

SUMMER 2026 | ISSUE NO. 18

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 16.



Watch our live-streamed services on YouTube!
www.youtube.com/c/tom1604



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SCHOOL

Church: 210.494.3507 | www.tom1604.org

stthomaschurch@tom1604.org

School: 210.494.3509 | www.stes1604.org

anewman@sts1604.org

Office Hours

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

Clergy

The Rev. Mike Michie, Rector

mmichie@tom1604.org

Church Staff

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sanderson@tom1604.org

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rbecker@tom1604.org

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mfair@tom1604.org

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Kellie Phares, Children's Minister

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VESTRY

Kristine Thomas,
Senior Warden

Joel Martin,
Junior Warden

Lloyd Norris,
Treasurer

Rusty Biechlin,
Chancellor

Stacey Arantes
Lara de Leon
Keller Drozdick
Bill Frerichs
Mike Kershaw
Robb Swain
A'Lann Truelock
Katy Urias



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



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15th - June 19th
9:00am - 12:00pm daily
Ages 3 - 5th grade
Cost \$30



Register to participate or volunteer by
scanning the QR code.

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

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God



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

HE WILL CARRY IT TO COMPLETION

A Message from the Rector, Fr. Mike Michie



*I am confident of this, that
he who began a good work
in you will carry it on to
completion until the day of
Christ Jesus.*
— Philippians 1:6

There is a phrase in Paul's letter to the Philippians that has been sitting with me as I prepare this issue of *The Clarion*. Writing to a congregation he loves, Paul says he is confident — not merely hopeful, but confident — that God will finish what He started. That word landed freshly for me as I thought about where St. Thomas stands right now: in a season of transition, on the edge of a remarkable milestone, with more good work still ahead. These are exactly the conditions in which Paul's confidence is most needed, and most meaningful.

Even as much as we have accomplished together, I want you to know that the work God has begun in us is just beginning. The saints who went before us at St. Thomas passed this great church on to us, and we are helping it along for this time we have together — this season given to us to hold it, love it, and move it forward. We will pass it on to the generation we see growing up around us, and they will do the same. None of it gets completed until the day of Christ Jesus, when his Kingdom comes eternally and forever.

Until then, all of our work and sacrifice is noticed by God and blessed. He sees it. None of it is lost.

A Future with Hope — Almost There

I have some genuinely exciting news to share about our "A Future with Hope" capital drive. As of this writing, we are just \$152,434.90 away from paying off the debt on the Woehler Family Center entirely. When that day comes — and it is coming soon — we will have retired \$1.3 million in debt.

Together. Think about what that means: resources that have been going toward debt service will now be freed to serve the mission of this church. That is not a small thing. That is years of faithful, sacrificial giving by this congregation bearing extraordinary fruit.

Our campaign report tells the story well. We have had 126 pledging households commit \$2,124,065 to this effort. As of April 15, contributions total \$1,284,216, with 24 pledges already fully completed and more than \$41,000 given above and beyond what was pledged. God has used your generosity to bless this church tremendously. And I believe he will bless you and your family for it. All of it is noticed.

So what happens after the debt is gone? Here is what you are helping make possible:

First, we will replenish our Rainy Day fund and cover the campaign expenses — a combined \$250,000. You may remember that an unexpected tax bill drew down those reserves significantly. Restoring that cushion is important stewardship for the long-term health of our church.

After that, our attention turns to the Christian Education Wing. The tree roots along the front of the church have done real damage to our plumbing and sewer lines, and the children's bathrooms have had to be sealed off entirely. Repairing those — new sewer lines, pipes, and fixtures — will run approximately \$30,000. Once the plumbing is sound, the next step is what we are all looking forward to: modernizing and renovating those classrooms to better serve our growing children's ministry. New technology, updated furniture, refreshed spaces where the next generation of St. Thomas kids will learn to love Jesus and His church.

This is what it looks like when God completes his work in a congregation — one faithful step at a time.

A Season of Transition

As many of you know, we are also searching for a new Associate Rector. Transitions like this one can feel unsettling, and I understand that. But I want to offer you the same confidence that Paul offered the Philippians: God is not absent from this process. He who called St. Thomas into being, who has shepherded us through fifty-plus years of ministry, who has blessed us with the resources to retire our debt and renovate our campus — that same God is attentive to this search. We are praying for the right person, and I trust we will find them.

