

The APOSTLE



“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8

“I define wholehearted living as engaging in our lives from a place of worthiness. It means cultivating the courage, compassion, and connection to wake up in the morning and think, No matter what gets done and how much is left undone, I am enough. It’s going to bed at night thinking, Yes, I am imperfect and vulnerable and sometimes afraid, but that doesn’t change the truth that I am brave and worthy of love and belonging.”

—Brené Brown, Rising Strong

While walking through a Target store, I saw a young family, dirty from the fullness of life on the line of poverty. They came together and purchased their food for the coming days. While in line for the check-out counter, the children were disruptive and excited. The parents, exhausted, did the best they could. Other patrons stared and were impatient like lions before the hunt. As they reached the front of the line, their groceries were scanned and the total given. With a sigh of relief the husband proclaimed that he is grateful they had enough to buy it all. An exasperated person behind them made a snide comment under their breath judging them harshly for their assumed parenting and life choices made. They leave excited and triumphant. The labors of their life produced enough fruit to live more days and the meal they would eat that evening filled them with gratitude and joy.

What if I told you that most people get up each day and struggle? From television, movies and social media we might get another idea. We might think that everyone else is having a grand time and life is easier for them. It isn’t true. We all share common challenges. We want to belong, to be liked, to have meaning and to offer our gifts to others.

In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, we see the same ideals play out. Paul says that we were once in darkness but now live as children of Light. He continues to exhort the use of our lives (gifts) as beacons of God’s love in the world. In other passages in Corinthians, he proclaims our place in the body of Christ and makes clear our call to serve each other. Why is this so difficult? Maybe the small story of the family at Target helps us to understand this. Really each of us is just making it through the day in the hopes another day will be granted to us. We are dirtied and weary from life’s curvy roads and unexpected bumps. Like Brené Brown states, sometimes we need to embrace our vulnerability and recognize we are brave and worthy of love and belonging.

St. Thomas can be a community of welcome to those seeking a deeper relationship with God. However we must be careful to be vulnerable with each other in our welcome and love of one another. It is always easier to judge, to be snide, to ignore. Instead we are called to walk together as the body of Christ and to invite others into that same community. The harder work is to recognize that those we walk with are also struggling. Together though, we become light in the darkness.

When we see how beloved we are with each other, we begin to taste the feast that God has prepared for us. In the moments we can rejoice as children of the light. For that we can all be grateful and joyful.

*Blessings,
GRL*

ASSISTANT RECTOR

Does our language of faith fail us?

Recently I read an interview with David J. Peterson, the author of a book called *The Art of Language Invention*. He has created languages for shows like *Game of Thrones* and other

movies and TV shows. In the interview, the author discussed what it is that drew him to creating languages. He shares that both the technical aspects of language like grammar as well as the artistic side fascinate him. He reflects, "All languages can say everything." Languages differ in how they do this, but they all can.

Reflecting on our recent **Invite/Welcome/Connect** weekend, I have been thinking about how I would and have invited someone to church. Some thoughts have centered on the sense of fear about offending someone. I am aware that some people might have had negative experiences with faith or the church, and I could upset them. Yet, more often, I feel that I don't know the right words to express the ways God has profoundly moved in my life.

For many of us, when we think about how we share our faith, how we talk about what we believe, we feel as though our words fail. Whether because it is just too overwhelming a topic to talk about, or because we are worried we will offend someone, we think that we can't find the right words to communicate what we are feeling. And yet, the words are there. Our language does have what we need. The English language—yes—and also the language of our Faith have all that we need to invite others to experience how God can move in their lives, too.

This Christian language is one that is increasingly a foreign language in our society. Yet it is one that offers peace and hope in the face of fear and despair. It promises mercy and forgiveness in the face of wrongdoing. It proclaims love in the face of hate.

In these promises God has made to us and to all who are in relationship with God, we find all of the language we need to invite others to our community and to a relationship with God.

Consider using this language each day in all that you do. And, consider inviting someone to experience it in their own lives through the community at St. Thomas.

*The Rev.
Steven
King,
Assistant
Rector*



King's Corner

MUSIC MINISTRIES

May I Help You?

