

## 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

### Consecration DVD

### Viewing and Pizza Party

April 6, 5:00 – 7:30 pm

### Healing Our Planet Earth: Singing a New Song of Hope

See www.

healingourplanetearth.org  
or the Diocese of Olympia  
web site for details  
April 11-12

### National Poetry Month

Put a Poem in Your  
Pocket Day  
April 17

### Living Stones Conference

April 18-19

# THE COLLECT

April 2008

St. Thomas Episcopal Church ❖ P.O. Box 124 ❖ Medina, WA 98039  
425.454.9541 ❖ www.stthomasmedina.org



From the Priest-in-Charge

### HOW WE PRAY

The first time I visited an Episcopal Church, I had a surprise. People arrived and went up a few steps into the church building just like they did at the church down the street where my family attended. Once inside, however, Episcopalians went to their pews, sat, pulled out the hassock cushion, knelt down, bowed their heads, and offered a prayer. When finished, they sat quietly and reviewed the lessons. That didn't happen at the church I attended; people arrived, sat, and visited with everyone around them.

My visit and experience were etched in my mind as something important and powerful. I felt that people were there to prepare for being in the presence of God. Later on, when I become an Episcopalian, I was further tutored in the value of this practice among others and their spiritual value. Private prayer occurs within the corporate prayer of the whole Liturgy at various times: before the liturgy begins, a prayer/mental energy looking over the lessons, a thought/remembrance for someone for whom you have concern, prayers before and after receiving the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation, and prayer in the pew at the time of communion of the people.

Our private prayers are feathers on the wings of prayer in the Prayers of the People where intercession is offered for all things. In his letter to the Romans (Chapter 8:14-30) in which Saint Paul talks about the coming transformation of the created order in Christ,

he says that we do not know how to pray as we ought. It is the Spirit that gets in the pew with us, actively laying our prayers out with God.

Over the years as the Intercession developed in the church's liturgy, a framework for prayers emerged so that they would be as broad as possible. Otherwise, the intercessor might become fixated on one or two recurring themes. You will find this outline for our Sunday Eucharistic Prayers of the People in *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 383; cards with this outline are also available at the church:

Prayer is offered with intercession for:

*The universal Church, its members and mission*

*The nation and all in authority*

*The welfare of the world*

*The concerns of the local community*

*Those who suffer and those in any trouble*

*The departed*

(with commemoration of a saint when appropriate)

We lift up all of life, corporate and personal, asking for God's light and

*continued on page 7 . . .*

by Kathryn Ballinger, Deacon, Associate for Spiritual Direction and Parish Visitor

I should have had a clue when I rounded the corner from Union Street onto 2nd Avenue to park at Benaroya Hall. I heard the parking attendant on his walkie-talkie say that he had room for only five more cars. I was the fifth car. As I drove in, I wondered how I was to find that last open spot. But there he was with his red wand signaling and pointing to my slot.

The evening event was the poet Mary Oliver, offered to me and all spiritual directors of the SEEL board (SEEL stands for “Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life,” the Ignatian Retreat Program of which I am a member). I had discovered Mary Oliver’s poetry a few years ago. I loved her spare, New England style and clear images, her ability to see into the beauty and spiritual essence of things. Gerard Manley Hopkins does that too with more flourish, calling that inner beauty and holiness “inscapes.”

In my naiveté, I thought I was one of only a few admirers, even though she had won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for poetry.

I took the elevator up and entered the lobby, which was teeming with people. I found a group of SEEL people and we tried to find seats together but couldn’t, so I had to find a seat for myself. The hall was packed to the rafters. I found a seat in

one of the boxes next to an elderly lady. She told me that Oliver’s program was the fastest sellout in 20 years.

After a glowing introduction, she walked out onto the empty stage. She was older than I expected and as spare as her verse. She was dressed in a black turtleneck sweater and slacks. Her hair is silvery grey styled in a simple page boy.

She stood at the podium and looked at us. “My, there are a lot of you,” she said quietly. Then she began to read.

Her voice and her verse carried us away. She read just like I hear her poems in my head. She speaks about the simplest things in nature: of clouds, ponds, flowers, and snow geese. Her perception and clarity are laced with astonishment and joy. And so were we.

The spell has lasted for weeks. On a weekend to Cannon Beach, I bought four more of her books and read aloud to Philip, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on Hopkins – *Poem as Sacrament*. We smiled and nodded at phrases such as “the bee nuzzling into the blouse of the rose” or laughed out loud at her dog “Percy (Two).”

