

THE AP STLE

In a few weeks the rhythm of our society will return to the Fall season. Students and teachers will return to the halls of academia. Farmers will harvest their summer crops. Football will gear up as baseball winds down. The days will get considerably shorter and the temperatures cooler. Nature will reveal what's hiding under the lush green of summer as a colorful explosion bursts forth from the trees and grasses.

I'm reminded of a poem by Carl Sandburg called "Autumn Movement."

"I CRIED over beautiful things knowing no beautiful thing lasts.

*The field of cornflower yellow is a scarf at the neck
of the copper sunburned woman,
the mother of the year, the taker of seeds.*

*The northwest wind comes and the yellow is torn full of holes,
new beautiful things come in the first spit of snow on the northwest wind,
and the old things go, not one lasts."*

Nothing really lasts forever does it? There are simple moments when it seems best if time could be frozen; moments when it is all working just right; moments that yearn to be held on to forever. Like the seasons of the year, time will pass, and as one thing is passing, a new thing arises. While we yearn to hang on to the beautiful things passing before us, change is always moving us forward.

In the spiritual life, it is often the same. Jesus asks us to be alert and be waiting for him at every moment. He also talks about being the salt and light for the world. Paul asks us to be vehicles and the bearers of Christ to this broken world. Where do we get the energy for this work? How do we go about it?

As Fall begins and the season changes, could you take time to reflect upon where God is directing you to do new things in your life? What do you need to let fall to the ground? These are hard questions, maybe even frightening.

A friend called the other day excited for a new venture. She decided to leave a long time job and start anew by finishing a degree. Why? There was a deeper calling for her that she felt needed answering.

Another person called to tell me that it was time to let go of a long time burden he was carrying. Time to forgive and forget. He wanted to start new in some other relationships and felt his burden was hindering him from that new start.

We can't have Spring without Fall and Winter. In much the same way, we won't grow in our relationships with God and each other without seasons of change—letting go as new birth comes forth.

As we gear up for Fall, many new programs and studies will begin at St. Thomas. Perhaps it is time to deepen your spiritual journey. Maybe it's time to let a ministry go, or perhaps you need to find a new start with something. What is God revealing as the old passes from you and new birth begins?

*Blessings,
CARL*

Footnotes

Beth L. Elswick, Director of Music Ministries



Laughter is another kind of music

How does a banana peel on a sidewalk remind you of music?

If you don't C#, you will B^b.

Do you know what is the difference between a saxophone and a lawn mower?

You can tune the lawn mower.

What do you call a trombone player with a pager?

An optimist.

If there is a knock at the door, how can you tell if it is the drummer?

It speeds up.

If there is a knock at the door, how do you know if it is the soprano?

She will never know when to come in.

Why does Dr. Beth Elswick love music rehearsals at St. Thomas? Because if the rehearsal goes poorly, she cannot be sued for "malpractice." Get it?

Did you ever really wonder what music rehearsals were like at St. Thomas? We have a sense of humor coupled with a sincerity of purpose. We work at having fun (a great "gig") and fun doing the Lord's work.

Now I cannot keep up with the "punishment" of John Greene or the "double entendre" of Brent Ferren. I am not in the same "league of wits" as Miles Yakre, the tongue-in-cheek remarks of Marge Dellinger, or quick comments of Charlotte Brotherson.

I often see Beth A., Tracie H., and Sharon L. laughing, and I have no idea what the joke is since I am on the other side of the loft and behind the organ.

We do have fun.

I hope you will consider joining one of our groups. You may have seen the announcements and inquiry listed in the recent issues of *Tower Talk*. I sincerely aim to grow the music program for youth at St. Thomas. If you sing at school or play an instrument, please let me know. I will try to find flexible rehearsal times in order to foster greater participation in the youth choir and the new *St. Thomas Pickup Band*.

Also, if you know any great music jokes, let me know. You see, I have a captive audience.

Thank you for your support of the Long Range Planning Committee

With the information gathered from over 115 household survey forms, the Long Range Planning Committee of St. Thomas is developing a plan to meet your suggested requirements for the future of the parish.

Your information told us that 78% of you wanted a new Parish Hall, and that 69% of you saw the need for additional staff and paid clergy.