In the meantime, I ask for your prayers as well. Pray that God would bring us someone with the gifts and the heart for ministry here — someone who will love this congregation and help us carry forward the work that has been so faithfully begun.

Summer is Coming!

One of the great joys of summer at St. Thomas is Vacation Bible School. VBS is one of those places where the next generation of the church takes shape — where children hear the story of Jesus, make friends, sing songs they will remember for decades, and begin to understand that this place is theirs. I want to encourage everyone to get involved, whether as a participant, a volunteer, or simply a prayerful supporter. You can read all about it and our Summer Music Camp in this edition of *The Clarion*.

Forward in Faith

We are in a remarkable season. The debt nearly gone. The campus continuing to improve. New ministry leadership on the horizon. Children growing up in these halls who will one day pass this church on to their own children. Paul's confidence in Philippians 1:6 is not naive optimism — it is a conviction rooted in the character of God, who faithfully finishes what He starts.

Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your prayers. St. Thomas is not just a building or a program — it is the people of God in this place, at this time, doing their part in a story that stretches back before us and will continue long after us. He who began this good work will carry it on. I am confident of it!

Celebrating Generosity:

A Meaningful Improvement to Our AA Building



A beautiful new deck and railing have been installed on our AA building, where we host numerous AA meetings each week. This meaningful improvement was made possible through a very generous gift from A.E. "Bubba" Harris.

Bubba, a member of St. Thomas in the 1970s, continues to be a strong supporter of both the mission of AA and St. Thomas' AA Ministry. His gift is also a tribute to his close friends and sailing companions—Rusty Biechlin (his godson), Rodney Gillespie, Wayne Stoeber, and Eric Moore—with whom he recently celebrated his 99th birthday.

A highly successful commercial building contractor in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, Bubba counts among his proudest accomplishments the construction of six Episcopal churches within our Diocese. His generosity and legacy continue to make a lasting impact on our community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Bubba for his generosity and for his continued support of this important ministry.

TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED:

\$2,124,065.75

TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED:

\$1,284,216.21



☒ New Roof

☐ Pay Off Debt

☐ Restore Savings

☐ Renovate Christian Ed Wing



WOEHLER FAMILY CENTER DEBT

Remaining Balance to
Pay-off Loan: \$152,434.90



Total Debt
\$1,300,000.00

As of April 15, 2026



MORNING PRAYER ON YOUTUBE AVAILABLE MONDAY - SATURDAY STARTING AT 6:00AM

A SEASON OF CHANGE AS SEASONS CHANGE

A Message from Senior Warden, Kristine Thomas



As we've walked in the light of Easter and now look ahead to summer, I've been reflecting on how often renewal comes to us in layers. Some seasons change quietly; others arrive

with unmistakable shifts. This spring, and now as we step into summer, we find ourselves experiencing both.

One of the most recent bittersweet changes has been bidding farewell to Rev. Allie as she left St. Thomas for an amazing opportunity at TMI. Her ministry among us has been a true blessing, and while these transitions are never easy and we find our church in a season of uncertainty, we trust that the same Spirit who brought her here will guide both her and us into whatever comes next. Please hold her and our parish in your prayers as we move through this season with gratitude and a spirit of discernment.

At the same time, signs of growth and resilience are all around us. Because of the remarkable generosity shown during our Capital Campaign — through pledges, gifts, and faithful follow-through — our new roof stood strong during the recent heavy rains. What could have been a stressful moment became instead a quiet affirmation of good stewardship and shared commitment.

Your pledges have also placed us within reach of paying off the Woehler Family Center debt. This is no small milestone. Every dollar already received has moved us closer to freeing future ministry from the weight of past obligations. Thank you for believing in the mission of this parish and investing in its future.

And now, as the school year winds down, we look toward summer — a season that brings its own kind of renewal. Vacation Bible School is on the horizon, along with family trips, long-awaited vacations, and the chance for many of us to reset our rhythms. My hope is that each of you finds a moment this summer to breathe deeply, rest well, and reconnect with the joy that God intends for us.

