

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)

Calendar

July 1–31

Hosting Congregations for the Homeless

July 5

Office closed in observance of
Independence Day

July 7–16

El Salvador Pilgrimage

July 17

All-Parish Golf Event

July 18

Mass on the Grass, 9:30 am,
in Medina Park, followed by
All-Parish Picnic

July 26–30

Vacation Bible Camp

August 1

Vacation Bible Camp BBQ

August 6

Marymoor Park Velodrome Bike Races

August 27–29

Art Show

August 31

Baseball Outing

Mariners vs. Angels

THE

COLLECT

July 2010

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

425.454.9541 • www.stthomasmedina.org

From the Rector: Freedom

by the Reverend Lex Breckinridge

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

—Galatians 5:13

It's the time of the year when we celebrate freedom. We'll watch fireworks on the Fourth of July (I have it on good authority that summer in the Puget Sound area actually begins on the 5th of July. I'll believe it when I see it!). We'll be reminded of the courage and vision of the Founding Fathers, the majesty of the Declaration of Independence, and the expansiveness of the Constitution. Now I think that many of the Founders were persons of genius, but I don't want to be overly sentimental about them either. Many of them, including the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, were also slaveholders. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" were not for everyone, it seems.

Freedom in Christ is an entirely different matter. In his letter to the Galatians, which we have been reading for the last several Sundays, Paul reminds us that Christ has called us *all to freedom*. "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Our response to this freedom is not immature self-indulgence or the exploitation of others. It is to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our response to freedom in Christ will be a bounded life in which the indwelling Christ tempers our

impulses to act out or engage in self-indulgent behavior or to inflate our own egos at the expense of others.

A dramatic representation of this freedom in Christ is found in the baptismal font of Belmont Abbey College, a small Franciscan school in North Carolina. When the monks were first building the abbey, they found a large granite stone that stood at the intersection of two roads. Curious about this unusual stone, they found that in the early 19th century, men, women, and children would stand atop the stone to be sold into slavery. The monks took the stone and hollowed out a bowl at the top. They brought it into the chapel to be used as a baptismal font and engraved these words upon it:

Upon this rock, men once were sold into slavery. Now upon this rock, through the waters of baptism, men become free children of God.

As we celebrate our political freedom this Fourth of July, may we also contemplate that perfect freedom extended to *every* human being in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. And may we use that freedom in loving service to others.

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithfully,



Parish Life

A Note from Danielle

by Danielle Smoot, Childcare Coordinator

Thank you to Josh Hosler and all the volunteers in the childcare room for working together to cover my absence. Thank you to everyone in the church who brought dinners and supported me during my recuperation. I truly am thankful and blessed to be a part of an incredible community.

Come check out the remodel in the childcare room. Thank you to Rachael Best, Jannie Best and Logan Smoot for all your hard work for helping revamp the childcare room.

I'm not sure if we had more paint on the walls or our clothes when we finished painting –we have made a blue wall for the boys and girls to draw on and express their creativity.

We are excited to show parish members and guests our new, remodeled childcare room. We are open during the 10:15am service every Sunday. I look forward to seeing you all.

Collect Schedule

The Collect will resume publication in September (no August issue). The next deadline is August 16; the theme is Mary and Martha.

Thanks to everyone who contributes to this publication: the writers, staff, clergy, editorial assistants, ministry leaders, and the mailing crew. Your diligent efforts are greatly appreciated.

St. Thomas Summer Fellowship Events

The Fellowship Committee is planning on sponsoring several fellowship events and activities this summer. Mark your calendars and check the fellowship table in the Great Hall. There will be sign-up sheets for several of the events.

July

Fellowship Weekend – July 17 and 18. As many of you will remember, last year was the inaugural year of fellowship weekend and it was great family fun, including the golf event, the mass on the grass, and the all parish picnic.

All Parish Golf Event – July 17. Larry Loranger is once again putting together a **golf outing designed to include parishioners of all skill levels (or even “no-skill” level)**. Sign-up sheets will be at the fellowship table in the Great Hall and Larry will be there to answer questions. We expect this year to be as enjoyable as last year.

