



Seasons

at

ST. THOMAS



EASTER EGG HUNT 2023



**FIRST
STEPS**



EASTER SEASON 2022

EASTER SEASON: FIRST STEPS

"Every journey begins with a single step."

I recall seeing this cliché on a poster in a school hallway. I get the point, but it's not really true. Most journeys involve multiple steps before the journey actually begins. Planning an itinerary. Making reservations. Packing a suitcase. Putting mail on hold. Filling the gas tank or charging the car batteries . . .

And that's just planning for a vacation! The big journeys in life - education, vocation, family, church community, personal growth, community change - these involve many steps in thought, experience, and reflection before the journey begins.

St. Thomas begins a big journey together this Easter season. We are remodeling our Nave to *Make Room for All*. Our final Sunday in the current Nave is April 7. Construction begins April 8. Beginning April 14, the 8:30 service will remain in the Chapel. The 10:30 service will move to the Parish Hall, along with the pews, piano, altar, and pulpit. Our contractors say we will be back in the Nave by Thanksgiving.

The First Steps on this journey together follow more than two years of many steps together - a Strategic Planning process, discernment, design, fundraising, and more. When we began this process, we did not know where it would lead. But here we are! Ready to offer a fully-accessible expanded and beautiful place of worship to our community.

As the First Steps of construction begin, we do not know where this journey will lead, either. We envision room to welcome the varying abilities of more people - and what a joy that will be! But we cannot now imagine the impact this effort will have on St. Thomas and the community around us. These First Steps in construction are the First Steps of a new era of ministry for St. Thomas. They follow the First Steps we took together two years ago and the First Steps of many people who founded St. Thomas and have served so faithfully over the years.

Maybe the poster should say "Every journey joins many steps." We never take our First Steps alone. We walk in the footsteps of those who came before, paving the way for those who will come after. What a privilege to walk together!

Thanks to all of you for being on this Journey -

Rev. Grace

MAKING ROOM FOR ALL



Easter Egg Hunt & Church Lunch!

APRIL 7
FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP

A St. Thomas Easter Celebration April 7

On the second Sunday in Easter season, we always hear the story of St. Thomas in worship. We treat this as an alternative Feast of St. Thomas, since the official Feast of St. Thomas is on December 21. This year, the second Sunday in Easter is even more special because this is the Sunday before we begin *Making Room for All*. Join us after the 10:30 service on April 7 for children's Easter Egg Hunts and a fried chicken lunch in the Parish Hall (all food provided, to make it easy). Then, if you can, stay after lunch to help us move things out of the Nave end of the building and begin setting up for work to begin on Monday, April 8.

Safety During Construction

For safety reasons, the construction area will be sealed and not open for visits. *Please do not enter the space.* Keep an extra eye on children and be sure that no one gets into the area. We hope to have pictures and videos to share as the work occurs, and there will be a few times when the congregation will be invited to visit and see the progress.

The Moving Process: Work Day

April 6, 9 until noon
April 7, after lunch

Large items (like pews) will be moved by our contractor. Here are some of the things the congregation will move on April 6 and 7.

- Prayer Books & Hymnals
- Small furniture
- Choir chairs
- Acolyte & server robes
- Final items out of sacristy, choir rooms, and flower room

A Guide to What will be Where Beginning April 14

Chapel and Narthex

- The 8:30 Sunday Service remains in the Chapel.
- A live stream station will be set up outside the Chapel.
- The Choir Room piano will be in the Chapel.
- St. Thomas Choir will rehearse in the Chapel.
- Choir robes will move to the Narthex.
- Choir folders will be near the Chapel.

Parish Hall and surrounding spaces

- The 10:30 Sunday Service moves to the Parish Hall.
- The altar will be on a raised platform along the west wall.
- An altar rail will extend in front of the altar.
- A new sound system will be installed.
- Livestream cameras from the Nave will move to the Parish Hall.
- The Choir, lectern, and Nave piano will be to the right as you face the altar.

- The pulpit and altar party will be to the left as you face the altar.
- Two sections of ten pews each will face the altar, with more pews on the stage and by the windows.
- Children's Chapel will meet in the Outreach Center.
- The Altar Guild will use the Chapel Sacristy and the Youth Room kitchenette.
- The Flower Guild will use the Parish Hall buffet and Parish Life closet.
- Tables for Wednesday dinner will be set up in the aisles after the 10:30 service.



