

## Services

### Sunday

- 8:00 am Eucharist with hymns  
9:00 am Fellowship  
9:15 am Adult Forum  
10:15 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)  
9:00 am Friday Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
(no Saturday service)

## Music Rehearsals

- St. Thomas Singers  
Thursdays – 7:30 pm  
Sundays – 9:15 am  
Early Music Ensemble  
Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 pm  
St. Thomas Choristers  
Sundays, after 10:15 service

## Calendar

### October 2

Young Adults Fellowship  
5:30 pm, Tap House Grill

### October 4

Come to the Quiet  
11:45 am, Chapel

Blessing of the Animals  
4:00 pm, Great Hall

### October 16-17

Diocesan Convention  
Kay Kessel-Hanna Ordination  
Hilton Vancouver (WA)

### October 24

Casino Party & Silent Auction  
7:30 – 10:30 pm, Great Hall

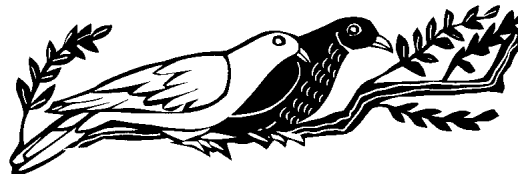
### October 25

Flu Shots (seasonal only)  
8:30 am – 10:30 am

# THE COLLECT

October 2009

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



From the Rector

## CARING FOR CREATION

by the Reverend Lex Breckinridge

On October 4, the church celebrates the life and ministry of Francis of Assisi. Francis, the son of a wealthy merchant, once led a dissolute and carefree life. However, he encountered the beggars and lepers that were so much a part of life in 12th century Europe, and his spirit was deeply troubled. He decided to take literally Jesus' instruction to the disciples to "go forth to proclaim the kingdom of God and to "take nothing for the journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money – not even an extra tunic" ( Luke 9:3). He renounced all material values and devoted himself to serving the poor.

As Francis let go of his attachment to wealth, he found himself drawing ever closer to an attachment to all living things. God has blessed all of creation, Francis observed, and so all of the created order is to be loved, respected, and valued. Francis perceived that all creation is bound together in what he called The Great Chain of Being. What affects any link of the chain from the most humble creature through the poorest soul to the most exalted ruler affects the entire chain. Francis is well known to us today for embracing the birds of the air and the animals in the field. Yet this was not sentimentality. It was, rather, a joyful acknowledgement of the profound sacredness of all creation.

Our theme hymn for this month's *Collect* is #400, "All Creatures of Our God and King." It is an adaptation of one of Francis' canticles (with a magnificent tune by Ralph Vaughan

Williams) and beautifully captures the deeply joyful Franciscan reverence for life.

For Francis, liberation from the attachment to wealth and privilege was the gateway into this celebration of "everything under the sun." Francis' life and ministry are a mighty witness for us as we reflect on how to best care for the abundance with which God has blessed us all. How are we caring for this beautiful physical environment here at St. Thomas? Are our facilities adequate for the pastoral and educational and fellowship needs of this blessed community? How are we caring for our own particular corners of the natural world? Seemingly modest practices like recycling, conserving water, buying organic and locally produced food are all ways we can care for creation.

We will also celebrate Francis' ministry with a traditional Blessing of the Animals on his feast day, Sunday October 4, at 4:00 pm, in the Great Hall (see p. 3). In his love and care for "all creatures of our God and King," Francis was undoubtedly mindful of God's covenant with Noah which extended to "all animals and other creatures" (Genesis 9:10-11). Even if you don't have a pet yourself, please consider joining us for this lively celebration.

*continued on page 3 . . .*

# ANGUS AND WALLY

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

In July, we lost our beloved Airedale. Angus was 14 when he went to heaven. He was truly a member of our family and has left aching holes in our hearts. Those of you who sent cards and condolences, we thank you.

Angus was such a “sweet boy,” – we always added “for an Airedale.” For those who are unfamiliar, Airedales are the largest, or “king,” of the terriers. They weigh about 50 pounds and their shoulders reach to about our knees. They have a brown, rough coat with a black saddle. They are very intelligent but also known to be stubborn.

Angus looked like a big stuffed toy. People would stop and ask, “What kind of dog is that?” And kids would run out and ask to pet our “puppy.”

