

St. Thomas *focus*

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEASON AFTER PENTECOST – JUNE AND JULY 2018

SUMMER JOURNEYS

Welcome to the Season after Pentecost, a journey that lasts almost half the Christian Year. It begins the Monday after Pentecost and continues to the start of Advent. This is a time for living out everything we learned about the way of Jesus from Advent to Easter.

We celebrate many journeys this season. Children will compare Harry Potter's journey to their own Christian journey with *Wizards and Wonders* VBS June 4-8. St. Thomas choir members and pilgrims will share in a pilgrimage to Norwich, England in July. Youth in our community go on a journey of understanding through the Thompson Pound Art Program (TAP). And many take part in other summer journeys - vacations, family reunions, trips to the mountains or the beach.

The color for this season is green, representing growth and fruitfulness. In our journeys here and our journeys far away, the Holy Spirit goes with us, helping us grow into the full stature of Christ.

A prayer for travelers (BCP 831) begins this way -

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Stay in touch throughout this season and look for God's presence with you wherever you go.

VBS AT ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Wizards and Wonders

A Hero's Journey With Harry Potter

June 4-8, 2018

8:45-11:45 each day

4-year-olds through 5th grade

Explore how lessons from the Harry Potter series inform Christian questions of identity, alliances, team work, spiritual gifts, life's direction, temptations, moral choices, courage and faith.

See stthomascolumnus.org or contact Erin
at episcokids@stthomascolumnus.org for more information or to register.



GRAND SUMMER

Help us make this summer at St. Thomas GRAND!

We're looking for grandparents to share their gifts, talents, and loves with the children of St. Thomas this summer in small groups. A grand is a person of any age who considers themselves a grandparent - biologically or otherwise - and has something to share. Do you have a special hobby or interest? What do you know that you want children to know? The sky is the limit and we want these lessons to be as unique as our church family. Some examples include: Sewing, Wildflowers, Hiking, Setting a Table, Story Telling, Birds, Baking, Etiquette, Worms & Dirt, Watercolor Painting, Flower Arranging, a Faith Story from Childhood...just to name a few!

Our Grand Days of Summer will take place each Sunday morning from 9:30-10:15 in June and July. Adults will be on hand to introduce you, lead a prayer, supervise children, and help as needed with your lesson. Families are welcome and invited to participate together and adults are also welcome to participate in these Grand Days!

Share your creativity and gifts with others this summer. Contact Ms. Erin at episcokids@stthomasolumbus.org or the church office (706.324.4264) to sign up for a Sunday today!

SUMMER MUSIC NEWS

Hymn Surprise: As a part of our 60th Anniversary celebration St. Thomas choir commissioned our own Ray Capo to write a hymn text set to a tune by the late organist-choirmaster of St. John the Divine, Alex Wyton. At Evensong on Pentecost we will enjoy the world premiere of a festival arrangement of this tune and text (called a hymn concerto) by a local composer Madeleine Lee.

Norwich Pilgrimage: On Sundays in May and June St. Thomas Choir will sing in our worship all the repertoire that we will take to England. At Evensong on Pentecost we feature the Southern premiere of the *Preces and Responses* by Albuquerque composer Madeleine Thevenot and an anthem by English composer Philip Wilby written for our choir.

Bon Voyage Concert

Please join us on Friday, June 29 at 7pm in the Parish Hall for a send-off concert featuring St. Thomas Choir and the Voices of the Valley Children's Choir.

OUTREACH SPOTLIGHTS

In this season we highlight support for Wynnton Neighborhood Network and Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry.

June is one of the months each year (also October) when St. Thomas is asked to provide extra support for the WNN food pantry, a ministry supported by eight congregations and housed at St. Thomas. We welcome gifts of food or monetary donations all month, and we will receive a special offering on June 24. Most needed food items include: canned meats, canned fruits, canned pork & beans, canned baked beans, tomato products, and canned soups and pasta meals (Spaghetti's, Beefaroni, etc.).

We also celebrate our partnership with Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry. Many St. Thomas members and youth take part in TAP June 25-29. A collection is taken for CVEM Direct Service in the wooden box in the Narthex the second Sunday each month. Look for this on June 13 and July 10.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN JUNE AND JULY

Evening Prayer and Eucharist continue at 5:30 on Wednesdays throughout the summer, with the exception of July 4 when the church is closed for Independence Day. On first and third Wednesdays, those who wish are invited to go out to dinner after the service. If you can't join us for the service but would like to meet us for dinner, we should arrive between 6:15 and 6:30.

June 6 - Country's on Mercury (3137 Mercury Drive)

June 20 - Skipper's Seafood (3505 Buena Vista Road)

July 18 - Speakeasy (3123 Mercury Drive)

August 1 - Lemon Grass (2435 Wynnton Road)

YOUNG ADULTS

Tuesday, May 22, 6:30pm

Young adults at St. Thomas will meet at the home of Freeman McCluskey (1910 Hilton Ave) on May 22 at 6:30pm. For more information about this group or for their next meeting times contact Taylor Burton-Edwards at burtunedwards@gmail.com.

EPISCOKID POOL PARTY

June 3



Make a Splash
as we celebrate
SUMMER!