Even in seasons of change — perhaps especially then — God is at work, shaping us into a community rooted in hope, generosity, and grace.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to show up for our church and for one another.



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL



GRADUATION SUNDAY

MAY 31 2026

10:00AM

RECEPTION FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Let us know you have a
graduating senior by scanning
the QR code.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A Message from Kent Gates and Judy Thompson, Community Outreach Ministry Leaders

It is a real blessing to serve others. Even though we give of ourselves in service, we often receive even more in return. Serving can truly be seen as prayer in motion. The Outreach Committee strives to provide meaningful opportunities for parishioners to serve.

Summer Service Opportunities:

Haven for Hope

Volunteers serve an evening meal on the following Mondays: June 8, July 13, August 10, and September 14.

Santa Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry

Typically held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, volunteers pick up food from the Food Bank, deliver it to Santa Fe Episcopal Church in South San Antonio, and sort it into family-sized portions for Saturday distribution. Assistance is needed on both Fridays (pickup and sorting) and Saturdays (distribution).

West Avenue Compassion

Volunteers assist with packaging food for distribution on Mondays and Tuesday mornings, and help distribute food to families on Tuesdays around noon.

Christian Action Ministry (CAM)

CAM offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for those interested in serving.

Opportunities to Give:

Santa Fe Episcopal Church Backpack Drive

Each August, St. Thomas provides school supplies for children in the Santa Fe Episcopal Church community.

CAM Jeans Drive

The Outreach Committee has allocated funds to purchase jeans for CAM. Donations of jeans are also welcome, particularly for men with smaller waist sizes.

Santa Fe Episcopal Church Food Pantry

There is currently a strong need for donations of cat and dog food to support families served through the pantry.

Tutoring and Mentoring Opportunities

Beginning in September, we will enter our fifth year of tutoring and support for Harmony Hills Elementary School. This school serves a diverse community of students and families and has made meaningful progress despite the challenges brought on by the COVID pandemic. School staff remain deeply appreciative of our continued support. Opportunities for tutoring and mentoring will be announced in September. Volunteers are typically asked to commit 60 to 90 minutes, one day per week, working with individual students or small groups.

For more information or to get involved, please contact the church office at (210) 494-3507 or stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.



STAFF NEWS



The History of Our New Pipe Organ: The Pauline Mitchell Memorial Organ

The Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company, led by Ernest M. Skinner and G. Donald Harrison, represented the pinnacle of symphonic organ design in America. These instruments were designed to imitate the tonal colors of a full orchestra. Their organs were lush, expressive, and mechanically sophisticated, featuring innovations like electro-pneumatic action and finely calibrated voicing.

Aeolian-Skinner became synonymous with the “American Classic” or symphonic organ style. These instruments were designed not only to accompany choirs and congregations but also to perform complex solo repertoire, including transcriptions of orchestral works.

Key characteristics of Aeolian-Skinner organs included:

- **Rich tonal palette:** Stops were voiced to emulate orchestral instruments—strings, reeds, flutes—creating a wide range of colors.
- **Dynamic control:** Swell boxes and expressive divisions allowed organists to shape phrases with nuance.
- **Electro-pneumatic action:** This allowed for greater flexibility in console placement and more complex control systems.

A pivotal figure in the company’s history was G. Donald Harrison, who became its tonal director and later president. Harrison played a crucial role in evolving the Aeolian-Skinner sound.

While Skinner’s original designs leaned heavily toward lush, orchestral tones, Harrison introduced elements inspired by earlier European organ traditions—particularly Baroque clarity and articulation. This shift led to what became known

as the “American Classic” organ: an instrument capable of convincingly performing music from multiple periods, from Bach to contemporary composers.

In retrospect, Aeolian-Skinner represents a high point in American organ building—a moment when innovation, artistry, and ambition came together to create instruments of remarkable expressive power.

Below you will find a link to Charles Kegg’s article regarding our organ project:

<https://www.keggorgan.com/blog/st-thomas-episcopal-church>

There is a lot of work that needs to be done before the organ can be installed at St. Thomas. To enhance the sound, and before the organ can be voiced for our space, we need to remove the carpet in the church and replace it with a solid surface. This will not only improve the sound of the organ and the choir, it will also greatly enhance the aesthetics of our worship space.

