

## Services

### Sunday

8:00 am Eucharist with hymns  
9:00 am Fellowship  
10:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Sung Eucharist  
11:15 am Fellowship  
5:15 pm Contemplative Eucharist

### Monday

9:00 am Centering Prayer, *Chapel*

### Wednesday

10:00 am Eucharist, *Chapel*

### Daily

7:30 am Morning Prayer, *Chapel*  
6:30 am Friday Morning Prayer, *Chapel*  
(no Saturday service)

## Music Rehearsals

### Junior Choristers

Tuesdays, 4:00-4:45 pm

### Senior Choristers

Tuesdays, 4:45-5:30 pm

### St. Thomas Singers

Thursdays, 7:30 pm

Sundays, 9:15 am

## Calendar

### November 2

9:00 am, Sandwich Makers, *Kitchen*

### November 6

11:45 am, Come to the Quiet, *Chapel*

### November 12

9:00 am, Seminar: The Spirituality of Money, *Great Hall*

### November 13

11:30 am, Kids' Club, *Conference Room*  
11:30 am, Moms' Group, *Parkside Room*

### November 19

8:00 am, Men's Breakfast, *Great Hall*  
7:00 pm, Cascadian Chorale, *Church*

### November 23-24

Thanksgiving @ St. Thomas, *Great Hall*

### November 25 • OFFICE CLOSED

### November 26

6:30 pm, Film Night "Of Gods and Men," *Great Hall*

THE

# COLLECT

November 2011

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

## From the Rector: Six Stages in Christian Giving

### From where we are to where God is calling us

by The Rev. Lex Breckinridge

Although I was blessed to know the late Carl Knirk, Canon for Stewardship in the Diocese of Olympia, for only a short time, his work on the theology and spirituality of stewardship has left a permanent impression. Carl's joyful spirit and faithful work was known throughout the wider Church and the Anglican Communion, and his insights on the relationship between our faith and our money remain profound. A year or so before his death, Carl prepared a pamphlet that really captures the stages on our stewardship journeys. I think he got it exactly right. Here they are.

**SURVIVAL**—I give a bit when I am asked because the church ought to be there in case I need it.

*The need is survival, and there is a chance the church might help. The relationship is I know the Church is there if I need it; all being well, I won't!*

**SUPERMARKET**—I am happy to pay for the cost of the bits of the church that I want to enjoy.

*The need is security, and by treating the church on my own terms, I feel safe and unchallenged. I see myself as a customer.*

**SUPPORT**—The work of the Church is important to me, so I will support it.

*I have a need to belong, I see myself as a proper member of the Church's supporters' club.*

**SUBSCRIPTION**—I see myself as a member and I wish to contribute my fair share of the costs.

*The need is identity; I am recognized and I play my part.*

**SUBMISSION**—My understanding of being a disciple is that I should put God first in my life.

*I see a deeper meaning in life and my giving responds to God and not just the needs of the Church.*

**SACRIFICE**—I truly believe my Lord "demands my soul, my life, my all."

*My Christian calling is to be Christ-like, so naturally I give both joyfully and sacrificially, following Jesus Christ.*

Take time in prayer to really digest these steps and then ask yourself, honestly, where you would locate yourself along the way. Once you have done this, ask God to help you move along to the next stage, or maybe even a couple of stages forward. Last year, one of our Capital Stewardship Co-Chairs, Robert Collett, described his own stewardship journey as a movement from duty to sacrifice to joy. That gets it just right, and I know Carl would agree. The stewardship journey is really a journey into joy. The Lord Jesus is inviting you to take the next step towards joy right now.

Faithfully,



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## From the Priest Associate

### The Community at the Cherry Street On-Ramp

by The Rev. Karen Haig, Priest Associate

It seems to me that there is an amazing community at the Cherry Street on-ramp. It's a place I pass by each morning, usually very early, on my way to St. Thomas. This little community has been there for some time now... but I remember that it sprang up quite suddenly. People often sleep in the under-freeway parking lot at Cherry Street, but I hadn't seen anyone across the street at the on-ramp. Then once there was a single person, sleeping wrapped in carpet padding, and the next day there were at least a dozen people – people who seemed to have moved in. They made walls behind themselves of “wall-to-wall” carpet padding strung up on the chain link fence. They brought mattresses and make-shift beds. Someone brought a red and gold plaid upholstered recliner, and someone brought a baby stroller. People made dwellings of sorts – the kind I imagine Peter wanted to build at the Transfiguration ... “it is good that we should stay here. ...”



