



Seasons

at **ST. THOMAS**



LOVING EVERY PERSON, MAKING ROOM FOR ALL

Several years ago, in 2016, the St. Thomas Vestry adopted a Welcome Statement, which is still posted on our website. Here are some of the highlights -

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.

You are welcome here as God's own . . . as you are, wherever you are from, and whatever your background.

This statement has continued to guide us. At times, it has challenged us. When we discover practices that are not as welcoming as we want to be, this statement reminds us of our vision.

St. Thomas is entering a season of greater intention around welcome. Over the next few months, we will all be invited to support a proposal developed in 2022 by our Strategic Planning Committee that puts our vision for welcome into practice. Our goal is to improve the physical accessibility of our campus so that we may truly welcome ALL God's children.

Our theme for this season is **Loving Every Person: Making Room for All**. You will hear these words often over the next few weeks, but this theme is not a new idea. It has been a goal of St. Thomas for decades. How blessed we are to have the hope of living these words more fully:

You are welcome here as God's own!

Blessings,
Grace

PICTURES FROM LAST MONTH'S GOOD NEWS SCAVENGER HUNT



LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



Loving Every Person, Making Room for All

SERMONS IN THIS SEASON



Sermons this Season

Scriptures in this season all speak of welcome and purpose. The welcome Paul and his friends received. The promise for those who would come after Moses. The hope of the saints. The choice to serve God with intention and encouragement. Join us on Sundays as we reflect on God's call to us.

October 22 - *What kind of welcome*

October 29 - *Give it to your descendants*

November 5 - *What we will be*

November 12 - *We will serve the Lord*

November 19 - *Let us keep awake*



Contemplative Healing Service

October 15, November 26,

December 10, 5 pm in the Chapel

Our Sunday evening candlelight services of contemplation and healing will be a special gift to many of us as the days grow shorter and the darkness falls earlier. Come and be a part of blessed silence, healing prayers and anointing, Holy Eucharist, gentle Taizé music, and time set aside to bask in the presence of God. The dates are different, so please make note: OCTOBER 15 at 5 pm, NOVEMBER 26 at 5 pm, DECEMBER 10 at 5 pm.

OCTOBER 15 ACOLYTE TRAINING



Acolyte Training

October 15

All current and prospective acolytes (children and youth) are needed for training on October 15. Parents are also needed during training to receive important information. From 9:30 to 10:15 we will train our youngest acolytes who serve by carrying the petite cross and Gospel book. We will train torchbearers and crucifers following the 10:30 service. Please sign up on our website or through the email sent to parents on October 3. If you cannot attend on the 15th and would like to serve, please email Taylor@stthomas columbus.org.

Acolyte Blessing

Sunday, October 29 at 10:30

All acolytes are invited to join in a blessing and recognition during the 10:30 service on Sunday, October 29. The St. Thomas community is thrilled to take this time to recognize the dedication and service of our many acolytes.

Parish Hall Service

Sundays at 10:30

If you find yourself looking for a different way to participate in the 10:30 service, consider joining a small group in the Parish Hall where the live stream is shown. Coffee, snacks, and plenty of room to move freely are available. Those worshipping in the Parish Hall are invited to the nave for Communion if you wish.



zoom

Evening Prayer on Zoom

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:30

Zoom Evening Prayer

Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 5:45 or so on Zoom

We continue to gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 throughout the fall. Join us for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our LinkTree.



Wednesday Evening Eucharist

5:30 to 6 in the Chapel

This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.

Prayer Group

The St. Thomas Prayer Group meets weekly to offer all kinds of prayers, including Prayers of the People shared on Sunday mornings at St. Thomas. We also pray for those who have asked for prayers but wish them to be private. This list is totally confidential to the Prayer Group. The St. Thomas Prayer Group meets on Monday mornings at 11:30 on Zoom. Contact the church office for the Zoom link or more information.