In addition, you will see in Kegg’s organ specification stops that say, “prep”. This means that the organ is prepared for these stops but not included in the price of the instrument. For us to have a complete instrument, we really need to include at least three of these stops. The 8’ and 4’ principles in the swell division and the 16’ subbass in the pedal division. To do this we need an additional (approximately) \$70,000.

There are also other options. These include a large trumpet stop for weddings and other festive services such as Easter and an antiphonal division which means there would be pipes at the back of the church to assist with congregational singing. Any of these options would be a wonderful way to memorialize a loved one.

If you would like to financially support this project or have questions, please contact me at rbecker@tom1604.org.

STAFF NEWS

Also, in the fall, look for opportunities that I will be offering to educate us about pipe organs and help us understand how this will enhance our worship experience at St. Thomas.

In Christ,
Ryan Becker
Minister of Music



Happy Summer, everyone! It's hard to believe that our summer calendar is already here, and before we know it, the back to school season will be upon us.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm and welcoming atmosphere I see within our walls Sunday after Sunday. Every visitor who has become a new member has shared how quickly they felt a sense of belonging from the moment they walked in the door. That is because of you, and I thank you very much. Thank you for being such a positive and welcoming community. It truly means a great deal.

We will be bringing back our Big'z Family Nights soon, and we hope you can join us. It is a wonderful, relaxed way to connect with fellow church members while enjoying a great burger. Join us May 28, June 18, and July 30.

Another simple way to enjoy the season is by taking part in our ice cream treats after church. Now that the weather is warming up, it is a perfect time to gather under the sails and enjoy some fellowship together.

If you would like to volunteer for the Welcome Team on Sunday mornings, please feel free to email me at sanderson@tom1604.org.

Blessings,
Sarah Anderson
Member & Growth Coordinator



It has been a busy and beautiful spring season, and our Children's Ministry is thriving. Throughout Lent, I facilitated Children's programming during Fr. Mike's Lenten Dinner Series. As adults

gathered each week to discuss the importance of the Easter season, our children did the same. We had a wonderful turnout and will continue aligning and expanding Children's programming alongside our adult discipleship and learning opportunities. Your support and participation in adult discipleship classes also helps create more opportunities for children's learning. It is a joy to see our children growing in faith and fellowship alongside the wider church community, and a blessing to be part of a church that values studying God's Word and lifelong learning.

Easter was a spectacular celebration, and the rain did not diminish our joy. We had over 70 children in attendance on Easter Sunday. We also celebrated eight children experiencing their first informed communion, after weeks of instruction and preparation by Laurie Michie.

This spring, our 9am Discipleship Hour curriculum focused on *Stories of God's Love*, *Jesus's Holy Week*, and *Healing in the Bible*. Children engaged deeply with these themes and participated in lively discussions. Our curriculum during the 10am service is aligned with the lectionary readings, and all three Children's Church classes explore the same texts in age appropriate ways. We currently see about 40 children at the 10am service, and they are making meaningful connections to God and to one another.

Our Children's Ministry would not be possible without our dedicated volunteer teachers. We currently have 21 adult and youth volunteers who regularly teach during both the 9am Discipleship Hour and the 10am service. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at kphares@tom1604.org. We are always grateful for additional helping hands as our programming continues to grow.

STAFF NEWS

We are looking forward to an “un-be-reef-able” time at our Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School this summer, June 15 through 19, from 9am to noon. Participation is open to children ages 3 through 5th grade, and volunteering is open to youth rising 7th grade through adults during this favorite week of the year. Children engage in meaningful Bible stories, volunteers find joy in their service and interactions, and all experience God’s love in a powerful way.

If you are unable to participate in VBS during the week in June, there are still many ways to support the program. Donations of supplies or funds help sponsor participants and allow our Children’s Ministry budget to remain focused on year round curriculum needs. You are also invited to attend VBS Decorating Days on Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15. In addition, there will be “Adopt-a-Prop” take home crafts and decorations available for those who would like to create items at home and return them to the church. Any and all support of our VBS initiatives makes a meaningful difference and is deeply appreciated.

