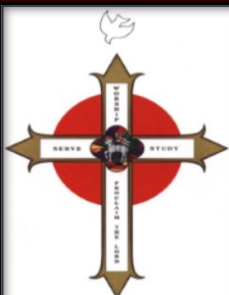


Volume 5 Issue 1

January, 2020



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Cross Ties

Christmas, Extended



The times leading up to Christmas Day can be very stressful and not at all satisfying. Expectations are frequently described as “too much.” I think they are simply misplaced.

What God has done for us is too much! Christmas celebrates the mighty and extraordinarily gracious act of God become man. We call that “Incarnation” – God become man. Who expected God’s personal and intimate involvement in human affairs?

The depth of that singular act, never to be repeated, is difficult to comprehend. And yet, that is what we celebrate at Christmas. God is for us. God is with us (Emmanuel). God desires us to be with Him. God has made that possible.

The day of Christmas has passed, but God’s gift of Himself remains. Imagine the possibilities, working together. As the “official” days of Christmas draw to a close, I offer this “Franciscan Blessing” for the days comprising the rest of the year.

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God’s grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

Fr. Bruce+

January Upcoming Events

January 1	Church Office Closed	
January 6	Women of the Church Meeting	11:00 am
January 12	Vestry Meeting	11:30 am
January 15	St. Jude’s Prayer Guild	11:00 am
January 15	Outreach Committee Meeting	3:00 pm
January 20	Church Office Closed for MLK Day	
January 28	Men’s Group Meeting	6:00 pm

Women of the Church Presents a St. Nicholas Program

Citing the book, *The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus* by Dr. Adam C. English, the speaker, Lynda Turbeville, reviewed the life of St. Nicholas of Myra (also known as St. Nicholas of Bari.) Known for his generosity and for the many miracles attributed to him, St. Nicholas is now viewed as modern-day Santa Claus.

Kim Hager began the meeting with a devotion based on Romans 15:13. The 23 members present were reminded of the gift of hope received with the birth of Jesus.

Samantha Michael outlined the current needs of the Godly Play Children's Sunday School program. The WOC members unanimously voted to fund the requested materials. Additionally, the WOC voted to contribute \$1,000 to Lee County Community Orchestra.



Following prayer by the rector, a delicious lunch of ham sliders, quiche, salad, and beverage choices was served by Sue Bullwinkel.



The St. Thomas' Prayer List

For those who are ill:

The Rev. Talmage Bandy; Carol Bradford; Ruth Cameron; Jean Cooke; Claudia Cox; The Rev. Mary Curtis; Judith D'Angelo; Alice Anne Ford; Deb Heyvaert; Charlotte Hohenstein; Pat Kirkman; Ed Knipple; Mary Louise Matthews; Jane Miller; Ann Osmolak; Jeremy Strickland; Didi Zahlava.

For strength and guidance:

Ray and Katie Hyer; the Vestry.

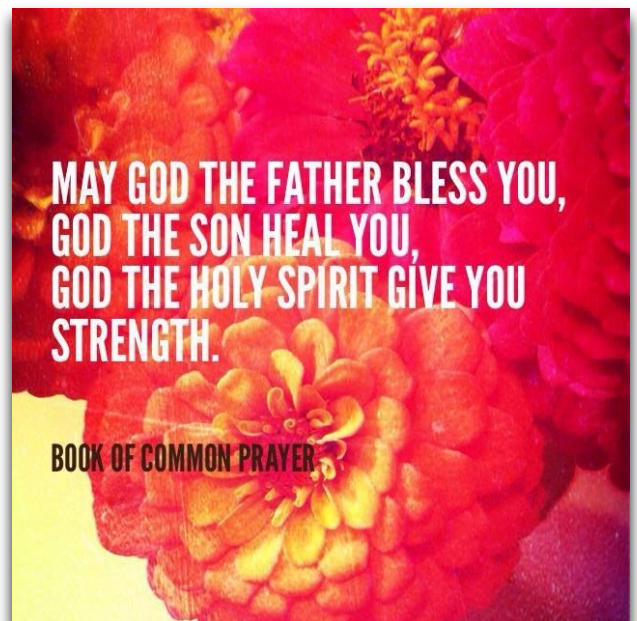
For all military deployed and at home:

For the deceased:

Dewitt Letterman

Thanksgiving:

For the continuing growth of St. Thomas'



Outreach in 2019: Making a Difference

Thanks to your generosity, St. Thomas' has made a difference in the lives of many people here in Lee County and other places.

