



Seasons

at

ST. THOMAS



EPIPHANY 2017



EPIPHANY 2019

GREETINGS IN THIS NEW YEAR!

2022 was in many ways a year of return. We returned to more regular patterns of ministry. Many returned to in-person worship. We returned to meaningful traditions that shape us as a community and as God's people. As part of this return, we worked to define our mission as St. Thomas: LOVE GOD, LOVE EVERY PERSON, LEARN AND SERVE TOGETHER. This is the St. Thomas Story. This is who we are called to be.

In 2023 we expect to write some of the next chapters of The St. Thomas Story. 2023 promises to be an exciting year of vision and growth for St. Thomas. Our Strategic Planning process will continue, emphasizing Outreach and Mission. We expect to find new ways to reach out to our neighbors and live what we profess.

Join us at the start of the year as we continue to envision all that God has for us! Blessings in this season after the Epiphany and beyond!

Rev. Grace

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday,
February 5
at 9:30



St. Thomas Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 5 at 9:30

In the Episcopal Church, we practice shared governance at every level of church life. From General Convention to the diocesan level to the local congregation, clergy and lay leaders work together to make decisions and discern God's call to us. An important part of this shared work is the Annual Parish Meeting. Here, the congregation gathers to elect Vestry members and offer input about the work of the congregation in the year ahead. Join us on Sunday, February 5 for this important gathering. Vestry candidates will be announced later in January. The parish Annual Report (a long version and a short version) will be sent by email the week prior to the Annual Meeting.

LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



A Celebration of St. Thomas Music



including 20 years of leadership from Rick McKnight

January 29, 10:30 am



A Celebration of St. Thomas Music

January 6, 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of Rick McKnight's service as Organist and Choirmaster of St. Thomas. To mark the occasion, Rick asked to celebrate not only his milestone but the legacy of St. Thomas music over the decades.

On January 29, all who have ever been part of the St. Thomas Choir are invited to return for a "Choir Reunion." All alumni and current singers are invited to sing in the loft at the 10:30 service, with a rehearsal in the loft at 9:30 am. Following the service, a festive reception in the parish hall will celebrate Rick's anniversary and give thanks for God's gift of music among us.

Please reach out to former choir members (even if they live far away) and invite them to join us on this day. If you plan to sing with the choir on January 29, contact Rick at rick@stthomascolumnbus.org.



CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

A Service of Confirmation & Reception

Sunday, January 22 at 3 pm at St. Thomas

Bishop Wright will be with us on this Sunday afternoon for a celebration of ministry with the Chattahoochee Valley Convocation. The St. Thomas Choir will sing. Nursery care will be provided beginning at 2:45 pm, and a cookie reception will follow in the parish hall. If you would like to be Confirmed or Received, please fill out the form online or let the church office know.

Ash Wednesday Services

Save-the-Date!

Ash Wednesday is on February 22. Services will be at 7 am, noon, and 6:30 pm, with nursery care at the 6:30 service only.



Pulpit Exchange

Sunday, February 19

Rev. Grace and Rev. Adrian Chester from Greater Beallwood Baptist Church will trade places on Sunday, February 19 with Rev. Chester preaching at St. Thomas at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services and Rev. Grace preaching at Greater Beallwood at 10 am. Both churches live stream services. Worship with either congregation on this morning and give thanks for our shared ministry in the city.



Parish Hall Service

If you find yourself looking for a different way to participate in the 10:30 service, consider joining a small group in the Parish Hall where the live stream is shown. Coffee, snacks, coloring books, and plenty of room to move freely

are available. Those worshipping in the Parish Hall are invited to the nave for Communion if you wish.



Contemplative Healing Worship at St. Thomas

Every third Sunday, 5 pm beginning February 19 Here are some of the things important to our new liturgy:

- Quiet
- Candlelight
- Gospel texts
- Silence
- Cantor
- Meditations
- Devotion
- Candlelight
- Healing prayers
- Holy Eucharist
- Homemade bread
- Repetitive prayers
- Simple chanting
- Informal setting
- Presence of Christ
- Intimate community

Contact Rev. Roxane to find out more about this new worship opportunity at St. Thomas. roxane@stthomascolumnbus.org

Baptism Date

Our next scheduled baptism date is the Easter Vigil on April 8. To schedule baptism, contact Rev. Grace.

LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



Welcome Class Refreshers

January 8, 15, 22, & 29
after the 10:30 service

Bishop Wright will be with us on January 22 at 3 pm for a service of Confirmation and Reception. To prepare, we are offering welcome classes after the 10:30 service for those who would like to be Confirmed or Received, or for anyone who wants a refresher.

