

children & youth news

HELP NEEDED- CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

It is time once again to replenish and refresh our ranks of Children's Church Volunteers.

Our Children's Church Volunteers are individuals who...

* are at least 16 years of age and have been attending St. Thomas for at least 1 year; * are trained or are willing to become trained in the Safe-guarding God's Children program as prescribed by The Episcopal Church and The Episcopal Diocese of KS; * have a desire to be a positive role model and to share the Gospel with children; offer their time - approximately 1 hour per scheduled week, plus initial training in the Fall - to familiarize themselves with the planned scripture reading (provided by the Director of Children's Ministry); * and lead our children's liturgy during the lessons, Gospel reading and Sermon of the Sunday Service; * make sure to input their preferred service times and Sundays "off" (YES! You get to choose your service AND put in the days you need off!) on a bi-monthly basis in our online Ministry Scheduler program.

Sharing the Gospel with children is an amazing path to personal formation when we, as adults, familiarize ourselves with the scriptures to be shared, consider the same questions that children ponder (suggested by the Director of Children's Ministry), and listen to the insights that children share during their time in Children's Church. Our goal is always to schedule two Children's Church volunteers per week (one to lead and one to offer support and encouragement to children), but we need many more volunteers to achieve this goal. Safeguarding Training and Children's Church Volunteer Training/Refresher Training will be offered on multiple occasions during August and early September. We will also gladly accept any youth ages 13-15 willing to participate in training as Children's Church "Assistants" to work along with a trained adult. For more information or to begin the process of discerning a personal call to volunteer as a Children's Church volunteer, please contact Heather Bradley-Geary at hbgeary@yahoo.com or Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org.

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EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY Lay people face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education that supports their faith and helps them to connect that faith to their lives.

Education for Ministry is a four-year program from the Episcopal Seminary of the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. In the first year we read and study the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). The second year we read and study the Christian Scriptures (New Testament). The third year covers the church history. And the fourth years is theology with some philosophy. (cont. in next column)

EfM, cont.

In all years we learn to think theologically through reflection, with the goal to apply what we learn. If we learn to think theologically, we then hope to live theologically and live Christ's ministry in God's world today.

If you are interested and want to learn more, contact Ray Wheeler at ray.wheeler60@gmail.com or 913-269-0542.

IT'S TIME TO PITCH IN! We need voices to fill in the ranks of pipes-----vocal pipes. If you would be willing to practice with us during the hour before worship, we would sure enjoy the help this summer. **WE NEED YOU! Rehearse at 8:10 for the 8:45 service and 9:55 for the 10:45 service.**



Regular Wednesday rehearsals will start on **Sept. 4.**

8:45 Praise Band—6:30-7:15pm. The praise ensemble is a vocal ensemble accompanied by an acoustic band. The band folders reflect the liturgy of the church, and the styles range from gospel to pop/rock and blues.

10:45 Traditional Choir—7:30-8:15pm. We sing mainstream hymnody and traditional anthems, gospel, spiritual hymns, and twentieth-century works. The choir also tackles major works with brass or chamber accompaniment.

If you have any questions please get in touch with the Director of Music, Dr. Beth Elswick. belswick@stthomasop.org or 816-392-7906.



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

** in celebration of our 63rd wedding anniversary—from Lea and Marianne Rowland*

** in honor of Dan Elman's birthday. We are so grateful for such a loving father and husband—Love Bre and Lynn Elman*

You can sign up on the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board by the office, send an email to stthomas@stthomasop.org, or give us a call 913-451-0512. Let us know the weekend you prefer and what you'd like to include in the weekly Tower Talk and email update.

TOWER TALK

AUGUST 10 & 11, 2019

SAVE THE DATE!!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND "HOMECOMING" SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Join us on the first Sunday after school starts for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks and celebration as we welcome all of our families back from their summer adventures! Students of ALL AGES and Educators (nursery school/preschool through graduate school, tech school, etc.) are welcome to bring their bags/backpacks and come forward for a special blessing during each of the Sunday Services on August 18.

After each service we will enjoy a potluck of your favorite summer dishes and our annual WATER SLIDE for the kids! So don't forget your swim gear! :)

JOIN OUR ACOLYTE TEAM! When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples he showed us what it meant to be a servant leader. The ministry of acolyting is the epitome of servant leadership. We welcome all youth who will be entering 3rd grade through high school to be a part of our acolyte team.

There will be an acolyte training meeting on Sunday, August 25. This training is for all new AND current acolytes. There will be a session between the services **starting at 9:45 AND one after the 10:45 service.** We will meet in the sanctuary.

Please talk to Mthr. Kelly Demo if your young person would like to join our acolyte team.

ST. THOMAS YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP

Please join us the remainder of the year for fellowship and food! If you are newly out of college and beyond, please consider joining us. We meet the last Sunday of every month! For questions please reach out to Sarah Tarr (913-515-2813) or Elizabeth Parker (913-832-9537)

Aug 25 Talk of the Town 11922 W 119th St.
Sept 9 Coach's Bar and Grill 9089 W 135th St.
Oct 27 at St. Thomas

STA @ KC ROYALS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

First Pitch @ 2:15 (currently scheduled time)

We'll enjoy the shade under the awning of the View Level. Tickets will be approx. \$15 each (with a group of at least 20 people). Be on the lookout for a sign-up online and in the Narthex beginning August 18!

outreach @ volunteer @ donate

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK UPDATES

Celebrating One Year Anniversary of “Host Week at St. Thomas”!

