Services

Sunday
8:00 am Eucharist with hymns
9:00 am Fellowship
9:15 am Forum
10:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Sung Eucharist
11:15 am Fellowship

Wednesday
10:00 am Eucharist (Chapel)

Daily
7:30 am Morning Prayer (Chapel)
8:00 am Friday Morning Prayer (Chapel)
(no Saturday service)

Music Rehearsals

St. Thomas Singers
Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Sundays, 9:15 am

Youth Ensemble
Most Sundays, 11:30 am

St. Thomas Choristers
Most Sundays, 11:30 am

Calendar

April 4
Easter Sunday
7:30 am Holy Eucharist with Hymns
9:00 am & 11:00 am
Festal Eucharist with St. Thomas Singers & Brass
12:15 pm Easter Egg Hunt

April 5
Easter Monday
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

April 9–10
9:00 am – 5:00 pm Downsize/Declutter Sale, *Great Hall*

April 17
8:00 am, Men's Breakfast, *Conference Room*

April 18
11:45 am, Young Adults Fellowship, *Parkside Room*

April 18, 25 & May 2
11:45 am, Welcome to St. Thomas! Information Sessions for Newcomers, *Conference Room*

THE

COLLECT

April 2010

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

From the Rector: The Something Beyond What We Wanted

by the Reverend Lex Breckinridge

The Nicaraguan priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal writes, "We have always wanted something beyond what we always wanted. " Do you know what he means? Our deepest longings, our most profound desires, are not really for financial security or professional success or personal prestige or even any or all of those things for our children. No, our deepest longings and our most profound desires are almost inexpressible.

How would we articulate our need to know that the world is not a cold, indifferent, meaningless place? Could we dare allow ourselves to imagine that the surgeon's unhappy diagnosis or the chaos in Haiti following the earthquake aren't signs of our final destiny as individual human beings and as humanity?

What if we could drop our carefully constructed defenses and our need to rationalize and explain everything under heaven (after all, if we can explain it, we can control it) long enough to grasp this shattering possibility: in the end God wins, in the end, Love wins. In ways we can't begin to imagine or comprehend, God wins. St. Paul was on to this when he wrote to the church in Corinth that "now we see only dimly, but then we shall see face to face." This is the "something beyond what we wanted" that Cardenal is talking about. In the end, God wins. Love wins.

Our patron, Thomas, whom we recognize in this month's *Collect*, felt this same deep longing. His plaintive plea to touch and see the wounds of the Risen One was a cry from the heart for the assurance of Love. Notice that he does not take Jesus up on the invitation to place his fingers and hands in Jesus' wounds. He responds simply, "My Lord and my God." It is the invitation into relationship he has longed for, not empirical proof. The invitation to a relationship with Love was the Something beyond what he wanted.

During this Eastertide, let us celebrate that Something as our experience of a Risen Christ whose presence here among us is making all things new here and now. Not two thousand years ago and not in some far distant future. Right here and right now. God is winning. Love is winning. In ways we now see only dimly, but one day will see face to face – when we will know that, as Lady Julian of Norwich observed, "Suffering is necessary. But in the end, all will be well, and all manner of things will be well."

This is the promise and the Reality of Easter. This is the Something beyond what we wanted.

Faithfully,

Lex

Parish Life

Downsize / Declutter Sale to Benefit Project Outreach

St. Thomas is sponsoring a "downsize and declutter" sale in the Great Hall on April 9-10. It is not quite a garage sale and not quite a rummage sale. We need nice, useable household items of all kinds. NO clothing, shoes, or books.

Please bring items to the Great Hall starting at noon on Wednesday, April 7, and all day on April 8. Volunteers who want to help with the sale may sign up on sheets in the Great Hall.

Clean out your cupboards and closets and declutter your life and home. Please join in to make this a success and enjoy the fellowship. All proceeds will benefit Project Outreach.

Questions? Call Kiki Lewis at 425-454-5471 or email her at ljdavid@isomedia.com.

Mission to Seafarers Needs Volunteer Drivers

Every summer for the past five years, the Mission to Seafarers has provided transportation for the crew members of cruise ships calling at the Port of Seattle. During the cruise season, a group of volunteer drivers has run a shuttle service between the cruise terminal and downtown Seattle. Last year we transported more than 6,800 grateful members from all over the world.

