

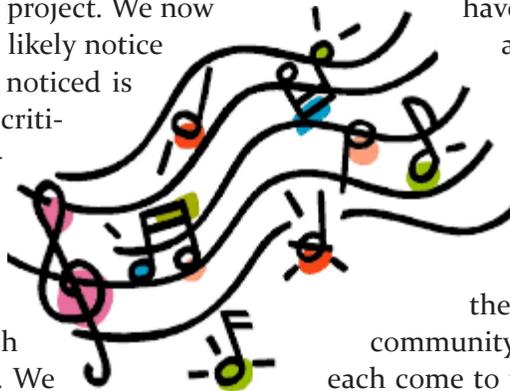
The AP^SOSTLE

Summer 2019

*“As long as there are people on earth, the world will have glimpses of God. He chooses us to move through. He chooses your personality, your spunk, your passion, your strengths, and your weaknesses to work in and through and with.” — Emily P. Freeman, author of *The Next Right Thing**

I love what Emily Freeman wrote above—a testament to the giftedness of every human being. Those gifts given to us by God and what we choose to do with them is important; and it brings up a recent new gift to the community of St. Thomas—our new organ.

The new organ has really made a difference! Over the last week, the Nebraska Organ Company has returned to complete our Organ project. We now have both the pipe organ and digital organ playing together. You will likely notice a change, while subtle, in the weeks ahead. One thing I have noticed is how much the music has been improved at 10:45. This is not a criticism of our past work. The new digital organ, now complete, with so many more sound options, has lifted our musicianship to a new level. It’s funny what can happen with the “right” tools in place, and how the same group, or even the same musician, can be elevated by the instruments they play.



In many ways we as a church community are just like the organ (I know it’s a stretch, but stay with me). We each come to the table with different gifts, different sounds, different abilities, and God does something with us that raises us to new heights; that is, when we let God do that! But interestingly, when we all work together, we can make beautiful ministry happen. When the choir, organ and organist are all in synch, we, too, can be elevated to new heights.

St. Thomas has had a good spring—once winter finally stopped! We have had numerous baptisms, a few weddings, confirmations; we also welcomed our new Bishop. In addition, a few new ministries are beginning to bear fruit and change who we are as a community. God wants to do amazing things through this church. When we let God, that music can shine!

I’m looking forward to seeing what our musicians do with this “new” gift of a greatly-expanded organ. And I am reminded of just how many gifts God has given this community. I hope we can all make amazing music/ministry together!

Blessings,
GARL

FOOTNOTES

Down by the Creek Bank

*"There's crickets and tadpoles, turtles and frogs,
down by the creek bank by the old holler log.*

*There's spiders and fireflies, earthworms that
crawl, down by the creek bank by the old holler log."*

Our summer Arts Camp, June 10th-14th will center around themes from the musical, "Down by the Creek Bank" by Dottie Rambo. All of the activities—Art, Drama, Music, Dance, Christian Formation, Creative Communication, Culinary, and Conservation—will be drawn from the theme of caring for our precious creek bank habitat. Come join us: Children grades 1 – 6; Youth grades 7-12 can be counselors. Our new summer intern, *Sophie Mortenson*, will join the cast.

The play was written in 1978, and we performed it at St. Thomas about ten years ago. Because of the current grave concern of the loss of habitat for wildlife and loss of species, the musical, *Down by the Creek Bank*, is, in my mind, more timely now than at the time of the premier performance.

KDWPT Prairie Center is providing hands on materials: animal mounts, skins, skulls, turtle shells, fish, freshwater mussels, and more. *Jim Elswick* is providing microscopes and prepared slides for viewing plants, mosquito and insect appendages, unicellular organisms, and more.

