



The Parish Call



St. Thomas' Church
WHITE MARSH

Come with us on a journey with Christ

The mission of St. Thomas' Church is to know Jesus and to make Him known to others.

APRIL 2009

"The Church is the only institution in society which exists for the sake of those who are not members."
-- Archbishop William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944

A Woman of Substance

I love interesting people and love reading biographies. Over time I have discovered many heroes, whose lives are worth emulating. Recently I discovered a new one. Her name is **Hannah More**.

She was the second youngest of five daughters born to a schoolmaster in Bristol, England. The first half of her life was spent as a socialite living in London's fashionable salons, where she was the darling of the literary set, a friend of writer Samuel Johnson, and the author of popular light verse and drama. With her sisters she founded a school in Bristol, known for its moral education and academic excellence.

A turning point in More's life came in 1787 when she met William Wilberforce, the abolitionist from Parliament, who enlisted her support to help end the British slave trade. More wrote several essays condemning slavery and challenging the upper classes to live the Christian faith. She believed that careless Christi-

anity, not blatant sin, posed the greatest danger to society.

In the 1790s More wrote a series of tracts for the moral and religious instruction of the poor. The problems plaguing the poor were not only economic but also spiritual and moral. She designed a curriculum to teach the Christian faith through Bible study and prayer and to instill virtue, industry, temperance and thrift.

Wilberforce challenged More to move from educating upper class children to educating the poor. With her sisters' help, More established schools for the poor, including a school in the village of Cheddar which educated five hundred poor children. In 1808, More published her only novel *Coelebs in Search of a Wife*, an action story with evangelical Christian focus, which became an immediate best-seller. In it she wrote,



(continued on page 7)

Holy Week and Easter Services

PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 5
8:00am, 9:30am,

Maunder Thursday: April 9
7:30pm

Good Friday: April 10
12:00pm

Easter Vigil: April 11
7:00pm

Reception at 8:30pm, Haas Hall

Easter Day: April 12
7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am
Easter Egg Hunt: 10:30am

Private Confession: available Monday through Thursday of Holy Week. Please call Mother Whitney if you are interested at 215-233-3970 x122.

Choir of Canterbury Cathedral



Friday, April 24, 2009, 8:00pm
St. Thomas' Church, White Marsh

\$20.00 (regular); **\$10.00** (student);
\$150.00 (patron: 2 tickets, reserved seating and name listed in program).
Reception to follow. All are welcome.

TO ORDER Call: 215-233-3970

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On **Palm Sunday**, you will notice a slightly different emphasis in worship. For any of you that have become familiar with the Episcopal Church since the “new” Book of Common Prayer came into print in 1979, the specific emphasis on Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem may be surprising. Yet it is difficult to experience

the power of the **Triduum** (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) without first delving into the power of Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday is known for its parade, with the crying of “Hosanna” by children as Jesus enters the holy city of Jerusalem. “All Glory, Laud and Honor, to thee, Redeemer King” is what we sing at the beginning of our worship together. It is a festive occasion filled with joy and expectation. I felt like I got a snapshot into this emotional longing at a rally I attended last fall.

In October 2008, I attended a rally for Barack Obama at Abington High School. I took my two oldest kids out of school for the day because I wanted them to see this already historic figure. We waited in line for quite some time and we were more than happy to strike up conversation with those around us. Everyone was there for this same historic event. Thousands of people filled the stands, patiently awaiting Obama’s arrival. Finally, the moment came when he took the stage and the place erupted in welcome support. Even as I was a participant in this rally, I was conscious of the response of the people. At one point, the crowd cheered enthusiastically

to something that he said, and with just a slight raise of his hand, everyone got quiet again. I marveled at our response, at our desire for a political change that we thought only this man could bring.

When I reflect back on this occasion, I feel that I have some insight into Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem. I can imagine the longing that those who witnessed his coming into Jerusalem must have felt. I imagine that they told their kids what to say and how to act for this historic occasion as Jesus entered on a donkey. People wanted to see this man that they had heard so much about. They knew what they longed for politically, and they were confident that they had found the one to bring the changes they hoped for.

