



# Seasons

at

**ST. THOMAS**



BACKPACK BLESSING 2015



BREWER BUDDIES 2018

## ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME MAT

I was surprised to learn recently that ancient Mesopotamians placed woven mats by the front entrances of their homes so that people could wipe off their sandals before entering the house.

Welcome mats have been around for at least 8,000 years!

Today, they often seem more decorative than functional. In some homes, you take off your shoes at the door rather than wipe your feet. Sometimes the mat looks too pretty for muddy footprints!

At St. Thomas, we want our welcome to be both beautiful and functional. We want people to feel welcomed and embraced and loved from the moment they enter and even before. We want them to know that there is room for them in this beautiful community of faith. And, functionally, we want to make it easy to get involved and take part in the life of the community.

This is the time of year when many of our programs get started again. It's the time of year when we make our Ministry Offerings and sign up for opportunities to worship, learn, and serve together. It's a great time to Roll Out the Welcome Mat and invite people to get involved. Read ahead for information about Foyers Groups, Journey Groups, Outreach Partnerships, Excursions, and more.

We seek to offer a beautiful and functional WELCOME because God has so beautifully and functionally welcomed us. Thanks for sharing this welcome with others!

Blessings ,  
Grace

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### AUGUST

- 11:** Youth Bowling
- 11:** Ministry Offering Forms Go Live!
- 14:** First Wednesday Night!
- 18:** Brewer Sunday
- 18:** YACT Social @ Nonic
- 20:** Campus Ministry Resumes
- 21:** CSU Interfaith Fair
- 22:** Women's Group at B'Merrill's
- 25:** Youth Sunday
- 25:** LEM Training
- 25:** Contemplative Service

#### SEPTEMBER

- 1:** "Freebie Sunday!"
- 5:** Saints & Sinners
- 6:** Book Group
- 7:** Meditation Workshop
- 8:** Peace of Mind Workshop
- 10:** Lunch Bunch
- 12:** Lectionary Study Begins
- 13:** YACT Social
- 14:** SHP Bed Build
- 15:** Altar Guild Sunday
- 18:** Journey Groups Begin
- 21:** Excursion - Pasaquan
- 22:** Contemplative Service
- 29:** Confirmation Class Begins

#### OCTOBER

- 3:** Saints & Sinners
- 4:** Book Group
- 5:** Pet Blessing at Lakebottom
- 6:** Drive-thru Pet Blessing
- 8:** Lunch Bunch
- 19:** Re-Wilding Workshop
- 25:** Excursion - RiverCenter

# LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



## More Welcoming Language in our Liturgies

A few years ago, the Episcopal Church authorized optional updates to some of the language in our worship liturgies. These subtle changes provide more inclusive language for people and more expansive language for God. The goal of these offerings is to make the language of our worship more welcoming to all.

St. Thomas has offered the updated language at our Wednesday Eucharist for over a year. Feedback from people who have prayed these prayers on Wednesdays has been positive. Our worship committee decided this summer to start using these updated liturgies on Sundays as well. We will continue to print the entire liturgy in our bulletins, so you will have all of the words. Those following along in the Book of Common Prayer may notice slight variations.

We are pleased to share these prayers which better reflect God's expansive love for us all.

## St. Thomas Music

For over 20 years, the St. Thomas Choir was led with excellence and joy by our beloved Rick McKnight. His death is a great loss for his family, his Choir family, St. Thomas, and the wider Columbus community.

One of Rick's many gifts to St. Thomas was intentionality around developing musical leaders. He gave St. Thomas a strong team of musicians, many of whom stepped up over the past year and a half as Rick needed time away for medical treatment and rest. Special thanks to Debbie Anderson, Adleyne Scott, Hunter Mullen, and Doyle Register for leading the summer choir this year and to Michelle Folta, Nathan Smock, and Adleyne Scott for leading music in 2023 - including Easter! - while Rick was undergoing chemo. Michelle, Nathan, Debbie, and Adleyne all stepped in many times over the past year when Rick needed to be away, and they gathered many friends to offer excellent music for Rick's funeral. Their commitment and dedication ensured that the tradition of glorious music at St. Thomas would continue.

