

Children & Youth

Join us for the
ALL-PARISH HAYRIDE!

Sunday, November 7
5:30-8pm

Sharp's Country Hayrides
20915 Mission Rd, Bucyrus, KS



Join us for an evening of outdoor food and fellowship at Sharp's Farm. We'll enjoy hot dogs, chips and s'mores, outdoor games for the kids, fellowship and a twilight horse-drawn wagon ride around the grounds at the return of this St. Thomas favorite Fall event! Cost is \$8 per person (max. \$35 for family/group of 5 or more) and covers food, cost of the hayride and support for the staff that sets up the area and campfire for us.

Sign up and payment are available online via Breeze:
<https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/094e89>

For questions or more information, please contact
Barbara McCall at bmccall@stthomasop.org

You can also Scan the QR code to register.



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.

Congratulations to Children & Youth

We know your kiddos are up to GREAT THINGS! We want to hear and celebrate with them!

**** SADIE BARNES has recently found a love of horseback riding, and is doing very well in her lessons! ****

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!

Stewardship 2022

When Robin and I moved to Overland Park in 2015, we worried about leaving our church family in Iowa City. St. Thomas the Apostle checked all the boxes that were important for our family: strong youth and Christian formation programs; active music and adult formation opportunities; and a welcoming congregation eager to engage with the community at-large. We are proud of our membership in such an active parish, and we have welcomed opportunities to give of our time, talent and treasure in support of many ministries.

And then, there was 2020-2021...

The past 18 months have been a time of change for our family. We sent our son, Carter, off to college this fall, and our daughters Kelsey and Allison are becoming more independent each day. Both Robin and I entered a new decade of life, and we are not immune to the change in life course perspective that comes with time. And then there was a little thing called the COVID-19 pandemic... Everyone has faced their own challenges during the days of COVID, but my own experiences and perceptions of community and society have been a struggle to reconcile as a physician, adding to my own questions of career, service, and calling.

So, when Bruce Henricks asked me to write a note about stewardship for Tower Talk, I encountered some difficulty in composing a message that might better capture the "why" of stewardship for me. In hopes of jump starting my writing efforts, I went to the Episcopal Church webpage on stewardship, and there was the perfect sentence:

"It's [stewardship] about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity."

I read this and immediately thought of the Gospel story of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44). Jesus was observing individuals placing money into the Temple offering, and while many rich people gave large contributions, the poor widow placed two small coins – all that she had – into the collection. There are multiple interpretations of this story, but for me it highlights what the Episcopal Church website noted as the perspective of abundance. Certainly, the widow did not give from a state of financial wealth. However, she may very well have experienced God's Kingdom as abundant, and her contribution, even if meager at best, supported a community where she and others could draw support from relationships.

The relationships I have in our St. Thomas community have sustained me through the challenges of the last 18 months. And while it is easy to see so many things as "lacking" in today's world, I feel fortunate to be reminded of the abundance of gifts that come from God. So many of those gifts are evident in the contributions you make to support our parish as we carry out the work of God's Kingdom.

For this year's Stewardship Campaign I will prayerfully use a lens of abundance to focus on contributions of time, talent, and treasure to foster our church community, build and sustain relationships, and continue to do the work God calls us to do. Will you join me in this act of community, relationship, and service?

Peace,
George Phillips - Senior Warden

TOWER TALK

OCTOBER 16 & 17, 2021

This Sunday's Christian Education

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

Godly Play/Godly Exploration - ages PreK-8th Grades - will meet **IN THE PARISH HALL** this Sunday as our activities will not do well in the wind. Masks are required.

"The Giving Project" - High School - Basement Assembly Room
Adult Formation - Assembly Room (or Parish Hall)

Worship Services

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



Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and...

In memory of Thomas J. and Catherine McCormick—from Cathy McCormick

TRUNK or TREAT

October 31 from 2-4pm
St Thomas parking lot

Free! Allergy friendly treats too!
All are welcome.



Volunteer * Connect * Learn

JoCo IHN Volunteer Training at St Thomas

Would you like to be part of the St. Thomas ministry that serves the homeless in our community? That ministry is called Jo Co IHN. In order to share your caring and compassion with our less fortunate neighbors, you only need one two-hour session of training. St. Thomas is providing a training on **Wednesday, October 27**; training begins at 6:30 and ends at 8:30pm in Parish Hall 2 here at St. Thomas. Attendees must be on time and remain until the end of the session to be considered "trained". If you have questions or would like to attend please email or text Margaret Walkenshaw (897-4766) or mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net. Our IHN guests would certainly benefit from your care and concern. Help us spread our St. Thomas brand of kindness!

Thanksgiving in Action

St. Thomas will be joining with First Christian Church in Olathe and other community faith partners, local businesses, and organizations in providing groceries for a Thanksgiving meal for the food insecure in Olathe. Grocery items will be collected during October and part of November then distributed to the community on Thursday, November 18, at the Food Pantry at First Christian Church.