In August, 2018, St. Thomas took a step in faith and became a “Host” church for JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network. Prior to that time we had been a “support” congregation, sending food, supplies and volunteers to help other churches. As a Host church, guests come to St. Thomas each evening at 5Ppm. They have dinner and spend the evening here. Guests also sleep at St. Thomas. Classrooms are converted to “sleeping rooms” by the addition of air mattresses. St. Thomas hosts for a week approximately 4 times per year.

IHN serves situationally homeless families and single women here in Johnson Co. It is not a walk-in shelter. IHN interviews and does a thorough screening of all guests prior to their admittance to the program. As of August 5, 2019, IHN has provided 49,500 bednights; 148,500 meals to 720 individuals of which 421 were children.

At approximately 9:45 on August 18, Fr Gar and Mtr Kelly will bless the Assembly Room and classrooms where we provide hospitality and overnight shelter.

All parishioners are invited to the Blessing.

Food/Supplies Due August 18 by Noon

Perishable items should be clearly marked “IHN” and placed in the refrigerator or freezer- see signs on the appliances.

Non- perishables should be marked “IHN” and placed in the IHN basket in the lobby or on the IHN cart in the kitchen.

INVITATION TO ADULT MISSION TRIP

St. Thomas Episcopal Church would like to invite Episcopalians from across the diocese to join us for an adult mission trip to San Antonio, Texas to help ministries that are addressing the border crisis. The available trip dates will be **September 14-22** but you do not need to stay the entire week. We will be working at the bus stop where families who have just come from the border are dropped off for their next destination, and staffing an overnight shelter. Other possible work sites will be packing backpacks for families who are traveling, a shelter for women and babies, and a possible trip to see the detention camps along the border. If you are interested or would like more information please email Rev. Kelly Demo at kdemo@stthomasop.org. **Deadline to sign up for the trip is August 16.**

Staff Vacations Please know that most of the staff will be taking extended periods of time for vacation during the month of August. They have worked very hard this summer and all deserve a time for rest and rejuvenation. At various times we will be operating with a small crew, and we thank you for being patient if your phone calls are not answered promptly.

Please submit Tower Talk articles promptly on Monday before Noon or they will not be included the next weekend. Send to Meribeth in the office—mrisebig@stthomasop.org and type “Tower Talk article” in the subject line.

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Forum Return September 8

All classes and activities take place between the two Sunday services (9:45-10:35am) and will run through mid-May 2020.

Parents Day Out - Recently our Parents Day Out program director, Meghan Chaney, took another position that was fulltime. This put us in a difficult position as we were heading into the fall without a director. This program is licensed through the State of Kansas and the waiting period for background checks and other clearances required to qualify a new director would not allow for a clean start to the fall year. After a period of discernment the vestry and Fr. Gar made the decision to put the program on hold. Over the years we have found the need for this program has changed as more and more households are dual income and so a part-time daycare situation was less and less in demand. In addition, we do not want to rush the hiring of new staff just to keep a program open. We will take some time to discern a new direction for the program and other possibilities for reaching young families in our neighborhoods.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

SUN, AUG. 18	BLESSING OF BACKPACKS DURING SERVICES / POTLUCK FOLLOWING! YOUTH GROUP BEGINS, 6-8PM
AUG. 18-25	HOST WEEK AT ST. THOMAS
SUN, AUG. 25	ACOLYTE TRAINING AFTER SERVICES YOUNG ADULT SMALL GRP-TALK OF THE TOWN, 119TH ST, 7-9PM
WED, SEPT. 4	CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME, 6:30-8:15
SUN, SEPT. 8	“RALLY DAY” - SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT FORUM RESUME
SEPT. 14-22	ADULT MISSION TRIP-SAN ANTONIO
THURS, SEPT. 19	COMANCHE COOKOUT, 5:30-7PM
SUN, SEPT 29	YOUNG ADULT SMALL GRP-COACH’S, 135TH ST, 7-9PM



THE WEEK AHEAD

This Saturday, Aug 10

10AM-2PM Cursillo Ultreya gathering-PH 1
1-4 PM God & Games Small Grp-Sullivan home
2:30-4:30 PH 1, 2 reserved for Honaker party
5:30 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM 2nd Saturday Reception-PH 1

This Sunday, Aug 11

8:45, 10:45 Holy Communion-Nave
9:45 AM Choir Practice-Nave loft

“Coffee Hours”
after each
service in PH 1

Monday, Aug 12

10:30-1:30 Thom’s Helpers-PH 1, K
1:30 PM St. Thomas Staff mtg-PH 2
7-8:30 PM Outreach Team mtg-Rm 134

Tuesday, Aug 13

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, Aug 14

10:30-1:30 Thom’s Helpers-PH 1, K
7-8 PM Science Small Grp-Rm 137

Thursday, Aug. 15

7:00 PM SCA-PH 1; Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, Aug. 16

10:30-1:30 Thom’s Helpers-PH 1, K

Saturday, Aug. 17

10-12 Prayer Shawl Small Grp-PH 1
5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave

Sunday, Aug. 18

9:45 AM Blessing of the Backpacks during services; “Homecoming”
Sunday Potluck PH 1, 2, 3; Waterslide outside
IHN HOST Rooms are blessed.

Asbly = Assembly Room in Education Wing; K = Kitchen; Narthex = Lobby
Educ Wing = Education Wing; PH = Parish Hall; Nave = Sanctuary

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. ****

