



Seasons

at

ST. THOMAS



Crossing the Threshold



CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Our theme at St. Thomas for the next few months is *Crossing the Threshold*.

We do NOT mean the old and disturbing custom of carrying a bride across a doorway after a wedding! Some sources say that custom originated in Roman times and implied that a woman was being carried to a new life against her will.

We have in mind something closer to a stage in the Hero's Journey, as identified long ago by Joseph Campbell. In looking at many religious traditions and ancient texts, Campbell noticed a pattern. At some point in these stories, heroes often faced a decision - whether to continue with life as they had always known it, or step into the unknown and all the possibilities that might lie ahead. Crossing the Threshold is a stage in the hero's journey.

Campbell aside, there are many examples in the Bible. The people of Israel crossed the Red Sea to enter the Wilderness. They crossed the Jordan to enter the Promised Land. Jesus submitted to baptism and crossed the threshold of temptation before beginning his ministry. Later, he turned his face to Jerusalem. He crossed from death into life and invites us to follow where he led the way.

St. Thomas will be crossing many thresholds over the next few months. We are getting closer to crossing a physical threshold and returning to worship in our remodeled and accessible nave, hopefully in Advent. This physical threshold is a sign of a spiritual journey. Many doors are opening for St. Thomas and we are invited to cross together into new ways of welcome and witness.

Thank you for being part of our heroic journey together with God!

Blessings
Grace

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

- 6:** Drive-thru Pet Blessing
- 8:** Lunch Bunch
- 12:** Help the Hooch
- 19:** Re-Wilding Workshop
- 19:** Nature at Night
- 20:** Stewardship Packets
- 25:** Excursion & YACT RiverCenter
- 27:** Lector/LEM Training
- 27:** Trunk-or-Treat
- 27:** Contemplative Service

NOVEMBER

- 1:** Book Group
- 2:** All Souls Service
- 2:** Bishop Investiture
- 3:** All Saints Sunday
- 5:** Election Day
- 7:** Saints & Sinners
- 12:** Lunch Bunch
- 14:** Women's Group
- 14:** Men's Group
- 17:** Contemplative Service
- 20:** Youth WNN Service Night
- 21:** YACT Scofflaw
- 24:** Thanksgiving Service/Dinner
- 25:** Excursion - RiverCenter

DECEMBER

- 5:** Saints & Sinners
- 6:** Book Group
- 7:** Excursion - C.S. Lewis
- 10:** Lunch Bunch
- 11:** Youth WNN Service Night
- 15:** Lessons & Carols/Wassail
- 22:** Contemplative Service
- 24:** Christmas Eve Service

LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



Crossing the Threshold

St. Thomas Stewardship for 2025

October 20 to November 3, All Saints' Sunday

Our annual pledge campaign is coming soon.

Sunday, October 20: Packets will be available to pick up. Stewardship speakers will offer messages in lieu of a sermon. Following both services on that day, the Stewardship Committee will offer an overview of St. Thomas plans for 2025 and how giving to St. Thomas works.

Sunday, October 27: Let's envision our future together. Groups within the church are invited to decorate a door somewhere in the building with images of what you imagine St. Thomas will be like in the future as we cross the threshold together.

Sunday, November 3: Join us to celebrate All Saints' Sunday. Please turn in pledge cards by this date to help our vestry plan for 2025.



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

#VOTEFAITHFULLY



- Before going to the polls, pray for all candidates and give thanks for their willingness to serve.
- Review a sample ballot before you vote and be prepared to vote in local and state elections as well as national elections. Georgia sample ballots: georgia.gov/view-sample-ballot . Alabama sample ballots: www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/2024-general-election-sample-ballots
- We invite you to use the St. Thomas labyrinth as an aid to prayer in this season. Prayers for an election season will be in the box located by the labyrinth. Each bench at the labyrinth will include a reminder to pray for various elected leaders and situations in our world.
- As you pray for our elected leaders, consider whether you need to contact them about an issue to allow your voice to be heard. www.usa.gov/elected-officials can help you find their info.

Vote Faithfully

"It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church's responsibility to help get souls to the polls." Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

An election season marks the crossing of a threshold as we choose leaders to serve us in the years ahead. The Episcopal Church invites all Episcopalians to Vote Faithfully in this election season and encourage our neighbors to do the same. Here are several reminders:

- Early voting begins October 15 in Georgia. Absentee ballots can be requested in Alabama at www.sos.alabama.gov .
- Remind your friends and neighbors to vote.