LOVE GOD: WORSHIP



Children's Chapel

during 10:30 service

During the hymn before the gospel lesson, children follow the petite cross and leaders to the Chapel for Children's Chapel where they continue to follow the service order and have an interactive worship experience. Children set their own altar, interact with scripture, and ask questions. Each week the children are encouraged to pray, think deeply, and have fun. Children also receive a bulletin made by Illustrated Ministry. Each bulletin contains the Hebrew and Christian scriptures of the week along with activities the children can do when they return to service or at home. Children return to the Nave at the Peace to take part in Eucharist with their families. If you would like to receive more information about the current week's chapel service, please contact our Director of Children and Family Ministries, Heather Driggers.



THE JOYCE & HENRY
SCHWOB SCHOOL OF MUSIC
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

Schwob Singers at St. Thomas

Sunday, October 22 at 10:30

We are delighted to welcome the Schwob Singers under the direction of Dr. David Hahn as they lead us in worship on this day. The Schwob Singers are the premiere auditioned choral ensemble of the Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music at CSU. Their major concert of the season is Thursday, October 19 at 7:30 in RiverCenter Legacy Hall.

Music on All Saints

Sunday, November 5

What a joy to welcome a special Quartet from the Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music at CSU on All Saints Sunday. The entire Trombone Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Bradley Palmer, will travel to the Korean Trombone Symposium in Korea in early 2024.



Baptism at St. Thomas

Our next scheduled dates for Baptism are November 5 (All Saints' Sunday) and January 7 (Baptism of our Lord). Contact Rev. Grace to schedule Baptism.



ST. THOMAS CHOIR

Sing for Christmas

Want to sing some of the most beautiful music of the church? Can't commit to sing for a full year? Join the choir for November and December! Rehearsal for Advent and Christmas starts November 1. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:45-8:30 in the Choir Room and again on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a warm-up in the Nave. Contact Rick for more info.



CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

Confirmation Services

Two opportunities for Confirmation and Reception are coming up. Our Welcome Classes or our Journey Groups serve as preparation for these rites. If you would like to be Confirmed or Received at either of these services, please look for the online form in emailed newsletters or contact the church office.

Sunday, December 10 at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta (service at 4 pm, those being Confirmed or Received should arrive by 3:15)

Sunday, January 7 at 2 pm at Trinity Church in Columbus

Confirmation marks a mature public affirmation of the vows of baptism. It is for those who were baptized at an earlier age or at a different time in life who now want to live out the Christian life in a mature way. For those who were confirmed in a different church tradition, Reception into the Episcopal Church marks the decision to become part of this tradition. Both of these rites take place in the presence of our bishop as a way of signifying our connection to a wider community of believers.

LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



Loving Every Person: St. Thomas Annual Pledge Campaign

Begins Sunday, October 22



Join us on this day as we begin a season of support for St. Thomas ministries in 2024. All of our ministries help us live out our mission to Love God, **Love Every Person**, Learn and Serve Together. Special events include:

- 9:30 am Gather in the parish hall for an overview of the 2024 operating budget and a review of plans for *Making Room for All*
- 10:30 am The Schwob Singers join us for worship
- 11:45 am Chili lunch in the parish hall. There's Room for All! Meat and vegan chili will be served. We'll briefly recap the conversation from 9:30 and show our capital campaign video.

Plan to pick up your pledge packets on this day and save us a stamp. If you can't be present on the 22nd but would like to pick up your packet during the week, let us know. Otherwise, packets will be mailed on October 23. Please return pledge cards for the annual pledge campaign by Sunday November 12 and for the capital campaign by January 15, 2024. Then join us on Sunday, November 19 at 5 pm for our Thanksgiving Dinner to celebrate.