Barbara McCall will relate the musical numbers from "Down by the Creek Bank" to the story of creation in Genesis. She will guide the children to discover their roles caring for creation. *Charlotte Brotherson* will coach the drama class and production of the play. *Tracie Glasscock* will coach the youngsters during the creative communications hour to create media presentations of "best practices" concerning the environment. UMKC dancer, *Tori Knox*, will teach the dance movements for the musical. *Matt Pratt*, *Joe Williamson*, and *Val Mathenia* will have fun with the kids during free time and recess. *Val Mathenia* and *Beth Elswick* will teach the songs to the kids.

In keeping with the ideas of conservation, art instructor *Jenne Weil* says that she plans to use "repurposed recyclables and would love to have the kids bring an old shirt to dye She would like to do some paper making, too." Jenne will be assisted by *Margaret Walkenshaw*. They are a fabulous team for elementary students.

The kids will share their art on Friday. Please come see their art projects, and creative communications, and musical, *Down by the Creek Bank*.

SHOWTIME: Friday, June 14th at 4 p.m.

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG ARTISTS.

Dr. Beth L.
Elswick,
Director of
Music
Ministries



WARDEN'S WORDS

Dear
friends of St.
Thomas the
Apostle,

Our
church year
is progress-
ing at a very
nice pace after enduring a long
and snowy winter that has now
turned into a cool and wet spring.
Our pledge commitments through
the first quarter were fully funded
and compliments your sense of
stewardship in supporting St.
Thomas.

As a reminder, our budget is
very tight and for every 1% shortfall
in pledges, an \$8000.00 budget
deficit is created. Please be atten-
tive to your pledge commitment
throughout 2019 and help us fully
fund all our programs. The \$10,000
unbudgeted expense for snow
removal this past winter remains a
deficit concern. Your finance
committee and Vestry are keenly
aware and are monitoring our
finances and the potential options
to retire that budget deficit.

Bishop Cathleen Bascom visited
St. Thomas May 19th for confirma-
tion Sunday. Our reception for her
after the eucharist was successful
with strong attendance and a nice
opportunity for Bishop Cathleen to
get to know St. Thomas.

Most of the vestry, all of our
clergy and the Diocesan Chancellor
had dinner with the Bishop later in
the day. This informal and relaxed
"meet and greet" opportunity led to
lots of healthy interaction and the
opportunity for Bishop Cathleen to
share some of her initial visions on
both the Diocese and St. Thomas.

Bruce
Henricks,
Senior
Warden



—Beth

Continued on page 4

REFLECTIONS

Come as you are...as often as you can!*—Mother Kelly and Barbara McCall—***'Tis the season...for road trips, scout campouts, early morning soccer and baseball!**

All too often the families of our children and youth feel forced to choose between faith, family time, community organization events and athletic pursuits. For many of us, growing up in the Midwest meant that schools and community organizations protected certain times on certain days for religious activities, and these usually favored our own religion. Because of this structure, making church fit in with our other activities was typically not too hard. Did you ever have a soccer game on a Sunday morning as a kid? Probably not.

However, these days on any given Sunday (even Easter!) activities outside church are scheduled. Part of the reason for this is that we are blessed by a community that has embraced its religious diversity to no longer acknowledge worship days for some religions, while passing over others. It is also the secularization of our society. Finally, it is a product of our too busy lives. There are only so many hours in the day on which you can schedule a baseball game and Sunday morning is a prime spot. All of these factors make many families in our community feel the struggle to balance time for worship with their other activities. So what do we do?

Make your relationship with God a priority...and go easy on yourself.

The spiritual life of your family does matter. As with any relationship it takes intention and work. Fortunately, a relationship with God also involves lots of grace! God meets us where we are and urges us along in our journey. Decide to make a relationship with God a priority and you will be surprised where God can sneak into your life.

Divide and conquer.

Yes, in a perfect world, we'd all be able to come to church as a family to the same service in a single car. But when big brother has a soccer game at 8:30 am and little sister has a volleyball game at 10:30, that just isn't gonna happen.

So, come in groups if you need – Mom and Big Brother at 8:45 and Dad and Little Sister at 10:45, or pop in to the Saturday night service.