To continue this service to crew members, the Mission needs volunteer drivers. The job entails driving one of two 15-passenger vans from Pier 91 by the Magnolia Street Bridge to a drop-off location near Westlake Center. The shuttle service runs on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays beginning the first weekend in May and continuing through the last weekend in September.

Drivers would need to be at the Seattle Seafarers Center on the Duwamish Waterway by 8:15 am to drive a van to Terminal 91, arriving by 8:45 am for the first pick-up. The last pick-up in downtown Seattle is usually at 2:00 pm, as the crew members have to be back on board their ship by 2:30 pm. After your last trip, you would need to return the van to the Seattle Seafarers Center, count the money collected, and lock up. You would usually be finished by 3:30 pm.

Training will be provided sometime in April. No special driver's license is required, but drivers must be at least 25 years old.

If you want to volunteer or have questions, please contact Alison Cole at 425-869-7334 or email her at thecoles.1@gmail.com, who will put you in contact with the driver coordinator.

Good Friday Offering for the Middle East

Every year on Good Friday, pilgrims from all over the world gather to walk along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. Some carry a cross to better understand the nature of the burden Christ bore to deliver us from sin and despair. For 150 years, the Anglican Church has borne the responsibility of sharing the cross of Jesus by proclaiming the gospel throughout the four dioceses of the Middle East. Our Good Friday offering helps the Episcopal Church in the Middle East proclaim the love of Christ.

In her 2010 Good Friday letter, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori writes to the Episcopal churches in America:

> *For almost a century, the Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love, and hope for the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This year's 88th Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to be nourished by a deepened bond with the churches in the region that is so central to our faith. In my time as Presiding Bishop, I have been deeply moved by their stories of the pain that division brings to the lives of all in this Province of the Anglican Communion... This offering expresses our own commitment to walk with the church of Jerusalem and the Middle East as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation, and peace. Through our support of these churches, we are helping to realize God's vision of shalom.*

Please share in the work of the Episcopal Church in the Middle East. Write a check to St. Thomas with Good Friday Offering in the memo line.

Automatic Pledge Payments

As a convenience to members, St. Thomas is happy and able to accept regular pledge payments made through automated "bill payer" tools provided by most banks. Check your on-line banking web site to see if you could take advantage of this useful service, and avoid having to write checks each month. For more information, contact Gerry Gallaher, Business Manager, in the church office.

Project Outreach

Where in the World Is God?

by Tucker Moodey, Project Outreach member

The fairy tale backdrop was a stunning Vancouver landscape. On February 28th, NBC Weekend News anchor Lester Holt commenced the evening broadcast with a recap of the final Olympic medal count, complete with speculation on the heads that would roll on teams that failed to meet the jingoistic ambitions of their politicians.

And in other news, Lester made a smooth transition to the first video footage from Chile, featuring grief-stricken creatures among mountains of rubble wailing the loss of life as they had known it over a few terrifying minutes. In the ubiquitous close-ups, the agony reflected an intensity of pain not seen in the tears of aspiring medalists finishing one click off the podium just moments before. But as Lester summed up the damage, the count in lives and currency had the eerie ring of the Olympic leader board. I was led to compare the statistics on Chile, Haiti, and Indonesia as if to say, "And with an 8.8, Chile takes gold! Do you believe in miracles?"

The made-by-TV world of global pageantry and disaster, complete with toll free number to buy a commemorative tee shirt or make a $10 donation, provides a safe and sanitized way to feel involved and responsive. The sweat, the agony, the squalor, the grace, and the redemption are behind glass as we view the events unfolding between commercials. Our responsibility as Christians takes us on a more intimate journey as we try to faithfully do God's work "up close and personal."

In response to Father Lex's Haiti appeal, our parish contributed over $26,000 through Project Outreach to Episcopal Relief and Development. Through ERD, our faith and actions come together in on-going solidarity with the Diocese of Haiti, our feet on the ground. The funding has been directed by the Diocese to purchase food, construct permanent latrines and water sites, install emergency water purification systems, and procure transportation and medical supplies. Our Haitian brothers and sisters will need sustenance long after the cameras stop rolling. ERD will be hand in hand to provide support, and we can be there too.