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.



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.



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.

Baptism at St. Thomas

Our next scheduled dates for Baptism are November 3 (All Saints' Sunday) and January 12 (Baptism of our Lord). Contact Rev. Grace to schedule Baptism.

LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



Remembering the Faithful Departed

All Saints Day is more than a day.

It is three days to give thanks and remember those who have crossed the threshold from this life to the life to come whose faith still inspires us today.

All Saints Eve (aka Halloween, October 31) acknowledges the reality of death and reminds us that we have nothing to fear because nothing separates us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. That's why we have fun on this day.

All Saints Day (November 1) focuses on saints remembered by the whole Church who were clear examples of the life of Christ in their day. We give thanks for their witness and pray to be like them.

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (aka All Souls Day, November 2) honors the entire communion of saints, those known by many or known only to us. It celebrates their eternal life with God from which they pray for us and share in God's mission of love in the world.

All Saints Sunday (the first Sunday after All Saints, November 3 this year) often gathers all of these purposes into one day, hopefully without losing the importance of each observance.

Join us for these events celebrating all the Saints!

Trunk or Treat Our All Saints Eve Celebration!

Sunday, October 27, 5 to 7 pm

Join us for this year's annual Trunk or Treat. We will have hotdogs, candy, a costume contest and fun activities for all. The fun will begin at 5pm and finish up at 7pm. Invite friends and neighbors to join us! See page 8 for more info or contact Shayla at shayla@stthomas columbus.org with questions.

Remembering Beloved Saints

A meaningful All Saints custom at St. Thomas is the remembrance of those who have gone before us in the faith.

To add a name to our necrology (a list of names of those who have died), please complete the form on the website or email to office@stthomas columbus.org by Sunday, October 27. We want this to be a long list! Names added do not have to be members of St. Thomas. We hold all in loving memory.

Here is how we will celebrate and remember together:

Saturday, November 2, All Souls Day

We will read aloud the names of parishioners who died in the last year and all who are interred in the Columbarium.

Sunday, November 3, All Saints Sunday

All names submitted will be printed in the bulletin for both services and named aloud in our prayers at the 8:30 service. In addition, the names of all who died within the last year will also be named aloud in our prayers at the 10:30 service.

Scan this QR code for the form to add a name to our necrology or see stthomas columbus.org/blog/remembering-beloved-saints/.



The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Saturday, November 2 at 4:30

Gather in the Columbarium (or in the chapel in case of rain) for Eucharist and blessing of the ground as we remember all interred in the St. Thomas Columbarium.

All Saints Sunday

*Sunday, November 3,
Services at 8:30 & 10:30*

The **8:30 service** will feature a reading of the entire necrology.

The **10:30 service** will feature a children's procession of saints and an acolyte procession of light as we read the names of all who are dear to us who have died in the past year.



LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



Contemplative Service

October 27, November 17 (third Sunday), & December 22. 5 pm, in the Chapel
From The Rev. Roxane Gwyn - The framework scripture for our sacred time together each month is this: *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

Upon Jesus' example we base our Contemplative/Healing service. We gather in candlelight and silence, the Spirit's presence welcoming and powerful. The cantor chants gentle Taizé music, as all are invited to listen or to join. We share scripture and a meditation of healing and love, then prayers and more prayers.

Silence threads herself in and out, providing abundant time for communion with God. Christ invites us forward twice, once for healing prayers and anointing, and again for Holy Communion with homemade bread. We depart as the Spirit leads us out in silence, with poetry and scripture to carry us home for the evening.

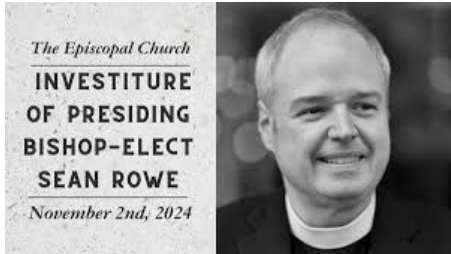
This is a time to feed your very soul. I hope you will join us on these Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm: October 27, November 17 (third Sunday), and December 22. Questions, let me know. Love, Roxane



The Investiture of Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe

Saturday, November 2 at 11 am, with music beginning at 10 am

The Episcopal Church crosses a threshold as a new Presiding Bishop begins his nine-year tenure. Bishop-Elect Sean Rowe set an example of prioritizing stewardship of resources when he announced that this service would be live streamed from the Chapel of Christ the Lord at the Episcopal Church Center in New York. You may watch the consecration from home, or join us for a watch party in All Saints Hall.