January 8 in the Nave - A tour of the St. Thomas Windows, led by Perrin Nicolson

January 15 in the Library - A brief history of the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church, and St. Thomas, led by Rev. Grace

January 22 in the Chapel - A brief instructed Eucharist, with conversation about how we worship and what our rituals mean, led by Rev. Grace

January 29 starting in the Chapel A tour of the St. Thomas Building and Grounds. Join us to see where our ministries happen



Wednesday Dinners

resume January 11,
served from 5:30 - 6:15

Menus

vegan and gf options available each week

January 11: Garlic parmesan chicken, herb new potatoes, cauliflower
January 18: Chicken and wild rice casserole, green beans

January 25: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, sweet peas

To help us plan adequately and reduce waste, reservations are required. *Deadline for reservations is Monday at midnight.* Meals served on a "pay what you can" basis, with a suggested amount of \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child, and \$25 per family. Pay online when you make your reservation or in person. We want everyone to participate regardless of ability to pay. Sign up through our website at stthomascolumnbus.org/gather. Make a reservation and/or pay for one week up to one month at a time.



January Excursion

January 27,
7:30 pm

Our January EXCURSION is to a COLUMBUS RIVER DRAGONS hockey game in the Columbus Civic Center. Just

before Christmas the River Dragons snapped a Port Huron Prowlers winning streak with two wins up north in Michigan. Now the Prowlers are headed south to Columbus to try and turn things around! Be there to make sure they don't! Center-ice tickets just \$12. Email Roxane@stthomascolumnbus.org to reserve your seat!



Save the Date! St. Thomas Yard Sale

Saturday, March 18

Items may be dropped off in the parish hall from Sunday, March 12 to Wednesday, March 15. A preview party

will be on Friday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day!).



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21, 5:30

Don't miss the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper led by St.

Thomas's Youth and Young Adult Programs! As always, we will enjoy "breakfast for dinner" and hold a pancake flipping contest. A silent auction will also be present with goods and services provided by St. Thommies and YACT members. Sign up to attend at stthomascolumnbus.org/parish-life-events/. Proceeds will support St. Thomas Youth and Young Adult programs.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Events

As of our newsletter deadline, Columbus area events for Martin Luther King weekend had not yet been announced. We do try to take part in these as a congregation. Watch for information soon about what is happening and how to participate.

LEARN TOGETHER: ADULTS

Sunday Adult Formation *January & February 2023

Living as a

CALLED OUT

people.

Sunday Adult Formation: **Living as a 'Called Out' People.**

January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 12, & 19, in the church library and on Zoom

The Greek word "ekklesia" in the New Testament, usually translated as "church," literally means "called out." It refers to Jesus-people as ones who are called to live in a way that is not just "business as usual" by society's normal standards. They're called to make a difference! During Sunday Adult Formation in the Season after the Epiphany, we'll explore various aspects of that 'difference.'

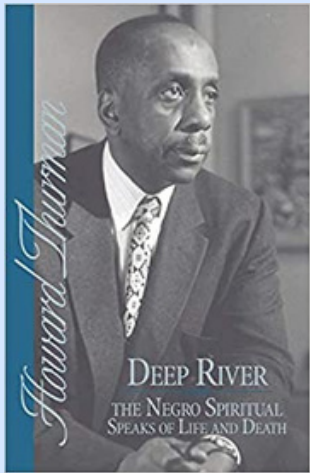
January 8 - "Start with Soccer, and then ..." Greg and Lisa Herring will share the story and impact of the Boxwood Soccer Club, Path to Shine, Partner in Education with Brewer Elementary School, and East Carver Heights Community Development Corp.

January 15 - "CVEM - 40 years of making a difference" Malinda Shamburger, Executive Director of Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, will reintroduce us to CVEM's mission to engage Episcopalians "to learn, connect and act to fight inequity and build strong communities," in which St. Thomas Church has been a longtime partner.

January 22 - "The Concert Hall as Church" Maestro Paul Hostetter, the Ethel Foley Distinguished Chair in Orchestral Activities for the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University, will apply his conducting experience and insights to how we can better function as "church."

January 29, February 12 and 19 - "When 'Purity Culture' Contaminates" Joanna and Evan Collins, doctoral candidates in Counseling at Auburn University, will lead an exploration of the unintended, problematic consequences of the 'Purity Culture' movement within certain parts of Evangelical Christianity, which encourages youth to make a public pledge of 'sexual abstinence' before marriage. This indeed encourages Christians to be "different" -- BUT some differences can cause harm down the road. How can we better appreciate and foster God's good gifts of sex and sexuality in a responsible way?