Who would have thought that Kansas City Barbecue would set the theme for Arts Camp and children's choir? Yet, the notion of helping other people and the idea of sharing a meal at the table certainly resonates with most Episcopalians, and the kids were ready to "dig in." The song "May I Help You?" from the *Gates Barbecue Suite* by Bobby Watson served as a wonderful instrumental framework upon which **Steve Glasscock, Beth Elswick, and Taryn Layne-Mulhern** added lyrics and choreography. Particularly appropriate were Steve's ideas,

*"When we work together as one
You will see that good things can get done.
Allow me. I'm a friend
I'd like to lend you a hand."*

*May I help you?
What would you like to do?
When I help you,
I'm serving Jesus, too."*

Since dear Natalie Fleischaker had been a member of Arts Camp, and we wanted to help with the Fun Run in her honor and memory, I expanded the "May I Help You?" with another verse for recruiting joggers:

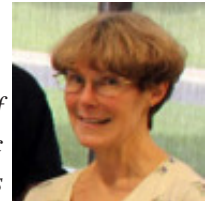
*"You can jog, you can dash,
raise awareness and cash.
Find an answer to cancer, so run with me,
October 3—for Natalie."*

As we move forward into late Pentecost and Advent, the idea of helping and caring is our theme for fall. The children are preparing music for the Blessing of the Animals and All Saints' Day. In addition, the kids are singing about their use of *Time* from a vocal collection entitled *The Be-Attitudes* by Lynn Freeman Olson. Their additional energy and creativity adds vitality to worship.

The Praise Band is singing service music by Christopher Grundy for the 8:45 service. His writing is most appropriate for our contemporary setting. The flowing melodies are supported by rich harmonies. The members of the band teach the new music during the prelude portion of the service. Many times the postlude for this service is

Footnotes

*Dr. Beth L.
Elswick,
Director of
Music
Ministries*



Thinking College? Don't overlook Church involvement

—Reverend Kelly Demo—

I knew it! I knew it was true and now I have proof.

For many years, when I was a parish and then a Diocesan Youth Minister, I cannot tell you how many times I had the same conversation with parents of teens. It went roughly like this:

Me: "Hey! I haven't seen (insert name) at church or youth group in a long time. Is everything OK?"

Parent: "Oh, they are fine. I feel so badly that they aren't coming, but they are just so busy with school and (insert activities). If they don't have a game on Sunday, it is really their only time to catch up on sleep and homework."

Now, I get all of this. Life is hectic, and it was my job as a youth minister to reach out to the youth personally, to go to their games and performances and so on, to let them know they were cared about and supported by their church community. I would keep encouraging them to be involved and connected.

However, here came the kicker. More often than not, a parent would add something like, "Plus, we are at the point where we are trying to build a college resume. These days, you have to have a lot of activities for colleges to even consider you." In my head (after thinking something snarky about college life vs. eternal life), I was left thinking, "Surely, there is value in being involved in church activities." When I see teens involved in the life of the church, I see servant leaders of the best sort that I would think any college would be thrilled to add to their ranks.

I was right. Recently, I sat down with Matt Baker, co-founder of Riley Baker Educational Consulting, a Chicago-based firm that guides students and parents through the maddening process of college admissions. They work with teens to help them find a good fit in the college they choose, as well as help that student present himself to college admission officers so that the college sees the individual gifts and talents of that student and how s/he would be an asset to the school.

I asked Mr. Baker if my theory was true. He said not only are church activities highly valued on college applications, but in this day of cheating, drug and alcohol use, and sex scandals on campuses, applicants who demonstrate that they have been brought up with moral principles stand out in the crowd. College administrators have told him that given two applicants who, in every other way, are equal, the one who demonstrates a strong moral compass because of his religious upbringing will be placed ahead of the student who was not.

I consistently see students who are brought up regularly going to church as having strong public speaking abilities (they were allowed to read from the lectionary, or be in the church nativity play every year), strong leadership skills (acolyte, Peer minister, Youth Council), and the ability to connect with people of all ages. All of this because they were brought up in a multi-generational village that cared for them, lifted them up, was interested in them as individuals, was proud of them, held them accountable, and celebrated them.

So, when you are filling out that college application, do you think the church attendance at youth group counts? YES! Acolyting? Absolutely! Playing in the band at camp? Happening rector? Leading children's church? Yes, yes, and yes! Look at the leadership opportunities and see how it can set your youth apart, give them unique skills and allow them to try out their God-given gifts in a safe, loving environment.