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Fall 2024 Schedule

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.

6:30 to 8:15 - Choir rehearsal in the Chapel or All Saints Hall

Wednesday Night Menus

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. 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!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 at 7:30 pm Gather at RiverCenter to hear the U.S. Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants. We'll enjoy an evening of patriotic music, Broadway classics, and a salute to our veterans. The concert is free, but a ticket is required for admission. Contact Roxane soon, or sign up on the parish website.

In **NOVEMBER** we'll attend a play on the Main Stage at Columbus State University down by the river. "These Shining Lives," written by Melanie Marnich, is based on the true story of four women who worked for the Radium Dial Company, a watch factory based in Illinois. The play showcases the danger women faced in this workplace and highlights the wider lack of concern companies had for protecting the health of their employees. Stay tuned for further information about a specific time and date in November.

DECEMBER's excursion will be back at RiverCenter for "Christmas with C.S. Lewis." Saturday, December 7, time to be decided.



Women's Group

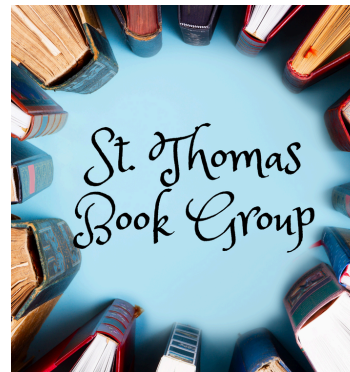
November 14, 6 pm
at Mark's City Grill
Gather with women from St. Thomas for fellowship and a meal. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. Next gathering is November 14 6:00 Mark's City Grill. It is located at 7160 Moon Rd. Sign up online to let us know you're coming!



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:
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.

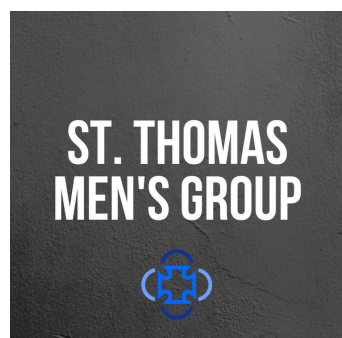


Come just as you are.

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.



Men's Group

On Sunday, October 27th, the Men's Group will gather behind the St. Thomas kitchen to cook hotdogs for the annual Trunk or Treat celebration, happening from 5pm-7pm. We'll meet at 3:30pm to grill and wrap dogs, and then hand them out to all the families who stop by to enjoy some wonderful time together!

We'll meet again for a night of fellowship at Trevioli (located at the Rapids at 1329 Front Ave) at 5:30pm on Thursday November 14th. We always have a wonderful time and I hope you'll join us!

We are working on scheduling another day of service for House of Heroes again. Dan Ginter is spearheading this project and we'll be sending an email to our list regarding a wonderful opportunity for service. If you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact Paul Hostetter.

LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



THANKSGIVING

Service & Dinner

Sunday, November 24, 4:30 pm



Directory Update

We want our directory to be as UpToDate as possible. If you've had a change of contact info, change in your family, or just want to add a new picture - let us know! You can change it yourself or contact Meg in the church office for help.

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.



Thanksgiving Service & Dinner

Sunday, November 24, 4:30 pm

If all goes according to plan, we will gather in the nave for our first look at the remodeled space and share in a service of Thanksgiving there. Bring an offering of canned goods for the Wynnton food pantry. Following the service, a buffet Thanksgiving dinner will be served in the parish hall. Volunteers are needed to help set up tables after the 10:30 service that morning. Nursery care will be available during the service for young children. Older children will participate in the service. More information will be sent to parents closer to the date.

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.



young adults connecting together

October Social

U.S. Airforce Band & Singing Sergeants
@ The RiverCenter

Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 PM



Please RSVP to Taylor@StThomasColumbus.org



young adults connecting together

November Social

Scofflaw Brewing Co.

Thursday, Nov. 21 at 6 PM



Please RSVP to Taylor@StThomasColumbus.org



Yard Sale Save the Date!

Saturday, March 1,
2025

The next fabulous St. Thomas Yard Sale will be on Saturday, March 1, with a preview party the night before. The parish hall will be open to receive items beginning at 4 pm on Sunday, February 23. Start saving now! Contact Linda Prince to volunteer.

