

The Bible Challenge 2: Connecting with your Ancestors
The youth confirmation class recently completed a unit about the Bible. They learned that the Bible is our family album, telling the stories of our ancestors, their faith/doubts, good decisions/bad mistakes. Sharing family stories is an important heritage we pass on to our children and grandchildren. It helps them develop a deeper sense of identity and how they are connected to others in the family tree. Telling the stories of our deceased family members keeps their legacies alive as it connects the generations. Connect with your biblical ancestors, learn your heritage, and find the support you need for the next stage of your life! Sign up today!

Thank You! *The outpouring of love and support following Bill's heart attack and surgery has been more than humbling. We thank you for each and every prayer, good thought, call, visit and card. Oh yes, and the meals!! What a treat for us! We want to thank the Prayer Shawl group for the warm, comforting shawls. Ours hearts are still full of prayers of thanksgiving for God's blessings and medical miracles!! We are deeply grateful. Love, Bill and Kathy Werner.*

Thank you and God bless you all for making the prayer shawl that Nancy Dotson recently sent me. I have had open heart surgery and your beautiful shawl gives me Peace, Comfort, Love, and Hope. John Long—Buckeye AZ

Luke 3:11 Project

This year for our Upper Winter ROTC project the youth will be gathering gently used or new coats, mittens, hats and other warm items (adult and child sizes) AND full size deodorants, shampoos, soap, and feminine hygiene products and other toiletries. These items will be donated both to our partner school, Comanche Elementary and to True Light Church, an inner-city ministry where we will be doing our ROTC day.

Items can be placed in the donation center (large boxes) in the St. Thomas narthex. **We will be accepting items through January 3.**

"Anyone who has two coats should share with the one who has none..."

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STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

If you have not turned in your 2020 pledge, please do so as soon as possible. The Finance Committee and Vestry must prepare a new budget by year's end. You will find cards in the nave and on the welcome desk in the narthex.

Also, please check the status of your current year's pledge. **Tuesday, Dec. 31, will be the last day that your payments will count for the 2019 tax year.** However, please make every effort to get your payments in before Christmas as the office will be closed several days and the last week of the year is very busy. THANK YOU!

children & youth news

"The BEST Christmas Pageant EVER!"
Theatre for Young America (Union Station) Family Outing
Saturday, December 21 Showtime: 2:00pm
Kick off the kids' break from school with a visit to Union Station! We will meet at Union Station (the lower level entrance on the parking garage side) to enjoy the show. Union Station is beautifully decorated for the holidays, and has many other fun things to do for your family before or after the show! Tickets are limited and can be reserved by contacting Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org or 913-909-7318, or via the online sign-up in the weekly e-news.



ADVENTURE THANK YOU!
Many thanks to everyone who joined us for our annual "ADVENTure!" It was exciting to see a great number of first time participants in our Advent Wreath making, as well as many who returned with their re-useable Advent Wreath forms! Thank you to everyone who brought ribbons & crafting items to share, food to eat, and a special "thank you" to 5th Grader Allison Phillips who assisted by leading our Prayer Beads station! Thanks to everyone for continuing to make this special tradition a St Thomas favorite!!

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VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The vestry, along with the Rector of the parish, share in the work of vision and oversight of the congregation. By canon the Vestry is to care for the building and the fiduciary matters of the congregation. At St. Thomas the vestry takes on the "big" picture items and works to move the congregation toward its mission and vision. The vestry is made up of 12 elected members. To qualify, a person must be 18 yrs of age, a communicant in good standing, regular in attendance and contributor of record for the last 12 months. Members serve for three years. They meet on the 4th Monday of each month, and in addition they help lock and unlock the church on the weekends.

This year Les Ganninger, Charlotte Brotherson, Ann Clements, and George Phillips will conclude their terms in January. If you would like to have your name put forward for nomination or would like to nominate someone, please be in contact with any of these people who comprise the nominating committee of the Vestry.

Les Ganninger: les.j.ganninger@sprint.com
Charlotte Brotherson: charlotte@yahoo.com
Ann Clements: kclements1@kc.rr.com
George Phillips: hawkdombam@gmail.com

TOWER TALK

DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2019

This Sunday:
Sunday School & Adult Forum
9:45am—Children/Youth in the Education Wing
10:00am—Adult Forum will meet in Parish Hall 2



Christmas Services at St. Thomas

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
4:00pm—The Children's Pageant and Holy Communion (childcare available)

7:00pm and 9:00pm—Holy Communion with special music by St. Thomas choirs, soloists, and organ

Christmas Day
10:00am

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"O Come All Ye Faithful" Children's Christmas Pageant 4pm Christmas Eve Service (December 24)

**Our children with speaking and dancing parts are rehearsing during the 10:45 service. Our Dress Rehearsal and Pizza Lunch for ALL participants will be held immediately following the 10:45 service on December 22 and will last until approximately 1:30pm. THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP, and we will have extra costumes available on Christmas Eve for any young guests who would like to join us in telling this beautiful story! For questions or more information, please contact Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org or 913-909-7318.

