



# The Parish Call



**St. Thomas' Church**  
WHITEMARSH

*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.**

**JANUARY 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

## Tigers seen roaming the church grounds



**N**o, no, not those tigers... George, Therese, Allie and Samantha! St. Thomas' welcomed this family during the November 2, 2008 service but the Tigers had already embraced St. Thomas' for close to a year prior.



The Tiger family initially got involved in the youth group and confirmation classes. Their daughter, Allie, came with a friend from school and continued coming because she liked it so much. As many parents know...if the kids are happy then the parents are happy.

The Tigers soon embraced St. Thomas' as a family. Therese cur-

rently teaches Sunday School (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and has participated in small groups. Therese loved the group led by the Roaks and Whitney concerning money and children.

The entire family is a huge fan of Second Steps. Therese said "this service is very relatable to children's own lives while reinforcing a very important point from a bible story. Once again, if the kids are happy...the parents are happy!

George and Therese both enjoy working with kids. Therese is a parenting educator and George loves soccer and coaching.

They have been involved in service activities here and are looking forward to helping out with more in 2009. The Tigers love the low pressure atmos-

phere at St. Thomas', "...the families here are so real and genuinely friendly! St. Thomas' focuses on what people look like on the inside NOT the outside".

**Welcome to St. Thomas'!**  
**We look forward to seeing you around church!**

### Joining the Church: Coming Home

There seems to be wonderful enthusiasm about joining St. Thomas' Church. **The Rev. Whitney Altopp**, Coordinator for Membership and Volunteer Ministries, **Lora Lleyens**, the Membership Commission, chaired by **Cheryl Brown** and **Denise Lewis** and supported by Vestry Member **Carl Jameson**, and each of you are doing a fabulous job of assisting visitors to feel welcome and to learn more about St. Thomas' Church.

We have a wonderful parish family to share with others. The worship is lively, the members are terrific, the educational programs are exceptional, the outreach is inspirational, the pastoral care is manifold and comes from so many of you reaching out, and the music

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## Evelyn Underhill: A Soul Friend



As we celebrate our theme “Unabashedly Anglican,” our Rector will write an article each month about a great Anglican. We hope that these articles enrich your love and understanding of the Anglican heritage and strengthen your faith. To learn more about Anglicanism, we recommend reading **Glorious Companions: Five Centuries of Anglican Spirituality** by Richard Schmidt.

Copies may be purchased by contacting Anita Burke at 215-233-3970 ext. 121.

The most common New Year’s Resolutions are to lose weight, eat less and exercise more. Most Americans break their resolutions within three days of making them, because we have no one to hold us accountable for keeping them. If we make spiritual resolutions, we are apt to give them up as well unless we find a spiritual mentor who will hold us accountable. One spiritual mentor who has helped me to understand the Christian life better is the English lay woman and author, Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941).

She first came to my attention in seminary when I read her book *Mysticism*, which is considered the most definitive Christian work ever written on the subject. In it Underhill quotes 133 men and women who led such prayerful lives that they became known as mystics, who peered deep into the mystery that we call God.

She discussed five stages in the mystical journey, which include awakening, purification, illumination, dark night and union. Union is the goal of the mystical life. It calls us to align our will fully with God’s will. Experiences of mystical union offer us a foretaste of heaven.

Underhill was born to non-religious parents. At the age of thirty-two she married a wealthy lawyer and led a charmed life of gardening, yachting and bookbinding, but something was missing in her life. She began a spiritual quest that led her to leave the Roman Catholic Church and become an Anglican. In the second half of her life she wrote forty books, authored 350 articles and became the world’s leading authority on Christian mysticism.

Mysticism fascinates me because I believe that God is best known in moments of soulful presence when we sense that we are not alone, but we are in the presence of a Holy Other which neither words nor doctrine can adequately describe.

Mystics, liturgists, musicians and poets understand this far better than most bishops, priests and theologians.