Each day as I drive by, I tell myself, “You should write down the story of the people you see today.” But I don’t. I arrive at our beautiful and beloved St. Thomas and immediately drop into the world of our church and our parish. And I don’t often think about the community at the Cherry Street on-ramp until the next morning.

Each day is different, and each day I see different people. I find myself hoping that they know each other’s names, that they might even be looking out for one another. One man walks very slowly and deliberately back and forth along the long row of people’s places. He stands quite erect and swings one stiff arm with great deliberation, the other hand tucked in his coat pocket as if to keep it still. When I see him walking, I always imagine him to be the night-watchman, and I wonder if perhaps he has been wounded by war, still trying to look out for those in his care. And I’ve seen another man straddling his bicycle, one foot standing firmly on the pavement, the other precariously perched on a raised pedal ... over and over he flips a coin, catches it and looks at it, as if to glean which way he’ll go today. I’ve seen a teenaged girl sit up and stretch as if to greet the glorious tropical sun rather than the glare of the early morning commuter headlights that light up her face for every passer-by. I’ve seen tired and elderly women stooped over their grocery carts and a mother kissing her children. I’ve seen men who look like they were ready to get up and go to work and men who seemed not to have shoes. Today I saw a man who looked exactly like I imagine Moses; this man was sitting up in his bed, seemingly taking in the lay of the land. I thought of the Moses in our story and imagined how oddly similar their circumstances seem to me. The Cherry Street Moses was likely not the leader of that collective, but surely he was in the midst of a people wandering in the wilderness, wondering where the water would come from, whether there would be manna from heaven, or if God would keep the promise of a promised land.

I have lots of ideas about what I could or should do about the people of the Cherry Street on-ramp community. And it’s probably true that I have romantic notions of “community” there too. What I do know is that each day the Cherry Street people move me and speak to me of Jesus in ways I would never know or notice if they weren’t there. Every day I pray for them. And often I imagine bringing breakfast for them. We’ll see. I hope I do. As for today, it is gift enough to be able to thank God for this seemingly safe place, where someone takes the night watch, someone greets the day, and someone kisses her babies in the midst of harshness you and I will likely never imagine. So beautiful, these beloved of God.

Faithfully,

*Karen +*

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# Thoughts From The Senior Warden

by Bob Webb

Autumn is the beautiful time of year when most of us get back to our regular routines after the summer holidays. The kids go back to school; we all enjoy the autumn leaves and crisp mornings as we return to “regular life.” We all know that Fall is a very important time of the year for our parish as well. We get back into our routines at St. Thomas too, and one of those routines is preparing budgets, staffing, and programming for the next year. Although stewardship happens year around at St. Thomas, Fall is the time parishioners commit our financial support for the work of St Thomas and the budget for the next year is developed based on our financial commitments. We decide what we can and can’t do, and recognize what we’d like to do but can’t quite manage.

This year is especially important for a number of reasons, particularly those mentioned by Lex in last month’s *Collect*. Lex is starting his third year with us and amazing things are happening in our church. We have a wonderful Priest Associate Karen Haig who provides clergy support to many ministry groups and is responsible for Children’s Formation, Adult Formation, the St. Thomas Mom’s Group and more. Brian Gregory joined us on a half-time basis this Fall and is doing great with our growing youth programs, and Marion Anderson has revitalized the children’s music program. St Thomas is growing! In the last two years we’ve added

scores of new members through the hospitality of each one of you, the good work of Phyllis Ross and the Newcomers Committee, and our Rector and staff. Now is the time for us to show our support for our wonderful staff and these wonderful ministries, programs, and activities by giving generously. It is only through our giving that our beloved parish home will continue growing.

“The wonderful good works happening at St. Thomas need all the support you can manage.”

This has been a very interesting three years for me, particularly because I’ve come to realize what a busy, happy, enthusiastic community we have here at St. Thomas. There are more ministries than I ever knew existed! There is always more that we’d like to do for our community here at St. Thomas and the larger community in this beautiful Pacific Northwest. I’ve sung in the choir for many years and even was on the Vestry back in the 1970s. However, I was never particularly aware of the many ministries and the good that so many of you do. Perhaps this was because I was cloistered there with the choir, but I think many

of us don’t know nearly the number of good works we do. Over the last several years I’ve become close to many of you, and we all have been working very hard and with much love to worship God and help our fellow men and women.

