



St. Thomas *focus*

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER | ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH | EASTER SEASON - 2018

EASTER: ENDLESS REJOICING

Easter at St. Thomas is a time of joy. The joy begins with the wonder of the Easter Vigil and the joy of Easter morning. Then Easter season continues with fifty days to live into the celebration. This is a particularly special Easter season for us because this year during Easter we will prepare for celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of St. Thomas on May 20, the Day of Pentecost.

Sermons in Easter Season – Rejoicing in the Church

Our epistle lessons in this season come from Acts - stories of the earliest church. It is remarkable how much St. Thomas today has in common with this first community of followers of Jesus. We will reflect on what the first Christians have to teach us about being the church today.

April 8 - A church of caring

April 15 - A church of witness

April 22 - A church of boldness

April 29 - Youth Sunday!

May 6 - A church of openness

Are You Connected?

Like and follow St. Thomas on Facebook for the latest updates and reminders. We're also on Instagram as "stthomascols."

Use our hashtag on your St. Thomas social media posts:
#mystthomas

Do you receive our Weekly Emails? *Spiritual Adventures* newsletter is emailed on Mondays and *Rector's Corner* is emailed every Thursday. Parish emails are occasionally sent with parish information. To sign up for these email
office@stthomascolumnbus.org

SAINTS AND SINNERS

Saints and Sinners will meet the first Friday in April and May at 11am. This group meets in the Chapel for a short Eucharist service and prayer and then moves to the Parlor for a potluck lunch. Everyone is welcome.

ENVIRONMENTAL PILGRIMAGE

You are invited on a pilgrimage to Oxbow Meadows on April 7th at 11am. The 30-minute canopy tour provides magnificent views from the TreeTop Canopy Trail, which is suspended 35 feet above the ground. A "Critter Tour" follows. Admission is \$5 per person for a 30-minute guided tour. Binocular rental included. Restrictions: Children must be 4 feet tall OR 12 years of age. Closed-toed shoes must be worn at all times while on the TreeTop Canopy Trail! A waiver is also required. Please contact the church office or Christine DiFelicianantonio, 706.442.8722 for more information or to sign up.

PARENTS OF BABIES AND PRESCHOOLERS

Join St. Thomas Parents of Babies and Preschoolers for a playground picnic on April 8. We'll gather at 5:30 on the St. Thomas playground for some outdoor fun and fellowship. This will be the last meeting of this group for this school year. Contact Meg in the church office or find the group on Facebook for more information.

MIDTOWN CLASSIC

Saturday April 21. One mile fun run starts at 8am. 5K run starts at 9am. This event raises funds for the Wynnton Neighborhood Network which St. Thomas also supports. www.wynntonumc.org/midtown-classic.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Join your St. Thomas friends and family in celebrating Earth Day by getting your hands dirty! We'll work together outside on April 25 beautifying the grounds for spring. We will spreading lots of pine straw so there is plenty of work to share for helpers of all ages!

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Last Wednesday dinner and activities of this education year on are Wednesday May 16. Wednesday evening Eucharist will continue throughout the summer.

Remembering the Preacher: 50 years since the death of Martin Luther King, Jr

April 4, 2018 marks 50 years since the death of Martin Luther King. Like other saints of the church, the Episcopal Church commemorates him on the day of his death, when he was reborn to life with God. We remember this saint of the church in two ways this season.

A Vigil of Sermons

Remembering the Preacher

Sermons of Martin Luther King

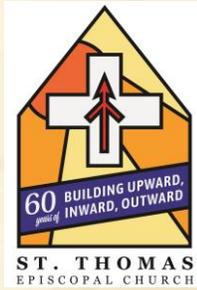
To allow his voice to speak again, on Wednesday, April 4, we will begin reading some of his sermons at 4 pm. His sermons and the scriptures in his sermons will function as the liturgy of the word. We will conclude with a litany by Dr. King, followed by Eucharist. The service will end just after 6 pm, which is the time when he died. Join us whenever you can arrive after work or school - it is fine to enter in the middle of the readings. This vigil and Eucharist will serve as our Wednesday evening service on April 4.

MLK Jr.: Epistles and Prophets

9:30 am, April 15, 22, 29 & May 6 in the library

Using curriculum developed by Trinity Church Wall Street, hear challenging examinations of three civil-rights era letters from Dr. King, James Baldwin, and Thomas Merton and an interview with Ruby Sales.

60th Anniversary Events



We celebrate 60 years of Building Upward, Inward, and Outward with a special Evensong on the Day of Pentecost, May 20. In anticipation of that occasion, join us for these events to celebrate and prepare.

April 8 - Festive breakfast beginning at 9 am to kick off our 60th anniversary offering. Children, youth, and adults will eat together at 9 am. At 9:30, children and youth will go to their classes and adults will stay to hear about plans for Building Upward, Inward, and Outward in celebration of 60 years of ministry as a parish.

April 15 - Dedication of the Chapel at the 8 am service

April 29 - Youth Sunday - St. Thomas youth will lead worship at 8 and 10:30

May 6 - Blessing the grounds and Bluegrass Mass - Wear comfy clothes and join a procession around the grounds at 9:30 to offer our grounds and facilities to God for holy use.

Bluegrass Mass at 10:30 with music by Dan and Gini Davidson and friends.

May 20 - We celebrate the Day of Pentecost in the morning with baptisms. And we celebrate the birthday of St. Thomas with Evensong at 5 pm followed by a festive reception. Children's activities and nursery available.

As part of the anniversary celebration, we invite you to support an Easter season offering for *Building Upward, Inward, and Outward*. A brochure and details about the offering will be shared at breakfast on April 8.