Mysticism is often held suspect in the church by religious leaders who like to color inside the lines of dogma and faith. Underhill, however, believed that mysticism is the foundation of all religious experience. She believed that mysticism is practical and entirely spiritual.

The truth is that mysticism can become heretical and unhealthy, if left ungrounded. Hence Baron von Hugel, Underhill’s spiritual director, encouraged her to spend two mornings a week serving the poor in London slums. Hands-on outreach grounded Underhill’s spiritual energies. In her book “Sources of Power in Human Life” Underhill wrote,

*The mystics put spiritual interests in the center of the field, and by attending to that aspect of reality enter more and more deeply into it; coming at last to the perfect and conscious harmony with the spiritual order which some of them call the “practice of the presence of God.” How do they do this? First by that quiet, steady attention to the spiritual which is the essence of prayer: an art which any one may practice who chooses to open his door to the eternal world waiting on the fringes of the common life. Next by a drastic reordering of their whole nature in conformity with the perfection they have seen and loved. Last, by energetic work in harmony with their ideals; for nothing is truly ours till we have expressed it in our deeds. These are the three elements of that discipline which the spiritual life demands of those who really want it – steady contemplation, drastic self-conquest, eager service; and this, I believe, is their true order of importance.*

Underhill was the first woman to lecture on religion at Oxford University and was the first woman to lead a retreat for the clergy of the Church of England, in 1926. Underhill was a pacifist in a nation at war with Nazi Germany. It was an unpopular view, but one that took courage and conviction. We all need spiritual mentors whose writings and lives inspire our journey and help us to make and keep our spiritual resolutions. Underhill has much to teach us.

*Maverick +*



## Professor Harold Attridge

### **Making Sense of St. Paul**

January 31 – 9:00 a.m. to noon in MacColl Auditorium. Cost is \$20.

This workshop will focus on the issues of the “New Perspective” on Paul (Paul and his relationship to Judaism; Paul’s understanding of the role of Christ; Paul and his contemporary culture). The Apostle Paul has been an inspiration to generations of Christians and an embarrassment to some contemporaries. Was he the true “founder of Christianity”? Did he repudiate his Jewish heritage and create the conditions for Christian anti-Semitism? How did he understand what happened in the life and death of Jesus? Did he anticipate the Reformation doctrines of “justification by faith alone” or was he really a “proto-Catholic” who understood works to matter? **Professor Harold Attridge**, Dean of the Yale Divinity School and Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament at Yale Divinity School, will address these matters. This workshop will be focused on three of Paul’s most important letters, to the Galatians, the Corinthians and the Romans.

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



This is a question that runs through the minds of the church leadership on a whole host of issues. We recognize various

needs and values in the community of St. Thomas' and dream of all kinds of ways to reach the goals those needs and values produce. We also recognize that there are often many ways to get "there." We'd like to hear from you what some of your ideas of getting there look like.

With some regularity we'll offer an hour on Sundays (from Noon to 1:00pm) as an **Idea Hothouse**. The leadership of the church, whatever it's array, will share with you where we envision us going on a particular topic and want to hear your feedback on how we might get there. These sessions will not be explanatory or persuasive, but an opportunity for those in attendance to share their values in the pursuit of goals that reflect the community's values.

For example: The leadership might host an **Idea Hothouse** on the topic of our desire to offer more opportunities

for fellowship as a parish. Anyone who would like to share their ideas on this topic is welcome to attend. No sign up is necessary.

Those in attendance would share their ideas: have a pot luck supper once a month, have weekly coffee hour, have once a month theme parties, do fellowship in people's homes, have fellowship in MacColl Auditorium, keep everyone together, have programs for kids, etc. The leadership would take this list of ideas back to the commission in charge of this goal and work with them to draft a plan in response to the ideas shared. A month later, a plan would be laid out in another **Idea Hothouse** and further ideas will be shared. Any new ideas would be taken back to the commission to consider. We would alternate between these two groups, **Idea Hothouse** and **Commission**, until we felt ready to move forward with an idea. Although this might seem like a lengthy process, I expect that the exchanges between **Idea Hothouse** and **Commission** will be few.