Like our Haiti response, St. Thomas' many ministries reflect the constant outpouring of our hearts, souls, bodies, minds, and resources that make our parish a vibrant, engaging crossroads of God's world. As we walk through the wilderness of Lent and prepare to joyfully meet the Risen Lord, reflect on the suffering around us and the emptiness it creates just waiting to be filled with God's generous gifts. Project Outreach has received many local and global grant proposals that remind us of all those in need of Jesus' healing touch delivered through our faithful and believing hands. All organizations are faith based, and many have opportunities for us to become personally involved.

Visit the Project Outreach bulletin board. Talk to Project Outreach committee members about the programs St. Thomas is funding through your generosity. Learn about opportunities to volunteer. And respond to Project Outreach's Easter appeal by making a prayerful gift using the envelope found in the pews. The headlines will superficially blare on to the next triumph or crisis in search of ratings. God's work can be found in the human touch of commitment, compassion, faith, and time. His redemption of the world is the miracle we can believe.

The Sophia Way Seeks Companions

The Sophia Way, a program that helps Eastside women move from homelessness to permanent housing, is looking for women volunteers who would like to be a companion for one of our clients on her journey from life on the street to independence, stability, and wholeness. Each companion spends one to two hours/week with her partner, providing a supportive presence, nonjudgemental ear, and open heart. Before being paired with a partner, companions will attend a one-day experiential training to learn about homelessness and skills needed to be good companion. The first training will be held on Saturday, April 24, 9-4:00 pm at the Sophia Way offices in downtown Bellevue. Suggested donation to cover the cost of the training is $40; lunch included. Contact Claudia Ballheim, 425-398-9829 or cmazzba@comcast.net.

Financial Report

FEBRUARY 2010

	Budget	Actual
Income	$68,913	$57,284
Expense	$82,909	$77,105
YEAR TO DATE		
Income	$234,161	$221,600
Expense	$186,538	$175,201

Matrix

Folly and error
are the matrix
in which the vein of love is hid
and must be mined.

After a loved one's death
remembrance stumbles over rocks of guilt –
requests denied and needs forgotten,
or worse yet shallow caring gestures
on days when mind and heart were elsewhere.

Our lives are littered with the faults
of our humanity,
and only after death
are we released to join the Spirit
and to understand
none of it matters to the ones
who love us.

— Jan Widgery

Adagio

… Jesus came and stood among [the disciples] and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe. Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
John 20:26b-28

Lord, didn't you die at Calvary?
Hear me then: can I trust my eyes to see?

Holy One, may I touch, examine
Wounds dealt by Roman discipline? –

Had it not been your resolve to die,
I'd given my own self to be crucified –

Reaching out, I fall short of where
You bled. Do you hear my inner prayer?

By faith, challenged, I confess:
I, Thomas, am wholly cautious,

But how strange that I, doubting, be
Held by hope of holy certainty.

Take my hand … place it in your side …
Lord! My God, I am satisfied.

— E. L. Ward

Poetry is as necessary to comprehension as science. It is as impossible to live without reverence as it is without joy.

— Henry Beston

Everyday Love

The chapel?
The church?
The garden?
Jesus, where are you?
You are not there anymore
upon the empty chapel cross.
All that is left behind you now,
the crown of thorns,
the blood from your hands,
the intimations
of where your body used to be.
Earthly things abandoned.

Good. I'm glad you are not there,
suffering.
I do not think we were made
for endless suffering
and neither were you.

I close my eyes and in
my open heart
I see you whole once more
in your everyday robes.
The air around you
moves with softness,
words gently spoken,
"I am always with you."
I feel their truth, their warmth,
their comfort.

Together we walk
out the church doors
into the garden
to the waiting bench
where we can sit and see
St. Francis feeding the birds.

Sweet smell of the earth,
birdsong in our ears,
content in the sunlight,
we settle ourselves,
giving over to the garden
delights.

— Laurie Anderson

Thomas

Of all the things I wanted to believe,
I didn't expect this flesh.
It's like a reflex:
Don't touch the unclean places,
The blood, the mud, the shame on our faces.
Don't touch me!

But instead I hear my friend,
My dear, murdered friend,
Inviting me to touch.
You are present without hedge.
Your voice gentle, but with a hard edge,
You have slipped in somehow to stand among us.
"Touch me," you say.
"Why are so you afraid?
Don't you remember the promise I made?"