I feel that I experience the Holy One in nature’s revelation and in the arts, whether it is music, poetry, or painting. The beauty of it all explodes in awe and joy and in some way – I know not how – transforms me.

PRAYING  
 by Mary Oliver

It doesn’t have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don’t try to make them elaborate, this isn’t a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

(from *Thirst* [Boston: Beacon Press], 2006, p. 37)

FINANCIAL REPORT			
JANUARY		BUDGET	ACTUAL
	INCOME	\$ 72,608	\$ 74,295
	EXPENSE	\$ 76,147	\$ 67,902
YEAR TO DATE			
	INCOME	\$225,841	\$220,580
	EXPENSE	\$172,884	\$159,857

*A detailed financial report is available from Gerry Gallaher, Business Manager, in the Parish Office.*



CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH: PUT A POEM IN YOUR POCKET

Please join the Academy of American Poets in celebrating the first national "Poem in Your Pocket" Day on April 17, 2008. Simply select a poem and carry it with you on April 17. Share it with family, friends, and coworkers throughout the day.

New Yorkers have been celebrating "Poem in Your Pocket" Day for five years. The Academy of American Poets invites us to enter into the fun this year.

April is National Poetry Month; to learn more, visit [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org). Visit the St. Thomas library for a display of poetry books available for checkout.

SAVE THE DATE: BISHOPS' BENEFIT BASH

Mark your calendars now for Friday, October 3, when the first-ever Bishops' Benefit Bash will be held at the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field in Seattle. This gala dinner, featuring a silent and live auction and a dance with Cajun music, will raise funds for Episcopal Relief and Development's (ERD) "One for One Malaria Net Challenge" as well as for our diocesan "We Will Stand With You" partnership with St. Paul's, New Orleans.

Honorary co-chairs are our bishops' spouses, Marti Rickel and The Reverend Bob Moore. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Planned Giving & Stewardship at the diocesan office ([cknirk@ecww.org](mailto:cknirk@ecww.org)) or Brian Sellers-Peterson, ERD representative ([bpetersen@er-d.org](mailto:bpetersen@er-d.org)). The location is fabulous as will be this event. More details are coming soon.

FAURÉ REQUIEM

The Seattle Choral Company, under the direction of Fred Coleman, presents Fauré's "Requiem" on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at 2:00 pm in Benaroya Hall in the Mark Taper Auditorium. Seattle organist, Clint Kraus, will play the Watjen concert organ for Fauré's masterpiece. The program also includes "Five Hebrew Love Songs" by Eric Whitacre, "From Behind the Caravan: Songs of Hâfez," by Abbie Betinis, and "Messe cum jubilo" by Maurice Duruflé.



LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING AT ST. THOMAS

The St. Thomas Library Guild will host the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries (PNAACL) on Saturday, April 12, at 9:00 – noon in the Great Hall. The speaker is Charles Herrick, a local author and former IBM manager. He will talk about his missionary experiences in Kenya, the basis for his book, *Breath of Kenya: A Missionary Journal*.

The PNAACL is also celebrating its 40th birthday. Please join us for an interesting program and light refreshments to honor PNAACL. Books will be on display from Life Way, a Bellevue bookstore.

For more information, contact Joan Reid, current PNAACL president, at 425-455-2079 or at [joanreid@myway.com](mailto:joanreid@myway.com).

PICKS FROM THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: EASTER READS

Father Hollis Williams suggests two books for reading during the Easter season. Copies will be available for purchase at the church.

*Resurrection: Interpreting the Easter Gospel*, revised ed., by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press), 2002.

An exploration into a wider personal and communal meaning of the resurrection of Christ. As noted on the cover, "This book sets out to show how the experience of Jesus's resurrection was from the first an experience of forgiveness and the healing of memories of injury, guilt or failure. Out of this healing grow new patterns of life together, and a new understanding of God."

*Gilead*, Picador ed., by Marilynne Robinson (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux), 2006.

This Pulitzer Prize winner is described as "a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage in America's heart. In the luminous and unforgettable voice of Congregationalist minister John Ames, *Gilead* reveals the human condition and 'manages to convey the miracle of existence itself.'"

## TRANSITION UPDATE

(as of March 11, 2008)

by Andrea Sato-Borgmann, Senior Warden

### Clergy Leadership

The Vestry is happy to announce the selection of an Interim for St. Thomas. The Reverend Doctor Jane F. Maynard – “Pastor Jane” – was recommended by Bishop Rickel, who worked with the wardens to secure her as our Interim.