We will begin a search soon for the next leader (or leaders) to direct St. Thomas Music into a new chapter. For now, though, we need to pause and pray, tend to our grief, and begin to envision what the next decades of St. Thomas Music will be like. *What music will we offer in our remodeled space to lift our hearts and inspire our worship? What music do the people of St. Thomas hope to make and experience together? Do we need one person directing the choir and playing organ and piano or do we need a team of leaders? How will music continue to help us love God and love every person?*

We are so fortunate that Debbie Anderson and Adleyne Scott have agreed to lead St. Thomas Music in this interim time. Debbie will plan music for Sundays and lead the Choir. Adleyne will play piano for worship and for rehearsals. Their leadership will allow great music to continue while we take the time we need to discern next steps.

Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, August 14. Rehearsals are from 6:45 to 8:30 in the Chapel for now. On Sundays, the choir warms up at 9:30 am. This will be an exciting season as we prepare to move into our newly renovated and expanded nave. We are looking ahead to a year of special music to showcase the beauty of our new space and capabilities of our expanded organ. If you've been thinking about joining the St. Thomas Choir, you couldn't come at a more exciting time! If you play an instrument and would like to play for worship, please let Debbie know.



## Wednesday Evening Eucharist

5:30 pm, Chapel

This brief Eucharist focuses on a feast day being celebrated that week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.



## Altar Flowers

The giving of Altar Flowers on Sunday is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion or remember our loved ones. In addition to enhancing the beauty of worship, the name(s) of those being honored or remembered and the name(s) of the donor will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

A contribution of \$75 is requested for altar flowers prepared by the Flower Guild, or you may order flowers from a professional florist if you prefer. Sign up online or contact the church office for the schedule.



## Zoom Evening Prayer

Tuesday & Thursday  
5:30 pm on Zoom

Gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our link tree. Contact the church office for access to the link tree.



# LOVE GOD: WORSHIP

## Contemplative Service

4th Sundays, 5 pm, in the Chapel

**From The Rev. Roxane Gwyn** - We gather for meditation, chanting, prayer, anointing with healing oils, pondering scripture, and silence each 4th Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm in the chapel. If you've not yet experienced this holy opportunity, put it on your calendar for at least one of these Sunday evenings: August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, and December 22.



## Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

August 25 after the 10:30 service

LEMs assist at the altar at communion, sharing the bread and wine with the congregation. Training is required in order to be certified for this ministry. Rev. Roxane and one of our vergers will lead this training. Sign up online or on the ministry offering form.

## Altar Guild Sunday

September 15

Join us to recognize the St. Thomas Altar Guild on Sunday, September 15. Following the 10:30 service altar guild members will have lunch and a time for long-time and new altar guild members to get to know each other. We hope to do a bit of planning for the upcoming move into our new sacristy and begin to visualize how we will do our work in the renovated space. This is a great time to join the group if you've been considering. Contact Sue O'Dell for more information.



# WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

WONDERFUL  
WEDNESDAYS  
AT ST. THOMAS

## Schedule Starting August 14!

5:30 to 6 - Eucharist in the Chapel

5:30 to 6:15 - Dinner served on the buffet. New menus! Details below. Youth room open for youth to eat together there.

6:00 - Playground open for children who have finished dinner.

Go to the Children's Center in case of rain. An adult must bring children to the playground or center.

6:30 to 7:30 - Formation time for everyone. Children in the Children's Center. Youth in the Youth Room or outside. Adults in the library, plus other spaces when Journey Groups begin.

6:45 to 8:30 - Choir rehearsal in the Chapel or All Saints Hall

## New Wednesday Night Menus

Thanks to Seth Burgamy for coming up with a way to make Wednesday dinners more welcoming. From now until December, Wednesday Dinner will be served buffet style - on the buffet! Donations are welcome but not required. To help offset costs, you may donate cash or with a credit card on site or pay ahead of time on the website, but payment is not required. Reservations are helpful to help us plan, but feel free to show up whenever you are available. All menus will have gluten free and vegan options.

We'll try this for a few months and see if we like it. Seating will be somewhat limited until worship moves back to the nave. When you finish eating, consider getting up so that someone else can take your chair. Thanks for your patience. We'll be able to set up more tables soon!