Mass on the Grass – July 18. The staff and worship ministries will once again provide us with a casual, outdoor service in Medina Park across the street from the church. Our neighbors in the park will be encouraged to attend, and **Charles Rus will provide wonderful informal music as he did last year. We'll have one service on that Sunday at 9:30 am.** If you want to help with setting up the altar, seating, etc., contact Jan Wang.

Parish Picnic – July 18. This was wonderful family fun last year and we expect it to be the same this year. After the service there will be food – hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, etc. – plus a variety of beverages. The Keith Highlanders Pipers and Dancers will perform, and there will be games for the kids. **The picnic will follow the service. If you'd like to help with set-up, barbecuing, or supervising kids' games, please contact Jan Wang.**



Logan Smoot paints the walls in the childcare room.

Music & the Arts

Charles Rus Organ Concert on August 8

Charles Rus, our Interim Associate for Liturgical Arts, will present an organ concert on St. Thomas' famous, beautiful Metzler organ on Sunday evening, August 8, at 7:00 pm. The program will include works of J. S. Bach, Steve Reich, John Adams, and Philip Glass. The music of these three American contemporary composers is rarely heard in organ concerts, but their music is perfect for the church as it can invoke deep meditative states for those inclined to **“let go” into the music.** Suggested donation \$15.

July Fellowship Events (continued)

Nature Hike – Date TBD. A few years ago, a group of parishioners would periodically go on organized nature hikes on Saturday mornings during the summer.

We'd like to resurrect this activity. An announcement will be made in church when details of date, time and place are determined. And check the fellowship table in the Great Hall for the sign-up sheet.

August

Marymoor Park Velodrome Bike Races – August 6. Have you ever wondered what a Madison is, who Lance Armstrong is, what the Marymoor crawl is, or if racing bikes really have no brakes? Well, come

to the races and enjoy the action. We'll picnic beforehand, hear great explanations of track racing, see kids begin their career (maybe a future Lance), and enjoy the evening. Bring kids if you have them. Bring grandparents if you have them. Fun for all ages. Races start at 7:00 pm, picnicking at 6:00 pm. Rain date is August 13. Contact Nancy Pitarys for more details 415-635-1191 or npitarys@comcast.net. Sign-up sheets will be at the fellowship table in the Great Hall.



Mass on the Grass in 2009

Mariners Baseball vs. the Angels – August 31.

It's been several years since St. Thomas parishioners have attended a Mariner's game as a group – so, we're organizing one this year. This is for all ages – grandparents, parents and kids. Let's go to a ballgame together! Sign-up sheet at the fellowship table in the Great Hall.

Family Mini-Golf Outing – Date TBD. Willows Run in Redmond has a wonderful mini-golf course that's great for family fun. Here's an opportunity for a multi-generational entertainment activity – granddad and grandma included. We are thinking of an early evening event during the week, with a picnic beforehand. Interested? If you have questions, check with Patrick Bannon. Sign up at the fellowship table in the Great Hall.

Other Fellowship Opportunities. You might want to attend the Bible Camp BBQ – August 1, after the 10:15 service. Check with Josh Hosler. Also, watch for announcements for the Art Show - August 27, 28 and 29. Check with Laurie Anderson or Bridget Ashley.

September

Sounders Soccer vs. Salt Lake – September 9. Save the date! Since soccer has become so popular, we thought we'd attend a game as a group. For many of us, it will be a first-time experience. Check the fellowship table in the Great Hall for the sign-up sheet.

Also, mark your calendars for September 12 – the Church Program Year Kick-Off Sunday.

If you have ideas for other fellowship events, please contact Anne Rogers or Peter Pitarys. We look forward to seeing many of you at these summer fellowship events.



Scary picnic cookie

Taste & See

Pride and Penitence

by Sally Hayman

Early Good Friday morning, we stood in a crowd outside the Cathedral in Seville, intently watching the gate to the courtyard. There, the flickering light of candles seen in the darkness behind the door. Then, here She comes. A distinct clacking sound of the knocker or *llamador*, and the *pasos* is raised, the silver plated columns holding the canopy shuddering slightly, and then *Nuestra Señora de la Soledad* moves forward. As She comes out from the courtyard to the plaza the brass band strikes up a short blast of triumphant music. Incense mingles with the scent of orange blossoms. A woman next to me crosses herself and then goes on her way. We stay a few minutes to watch the following cortege of penitents carrying wooden crosses and then go in search of breakfast.

