

SPRING 2025 | ISSUE NO. 14

# The Clarion



THE NEWSLETTER OF



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH + SCHOOL



To be an  
**INCLUSIVE**  
and  
**KIND**  
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 14.



Watch our live-streamed services on YouTube!

[www.youtube.com/c/tom1604](http://www.youtube.com/c/tom1604)



**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH + SCHOOL**

Church: 210.494.3507 | [www.tom1604.org](http://www.tom1604.org)

[stthomaschurch@tom1604.org](mailto:stthomaschurch@tom1604.org)

School: 210.494.3509 | [www.stes1604.org](http://www.stes1604.org)

[anewman@sts1604.org](mailto:anewman@sts1604.org)

**Office Hours**

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

**Clergy**

The Rev. Mike Michie, Rector

[mmichie@tom1604.org](mailto:mmichie@tom1604.org)

The Rev. Allie Melancon, Vice Rector

[amelancon@tom1604.org](mailto:amelancon@tom1604.org)

**Church Staff**

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Laurel Christensen, Children's Assistant Music Director

Marci Fair, Operations Manager

[mfair@tom1604.org](mailto:mfair@tom1604.org)

George Guerra, Sexton

Alma Lopez, Custodian

Samantha Neumann, Communications Director

[sneumann@tom1604.org](mailto:sneumann@tom1604.org)

Caleb Phares, Video Production Manager

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Donna Gauthier, Office Administrator

[dgauthier@sts1604.org](mailto:dgauthier@sts1604.org)

# VESTRY

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

Kristine Thomas,  
Senior Warden

Robb Swain,  
Junior Warden

Jeff Nelson,  
Treasurer

Rusty Biechlin,  
Chancellor

Lorraine Babcock

Matt Felter

Warren Franz

Bill Frerichs

Joel Martin

Lloyd Norris

Steve Slavich

A'Lann Truelock

Katy Urias



[@tom1604church](https://www.facebook.com/tom1604church)



[@tom1604church](https://www.instagram.com/tom1604church)



[youtube.com/c/tom1604](https://www.youtube.com/c/tom1604)



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH + SCHOOL

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world.

We hope this schedule helps you plan and observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

## Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Thursday, April 17th - Maundy Thursday

7:00pm

## Friday, April 18th - Good Friday

12:00pm

7:00pm

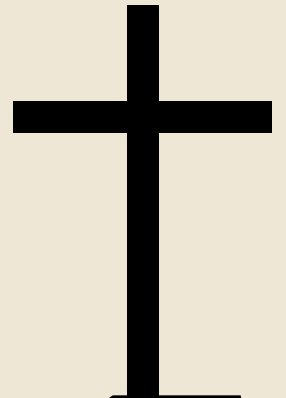
## Sunday, April 20th - Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00am Easter Breakfast

10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II

*Easter Egg Hunt following service*







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

# GREAT STRIDES TOGETHER

A Message from the Rector, Fr. Mike Michie



This will be a busy – and important – beginning of the year for us in 2025. Right at the top of our list will be our efforts to replace our roofs over the sanctuary and the two wings beside it and retiring

our debt on the Woehler Family Center (WFC). Especially in April and May, you'll be hearing more about this and will be invited to make a three-year pledge to help us with these efforts.

Incorporating the debt service on the WFC into our operating budget long-term puts some serious constraints on us. Right at \$100,000, this debt service makes us reliant on the rental income we receive from renting it and other spaces on campus. Paying off the WFC debt would be a double blessing, in that we'd be relieved of the \$100,000 and then able to keep the rental income for staffing, program, and outreach, around \$75,000.

We are asking for a three-year pledge so that we can, ideally, have the debt retired completely before our balloon payment hits and we'd have to restructure the remaining loan balance in 2029. The WFC debt, \$1.3 million and the roof replacements, current estimates are about \$450,000, add up to \$1.75 million. I feel good about our ability to accomplish this if we work together. Please be praying about this effort, for our leadership team, and for St. Thomas.

You will notice that we are not including the organ replacement project at this time. This is due to the feedback that we got from our feasibility study and the input we received from members of the congregation. As it ages, like the roof, our organ will need replacing one day. But I am grateful for your honesty and want to let you

know that we heard you! Should you want to give toward the organ project, that restricted fund remains in place, ready for your donation.