(Please attend the St. Thomas Annual Parish Meeting at 9:30 on Sunday, Feb 5. There will be NO Sunday Adult Formation session that day.)



Wednesdays in the Season after the Epiphany

Howard Thurman's *Deep River*

A Journey with Greater Beallwood Baptist Church

Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30

at St. Thomas & Greater Beallwood (4419 Sherwood Ave.)

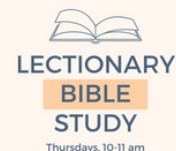
St. Thomas and Greater Beallwood are teaming up in January and February to learn from Howard Thurman. Thurman was a significant 20th Century theologian who is often called the spiritual godfather of the Civil Rights Movement. His work and witness inspired Dr. King and many others. Rev. Adrian Chester, Pastor of Greater Beallwood, and Rev. Grace will co-lead a study using Howard Thurman's brief book *Deep River: The Negro Spiritual Speaks of Life and Death*. You don't have to read the book in order to participate, but feel free to order a copy if you wish. Sessions will take place at St. Thomas on January 11, 25, and February 8. Sessions will take place at Greater Beallwood on January 18, February 1, and February 15. Dinner will be available at either church. On the nights we are at Greater Beallwood, children will remain in programming at St. Thomas and will be supervised until parents return from Greater Beallwood.

Spring 2023 Journey Groups

Begin March 1

Journey Groups are small groups that gather for study and interaction. They usually meet once per week over approximately 11 weeks, either face-to-

face or by Zoom. Our next Journey Groups will meet during Lent and Easter (except Holy Week) to explore the content of the Nicene Creed which we use most Sundays in our worship. What was it originally trying to communicate, and how can it best be used and understood today? What difference does it make? Sign-ups begin in early February, with different groups meeting on Wednesday evenings, late Sunday afternoons, or early Tuesday afternoons; select whatever time works best for you. Our study resource this round is the book, *Loving the Questions: An Exploration of the Nicene Creed*, by the late Dr. Marianne H. Micks, professor of biblical and historical theology at Virginia Theological Seminary until her retirement in 1988.



Lectinary Women's Bible Study
Thursdays, 10am
in St. Thomas library

This study, led by Cindy Garrard, resumes meeting on January 12 at 10 am. Contact Cindy or the church office with questions. All women welcome!

LEARN TOGETHER: YOUNG ADULTS

EPISCOKIDS



YACT Coffee Shop Talks

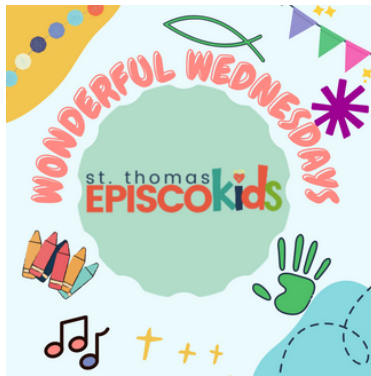
first Tuesdays, 6 pm, Iron Bank Coffee

On the first Tuesday of each month, YACT meets in the upstairs room at Iron Bank Coffee Co. for Coffee Shop Talks where we explore the Bible, theology, and the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. Coffee provided!



Young Couples Socials

Our young couples group gets together the last Friday of each month. This is a group of fellowship and support for dating, engaged, and married couples in their 20s and 30s. Our next meeting will be at the home of Chris and Anna Williams on January 27th. If you are interested in attending or hosting a gathering, please contact Taylor.



Wonderful Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:15
When the Bishop Comes

January 11 & 18

In preparation for Bishop Wright joining us January 22 we will learn together what a bishop does and what happens when they visit!

To Dance with God - Celebrating Elements of Nature.

January 25,
February 1, 8, 15

God has given us so many gifts. Join us to celebrate the elemental materials of nature: on Wednesday nights at 6:15 as we look for God in the seemingly ordinary world.



Shine Time Sundays

9:30-10:15 in Outreach Center

Join Mrs. Erin and friends each Sunday, for Shine Time! We gather in the Children's Wing for Bible Stories from Whirl Curriculum.

Jan. 8: Jesus is Baptized
Jan. 15: Many Follow Jesus

Jan. 22: Jesus Blesses Children

Jan. 29: Jesus Teaches About Prayer

Feb. 5: Animal Meeting



Animal Meeting

February 5, during the Annual Meeting at 9:30 Outreach Center

While youth and adults conduct the business of our Parish Annual Meeting our annual Children's "Animal Meeting" takes place. Episcokids are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal from home to conduct some serious animal antics of our own.