IHN MINISTRY

It's that time again! IHN Holiday Party is slated for December 12, 2015

St. Thomas is pleased to host the 11th annual Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network Holiday Party. Both graduates and current guests are invited to the party on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm.

The continued generosity that St. Thomas has shown each year to our IHN families is wonderful and the guests are so grateful to be invited.

As in previous years, the IHN families will receive a holiday food basket (for the holiday meal and extras for the pantry) and gift cards. The "Kids Store" provides the children an opportunity to shop free of charge for small gifts for parents, grandparents, and siblings. The party will include activities/games/crafts for the children, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, as well as lunch for our guests and volunteers. The party is also a great opportunity for the IHN guests to meet or reconnect with other guests and volunteers. It is a spectacular day filled with the love of Christ flowing throughout our entire building.

More information about the party will be available in the weekly *Tower Talk*. **Sign-up sheets to provide food and gift cards**, as well as, adult volunteers needed for the party will be available on the weekends of November 14/15, 21/22 and 28/29. Questions? Please contact IHN Holiday Party Coordinator **Jean Adam**, 530-9097. Her email is Jean_adam2004@yahoo.com.



Photo/Jean Adam

Don't the colors and attention to detail make you feel in the holiday mood? The IHN Christmas Party makes every guest feel festive and loved.

Community Shopping Event Will Benefit IHN

Shop to support JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network, an organization that serves situationally homeless families and single women in Johnson County.

Ten Thousand Villages, 7947 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, will donate 15% of net sales to IHN during this community shopping event on **Thursday, December 17, from 4-8 pm.**

In addition, present the attached coupon when you shop Ten Thousand Villages anytime during December 14-20 and IHN will receive 15% of your net purchase.

St. Thomas is a founding member of IHN. Our congregation provides supplies and volunteers during the week when IHN guests are sheltered at First Christian Church of Olathe. Members also volunteer at the daytime Family Center and serve on the IHN Development Committee.

•Learn more about JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network at www.jocoihn.org.

•Learn more about **Ten Thousand Villages**, a Fair Trade, not-for profit retail store at overlandpark.tenthousandvillages.com or at www.tenthousandvillages.com.

•Learn more about our congregation's ministry with IHN by contacting **Dola McNown** at 541-9226 or **Margaret Walkenshaw** 897-4766.

Shop Local, Give Global.

Support Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network!

Present this card between December 14-20, 2015 and Ten Thousand Villages Overland Park will donate 15% of the value of your purchase to Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network.



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES.

Ten Thousand Villages creates opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term, fair trading relationships. From home accents to unique jewelry - you'll find the perfect meaningful gift.

Ten Thousand Villages in Overland Park
7947 Santa Fe Drive Overland Park, KS 913.642.8368
Mon-Wed, Fri 10-6, Thu 10-8, Sat 9-5, Sun 12-4

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

St. Paul's Food Pantry has great news to share!

The pantry has had some exciting changes since January. A group of volunteers from the pantry formed a Pantry Advisory Committee (PAC) to help with the operations and communications of the pantry. The group has people from different parishes that support the pantry and meets every month. It takes a lot of behind the scenes work to keep the pantry running; it is not a one-man job. Some jobs are done by the PAC group, but other jobs are done by loyal pantry volunteers.

When the pantry is open, volunteers are needed. But when it is closed, volunteers are needed to deep clean our area, re-stock, break down bulk items, update computers and that is just at the pantry.

Other jobs are done off-site, like ordering, picking up food and submitting reports to Harvesters for groceries and commodity food, organizing large groups of

volunteers over the summer and writing our new quarterly newsletter.

We now have a new volunteer that will be updating the pantry Facebook page, so check it out.

We are looking for anyone who likes Twitter and can make and maintain that account.

With winter coming so is the snow and the more communication we can establish now the better; our volunteers and neighbors will be prepared if we have to close for the day.

The greatest news is the Vestry of St. Paul's and Bishop Wolfe have approved our proposal to handle our own expenses and to open a checking account for the pantry. This will allow the pantry to pursue additional fundraising and grant proposals. Any donations made will be for the ministry of the pantry. Individual donations made before 11/30/15 up to \$5000.00 will be matched by an

anonymous donor.