Angus liked to watch television. No, *really watch*, sitting very tall in front of the screen for long periods of time with his ears rotating this way and that, his face following the action. Of course, when there were animals, he would fetch a toy from his toy basket and pounce and shake the hell out of it.

He loved the snow in Spokane and would catch the snowballs Philip threw to him. He would snowplow through the drifts, turning into a white dog, and come out smiling. He and Philip were buddies and would chase each other through the house, barking and yelling around the kitchen island. Angus would get kisses first when Philip came home from work until I let them both know that wouldn't do. Angus knew he was not allowed on the furniture but would cheat a little by standing next to the sofa and resting one hip on it.

We gave Angus a Christian burial with prayers in our rose garden, and we put a small cross and a pink rose on his grave.

Knowing I could not live without a dog, I started making inquiries and searching for breeders online. I didn't want a puppy immediately because of a planned trip to Israel in late October. But, as luck would have it, I found a wonderful breeder in Canada who had one male available in early September. After placing him, she would retire. Her dogs had beautiful bloodlines from England, Holland, and North America.

The first weekend in September, we drove to Vernon, BC, to pick up our new pup. We still hadn't picked out a name. Friends made suggestions, and Philip and I looked through baby name books. Once we saw him, we knew he was “Wally.”

I think I'd forgotten how busy puppies are, and how much they like to chew. Philip says he is a “tornado with teeth.” Wally is so full of life and very intrepid. Today he stalked the sprinkling can, growling and then pouncing

on it. One moment he has us laughing and the next he is in mischief. Thank God for crate training.

One of the prayers of St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, is called the examen. It is a reflection each day of God's sustaining love touching our hearts in the immediacy of our daily lives. There are five steps to the prayer: we thank God for the blessings of the day; we ask for the grace to see and overcome our failings; we review the day to see our spiritual experiences in it; we seek God's forgiveness; then, we ask for guidance for tomorrow.

The past few months have given me cause for reflection. I give thanks for the joys of our loving and devoted Angus.... If only I could be as wholeheartedly devoted, I'd be a much better disciple of Christ.... And then there is Wally, our new wiggly bundle of life and laughs. He, too, contains God's gift for joy. He is part of our family now, and a revelation of grace in the sorrow of loss and the hopes of tomorrow.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 2009		BUDGET	ACTUAL
	INCOME	\$ 71,842	\$ 79,877
	EXPENSE	\$ 75,005	\$ 77,436
YEAR TO DATE			
	INCOME	\$634,358	\$618,289
	EXPENSE	\$647,841	\$661,691

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

## LIFT UP YOUR VOICES, LET US SING

by Josh Hosler, Associate for Christian Formation

How often do you sing? Sure, some of us can't help it – we sing in the shower, we sing along with the iPod, we sing during tedious household chores. But how often do you sing with other people?

I think church is one of the few remaining places where it's socially acceptable for the musically untrained to sing, and that's a shame. We've relegated the national anthem to trained performers instead of singing it together. We teach music in our schools, but it's woefully underfunded, even in the Seattle area. My little high school in Michigan had a band but no choir. I sang anyway – in church, every Sunday. And I loved it.

After moving to Seattle, I joined the Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir, and that's where I really developed as a singer. I cherished the Thursday night rehearsals and Sunday morning services. In my ten years with that group,

I learned to control my falsetto range, picked up the pronunciation of many different languages, and internalized the three-year flow of the lectionary. The choir even took on some of my original compositions. I wasn't just a singer: I had become a minister of the liturgy.

When we sing together, we are all ministers of the liturgy. There's a comfort in singing with hundreds of people, so that even those of us with an incomplete understanding of pitch can blend right in. And for those who want to develop their musical skills intentionally, we have an adult choir, a kids' choir, and a kids' instrumental ensemble. And Charles Rus, our liturgist, is always looking for more musicians of any stripe.

As the bumper sticker says, "God respects me when I work, but He loves me when I sing." Don't hold back. Let's keep singing together.

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### Parish Life

#### ANNUAL ST. FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

All ages are invited to bring their favorite animal, bird, or reptile friend to be blessed on Sunday, October 4. The activities will begin at 4:00 pm in the Great Hall with a "pet show and tell" program. We will conclude with a festive liturgy honoring Saint Francis and his legacy of loving all of God's creation. All creeds, all breeds, no dogmas allowed! For more information, please contact Father Steve (steveb@stthomasmedina.org).

#### INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE TO CELEBRATE SPIRITUAL UNITY

On Sunday, October 11, 2009, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at the IMAN community in Kirkland (www.iman-wa.org), representatives from various Eastside Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faith communities will gather for a time of worship, singing, and reflection on sacred scripture led by youth. This event has been co-sponsored by St. Thomas for several years as part of the Together We Build Habitat for Humanity program created in response to 9/11. All are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Father Steve Best (steveb@stthomasmedina.org).

*From the Rector  
continued from page 1 . . .*

October is also traditionally the time when we focus on the stewardship of our financial resources. Giving back to God out of the abundance with which God has blessed each of us is one way for us to liberate ourselves from some of the unhealthy attachments we all have (me most especially included!) to material wealth. As Francis literally stripped down to the barest essentials, he lived ever more deeply into the experience of the inter-connectedness of all things under heaven and earth.

Finally, verse 5 of Hymn #400 nicely captures Francis' passionate commitment to the reconciliation of all that is broken in the world. "All you with mercy in your heart, forgiving others take your part." Mercy and forgiveness, healing and reconciliation, non-violence and peacemaking are at the heart of Francis' theology. As we remember Francis this month, let me invite all of us to incorporate into our daily decisions this lovely prayer.

*A Prayer attributed to St. Francis*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

Faithfully,

*Lex*

THE SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

by Margaret Chorlton, Warden for Personnel

I often find myself in church on Sunday singing along to the hymns when I get hit out of the blue with a jolt of emotion, usually resulting in tears and the embarrassment of my children. As a cradle Episcopalian, I've been hearing these songs over and over again for my entire life, so you would think I would be used to them by now. I believe that these songs have become a kind of soundtrack to my life, marking the important events that have been celebrated in church – baptisms, weddings, funerals, and confirmations. Hymn #400 used to be just one of those wonderful hymns with a lovely tune and joyful refrain that I love to sing in church.

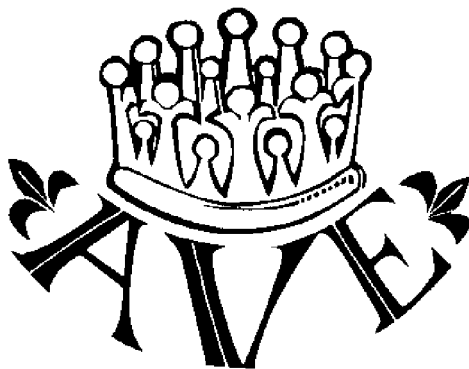
In March my father-in-law passed away, and we chose this hymn to sing at his memorial service. We thought it suited him perfectly, as his personal vision of God was in nature. He loved boating on “thou flowing water, pure and clear,” gardening with “the flowers and fruits that in thee grow,” and was devoted to “all creatures of our God and King.” This hymn has now become for me a marker in time, and I can't help it, but I'll most likely tear up every time I sing it in church for the rest of my life (sorry kids). But that's okay. As I read the words again,

I realize that this particular hymn is about God leading us to accept changes in our lives – little changes that the wind and clouds bring, as well as the big changes such as forgiveness, pain, and death.

As we move forward in this time of transition, we need to remember that God's blessings will be unfolded to us along our journey. Change brings out many emotions – we might feel joy, discomfort, sadness, or confusion. Change can also be powerful, giving us new energy to deepen our relationship with God, strengthen our faith community, and serve our neighbors.

My favorite verse of this hymn is that last one, and not just because we get the bells and drums going. This verse reminds me of the reasons we all work so hard on various ministries and committees during the week to keep St. Thomas moving forward, and why we come together on Sundays to make a joyful noise:

“Praise, praise the Father,  
praise the Son  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
Oh praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!”



ST. THOMAS WOMEN TO VISIT THE HOLY LAND

by Mary Pneuman

On October 18, Kathryn Ballinger, Margie Mayhall, Mary Pneuman, and Anne Rogers will join ten other women as members of the Christ - One Body Women's Connection for a two-week visit to the Diocese of Jerusalem. Representing the Diocese of Olympia, 14 women will tour major holy sites and visit parishes and schools in Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. They will meet with the women of at least five Episcopal churches.

Helping to realize the dream of Fr. Fadi Diab to establish personal relationships between the women of the two dioceses and to support the witness of Episcopal women in the Holy Land, we will be guests of church women in the Galilee in Israel; Ramallah, Nablus, and Zababdeh in the West Bank; and Amman and Irbid in Jordan. Home stays in Ramallah and Amman are scheduled, and an overnight visit to Petra is planned. Fr. Diab, who was a guest speaker at St. Thomas in October 2008, will lead the group.

