

The Quest – January 2010

New Monthly Newsletter Deadline for entries into the newsletter is the **fourth Sunday** of the month. The newsletter will be available by the **first Sunday of the next month**. Please email information and articles you wish to be presented here to stthomas@warwick.net. January's Monthly Newsletter deadline is December 27th. (We will continue a weekly announcement insert until January, and then only timely announcements will be placed in the bulletin.)

Have a Suggestion, Question or Comment?

The EC welcomes feedback (questions, suggestions, comments, concerns) on all aspects of our congregational life. Parishioners are invited to communicate with the EC publicly at scheduled meetings, or privately as individuals, with regard to issues of importance to them. In order to provide an additional mechanism for communication, the EC has placed a decorated box in the lobby. This container is intended to serve as a receptacle for parishioner's statements about their hopes and dreams for St. Thomas and for our ministries. Please feel comfortable in reaching out to the EC in which ever manner is best for you.

Worship Coordination Committee

All parishioners interested in helping to discuss and plan our worship services are invited to the next meeting of the Worship Coordination Committee, to be held on **Thursday, January 14 at 6:00 PM** in the office upstairs. The meeting will be attended by the Directors of Music and the Altar Guild, as well as representatives from various other worship guilds. For questions, please contact Fr. Bob.

Wells Fargo Supports St. Thomas

For our congregation and all family, friends, and neighbors, Wells Fargo Mortgage Company will donate \$300.00 to St. Thomas Episcopal Church as a charitable donation for using their services. Please make sure when calling that you mention "St Thomas fundraiser" or that "Linda Lazicki, Century 21 Lazicki" has sent you. This includes the refinancing of your present mortgage Please call Bob Golwick at cell #845-709-4167 or 973-875-9647 office.

We have received in 2009 the following contributions:

Thank you to Graham & Nevila Malile \$300.00
to Randall & Kristina Lazicki \$300.00

Parish Auction is Coming Up!

We had so much fun at the last Parish Auction, we're going to do it again. Mark **Friday, February 12** in your calendar! We will be having a party and auctioning off only items that you, the members and friends of St. Thomas, contribute. Watch for more details soon. If interested in helping or with questions, please see Linda Lazicki!

Financial Report

Parish Finances as of November 30, 2009:

| | November | Since Jan. |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Offerings Received | \$9,115 | \$85,097 |
| Offerings Promised | <u>\$8,154</u> | <u>\$89,700</u> |
| Difference | \$960 | \$-4,603 |
| | | |
| Total Income | \$11,389 | \$129,414 |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$10,882</u> | <u>\$145,171</u> |
| Difference | \$507 | -\$17,254 |

Unrestricted Cash on hand: \$30,371

Current Total Pledges for 2010: \$70,262

The Executive Committee has taken the following actions so far this year to reduce spending and close the anticipated deficit:

1. Paid child care at Sunday services has been eliminated.
2. Paid substitutes for when the Vicar or the Music Director are away have been eliminated.
3. A parishioner has offered to provide lawn care for free..
4. Email will be the preferred method of distributing mass communication to save on postage, paper, and envelopes.
5. The parish assistant's position will not be filled at this time

These reductions **total nearly \$9,000 this year**. The Executive Committee continues to look closely at both income and expenses. If you are behind on your pledge, or can contribute more than your pledge amount, please do so as God moves you!

Time, Talent, and Treasure

We need you! Please submit your 2010 pledge forms in the offering plates or mail to the office as soon as you can.

Executive Committee Meetings for 2010

In an effort to open the doors to each meeting to St. Thomas' entire congregation, please jot down the following dates. These Sunday evenings, beginning at 6:30 PM, are when the EC is scheduled to meet. You are cordially invited to attend any or all of the meetings. **January 10**

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 17, 2010 - all parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Parish Work Days

There is always a lot to do around a parish like ours that is blessed with a large complex and beautiful grounds, inside and out. The Executive Committee would like to invite all members to participate in Parish Work Days, every second Saturday from nine until noon, with lunch afterward. Rain or shine, please come and help keep up our beautiful parish buildings and grounds. Men and women, children and retirees – all are welcome and needed: An Action List is posted in the Narthex for **Saturday: January**.

2010 PARISH ELECTIONS – JANUARY 17, 2010

Title I, Canon 14, Sec. 2. Except as provided by the law of the State or of the Diocese, the Vestry shall be agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy.

The Parish Annual Meeting is on Sunday, January 17, 2010 following the second service. The principle duty of the Annual Meeting is to elect members for the various offices within the parish. This year, the following offices will be open:

- 3 members of the Executive Committee for three-year terms
- 1 member of the Executive Committee for a two-year term
- 1 member of Executive Committee for a one-year term
- 1 Warden for a two-year term (will be designated Junior Warden)
- 1 Delegate to Diocesan Convention for a three-year term

Qualifications:

To run for any office, a person must be at least 16 years old, baptized, regularly attend services at St. Thomas's and have been a regular financial contributor. In addition, to run for Warden or Convention Delegate, a member must be Confirmed or Received, or express the desire to be Confirmed or Received.

Duties of Executive Committee Members:

- Attend monthly and occasional special meetings of the Executive Committee
- Commit specifically to attend the Planning Retreat on Feb. 19-20.
- Attend worship regularly, including special liturgies
- Be present at parish events and occasions
- Commit to lead or participate in at least one major parish ministry or project
- Commit to proportional contribution (a specific percentage) toward the parish operating budget
- Be willing and able to participate in discussion and decision-making via email when required.
- Pray daily for the vicar, leaders, and members of the congregation
- Be available to discuss any and all concerns with members of the congregation; avoid making hasty judgments, encourage those with concerns to speak directly to those involved, discuss problems with the Vicar
- Show leadership by example for the parish

In addition, Wardens have the following additional duties:

- Meet regularly (usually twice monthly) with the Vicar to review the life and work of the congregation, plan ahead, anticipate and resolve problems
- Provide leadership in the Executive Committee and congregation to implement the vision, mission and goals of the congregation, spearhead plans, assess progress and celebrate achievement
- Facilitate communication among Executive Committee members and between Executive Committee and the congregation
- Demonstrate a consistent positive attitude that seeks to solve problems and learn from mistakes, recognizes accomplishments and gives thanks for those things that build community and further the mission of the Church
- Be available to discuss any and all concerns with the Vicar; maintain confidentiality where appropriate
- Work to foster understanding, reconciliation and distribute accurate information in cases of conflict, especially when the vicar, executive committee, or staff are involved.
- Ensure that policies and procedures regarding employee and volunteer misconduct are in place and enforced; take any questions, complaints and concerns to the Vicar and appropriate authorities immediately
- Support the Vicar in taking action should employees or volunteers be charged with misconduct or inappropriate behavior
- Encourage the Vicar to maintain a healthy workload, take days off, and practice clergy well being.
- Assist in identifying persons for leadership roles, and participate in inviting them to serve in those roles
- Execute other specific canonical duties as circumstances arise

Diocesan Delegates are required to attend Diocesan Convention, usually held the last weekend of January on Friday and Saturday. Delegates elected in 2010 do not begin their terms until the 2011 Diocesan Convention.

For more information, contact Fr. Bob or any member of the Executive Committee. To nominate yourself or someone else, please inform Fr. Bob, Maryellen Garvey, or Nancy Hansen no later than January 10, 2010.