

FALL/WINTER 2024 | ISSUE NO. 13

The Clarion



THE YEAR OF
GOLDEN JUBILEE

THE NEWSLETTER OF



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

To be an
I N C L U S I V E
and
K I N D
church that learns and serves together



Worship Service Schedule

SUNDAY

8:00AM: Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00AM: Holy Eucharist Rite II &

Children's Church 

WEDNESDAY

12:00PM: Holy Eucharist Rite II

To read more about formation, offerings, and other ways to engage, read through the Parish Calendar on page 17.



Watch our live-streamed services on YouTube!

www.youtube.com/c/tom1604



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

BOO!



TRUNK OR
TREAT

27
OCT

3:00PM - 5:00PM
WOEHLER FAMILY CENTER
PARKING LOT



7



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Thank you to our printer, Robert Thomas and UBEO for this publication.
 We appreciate your generosity!



**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL**

Church: 210.494.3507 | www.tom1604.org | stthomaschurch@tom1604.org

School: 210.494.3509 | www.stes1604.org | anewman@sts1604.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm

CLERGY

The Rev. Mike Michie, Rector

mmichie@tom1604.org

The Rev. Allie Melancon, Vice Rector

amelancon@tom1604.org

CHURCH STAFF

Sarah Anderson, Member & Growth Coordinator

sanderson@tom1604.org

Ryan Becker, Minister of Music

rbecker@tom1604.org

George Guerra, Sexton

Alma Lopez, Custodian

Marci Fair, Operations Manager

mfair@tom1604.org

Samantha Neumann, Communications Director

sneumann@tom1604.org

Caleb Phares, Video Production Manager

cphares@tom1604.org

Kellie Phares, Children's Minister

kphares@tom1604.org

PJ Waite, Children's Music Director

pjwaite@tom1604.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Allison Newman, Head of School

anewman@sts1604.org

Donna Gauthier, Office Administrator

dgauthier@sts1604.org

VESTRY

Remember they are your elected representatives and welcome hearing from you!

Matt Felter,
Senior Warden

Robb Swain,
Junior Warden

Jeff Nelson,
Treasurer

Rusty Biechlin,
Chancellor

Lorraine Babcock
Janet Biechlin
Warren Franz
Leah Hosey
Ben de Leon
Virginia Lukefahr
Lloyd Norris
John Owens
Kristine Thomas

Bible Study with Fr. Mike Thursdays at 9:30am via Zoom

Father Mike hosts a one hour Zoom Bible Study that takes a look at the text that will be preached the coming Sunday. These studies will help your own worship and understanding of the sermon as well as help our clergy prepare for the upcoming Sunday! Email the church office for a link to the Zoom meeting.



@tom1604church



@tom1604church



youtube.com/c/tom1604

REST UP, GET READY, AND KEEP MOVING

A Message from the Rector, Fr. Mike Michie



All through the Bible we are encouraged to give thanks. One of my favorite verses is Psalm 106:1: “Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.”

Pretty soon the culture will move us to “fall mode” and the Pumpkin Spice Lattes. Even though it’s still 100 degrees outside, the coming of fall brings with it a reminder to give thanks. Thanksgiving will be the theme of these next few months at St. Thomas. The highlight will be our Jubilee Celebration of 50 years for our church and school, held on October 5-6. You can read all about our plans for it in The Clarion.

Our weekend will include a Gala Dinner on Saturday, October 5th followed by a Festival Eucharist on Sunday, the 6th. We will gather in just one service that day, at 10am. We’ll then enjoy a lunch and carnival after church. I hope you’ll plan on joining us! You can purchase tickets for the Gala Dinner now.

With everything that we have going on – managing the growth of our church and school – it is important that we stop and give thanks. Fifty years ago we became a Parish church in the Diocese of West Texas. It was also in that same year that we started our school. Think of the difference that our church and school has made in generations of families. We have been a source of stability and a Christian witness in north San Antonio for a generation.

Take a look at our webpage tom1604.org/jubilee – to read more about our Jubilee Weekend and get your Gala tickets. There is even a link to

upload your pictures from days gone by of our church and school.

Giving thanks to God for what has passed, we will turn in faith toward the future. In the coming months I’ll be sharing with you our latest understanding of the needs we have on our campus. Certainly, our buildings are getting older too. With it comes our responsibility to keep our buildings maintained and up to date. There is also the existing Woehler Family Center debt, right around \$1.4 million.

On Sunday, November 3rd, I’ll be holding a special “Town Hall” meeting at 9 am in the Parish Hall to share with you what we are thinking, to get your opinion, and to hear your questions. I hope you’ll join us for every Discipleship Hour at 9am, but I want to particularly invite you to this one.