The reasons for introducing this new process are several:

1. **People will know how to participate in a topic of meaning to them.**
2. **A great deal of consensus building and understanding will be a natural by-product of the process.**
3. **Community building and fellowship will naturally develop.**
4. **New and creative ideas will be shared.**

The facilitator of the group will work to keep a positive atmosphere for all so that good ideas and creativity can multiply in our midst.

Please keep your eyes open for the schedule of the **Idea Hothouse** in the FYI e-mail and Sunday announcements. And be sure to set aside the time to attend those that hold a particular interest to you. We want to know what you think.

*For just as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Romans 12:4-5*

In Christ,

*Whitney +*

## January Forums



**January 11**  
**A Journey Through England - Highlights of The Rev. Marek Zabriskie's Sabbatical**



**January 18**  
**Eucharist: The Anglican Understanding of Holy Communion**

In this form we will discuss how God and Christ are present to us in Holy Communion

and what our response should be.

Baptism and Eucharist are the central sacraments of the Episcopal Church, but too often we do not realize the depth and the meaning of the Eucharist. This forum will be led by **Dio- genes Allen**, a much beloved speaker at St. Thomas', the former Stuart Professor of Philosophy at Princeton Theological Seminary and an Episcopal priest. He is known as one of the greatest Christian philosophers and apologists of the late 20th century, whom many have compared to C.S. Lewis. His books include *Temptation, Steps Along the Way, Quest, Traces of God and Spiritual Theology: The Theology of Yesterday and Help for Today*.



**January 25**  
**God is Green: Eco-theology and what Christians Can Do to Save the Planet**  
**The Rev. Canon Jeff Gollither**, vicar of St. John's Episcopal Church, Ellenville,

New York, Program Director for the Environment at the Anglican Observer's Office at the United Nations and author of *A Deeper Faith and Cultural and Spiritual Values of Biodiversity* and contributing author of *Healing God's Creation*, will address the spiritual roots of the environmental crisis and how Christians can respond in meaningful ways.



## How You Can Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany:

After taking a deep breath and realizing that the mad rush of the holiday season is behind you... at least the commercial version of it is... you can still create some family memories and traditions. In many parts of the world, Santa's equivalent makes his rounds on January 5, not December 24. Children open gifts the next morning, when tradition says the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem and presented gold, myrrh and frankincense to Mary's baby. This year we will celebrate the **Epiphany on January 4<sup>th</sup>**.

There are many ways to celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** in the

home. If you have a creche with The Three Wise Men, or Kings, have them slowly moving through other rooms towards the crèche, finally reach the manger on this night, and bow before the Christ Child.

A favorite activity for some people on this night is called "Chalking the Door"... With a stick of chalk, at each doorway leading to the outside, stop and mark the lintel with:

**20+C+M+B+09** (the last digits change each year). These letters signify the names of the 3 Kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. At each door you can use this prayer: "*Oh Lord, grant that the names of Thy saints Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, may, through their merits and petitions, bless our home and bring physical health and spiritual protection for all who enter here. Amen.*" This is a way of

blessing your house for the new year.

Then you can have a family "undecorating" party on January 4<sup>th</sup> (Epiphany is really the 6<sup>th</sup>, but you can anticipate it just a little). Spend the day taking down the tree and other holiday trimmings at a leisurely pace. Prepare a quiet dinner afterward and discuss what you liked about this Christmas season and what you might want to do differently next year.

As part of the meal let the kids decorate a "king cake" to serve for dessert. It's a traditional Epiphany cake with a trinket or coin (wrapped in tin foil) baked inside it. Whoever gets the piece with the trinket reigns as king or queen of the feast and gets to order everyone else around.

