

## 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

### May 8

9:00 am Spring Clean-up  
(see page 2 for details)

5:00 pm Newcomer Wine &  
Cheese Party (Great Hall)

### May 11

6:00 pm El Salvador Team Overnight  
(Great Hall)

### May 15

8:00 am Men's Breakfast (Great Hall)

10:00 am Baptismal Preparation Class  
(Great Hall)

### May 16

10:15 am Newcomer Welcome (Church)

11:45 am Young Adults Fellowship  
(Parkside Room)

### May 22

11:00 am Seasonal Confirmation  
(Saint Mark's Cathedral)

### May 23

The Day of Pentecost

THE

# COLLECT

May 2010

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

425.454.9541 • www.stthomasmedina.org

## From the Rector: Finding Hope in Suffering

by the Reverend Lex Breckinridge

*Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

Romans 5: 1-5

Romans 5:1-5 is the epistle reading for Trinity Sunday, which will be observed on May 30 this year. The life and ministry of St. Paul form the theme of this issue of *The Collect*, and I thought we might reflect for a moment on Paul's observation on the usefulness of suffering in character formation. I readily acknowledge that on its face it seems strange to think of suffering or struggle as "useful" in any way at all. Aren't these to be avoided at all costs? Shouldn't we always be seeking happiness and contentment? It's our birthright after all – you know, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" and all that.

Paul's deep insight, however, is that when our pursuit of happiness consists primarily in the avoidance or denial of the reality of struggle and pain, we lose an opportunity. Paul's formula for hope describes what he has learned from his own pain,

whether from the rejection and conflict he experienced from the Church in Corinth, or from his many imprisonments, or from his unnamed "thorn in the flesh" that seems to constantly have troubled him. If we allow our suffering or our struggles in life to be teachers of patience and courage, the result will be "hope." And hope, Paul writes, happens because "we know all things work together for good for those who love God" (Rom. 8:28), even bad things like suffering and pain.



Hope isn't something we work out. It's a spiritual reality that we take in. "And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom. 5:5). Our faith, which is another way of describing our trust

(continued on page 2)

## Parish Life

in God's grace freely poured out upon us, is the substance of hope. If this sounds familiar, it is perhaps because it reminds us of Paul's observation to the Corinthians that "faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13). These three "theological virtues" are a reminder, Paul says, that we can find hope in every circumstance in life, even the most tragic. Brother David Steindl-Rast observes that "there is grace in every package, no matter how ugly the wrapping."

Our faith, then, is not a matter of earning God's love but in discovering God's faithfulness in loving us. More often than not, that grace will be discovered, and our character grown and strengthened, as we allow suffering to transform us through patient endurance. Our model in this, as in all things, is the Lord Jesus himself, whose patient endurance of his own suffering was redeemed for all time by God in the power of the Resurrection. If that doesn't give us firm ground on which to find hope amidst our own suffering, it's hard to imagine what might. So take heart, we hear Paul saying to us, God is making a new thing in each of our lives, using our struggle and our pain as the rich fertilizer. Nothing could be more hopeful.

Faithfully,



### Spring Clean-Up Set for May 8

Every spring we get together for one day to work on those little things that keep our fine buildings and campus in top shape while at the same time forestalling more expensive repairs through simple routine annual maintenance.

On Saturday, May 8 at 9:00 am, we will gather to do the painting, clipping, carpentry, and other tasks that keep the church and Great Hall lovely places to gather and to worship. We usually finish by noon and enjoy lunch, which will be provided.

We welcome everyone who wants to stop by with gloves and clippers, or hammer and nails, or paint brush, and put in some time on a project they enjoy. Just pitching in for a few hours of light work is all it takes to keep our marvelous church the beautiful attraction that we enjoy so much. Many hands make light work.

To volunteer your special talents, please contact one of the members of the Property Committee: Donn Foreman at 425-445-3829 (c) or Fred Pneuman at 425-454-2956 (h).

### Downsize & Declutter Sale Benefits Many

More than \$3,100 was raised by the Downsize & Declutter Sale held at St. Thomas April 9–10. These funds will be used for Project Outreach grants this Spring.