Open Houses

Fri. April 12, 4 - 5 pm & Sat. April 13, 10 - 11 am
Stop by at the end of a busy week to see how the Parish Hall has been transformed into a place of worship.

We especially hope that **acolytes parents and acolytes, ushers, LEMs, choir members and all who lead in worship** will come and see. Checking in ahead of time will help our first Sunday together in the Parish Hall on April 14 go more smoothly.

Tentative Renovation Schedule

Our contractor, Batson-Cook, recently shared this timeline for the renovation process, subject to change, of course. Crews will be on site from 7 or 8 am to 3 or 4 pm each day. The timing for adding the parking is still to be determined, but this is a rough idea of what to expect inside. This is a very complex project, with many steps fitting together to *Make Room for All*.

April 8 to 12 - *Remove pews and chancel furniture and prep for demolition. Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders will also remove the organ pipes and console this week.*
April 15 to May 3 - *Demo Week (as they say on HGTV).*
April 25 to July 5 - *Frame the Nave (high ceiling, takes a while).*
July 8 to 19 - *Install brick on back wall of Nave.*
July 22 to August 16 - *Install wood trim.*
August 19 to 30 - *Raise floors behind the Nave and begin covered ramp outside.*
August 19 to September 13 - *Install new flooring in nave and corridors.*
September 2 to 13 - *Frame the areas behind the Nave.*
September 9 to 13 - *Mechanical, electrical, plumbing rough in.*
September 11 to 20 - *Install drywall behind the Nave.*
September 23 to October 4 - *Frame the attic (organ chambers).*
September 23 to 27 - *Paint!*
September 30 to October 4 - *Install doors, frames, and hardware.*
September 30 to October 11 - *Install ceiling frames and tiles.*
October 7 to 18 - *Install new flooring behind the Nave.*
October 21 to 31 - *Install plumbing, electrical fixtures, and lighting.*
October 21 to November 8 - *Restrooms and accessories.*
October 21 to November 8 - *Punch list, including returning pews to the nave.*

LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



Worship in this Season

Worship in the Parish Hall at 10:30 will continue to be beautiful, reverent, and inspiring. We will still have a procession with acolytes and servers. We will still sing hymns, accompanied by piano. We will still have a gospel procession. We will still come forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail. Now the altar rail will be accessible to all!

As we enter into an experience that may be somewhat new, consider embracing different personal practices of worship in this season. If you don't typically pause to pray before the service begins, or bow as the cross goes by, or kneel for the prayers of the people, or touch the water in the font when you enter, or make the sign of the cross, consider giving some of these practices a try. You may find them meaningful.

This is a good time for all of us to focus on why we worship. From the Catechism, BCP 857:

Why do we praise God?

We praise God, not to obtain anything, but because God's Being draws praise from us.



Voices of the Valley Joins Us for Worship

April 28, 10:30 am
Voices of the Valley will be our special guest on Sunday, April 28 at 10:30. This is just before they leave on their second international tour to Italy. Dr. Michelle Folta, a member of the St. Thomas Choir, of our is the Artistic Director for this Children's Chorus. Several St. Thomas parishioners are traveling with VoV to Italy.



Wednesday Evening Eucharist

5:30 to 6 pm in the Chapel

This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people. This service will continue through most of the summer.



Prayer Group

Mondays, 11:30 am
The St. Thomas Prayer Group meets weekly to offer all kinds of prayers, including Prayers of the People shared on Sunday mornings. We also pray for those who have asked for prayers but wish them to be private. This list is totally confidential to the Prayer Group. The Group meets on Monday mornings at 11:30. The first week of the month the group meets in person in the Chapel and the following weeks they meet on Zoom. *Note: The group will not meet April 1.* Contact the office for the Zoom link or more information.

Contemplative Service

4th Sundays, 5 pm, in the Chapel

From The. Rev. Roxane Gwyn - If you've been a part of our Contemplative/Healing Service on Sunday evenings, this scripture will sound familiar to you:

More than ever the word about Jesus spread far and wide. Crowds were gathering to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Meanwhile, Jesus would slip away to deserted places and pray. Luke 5:15-16.

This passage is the framework within which we craft our time together, with Jesus as the



very model for both healing and contemplative prayer time.