Ramallah is the home of St Andrew's Episcopal Church, which is linked through a companion relationship with St. Thomas. It is hoped that personal connections formed during this visit will help to revitalize and implement this relationship.

St. George's College in Jerusalem (the continuing education center for the Anglican Communion) has created a special course for this visit and is arranging the briefings, transportation, and accommodations. This pilgrimage is sponsored by the Episcopal Bishop's Committee for Israel/Palestine. Bishop Nedi Rivera will accompany the group as spiritual leader.

# GREETINGS, FATHER LEX

by Lee Evan Belfiglio

Hello Father Lex,

It is my very great pleasure to welcome you to the frozen tundra of the north and to St. Thomas! We are really a fun community, always ready to celebrate anything and throw a party at the drop of a hat, and your arrival has given us the very best reason to celebrate!

Y'know, one of your fellow Southern compatriots, a humorist by the name of Jeff Foxworthy, is, at times, a rather astute observer of human nature. He, too, came to the Pacific Northwest and made some insightful observations of things all Northwesterners seem to know, and for Southern gentlemen to discover. So, if you are going to go to Convention and say you are from the Seattle area, here are a few things (according to Mr. Foxworthy) you need to know:

You know you're from Seattle when:

- you know the State flower is Mildew.
- you use the statement "sun break" and know what it means.
- you must (MUST) stand on a deserted corner, at the crosswalk, in the rain, and wait for the WALK signal, before you even think of crossing the street.
- you can taste the difference between Starbucks, Seattle's Best and Tully's coffee.
- you know how to pronounce Sequim, Puyallup, Issaquah, Yakima, Enumclaw, Tulalip, Uwajimaya, and Nordstrom.
- you don't get fazed by "Today's forecast: showers followed by rain" and "Tomorrow's forecast: rain followed by showers" (and you know the difference between them!)
- you notice "The Mountain is Out"

when it is a pretty day and you can actually see it.

- you think that people who use umbrellas are either wimps or tourists.

And you know you're from Seattle when:

- you know all the important seasons: Almost Winter, Winter, Ski Season, Still Raining (Spring), and Road Construction ...

You notice everyone laughing? These are funny because they are all too true, I kid you not!

I thought it might be particularly helpful if you had a similar guide to becoming the rector of St. Thomas. There are certain truisms you will come to know. So, to paraphrase Mr. Foxworthy:

You know you are the rector of St Thomas when:

- you realize that the hands that dust the altar rule the world ... never mess with the Altar Guild!
- you understand we would rather increase our annual pledges by a significant amount than sit in a new and different pew each Sunday morning.
- you get used to children in plaid uniforms pointing at you over the produce at QFC and yelling at the top of their lungs, "Hey look! It's Father Lex!"
- you find that the stained glass window of Lucifer in the steeple is positioned strategically so only you can see it from the bishop's chair to remind you what happens to preachers whose sermons are overlong.
- you discover that Fred Barkman can explain a financial report to you

... and you will actually be able to understand it.

- you find that Charles's dog, Pointer, really serves a very useful purpose sitting beside the organ on Sunday mornings, as she has been known to play the foot pedals for Charles during choral works.
- you figure out what's inside of the flying dove in the sanctuary and can explain it to others ... and we're talking about the gold one here, not the live ones that have been known to fly in and perch in the rafters.
- you have memorized all the places on campus where the keys are hidden and know all the secret prayers and chants to make them work properly.
- you find out that not all the animals you bless on St. Francis Day are live ones.
- you realize that one of your most important administrative duties is to make sure that the parish M&M dispenser is always filled.
- you are recognized wherever you go in Bellevue and drop the words "anonymity" and "incognito" from your vocabulary.

And you will know you are the Rector of St. Thomas when:

- you understand that we have all been waiting to welcome you and your family with open arms and joyful hearts ... that we are all truly happy that you are part of our community ... that we are looking forward to getting to know you and learning from you. We hope you will find your own unique truisms to add to this list.

Welcome to St. Thomas and the Pacific Northwest!

(Speech delivered at the reception on Sunday, September 13, 2009.)