Unsold household items were directed to several worthy groups. Volunteers from The Sophia Way collected several boxes of bedding, towels, and dishware for women who have travelled through their facility and are now setting up apartments. The Daughters of the American Revolution will distribute numerous toys to children receiving treatment at Children's Hospital; in addition, they will send unsold Beanie Babies to American soldiers in Iraq to present to Iraqi children. Virginia Yopez will sell numerous items at a garage sale, thus aiding her transition away from her work at St. Thomas. Remaining unsold items were collected by the Salvation Army to benefit their diverse causes. In short, the outreach from the sale extended far beyond the dollars contributed to Project Outreach.

Thanks to all parishioners who donated innumerable goods and countless hours to the sale. And, especially, thank you to Kiki Lewis for her tireless dedication in leading this valuable endeavor.

### Forum Schedule

Sunday Forums are held each week in the Great Hall from 9:15 to 10:00 am.

May 9: Parish Life Center Update: Mark Nelson explains the latest developments in the revitalization of our physical facilities at St. Thomas.

May 16: Diocesan Committee on Alcohol & Substance Abuse (CASA): We host Ruth Adams, who serves on this committee, and who will address the problems created when seniors become overly dependent on alcohol and prescription drugs.

May 23: Pentecost Sunday. No Forum.

May 30: Celtic Prayer: Tom Cashman presents the various forms of prayer practiced among the ancient Christian Celts. What can we learn from them to apply to our own prayer lives?

---

# Project Outreach

## We Are All Members of Project Outreach

by Susan Shevlin, Co-Chair, Project Outreach Steering Committee

Did you know that as a member of St. Thomas, you are also a member of Project Outreach? The Bylaws for Project Outreach affirm this sometimes unknown or misunderstood fact. They state:

### *Article II. Membership*

*The membership of Project Outreach shall consist of all members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The members shall accomplish the purposes of Project Outreach under the directions of a Steering Committee.*

At the Steering Committee's March meeting, Kathy Smith, Committee Archivist, emphasized that Project Outreach was specifically designed so that all parish members may support its mission. And what is that mission? The Bylaws explain:

### *Article I. Purpose*

*The purpose of Project Outreach is to provide a channel for funds and volunteer resources to help people beyond the parish; to identify unmet needs as they arise and to respond with financial assistance and service within the framework of the Episcopal heritage.*

In the past year, 28 organizations have received funds from grants and gifts flowing through Project Outreach. Some recipients are located in our surrounding community, such as the First Avenue Service Center and The Sophia Way. Other recipients, including Episcopal Relief & Development and the Buguruni Anglican Health Care Center, represent needs beyond our region. St. Thomas volunteers have served many of the organizations supported by Project Outreach (one notable example is La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección).

As a member of Project Outreach, how would you like to see our funds used? Perhaps you know an organization that would benefit from a grant. Perhaps you are aware of an organization beyond our parish that could be the recipient of not only our funds but also our time and talents. One example of a need successfully met in the last several years is the hundreds of Thanksgiving meals that St. Thomas has funded, prepared, and delivered. Our time, treasure and talents have all flowed to this ministry. Are there other ways we can serve together?

Please do contact members of the Project Outreach Steering Committee with your ideas. Your co-chairs are Leslie Brewer ([lesliebrewer@msn.com](mailto:lesliebrewer@msn.com)) and I ([seshevlin@comcast.net](mailto:seshevlin@comcast.net)). Other committee members include your rector, Lex Breckinridge, and other representatives you have elected: Patrick Bannon, Ann Casey, Alison Cole, Tonya Farr, Kristen McSherry, Carole Myers, Kathy Smith, Curt Young, and Tucker Moodey. Your Vestry representative to Project Outreach is Delphine Stevens.

## Call for Communication Pros

We are seeking people with communications skills who would be willing to assist with projects on an as-needed basis. If you are a graphic artist, writer, layout designer, or PR person, we would like to include you in a database of resource people who could help with special communications projects. To volunteer, please contact: Alice Reid, 425-898-7590 or [seattlealice@gmail.com](mailto:seattlealice@gmail.com); or Shirley Deffenbaugh, 425-455-4817 or [sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net).