The pantry continues to grow, we have new neighbors signing up every week and food is needed for survival. We are looking forward to the future and have some great ideas that we are discussing.

If you would like to help at the pantry or could help off-site, please let us know—we can always use more volunteers.

The pantry is open on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. St. Thomas helps the 2nd Saturday of every month, but the pantry can use volunteers any time it is open.

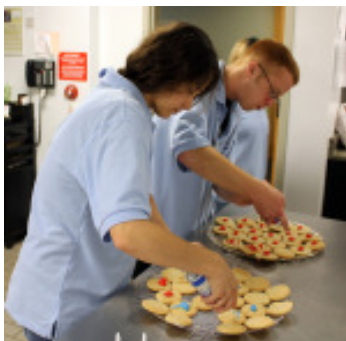
We just don't pass out food; we also try and connect with our neighbors, as Jesus taught us to do because ONE can of food, ONE hour of time or ONE dollar does make a difference.

—Donna Fye

Thom's Helpers Are St. Thomas' Bakers

Everybody at St. Thomas knows where the wonderful "Morgan's Salsa" comes from that is served at coffee hour, but did you know that the seemingly endless supply of chocolate chip cookies come from the same source? That's right, you can thank **Michael**, **Morgan**, **Sam**, **Sawyer** and new Thom's Helper, **Shauna** for all those delicious discs that go with your coffee on Sunday morning.

How many cookies has the Thom's Helper's team made? Last count, the happy cookie elves in the blue St. Thomas shirts had made over 4,000 cookies—and that's just since May! What's the secret to their incredible baking output? Scores of crates of frozen cookie dough that St. Thomas received thanks to the sharp bargain hunting eye of **Donna Fye**, the bounty of Harvesters and the freezer space of a dozen St. Thomasites who volunteered to store the cartons of dough.



Thom's Helpers also bake brownies, sugar cookies, and a number of other delicious treats that disappear from the tables in the Parish Hall at nearly every St. Thomas function. Oh, they also clean the church, send get well cards, recycle, shred, police the grounds, set-up and tear down for parish functions like meetings, weddings and parties. When the carpets in the nave needed cleaning, Thom's Helpers moved every piece of furniture from the nave to the parish hall and back again! Just think about how much work that entails.

Thom's Helpers do it all because they love St. Thomas!

—John McNown for the team

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The St. Thomas youth group has spent time so far this school year learning about the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). So far, we have learned about “Blessed are the poor in Spirit” and considered times when we felt like we were poor in Spirit.

We talked about being at the end of our ropes and when we have seen others there. We reminded ourselves that in those moments God has said we are blessed and God and our community love us. As we continue through the Fall and whole school year, we will continue our study of this as we still share dinner together and play fun games every time we meet.

We hope to see every 6th-12th grader at 6:00 pm most Sunday nights at St. Thomas!

Taste of Youth Group (for St. Thomas’ 3rd-5th graders) meets quarterly. Our first meeting was a great success with a total of 31 students in 3rd-5th grade present.

The next **Taste of Youth Group** will be Sunday, December 13th. All 3rd-5th graders are welcome to join us then.

Olivia Allen, our intern for youth and children’s ministry, has been a welcome addition to our team. She has helped in many ways: ensuring that Sunday School is off to a good start each week, getting to know our youth and forming relationships with them, and more. Please welcome her when you see her on Sundays.

—Father Steven

OTHER CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Nursery

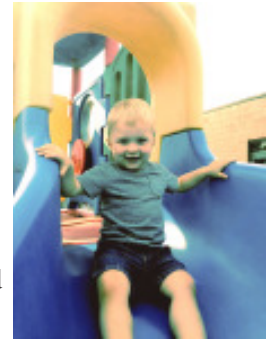
Sunday school started off in an amazing way . . . we’re so excited to have so many preschoolers who are so eager to learn about God.

Marianne Pena, Christina Ryan, and Kelly Lillis are working as a team to teach the little ones about Jesus.

The nursery staff has grown again. We’re so excited to welcome **Kim Lewis** and **Megan Hatfield** to our staff. Kim is a student teacher with Barb McCall in 2nd grade in Blue Valley and Megan is a high school student at Blue Valley High School.

