

## Services

### Sunday

8:00 am Eucharist with hymns  
9:00 am Fellowship  
9:15 am Forum  
10:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Sung Eucharist  
11:15 am Fellowship

### Wednesday

10:00 am Eucharist (Chapel)

### Daily

7:30 am Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
8:00 am Friday Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
(no Saturday service)

## Music Rehearsals

### St. Thomas Singers

Thursdays, 7:30 pm  
Sundays, 9:15 am

### Early Music Ensemble

Most Sundays, 11:30 am

### St. Thomas Choristers

Most Sundays, 11:30 am

## Calendar

### February 5–6

El Salvador Team Overnight  
6:00 pm, *Church/Great Hall*

### February 16

Mardi Gras, 6:30 – 9:00 pm, *Great Hall*

### February 17

Ash Wednesday Liturgy  
7:30 and 10:00 am, *Chapel*  
7:00 pm, *Church*

### February 21

Lunch with Lex and Josh  
For Youth Grades 11–12  
12:00–1:30 pm, *Offsite location TBD*

### Wednesdays, beginning

#### February 24

A Lenten Walk with St. Francis  
5:30 pm, Evensong, *Chapel*  
6:00 pm, Soup & Bread, *Great Hall*  
6:30 pm, Program, *Great Hall*

#### February 28

Annual Parish Meeting and Brunch,  
immediately following Holy Eucharist at  
9:30 am (one service only)

# THE COLLECT

February 2010

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

## From the Rector: What Shall I Be This Lent?

by the Reverend Alexander "Lex" Breckinridge

"What shall I do for Lent this year?" is a question Christians have been asking themselves as long as there has been something called "Lent." But here's a better question. "What shall I *be* this Lent?" And what if the answer to that question is, "Why, I'll be someone who's in love with God." That's what Mary Magdalene, the character from scripture whose life and ministry provide us with the theme for this month's *Collect*, decided to be. Luke tells us that after Jesus healed Mary of evil spirits and illness, she followed him and was one of those who waited at the foot of the cross. All four gospels report that Mary was one of the women who went to the tomb to weep for Jesus and to care for his body. Her tears of grief resonate with all who mourn loss. Jesus tenderly responds to her grief by meeting her in the garden and calling her by name, thereby making her the first witness to the Resurrection. Truly, Mary Magdalene was one who was "in love with God."

So let's say that we, too, decide to be someone who's in love with God this Lent. As we say those words quietly to ourselves, pretty soon we might hear another voice that says something like, "You're kidding, right? You sure don't act like you're someone in love with God." While there's plenty of truth in that voice, it shouldn't drown out another voice that comes from the deepest place within us that, all our orneriness and selfishness notwithstanding, is ready to return God's love. That first, skeptical voice becomes our enemy when we let it convince us that we're beyond redemption. This isn't the voice of true repentance. It's the voice that blocks repentance.

Real repentance, which means a real and sincere change of heart, begins by recognizing that we're called to be in love with God and that the love with which we love God has already been given to us. Repentance begins in knowing that, as St. Paul says, "the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" and this love flows back to God. Real repentance begins by believing we are entitled to be in love with God, because love has been freely given to us, something we've received by grace through faith. Fr. Martin Smith observes that our desire for God is God within us desiring to be desired.

So what shall we do for Lent? Why not act as if we're people who are in love with God? Whatever it takes. Like regular prayer. Really making time for prayer. After all, how can you say you love someone if you don't make time to spend with the One you say you love? And when you hear those voices that say, "You can't be in love with God because you're not worthy or you don't really mean it," tell them to go straight to hell because that's exactly where they came from.

So here's what to do for Lent. Find time today to tell God of your love. Then the day after tell God the same thing. And the day after that. Every day during Lent. And then on Easter morning, Our Lord will greet us as he did Mary Magdalene in the garden, calling us, his beloved, by name.

Faithfully,



# Vestry Views

## On Being a Vestry Member: In Their Own Words



Bonnie Palevich, Senior Warden

Being on the Vestry has influenced me and deepened my spirituality. The first piece of advice I took to heart as 2009 Senior Warden came from an article in the Episcopal Church Foundation's publication, *Vestry Papers*, about Thomas Hooker, the venerable English theologian who wrote in the preface of his book, *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* (considered a model text for conflict resolution), about the danger of falling in love with our own opinions: "Nature worketh in us all a love to our own counsels. The contradiction of others is a fan to inflame that love." He counsels speaking with "charity and meekness" instead of "disdainful sharpness of wit."