Making Room for All: St. Thomas Vision Campaign

Also begins Sunday, October 22



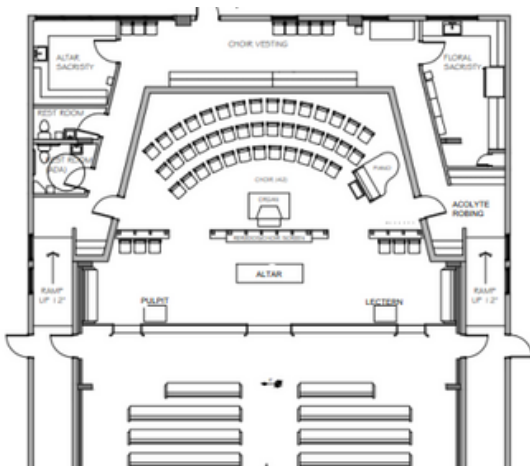
A generous gift from Clifford and Bobsie Swift in 2021 led to a Strategic Planning Process in 2022 that developed a vision to improve the accessibility of our campus. Generous gifts from the estate of choir member Joe Fischer, the estate of Norma Jergens, and the Walter Alan Richards Foundation brought us even closer to the goal. Now we all have the opportunity to make this vision a reality.

Making Room for All: St. Thomas Vision Campaign is a 3-year giving campaign to support our vision of accessibility for our campus and truly welcome ALL God's children. The plan will

- Eliminate steps to the altar rail
- Expand the nave to create accessible seating for the Choir
- Add seats for worshipers downstairs and in the remodeled loft
- Add handicapped parking near the Chapel

In response to a survey in September, we are exploring with our architect the possibility of adding a covered drop off *behind* the Chapel, rather than in front as originally proposed. This concept preserves most of the front lawn and current look of the building. It increases safety - no cars near where children run and play. And it puts new handicapped parking along the north side of the lawn, even closer to the Chapel than first envisioned. We are also exploring with the City the possibility of adding parking spaces near the current choir room. We hope to have an update to share when we meet on October 22!

The total needed for all of these projects is around \$3 million, and we are already halfway there! Begin thinking now about how you will support this campaign. Several named gift opportunities are available. In addition, a plaque to be placed in the nave will include the names of *all* who contributed to help St. Thomas *Make Room for All*. Be on the lookout for an invitation to small group events to discuss the proposals, and please plan to submit your pledge by January 15, 2024. We will celebrate the completion of the campaign at our Annual Meeting on January 21, 2024.



LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 19 at 5 pm

Join us for a St. Thomas Thanksgiving Dinner to give thanks for God's many blessings. Seth will prepare turkey, dressing, sides, and dessert, plus a vegan option. We will share a liturgy of thanksgiving around our tables. No Wednesday Eucharist or Wednesday activities on November 23 in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday. Sign up on our website or with the church office by November 15.

St. Thomas Little Library

At the rear of the St. Thomas building, near the entrance to the Wynnton Neighborhood Office is a small structure situated on a pole and containing books. This is The Little Library, first suggested by parishioner Jo Cates and then constructed by her husband, Paul. This gift has provided many materials, without charge, for the patrons of WNN Food Pantry and for members of Saint Thomas. It is also available, 24-7, to the Day School families and to the public. Traditionally, the Little Library has been the responsibility of the Saint Thomas Book Group, but it is available to everyone. The Book Group has donated both new and gently used books: books for children, teens, and adults, Bibles, mysteries, romance, DIY, even recipe books. Everyone may donate reading materials, as well as DVDs and CDs and puzzles in good condition. If you have not familiarized yourself with the Saint Thomas Little Library, this is a good time to begin. Enjoy!



Fall Excursions

Two October Excursions ahead in the coming week!! CONTACT ROXANE RIGHT AWAY TO SIGN UP FOR THE HIKE AND/OR THE RAMBLE.

Standing Boy Trail Hike Sat. Oct. 14 @ 9 am!

We'll start with a 1-hour hike on Viberations and Tie Snake trails, then another hour for those who'd like to join us on Straight Shot Trail. Nothing difficult, mostly wide trails through lovely woods on a cool autumn morning.