God has blessed and provided for us in the past, let’s give thanks! Let us do so in anticipation of the ways God will bless and provide for us in the future. We want to do our part to ensure that St. Thomas will be here – secure, safe, strong, and faithful – for the generations to come. As we reflect on the legacy of ministry handed down to us, let’s get busy building our legacy to the generations after us.

Let’s make it so they will thank God for us – for our wisdom, generosity, and sacrifice. May they remember our love for one another and our willingness to obey the direction of the Lord. Thank you for being a part of our church and for reading your Clarion! God has sent you to help us in this very hour, as we move forward in thanksgiving toward the next best thing Jesus has for us!

CELEBRATE

A Message from the Vice Rector, Rev. Allie Melancon



I hope this edition of the Clarion finds you well. As you will see, these pages are chock full of all things 50th Birthday Celebration. This has led my thinking and wondering down a path of time, marking time, and remembering it. It feels like

no matter where we are in life we can look back to last year, a few years ago, ten years ago, or more and mark it. We remember something of significance, something life-changing, or just simply true.

This month, I am celebrating the start of my fourth year at St. Thomas and two years since my granny died. This Fall I have been invited to my 20th High School reunion. I am sure if you wondered a little about this month or year, you might find yourself marking time in this way too. Some things to celebrate and marvel, and others to mourn and remember.

I enjoy marking time because I am always surprised by how inconsistent it feels. For example, I can't believe I have been at St. Thomas for three years, I still feel like the new girl! While at the same time it feels like much longer than two years since my granny died. Time is strange when we try to mark it this way. I don't have any great revelation or insight about this conundrum when it comes to time; I just know for me, this is true. It's true that time can speed by and feel like a slog, all at the same time.

As a church we are entering into a season of marking time this way. We are celebrating being a church and school for the last 50 years! Some of you have been here since the beginning and others come very close. For those of you that have found yourselves here more recently, you have a lot to celebrate too! What does it mean for a church and school like ours to be 50 years old? What does it mean for you? You who have been here for a long time and you who are still the 'new girl'? Where will we be in a year from now, ten years, or fifty years?

The thing I do know about time and remembering is when we reflect on milestones like these, what we are really doing is remembering all the ways our lives have intersected with others. How our lives have bumped up against someone else or a place for a season. How now, because of that season our lives are interwoven, and we are forever connected to one another.

When I think about what we are celebrating at St. Thomas Episcopal Church and School this year, it is not just a birthday, we are celebrating all the ways our lives have intersected over the years. How we are woven to one another and to this church. How our lives have been grafted together and sustained by God's love. This is a beautiful thing to remember and mark this time in a special way.

We have come a long way St. Thomas, we have done some incredible things, made a huge impact in our city, and have lots to celebrate and remember. I am grateful to have bumped up against you in this season of our lives together. It has been and continues to be a tremendous blessing.



November 27
7:00 PM



**Thanksgiving Eve Worship
&
PieFest**

Please bring a pie to share.

COMMITTEES

A Message from the Senior Warden, Matt Felter



Fall is “here”, which means we can finally roll our car windows down in the morning and enjoy some lower 80’s before the heat returns in the afternoon. Continuing with the theme

from my last article, let’s talk about committees. St. Thomas is in the middle of some big changes and big event planning. If you are not familiar with the committee work happening behind the scenes, please ask anyone on the Vestry or find me on Sunday. I might be attending 8am more often beginning in late October through December. 🎅

Have you heard about the Golden Jubilee? This committee has been working hard to put on a fantastic party. Come celebrate 50 years with St. Thomas! The Celebration Dinner is Saturday, October the 5th, in the Woehler Family Center from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets are \$50 per person. Then on Sunday, join us for the free Carnival Celebration in the Woehler Family Center between 11:30am and 1:30pm. Paige and I will be there! Will you?

Several other committees are queuing up their announcements so please stay tuned. If you can’t handle the suspense, maybe you could join a committee and have a voice in the matters we discuss. And since I’m asking, who is curious about joining the Vestry? Vestry nomination applications go out in December. We elect and install new members in the first quarter of the year. Do you want to be a Vestry member? Let’s talk.

