

children & youth news

"S.O.S.: Serving Others Sunday"

Special **SUNDAY SCHOOL** offering on **NOVEMBER 3**
9:00-9:45am in the Assembly Room

All Sunday School students ages Pre-School through 5th Grade (youth volunteers welcome to join us for service hours) are invited to a special Sunday School Offering from 9-9:45am on Sunday, November 3 before our ONE "STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY" SERVICE at 10am. During this time we will learn what Stewardship means for KIDS, and we will begin work on our special projects to support St. Thomas's **upcoming** Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

CONGRATULATIONS to our Fall 2019 God & Family Emblem Recipients!!

For the past six weeks, three young people have met for 1.5-2 hours each Sunday evening to explore how family relationships, traditions and values impact their developing faith, and vice versa...all while making homemade pizza! This is part of the God and Country Religious Education Program through P.R.A.Y. Resources offered here at St. Thomas. While these age-based programs are promoted by all of the major scouting organizations, it is open to ANY CHILD or YOUTH looking to further explore their faith. Our next round of God & Country Programs will be offered in January/February 2020.

Congratulations to:

Allison Philips - Arrow of Light Scout in Cub Scout Pack 3472

Jacob McCall - Arrow of Light Scout in Cub Scout Pack 3241

Trey Greve - Webelos 1 Scout in Cub Scout Pack 3241

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



• *In honor of our 28th wedding anniversary—Peter and Stacie Gram*

• *In thanksgiving for the life of Asher Demo as he celebrates his 15th trip around the sun—Gar, Kelly and Riley Demo*

This Sunday: Sunday School, Youth, Adult Forum

9:45-10:35am—Children/Youth in the Education Wing

Adult Forum will not meet this week or next (Nov 3).

Classes will start back on Nov. 10 (Parish Hall 2)

Newcomer Lunch - Sunday, Nov. 10

New members and visitors are invited to attend our next Newcomer lunch on Sunday, November 10, at 12pm in Parish Hall 2. We would like to welcome you at the lunch and introduce you to the staff, clergy, leadership of St. Thomas as well as other new members. Please let us know if you can come by contacting the St. Thomas office 913-451-0512 or Jean Adam 913-530-9097, jean_adam2004yahoo.com.



St. Thomas Women's Retreat 2019

**Taking Sunday to Monday and Beyond:
Practical Spiritual Practices For Everyday Life**

November 15-16 (Friday 5pm-Saturday 3pm)

You can now sign up online with the link in your weekly email update. Copies of the registration form are also in the Narthex. Turn them in to the office once completed.

The Bible Challenge 2

What's on Your Bucket List?

Though many people have reading the Bible on their bucket lists, most find it difficult to actually read it. Much of the Old Testament is considered difficult to understand. Many of the laws about food, clothing and uncleanness seem unnecessary. Except for the Psalms and Proverbs, many consider the Old Testament to be irrelevant.

I like the Old Testament. The people are real people! They make mistakes, sometimes really big ones. They are envious. They are treated unfairly. They get angry. They fall in love. They are disobedient. They have difficult children. They suffer huge tragedies. The people of the Old Testament are so human.....like me.

Discover the human stories in our heritage. Sign up for The Bible Challenge 2! We begin reading January 1.

Articles for Tower Talk and our email update are **due by NOON every Monday**. Articles will run for **two weeks** unless notified otherwise. Send to Meribeth in the office—
mrisebig@stthomasop.org

TOWER TALK

OCTOBER 26 & 27, 2019

** Don't miss the IWC Ministry Fair THIS WEEKEND! **

Do you know all of the ministries that take place at St. Thomas or by St. Thomas parishioners out in our community? Make plans to stop by the Invite/Welcome/Connect Ministry Fair this Saturday after the 5:30pm service or before or after each of the Sunday services. It's a great way to see how St. Thomas supports its members as well as the outreach we do for our neighbors. If you sign up for a ministry you will get a raffle ticket and be entered in a prize drawing. *You can even sign up if you are already a member of a ministry.*



TRUNK OR TREAT and BBQ COOK-OFF!