My 70th birthday in 2010 fell on Easter, and I wanted to celebrate it in a place that takes Easter seriously. Hotel rates in Seville double during *Semana Santa*, and reservations must be made way in advance. But this milestone of maturity seemed to call for penitence.

Penitential processions take place all over Spain, and also in Sicily, but the Holy Week processions in Seville are on a grand scale. There were 64 processions throughout the week listed in the program put out by the radio station and the *fundacion Cruzcampo* (a beer manufacturer). They begin on the Friday before Palm Sunday, and on that day alone 1,720 penitents marched the streets. By Holy Thursday, the number of marchers plus *costelleros* has swelled to 14,525.

Along the stated routes, the procession picks up the flavor of the neighborhood. As one passed in front of our hotel, a man stepped out on a balcony, and sang a *saeta*, an improvised lament or prayer termed an

“arrow.” No one clapped, and he bowed, crossed himself after his gift, and then retreated. In the Triana neighborhood, across the river, the narrow streets were packed with people, and every balcony was loaded with watchers. We watched as the *costelleros* performed turns and backward steps with their *pasos*.

Each procession is organized by a brotherhood, and consists of *nazarenos*, from 300-1,200 marchers, wearing the distinctive pointy hat or *capirota*, and carrying two or three *pasos* or wooden images. One will be a sculp-



A Semana Santa float in Seville, Spain

ture of Jesus on the cross, one a scene of the passion with many figures, and one will always be the Virgin. Some of the oldest images were carved in the 17th century, and some are modern masterpieces. The floats of Christ are often gilded, and those of the Virgin are silver plated. She is always crowned and dressed in rich embroidery and jewels, surrounded by fresh flowers and banks of candles. Sometimes a tear runs down her beautifully carved face.

The floats, which usually weigh more than a metric ton, are carried on the backs and necks of the *costelleros*, who remain hidden under the float. Depending on the weight, there will be from 30 to 48 burly men in undershirts with towels around their necks who transport the *pasos* on journeys that can last as long as 14 hours from parish church to the cathedral and back. When they emerge from under their precious burden to change teams, they are sweaty and joyful. They have trained for this honor all year.

The pointy hats may remind some Americans of the Klu Klux Klan, or Goya's engravings of the Inquisition. The cap was, in fact, worn by heretics condemned to death by the Spanish Inquisition. It was also worn by flagellants, a custom banned in 1777. But its adaptation by the Klu Klux Klan is an ironic anachronism, as the Klan is anti-Catholic. Today, the wearers of the *capirotes* and robes are called “*nazarenos*” to represent the people of Nazareth. The penitents, who carry crosses and are often barefooted, do not wear the pointy hat.

The costume renders the *nazarenos* totally anonymous except for the insignia and colors of the individual brotherhood. However, we could see, just from looking at the hands carrying the long tall candles, that some were women, and some were children. Our little booklet, as indispensable as a train schedule, explained that some groups were all gypsies, some all black, some pottery makers, all from various parishes in the city. Some perform social services during the year.

The crowds are part of the spectacle. Tourists are in a minority, and postcards and souvenirs are not on sale. Most of the people who line the streets are young families. In a re-

Project Outreach

Listening with Our Hearts

by Tonya Farr, Project Outreach Steering Committee Member

served seating area near the cathedral, there was a corner crammed with strollers. Exquisitely dressed children played their own games, until it was **time to be lifted on someone's shoulder** to see the *pasos*. Spanish children enjoy lollipops in the shape of penitents, and there are even toddler costumes to wear to the processions. Sellers of colorful bunches of balloons followed the final penitents.

On Holy Thursday, we made our way to the church of San Salvadore, passing shops of colorful polka dot fiesta dresses closed for the day. The square was filled with women elegant in black with mantillas and high combs. With men in dark suits and ties, they filed into the church to see some of the rich *pasos* decorated with orchids and roses before they were carried out of the church. Afterwards they mingled on the square, sipping beer or sherry. In Seville there is still pride in penitence.