I have heard on some news shows of wild opinions that President Obama is the anti-Christ. I believe that a label of the President as a savior says more about our desire to have a savior than it does about the man that has been put in that office. When we tap into that longing--the desire to have someone come and fix our woes and restore us to political soundness--we can more easily imagine the crowd that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. We can more easily discover the ways that Jesus meets those needs in his teaching and through his actions in Holy Week.

In the midst of political change, economic uncertainty, and environmental upheaval, we have a Savior, Jesus the Christ. It is up to us to tell the world that they need to look no longer. Jesus, the One who saved us is saving us still.

Come and hail our King on **Palm Sunday, April 13!** *Whitney +*

*** Please join us on **Palm Sunday (April 5)** as we will have one festal Eucharist in the big church. There will be many activities for children to participate in, thus, no Second Steps. *****



Bishop Rodney Michel Named Assisting Bishop

By Jerry Hames

Bishop **Rodney R. Michel**, who retired in 2007 after serving for 10 years as suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Long Island, will become the

new assisting bishop in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the Standing Committee announced February 23, 2009.

Bishop Michel, 66, whose term is expected to last three years, said he would begin his new ministry full-time on April 1, after working alongside Bishop Allen Bartlett on a part-time basis throughout March. Bishop Bartlett, diocesan bishop of the diocese from 1987 to 1998, has acted as the assisting bishop for the past year. The Standing Committee continues to be the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese.

A native of Nebraska and a graduate of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Bishop Michel said he looks forward to his new ministry with enthusiasm. “I’m excited about this opportunity.

I wasn’t ready to sit on the porch in my rocking chair,” he said, acknowledging that he sees much work to accomplish and bridges to rebuild among people. “I have done a lot of that throughout my ministry and in my time as a bishop in Long Island.”

The bishop said that he and his wife, Marie, who have four grown children, would move from their home in Ephrata, Pa., to an apartment in Philadelphia. Since retirement from fulltime ministry, he has served as assisting bishop in two other dioceses --the Diocese of Georgia for four months in 2007 and 2008 and for a brief term last year in the Diocese of Maryland. In 2003 he was a nominee for bishop in the Diocese of New Jersey.

Bishop Michel said his duties will be both administrative and pastoral. He will work from the diocesan office four days a week, do Sunday parish visitations, be present for meetings of committees and commissions that his predecessor traditionally attended and be a pastoral resource for clergy, their families and congregations. “We’ll get back to business as normal,” he said.

“Is God’s Will in Yours?” For information about making a Planned Gift to St. Thomas’ and joining the 1698 Society, please contact **Lyn Simensen** at 215-233-3970 x123 or stewardship@stthomaswhitemarsh.org.



"The Psychology of Love" Saturday, April 18 9:00 a.m. to noon; MacColl Auditorium. Cost is \$20.

It is said that one can tell a culture's sophistication about a concept by the number of words that they have for it. The Eskimos have 28 words for snow. In our culture, we have only one word for love. This lecture will unpack the Greek words for love: Eros, Philia and Agape. In addition, we will look closely at the love of self and others.

This program will be lead by the Rev. Pittman McGehee, an Episcopal priest, who is Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Psychology and Spirituality in Houston, Texas.

"Grief is Not a Linear Process: Ways & Means for Integrating Loss" Saturday, April 18; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.; MacColl Auditorium. Cost is \$20.

No experience is more recurrent in our lives than loss. This lecture/seminar will discuss the process of grief and analytical tools to help the work of integrating suffering into one's soul and will be lead by the Rev. Pittman McGehee.

RSVP by calling the church receptionist at **215-233-3970 ext. 131.**

NOTE: The cost of attending both programs on April 18 lead by the Rev. Pittman McGehee will be reduced to \$30.



~MEMORIALS~

In 2008, St. Thomas' received \$3875 in memory of the following parishioners: **Cora Clark, William W. Dickhart, III, Nell Height, Henry M. McAdoo, Jr., George Campbell Myers, Anne Groton Napier, George Q. Nichols, Alvin J. Powell, Lily F. Urian, and Philip H. Ward, III**

These monies allow the church to make improvements that are not possible to finance from our operating budget. What a great way to honor a friend!!

