



# The Word

St. Thomas U M C

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May, 2008

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

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## The Pastor's Pen

As May comes into focus we will be honoring special people and relationships in the St. Thomas family. On May 4<sup>th</sup> the Aldersgate U.M.C. will worship with us as we salute our very important "sister-church" relationship. Some years ago conversations began which led us in the direction of considering a merger of the two congregations given our close locations and mutual interests. In the end, a merger was not consummated but an on-going relationship began in which we have shared in periodic worship services, experienced pulpit exchanges and joined in mission through our combined Blood Drives. As I get ready to assume a new responsibility, the Aldersgate congregation will once again "break-bread" with us as we honor our important connectional relationship.

Saying "thank you" to Stephanie for all of her ministry among us will be a great celebration. Stephanie and Meg became members of St. Thomas church the year that her father Steven was our student pastor. From the beginning, Stephanie began bonding with our youth and eventually, as a seminary student herself, became our Youth Pastor and education consultant while she completed her degree. What Stephanie accomplished as an advocate for youth during those years was foundational for our asking her to stay on as our Youth Pastor at the end of her seminary education. For many years (beyond the four for which she has received some minor compensation) Pastor Stephanie has

shared her life and her loves (Chad and Shane) with the children, youth and adults of our congregation. She has been a faithful member of our Administrative Board, a joy-filled worship leader, a teacher of youth, confirmands and young children. She was very influential in helping us create a contemporary worship service, which has now morphed into our much beloved "CrossPoint" on Saturday nights. Stephanie and Chad have cooked dinners in the kitchen for the youth to serve as fundraisers and have accompanied the youth to various mission sites and work projects. Under Stephanie's leadership our youth have grown in faith understanding, church and community leadership, and worship development. Pastor Stephanie has encouraged the youth to be proud of their gifts and to use them for the glory of God. She has been a listening ear, a guiding hand and a mentor in faith.

While the formal work of youth leadership now transfers into the hands of committed lay people in our congregation, we know that Stephanie and Chad will always stay interested and available to our youth, as they now pursue new areas of leadership among us. Pastor Stephanie has been and is a blessing to us. It's finally time to honor her good work. Join us for the celebration on Youth Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, on May 18<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the ministry of Pastor Mary. Our Student Pastor since early September, Mary has worked especially hard in the ongoing leadership

and planning for "CrossPoint." Mary has served as worship leader for our Sunday morning service, as teacher of adult education, and as missionary as she accompanied our mission teams to New Orleans, Chatham and South Dakota. Mary has experienced the blessing of local church ministry during her time among us and has shared her gifts with us as well. Join us on May 18<sup>th</sup> as we say "Thank You" to Pastor Mary and honor our relationship as "Partners in Ministry Training" with Garrett-Evangelical Seminary.

--Pastor Diana

**And from SPRC:** As long as we are talking about Sunday celebrations, please plan to join us as well on June 1 as we celebrate Pastor Diana's twelve years of ministry with us here at St. Thomas.

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## WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S NEW

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### **OUR SYMPATHIES ARE EXPRESSED TO...**

- ...**Gail and Mike Roberts** on the death of Michael's father earlier this month. The funeral was held in Downers Grove on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. We thank God for a peaceful passing into God's eternal care and pray God's blessing on Gail, Mike and the boys.
- **Neal Smith** as he begins treatment for his cancer this week. He will be receiving treatment 5 days/wk for the next 8 weeks. We pray with Neal's family for strength, confidence and God's healing mercy.
- **Mark and Jane McQuinn** who continue to keep us in their prayers as we keep them in ours. Mark begins treatment for his lung cancer very soon and we pray that he and Jane will continue to know God's blessings as we pray for his continued strength and wellness.
- **Pastor Leguizamón** who we hold in our hearts and prayers as he faces a

second surgery on his shoulder on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- **Helen Schelli** who received very difficult news this past week as a year's worth of tests have finally culminated in a diagnosis. Helen has been diagnosed with a form of A.L.S. known as Bulbar Palsey, which focuses in the throat and tongue muscles. Helen is in good spirits, trying to absorb the news, learning about the illness and putting her trust in God's care. We join with Helen in prayer for God's healing mercy.
- **Kathy Kuphal** whose sister was recently diagnosed with cancer. We pray with the Kuphal family for God's blessings.
- **Rick Pearson** who misses being able to get to church as he continues his recuperation at Westmont Rehabilitation Center. He sends his love and asks us to remember him and Nancy as they patiently await God's healing.
- **Lois Klein** and her family in their continued need of healing and wellness for Candy's husband and daughter.

