



ST. THOMAS HUNTSVILLE, AL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INFORMATION

OFFICE 880.0247
12200 BAILEY COVE ROAD
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35803
WEBSITE www.stthomashuntsville.org
OFFICE HOURS M-F 9 AM – 4 PM

SERVICES

HOLY EUCHARIST
SUNDAY 8 AM & 10:30 AM, CHURCH
WEDNESDAY 6 PM, CHAPEL

HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE
WEDNESDAY 11 AM, CHAPEL

BREAKFAST

SUNDAY 8:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY 9:30 AM

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM
WEDNESDAY 12:15 PM

CLERGY

THE REV. W. Dexter Bender
INTERIM RECTOR
dex@stthomashuntsville.org

THE REV. Carl C. BRIGHT
INTERIM ASSOCIATE RECTOR
carl@stthomashuntsville.org

DAVE DRACHLIS
DEACON
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STAFF

RUTH ERWIN
CHRISTIAN ED AND LAY MINISTRIES
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SUSAN FLETCHER
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST
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CAMERON STARNES
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN CHOIRS
vocalsaint@knology.net

TERRI GOOD
ACCOUNTANT
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RUTH ANNE GOSS
PARISH SECRETARY
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SAM WILSON
SEXTON

ARLYN HENNIGAR
NURSERY SUPERVISOR

WARDENS

BOB HARWELL SENIOR WARDEN
CINDY ATKINS JUNIOR WARDEN

THE EPISTLE

OUR VISION

IS TO OFFER GOD OUR VERY SELVES,
EACH OF US WITH DIFFERENT GIFTS,
SO THAT UNITED IN CHRIST,
WE FORM ONE BODY-

ONE THAT PROCLAIMS THE LOVE OF GOD
THROUGH OUR WORKS AND WORSHIP

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2008

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus is one of the churches beloved Advent Hymns composed by the 18th century Anglican Priest, Charles Wesley. In the hymn, Wesley describes the purpose of God’s plan in sending his one and only Son, “Born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.” As we approach the final week of Advent I wonder if we have taken time to ponder this miracle of all miracles. God, the creator of all things in heaven and earth, would care so much for us that he would “become flesh” for us in the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, provides an interesting example for us as we search for the meaning of the Incarnation in our lives two thousand years later. Luke’s Gospel records that the angel Gabriel appears to a young virgin named Mary to announce that she will conceive and bear a son and name him Jesus. Mary questions how this can be, but Gabriel replies that God’s power, the Holy Spirit, will come upon Mary and create this new life in her. As with Mary, so this life of God is “conceived and nurtured” in each of us. But it happens only through God’s power, not our own. We, like Mary, need only to cooperate as God’s willing servants, then and only then do we “find our rest in thee”.

Blessings, Dex

“Alleluia II” books are Missing

St. Thomas has quite a collection of the “Alleluia II” books and we are not able to find any of them. Please if you have any church copies of this book return them immediately to the church. We would like to use them during Advent and upcoming Cursillo events. Thank you so much.

YOUTH NEWS

EYC and YP this week! Let's all meet at St. Thomas Night this Sunday in the Parish Hall at 5:30 pm! We can all sit together and have dinner and fellowship with each other! We have some of our own YP and EYC helping with the pageant! Bring your whole family to attend this wonderful St. Thomas tradition! Please bring your favorite main dish and a side dish or dessert (see all the details in the related announcement). At 6:30 pm, we will attend the Christmas Pageant together!

See you then! Questions? Call anyone from the Vestry Youth Ministry Group (Julia Erwin 883-4221, Kelly Evans 882-9518, Bob Harwell 880-2073, or Tod Taylor 883-8845)

We are working on the information for the new 2009 Directory – please send the office an email, stthomas@stthomashuntsville.org or call 880-0247 with any corrections and/or additions.

Mark your Calendar

**Annual Parish Meeting
and Chili Lunch will be January 11, 2009
starting at 12:45 PM
2009 Vestry open positions will be elected**

Christmas Flower Envelopes are in the pews if you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of someone this holiday season. The Church flowers and greenery are financed by these donations. It's a wonderful way to beautify the Church and, at the same time, honor loved ones during this festive season.

Baptism Sunday is January 11, 2009 – please call office for more information, 880-0247.

Saturday, January 10, 2009 Nuts and Bolts – A Christian Formation Tool Box workshop at St. Stephens's in Birmingham. Mark your calendar.

OUTREACH

First Stop Gift Cards are now available for your consideration as you make your Christmas gift list. The front of the card is a drawing of a homeless camp. The artist, Craig Rupert, was homeless and First Stop helped him get into housing. For a minimum of \$15.00 donation per card to First Stop, one of these attractive cards will be sent to those you would like to honor. A sample of the drawing and order forms are available on the bulletin board in the Information Hall. All proceeds will benefit First Stop. Please contact Becky or Jack Stokes at 881-4748 if you have questions.

