

## Services

### Sunday

8:00 am Eucharist with hymns  
9:00 am Fellowship  
10:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Sung Eucharist  
11:15 am Fellowship  
3:00 pm Senior Service  
(Chapel, last Sunday of the month only)

### Wednesday

10:00 am Eucharist (Chapel)

### Daily

7:30 am Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
6:30 am Friday Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
(no Saturday service)

## Music Rehearsals

### St. Thomas Choristers

Thursdays - 3:45 – 5:00 pm  
Grades 2-7

Sundays - 11:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Grades 7-12

### St. Thomas Singers

Thursdays - 7:30 – 9:30 pm

## Calendar

### Martin L. King, Jr. Day

Parish Office Closed  
January 21

### Mardi Gras Party

February 5, 6:30 pm

### Ash Wednesday Services

February 6  
7:30 am, 10:00 am, 7:00 pm

### Lenten Supper & Adult Formation Lenten Series

February 7, 6:00 pm

# THE COLLECT

January 2008

St. Thomas Episcopal Church ❖ P.O. Box 124 ❖ Medina, WA 98039  
425.454.9541 ❖ [www.stthomasmedina.org](http://www.stthomasmedina.org)

FROM THE PARISH



# A

lmighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 817.



Farewell Father Jeff, Lisa, Katherine, and Jonathan.  
We love you and wish you Godspeed.

St. Thomas Parish Family



The Swedish meatball has been on the roll again. Not to Stockholm this time but to Hawaii. But this was not our usual or typical trip, as we traveled there with the Huskies football team.

Todd Turner, the former director of athletics, invited my husband Philip and me to attend the University of Hawaii game. "It's a bit like traveling with the Army," he smiled apologetically. We found out what that meant when we received the itinerary. Every minute was accounted for – where to be and when, what to wear, and how to behave. This was intended for the team, of course, but much of it applied to the guests as well. The schedule waited for no one.

The trip was all spelled out: meet at the stadium, drop off luggage at the equipment truck, pick up parking voucher, and park the car. Then we went through security (the airport sends out people), received our boarding passes, and boarded our bus. There were six big coaches: three for the team and three for the guests and other staff. At the scheduled time, on the dot, we rolled out with our police escort, blue lights flashing, freeway exits blocked; we sailed down I-5 right out onto the tarmac at SeaTac.

Mechanical problems on our chartered plane kept us waiting for another one to be flown in from Baltimore. A portion of "S" gate was sectioned off for us with food and facilities during the six-hour delay. The team, all in slacks and collared shirts, behaved very professionally – no horsing around. I found it hard to remember that they are 18- to 22-year-olds because they

are so big. My husband is six feet tall, but he looked like a wimp next to them. I was impressed by their mature behavior.

The airline promised a snack as soon as we were on board. We were still on the runway when they passed out a boxed meal of turkey wraps, two fruits, salad, cookies, and a beverage. We thought it was dinner because of the time, but no, dinner was served later. It was pretty good for airline food and there was lots of it. A couple hours later came another box full of fruit, candy, cookies, veggie sticks with dip, Gatorade, and water. It was obvious that the big boys in the back consume a lot of food.

We arrived in Honolulu exhausted and late in driving rain. Coaches waiting on the tarmac took us to the JW Marriott Ihilani Resort, an all-suite hotel a half-hour drive west of Pearl Harbor. In the morning, we opened our shutters to peach clouds and turquoise sea. The hotel is situated on a series of lagoons of white sand. Truly postcard beautiful.

The team kept busy working with their coaches. We were free to walk to beaches or dip in the pool. We thought we might feel uncomfortable because we didn't know the other guests, but we experienced such a sense of community. Many in the group were alumni, boosters, trustees, and season ticket holders. Philip knew a few people through his work in admissions, but everyone was inclusive and friendly, bound together by their Husky spirit.

The game was scheduled for 6:00 pm and dinner was set up for guests in a field next to the stadium. This was a

big game for Hawaii. With no pro teams, the University of Hawaii is "it" and spirits were high. So was security. Philip nudged me to check out the officer patrolling our section. In her black uniform with a gun on her hip, she was the most drop-dead gorgeous police officer I've ever seen. Periodically throughout the game, the skies would just open up and pour. A group of Asian fans next to us offered me a large plastic bag to put on so I wouldn't "have a bad hair day."

