

Children & Youth

HELP WANTED - Godly Play Door Keepers

Have you ever wondered what Godly Play / Godly Explorations in our Children's Sunday programming is all about? Well, here's your chance to find out! We are looking for individuals interested in serving at least 2 Sundays per month as "Door Keepers" in our 3 classrooms during the Christian Education Hour from 9:30 to 10:30am. The Door Keeper is the first face to greet a child as they come to the "circle" each week. Our "Door Keepers" greet the children with excitement, ask about their week, enjoy their stories and help them "get ready" to come to the circle for the weekly story/activity. During the story and activity our Door Keepers help to minimize outside distractions, help supervise restroom breaks (from the hallway), offer extra care to children in need of a little TLC, and assist as children engage in their "work" on the weekly story.

These individuals enjoy time with children and feel a call to be a positive role model in their spiritual lives. Some enjoy it so much they choose to move on to the role of "Storyteller!" There is no preparation time for this role, though individuals are required to receive or maintain their Safe Church training certificates (which can be done through a self-paced, online system). Connect with Barbara McCall (bmccall@stthomasop.org) to learn more!

Celebrating Children & Youth!

Keep 'em coming, friends! Email any special news about your child to Barbara—bmccall@stthomasop.org or Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org so that we may add it to our feature in Tower Talk and each month's Children & Families Newsletter!

Contact Us

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
12251 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213

913-451-0512

email address: stthomas@stthomasop.org

Visit us on the web: www.stthomasop.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stthomasop

YouTube page: www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop

Christian Education

The Apocrypha? What Is It?

The Old Testament apocrypha are those little-known (but not banned) books accepted as canon by Catholic and Orthodox churches, but not by most Protestant churches. Susan Strom and Sheryl Roller will oversee a study of *Invitation to the Apocrypha* by Daniel J. Harrington, S.J. (available on Amazon). Participants will also need a copy of the Apocrypha. A planning meeting is set for 10:00am on Thursday, September 8. Thereafter, the class will meet Thursdays on Zoom from 9:45-11:15.

We will be learning about Tobit and his tragedies; how God used Judith to save Israel; some astounding stories excluded from Daniel; and more! This will be a fascinating study of an unusual topic. Discussion leadership will be shared. Call Sue 913-244-6402 or Sheryl 913-908-4130 to sign up or if you have questions.

Do you have a special passion you would love to share with others? Are you hungry to connect... especially after three years of masks, social distancing and the cursed zoom meetings? Please consider joining or STARTING a small group here at St. Thomas. Small groups are a great way to connect with others who have shared interests or in a similar place in life. Some of our current small groups include:

Prayer shawl (knitting/crocheting/weaving) small group

Classics men's group (for retired men)

Contemplative Prayer

Young Adults

Faith Club

Solos Dining Out (singles who gather for dinner together)

If you are interested in joining one of these groups OR you might be interested in starting a small group please talk to Mthr. Kelly.

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

In memory of Steve Perkins—twin of Dan, husband of Laura, and father of twin boys, Will and Alex—from Philip Staley



TOWER TALK

August 20 & 21, 2022

Our Worship Services this Weekend



Saturday, 5:30pm
Sunday, 8:45 and 11:00am

Children's Chapel (for children ages 3-10) is offered during the "Liturgy of the Word" at both services.

Nursery Care is available for children ages 6 months through 4 years from 8:30am until after the 11:00 service.

All services are live-streamed and available to watch afterward:

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

Sunday Christian Education

Children/Youth are on their Summer Break as we prepare for the start of the 2022-23 program year. Classes will resume on Sunday, September 11. Children's Chapel will continue to be offered during both Sunday services on a weekly basis.

Adult Forum is also on Summer Break and classes will resume on September 11.

Music Programs Begin Wednesday, September 7

If you like to sing and can learn new music please join one or both of our music groups! If you have any questions, contact Dr. Beth Elswick, 913-742-8758 or belswick@stthomasop.org.



Praise Band Rehearsal—6:30pm in the Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal—7:30pm in the Choir Loft in Sanctuary



Saturday, Aug 20: Prayer Shawl Sm Grp, 10-12 PH 1; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Nave

Sunday, Aug 21:
Holy Communion 8:45 &
11:00am Nave; Coffee Hours after each service in PH 1; Youth Group, 6-8 PH 1, 2, K

Monday, Aug 22: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH 1; Finance Committee, 5:45pm; AA Fellowship, 6:30pm LL; Vestry mtg, 6:45pm PH 1 or online

Tuesday, Aug 23: Blood Drive, 10am-3pm PH 1, 2, 3; Sword Guild practice, 7-9pm PH 2

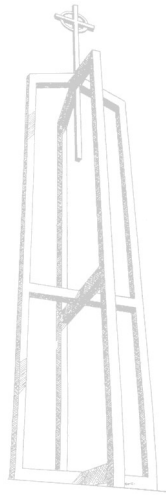
Wednesday, Aug 24: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH 1 Kitchen; Staff mtg, 1:30pm Lobby or PH 1; AA Fellowship, 7:30 LL

Thursday, Aug 25: Mental Health Awareness mtg, 7pm PH 1; Classics Men's Sm Grp, 7pm PH 2; Young Adult Sm Grp, 7pm PH 1; Sword Guild, 7pm PH 3; Al-Anon Family Grp, 7pm LL

Friday, Aug 26: Thom's Helpers, 10:30am-1:30pm PH 1, K; AA Fellowship, 8pm LL

Church office hours: Mon— Thurs 9am to 5pm;
Fri. 9am to Noon

All meetings and events must be cleared with Meribeth in the church office. risebig@stthomasop.org or 913-451-0512.