I came to realize that it is often better to hold one's tongue, stop, listen carefully to the opinions of others, and to pray together before making decisions, rather than to try to "make points" with clever rejoinders (although I am not entirely cured and relish a bit of levity now and then). I doubt the Lord loves lengthy and boring meetings.

Practicing quiet prayerful reflection is like taking a spiritual tonic, and learning to value my fellow Vestry members' opinions as much as my own has helped me become a better spiritual leader in spite of myself.



Nick Sooy, Vestry Clerk

When approached by Father Lee about six years ago to become the Vestry clerk, I told him I would think about it. It did not take long for me to say "yes." I realized it was an honor even to be considered to hold such an important responsibility. I have enjoyed seeing how the church operates from the inside without having the full voting responsibility of Vestry members.

I admire all Vestry members who have once served. It is a wonderful sacrifice they are providing to their church community. It is especially remarkable witnessing the wardens pour their hearts and souls into their roles. I have really enjoyed my time as the Vestry clerk, and it has been especially rewarding getting to know people that I would not have otherwise.



Jeff Belfiglio

I have enjoyed serving as representative to the St. Thomas School board during an exciting time when the new school was built and started operating.



Jim Hughes

I've been really blessed to serve on the Vestry these past three years – the friendships made and the decisions dealt with really bring home the hospitality of God mission we have. For my part, I've been mostly involved with the personnel and finance committees outside of regular Vestry meetings, as well as the Thanksgiving Dinner activity. We've done a lot of good work in getting the church finance and personnel processes improved, and I'll really miss working with these great folks in the next year.



Jean Johnson

During my time on the Vestry, I have enjoyed my various roles:

- ◆ Vestry representative to Parish Profile Committee
- ◆ Co-chair with Michelle Jewell for organizing, purchasing, and preparing food for Shrove Tuesday dinner
- ◆ Stewardship Committee representative after Parish Profile was completed
- ◆ Transitions Warden and co-chair of Transitions Team with Jo Anne Del Bene, which entailed receptions and gifts for Jane Maynard and planning for Father Lex's arrival. We are still in the process of organizing small groups for "Conversations with Father Lex," which will continue into 2010.
- ◆ Recruiting new Vestry members with Jeff Belfiglio and Jim Hughes



Andy Hoskins

After being elected only last spring, I took a position in September that will eventually take our family to the East Coast. So my time on Vestry, alas, has been short. However, we have been a part of this parish for 20 years. In that time, we have gotten to know so many of you so well.

Being on Vestry added yet another dimension to my friendships with my fellow members. When you spend time carefully considering decisions that affect the rest of the community, you get a chance to get to respect people you see every Sunday in an entirely new light. The work of the Vestry is an interesting mixture of business and spirituality. You are forced to find a way to mix compassion and consideration with decisions that often must be hardnosed. The single most important thing I gained was an appreciation that running a parish is harder than you would think, involving difficult, imperfect decisions that require compromise. Therefore, it is essential for each of us to strip away all frustrations with this temporal entity we call our parish and recognize it as insignificant in the magnificence of our Lord and Savior.

# Advent Giving Tree Project

## Thank You

by Leslie Brewer

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree Project during Advent. La Iglesia de la Resurrección made some adjustments to the project this year. They gave gifts to 250 children instead of 600, as they had done in previous years. The gifts went to the children who attend Resurrección (about 130 children) and to another 120 children of the poorest families that Resurrección supports in the Skagit Valley. One reason for these changes was time – in past years the church needed about two weeks to prepare the many gifts for distribution. As a result, they were not able to provide pastoral care and other necessary services for their congregation and community.

St. Thomas provided for 25 children by giving an outfit, a toy, and a grocery gift card to each named child. Since each child in the family received a grocery gift card, the gift actually helped make a dent in their family's food expenses. We also provided extra grocery gift cards totaling \$155. In addition, St. Thomas donors gave a total of \$1,044.19 to the Resurrección scholarship fund.

If you were unable to participate during Advent but want to contribute now, you can donate online at Resurrección's web site at [www.resurreccionepiscopal.org](http://www.resurreccionepiscopal.org).

Sincere thanks go to all who took part in the project.