With the departure of the awesome Kathleen Stephens, St. Thomas has had to fill her shoes with several personnel moves and I’m sure more will come. We have two new (non-parishioners) bookkeepers for the church and school. This

helps to add another layer of checks and balances to the business side of things. Marci Fair has graciously accepted an invitation to be an Operations Manager for St. Thomas. As a part time staff member, she will be instrumental with our data entry and management of the Woehler Center rental process. Rev. Allie moved into a Vice Rector role which comes with more responsibility. Truthfully, she already has been unofficially performing extra campus management duties since arriving at St. Thomas. We ask again for everyone to be patient as the staff duties and responsibilities get ironed out.

I’d like to take a second to point out that it’s easy to see the growth in the church population with the increase in baptisms and children’s sermon attendance, but it’s the growth behind the scenes I’d like to highlight. Not only do our Rectors and staff attend to our spiritual well-being, but they must also manage the campus’ well-being. Mike and Allie have really done an excellent job on both fronts and I’m excited to see what’s next. St Thomas has been blessed by these two wonderful people.



**CAMPUS
CLEAN-UP**

**SEPTEMBER 28TH
9:00AM**

MAINTENANCE

A Message from the Junior Warden, Robb Swain



I hope everyone enjoyed the summer of 2024. Rev. Allie, George Guerra, our Sexton and I have been on a fact-finding adventure this summer. We have established a functioning HVAC identification process and maintenance program. We

have identified thermostats and pairing them with AC units, inspected each unit, listed the age and establishing a proper maintenance schedule. Sustainable filtration replacement practices and cleaning of condensation lines are currently in progress. We discovered that 5 of the 27 units need immediate replacement, you can see the cost of replacing these units below:

- \$22,596 Front Right of Sanctuary
 - \$2,500 Duct Cleaning for Front Right
 - \$22,684 Back Right of Sanctuary
 - \$7,824 Chapel
 - \$14,552 Nursery, Bathrooms, Parlor
 - \$9,874 Parish Hall Kitchen & Bathrooms
- \$80,030 Total Cost**

Along with this units in need of being replaced we learned that we have some aging units on campus as well. Every unit inside and outside now has a recorded birthday.

- 4 Units: 20 Years Old
- 4 Units: 15 Years Old
- 3 Units: 10 Years Old

Wood repair and replacement is currently required followed by painting, gutter, and downspout replacement on the Parish Hall and Christian Education Wing. The Garden area is experiencing a large problem with drainage when it rains.

- \$3,760 Gutter Replacement Sanctuary
- \$1,550 Gutter Replacement Parish Hall
- \$4,000 Wood Replacement and Repair Soffit Parish Hall
- \$2,000 Wood Replacement and Repair Soffit Christian Education Wing

The Sanctuary metal roof is a galvanized roof with an average life expectance of approximately 25 years based on the material used 33 years ago. Urethane adhesives and caulking have been applied to rusty areas and sloped surfaces to reduce future rust and leaking. Complete replacement of the Sanctuary metal roof is inevitable. The gravel and tar built up roofs over the Christian Education Wing and the Music Wing are extremely antiquated and needs replacement with new improved materials. This can stop the endless and expensive cycle of patch and repair three to four times a year.

- \$125-135,000 New Metal Roof on Sanctuary
- \$275,000 New Christian Education & Music Wing Roof
- \$1,500 New Rolled Roof on Breezeway into Gosnell Hall
- \$3,500 Current Patch Needed Music Wing Repair
- \$1,950 Current Patch Needed Christian Edu Wing Repair

On a positive note, 40 new columbarium niches have been installed and some upgrades to the existing units have been completed. The left side structure had a few additional adjustments made, including new cut beveled stone installation for an improved moisture barrier.

We must step into the 21st century of improvement and maintenance of our campus. We cannot continue to gloss over and "Band-Aid" our facilities much longer. We need to plan major investments over the next three to five years to ensure protection from the elements, comfortable purified air control systems, and adequately maintain the campus' appearance.

I would like to thank Rev. Allie and George Guerra for their involvement and work this summer. In addition, thank you to everyone who has contributed your time, talent, and funding to our campus and facilities.

Continued on page 12.

There will be a Fall Workday Saturday, September 28th for 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Come early grab a taco, donut, coffee, drill, shovel, trimming tools, and a rake. We are planning to weed flower beds, fluff mulch, plant flowers, add dirt and sod, repair some wood fence, stripe the parking lot, and add paint and stencil work to the handicap emblems. Please bring yard tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, hats, and sunscreen (I had to add that in for Rev. Allie).

Thank you all for your support of our community. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions updates, and recommendations.