This Sunday, October 27, 5-7pm

Bring out the costumes & candy bags...join us in the St. Thomas Parking Lot for your first round of loot at our annual Trunk or Treat! This free event is open to EVERYONE (so bring friends & neighbors)!

Then, after you've worked up an appetite...join us in the Parish Hall for some dinner, games and more treats at our **FIRST ANNUAL BBQ Cook-Off** in the Parish Hall!! Cost is \$5/person or \$20/family. All are welcome!!



**Remember: Set your clocks
back one hour before you go
to bed Saturday, November 2.**



Annual HAYRIDE & HOT DOG ROAST

Sunday, Nov 3, 5-8pm

Cost \$8/person

Hot Dogs & S'more Fixins provided; feel free to bring chips/salad/sides to share. Sign up with the link provided in your weekly Email Update or on the display board in the Narthex. **Signing up ahead of time helps us to know if we can offer TWO hayride times (which means an earlier option for those who wish to get home earlier in the evening).**

Sharp's Country
Hayrides, 21175
Mission Rd,
Bucyrus, KS 66013

outreach * volunteer * donate

IHN FAMILY NEWS

Please join us in welcoming the newest addition to our IHN Family, Lori (58). We are also currently on hold with a new family admission, Tracy (29), and Lianna (4), of whom we are covering the cost of a motel for two nights (they would otherwise have been sleeping in their car). Thanks to the consistent and overwhelming generosity of our IHN Family, we were able to cover the cost of a motel. Tracy and Lianna slept well and safely. Tracy has started a new job, and we will obtain reference checks and national background checks with a planned admission soon.

We CELEBRATE Brenda M., single, who will be graduating into her new apartment one week from today. She is so excited and we are so proud of her accomplishments! She got her name on the income-based single individual housing list on admission. On her graduation date she will have successfully worked the program in 55 days!!! :-)) We have a partnering relationship with COR Flourish Furnishings. Brenda has been referred to this program to fill her apartment with furniture. It is such a joy to see the pride and joy on the faces of our guests as they prepare to move into their own home!

Finally, our other Brenda and grandson David, were involved in a serious car accident last week. They were on I-70 when two tires blew out and her van hit the concrete barrier between lanes. Thankfully, beyond some bruises and PTSD, she and David are doing well. Sadly, her vehicle was totaled. I told her last Friday that I was going to e-mail out a request for a donated vehicle. It has been some time since a vehicle was donated and today our prayers were answered. A donor reached out with a 2002 Toyota Camry that we will gladly accept as a donation. God had a hand in their safe return to IHN, as well as the donation of a vehicle!

As I reflect on the progress of all of our guests, I am reminded that their successes are your successes! We are all blessed to be a part of our guests journey to stability! **As always, thank you all for ALL you do to "lift up" and support IHN! Feel the love and gratitude,**

Vicki L. Dercher, MSW, LSCSW
Executive Director—Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network

IHN Host Week Signups on bulletin board Signup Sheets for Volunteers and Food/Supply Donations

Our St. Thomas Host week serving situationally homeless families and single women will be Nov. 24 - Dec. 1. IHN guests will stay evenings and overnight here in our church, sleeping in classrooms converted to sleeping rooms. With help from our Support Congregations we will also provide all meals that week.

IHN consists of 40 congregations of many different denominations. Twelve "Host" congregations provide evening/overnight shelter and meals for families and women. The other "Support" congregations help by sending volunteers and supplies needed. At the daytime Family Center guests receive intense, one-on-one counseling, opportunities to learn financial and budgeting skills, with additional support to improve needed skills such as computer assistance, job searches and interview skills.

Volunteers interacting with guests must have completed one 2-hr training session presented by IHN trainers. IHN also asks that all trained volunteers attend

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IHN cont.

training as a refresher at least every 3 years. Other volunteers to help set up or take down St. Thomas classrooms or laundry bedding after Host weekends do not need to be trained by IHN.