- Jan Lutz, Memorials Secretary

Children and Music and the Church

The church plays an important role in the musical development of our children. As many of our public schools are reducing the amount of music education offered, due to budget cuts and standardized testing requirements, churches can and MUST take up this important ministry to their members and the community.

Here at St. Thomas', we offer wonderful music opportunities for young people. The **Alle gro** class offers beginning singing and music experience for Pre-K through Second Grade boys and girls. This is the ideal time for a young child to begin learning to listen, and to use his/her voice. In addition to learning to match pitch, and basic music concepts, they also learn some of the basics of faith, expressed in the words of the songs.

Our **Chorister** program, for boys and girls in the third grade and up, offers a high level music education—theory, history, and music reading skills, along with first rate voice training. The choristers develop leadership skills, and learn responsibility to the other choristers and to the church. They grow in understanding their faith and the beautiful liturgy of the

church as they participate regularly as worship leaders.

Each year, the children in church school have an opportunity to learn about the great instruments used in our worship: the organ and the carillon.

Early in February, our own Carillonneur, **Lisa Lonie** (below), and Organist,



Derrick Goff (left, bottom), had an opportunity to demonstrate the carillon and organ to some younger Church School classes.

On Sunday, February 22, **Gerard DeWaardt** (below), Guest Carillonneur



from Rotterdam, Netherlands played the voluntary after the 9:30 a.m. service. Later, several Church School classes went up to the carillon to meet him, and see how the carillon is played. Some of them played duets and trios with Mr. DeWaardt.

What a privilege for St. Thomas' Church to minister to our children and young people by offering them the gift of music!
— Cindy DeDakis

SUNDAY, APRIL 26: Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie will deliver an Instructed Eucharist in lieu of a Sermon. *Please join us!*



In this time of extreme economic stress, it is difficult to leave the problems of the economy from the evening dinner conversations. Fears about mortgages, college tuition, retirement, and day-to-day expenses haunt the halls of many family homes. Children are able to recognize an increased stress of their parents during the financial crisis and may be experiencing their own stress as a result.

While open communication between parents and their children is the foundation of a healthy relationship, parents should not overburden their children. Instead, try to address problems at age-appropriate levels. For example, what a parent might tell a younger child about the family's financial situation is different than what they might tell an adolescent; young children may interpret the situation as more dire than it actually is. Older children and teens will be more exposed to the news--discussing their understanding of the economy and its implication on the family can be reassuring.

How parents phrase their worries about the financial situation influences a child's interpretation. Younger children may take overheard statements such as "we're going to the poor house" literally and thus internalize fears about losing their home. Talking to your children and asking them their thoughts and ideas will help clear up any misunderstandings, ease their anxieties, and reduce their stress.

Families can also use their financial situation as an opportunity to manage their children's expectations for material goods. Teaching your children about budgeting, perhaps by setting up a "savings account" for their pocket money, or by allocating a certain amount for charity, will help them better understand that an Xbox or an iPod might not be feasible for their birthday or

the holidays this year. Furthermore, these times offer an opportunity to focus on the positive aspects, and prioritizing what's important—relationships with loved ones and friends, the family's health—can lessen children's fears and reinforce family values.

Pay attention to signals that your child may experience: sleep and appetite changes, nightmares or avoidance of situations or people. Parents who use healthy stress-relieving behaviors set a good example for children. Taking a family walk after dinner or playing a board game in the evening are not only positive alternatives to distract oneself from the news, but also inexpensive activities that foster bonding time.

Being proactive about managing your family's stress and continuing life as usual, despite what's happening on Wall Street or Main Street, will help make a spiritually and emotionally healthier home, even in these times of economic unrest. (adapted from an article by the American Psychological Association). —Sister BJ

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Friday, April 17, 2009

6:00 – 8:00 PM; MacColl Auditorium



Come for dinner and make your own sundae!
There will be bingo, crafts and more!

RSVP to Sister BJ @ 215-233-3970 ext. 124
or sisterbj@stthomaswhitemarsh.org
(We need a head count for dinner.)

Pastoral Care: Caring for Parishioners

Pastoral Care Ministries is a vital, but often unseen part of the life of St. Thomas' Church. Members of this commission work along with clergy in caring for parishioners in simple, but meaningful ways. In times of joy and sorrow, trials or transitions we minister to the needs of our community through:

Altar Flower Delivery (Jean Perry, Coordinator) brings flowers to shut-ins or those in crisis, those who are grieving or those who are celebrating.