The following day began with a brunch, and we sat with Dan and Nancy Evans. The day was free. It was fun to watch the team playing in the water – these 300-plus-pound athletes having fun like kids. I heard one of them yell, "Hey, there's fish in here."

Our final evening was a luau. Coach Willingham talked about this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and prayer was offered before dinner. "Coach" is an impressive man, small and neat, quiet and serious; he worked during the entire trip. He is a straight-as-an-arrow man.

It was time to pack up and head for home the next day. As we boarded our plane, Philip asked if this was the same plane. It seemed to have less room than on the flight over. It was the same plane. We were just taking up more space. And there waiting for us was our bag of snacks.

We came home pleasantly surprised by all our new friends and by finding a sense of community where we hadn't expected it.

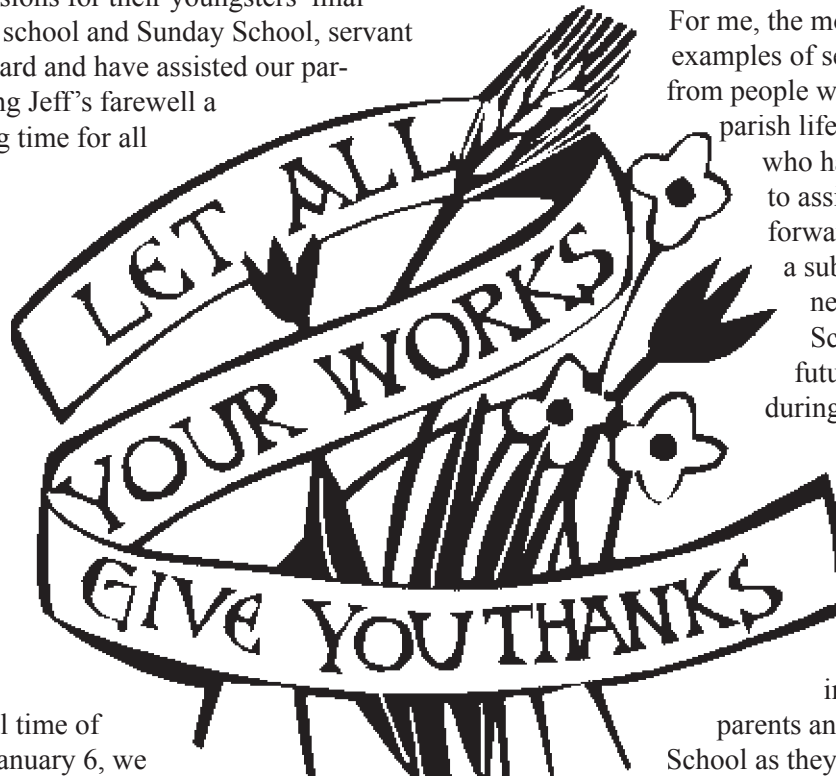
One of the most inspiring aspects of Jeff's election as Bishop of Chicago has been the reaction of servant leaders in and around St. Thomas. Dozens of people have offered kind words of support to both wardens as we move toward a transition with an interim rector at the helm of leadership in our parish.

An initial wave of servant leaders quickly moved forward to work on all things "farewell." From people offering to work on the receptoin, to volunteers organizing "Holy Hardware" for our Bishop in formation, to travel planners looking forward to seeing Jeff's consecration in person, to parents making provisions for their youngsters' final interactions with Jeff at school and Sunday School, servant leaders have come forward and have assisted our parish community in making Jeff's farewell a memorable and uplifting time for all of us.

Several former wardens have provided the current wardens with archives, anecdotes, direction, prayers, and wise advice as we have begun to reflect and savor the growth and vitality that Jeff's service to our parish allowed to blossom. These servant leaders have offered their wisdom, knowing full well that once our joyful time of farewell concludes on January 6, we have a sacred obligation to quickly and thoroughly begin the work of reflecting upon and

articulating the need for and the selection of a new rector who will build upon the ministry of the man we call "Jeff" but whom the people of Chicago will soon address as "Your Grace, Bishop Lee."

As the senior warden of St. Thomas, I appreciate all parishioners who have stepped forward to serve as leaders, volunteers, wise counselors, and sources of living history in this period of change. I am grateful for your offers to advance the work of the Vestry, the Foundation, the Building Committee, the Search Committee, or any place you might be of service during this time of transition.