### **THANK YOU TO...**

**Pastor Stephanie** who with four of our youth recently attended Super Rally, a N.I.C. youth event participated in by young people from around the conference. We are so grateful to see our youth active in the life and mission of the church as they assume leadership roles beyond St. Thomas. Thanks to all of you.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO...**

- **Sharon Koopman**, recently crowned Queen of the Zenobia Temple; Daughter of the Nile. This organization assists the Shriners in accomplishing their goals as they provide medical care for children through-out North America. [Sharon tells us she has unofficially dubbed Dolores "Queen Mum".]

- **Pastor Mary Dadisman**, graduating from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- Our high school graduates Keila Buthman, Eric Kalnins, Beth Koopman, Dana Pribich, Vanessa Voltaggio
- Samantha Lobb, graduating to senior high school and Reese Buthman and Matthew Skarha, graduating into junior high school

### **WELCOME TO...**

- ...the world Miss Maissy Lee Littlefield, new baby granddaughter of Karen and George. Born on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Maissy Lee was welcomed into the arms of mom Jessica and dad Gary, who now live in St. Charles
- **Aldersgate U.M.C.:** On Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, we welcome our sister congregation, the Aldersgate UMC for worship and a time of fellowship. Honoring our relationship as congregations, we will worship together, share Holy Communion, dedicate our crop walkers and praise God in word and song. Please join the celebration and provide hospitality to our guests!

### **A NOTE OF THANKS...**

To the St. Thomas church family:

Thank you for your prayers and support as we grieve the death of our beloved husband, father, uncle and grandfather, Paul Sutton.

The involvement of many of you in the memorial service as ushers, greeters, communion stewards, choir members, hospitality servers, and the loving ministry of Pastor Diana – all this love in Christ soothes our pain and comforts our ragged edges.

With sincere gratitude,  
Chad, Stephanie, Claire, little Shane, and Lana Sutton; Martha, Ed, Samantha and little Thornton Lobb.

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY COMPLETED**

An updated Church Directory has been completed and distributed. It is available in both email or hard copy. If you have not received your copy, please contact the church office so we can be sure you get one. If you have received your copy and found an error, please also let the church office know so that your information can be corrected. A list of revisions will be forthcoming as we learn of errors in the current printing.

--Membership & Evangelism Committee

## **ST. THOMAS CARE MINISTRY**

Provides...

**C**ompassion to anyone in need

**A**ction with a helping hand

**R**espect with love and dignity

**E**mpathy with a concerned heart

Current services include:

- Home cooked meals
- Home visits
- Transportation to doctor's appointment
- etc.

If you or a loved one are in need of any of our services, please do not hesitate to call us at 630-469-1214. No need is too small or too great not to warrant our attention.

## **A CHANCE TO HELP...**

Just a reminder that, as you receive your economic recovery check from the IRS, if you have no particular plans for that unexpected money, St. Thomas would be happy to receive it from you as a donation toward our building fund.

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## PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE –

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### PROMISSORY NOTE PROGRAM

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The Stewardship and Finance Committee is offering you an opportunity to invest in the *Partnering for the Future* program.

The *Partnering for the Future* opportunity is this: you are invited to purchase a promissory note of \$1,000 or more. The proceeds will be used to lower the mortgage taken out for the new administrative wing. This note will be offered at 1% higher than the 1 year CD rate (determined by averaging rates from 3 local banks to establish a base rate). We ask that you commit to investing your money for at least 1 year. The interest rate for the first year is 3.29% with the 1<sup>st</sup> interest payout on Nov. 1, 2008.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is selling the notes now until May 1. By May 1<sup>st</sup> we need to have sold a minimum of \$50,000 in promissory notes in order for the program to go forward: of course we hope for much more.