Youth Choir Rehearsals for Christmas Eve Any youth who would like to sing in the choir for the 7pm Christmas Eve service are welcome to come practice at **5pm** before youth group on **Dec. 15, 22.**

outreach * volunteer * donate

WANTED K2K MISSION TRAVELERS

Kansas 2 Kenya is gearing up now and forming teams to travel to Kenya in June 2020. Now is the time to seriously consider joining one of the two K2K teams. The Community Team will depart Kansas City on June 4 and return on June 17, and the Medical Team will depart on June 11 and return on June 24. This outreach mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas offers a unique opportunity to participate in being part of Community transforming Community as our teams reconnect with organizations and individuals we have developed relationships with over the past 12 years. Our K2K logo depicts Kansans helping Kenyans and Kenyans giving back to Kansans. Ask anyone who has made the trip in the past and all will say they returned richer than what they were able to give.

We will soon be having team meetings for those that have committed to go but also invite those who are considering the trip or are simply interested in learning more. Contact Joe Bob Lake for more information. 913-530-6366 or jlake10@kc.rr.com

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Cookies Sale

This year's Scrumptious Cookies Sale was Our Best Ever!!!


Thank you to our Youth, their parents, our clergy and director of education, all of our gracious bakers, outstanding sellers, those who put out cookies sale signs, set up and cleaned up... Thank You All! St. Thomasians are amazing!!!!

All proceeds go to Youth scholarships for Mega Camp and the summer Mission Trip.

Drum roll, please ... Scrumptious Cookies Sale grand total =\$3,108.50! Best Ever!

Thank you!
Sue Strom

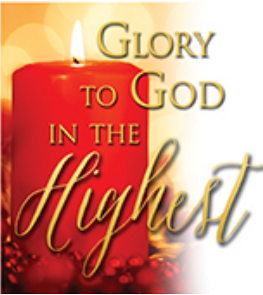
Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lynn's father, Robert Fuller—from Lynn, Dan, and Breanna Elman



INVITE/WELCOME/CONNECTION - IWC INCLUDES YOU!

Advent - is the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world. It is a time to remind us to invite those we know into our preparation for Christmas. On the welcome desk in the narthex there are Christmas Invite cards that you can use to invite someone to church. You don't have to wait until Christmas—include them in our Advent too.

Think about what St. Thomas means to you and be willing to share that with others as we make ready for the Christmas season.
- Invite/Welcome/Connect Team -



Christmas offering

If you wish to have your name included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletins, please return the envelope found in your bulletin by Sunday, December 22. On the envelope list the names of those you wish honored or the blessing(s) you wish to name, along with your donation inside (any amount).

Your gifts will help provide festive music AND beautiful flowers at the altar during Christmas. Flowers and greens are designed and provided by the flower guild in our parish, and special music for Christmas Eve services will feature carols and anthems.

Notes on the Notes—Dr. Beth Elswick, Dir. of Music Ministry

The Children's Chapel Choir is singing a favorite Advent song, Hey, Hey, Anybody Listening? by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh found in the collection, Hymns Hot and Carols Cool. The children enjoy making the sounds of the different rhythm instruments, but most entertaining is the conclusion of the song. The final cadence chord is a V or dominant chord, creating what is known as a half cadence. The listener is left waiting for a final tonic chord, and it never happens. The musical metaphor is clear. We are waiting for Christ. Is anybody listening?

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Tower Talk articles are due by NOON every MONDAY and will run 2 weeks. Send to Meribeth mrisebig@stthomasop.org or call 451-0512.

THE WEEK AHEAD

This Saturday, December 14

- 1-4 PM God & Games Small Grp-Sullivan home
- 5:30 PM Holy Communion
- 6-10 PM Parents Night Out-Educ Wing
- 6:30 PM Second Saturday reception-PH 1

This Sunday, December 15

- 8:45 AM Holy Communion
- 9:45 AM Sunday School for Children & Youth-Educ Wing, LL
- 10:00 AM Adult Forum-PH 2
- 10:45 AM Holy Communion; Christmas Pageant reh-Asbly
- 5-6 PM Youth Musicians reh for Christmas Eve-Nave
- 6-8 PM Youth Group Holiday Christmas Party-PH 1, 2,3, K

Coffee Hours after each service in PH 1

Monday, December 16

- 10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
- 11:30-2:30 Staff Mtg-PH 2
- 6:30 PM Westmont Neighborhood Mtg-Asbly

Tuesday, December 17

- 2:30-7PM Asbly reserved for voice lessons
- 7-8 PM Contemplative Prayer Small Grp-Nave
- Sword Guild-PH 2

Wednesday, December 18

- 9:30 AM Coffee Small Grp-Rm 137
- 10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
- 6:45, 7:30 Choir rehearsals-Nave
- 7:00 PM EfM-Asbly

Thursday, December 19

- 7-8:30 PM Classics Men's Small Grp-Asbly;
- Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, December 20

- 10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
- 7-10 PM PH 1 reserved for SCA party

Saturday, December 21

- 10-12 Prayer Shawl Small Grp-pH 1
- 1-4 PM PH 1 reserved for AA Fellowship Holiday Dinner
- 5:30 PM Holy Communion
- 6:30-7:30 Laughter Yoga Workshop-PH 1

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.

** To hold a meeting or event at St. Thomas you must first clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office. **