WE INVITE YOU TO BE A
PART OF OUR

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

CHILDREN & YOUTH OF ALL AGES

DECEMBER 24TH
AT 5:00 PM

DRESS REHEARSAL AND
COSTUME FITTING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
9:00AM-11:00AM

**REGISTRATION
OPENING SOON!**



COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Message from Kent Gates, Community Outreach Ministry Leader

The Outreach Committee has planned activities for the fall including tutoring at Harmony Hills Elementary School, Haven for Hope meal service on the second Monday of the month, Santa Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry support typically the second & fourth Fridays of the month, West Avenue Compassion food pantry work every Monday & Tuesday morning, CAM Christmas Store support, and Santa Fe Angel Tree for Christmas. Our committee's purpose is to utilize our time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves. All our activities are open for participation, and you are most welcome to join us.

This summer we moved over 32,000lbs of food in six deliveries of 5,300lbs twice a month from the San Antonio Food Bank to Santa Fe Episcopal Church and aided in the food distribution preparation. We served over 500 meals at Haven for Hope each month and made sandwiches. In August we made 1,290 sandwiches. That may be a record!

Also, we had participation from our youth in serving at Haven. CAM had a jean drive in August that our committee participated in, and we delivered 21 pairs of jeans. Also, our church provided 74 school backpacks with supplies to Santa Fe Episcopal Church youth. Thirteen of us joined a group of other volunteers at the San Antonio Food Bank to sort 29,000lbs of potatoes, onions, and carrots for distribution to hungry families.

Beginning in September, we will start our third year of tutoring and other support for Harmony Hills Elementary School. This is a school with many under-performing and at-risk students which requested our help just before COVID-19 hit. The COVID-19 epidemic put them even further behind, but they have made progress, and the school staff is grateful for our support. We will be announcing our opportunities for tutoring and mentoring in September. The normal 'ask' is for 60 to 90 minutes, one day a week working with individual and small groups of students.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES VISIT PAGE 22.





PARISH CALENDAR



SUNDAYS

8:00am- Holy Eucharist Rite I

in person only

10:00am- Holy Eucharist Rite II and
Children's Church

in person and live streamed

WEDNESDAYS

12:00pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II

in person only

PET BLESSING

Sunday, September 29th

3:00pm in the courtyard

All pets welcome! Pets must be on a leash or in a crate for safety.

ALL SAINTS' EVENSONG

Sunday, November 3rd

4:30pm

Join us for Solemn Evensong for The Feast of All Saints'. You will be invited to light candles and place them on the altar in remembrance of loved ones. After, join us for a reception.

A LITANY OF HEALING

Sunday, November 24th

during the 8:00am and 10:00am services

During both Sunday services we will have a special Litany of Healing for those in need of extra prayers. During these services we will also offer anointing with oil for healing. After communion, those that are in need of additional prayers can go to the Chapel of the Cross (located to the left of the altar).

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP AND PIEFEST

Wednesday, November 27th

7:00pm

Join St. Thomas for an evening of worship and pie. After service all are welcome to the Parish Hall for a slice (or two) of pie. Please bring a pie to share.

HOPE & HEALING SERVICE

Thursday, December 19th

7:00pm

Are you grieving a loved one this Christmas? Is this time of year hard for you? Join us for this special service of healing and remembrance.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL & COSTUME FITTING

Saturday, December 21st

9:00am-11:00am

'Oh, come let us adore Him!' We will meet together in the Church for Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and Costume Fitting. All speaking parts will practice their lines together, Angels will rehearse their dance, and Sheep will choose which 'fluffy' costume fits best.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 22nd

10:00am

We invite you to join us for the Festival of Lessons and Carols. This service will be music and Scripture readings. No sermon or communion. If you would like communion, please attend the 8:00am service on this day.

PARISH CALENDAR



CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24th

3:00pm - Holy Eucharist Rite I

5:00pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II and
Children's Christmas Pageant

8:00pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prelude begins at 7:30pm

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00pm

Children of all ages are invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve! The Christmas Pageant is a beautiful opportunity for our children to share the story of Jesus' birth with our church family. This is a great occasion to invite cousins, grandchildren, and friends to participate, too. Be on the lookout for our sign-up link.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25th

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Tuesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Rehearsals resume in September

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Rehearsals resume in September

VIDEO PRODUCTION MINISTRY

Sundays at 10:00am

We are looking for a team to help with our Sunday live stream production. Interested? Contact Video Production Manager, Caleb Phares, at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

Lay Eucharistic Ministers needed to serve at both the 8:00am and 10:00am services. Duties include reading the lessons, psalm, and prayers of the people, and administering wine during communion. We would love to have you join this faithful ministry. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are looking for youth to join our Acolyte ministry and assist with our worship services on Sunday mornings. Expand your church friends and get to know Father Mike and Rev. Allie. Age is the only requirement! We are looking for Youth, rising 3rd graders through rising 12th grade. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the church office.