If you have any questions about this program, please call either David Flood or Liz Whitney. If you would like to make a commitment now, email David with your information. All investor information will be kept confidential. FAQ's about this program are available at the Church office or can be sent to you as an attachment via email.

This is a golden opportunity to earn higher interest rates on your investments. **This is a win-win situation for you and for the Church.**

Thank you for your consideration!

David Flood (630) 790-0387;

[Dflood43@aol.com](mailto:Dflood43@aol.com)

Liz Whitney (630) 858-8632;

[liz.whitney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:liz.whitney@sbcglobal.net)

<p><b>BOOK BUDDIES:</b> We are reading <i>A NEW EARTH</i> by Eckhart Tolle. Please join the discussion Friday, May 16. 7:30 pm at the Calhoon's.</p>
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## GOING GREEN

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Remember to bring your old sneakers to church by May 18 and give them to Sally Grenzow. She will gladly take them to SCARCE, who will turn them over to Nike who divides up the three parts of the sneakers and reuses them for other purposes. For example, the rubber sole gets ground up for playground mats.

IKEA will recycle CFLs, the new swirly light bulbs that last 15 times longer than incandescents and conserve energy. Are you using them yet?

Midwest Mission Distribution Center, one of our favorite places to do mission work, can profit by your use of Goodsearch.com for your searches on the Internet. It is part of the Yahoo system and gives .01 per search when you use it. When you get to the Goodsearch.com web page, enter MMDC in the charity box and then click on "verify." It will then bring up the complete name and then you can search in the top box. During January through March MMDC made \$20.70 from people using this search engine. Let's help them make even more in the next few months!

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### BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED

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According to Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld in the February 24, 2008 Parade Magazine:

- Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood
- A single pint of blood can save three lives
- Nearly 39,000 pints of blood are needed every day

**On May 19 we will hold our next blood drive at Aldersgate UMC** – remember we partner with Aldersgate for our four drives every year, with them hosting two of the drives and us hosting two, which makes all the donors eligible for the seasonal gifts.

The drive will be held from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Heartland Mobile unit. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Norma Thorpe (630/355-1996).

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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The May meeting of the UMW will be held on Saturday, May 3 at 9:00 a.m., in the home of Margot Zwierlein, 3 S 224 Shagbark, Glen Ellyn. This will be a breakfast meeting and will be our last meeting until September. Please bring a dish to pass and enjoy a scrumptious breakfast and fellowship.

Ladies Lunch Out for May is not scheduled as of now. You will be notified through our Sunday bulletin if plans are made to have a luncheon.

It seems spring has finally arrived, so enjoy. And have a wonderful summer.

--Dolores Koopman, UMW Secretary

Sally Hatcher is looking for a loving home for her sweet 10 year old spayed cat. If you or someone you know would like to help out, please contact Sally

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## WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MAY

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I am thrilled to report that Pastor Kurt tells me that the Aldersate congregation will be joining us on May 4th. I'm thrilled that we will have another opportunity to share in worship together, to break bread together, to honor our sister-church relationship and to consecrate our Crop Walkers together.

As for the rest of the month, it now lines up as follows:

- May 11-Pentecost Sunday, Mother's day and the confirmation of Lauren Koopman.
- May 18- Pastor Mary's final Sunday with us with her parents in worship with us. A reception honoring her ministry will follow.
- May 25- YOUTH SUNDAY with Stephanie and the youth in charge of worship, our graduates being honored, and Stephanie's ministry with us being celebrated at fellowship hour following.
- JUNE 1st IS STILL ALL MINE!