We provided food for the homeless with our bags for the Point in Time Count in January, which determined there are over 300 homeless individuals in our county. We donated food for the Blessing Bags that were distributed by Salvation Army. A new project this year was providing food for the pantry at Central Carolina Community College, for students who don't have money for their meals. We provided Easter Baskets for the residents of Oak Haven Nursing Home. Our May project provided personal items for the women at the Haven. For the start of a new school year, we donated items for the preschool classes at Warren Williams. In October, we brought supplies for CARA in coordination with the Blessing of the Animals. November's project supported the Bread Basket, which began at St. Thomas. We continued our tradition of providing Christmas gifts to the residents of Oak Haven Nursing Home – this time providing almost twice as many gifts as last year.

Some of the projects listed above were funded through our budget. In addition, funds were provided to Reach Out Pregnancy Center, St. Augustine's University, The Salvation Army (to provide fans in the summer), and Warren Williams School.

Inspired by the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple article, "Walking the Way of Love Along the Rio Grande," we donated \$1500 to St. Peter's and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mission, Texas, to help fund meals provided at the Mexican border to detainees and Border Patrol agents.

St. Thomas' may be a small parish, but we are huge when it comes to being Christ's hands and eyes in this world.



Christmas Eve at St. Thomas'



New Vestry Members Elected

The Parish Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, December 15. Thank you to the three newly-elected Vestry members - Sue Bullwinkel, James Jessup, and David Patterson.

Special thanks to the three Vestry members who are rotating off — Bill Bradford, Cornelia Olive, and Micki Van Orden; and to the three other nominees who graciously submitted their names to be on the ballot.

The main responsibilities of the vestry:

- Take care of the parish finances.
- Take care of the parish buildings and systems.
- Choose individuals or to make other provisions to facilitate the election of a rector, delegates to the diocesan convention, and other positions required by the diocese and church bylaws.
- Elect officers annually consisting of a Sr. Warden (nominated by the Rector), a Jr. Warden, Clerk and Treasurer.

Vestry members are elected by the parish, and thus have a liaison role to exercise between the parish members and the clergy and staff. We should help facilitate communication between all members so the body can work together and support each other in love. Attendance and participation at meetings is presumed in our efforts to satisfy the expectations of those whom we serve.

—Fr. Bruce+

Choral Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 8

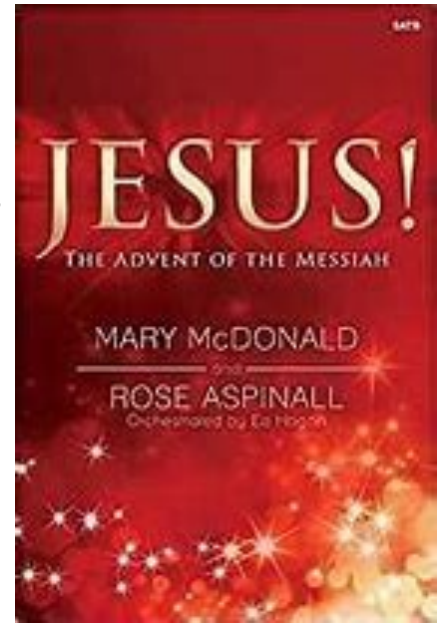
St. Thomas' celebrated Advent on December 8, 2019, with the Advent Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. The choir, under the direction of Dr. Jo Ann C. Bowman, sang nine selections of music, accompanied by June Burbage and a chamber orchestra ensemble.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918, at King's Chapel, Cambridge University in England. Other churches soon adapted the service for their own use.