Historic Linwood Cemetery Fall Ramble. Thurs. Oct. 19 @ 5 pm.

An hour to join costumed folks leading a tour themed *You Can Bank On It: Bankers and Bedlam*. Then supper by Country's and music from Bibb City Ramblers. \$65 includes tour, supper, 2 drinks, and support of maintenance and restoration of records, graves, and monuments for the Historic Linwood Foundation.

Our next Excursion will be in December, a winter evening event at the Columbus Botanical Gardens. Stay tuned for details.



St. Thomas Book Group

First Fridays at 11 am

The St. Thomas Book Group is reorganizing after the retirement of Sonya Boyd, who led us so beautifully since 2005. We will be meeting the first Friday of each month at 11 am in the church library. All women and men are welcome. Contact Martha Mullinax or Alice Barlow with questions. (They are listed in the online directory, or call the church office).



YACT October Social

October 19, 6 pm

YACT is St. Thomas's young adults fellowship group. On October 19th, we will go bowling at Stars and Strikes. To participate, sign up at stthomas.org/yact by October 12th.

LOVE EVERY PERSON: FELLOWSHIP & WELCOME



Women's Group October 19, 6 pm

Gather with women at St. Thomas for a meal and fellowship. This group meets once a month and typically alternates between meeting for lunch or dinner at a restaurant. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. The next women's group dinner will be on 10/19 at 11th and Bay at 6:30. Let us know you're coming by 10/17 with the form online or contact the church office.



Saints and Sinners November 2, 11:15 am

Saints and Sinners will meet for a brief Eucharist, fellowship, and potluck lunch on Thursday November 2 at 11:15. Eucharist at 11:30 will be an observance of All Saints Day. Following Eucharist, the group will share a potluck lunch in the Parish Hall. Bring a dish to share! Everyone is welcome to join! This is a great way to meet folks at St. Thomas.



One Small Step

St. Thomas is partnering with *One Small Step* – an effort to bring strangers together for meaningful conversations about their lives – Let's do our part and take one small step toward each other.

Created by StoryCorps, One Small Step is an effort to remind the country of the humanity in all of us, even those with whom we disagree. The initiative brings strangers with different political views together to record a 50-minute conversation—not to debate politics, but to learn who we are as people. Audio recordings of each interview are archived at the Library of Congress. Sign up for an interview and learn more at TakeOneSmallStep.org/Columbus



Men's Group

Look for details coming soon about a late October meet up of the Men's Group. This group will also be working together to grill hotdogs for St. Thomas' Trunk or Treat on October 29. Contact Paul Hostetter for more information.



QR CODE!

Use the camera on your smart phone to scan the QR code to sign up for events.

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Available on the App Store | Available on Google play

LEARN TOGETHER



Sunday Morning Formation at St. Thomas

9:30 - 10:15 am

Come for fellowship and formation as we dive deeper into scripture, theology, and faith. There is a group for everyone!

- Shine Time - Preschool-3rd Grade Children - Outreach Center
- Tween Time - 4th Grade-Middle School Tweens - Youth Suite
- Adult Formation - All Life-Long Learners - Library



Welcome Classes

Sundays at 9:30

October 29 to December 10
What is an Episcopalian or an Anglican? Is there a difference? How did St. Thomas get started? How do I find my way around the facility? What do we promise in Baptism? What does it mean to be Confirmed or Received? How do I get involved? Our Welcome Classes speak to all of these questions and more. Welcome Classes are for people new to St. Thomas and for those who would like to learn more. They serve as preparation for Confirmation or Reception by our Bishop for those who are ready to take that step.