--Pastor Diana

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## MOTHER'S DAY BLANKET SUNDAY

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Have you been hearing "Really, I don't *need* a thing!" or "Please don't give me any more dust catchers—we're trying to downsize!" or similar exclamations when trying to find out what your mother would like for Mother's Day? We've all heard these from our mothers at some point and it gets harder to find a special gift for the occasion. How about giving this **very** special gift—a donation in your mother's honor to Church World Service's Blanket Sunday? Special cards and envelopes are available to give or send telling your mother that much good is being done in her name.

As little as \$5 will provide a blanket that can be used for warmth, for a pillow, or for shelter as an improvised tent. CWS also provides for other necessities of life, such as safe drinking water, health kits, and medical supplies. There will be leaflets in the narthex describing the many ways in which our donations help those in need, here at home and around the world. To earmark a contribution for this, you can write "Blanket Sunday" in the memo part of your check, or enclose it (or cash) in the special "Tools & Blankets" envelopes; these will be available in the narthex—or ask an usher.

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## STUMC SUPPORTS GLEN ELLYN/WHEATON CROP WALK

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The Glen Ellyn/Wheaton Crop Walk is upon us. On Sunday, May 4, we will commission our STUMC walkers at the morning worship service as they head for the 1:00 pm registration at Holy Cross Lutheran Church located at 802 E. Geneva Road (just west of President), Wheaton, IL 60187.

If you would like to sponsor any of the STUMC walkers, please see their sponsor sheets on the table in the narthex.

--Dave Thorpe, Walk Coordinator

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## DON'T MISS THE FUN & GAMES!

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Children of St. Thomas, mark your calendar and plan to invite your friends for an afternoon of fun & games. On *Sunday, May 18, from 3:00* to approximately 5:00 p.m. we'll gather for a "Game Day" children's fellowship. We've planned an obstacle course, a hula hoop contest, a tug-o-war contest, badminton, and maybe even some water balloons. Then once we've worked up a thirst from all these exciting activities, we'll head over for an ice cream cone at the Dairy Queen Bonus – This is going to be so much fun we want you to invite all your friends! And if you bring a friend you'll get a special prize! So sign up now in the narthex and let us know how many friends you're bringing!

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## SOUTH DAKOTA MISSION TRIP

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The South Dakota Mission Trip participants are making preparations for their trip. This includes a number of ways that we, as a congregation, can assist them:

- Fund Raising
  - Bake Sale May 18<sup>th</sup>
  - T-shirts for sale in May
- Donations from the congregation
  - Monetary donations will be accepted
  - Donation of supplies for the School Kits; each kit contains
    - A pair of blunt scissors
    - 3 Pads of 8 ½ x 11 inch ruled paper
    - 1 - 30 cm ruler
    - 1 hand held pencil sharpener
    - 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
    - 1 - 2 ½ inch pink pearl eraser
    - 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Movie Night on May 10<sup>th</sup>, after CrossPoint, will focus on Native American Awareness. We will be viewing the film "Lakota Woman." The film documents some of the history of the people we will be working with on our mission trip.

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## EDUCATION UPDATE

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What a busy Lent and spring! The education committee is thankful for the unending support from everyone at St. Thomas. From the generous donations for the Lenten crosses and hearts, to so many of you who came to the Corned Beef Dinner fundraiser, we couldn't do it without you.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for good weather, the end of school and another favorite event... Vacation Bible School. We ask that you pray for good weather for our Game Day on May 18. See the article in this month's *Word* for more details.

Church School for our children will hold their last classes on Sunday, May 18 (Junior High at 9:00 a.m. and children during the 10:00 a.m. worship service). Special recognition and thanks goes to our Sunday School leaders, Martha Blumer, Anne Flood, Dave Flood, and Nancy Leguizamón, (and all the volunteers who help us comply with safe sanctuary rules) who dedicate their time and talents to nurture our children's learning and faith.