The Long Range Plan information indicates that we should evaluate construction of a building to provide a large multi-purpose area for parish functions which would include meals

and new classrooms for the Sunday school programs.

The new building addition will in turn permit renovation of existing areas to accommodate the need for additional office space, meeting rooms, storage space, and selected parish activities.

The Committee will be requiring the services of an architectural firm to develop preliminary schematic drawings and cost estimates for the expansion project directed by your input.

This information will be incorporated into a preliminary report which will be presented to the parish Vestry later this year.

Following review and approval of the preliminary report by the Vestry, a final draft will be prepared with architectural plans developed to refine the cost estimates.

After review and approval of the final report, a formal feasibility study will be initiated by the Vestry and Rector of St. Thomas.

—Jack Dutra

“Hello? Do you give out tents?”

Believe it or not, some of our St. Thomas members who volunteer answering the phone at **JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network** have heard that question.

The calls are coming from families who are “camping out” in their cars because they don’t have a home and have exhausted their time crowding in with family or friends.

They’re most likely hanging out at an area lake and are looking for a little more permanence and security than the car as well as a little more room for their family.

Seem unbelievable? Families bounce around, kids couch surf, and sometimes families just stay in a car.

There is homelessness here in Johnson County, but it is a problem that is camouflaged and hidden.

In our area, you may walk past a homeless person while in a mall, or perhaps your kids sit next to their kids in school.

There are only two JoCo shelters for families in nonthreatening situations—the Salvation Army Lodge and IHN. IHN is unique in that families are provided meals and overnight sleeping rooms in churches and congregations.

A daytime facility includes a professional staff to provide social services to help families identify goals and establish budgets; it provides computers for job and housing searches, showers, laundry—the basics that help a family have structure and security while they work to return to independent living.

The calls are passed along to Vicki Dercher, IHN Director and the answer is “No. We don’t give out tents.” But IHN

does offer to meet with the families to explain the program and encourage families to apply to enter the Network.

Sadly, during the summer families sometimes choose to stay in cars and tents, maybe hoping finances will soon improve.

But, historically, calls to IHN increase in August as families start looking to get settled before their kids go back to school. IHN will be there to help.

Hospitality Outreach of St. Thomas (or HOST) is part of JoCo IHN. To learn more about IHN go to www.jocoihn.org.

To learn more about HOST, contact **Dola McNown** at 541-9226 or **Suzanne Hicks** at 768-0940.

Families needing assistance can reach IHN at 345-2121.

—Dola McNown

It's coming in September!

The 4th Annual IHN Golf Tournament

On SEPTEMBER 11, 2010 at FALCON RIDGE GOLF COURSE, we will once again be hosting a golf tournament to benefit IHN! This Annual Golf Tournament is the largest fund-raiser for IHN. In the last three years, it has generated over \$60,000! Our goal for this year is \$35,000, and we need everyone's help.