—Sister BJ

## Youth Ministry



Now that the busyness of the holidays is over, we are working on getting back to a regular schedule. Just before

we took our holiday break, the youth started to wrestle with issues around homelessness and social justice. We started to discuss these issues at our **Broad Street Mission trip** in November. The trip helped our youth really understand and appreciate what they have after seeing how little some people make do with. In December, we continued to reach out to help others at the **Be an Angel Party** where the youth helped to cook, serve and entertain our guests. We ended December with a **Christmas Caroling** fund raiser for our Mission Trip. We went out caroling for two hours and ended with hot cocoa, hot cider and cookies. Everyone had a great time spreading Christmas cheer and experiencing fellowship.

In January we have a number of events coming up.

The **Junior High Youth** will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-9:00 p.m. We invite all the Junior High Youth to come out and enjoy pizza, hang out with your friends and learn more about relating to God.

The **Senior High** will meet on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will be discussing topics that the Youth Group chose to discuss. Of course we will have our normal spread of food and a few new games to play.

The **Senior High Ski trip** will be on the weekend of January 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have not signed up and want to go, please e mail me at [andrews@stthomaswhitemarsh.org](mailto:andrews@stthomaswhitemarsh.org). The cost of the trip is \$140.00 for the weekend which includes the lift tickets!

Until next time my friends, may the peace and love of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior be with you and your families.

—Andrew

### Joining the Church (continued from page 1)

is stunning. We are truly blessed to have a church that connects with members of all ages and helps each of us on our journey with Christ.

To our members, I say, "If we truly feel blessed by our membership at St. Thomas' Church, let us share this gift with those around us." I invite you to hold in your prayers one or two individuals known to you who might be truly blessed by becoming part of the life of this dynamic church. Ask God in your prayers how you can help these persons who are close to you connect with God through our church in order that it may bless them. God will reveal ways to you that help you assist them to be blessed by our ministries at St. Thomas' Church.

To our visitors and newcomers I say to you, "Welcome. Our doors of our church are wide open to you and to others. This is a house of prayer for all people. The Episcopal Church welcomes you. Come explore, ask questions and participate in our worship and programs. Get to know the clergy, staff and members of our parish. Ask us to assist you in getting to know our church and learning how we can help your family and you to know Jesus and God more fully." We are not a perfect church, and you may not be a perfect Christian. But if you choose to join us, help make this wonderful church the kind of church you and we can be proud to call our church home.

Faithfully yours in Christ, **Marek**

## Every Member Counts! Together We Continue Building a Community

As of December 1, The Stewardship Commission is pleased to report that we have received pledges from 272 parish families for a **total pledged of \$746,440**, which is 62% of our 2009 goal of \$1.2 million. We are grateful for the support we have received during these difficult economic times as pledging households have exceeded the pace of the previous year. Our goal this year is to have **every** member participate by making a pledge. If you have not pledged yet, please join us now. You may call the Stewardship Office at 215-233-3970 x.123 and ask for a pledge card if you do not have one, or you may pledge online by going to the church website – [www.stthomaswhitemarsh.org](http://www.stthomaswhitemarsh.org) and clicking on **pledge now**.

For those of you who have never pledged but contribute through the plate, it is actually quite simple: just add up your weekly contributions to the plate and pledge that amount online or use a pledge card. It is easy, does not change what you have been doing, but makes a big difference to St. Thomas' Church,

as we are now able to count on this revenue for our budgeting process. For those parishioners who have not pledged or contributed by giving in the plate, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can make a change and join us this year.

### **EVERY MEMBER COUNTS!**

In these uncertain times, we understand that some families are concerned that if they make a pledge they will be held to that pledge even if their circumstances change. We want to let you know that should anything happen that would not allow you to fulfill your pledge, we ask you to contact the Parish Office and let us know. These are extraordinary times where we must all support each other.

We celebrate the generosity of those who have pledged to support St. Thomas' in 2009, and ask those who have not yet turned in their pledge to prayerfully consider how you can help the church in 2009. **EVERY MEMBER COUNTS!**

Stewardship Commission: *Pem Hutchinson, Chair; Kevin Canavan, Vestry Liaison; Gus Carey, Cynthia Cheston, Lewis Hatch, David Junkin, Michael Lewis, Maria Lucci, Randy McDowell, Bertrand Wache, Margaret Wallis, Rick Ward*

**"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](mailto:stewardship@stthomaswhitemarsh.org).

## The Other Music Staff

There are eight very important people who help support our music program on a weekly basis. They are the four Staff Singers and four Choral Scholars who sing along with our volunteer choir members. Altogether, volunteers and staff make up the St. Thomas' Choir.