Card Ministry (Peggy Jones, Coordinator) sends caring thoughts during difficult, as well as joyous times.

Communications (Elisa Marshall, Coordinator) informs the parish of the activities of Pastoral Care ministries through articles, like this one, and announcements about our activities.

Parish Visitors (Lisa Wells, Coordinator) provide a friendly presence by visiting, phoning or corresponding with parishioners who are unable to regularly attend worship services.

Meal Ministry (Chris Russell, Coordinator) provides meals to those in times of crisis, bereavement or transition.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (Dave Manuel, Coordinator) take communion from our worship services to those who are unable to attend.

Liaison to Adult Spiritual Formation (Beverly Johnson,

Coordinator) provides a link between Pastoral Care and Adult Spiritual Formation when presenting pastoral care education to the parish.

Prayer Chain (Cynthia Eastlake, Coordinator) prays daily for people of varying needs.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Marge English, Coordinator) creates knitted prayer shawls to give to those in need of a loving touch.

Stephen Ministers (Barbara Kwiecinski and Juan Colina, Coordinators) provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulty in their lives.

Pastoral Care volunteers care deeply about members of the St. Thomas' community. Join us if you would like to be Christ's hands, eyes or feet to the members of St. Thomas'. We welcome you, whatever your age, however much or little time you have. If you could write a card or Parish Call article, deliver flowers or the communion, make a meal, help plan a conference, visit, pray or knit, we would love to call you one of our volunteers. Please contact the coordinator of individual ministries where you would like to volunteer, or **Jane Hamilton**, Pastoral Commission Chair, at 215-646-1088 or at janemeierhamilton@gmail.com We hope to hear from you!



“No worries...” When I think of my good friend and Youth Commission Co-chair, these words come to mind. **Dave Schreffler** was an expert at looking at problems as opportunities and transforming conflict into creative solutions. He was our devoted and talented leader. His enthusiasm was infectious, and his skill at managing and developing were awesome. He saw the best in people, and was a master at leveraging their strengths. He kept meetings moving, delegating like a pro. “Alright, who’s got that monkey?” (Dave was fond of using “monkeys” as a metaphor for potentially annoying tasks that needed to be managed and handled). Dave inevitably had more than one monkey to take home. More than most of us. That was Dave, hard working and generous.

Dave and I were a good team. He was the management guy, and I was the “head expert” (as he affectionately re-

ferred to me.) Dave would say “Liz, you’re the head expert, what’s going on there?” After listening patiently as I would go on and on about the individual at hand, he would always reply: “Geez, do me a favor, never analyze me. THAT would be down right scary.” I would reply, “too late....” You didn’t need to be a psychotherapist to get what made Dave Schreffler tick. One word: LOVE.

Dave loved his family in unspeakable ways. A softness and irrepressible smile would quickly come across his eyes when he spoke of his Deb, which he did often. Dave was the consummate discerning father. He often spoke of his children to me, with unabashed joy, picking my brain as to his parenting choices. He adored his family and it was impossible to have a conversation with him without them creeping into our discussion.

Dave loved God and St. Thomas’. He was the picture of love in action.

He was passionate about our Youth Ministry and our kids. And he loved worship. Marek mentioned in his eulogy that Dave would walk to church. He would tell me that his worship started the minute he walked out his door on his journey to church.

The last conversation I had with Dave was over the phone on Martin Luther King Day. Dave was returning a message I had left for him with a question. I explained I had to go since I was helping my kids with exam preparation. After giving me a well deserved razz about doing my kids homework for them, he gave me the help I needed. I apologized for having to go. His last words to me were, “No worries Liz”.

By Liz Butler-Rodgers



Heaven...



... Our Deepest Desire and Ultimate Destination

Four evenings of fellowship and lectures by the **Rev. Marek Zabriskie**. Sponsored by: **Good Wine and the Good Book** – an educational and fellowship series sponsored by St. Thomas’ Church for men and women of our parish and members of the extended community.