ST. THOMAS HEALING MINISTRY

The St. Thomas Healing Ministry offers prayers in the Chapel of the Cross on Sundays during the 8:00am and 10:00am service. We encourage everyone in need of additional prayers to visit a prayer minister in the Chapel. If you are interested in joining our ministry, learning about healing, or in need of prayer, contact the Church Office.

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 12th

9:00am in the Church

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

October 14th - Columbus Day

November 27th - November 29th - Thanksgiving

December 25th - Christmas Day

December 26th - December 31st - Limited Hours

January 1st - New Years Day

January 20th - MLK Day

PARISH CALENDAR



THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a women's Order of Prayer and Service, to the church, community and world. We pray daily, study the Bible and our Epiphany Chapter, the chapter of St. Thomas, serves the Parish at funeral receptions and other church receptions. The DOK also meets monthly for prayer, study, and fellowship. New members are always welcome to our Order. There is a seven-week training course to learn about the Rules of Prayer and Service. We are planning to offer a course this fall. Women interested can talk to any of the Daughters for more information of our chapter. Should you have any questions about the Daughters of the King or are interested in joining the training, please contact the Church Office.

Monthly Meetings:

12:00pm in the Conference Room

October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd and January 6th

JUNIOR DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Junior Daughters of the King (JDOK) provides young women ages 7 to 21 with the opportunity to grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus Christ while serving their church and community. Junior Daughters make a promise, or pledge, of daily prayer and service. They meet under the guidance of a senior Daughter. Junior Daughters grow in their relationship to Jesus Christ through personal and group prayer and Bible study. They also serve their church and community through outreach projects. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact the Church Office.

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR

Sundays at 9:00am

Children's Sunday School-Ages 3-5th grade
in Room 112

Nursery open at 9:00am

Discipleship for Moms

in Room 111

led by Paige Martin

Adult Bible Study

in the Parish Hall

led by Fr. Mike and Rev. Allie

September 15th - October 6th

Practice What You Preach - The Book of James

October 13th - October 27th

Overcoming Discouragement

November 3rd

St. Thomas Town Hall

November 17th - December 1st

How to Change

December 8th - December 22nd

Why and How Do We Pray

MORNING PRAYER ON YOUTUBE

Monday - Saturday, Streamed on YouTube
Available at 5:15am

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays - 7:00am

in the Woehler Family Center

BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. MIKE

Thursdays - 9:30am via Zoom

Email the church office for Zoom link.

PARISH CALENDAR



Study



Friendship

CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM

Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm

Ages Kinder - 5th Grade

We invite children in kindergarten-5th grade to join us for our Children's Music program. During our weekly rehearsals we learn many important tools for life. In addition to singing and playing instruments, we learn basic musical concepts, respect for others, teamwork, and discipline. We also learn biblical stories and Christian values in the songs we sing.

FALL YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

September 29th, October 13th, October 27th, November 10th, November 24th, and December 8th

4:30pm- 6:00pm in the Youth Room

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 15th

4:30PM-6:00PM

50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: THE YEAR OF GOLDEN JUBILEE

Saturday, October 5th

Celebration Dinner

in the Woehler Family Center

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Tickets \$50.00/per person

St. Thomas is offering childcare in the Parish Hall/Nursery for \$20.00 per child.

Space is limited.

Sunday, October 6th

Festival Eucharist Rite II

10:00am

No 8:00am service this day.

Carnival Celebration

in the Woehler Family Center

11:30am – 1:30pm

Visit www.tom1604.org/jubilee to purchase tickets, donate, and more!

FAMILY NIGHT OUT

October 10th and November 7th

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Big'z Burger Joint - 2303 N Loop 1604 W.

Looking for a family-friendly gathering? Join us at Big'z Burger Joint for food, fun, and fellowship. Big'z Burger Joint offers gourmet burgers, fries, shakes, with outdoor dining. Bring your whole family!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 27th

3:00pm-5:00pm

Woehler Family Center Parking Lot

There will be fun for all ages!



PARISH CALENDAR



VETERANS BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 10th
9:00am in the Parish Hall

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

Sunday, December 1st
5:30pm-7:30pm in the Woehler Family Center
Celebrate the coming of Advent with your family! Visit the Woehler Family Center for Advent crafts, ornaments, stories, and service project ideas. We would also like to share some take-home activities for you to bring home for your family to discuss, pray, and celebrate the season of Advent together.