Of course I remember.
We can only remember the promises broken,
The hopes dashed, the dreams deflated,
The revolutionary zeal now cowed in darkness.

So why, suddenly, this glorious starkness?
How can edges be sharp when my mind is so blurry?
Come touch me! Hurry!
O the mysterious, wonderful physicality of you!
Never leave me again.
Tell me what I must do
To be true to the You who stands among us now.
Show me how, and I will journey to the ends
To tell every mere fleshly being that we are friends:
Physical friends.

Death, a locked door, remains but gives way,
And you are here today.

—*Josh Hosler*

Library Corner

April is National Poetry Month. Browse the volumes of poetry waiting for readers in the book cart. *A Pocket Full of Stars* (children's poetry) and *Ten Poems to Last a Lifetime* are just two of the beautiful collections available from St. Thomas Library.

April Truce

Gently forgiving, in the sun today
earth peels back the skin of winter,
brushes rain-darkened cherry trees with pink,
while daffodils expose their golden throats.
Our thoughtless errors and headstrong abuse,
as well as earth's own violent retribution,
hang for today in watchful April truce.

— *Jan Widgery*

NY Haiku

"It's a boid," he said.
"Not so," said she, "it's a bird."
"Bird, boid, it still choips."

— *Dwight Russell*

Via Dolorosa

Blinding in the noonday sun,
thick limestone walls reflect white light,
hum with heartbeats of the living stones
interred both inside and without—
a shelter, yet a prison.

Rock by rock, layer on layer
of ruins of the past,
pilgrims tread on polished stones
worn smooth by multitudes
who come to pray and
seek redemption promised here.

Few come to buy in the marketplace;
tears wash the narrow streets.
Those who cannot pay their tax
nail shutters on their stalls.
A few stay open
selling Caesar's fruit.

— *Mary Pneuman*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Vestry

Bob Webb, *Senior Warden*
Fred Barkman, *Treasurer*
Jim Blundell, *Chancellor*
Jean Johnson, *Clerk*
Chris Breunig
Margaret Chorlton
Joanne Del Bene
Brian Evison
Rose Magee
Kim Malcolm
Bill McSherry
Bonnie Palevich
Steve Pedersen
Nancy Pitarys
Delphine Stevens

Staff

The Rev. Lex Breckinridge, *Rector*
The Rev. Kathryn Ballinger, *Deacon Associate for Spiritual Direction & Parish Visitor*
The Rev. Stephen W Best, *Associate for Couples & Family Life*
Charles Rus, *Interim Associate for Liturgical Arts*
Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian Formation*
Laura Gregg, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*
Gerry Gallaher, *Business Manager*

The Collect

Shirley E Deffenbaugh, *Editor*
Elizabeth Ward, *Assistant Editor*
Laura Gregg, *Layout and Production Editor*

Deadline: For the May issue, April 12. Please submit copy to Shirley Deffenbaugh, sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net or leave in the drawer marked "Collect" at the church. All articles will be edited. Questions? Please call Shirley at 425-455-4817.

Music & the Arts

Four Fridays at the Seattle Symphony

Does Friday at the symphony interest you? Currently, 27 people from St. Thomas are enjoying Friday afternoon Seattle Symphony concerts at Benaroya Hall. Programs begin at noon and complimentary luxury bus transportation is provided to and from the Eastside. Beginning in September 2010, the symphony will again present four Friday matinees for seniors during the 2010-11 season. Programs will feature these artists:

September 24

- Yefim Bronfman plays Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor
- Brahms: Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90
- Foote: *Francesca da Rimini*

November 5

- Andre Watts plays Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op.73, "Emperor"
- Yannatos: *Ritual Images*
- Debussy: *La mer*

April 22

- Leonard Slatkin conducts Gershwin and Tchaikovsky
- Gershwin: Concerto in F
- Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

May 6

- Vladimir Feltsman plays Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Op. 35
- Haydn: Symphony No. 60 in C major, *Il distratto*
- Honegger: *Pastorale d'été*

Subscriptions are available now. If you would like to join this group, please contact Jean Haehl by phone, 425-454-8526, or by email, jhaehl@comcast.net.

Wanted: A Performing Arts Committee

Alyce Rogers is seeking people with a passion for the performing arts who would enjoy planning and implementing events at St. Thomas to form a Performing Arts Committee. The performing arts offer a wonderful opportunity for outreach to the community and a place to express your own creativity.