I’m also more aware of the resemblance of our local community to that of the early church of Saint Paul’s time. We have a close-knit community devoted to Christ’s teaching – taking care of each other, praying together, etc., so there are many parallels to the ancient church, to the original European churches, to the monasteries of the Middle Ages, and the flourishing of Christianity during the renaissance and onward. And there is even a parallel to the Webb family in the 1860’s when a group of like-minded Christians met together in their homes, then built a tiny church that gradually grew into the Lakewood Methodist Church in Lakewood, Ohio, a western suburb of Cleveland. All of this has become more meaningful to me, especially since being on your Vestry during the last three years.

So, what am I trying to say? Marian and I have steadily increased our pledge since we’ve become more active in the last several years. I hope you’ll think carefully about doing the same. The wonderful good works happening at St. Thomas need all the support you can manage.

## Parish Life

### Thank You for Successful Fall Clean-up Day

We had another productive Fall Clean-up Day on Saturday, October 8. Twenty-six determined parishioners showed up to work hard to bring out the beauty of our campus. They trimmed the trees and bushes, making the rough overgrown portions more appealing and shaping the overgrown limbs. They trimmed and resized the hedges. They repaired electrical items, painted, and winterized those pipes once again.

The flaw in the recalcitrant rain water catch basin in the northeast corner of the parking lot was finally cleared away, which revealed why our fine Medina police were getting a shoe full of water when they had to park their patrol cars within the big ponds that formed last winter.

Congratulations to our very productive team:

John Wang	Richard Rogers	Mark Nelson
Jeff Belfiglio	Tom Morgan	Bob Weiss
Yvonne Lamey	Curt Young	Donn Foreman
Jack Lamey	Claude Rogers	Fred Pneuman
Larry Loranger	Jerry Angelo	Brian Evison
Shirley Deffenbaugh	Robin Middleton	Gregg Soeltter
Dwight Russell	Keith Moulton	Tera Soeltter
Haynes Lund	Margie Mayhall	Rose Magee
Michelle Lund	Elizabeth Ward	

### Palestinian Arts and Crafts Sale

On November 27, the first Sunday in Advent, we again welcome the Palestinian Heritage group who will be selling olive wood carvings, embroidery, pottery and other crafts in the Great Hall after the 8:00 and 10:15 services. Hand-carved Christian figures, crèches, crosses and tree ornaments, along with mother-of-pearl jewelry and inlaid items will be available. All profits from sales benefit Palestinian artisans and charities in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, where mobility and economic restraints imposed by the on-going Israeli occupation and settlement expansion in the Palestinian territories have caused significant unemployment and hardship in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

By popular request, Palestinian free-trade, organic olive oil will also be for sale. The crafts sale is sponsored by the St. Thomas Companions Committee.

Can you survive a month in poverty?



Come experience some of the tough choices faced every day by people living in poverty.

Register now for the

Poverty Simulation  
Experience

Saturday, December 3  
9:00 am to Noon

Hosted by Project Outreach  
and Hopelink

To register by November 18, call  
or email:

- Leslie Brewer 425-452-1860  
leslieebrewer@msn.com
- Susan Shevlin 425-687-8361  
seshevlin@comcast.net

## The Spirituality of Money Seminar



On Saturday, November 12, an engaging seminar will be offered from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Great Hall at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. This seminar is designed for individuals and couples at all stages and ages.

Topics include the following:

- uncovering your deepest spiritual values
- Christian stewardship
- setting long- and short-term financial goals
- developing a budget
- college and retirement savings plans
- understanding investment terminology
- opportunities and risks
- practical help for reducing couples and family conflict around financial decisions and issues

Afternoon break-out sessions will address special topic areas. The seminar is open to all who are interested, so please invite your friends. The seminar will be facilitated by financial advisor Ardeth Hollo and by clergy. It will be informative only with no reference to, or offer of, financial products or services. A voluntary \$10 donation will be collected to help defray the costs of lunch (which will be provided) and materials. Please RSVP by responding to your emailed Evite. If you did not receive an Evite, you can make a reservation by calling the Rev. Steve Best at 425-454-9541 by Monday, November 7.

