

Children & Youth



Children's Church is offered as an option for our children during both Sunday Services. Children's Church is a time of story, prayers, movement and song open to all children but with programming geared towards ages 3-8 (older children may join as "helpers" if they wish). Children are "invited to follow the cross to Children's Church" right before the first reading and return to their families at the

Passing of the Peace. Children are welcomed, but never required, to join us for Children's Church.

**Due to the ongoing pandemic, we ask that children over the age of 2 attending Children's Church wear masks.*

"Return to the Circle" Sunday Morning Children's Formation/"Sunday School"

RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

(9:45—10:45am)

The excitement is building as our Sunday School team prepares to welcome back our children THIS SUNDAY! Parents - if you have not done so already - please help us welcome your child by clicking the QR Code.



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ADULT YOUTH GROUP

Why should kids have all the fun? We want to invite all parents of kids in grades 6-12 for a chance to gather and have a good time together. On **Thursday, Sep. 16, at 6:30pm** we'll gather at the outdoor dining area of Burg and Barrel at the 75th and Metcalf shopping center. Come get to know each other better and kvetch about your kids. You'll be glad you did.

Congratulations to Children & Youth

With school starting back up we know those kiddos are up to GREAT THINGS! We want to hear and celebrate with them!

- ❖ Simon and Elliot Koppenhaver trained and participated in "Georgia's Chicken Run" at the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead where Simon came in 2nd in the 7-8 Year Olds division and Elliot won first place in the 6 Year Olds division! Running is a special way the boys connect with their Grandpa Ron (Koppenhaver) who was a runner and went to Heaven before the boys were born. What a special and impressive way to honor your Grandpa, boys! Well done!

So, please brag away! Email any special news about your child or youth to Barbara—bmccall@stthomasop.org or Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org so that we may add it to our newsletters!

Worship Service Information

Sat, 5:30pm, Sun, 8:45am, 11:00am—Holy Communion in Nave
Masks required for all indoor services.

The 5:30 and 11:00 services will be live-streamed and available to watch afterward on both YouTube and Facebook.

www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Visit our website <https://stthomasop.org> for service information for the weekend services. To watch services LIVE click here:
<https://stthomasop.org/livestream/>

2nd Saturday Reception this Saturday!

Get together after the 5:30 Saturday service—meet new members, reconnect. Bring a snack to share and we'll provide the beverages. We will meet in the Parish Hall 1. Everyone is welcome!

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Mental Illness Education—Are you supporting a person with a mental health challenge? If so, you may find yourself feeling overwhelmed, frustrated and alone. Pathway to Hope, a JOCO non-profit organization serving families dealing with mental illness, offers an eight-week course that can provide the help you need while connecting you with others experiencing the same struggles.

E3: Encourage, Empower, Educate class is taught by trained volunteers who have personally cared for someone with a mental illness. It is conducted in an atmosphere of confidentiality. Each session will focus on a different mental health diagnosis and will include information about treatment, techniques for handling real-life situations, and strategies to help caregivers manage their responses to the illness.

The next course will be offered in person (masks required) at St Thomas beginning October 4 and ending November 23. The class will meet each Tues evening from 7 to 9pm. For more info and to register, go to <https://pathwaytohope.org>

Questions? Contact Tracie Glasscock, Course Facilitator:
tglasscock26@gmail.com or 913 275-9291

Financial Peace Classes offered

9-week virtual classes starting Sunday, September 12, 2pm

- ◆ Has the past year given you a clearer vision of your financial dream?
- ◆ Are you looking to start pursuing financial goals?
- ◆ Do you have worries about money and want to work on letting them go?
- ◆ Would you like to save money, get out of debt, and give more?
- ◆ Do you want to follow a proven way to help you manage your finances?
- ◆ Do you want support from others in your journey?

If you said yes to one or more of these questions, please join Financial Peace University facilitated by Jason and Holly Perez. 913-345-9829

TOWER TALK

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2021

This Sunday is RALLY DAY— Our annual fall program kickoff!!

Christian Education groups will meet from 9:45-10:45am between services in the following locations:

Godly Play/Godly Exploration - ages PreK-8th Grades - outdoor altar area (or Parish Hall in case of inclement weather)

"The Giving Project" - High School - Basement Assembly Room

Adult Formation - Assembly Room (or Parish Hall)



Celebration to follow the Education Hour and 11am Service!

- * The Taco Republic food truck will be here between 11am-1pm. They will offer four kinds of tacos, guac, chips, salsa, and a variety of Mexican soft drinks, margaritas and beers. We'll also have plenty of tea and water on hand.
- ** We will be accepting donations to cover food & drink. No payments will be made at the truck.

This Sunday, September 12 from 1-3pm

- St. Thomas will host another Covid vaccine clinic in the Parish Hall. Pfizer 1st, 2nd or 3rd dose
- 3rd dose w/confirmation of need due to compromised immune system)
- Gift Cards for all receiving a shot (while supplies last)
- No registration required! All are welcome!



Please spread the word to others!