## Parish Life

### Conversations with Father Lex Continue

The small group meetings with Father Lex resumed in January and will continue into the new year. The Transition Team is still forming neighborhood groups based on the parish list so that everyone will be invited to enjoy a casual visit with our new rector at someone's home. You will be called when your group has been organized. For those who cannot attend their neighborhood gathering, we will host a general meeting later in the Great Hall. Call the chairs if you have questions: Jean Johnson at 425-454-9740 and Joanne Del Bene at 425-453-0332.

### Keeping Current @ St. Thomas

St. Thomas Church wants everyone to be in the communication loop. As we increasingly use electronic mail to keep parishioners and friends up-to-date, we want to improve our database of email addresses. If the church does not have an accurate email for you, please provide it via email to [laura@stthomasmedina.org](mailto:laura@stthomasmedina.org) or fill out a pew card or call the office at 425-454-9541. Thanks for your help in improving our communications. Please know that we do not share your contact information with anyone outside the church for any purpose.

## SAVE THESE DATES!

Mark your calendars so that you don't miss these excellent events at St. Thomas.

### Tuesday, February 16th at 6:30 pm

You won't want to miss the first authentic **Mardi Gras Celebration** led this year by our own New Orleans native son, Father Lex. Get "yer 'Allelu-ya-yas'" out with pancakes, beads, music, dancing, and mask-making.

\$4/person, \$10/family of 3 or more.

RSVP to Cinda Madonna 425-753-1146, [cindamadonna@msn.com](mailto:cindamadonna@msn.com).

### Sunday, February 21 at 4:00 pm

**Charles Rus** will play an organ concert at St. Thomas. It will be a repeat of a concert he gave in Amsterdam's historic Oude Kerk at the end of January. All are welcome to this free concert.

### Sunday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m.

TWO SENSATIONAL YOUNG SINGERS  
IN CONCERT

**Marcus Shelton**, tenor and a New Year's Eve sensation, and

**Joshua Jeremiah**, baritone and Grammy Award nominee for best Opera performance 2009-2010

If you remember the thrilling sound of Marcus on New Year's Eve, or if you missed it, you will want to grab at the chance to hear this program.

A free-will offering will be accepted to help defray expenses.

# Meet the Candidates

## Vestry Nominees for 2010

*[Ed's note: Five parishioners have agreed to be nominated for the vacant Vestry positions. They will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on February 28. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor.]*



Delphine Stevens

Delphine Stevens was raised in England as an Anglican. She worked as a lawyer in London before moving to the United States in 1982 with her husband, Charles, when he attended graduate school at Harvard. She continued her legal work in Boston and also has a law degree from Seattle University. In 1984, they moved to Washington State and began attending St. Thomas in 1990 after buying a home in Medina. For three years in the mid-1990s they lived in Tokyo, Japan, with their three young children, where they attended a missionary Anglican church, St. Alban. Delphine has been active at St. Thomas with the Newcomers Committee and Project Outreach, which she chaired in 2008. She helps run a family foundation that focuses on education, social services and the arts, and serves on the boards of Seattle Opera and the ARCS Foundation Inc. Her daughter Leonora lives in San Francisco, her son Nicholas is a student at Penn, and her younger daughter Amanda will be a freshman at Penn in the fall.



Kim Malcolm

Kim Malcolm has worked as a radio reporter, producer, and host for CBC Radio in Canada and NPR member station KERA 90.1 in Dallas. She currently volunteers on the board of Our Redeemer Christian Preschool in

Kirkland and is a Sunday School assistant at St. Thomas. She is married to David Paranchych and they have two sons, six-year-old Ben and three-year-old James Paranchych.



Christopher Breunig

I joined St. Thomas with my family in 2005. I have been an Episcopalian for the majority of my life. We previously attended Church of the Ascension in Magnolia, where I served on the Vestry and as lay reader, offered Evening Prayer, and attended the Benedictine worship group. I am a regular attendee of the Benedictine Retreat at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, California. At St. Thomas, I enjoy singing with the choir, serving as a lay reader, and saying Morning Prayer on Fridays. In the past, I served on Diocesan Council and the St. Thomas Rector Call Committee. I am married to Gretchen Stahr Breunig. With our two teenagers, Adam and Ellis, my life is full of activity. For work, I have an intellectual property transactions legal practice after ten years in-house at Microsoft.



Bill McSherry

Along with his wife Kristen, Bill McSherry has been attending St. Thomas for eight years, and they have both grown to love the community and spiritual life of this wonderful church. They have a six-year-old daughter, Lucy, and are expecting their second child in June. Bill is Economic Development Director at the Puget Sound Regional Council and a special advisor to Governor Gregoire on aerospace and economic issues.