Here's how you can help:

1. We have boxes located in the Narthex. Select a box, take it home and fill it with items listed on the grocery list attached to the box.
2. Drop off your filled box between 9am-1pm directly to First Christian Church, Olathe on any of the following days:

**November 8 ♦ November 9 ♦ November 10
November 11 ♦ November 15 ♦ November 16**

(Note: The church address will be indicated on your grocery list)

In addition to the groceries that we will be providing, each family will receive a frozen turkey, frozen container of whipped topping, and a package of dinner rolls. Last year this ministry provided meals for 99 families that included about 450 people. By all of us joining together, we hope to support many more this year as we share Christ's love by putting faith, with thanksgiving, into action.

Save these Dates! Invite/Welcome/Connect

IWC will host an all parish Ministry Fair after each of the services on **November 13 & 14** to showcase all of the ministries offered at St. Thomas. The Ministry Fair will be a good reminder for all of us the ways in which we can 'Come, Grow & Serve.'

The next Newcomer lunch will be on **Sunday, November 21, at 12pm** in Parish Hall 1. All new members and visitors are welcome to come and learn more about St. Thomas and meet St. Thomas leadership and other new members.

Jean Adam - IWC Team 913-530-9097

Join a Choir!

Singing is fun! Supporting worship is important!

Join the Praise Band. We rehearse at 6:30pm every Wednesday. We have a quick warm up every Sunday before the 8:45am service.

OR Join the Traditional Choir. We rehearse at 7:30pm every Wednesday. We have a quick warm up every Sunday before the 11am service.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Beth Elswick, Director of Music at 816-392-7906 or belswick@stthomasop.org



Kansas 2 Kenya Update

We are happy to report that a return to our K2K Annual Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2022, at St Thomas. Due to COVID this fundraiser has been cancelled in 2020 and 2021 which has resulted in our inability to provide financial assistance to our longstanding relationships in Kenya who need our help. We are excited to report that Bishop Cathleen will be attending the event. We will provide additional details about the fundraiser as the event gets closer. Because Nyakio and I have been in Kenya much of the time during COVID we have visited our K2K partners there and delivered messages of support and best wishes from K2K, the Diocese of Kansas and St. Thomas Parish.

St Thomas has been especially supportive of Agatha Amani House, the shelter for women who are victims of sexual or domestic violence that Nyakio founded in 2013. Thanks to the quick response and generous hearts of St Thomas parishioners, the survivors received much needed diapers for their babies. St. Thomas Outreach members organized the collection effort and we can't say enough thanks for their time and determination to mobilize the drive to collect the diapers. Mothers at the shelter were grateful beyond imagination for the gifts and we wish you could have seen the smiles when they received the diapers. The babies can't talk yet but we know they have "happy bottoms" for certain! There are 13 survivors and 12 babies along with two staff members and a volunteer residing at Agatha Amani House currently. We are over capacity for our present facility but we are making due and squeezing in new survivors as we are able. Fortunately we have been able to acquire 1.7 acres of land adjoining our compound and are making plans for expansion as soon as possible. Nyakio plans to return home on December 9 so we will get an update.

Now is a good time to think about joining one of the 2022 Mission Teams. Let me know if you have questions or interest in going.

Peace, Joe Bob Lake

Thank You

Thank you very much St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church for the meaningful and joyful celebration of the life of Linda Baguyos, for your sympathy, love and care for us in our time of sorrow and grief.

*Yours in Christ,
Linda Baguyos Family*



Saturday, Oct 16: Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10-12 PH 1; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Sunday, Oct 17: Holy Communion, 8:45am, 11:00am Nave; 9:45am: Children & Youth Sunday School (Outdoor Altar or PH and Bsmt Asbly Rm) and Adult Formation (Asbly); Youth Grp, 6-8pm PH, K

Monday, Oct 18: Organ practice, 10-11am Nave; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH, K; AA Fellowship, 6:30pm LL

Tuesday, Oct 19: Organ practice, 10am Nave; PEO mtg, 10am PH 2; Sword Guild practice, 7pm PH 2; Book Club, 7pm PH 1; Contemplative Prayer Sm Grp, 7pm Nave

Wednesday, Oct 20: Coffee Sm Grp, 9:30am PH 3; Organ practice, 10-11am; Wednesday Study Grp, 10:30am Zoom; Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH & K; Staff mtg, 1:30pm Lobby; Pinehurst Estates HOA mtg, 6-8pm PH 1; Praise Band, 6:45pm Nave; Adult Choir, 7:30pm Nave; AA Fellowship-7:30pm LL

Thursday, Oct 21: Old Testament Bible Study, 9:45-11am, Zoom; Organ practice, 10-11am; Explorers Sm Grp, 7pm PH 2; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Oct 22: Organ practice, 10-11am; Thom's Helpers, 10:30-1:30 PH & Kitchen; AA Fellowship, 8pm LL

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

PLEASE SCHEDULE ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS with Meribeth in the church office to eliminate scheduling conflicts. If your recurring mtg will NOT 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.

St. Thomas Ladies Painting Night

**SAVE THE DATE!!
Tuesday, November 30
6:30-9pm in the Parish Hall**



While the pandemic may keep us away from our beloved Women's Retreat once again, we are excited to invite all of our St. Thomas women to a fun evening among friends right here at the church! We'll enjoy refreshments and each other's company as we are guided through a painting by an artist from Pinot's Palette in Leawood. Cost is \$35/person and includes all of your supplies, refreshments, and the painting that you will take home at the end of the evening. Make plans to join us and be on the lookout for a sign up in Breeze the first weekend in November!