Blessings,
Kellie Phares
Children’s Minister

Youth Ministry Update

Our Youth Ministry at St. Thomas flourished this spring. Rev. Allie led Confirmation class, guiding and inspiring our young people in their faith formation. She also met with our youth group for themed monthly gatherings, where students enjoyed activities such as trivia, painting, and even a chocolate fountain.

Since April, Kellie Phares has been supporting the youth group during Discipleship Hour and at fellowship events. The youth have been reading *Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People* by Michael Frost. Through this study, they have explored the idea that everyone is called to live as a witness to their faith, and that everyday habits can be shaped to reflect greater kindness and inclusion in the world. These discussions have led to meaningful conversation and thoughtful application in their daily lives.

The youth group is also looking forward to gathering twice per month outside of the 9am Discipleship Hour for additional service opportunities and fellowship. Once a month, they will meet in the youth room for activities such as board games, movies, art projects, or an open study hall. They will also spend time together in the community through service or fellowship activities, including hiking, visiting an animal shelter, or going bowling.

There is great anticipation for all that lies ahead in faith formation, fellowship, and fun for our youth group. Please reach out to Kellie Phares, at kphares@tom1604.org, for more information about summer youth programming.





ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH + SCHOOL

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

JUNE 22 – JUNE 25
9:00AM – 12:00PM DAILY
AGES KINDER – 6TH GRADE
COST: \$25.00

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER.



PARISH CALENDAR



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite I
in person only

10:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite II & Children's Church
in person and live streamed

Children's Church:

We invite your child to join our Children's Church program Sunday Mornings. Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to come up to the altar for the children's sermon and then follow our Children's Church Leader, to a classroom down the hallway in our education wing. After the exchange of the peace, children are ushered back to their seats.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

12:00pm

Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Chapel of the Cross
in person only

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 31, 10:00am

Join us in celebrating our 2026 graduating seniors. We will honor our graduates during the 10:00am service and celebrate with cake in the Parish Hall after. Please let us know if you have a graduating senior. Registration available at www.tom1604.org/events/.

VBS SUNDAY

Sunday, June 21, 10:00am

Let's celebrate VBS! We invite all participants and volunteers to join us during worship to show off what we learned during VBS. All participants will be invited up during the Children's Sermon to sing our VBS song.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 9

8:00am and 10:00am

Join us for a special service blessing all students, staff, and teachers as they get ready for the 2026-2027 school year. Bring your backpack to be blessed and wear your school shirts!

HAND BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Tuesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Rehearsals resume in September.

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

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesdays, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Rehearsals resume in September.

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

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

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

ACOLYTES NEEDED

Students in rising 3rd grade through rising 12th grade are invited to join our Acolyte Ministry and assist with Sunday morning worship. No experience needed! For more information 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.

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 meets monthly for prayer, study, and fellowship. New members are always welcome to our Order. There is a seven-week training course to learn about the Rules of Prayer and service. Women interested can speak to any of the Daughters for more information of our chapter. Our monthly meeting dates and times are posted in the weekly *Thursday Notes*. Should you have any questions about the Daughters of the King, or are interested in the training, please contact the church office at sthomaschurch@tom1604.org,

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.

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 cphares@tom1604.org.



DISCIPLESHIP HOUR RETURNS SEPTEMBER 20

Sundays at 9:00am

Adult Bible Study
in the Parish Hall led by Fr. Mike

Children's Sunday School-Ages 3-5th grade
in Room 112, Nursery open at 9:00am

Discipleship for Moms
in Room 111

Youth Group
6th - 12th Grade, in Room 109

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.

QUIET MORNING

Saturday, May 30
9:00am - 12:00pm
in the Woehler Family Center
Fellowship Lunch to follow
Quiet Morning is a dedicated time where individuals can engage in quiet reflection, prayer, and meditation. The St. Thomas Order of the Daughters of the King invite you to join us for this special time to connect deeper to your faith in a peaceful and contemplative setting. During Quiet Morning there will be time for participants to do a labyrinth walk and meditation. We encourage all to attend. For more information or to RSVP contact the church office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org

PARISH CALENDAR

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

June 15 - June 19

9:00am - 12:00pm daily

Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Cost: \$30

Step into Rainforest Falls at VBS and embark on a wild adventure discovering God's nature! Kids will explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, finding strength, safety, and joy in life's storms. Registration is almost full! Sign-up today to guarantee your spot. Visit <https://vbspro.events/p/tom1604> to register.