Take a good look at this edition of *The Clarion* to see the great things we have planned for 2025. I'm particularly excited about the teaching that Rev. Allie and I will be doing at Discipleship Hour. I'm already looking forward to our Lenten Series on the Wednesday evenings of Lent. Called "The Blessing of Eucharist", we are going to take the Eucharistic service we use each Sunday and teach you through it. We'll pay particular attention to the Eucharistic Prayers, which are beautiful retellings of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

After attending these classes, we pray that you'll have a deeper and more profound understanding of the worship service so that your experience at church will be deepened and blessed. What's more, I'd like to see you be able to navigate the service with just your Prayer Book and Hymnal. You can do it!

As always, I want you to know how grateful I am to our church and school staff for their good work. We are here to serve the Lord, our church, and you. We'll be working particularly hard in early 2025 in upgrading our church and financial database systems. This will make our communication with you and information sharing (things like calendars, directories, and your financial statements) easier and more accessible. We are blessed to have these good people working here. Join me in thanking our staff for their work when you get a chance!

Finally, thank you! Thank you for your attendance, generosity, prayers, and love for St. Thomas. We have made, are making, and will make great strides together. Let me know how I can pray for and support you this year. And remember, God loves you!



# CURIOUS

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A Message from the Vice Rector, Rev. Allie Melancon

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For the last year as I've made my morning walks along the Hays Street Bridge, I watched the progress of the city transform an empty lot into a skatepark. Mornings were met with the workers laying rebar and setting the

frames and then the cement trucks and the landscapers came. It has been remarkable to watch the park come alive from the vantage point of the bridge.

Recently, the city opened the skatepark, and I found myself observing the skaters from the bridge. So, the other week after dinner I suggested that we take a walk to the skatepark to check it out; I hoped there would be more folks out and about at that hour. I was right, as we made our way with some small humans in tow, (it's never too soon to introduce them to new sports and hobbies) we found our way into the skatepark.

I soon realized I wasn't sure about the etiquette: could we walk on the sidewalk people were skating on? Could we stand around and watch without any intention or equipment to participate? Not to mention none of us possessing the ability to skateboard. I felt out of place and hoped that our presence wasn't going to offend anyone. The small humans quickly took an interest at the skaters and the smallest human found an abandoned skateboard with kittens and rainbows on it.

Just as soon as we arrived and felt out of place, we found our footing, as if we had been invited and belonged all along. We were all mesmerized by the skatepark and the people skating and the atmosphere and energy in the air. As we walked

home at dusk, I couldn't help but wonder about how easy it would have been for me to keep observing the skatepark from the bridge, from the vantage point of an observer. Was it because I had friends and small humans with me, that gave me the courage to overcome the awkwardness? Or was it the new year and the desire to try something different?

I wonder what other areas in my life are being experienced from the metaphorical bridge. I wonder what things in your life, you are observing, unsure of the etiquette? I wonder if there are things for you at church that feel this way? Maybe you are new and unsure where to plug in. Maybe you have been walking by for years, watching new things begin at St. Thomas, new people joining, and unsure how to overcome the awkwardness of it all.

Let this serve as an invitation to the thing you have been curious about. Invite a friend to come along with you and just as soon as you feel out of place, I know you will be met with a familiar face who will help you find your footing. We have so much planned this spring with our Lenten Dinner Series, Disciple Hour, Mom's Bible Study, Campus Workday, Outreach, Book Club, lunches and more. I am excited about what God has in store for us this Spring, you never know, you might just see a rainbow or find a kitten!





ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH + SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 16TH - JUNE 20TH





# LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

A Message from Senior Warden, Kristine Thomas



I am honored and excited to introduce myself as your newly selected Senior Warden. As we embark on this new chapter together, I am filled with hope and enthusiasm for the future of

our beloved church community. I'm so encouraged with all the blessings I've witnessed in my first year serving on the vestry.

In October, St. Thomas celebrated its 50th year serving our community. During our celebration we looked back at the last fifty years of St. Thomas as a parish, how we began, and where we are now. As we step into our fifty-first year, we now must decide and then act on what we want St. Thomas to look like in the next year, the next five, ten, twenty-five, fifty years and so on.

In the coming months, we'll celebrate Lent, Easter, the end of the school year and the beginning of Summer. Wow! When I say it like that it makes me realize how quickly time passes and before you know it half the year will be behind us. And while we have many things to look forward to at St. Thomas, we also have things to do to move us forward.

One of the most significant initiatives we will undertake this year, as Father Mike has explained, is our Capital Campaign. This campaign is not just about raising funds; it is about investing in the future of our church, ensuring that we continue to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for generations to come.