Maybe you cannot make it to Sunday, so you come to the contemplative prayer small group. Or your young person comes to youth group.

Someone might ask you about the missing members of your family. This is not a guilt trip! They're our church family, and we want to be sure everything is okay, but we promise, no one will judge if your family is just making your Sunday work. If you need to split up for worship, try connecting later in the day for dinner as a whole family, and talk about your day and the day's message in church.

Notice that the expectation of coming to church in your "Sunday Best" isn't what it used to be.

Many of us feel good about dressing up for God, and maybe it's the one day each week we have a prayer of getting the kids to comb their hair. However, the bottom line is, God (and all of us!) would rather see your smiling face in sports gear or with bedhead from oversleeping, than to not see your face at all. Look around on Sunday mornings in the spring...and the summer...well, and the fall, too...I'll bet on most weeks you'll see at least one kiddo in sports gear. It might actually make a fun little scavenger hunt: How many Parks and Rec sports teams are represented in church today?

While, being present in our physical space is an important way for personal and spiritual connections within the community, sometimes it simply doesn't work. You're out of town, or the games overlap - whatever the reason, don't forget to...

Think outside the building.

At St. Thomas we are continually looking for ways to connect with those who cannot be here on the weekend for services. For instance: We typically stream weekly sermons, if not entire worship services, on Facebook Live or via our website (www.stthomasop.org).

MINISTRIES UPDATE

2019 IHN AUCTION

Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network's annual Dinner/Auction is set for **Thursday, June 27th, 2019**, and we would love for you to join us at this event!

The theme this year is "**Homeward Bound.**"

The Dinner/Auction will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, Kansas.

For additional information, including how to purchase tickets prior to the registration deadline of June 6, 2019, please visit: <http://www.jocoihn.org/auction>.

Come and enjoy a casual evening with a delicious dinner, 2 top-shelf drinks, games, silent and live auctions at the cost of only **\$75.00** per attendee. Help to empower situationally-homeless families and single homeless women by attending IHN's only fund-raising event of the year.



SOLD!

SOLD!

Continued from page 3

Engage by sharing with us about your activities on our church Facebook Page. Did your freshman win the city championship in football? Tag the church, or text/email Kelly or Barbara and let us know! We love to share that news in our Children/Youth Celebrations in the *Tower Talk* and emails each week.

Read newsletters and emails...

The **Apostle** comes out every 6-8 weeks. Our *Children's News* comes monthly via email; *Youth News* comes weekly during the school year, and the church news email comes out every single week. This will keep you in the loop on what's going on and what activities are coming up that might just fit your family's schedule.

Try joining one of our groups that meets outside the church.

Perhaps when your kiddo has a birthday party remind them to think of inviting their church friends in order to strengthen those relationships. Try to meet a St. Thomas friend or clergyperson for morning coffee sometime.

There are many ways to stay connected with your faith and the people of our church during these busy seasons of the year, and seasons of life. Just remember, God loves you and wants to be in a relationship with you and so do we...in whatever way that needs to happen.

Continued from page 2

She sees our St. Thomas as a diocesan leader and hopes our spirit and successes can be capitalized upon in a broader Diocesan fashion. Details were not itemized, but rest assured we have her attention. We will be called upon to contemplate future opportunities to grow and share our enthusiasm, call to serve and commitment for the greater good.

Thanks to each of you for your ongoing support in how you help create the atmosphere that makes St. Thomas vibrant, growing and dynamic.

May blessings be yours.

—Bruce

MINISTRIES: Guild of the Christ Child



Dear Members of St. Thomas,

HELP US FILL THE PACK-N-PLAY!

There's still plenty of time to grab a gift list & go shopping for a good cause! The pack-n-play will remain up through June for collection of newborn baby items to fill layette bags for babies of the church and babies born into less fortunate circumstances.