Volunteer at VBS

Help bring Rainforest Falls to life this summer at St. Thomas VBS. We are looking for Youth (rising 7th through 12th grade) and Adults to serve as Crew Leaders and assist our participants ages 3 through 5th grade. Be part of an exciting adventure. Lifelong memories will be made for everyone involved! Volunteers must attend a volunteer training at 10:00am on May 30th, or June 13th in order to participate. Visit <https://vbspro.events/p/tom1604> to register.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

June 22 - June 25

9:00am - 12:00pm daily

Ages Kinder - 6th Grade

Cost: \$25

Let your child's creativity shine at Children's Summer Music Camp. Kids will sing, play, and explore the joy of making music together, building confidence, teamwork, and a love for the arts in a fun, supportive environment. Registration available at www.tom1604.org/events/.

MORNING PRAYER ON YOUTUBE

Monday - Saturday, Available at 5:15am

Streamed on YouTube -

www.youtube.com/c/tom1604

CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM

Wednesdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm

Ages Kinder - 6th Grade

Children in kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join our Children's Music Program. Each week we sing, play instruments, and have fun while learning about teamwork, respect, and how to try our best. We also discover Bible stories and Christian values through the songs we sing. For more information, contact Children's Music Director, PJ Waite at pjwaite@tom1604.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Sundays, 11:15am-12:00pm

in the Choir Room

Students are invited to join our Middle School and High School choir. For more information, contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker at rbecker@tom1604.org.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays - 7:00am

in the Woehler Family Center

GRIEF SHARE: GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesdays at 10:00am

in the Parlor

GriefShare is a caring, faith-based support group designed to help you navigate the journey of grief. Each week includes a helpful video with insights from grief experts and real-life stories, followed by a time of discussion and support. Come find comfort, hope, and healing among others who understand.

Access to the Parlor: Participants may enter through the courtyard gate near the flagpole or church office building—please buzz in for entry.

DOWNLOAD THE CHURCH APP

Members can access the directory on the go, view the Sunday bulletin and other publications, catch up on Sunday sermons, and more, all from your phone or tablet. Stay connected, informed, and engaged anytime, anywhere. Scan the QR code to download today!





PARISH CALENDAR



FAMILY NIGHT OUT

May 28, June 18, July 30

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!

YOUTH GROUP SUMMER HANGOUTS

Sunday, June 28 and July 26

4:00pm - 6:00pm, in the Youth Room

6th - 12th grade

Youth are invited to join us this summer for fellowship, fun, and connection. These relaxed gatherings will include activities and time together as a community.

CHURCH PICNIC & RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 13

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.

MEN'S MEAT BURNING

June 18, July 16, August 20, September 24

6:30pm, location announced in the *Thursday Notes*

The Men's Meat Burning Group gathers monthly to grill, share a meal, and enjoy fellowship. Bring your choice of meat and a \$6 donation for sides, drinks, and dessert. All adult men are welcome, feel free to invite a guest!

ICE CREAM AFTER CHURCH

I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for Ice Cream! Join us every Sunday after church this summer for an ice cream in the courtyard.

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.

LADIES, LET'S HAVE LUNCH!

June 4, June 18, July 16, and September 17

1:00pm, location announced in the *Thursday Notes*

Ladies Let's Have Lunch meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. 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 at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org.

No lunch meetings July 2, August 6 and 20, and September 3.

SEWING GROUP

June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12

9:00am-3:00pm in the Parish Hall

Connect with friends while working on quilting, crocheting, knitting, embroidery, or any craft you love. Work at your own pace, share skills, use available sewing machines, and explore the "free" table for supplies. All are welcome to come, create, and enjoy fellowship.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Sundays in the Parlor, following 10:00am worship

Dates announced in the *Thursday Notes*

ECW brings together women of all ages who love God and want to do His work. Join us for monthly fellowship, coffee, and connection—a wonderful way to make new friends and reconnect with old ones.