Your support is crucial to the success of our church. There are several ways you can contribute:

- **Prayer:** Please keep our church and the Capital Campaign in your prayers. Pray for wisdom, guidance, and generosity as we move forward.
- **Volunteer:** We need volunteers to help with various aspects of the campaign and church happenings.
- **Donate:** Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference. Consider making a pledge or a one-time donation to support our efforts. Every little bit helps!

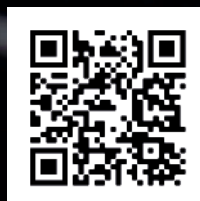
Whether you've been here since the beginning or just started attending services at St. Thomas or you're somewhere in between, you're an important part of the present and future of our growth. Let us all approach this next year with hope and enthusiasm, knowing that our efforts will help build a stronger, more vibrant church community.

Thank you for your continued faith, support, and dedication. Together, we can achieve great things and ensure that our church remains a place of worship, fellowship, and service for many years to come.

God's peace and blessings.

## DONATE TO THE ST. THOMAS MUSIC MINISTRY

Donate online by scanning the QR code below.



Thank you for your generosity!  
Your donations help to fund  
our Easter & Christmas Eve  
Worship as well as our other  
special music events.

# MAINTENANCE

A Message from the Junior Warden, Robb Swain



I would like to give a report about all that was accomplished in 2024, it ended with numerous facilities and campus improvements in and around the property of the church and school. St. Thomas has been

blessed with so many generous, caring, and supportive families. The community of St. Thomas does not have enough words to adequately express the gratitude for all the support of the church.

Together with Reverend Allie, George Guerra, and the recently created Facilities committee members: Mark Watts, Janet Biechlin, Jason Souder, John Owens, Bill Frerichs, Joel Martin, Kristine Thomas, William Gutierrez, and Rick Rodriguez, many projects have been identified. Not only have the immediate needs for replacements of many air conditioners been identified, but also many additional improvements, repairs, and long-term maintenance procedures have been reviewed and prioritized. Additionally, future capital improvements needs are being reviewed.

In the chart you can see our overall improvements that we were made in 2024. As you can see, this has been no small task to accomplish all this work in such a short time frame. I am beyond thankful to the many individuals and families that have participated with financial support, physical support in workdays, continued prayers, and the devotion and persistence to maintain and improve our beautiful campus at St. Thomas Episcopal Church and School.

In the coming months you will see additional improvements made to the Garden by the columbarium, tree pruning in the front of campus, and the dedication and opening of our new parlor.

Join us April 12th for our Campus Workday; we will spruce up the garden, reinforce the bridge, and plant some flowers in preparation for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Our entire community has benefited from the identification of our campus improvements needed. Together, it is our mission to maintain, improve, and responsibly care for our beautiful campus that is shared by everyone at St. Thomas Episcopal Church and School.

## Capital Improvement Gifts

11 Families                      \$248,314.00

## Capital Improvement Expenses

Parlor                              \$ 30,000.00

Fire System                      \$ 19,463.00

HVAC                                \$ 79,311.00

Gutters & Soffit                \$ 13,465.00

Tree Care                         \$ 16,984.00

Roof Repairs                     \$ 5,450.00

Parking Lot                      \$ 33,125.00

Parking Lot Bed                \$ 4,950.00

\$202,748.00





# SPRINGING INTO 2025

A Message from Judy Thompson, Community Outreach Ministry Leader

“Lord, lead us to the future, whatever it may be.  
We’re part of your great pattern of Witness,  
Love and Peace. Renew us Lord and fit us to  
serve these coming days.”

*Extracted from a prayer by Marjorie Dobson*

There are lots of opportunities to be the hands of Jesus at St. Thomas. West Avenue Compassion has a Food Pantry where volunteers bag groceries on Tuesday mornings to distribute to 400 families in need. You just need to show up around 9am. They also have a clothing pantry if you have gently used clothing to donate.

Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM) always needs volunteers to make sandwiches and lunch bags, help with sorting clothing, and accepting donations.

Magdalena House needs help on Tuesday evenings playing with children while the Moms are in classes. We are talking with them to see what other needs St. Thomas might fill, such as organizing a meal.

NESA (North East Senior Assistance) can always use more drivers to take clients to doctor visits or grocery shopping. And they also need some “handy-man” volunteers.

The Grocery Gang can use some more guys with pickups to deliver from the Food Bank to Santa Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry. Deliveries are generally on the second and fourth Fridays, meeting at the Food Bank at 8am. We are usually finished by 9am.