Pastor Jane graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with highest honors in 1975 and received a Master’s Degree in Developmental Psychology at the University of Illinois. She went on to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley (CDSP) and the Claremont School of Theology where she received a MATS in Pastoral Counseling in 1998 and a PhD in Pastoral Theology in 2001.

Pastor Jane has served as a hospital chaplain and in a variety of ministry settings, including several congregations in Idaho and California. She also served as Director of Field Education and Professor of Pastoral Theology at CDSP from 1995-2003. After moving to Seattle with her husband, Jim Treyens, in 2003, she has worked as Interim Dean for the Diocesan School of Ministry and Theology and as Priest-in-Charge at Good Samaritan in Sammamish. Pastor Jane has been serving as Interim at Epiphany parish in Seattle since September 2007. In 2006, Jane published her first book, *Transfiguring Loss: Julian of Norwich* as a Guide for Survivors of Traumatic Grief. Jane’s husband Jim is a software salesman.

Pastor Jane will begin work at St. Thomas on Thursday, April 17, 2008. Until that time, Father Hollis has graciously agreed to remain as our Priest-in-Charge.

### Search Process

The Vestry has convened a committee to begin work on the parish profile. This committee will gather input from the congregation and draft a profile of the congregation. The profile will describe who we are as the people of God at St. Thomas, where we are going, and the skills and abilities we need in a future rector to lead us in that direction. Committee members have extensive skills in market research, written and graphic communications, marketing, and management. The committee members are Suzan DelBene, Shirley Deffenbaugh, Jean Haehl, Catherine Kunkel, Scott Manning, Claudia Mazzie-Ballheim, Peter Pitarys, and Jean Johnson (Vestry liaison).

### Vestry Leadership

At the retreat on March 2, 2008, the Vestry elected me to serve as senior warden. Because some members were unable to attend the retreat, the Vestry will elect junior wardens at the March meeting.

### PASSAGES

#### Weddings

February – Todd Richard Woosley  
and Julie Marie Oswell

#### Baptisms

January – Catherine Wenjuan Laiyan  
Hoskins  
Seema Grace Aiko  
Borgmann

#### Deaths

January – William Allen Regalia II  
February – William R. Bell  
John J. Keeffe

### WAVES

by Mary Pneuman

Seamless breakers seek the shore,  
caress the beach,  
then yielding to an unseen force  
are called back to the source  
to be reborn.  
Ceaseless ruffles swelling to a crest,  
then ebbing and returning  
to the birthing place.  
One upon another, without end,  
are waves reclaimed, restored,  
as are we through water given life.





GUATEMALA GARDEN

by Jan Widgery

The clouds are caught on mountain-tops,  
their moving shadows undulating  
to define the hills and farmers' plots.  
As past is veiled from present,  
still enriching it,  
the purple haze of distance  
sharpens the bougainvillea and the callistemon tree  
here in the garden where I sit.  
And birds insist; a child's voice lifts  
in happy exclamation.

Tomorrow I must leave my daughter's house.  
As she and I are one,  
the time and space where we exist is one:  
the life I lead up north –  
my friends, my duties, and my winter scenes –  
will blend with this life here,  
and lightly overlay  
these dreams.

ADAGIO

(5th Concerto in D Minor)

by E.L. Ward

*So the other disciples told him [Thomas],  
"We have seen the Lord! But he said to them,  
"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and  
put my finger where the nails were, and put  
my hand into his side, I will not believe it."  
John 20:25*

Lord, my Lord hung at Calvary.  
Hear me, Lord: Is it you I see?

Holy One, may I touch, examine  
Wounds received through humble discipline?

Reaching out I fall short of there.  
Wounded one, do you hear my prayer?

Were it not your resolve to die,  
I would give myself to crucify.

With belief challenged, I confess:  
I, Thomas, am wholly curious;

And how strange that I, doubting, be  
held by hope of holy certainty.

Take my hand; place it in your side.  
... Lord. My Lord, I am satisfied.

ODE TO A PLANET

by Dwight Russell

I tried calling my beloved last night.  
After my fingers, a man came on the line,  
his voice barely audible over the other-language chatter.  
"You must place your call through me now,  
the cells are too numerous."  
A ring and a click and: "If you'd like to make a call,  
please hang up and dial again."

