

Keep Each of Us Ever Thankful

*Source of all creation, keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings
of joy and challenge that come our way.*

So begins the prayer of the United Thank Offering, ECW's spring and fall collection of financial gifts as expressions of gratitude. But for many Christians thank offerings are given all through the year.

"It was originally just a baby food jar," **Judy Krug** remembers, "but when I was growing up, I knew it as the "thank offering" jar that always sat on the window sill in our kitchen. Every time there was any reason at all to give thanks, one of us would drop coins in it all year long. You know, that little jar taught me more about gratitude to God than any prayer at Thanksgiving."

Accept we pray these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life.

The United Thank Offering provides a way for all of us to give daily thanks by dropping coins into the "Blue Box" or placing a check in the blue envelope. UTO has been happening every spring and fall in this way for over one hundred years.

When the late **Thelma Sales** was UTO chair here, she would remind us that UTO helps us to be aware every day of the abundance of God's blessings.

Barbara Watkins, chair of this fall's UTO "ingathering," says that every cent in the Blue Boxes goes toward grants. In fact, committee expenses and staff salaries are paid from interest collected from designated trust funds.

Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering.

In 2005 the national United Thank Offering Committee approved 131 grants totaling \$2,710,247.22 for Africa, Asia & the South Pacific, Europe, Jerusalem and the Middle East and the USA. The average grant was \$20,689.

The 2005 United Thank Offering grants included \$17,000 to HOPE Clinic which was started by 3 small mission churches in Texas. HOPE Clinic addresses the intense need within deep East Texas for low cost healthcare for the indigent, working poor, and uninsured.

This next year it is likely that UTO grants will be a major piece of helping rebuild churches after Hurricane Katrina in the dioceses of Louisiana, Western Louisiana, Mississippi, Central Gulf Coast, and Texas.

Mary Clowers reminds us that several years ago a UTO grant was given to Your Place at a crucial time in its development. "It was such a blessing," Mary said.

UTO offerings will be collected here at St. Augustine's beginning today and continuing for several Sundays.

This Church Has Long ACS Connection

When over 150 guests attended a dressy Purple Tea event last week, it marked one more successful affair by the American Cancer Society's Minority Development Committee.

That group has been meeting at St. Augustine's every third Wednesday for many years now and its education and fund raising efforts have contributed mightily to cancer control and information services on cancer's many forms.

Acting Chairperson **Mary Jones** has been working with the Minority Development Committee for almost 27 years. **Inez Ford** and many other members of this church have been active volunteers over the group's extraordinary history.

This year's Tea, where invitees came dressed in their purple finery, had five guest speakers, three men and two women, each sharing their survival or education stories.

See Inez or Mary if you would like to know more about this important work.

Here's more* of Everything . . .

At the Evening Prayer Service held Friday at St. Peter's Cathedral, **Hazel Hudson** was urging many others to visit St. Augustine's "to see how we've changed." Hazel was a reader at the Break-fast service for Muslims and Christians on the 16th Day of Ramadan. The service and the simple soup-meal which followed, was co-sponsored by St. Augustine's and St. Peter's. You missed your first lesson in Arabic if you didn't attend.... More **new doors** this week: **Rudy Gabbidon** has been adapting exterior doors leading out from the rear of our church hall, and another from the church kitchen. Plus he has installed a new door and trim going into the sacristy, where the priest vests before service.

Last week **Michael Griffin** and **Greg Duckett** completed almost all the work of installing new ceiling tiles in the church hall; improved light fixtures follow soon.... There's a new smooth stove-top in our church kitchen thanks to the electrical skills of **Lewis Clowers**.... Coming up here on Saturday, Dec. 17th: **Fr. Crawford's** Silver Jubilee -- 25 years as a priest. The entire diocese is invited to a reception

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Surely the Lord Is in This Place!

Silent Retreat Here Next Month

All day. In our church sanctuary and on the grounds here at St. Augustine's.

From 7:00 AM till 7:00 PM.

Come and go as your schedule permits.

A Day of Silence for us and for people from any other Episcopal parish.

There will be canopies in several locations on the church grounds, each an "island" of semi-private space for meditation and private prayer. Each canopy will have a small focal point and present a simple theme: peace, sharing, outreach, our church. Meditation materials will be available under each canopy.

A retreat master will provide several quiet meditation sessions throughout the day.

Simple foods will be available, serve-yourself style.

This Silent Day Retreat will be arranged by members of the recently completed Personal Spirituality Study Group.

more* of Everything . . . *Continued from page 1*

following his Service of Rededication.

Bobby Allen has made those "Episcopal red" new front doors his own pet project.... Did you realize that there's a nice room in Ford Hall just for children? **Minnie Williams** says her great grandson was rocked to sleep there while his father listened in on our Sunday service via the recently repaired Ford hall speaker system.... Soon our **POD** will disappear: that storage unit out front that has been keeping our building materials dry, is now almost empty. A few remaining items will be moved to another storage area in Ford Hall.... He's coming again: our bishop, **John Lipscomb**, will be meeting with our Vestry on November 2nd.

Bring your own bowl and spoon to the St. Pete Free Clinic's **Hunger Banquet** October 27th at 6:30 at Eckerd College Fox Hall.... From Nov. 27 through Dec. 1 Dr. Philip Newell will be **theologian-in-residence** at the cathedral. He is acclaimed worldwide for his work in Celtic spirituality.... "Let the biblical writers have their say first." That's the recommendation for those in the just-begun **"Invitation to the Old Testament"** class meeting Thursdays at 5:30. "Learn what these texts have to say to God's people today."

New color is coming in our women's restroom. "Oooh, that roof leak we had left stains on the ceiling and it caused the wall paint to bubble," Junior Warden **Joyce Corn** says. So of course she's assembling a team to transform the place. Will you help?... "Happy Workers" is a 76 year old childcare center in mid-town. But those same words could describe three of our members who volunteer there every week. **Lu Watkins** reads stories to children and does bookkeeping; **Greg Duckett** is a long time Board member who assists with office work as well; and **Tom Krug** is Board President this year as the Center takes on a total rebuilding of its campus. Those kinds of efforts keep St. Augustine's ministry in the neighborhood alive.

When early Christians called Jesus **The Son of God, Born and Raised**, what did they mean? On November 11th and 12th two theologians from the Jesus Seminar will explore the diverse meanings that "Son of God" has in the Bible. At Good Samaritan Church in Pinellas Park, the scholars will examine the early believers' conviction that Jesus was the Son of God and look at how that influenced their beliefs about his birth and resurrection. Get more information from Judy Krug.

Our Vestry Members, Our Elected Church Council

Sr. Warden, Mary Clowers 864-3568
Jr. Warden, Joyce Corn 540-0655
Treasurer, Greg Duckett 866-1508

Inez Ford 327-9693
Rudy Gabbidon 866-1077
Hazel Hudson 343-4157
Mary Jones 867-7702

Judy Krug 525-5044
Theresa Martin 866-6649
Claude Reynolds 422-2395
Mordecai Walker 898-6543

"... **more* from St. Augustine's**" is for members and friends of one courageous Episcopal Church in south St. Petersburg, Florida. This newsletter is about recognition, spiritual attitude, candor, nixing hearsay and, yes, unashamed cheer leading. Members Judy and Tom Krug are co-editors; Mordecai Walker is co-founder. Some 65 parishioners are essential to the project. Every issue is available at the church and online at www.staugstpete.org our web site for church-shoppers.