The Staff Singers are **Maria Barnet**, alto; **Colby Hilker**, bass; **Larry Hoenic**, tenor; and **Barbara Mikkal**, soprano. These four attend weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning rehearsals and services. The Choral Scholars are **Shannon Aloise**, treble; **David Foley**, tenor; **Chad Keilman**, bass; and **Dorothy Schrader**, treble. These four practice the music on their own, and rehearse and sing with us on Sunday mornings. All of them also sing with the St. Thomas' Choir for special services such as Evensongs, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, etc.

Shannon, Chad, and Dorothy are undergraduates at Westminster Choir College. Colby and David are graduate students there.



L to R: Dorothy Schrader, Maria Barnet, Shannon Aloise, Chad Keilman, David Foley, Colby Hilker, Barbara Mikkal, Larry Hoenic

All these singers provide a wonderful foundation upon which our volunteer singers can rely. Our Staff Singers and Choral Scholars are not meant to sing "for" us, but to sing "with" us. They are not here to be soloists, though one or more of them may be asked to sing a solo. They are with us to blend with and encourage all the volunteers. It is much friendlier a situation for volunteer singers to have someone they can count on to be singing the right note, to experience challenging music they might not be able

to do otherwise, and feel more comfortable singing for services.

In addition to their musical gifts, each one shares something of themselves to make the St. Thomas' Choir a wonderful community within the parish. I hope you will take the opportunity to get to know these fine musicians who are part of the team. If you would like to join this musical community, please contact **Cindy DeDakis**, 215-233-3970, ext.141; [cdedakis@stthomaswhitemarsh.org](mailto:cdedakis@stthomaswhitemarsh.org)

St. Thomas' Choir announces an **EPIPHANY OPEN HOUSE**: The St. Thomas' Choir invites adults who love to sing to join us for the season of Epiphany - **Wednesdays and Sundays** through February 22. Give choir a try for the season. The joy will be ours and yours! Call **Cindy DeDakis** for more information at 215-233-3970.



Approximately one year ago, when Father Jim Vondreele made a request to the Samaritan Counseling Center to develop and teach a pastoral care training program for the Seamen's Visitors of the **Seamen's Church Institute**, I was intrigued. Although I had experience teaching pastoral care to clergy and lay persons in congregational settings, I quickly realized that the care needed for seafarers is specific and unique. I agreed to take the challenge!

Pastoral care for visiting seamen is essential. Life aboard ship is very difficult. It is a life of long hours of intense physical labor and extensive periods of separation from family, home, and culture. These circumstances may result in loneliness, exhaustion, anxiety, spiritual depravity, and even depression. This life may also be contentious and exploitive.

Historically, the mission of the Seamen's Church Institute has been to provide a haven and hospitable sanctuary for these seafarers to address their needs and to find care, support, and advocacy. However, because of the heightened vigilance against terrorism and the more intense maritime schedules of the shipping indus-

try, port calls are very brief. Many of the seamen do not leave the ship at all when in port. Hence, immediate, appropriate, and efficient delivery of care is critical. Seamen's Visitors' skills must be honed to be more accurate in assessment of need and more skillful in delivery of care.

The goals for this pilot pastoral care training program for the Seamen's Visitors are focused upon heightening the Seamen's Visitor's awareness and sensitivity to these needs in order to effectively respond. The Seamen's Visitors' skills require empathic listening, compassion, an understanding of cultural diversity, trustworthiness, crisis and conflict management, boundary setting, bereavement care, and social, emotional and spiritual support. Knowledge of appropriate resource referral is also important. Unlike more traditional care-giving in which there are no time restraints, the Seamen's Visitor must be very adept at recognizing and responding to Seamen's needs expeditiously and accurately.

