

SUMMER/FALL 2025 | ISSUE NO. 15

# 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](https://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

Sarah Anderson, Member & Growth Coordinator

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

Ryan Becker, Minister of Music

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

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

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

Kellie Phares, Children's Minister

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

PJ Waite, Children's Music Director

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

### School Staff

Allison Newman, Head of School

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

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)



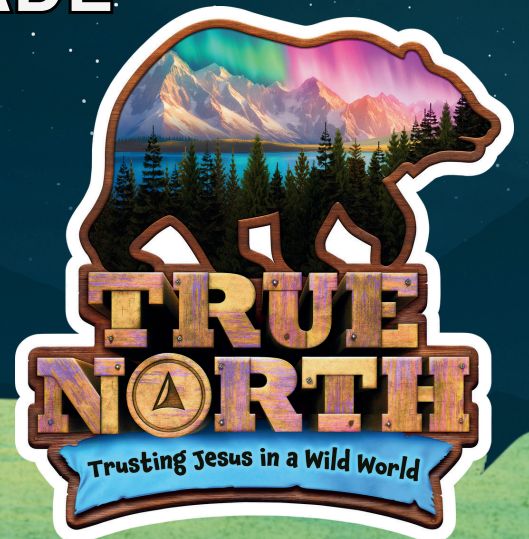
[youtube.com/c/tom1604](https://youtube.com/c/tom1604)

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 16 - JUNE 20

9:00AM - 12:00PM DAILY

AGES 3 - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



S U M M E R M U S I C C A M P



JUNE 23 - JUNE 26

9AM-12PM DAILY

RISING KINDER - RISING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE







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



# THANK YOU!

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## A Message from the Rector, Fr. Mike Michie

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We are sending *The Clarion* to you with full hearts. At the Vestry retreat in 2024, the group prioritized paying off the Woehler Family Center debt and the continuation of the deferred maintenance

on our campus. Here we are, just eighteen short months later, having completed an incredibly successful “A Future with Hope” capital drive.

We stretched our faith and set the goal at \$1.75 million. That would include replacing our roofs over the church and the two wings on either side at \$450,000 and the elimination of our debt, \$1.3 million. At this writing, we have over \$2.1 million pledged! Your response to this effort has encouraged our hearts and will change the short- and long-term future of St. Thomas.

With the counsel of our Vestry, including our terrific finance team led by our Treasurer, Jeff Nelson, here's our plan for how we will spend this money as it comes in. I want to be clear about it, because it's looking like we'll have an extra \$500,000, thanks to you!

The first \$450,000 we collect will go to the roof replacement. In fact, we have enough money already to sign the contract and schedule the church roof replacement now. It is our goal to have it done this summer! Soon after, we'll get the wing roofs replaced which will include some ceiling repairs that are needed from the leaks we've had over the years.

The next \$1.3 million will go to the debt reduction on the Woehler Family Center. We will keep you posted in the months to come on our progress with that. It will be fantastic to remove the debt service from our operating budget.

We will do those two things first – roof and debt. Once the debt is behind us, we'll use the “A Future with Hope” dollars to replenish our Rainy-Day fund from our big, unexpected tax bill and pay ourselves back for our capital drive consultant expenses. That adds up to \$250,000. (That puts us at the \$2 million mark in the campaign so far, \$1.75 million plus this \$250,000.)

After that, our focus will turn to the children's education wing. The tree roots in the front of the church have damaged our plumbing and sewer pipes. There are children's bathrooms in those classes that we've had to seal off. We can get those fixed for about \$30,000. After communicating this at our “Fiesta of Hope” lunch, we had a terrific parishioner dedicate their pledge toward that! What a blessing. This means we'll get to do this sooner than we'd hoped, which is great.

Once the roofs are fixed, the debt gone, the Rainy-Day fund restored and the children's bathrooms flushing, we'll get to modernizing and renovating those classrooms. We'd like to get some better technology, update the furniture, and do some remodeling.

Phew!

Remember that these gifts are over the next three years and in addition to what you normally give to our operating budget. On behalf of our campaign team, our chairs, Ben and Lara de Leon and Matt and Paige Felter, our Vestry, and staff, thank you. We have already done so much around our campus, and it is looking good!