We invite your friends, family and you to join us for four special evenings with a glass of wine and a delicious catered meal as our rector offers four 40 minute lectures from 7:00-8:30pm Wednesdays, **April 22, 29, May 6, 13** in MacColl Auditorium.

Join us for one, two, three or all four evenings. Please let us know exactly which nights you can attend in order for us to assist our caterer.

- April 22** **Why heaven matters and what the ancient Greeks and Romans believed about the afterlife** [Menu: Spring Veg, Lasagna, Caesar Salad w/ Tomatoes & Focaccia Croutons, Bread Basket w/Butter, Cheese & Fruit Tray, Asstd. Dessert Tray]
- April 29** **What the ancient Jews thought of life after death** [Menu: Chicken w/ Capers in a White Wine Sauce, Served over Brown Rice Pilaf, Spring Mix Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette, Bread Basket with Butter, Cheese & Fruit Tray, Asstd. Cookie Tray]
- May 6** **What the early Christians believed about the eternal life** [Menu: Baked Ziti with Sausage, Spring Mix Salad with Craisins & Pecans in Cider Honey Vinaigrette, Bread Basket with Butter, Cheese & Fruit Tray, Asstd. Dessert Tray]
- May 13** **How Medieval Christians and Dante depicted heaven** [Menu: Chicken Marbella with Olives & Capers in Wine Sauce, Served over CousCous, Romaine Salad with Cucumber & Creamy Green Goddess Dressing, Bread Basket with Butter, Cheese & Fruit Tray, Asstd. Dessert Tray]

RSVP by April 15. Call the Parish Office at **215-233-3970**. Cost is \$50 per person for all four sessions or \$15 per individual session. Non-members are invited to join us.

Small Groups April 2009

The Spring offerings are focused on prayer, which is the way we have conversation with God. This month, with the coming of warm and sunny days, what better way to connect with God than through the garden! We welcome your participation.

Gardening as a Spiritual Exercise

~ Is working in the garden a spiritual exercise for you? Do you find yourself nurtured in your relationship with the Divine? Come join others with similar experiences and hear from two of our own experts, **Jenny Carey** and **Brenda Sullivan**. These women can answer your gardening questions and share some of the spiritual aspects of working with the earth. ~

April 19 and 26
10:45-11:45am
Location: PH Living Room

Caroline Hauser



In 1990, upon relocating from Atlanta, Georgia to Philadelphia, **Caroline Hauser** found both a nursery school for her three year old son and a job as an assistant teacher to Leigh Heritage. Little did anyone know at that point what an impact Caroline would have on St. Thomas' Nursery School.

When Caroline began her job as Director in 1996, she found herself developing the program and files from scratch. She raised half the money to buy a computer for the office, and the church matched the other half. Since there was no formal curriculum for the nursery school, she developed one. She also worked to get a bathroom into the three year old classroom, and sinks in both of the Pre-K classrooms. The Scholarship Fund that Caroline established is a real point of pride. This fund has provided tuition for families in situations of crisis and will continue to assist families in times of need.

Some of Caroline's favorite memories are of the times spent with her staff. She spoke of girls' weekends at a mountain house in State College, of working together to decide on a theme for costumes each year at Halloween, and of the Christmas Pageant. However, she said that every day at St. Thomas' Nursery School has been fun because of the children. They are the ones that have given her joy, and she will miss that interaction next year.

Leigh Heritage, lead teacher of the Four Year Old Class, shared many of the same favorite memories of the trips up to the mountain house and the Halloween mischief night. She also spoke of the more practical things that Caroline has done to make the school a better place, like bringing in the refrigerator, cubbies, murals, air conditioners, copy machine, and making playground improvements. It is clear that Caroline will be dearly missed by the teachers next year.

Sam Jordan, Mom to Wills (8), Tally (6), and Mac (4), has been a parent at St. Thomas' Nursery School since 2002. When I asked her about Caroline, she referred to her as "the heart and soul of the program". She complimented her for

bringing on great teachers, and spoke about how much of an impact she has had on the school. She spoke about how Caroline is always very busy, yet is able to make time every day for the little things that make a big difference. As a parent, you see Caroline involved in the classroom activities, helping out when needed, and just enjoying the time she spends with the children.