Our Haven for Hope volunteers help prepare and serve dinner on the second Monday of the month. If enough people are interested, we could have another time slot.

For more information on any of these activities please call the church office.

Blessings for all y’all do everywhere,

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES VISIT PAGE 20.**





# 50

THE YEAR OF  
GOLDEN JUBILEE  
ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH + SCHOOL









# 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*

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 5th

12:00pm & 7:00pm

*Childcare provided at 7:00pm*

## EASTER FLOWER & MUSIC DONATIONS

March 13th - April 6th

Donate online by scanning the  
QR code, or donate in person.

Envelopes located in Gosnell Hall.



## PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13th

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17th

7:00pm

## GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18th

12:00pm & 7:00pm

*Childcare provided at 7:00pm*

## EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 20th

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

## CHILDREN'S FIRST COMMUNION

Sunday, April 27th

10:00am

For more information about Children's First Communion,  
contact the Church Office, [stthomaschurch@tom1604.org](mailto:stthomaschurch@tom1604.org).

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 18th

10:00am

*Reception following service.*

## GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 25th

10:00am

*Reception following service.*

Join us in celebrating our 2025 graduating seniors.

We will honor our graduates during the 10:00am  
service and celebrate with cake in the Parish Hall  
after service. Please let us know if

you have a graduating senior by  
scanning the QR code. Registration  
opens March 1st.



## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday, June 8th

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

## 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](mailto:stthomaschurch@tom1604.org).



# PARISH CALENDAR



## **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Tuesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker, [rbecker@tom1604.org](mailto:rbecker@tom1604.org) for more information.

## **CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Wednesdays 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker, [rbecker@tom1604.org](mailto:rbecker@tom1604.org) for more information.

## **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 students 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.

## **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 the 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. 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 the training, please contact the Church Office.

Monthly Meetings:

12:00pm in the Conference Room

March 3rd, April 7th, and May 5th

## **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.

## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

April 21st - Easter Monday

May 26th - Memorial Day







# PARISH CALENDAR



## **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

*February 16th - March 2nd*

*"The Way of Jesus: Luke 6"*

*March 9th - March 23rd*

*"Needs"*

*March 30th - April 13th*

*"Waiting"*

*April 27th - May 11th*

*"From Doubting to Doing: Jesus' Resurrection Appearances in John"*

## **WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINNER SERIES:**

Wednesdays, March 12th - April 9th

in the Parish Hall

6:00pm—Dinner Served

6:30pm-7:30pm—Program Series

Join us Wednesday evenings for a five-part series, *The Blessing of Eucharist*. We will explore the Eucharist service and teach you through it. We'll pay particular attention to the Eucharistic Prayers, which are beautiful retellings of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

## **CHILDREN'S FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

March 16th - April 13th

Sundays at 9:00am

in Room 110

Register by scanning the QR code.



## **QUIET MORNING**

Saturday, March 22nd

9:00am

in the Woehler Family Center

The St. Thomas Order of the Daughters of the King invite you to join us for a morning of quiet prayer, reflection, and fellowship. For questions or to RSVP, contact the church office.

## **YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS**

March 23rd - May 4th

Sundays at 9:00am

in the Church Library

Register by scanning the QR code.



## **ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Saturday, May 3rd

9:00am - 2:00pm

in the Church Library

Register using the QR Code.



## **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

# PARISH CALENDAR



## Study

### **BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. MIKE**

Thursdays - 9:30am via Zoom  
Email the church office for Zoom link.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRUE NORTH: TRUSTING JESUS IN A WILD WORLD**

June 16th - June 20th  
9:00am - 12:00pm daily  
Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Registration opening this Spring.  
Join us this summer as we guide you on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As we trek the tundra, we'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing us toward Jesus, True North VBS shows us that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

### **CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM**

Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm  
Ages Kinder - 6th Grade

We invite children in kindergarten-6th 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.

### **CHILDREN'S SUMMER MUSIC CAMP**

June 23rd - June 26th  
9:00am - 12:00pm daily  
Ages Kinder - 6th Grade  
Registration opening this Spring.



## Friendship

### **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER**

Tuesday, March 4th  
6:00pm in the Parish Hall

### **PALM CROSS MAKING**

Wednesday, April 9th  
10:00am  
in the Church Library  
Join us in making Palm Crosses. All Palm Crosses made during this time will be used on Palm Sunday during worship. Please consider volunteering to help.

