



# THE COLLECT

November 2009

## Services

### Sunday

8:00 am Eucharist with hymns  
9:00 am Fellowship  
9:15 am Adult Forum  
10:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Sung Eucharist  
11:15 am Fellowship  
3:30 pm Senior Service  
(Chapel, last Sunday of the month only)

### Wednesday

10:00 am Eucharist (Chapel)

### Daily

7:30 am Morning Prayer  
(Chapel)  
9:00 am Friday Morning  
Prayer (Chapel)  
(no Saturday service)

## Music Rehearsals

### St. Thomas Singers

Thursdays – 7:30 pm

Sundays – 9:15 am

### Early Music Ensemble

Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

### St. Thomas Choristers

Sundays, after 10:15 service

## Calendar

### November 1

Baptisms 10:15 Service  
Welcome to St. Thomas  
Newcomers Series  
11:30am–1pm (also on Novem-  
ber 8)  
Come to the Quiet 11:45am,  
Chapel  
Family All Saints/Halloween  
Party 4–6 pm, Great Hall  
RSVP to Josh Hosler

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church P.O. Box 124 Medina, WA 98039  
425.454.9541 www.stthomasmedina.org

## From the Rector

by the Reverend Alexander “Lex” Breckinridge

I had intended this *Collect* column to focus on the fall stewardship appeal in support of our ministries and programs here at St. Thomas. The appeal, under the very able leadership of Mary Williams and the Stewardship Committee, is preparing to launch and will culminate with Commitment Sunday on November 22. So a word on the stewardship of our financial resources seemed to be in order. Then I learned that our theme this month is taken from Hymn #355, “Give Rest, O Christ.” The words of this lovely hymn are from The Commendation at the conclusion of the Burial Liturgy as the casket or urn is borne from the church.

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

*You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind;  
and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we  
return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying,  
“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

*All of us go down to the dust;  
yet even at the grave we make our song:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 499)*

This hymn is entirely appropriate for another important November moment on the liturgical calendar: All Saints Day and All Souls Day, when we commemorate those saints known to the Church down through the generations, and, no less importantly, all those who are also in the company of the redeemed whose names are not known to the wider fellowship of the Church. This is an important time but unrelated to the subject of the stewardship of our financial resources, or so I thought until I reflected some more. In fact, these words speak very deeply to us about our place in the created order, about what is lasting and what is ephemeral. In other words, they speak to us about important stewardship issues. It is a deeply human tendency to seek safety and security in the tangible and the concrete. We create idols out of our possessions, and our balance sheets become our sacred texts.

(continued on page 3)

## Parish Life

### Thanksgiving at St. Thomas

by Tammy Waddell, Chair

Six years ago, we had the idea that maybe we could make a difference in the lives of some of our neighbors in Bellevue by offering them a Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Every year since that first year when we prepared 100 dinners, the project has grown substantially.



Last November 26<sup>th</sup>, St. Thomas provided over 535 meals to 130 families. Numbers are always important, yet it is hard to put into words the feelings of gratitude, hospitality, fellowship, and giving that abound in our “Thanksgiving at St. Thomas.” How can you convey what it’s like to knock on a door carrying a box filled with food and be greeted by the entire family smiling and saying “Thank you” over and over again? Humbling, to say the least.

Once again, we need your help at St. Thomas. Last year, you came out in droves and helped in many ways. You gave the necessary donations to buy the food. You helped prepare the dishes either on Wednesday or Thursday morning. *You cooked over 50 turkeys.* You helped portion the meals and packed them to go to our guest families. You decorated boxes in bright autumn colors. You drove the meals to homes and brought a little comfort to those among us who are struggling. And still, when Thanksgiving Day was over, your gift kept giving. A carload of leftover food was taken to St. Martin de Porres Shelter to provide lunches for folks living under the Alaska Way viaduct.

On the Sunday following Thanksgiving, I heard these words — “Our Thanksgiving project makes me proud to be a member of St. Thomas.”

If you would like to donate to “Thanksgiving at St. Thomas,” please give your donation to Gerry Gallaher in the office. If you would like to donate your time or talent, please watch for sign-up sheets in the Great Hall or e-mail Tammy Waddell at [Tjwaddell@comcast.net](mailto:Tjwaddell@comcast.net).

Blessings and peace to you all.

### Transition Update

The Transition Team, appointed by the Vestry, meets regularly to assist with welcoming Father Lex and Zonnie into the St. Thomas community. Because Father Lex wants to meet in person as many parishioners as possible within his first months here, the Transition Team is organizing small get-acquainted gatherings in homes. The intent is to contact everyone on the parish lists (pledging member or not) with an invitation to enjoy a casual visit with our new rector. We are organizing small groups geographically by zip code. Individuals serving as hosts will invite from ten to twenty people to their homes for light refreshments and a brief chat with Father Lex.

