

St. Thomas' Parish Newsletter

Chapel of the Incarnation, Brandywine

St. Thomas' Church, Croom

The Rev. Debra Brewin-Wilson, Rector

Edition 1, Volume 2

September 1, 2011

St. Thomas' Farmers Market

By Shirley Duvall

The Farmers Market is well into its second successful season. Almost every Saturday this summer the market has featured something special such as Shelby's Wholesale Plants and ELYSIUM Unique Jewelry and Wearable Art. There's always been wonderful fresh produce from local growers such as Thank God It's Fresh, HeronThere Farm, H&H Farm and Serenity Farm.



June 25 featured "Dog Days of Summer." Dogs and cats from the Prince George's County Shelter visited the market hoping to be adopted or just have friendly interaction with shoppers. In addition, the Price George's County Sheriff's Office brought some of their "detection dogs" to do a demonstration of how they train the dogs to

From the Rector



Ordinary Time. That's what this season of the church year is often called. Not because it's "ordinary" in the way we use that word, but because ordinal numbers (first, second, third, etc.) are used to name the weeks after Pentecost. The liturgical color is green, and for most of Pentecost, so are the colors outside our window---green leaves, green grass, green corn growing by the roadside.

This long, green season in the Church is a good time to think about Creation---about the goodness of Creation and what our place is within Creation. Later in this season, we'll be using Eucharistic Prayer C, which emphasizes Creation and the interconnectedness of human beings with our fellow creatures. God made human beings the stewards of Creation, so the more we can think about our relationship with God AND our fellow creatures as we make decisions about our lives, the better stewards we will be.

God loves us. Basking in that overflowing love of God, we are called to respond in kind; to love God; to love our neighbor; to be good stewards of all with which God has entrusted us. During this "Ordinary Time," let us not forget the *extra*-ordinary Love in which we live, and move, and have our being.

Peace be with you,

Debbie

The Rev. Debbie Brewin-Wilson

detect bombs.

St. Thomas' own beekeepers, Jeff Colburn and Christina Manucy, brought a demonstration hive as well as their own "Croom Honey."

Bee products such as wax candles and skin products were also available.

The Farmer's Market will continue every Saturday through September, bringing

together delicious produce, interesting products and features, and a gathering place for the community.

STEWARDSHIP: TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE *By Shirley Duvall*

In the Episcopal Church we often organize our thinking about stewardship—our giving back to God a portion of the bounty He has given us—around the three Ts. In this issue I want to share some of my thoughts about stewardship at St. Thomas' regarding Time and Talent. In the October-November issue I'll relate Treasure to our every member canvass.

Time: This is something God has given to each one of us in equal measure, but the ways in which we choose to use our time are quite telling in the priority we give to God in our daily lives.

The first way we give back to Him is our time spent in worship, prayer, meditation and Bible reading and study. Do we set aside time each day and each week for this?

The time we spend in caring for our families and neighbors can be time spent expressing our love for God. We all must earn our daily bread through being students or employed (or continuing in an active retirement), but the manner in which we do this, and the priorities we set, can, again, be given to the glory of God, as He knows this is necessary for our survival and quality of life.

Then, there is the time spent in what we often think of as "church work." St. Thomas' Parish is our family, and has the same needs for care and nurturing as our personal families and ourselves. Parish members are very generous in giving their time for whatever tasks are necessary. Some do this on a regular basis in ways such as serving on the vestry, altar guild, committees, property work and teaching Sunday school. In other instances something special will come along and parishioners are wonderful in stepping forward to serve in

any way necessary, given their age and capacities.

Talent: In the Bible, a *talent* is a unit of measure of money. Its usage has changed so that today our talents are defined as the skills, gifts and abilities that God has given each of us. One of the most amazing things about God's bountiful creation is that each human has his or her unique set of talents.

Some of us seem to have greater measures of talents than others, but all of us have something special that we can give, share with each other, and give back to God. Some people are satisfied to let their talents lie fallow or underdeveloped, and others strive mightily to hone their gifts to the highest degree. It is rather useless to try to compare one person's talents with another, as this is like comparing apples and oranges. All are simply delightful in their own ways.