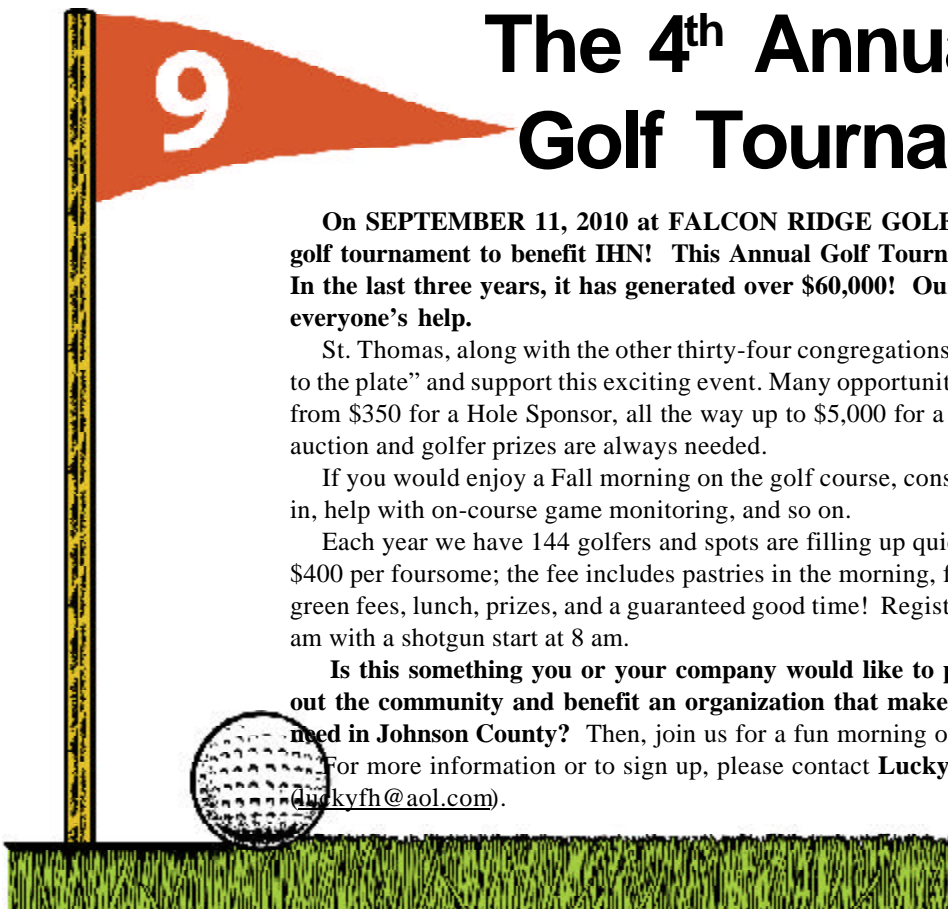
St. Thomas, along with the other thirty-four congregations that support IHN, have continued to “step up to the plate” and support this exciting event. Many opportunities for Sponsorships are available ranging from \$350 for a Hole Sponsor, all the way up to \$5,000 for a Platinum Sponsor. Donations of silent auction and golfer prizes are always needed.

If you would enjoy a Fall morning on the golf course, consider volunteering to help with set up, check in, help with on-course game monitoring, and so on.

Each year we have 144 golfers and spots are filling up quickly! The entry fee year is \$100 per golfer or \$400 per foursome; the fee includes pastries in the morning, free range balls on the practice range, cart & green fees, lunch, prizes, and a guaranteed good time! Registration, pastries, and putting contest begin at 7 am with a shotgun start at 8 am.

Is this something you or your company would like to participate in, receive recognition throughout the community and benefit an organization that makes a difference in the lives of those most in need in Johnson County? Then, join us for a fun morning of golf, games, lunch and prizes!!!

For more information or to sign up, please contact **Lucky** or **Suzanne Hicks** at 768-0940 (Luckyvfh@aol.com).





VBS 2010



A HUGE SUCCESS!



WOW! What a week we had at Vacation Bible school! **The Parable of the Sower** was the framework for lots of great activities for the kids: planting the seeds of God's love, exploring our roots of faith, growing with God's love and guidance, overcoming the thorns in our lives with support from our faith, and living together while caring for our earth and each other.

We started the week with an amazing and perfectly-timed break from thunderstorms on Sunday, July 11, to tie dye some awesome shirts. We also jammed to the music of the praise band under the direction of Beth Elswick and explored new food, including cactus, artichokes, and coconut milk ice cream, with a fabulous menu planned by Kelly Demo.

Overall, we had 53 children enrolled in the program and at least 50 adult and young adult volunteers. Our volunteers were leaders, teachers, chefs, and dishwashers. We used as many recycled materials as we could for crafts and ate off of reusable plates. All in all, it was a fabulous week!

Thanks to everyone who shared their children with us for ReNew. Thanks also to our many ReNew volunteers. Everyone seemed to be in the right place at the right time and shared their unique talents, knowledge and strengths.

All we can say is—**WOW!**

Peace,
Laura Wiltanger and Tracy Ferren



The tie-dyeing activity on Sunday started off a fun-tastic week at VBS!

VBS 2010 snapshots



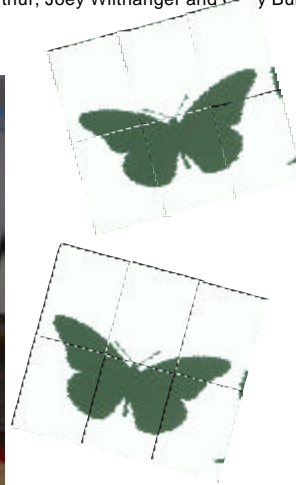
Listening intently to the day's lesson are Colby McArthur, Joey Wilthanger and Corey Bullock.