Alyce has many dreams, including a dinner theatre. She invites you to become involved – take the lead, plan an event, suggest a performance, create a feast, be a liaison with performing artists – whatever your talents, consider becoming a member of this committee. If you want to talk about these or other ideas, please contact Alyce at 425-646-9550.

Join Us for Lunch and Fashion

On Saturday, May 1 at 11:30 am, St. Thomas will host a luncheon and fashion show to benefit the Overlake Service League, an organization dedicated to helping needy families in Bellevue. Fashions will be from Newport House in Bellevue. Cost is $35 per person

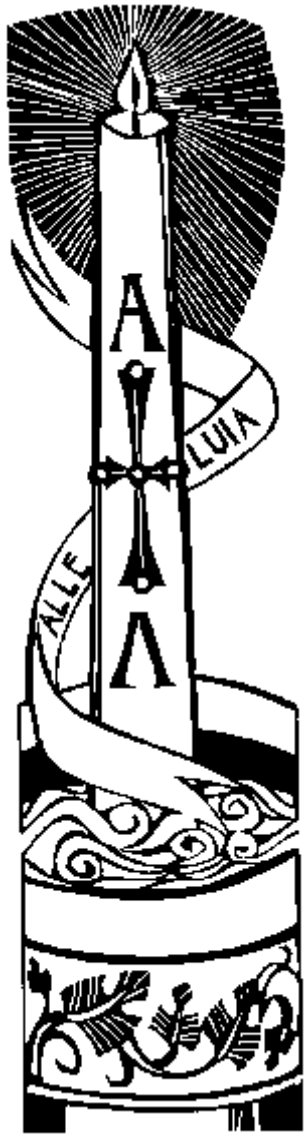
Contact Alyce Rogers at 425-646-9550, or Mary Friedlander at 425-453-7988 for information and tickets.

The Quiet Corner

Easter People

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

We are Easter people – resurrection people on a spiritual journey. But this journey is not for the faint of heart: it requires passion and fortitude. It is to fall in love with the God who lives outside our comfort zone, the God who demands singleness of heart and mind. If we hope life in God's presence is about undemanding serenity and being in the protective arms of safety and comfort, we will be disappointed. Only a passionate heart can break through fears and timidities and launch out into uncharted terrain to experience the extravagant love of God.



God calls us through baptism to undertake this adventurous journey – a journey not merely for mystics and prophets, because God calls *all* of us to be mystics and prophets along that journey – but for all people baptized into the body of Christ. We are not called to mediocrity: we are called to overcome our fear of failure and our desire for certainty and a comfortable path.

The period between Easter and Pentecost is the time of *mystagogia* – a time to delve deeply into the mysteries of our salvation and the meaning of our baptism. It is a time of making deep connections between the imagery and meaning of scripture and our lives through the words and actions of the liturgy that move us into the unfathomable love of God in Christ.

Because we are Easter people, we believe in resurrection – not just the ultimate resurrection at the end of our life, but also the daily resurrections from all the little deaths we encounter and suffer. Resurrection is the very heart of our lives in and with God.

During Lent we took a look at the lives of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. Reading about the lives of those who have gone before us can inspire us to live lives that are not faint-hearted. The saints overcame huge obstacles in their time and culture – among them, corruptness in the church and indifference to the poor, sick, and other marginalized members of society – to institute reforms in the church. Their examples inspire us to return to passionate service to God and to our neighbors.

I have been a spiritual director for many years and have been involved in the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits. The exercises make up a nine-month retreat that follows the liturgical calendar from fall through Pentecost – essentially a school for prayer and discernment. I have seen the radical changes these exercises can make in a person's life by deepening their relationship with God and renewing their passion for their spiritual journey.

I have said the following St. Ignatius prayer for 30 years, and it is my desire to be able to pray it with my whole heart:

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding
and my entire will,
all I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
That is enough for me.

— St. Ignatius Loyola

in this issue:

From the Rector, p. 1
Parish Life, p. 2
Project Outreach, p. 3
April Poetry, pp. 4–5
Music and the Arts, p. 6
The Quiet Corner, p. 7

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 124
Medina, WA 98039

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Thomas Church
Medina, Washington

Non-Profit Org.
U.S.Postage
PAID
Medina, WA 98039
Permit No. 1