The Contemplative/Healing service brings us together as a community of Christ to break the bread, pour the wine, and gather at the table for Holy Eucharist. It joins us in holy silence, a bit of poetry, candlelight, scriptures of healing acts, and prayers at every turn. It unites us in particular prayers of healing and anointing with holy oil. As one of our lovely chants goes, *In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy. Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.*

Nothing is asked of you but your desire to join in sacred space to listen for the voice of God. April 24, May 26, June 23, July 28, and beyond.



Saints & Sinners

First Thursdays, April 4 & May 2 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.

LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



Graduation Sunday

May 12

Join us May 12th for a blessing and celebration of those among us completing high school, college, grad school, or certificate programs. If you are graduating, please send your name, school, and diploma, degree, or certificate to Taylor Mack by April 28th.



The Day of Pentecost

May 19

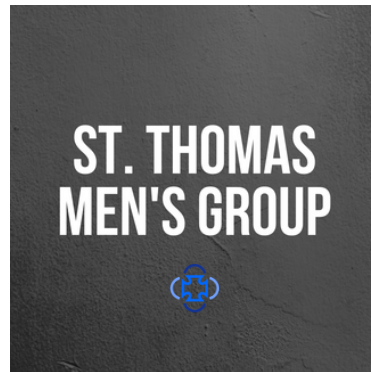
Wear red and gather to celebrate the birth of the Church and the work of the Spirit.

8:30 Eucharist in the Chapel as usual

9:30 Pentecost crafts and activities for all ages

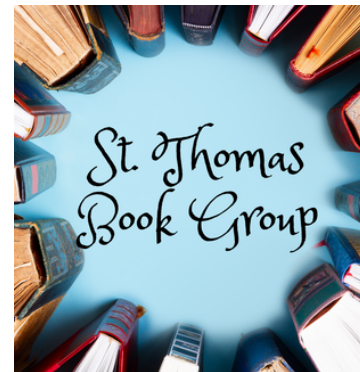
10:30 Eucharist in the Parish Hall

We would like to include a multitude of languages in worship that morning. If you speak a language other than English and would be willing to read a lesson or offer prayers, please let Rev. Grace know by May 5.



Men's Group

Look for details coming soon about a late April or early May meet up of the Men's Group. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, please send a note to Paul Hostetter. You are wanted and welcome to join us!



St. Thomas Book Group

First Fridays, 11 am

Upcoming books:

April: *The Runaway Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini

May: *The Seakeeper's Daughter* by Lisa Wingate

June: *Paper Cuts: An Enchanting Cozy Mystery* by Ellery Adams

July: *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Phaedra Patrick

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



Lunch Bunch

April 9, 11:30

Parker's Pantry

All women are invited to gather for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month beginning April 9th. We will meet 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. This is a new gathering in addition to the Women's Group. Hope to see you there!



Save-the-date! Columbus Pride Festival

June 1

St. Thomas will again participate in the annual COLGAY Pride Festival on June 1st. Look for more information soon on how to participate with St. Thomas in the community event.



Women's Group

April 19, 6:30,

Mabella Midland

Gather with women from St. Thomas for fellowship and meal. This group meets once a month and typically alternates between meeting for lunch or dinner at a restaurant. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. The next women's group dinner will be on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 pm at the new Mabella in Midland. Let us know if you're coming on the website of church office by April 17.

Excursions

Excursion adventures are all around us. Groups of St. Thomas adults and friends gather to be entertained, informed, and challenged by cultural and educational opportunities in our community and beyond. April, May, and June Excursions are in the planning stages. Be on the lookout for announcements in early April! Meanwhile, if you would like to join the Excursions Advisory Team (EAT) to help plan and carry out our trips, contact Roxane. We meet next on Wednesday, April 3, at 6:15 following Holy Eucharist.

LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



YACT Socials

Join YACT (Young Adults Connecting Together) for our upcoming monthly socials! This is a chance for Young Adults (21- 40ish) to fellowship and connect while having fun in the Columbus area.

YACT
young adults connecting together

April Social
Columbus Lions Game
@ The Columbus Civic Center
Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 PM

For tickets, contact Taylor by April 11th

YACT
young adults connecting together

May Social
Whitewater Rafting
Saturday, May 18th at 11 AM
Tickets are \$30 per person. Participants must pay via cash or check to St. Thomas by April 28th.