Sunday School for Children & Tweens

Sundays, 9:30-10:15

On Sunday mornings, children and tweens are currently following the interactive version of *Manna & Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*. Each week, we hear stories from the Bible and learn about God's love and grace for all people. All students are given a handout to take home with information on the lesson and suggested discussion questions to continue the conversation as a family. If you would like to receive our Sunday handout via email please contact Mrs. Heather. Parents and parishioners are also encouraged to volunteer with our younger two classes, ages 3-5 and grades 1-3. We would like our children growing and learning with our community's help. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mrs. Heather for more information. Heather@stthomascolumnbus.org. Classes offered are:

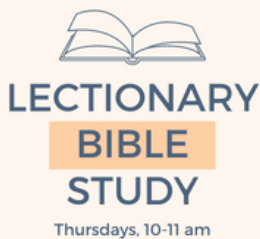
- Children ages 3-5, meet in a classroom in Outreach
- Children grades 1-3, meet in large room in Outreach
- Tweens grades 4-8, meet in the Youth Room



Sunday Adult Formation: Theology Class with TheoEd

Continuing in October & November

Like TED talks, but about God! This online resource presents recordings of thoughtful Christian leaders giving "the talk of their lives to spark conversations about God, religion, and the power of faith to change lives and communities." This is a chance to learn from many teachers and grow together. Gather in the library to watch a brief talk and learn with and from others in the room.



Women's Lectionary Bible Study

All women are invited to join Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard in the library or by Zoom from 10-11 am on Thursdays to study the lectionary readings for the coming week. A handout for the week's study is emailed to each participant. Contact the church office to be added to the mailing list. Upcoming dates are October 12, 19, 26 and November 2 and 9. The class will take a break for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas and resume in 2024.

Save-the-Date! Advent Lunches

Mondays in Advent:
December 4, 11, & 18 at noon

Details about speakers will be in our Advent newsletter.

LEARN TOGETHER



Remembering the Faithful Departed

All Saints Day is more than a day.

It is three days to be inspired by the Saints and remember those who have gone before.

All Saints Eve (aka Halloween, October 31) acknowledges the reality of death and reminds us that we have nothing to fear. In ancient times and even today in some cultures, it was thought that those who had died came into closer contact with the living on this day. That's the idea behind all the spooky decorations! For Christians, though, All Saints Eve is a reminder that neither life nor death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. That's why we have fun on this day.

All Saints Day (November 1) focuses on the saints remembered by the whole Church who were clear examples of the life of Christ in their day. These were people like us who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. We give thanks for their witness and pray to be like them.

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

All Saints Sunday (the first Sunday after All Saints, November 5 this year) often gathers all of these purposes into one day, hopefully without losing the importance of each observance.

Join us for these events celebrating all the Saints!

Trunk or Treat - Our All Saints Eve Celebration!

Sunday, October 29, 5 to 7 pm

Join us for this year's annual Trunk or Treat. We will have hotdogs, candy, a costume contest and fun activities for all. The fun will begin at 5pm and finish up at 7pm. We are currently looking for parishioners who would like to join in the fun and decorate their cars. We are asking that each car provide its own candy or treat. The church will provide teal pumpkins with allergy safe candy for 15 of our participating cars as well. If you are interested in joining the fun and would like to volunteer for the event or decorate your car (cars need to be in place and decorated by 4:45), please contact Heather at heather@stthomasolumbus.org or look for a sign up online.



All Saints Day

*Wednesday, November 1
at 5:30*

Gather in the Columbarium for our Wednesday Eucharist, or in the chapel in case of rain. In addition to honoring the witness of the saints, we will remember those interred in the St. Thomas Columbarium and bless the ground.



Remembering Beloved Saints

A meaningful All Saints custom at St. Thomas is the remembrance of those who have gone before us in the faith. To add a name to our necrology (a list of names of those who have died), please complete the form on the website or email to office@stthomasolumbus.org by Sunday, October 29. We want this to be a long list! Names added do not have to be members of St. Thomas. We hold all in loving memory.