The gatherings will take place over the next few months (you will be called when your neighborhood groups have been organized). For those who cannot attend their specific neighborhood gathering, we will host a general meeting later in the Great Hall.

Questions? Contact Co-chairs Jean Johnson (425-454-9740) or Joanne DelBene (425-453-0332).

### Welcome New Members

Please wear your name badges and your warmest smiles as we welcome our newest members to St. Thomas during the 10:15 service on Sunday, November 22.

Everyone is invited to the reception in their honor immediately following the service. Their name badges will carry a blue ribbon for easy identification as you extend your warm welcome.

The Newcomers Committee will gratefully accept a contribution of goodies for the reception. For more information, please contact Phyllis Ross, chair, at 425-392-8564.

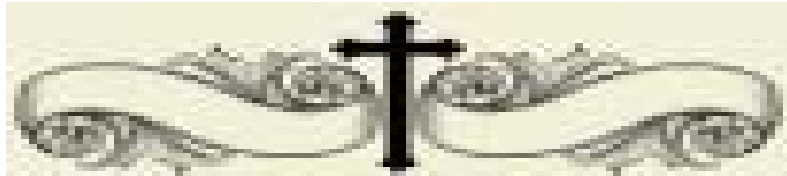


(From the Rector, continued from page 1)

Simply put, most people live by a very succinct creed: the more I have, the safer I am. This is another way of saying that we live with the illusion, rampant in our culture, that we have to be our own saviors. The next time you're at your favorite bookstore, check out the "self-help" section. It's enormous and growing. Yet, as in all profound spiritual truth, there is a paradox at work here. It seems always to be the case that the tighter our grip on our possessions (the idols we think will save us), the more anxious we become that we might lose them. True spiritual liberation, true freedom, comes as we loosen our death grip on our possessions and turn to the One who created us and who is our true savior. Turning with gratitude for all that we have and all that we are to the Source of Life, we can let go of the anxious lie that it's somehow all up to us.

So, at this time of the year, the time when we remember the departed, the Communion of Saints whose number we will one day join, we are also invited to live into the reality that we don't need our possessions to save us. We're already saved. Knowing that, we're invited to join our sisters and brothers here at St. Thomas and turn back to God a portion of the financial resources with which God has blessed us for the work of building up the kingdom. Yes, we are dust and to dust we shall return; and yet, even at the grave, we sing our Alleluias for the gift of life everlasting, a gift that begins here and now.

Faithfully,

# Gala Reception

honoring

The Reverend Alexander N. "Lex" Breckinridge IV

in celebration of his new ministry  
as

Rector, St. Thomas-Medina

Tuesday, November 17, 2009  
Great Hall

Installation Service, 7:00 pm, St. Thomas Church,  
followed by reception

**Everyone is cordially invited**



## A St. Thomas Welcome for Father Lex

*by Jack Caldwell*

We all are delighted to welcome you here  
And gather together to wish you good cheer!

You'll find that you are in a welcoming place  
With hardly a single "sour puss" face.

Though you come from Austin, we just can't call you "Tex,"  
And we're not good at "Father" so I guess it'll be "LEX."

We hear that you're new to our gorgeous Northwest,  
Our weather may soon put you both to the test;

When you walk outside and everything's gray,  
Not to worry at all – just a typical day.

You are now ensconced in "The Evergreen State,"  
And you will soon find out why its name has that fate.

Not just the trees are that beautiful green,  
Anything stationary can develop that sheen.

If the damp and the cold create arthritic aches,  
Fear not – there'll soon be one of our famous "sun breaks."

If our "de-lightful" winter makes you just CRY,  
Spring will show up here in early July.

You'll find some quaint places here, named on a whim –  
Like Sedro Woolley, Lilliwaup, Concrete and Sequim.

One place you can't say if you speak at a gallop,  
And of course that one is the town of Puyallup!

We hear that wife Zonnie is from the bayou,  
Where Thibodeaux speaks to GOD and Boudreaux.

I'll bet when she cooks she starts with a roux,  
For jambalaya or gumbo, that is the glue!

Down in the bayou it's just what you do!  
Even angel food cake starts with a roux!

And being a gal with roots in the bayou,  
To 5-alarm Texas chili she must add Tabasco!

We've heard you're a Tar Heel from old UNC,  
But you will soon learn this is HUSKY COUNTRY!

Well, that's enough welcoming, I've run out of rhymes –  
Welcome to St. Thomas, let's have some great times!