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## Financial Report

SEPTEMBER 2011

	Budget	Actual
Income	\$85,268	\$75,877
Expense	\$77,554	\$86,879

YEAR TO DATE

Income	\$743,856	\$713,583
Expense	\$760,242	\$754,259

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## Do You Know?

We enter St. Thomas Church every Sunday morning and probably assume that the the entire sanctuary is always neat and tidy. Not so. Every Friday, Dottie Bishop stops by to sort and refresh the information cards that are inserted in the racks behind the pews. She also arranges the hymnals and the prayer books to be certain they are evenly spaced. When you see Dottie, please thank her for helping to keep St. Thomas beautiful.

## Newcomers Series

“Welcome to St. Thomas,” a series to acquaint newcomers with our parish and introduce them to the Episcopal Church, will be offered on October 30, November 6 and 13, 11:45 am to 1:15 pm, in the conference room. Topics will range from learning more about our music and liturgy (including a guided tour of our worship space), the distinguishing marks of St. Thomas and the Episcopal faith, and an introduction to various opportunities St. Thomas offers to deepen one’s relationship with God. Various ministry leaders and staff of St. Thomas will facilitate the series. Childcare will be provided. For more information, please call or email the Rev. Steve Best at 425-454-9541 or [steveb@stthomasmedina.org](mailto:steveb@stthomasmedina.org).

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# Thanksgiving at St. Thomas

by Tammy Waddell

Seven years ago, we thought maybe we could make a difference by offering some of our Eastside neighbors dinner on Thanksgiving Day. The first year we prepared 100 dinners. As I reviewed last year's *Collect* article, I found myself rereading the numbers in awe. Two years ago, we provided 535 meals to 130 families. November 2010 came to us like a lion – we faced icy, frozen roads when we went to pick up turkeys. We witnessed families at the Hopelink Food Bank offer to “give their dinner to another family whom they felt needed it more.” And finally, on Thanksgiving Day, the snow fell once again and blanketed us in white. I kept thinking, God must be asking, “How much do you want this for your neighbors?”

Well, St. Thomas wanted it enough to deliver over 1,200 dinners to 244 families! You roasted over 200 turkeys! I have never been prouder of my church as I watched folks arrive to prepare side dishes, clean potatoes, fill take out containers, roast turkeys, deliver pies and finally, on Thanksgiving Day, put together the boxes and drive them to 244 homes – all in freezing temperatures on icy roads. I received phone calls from Hopelink families on Thanksgiving morning asking if we were still able to bring them a dinner. When I replied, “Yes, we will be there,” they expressed disbelief and profound gratitude as the snow fell heavily just outside the window. Yes, we wanted it enough!

Once again, we need your help to reach our goal of 1,200 meals. We need volunteers for roasting turkeys, preparing food on Wednesday, assembling the boxes, and driving the meals to homes on Thanksgiving Day. And of course we need donations to purchase the food. We have never cut corners on quality – our promise has been to “deliver only what we are willing to eat for our own Thanksgiving dinner.”

To donate to “Thanksgiving at St. Thomas,” please give your donation to Gerry Gallaher in the office. To donate your time or talent, please sign up in the Great Hall following both the 8:00 and 10:15 services each Sunday until Thanksgiving, or email Tammy Waddell at [Tjwaddell@comcast.net](mailto:Tjwaddell@comcast.net) or Geoff and Marilyn McGrath at [itchyfeet02@gmail.com](mailto:itchyfeet02@gmail.com).

Thank you and blessings and peace to you all.



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## Book Notes

A Review of *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Phillip Yancey

by Harriett Gill

In his writings, Phillip Yancey never fails to make the reader think and rethink in new and amazing ways. Over the centuries, we have certainly read and reread about Jesus but somehow have glossed over the people who were his followers (I am not talking about his disciples but the societal rejects who steadfastly followed Jesus). We have glamorized so much of Jesus' life story that we forget the true way that the Lord of Creation came to us – not born in a palace but in a manger, a place where sheep and cows feed. The Lord of Life was laid in a manger; how often do we think about that? Our Holy food we take at communion was laid in the place where cattle ate. We forget not only that mind-bending fact but also that the people who first came to worship Him were the rejects of society.