I hope you'll take the time to read Ryan Becker's update on the organ. Also, pray for our Vacation Bible School and Music Camp in June. God is doing some great things at our church. Your support, prayers, and generosity, together with God's grace, is making it all happen.







# GRATITUDE IS CONTAGIOUS

A Message from the Vice Rector, Rev. Allie Melancon



Last week, after more than a year of shared dinners with a small human and her mom, something wonderful happened.

Over countless meals with the Michie crew, I've learned they begin each dinner with the simplest of blessings. Everyone at the table picks up their fork, reaches toward the center, and someone asks, "Are we grateful?"

The response, in unison: "Yes! Amen."

I've adopted this tradition in my own home and with friends. It's simple, which is especially welcome after long days when words are hard to find. But more than that, it's grounding. A moment of pause. A reminder of our posture as we come to the table—grateful.

Here we are: food to eat, people we love, time to share. The question centers us, reminding us of what we have, even when it's easy to forget.

Then, just last week, after a year of dinners and forks up and rounds of "Yes! Amen," she did it. That small human, now a little older, picked her fork up from the highchair tray, reached it into the middle with the rest of us, smiled, and made sounds that—at least to my eighteen-month-trained ear—sounded just like "Yes! Amen."

Gratitude is contagious. Like most good things, if you're around it long enough, it finds a way to grow in you.

As I reflect on that moment—a tiny fork lifted, a smile shared—I can't help but think about us and all that we are lifting together. Week after week, we show up: to worship, to learn, to serve, to love one another. We bring our gifts and our

stories, our laughter and our tears, and we place them in the center—just like those forks. Together, we ask the same question: "Are we grateful?"

And the answer, again and again, is: "Yes! Amen."

There is so much to be grateful for in our life together. Ministries and people are growing. New faces are joining. Meals are being shared. Children are being taught the love of God. Healing prayers are being offered in quiet corners. These are no small things. These are the everyday miracles of the church and her people alive with purpose.

So, let's keep asking the question—around our tables, in our homes, and here at St. Thomas: "Are we grateful?"

Let's keep answering with full hearts: "Yes! Amen."

Because in the rhythm of that simple exchange, we're reminded of what matters most. We're reminded of who we are and what God is doing in our midst. Gratitude grounds us, connects us, and moves us forward—together.

Forks up, church. We are grateful!





# EMBRACING HOPE, NURTURING GROWTH, BUILDING A FAITHFUL FUTURE

A Message from Senior Warden, Kristine Thomas



Grace and peace to you as we enter this season of blessings and growth!

It is with immense gratitude and joy that I celebrate the incredible success of our capital campaign.

Through faith, generosity, and a shared vision for our church's future, we have surpassed our goal. This gives us the opportunity and blessing to help with our financial security and gives us the opportunity to make additional improvements around our campus, including our Christian Education Wing. Your faith and generosity help ensure our ministry continues to flourish for generations to come.

When I look around campus and at our church community and all the blessings that we've already received I am in awe. Your dedication and commitment have been a testament to the strength of our community and the work God is doing through us.

As we look ahead to the summer, we embrace this season of hope and transformation. Just as gardens bloom under the warmth of the sun, so too does our church family continue to grow in faith and fellowship. I hope as you enjoy the summer that you will take time to look back and reflect on the amazing things you have been a part of at St. Thomas and see God's hand in it. Exciting opportunities await—from worship and service to fellowship and learning. May we continue to encourage one another, lifting each other up as we walk this journey together.

Let us hold onto the hope that has carried us thus far, knowing that God's blessings abound and that our work is for His glory. Thank you for your steadfast support, your prayers, and your willingness to build something amazing together for St. Thomas's future.

Wishing you a summer filled with continued hope, joy, rest and renewal, and God's abundant grace.

Yours in faith.

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## MAINTENANCE

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A Message from the Junior Warden, Robb Swain



How exciting to see and feel the momentum within our St. Thomas community! Thank you for all your prayerful support financially, spiritually, and physically through your help with the Campus Workday.