## FALL MENUS 2024



1ST WEEK - PASTA BAR



2ND WEEK - TACO BAR



3RD WEEK - BAKED POTATO BAR



4TH WEEK - SALAD BAR



5TH WEEK - HOT DOG/CHILI BAR

**See Adult, Episcokids & St. Thommies 'Learn Together' pages for formation activities on Wednesdays!**

# LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



## EXCURSIONS - Get on board!

Trips and events are scheduled through Christmastide. Look for details soon, or give Roxane a call to find out more and sign up.

SEPTEMBER 21 @ 10:00 AM to **Pasaquan**, guided by Mike McFalls.

OCTOBER 25 @ 7:30 PM at RiverCenter, U.S. **Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants**. Free admission, sign-up required.

NOVEMBER 14-16 (exact date and cost TDB)  
@ 7:30 pm at CSU Riverside Theatre, "**These Shining Lives**" play by Melanie Marnich.

DECEMBER 7-8 (exact date, time, and cost TBD) at RiverCentre, "**Christmas With C.S. Lewis.**"



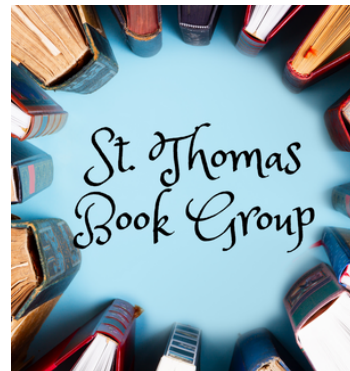
**Women's Group**  
August 22, 6:30 pm at  
The Mix Market  
(1040 Broadway)

Gather with women from St. Thomas for fellowship and meal. This group meets once a month for dinner at a restaurant. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. The next women's group dinner will be on Thursday, 8/22 at Mix Market at 6:30 pm.



**Lunch Bunch**  
2nd Tuesdays, 11:30  
Parker's Pantry  
(1815 Garrard St.)

All women are invited to gather for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at Parker's Pantry at 11:30. After each person orders in the line, we will gather in the private dining room. At noon, there will be a brief prayer and devotion. Hope to see you there!



**St. Thomas Book Group**

First Fridays, 11 am  
**Upcoming books:**  
September- *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson

October- *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard

November - *The Attic in Queen Street* by Karen White

An informal group, everyone is welcome. Come and bring your friends. Call Martha Mullinax or Linnea Grosse for further information.



**Saints & Sinners**

First Thursdays,  
11:30 am

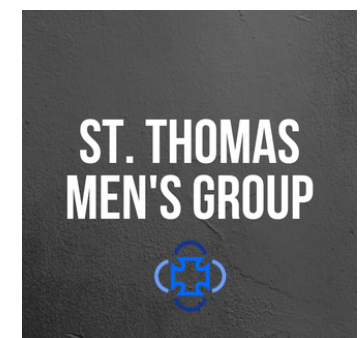
Gather with friends for mid-day Eucharist and potluck lunch. No reservations required - just show up for a lovely time together. The group will continue to meet in the Parish Hall during Construction.

## Freebie Sunday!

September 1  
(Labor Day weekend)

In preparing for our nave renovation, we cleaned out MANY boxes, files, and books. The last files were sorted on August 3, and the shredder will come soon. Thanks to Susan Anderson, Ashley Becker, Susan Hansbarger, Luise May, Donna Sharp, Chris Slembariski and Patty Slembariski for sorting through all the boxes!

Now we have some items to give away. Old St. Thomas note cards. Extra church directories from long ago. Lectionary books. Items from various closets we will no longer need. On September 1, many treasures like these will be on display in the library. Stop by to take a look and take some things home for yourself or for someone else.



**Men's Group**

Look for details coming soon about upcoming meet ups of the Men's Group. Contact Paul Hostetter for more information.

# LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME




**August Social**  
**Lunch @ Nonic**  
Sunday, Aug. 18th at 12:30 PM



Please RSVP to Taylor@StThomasColumbus.org

## YACT Socials

Young Adults Connecting Together (YACT) is a fellowship group meant to foster fun and friendship for young adults ages 21-40(ish). Join us for one of our monthly socials for a chance to connect with old friends or get to know someone new. More information can be found at StThomasColumbus.org/YACT.

## Pet Blessings

**Saturday October 5 at 4 pm**  
Red Frame Stage at Lakebottom Park &

**Sunday, October 6 from 1 to 2 pm**  
Drive up at St. Thomas Episcopal Church

All creatures and people welcome!