We also invite you during this 60th anniversary year to consider planning a legacy gift to the St. Thomas Endowment. The Endowment was founded in 1959 with a generous bequest by Georgia Wilkins. Many St. Thomas parishioners have added to it over the years. These funds are invested, and a portion of the earnings has been used each year to support our ministries for almost 60 years. Our goal is for the endowment to continue supporting ministries at St. Thomas 60 years from now, in 2078 and beyond. All who plan to give to the Endowment become members of the St. Thomas Legacy Society. A thank you event for Legacy Society members will be held later this year. A brochure about the Legacy Society and St. Thomas Endowment is available in the narthex or the church office.

Music Notes

Generally in the church year the time after Easter is a little slower. Not this year! And certainly not for the St. Thomas Choir! We now shift gears to our upcoming Pilgrimage to England. The Choir will be 'in residence' at Norwich the second week of July. We will sing daily Evensong, offering sung *Preces and Responses* by Madeleine Thevenot (Canon Precentor at St. John's Cathedral in New Mexico), settings of the *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis* by Grayston Ives, Peter Aston, Philip Wilby and Robert J. Powell and anthems by Howard Helvey, Philip Wilby, Chuck Beaudrot (Atlanta) and George Oldroyd. In addition to Evensong we will sing *Compline* in a darkened cathedral one night. We will also sing Evensong in the famous St. John's College, Cambridge.

What does 'in residence' mean? Daily services have been sung at Norwich cathedral since 1096. It is our choir's honor and responsibility to 'step into their place,' so to speak, to keep the music going while their choir is on vacation. We will lead the service of Evensong each afternoon.

This will be our second trip to England. The choir has been in residence at Wells Cathedral, sung for Georgia Day at Washington National Cathedral, been on the Distinguished Choirs Series at St. John the Divine in New York and sung diocesan services at our own St. Philip's Cathedral. This July 26 singers will participate along with 24 other friends of music. We will also travel with 50 members of the Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus who will have the fun of staying in a nearby boarding school. So 100 Columbusites will represent our church and country. We have found that the bond we have as musicians is strengthened immeasurably as friends and fellow travelers in life.

The good news is that St. Thomas members will get to hear all the music we will take to England over the course of the new three months! This is a large but so worthwhile undertaking. Please pray for us while we are away as we will pray for you. We will be making daily posts to our Facebook page St Thomas Columbus Choir complete with pictures and recordings. Why not 'like' us now?

Bon Voyage Choir Concert with the Voices of the Valley
June 29 7 PM
All Saint's Hall

Episcokids

The Great Fifty Days - Endless Rejoicing

Through singing, praying, eating and crafting our Episcokids will grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus.

Join Episcokids on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 for these activities

April 4 – Building an Easter calendar

April 11 - Symbols of Easter for Easter tree

April 18 - Sugar cookie butterflies

April 25 - Growing Easter wheat

May 2 – Create chalk peace poems

May 9 – Remember our baptisms

May 16 – Easter season storytelling and skits

For more info about any activities for children, contact Erin Redden at episcokids@stthomas columbus.org

St. Thomas Youth

April 29 is Youth Sunday. Youth will lead in special ways in worship and we will also recognize high school and college graduates on this day. If you'll be graduating this spring, please let us know so we can recognize you. Email Tiffany at youth@stthomas columbus.org and include your name, where you are graduating from, and any honors and future plans you'd like to include. There will be a reception after the 10:30 service. Graduates are invited to set up a table with memorabilia in the parish hall to display during the reception.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon about a youth bowling night in April and an end of the school year celebration in May.

For more info about any activities for youth, contact Tiffany Bonaker at youth@stthomas columbus.org

Ministry Spotlights

In Easter season, we give thanks for our **Youth Ministry** and will celebrate Youth Sunday and Graduation Sunday on April 29.

We also give thanks for **all who lead worship**. On April 15, we will recognize and thank our ushers, vergers, acolytes, lectors, chalice bearers (or lay Eucharistic ministers), and flower guild, along with our altar guild and choir who were thanked earlier in the year.

We give thanks for our partnership with **Brewer Elementary School**. We will thank our Brewer reading tutors on April 22.

You are welcome here at St. Thomas.

We are a church of loving, committed and searching Christians who value diversity and cherish the gifts of young and old alike.

We welcome ALL God's children into our sacramental community, respecting the dignity of every person as we are called to a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. You are welcome here as God's own.

We are a community of faith who will welcome you as you are, wherever you are from, and whatever your background.

We invite you to join us as we worship God and proclaim the Good News of God's Love.

We take joy in sharing Communion with all Christians who gather around God's table.

Together we share a journey of learning and prayer; we believe in selfless serving; we advocate for justice and peace; we work to safeguard God's good Earth; and we offer humble acts of hospitality to our neighbors and the greater world.

You are welcome as a Child of God.

Service and Formation Times:

Sunday at 8am, Rite 1, Chapel

Sunday at 10:30am Rite II, Nave (nursery available for 10:30 service)

Wednesday at 5:30, Eucharist and Prayer, Chapel

Shine Time Sunday School for children, **Youth Gathering**, and **Perspectives and Bible Study** for adults meet from 9:30-10:15 on Sundays. Hot Breakfast is served each Sunday from 9-9:45

Formation Opportunities and Bible Studies for children, youth, and adults meet Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45. Dinner is served each Wednesday from 5:45 – 6:30. Menus are shared each week in Spiritual Adventures, our e-newsletter. To be added to the newsletter list please contact the church office at 706.324.4264 or office@stthomas columbus.org