Meet the merry band of kitchen workers: Gracie Salts, Olivia Nichols, Carson Ferren, and Paige Salts



Jammin' with the Praise Band is Asher Demo.



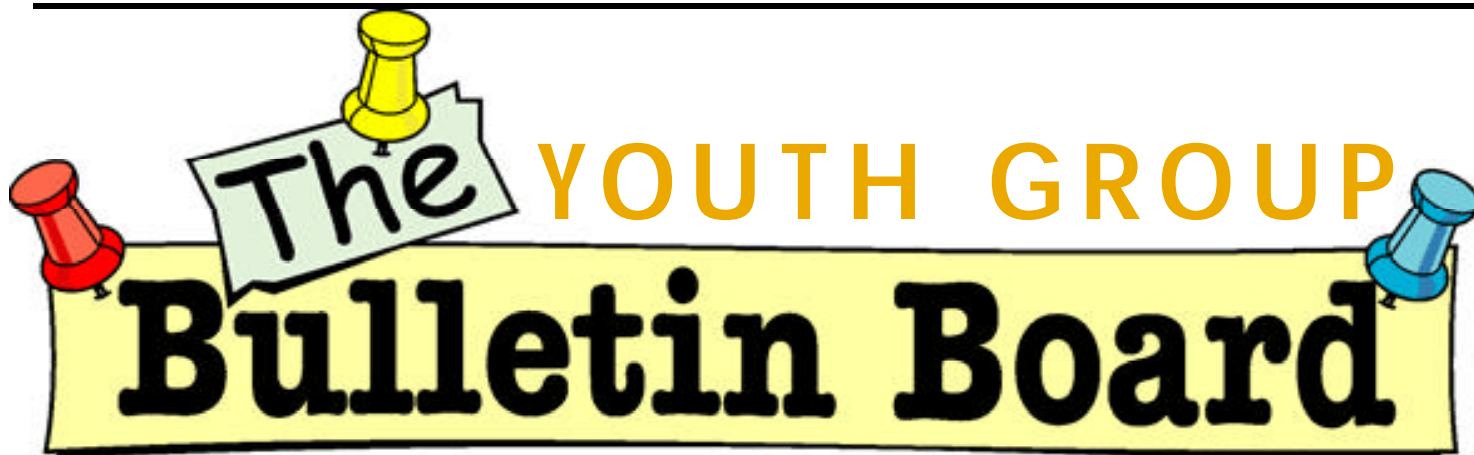
Olivia Rimmer models her party hat!



Rachel Chambers leads a group of campers in the 'self' activity center.



No, not tug-o-war. This is a "Peace Pull."



The YOUTH GROUP Bulletin Board

Youth Group Kick Off

When? August 22nd from 7-8:30 pm

What's happening?? Meet in parking lot and north lawn for hamburgers, hotdogs and the best games you have ever played.

Who's invited? Anyone attending 6th-12th grade in the Fall 2010 is welcome and encouraged to bring friends. Please review list below to see what you need to bring:

6th and 7th grades: chips

8th and 9th grades: fruit/salad

10th and 12th grades: dessert

Confirmation Class

We are enrolling now for our Confirmation Class that will begin on September 12th. Class for confirmation will meet during our regular Sunday School hour at 9:45 am for the Fall semester.

If you are entering 8th grade (or higher) and would like to enroll in our Youth Confirmation Class, please contact Katie Knoll Lenon at kklenon@stthomasop.org or call 451-0512.

Enrollment will end **September 7th**.

Fun Fall Fest

This is a fun Diocesan event that takes place in the Fall at St. Margaret's in Lawrence, KS.

There'll be an afternoon of unforgettable games and rides—even Sumo wrestling and more! This event is designed to encourage you to bring your friends and to have a ball meeting new people.

Mark your calendars for September 18th and 19th and look for a registration form on the Diocesan Youth webpage at:

<http://www.episcopal-ks.org/youth/>

Youth Group Lock-In

Our annual **Youth Group Lock-In** will occur on the weekend of October 15th and 16th and is open to 6th through 12th graders. The cost will be \$40 per youth, and you are encouraged to bring friends.