Progress has been achieved in our beautiful garden and columbarium area. Please take some time to walk through the area and enjoy this peaceful place. There are plans for additional drainage improvements, clean-up of existing flower beds, sprinkler system repair, and oak tree lighting. These plans have been approved and financed through a generous donation. We really appreciate the ability to accomplish the improvements outside the operating budget.

In addition to the garden area, our beautiful parlor has been completed and dedicated to an amazing mother of a parishioner who funded the updates and transformation to what we have now. Please take time before or after worship to view this welcoming space. Once inside, you will agree, it is the anchor of the Christian Education Wing.

As we move forward in our "A Future with Hope" capital campaign, I encourage all parishioners to participate spiritually in prayer and financially support and continue to be consistent in our annual budget responsibilities. The Vestry and Facilities Committee have approved the roofing contractor for the metal galvalume roof over the sanctuary and the (TPO) replacement of the gravel roof over the Music and Christian Education Wings.

We will begin this project over the summer. Then, let it rain!

The momentum of this project and many others will continue through the Summer and into the Fall. We have embraced our past and current difficulties with amazing confidence, financial diligence, and uncompromising leadership. Thank you all for your support, vision, and confidence you have in St. Thomas Episcopal Church and School.



# SPRINGING INTO 2025

## A Message from Kent Gates, Community Outreach Ministry Leader

It is a blessing to serve others. When we serve, we are giving ourselves to others, but we receive more in return. One can say that serving is prayer in motion. The Outreach Committee strives to provide opportunities for parishioners to serve the community.

Our summer service opportunities are:

- Haven for Hope
  - Help us serve an evening meal on June 9th, July 14th, August 11th, and September 8th.
- Santa Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry
  - Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month where we pick up food from the San Antonio Food Bank, deliver it to Santa Fe Episcopal Church, and then sort food into family units to distribute to the community.
- San Antonio Food Bank
  - We have a volunteer opportunity on Saturday, July 19th. Keep an eye out in the “Thursday Notes” to sign-up.
- West Avenue Compassion
  - St. Thomas will assist in packaging food for distribution on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Food will then be distributed to families on Tuesday afternoons.
- Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)
  - CAM has a summer intern opportunity for high school students 15 years or older. CAM is also seeking a men’s bible study leader who can lead a weekly study. Contact the Church Office for more information.

Ways to give this summer:

- Santa Fe Backpack Drive
  - St. Thomas provides backpacks and school supplies to children of Santa Fe Episcopal Church in August. Keep an eye out for more information.
- CAM Jeans Drive:
  - The Outreach Committee budgets to purchase men’s jeans for CAM, however we also accept donations of jeans.
- Santa Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry
  - The food pantry is in need of cat and dog food.

Beginning in September, we will start our fourth year of tutoring at Harmony Hills Elementary School. Harmony Hills is a Title I school. The school’s Title I program aims to improve academic achievement and provide a high-quality education for all students, including those at risk of falling behind. Harmony Hills has again requested tutoring help from St. Thomas. We will announce our opportunities for tutoring and mentoring in September. Typically, sessions are once a week for 60 to 90 minutes working with individuals and small groups of students. For more information about service opportunities contact the Church Office.





# STAFF NEWS



Miracles happen!

By now you probably have heard the wonderful news that we have obtained a pipe organ from the former Jefferson United Methodist Church in San Antonio. We have also signed a contract with Kegg Pipe Organ Builders to rebuild and to customize this organ for St. Thomas!

The spark that ignited this project was a generous gift that we received two years ago from the Paulena F. Mitchell Testamentary Trust given by her daughter Maren Mitchell. If you're a long-time member of St. Thomas, you may recall that "Polly" was an active church member in the 1980's. She sang in the choir and performed in the famous (or infamous) operettas that the choir performed in the Parish Hall. This organ will be a lasting remembrance of Polly for many years to come.

After receiving this gift, we created an organ committee, and I started looking into all the possibilities for us to acquire a pipe organ. One of these options was finding an existing instrument that needed a new home.