ADVENT GATHERING OPEN HOUSE

Monday, December 16th
6:00pm - 7:30pm at Fr. Mike's House
Join us for fellowship at Fr. Mike's House.
Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, January 26th
following the 10:00am service
in the Parish Hall
Join us for a time of fellowship! Please bring a side or dessert to share. Interested in competing in the Chili Cook-Off? Registration available in December.

ST. THOMAS BOOK CLUB

October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th,
and January 9th.
6:30pm in the Parlor
Join us for our monthly gathering. Readings are listed in the Thursday Notes. If you would like more information or would like to RSVP, email the Church Office.

LADIES, LET'S HAVE LUNCH!

October 3rd, October 17th, November 7th,
December 5th, and January 16th

1:00pm

Location announced in the Thursday Notes.
Ladies, Let's Have Lunch meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm. This is a great way to meet up with old friends, make new friends, and enjoy getting together with each other. We would love for you to join us. An email reminder is sent out the week of the lunch with the restaurant we will be gathering at. If you are interested in receiving reminder emails about these lunches, please contact the Church Office.
No lunch meeting on November 21st, December 19th, and January 2nd.

MEN'S LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesdays at 11:30am

Location announced in the Thursday Notes.
An email reminder is sent out each week. If you are interested in receiving reminder emails about these lunches, please contact the Church Office.

MEN'S MEAT BURNING

October 17th, November 21st, and January 16th
6:30pm

Location announced in the Thursday Notes.
The Men's Meat Burning Group gathers the 3rd Thursday of the month at a host's house. Bring your choice of meat (to grill) and a \$6.00 donation for the host (to help with the cost of sides, beverages, and dessert). All adult men are welcome.

PARISH CALENDAR



SEWING GROUP

"A Gathering of Friends"

October 12th, November 9th, December 14th,
and January 11th

9:00am-3:00pm in the Parish Hall

This group is a gathering where you can meet new friends while enjoying the craft of your choice. Quilting, crocheting, embroidery, knitting or anything else you want to do. All participants have incredible knowledge, and everyone shares when help is needed. Everyone works at their own pace. We now have a few sewing machines available if you would like to learn, but don't have a machine. There are other supplies, also. Many of us bring fabric and items for the "free" table. Shop free! Come and go as you please, everyone is welcome!

UPPERCRUST UNLIMITED

Join UpperCrust Unlimited for a time of fellowship! UpperCrust Unlimited meets 3-4 times a year in the Parish Hall on Thursdays at 11:30am. During each gathering parishioners share a meal together. Each event has its own theme such as Bingo, Christmas White Elephant Gift Exchange, card games, and more. Keep an eye out in the Thursday Notes for upcoming dates. We are also looking for volunteers to help host.



ST. FRANCIS

STUFFED ANIMAL DRIVE

September 15th - October 13th

Share the gift of a cuddly companion, by donating new or gently used stuffed animals to the children of Plaza de Paz. Join us in giving the gift of comfort and companionship. Plaza de Paz provides day-time welcoming services for families and individuals seeking asylum. For more information visit www.dwtx.org. Donation bin located in Gosnell Hall.

CAMPUS CLEAN-UP

Saturday, September 28th

9:00am - 1:00pm

Come help us with several outdoor projects around campus. Bring your yard tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, hats, and sunscreen! Please consider volunteering to help keep our campus beautiful.

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING DRIVE

October 20th - November 10th

The Community Outreach Ministry is collecting cold weather clothing for Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM). CAM is in need of new or gently used coats, sweaters, gloves, and scarves for men, women, and children. Please bring all donations to Gosnell Hall.

SANTA FE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANGEL TREE

Stop by Gosnell Hall in December to pick up your Angel from the Angel Tree. Each Angel will have a name, age, and requested gift.

PARISH CALENDAR



HAVEN FOR HOPE

Second Monday of the month

2:30pm or 3:30pm

Meet in the St. Thomas Parking Lot

Join the Community Outreach Ministry at Haven for Hope as we serve dinner to people in need. After volunteering, stay and connect with volunteers as we gather for dinner.

GROCERY GUYS & GALS

for Santa Fe Episcopal Church

Second and Fourth Fridays of the month

7:15am meet at St. Thomas

or

8:00am meet at San Antonio Food Bank

or

8:15am meet at Santa Fe Episcopal Church

Connect with us as we volunteer to collect and sort food for the Santa Fe Mission Food Pantry



JOIN US FOR MORNING PRAYER

Streamed on our YouTube Channel

Monday - Saturday

Video available at 5:15AM

STAFF NEWS



God is up to some amazing things in our St. Thomas Children's Ministry! This summer, we hosted over 175 children and 40 volunteers at our SCUBA Vacation Bible School. We added a third class on Sunday mornings and had a beautiful Blessing of the Backpacks service.