As for the future, Caroline and her husband plan to head south. They are both Southerners and have family in the South. With their children finishing college, they plan to find a house near the water and do some kayaking and fishing. Caroline's husband will continue to work for another year or two, which will give her the opportunity to travel with him before he retires. Although she will miss the St. Thomas' community and especially the children, she is looking forward to the next phase of her life. She will spend the next few months cleaning out her office and helping the new Director transition into the job.

This spring, Caroline's dream of a "Memory Garden" on the larger playground will finally begin to be realized. This garden will honor the numerous families that have been a part of St. Thomas' Nursery School as well as teachers, parents, children and others close to the school who have sadly departed this life. Funds are still needed to complete Caroline's vision, which includes steppingstone pathways leading to an outdoor classroom, a musical pathway with varied instruments, butterflies, birds and insects, bird feeders, and train whistles. What better way to honor a woman who has given so much to St. Thomas' than to help her Memory Garden become a reality? Please consider making a donation in honor of Caroline to help complete the Memory Garden.

— Kim Morris

More info about the Memory Garden can be found at www.stthomaswhitemarsh.org (under Nursery School).

April Forums



APRIL 5 – Psalm Sunday:
"Unabashedly Anglican Part V:
An Evangelical Faith" with the
Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie



**APRIL 19: "Do the Four
Notes of the Church Still Make
Music?"** with The Very Rev.
Pittman McGehee.

The Very Rev. Pittman
McGehee will be our Guest
Preacher on this Sunday, April 19.

APRIL 26:
"Unabashedly Anglican – Part VI: A Mystical
Faith" with the Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie

COMING WEDNESDAYS THIS FALL...

- ... Do you enjoy the fellowship of such events as the Valentine's Breakfast or the Pancake Supper?
- Do you wish for opportunities to connect with your church family during the week?
- ... Do you enjoy sharing a delicious meal with people that you care about?
- ... Does the thought of not having to think about what to cook or dedicate the time to preparing and cleaning up appeal to you?

We're planning to have dinner and optional activities available for all of St. Thomas' parishioners on Wednesday nights beginning this fall.

Interested in knowing more or being a part of the planning?
Contact The Rev. Whitney Altopp,
waltopp@stthomaswhitemarsh.org or 215-233-3970 x.122

Second Saturday Sales

This year's **Second Saturday Sales** will start with a preview party on **Friday, May 8**, followed the next day, **May 9**, by the first of six monthly rummage sales. The preview party, at the barn, will give you a chance to get a first look and a chance to buy merchandise, and enjoy refreshments and fellowship with parishioners and friends. The next day, sales will take place from 8:00 am to 12 noon. The sales will continue **June 13, July 11, August 8, Sept. 12, and Oct. 10**, and will benefit local and international humanitarian projects.

Please help make the sales a success by volunteering your time and donating things to sell. In the weeks leading up to the sales, volunteers gather at the barn on Saturday mornings to sort goods. This year we have a sign-up sheet up at the barn so you can let us know when you can help us out sorting. On sale days, cashiers and baggers will also be needed. Clean and wearable clothing, books, bric-a-brac and toys may be left at the barn.

Join us for fun, friendship and an opportunity to support and give back to the community as an individual or as a family. For more information, call **Ellen Greenleaf** at 215-233-4541.

~ CONGRATULATIONS ~



... to Harry MacCord's (St. Thomas' Weekend Sexton) daughter **KATE** who was awarded the **Gates-Cambridge Scholarship** for her graduate program at **Cambridge University** this coming fall!! Way to go **KATE!!**

More info can be found at:
www.gatesscholar.org/scholars/new_scholars.asp

Women's Conference Planning Meeting

Please join us for a planning meeting on **April 20, 2009** in **MacColl Auditorium** from **7:00-8:30pm**. Wine and cheese will be provided. We will discuss the upcoming conference with **Jane Williams**, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, scheduled for **October 6-10, 2009**.

RSVP: **Anita Burke** at 215-233-3970 x121 or aburke@stthomaswhitemarsh.org.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

In your prayers at home during the month of April, please remember those on our parish Prayer Chain list.