If rafting isn't for you, please consider joining us for lunch at Banks Food Hall at 1:30 PM

YACT
young adults connecting together

June Social
Eighteen85
Rooftop Bar + Kitchen
Thursday, June 13th at 6:00 PM
RSVP to Taylor Mack by June 2nd



Episcopal Campus Ministry

ECM is a ministry for undergraduate and graduate students that explores faith and life in the context of being a college student. We will continue meeting through the month of April on Tuesday nights for prayer, dinner, and discussion. Contact Taylor Mack for more information on how to participate.



Young Adults Festival

June 21-26 in Louisville, KY

The Young Adult Festival is designed for young adults 18-30(ish) years old to meet peers from across the globe, pray and learn together, engage in the church's legislative process, and help discern God's call for the

Episcopal Church. Participants will be able to attend the Episcopal General Convention while also participating in events specifically for young adults. Depending on interest, St. Thomas may be able to provide transportation for those planning to attend.

The cost for the event ranges between \$135 and \$595 depending on the housing choices. Registration deadline for those traveling to Louisville is May 6 and includes five nights of housing, General Convention registration, and all Young Adult Festival programming. Contact Taylor Mack to participate.

CHURCH
Camp Out

MAY 25
COME & PLAY OR COME & STAY!

Church Camp Out!

May 25, 5 pm to Sunday morning!

Join us Memorial Day Weekend for a Church Camp Out. Bring campers or tents and camp in the church's backyard! For those who prefer the comfort of

your own bed, bring games or other campfire fun and come to eat and fellowship as long as you like. We'll enjoy a revamped fire pit area and fun together as the summer kicks off. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!



Parking Notes!

You will notice we are asking for cars to park on the labyrinth side of the driveway only. This will help traffic flow, avoid blocking our neighbors driveway, and leave room for emergency vehicles. We hope the other parking areas will fill first. If there are not spaces, you're welcome to park

on one side of the driveway.

Several handicap parking signs were moved nearer to the parish hall in anticipation of worshipping in that space.

WEDNESDAYS IN EASTER SEASON



Thanks to all who responded to a recent survey about Wednesday evenings in Easter. The survey indicated enough interest to give this a try. Join us on Wednesdays!



Wednesday Dinners

served from 5:30 - 6:15

vegan and gf options available each week

Dinners will be offered every week from April 10 to May 15. No Wednesday dinner on April 3 due to Spring Break

The suggested cost is \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family. However, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. We want everyone to be able to participate. In order to prepare (and not waste food), we need reservations each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at

a time. (We actually prefer to receive payment online to avoid dealing with cash.) Wednesday Dinner reservation cards are in the pews. Fill it out on Sundays and drop in the offering plate.

April & May Menus:

April 10 - Pizza - outside April 17 - Baked potato bar April 24 - Taco bar May 1 - Breakfast for dinner
May 8 - Mexican chicken casserole, yellow rice, black beans May 15 - Chili & toppings

Wednesday Eucharist

5:30 in the Chapel

This will meet every week, including April 3 during Spring Break. The service on May 8 will celebrate Ascension Day.

Choir Practice

6:45 to 8:30 in the Chapel

The St. Thomas Choir practices on Wednesdays and again on Sundays at 9:30. Contact Rick for more information!

Wednesdays for Adults

See the next page for info for children & youth on Wednesdays in Easter Season

The Ten Commandments: An Interfaith Conversation

With Rabbi Beth Schwartz and friends at St. Matthew Lutheran

Select Wednesdays in April and May

6:30 to 7:30 at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church (4026 Macon Rd)

Join Rabbi Beth Schwartz, the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, and friends at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for dialogue with the Ten Commandments. The course will explore the Ten Commandments through the lenses of Judaism and Lutheran, Episcopal, and Presbyterian liturgical and catechetical traditions of interpreting and applying them. This is a continuation of a discussion that began at St. Matthew before Lent.

The course meets in Luther Hall (building directly behind St. Matthew Church) beginning at 6:30 p.m. and typically lasts 90 minutes. Coffee and light refreshments are provided. St. Thomas parishioners who wish to eat dinner at St. Thomas or attend Wednesday Eucharist should have time to come to St. Thomas first and then get to St. Matthew by 6:30.