## Save the Date for Pet Blessings!

**Saturday, October 5, at 4 pm at Lakebottom Park**

Bring friends and friendly pets or pictures of pets and join us for a pet blessing service at the park. Meet at the Little Red Stage. A concert by Donna Dooley and friends will follow.

**Sunday, October 6 from 1 to 2**

Drive-thru pet blessing - for less social animals!



**Columbus State University INTERFAITH FAIR**

## CSU Interfaith Fair

August 21, 11 am until 2 pm


Come visit the Episcopal Campus Ministry table at Columbus State University's Interfaith Fair! We will have swag to give away for all students, faculty, and community members who stop by.

## Episcopal Campus Ministry Resumes August 20

The Episcopal Campus Ministry on Columbus State University's Main Campus resumes on August 20th. ECM is an intentional community designed to



meet the spiritual needs of college students as they balance school, work, family, and much more. All college students in the Columbus area are invited to join us on Tuesday nights throughout the school year for Eucharist and Dinner starting at 5:30 pm. Contact Taylor Mack for more information.



**VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!**



FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Where we started




Where we've been



Where we are



Where we are going!



# MAKING ROOM FOR ALL

ST. THOMAS VISION CAMPAIGN

**UPDATE**

*Our renovation is happening quickly! Most work to date involved building a stunning backdrop to frame our altar and make space for the choir. Next steps: finishes, flooring, ramps, and parking spaces.*

### Finance Update (as of 8/5/24)

Total cost of the project	\$4,128,777
Total costs paid to date	\$908,988
Remaining costs	\$3,219,789

*Almost half of our support for this project comes from **141 pledges** from members & friends of St. Thomas. Thank you!*

### Pledge Update (as of 8/5/24)

Total amount pledged	\$1,870,430
Pledges paid to date	\$653,579
Remaining pledges	\$1,216,851

*In addition, several special gifts made this vision possible.*

- *A generous gift from Clifford & Bobsie Swift launched our strategic planning process and initial design work.*
- *A bequest from Joe Fischer put the vision within reach.*
- *A grant from the Walter Alan Richards Foundation (Celia Page's grandfather) got us closer to the goal.*
- *Judy Harding named St. Thomas as beneficiary of a fund with the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, to be used at the discretion of the vestry. After her death, our vestry invested this gift in short-term instruments to pay construction bills and avoid bank financing. A portion of Judy's gift will be used to complete the project. The rest will fund an endowment in Judy's memory to support St. Thomas forever.*
- *These gifts totaled \$2.25 million, a little over half of total costs.*

**Thanks to all who are making this vision a reality.**

**It is not too late to make a gift or pledge. Use the QR code or [stthomas.columbus.org/room-for-all](https://stthomas.columbus.org/room-for-all). Every gift will be named on a plaque to help future generations remember this generation's impact.**

**We hope to be back in the Nave by Christmas!**





## Shine Time!



Sundays,  
9:30 - 10:15

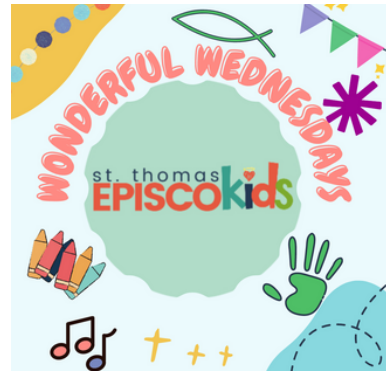


## Shine Time Sunday School & Wednesday Nights

9:30 am - 10:15 am on Sundays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Wednesdays

Throughout the summer, the EpiscoKids have been learning about the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5 and soaking up the love of God. This coming Fall, the curriculum will consist of Bible Stories that detail the beginning of Creation and end with the origins of the Church. Shine Time will take place from 9:30am-10:15 am.

## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS




Wednesday evenings will be spent teaching the children how to live out their faith in the world and in the church via lessons, crafts, and games. They will study specific biblical tales and make crafts that serve as a memory of the tales and their lessons




## The EpiscoKid Adventurers

*From Ms. Shayla*

I am planning a new adventure for our awesome Episcokids --- field trips to several places where they can spend time with each other outside of church, deepen their friendships, and experience some of the amazing things our community has to offer. For example I plan to take them to Columbus State University's children's shows, which have a Sunday afternoon show. I also plan to use this as a chance for parents to have some kid-free time together with others from St. Thomas. Across

the street from the Riverside Theatre is Banks Food Hall. I will invite parents to drop their kids off with me and a volunteer(s) to watch a show, then head over to Banks for some lunch and relaxation. Stay on the lookout for dates and prices for discounted tickets. I can't wait for fun times and new experiences with the EpiscoKid Adventurers!



st. thomas  
**EPISCOKids**  
Children's Chapel  
During 10:30 service on Sundays.  
Worship. Learn. Grow.

## Children's Chapel

*during 10:30 worship each Sunday*

Children's Chapel will continue this summer. Children are invited to follow the petite cross to the outreach center during the sequence hymn. Chapel leaders will offer the Gospel in a child friendly atmosphere. Children will return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

## Children's Info Form

Ms. Shayla is collecting information on children who participate in activities at St. Thomas. If your child or grandchild participates - even on an occasional basis - please complete the Episcokid Info Form. Look for a link in email newsletters!

Email is the best way to reach Ms. Shayla during the week. Her email address is [shayla@stthomascolumnbus.org](mailto:shayla@stthomascolumnbus.org).



Thanks to all of the volunteers and families who participated in VBS 2024. We had a great week of learning and fun!

# LEARN TOGETHER



## VOCATION & VALUES

Sunday School Summer Series  
for St. Thomas Teens and Tweens



## August Sundays for Youth: Vocation & Values Series

9:30 -10:15 am, Sundays in the Youth Room

Until Labor Day, youth and tweens will continue the Vocation and Values Sunday School Series. St. Thomas parishioners have been visiting with our class to discuss their career, faith, and values. Check the Friday Spiritual Adventures newsletter to see the next upcoming speaker each week.

Starting September 11th, tweens and youth will join in a 12-week series called **Echo the Story**. They will explore and experience the biblical narrative through storytelling, creative reflection, and dialogue.



## Wednesdays for St. Thommies

6:30 - 7:30 pm, in the Youth Room

Wednesday Night Youth group returns August 14th! Join is for a weekly rotation of lessons, crafts, and games. Youth are encouraged to get dinner starting at 5:30 and eat with other youth in the youth room. They can stay for a time of fun, fellowship, and formation. Youth programming ends at 7:30 each week.

## Back to School Bowling @ Stars and Strikes

August 11, 5-7 pm

All middle school and high school youth are invited for a fun night out at Stars and Strikes to celebrate the start of the new school year! Contact Taylor to sign up!

## EYC Events



Check out all upcoming events and leadership opportunities for Diocesan Youth Ministry at [EYCDIOATL.ORG](http://EYCDIOATL.ORG)

Youth may be especially interested in the upcoming retreats at Camp Mikell including Happening 80 (Oct. 18-20) and New Beginnings (November 15-17). For more details about retreats, leadership opportunities, and transportation, please contact Taylor Mack.



## Youth Sunday

August 25

Youth Sunday is a special tradition at St. Thomas. We will celebrate youth ministry and recognize the leadership abilities of our young parishioners. Youth can sign up to serve as LEMs, Lectors, Ushers, Music performers, and more! This year, we will also enjoy a special visit from Holle Tubbs, our Diocesan Youth Missioner, for Sunday Adult Formation.

## Confirmation Classes Ahead!

We're excited to announce a series of confirmation classes for youth ages 12-18 this fall. Roxane will facilitate, using a curriculum based upon our Baptismal Covenant: I Will, With God's Help. Classes will meet at St. Thomas on Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:30 on these seven dates: September 29, October 6, October 13, October 20, November 10, December 1 and December 8.



Confirmation is described in our Prayer Book: In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.

After the classes are completed, students will have the opportunity, guided by Roxane, mentors, and family, to decide whether or not confirmation is the right choice for them at this time. Questions welcome! Contact Roxane to learn more or to enroll.



# LEARN TOGETHER: ADULTS

## Sunday Adult Formation in August: Back to School Time!

9:30-10:15 in the Library

**August 11** - Visit **St. Thomas Day School**. School Director Kym Futch will be available to let us see the classrooms and learn about the program before school starts this week.

