



Growing -AND- Serving

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

12551 Antioch Road
Overland Park, Kansas 66213

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

2018



COMMITMENT WEEKEND NOVEMBER 4-5



St. Thomas has literally been the answer to our prayers! St Thomas is such a haven for spiritual replenishment with the superior guidance of our priests. Our faith has been strengthened and deepened by the alliances we have formed with other parishioners who also worship The Lord. We have been truly blessed by being a part of St Thomas.

-Ron and Margaret Walkenshaw



St. Thomas is my family's faith home. My husband and I got married at St. Thomas. He was baptized here as well as our 3 children. Watching our family grow here is a blessing. St. Thomas has provided me the space to mature in my relationship with God and my understanding of His plan for my life. **-Emily Barnes**

St Thomas has impacted my spiritual life by providing me a Place to physically worship; People to support me in times of celebration and in times of need; and Prayer when I need a little help to get through life.

-Brian Geary

Hi Friends,

I'm very grateful to have a chance to be your Rector. This congregation is a phenomenal place of ministry and community. I feel blessed to be a part of what we are doing and to be your leader.

As we approach our Annual Appeal, stewardship is of course one of those elements. St. Thomas continues to thrive for many reasons, and very high on the list is the generosity of our members. Our staff, facility, ministries... just about everything we do here depends on your enthusiastic participation in the life of our parish.

Here is the challenge. Over the last number of years we have "lost" many long time and faithful members as they have gone to be with God. At the same time we have had many new members come into our community. Our congregation is growing and changing every week. We need your support more than ever to continue to both sustain and grow the ministries that are happening in this place. If you have never pledged before, we ask you to consider doing so. If you have pledge for years- consider a modest increase.

What's happening at St. Thomas? We have so much: groups traveling to Kenya and D.C. for mission work, our prayer shawl ministry, Thom's helpers, EFM, Bible studies, a stellar children's program, gardening angles, four incredible music groups, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Breakfast at St. Paul's and so much more. There is never a quiet or dull day in our life and ministry in this place.

Our primary time together are our well-crafted and carefully executed worship services. Each week over 300 people gather to prayer, hear scripture, be inspired and care for one another. We leave to go out into the world to BE the Jesus Movement in our neighborhoods, schools and workplaces.

I could go on and on, but you get the point. These services and ministries, and the many others too, thrive because of each and every one of you.

On November 4-5, I hope you will bring your pledge card with you to church. Before that, please take some time to reflect on what your pledge will accomplish at St. Thomas the Apostle. I hope you will consider increasing your pledge or consider pledging for the first time.

I am so grateful for your consideration, your generosity, your commitment, your friendship. Thank you for encouraging and supporting our congregation in so many ways. I am honored to serve you.

The Rev. Gar Demo

Your Decision to Give

First of all, prayerful discernment is a very important element in a person's decision to give.

Most faithful donors give because they want to return a portion of their benefits to God and because they want to support the good their church does. So... what do you feel God is asking of you now? What is St. Thomas asking of you now? Take some time to prayerfully discern these questions.

Second, keep in mind that your

gift is really a response to the gifts you have received from God and your church.

Reflecting on these gifts is part of the discernment process. Think back to your experiences, the times when you felt filled by grace, a moment you felt touched by God.

Third, have a family discussion about your church. You might be surprised to learn all that St. Thomas means to them. Then, look at the proposed improvements in the church that



will be accomplished by increased giving. They might impact you directly, or perhaps they'll impact people that you know.

How much should I pledge for 2018?

We anticipate we will need \$817,000 in total giving this year to support all the mission and ministry of our church. This includes all of our staff, program and building expenses. We are trusting God to meet our needs so that we can effectively minister the love of God. As you pray about your gift to St. Thomas the Apostle this year, please consider a pledge as a percent of your income. The chart below can help you determine that amount.

When should I turn in my pledge card?

Commitment Weekend for the stewardship campaign is November 4-5, 2017. Please bring your pledge card to church on those days. If you will not be at church, you can mail your pledge card to the church. If you prefer, you may hand deliver your pledge card to the church office or place your pledge card in the offering plate the week before Commitment Weekend.