The schedule is as follows:

April 10: "You Shall Keep The Sabbath"

April 17: "Honor Your Father and Your Mother"

(two week break)

May 8: "You Shall Not Commit Murder;" You Shall Not Commit Adultery; "You Shall Not Steal"

May 15: "You Shall Not Bear False Witness"

May 22: "You Shall Not Covet"



Guiding Lights: Conversations about care for children past and present

*Wednesday evenings
April 10 to May 15
6:30 to 7:30 in the Library*

Join us for conversation about guiding young people. Each night we pick a theme and share experiences, wisdom, and questions around that theme. Parents of young children, parents of adult children, grandparents, teachers, neighbors - all are invited. All who love and care for children and teens have something to share.

Themes will include:

- Family traditions
- Supporting children who struggle with school
- Money and financial literacy
- Bodies and sexuality
- Fostering healthy faith
- Being a healthy adult while caring for children

Watch the email newsletter for topics each week!



Wednesdays for Children in Easter Season

April 10 - May 15, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

While the weather is nice outside, we'll enjoy the outdoors at St. Thomas. Come play with friends, explore our campus and get your energy out on these spring nights! Check the email newsletter for details!



ShineTime & Tween Time Sunday School

9:30 am - 10:15 am

Throughout the season of Easter, children and tweens will explore characters from the book of Acts. They will get to know key players in the early days of the Church and the "first steps" they took to spread the good news.

Vacation Bible School

July 22 - 26

All children (rising preK-5th grade) are invited to participate in *ReNew: The Green VBS*. ReNew is about hope, opportunity, and service. Kids will have the chance to grow in faith as they play, learn, and sing all while serving their community and demonstrate that being green can be easy, faithful, and fun. Registration coming soon!

Volunteers are needed to offer the best VBS to the children of our community! Youth (rising 6th-12th grade) are encouraged to volunteer as shepherds. Adults are needed to lead classes, help with food preparation, and manage drop off/pick up. If you are interested in volunteering, please email taylor@stthomas columbus.org.



Camp Mikell Summer Camp for Children & Youth

Camp Mikell is the Camp and Conference Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. The beautiful and expansive 460 acres feature mountains, valleys, waterfalls, and even Little Toccoa Creek. Camp Mikell offers week-long summer camps for rising 3rd graders through recent high school graduates. Summer camp is a great opportunity for young people to be themselves, learn about responsibility in a community, grow in acceptance of themselves and others, and experience the love of God. Please visit campmikell.com/summer-camp/ for more information.

In addition to scholarships and payment plans offered by Camp Mikell, St. Thomas is able to offer a scholarship for up to 1/3 of the camp cost to children and teens who are members of St. Thomas and who participate in St. Thomas children and youth programming at least once a month. Contact Taylor Mack for more information on scholarships.

Some teens may be interested in earning extra money to cover the remaining costs of camp. If you would like to hire a youth to help with yard work, spring cleaning, babysitting, or other tasks please contact Taylor Mack to be connected.

Wednesday Night Youth Group in Easter Season

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Through the season of Easter, middle and high school youth will continue gathering at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays. As weather permits, we will enjoy the outdoors and play games, talk about faith, and celebrate friendship.



Youth Work Day

May 4, 9 - 12:30

Calling all youth for a work day to fix up the courtyard and firepit on the morning of May 4th! This will be an opportunity to improve our outdoor space, get to know other members of the St. Thomas community, and show appreciation for the church. Lunch will be provided.



Youth Summer Trip - June 22-27

Youth Trip to General Convention in Louisville, KY will be June 22-27, 2024. This is an opportunity to share in Presiding Bishop Curry's last revival gathering, learn about the wider work of The Episcopal Church, and be present for the election of our next Presiding Bishop. Additionally, youth will connect with other Christian denominations, explore how faith organizations work together, and consider their own gifts.

LEARN TOGETHER: ADULTS

Welcome Classes: First Steps with St. Thomas

Sundays at 9:30, April 14 to May 12

Our next round of Welcome Classes will take place in Easter season. These are for all guests and new members who would like to learn more about St. Thomas and for long-time members who would like a refresher.

April 14 - Welcome to one another. We invite everyone - current and new parishioners - to gather in the Parish Hall for a time of introduction and welcome. This is our first Sunday in the transformed space.

Remaining Welcome Classes will meet in the parlor.