We’re all so blessed to be a part of teaching the littlest members of St. Thomas!

—Kelly Lillis, Director



Parent’s Day Out

The Open House on September 10, 2015 was successful with 75% of the families attending. It was wonderful to spend time visiting with the children, parents and grandparents.

This event has helped the children to have a smoother transition. The first month of Parent’s Day Out is now complete.

Our program continues to be three days a week for both age groups. Thirty one children are enrolled; half of which attend multiple days. Both age groups are full and



there are children on a wait list.

Leah Jewell, Cindy McCall, Schyler Conway and I have returned for another year of teaching. **Anne Taylor** and **Erika Diaz** are wonderful additions to our staff.

We look forward to developing relationships with the new families as well as continuing to build upon those that have returned to the program.

—Michelle Beeler, Director

Continued from page 2

provided by the children who stay for Sunday school and then sing their song for the prelude at the 10:45 service. The traditional choir sings at 10:45 and rehearses on Wednesday evenings. Like the children, the group is planning to sing songs that are supporting of the events in our church. They will have special music for Blessing of the Pets, All Saints’ Day, and Christ the King Sunday.

As you plan your activities for Fall, do you have hidden talents? As “This Little Light of Mine” admonishes, “Hide it under a bushel? NO!” Plan to share your talents at the St. Thomas Talent Show on the evening of Sunday, November 22nd before Thanksgiving Break.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

“Autumn is a time to play, let’s thank GOD for every day!”

–Mandy Groce, children’s author of “What is the Gospel?”

While the season of Autumn prepares to bring its cooler temperatures, shorter days, and colorful leaves one of the most notable changes in our church home at St. Thomas is that each Autumn brings our children back into the fold of their Sunday School classrooms, Youth Group meetings, and Children’s Choir Rehearsals. The busy hum of work and conversation, the songs of praise from little voices and the laughter of learning through play has returned to the hall of our Education Wing on Sunday mornings, and what a JOYFUL NOISE it is!

Our Sunday School experience for the children of St. Thomas truly begins with PLAY using lessons and activities from the “Godly Play” program. Using a Montessori approach, this curriculum has the children experience components of their Christian faith (the Church Year, the Holy Family, the Prophets) and hear stories of God’s goodness to his people from the Old Testament (such as The Creation, Noah and the Ark and The Exodus) through stories, art and play using many hand-crafted toys and materials...many of which were created through the talents and ministry of our own parishioners. This program is used in conjunction with other special activities and group crafts in our Pre-school room with *Kelly Lillis*, *Maryanne Pena* and *Christina Ryan* and in our Pre-K/Kindergarten room with *Dola McNown* and *Patricia Barley*.

Meanwhile, our Elementary-age students work, play and socialize as they dig deeper into the scriptures and Gospels shared in worship using the Liturgy-based “Living the Good News” program. With a variety of activities including music, art, oral discussion, visual aides and movement, “Living the Good News” reaches children on many levels and appeals to their diverse interests and learning needs. Most importantly, the discussions and activities in these classes continue to foster the friendships with other children and their adult leaders that we hope and pray will continue to be a key part of their faith foundation, and a source of joy and strength for years to come.

“Living the Good News” is presented in our 1st – 3rd grade classroom by *Charlotte Brotherson* and *Donna Kopp*, and in our 4th and 5th grades room by *Beth Dubeck-Schiller*, *Tammy Gordon* and *Sarah Kidder*.

Of course, none of these experiences would be possible without the offering of time, talent and love from our amazing Sunday School leaders and other volunteers. *Priscilla Cox* continues to offer our children the opportunity to experience coming to the “Feast” together by donating and preparing our weekly snacks.

Laura Wiltanger has graciously agreed to lead our Christmas Pageant again this Christmas Eve, and many others offer their time and support to assist with subbing in our classrooms, or preparing/providing materials or offering an extra pair of hands for special events and activities.

To each and every one of you, you are a blessing and we are thankful for you and your ministry!

If you feel called to offer your time and talent as a part of the Children’s Ministry we have a place for YOU to fit any schedule or interest! Please contact me, **Barbara McCall**, at bmccall@stthomasop.org or catch me on Sundays.