ANNUAL INCOME	WEEKLY PLEDGE			MONTHLY PLEDGE			ANNUAL PLEDGE		
	3%	5%	10%	3%	5%	10%	3%	5%	10%
\$200,000	\$116	\$192	\$384	\$500	\$834	\$1,666	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
\$150,000	\$87	\$145	\$290	\$375	\$625	\$1,250	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$100,000	\$58	\$96	\$192	\$250	\$417	\$833	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$75,000	\$44	\$73	\$146	\$188	\$313	\$626	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$7,500
\$50,000	\$29	\$48	\$96	\$125	\$209	\$418	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000

November 4-5

Commitment Weekend

The Impact of Your Giving

Because of your support for St. Thomas...

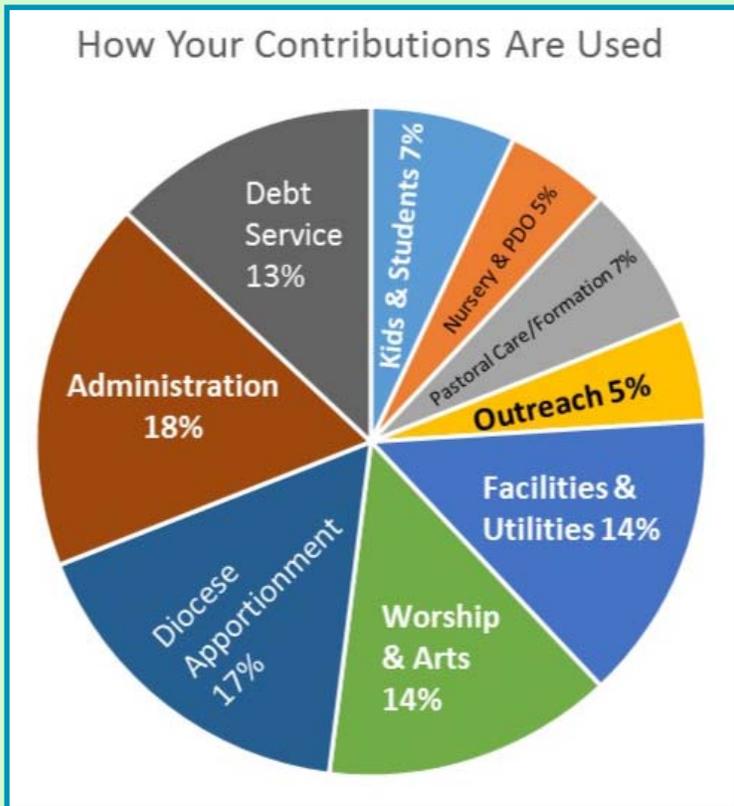
- 15,894 attended worship last year
- 21 Funerals/ Burials
- 27 confirmations and receptions
- 56 Greeters, 33 Lectors
- 21 Eucharistic Ministers
- 1067 Members of St. Thomas
- 147 home communion visits
- 143 attended ROTC, VBS, Arts Camp

This year your increased giving can provide funds for...

- Move the entirety of the mortgage into the operating budget. This allows for a quicker pay down of the debt from capital campaign.
- Additional office assistance through internships to assist with the administration of the parish.
- Continued support for our staff and ministry areas through modest increases in program and other costs. In particular care for Meribeth, Barb and Mth Kelly.

Household Giving and Parish Expenses

These graphs display a breakdown of monthly giving per household and how your contributions are used.



The opportunity to study the Scriptures through discussion and through listening to others about their viewpoint has been a blessing. Having the comfort of acceptance and fellowship at

St. Thomas has increased my connection and confidence in my relationship with the Lord.- **Tom Meyers**

Campaign Prayer

Loving and Gracious God,

I am grateful for the countless blessings you have given me, for life, for family, friends and St. Thomas my church home.

Strengthen my faith so I may give generously of the time, talent and treasure you have given to me.

Help me move forward in faith so I may grow in my love of Christ and my neighbor.

*Let my gifts reflect my thanks to You and may they be used to the fulfilling of your purpose.
Amen.*