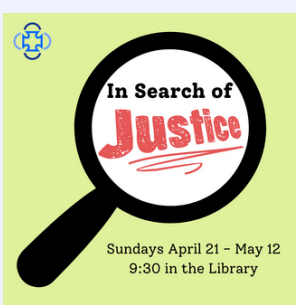
April 21 - Welcome to the Episcopal Church A quick trip through 500 years of church history that explains much of why believe and act the way we do today

April 28 - Welcome to Worship An overview of a Sunday service and how we celebrate the Church Year at St. Thomas, led by the Rev. Roxane Gwyn

May 5 - Welcome to St. Thomas Key events in St. Thomas history and how we live out our mission today

May 12 Welcome to Ministry and Life Together How to get involved in learning and service

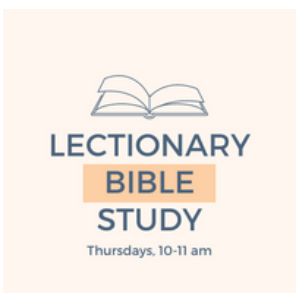
Our next Diocesan Confirmation Service will be at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta on June 2. The service is at 4 pm. Those being confirmed or received are asked to arrive by 3:15. We will carpool from St. Thomas. Those planning to participate are asked to sign up by May 12. A Confirmation Service will also take place in Columbus later in the year.



In Search of Justice

Sundays at 9:30 in the Library,
April 21 & 28, May 5 & 12

Themes of justice, righteousness, and fairness abound throughout the scriptures. This study will explore the Justice of God revealed in the scriptures and what it means to live out God's justice in a world filled with so much injustice. Jerry Brown will facilitate these discussions.



Women's Lectionary Bible Study

Thursdays, 10- 11 am

All women are invited to join Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard in the library or by Zoom from 10-11 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. Upcoming dates are: April 18, May 2 and 9 before a break for summer. The group will resume meeting on September 18.



St. Thomas Day School

2024-2025 School Year

The only openings the school has are in 2's and Pre-K classes. There will be two 2-year old classes and two Pre-K classes. All other classes are full with a waitlist. Hours next year will be

9-1 for a normal school day, 8-9 for Early Drop Off and 1-3 for Extended Day classes.

Summer Camp themes, with openings for ages 4-7:

- June 3-7 Pirates & Mermaids
- June 10-14 Music Fest
- June 17-21 Beach Blast
- June 24-28 Survival Skills
- July 8-12 Gardening



Altar Flowers 101

Thursday,
April 25, 3 pm

Join David Benefield from Highland Hall for inspiration and training about arranging altar flowers for our temporary altar in the parish hall. All are invited - experienced floral designers and beginning artists. The workshop will include a tour of where our floral supplies are located and an opportunity to sign up for a Sunday - on your own or with a member of the flower guild. We would love to have beautiful flower arrangements every week in the parish hall so we are eager to expand this team. Sign up online to let us know you'll attend.

SERVE TOGETHER



Brewer Elementary

PARTNER IN EDUCATION

Brewer Elementary School Update

BIG changes are coming to Brewer Elementary next year. The school is being converted into an intensive learning center for kindergarten through second grade at-risk



Creation Keepers News!

Save the dates and join Creation Keepers for a video screening to mark Earth Day and "Faith Climate Week."

Aligning with this year's theme, Common Ground: Cultivating Connections between Food, Faith, and Climate, portions of the new documentary *Common Ground* will be shown on Sunday, April 21 at 5 pm in the library. The film is not yet available for streaming at home and is available through our partnership with GIPL. Snacks will be provided. Discussion will follow the screening to reflect on our response as people of faith. This event is part of CVEM's Striving for Justice conversation series.

A follow-up event to view and discuss the earlier film *Kiss the Ground* will take place on May 19 at 5 pm. This film unveils the web of money, power, and politics behind our broken food system and profiles a hopeful and uplifting movement of farmers who are using regenerative models of agriculture

Join Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's founding director, Sally Sierer Bethea, for a two-week study on her recent book *Keeping the Chattahoochee*. Bethea was one of the first women in America to become a "riverkeeper"—a vocal defender of a specific waterway who holds polluters accountable. In *Keeping the Chattahoochee*, she tells stories that range from joyous and funny to frustrating—even alarming—to illustrate what it takes to save an endangered river. Her tales are triggered by the regular walks she takes through a forest to the Chattahoochee over the course of a year, finding solace and kinship in nature. The study group will meet via Zoom on April 23 & 30 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Scan the QR code to register and for a link to purchase the books.