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
Vestry

Bonnie Palevich, *Senior Warden*  
Bob Webb, *Junior Warden*  
Fred Barkman, *Treasurer*  
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Jean Johnson, *Warden for Transition*  
Steve Pedersen  
Nancy Pitarys

Staff

The Reverend Lex Breckinridge, *Rector*  
The Reverend Kathryn Ballinger, *Deacon*  
*Associate for Spiritual Direction*  
*& Parish Visitor*  
The Reverend Stephen W. Best,  
*Associate for Couples & Family Life*  
Charles Rus, *Interim Associate for*  
*Liturgical Arts*  
Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian*  
*Formation*  
Aileen Loranger, *Associate for Pastoral Care*  
*& Health Ministries*  
Gerry Gallaher, *Business Manager*

THE COLLECT

Shirley E. Deffenbaugh, *Editor*  
Elizabeth Ward, *Assistant Editor*

Deadline: The due date for November is October 12.

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.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE SO POWERFUL!

by Trish and Brian Evison

As many of you are aware, our daughter Sarah suffered a seizure in May 2008.

Since that time she has been taking various medications to prevent another seizure. These medications caused many side effects, including weight gain, vomiting, and blurry vision; subsequently, she lost her central vision in both eyes in March 2009.

Her neuro-ophthalmologist diagnosed her condition as optic neuritis and her vision was supposed to return by late May. On Friday, August 14, we were advised that her optic nerves were now damaged and there was fraying on some of the ends. He advised us that it wasn't likely that her sight would return. During this time, Sarah became increasingly sicker with different internal problems. Her endocrinologist diagnosed polycystic ovarian syndrome and Cushing's disease.

During a home visit by Jane Maynard, she mentioned that Curt and Vicky Young had just returned from a visit to the Mayo Clinic where a good friend of theirs works. Curt and Vicky immediately contacted their friend, and within a few days we

were at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

After six days of intensive testing, we met with the various specialists to receive incredible results. The chair of the Orbit & Neuro-Ophthalmology Department found that Sarah's eyes were perfect – the optic nerves were now not damaged in any way.



Original drawing by Keith Moulton, parishioner.

He had no explanation for this, and it wasn't a matter of interpretation of results as they saw the pictures of the damage. By all medical accounts this change is a miracle. The endocrinologist found no sign of Cushing's disease and advised that with a special diet to decrease insulin, she should lose all the excess weight. Also, after having a sleep deprived EEG (measures the brain waves), the neurologist reported that she had a seizure during the testing. Two days later, after reviewing the video and receiving the technician's report, this no longer was the case.

We are so very thankful to God and to everyone for their prayers and support. Thanks be to God.

Blessings to you all.

## WORDS, COLORS, AND SOUNDS

by Irene McManman, parishioner

I hope everyone took time to look at the St. Thomas icon given to us by the Church of the Apostles (COTA). It came to our parish with the approaching changes as a sign of reassurance and as a soft reminder that God watches over us. Soon after the icon came to our parish, the artist who wrote it left Seattle and moved to the East Coast.

I'm very grateful to Claude Rogers who introduced me to the artist just before her departure. I met her at her parish, COTA, only to discover that for many afternoons we had sat in the same coffee house where her husband was making coffee. We knew each other visually, and, yet, had never met and never knew we had the same interests. Isn't it as ironic as it is typical?

Skye Graves, the artist, is young, and she does look a little bit like our St. Thomas icon. Skye grew up in an evangelical church, and she wanted to be an artist. The possibility of artistic expression in the Episcopal church is something that many of us take for granted. For Skye, the possibility of using her artistic gifts to serve God moved her to become an Episcopalian.

Skye didn't think about icon writing at first. Then a person from COTA asked her why wouldn't she try to paint an icon? It was just a question, but sometimes a simple question changes the way we see ourselves. Is it the chain of coincidences, our own will, or God's plan for us? Sometimes it seems so clear when looking at the pattern of someone else's life to see how all the series of events were not accidental at all. It's much more difficult to see the patterns of our own life though ...

Skye Graves is not a trained icon painter; she is searching, learning, and

doubting her way ... as St. Thomas did. She said that painting St. Thomas made her think about him a lot. Before she began working on his icon, she felt sorry for him because people perceive him as a symbol of doubts. Then she discovered how close she feels to him, so close that his face is almost hers in the icon of him she painted. While painting the icon, she learned things about herself she wouldn't have discovered in any other way.