Questions? Contact one of our St. Thomas coordinators: Dola McNown 913 526 3573 - dolamcnown49@gmail.com or Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018 - mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net or Connie Snider, laundry coordinator, 913 913 709 1431, conniesnider@hotmail.com

Stewardship at St. Thomas

Our 2019-2020 stewardship campaign builds toward Commitment weekend on November 2nd and 3rd. We are now just a week away. *Remember*—we go off daylight savings time (DST) during Saturday night the 2nd.

Your 2020, pledge packet has arrived and please review it in detail and prayerfully consider your role in supporting St. Thomas. What you *have done*, and *give*, has allowed our church to steadily grow, flourish, and become a Diocesan leader in new members, innovative forms of outreach and successful programs tailored to all age groups. One-tenth of all Episcopalians in Kansas who worship do so at our St. Thomas for a reason. Your generous support over time has created an environment and the monetary wherewithal to make St. Thomas a very special place. One you can be very proud of—a church that is emulated and envied by many within our Diocese and recognized by the national church for our accomplishments.

Be assured we will be financially responsible, live within our budget, and only expand our mission when revenues allow. Our goal for 2020 Pledge revenue is \$830,000, a modest increase over 2019. As you consider your pledge, remember the value associated with St. Thomas for you and yours, its impact on so many in a positive way, and for all the "genuine good" it represents. If circumstances allow, please thoughtfully consider a 5-8% increase in your pledge. Our fixed expenses have increased and to maintain our momentum we must depend upon both our growth and your continued benevolence to keep pace.

There will be Q-39 barbeque with assorted beverages after the Saturday, (Nov 2) 5:30pm service; and a single Sunday (Nov 3) 10:00am service to celebrate our renewed commitment to ensure a bright future for our St. Thomas.

We have "come" together effectively to "grow" at a steady pace and are expanding our desire to "serve." Let's hold true to our mission.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for all you do.

Your Vestry,
Bruce, Sr. Warden

Thank You to the Prayer Shawl Ministry

I was given a lovely prayer shawl made by a member of your group, Gene Wall. My husband recently passed so this shawl will be gratefully and prayerfully used. Thank you for using your talents to bring comfort to others. God Bless You—Sandy Maag

THE WEEK AHEAD

This Saturday, October 26

5:30 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM Ministry Fair-PH 1, 2, 3

This Sunday, October 27

8:45 & 10:45 Holy Communion-Nave

** Ministry Fair before & after each service in PH 1, 2, 3**

9:45 AM Children & Youth Sunday School-Educ Wing;
Choir Practice-Nave loft
5-7 PM Trunk or Treat-parking lot; BBQ Cook-Off-PH 1, 2, 3
7-9 PM Young Adult Small Grp-room TBD

Monday, October 28

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K, Rm 137
1:30 PM Staff Mtg-PH 2
5:45 PM Finance Committee mtg-Rm 137 or PH 1
6:45 PM Vestry mtg-PH 1

Tuesday, October 29

2-3 PM Walking the Mourner's Path-PH 3
2:30-7:30 Asbly reserved for Voice Lessons
7-8:30 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 3

Wednesday, October 30

10:30 AM Wednesday Study Group-Asbly
10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K, Rm 137
6:30 PM Walking the Mourner's Path-PH 3
6:45 PM Praise Band rehearsal-Nave
7:00 PM EfM-Asbly
7:30 PM Adult Choir rehearsal-Nave

Thursday, October 31

7-9 PM Classics Men's Small Grp-Asbly;
Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, November 1

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

Saturday, November 2—5:30pm service

Stewardship Saturday—Dinner after service in PH 1, 2, 3

Sunday, November 3—10:00 service (one service only) -

Stewardship Sunday—Lunch after service in Parish Hall 1, 2, 3
Parish Hayride & Hot Dog Roast-Sharp's Country Hayrides, 5-7pm

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. ****