### **YOUTH EASTER EGG STUFFING PARTY AND LUNCH**

Sunday, April 13th  
11:30am in the Parish Hall  
Youth 6th - 12th grade

### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Sunday, April 20th  
9:00am in the Parish Hall

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sunday, April 20th  
Following the 10:00am service  
Behind the Church Office building  
*We will be accepting donations for Easter eggs and packaged candy/goodies until Friday, April 11th.*

### **FAMILY NIGHT OUT**

Thursday, May 1st  
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. Bring your whole family!



# PARISH CALENDAR



## MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 25th  
9:00am in the Parish Hall

## MUSTANG ISLAND FAMILY CAMP

Session 5 - June 26th - June 29th  
Register online by scanning the  
QR Code. Register early, space  
fills up fast.



## ST. THOMAS BOOK CLUB

March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st, and June 5th  
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!

March 6th, March 20th, April 3rd, May 1st, and May 15th  
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 p.m. 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 April 17th - Maundy Thursday.*

## 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

March 20th, April 17th, May 15th, and June 19th  
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.

## SEWING GROUP

### "A GATHERING OF FRIENDS"

March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, and June 14th  
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.

# PARISH CALENDAR



## CAMPUS CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 12th

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.

## 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.

# STAFF NEWS



This past fall I was excited to join the staff here at St Thomas as the new Operations Manager. My husband, Jeff, and I moved to San Antonio in 2020 with our two boys, Dylan (8) and Hunter (5), following Jeff's retirement from the US Army. After moving

often and living in different parts of the country and overseas the last 20+ years, we have enjoyed being able to call San Antonio our home. My boys have both attended STES since we moved here, and we have been attending St Thomas services since the fall of 2021.

In my role here I handle the processing of your generous contributions, manage our facility rentals, and assist with the day-to-day administrative needs of the church. Please feel free to reach out to me at, [mfair@tom1604.org](mailto:mfair@tom1604.org), with any questions or needs.

You should have received your 2024 contribution summary already. If you have not, please contact the office. Our 2025 stewardship campaign saw 173-member family pledges. Please reach out if you have any questions about your pledge or how to contribute. Thank you for your continued support of St Thomas.

I am grateful for the patience and grace shown during this time of transition. I am honored to be part of a great team helping to continue to grow our church. I believe deeply in the mission, vision, and values of St. Thomas Episcopal Church and feel blessed to be called upon to serve this community.

Blessings,  
Marci Fair  
*Operations Manager*



# STAFF NEWS



We had a wonderful winter season here at St. Thomas! Our Trunk-or-Treat, Advent Family Night, and Christmas Pageant were memorable gatherings that brought our Church families and community together. I am looking forward to all that Spring will bring!

Many hands - and hearts - make our Children's Ministry thrive. I am so 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 Kellie Phares at, [kphares@tom1604.org](mailto:kphares@tom1604.org). We are always looking for more volunteers, especially as our Children's Ministry program continues to grow.

We will be having a Children's First Communion Class on Sundays at 9am, from March 16 to April 13! First Communion will be celebrated on April 27th at the 10am service. This is a great class for children to learn more about the meaning of Communion and why we participate in Eucharist every Sunday. Please note that Baptism is a prerequisite for this class. Register your child at, [www.tom1604.org/communion\\_reg/](http://www.tom1604.org/communion_reg/)

Please plan to join us for some family fun at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner! Similar to Advent Family Night, we will be sharing some family devotionals and prayers to take home for the Lenten season, along with some fun crafts to do together. Make plans to bring your families to our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on March 4th for food, fellowship, and family fun!

Easter Sunday is on April 20, and we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00 am service. Easter Eggs will be hidden by age group in the lawn, front playground, and back playground. We will be accepting donations for Easter eggs and packaged candy/goodies until Friday, April 11. Thank you so much for your support in this celebration!

Vacation Bible School preparations are already underway! Save the Date for our Alaskan 'True North' VBS, where we are 'trusting Jesus in a wild world'! Our Vacation Bible School will be from June 16-20, 9am-noon. Children will be learning that we can trust Jesus when we wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, when we need hope, and when we need help. Jesus is with us always! Our Vacation Bible School serves children from our church, school, and community, and we are honored to share this message of God's love and friendship with them.

Our Children's Ministry is looking to start a VBS Planning Committee and are already seeking youth and adult volunteers for VBS week. Please let Kellie Phares know if you are interested in either of these opportunities to be involved in our Vacation Bible School. Be on the lookout for more information about VBS as the summer approaches.