It is impossible to follow all the processions night and day during the week, but we went to bed knowing that somewhere penitents were walking, sometimes barefoot, while we slept. We got up early Easter morning fearing that it would be hard to get a seat in the largest cathedral in Europe. Actually it was not crowded. The clergy drifted into the choir, and sang matins while we waited for the service to begin.

Yes, Easter was an anti-climax. The passion had taken place in the streets. The resurrection, it seemed, would be celebrated with the Feria, with flouncy dresses, flamenco dancing, and fine horsemanship.

[Editor's note: Taste & See is an occasional column run in the Collect in which contributors review travels, books, and movies, or explore other joyful life experiences.]

The Steering Committee for Project Outreach had a difficult challenge this month. We had received over a dozen grant requests from very worthy organizations. Their total requests were triple the amount we had to spend. How did we fairly evaluate each request and reach a reasonable conclusion? We opened our hearts, we prayed, and we listened.

Each Steering Committee member researched one or two of the requests in-depth. **We met with the organizations' representatives and we asked many questions.** We presented a detailed evaluation and recommendation centering on the ability of each organization to answer these questions: Is the project inspired by principles of faith? Does the project offer opportunities for parishioners to become personally involved (time/talent)? Will the contribution make a significant difference? Is St. Thomas enthusiastic about the cause and/or organization? **Does the organization "teach people to fish" or just give them "fish?"** Is the organization managed well and does it spend most of its funds on its mission, not on operating or fundraising expenses?

After hearing all of the presentations, we had time to reflect and consider how to allocate the \$14,500 available. Amazingly, we all prioritized the same top six grant requests: Congregations for the Homeless (\$3,500), The Sophia Way (\$3,000), Washington Women in Need (\$1,500), Congregations for Kids (\$1,000), Mission to Seafarers (\$1,500), Episcopal Home for Children (\$2,000), and Arab Episcopal School for the Integration of the Blind (\$2,000). These organizations represent a balance of helping women, men, and children; foreign and domestic; the Eastside and greater Puget Sound.

Though our financial support was limited, we know the talents at St. Thomas are not. The Steering Committee is posting a list of volunteer opportunities on the **Project Outreach bulletin board across from Father Steve's office.** The volunteer opportunities are extremely varied, so a perfect match likely exists for you. Please stop and review the ways you can help, or see Susan Shevlin or Leslie Brewer, co-chairs.

Financial Report

MAY 2010

	Budget	Actual
Income	\$70,715	\$66,766
Expense	\$78,296	\$76,871

YEAR TO DATE

Income	\$436,035	\$424,412
Expense	\$437,397	\$424,805

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Vestry

Bob Webb, *Senior Warden*
Margaret Chorlton, *Junior Warden*
Fred Barkman, *Treasurer*
Jim Blundell, *Chancellor*
Jean Johnson, *Clerk*
Chris Breunig
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, *Associate for Liturgical Arts*
Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian Formation*
Laura Gregg, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*
Gerry Gallaher, *Business Manager*
Doug Anderson, *Facilities Manager*

The Collect

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

Deadline: For the September issue,
August 16 (no publication in August)
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

Teenage Giggles in Heart of Hebrew Scriptures

by Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian Formation*

I'll never forget the first time I came across the *Song of Solomon* (a/k/a *Song of Songs*). I was a teenager – and what better time to encounter a book of the Bible that's so full of raging hormones? It's unfortunate that only a couple passages from this book show up in our weekly lectionary; the *Song of Solomon* is one of the best-kept secrets in the Bible.

I had joined a Lutheran youth group, and the church's pastor was leading us through some of the Old Testament books that most appeal to adolescents: first the pre-Goth existentialist laments in *Ecclesiastes*, and then this book. Imagine the giggles in the room when we read the man's rapturous ode to the woman:

How beautiful you are, my love, how very beautiful!

Your eyes are doves behind your veil ...

Your two breasts are like two fawns,

Twins of a gazelle,

That feed among the lilies.

Or this part, sung by the woman:

I slept, but my heart was awake.

Listen! My beloved is knocking.