Here is how we will celebrate and remember together:

Wednesday, November 1, All Saints Day

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

Sunday, November 5, All Saints Sunday

All names submitted will be printed in the bulletin for both services and named aloud in our prayers at the 8:30 service.

The names of all who died within the last year will be named aloud in our prayers at the 10:30 service.

All Saints Sunday

*Sunday, November 5,
Services at 8:30 & 10:30*

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

The 10:30 service will feature a children's procession of saints, baptism, and music by a Schwob Trombone Quartet and the reading of names of those who died in the last year.



LEARN TOGETHER



Wednesday Evenings at St. Thomas

- 5:30 Eucharist in the Chapel
- 5:30-6:15 Dinner served in the Parish Hall
- 6:20 Prayers around tables
- 6:25 All depart for formation time
- 6:30 to 7:30 Formation time for children, youth, and adults
- 6:45 to 8:30 St. Thomas Choir in the Choir Room

The nursery is open on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30, or longer if needed by choir members.

Ways to Serve on Wednesdays

Wednesday nights at St. Thomas are a special time for worship, fellowship, and learning. It takes many people to help these Wonderful Wednesdays go smoothly. Contact the church office to sign up to assist!

Wednesday Eucharist - Serve at the altar or as a lector or both.

Wednesday Dinner - Help in the kitchen beginning at 4 or 4:30 with setting tables and preparing drinks. One volunteer each week welcomes people and checks the registration list. Another helps at the buffet with serving plates.

Table Prayers - We pause at the end of dinner for brief prayers around the tables. A volunteer or a family leads the prayers.



Wednesday Dinners at St. Thomas

5:30 - 6:15

Sharing Wednesday dinner is a beloved tradition at St. Thomas. A typical dinner is an entree with two sides

and a simple dessert. Seth also prepares vegetarian and gluten free options if requested. The suggested cost is \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family. However, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. We want everyone to be able to participate. In order to prepare (and not waste food), we need reservations each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at a time. (We actually prefer to receive payment online to avoid dealing with cash.) Wednesday Dinner reservation cards are in the pews. Fill it out on Sundays and drop in the offering plate.

Menus:

October 11: Fajita style chicken or stuffed peppers (vegan), Yellow rice, Black beans

October 18: Roast pork loin or roasted cauliflower (vegan), Roasted carrots, Sweet peas

October 25: Chicken casserole or veggie medley (vegan), Green beans

November menus will be posted on stthomascolumnbus.org/wednesday-dinner/



Wednesday Nights for Children & Youth

6:30-7:30 PM

Children and Youth programming on Wednesday nights follow a consistent pattern. The first and third Wednesdays of each month are **L.O.V.E.** formation hours where we **L**earn about our faith, **O**ffer our gifts, **V**alue others, and **E**volve as God's children. Second Wednesdays of the month are craft night and the fourth Wednesdays are game night. Children gather in the outreach center and youth gather in the youth room.

Note: There will be NO Wednesday night activities on November 25th.



Journey Groups Continue

Journey Groups at St. Thomas continue meeting until the start of Advent. Multiple Liturgy & Life Journey groups are meeting to consider how Christian worship shapes us a people and one Journey Group is studying the Hebrew Scriptures using the guide *Manna and Mercy*. Groups meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30. Liturgy & Life groups also meet on Sundays at 4 pm and Tuesdays at 2 pm. Contact the church office if you'd like to drop in or join a group.



Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29, 5-7pm

Join us for this year's annual Trunk or Treat. We will have hotdogs, candy, a costume contest and fun activities for all. The fun will begin at 5pm and finish up at 7pm. We are currently looking for parishioners who would like to join in the fun and decorate their cars. We are asking that each car provide its own candy or treat. The church will provide teal pumpkins with allergy safe candy for 15 of our participating cars as well. If you are interested in joining the fun and would like to volunteer for the event or decorate your car (cars need to be in place and decorated by 4:45), please contact Heather at heather@stthomascolumnbus.org or look for a sign up online.



