

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.*

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 from December 1 through January 3.

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

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

*In thanksgiving for our wonderful
family and great friends—Blair &
Jean Adam*



children & youth 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!!

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. 8, 15, 22.

Calling all children ages 3 through 5th grade...

WE WANT YOU in our CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!
to be shared at our 4pm Family Christmas Eve Service

We always have PLENTY of spots for our kids and Christmas Eve guests in the Pageant - from our little sheep and angels, to shepherds and wise-men! Our "Dancing Angels" will begin practicing THIS SUNDAY during the 10:45 service. If your child is interested, please sign up online or on the Education Wing Bulletin Board for the type of part he/she would like to have. Opportunities to practice for our older students in speaking roles are during the 10:45 service (encouraged, but not required). We will have a dress rehearsal/pizza party for all participants following the 10:45 service on December 22. For questions or more information, please contact Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org.

Theatre for Young America (Union Station) Family Outing "The BEST Christmas Pageant EVER!"

Saturday, December 21 Showtime: 2:00pm

Calling all St. Thomas Families! Kick off the kids' winter Holiday Break by joining us for an outing to the Theatre for Young America at Union Station to see the production of "The BEST Christmas Pageant EVER!" Our group tickets are only \$6 each and are limited, so please sign up as early as you can to ensure your spot! The runtime of the show is approximately 1 hour, so there's plenty of time for additional family fun at the Station, if you wish. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Education Wing or online. Contact Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org for more information!



Celebrating our Children & Youth

Congratulations to:

Emily Lyon who will be performing in "Peter and the Starcatcher" at the Missouri State Thespian Conference! Break a leg!

TOWER TALK

DECEMBER 7 & 8, 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

Parents Night Out is BACK!!

Saturday, December 14, from 6-10pm

"Cocoa with 'Coco'"

Let our amazing youth (supervised by Mother Kelly, Ms. Barbara) take the kiddos for the evening while you enjoy some grownup time or get that holiday shopping done! We'll have games, crafts, a story, and a special hot cocoa treat as we watch the Disney movie "Coco." Kids are welcome to wear their PJ's and bring a blanket or cuddly item to help with bedtime when you get home! All are welcome, so tell your friends/neighbors to send their kiddos, too! Suggested Donation: \$20/child

All donations support the youth present and working to attend their summer camps, and their travel expenses to the 2020 Mission Trip to Los Angeles in July.

IT'S TIME FOR 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: klements1@kc.rr.com
George Phillips: hawkdocmba@gmail.com

outreach * volunteer * donate

St. Thomas hosted guests from JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network the week of Thanksgiving. That means the situationally homeless families and single women served by IHN stayed at St. Thomas during the evenings and slept in classrooms converted to sleeping rooms. We do this for one week approximately 4 times a year.

It "takes a village" to do this ministry so we want to thank everyone:

A "huge" group of energetic STA youth who helped with Set Up- it went fast!

Koppenhaver family- Simon & Elliott are young boys and dad, Chris, guided them in their work. They were a great help with Set up and Take Down.

Our Generous STA Members- who provide food & supplies for the week.

Our Dedicated Volunteers- We want to thank all the volunteers.

35 STA Volunteers, **in addition to** the Youth
16 Volunteers from Church of Jesus Christ (LDS)
6 Volunteers from First Christian Church of Olathe
5 Volunteers from Overland Park First Assembly of God Church

Please pray for the work of IHN and for the guests we serve as they move on to another IHN Host church.

IHN Stats as of Thanksgiving, Nov. 28: 50,262 Bed nights; 150,786 Meals; 734 individuals of which 427 were children and 71 were single women with no children

WANT MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE PART OF OUR MINISTRY?

Contact- Dola McNown 913 526 3573 dolamcnown49@gmail.com or Margaret Walkenshaw 913 302 2018 mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net

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

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 -



Your gifts will help provide festive music AND beautiful flowers at the altar during Christmas. No need to designate—your donation will be used where needed. 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.

If you wish to have your name included on a special insert in the Christmas bulletins, please return the envelope found in your bulletin before Friday, December 20. On the envelope, note either flowers or music or both, and list the names of those you wish honored or the blessing(s) you wish to name, along with your donation inside (any amount).

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

To Carol is to dance—a circle dance. Listen to the dance rhythms of *Comfort, comfort ye, my people*. Many of our Advent and Christmas songs have origins in carols. Listen to the dance rhythms. We have great stories to tell.

Comfort, Comfort ye my people is a paraphrase of Isaiah 40. The composer, Claude Goudimel (1514-1572) set the music to the rhythm of the text. The modern version in our hymnal shows bar lines, but the music was actually composed prior to the modern idea time signatures. Hence, the music totally centers on the poetry. Often the stresses are 3 beats, 3 beats, 2 beats, 2 beats, 2 beats. The pattern 3+3+2+2+2 is a frequent rhythmic scheme in the hymn. This pattern is found in Renaissance dance music. Not surprisingly, the song works wonderfully well when sung at a faster pace with more modern harmonies as it appears in the praise service setting. The rhythms that are not set in a standard 4/4 meter are fun for the band. Jazz and rock music often include rhythmic surprises. Historically, these early rhythmic patterns facilitated the dance craze of the Baroque period and led to the use of bar lines—----a most important development in Western Art Music. Remember *to carol is to dance*.

• • •

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 7

9AM-4pM Holiday Cookie Sale-PH 1, 2
1-2:30 PM Girl Scout badge mtg-PH 3
5:30 PM Holy Communion

This Sunday, December 8

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 Field Trip

Monday, December 9

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
1:30 PM Staff Mtg-PH 2
6:30 PM Journeymen-Asbly
7:00 PM IHN Coordinator mtg-PH 3

Tuesday, December 10

2:30-7PM Asbly reserved for voice lessons
4:30-9PM Solos Dining Out-PH 1
7-8 PM Sword Guild-PH 2

Wednesday, December 11

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K
10:30 AM Wednesday Study Grp-Asbly
5:30 PM Girl Scout mtg-Asbly
6:45, 7:30 Choir rehearsals-Nave
7:00 PM EfM-Asbly; Science Small Grp-Rm 137

Thursday, December 12

7-8:30 PM Sword Guild practice-PH 2

Friday, December 13

10:30-1:30 Thom's Helpers-PH 1, K

Saturday, December 14

1-3 PM Pinehurst HOA annual mtg-PH 1, 2
1-4 PM God & Games Small Grp-Sullivan home
5:30 PM Holy Communion
6-10 PM Parents Night Out-Educ Wing, Nursery
6:30 PM Second Saturday reception-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. ****

"Coffee Hours"
after each
service in PH 1