*Barbara
McCall,
Director of
Children’s
Formation*



Sunday School

MAKES A DIFFERENCE

EVENTS for your Calendars

Let's go on a Hayride!



- Where?** Sharp's Farm, Bucyrus, KS.
When? Sunday, October 11, 5 to 8 pm
Cost? \$8 per person
What's included? Hot dogs, roasted on the fire, S'mores, playtime, fellowship, and a horse drawn hayride in the moonlight.

Bring your own beverages and a side dish to share.



Boo Bash is Sunday, October 25th from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. This event is for the whole parish, whether you have children or not.

We will have a **chili cook-off** (sign-up to create an entry), fun seasonal activities like a costume contest, pumpkin decorating contest, face painting, and much more.

The St. Thomas youth help to run the event and we collect a free-will offering at the door that raises money for youth ministries at St. Thomas. This is a great event for inviting friends.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

EVENTS for your Calendars



**DIOCESE OF KANSAS ANNUAL MEETING FOR ALL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

Capitol Plaza Hotel Convention Center – Pioneer Room – Topeka, KS

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 24, 2015 12:15 PM Cost: \$20

(Immediately following the dismissal of the Diocesan Convention)



GUEST SPEAKER: Assistant Attorney General Christine Ladner, chair of the Kansas Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Advisory Board, presenting “An Overview of Human Trafficking in Kansas,” plus two case studies—one urban and one rural—from jury trials she has prosecuted.

Please send reservations and payment (Checks made payable to Diocese of Kansas ECW) to

Sharon Atherton (By Friday, Oct. 16)
10206 W. 20th Street N.
Wichita, KS 67212

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Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Parish: _____

Choose the salad you’d like for lunch: 1) **PLAZA COBB SALAD:** Spring greens, honey ham, smoked turkey, Swiss and cheddar cheese, tomatoes, bacon and cucumber, dressing choice. - or - 2) **STRAWBERRY PECAN SALAD:** Mixed greens, grilled chicken, gorgonzola cheese, candied pecans, fresh strawberries with raspberry vinaigrette. (Circle number 1 or number 2)

SMALL GROUPS

Exploring Nooma

So what is a “nooma”? “Nooma” is the English phonetic spelling of the Greek word “pneuma” which mean “spirit.”

Or in the case of what the St. Thomas Explorers are studying, it’s a series of short DVDs that looks at our Christian life with a lot of different ideas. The series by former mega-church pastor, Rob Bell, builds each lesson around a common word like “trees,” “luggage,” or “kickball.” It is amazing the discussion that thinking about our everyday lives and the things around us can tell us about God and how we should live.

Of course, Explorers is also about taking day trip expeditions to points of interest in the Kansas City area (usually with lunch). Our next scheduled trip is to the Thomas Hart Benton Home, then off to the Nelson to see the new exhibition “Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood.” They will see the exhibit sometime in November.

The St. Thomas Explorers meet the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 7 pm in Parish Hall 3 for study, fellowship, and snacks. We invite anyone who is interested being part of our group, or who would like to join us for a day trip, to call **John** or **Dola McNown** at 541-9226, or email us at johnmcnown44@gmail.com.



Photo/JohnMcNown

In this field of sunflowers, our intrepid Explorers found keepsakes for home.

*Keep your face to the sunshine
and you cannot see the shadows.
It's what the sunflowers do.
—Helen Keller*

STEWARDSHIP

Some Give Because They Truly Believe

I doubt I will ever forget this particular Sunday service. There was the usual good sermon and announcements about all the exciting things on the church calendar. The music was inspiring. Then came the passing of the offering plate. . . and I was humbled.

The plate came around. I dropped in my monthly pledge as I always do on the middle Sunday of the month. I really love making that check out and fulfilling my pledge towards Christ’s work at our church.

Sitting next to me was a woman who was from another country with a totally different culture. Her story was like the story of so many people who come to America with the hope of a better life.

In her own country she had been seriously hurt and maimed during riots that pitted one people against another. On the trip over, the airline lost her luggage and never found it. When she arrived in Kansas City, she had only the clothes she was wearing and what was in her carry on. It took six months of badgering before the airline reimbursed her.

Her passport was stolen. Then her money, including what the airline paid her, was stolen. She was kicked out of the place she had expected to live. Her visa was nearing its expiration date.