Ellie Archer, Jo Ann Beistline, Art Hellebusch, Carolyn Horton, John, Greg Kutka, Brian O' Hara, Marion Koonce, Joseph Lentz, Anna Maria Murray, Meredith Pratt, Helen Ralston, Carrie Rowan, Gail Simmonds, Joann Wilson, Harry Shaw, the Bailey family.

FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:

Jordan Clay, Pat Scardino, Robert Texter, Drew Williams and for their families who also serve through waiting for their safe return.

FOR SAINTS DEPARTED: Patty Hogan, Bob Bailey

FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS

FOR NEW LIFE:

Bryn Eileen Evans, JianRui Warren Shaw and
Ava Elizabeth West

FOR OTHER BLESSINGS: We pray for all elected officials, especially our President, Barak Obama.

(continued from page 1—A Woman of Substance)

I was immediately buoyed up with an unfounded confidence. I adopted a religion which promised pardon without repentance, happiness without obedience, and heaven without holiness. I had found a short road to peace. I never inquired if it were a safe one.

More crowned her literary career by writing a trilogy of books on the spiritual life. She avoided controversial questions and focused on daily Christian living, offering practical suggestions and discussing the joy that the Christian life brings. In her book *Christian Morals*, she noted,

A low standard of religion flatters our vanity, is easily acted up to, does not wound our self-love, is practicable without sacrifices, and respectable without self-denial. It allows the implantation of virtues without irradicating vices, recommends right actions without expelling wrong principles, and grafts fair appearances upon unresisted corruptions.

Towards the end of her life, Christians, Buddhists and Muslims traveled from around the world to seek More's wisdom, including Philander Chase, the first Episcopal bishop of Ohio who founded Kenyon College. This summer I hope to read a biography of More, whose life inspires me. To read more about her and other inspirational Anglicans, read *Glorious Companions: Five Centuries of Anglican Spirituality* by Richard Schmidt. To purchase a copy contact Anita Burke in the church office.

Anita Burke



St. Thomas' Church

WHITEMARSH

Come with us on a journey with Christ

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Whitemarsh
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WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00am: Rite I in the church
9:00am: First Steps to Worship
Parish Hall Living Room
9:30am: Second Steps to Worship
MacColl Auditorium
(1st & 3rd Sundays, only)
9:30am: Rite II in the church
10:45am: Spiritual Formation
*Church School
Rector's Forum
Adult Small Groups*

The Parish Call is published 10 times a year.
Please submit articles for upcoming editions to:
lisaw@stthomaswhitemarsh.org.
Articles must be received by the first of the
month for next month's newsletter.

"FYI" e-Newsletter — Go to:
www.stthomaswhitemarsh.org and click
on the "FYI" icon to be added to our weekly
email distribution list.

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WHITEMARSH

Bethlehem Pike and Camp Hill Road Fort Washington, PA 19034-0247 Phone: 215-233-3970 Fax: 215-233-2893 www.stthomaswhitemarsh.org

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite I; 9:00 a.m.: First Steps to Worship (Holy Eucharist for Families with children under 5; Parish House Living Room); 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Little Disciples' Worship Time (ages 3-6) at the 9:30 a.m. service); Sunday Nursery: Available for infants age 6 –36 months from 9:00a.m.—12:00 noon in MacColl Auditorium (Lower Level).

WEEKDAY SERVICES: Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Church at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. A Service of Healing is offered on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month during the Eucharist.

COLLEGE OF INTERCESSORS: To request prayers or to join the College of Intercessors, please call the Parish Office at 215-233-3970.

CLERGY VISITS: Please notify the Parish Office of any parishioners who are ill, shut-in or hospitalized and who would like to receive Holy Communion and/or a visit by a member of the clergy.

THE VESTRY: Steve Bitterman, Rector's Warden; Ted Brown, Junior Warden; Phil Anspach, Accounting Warden; Kevin Canavan, Carl Jameson, David Junkin, Russ Kaller, Anne Klinger, Joyce Lawson, Tom Morgan, Brian O'Hara, Nicole Riter.

THE STAFF

The Entire Congregation, Ministers
The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Jr., Bishop of PA
The Rt. Rev. Edward Lee, Assistant Bishop

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The Rev. Whitney Altopp, Vicar ext. 122
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The Rev. Heather Patton-Graham
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The Rev. William Marquand deHeyman, Associate Clergy

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