What’s a Quarter Worth?

What’s a quarter worth? Well, that’s kind of a goofy question, isn’t it? I suppose one could answer, “A quarter is worth 25 pennies or 1/4th a dollar,” but then a penny and a dollar would have to be defined.

How about this instead: “The quarters that I gave away today are worth a child’s smile and delight.” That works for me, and maybe for you too as we start something new during our 4th Sunday of the month service. Welcome to “Children’s Clangy Collection!”

Following the Collect of the Day, which comes just before the Old Testament lesson is read, Lucy or her representative and other helpers will assist the children in collecting into metal pails your spare quarters, dimes, and nickels (pennies don’t go very far these days ...that’s a hint) and not so noisy bills too, if you’re so generously inclined!

The children will work their way forwards or backwards (the direction they choose to go is their organizational challenge!) When they’re satisfied (be generous, or satisfaction may be delayed), they will pour the coins collected into a large metal bucket, which hopefully will sit atop a red wagon. It is reported that we have a red wagon around here somewhere, but I’ll be darn if I can find it! (That’s another hint!)

This is not simply another collection! Each month the children, as a group, will decide which charity they want their Clangy Collection to benefit. I have a preliminary list of twelve charities that would be appropriate.

Through this monthly activity, the children will again feel valued and involved in our Sunday services and make the connection that we live together in ways in which we can frequently help one another. And, I’ll bet you a few quarters that the many delightful smiles you see during our 4th Sunday of the month “Children’s Clangy Collection” will be worth every quarter you give!

Fr. Bruce+
Outreach Update

Father Bruce and Deb joined members of the Outreach Committee last week to sort and package the bountiful contributions from the parish members. Thank you for your wonderful support of this project.

We put together 30 bags with your food and drinks as well as small blankets purchased from our budget. We pray our efforts will bless the lives of those who receive these gifts.

A reminder of projects coming up!

**April** – Financial Contributions to provide summer camp scholarships (details to be announced)

**May** – Barbeque for first responders in our area

**June** – Haven

**July** – CUOC

**August** – to be determined

**September** – The Breadbasket

**October** – CARA (in coordination with the Blessing of the Animals)

**November** – Homeless Project

**December** – Oak Haven (gifts for residents and a possible caroling party)

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Women of the Church welcome Cindy FitzGerald

Learn about “Pysanky”, the incredible art of Ukrainian Easter egg decorating.

Monday, April 2 at 11 a.m.

Lunch will be served.
The April 2 Women of the Church meeting bids to be very special and very interesting. The subject of the day will be “Pysanky,” the creating of colorful Ukrainian Easter eggs. Its name derives from the Ukrainian verb “pysaty,” meaning “to write.” “Pysanka” is the singular form.

In 988 AD when Ukraine accepted Christianity, the decorating of eggs took on a deeply religious meaning. The Pysanky commemorated the Resurrection of Christ and a promise of eternal life. Hand decorated real Ukrainian Easter eggs have long been associated with rebirth and renewal of the spirit. In Christian tradition, Easter Eggs are also a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ukrainian pysanky have been enjoyed and collected throughout the ages in many world cultures.

Cindy FitzGerald, a well-known Pysanky artist, will share some of her creations and explain the process she uses in producing them. She will show the journey an egg makes from bare shell to finished design. She also will include various resources that explain the principals of the art and practice of Pysanky.

EASTER EVENT
AFTER CHURCH

Remember to bring your basket on April 1 for the Easter Egg Hunt with all the “trimmings!”
March WOC Meeting

The March 5 meeting of Women of the Church was attended by 29 people. A prayer by the rector opened the meeting, and President Cornelia Olive introduced Vicki Haislip who presented the devotion. Noting the association of wind with the month of March, she cited biblical examples of God’s use of wind. Genesis (Noah’s return to dry land), Exodus (Wind and Pharaoh’s Chariots), and Numbers (Wind and the Quails) all were reminders of God’s use of nature to aid His children.

The program of the day, entitled “Wee Care,” was presented by Deb Heyvaert. She shared information about the national organization that provides tiny smocked gowns for premature babies.