All Saints Children's Procession

Sunday, November 5, during 10:30 worship

Join us for All Saints Sunday as the children dress up as Saints and lead a procession in worship. Children can join Ms. Heather on November 1st during Wonderful Wednesdays to learn about saints and get ideas for the following Sunday. If you have any questions please contact Heather at heather@stthomascolumnbus.org



Confirmation for Youth & Young Adults

Confirmation classes for youth begin on Sunday, October 8 from 3:00-4:15 pm at various locations around the church, followed by classes on October 15, November 5, 12, and 19, and December 3. We've got a wonderful group of young people and mentors to gather and share a curriculum based on our Baptismal Covenant. Each person will have the opportunity to explore what it means to be confirmed: "to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop." Keep us in your prayers! Contact Roxane for more information.



Diocesan Youth Events

Diocesan youth retreats and events are a great way for St. Thomas Youth to connect with peers from across the diocese and develop their individual faith in a supportive and loving environment. For more information on the events listed below, please visit eycdioatl.org.

- Happening 78 at Camp Mikell - October 20-22, Happening is a spiritual renewal weekend for high schoolers led by high schoolers. Participants are encouraged to deepen their relationship with God and others throughout this fun and reflective retreat. The 2024 Spring date for Happening is Feb. 16-18.
- Overnight Lock-in at Annual Council in Atlanta - November 10-11, Both middle and high school students are encouraged to attend this event where they will join other youth from the diocese in fun overnight activities and lead a worship service for Annual Council.
- New Beginnings 46 at Camp Mikell - November 17-19, New Beginnings is a spiritual formation retreat for middle school students. Participants will enjoy a weekend full of fun including small group activities, music, games, and skits. Transportation will be provided for this event at no additional cost. If you plan to ride with other youth from Columbus, contact Taylor Mack by Nov. 3rd. The 2024 Spring date for New Beginnings is March 1-3.

Youth WNN Service Night

November 15th

St. Thommie's have a long tradition of packing bags of holiday groceries for Wynnton Neighborhood Network each year. As our Wednesday night activity on Nov. 15th, middle and high school youth will gather in Outreach to complete the service project. If needed, Ms. Taylor can sign off on community service hours. Children will gather in the youth room for regular programming.



SERVE TOGETHER



St. Thomas Yard Sale

Save-the-Date

February 10, 2024

Items will be received in the parish hall beginning Sunday, February 4, 2024. Start saving now. Contact Linda Prince if you would like to volunteer.



Pastoral Care at St. Thomas

Might you be interested in visiting someone from our parish family who cannot get to church? We've got a regular team of folks who take communion to them, but short visits just for conversation and friendship conversation are also such a welcome gift. Let Roxane know if you'd like to know more about this ministry of hospitality.



WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Wynnton Neighborhood Network

October is one of the months when St. Thomas offers extra support for the WNN food pantry. As you shop this month, as you are able, please pick up extra items for the food pantry. A shopping cart will be in the narthex on Sundays.

Weekly Items Needed for the Pantry

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

Items Needed for Thanksgiving and Christmas Distribution

(Need at least 450 of each)

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

Annual WNN Unity Service

November 12, 6 pm

Join us on Sunday, November 12 at 6 pm for the WNN Unity Thanksgiving Service at Temple Israel. Rev. Grace will be the speaker this year. This service gathers the eight congregations that make up the Wynnton Neighborhood Network together to give thanks for a year of service to our neighbors.

Welcoming a Refugee Family

St. Thomas is working with the IRC to welcome a Guatemalan family of three to our area as official refugees. The family has some contacts in Columbus and have asked to be resettled here. A small committee has formed to take the lead with this work. We are excited to have the opportunity to assist the family with finding housing, furnishings for their home, transportation, ESL classes, and additional resources. We anticipate their arrival sometime in October and may have as little as 48 hours notice. If you would like to assist in some way - big or small - please contact Meg in the church office. We hope to be able to publish a list of needed items soon if you'd like to help in a practical way. You can also make a financial gift to support this work.