We will play games, eat pizza and candy, learn about our faith, and have a great time. Registration forms will be mailed; the forms will also be available on our website, www.stthomasop.org.

Registration is due **October 4th**.

Parents' Night Out

Parents!!! Mark your calendars for our most popular youth ministry fundraiser. On October 2nd, November 6th and December 4th, from 6 until 11 pm, we will have a well-planned night of entertainment waiting for your children when you drop them off for YOUR night out!

The nursery will be open as well, so there is no child too young for us to take care of.

Do you have questions? Please call Katie Knoll Lenon at 451-0512, or email her at kklenon@stthomasop.org.

A new year for Sunday School

What: Sunday School class for 6th to 12th graders

When: Class begins on Sunday, September 12th, 9:45 am.

Join us for learning, fun, and plenty of eats!

Guaranteed to be more fun

than you've ever had on a Sunday morning!

Come and check us out!

Activities abound for the coming Sunday School Year!

Ann Clements, Director of Children's Ministries



As the Summer's activities are winding down, planning for the Fall program is well underway. Thanks to those of you who made our summer programs a huge success—**Sue Strom** for teaching church school; **Jim Birkhead** for sharing some wonderful stories and information about St. Thomas in its infancy; and to all who made sure fellowship and fun were a big part of our Sunday mornings.

The Children's Church crew didn't miss a beat. Thanks to **Mother Kelly** and all the worship leaders for continuing this offering each week. A "gi-normous" *thank you* to **Laura Wiltanger** and **Tracy Ferren** for planning, coordinating, and executing **ReNew: The Green VBS**. Over 50 kids participated and almost as many youth and adults joined in the fun throughout the week. Many more others helped by donating the materials we used for activities and decorating. Thanks, again, to **Kelly Demo** and her merry band of kitchen workers for the delicious and healthy suppers and snacks. Yum—I never knew cactus was so delicious!

**Fall will be here before we know it, and our schedule is full of events.
Mark your calendars for the following dates:**

September 12th—Rally Day

Parents are encouraged to join their kids in the classroom as we meet teachers, fill out registration forms, and share in some fun activities. A light continental breakfast will be provided. Our education hour begins at 9:45 each Sunday morning.

October 3rd—Blessing of the Animals

Come to St. Thomas at 4:00 and bring your pets! This lovely service is to celebrate the feast of St. Francis by blessing and sharing our furry family members.

October 10th—All-Parish Hayride

Our hayride will be at Shawnee Mission Park this year where we'll ride through the park on tractor-pulled hay wagons. Apple cider, S'mores, and more await us as we join in celebration of the Fall season.

October 24th—Boo Bash

Wear your costumes to this exciting event! All ages are invited to this Halloween extravaganza put on by our very own St. Thomas youth. Dinner starts at 5:30 and will be followed by some "spooktacular" activities. This event will conclude at 7:30.

Looking way ahead—ADVENTure,

This is our kick-off to a new church year and will be held on November 28th during the 9:45 education hour. On this day, we construct Advent wreaths to take home.

**I look forward to seeing
all of you on Rally Day!**

—Ann Clements

An All-Parish
BOO BASH

**Sunday, October 24th, 2010
from 5:30-7:30pm**

**Stay tuned for more
information!**

**This is a
Youth Ministry Fundraiser**

New time for Small Group Training

Small Group Leader Training
Starts on September 12th, 2010
from 1-3pm on Sunday afternoons!

We are going to try a new day and time this Fall to train new leaders for our Small Group ministry. If you are interested in starting a small group, or would like to learn more about the Small Group Ministry, please join us for training.

If you are also interested in seeing your group continue, and would like to give your group leader a break, now is the time to step up to the plate.

Our Small Groups are listed on our webpage—www.stthomasop.org—and all are looking for new faces to join them.

Contact **Katie Knoll Lenon** for more information and details.

There is a small group
at St.Thomas for you!

Consecration Weekend in November

Save the dates!
November 6 & 7, 2010

Each Fall the community of St.Thomas gathers together to celebrate the blessings that God has given us. This year's **Consecration Celebration Weekend** will be held on **Saturday, November 6th** and **Sunday, November 7th**. The weekend focuses on two things: *our spiritual development and our commitment to God as a community.*

Please make plans to attend our worship service on Saturday at 5:30 pm or our single service on Sunday at 10:00 am. Enjoy a catered meal with fellow St.Thomas members after either service. Watch for additional information in *Tower Talk*!