October Social: United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants @ The RiverCenter

Friday, October 25, 7:30
pm

Join us to see two ensembles within The United States Air Force Band! Tickets have been pre-ordered for our group. Please let Taylor know if you plan to come.

November Social: Scofflaw

Thursday November 21,
6 pm

YACT is heading to Scofflaw in November for a get-together to enjoy the Fall weather. Please contact Taylor if you plan to attend.



MAKING ROOM FOR ALL

ST. THOMAS VISION CAMPAIGN

UPDATE

We are nearing completion of the renovation of the nave. The work began on April 7. If all goes well, the contractors plan to complete their work before the end of November. Then the pews will be recovered, the sound and livestream equipment installed, new choir chairs delivered, and the organ re-installed with pipes in the loft as they were before and upgraded digital components and console in the front. We are getting close!

Mark your calendars for these dates (assuming everything stays on schedule):

- **Lunch for the crew** - On a weekday near the end of the project, we plan to serve lunch to the construction crew and thank them for all that they have done. Date to be determined.
- **Sunday, November 24 at 4:30** - Gather for a service of Thanksgiving and a first look at the remodeled space.
- **Advent** - We hope to gather for our first Eucharist in the space on one of the Sundays in Advent.
- **Sunday, December 15 at 4:30** - Lessons & Carols and children's pageant, followed by a Wassail Party in All Saints Hall. We are planning for this service to be in the nave.
- **December 24, Christmas Eve, services at 4:30 and 10:30** - We plan for these services to be in the Nave.
- **Sunday, January 12, Baptism of our Lord** - A film crew from the Diocese of Atlanta will be with us at the morning services to record a new St. Thomas video to share with our neighbors.
- **Sunday, January 12, at 4:30 pm** - We are planning an Evensong in honor and memory of Rick McKnight's leadership of St. Thomas Music for over twenty years.
- **Sunday, February 23, 10:30 am** - The Dedication of the Remodeled Nave - Bishop Wright will be present to dedicate the space and offer rites of confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church.

Here is a finance update as of October 2, 2024

Total cost of the project \$4,138,778
 Total costs paid to date = \$1,745,541
 Remaining costs = \$2,393,237

Here is a pledge update as of October 2, 2024

Total amount pledged = \$1,870,430
 Pledges & Gifts paid to date = \$849,792
 Remaining pledges = \$1,176,120

Thank you to all who have invested time, finances, and support in this vision. We look forward soon to Making Room for All!



A NEW PATIO WAS POURED IN SEPTEMBER

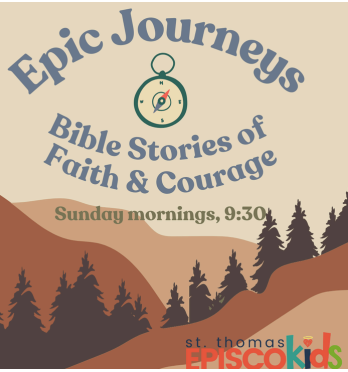


BRICK WORK IS COMPLETE



WE'LL BE HERE SOON!

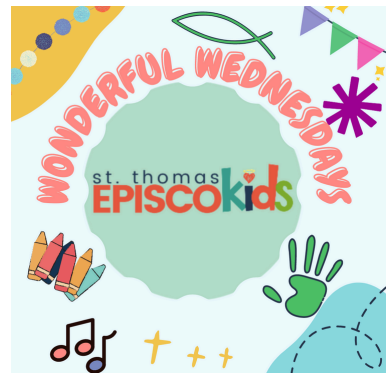




Shine Time Sunday School & Wednesday Nights

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

Every **Sunday morning** during Shine Time, children will be learning different biblical stories of courage and faith. Shine Time is 9:30am-10:30am, Children are encouraged to come to the Children's Center for lessons and fun!

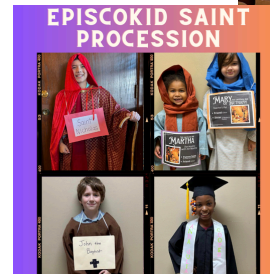


Children are encouraged to join us on **Wednesdays** for dinner, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm and programming from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Each month, children will go through a rotation of lessons, crafts, and games. Children will learn how to shine their light at home, in school, at church, and in life.