Brian Evison

Brian Evison, an Australian, arrived with his family in Seattle during 1995, and they have been parishioners of St. Thomas since that time. He is married to Trish and they have three children. Brian, Trish, and their daughter Sarah reside in Bridle Trails in Bellevue.

His activities at St. Thomas have included:

- ◆ Member of the 2009 Rector Call Committee
- ◆ An usher for ten years
- ◆ A lay reader for two years
- ◆ Member of the Thanksgiving Committee

Other community activities include past president of the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club during 2003-2004, and he remains a member of that vibrant club. He is also a board member of the Seattle Mariners' RBI Club.

Brian is Senior Vice President of aircraft financier, DAE Capital, a subsidiary of Dubai Aerospace Enterprise and has been involved in aircraft financing for the past 20 years.

He gained his EMBA at the University of Washington in 2002.

## Project Outreach Nominees for 2010

- ◆ Kristen McSherry
- ◆ Shelby Scovel
- ◆ Carole Myers

## Convention Delegate Nominees for 2010

We will elect the following convention delegates and alternates at the annual meeting on February 28, 2010.

St. Thomas sends the largest delegation to the convention. Delegates are a major link between congregations and the convention. We look forward to their report, usually presented as a group at a Forum after the convention, which will take place October 29-30, 2010 at the Hilton Seattle Airport. This year many of our delegates stated at the Forum that they had a meaningful spiritual experience.

Those elected for 2011 serve one-year terms, and those elected for 2012 serve two-year terms.

- ◆ Keith Moulton (Elevated to Delegate 2011)
- ◆ Carol Howie (Elevated to Delegate 2011)
- ◆ Rose Magee (Alternate 2011)
- ◆ Roger Ahroon (Alternate 2011)
- ◆ Mary and Fred Pneuman (Delegates 2012)
- ◆ Shelby Scovel (Delegate 2012)
- ◆ Marilee McCorriston (Delegate 2012)
- ◆ Bob Simeone (Delegate 2012)
- ◆ Joseph Murashie (Delegate 2012)
- ◆ Mary Friedlander (Alternate 2012)
- ◆ Edward Rozanek (Alternate 2012)

## CampFair 2010

Find the perfect summer camp or program at CampFair 2010 on Saturday, February 6, 2010, 11 am to 3 pm, at St. Thomas School, 8300 NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Medina.

One of the largest camp fairs in Washington, CampFair is co-sponsored by St. Thomas School and *ParentMap*. Come meet directors and representatives from over 85 camps and programs for all ages, preschool to adult, including day and overnight camps, teen programs, specialty programs, wilderness adventure, sports, drama, art, science, music, language, academic enrichment, and more. Admission is free.

If your kids were bored last summer, you missed CampFair!

For more information, directions to CampFair, and a listing of participating camps, visit [www.stthomasschool.org](http://www.stthomasschool.org) or [www.parentmap.com](http://www.parentmap.com).



## Lenten Psalm of Awakening

Come, O Life-giving Creator,  
and rattle the door latch  
of my slumbering heart.  
Awaken me as you breathe upon  
a winter-wrapped earth,  
gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these fortified days  
of Lenten prayer and discipline  
my youthful dream of holiness.  
Call me forth from the prison camp  
of my numerous past defeats  
and my narrow patterns of being  
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,  
through the passion of my love.

Show to me during these Lenten days  
how to take the daily things of life  
and by submerging them in the sacred,  
to infuse them with a great love  
for you, O God, and for others.

Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer,  
the real works of reform and renewal  
of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,  
help me not to waste  
these precious Lenten days  
of my soul's spiritual springtime.

*Edward Hays, Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim  
[Forest of Peace Publishing, Inc.: Leavenworth, KS], 1989, p. 136)*

# 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*

## Staff

The Rev Lex Breckinridge, *Rector*  
The Rev Kathryn Ballinger, *Deacon*  
*Associate for Spiritual Direction &*  
*Parish Visitor*  
The Rev Stephen W Best, *Associate for*  
*Couples & Family Life*  
Charles Rus, *Interim Associate for*  
*Liturgical Arts*  
Josh Hosler, *Associate for Christian*  
*Formation*  
Laura Gregg, *Executive Assistant*  
*to the Rector*

## The Collect

Shirley E Deffenbaugh, *Editor*  
Elizabeth Ward, *Assistant Editor*  
Laura Gregg, *Layout & Production Editor*

**Deadline:** For the March issue, February 8.  
Please submit copy to Shirley Deffenbaugh,  
sedeffenbaugh@comcast.net or leave in the  
drawer marked "Collect" at the church. All  
articles will be edited. Questions? Please call  
Shirley at 425-455-4817.