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# Project Outreach

## Stewardship

by Jodi Wilson, Project Outreach Steering Committee Member

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*  
—1 Peter 4:10



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Few people felt comfortable around Jesus. Those who did were mostly people we would not be comfortable around. Paradox! I loved Yancey's exposition of the beatitudes. I have so often felt guilty that I do not exemplify the kind of person who does all the things Jesus mentions. Yancey says the beatitudes show us the true nature of God. We can only try but never really achieve that perfection.

I had the dreadful feeling as I read this book that I am so glad I live now because, if I had lived then, I might have rejected the Lord of Life, the one who gives me strength and hope. That is a very dreadful thought. If you have ever found yourself in an untenable place (and who has not?), you will now find a positive way to thank the Lord for placing you exactly where you are. Although in my humanity I cannot see the good in some people, this book reminds me that our Lord finds good and hope in the worst of us. I do hope you will read this; it is so good to have rethink our beliefs on occasion.

The scripture quote from Peter sums up perfectly a main goal and consideration of the Project Outreach committee. Do the projects we are blessed to learn about and consider for a grant offer parishioners the opportunity to share time and talent? Can we be stewards in our community?

We currently have several opportunities for you to engage your many talents.

First, as we outlined last month, we will be hosting a Poverty Simulation Experience with Hopelink on December 3. Participants will role-play the experience of a low-income family. You will simulate everyday tasks like providing food, child-care, shelter, and medical care for your family. You will deal with everyday challenges and face set-backs that will require you to make critical, difficult choices. A debriefing will follow to discuss poverty and our next steps. The simulation experience is recommended for all ages above 14. Please join us.

Second, our committee was extremely inspired by the Rwandan Girls Initiative (RGI) to which we granted the cost of a teacher for a year. Two Bellevue women (St. Thomas school parents) conceived of and established the RGI that launched the **Gashora Girls Academy**. It is a secondary girls' boarding school for students from all regions of Rwanda. Look for more information on a book drive we will be holding later in the year for this school. We are excited about the possibility of partnering with St. Thomas school on this initiative.

Third, La Iglesia de la Resurrección, our sister church in the Skagit Valley, has asked if our parishioners would be willing to share time and talent by allowing a teenager to shadow them at work. This would allow their teenagers to learn about professional opportunities and broaden their thinking about the future. Please contact Brian Gregory if you are interested.

**Finally, please don't forget about the amazing Thanksgiving hospitality St. Thomas extends on Thanksgiving Day (and during the weeks of preparation).** Can you offer time and talent by preparing food, putting boxes together, working on logistics, or delivering meals to families in our community?

Opportunities abound. Is it your time to be a steward?

# St. Thomas Episcopal Church

## Vestry

Bob Webb, *Senior Warden*  
Fred Barkman, *Treasurer*  
Jim Blundell, *Chancellor*  
Linda Hendrickson, *Clerk*

Paul Birkeland	Bill McSherry
Christopher Breunig	Bonnie Pearce
Joanne Del Bene	Delphine Stevens
Brian Evison	Steve Reid
Rose Magee	Mary Williams
Kim Malcolm	

## Staff

The Right Rev. Greg Rickel,  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia*  
The Rev. Lex Breckinridge, *Rector*  
The Rev. Stephen W. Best, *Associate for  
Couples & Family Life*  
The Rev. Karen Haig, *Priest Associate*  
The Rev. Kathryn Ballinger, *Deacon  
Associate for Spiritual Direction & Parish Visitor*  
Charles Rus, *Associate for Music &  
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Brian Gregory, *Associate for Youth Ministries*  
Marion Anderson, *Director of Children &  
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Danielle Brzusek, *Childcare Coordinator*  
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Kim Malcolm, *Ministries Coordinator*  
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Gerry Gallaher, *Business Manager*  
Laura Gregg, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*  
Bob Simeone, *Building Project Manager*

## The Collect

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

Deadline: For the December issue,  
November 7. Please submit copy to Shirley  
Deffenbaugh, [sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net](mailto: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

## Pilgrimage to La Iglesia de la Resurrección: Aftersmath

by Brian Gregory, *Associate for Youth Ministry*

In early August, the St. Thomas youth group embarked on a journey of faith to experience God in new and profound ways. Partnering with la Iglesia de la Resurrección in Mt. Vernon, we worked on farms, put on a daily Bible camp for the children of migrant farmers, and saw firsthand the realities of life as a Hispanic immigrant. We call this trip a "Pilgrimage," rather than a mission trip. In doing so, we recognize that perhaps we were the ones changed more than anyone else; perhaps we received more than we hoped to give; and perhaps God was at work within us as much as through us. Moreover, perhaps one of the most striking characteristics of a pilgrimage became real for us: the journey didn't end when we returned home.