For me, the most surprising and touching examples of servant leadership have been from people who are not part of our daily parish life – building professionals who have offered their expertise to assist us in our efforts to move forward on the Parish Center, a substantial pledge from our neighbors at Saint Thomas School to assist us in our future relocation expenses during our building project, the unexpected gifts of Chicago Pizza to our staff members from our Christian brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Chicago, and the sweet and poignant outpouring of affection from the parents and children of Saint Thomas School as they, and we, say "farewell and we love you" to our dear friend and Christian brother.

TRANSITION UPDATE

by Andrea Sato-Borgmann, Vestry Member and Co-Junior Warden

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 817)*

The Vestry understands the need to provide regular updates on the transition process. We will provide monthly updates in *The Collect*, as well as updates on the web site and in the worship bulletins. We will endeavor to

provide these updates even when we feel there is no “news” to report.

*Clergy Leadership Update*

Father Jeff’s last day at St. Thomas is January 6, 2008. After Father Jeff’s departure, Father Hollis Williams has graciously agreed to serve as priest-in-charge at St. Thomas until an interim rector is called. Bishop Greg Rickel and the Vestry are working to identify an interim rector for St. Thomas. The Vestry hopes that an interim will be called in January 2008.

*Vestry Leadership Update*

At the November 2007 meeting, the Vestry voted to add an additional

junior warden to the leadership team to assist Bob Simeone and Tammy Waddell and elected Andrea Sato Borgmann to serve in this capacity. The Vestry feels it is appropriate to have additional leadership support during the transition.

*Search Process*

After January 6th, the Vestry will initiate the search process. The first step in the process will be identifying a team of parishioners to guide the self-study process (parish profile). The second step will be identifying a search committee. Please look for more details on the search process in the February *Collect*.

Did You Know?

A HAPPY THANKSGIVING AT ST. THOMAS

by Alice Reid, Vestry Member

Did you know that on Thanksgiving Day this year, St. Thomas volunteers made 76 deliveries with dinners for 360 people in the Bellevue area who signed up through Hopelink?

The generous giving of treasure, time, and effort by the people of St. Thomas made this possible. Donations of \$3,835 enabled us to purchase 26 fresh turkeys from Costco, and Mitzel’s Restaurant in Kent cooked 20 of them free of charge. Early on Thanksgiving morning, we brought the turkeys to the church for carving. Meanwhile, other volunteers packaged mashed potatoes, string beans, yams, dressing, gravy, cranberries, rolls, condiments, and, of course, turkey. In addition, home-baked pie, whipped cream, and a Thanksgiving card lovingly made by the children were included in the

bags and boxes decorated by the youth group for the deliveries.

At 10:00 am, in the midst of all this activity, Father Jeff conducted a beautiful Eucharist in the Great Hall and Dent led us in singing familiar Thanksgiving hymns.

St. Thomas volunteers delivered the meals between 11:15 am and 2:15 pm while others transformed the Great Hall into an elegant dining room. Then, 70 people – volunteers and guests – gathered for a wonderful dinner, celebrating the joy and blessings that we both gave and received that day.

Many stories of gratitude come from an activity like this, but one note we received says it all:

“I would like to thank you all for making the time to prepare and deliver a holiday dinner to my home yesterday. I very much appreciate the financial burden your generosity lifted from me. I hope that your holiday was as special for you as your contribution was to me. Thanks again!”



## MOSQUITO DELETE-O!

by Meredith Robinson, Women's Development Council Representative

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

By now many of you have heard about the **"One-for-One Malaria Net Challenge"** issued by Bishops Greg Rickel and Nedi Rivera at the Diocesan Convention on November 2, 2007. At St. Thomas we have our own campaign called **"Mosquito Delete-O."** The bishops challenged each Episcopal communicant in the Diocese of Olympia (*that's about 33,000 of us*) to buy a long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed net before the next Diocesan Convention in November 2008. Our St. Thomas Mosquito Delete-O goal is one net donated for each of our 1,700 members. We've done quite well at St. Thomas with 400 nets sold during Advent (or 23% of goal).

**What is this all about?** With your help we hope to contribute a significant amount of money to the Episcopal Relief & Development "Millennium Development Inspiration Fund," which is co-funding in partnership with NetsforLife<sup>SM</sup> the distribution of nets to pregnant women, children, the elderly, and the sick in Africa.