Long a tradition at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, the Choral Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols each year contains the familiar and beloved lessons accompanied by different musical selections. These anthems are presented by the choir. Readers include the Rector and choir members.

This year's music highlighted musical selections by Mary MacDonald, John Purifoy, John Rutter, and Ruth Elaine Schram.

Many thanks to the wonderful choir and orchestra members who blessed everyone with such outstanding music.



Congratulations to Beth Wood!



Hats off to Beth Wood, St. Thomas' outstanding parish administrator, on a stellar achievement! She recently graduated from East Carolina University, earning a Master of Library Science degree, with a Public Library concentration.

An outstanding student, she graduated with a 4.0 average and was tapped for membership in Phi Kappa Phi, national scholastic honor society.

The Liturgy of the Table (Holy Eucharist)

The priest stands at the table, which has been set with a cup of wine and a plate of bread or wafers, raises his or her hands, and greets the congregation again, saying "The Lord be with you." Now begins the Eucharistic Prayer, in which the presider tells the story of our faith, from the beginning of Creation, through the choosing of Israel to be God's people and our continual turning away from God, to God's calling us to return. Finally, the presider tells the story of the coming of Jesus Christ, and about the night before his death, on which he instituted the Eucharistic meal (Communion) as a continual remembrance of him.

The presider blesses the bread and wine, and the congregation recites the Lord's Prayer. Finally, the presider breaks the bread and offers it to the congregation, as the "gifts of God for the People of God."

The congregation then shares the consecrated bread and the wine. Many churches invite worshipers to kneel at the altar in order to receive the elements. Some dismiss worshipers from the altar as a group, and in others people walk back to their pews after they have received the bread and the wine. If you are not sure of the custom in the congregation you are visiting, ushers are posted in the church aisles and will be happy to assist you.

All baptized Christians - no matter age or denomination - are welcome to "receive communion." Episcopalians invite all baptized people to receive, not because we take the Eucharist lightly, but because we take our baptism so seriously.

Visitors who are not baptized Christians are welcome to come forward during the Communion to receive a blessing from the presider.

At the end of the Eucharist, the congregation prays once more in thanksgiving, and then is dismissed to continue the life of service to God and to the World.