Sunday, June 3rd
2:00 - 5:00 PM

The Dahlgren Home
6427 Springwater Drive
Columbus, Georgia 31904

Bring swimsuit, towel, sunscreen and snacks to share. **Rain date: 6-24-18**
No lifeguard, parents should remain with children.

PARENTS OF BABIES AND PRESCHOOLERS

Sunday, June 24, 5:00pm

Parents of babies and preschoolers are invited to a picnic and evening of water fun on June 24 on the playground at St. Thomas. Fried chicken and chicken nuggets will be provided. Bring a side to share. For more information, find the group on Facebook (*St. Thomas Parents of Babies and Preschoolers*) or contact Meg in the church office at office@stthomascolumnbus.org

THOMPSON POUND ART PROGRAM (TAP)

June 25-29

TAP is a week-long summer program for 60 children ages six through twelve offered in Columbus. Children are recruited from different religious and cultural backgrounds and unified by their experiences of the arts throughout the week. Each session, they all work together to create a "Unity Piece," one communal work of art which is then permanently displayed in the community. One TAP Unity Piece can be found standing tall on the corner of Broadway and 12th Street in Uptown Columbus (a Peace Tree sculpture) as an example.

Youth are trained to serve as Teen Interns and Mentors. During the week preceding the program, these teens from diverse backgrounds get to know and trust one other, engage the year's theme, and learn to be program leaders.

For more information and applications check out the CVEM website: www.cvemjubilee.org/tap/.

FOYERS FINALE

Sunday, June 10, 5:30pm

The Foyers Finale is a time when all Foyers Groups gather one last time for a meal. BBQ, tea, and water will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Guests are welcome. If you are curious about Foyers and might want to participate next year, you are welcome to come. Foyers groups meet and eat together in homes or restaurants during the school year and are a great way to get to know others at St. Thomas.

RSVP to one of the committee members, Barbara Brandenburgh (davebarb2@knology.net), Linda Prince (lwprince11@aol.com), or Sara Ginter (saragammageginter@gmail.com).



GENERAL CONVENTION

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church meets this summer in Austin, TX, July 4-13. This is the official decision making body of the Episcopal Church. It meets every three years and functions like the early councils of the church to guide the worship, teaching, and organization of The Episcopal Church. Equal numbers of lay and clergy representatives make up the House of Deputies. The House of Bishops also meets during this time. Recommendations for legislation must pass in both houses to be approved by the Convention, which means laity, clergy, and bishops all have a voice in the decisions of our church.

Discussions at this convention include a report from committees that considered revising the prayer book and hymnal, a process for welcoming the Episcopal Church in Cuba, and helping the House of Bishops become more diverse, among many more.

Rev. Grace will attend the first days of Convention for a global missions reception before leaving for the England Pilgrimage. Our deputies from the Diocese of Atlanta have offered an overview of General Convention in *Connecting*, the Diocese of Atlanta newsletter. Visit connecting.episcopalatlanta.org.

Rev. Grace will offer two Sunday morning sessions related to General Convention during our Perspectives time - one before the Convention on June 24 and one after Convention as a followup on July 29. Each of those will take place at 9:30 in the library.

Episcokids

- Make sure you are registered for VBS! Episcokids, friends, and family welcome for the week of Wizards and Wonders June 4-8!
- Episcokid Pool Party, June 3rd from 2-5pm at the Dahlgren home.
- Plan to join us for The Grand Days of Summer each Sunday morning at 9:30. We'll hear from a different guest each week sharing about what they know and love and how we live out our faith together.
- Connect with us on Facebook to find out first about other summer activities at St. Thomas! Find the group "*St. Thomas Episcokids and Friends*"

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

St. Thomas Youth

- Youth are invited to help with VBS June 4-8. Contact Ms. Tiffany or Ms. Erin for more information.
- Details coming soon about youth outings on June 24 and July 22. Save the dates!
- Connect with us on Facebook to find out first about other summer activities at St. Thomas! Find the group "*St. Thomas Youth and Friends.*"

For more info about activities for youth, contact Tiffany Bonaker at youth@stthomascolumnbus.org.

From the Parish Administrator: Accessing Online Records

Did you know that you can access your church records online? St. Thomas members may view their membership record online, request changes or corrections to their record, make a pledge, donate, view their donation history and contribution statements, sign up and pay for events, and view the password protected membership directory. (Printed copies are available in the church office but the online version is always the most up-to-date.)

To access these services, you will need a username and password.

Visit our website (www.stthomascolumnbus.org), go to the "Contact" tab and click on "Member Resources." Then click on "Access ACS Member Portal." If you have never signed in before, look for a blue box that says "Need a Login?" Click there, enter your information and your login will be emailed to you. If you receive a notice saying "contact your system administrator," contact the church office to verify the name and email address we have on file for you.

Once you are logged into the portal you will see the options available to you across the tabs on the top of the page.

If you have questions or difficulties using any of our online services, please contact Patty Slembariski in the church office: 706.324.4264 or admin-finance@stthomascolumnbus.org. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 9am-2pm.

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

To be added to the newsletter list please contact the church office at 706.324.4264 or office@stthomascolumnbus.org