PARISH CALENDAR



VOLUNTEER AT VBS

June 15 - June 19

9:00am - 12:00pm daily

Youth (rising 7th - 12th grade) and Adults
Help bring Rainforest Falls to life this summer at St. Thomas VBS. We are looking for volunteers to serve as Crew Leaders. Be part of an exciting adventure. Volunteers must attend a volunteer training at 10:00am on May 30th, or June 13th in order to participate. Visit <https://vbapro.events/p/tom1604> to register.

VBS DONATIONS

We are in need of supplies for VBS. Donation sign-up will be available in Gosnell Hall soon. Donations due June 7.

Donate to our VBS Snack fund. We are asking for donations of \$3.00 or more to help provide snacks daily for our participants. Donate online at www.tom1604.org.

VBS ADOPT-A-PROP

Help us decorate our campus by turning our buildings into a wild rainforest. Prop bags will be located in Gosnell Hall soon. Most materials are provided in the bags. Supplementary materials (staplers, glue sticks, tape, etc.) will need to be used from your home. After assembling your prop, if you have extra materials that have been provided, please return them along with your craft. Return completed props by June 7.

VBS PREP DAYS

Saturday, June 13 - 9:00am

Sunday, June 14 - following 10:00am worship

Spend the day with us decorating and preparing for VBS. For questions, please contact Children's Minister, Kellie at kphares@tom1604.org.

HAVEN FOR HOPE

Second Monday of the month

2:30pm or 3:30pm

Meet in the St. Thomas Parking Lot to carpool
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 Episcopal Church Food Pantry.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for men, women, and children to give daily thanks to God. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO distributes what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church. You can pick up your Blue Box in Gosnell Hall.





ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

A Message from the Head of School, Allison Newman



As we near the end of the STES school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect with deep gratitude on a year filled with success, growth, and confidence. Our 2025-2026 school year has truly

flown by, and it has been a joy to witness our students blossom academically, socially, and spiritually. Their curiosity has deepened, their independence has grown, and their confidence shines in all they do. Every day, our families contribute their time, trust, and partnership with us—gifts that continue to shape the heart of our St. Thomas community.

STES enjoyed a vibrant and eventful spring, as our campus came alive with meaningful experiences and joyful celebrations. Parents and students gathered for special events such as the Rodeo, Parent Teacher Conference, Fiesta Parade, and Pastries for Parents. One of the highlights of the season was our V.I.P. (Very Important People) Chapel, where we shared a special performance, showcased student artwork, and celebrated our classroom created step stool winners. May brings Teacher Appreciation Week and our final days of school, which are always filled with laughter, games, and cherished memories. During our Move Up Chapel, we honor our PreK-4 and Gift of Time students as they step into new adventures, each receiving a book to guide their growing relationship and friendship with Jesus.

At St. Thomas Episcopal School, we are truly blessed with teachers and staff who nurture our children with intention and care, much like the vine and branches described in Scripture. This imagery reflects the deep connection within our community. Just as branches remain connected to the vine to grow and flourish, our students thrive when they are rooted in a foundation of faith, guidance, and support. STES staff walk alongside each child, encouraging growth in confidence, compassion, and learning, while ensuring they feel seen and valued. Together with our School Board, Fr. Mike, and the Admin

Team we remain committed to cultivating an environment where Christ's love is lived out daily, and God's presence is felt in every classroom and hallway.

We are extremely thankful for the generous support of our Annual Tiger Fund. Thanks to the contributions from parents, staff, church members, and friends, we not only met but exceeded our goal of \$30,000. This achievement enables us to continue investing in our preschool programs by providing up to date staff development opportunities, replacing outdated learning materials, and reinforcing our mission to nurture children. Your generosity has a lasting impact on our school and the children we serve.

We wish everyone in the St. Thomas community a joyful, memorable, and adventurous summer. While the campus may grow quieter, it will remain full of life with a few ongoing projects, Preschool Camp, Vacation Bible School, and designated time for our staff to rest and recharge.

We also look forward to the 2026–2027 school year with excitement and hope. It is a privilege to continue this journey alongside both returning and new families, and we eagerly anticipate all that lies ahead. Thank you for being an essential part of our community and for the numerous ways you help make St. Thomas Episcopal School a place of growth, faith, and love.

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