—From the Diocese of North Carolina



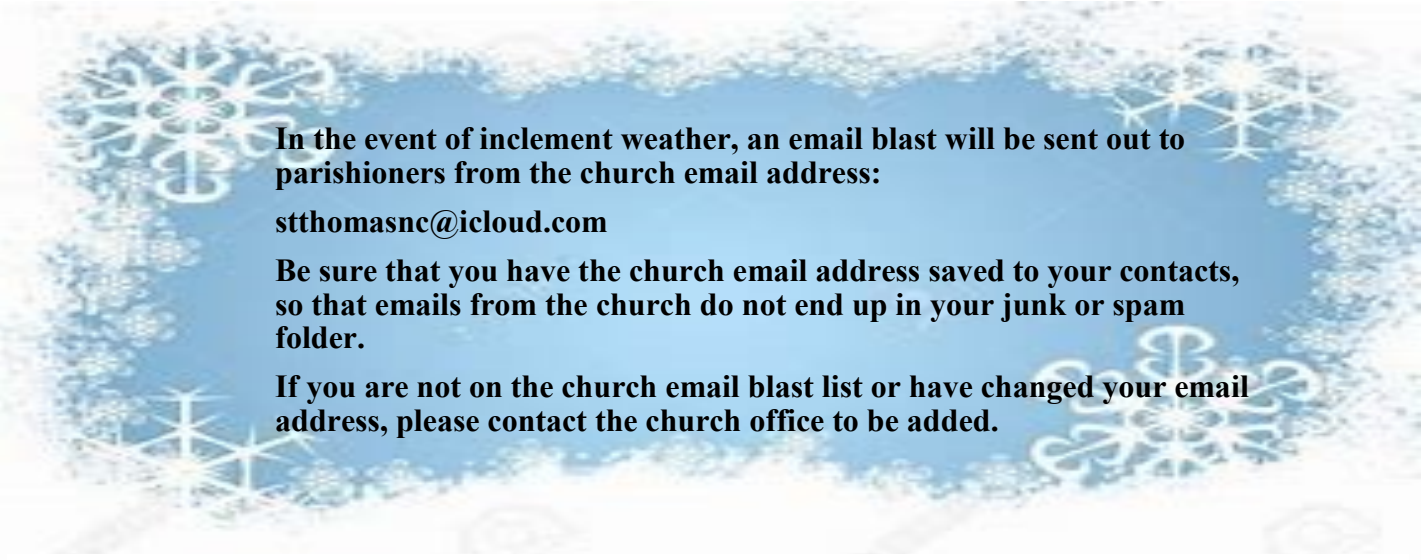
CrossTies Submissions

If you would like to have information posted about St. Thomas' activities, please submit the articles and pictures. Share the good works that are happening here.

Send to: crosstiesarticle2018@gmail.com

Directions for St. Thomas' Service Cancellations

'Tis the Season! If we have snow, ice or other weather issues, a cancellation of a service is made if conditions are unsafe for parishioners to travel. We have a email blast system in place to easily communicate the status.



In the event of inclement weather, an email blast will be sent out to parishioners from the church email address:

stthomasnc@icloud.com

Be sure that you have the church email address saved to your contacts, so that emails from the church do not end up in your junk or spam folder.

If you are not on the church email blast list or have changed your email address, please contact the church office to be added.

Sign up for Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour

Sign-up sheets for Altar Flowers and Coffee Hosts are located in the Lower Parish Hall. Please consider signing up to sponsor the flowers or serve as coffee host.

Recipe Corner: Sue Bullwinkel's Quiche

3 cups grated zucchini
1 small onion, grated
1 cup Bisquick
4 large eggs
1/2 cup vegetable oil
dash garlic salt
1 tsp oregano
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
1/4 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
1/4 tsp salt
1 tsp parsley flakes
1/8 tsp pepper
Optional: chopped green peppers and/or tomatoes

Mix all ingredients together and put in a greased 9" or 10" pie pan.
Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes (till a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.)

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

"The Church with the Red Doors on Steele Street"

**312 N. Steele Street
Sanford, NC 27330
Phone: (919) 774-8644
Email:
stthomasnc@icloud.com**

**Sunday Eucharist—10 am
Godly Play—10 am**

We're on the Web!
<http://stthomassanford.dionc.org/>
Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal
Church—Sanford

The Parish Staff

The Rev. Bruce Heyvaert, Rector

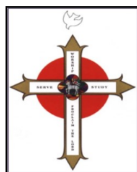
*Dr. Jo Ann Bowman,
Director of Music*

*June Burbage,
Organist*

*Beth Wood,
Parish Administrator*

*Katie Yuskevich,
Nursery Caretaker*

*Tasha Barrett,
Assistant Nursery Caretaker*



The Vestry

*TBD—Sr. Warden
Randy Seymore, Jr. Warden
TBD—Clerk*

Serving through 2020

*Barbara Duffy
Kay Heflin
Joann Thaxton*

Serving through 2021

*Karen Huey
Katie Hyer
Randy Seymore*

Serving through 2022

*Sue Bullwinkel
David Patterson
James Jessup*

Our Mission:

"To grow in the knowledge and love of God through our worship of Him, our service to Him, and our study of His Word; and to bring others to know Jesus Christ as Savior within the fellowship of the Church"



We extend a warm welcome from our church community.

We at St. Thomas' believe that:

- ♦ **Whatever your religious background**
- ♦ **Whatever your history**
- ♦ **However you have come to be drawn to the Lord**

You are welcome to walk your journey of life with us at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.