Created with Love—September 13, 2009

### Financial Report

	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual
<b>SEPTEMBER 2009</b>			<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>		
<b>Income</b>	\$ 49,542	\$ 95,480	<b>Income</b>	\$698,900	\$713,769
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 75,893	\$ 73,257	<b>Expense</b>	\$723,734	\$734,944

# Christian Formation

## The Grave and Beyond

by Josh Hosler, Associate for Christian Formation

She was not a believer. She had loved her husband so much, but when he died, she decided not to have a memorial service for him. Why be hypocritical? But that decision was hard on her family.

The next couple years were rough on her too, and everybody knew it – but nobody knew just how rough. She was present at all the family gatherings, but the tears were just beneath the surface. Sometimes we saw them leak out; but mostly, she tried to keep her brave face on.

Then one day, she was gone. Too many pills, an ambulance ... too late. The darkness had overtaken her, and we were never going to get her back.

Now was the time for a memorial service, so the family could grieve both losses at once. The service was held in the middle of Lent – a time when many of us were feeling a little bleak already.

But then the preacher explained to us how funeral services work: they are Easter celebrations. Despite the fact that it

was the middle of Lent, we could sing “Alleluia” all we wanted.

We prayed for God to give rest to these two servants – knowing servants, unwitting servants, one of whom had given in completely to despair. As the hymn goes:

*All of us go down to the dust;  
Yet even at the grave we make our song:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

And for one brief hour, it was, indeed, Easter. Resurrection invaded that church and absconded with our souls. We knew the full depth and breadth of joy – painful, heart-rending joy to have had the privilege of loving these two dear people.

As we celebrate the Feast of All Souls on November 2, let us remember that there is no death without resurrection. All of us belong to a God who will never, ever stop loving us, through the grave and beyond.



## Early Thanksgiving to Honor Our Veterans

by Aileen Loranger, Associate for Pastoral Care & Health Ministries

For the past three years, St. Thomas parishioners have partnered with the Veterans Administration Puget Sound Health System on Beacon Hill to create a traditional, home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner in honor of the senior residents of the Community Living Center unit (formerly TCU). On **Friday, November 20**, we will again be gathering with the entire staff of the CLC to provide a sumptuous feast for 100 veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and their families. Sally and Tim Davidson have generously offered to be this year's hosts.



Can YOU help us in serving those who have served our country? We need help decorating the room, setting the tables, cooking at the VA, serving, and clean-up. Please contact Aileen Loranger at [amaclar3@comcast.net](mailto:amaclar3@comcast.net) or 206-390-5988 by November 15 to volunteer your Christian heart and hands to those usually forgotten during the holidays. It is always an event to remember.

# St. Thomas Episcopal Church

## Vestry

Bonnie Palevich, *Senior Warden*  
 Bob Webb, *Junior Warden*  
 Fred Barkman, *Treasurer*  
 Jim Blundell, *Chancellor*  
 Nicholas Sooy, *Clerk*  
 Jeff Belfiglio  
 Margaret Chorlton, *Warden for Personnel*  
 Joanne DelBene, *Co-chair for Transition*  
 Andy Hoskins  
 Jim Hughes  
 Michelle Jewell, *Warden for Development*  
 Jean Johnson, *Warden for Transition*  
 Steve Pedersen  
 Nancy Pitarys

## Staff

The Reverend Lex Breckinridge, *Rector*  
 The Reverend Kathryn Ballinger, *Deacon, Associate for Spiritual Direction & Parish Visitor*  
 The Reverend Stephen W. Best, *Associate for Couples & Family Life*  
 Charles Rus, *Interim Associate for Liturgical Arts*  
 Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian Formation*  
 Aileen Loranger, *Associate for Pastoral Care & Health Ministries*  
 Gerry Gallaher, *Business Manager*

## The Collect

Shirley E. Deffenbaugh, *Editor*  
 Elizabeth Ward, *Assistant Editor*

Deadline: The due date for December issue is November 9

Please submit copy to Shirley Deffenbaugh, editor, via email at [sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net) or leave in the drawer marked "Collect" at the church. All articles will be edited. If you have questions, please call Shirley at 425-455-4817.

## Project Outreach

by Alison Cole, *Project Outreach Member*

### Update on the Mission to the Seafarers

The cruise season has just ended in the Port of Seattle and our team of volunteer drivers can finally rest on weekends. Every Saturday and Sunday between May and the end of September, drivers shuttled crew members between the new cruise terminal at Pier 91 and downtown Seattle. Nearly 7,000 crew were transported to do a little shopping during their few hours of shore leave. The drivers enjoyed meeting people from around the world who, in turn, were appreciative of our efforts to make their brief time in Seattle enjoyable.