LEARN TOGETHER: YOUTH



Youth Weekly Formation:

Sunday Coffee Convo

Sunday Mornings
9:30-10:15

Youth are invited to gather at the Youth room coffee bar on Sunday mornings for fellowship and reflection.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wednesday Nights
6:15-7:15

Following dinner on Wednesday Nights, youth will gather for formation and fun in the youth room. Each week is different as we seek to build faith and friendships through discussions, games, and other programming.



Youth Parent Meeting

Youth Parent Meeting, following
10:30 worship Sunday, January 22

All youth and their families are encouraged to attend an important meeting to discuss upcoming plans for the St. Thommies youth group and the summer mission trip. This will be an opportunity to learn how your teen can get more involved with St. Thomas and other diocesan youth events.



Youth Mission Trip, Charlotte NC

July 2023

This summer St. Thomas Youth will have the opportunity to join CROSS Missions in Charlotte to serve the downtown community with loving and faithful hearts. More information on this trip will be available at the youth parent meeting.



Diocesan Youth Events

Happening 77 at Camp Mikell

February 17-19, 2023

Happening is a spiritual renewal weekend for high school youth that takes place twice a year (Fall and Spring) and typically hosts between 70-150 young people at Camp Mikell in Toccoa. During the retreat, students participate in camp activities and small groups as they're encouraged to deepen their relationship with God and others. Students can only attend Happening as a Candidate once. After they 'Happen,' students are welcome to apply for Happening Team in order to host the next retreat! Sign up at eycdioatl.org and let Taylor know if you plan to participate so that carpools can be organized.

New Beginnings 45

March 3-5, 2023

New Beginnings retreat is for middle school students (grades 6-8). The weekend allows middle schoolers to experience spiritual formation through games, talks, music, and building their relationships with leaders and peers. Sign up at eycdioatl.org and let Taylor know.

Camp Mikell Summer Camp

Camp Mikell offers week-long camp options throughout the summer! They have opportunities for children and youth 1st grade through 12th. Each camp session is catered to a particular age group and follows the 80-year-old Mikell tradition where fun, friendship, and God come together to create a joyous, one-of-a-kind experience called Camp Mikell. For more information visit CampMikell.com

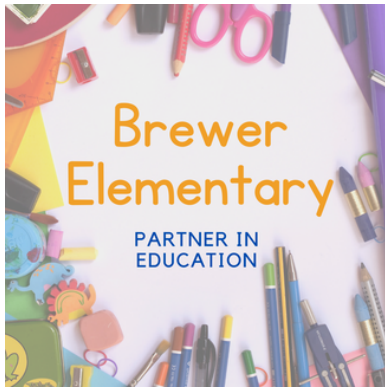
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21, 5:30

Youth and Young Adults will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21st. Both St. Thommies and YACT members will be needed to set, up, serve dinner, and offer good/services for our first ever silent auction fundraiser.



SERVE TOGETHER



Brewer Elementary Partner in Education

We are so excited to share that Brewer Elementary has been taken off the state's list of failing schools. This is based on four years of improved test scores and is a very big deal! We celebrate with the administrators and staff at Brewer as well as the volunteers who have worked with students, families, teachers and beyond to support our partnership with the school. Principal Pat Woodall specifically thanks St. Thomas! If you'd like to be involved with the work at Brewer contact Margo Easterbrook.



Brewer Reading Buddies

Brewer Reading Buddies resume reading after winter break on Tuesday, January 10 at 9 am. New volunteers are invited to come read for one or two thirty minute blocks one-on-one with a first grader. To sign up contact Meg in the church office or use the QR code to let us know you're interested in learning more.



WYNNTON
NEIGHBORHOOD
NETWORK

WNN Updates

Wynnton Neighborhood Network food pantry reopens January 3. They will be closed on Monday, January 16 for the Martin Luther King holiday. Otherwise, they will continue to be open Monday through Friday starting at 10 am. They are able to serve 25 families each day they are open on a first-come first served basis. They are also open on first Saturdays, January 7 and February 4 starting at 10 am.

Please continue to bring non-perishable food items to St. Thomas to support this ministry!

EAST CARVER HEIGHTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ECH Update

Thank you to St. Thomas for making 2022 a great year for East Carver Heights Community Development Corporation. We can't wait to see what we can do together in 2023!