---

## Financial Report

MARCH 2010

	Budget	Actual
Income	\$61,813	\$56,645
Expense	\$92,707	\$88,572

YEAR TO DATE

Income	\$290,974	\$278,245
Expense	\$278,945	\$263,772

---

# Vestry Views

## The Life of Saint Paul

by Bob Webb, Senior Warden

Learning more about the life of St. Paul has been an amazing discovery of details previously unknown to me. This article is an overview of his early life, his missionary trips, and his few years after returning to Rome.

### Early Life (c. AD 10–37)

Saul of Tarsus was a Greek-speaking Jew who studied with a prominent rabbi in Jerusalem and became a Pharisee. His early work was to suppress a Jewish sect called “**The Word,**” who followed a young radical named Jesus. On his way to Damascus in AD 37 to root out radicals there, he suddenly saw a blinding light and a voice spoke to him, saying, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? I am Jesus.” Friends who were with him didn’t see the blinding light. In Damascus, rather than routing out heretic Jews, Saul was baptized by the Christians and practiced his new faith for the next ten years, enduring great persecution. He met several disciples of Jesus and converted many Jews during this time. He narrowly escaped from Damascus over a wall in a basket.

### Missions (c. AD 45-58)

Saul became Christianity’s first missionary, traveling all over the western world with the new name *Paul*. In the late 40s, Paul began the extensive missionary journeys that are recorded in his many letters to new churches in western Turkey, Greece, and Italy; then, about 40 years later, Luke wrote about Paul in the Acts of the Apostles. Throughout all of his multi-year trips, Paul endured extensive persecution, imprisonment, and the threat of death. During these years, he also converted many people, most of whom were Gentiles (after frequently failing with his fellow Jews).

### First Trip (c. AD 45-47)

His first trip covered 1,500 miles – 600 by land, 900 by sea – all at about 3 miles per hour. He traveled through central Turkey. After leaving Antioch, he went to Cyprus by ship, then into Turkey at Attalia (currently Antalya) and visited Perge, Antioch in Pisidia, Lystra, and many other places.

### Second Journey (c. AD 51-54)

Paul’s second journey was longer – 3,100 miles, traveling 2,150 by land, 950 by sea. He again went to Turkey, revisited some of the previous Turkish destinations, and then went west to Greece. Paul returned home by way of Ephesus in Turkey, then by sea to Caesarea and

Antioch. He stayed in Corinth for one and one-half years; from there he wrote his first letters, which were sent back to Thessalonica where the church was having “**growing pains.**” Barnabus, Silas, Timothy, Aquila, and Priscilla were with him on parts of this journey.

### Third Trip (c. AD 54-58)

The third trip was about 2,125 miles – 850 by land, 1275 by sea – and is the longest (four years). He initially went to Galatia (Turkey) and then back to Ephesus where he stayed for three years and preached in the church he had established. He met the disciples of John the Baptist and taught in the much larger amphitheater (holds about 5,000 people). Many people in Asia Minor heard his words. Then he returned to Macedonia, twice to Corinth where he wrote to the Romans, and to Achaia in southern Greece. On the way home, in Troas, Paul raised from the dead a boy who had fallen out a window. He went home by sea, visiting most of the Greek Islands and Crete again, and returned to Jerusalem.

### One-Way Trip to Rome (AD 60)

The Romans imprisoned Paul in Jerusalem for two years. Paul appealed to Caesar, his right as a Roman citizen. Then, as a prisoner, he was taken by ship to Rome, a journey of 1,900 miles. Our first missionary then spent two years under house arrest (he paid rent for the house) in Rome where he wrote to the Ephesians, the Philippians, the Colossians, and Philemon. He was acquitted and released by Nero in AD 63 and, based on clues in his letters, some scholars believe he continued to write and travel. He wrote Hebrews, Titus, and First and Second Timothy, his last letter. He traveled to Crete, Colossae, Philippi, Corinth, and the island Miletus on the west coast of Turkey, and maybe even Spain. We think Paul was martyred around AD 67. The site and circumstances are unknown.