Our outreach ministry, however, continues year round. We work in conjunction with the Roman Catholic Apostleship of the Sea and the Lutheran Maritime Ministry to make sure that every ship in the port is visited by one of our chaplains or ship visitors. On these visits they check to see if the needs and welfare of the seafarers are being met. They also offer transportation to shops or to our Seafarers' Center. Sometimes the seafarers have no shore passes,

and when this happens, the ship visitor may be asked to do some shopping for them.

Our center acts as a USO center for the merchant mariner. It offers a "home away from home" to the seafarers who have the opportunity to spend some time on shore. They use our phones, computers, and Wifi to get in touch with loved ones at home, or they relax by playing pool or watching TV. Because the center is close to the port, crew members from the ships berthed at Terminal 5 are able to walk over, so we see them frequently. Last year, Project Outreach gave us a grant that helped pay for the installation of new double-pane windows. Both our heating bills and outside noise levels have been significantly reduced since the installation.

In surveys, seafarers list transportation and communication as being very important to them. We are fortunate that between the three maritime ministries in the Port of Seattle, we are able to provide for both needs.

**The Mission to Seafarers**  
 Caring for seafarers around the world



# Vestry Views

## Hymn 355 – Now and Then

by Jeff Belfiglio, Vestry Member

On All Saints Day, when we remember those we have laid to rest, we may recall the funeral service of a close relative or respected friend. While music of all kinds is often a key part of a memorial celebration of life, the hymnal gives us only a handful of hymns to be used at a burial service. Often a family will choose to substitute a favorite hymn of the deceased. But Hymn 355, “Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant,” is often used – in fact, it has been incorporated into the Burial Rite in *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Both the words and the music come to us from the Eastern Orthodox memorial service. The music, with its irregular meter and ancient Eastern harmonies, has a mysterious, other-worldly flavor like Gregorian chant. As is true for most chants, the author is unknown. The tune is called “Kontakion,” Greek for “from the pole,” because originally these hymns were extended, multi-verse homilies so long that the

text was rolled scroll-like on a pole. The words echo many of the themes of the service and the readings. First, the departed now rests at peace in life everlasting “where sorrow and pain are no more.” Second, we are reminded of our own mortality; the hymn even quotes from Genesis, “Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,” prefiguring the words said over the grave. But it also states that “even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.” Thus, it affirms our faith in the resurrection to eternal life, not just for the departed but for all of us in our time.

Interestingly, the current hymn 355 could not be more different from the hymn that held that place in prior versions of the hymnal, “Savior, like a shepherd lead us” (now #708). That hymn, clearly inspired by the famous 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, is all about our need for Christ’s love, protection, and guidance in our earthly lives. The hymnal credits the words only to the book

*Hymns for the Young*, but most sources attribute the words to Dorothy Ann Thrupp, who published that collection in 1836. Dorothy Thrupp wrote a number of children’s hymns published in her own books and other collections, sometimes anonymously or under a pseudonym. She did not sign this particular hymn, so it is not certain that she wrote it, but it certainly fits her dedication to using hymns for the instruction of children. Outside our hymnal, her words are often set to a tune written expressly for them by William Batchelder Bradbury. If you think you’ve never heard of him, you probably have — he also wrote the music to the universally known children’s hymn, “Jesus Loves Me.”

Whichever Hymn 355 you prefer — the simple childlike acknowledgement of our need for God’s loving care, or the ancient chant exploring the deepest themes of eternal life — either one is a good source of reflection for All Saints Day.

Burial355

Give rest, O Christ, to your ser-vant(s) with your

## Calendar

### November 4

Flu Shots (seasonal only) 9:00–11:30am

### November 15

Young Adults Fellowship  
11:30 am–2pm,  
Parkside Room

### November 17

Celebration of New Ministry,  
7:00 pm, St. Thomas Church  
Installation of Father Lex  
To follow—Gala Reception, Great Hall

### November 22

Commitment Sunday  
Offering of pledge cards

Newcomers' Reception following 10:15 service, Great Hall

### November 26

Thanksgiving Fellowship & Dinner Delivery

### November 29

First Sunday of Advent

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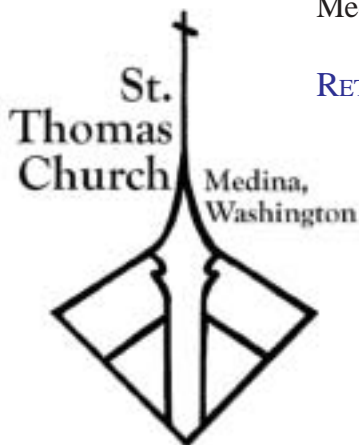
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**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
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