West Point Lake Wildlife Cruise Join the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper aboard the West Point Lake Floating Classroom on Saturday, April 13th for an opportunity to see local wildlife! Anticipate learning more about the fish found in the lake and a rare chance to see them up close. QR code to register!

Columbus Screening of "Saving the Chattahoochee" Join CRK and friends at the Columbus Public Library for a free screening of the new documentary film *Saving the Chattahoochee* April 16, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Scan QR code to register.

readers in the Muscogee County School District's four lowest performing schools. We are committed to continuing our partnership with Brewer through this transition. Margo Easterbrook will be sending out an email to all Brewer volunteers with more details very soon. If you're not a regular Brewer volunteer but want to be included, just let Margo know.

Here are some important highlights:

- **Snacks for GMAS testing.** We will be collecting snacks for GMAS testing which takes place April 22 - May 3. Snacks can be delivered to the church office or to Margo up until Wednesday, April 18. Snacks must be in individual packages. Some suggestions are cereal bars, Cheez-Its, or fruit gummies. Meg will also be putting together some special treats for teachers during testing. If you'd like to help with this, let her know.
- **Buddy Pack Deliveries** take place on Tuesday, April 9th, and Tuesday, May 7th from 9:00 to 10:00. Let Margo or Libba Russell know if you're interested in helping out.
- The last day for **Brewer Buddies Reading Program** will be Tuesday, April 16. **Nancy Powell's Tutoring** group will finish up on Friday, April 19.
- We will be providing teachers with a meal for **Teacher Appreciation Week** on Wednesday, May 8. Other ideas for Teacher Appreciation are in the works.

Thank you all for your support!



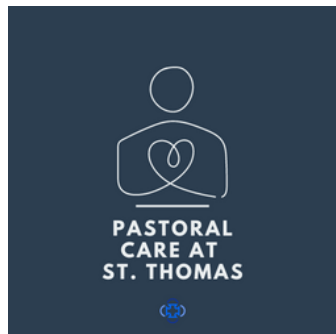
EAST CARVER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Boxwood Soccer Club Ten Year Anniversary

This season we are fielding six teams ages 6-16 with a total of 80 players. Come catch a game. For schedules find us on Facebook, Instagram, or go to www.eastcarverheights.org.

And join us in May for our Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration! For more info contact: Greg Herring greg@eastcarverheights.org



SERVE TOGETHER



Pastoral Care at St. Thomas

In last season's newsletter we talked about opportunities to serve those in the St. Thomas family in a variety of ways, to show the compassion Jesus taught us. Looking at this ministry from another perspective, what do you need? Our newly formed Pastoral Care Advisory Team wants to know the ways WE CAN SERVE YOU, especially if you cannot get out and about. Let Roxane or Donna know what might be helpful and meaningful for you:

- confidential prayers from the Prayer Group
- visits in your home
- Holy Eucharist in your home
- a friendly phone call
- meals in times of need
- cards of care sent to you

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.

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

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 one.

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@stthomaslouis.org to be added to the mailing list. The Pentecost *Seasons* newsletter will be available on May 19 and will be mailed the following week.

Have St. Thomas News to Share?

The deadline for the Pentecost Season edition of this printed newsletter is May 8. Contact Meg if you have info related to St. Thomas to share.



Updates from CVEM

We are rescheduling a time to hear from Muscogee County's Community Remembrance Project; please look for emails and follow us on social media for updates on Striving for Justice Conversations.

-Malinda Shamburger, Director



TAP

We hope you'll plan to join us for the 2024 Thompson-Anderson-Pound Art Program this summer! Children ages 6-11 are invited to attend TAP, an interfaith, intercultural arts program. TAP takes place June 24th - June 28th and Teen training June 18th- June 21. For more information see cvemjubilee.org/tap

St. Thomas Swag Shop

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



The online swag shop is open! Apparel, water bottles, notebooks, and more are available with the St. Thomas logo and tagline. We also have new designs available on shirts and sweatshirts. Find the link on our website or go to shop.threadmob.com/stthomaschurch/shop/ or use the QR code in this newsletter!