All Saints Sunday Episcokid Saint Procession

Join us for All Saints Sunday as the children will dress up as Biblical Saints and lead a parade in worship. Children can join Ms. Shayla in Shine Time in October, to learn about the different Saints from scripture and get ideas for All Saints Sunday. Look for a link to the saint sign up in the email newsletter.



Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27, 5 to 7 pm

Join us for this year's annual Trunk or Treat. We will have hotdogs, candy, a costume contest and fun activities for all. The fun will begin at 5pm and finish at 7pm. Parishioners are invited to join the fun by decorating their cars and passing out candy. We are anticipating a crowd from the community this year - with around 300 trunk or treaters! (If you need help with securing candy to pass out, let us know.) Thanks to the Men's Group for serving hotdogs. The church will provide teal pumpkins with allergy safe candy for several of our participating cars. **Participating cars need to be in place and decorated by 4:45.** If you are interested in joining the fun and would like to volunteer for the event, decorate your car, or donate candy please contact Shayla or look for a link in the newsletter.

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@stthomas columbus.org.

The EpiscoKid Adventurers

From Ms. Shayla

The EpiscoKid Adventures will continue to happen throughout the season. Be on the lookout for emails regarding trips to various places around Columbus for our children to have fun and fellowship outside of the church building.



LEARN TOGETHER

echo
THE STORY

Sunday Morning for Youth

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

Each Sunday, youth are encouraged to gather in the youth room for Echo the Story! In this series, youth 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

Youth are encouraged to participate in Wednesday night Youth Group for a time of fellowship and faith. Activities vary each week and include discussions, crafts, service projects, games, and much more. This is a time for youth to build community and consider their role as disciples in the world.



Wynnton Neighborhood Network Service Nights

November 20th and December 11th.

St. Thomas youth will pack grocery bags for Wynnton Neighborhood Network's holiday distributions on November 20th and December 11th. Packing will take place during the regular Wednesday night programming time.

EYC Events

Check out all upcoming events and leadership opportunities for Diocesan Youth Ministry at EYCDIOATL.ORG

Happening #80 @ Camp Mikell - Oct. 18-20

This high school formation retreat is a longstanding rite of passage in the Diocese of Atlanta. Planned for students and by students, Happening is an experience that invites us into deeper faith. Once you 'Happen,' you're connected to a community that spans The Episcopal Church and allows you to create the Happening experience for others at future retreats. For more information and registration, please visit EYCDIOATL.org

New Beginnings #48 @ Camp Mikell - Nov. 15-17

New Beginnings is a retreat designed uniquely for middle school students. Throughout the weekend, participants explore their relationships with friends, family, God and the Church. They also get to enjoy all the fun of camp including worship, games, skits, small groups, and the outdoors. For more information and registration, please visit EYCDIOATL.org. **Taylor Mack will be providing transportation to and from this retreat. If you need a ride, please let her know by Oct. 15th.**

Save the Date:

- Christmas Carol Camp-In @ St. Francis in Macon, GA - December 21-22
- NYC Winter Camp @ Camp Mikell - January 3-5



All Saints Procession

November 3rd

During the 10:30 service on All Saints Sunday, youth will have the opportunity to participate in a candlelight procession to honor all who have gone before us in faith. More information will be shared with youth during Sunday School and Wednesday Nights.



Episcopal Campus Ministry Weekly Eucharist

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 in the Davidson Student Center for Eucharist and Dinner starting at 5:30 PM. Contact Taylor Mack for more information.

Save the Date

**Campus Ministry Retreat @ Camp Mikell
January 24-26**

LEARN TOGETHER: ADULTS



Sunday Adult Formation: Creation Care

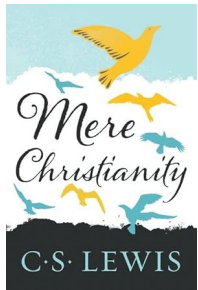
9:30-10:15, October 13 - November 3, Library

The Creation Keepers, St. Thomas' Green Team who seek to care for our shared home will present an Adult Formation series on Creation Care. The topics will include:

- Developing the Indigenous Mindset
- Overview of the Creation Care/Environmental Stewardship Resolutions from General Convention
- Discussion on Clean Energy and Carbon Sinks (keeping carbon out of the air; keeping carbon in the ground)

- Achieving net zero goals through individual and collective action to sustain Earth's beauty and resources

The triple planetary crisis urgently demands our prayerful attention and response: Climate change, Loss of biodiversity, and Pollution. Each of these problems is a crisis of its own, but all three converge and exacerbate each other. Destabilizing, dismantling, and polluting Earth's life-systems is an issue of social and racial injustice. Historically marginalized and underserved communities are hurt first and worst by the effects of a degraded environment and are those least likely to have a seat at the table where policy decisions are made. Leaving a ruined world to our children and children's children is likewise an issue of intergenerational injustice. As people of faith, we understand that environmental degradation is a deeply spiritual and moral issue and that the Church is called to proclaim through prayer and action God's good news to the whole Creation.



Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

Begins in November, 9:30 in the library

Thanks to Jerry Brown for leading a study of this classic by C. S. Lewis. Lewis also wrote The Screwtape Letters, which many of our Journey Groups are studying.

Save-the-Date! Advent Lunches

If all goes according to plan with construction, All Saints Hall should be available by Advent.

We plan to host Advent lunches on December 2, 9, & 16 at noon.

Women's Lectionary Bible Study

Thursdays, 10 to 11 am

2024-2025 dates: September 12 - November 14, 2024 and January 9 - May 22, 2025
(No meeting April 3, April 24, or May 1.)

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 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.

Journey Groups: *The Screwtape Letters* AND *Manna & Mercy Continue*

Journey Groups are gatherings for adults that meet outside of Sunday mornings to learn and grow together. Our Fall 2024 Journey Groups began the week of September 18 and will meet until Thanksgiving. The group studying *Manna & Mercy* is full. Contact the church office if you would like to join a group studying *The Screwtape Letters*. In this classic by C. S. Lewis, written during World War II, a demon named Screwtape,

teaches his nephew Wormwood 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. Groups meet Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, and Sundays at 4 pm with an online option for the Sunday group.

SERVE TOGETHER



Brewer Early Innovation Academy Update

Margo Easterbrook, St. Thomas Partnership in Education Coordinator
Brewer Buddy Packs! Thank You to St. Thomas Volunteers who delivered 320 Buddy Packs to Brewer on

Tuesday, October 1st! Buddy Packs are small packets of food that go home on Fridays with students that have been identified as living in food insecure homes. We are able to provide 80 students with extra food on the weekends every week, thanks to your generosity! We will continue to provide Buddy Packs throughout the school year, delivering them once a month on the first Tuesday of every month from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

If you want to do something that makes a big difference in the life of a child, but don't have a lot of free time, this is an excellent opportunity for you. There are two ways you can participate:

1.) We pick up the Buddy Packs from Feeding the Valley at 9 am. If you are able to lift heavy boxes, we will load 32 boxes into our vehicles and then transport them to Brewer. Once at the school, we will take the boxes into the school on dollies and you can be on your way by 9:30.

2.) Another group of volunteers meets at the school at 9:30. These volunteers unpack them into plastic storage containers. The school places them in student backpacks on Friday afternoons. We are usually finished by 10 am. This is happening once a month on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the school year. Upcoming deliveries will take place on Tuesday, November 5th, and Tuesday, December 3rd. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out!

As the holidays approach, we'll be offering a chance to make donations to our Buddy Pack program as gifts in honor of loved ones. Please be on the lookout for more about this in the coming months! If you can't wait and want to contribute now, we are always accepting donations to this program! -



Creation Keepers News!

St. Mark's Episcopal in LaGrange, in collaboration with St. Thomas Creation Keepers and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, (GIPL) invites you to attend a free **ReWilding Workshop**, October 19, 9:30-12:30, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in LaGrange, GA. More info: <https://gipl.org/events/wga-rewilding2024>



Help the Hoosh: Clean Up Lakebottom Park

October 12, 8:30 AM

Volunteers Needed!

Email

cleanenergycolumbus@gmail.com
to RSVP and for meet up location

Nature at Night

October 19, 6-9 pm, Oxbow Meadows

Join Oxbow for a free family friendly evening of nature exploration! Non-Spooky Guided Trail, Exclusive Guided Night Hikes, Night Time Animal Encounters. Story & Campfire Sing-Along, Crafts & More! More info:

<https://oxbow.columbusstate.edu/fall-migration/>

Lector/LEM Training

October 27, following 8:30 service

Thanks to those who have stepped forward to begin or continue serving at the 8:30 Sunday morning service in the chapel. We'll hold a training for all Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, and any one else who'd like to attend, on Sunday, October 27 immediately following the 8:30 service. Contact Roxane for more information, and to commit to being there. In early December we'll hold a training for 10:30 Lectors.