Still she walked to church each Sunday and gave thanks to the God she knew loved her.

As the usher was about to take the plate, the woman hurried to get her billfold from her purse. The usher waited impatiently. Finally getting her billfold opened, she reached in and pulled out all the cash she had - two one dollar bills. She looked at them, said a prayer and put one in the plate.

She had no bank account. She had no papers so could not apply for a job. Yet she took half of her money and gave it in prayerful thanks to her God . . . and I thought, “How meager is my gift compared to hers.”

—John McNown

**Consecration
Weekend is
November 7th and 8th**

EVENTS for your Calendars

It's
SCRUMPTIOUS COOKIE SALE
time again!

If you have a tasty cookie recipe you have been wanting to try ... now's the time! We look forward to your cookies: chocolate chip with or without nuts, decorated cookies, special cookies, sugar and spice and everything - scrumptious!

Check your recipes to decide which ones are the best. We are Looking forward to lots of cookies and bakery items. Outstanding! Yum!



Saturday, December 5, 2015
9 am to 4 pm



We sell by the pound,
so "heavy" cookies are the best.
Are you ready St. Thomas cookie bakers?
Help us beat last year's sale record.
All monies fund youth programs.



Former St. Thomas member Kay Little wishes to extend her heartfelt thanks to all those persons who gave their love and help during Cecil's final illness. She also thanks those who attended his visitation at St. Thomas as well as came to his funeral service in Lee's Summit. Cecil would have just loved it!

PARISH NOTES

BIRTHS

Simon Morgan Teefey, made his debut on September 1, 2015. Mom & Dad are *Chris & Sarah Teefey*;

Ryan & Emily Clements entered the world on August 13, 2015. Parents of the twins are *John & Jennifer Clements*. Grandparents are *Kent & Ann Clements*.

BAPTISMS

The following child received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on September 27, 2015:
Benjamin Lyons Bubb, son of Jeff and Megan Bubb.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to the following newly-weds:
Brian Schneider & Heidi Garza, June 6, 2015;
David Clarke & Mary Piskuric, July 25, 2015;
Michael Blouin & Karen Schlabach, August 22, 2015;
Keari Schmidt & Floice Kemp, Jr., September 19, 2015, and
Amanda Kraft & Matt Munden, September 19, 2015.

DEATHS

The family of St. Thomas parish mourns the loss of former member **CECIL BRUCE LITTLE** who passed away on September 13, 2015. He is survived by his wife Kay and children, Russell, Terry and Pamela and grandchildren.



Our Services

Saturdays

5:30 Holy Communion

Sundays

8:45 Holy Communion
with praise music & band

9:45 *Sunday School/
Adult Formation*

10:45 Holy Communion
with traditional music



St. Thomas the Apostle Church
12251 Antioch Road
Overland Park, KS 66213
• phone: 913-451-0512 •
• fax: 913-451-1966 •

Non-Profit
Organization
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Shawnee Mission, KS
PERMIT NO. 82

Return Service Requested

The next Apostle deadline is
Sunday, NOVEMBER 8TH.

Save the Date

Next **American Red Cross
Blood** Drive at St. Thomas
Sunday, November 1, 2015
8:00 am—12:30 pm
Parish Halls 2&3.
Help Save a Life this Fall!
Sign up at
redcrossblood.org or on the
sheet in the hallway.

Any questions contact
Donna Fye at 963-5815

Your Calendar in brief

OCTOBER:

- 9-10: **Women's Retreat**
- 10: **St. Paul's Food Pantry**
- 11: **All-Parish HAYRIDE, 5-8 pm**
- 25: **BOO BASH** from 5-7 pm
Chili cookoff--bring your prize recipes
- 31: **ALL SAINTS WEEKEND: give office the names of your saints**

NOVEMBER:

- 1: **All Saints Sunday**
- 7-8: **Consecration Weekend**
- 8: **APOSTLE deadline for Holiday issue**
- 14: **St. Paul's Food Pantry**
- 22: **ST. THOMAS TALENT SHOW!**
- 25: **Thanksgiving service at 7 pm**
- 26: **THANKSGIVING DAY—office closed**
- 27: **Office closed**
- 29: **First Sunday of Advent—Lessons and Carols
Advent Wreathmaking at 9:45 am**