Parishioner in Profile



Franklin Robinson, Jr. is one of the Maryland Historical Trust's 36th Annual Maryland Preservation Awards for Preservation Service. The following is a description of his service, as found on the Maryland Historical Trust website:

Franklin Robinson has been a leader in historic preservation efforts in Southern Maryland for more than a decade. His work has included not only researching, preserving and protecting buildings and landscapes, but also people and entire communities. Mr. Robinson regularly donates his time to assist a broad range of projects, including

researching specific properties, preparing National Register and Maryland Inventory forms, identifying and writing grants for preservation projects, conducting free seminars on archiving and preserving papers and historical artifacts, advocating for historic properties and projects throughout Southern Maryland, and testifying at hearings and other public forums in defense of preservation measures.

Robinson's recent accomplishments include spearheading the National Register listing of St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish Historic District in Prince George's County, researching and writing text for Roadside Historical Markers in Southern Maryland, and participating in preservation projects at the Parlett Farm in St. Mary's County, St. Thomas' s Church and the Chapel of the Incarnation in Prince George's County. Mr.

Robinson was recently appointed Chairman of the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission. In 2001 he received the St. George's Day Award from the Prince George's Historical Society. Mr. Robinson is employed as an Archives Specialist with the Archives Center in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

Coming Events

On Sunday, October 9, there will be an All-Parish Celebration Laity Sunday at 10:00, followed by a fellowship hour. This is planned by the Stewardship Committee as the kickoff of the parish's stewardship drive and will include all the children as well as adults in the parish.

Five sessions of Adult Sunday School beginning October 16 and running for five Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at

St. Thomas' Church House will be held. Conversations will focus on Marcus Borg's study sessions of "Embracing An Adult Faith." There will be a DVD that includes comments by Marcus Borg and discussion that lasts about 25 minutes. Then participants will continue with their own discussion. The five topics are general enough to get back to the basics and allow for ample comment: God, Jesus, Salvation, Practice, and Community. Each session will have a different "leader," with Sharon Voros heading the first session on God. This is Marcus Borg at his best! Dates are October 16, 23, 30, November 6 and 13. Please join us!

The Vestry Corner

By Jack I. Thompson, Jr.

In April Diocesan Council guest Gerry Perez and Diane Clarke discussed the Council

and its duties. Churches in the diocese are classified as "challenged, stable, or thriving." "The guests asked the vestry about what is going well, and not, what concerns the parish has, and how the council can help. They mentioned the importance of maps and signage to aid visitors, and the possibility of a heating oil co-op to help reduce heating costs.

Franklin Robinson is to file a Historic Area Work Permit to allow timber harvesting in a preservation easement. He is also to submit a Historic Property Grant for repair of the wrought iron cemetery fence.

Funds of \$54,000 from tree harvesting have been placed in a money market account.

The new Chapel organ is to be dedicated to Gladys Belle.

Dan Dufford arranged to sell the old organ and install the "new" organ for a cost of \$450.

St. Thomas Celebrates 4th of July



September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Gayla and Dick Bergren	September 9 th	married 33 yrs.
Bourne Garner	September 9 th	
Debbie Kirk	September 11 th	
Devon Adams	September 13 th	14 years old
Debbie Brewin-Wilson	September 14 th	
Walt Wiseman	September 25 th	
Tommy Rogers & Greg Gill	September 27 th	married 25 yrs.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Eden Bishop	October 2 nd	9 years old
Tom and Sheila Hood	October 3 rd	married 2 yrs.
Chris and Donald Downing	October 3 rd	
David Duvall	October 4 th	
Reeseman Walker	October 5 th	9 years old

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Heather Woolls	August 4 th
Jack Woolls	August 6 th 12 years old
Gail Dennis	August 10 th
Nathan Woolls	August 13 th 8 years old
Franklin Robinson, Sr.	August 13 th
Thomasina Rogers	August 17 th
John Harrison	August 29 th

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Franklin Robinson, Jr.	September 4 th
Frances Brooks	September 6 th
Jacob Bishop	September 7 th 11 years old
Jean Hogue	September 8 th
Gloria Perry	September 8 th

Bi-Monthly Parish News

St. Thomas' Parish
14300 St. Thomas Church Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772