An evaluation of the Seamen's Visitors' response to the training program has been completed, both individually and collectively. With an overwhelmingly positive response, the participating Seamen's Visitors report an increase in their care-giving skills, a heightened consciousness of their role as care-givers,

more confidence and greater competence in their overall experience with the visiting seamen. Because of this better clarity of their role as care-givers, they report that they actually spend more time engaged with the individual seaman. They also report that they are enjoying sharing with one another their personal experiences of their interactions with their care-receivers. This sharing has resulted in increased morale.

It is important that I report how much I have enjoyed working with this dedicated group of men, the SCI's Seamen's Visitors. Their commitment and passion for their work is impressive and inspiring. They bring a maturity, a strong base of interpersonal skills, and affection for the seamen. They truly love what they do! They have patiently shared their experiences and their intuitions with me to enhance this program and to tailor it specifically to meet the seamen's needs. Our collaboration is working well creating and strengthening this pastoral care training program.

Anne Waterman Klinger, MS, LPC, NCC  
Samaritan Counseling Center  
22 E. Chestnut Hill Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
215-247-6077, x3

## St. Thomas' Speeders

Wednesday, January 14, 2009  
"Maine to Florida Slide Presentation"  
Ruth Pfeffer, "Birding With Ruth"

Join us in the MacColl Auditorium for our monthly Speeders Luncheon on Wednesday January 14, 2009 at 12 noon until 2:00pm.  
Cost is \$7. RSVP: St. Thomas' Church Office at 215-233-3970

Ruth Pfeffer, "Birding With Ruth", will provide a slide presentation entitled *Maine to Florida* – a journey filled with history, lighthouses, and nature.

### Maine to Florida Slide Presentation

Join Ruth Pfeffer for an adventure as she takes you from Maine to Florida through her slides. This journey is filled with sightings of diverse plants, birds, and animals from our country's east coast. It also includes unique slides of historical sites and fascinating scenery. Ruth will show how life has changed and how man and nature have interacted along the coast from Maine to Florida.

For additional information call **Bruce & Stella Wainer**, 215-886-1895 or **Stanley & Sally Johnson** 215-402-8672.

## Annual Meeting and Vestry Nominations

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Thomas' will be held  
**Sunday, March 8, 2009.**

As part of the order of business of the meeting, the nominating committee will submit names of nominees to serve as members of the Vestry. Nominations may also be made by any twenty-five members of the church by informing the Vestry of such nomination or nominations at least one month before the date of the Annual Meeting giving the name(s) of the nominee(s) and by whom nominated. These names shall be available at least ten business days before the Annual Meeting.



## Ethnic Cleansing Revisited

On September 19, 2008, St. Thomas' parishioner, Richard Lyntton walked into court 2 at the ICTY - International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia – in The Hague. He had been asked to testify against one of three Croatian generals indicted for war crimes and ethnic cleansing against Croatian Serbs during Operation Storm thirteen years ago in the former Yugoslavia.

On August 24 1995, Richard was a producer at United Nations Television in Zagreb. He made documentary/news pieces about the humanitarian situation in former Yugoslavia. A routine assignment about ethnic Serbs being invited to "stay behind" by the Croatian authorities turned out to be a very different experience.

"We were called to a small village to film a reconciliation meeting between Serbs and Croats. No one from the Croatian authorities turned up. Then we saw thick black plumes of smoke across the valley and went to investigate. On the way we filmed twenty white vans, one with a Croatian police emblem.

Even though it was raining hard, almost every house in the village of Grubor was on fire. Croatian militia had passed through less than a couple of hours before and ordered people from their homes. We interviewed two old women who were too frail to leave and whose husbands had gone missing. We found one of the men had been shot in the back of the head. I will always remember the black and white photograph of the old man and his wife on their wedding day hanging on the wall. Then the women took us to the other man. He had also been shot. The old women begged us to help bury their husbands but we had to leave for safety – our safety.

