Naturalization Reception

Wednesday, February 21

Naturalization is the legal process through which a foreign citizen or national can become a U.S. citizen.

In order to be naturalized an applicant must be qualified to apply for citizenship, complete an application, attend an interview and pass an English and a civics test. (The actual civics test is *NOT* a multiple-choice test.) During the naturalization interview a USCIS officer will ask up to 10 questions from the list of 100 questions in English. 6 of these 10 questions must be answered correctly in order to pass the civics test. Upon completion of these things, a US citizenship or Naturalization ceremony is held and the new citizen is sworn in, takes the Oath of Allegiance, and is granted a naturalization certificate. Naturalization ceremonies are open to the public and provide an educational opportunity for promoting public understanding of not only the naturalization process, but to the federal courts as well.

We will be hosting a short reception immediately following the ceremony. Volunteers will depart from St. Thomas by 10:15 that morning and will return by 2pm. If you would like the opportunity to join others from St. Thomas in experiencing a new extension of hospitality by observing the ceremony and then helping to serve a few refreshments at the reception, please contact either Deacon Fran or Sue Elliott.



February Second Saturday—

February 10 after the 5:30 service. We will supply soup and chili for a dinner. We will ask those attending to bring appetizers, crackers, and veggies. Hope to see you there!

Articles for Tower Talk and our email update are due by NOON every Monday. Articles will run for two weeks unless notified otherwise. Send info and articles to Meribeth Risebig—mrisebig@stthomasop.org or call 913-451-0512.

Notes on Notes!

by Dr. Beth Elswick, Director of Music Ministries

"This Little Light of Mine" is a favorite song for children. Recorded arrangement range from Ray Charles to the Boys' Choir of Harlem. The diversity of the musical settings is amazing. This perky song mostly uses the 5-note pentatonic scale typical of the Deep South and folk music. Used in Sunday schools and children's choirs for decades, the song has also been used for very serious occasions. Even its authorship is a source of disagreement.

Some folks credit Harry Dixon Loes, a composer of gospel songs of the Moody Bible Institute. A version can be found in a collection dated in 1939 by John Lomax. Since the tune resembled plantation songs, many suggested it was handed down in an oral tradition, but the song cannot be found in early collections of spirituals. Nonetheless, the pentatonic scale and folk-like melody was easily adaptable for many arrangements. Under the influence of early civil rights activists, the song eventually became a Civil Rights anthem in the 1950's and 1960's.

Coming soon to an Assembly Room near You!

Wednesday, February 7, 10:30 to Noon Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God

Join preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. This 12-session DVD and web-based study explores fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today.

Questions: call Jan Summers 913-897-4264 Martha Sharp 913-381-6270

New to St. Thomas—Faith Club

On Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 7pm, there will be an information meeting about becoming involved in a new Faith Club. St. Thomas has several such clubs that have already started and we are eager to start new ones. They consist of Christians, Jews, and Muslims coming together in compassionate conversation around faith journeys. If you have questions, please see Mthr. Kelly Demo or Charlotte Brotherson.

TOWER TALK

February 3 & 4, 2018

Christian Education Classes this Sunday

Sunday School for Children & Youth Education Wing, Lower Level— 9:45-10:35am

Adult Forum—Parish Hall 2—9:50-10:35am

This Sunday is Scout Sunday

This Sunday we'll be celebrating Boy and Girl Scouting during our Sunday morning services. We will offer a special blessing on our scout participants and leaders and award a Scout Sunday patch. Special refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall following each service. For more information, please contact Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org.

Two additional Mission Trip Parent Information meetings this Sunday—between services and at 5:15 before Youth Group. If you can't make the meetings just reach out to Kelly Demo and she can give you the information.

The Youth Group welcomes parents and families to join them to watch the **Super Bowl** and play games! Youth and their families are welcome to come anytime after 5:15 (kick-off is at 5:30). A baked potato bar will be graciously provided by the Gordons but families are encouraged to bring drinks, munchies, and sweets. Come enjoy the fun and pretend we are watching the Chiefs.