She was so pretty then – 1930 I think – her beauty  
touching your groin as she passed.  
Now she is old and tiny. Hollow-cheeked,  
she waits, blindly musing.  
The guitar sits in dust next to a ray of light.  
There are no plants in the room and  
the cat has long since died.

I tried calling my beloved last night.  
The call did not go through.

## St. Thomas Episcopal Church Vestry

Andrea Sato-Borgmann, *Senior Warden*  
Fred Barkman, *Treasurer*  
John Kruger, *Chancellor*  
Nicholas Sooy, *Clerk*  
Roger Ahroon      Jean Johnson  
Jim Blundell      Bonnie Palevich  
Jeff Belfiglio      Steve Pedersen  
Charles Brown      Nancy Pitarys  
Margaret Chorlton      Alice Reid  
Jim Hughes

### 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*  
& *Health Ministries*  
Jeremy Anderson, *Associate Organist*  
Judy Crunkilton, *Parish Administrator*  
Gerry Gallaher, *Business Manager*

### THE COLLECT

Shirley E. Deffenbaugh, *Editor*  
Elizabeth Ward, *Assistant Editor*  
Kay Kessel-Hanna, *Layout Editor*  
Judy Crunkilton, *Production*

Deadlines: Copy for the May 2008  
issue is due on April 4.

Please submit copy to Shirley  
Deffenbaugh, editor, via email at [sedefenbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:sedefenbaugh@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.

### PLAYFUL PRAYER

by Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian Formation*

During this fifty-day season of Easter, our readings in church teach us about the resurrected Christ. They call him the unblemished lamb; the rejected cornerstone; the way, the truth, and the life; and other odd metaphors. We hear that Jesus is the lamb and the shepherd and the gate for the sheep! These metaphors are nothing if not playful.

Most of us probably don't use the phrase "playful prayer." But if we did, maybe we would pray more often.

When do you pray? Every morning or evening? On Sunday mornings? Or do you put it off until your situation feels desperate? I can't say my prayer practices are all that consistent; many people find it easier to remember to pray than I do. But I have learned that if I approach God playfully, I at least make more consistent contact with the one who is playful enough to say, "I think I'll make a universe."

The car is one of my primary places to pray; the trick is remembering to turn off the music and be silent for a moment. It doesn't have to be a somber silence, either. Our middle school youth group recently identified 24 distinct types of silence ... maybe "playful" is the 25th. You know: the kind of silence in which you're sorting the Legos and just starting to imagine what you might do with them.

Then I say, "Well, God, here I am." And I smile and let that sit for a bit. Next, faces pop into my head: faces of St. Thomas parishioners; faces of friends and family; faces of people

who have died. I think about my most recent experience of them, and then I imagine them at their best. I note the difference between the two, and I say, "Hey, God, how are they going to get there?" Or if I have no idea what God plans to do with them, I just say, "OK, God, they're yours." It's light and casual and, when I'm at my most playful, it doesn't get anxious or heavy-hearted.

To be sure, there are other kinds of prayer. Our middle schoolers have also learned about the five main kinds of prayer: "wow," "help," "oops," "gimme," and "thanks." Sometimes, tears are the best prayer for a given situation. But lately, with my life feeling busy but good, and the taste of new possibilities on the spring air, I've found playful prayer to be just what I need.

We've had occasions of playful prayer recently at St. Thomas, even during Lent. On March 2, the choir launched into an unexpected rendition of "This Little Light of Mine," and we clapped our hands. During Holy Week, we shared a meal in the Great Hall and playfully washed each other's feet, even as we felt the solemnity of Good Friday coming on. At the Easter Vigil, we heard the story of Wisdom playing at the side of her Creator. We were splashed with water to remind us of our baptism. And at the Proclamation of Easter, we rang bells, shouted, stomped, and screamed our delight and shock as we experienced, once again, the Resurrection of Christ.

There's more playful prayer to be had. Can you come out and pray this Sunday?

by Mary Pneuman, Episcopal Bishop's Committee on Israel/Palestine

To stand in support of all Palestinian Christians, this conference is presented by a broad consortium of Western Washington churches at University Christian and University Presbyterian churches on April 18-19, 2008.

In his endorsement of the "Standing with the Living Stones" conference, Dr. Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Theological Seminary, states, "We all need to be more active ... this is not about ideology – it is about taking seriously our identity as members of the global Body of Jesus Christ."