EAST CARVER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Boxwood Soccer - Thank you for all the donations of snacks from St. Thomas for soccer players. Thank you for your generosity and making soccer games fun! We are doing well and

learning so much. Please come watch us if you can. Games times are listed in the Celebrations & Sorrows emails each Friday.

Path to Shine-Columbus - We meet on Tuesdays, 4:30-6pm at 800 32nd Avenue next to Carver Heights Presbyterian Church. Thank you to all from St. Thomas who are snack providers! We have eight students this year and five mentors. Thank you to Mandy Ochoa, our new mentor from St. Thomas. This is a loving, faithful ministry to Christ which changes the self-worth of young school children by helping them with their reading and other studies. We love watching these faithful mentors at work!

The Boxwood F.A.N.N. - is proud to keep 12 families in poverty, food secure. We are struggling to find affordable food for these families. Continue to pray for us and our coordinator, LaShanda Thomas, as we navigate the food shortages and continue to provide healthy food for families. If anyone wants to donate bags of tide laundry pods that would be great.

Trunk R Treat - The Boxwood Recreation Center and Boxwood Soccer will have a Trunk R Treat on Monday, October 28 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Boxwood Recreation Center, 1110 Enoch Drive. If you would like to dress up or just come and hand out candy, you are welcome. If you want to donate candy that would be great. We will be joined by the Community Warriors, Target, Boys on the Hill, and others to make this a great community event.

SERVE TOGETHER



Pastoral Care at St. Thomas PASTORAL CARE NEEDS

What do you need? The folks on our Pastoral Care Advisory Team (Donna, Roxane, Nelia, Ruth, and Renee) want to hear from you! We are the ones at St. Thomas who coordinate the various ministries that help us take

care of each other within the parish.

Would you enjoy an occasional phone call, or a visit from a friendly brother or sister? Is there a time when a few meals delivered would be helpful to you? If you are unable to come to church on Sundays, might you like someone to visit you with communion? What about receiving cards from St. Thomas people?

You are most welcome to reach out to us about any needs or pastoral concerns -- we are here for you. Also, if you know of others who might like particular pastoral care, share the word. Meanwhile, we send you Christ's peace and our love.



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 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!

Volunteers for Thanksgiving Dinner

Seth is preparing a lovely feast on November 24, the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving. Can you be part of a team to help with set-up or take-down? Contact Nelia Partain or Ann Johnston if you can offer your services.

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 to be added to the mailing list. **The Advent Seasons newsletter will be available on November 24** and will be mailed the following week to those who request.

Have St. Thomas News to Share?

The deadline for the Advent Season edition of this **printed newsletter is November 13**. Contact Meg if you have info related to St. Thomas to share.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK
Annual WNN Unity Service
November 17, 6 pm, St. Paul Church
Gather with the many Christian and Jewish congregations who support the Wynnton Neighborhood Network to give thanks for the privilege of serving together. An offering will be received to support this vital ministry. Rabbi Larry Schlesinger is the preacher for this service.

WNN loves all of her volunteers!
Currently, we are pretty well staffed but if anyone wants to join our happy family, please reach out to Barbara Ellis. Thank you so much!

Holidays are coming soon and **we will be feeding 250 families for Thanksgiving and another 200 families for Christmas, in addition to our normal 125 families per week.** Our lists for both the holiday bags and regular bags are below and we appreciate anything you can give. **Usually the most difficult for us to gather are the yams, pumpkin pie mix, fruit, peanut butter and jelly. Thank you!**

Weekly Items Needed for the Pantry

- Canned Vegetables (corn, green beans, baked beans, carrots, mixed veggies, or any other type of veggie)
- Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, spam, ham, chili with meat, lasagna, etc.)
- Canned fruit (any type)
- Canned Tomato Products (diced tomatoes, tomatoes, tomato sauce, etc.)
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Spaghetti Sauce and Noodles
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Soup (any kind, including ramen noodles)
- Rice - boxes or 1 lb. bags
- Breakfast cereal

Items Needed for Thanksgiving and Christmas Distribution

(Need at least 450 of each)

- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Chicken broth (cans or boxes)
- Cranberry Sauce
- Pumpkin pie mix
- Brownie Mix
- Evaporated Milk
- Corn bread mix
- Green Beans
- Yams
- Jelly
- Corn
- Mac & cheese
- Stuffing
- Peanut butter