SERVE TOGETHER



EAST CARVER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

We are celebrating 10 years of **Boxwood Soccer** this year! We thank the St. Thomas volunteers who pledged to donate cases water, and snacks and to be our supporters at games! We also received new and used water bottles for our players. Thank you! This has been a challenging year for families in poverty with rising rents, food prices and gas. Please consider donating to or supporting our holiday events to bring some fun to children. Our first event is our **Trunk or Treat at the Boxwood Recreation Center** on Monday, October 30 at 5:30pm. We always appreciate donations of candy and help giving it out! We have five soccer teams and about 67 players this season. Traditionally, we give **new coats** to each player for Christmas. I pray that we can continue this ministry. It is important to families to receive a coat for a child so they can focus funds on rent and food. Please consider purchasing a coat for a player this year. We will need them by December 15 and sizes will range from youth 7/8-to Men's Large. **Path to Shine** is on our ninth fall school season and can always use more mentors. Contact Lisa Herring for more information. We meet on Tuesdays, 4:30-6 at 800 32nd Avenue next to Carver Heights Presbyterian Church. Thank you to all from St. Thomas who agreed to speak at Path to Shine and all who prepare the snacks. You are appreciated! Thank you for supporting the **Boxwood F.A.N.N.** Food security is a big issue for families in poverty and we are proud to support 12 families. We can always use donated cleaning products or Tide pods. We now have our **ESL class** at the Boxwood Recreation Center with Martha Mullinax teaching! Please thank Martha for her wonderful service to Spanish speaking parents.



CVEM News

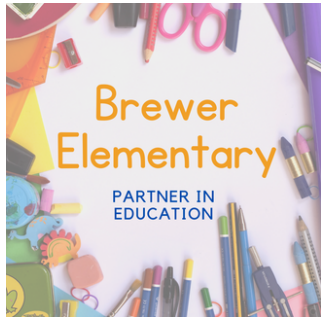
October 22, at St. Thomas

Have you wanted to take more steps personally to learn more about social justice issues? Have you wanted to take greater actions in your community?

Our **Striving for Justice** series has wrapped up for 2023, but I want to invite you to a special session to learn more about this work and ways you can get involved in 2024.

Please plan to join us on October 22 from 6 to 8 pm at St. Thomas.

This meeting will not commit you to Striving for Justice sessions but is just a chance to find out more.



Brewer Elementary

Reading Buddies are busy reading once a week on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 10 am with first graders at Brewer. It is not too late to join this group. Contact the church office for more information.

St. Thomas will also be attending

the Partners in Education event on October 12 with Brewer leadership. We look forward to a school year of continued partnership with students, teachers, and faculty at Brewer. To learn about our partnership with Brewer contact Margo Easterbrook.



Next Edition of Seasons

Our next edition of this newsletter will cover Advent and Christmas at St. Thomas. The deadline for inclusion is November 9. We will distribute on November 19.



Schwob Concert

Sunday, October 15, 4 pm, Historic Zion Episcopal Church

Step back in time with a Schwob concert at 1848 Historic Zion Episcopal Church in Talbotton, Ga. Concert will be followed by a reception at the Straus-Levert Memorial Hall. This unique event will combine words and music. Works by Carson McCullers, Maya Angelou, Eudora Welty, and Richard Wright will be read by Mamie Pound and David Johnson. Music to reflect the authors' words will be preformed by Mia Rosales-Padilla, guitar; David Lescaleet, cello; Kayla Nunez, soprano; Jada Smith, mezzo-soprano; and Dr. Aesook Moon, organ.

To register visit almabase.columbusstate.edu/e/schwob-at-zion or call 706-507-8430. Tickets are \$25 and are limited.