Thank you for your support of our Children's Ministry at St. Thomas!

Blessings,  
Kellie Phares  
*Children's Minister*



Happy New Year! I pray that 2025 will encourage you to set new goals for connecting with fellow parishioners and engaging in fellowship! If you haven't attended a church-wide event in awhile, please consider adding them to your calendar!

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday are in March this year, but both are opportunities to grow your faith and connect with others! May provides us with opportunities to honor our confirmands and graduates on May 18th and May 25th. Don't forget that once the weather gets nice, the "sails" over the courtyard by the Parish Hall are a great place to relax after the service.

Another great way to get connected with members of the church to attend the Sunday Discipleship Hour and a Bible Study. Even if you haven't attended a session yet, you are always welcome and it's a great way to engage and expand relationships within our church community. I speak from personal experience when I say that I have becoming closer with my daily walk with Christ as a result from my Sunday class and I hope you experience something similar.

I'm sure you've noticed all our many families that have seen how special of a place St. Thomas is and seen that our church is growing. It's great to see all of you offering a warm smile, kind comment and word of encouragement. If you would like to volunteer to be on the Welcome Team on Sunday mornings, please email or call me! [sanderson@tom1604.org](mailto:sanderson@tom1604.org).

Blessings,  
Sarah Anderson  
*Member & Growth Coordinator*



# St. Thomas Episcopal School

A Message from the Head of School, Allison Newman



Hello, 2025! We are excited to reflect on the outstanding achievements of our preschool in 2024 and kick off the enrollment process for the 2025-2026 school year and Summer 2025! We take pride in showcasing our campus to

prospective families, offering them an insightful glimpse into the vibrant life of our school. This is a wonderful time to celebrate what makes St. Thomas Episcopal School the premier choice for early education. Our hallways are filled with winter exploration, laughter, and smiles as dedicated adults and enthusiastic young learners engage in enriching daily experiences.

At St. Thomas Episcopal School (STES), we maintain low student-to-teacher ratios for all age groups. Smaller class sizes facilitate both small-group and larger-group peer learning, allowing for choice time and individualized opportunities for discovery. Each classroom engages in a blend of open-ended and structured play, creative activities using various art mediums, and outdoor experiences in our playground, garden, and courtyard.

Our goal at STES is to support the holistic development of each child while they are on our campus, preparing them for the larger world outside. The relationships formed with teachers and peers enhance and challenge the children's natural curiosity. Our educators respect and value every child, nurturing their physical, intellectual, emotional, and social growth.

One of the most powerful aspects of a church-based Reggio Emilia preschool is the strong sense of community we cultivate. Parents, teachers, and church members work together to create a supportive and inclusive environment where

each child is valued and encouraged. This community aspect aligns with the Reggio Emilia philosophy, which emphasizes the importance of relationships and collaboration in the learning process.

In a world where early childhood education is crucial for a child's overall development, church-based, Reggio Emilia-inspired preschools stand out as a beautiful blend of innovative pedagogy and faith-based nurturing. They offer children the opportunity to grow not only in knowledge but also in their understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them.

If you or someone you know is searching for an exceptional Christian preschool program for children aged 18 months to 5 years, we invite you to visit our website at [stes1604.org](http://stes1604.org). There, you can complete an inquiry form, schedule a tour of our campus, and learn more!

## Have You Heard of Our STES Annual Tiger Fund and Why We Ask You to Contribute?

Tuition alone does not cover the full cost of educating a St. Thomas student. Like most independent schools, STES does not receive ongoing state or federal funds, and we rely on a tradition of annual giving to help offset operational expenses. The unrestricted funds generated by the Tiger Fund make STES special and directly support this year's students and staff. Key areas these funds support include:

- Maintaining low teacher-to-student ratios, with one teacher for every five or six students, depending on age.
- Retaining our caring and highly qualified staff, which includes four certified teachers and ten staff members with over ten years of early childhood experience.



- Ensuring our teachers stay current with research-based curriculum and best practices through continuing education.
- Providing classroom resources such as books, manipulatives, art supplies, hands-on experiences, playground equipment, and more.

The current amount raised/pledged through May 2025 is \$22,500 of our initial \$25,000 goal to balance our annual budget. STES Dream Goal is \$50,000 to honor our first 50 years and secure our next 50 years!!

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



Donate by scanning the QR code.



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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