There are many things to get excited about this Fall! Mark your calendars for our annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 27th from 3:00-5:00pm. Invite some friends, host a trunk, and enjoy fellowship with our St Thomas Church and School families! Trunk or Treat is always such a memorable afternoon for friends of all ages.

It's hard to believe it with this summer heat lately, but Christmas is right around the corner! Advent Family Night is a great way to celebrate the Holiday season with your children, grandchildren, and kids at heart! At Advent Family Night, you will be able to create crafts and activities together, while also bringing many family-focused crafts and resources home to recognize this special church season all Advent long! From crafts and candles to service projects, Advent Family Night brings a great opportunity to strengthen (or create new) Christmastime traditions with your families! I hope you join us for Advent Family Night on Sunday, December 1, from 5:30-7:30pm.

The Christmas Pageant has such a special place in my heart! Watching our littlest kiddos sing out in worship, say their rehearsed line with confidence, and tell the story of Jesus's birth is truly something special. We invite all children, from nursery to youth group, to participate in the Christmas Pageant. There is an important role for everyone in telling Jesus's story! Be on the lookout for the link to sign your children or grandchildren up to participate in our Christmas Pageant. We will have a rehearsal and costume fitting on December 21 at 9am, and the Christmas Pageant will be performed on Christmas Eve at the 5pm Service. All are welcome!

These upcoming events are so exciting, and I am equally thrilled by the work our Children's Ministry does every Sunday. Our 10am attendance is strong, and our kiddos are experiencing God's love and friendship every week! God is so good! I am very appreciative of our Sunday School volunteers who commit to teaching our children every month. They are such a blessing to our church and our children. If you are interested in teaching or volunteering for Sunday School, please email me at: kphares@tom1604.org.

Blessings,
Kellie Phares
Children's Minister



Fall is in full swing and with that comes a lot of church-wide events that I encourage you to attend! Whether you are brand new or have been coming to St. Thomas for decades, there is always an opportunity for you to make a connection with a church member.

It was great to see so many of you attend our Church Picnic in September and I hope you used it to meet someone new or strengthen an existing bond.

Our Discipleship Hour has started again and it's a great way for you to learn more about God's work and will in your life as well as start or rekindle a relationship with someone. We are planning on continuing our Big'z family nights as they have been a really nice way to get to know each other! Those dates are October 10th and November 7th.

During these last few months of the year there seems to be a church event just about every week! I encourage you to attend one that suits you best.

If you would like to volunteer to be on the Welcome Team on Sunday mornings, please email at sanderson@tom1604.org or call me!

Blessings,
Sarah Anderson
Member & Growth Coordinator



STAFF NEWS



Once again, the choir will present our annual All Saints' evensong on Sunday, November 3rd at 4:30pm. Please join us as we remember all those saints who have gone before us with an afternoon of glorious liturgy and choral music.

On Sunday, December 1st, the choir will be presenting a cantata at our 10:00am service to kick off the Advent season.

So just what is a cantata? The term comes from the Latin word "cantate" which means to sing. A cantata is a vocal work that comprises several smaller pieces for solo voice, chorus, and instrumental accompaniment. Most cantatas bear the name of a hymn. The cantata we will be performing is based on the text and tune of Hymn 54, Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, (Savior of the nations, come), in the Episcopal hymnal. The melodies and musical motifs of the hymn, and often the entire hymn, are presented over the course of the cantata.

In Bach's time, sacred cantatas were performed weekly during the church service. Bach composed cantatas for each week of the church year and special holidays. The texts that were sung were based on the theme of each Sunday's gospel reading. They were performed by the choir and whatever instrumentalists that were available on a given week. In addition to Bach's remarkable ability to compose these cantatas week after week, it is also remarkable to think of the high level of musicianship that was required by the choir, soloists, and instrumentalists to perform a cantata every week! We will be presenting this cantata during the Service of the Word (the lessons) portion of our liturgy in the same way it was originally presented in Germany.

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, (Savior of the nations, come) BWV 61 was written by Johann Sebastian Bach for the first Sunday in Advent 1714 for the palace church in Weimar, Germany. This cantata is structured in six movements, beginning with a chorale fantasia, followed by a series of alternating recitatives and arias and concluded by a chorale. The cantata is scored for choir, soprano, tenor, and bass soloists and it is accompanied by a Baroque instrumental ensemble of violins, violas, and basso continuo, including cello and bassoon.