A list of needed items is next to the pack-n-play. If any of our members are sewers & would like to make burp cloths, bibs, or receiving blankets that would be awesome.

Monetary donations are appreciated to help buy diapers & wipes. Please make your check payable to *St. Thomas* and put "Guild of the Christ Child" on the memo line. You can drop it by the office or put it in the collection plate.

We very much appreciate your prayers and support for this ministry.

Thank you,
Suzie Bowden (207-0072)
 Guild of the Christ Child

IHN Holiday Party - Update for 2019

Good news! Cure' of Ars Catholic Church has agreed to host the IHN Holiday Party starting this December. As most of you know, St. Thomas hosted the party for homeless families for 14 years, so we are thrilled it will continue at a different church.

When I get the details about this year's party from Cure' of Ars, I will share it with St. Thomas to let you know how you can continue to support homeless families during the holidays.

—Jean Adam

SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY:



This is what happens when our Small Group ladies max out on caffeine! Members pictured include, clockwise from left, Barbara McCall, Ellen Peters, Janice Adams, Susan Miller, leader Jean Adam, and Phyllis Grootematt.

The "Coffee with a Hint of Christ" Small group is on its summer meeting schedule—once a month meetings, 9:30-11 am.

June 12th & July 24th - we will meet at Panera Bread Town Center - 119th/Nall.

August 21st - we will meet at Jean Adam's house.

This Fall we will start a new bible study. In September we will resume our regular 1st & 3rd Wednesday meeting times at 9:30-11 am at St. Thomas.

If you are looking to join a small group that packs the backsnacks for the children at Comanche Elementary, takes its time with bible study and supports each other, look no further.

Contact **Jean Adam** by cell 530-9097 or via email jean_adam2004@yahoo.com for more information.

Young Adult Small Group is active

If you are young and an adult, you are invited to join this small group. For more information, please contact **Elizabeth Parker** at elizabeth.m.parker.o8@gmail.com or **Sarah Tarr** at srh_kidder@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to our 2019 Confirmands



Youth Confirmands

Hannah Connelly,
Weston Curnow,
Asher Demo, Bre Elman,
Micah Geary,
Kelsey Phillips,
Sam Pisani, Grant Prettejohn,
Henry Revare, Lauren Watson,
& Joey Wiltanger.

Adult Confirmands:

Kelly Lillis
Tim Pulin,
& Katherine Ross



Blake Docking and Eric Kling of St. Thomas Inducted into Special Olympics Hall of Fame



Photo and article/John McNow

At a ceremony witnessed by thousands of people in Wichita, two members of St. Thomas who have been best friends for life, **Blake Docking** and **Eric Kling** entered the Special Olympics Hall of Fame together.



Summer is Here!

There's still time to register for St. Thomas Summer Camps!

Arts Camp—June 10 through 14

High School ROTC—June 17-21

Middle School ROTC—

June 24 through 28

Elementary ROTC—July 8-12

Vacation Bible School—

July 21 through 25



Click the QR Code for more information and to register!



Congratulations to our newest citizen!



Nyakio Kaniu-Lake Takes the Oath of Citizenship

Surrounded by her husband, friends and members of St. Thomas, **Nyakio Kaniu-Lake** raised her right hand and took the oath to become a Naturalized American on May 30, 2019 at the Carlson Center for the Performing Arts at Johnson County Community College. Presiding over the ceremony was the *Honorable James P. O'Hara*, Federal Judge of the District of Kansas. The Carlson Center was completely packed as over 300 men and women from 77 countries stood and repeated the oath with Nyakio. It was a moment Nyakio and those who came to celebrate this milestone in her life will always remember.

Nyakio was overwhelmed by the number of people from St. Thomas (as well as Joe Bob's family members) who came to witness this ceremony. Front row from left: John McNown, Steve Glasscock, Tracie Glasscock, (husband) Joe Bob Lake, Nyakio, Margaret Walkenshaw, Deacon Fran Wheeler, Ron Walkenshaw. Back row from left: Diana Diaz, Mother Kelly Demo, Sophie Mortensen, Kathie Toombs Carol Toombs, Beth Anderson, Dola McNown, Randy Toombs and Ray Wheeler.