Saturday, Sept 11: Comanche Food Pantry, 11:30-2; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Sunday, Sept 12: Holy Communion, 8:45am; Online Worship, 9am; 9:45am: Children & Youth Sunday School (Outdoor Altar or PH and Bsmt Asbly Rm) and Adult Formation (Asbly); Holy Communion, 11:00am Nave; Taco Truck Outdoors; Vaccine Clinic PH, 1-3pm; Youth Group, 6-8pm PH, K

Monday, Sept 13: Organ practice, 10-11am Nave; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH & K; AA, 6:30pm LL; IHN PC mtg, 7pm PH 1

Tuesday, Sept 14: PEO mtg (Roller), 10am PH 2; Organ practice, 10am Nave; Sword Guild practice, 7pm PH 2

Wednesday, Sept 15: Coffee Sm Grp, 9:30am PH 3; Organ practice, 10-11am; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am Asbly; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH & K; Staff mtg, 1:30pm Lobby; Music recording TBA, 5:30pm Nave; Pinehurst Estates HOA mtg, 6-8pm PH 1; Praise Band practice, 6:45pm Nave; Adult Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship-7:30pm LL

Thursday, Sept 16: Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45-11am, Online; Organ practice, 10-11am; Explorer's Sm Grp, 7-8pm PH 2; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7-8pm PH 1; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Sept 17: Organ practice, 10-11am; Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH & Kitchen; SCA, 7pm PH 1; AA, 8pm LL

Saturday, Sept 18: Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10am PH 1; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Upcoming Events:

Blessing of the Pets - Sunday, October 3, 5pm (Outdoor Altar)

Trunk or Treat—Sunday October 31, 2-4pm (pkg lot)

All Parish Hayride & Hot Dog Roast - Sunday, November 7,

Church office hours: Mon—Thurs 9am to 4pm; Fri 9am to 12

PLEASE SCHEDULE ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS with Meribeth in the church office to eliminate scheduling conflicts. If you decide NOT to meet at the church let her know that as well. 913-451-0512 or email mrisebig@stthomasop.org.

Articles for Tower Talk are due by NOON every Monday. Articles will run for two weeks unless notified otherwise. Send info and articles to mrisebig@stthomasop.org, or call 913-451-0512.

Outreach at St. Thomas

JoCo IHN Host Week Update & Training Information

JoCo IHN, a community response to homelessness, was founded in 2004 and serves homeless families and single women here in Johnson County. Two families left the network last week and current guests are a single woman and a family consisting of mother and daughter. JoCo IHN desk is staffed 365 days a year to receive calls from those seeking assistance.

This unique program serves a small number of guests, but since 2004 has literally touched the lives of hundreds of our homeless neighbors. Guests are sheltered in "Host" churches during evenings and overnight. Trained volunteers from a network of congregations provide meals and compassionate care at the overnight "Host" churches.

At the daytime Family Center, guests receive one-on-one social services, counseling, assistance in budgeting, finding stable employment if they are not already working and assistance in finding permanent housing as they reach their goals. Showers, laundry, computers, phones and a kitchen are all provided at the Family Center. Schools send buses to the Family Center to pick up the guest children so they can attend the school they attended before needing a shelter.

JoCo IHN's ultimate goal is to offer assistance as the guests work to regain their financial independence. We all share that common goal and everything we provide or do is done with respect and kindness.

CURRENT NEEDS- Our St. Thomas Host Week will be Sept 19-26.

- Trained Volunteers Needed - See Volunteer signup sheet in Narthex
- Food & Supplies Needed - See food signup in Narthex

WANT TO BECOME A JoCo IHN TRAINED VOLUNTEER?

Attend the Next Training at St. Thomas Episcopal, Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:30-8:30pm. Attendees Must Be On Time and Remain Until End of Session To Be Considered "Trained".

Questions about JoCo IHN? Contact one of our coordinators: Dola McNown dolamcnown49@gmail.com 913 526 3573 or 913 541 9226; Margaret Walkenshaw mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net 913 302 2018 or 913 897 4766; Connie Snider, laundry coordinator, at conniesnider@hotmail.com 913 709 1431.

IHN Auction Information

This message is being sent to all congregations that are involved with Interfaith Hospitality Network. We hope that all of our compassionate volunteers are doing well. This is a reminder that our Annual Auction is coming right up! The Auction is the fundraiser which provides much of the operating monies that run the homeless program throughout the year.

The 2021 Auction will be virtual again this year, partly because of current health concerns and partly because the auction did so well in the virtual format last year! **The Auction will be held on Thursday, September 30. The Silent Auction opens on September 24.**

The members of the Auction Planning Committee have been working feverishly to plan the best event ever and to procure the most amazing

Outreach, continued

auction items to be bid upon. We look forward to all congregations being involved to ensure the success of the 2021 Annual Auction.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Walkenshaw at 913.897.4766

Thank You! from American Red Cross

Here are the results from the Blood Drive held at St. Thomas on August 24, 2021:

33 Total Number of Donors	4 First Time Donors!
31 Units Collected	93 Potential Number of Lives Saved

When you make the decision to give blood, you help change lives!

The next drive at St. Thomas will be Tuesday, September 21, 10:00-3:00. Call 1-800-Red cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StThomasEpiscopal to schedule an appointment. When you make the decision to give blood, you help change lives!

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Walking the Mourner's Path Memorial for Kay Childress

—During the past decade Kay Childress supported many members of St. Thomas in their personal grief journey. She was an original facilitator of Walking the Mourner's Path at St. Thomas. Kay comforted with kindness, wisdom, and her bright encouraging smile. Her Walking the Mourning Path partners in this ministry are grateful for her guidance and friendship. With gratitude for Kay and in her memory, we create The Walking the Mourner's Path Memorial for Kay Childress. Memorial donations will be used to purchase materials for this ministry.

Please consider a donation to the Walking the Mourner's Path Memorial for Kay Childress. Checks should be written to St. Thomas with "WMP Kay Childress" in the memo line. Thank you.

Sue Elliot, Lynn Elman, Debbie Lang, and Heather Sommer

Invitation To Serve

—As St. Thomas continues to open up and return to "normal", we find ourselves in need of additional Altar Guild members. This is a wonderful and fulfilling opportunity to serve the community by preparing the altar before each service. No previous experience needed, training is minimal and the schedule can be flexible. Please give this request some prayerful consideration...the more members we have the fewer times you will be scheduled to serve.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please call or email me. I hope to hear from you.

Becky Laney—bw.laney@att.net or 816 365-0731