With Sunday School coming to a close for the summer, we will be looking for volunteers for "**Summer Sundays**" program! Here, adults in the congregation volunteer to engage our children in activities while their parents have the opportunity to focus on God's message at Sunday worship. This is your opportunity to spend time with the children of St. Thomas. Read them a favorite story, play a game, make a craft, sing, take them outside to play... it doesn't have to be complicated and we have plenty of ideas and materials to help you. Please, I encourage each of you to sign up for just one Sunday this summer. Sign up in the Narthex, or call Lea Cizek or Dave Flood to volunteer!

We are still finalizing the dates for **Vacation Bible School** (VBS) with our college helpers. It will either be July 14-18 or July 21-25. We will hold VBS in the evenings with a light meal then VBS activities to follow. Look for more details coming in May!

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## FROM OUR YOUTH PASTOR...

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I have been composing and re-drafting this article in my mind for months now. Some of you are aware of the decision to bring the youth pastor position to a close at the end of this academic year. Our special St. Thomas family is en route for many important transformations and transitions this summer including the grief that may come with losing its youth pastor on staff. It has always been my first and foremost goal to advocate and bring youth needs and issues to the forefront of the congregation. With this last article I intend to do the same, as well as mention my sincere gratitude for my time here.

First, to the needs of the youth! Please understand we (meaning the youth and I as a group, the youth and I on individual levels) have worked hard to establish very close and deeply spiritual relationships. This transition will be hard for each of them in different ways. They will need the care and support of their church family more in these days of transition. This time will be especially difficult as they will be dealing with the loss of the only pulpit/senior pastor most of them have ever known. I mention this because I experienced the tremendous loss of my senior pastor and youth pastor leaving at the same time as a Jr. in High School. That church did not do a good job of supporting me, and it affected me deeply. As a result, when I was an older youth/young adult I was wooed by another more affirming congregation (ah hem, thank you, St. Thomas).

St. Thomas' youth program may be small but is thriving and has much potential. Four years ago Pastor Diana asked me to provide pastoral care and programming for the youth on a consistent basis for a minimum of two years with the possibility for a longer lasting partnership. It was my sincere desire for our partnership to continue through the next year. But, God's time is not always in sync with our clocks no matter how much we desire it. I am sure that the St. Thomas' youth program will continue to thrive and the needs of the

youth will be met even in light of all the challenges of the transition ahead. The youth have benefited from the consistency that has been offered them through the youth pastor position these last four years. It would be a shame for that momentum to be lost in the future.

Now, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude to the entire congregation for the opportunity to serve and experience leadership here. This has been the most meaningful and spiritual experience that I could have ever dreamed. Words cannot fully express how each of you has taught me the importance of Christian discipleship and how to lead within a congregation. You are the epitome of what it means to be a lay-lead congregation. I wish other local churches were a little more like St. Thomas.

To my youth, I claim you as mine one last time. You mean so much to me. I thank you for letting me into your lives. I thank you for sharing your secrets, your hopes and joys and even sorrows. Thank you for letting me care for you. I only wish that you let me continue to care for you through prayer, as I will always pray for you and your continued growth in knowing God through Christ. And finally to the moms and dads of the youth, you are raising wonderful young people! Thank you for encouraging and supporting them in youth activities and leadership. You are always there for them, regardless of how that stretches you. Thank you for being the parents you are. Thank you for all the love and support you have given me (and my family) as your pastor.

-- Blessings,  
Stephanie Sutton, Youth Pastor

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## YOUTH SUNDAY – MAY 25

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If you have a student graduating from any school level to another this year, please notify the church office so we can include him/her in our celebration on May 25.

# The Word

St. Thomas U M C

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

2 S 511 Route 53

Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

(630) 469-1214



be with you.  
As the Father has  
sent me,  
so I send you."

John 20:21, NRSV



## Bible Readings *for the Month*

### May 4, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 1: 6-14  
Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11  
John 17: 1-11

### May 11, Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2: 1-21  
Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13  
John 7: 37-39

### May 18, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 1: 1-2: 4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13: 11-13  
Matthew 28: 16-20

### May 25, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 49: 8-16a  
Psalm 131 or Psalm 62: 5-12  
1 Corinthians 4: 1-5  
Matthew 6: 24-34