THE FOOD PANTRY will be collecting the following Christmas dinner items: canned 2 lb. hams, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling and holiday cookies. Dry milk packets are always needed. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Way to go, Santa's elves! Thanks to St. Thomas' Parish Family, 42 Christmas wishes of persons with mental illness were filled! That's a lot of gladdened hearts. Thanks to all who helped at the Operation Santa Claus table and to those who purchased gifts. Our two-year-old tradition is growing strong! Susan Smith

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Dec. 21 5 PM Greening of the Church
5:30 PM St. Thomas Night
Dec. 23 9 AM Finish The Greening of the Church
Dec. 24 11 AM Healing Service but not Bible Studies
12 Noon Office Closes
5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
11 PM Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25 Office Closed
Dec. 26 Office Closed
Dec. 28 8 AM and 10:30 AM Services,
no Sunday School
Dec. 31 11 AM Healing Service but not Bible Studies
12 Noon Office Closes
Jan. 1, 2009 Office Closed
Jan. 2, 2009 Office Closed

DVD of 50th Anniversary Service is available for \$2 - call the church office at 880-0247 to order your copy. Lipmon Moy has produced this fantastic DVD of this very special service.

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Eucharist Ministers	Tut Clements, Ann Bayruns	Kristi Boyer, Julia Erwin
Lectors	Beth Cook	Charlie Erwin, Cindy Atkins
Acolytes	Graem Cook, Jordyn Nielsen	Ben Williams, Hannah Box, Wynton Scott, Ben Ward, Wesley Box
Ushers	Horton and Brenda Smith	Jay Fryman, Norman Bradley
Greeter	Gayle Dodson	Richard Williams
Vestry on Duty	Latham Thurber	Bryan Dodson

Lay Ministers for the Week of December 21, 2008

Altar Guild Gene and Pru Lawson, Cheryl Fitzgerald

Flower Guild Margaret Funderburk, Gayle Dodson

Meals on Wheels Nancy Mohlere, Kay Strobel, Susy Thurber, No Meals on Wheels on Dec. 24,25,26

Sunday Readings 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Canticle 15; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

Breakfast Cooks Richard Williams. Brenda Smith. Todd Taylor and Will Avant

ST. THOMAS NIGHT

Sunday December 21 at 5:30 PM in the Parish Hall- We will start our evening with a potluck supper. Please bring your favorite main dish and a side dish or dessert. At 6:30 PM we will turn our attention to the Christmas Pageant. This year the children will be presenting the play

"A Gift for Christmas"

featuring the cherub choir and several other children/and young adults of St. Thomas. We will all be blessed as we follow the children on a journey of finding out the "best" present we can get for Christmas. Our evening of fun and fellowship will end with a reading of the Christmas Story from Luke's gospel and a setting of the Crèche. Come one come all and celebrate as we all enjoy each other, good food and the children as they present their Christmas play!

For questions about food call Leslie Avant 520-0535 or April Taylor. For questions about helping out with the play contact Cameron Starnes 489-1318.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH are invited to help with Greening of the Church

We will start at 5 PM Sunday, December 21. We will continue Tuesday morning, December 23 starting at 9 AM till we are done. Come join us in fellowship and merry.

The **SEARCH COMMITTEE** is working hard, meeting several times a week now, and conducting preliminary interviews over the phone. We know that this time may seem to you much like the Advent season itself, a time of waiting and wonder, and although we cannot share specifics in respect for the privacy of the candidates, we are happy to report that the process is going very smoothly. We are ever mindful of the presence of God in this discernment process and grateful for your prayers.

FINANCIAL NEWS

December 7, 2008

Weekly Budget Needs	\$ 10,192.31
Budget Receipts	\$ 15,342.41
Building Fund Receipts	\$ 45.00
Designated Receipts	\$ 1,507.00
Total Receipts	\$ 16,894.41

December 14, 2008

Weekly Budget Needs	\$ 10,192.31
Budget Receipt	\$ 6,153.06
Building Fund Receipts	\$ 65.00
Designated Receipts	\$ 90.00
Total Receipts	\$ 6,308.06

All Donations to be counted in the 2008 year have to be turned in to the office or postmarked by December 31, 2008. There is no grace period with the IRS. Thank you for your continued generous support of St. Thomas.

Sunday	8:00 AM 8:45 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM	Holy Eucharist Service, Church Hot Breakfast, Parish Hall Cherub Choir Practice, Hudson Hall Sunday School Holy Eucharist Service, Church Greening of the Church St. Thomas Night, Potluck Dinner and Pageant
Monday	6 PM	Vestry meeting, Vestry Room
Wednesday	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 5:30 PM 11:00 PM	No Bible Study Holy Eucharist and Healing Service, Chapel No Bible Study Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve Service
Thursday	Christmas Day- Office Closed	Merry Christmas
Friday	Office Closed	

BACK BY POPLAR REQUEST

This Sunday at the 10:30 Service we will be singing "Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord" from "Godspell" again.