

# St. Thomas' Parish Newsletter

Chapel of the Incarnation, Brandywine

St. Thomas' Church, Croom

The Rev. Debra Brewin-Wilson, Rector

Edition 1, Volume 1

July 1, 2011

## Baptisms and Confirmations

By Debbie Brewin-Wilson

St. Thomas' Parish shepherded two more Christians into the fold during the Easter Vigil, held at the Chapel of the Incarnation on April 23, 2011. Jordan

considered to be the primary service of Easter, and those who attended enjoyed it—plus, the service lasted only 90



Dan Dufford, Cleo Gill, Christina Mancy, Devon Adams, Pastor Debbie with Bishop Ihloff

Michael Bunner and Colden Paul Cheatham were baptized at the service. Colden is one of our newest parishioners—his older brother, Caden, attends Sunday school. Jordan is the great-nephew of his godfather, Franklin Robinson, Jr. The Vigil is

minutes, even with two baptisms, so don't believe everything you hear about Easter Vigils!

The Diocesan Confirmation service was held on

## From the Rector



Welcome to the first issue of the new St. Thomas' Parish Newsletter!

I want to thank Shirley Duvall and Deanne Adams for making the newsletter possible. Thanks to their talents and willingness to make the newsletter happen, you are reading this. Your feedback is important, so please let them (or me) know if this helps you to get the news you need and want about the Parish.

As we move into "The Great Summer Experiment" of having only one church service each Sunday during the summer, I hope you'll enter into the spirit of coming together as one congregation. Some folks want to host coffee hour right outside the church doors to take advantage of nice days. Let's see what this different perspective gives us about church and our parish family.

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter, and may you have a blessed two months—see you in church!

In peace,

Debbie

**The Rev. Debbie Brewin-Wilson**

Saturday, May 14, 2011. With four bishops ready to lay hands on the candidates, it didn't take long for the 242 people gathered to be Confirmed, Received, or Reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church. Our parish was well represented with eight people

participating: Devon Adams, Jeff Colburn, Dan Dufford, Cleo Gill, and Kaye Johnson were Confirmed; Shelley Dufford and Jean Hogue were Received; and Dave Walter Reaffirmed his Baptismal Vows. It was a beautiful liturgy with wonderful,

uplifting music. The rainy day didn't detract from the warmth and presence of the Holy Spirit within the Cathedral. It did get a little chaotic after the service, which is why not everyone from St. Thomas' is in the photos from that day.



*Charles, Caden Paul, Jennifer and Colden Cheatham with Pastor Debbie*

## Editors' Welcome *By Shirley Duvall*

Deanne Adams and I want to welcome you to the inaugural issue of "St. Thomas' Parish News." and let you know a little bit about how this is going to work.

Deanne and I are Co-Editors; I will collect the content and pictures, and Deanne will arrange all the material into an attractive format. This must be a parish project. Deanne and I cannot produce all that goes into it. That is up to *you*. We'll depend on you to let us know about future

events, and give us stories and pictures about things that have already happened. If any parishioner receives a special honor, we want to feature that with a photo, and perhaps an article, but you'll have to let us know.

The newsletter will come out on a bimonthly basis, this year's issues coming out in June, August, October and December. The deadline for material will be the fifteenth of the month preceding, which will be announced in

the Sunday bulletins. This will give time for me to get the material to Deanne so she can format it.

"St. Thomas' Parish News" will be distributed mainly by e-mail. For parishioners who do not receive e-mail, it will be mailed. Additional hard copies will be in the narthexes for visitors and newcomers.

There will be four regular features: "From the Rector," "Vestry Corner," "Parishioner in Profile" and "Birthdays and Anniversaries." If you have an

idea for another regular feature, please let the Rector or one of us know.

The newsletter will be a maximum of four pages. Sometimes content will have to be carried over to the following issue. We hope to include history about our people and buildings from time to time on a space-available basis.

We will appreciate any feedback and constructive critiquing. Happy going for all of us!

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## Parishioner in Profile



Mildred Stewart was selected by the Vestry to be St. Thomas' Parish's honoree for the Seabury Resources for Aging service at Washington National Cathedral on May 2, 2011. What follows is the submission to Seabury.

### Description of Service:

Mildred Stewart's contributions to St. Thomas' Parish, Croom, would fill several sheets of paper. Over the years, she has taught Sunday School; helped with ECW activities; attended Bible Studies, Education for Ministry (EfM), and other educational programs to increase her knowledge of God's Word; and served as a Eucharistic Minister and lay reader, leading Morning Prayer and delivering homilies. Her fellow attendees at the 7:45 a.m. service appreciate how she makes coffee for them every week, arriving a half-hour before the service begins in order to set up for coffee hour.