Many years ago, shortly Jefferson United Methodist Church closed, I played their 1960, twenty-six rank, Aeolian-Skinner organ. As time passed, I had forgotten about it and figured it was already sold or destroyed. I did some investigating and contacted the wonderful people at the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Much to my surprise, I discovered that the organ was still intact, and they were very interested in working with us to relocate it to St. Thomas! I think it is important to note that by restoring this organ, we will also be preserving a piece of this once flourishing church's history and the history of church music in San Antonio.

After confirming the organ's availability, I contacted Charles Kegg of Kegg Organ Builders and scheduled a trip for him to come to San Antonio. While in San Antonio, he assessed the condition of the Jefferson United Methodist organ. He also evaluated the organ chamber at St. Thomas, which was originally built to house a pipe organ, and the acoustics at St. Thomas. He deemed that the organ pipes at Jefferson United Methodist Church were in excellent condition and created a proposal that uses the existing pipes and includes what he would do to make the organ more suitable for our space and needs.

Kegg Pipe Organ Builder was established in 1985 by Charles Kegg, in Hartville, Ohio. For more information about the company please visit [www.keggorgan.com](http://www.keggorgan.com).

"The goal of the company is to offer uncompromising instruments at fair and reasonable costs to those organizations that desire a truly musical instrument."  
-Kegg Organ Builders

The organ that Charles will build for us will utilize the pipe work from the Jefferson United Methodist Church which will be completely cleaned and refurbished. In addition, he will build a new console (the keyboards) and new windchests (the boxes that hold and supply wind to the pipes). Essentially, we will have a new pipe organ for a fraction of the cost.

We currently have approximately \$440,000 and we still need to raise approximately \$140,000 to cover the total cost of the basic proposal over the next three years. If we are able to raise additional money, there are options for additional ranks of pipes that would make the organ more complete. Please contact me if you have any questions. If you would like to contribute to this amazing project, please designate your donation to the St. Thomas Organ Fund. Donations can be made in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for your desired designation.

In Christ,  
Ryan Becker  
*Minister of Music*

**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.**



# STAFF NEWS



I want to express heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of our church's mission and ministries. Your contributions make it possible for us to serve our congregation and the wider community through worship, outreach, pastoral care, and spiritual

formation. Your donations support the daily operations of the church, care for our facilities, and sustain our various ministries.

When making your contribution we kindly ask that you indicate the intention of your gift (i.e. A Future with Hope, Pledged Income, Flowers). You can do so in the purpose section of our online giving, on the check, or by email. This will help ensure your donation is designated properly and your contribution can be utilized as intended. If you would like a summary of your contributions for the current year, have a question about contribution designations, or need assistance with giving options, please contact me at the office.

We have enjoyed a lot of activity in all our buildings so far this year. From book clubs and sewing groups, to sports camps and school banquets, we have been able to provide space for our members to gather for fellowship and our community to use for various activities. If you are looking to reserve space to use for upcoming events, please contact me.

We hope you have had a chance to see the finished renovations to our Columbarium, including the addition of our window units, the new landscaping, and the benches. It has all come together beautifully to serve as a sacred space of remembrance and peace for our church family. If you are considering a niche reservation for yourself or a loved one, or if you have questions about existing arrangements, please contact me. I can provide updated policies, pricing, and support in making these meaningful decisions.

Finally, we are excited that the conversion to our new membership platform is complete. In the coming weeks staff will finish training on our new system, and we will be able to roll out some exciting new features available to our congregation. This update will help staff streamline our operations, increase the reach of our ministry, connect church members, and continue to increase financial transparency. Please keep an eye out for more information.

Once again, if you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting regarding contributing to St. Thomas, our facility availability, or our Columbarium, please don't hesitate to contact me directly [mfair@tom1604.org](mailto:mfair@tom1604.org) or 210-494-3507.

Blessings,  
Marci Fair  
*Operations Manager*



Happy Summer, St. Thomas! I am delighted to see so many new and returning visitors each week to St. Thomas and I am sure you are as well.

Please mark your calendars for June 19th as we are planning a Family Night Out at Big'z Burgers off

1604. We are having it during Vacation Bible School (VBS) week to encourage attendance from our VBS participants and their families as well as St. Thomas. We hope you can make it!

As our Discipleship Hour is ending, I encourage you to enjoy ice cream under the sails during the Summer. Kids can tell you that this is not just a summer tradition, but if you haven't made it out to enjoy an ice-cold treat after church, it's a great way to get to know families and possibly meet someone new.