**What can I do?** Prayerfully consider donating the cost of one net. For only \$12 (that's less than a dollar a month) you can save a life. Your contribution includes the cost of transporting the net to even the most remote villages in Africa. Each net recipient is trained on how to use the net properly and follow-up visits (by trained care-

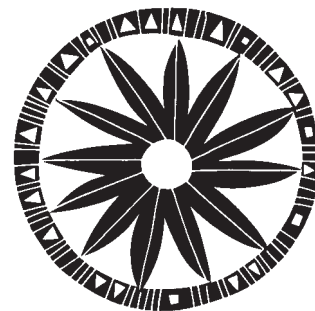
givers) to families that have received nets ensure that the nets are being used properly. Each net repels mosquitoes for up to five years, providing protection for every family member *even if they are not physically sleeping under the net*. Mosquitoes that touch the net are killed on contact by the insecticide, which permeates the home in low doses and also is an effective repellent for ambient mosquitoes.

**Why is there such a big push to eradicate malaria?** Eradicating malaria is within our reach but only if we work together. You may not know that malaria was a big problem in the United States until the late 1950s. Fortunately for us, President Kennedy sponsored a national campaign that nearly eradicated malaria in our country. Sadly though, nearly 500 million people a year throughout the world contract malaria. Out of this number, one million of them die (mostly children). In Africa each day, 3,000 children will die of malaria. But there is something we can do to help. We can meet the goal of one net for each of the 33,000 members of our Episcopal faith community in the Diocese of Olympia. Because each net can provide coverage for a family of up to five people, this means we will be protecting 165,000 people from malaria.

ERD Mandate - Matthew 25:35-40

**Your contribution will make a huge impact.** By meeting our goal of donating one net for each St. Thomas member, we will contribute \$20,400 (that's 5% of the \$400,000 the bishops have challenged us to raise for NetsforLife<sup>SM</sup>). This is a major contribution toward the **Millennium Development Goal # 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.**

For more information, please contact your St. Thomas ERD/Women's Development Council representatives: Carole Brawner, Kay Kessel-Hanna, or Meredith Robinson. Your WDC representatives will be available in the Great Hall after one (or both) services to answer your questions and to sell "NetsforLife<sup>SM</sup>" giving cards. Buy one for yourself and give it to a friend. Or buy a bunch of cards to kick off the 2008 giving season.



Pledge envelopes are available in the Great Hall. If you do not find yours, please call Gerry at 425-454-9541.

## St. Thomas Episcopal Church Vestry

Bob Simeone, *Senior Warden*  
Tammy Waddell, *Junior Warden*  
Fred Barkman, *Treasurer*  
John Kruger, *Chancellor*  
Nicholas Sooy, *Clerk*

Roger Ahroon    Vesta Loyd  
Jeff Belfiglio    Shantha McDonald  
Jim Blundell    Sarah Nortz  
Jim Hughes    Alice Reid  
Jim Kesl    Andrea Sato-Borgmann

## Staff

The Reverend Hollis Williams,  
*Priest-in-Charge*  
The Reverend Kathryn Ballinger, *Deacon*  
*Associate for Spiritual Direction*  
& *Parish Visitor*  
The Reverend Stephen W. Best,  
*Associate for Couples & Family Life*  
Dent Davidson, *Associate for Liturgical Arts*  
John Gallagher, *Ministry Intern*  
Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian*  
*Formation*  
Aileen Loranger, *Associate for Pastoral Care*  
*and Health Ministries*  
Jeremy Anderson, *Associate Organist*  
Judy Crunkilton, *Parish Administrator*  
Gerry Gallaher, *Business Manager*

## THE COLLECT

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Elizabeth Ward, *Assistant Editor*  
Kay Kessel-Hanna, *Layout Editor*  
Judy Crunkilton, *Production*

Deadlines: Copy for the February 2008 issue is due on January 7.

Please submit copy to Shirley Deffenbaugh, editor, via email at [sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net) or leave in the drawer marked "Collect" at the Church. All articles will be edited. If you have questions, please call Shirley at 425-455-4817.

## PERCEIVING A NEW THING

by Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian Formation*

When I was unemployed a few years ago, a very wise priest said to me, "The best thing about not being able to keep going in the same direction is that you can now go in any other direction you choose." I remember those words as I ponder all the implications of a rector transition at St. Thomas. I perceive that our congregation is worried, excited, a little on edge. And that's to be expected. It's a crisis. And I mean that in a non-anxious way, because crisis leads to opportunity.