### What Did Paul Teach?

The short answer – everything the Christian church stands for. He gave the entire western world, the Roman Empire (largest in western history), many of Jesus’ teachings. **This brief history lesson has gone on too long. Paul’s teachings would go on much longer; they fill the most important book in human history.**

[Sources: [www.matthewmcgee.org/paultime.html](http://www.matthewmcgee.org/paultime.html);  
[www.biblestudy.org/maps/paul-to-rome-map.html](http://www.biblestudy.org/maps/paul-to-rome-map.html);  
<http://www.bible-history.com/smiths/P/Paul/>]

---

## Meet Mark Hugo

Sexton/Facilities Manager



Mark Hugo is a Seattle-area native who grew up in Des Moines. His first paying job at the age of 15 was Sexton at St. Philomena Roman Catholic

Church there. He has since served as a volunteer Sexton for St. Thomas RC Church in Tukwila and Our Lady of Lourdes RC in Boulevard Park.

Mark brings more than 10 years of professional experience as a facilities manager. He knows plumbing, wiring, heating, carpentry, and landscaping, to name just a few of his **areas of expertise**. You'll find him well-organized, enthusiastic, and professional. All this and he makes coffee, too. He loves to garden, fish, hike, walk, take photographs, travel and explore new towns. His favorite hobby, however, is making leaf castings—especially from big-leaf maple. He recently completed a 4-foot square casting of a rhubarb leaf. **We're looking forward to seeing** some of his work.

He is married and the father of two grown daughters, age 27 and 25, and grandfather to one grandson. When he is not on the grounds **weeding or trimming hedges** ('tis the season), he can be found in the office next to Steve Best. Please stop by during the week between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm to welcome him to the St. Thomas community.

## Book Notes

### Seeking Saint Paul: Library Resources

If you are interested in learning more about Saint Paul, check the St. Thomas library. This brief list considers only a few of the titles available (call numbers in parentheses).

*A Feminist Introduction to Paul* by Sandra Hack Polaski (207 POL).

**“Sandra Hack Polaski encourages a critical appreciation of Paul and his writings that does not require a choice between commitment to the scriptures and integrity as a modern feminist. She reads and reinterprets overlooked, neglected, misintegrated, or differently interpreted Pauline texts, making visible the invisible and challenging the accepted readings. Polaski traces the theological trajectories rising from Paul’s thought toward their logical end – past Paul’s culture into God’s new creation in Jesus Christ. Polaski sees Paul’s own struggles to live out his calling as an example of how Christian women today must live out their own callings in the struggles of specific situations and particular communities.”**

Sandra Hack Polaski is associate professor of New Testament at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

*Paul: A Novel* by Walter Wangerin Jr. (F WAN).

**“Master storyteller Walter Wangerin Jr. sweeps you into the life and times of the man who brought Christianity to the world. Here is Paul the person, living and complex, viewed through the eyes of his contemporaries. His rich interaction and brilliant dialogue with friends and foes, leaders and slaves, Jews and Greeks, create a drama – swift, intense, historical. In vibrant pigments of the imagination and narrated by ten distinct historical figures, Wangerin paints a moving, multifaceted portrait of the fiery character whose Gospel message sundered cultural trappings to ignite a faith that would light the ages.”**

Walter Wangerin Jr. first came to prominence as the award-winning author of *The Book of the Dun Cow*. He holds the Jochum Chair at Valparaiso University, where he is writer-in-residence.

*Paul for a New Day* by Robin Scroggs (230 SCR).

**“Paul is too often seen by the popular mind as an abstract, mythological theologian who says too much about the future and not enough about the present. Even within professional exegetical circles the emphasis is usually upon future hope. This book stresses the other side.**

Without denying the importance of the future and without simplistically assuming all is right in the church, Robin Scroggs emphasizes and celebrates the affirmations Paul makes about the believer’s eschatological life in the *present* as fulfillment of God’s original intent in creation.

Salvation is not a future escape from human existence: it is the present result of the liberation power from God which transforms persons into authentic human beings.”

Robin Scroggs is Professor of New Testament at Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

# 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*  
Mark Hugo, *Sexton*

## The Collect

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

Deadline: For the June issue, May 10.  
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.

## Christian Formation

### And the "Most Improved Apostle" Award Goes to ...

by Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian Formation*

My favorite radio show is "Wait ... Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" on NPR. Recently I caught a glaring error in the show. They were talking about the Last Supper, and one of the panelists made a joke about something Paul may have said to Jesus that night. Did you catch that? Paul at the Last Supper? This guy doesn't know his New Testament. Do you?

But it occurred to me that someone slightly out of the loop could certainly be forgiven for assuming that Paul was at the Last Supper. After all, when you think of Jesus' most famous followers, don't the names Peter and Paul rise to the surface?