For anyone still needing information about the mission trip, Kelly will be on hand before the game starts to discuss and give handouts. The Rev. Kelly Demo, Associate Rector—kdemo@stthomasop.org or 913 -451-0512, X222

Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God and...



- In thanksgiving for our 25th wedding anniversary—Brian & Tammy Gordon
- In memory of Mary Scott from REC Book Club in Overland Park.

OUTREACH

Interfaith Hospitality Network

HOST Week Thank You

Thank you to the parish supporters who provided food and supplies for our Host week at First Christian Church of Olathe. We're also very thankful for our faithful volunteers who interact with those we serve or volunteer at the IHN Family Center.

Please continue to pray for the work of JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network, a local ministry serving situationally homeless families and single, unaccompanied (no children) women here in our community. Pray also for all the current and past guests we've served.

If you have questions contact St. Thomas coordinators Dola McNown 913 526 3573, 913 541-9226 or Margaret Walkenshaw 913 897 4766.

* * * * *



Connecting Communities Feb. 19, March 19, April 14

Olivia Rimmer & Emma Gordon

A Giving Project is a way to connect something you are passionate about with your service to an organization, a community, or a church.

Our Giving Project gives Middle School age youth the opportunity to volunteer their time. We will be working with different organizations throughout the community to help them find volunteers. A monthly event.

* * * * *

Episcopalian's Little Instruction List

- 1. Never lie to God.
- 2. Be tolerant of young children in worship; they are learning.
- 3. Thank God for something at least once a day.
- 4. When the parish is singing, sing whether you can carry a tune or not.
- Welcome newcomers and invite them to coffee hour and adult study.
- 6. Refuse to participate in church gossip.

To be continued...

CHILDREN & YOUTH



On Sunday Feb. 11 from 6-8 we will have our next Taste of Youth Group for kids in 3rd-5th grade. They are welcome to come to our regular youth group time and see what they have to look forward to when they hit middle school and can join the youth group. Dinner is provided.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13, 5-7pm



Come join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast! The parish youth will cook and serve pancakes from creative, decorated stations in the parish hall. Come see all of their ideas and support our youth! The tradition of feasting on Shrove Tuesday before fasting during the season of Lent is a fun one and a chance for the community to come together for a fun meal. A gluten free option is available + sausage, coffee & juice! Freewill donations will be accepted to benefit the youth.

Fun activities are also planned for the kids!

To view the church calendar go to our website, www.stthomasop.org, and click on Calendar on the upper right side. To hold a meeting or event at St. Thomas you must first clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, February 4

8:45 AM Holy Communion-Nave

9:45 AM Coffee Hour-PH 1, 2, 3, K; Choir Practice-Nave Loft

Adult Forum-PH 2; Children & Youth Sun School-

Educ Wing/LL

10:45 AM Holy Communion-Nave

11:45 AM Coffee Hour-PH 1, 2, 3, K

6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 2, 3, K

Monday, February 5

9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Nursery, Rm 145

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 3, K

1:30 PM Staff Meeting-PH 1

7:00 PM Mom's Support Small Grp-PH 3

7:30 PM Prayer Shawl Small Group-PH 1

Tuesday, February 6

9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Nursery, Rm 145

1:00 PM Actor's Choice mtg-Asbly

7:00 PM Sword Guild-PH 2

Wednesday, February 7

9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Nursery, Rm 145

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 3, K

10:30 AM Wednesday Study Grp-Asbly

1-4 PM Actor's Choice-Asbly

5:00 PM Children & Youth Choir-Asbly

7:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders-PH 3; Faith Club Sm Grp-Asbly

7:30 PM Adult Choir practice-Nave

Thursday, February 8

9AM-1PM Parents Day Out-Rms 144,145

Classics Men's Small Grp-Asbly

Friday, February 9

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 3, K 7-9 PM Explorers Small Grp-PH 2

Saturday, February 10

1-4 PM God & Games-Sullivan home5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave

Asbly = Assembly Room in Education Wing; K = Kitchen; Educ Wing = Education Wing | PH = Parish Hall