Although we are back home and have returned to school, work, and all the other activities that fill our schedules, our lives have been changed by our experience as pilgrims. As we processed our time together, we reflected on how privileged we



are; how much we take for granted; and how, when we strip ourselves of race, economic status, or social position in our world, we find that all humanity is incredibly similar.

One of the highlights of our pilgrimage was dinner with the youth group from Resurrección because the youth shared their dreams with us, as well as the challenges they face in reaching them. They told us about their desire to go to college and to find careers,

but they also told us about taking time away from school to help make ends meet in the farm fields.

The Vicar of Resurrección, the Rev. Jo Beecher, shared her own desire with us: she deeply wants to see the youth under her care dream big about their future. So many of the youth limit themselves to the things they know: agriculture, health-care, and education. Jo wants to help them expand their horizons to see how God has gifted them. The question for us at St. Thomas, as people on a journey of faith, is: how can we offer the hospitality of God in this situation?

Perhaps the St. Thomas community has something to offer the youth of Resurrección to help expand their horizons for the future. We are seeking people in all fields who would be willing to host members of the Resurrección Youth Group at their work place for a job shadow day. This is a simple way for us to invite others into our lives and learn from each other. That is what it means to be a pilgrim.

Please contact Brian Gregory, Associate for Youth Ministry, if you would like more information about hosting a Resurrección youth at your work place for a day.

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# Pastoral Care

## Sacred Listening

by Heather Smith, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Last November, I had the amazing opportunity to participate in a facilitator training session for the first offering of *DOCC - Disciples of Christ in Community*. I discovered that a major gift of the DOCC experience for participants, as well as facilitators, is the opportunity to know and be known through active listening. The title of one of the sessions describes this experience superbly: “Listening as an Act of Love.”



This type of listening, also called *sacred listening*, is a process of communication that requires deep, personal involvement and commitment. This takes work. It calls upon listeners to put aside their own thoughts, feelings, and tendency to judge in order to be fully present to the other person. Marshall Rosenberg, psychologist and founder of the Center for Nonviolent Communication (CNVC), calls sacred listening “nonviolent communication.” He writes, “When we focus on clarifying what is being observed, felt, and needed rather than on diagnosing and judging, we discover the depth of our own compassion ... nonviolent communication fosters respect, attentiveness, and empathy, and engenders a mutual desire to give from the heart.”

Sacred listening is the cornerstone of the Stephen Ministry, a lay ministry program at St. Thomas that provides confidential, non-judgmental, one-on-one care-giving to those who may be in crisis or in a difficult life transition. Stephen ministers are trained in the art of sacred listening and learn how to become patient, completely present listeners. God is at work, through grace, in this distinctively Christian care. Stephen ministers aren’t psychologists, psychiatrists, or clinicians, and don’t provide solutions; rather, they are fellow parishioners trained to listen with the whole of their being to the thoughts and feelings of the other person, thus helping him or her to move with God’s grace toward resolution. Sacred listening isn’t only for those experiencing a crisis or participating in *DOCC*. I have found it to be an important life skill for my roles as a mother, wife, co-worker, neighbor, and member of the community at large.

A Stephen Ministry training program will begin in early spring. The caregiver compass succinctly describes all of the attributes and skills addressed in the training program. If you discern that your gifts include patience, compassion, and listening, contact Jason Hanleybrown, Joanne Del Bene, or the clergy, to learn more about this ministry.

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# The Quiet Corner

## Vocation

*by The Rev. Kathryn Ballinger, Deacon, Associate for Spiritual Direction & Parish Visitor*

I'm not a sentimental person, especially about reunions. I did go to my 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion, and it was as I expected. My nursing school reunions are different, however. Although I don't attend all of them, I went to the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> and we all looked pretty much the same. This September, we had our 45<sup>th</sup> – our organizer must have thought that not all of us would make it to our 50<sup>th</sup>. It is true that we have lost a few classmates.



On a Friday, I drove to Spokane where our class had reserved a private dining room at the Davenport Hotel. As we are all more difficult to recognize now, there were lots of squeals of laughter and hugs. After a delicious dinner, we each took a few minutes to exchange life and work experiences. We are all retired, and life has happened in all of our lives.