Last month at a Sunday forum, one of our presenters was Joe Ingram, a formerly homeless veteran who now works as an advocate for the homeless. He pointed out that every change in our lives is a crisis; it's just a question of how well we deal with it. If we can't imagine that the crisis will lead to better things, then we won't handle it well.

About a dozen years ago, there was a crisis at St. Thomas. People don't like to talk about it. A newcomer said recently, "I know that something bad happened here a while back, but I can't get anybody to tell me what happened."

In my three years here, I have heard stories come out a little bit at a time – stories of terrible words and deeds, stories of brokenness, stories devoid of healing. Many people credit Father Jeff with helping bring about healing for many of the people who were hurt so badly.

That crisis – "the split" or "the schism" – is part of our history, and it's a dark chapter. Everyone who was here at the time is a dozen years older and wiser now, with a dozen years of experiences in which God has been at work. Many of the

people who left St. Thomas have rejoined our family because they've discovered that it's not the same place it used to be. As I look around on a Sunday morning, I see health, vitality, and true hospitality. I see children running around everywhere, and youth enjoying each other's companionship. I see parish stalwarts making connections with the newest newcomers. I see parishioners having their needs met by a deeply caring community. Do we realize how wonderful this all is?

My spiritual director warned me recently that when everything is going well, the voices of doubt and fear should be especially shunned, because those voices certainly don't come from God. If we give in to those fears, we can imagine that the last few years at St. Thomas have been a kind of "golden age," and that only our rector has prevented us from returning to that dark time. This, my friends, is ridiculous. We are all stronger than that – and luckily, it doesn't even depend on our strength.

Is God at work at St. Thomas? Absolutely – we've seen the results. And most of the good works God is doing here do not rely on the rector. A rector is important, but we must not forget that we, the baptized, are the ministers – and Christ is revealed in our faithful works.

Isaiah heard God announcing, "I am about to do a new thing! Do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." If we believe that, we can trust the interim process. And we can feel empowered to listen and imagine the next phase in the history of St. Thomas.

## JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

“A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.”<sup>1</sup>  
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow,  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;

With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

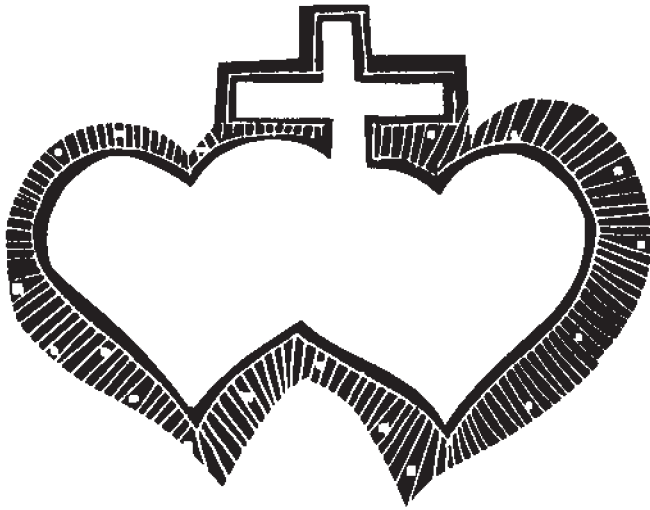
All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation.  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

– T. S. Eliot

<sup>1</sup>Eliot took the opening lines of the poem from a sermon that Lancelot Andrews preached on Christmas Day, 1622.

(Bernard Grebanier and Seymour Reiter, eds., *Introduction to Imaginative Literature*  
[New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1960], p. 493)





HELP HOMELESS WOMEN  
ON THE EASTSIDE

The Eastside Women's Center, a drop-in day center for very low-income and homeless single women, needs lunches for 14-16 women prepared and delivered to its downtown Bellevue location. The lunches can consist of a hot or cold entrée, green salad or vegetable, milk or juice, and dessert. To help with this ministry, we're looking for 10 cooks from St. Thomas to partner up and commit to providing lunch once a month. For more information or to sign up, contact Claudia Ballheim (425-398-9829 or [cmazzba@comcast.net](mailto:cmazzba@comcast.net)).

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Practicing the Hospitality of God

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