Early arriving babies, she explained, present a special challenge. Often coming long before expected, these babies’ needs for small clothing are met by sewing guilds. Angel babies, those who do not survive, are provided specially designed smocked clothing for burial. A large and impressive array of Wee Care clothing, made by the speaker, were on display and featured embellished smocking and intricately designed decorative features. Additional displayed items came from an Illinois guild member who responded to a Facebook request by the speaker for Wee Care examples.

Business included:

- Appointment of a nomination committee for 2018-19 officers.
- Announcement that parishioner Barbara Massengill, a recognized master quilter, is donating one of her creations to be used to elicit contributions.
- Member volunteers for a committee to recommend the theme and organization of the fund raiser.
- The raffle of the day, donated by Trish Hamilton, was a beautiful plant in a handsomely decorated container. It was won by the rector who graciously shared the gift for another drawing. Mary Thacker was the fortunate winner of the second drawing.

Mary Lee Dutton, hostess, served a bountiful lunch of meat loaf, macaroni and cheese, string beans, okra pickle, and cake. Lemonade and coffee were offered as beverages. Assisting in serving were: Barbara Duffy, Joan Griswold, Joann Thaxton, and Didi Zahlava.
The Bishop’s Annual Visit April 29th

5PM   Eucharist   Welcome new members
      3 to be Confirmed and 7 to be Received

6:15 PM Fifth Sunday Covered Dish Meal
      Bishop Anne presenting:
      Adult Formation to the Congregation after the meal

8:00 PM Vestry meets with Bishop Anne

This is an ad for a seminar that Katie and Ray Hyer have attended and plan to continue to attend over the next 3 months. They highly recommended and if you are anything like me, improvement of my memory is always a plus! Now where did I put those keys?

If you have any questions, reach out to Kay and Ray.

Enjoy!

Victoria
Our Prayer List

For those who are ill:
Barbara; Joan; Jack Beyer; Chuck Boyd; Carol Bradford; Ruth Cameron; Scott Caviness; Jean Cooke; Claudia Cox; Sylvia Churchwell; Claire Fair; Mary Harris; Diane Hancock; Charlotte Hohenstein; Richard Horne; Bill Hyde; Cindy Julich; Pat Kirkman; Mary Klancher; Mary Louise Matthews; Jane Miller; Rebecca Pascoe; Judy Shipe; Steve Smith; Layne Wright.

For strength and guidance:
Sarah and Justin; Mary Harris; Anne L.; John Rogerson; Vicki Russell; Drusy Schaeffer; the Vestry.

For those serving in our armed forces deployed and at home.

Praises: For the continuing growth of St. Thomas’

Birthdays and Anniversaries in April

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<th>BIRTHDAYS</th>
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<tr>
<td>8  James Jessup, Kaitlin Schrull</td>
<td>3  Ray and Katie Hyer</td>
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<td>9  Pat Kirkman</td>
<td>9  David and Darlynda Patterson</td>
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<td>15 Carol Bradford</td>
<td>17 Bill and Carol Bradford</td>
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<td>16 Emily Briell, Gene Phelps and Katie Yuskevich</td>
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<td>17 Edith Cates</td>
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<td>21 Wendy Seymore</td>
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<td>27 Kelly Burke</td>
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If your birthday or anniversary is missing, it’s because we don’t have record of it in the church office. Please contact the church office at 919-774-8644 or stthomasnc@icloud.com to have your date added.
Lord, you are so wonderful
And deserve our love and praise
I cannot express just how I feel
When I think of your saving grace

To think of what you went through
   That day upon the cross
And in the moments leading up to it
   When soldiers spat and scoffed

   And beat you with no mercy,
   Making sport and having fun
You said not a word in your defense
   Even though you were God's son

   You bore it all out of your love
   For the lost and dying souls,
To give us a hope we can hold on to
   For a future yet to unfold

   It's such a beautiful description, Lord,
   Of what your grace can do,
For no one's exempt from your saving grace,
   But it's a gift freely given from you
For those about to be Baptized or to renew their Baptismal Covenant

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP page 819

We extend a warm welcome from our church community. We at St. Thomas' believe that:

- Whatever your religious background
- Whatever your history
- However you have come to be drawn to the Lord

You are welcome to walk your journey of life with us at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.