One gal had joined the Army Air Force; she had flown in Iraq and Afghanistan, air vaccing wounded soldiers out. She retired as a lieutenant colonel and laughed that she was artillery certified and could shoot a gun. Another had lost a husband to cancer and a son to drugs. Yet another reported that her brilliant daughter is severely bi-polar. And then the one who sends two-page, single-spaced “Xmas” letters talked about her five children who were all captains of the swim team and valedictorians who became lawyers and doctors. Not much transparency there!

The following evening we attended the school-wide banquet that celebrated the golden 50-year class. We filled the larger room in the cafeteria of the Sacred Heart Medical Center.

The nursing school was opened in 1898 by the Sisters of Providence and closed in 1972. When I used to talk to Philip about those years, he said it was a formation not unlike his seminary experience. We studied, worked, ate, and slept on a strict schedule. We attended morning prayer in full uniform every day in the library and said prayers before every class. We went to school eleven months of the year. Capping corresponded to the old custom of tonsure for monks. We not only learned nursing but also dedication. We graduated with a vocation rather than a career. The Sister's motto was “the charity of Christ impels us.”

As I looked around that room, I saw strong, capable women. It showed in their faces and bearing – unflappable and “can-do” women. I felt very proud to be among them and to be a nurse. Nursing has been a way to serve God and humankind as well as a way to raise my family. It has been my mission field.

# November 2011 @ St. Thomas

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:30a Needlepointers 10:30a Bible Study 4:00p Choristers 7:00p Boy Scouts	2 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Sandwich Makers 9:30a Yoga 10:00a Eucharist 11:00a Bible Study	3 7:30a Morning Prayer 12:30p Film Fellowship 7:30p Choir	4 6:30a Morning Prayer	5 9:00a Altar Guild
6 8:00a Eucharist 9:15a Forum 10:15a Eucharist 11:45a Come to the Quiet 5:15p Eucharist	7 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Centering Prayer 5:00p Property Comm. 7:00p Finance Comm. 8:00p AA	8 9:30a Needlepointers 10:30a Bible Study 4:00p Choristers 7:00p Boy Scouts	9 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:30a Yoga 10:00a Eucharist 11:00a Bible Study	10 7:30a Morning Prayer 12:30p Film Fellowship 7:30p Choir	11 6:30a Morning Prayer	12 9:00a Altar Guild 9:00a Seminar Spirituality of Money
13 8:00a Eucharist 9:15a Forum 10:15a Eucharist 11:30a Moms' Group 11:30a Kids' Club 5:15p Eucharist	14 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Centering Prayer 1:30p Tai Chi 8:00p AA	15 9:30a Needlepointers 10:30a Bible Study 4:00p Choristers 6:30p Vestry 7:00p Boy Scouts	16 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:30a Yoga 10:00a Eucharist 11:00a Bible Study	17 7:30a Morning Prayer 12:30p Film Fellowship 7:30p Choir	18 6:30a Morning Prayer	19 8:00a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Altar Guild 7:00 pm Concert Cascadian Chorale
20 8:00a Eucharist 9:15a Forum 10:15a Eucharist w/Choristers	21 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Centering Prayer 1:30p Tai Chi 8:00p AA	22 9:30a Needlepointers 10:30a Bible Study 4:00p Choristers 7:00p Boy Scouts	23 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:30a Yoga 10:00a Eucharist 11:00a Bible Study 1:00p Bridge Club	24 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING @ ST. THOMAS	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 9:00a Altar Guild 6:30 pm Film Night "Of Gods and Men"
27 8:00a Eucharist 9:15a Forum 10:15a Eucharist 11:30a Moms' Group 5:15p Eucharist	28 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Centering Prayer 1:30p Tai Chi 8:00p AA	29 9:30a Needlepointers 10:30a Bible Study 4:00p Choristers 7:00p Boy Scouts	30 7:30a Morning Prayer 9:30a Yoga 10:00a Eucharist 11:00a Bible Study			
<p>These are just some of the events happening on the St. Thomas campus this month. To schedule meetings or other activities, please call or email the church office • 425-454-9541 • <a href="mailto:office@stthomasmedina.org">office@stthomasmedina.org</a> A link to the current <b>calendar can be found on the Parishioners' Page at our web site.</b> Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm</p>						

## Practicing the Hospitality of God

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
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