The purpose of the conference is to create a greater awareness of the challenges facing Palestinian Christians today and to build a united network of partnerships between affiliated denominations and congregations. Palestinian Christian churches are seeing an unprecedented decline in numbers as their members struggle with the hardships imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation. Bearing witness to the love of Christ for nearly 2000 years, these "living stones" have been peacemakers in times of conflict, but dim prospects for the future are now leading many young people to emigrate. In a few years, "The memory of the indigenous Christian church may be preserved only in museums," said an Anglican priest recently.

"Standing with the Living Stones" was initiated by the Episcopal Bishop's Committee on Israel/Palestine and is

the result of collaboration between area Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Evangelicals, Catholics, Methodists, Disciples of Christ, and Lutherans. Co-sponsored by many local and national Christian organizations, including the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the conference will bring together both local and Palestinian Christian leaders in a series of

"Let us be clear. Helping these Christians is not a luxury. It is a necessity if we wish to see any Christians in the places of Jesus' life in the next generation. Never has there been a more pressing time for Christians to stand with Christians in public support. The Living Stones conference in Seattle is a model of what must happen in cities throughout the United States." Dr. Gary Burge, Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College and Graduate School, Illinois.

well-known educator for non-violence and director of Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem; and the Rev. Jane Barron, immediate past minister of St. Andrew's Church, Jerusalem (Church of Scotland).

Topics include (1) the current realities facing the Christians of Israel and Palestine, (2) the history and root causes leading up to Christian emigration, (3) the role of Palestinian churches in shaping a peaceful future, and (4) the role that the Western churches must play if the Christians of the Holy Land are to remain a living and vital presence.

For more details, go to [www.livingstonesconference.org](http://www.livingstonesconference.org).

You may register on-line or call Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006. Early registration fee of \$40 for both days includes lunches and dinner. Tax deductible contributions are most welcome – please send donations, earmarked "Living Stones," to the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

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*From the Priest-in-Charge continued from page 1 . . .*

to transform our personal life and the social order. This format keeps us from getting stuck in our prayers as a community.

On a practical level, this outline may enrich your personal prayer format during the day and keep you from getting "stuck" or stranded on a plateau. Each of us has a best time for personal prayer during the day: in the morning, at noon, in the early evening, at the close of day. By coincidence, *The Book of Common Prayer* has a very short form for daily devotion for each of these times of day (see BCP, pages 136-140). Just a suggestion . . . print on a 4 x6 card one of these liturgies that is your best prayer time and then put on the back the BCP intercession outline.

Give it a try. It just might be a good while before you think your prayer life is stuck.

Faithfully,



## Vestry Views

### THINK ON THESE THINGS

by Andrea Sato-Borgmann, Senior Warden

At the Vestry retreat in early March, many of our conversations were framed by focusing on what is life-giving, energizing, and positive for us at St. Thomas. The stories, conversations, and reflections shared by the participants fill me with hope about the future of St. Thomas.

Some shared stories of loss and death which were transformed by outpouring of love by the congregation. Others shared stories of deep connections made with others through faith formation or small group experiences. Many shared stories of seemingly simple acts of hospitality: names remembered, loud children welcomed, and invitations offered. Many stories revealed a deep sense of faith and openness to the workings of the Spirit.

Our group identified the following values at St. Thomas: openness,

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)*

hospitality, Eucharist and liturgy, community, compassion, and collaboration (being Spirit-led and enthusiastic).

The questions we used to seed our conversations came from an organizational development framework called Appreciative Inquiry. The guiding principle of Appreciative Inquiry is that our conversations shape our reality. Appreciative Inquiry is described by Mark Lau Branson in *Memories, Hopes, and Conversations: Appreciative Inquiry and Congregational Change* as follows:

The thesis of Appreciative Inquiry is that an organization, such as a church, can be recreated by its conversations. And if that new creation is to feature the most life-giving forces and forms possible, then the conversations must be shaped by appreciative questions. ("Preface," p. xiii)

Likewise, in the verse above, Paul exhorts the Philippians to set their minds on those things that are pure, commendable, excellent, true, and praiseworthy. In the verses preceding and following, Paul writes about the peace of God filling those who do as he exhorts. Paul calls this a peace that "transcends all understanding."

During this time of transition between rectors, we as a congregation will reflect on our stories and experiences of being church together. These stories reveal who we are and where we are going. I invite you to think on what have been your best experiences at St. Thomas. What has been most life-giving and energizing? Where have you found God at work? God's promise to us is that, in thinking on these things, we will be filled with His peace, and our life together will be shaped toward a faith-filled future.

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## Practicing the Hospitality of God

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