**August 18** - **Brewer Elementary Partnership** - Margo Easterbrook and Meg Olive-Allison and others will share about our partnership with Brewer, new plans for the school this year, and current ways to get involved.

**August 25** - St. Thomas's good friend Holle Tubbs, our **Diocesan Youth Missioner** and former Director of Youth Ministries at St. Thomas, joins us for Youth Sunday. She will speak at adult formation at 9:30 and preach at both services.

## Sunday Adult Formation in September: Meet our new Presiding Bishop

9:30-10:15, September 8 -29 at 9:30, Library

Bishop Sean Rowe was elected at General Convention this summer to serve as our next Presiding Bishop. He currently serves as Bishop of Northwestern

Pennsylvania and Bishop Provisional of Western New York. He previously served as Bishop Provisional of Bethlehem (PA). He will be installed as Presiding Bishop on November 2. The service will be live-streamed and we'll plan a watch party! On Sundays in September, we will get to know more about him by listening each week to a sermon or lecture he has given in the past and discussing his thoughts about the gospel, the role of the Church, and what God asks of the Church in this time.

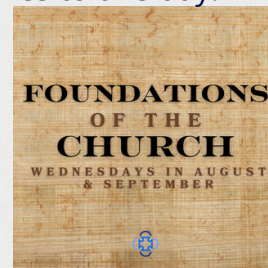
## Wednesday Adult Formation

6:30-7:30 pm

**August 14:** 6:30 in the library  
For our first Wednesday night of the season, we will talk about our **Ministry Offerings** and how to participate.

**August 21 to September 11:**  
6:30 in the library

**Foundations of the Church**  
For four Wednesday nights we will explore the early centuries of the church. Each week we'll discuss certain people or events that shaped what the church lives and teaches to this day.



## Journey Groups: The Screwtape Letters AND Manna & Mercy

Begin September 18

Journey Groups are gatherings for adults that meet outside of Sunday mornings to learn and grow together. Our Fall 2024 Journey Groups begin the week of September 18 and meet until Thanksgiving. Depending on how many people sign up, we hope to form groups that

meet on Sunday afternoons, Wednesday evenings, and one weekday. We offer two options this season. No homework is required for either option, though you will get more out of the journey if you read a little each week and think about the topic. Sign up through the Ministry Sign Up Form or on the website at [stthomascolumnbus.org/journey-groups/](http://stthomascolumnbus.org/journey-groups/). Please reach out to Daniel Mitchell, Director of Adult Formation, if you would like to help facilitate a Journey Group.

### The Screwtape Letters

In this classic by C. S. Lewis, a demon, named Screwtape, writes letters to his nephew Wormwood about how to lure a new Christian away from God. This imaginative and clever story reveals how easy it is for people to turn aside from the path of love and follow a path of destruction. Interestingly, C. S. Lewis wrote this book during World War II, a time of great anxiety and division, which Screwtape and his companions sought to use to their advantage in the story. This book from long ago has a message for our time. Journey Groups will discuss a different letter each week and consider how we might stay faithful in the midst of the anxieties and struggles of our day. You don't have to read the book to take part in the discussion, but you'll get more out of it if you do. Used copies of the book will be available to purchase for \$7, or feel free to borrow a copy and return it at the end of the sessions.

### Manna & Mercy: The Hebrew Scriptures

Back again for those who have not yet taken part and for those who want to review it again, Manna & Mercy is a delightful summary of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation (with pictures!). It presents the Bible as one whole story of God's mission to heal our broken world. Video messages from South African pastor Alan Storey accompany the study. One Manna & Mercy group will meet on Wednesday nights, with more groups if needed. This is a foundational learning experience at St. Thomas and we hope everyone will participate at some point.

# LEARN TOGETHER: ADULTS



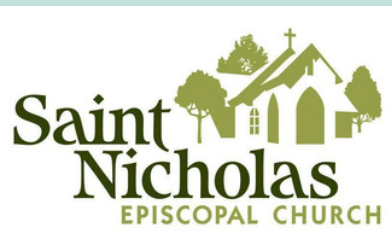
## Peace of Mind Planning

*Sunday, September 8 from noon till 3:30 pm*

You are invited to take part in a Peace of Mind Planning Workshop at St. Thomas. As we begin at 12:00 noon, prayers will be lifted and a simple lunch will be served. We'll move into a large group together to ponder some energizing questions and present logistics for the afternoon. Then we'll move among three separate panels to engage us in learning and discussion around these sets of issues:

- End of Life Medical Care
- Financial and Legal
- Spiritual, Liturgical, and Burial

There is no cost for the workshop, but please register by August 18 by signing up on the website or contacting Roxane.