The main theme of this cantata is God coming to us in the form of Jesus to redeem the Church. First the choir sets the stage with a grand French style overture to announce the arrival of the king much like Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Then the tenor soloist

asks for Jesus to come into the world and the bass soloist, playing the role of God, responds, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to their heart, I will enter". In this movement, you will hear how Bach has the string players masterfully pluck their accompaniment chords to sound like Jesus knocking at the door. Next, in a beautiful aria for soprano, cello and continuo, the soloist reflects, "If I open my heart, Jesus will enter, and I will be blessed". I can't help but to think that this is a foreshadowing of the annunciation when Mary is greeted by an angel announcing that she will conceive a son, Emmanuel, God with us. To which she responds, "My soul magnifies the Lord!" Finally, in the ending chorus, the choir similarly sings: "Amen, amen! Come, beautiful crown of joy, do not delay! I wait for you with longing".

In addition, the choir will also be presenting our annual service of Lessons and Carols on December 22nd during the 10:00am service and will be joined by a string quartet for the 8:00pm service on Christmas Eve with the special Christmas prelude beginning at 7:30pm.

In January, we will be sending our handbells back to the company that made them for a complete refurbishment. We are grateful for a generous donation that is making this possible. If you would like to financially support these upcoming musical offerings, please direct your gift to: Music Ministry.

In Christ's Love,
Ryan Becker
Minister of Music

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Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6



St. Thomas Episcopal School

A Message from the Head of School, Allison Newman



Our summer months were fantastic! In the summer we have two sessions. This year 45 students participated. Summer sessions include weekly themes filled with daily activities of learning, crafting, and exploring, and even a special snack. Students ages 3-5 were able to

join VBS where they spent the week “Diving into Friendship with God”. It was a fabulous week of VBS fun! We love summer here on campus as the days and weeks are shorter while still experiencing all that STES provides for our students and families. A very big thank you to our Summer Director, Gina Heffron, as she did an amazing job organizing everything.

The 2024-2025 school year has begun, and we are delighted to welcome 65 students to our preschool, along with our dedicated and incredible STES staff. On August 7th, our staff returned and immediately began setting up classrooms, planning the school calendar, engaging in professional development, and undergoing CPR/First Aid training. Our Annual Paletas on the Playground and Meet the Teacher events were successful and exciting occasions before our doors officially opened on August 14th. These activities provided children, parents, and families with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with our indoor and outdoor areas. STES parents also had the chance to meet each other over coffee and snacks while learning about volunteer opportunities. A special thanks to Kristen Christie for organizing the morning event, and to Ryan Harms for the delicious spread from Full Goods Diner.

This is my seventh school year as the Head of School at STES, and I often say that this is the best career. Early Childhood Education is my

passion and witnessing the small gains to the significant growth while a child attends STES is incredible. The hugs, smiles, and sometimes a few tears, are the best in the world. Students leave with excitement, having had a day filled with God’s love while exploring the campus and interacting with peers. Our staff cherish the time they have with our students making memories together throughout the year. Wednesday mornings are when our school comes together in chapel, providing a midweek lift as we sing together and learn about all the stories from the Bible. In the Fall semester, we learn the Old Testament stories from Creation to the birth of Christ, and during the winter and spring we learn the New Testament stories of Jesus’ teachings.

Weekdays are busy on campus, so we appreciate everyone’s consideration of the precautions taken to keep kids safe. For the benefit of the safety of the staff and children, all exterior doors and gates remain locked. We can all keep an eye on visitors because you must buzz in to enter the grounds. If you see something, please report it by calling the church or school’s offices.

The start of a new school year is filled with anticipation and joy as our students learn about God’s creation and engage in both indoor and outdoor learning. Students use their imaginations and creativity to solve problems and develop skills as artists, writers, listeners, and learners. We have hours of play ahead of us on our fantastic playgrounds, in the courtyard, Sunshine Garden, and in each classroom.

As our campus turns FIFTY and we prepare for the big celebration weekend, we are reminded of all the families who have been a part of this St. Thomas Episcopal School journey. Plan to join us to honor the past and plan for the future of STES by attending the dinner on October 5th and/or Carnival Celebration on the 6th after the 10am service.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church & School
1416 North Loop 1604 East
San Antonio, Texas 78232-1427
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ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

Vision, Mission, Values

Vision:

To be an inclusive and kind church that learns and serves together

Mission:

To experience the love of God through worship, study, friendship, and compassion to encounter and transform our city

Values:

Faithful, Outward Focused, Authentic, Vulnerable
Empathetic, Respectful, Helpful, Generous