Future Dates at St. Thomas:

Sunday School and Adult Formation will take a break in August through September 11.

- Sept 7 Music rehearsals begin
- Sept 11 Back to Sunday School/Adult Formation
- Sept 25 Newcomer Lunch, Noon
- Oct 2 Blessing of Animals, 4pm
- Oct. 29/30 Ministry Fair
- Oct 30 Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook-Off, 5-7pm
- Nov. 4/5 Women's Retreat
- Nov. 5/6 Stewardship & All Saints Weekend
- Dec. 3 Annual Cookie Sale

Outreach

Blood Drive at St. Thomas—Tues, August 23, 10am-3pm

As a thank-you, all who come to give Aug. 1-31 will be automatically entered for a chance to win gas for a year, a \$6,000 value. There will be three lucky winners. Everyone who comes to give blood or platelets in August will also receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Full details and terms: rcblood.org/fuel.


1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter StThomasEpiscopal to schedule an appt.



Update on Afghan Families Ministry Calling Potential English Tutors

Join the St. Thomas ELL Team (English Language Learning), providing instruction to our Afghan families in their homes. Help our friends increase their English vocabulary and comprehension while growing your own appreciation of another culture. Training, lesson plans and enthusiastic partners provided.

Want to know more? Contact Susan Carman at smcarm@aol.com or Laura Bond at royaljay@aol.com.

 **Getting to Know You**—Please check out the table trifold display with pictures of our two families! Thanks to Steve and Tracie Glasscock and Steve and Becky Rimmer, we have names and faces!

All are invited to the Annual K2K Charity Golf Tournament to support Agatha Amani House

Grab a foursome or come ready to be paired in fours and enjoy a 9-hole scramble with cash bar and prizes. Sunday, October 2, 4 pm, at Falcon Valley Golf Course in Lenexa. All ages and skill level are welcome to join.

Entry fee is \$100 per individual or \$400 per 4-person team.

- * Mulligans will be available for \$5 each
 - * Arrive at 4PM to sign up, purchase mulligans, etc.
 - * Individual sign-ups will be assigned to a group of four.
 - * All checks should be made out to "EMI" and mailed to Mike Eakins at 19418 W. 100th Street, Lenexa KS 66220
- (Cont. next column)



If you cannot attend, please consider a donation. Individual hole sponsorships are available for \$50. Sign-up form and more information is available here: <https://episcopal-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/EMICharityGolfTourney2022.pdf>. Contact Mike Eakins with any questions at 913-707-8218.

JoCo IHN Volunteer Training is scheduled for Thursday, August 25. New TRAINED Volunteers are needed and always welcome!

St. Andrews Christian Church will be the host site for the training. St. Andrews is located at 13890 W 127th St in Olathe. The training will begin at 6:30, ending by 8:30. Timely and full attendance is required to be considered a trained volunteer. No RSVP's are necessary. Attendees do not need to be connected to any of our congregations to lift up those less fortunate. If you have questions, please contact one of our St. Thomas coordinators: Dola McNown dolamcnown49@gmail.com 913 526 3573; Margaret Walkenshaw mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net or 913 302 2018; Connie Snider, laundry coordinator, 913 709 1431 or conniesnider@hotmail.com

IHN Host Week at St. Thomas

St. Thomas Host week serving situationally homeless families and single women will be September 25-Oct 2, 2022. As an IHN Host congregation, St. Thomas will convert our classrooms to provide shelter during evenings and overnight. IHN trained volunteers will be present at all times providing support to our IHN guests. Untrained volunteers are also needed for setup and takedown of classrooms. SIGN UP SHEETS FOR TRAINED VOLUNTEERS ARE ON THE NARTHEX DISPLAY.

Parishioners can also help by signing up to furnish some food and supplies.

REMINDER: IHN ANNUAL DINNER/AUCTION IS COMING RIGHT UP!!

- The 11th annual JoCo IHN dinner/auction will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022. This special fundraiser will occur in person at Fiorella's Event Center, 9000 W. 137th St. in Overland Park. Tickets for this magical evening will be \$100.00 per guest; a link to register is available on the website: www.jocoihn.org. Tickets are going fast! Don't miss this great opportunity to support our local program that serves homeless families and single women. Come and enjoy a delectable barbeque buffet, drinks and dessert; bid on amazing silent/live auction items as you help provide for our homeless neighbors in Johnson County!

Margaret Walkenshaw, JoCo IHN Auction Committee