Photo/Barbara McCall. Information/Joe Bob Lake & John McNown



Invite • Welcome • Connect®

IWC

Newcomer Lunch June 2nd

These persons attended our latest Newcomer's lunch on Sunday, June 2nd, which was hosted by our **Invite/Welcome/Connect** team.

Be sure to greet them when you spot them at our church's services.



Photo/Jean Adam

Our property is inviting—thanks to the effort of several thoughtful individuals

Curb appeal. Next to “location, location, location,” curb appeal is often mentioned as being crucial to selling a home; it can often be a way to attract a person(s) to check out a new church. Thanks to the attention of our gardening group — **Thom’s Green Thumbs**— as well as several other individuals, our property has been spruced up for the coming months and certainly makes our property very inviting.

Youth member **Colby McArthur**, chose to add visual punch to our signage on the corner of 123rd & Antioch as a project for his Eagle Scout award. He was joined by several other friends including *Olivia* and *Maddie Rimmer* who helped Colby with the construction of the attractive bed of flowers.



Photo/Barbara McCall

Peggy Henricks and several of her Master Gardener gardener friends recently improved the look of the west side of our church by adding grasses and evergreens to dress up the blank wall where we once had a row of Knockout roses. Lack of sufficient water during our dry summers just decimated the roses that had been planted there. They also planted hostas in a shaded area near our outdoor altar, also on the west side of our church.

Thanks to the attention of **Marge Dellinger** and **Jan Summers** (plus other “Thumbs”), our Apostle’s Garden is kept looking fresh, neat, and inviting.

Just a reminder to all new members of St. Thomas: The Apostle’s Garden is a SACRED PLACE—a Columbarium—having been consecrated by the former Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Kansas, *The Reverend Dean Wolfe*. It is a place where the ashes of many members are buried. The list of those buried in this columbarium can be found on plaques next to the cross on the east wall of the garden.

There is a **Memorial Brick program** for anyone who wishes to add a brick—“in memory of,” “in thanksgiving for,” or “in honor of” a person(s). Forms that detail the information and cost of each brick can be found on a table in the Narthex.

PARISH NOTES

Baptisms

Recently we welcomed into the Household of God the following persons:

**Lanita Burton,
Claire Burton,
Carla Burton.**

These three adults were presented by *John & Dola McNown*;

Rory McNulty,
daughter of Dan & Erin McNulty;

Parie Lamb,
daughter of Vance & Kate Lamb.

Deaths

The St. Thomas family extends its deepest sympathy to:

John Dodderidge,
on the death of his father,
Dick;

Deb McArthur
on the passing of her uncle
Rob Clarke;

Polly Toombs
on the passing of her husband,
Nick;

Joe Bob Lake,
on the death of his mother,
Helen;

Ryan Watson
as he mourns the death of his mother,
Lahoma Jewel Wilkes Watson;

Connie Snider
on the passing of her mother
Jean Gabriel.



Our

regular service hours

Saturdays

5:30 Holy Communion

Sundays

8:45 Holy Communion
with praise music & band

10:45 Holy Communion
with traditional music



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Overland Park, KS 66213
• phone: 913-451-0512 •
• fax: 913-451-1966 •
www.stthomasop.org

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The next deadline for the
APOSTLE is
July 21, 2019

Summertime is here!!



Arts Camp—June 10th-14th

Arts Camp explores God through the Arts.

Senior High ROTC—June 17th-21th

ROTC is Reaching Out to the Community; it's a camp for kids who want to reach out to help others.

Junior High ROTC —June 24th-28th

3rd to 5th Grade ROTC—July 8th-12th

VBS —July 21st to 25th

VBS is our evening Summer Bible school for kids from pre-K through 5th grade.