I've also noticed an increase in many of you bringing friends to church to introduce them to our worship services. What an impactful way to minister and spread our mission of being an inclusive and kind church. It makes my day when I meet your friends and want to share my appreciation and gratitude.

Furthermore, if you would like to volunteer to be on the Welcome Team on Sunday mornings, please email me at [sanderson@tom1604.org](mailto:sanderson@tom1604.org).

Blessings,  
Sarah Anderson  
*Member & Growth Coordinator*





# *Congratulations*

## *Class of 2025*

*Sophia Arantes*  
graduated from  
Johnson High School

*Alexandra Llana*  
graduated from  
Texas A&M University

*Tanner Clemons*  
graduated from  
Baylor University

*Christopher Meriwether*  
graduated from  
Theodore Roosevelt  
High School

*Elena de Leon*  
graduated from  
Johnson High School

*Mariana Michie*  
graduated from  
The University of Texas  
at Austin

*Jeff Fair*  
graduated from  
George Washington  
University

*Anchalee Smith*  
graduated from  
MacArthur High 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*

## BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Tuesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

*Rehearsals resume in September.*

Contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker,  
rbecker@tom1604.org for more information.

## CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesdays, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

*No rehearsals in July.*

Contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker,  
rbecker@tom1604.org for more information.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 10th

Join us for a special service blessing all students, staff, and teachers as they get ready for the 2025-2026 school year. Bring your backpack to be blessed and wear your school shirts!

## VIDEO PRODUCTION MINISTRY

Sundays at 10:00am

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

## LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

Lay Eucharistic Ministers needed to serve at both the 8:00am and 10:00am services. Duties include reading the lessons, psalm, and prayers of the people, and administering wine during communion. If you are interested, contact the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

## ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are seeking students, rising 3rd graders through rising 12th grade, 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! If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

## 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 at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

July 4th - Independence Day

September 1st - Labor Day



# PARISH CALENDAR



## THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a women's Order of Prayer and Service, to the church, community, and the world. We pray daily and study the Bible. Our Epiphany Chapter, the chapter of St. Thomas, serves the Parish at funeral receptions and other church receptions. Our chapter also meets monthly for prayer, study, and fellowship. New members are always welcome in our Order. There is a seven-week training course in the Fall, to learn about the Rules of Prayer and service. Women interested can speak 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 at [stthomaschurch@tom1604.org](mailto:stthomaschurch@tom1604.org). Our monthly meeting dates and times are posted in the weekly Thursday Notes.

## 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, email the Church Office at [stthomaschurch@tom1604.org](mailto:stthomaschurch@tom1604.org).



## DISCIPLESHIP HOUR RETURNS SEPTEMBER 14TH SUNDAYS AT 9:00AM

### Adult Bible Study

in the Parish Hall  
led by Fr. Mike and Rev. Allie

### 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

## MORNING PRAYER ON YOUTUBE

Monday - Saturday, Available at 5:15am  
Streamed on YouTube - [youtube.com/c/tom1604](https://youtube.com/c/tom1604)

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays - 7:00am  
in the Woehler Family Center

## Bible Study with Fr. Mike

Thursdays - 9:30am via Zoom  
*No Bible Study in July.*

Email the church office for Zoom link,  
at [stthomaschurch@tom1604.org](mailto:stthomaschurch@tom1604.org).

# PARISH CALENDAR



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

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

Register by scanning the QR code below.

*Participants must register by June 1st to be guaranteed a VBS t-shirt.*



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!



## FAMILY NIGHT OUT

June 19th  
5:00pm-7:00pm  
Big'z Burger Joint - 2303 N Loop 1604 W.  
Join us at Big'z Burger Joint for food, fun, and fellowship. Big'z Burger Joint offers gourmet burgers, fries, shakes, with outdoor dining. Bring your whole family!

## CHILDREN'S SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

June 23rd - June 26th  
9:00am - 12:00pm daily  
Ages Kinder - 6th Grade  
Register by scanning the QR code below.



## CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM

Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm  
Ages Kinder - 6th Grade  
*Rehearsals resume in September.*

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.

## CHURCH PICNIC & RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 7th  
following 10:00am worship  
in the Woehler Family Center  
Join us for a time of fellowship. Please bring a side or dessert to share! Meat and drinks provided. You will have the opportunity to learn about and sign-up for the different ministries we offer at St. Thomas.

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



# PARISH CALENDAR



## Friendship

### ST. THOMAS BOOK CLUB

Thursdays at 6:30pm (dates below)  
in the Parlor

St. Thomas book club is geared towards all adults. The books discussed are selected by the participating members of the book club. St. Thomas book club meets the first Thursday of the month. Any variations of location, times, and dates will be included in the weekly "Thursday Notes". If you would like more information, would like someone to call you, or would like to RSVP, please contact the Church Office. We hope you will join us!

Current Schedule:

June 5th: *The Day the World Came to Town*  
by Jim Defede

July 10th: *Scared Fearless*  
by Kathryn Clark Childers

August 7th: *Midnight Library*  
by Matt Haig

September 7th: Reading TBD

### LADIES, LET'S HAVE LUNCH!

Dates & locations announced in the Thursday Notes.

Ladies Let's Have Lunch meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1:00pm. This is a great opportunity 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 July 3rd and in August.*

### MEN'S MEAT BURNING

June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, and  
September 18th at 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

June 14th, July 12th, August 9th,  
September 13th, and October 11th  
9:00am-3:00pm in the Parish Hall

This group is a gathering where you can meet new friends while enjoying the craft of your choice. Quilting, crocheting, embroidery, knitting or anything else you want to do. Come and go as you please, everyone is welcome.



## Compassion

### 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.



# St. Thomas Episcopal School

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## A Message from the Head of School, Allison Newman

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This school year has flown by faster than ever! Happy Summer to everyone in our St. Thomas community. While summers are as quiet as one might expect, we stay busy with maintenance projects, Preschool Camp sessions, Vacation Bible

School (VBS), and much-needed time for our staff to recharge and rest.

STES enjoyed a vibrant spring. Parents and students participated in campus events such as Rodeo, the Fiesta Parade, and a new event called Pastries for Parents. One of the highlights was the V.I.P. (Very Important People) chapel, which featured a special program, showcased student artwork at the art show, and announced the winners of the classroom chairs. May brought Teacher Appreciation Week and our last week of school, filled with laughter, games, and cherished memories. During our “Move Up Chapel”, we honored students in PreK-4 and Gift of Time who are advancing to new adventures. Each child received a book from the school to help guide their understanding and friendship with Jesus.

At St. Thomas Episcopal School, we are blessed to have teachers and staff who lovingly guide our children and community, much like a shepherd cares for their flock. This year, during our Christmas pageant, a parent reminded me that I am like a shepherd, caring for our school children each day. This imagery is one that Jesus used—a symbol of protection, guidance, and deep, compassionate care. Just as a shepherd knows each sheep by name and leads them to places of safety and growth, I, too, strive to walk with intention and love through every hallway and classroom. Both my heart and the hearts of our

School Board Members are attuned to the needs of our children and staff, always seeking to create an environment where everyone feels seen, valued, and supported. Together, everyone at STES reflects Christ’s love in action. Our faith-filled leadership helps shape our campus into a place where God’s presence is felt daily and His truth is lived out.

Our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of the Annual Tiger Fund. Your contributions make it possible for our leaders to continue shepherding the campus with excellence—enhancing our programs, including upgrades to the playground, enriching classrooms, and supporting our mission at the heart of everything we do. The generous contributions from parents, staff, church members, and friends have been essential to our success. Exceeding our goal of \$25,000 has empowered us to enhance our campus. Thank you for being a vital part of our community!

This year marks my tenth year being a part of St. Thomas Episcopal School, and I am honored to have served as Head of School for the past seven years. I look forward to the projects we have in store for the children and parents who choose to be part of the STES community.

Let us continue to pray for and encourage our school staff, church staff, and School Board Members as they guide us with wisdom, humility, and grace. We are incredibly grateful for the way they lead with both strength and tenderness—just like our Good Shepherd.

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





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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