'Open to me ... my dove, my perfect one ...'

I had put off my garment;

how could I put it on again? ...

My beloved thrust his hand into the opening,

And my inmost being yearned for him.

I arose to open for my beloved,

and my hands dripped with myrrh ...

Whew! It's getting steamy in here!

For many centuries, theologians have gone to great pains to demonstrate that this book is an allegory of the love between God and God's people, and therefore justifying its inclusion in the Bible. But this is one piece of scripture that I'm more inclined to take literally, as erotic love poetry of ancient Israel. In 1998 I was inspired to compose a choral anthem based on the book's most famous passage, from chapter 8:

Set me as a seal upon your heart,

as a seal upon your arm;

For love is strong as death,

passion fierce as the grave.

A choir of friends sang the anthem at Christy's and my wedding at St. Mark's Cathedral in 1999. After that, I wrote an oratorio incorporating the entire text of the book, for two soloists, five other singers, and a small orchestral ensemble. I finished a first draft in 2004 and even gathered musicians to rehearse it. But there were large chunks of it that felt only half written, and I haven't worked on it since.

Someday I hope to study Hebrew and read this book in its original language. I understand that it is full of beautiful alliteration and other poetic techniques that cannot be translated into English. I even have half a mind to start my oratorio over again, but to set it in Hebrew this time! Of course, I'd still have to figure out how to set some of the text in a musically sensitive way:

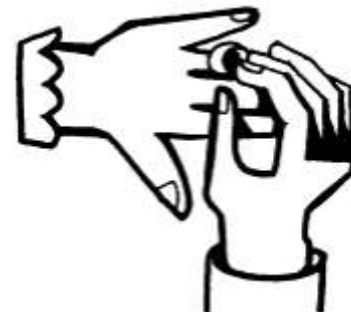
We have a little sister,

and she has no breasts.

What shall we do for our sister,

on the day when she is spoken for?

The Word of the Lord.



Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministry Featured on PBS

The PBS “Religion and Ethics” news show recently aired an eight-minute feature about Stephen Ministry. You can watch the video online on the PBS web site.

Go to: www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/tag/stephen-ministry and click on the April 9, 2010, “Stephen Ministry” feature.

You’ll also find several bonus features – including a separate nine-minute interview with the founder and executive director of Stephen Ministries, Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk.

Be sure to share this video link with others. It’s a great way to help them see the life-changing benefits of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry at St. Thomas

Stephen Ministers at St. Thomas are caring and formally trained lay people who provide faith-based support for others who are experiencing difficult circumstances. They commit themselves to confidentiality, disclosing no identifying information about anyone receiving their support. They do not attempt to take the place of clergy, counselors, or mental health and medical professionals. Rather, they supplement professional care by offering compassion, Christian companionship, and spiritual support.

Stephen Ministers prepare for their work through more than 50 hours of training and they stay current through continuing education. Stephen Leaders, who receive an additional 40 hours of training at a national training center, facilitate regular peer supervision.

For additional information call the church office (425-454-9541) or the following Stephen Ministry Leaders:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| • Joanne Del Bene | 425-453-0332 | • Joseph Murashie | 206-919-6834 |
| • Jason Hanleybrown | 425-883-2872 | • Mary Pneuman | 425-454-2956 |



Holy Poverty

Lessons from Native Communities

The Third Order Franciscans of the Diocese of Olympia invite all who are interested to join them for their annual Convocation to be held at Dumas Bay Retreat Centre in Federal Way, Washington a short drive from SeaTac airport. The theme is “Holy Poverty: Lessons from Native Communities.” Our speakers will be Rebecca Clark and members of First Nations Ministries of the Pacific Northwest.

The weekend will include creation-centered prayer, rituals, worship, and spiritual reflection in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi. Arrival time will be 4 pm on Friday August 6, departure time on Sunday August 8, is 1 pm. Room checkout time is 11 am. Accommodations include single occupancy rooms.

The meals provide a varied menu, including choices for special dietary needs. The cost for the weekend will be \$200 for a single room. Scholarships are available. Register with a non-refundable deposit of \$50 by July 17. Contact: Steve Best, steveb@stthomasmedina.org, for a registration form.



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