## Meditation Workshop

### ***Becoming a Mystic: A New Relationship with God Through Meditation***

*Saturday, September 7, 2024, 9 am to 4 pm,*

*St. Nicholas Episcopal Church*

*69 Mobley Road, Hamilton, GA 31811*

*Cost: \$45 per person (Registration required)*

*Refreshments and lunch will be provided.*

Most of us feel uncertain when it comes to prayer. We believe in God. Maybe we go to church. But we aren't confident about how to abide in Christ, how to be with God, how to experience the Divine Presence. In this retreat, we hope to demystify meditation and prayer so that everyone leaves with a sense of excitement and acceptance that these are gifts available to us all. As we explore the relationship between meditation and prayer, we will practice together so that each participant leaves with a deeper confidence about how to live as a mystic. The day will be informative, relaxing and impactful. You will leave with a renewed sense of God's presence in your life.

Email [contact@stnicholashamilton.org](mailto:contact@stnicholashamilton.org) or call (706) 628-7272 to register to attend.



## One Small Step America

Columbus, Georgia was a model city for One Small Step, an initiative from StoryCorps that brings together strangers with different points of view to talk with one another as people. St. Thomas participated in the kick off last year. Now, StoryCorps has launched One Small Step America, an effort to get the whole country talking with one another. You can sign up for a new conversation at [TakeOneSmallStep.org](http://TakeOneSmallStep.org).



## Footsteps of Paul Journey

Cindy and Spencer Garrard will lead a "Footsteps of Paul" tour of Greece and Turkey April 20-May 3, 2025. Contact Cindy for info. first-come, first-served to guarantee berths on ship.

## Women's Lectionary Bible Study

*Thursdays, 10 to 11 am beginning September 12*

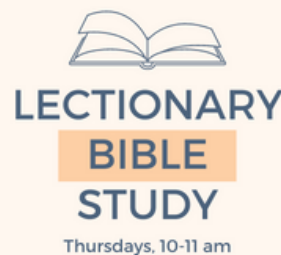
**2024-2025 dates:**

September 12 -

November 14, 2024 and

January 9 - May 22, 2025  
(No meeting April 3,  
April 24, or May 1.)

All women are invited to join Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard in the library or by Zoom from 10 to 11 am on Thursdays to study the lectionary readings for the coming week. A handout for the week's study is emailed to each participant. Contact the church office to be added to the mailing list.



# SERVE TOGETHER



**Creation Keepers News!**  
**Save the date: Saturday October 19!**

St. Mark's Episcopal in LaGrange, in collaboration with St. Thomas Creation Keepers and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, will host a Re-Wilding Workshop. Registration information forthcoming.

Bio-diversity helps all God's creation. Find out how you can help!

To learn more, visit [gipf.org](http://gipf.org), and connect with Christine DiFelicianantonio for St. Thomas Creation Keepers news.



## Brewer Elementary School Update

*From: Margo Easterbrook*  
Brewer Elementary School is in the midst of an enormous transformation and will open its doors to students on August 8 as the Brewer K-2 Accelerated

Learning Academy. With a new Principal and a mostly new staff, Brewer will be serving K-2 students in the Muscogee County School District who've been identified as most at risk of falling behind. As you can imagine, it has been a very busy summer for them.

We have assured Brewer leadership of St. Thomas' continued commitment to serving these at risk students. We plan on continuing our Brewer Buddy Reading Program and providing Brewer Buddy Packs to students in food insecure households, as well as providing support to the teachers and staff at Brewer who face difficult challenges on a daily basis.

We will share details about these volunteer opportunities as soon as they are available. I'll be sending out emails to Brewer volunteers with the latest information, so please let me know if you want to be included.

Our Brewer Elementary School Partnership in Education will be featured in Adult Formation on Sunday, August 18, from 9:30 - 10:15, if you'd like to learn more about what we do.