Mildred is always there—if there is an event going on at the Parish, she is there to help in whatever way she can. If there is an educational program happening—she is there, supporting others in their study and deepening her own relationship with God. If there is a special church service happening—Mildred is there. Mildred is a pillar of St. Thomas' Parish, and we cannot say how much we love her and how much we appreciate her life and ministry among us.

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## Our Local Bounty

*By Jane Young*

After a long winter of hibernation, Croom neighbors and friends are ready to gather again to celebrate the agricultural and artistic bounty of Southern Maryland at St. Thomas' Parish Farmers' Market. Please join us for our 2011 Opening Day on June 4, from 8 am - 12 noon. In addition to early spring veggies, we will have plants and master gardeners on hand to answer any questions you may have about planting your own backyard garden. If you are interested in receiving the most updated information about the market, please join our list serve. Just email the Market Manager (Jane Young), [ourlocalbounty@stthomascroom.org](mailto:ourlocalbounty@stthomascroom.org), and ask to be added to the list. Additional information can be found on the Parish website.

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## The Vestry Corner

*By Jack I. Thompson, Jr.*

The Vestry discussed the idea of one service in the summer both in its February meeting and the vestry retreat. As a result, Pastor Debbie Brewin-Wilson announced the idea of a different summer schedule at the annual meeting in February. After much discussion and consideration of all the services and parishioners at the Chapel and Church the Vestry voted there would be one service at St. Thomas' at 9:30 a.m.

beginning June 19 and ending August 14.

The Vestry voted by ballot that Mildred Stewart would be the parish's choice to represent St. Thomas' Parish at the Seniors Celebration at Washington National Cathedral on May 2, 2011.

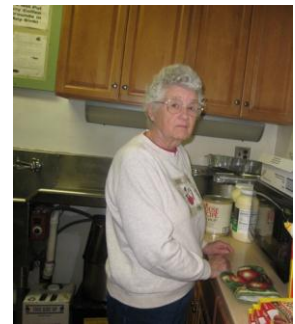
Recommendation for Debra Kirk to become a postulant in the Diocese was discussed and voted upon. Vestry members and the Rector signed the official recommendation of support.

Jeff Colburn and Christina Manucy presented an idea for a labyrinth on the Croom campus.

The Vestry supports the Rector in applying for having a Virginia Theological Seminary seminarian. St. Thomas' will be listed as a possible field education site for seminarians, and it is then up to the seminarians to visit churches and apply for a position. A seminarian would assist in worship and parish activities.



Breakfast was served at the Marlboro Food Bank distribution at Trinity Church on May 14. The donations from the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper provided the seed money for the food.



*Marlena Chopic, Terry Windsor, Gary Hogue, Sheila Hood, Joyce Duley, Shirley Duvall, Jack Thompson, Mildred Stewart and Franklin Robinson. Not shown: Suzy Lang*

### *June Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Alex Downing	June 4 <sup>th</sup> 4 year old
Dalton Adams	June 6 <sup>th</sup> 8 years old
Marty Walker	June 7 <sup>th</sup>
Gay and Bill Scott	June 10 <sup>th</sup> married 44 years
Jonathan Windsor	June 10 <sup>th</sup>
Juanita Charter	June 16 <sup>th</sup>
Dianne Duvall	June 20 <sup>th</sup>
Jean and Gary Hogue	June 21 <sup>st</sup> married 25 years
Gregory Gill	June 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Jean Matthews	June 26 <sup>th</sup>
Marlena Chopic	June 28 <sup>th</sup>
George McLaughlin	June 28 <sup>th</sup>
Shirley and Peter Wood Duvall	June 29 <sup>th</sup> married 54 years

### *July Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Heidi and Jeff Bishop	July 4 <sup>th</sup> married 13 years
Brian Young	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
Richard Bolton	July 12 <sup>th</sup>
Rae Tayman	July 19 <sup>th</sup> 97 years old
Jessica Bergren	July 20 <sup>th</sup> 21 years old
Jerrell Harrison	July 28 <sup>th</sup> 16 years old
Keith Charter	July 29 <sup>th</sup>

### *August Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Heather Woolls	August 4 <sup>th</sup>
Jack Woolls	August 6 <sup>th</sup> 12 years old
Gail Dennis	August 10 <sup>th</sup>

## *Bi-Monthly Parish Newsletter*

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