We interviewed General Ivan Cermak, the local Croatian governor, who denied any knowledge of events in Grubor. He didn't know we had witnessed the carnage for ourselves and had filmed the aftermath.

We sent the tapes by UN helicopter to Zagreb and that night retreated to the relative sanity of espresso and fresh lobster in Split. As we headed toward the Dalmatian coast we came across many more deserted villages still on fire. Two days later our footage was shown on BBC, CNN and Sky News UK– it was not just Serbs who were carrying out ethnic cleansing.

Thirteen years later I agreed to travel to The Hague to testify for the prosecution against the Croatian general. I was picked up from the airport in Amsterdam and taken in a van with tinted windows to an undisclosed hotel location. At the hotel I was identified by number only. My court appearances lasted only for a few hours over two days. The proceedings were simultaneously interpreted into four languages – English, French, Bosnian and Macedonian.

Our footage, since archived at the Imperial War Museum in London, was used to open the case against the three Croatian Generals in March 2008. I was asked to verify the tapes and my role in the events of August 1995 in Grubor and Serb Krajina. A friend in the US woke at 4:00am to watch the proceedings live on the ICTY website! The main advice I was given by the prosecution was;

speaking slowly, answer the question, and if you don't know the answer, say so.

Afterwards, I was interested to hear that we were moved to court 3 on day two because Dr. Radovan Karadzic was taking the stand in court 2. I was heartened to discover that of 163 war criminals originally indicted, only two remain at large. The ICTY has been urged to finish all proceedings by 2010."

For more information about the ICTY go to:  
<http://www.un.org/icty/glance-e/index-du.htm>

Photo at left: Richard Lyntton outside the ICTY in The Hague.



## IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

In your prayers at home during the month of January, please remember those on our parish Prayer Chain list. Helen Adams, Eunoma Anako, Jo Ann Beistline, John, Joyce Bishop, Nancy Bowers, Karen Burns, Jewel Caldiera, Jim Commins, the Curley family, William Jones, Ray Kraftson, Linda, Brian O' Hara, Lyn Peasley, Meredith Pratt, Wilson Prichett, Carey Rowan, Dexter Schierenbeck, Eileen Schroeder, Disi Shelkie, Gail Simmonds, David Singer, the Wache Family, Joann Wilson.

## FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ESPECIALLY THOSE OF PARISH

**FAMILY:** Jordan Clay, David McOwen, Pat Scardino, Tom Shaw, Robert Texter, Drew Williams and for their families who also serve through waiting for their safe return.

**FOR SAINTS DEPARTED:** Donald Horter, Jeanne Yarnall, Colonel Louis Prestwood

## FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS

**FOR OTHER BLESSINGS:** We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the safe return of Nicole and Jeremy Ussery from their third tour of duty in Iraq and for the weddings of Kathryn Van Blarcom and Alan Grant who were married on November 26, for Lisa White and James Burns on November 29, for Ann Hunter Schellenberg and Edgar M. Sheppard, Jr. on December 6, for Jennifer Eileen Grimes and Gerald Howard Miller, Jr. on December 13.



# St. Thomas' Church

WHITEMARSH

*Come with us on a journey with Christ*

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Whitemarsh  
P.O. Box 247 Bethlehem Pike & Camp Hill Road  
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0247  
Phone: (215) 233-3970 Fax (215) 233-2893

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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  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:lisaw@stthomaswhitemarsh.org).  
Articles must be received by the first of the  
month for next month's newsletter.

"FYI" e-Newsletter — Go to:  
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### 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](http://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:** Pam McKernan, *Rector's Warden*; Ted Brown, *Junior Warden*; Phil Anspach, *Accounting Warden*; Steve Bitterman, Kevin Canavan, Dianne Crookenden, Charles Horter, Carl Jameson, Anne Klinger, Joyce Lawson, Nicole Riter, Tom Morgan.

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The Rt. Rev. Edward Lee, Assistant Bishop

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