

### 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 Safeguarding 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](mailto:hbgeary@yahoo.com) or Barbara McCall at [bmccall@stthomasop.org](mailto: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 year is theology with some philosophy.

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](mailto:ray.wheeler60@gmail.com) or 913-269-0542.

### Notes on Notes

Did you know that every hymn is listed in the Index according to the first line of lyrics. The first line of the lyrics often substitutes for the title of the song. The hymn can also be found in the index according to the hymn tune melody. For example, *Hail thou, once-despised Jesus* is sung to the tune known as *In Babilone*. Another hymn, *See the Conqueror mount in triumph* is also sung to this melody. In Presbyterian hymnals, the same tune is used for singing *There's a wideness in God's mercy*. We use the hymn tune *Beecher* for that hymn. When the lyrics to two songs have identical metrical patterns you can sing the songs over either melody. One can also sing *Love divine, all loves excelling*, and *Glorious things of thee are spoken* as substitute lyrics and melodies with *Hail, thou once-despised Jesus* or *There's a wideness in God's mercy*. The interchanging of melodies and lyrics has been a gift. . . .more next week.

**Time to PITCH in!** We need voices to fill in the ranks of pipes-----vocal pipes. From now until Sept. 8 we rehearse **at 8:10 for the 8:45 service and 9:55 for the 10:45 service.. WE NEED YOU!**

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

**8:45 Praise Band**—at 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](mailto:belswick@stthomasop.org) or 816-392-7906.

### Coffee with a Hint of Christ Small Group

Coffee small group will resume our regular meeting schedule on **Sept. 4 at 9:30am** in Room 137. We meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 9:30-11am at St. Thomas. We pack the backsnacks to support the children at Comanche Elementary as well as take our time with our Bible study. We may even squeeze in some conversation & prayer. Please contact me if you are interested in joining our small group. Jean Adam 913-530-9097 [jean\\_adam2004@yahoo.com](mailto:jean_adam2004@yahoo.com)

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

*in special thanksgiving for  
God's many blessings during  
our 53 years of marriage—from Jerry & Connie Snider*



# TOWER TALK

AUGUST 17 & 18, 2019

## Blessing of the Backpacks and Educator Blessings—BOTH SUNDAY SERVICES

During the announcements our students (of all ages) and educators will be called forward to receive a special blessing and gift for their backpacks, laptop cases, briefcases, etc. Even if you forgot your special bag today, please still come forward to receive your blessing and gift!

**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](mailto:mrisebig@stthomasop.org) with "Tower Talk article" in the subject line.

**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 Adults 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  
**11/24 TBD...** further information to come.

## outreach @ volunteer @ donate

### INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK UPDATES IHN HOST WEEK starts this Sunday, Aug. 18

#### Blessing of HOST WEEK SPACES—this Sunday

**approx. 10:00am.** Fr Gar & Mother Kelly will bless classrooms and the Assembly room. These are the rooms we convert to guest bedrooms and gathering space to relax during the evenings here at St. Thomas. All Parishioners are Invited to the Blessing.

“Host Week” means St. Thomas is a “host” congregation in the JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network and we provide shelter in our building for IHN guests. Our IHN “guests” are at St. Thomas from 5pm each evening until 6:30am the following morning. St. Thomas volunteers are assisted by trained volunteers from Church of Jesus Christ, First Christian Church of Olathe and OP First Assembly of God Church. Meals are provided by volunteers and parishioners who donate supplies. We “host” for a week approximately 4 times each year.

*Our guests this week will include a mother with an 11 yr old daughter, a couple with a 2 yr old and a 5 mon old baby, plus 3 single women.*

IHN is open 365 days a year. It is NOT a “walk in” shelter. IHN interviews and does a thorough screening of all guests prior to admittance to the program. Volunteers interacting with guests must attend one 2-hr IHN training session.

**Next Volunteer training: Tuesday, Sept. 3, 6:30-8:30pm, at Church of the Ascension Catholic Church, 9510 W 127<sup>th</sup>, OPKS.** Attendees must be on time and remain for the entire program to be considered trained. Training is free and no registration is required. Church affiliation is also not required.



### COMANCHE ELEMENTARY – CARING FOR KIDS

**THANK YOU!**

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Thanks to all who contributed school supplies and to all who helped make our 2019 collection and packing day a success. We enjoyed a wonderful breakfast on packing day and delivered all 50 backpacks later that week to the school with great appreciation from the teachers/staff, as well as the students and their families

### IHN Holiday Party 2019 Update - NEW LOCATION

As most of you know, the 2019 IHN Holiday party to celebrate with the homeless families and single women will be held on *Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11am-1pm.* **Cure of Ars Catholic Church has agreed to take over the project starting this year.** Please contact Karen McNillis from Cure of Ars at 913-406-5779 (cell) or [afjayhawks@gmail.com](mailto:afjayhawks@gmail.com) for more information about this year's party if you would like to volunteer. Jean Adam

### *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.

### Invite/Welcome/Connect

As summer vacations come to a close, 'Back to School' time can also mean 'Back to Church' time. You may see new faces at St. Thomas who are visiting our church community. Make sure to extend a friendly welcome.

If you lead a ministry at St. Thomas, think about our new members who may be interested in that ministry and invite the newcomer to join.

If you are new to St. Thomas, be sure to check out the Description of Ministries booklet which can be found on the Welcome table in the narthex. Or you can refer to the St. Thomas website for ministry details. <https://www.stthomasop.org> If you need help connecting to a ministry I would be glad to assist. 913-539-9097. Jean Adam, IWC Warden

### SAVE THE DATE! STA @ KC ROYALS! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

**First Pitch @ 2:15 Cost per person: approx. \$20**

*Tickets may be pre-purchased by signing up online or in the Narthex, and must be reserved no later than Thursday, September 12.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### This Saturday, Aug 17

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

### This Sunday, Aug 18

8:45, 10:45 Holy Communion-Blessing of Backpacks  
9:45 AM Choir Practice-Nave loft; Potluck-PH 1, 2, 3  
10:00 AM Blessing of IHN HOST spaces- Educ Wing  
11:45 AM Potluck-PH 1, 2, 3  
5PM on IHN HOST Week begins-Educ Wing, K  
6-8 PM Youth Group-PH 1, 2, 3, K

### Monday, Aug 19

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K  
1:30 PM St. Thomas Staff mtg-PH 2  
5PM on IHN HOST Week-Educ Wing, K  
6:30 PM Westmont Neighborhood mtg-PH 1

### Tuesday, Aug 20

5PM on IHN HOST Week-Educ Wing, K  
7:00 PM Contemplative Prayer Small Grp-Nave

### Wednesday, Aug 21

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K  
5PM on IHN HOST Week-Educ Wing, K

### Thursday, Aug. 22

5PM on IHN HOST Week-Educ Wing, K  
7:00 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 1;  
Classics Men's Small Grp-PH 3

### Friday, Aug. 23

5PM on IHN HOST Week-Educ Wing, K  
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K

### Saturday, Aug. 24

5PM on IHN HOST Week-Educ Wing, K  
5:30 PM Holy Communion-Nave

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](http://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. \*\***