## Mary Magdalene

*by Josh Hosler, Associate for Christian Formation*

The carefree giggle of eight  
Became a cracked, bitter chuckle by fourteen:  
The cream of her childhood  
Had been sipped, slurped and consumed,  
Or had spoiled and been thrown away.

Like any loser of any age,  
She finally found a group that would take her in,  
Led by a man so unexpected, so dangerous  
Some flocked to him, some courted him,  
Some feared him, some scorned him.  
But she was fascinated by him.

She had been to the wilderness herself,  
Been tempted by those choice few things  
That were allowed a woman  
for temptation –  
Given in as often as not,  
Then used what she had to  
gain power and influence.



But she saw in this man what others did not.  
She saw God – God the lover,  
God who needs to be loved in return.

The cracked, bitter chuckle of fourteen  
Became a wise giggle by twenty.  
The jagged edges of her levity  
Were roasted, burned, scraped out,  
Stirred into a gravy that would redeem her loss,  
Sustain her joy,  
And feed other losers, too.

# The Quiet Corner

## Mary of Magdala: A Reflection

by Kathryn Ballinger, Deacon, Associate for Spiritual Direction & Parish Visitor

The village of Magdala, the birthplace of Mary Magdalene, no longer exists, and to find its remains on the western shoreline of the Sea of Galilee, you would have to dig deep.\* Surely Mary must have played near the seashore as a child. At night she might have seen the lights of Tiberias to the southwest – that great and sinful city. The only reasonable way to reach it was by boat across a dangerous part of the sea. The winds from the Mediterranean blew viciously down the valley to the west near Nazareth.

We don't know much about Mary, and some of what we do know is speculative and based on legend. Jesus healed her of "demons," but conjecture and modern medicine might now diagnose her with epilepsy or mental illness.

The various gospel accounts of her are ambiguous. According to some scholars, Luke's gospel identifies her as the woman who anointed the feet of Jesus. The story takes us to the house of Simon the Pharisee, where the fashionable Greco-Roman style of dining with guests reclining on couches around the table was becoming popular among affluent Jews. It was permissible for the poor to gather in the shadows of the surrounding colonnade, hoping for a handout of food or a favor from the rich guests.

Mary comes out of the shadows to approach Jesus. Bending down before him, she bathes his feet with her tears, dries them with her hair, kisses and anoints them with precious ointment. The power of the scene lies not so much in its sexuality but in her passionate attention to Jesus, which makes her oblivious to others and her surroundings. She has no fear of the rich and powerful. She is somehow freed from all formality. She does what she must, not considering the cost. And Jesus understands, alone among all the guests, and utterly accepts her. She is his disciple.

In John's gospel, we encounter Mary before the risen Christ. She throws herself at his feet. Jesus tells her not to hold onto him.... I'm sure it was not said in a way to hurt or alienate her.... And Mary becomes the first to tell the others that she has seen the risen Lord.

This man means everything to Mary. Jesus heals her in mind, body, and spirit and restores her to herself. She becomes a force in his community of followers.

Jesus longs to do the same for each of us. We, too, are in need of healing. As Jesus called Mary to be a witness to his resurrection, so too, he calls *us* to be a witness. As Mary was healed for a purpose, so are *we* healed and called to serve others – to serve the one who heals by the way we love.

[\* Ed's note: Excavations begun in the 1970s have produced significant finds.]

## A Lenten Walk with St. Francis

Beginning on February 24 and continuing for five consecutive Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm we will offer a Lenten program led by Father Lex, Father Steve, and others.

We will start with a service of Evensong at 5:30 pm, then serve a simple meal at 6:00 pm. The presentation and discussion will be from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Activities for children will also be provided.

We will explore various themes from the life of this great medieval saint: simplicity, love of creation, solidarity with the marginalized, peacemaking, and joyful living. Discussions will be focused on practical ways to strengthen one's own spiritual life.

Contact: The Rev. Steve Best

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## Financial Report

DECEMBER 2009

	Budget	Actual
Income	\$90,942	\$119,454
Expense	\$82,196	\$89,174

YEAR TO DATE

Income	\$953,450	\$963,957
Expense	\$963,450	\$990,701

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**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
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