Highlights include:

Boxwood Soccer won two state recreational cups, one league championship and placed in two others. We start the spring season with practices in February and games in March!

St. Thomas and Friendship Baptist made sure that each player and student had a new coat and just in time for a very cold December! St. Thomas also put together wonderful Christmas baskets with sought after essentials. These were joyously received by families. Please continue to pray for our teams, provide cases of water, and attend our games!

Path to Shine mentored six students with six mentors. Great speakers from St. Thomas including Perrin Nicolson and Paul Hostetter with a bassist and spoken word performer! Please thank our outstanding mentors when you see them! Margo Easterbrook, Sandra Montgomery, Suzanne Burdeshaw, Charlene Rallo, LaShanda Porter and Chad Keene. They make such a difference to our students! We also appreciate Sara Ginter and her team of snack angels who provide snacks for Path to Shine, thank you; Jennifer Fletcher, Allyson Young Grossman, Charlene Rallo, Donna Sharp, Sherry Wade, Mandy Flynn, Jessica Ezzell, Leslie Holloway and Vicky and John Partin.

If you would like to volunteer for preparing snacks, contact Sara Ginter and if you would like to be a mentor contact Lisa Herring.

The Boxwood F.A.N.N. continues to serve about a dozen families to keep them food secure and offer speakers that describe services and resources that are helpful for the members. This year we had speakers from the Pastoral Institute and West Georgia Health Department. Please keep them in your prayers as F.A.N.N searches for a permanent home. The Boxwood Recreation Center has closed, so they are meeting at Edgewood Presbyterian Church.

Martha Mullinax is teaching English to about ten Spanish speaking adult learners! Pastor Gustavo Serra let us house this at Nuevo Comienzo Columbus when the Boxwood Recreation Center was closed. Thank you to Martha for her teaching skills and Pastor Serra for his hospitality!

We pray for the new year to bring new blessings for our community and families.

SERVE TOGETHER



Striving for Justice with CVEM

CVEM's *Striving for Justice* series resumes January 22. The timely topic for January, February, and March is anti-semitism. In January, a representative from the Anti-Defamation League is going to be our guest speaker. Look for more details soon.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Stewardship Campaign 2023

Stewardship Update

Thanks to all who made a pledge of financial support for St. Thomas in 2023. We received 143 pledges to the general budget totaling \$611,078 plus 48 pledges to the Capital Reserve Fund totaling \$67,158. Thanks to all who serve by giving!



Serve at St. Thomas

Looking for a way to connect at St. Thomas? We have several volunteer opportunities open right now! Contact the church office if any of these seem like a good fit! Flexible schedules for all and training provided.

- Friday office volunteer to answer the phones and help collate bulletins from noon until 2 or 3 pm
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers to serve at the altar during worship services on Sundays and Wednesdays
- Looking to learn names? Taking up money and checking people in for Wednesday night dinner might be for you!
- Mrs. Erin is looking for volunteers to assist with Sunday School for children (9:30-10:15 on Sundays), Rockers & Rollers (nursery volunteers during 10:30 worship), and Children's Chapel helpers (during 10:30 worship). Contact her for details!

Note about how to receive this newsletter

Seasons at St. Thomas is published each liturgical season. An addressed copy will be available for pick up on a Wednesday or Sunday prior to each season. Copies not picked up are mailed the next day. If you prefer to receive this publication by email, contact meg@stthomascolumnbus.org and we will remove you from the mailing list. The newsletter is also published on our website at stthomascolumnbus.org/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool 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.



Once you have downloaded the app, you can update your own information!

Paper copies of the Church Directory are also available in the church office. Contact us if you'd like to have one!



New Scheduling System

Late last year St. Thomas began using a new system for scheduling volunteers including worship leaders, WNN shoppers, Brewer Reading Buddies and others. Learning this system has taken Meg in the church office longer than anticipated but we haven't given up! Look for an invitation to complete your profile, if you haven't already, and further instructions from Meg in early February. Using this software will make scheduling less time consuming for the office and will allow more input about when volunteers are scheduled. The system can also automatically find substitutes when needed! Thanks for being willing to try something new and for your patience as we learn together!

LOVE GOD.
LOVE EVERY PERSON.
LEARN AND SERVE TOGETHER.



St. Thomas Swag Shop

The online swag shop is open! Apparel, water bottles, notebooks, and more are available with the St. Thomas logo with the new tagline. We also have a new design pictured top left available on shirts and sweatshirts. Go to shop.threadmob.com/stthomaschurch/shop/ or find the link on our website!