In the meantime, we wish the Brewer K-2 Accelerated Learning Academy the very best as they start the new school year!



**NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!**

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build: September 14

Join us on September 14 as we volunteer with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for kids in our community. On this day every chapter of SHP across the nation will build beds - and we'll be a part of it! Details on the build coming soon!

Thanks to everyone who helped "stuff the bunk" during VBS this summer. See the picture of the collection below - and even more comforter sets were donated after the photo was taken! We collected many, many items that will be used by children in our community who need a safe, cozy, place to sleep.



**EAST CARVER HEIGHTS**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## Important Dates this Season

**Soccer Season Games Begin** September 7. We have 5 teams ages 6 to 16.

**Path to Shine tutoring program** began Tuesday, August 6.

**Food Mill Mobile Market** returns in August during Friday Soccer practice at the Boxwood Recreation Center.

**FANN (Friends & Neighbors Network)** food security group continues every other Thursday

**Trunk or Treat** will be the week of Halloween.

**For more info - [www.eastcarverheights.org](http://www.eastcarverheights.org)**

# SERVE TOGETHER



## Pastoral Care at St. Thomas PRAYER GROUP

The St. Thomas Prayer Group prays continually for the welfare of the world, the church, the nation and all in authority, concerns of our local community and beyond,

those who suffer and those in any trouble, and the departed. We gather our public prayers from Prayers of the People in the Sunday bulletin. We gather our private prayers from people who have asked for prayers confidential to our small group.

We meet on Mondays at 11:30, on the first Monday in the chapel, otherwise by Zoom. We welcome you to talk to us about joining the group and most importantly, to share prayer requests with us at any time. Just leave a message in the church office and we will return your call.

### CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Many in our parish are no longer able to worship in person as often as they would like, but are still very much a part of St. Thomas. We want to keep them connected to the community. Might you be a part of our ministry of visitation?

Three ways are available: (1) phone calls, (2) occasional visits to listen, share, and perhaps play a game or work a puzzle together, and (3) serving as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, to share Holy Communion once a month in someone's home. Give me a call to find out more about any of these simple spiritual practices that so greatly benefit another. Thanks and love, Roxane

### Picture Project

Now that the file boxes have been organized, it is time to move on to our next cleaning project - organizing boxes and boxes of pictures from St. Thomas history. We want to put the pictures in safer storage and label them if we can. If you would like to help with this project, contact the church office.

### Note about how to receive this newsletter

*Seasons* is published seven times a year - Advent/Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and three times in the Season after Pentecost. You can pick up a copy any Sunday or Wednesday. New editions are typically distributed the Sunday before the season begins. We are happy to mail copies to anyone who wishes to receive a copy at home. Email [office@stthomascolumnbus.org](mailto:office@stthomascolumnbus.org) to be added to the mailing list. **The Late-Pentecost Seasons newsletter will be available on October 6** and will be mailed the following week to those who request.

### Have St. Thomas News to Share?

The deadline for the Late-Pentecost Season edition of this **printed newsletter is September 25**. Contact Meg if you have info related to St. Thomas to share.



## Rolling Out the Welcome Mat St. Thomas 2024 Ministry Offerings

Each August, we invite parishioners to sign up for different ways to learn and serve together through our annual Ministry Offering. This online form lists many ways to serve and participate, and they all have to do with welcome!

How might you help St. Thomas extend our welcome in the coming year? Use the QR code here to go to the website to review these opportunities. Prayerfully consider how you will share in worship, learning, service, and connection through St. Thomas. **Please complete this survey by August 25**. On that Sunday, we will celebrate our commitment together. If you would like to use a printed form, contact the church office.

Scan this QR code for the Ministry Offerings Form!



### Ministry Scheduler Pro

Volunteers at St. Thomas including Pew Card Volunteers, LEMs, Vergers, WNN Shoppers, Acolytes, Lectors, and a few others are scheduled through a program called *Ministry Scheduler Pro*. This program allows volunteers to easily share availability, see their schedules at any time, and request a substitute or volunteer to substitute for positions. Volunteers access MSP on the web and/or through an app. If you are a new volunteer at St. Thomas look for an email soon about how MSP works OR if you are a not-new volunteer at St. Thomas and are not using MSP and would like to - please contact Meg in the church office!