Peter is better known for his time with Jesus than for his accomplishments later in life, which is too bad, because these later works are important and are outlined in glorious detail in the Acts of the Apostles. Peter may deserve the "Most Improved Apostle" award for his lifelong transition from simple fisherman to world traveler, from run-of-the-mill Galilean Jew to one who welcomed and embraced Gentiles into the Christian family, and from loudmouth oaf to humble servant whose life ended in crucifixion.



But Paul is better known for his later works than for his earlier ones, and the reason is simple: Paul wasn't Paul until his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. And that's what really sets Paul apart from his contemporaries. Despite the fact that he never actually met the man Jesus, Paul is the most famous evangelist in the Bible. Maybe the award should go to Paul, who began by persecuting and killing Christians and ended by likewise being persecuted and killed (according to Christian tradition) for his Christian faith.

Peter and Paul were both martyrs. They both came a long way. But today, as I write this, Paul is my hero. And that's because he had the audacity – and the humility – to align himself with the people who had actually walked the earth with Jesus, not just heard about him afterward.

*"Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe."*

1 Cor. 15: 8-11

Can we find in ourselves the audacity and humility to believe that we, also, are apostles? Can we understand ourselves to be called by God to spread the Gospel throughout the world, just as if we had walked the dusty road with Jesus, eaten meals with him in Palestinian homes, and witnessed his miraculous healings? No matter who you are or where you find yourself on the journey of faith, God is calling you to become like Paul: a confident child of God and daring truth-teller, dedicated to loving others as Jesus loves you.

---

# The Quiet Corner

## Wally Update

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

For those who have pets, for those who once had them, and for those who are glad they never had one, this is a progress report on Wally, our nine-month-old Airedale. He's big now, and it is easy to forget that he is still a puppy and to expect more of him. Yet, there is that bouncy gait and silly puppy expression.

Wally has learned to swim, once at Camano Island and a second time at the off-leash park in Edmonds. He fearlessly plunged in – along with all the labs and retrievers – after sticks and tennis balls, and then he chased the other dogs along the beach. The day was cold, blustery, and spitting rain. The water was rough and cold as ever. Dog owners, bundled in winter gear, were exchanging dog names and talking dog stuff. I chatted with an English lady originally from Devon. Her Lab was a rescue dog and could hold four tennis balls in his mouth at once.

What does any of this have to do with the joy of Easter season? A lot, I think. **The created world is a splendid and astonishing expression of God's love for us and His desire to be with us and communicate Himself to us.** He continues to create and is the life-force of all creatures great and small. Through eons, God gives each order of creation what is necessary to exist, and all that exists is sustained by the flame of God's love summoning order out of chaos. God works busily in all creation. God is so full of life and so eager to share it.

We often tend to think about God's work in terms of sin and redemption. But this paradigm leads to an error in our spirituality. We tend to think and act as if we initiate the relationship between God and ourselves. We think it was our sin that came first.

But a broader paradigm begins with the passionate love of God and continues in creation and in salvation. *God's love initiated our relationship with Him.* Then there was the tragic fall that ended with us at the foot of the cross. In our narcissism, we focus on what our sins did to Jesus rather than Jesus defeating sin. Jesus *took the initiative* to embrace all human darkness to make possible the salvation He intended for humans. Now, during this Easter season, we can experience the joy of Jesus in His victory over sin and death. Now His joy becomes ours, and we can share it with all people.

**Christ's resurrection lies beyond our wildest dreams. God gives us all good gifts, including the capability to be, ourselves, gifts to the world – to love as He loves.** God is in us and in every created being. God works busily to bring salvation to all creation, sharing His divine gifts and His very Self. Jesus Christ is our consolation; in him our joy is complete. We accept these graces and **give ourselves to God and to His longing in us to live for love.** Saying "yes" to God is joy – not the flashy kind, not the joy of relief, but joy rising from our core. The God of life dwells in us. Alleluia!



---

in this  
issue:

From the Rector, p. 1  
Parish Life, p. 2  
Project Outreach, p.3

Vestry Views, p. 4  
Meet Mark Hugo, p. 5  
Book Notes, p. 5

Christian Formation, p. 6  
The Quiet Corner, p. 7

---

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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