I saw Skye's art show at the Mosaic coffee house, and I remember her colors. Her colors are subtle and delicate – the same as those in the St. Thomas icon. She is faithful to the colors of earth, such as ochre and brown with a little blue. She stays away from drama and contrasts in her palette. She hardly ever uses triangular or geometric imagery. It's a visual expression of the subtlety and complexity of her doubts. How do most of us experience or express our doubts? We talk, or confess, or pray ...

Skye wrote several icons for COTA, and yet she's not sure about being or even becoming an icon painter. She knows, however, that she's an artist, that artistic expression for her is the way of spiritual growth.

Quite often artistic means bring us closer to God than words. I felt it so powerfully at the last concert by Charles Rus and his mom at St. Thomas. Words can feel worn out, even if I know how meaningful they should be. The history of European art and music is the perfect example of the power of a nonverbal expression of the human-God relationship. In words, sounds, and colors we pray, finding our own way and discovering gratitude for those who create beauty for us.

## LITURGICAL PRACTICES AND SWINE FLU: WHAT TO DO?

by Aileen Loranger, Associate for Pastoral Care & Health Ministries

This year, the Novel Influenza A (H1N1) or "Swine flu" virus threatens a more dangerous flu season, with more people getting seriously ill. Episcopal liturgical practices, particularly the Holy Eucharist, heighten concern over potential risk of infection. What is sacramentally proper to make a full communion? What about the practice of sharing the common cup (or chalice). To avoid germs, isn't it safer to dip one's own bread into the cup ("intinction")?

The Holy Communion is about participation in the fellowship with Christ and with one another. The body and blood of Christ are present in each of the consecrated elements, so full communion can be experienced by receiving bread alone.

Medical experts agree that the danger of transmitting communicable diseases by sipping from the chalice is negligible. Thus, this ancient liturgical practice will continue at St. Thomas. Intinction poses a greater potential threat, as unwashed hands can contribute harmful bacteria. Therefore, we discourage dipping bread during flu season. No fingers in the cup!

As long as we all use common sense, we will be fine. Our rector and staff are monitoring the situation and will revise these recommendations as needed.

Project Outreach

## REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY AND WORLD

by Mary Pneuman, Project Outreach member

St. Thomas has a long history of “second mile” giving, and our current financial statement indicates that we have continued to respond generously even during the current economic downturn. Since the last granting period, new applications for financial assistance have continued to arrive and distributions will be determined in October. Project Outreach looks for programs or projects where our grants can make a significant difference and decisions are not made lightly.

As criteria for prioritizing grant requests, some of the following questions are asked: Is the project inspired by faith? Does it offer opportunities for parishioners to become personally involved (time/talent)? Does our gift “teach people to fish” rather than simply “giving a fish?” Are most organization funds spent on service and mission rather than on operating expenses and fundraising?

Whenever possible, our practice is to invite grant applicants to make a presentation to the board. At our September meeting, we heard from representatives of Habitat for Humanity of East King County and La Iglesia de la Resurrección, Mt. Vernon.

Both of these organizations meet the above criteria and are especially notable for offering opportunities for volunteer service. Over the years many parishioners have volunteered with Together We Build (an interfaith program that brings Eastside Christians, Jews and Muslims together to build Habitat homes), and this summer, St. Thomas youth spent a week as Skagit Valley pilgrims at Resurrección with the children of migrant farm workers.

If you know of a service organization or project that meets our criteria, please invite them to visit the Project Outreach page on the St. Thomas web site to submit an application. If you have questions, contact Bill McSherry, chair.

### SAVE THE DATE: CELEBRATION OF A MINISTRY

On Tuesday, November 17, at 7:00 pm, the Reverend Alexander N. Breckinridge IV will be formally installed as the rector of St. Thomas by the Right Reverend Gregory Rickel, Bishop of Olympia. The event will be at St. Thomas-Medina.

## Practicing the Hospitality of God

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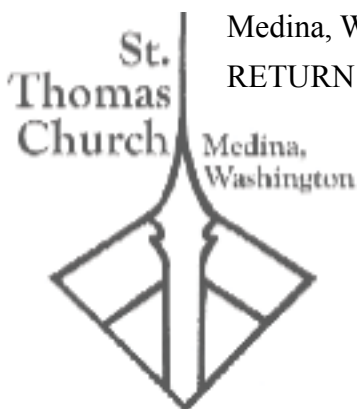
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St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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