Children's Church is kid-friendly!

Does your 4 to 8 year old talk of "fancy church words," "dressing the priest," or the "prayer ball?" Sounds like they've been to Children's Church! Because of our dedicated volunteers, the children of our church are able to worship every Sunday in a kid-friendly environment during the liturgy of the Word.

In Children's Church, the kids learn the liturgical seasons, hear the same lessons that their parents are hearing, and practice what goes on in the "Big Church."

This year we will be sending some things home with the kids to encourage family participation and discussion on the lectionary and Book of Common Prayer.

If you think your child would benefit from our Children's Church, he or she is welcome to join us. Should the child be reticent to come at first, we welcome parents to help make the transition more comfortable.

Send me an email—kellydemo@aol.com—or just catch me at church if you would like to have your child be a part of our Sunday Children's Church, or if you would like to be a volunteer. Thanks.

—Kelly Demo

PARENT'S DAY OUT 2010-2011

We are gearing up for another great year of **Parent's Day Out**. Our program starts September 13, 2010 and will run through mid-May, 2011.

This year we are adding a second day. **The program will be offered on Mondays and Tuesdays.**

All children from 12 months and walking through 3 years of age are welcome.

The hours for both days will be from 9 am to 1 pm.

We have lots of fun activities planned for the year. If you are interested in the St.Thomas **Parent's Day Out** program, or if you know anyone who would be interested in participating, please contact **Anne Thompson** at 231-9701 or at athompson@stthomasop.org.

Parent's Day Out is a super way for kids to interact with other children in a fun and loving atmosphere.

It is also a great way for moms and dads to get a break for themselves while knowing their kids are having fun singing, playing and engaging with other children.

Please call or write Anne with any questions.

We are your “Marthas”

This Fall, we members of the Pastoral Care Ministry look forward to serving as hostesses for coffee, drinks, and home-baked cookies after our church services on September 26th. In October we will attend our first-ever retreat. November will be another seminar on a topic relevant to our ministry.

What do we do as Pastoral Care Ministry members? We help by being there when a need arises: by delivering a home-cooked meal or preparing home-baked cookies for a memorial service; by taking communion to those who are temporarily home-bound; visiting those who may be in the hospital or home-bound; by providing transportation to someone in need of a ride to church or to a doctor’s appointment; by giving a referral when a person seeks assisted living, counseling, or a support group; and by providing baby items for newborns for mothers in need.

We are there for those difficult times and work quietly in the background assisting. We are your “Marthas.” We are always looking to add more Marthas. Will you be a Martha? We need you.

Please contact one of Pastoral Care Ministries’ chairpersons listed below.

It is free to join; what you get back, though, is priceless!

Blessings,

Susan Strom
Pastoral Care Ministries
Team Leader
599-4169

Our chairpersons:

Sally Morris: Eucharistic Visitors
Donna Young: Respite Care/Visiting Ministries
Traci Ferren: Guild of the Christ Child
Leila Potts: Starting Points Referral Service
Phil Childress: Transportation
Susan Strom & Sharon Moorhead: St. Martha’s Guild, Co-Chairs

Parish Notes

Births

Hudson Patrick Daly

was born on May 8, 2010.

His parents are *Patrick & Kelli Daly* and his sister is *Isabella*.

Congratulations to you!

Baptisms

The following children were welcomed into the household of God:

Andrew Jonathan & Danielle Bernadette Roever,

son and daughter of

John and Therese Roever.

They were baptized on May 29, 2010.

Ezra Devere Baze,

son of *Zachary Baze*

and *Miranda Kennedy.*

He was baptized on July 18, 2010.

Logan Matthew Robertson,

grandson of *John and Therese Green.*

He was baptized on August 8, 2010

Marriages

Congratulations to:

Katherine Wall & David Boss

who were united in holy matrimony on June 12, 2010;

Caitlin Wallingford

& Joseph Theisfeld,

who were united in holy matrimony on July 23, 2010.

Deaths

The sympathy of our parish is extended to:

the family of long time parishioner

Betty L. Smith

who passed away on July 7, 2010;

Jack Dutra

on the death of his brother,

Gerald Dutra.

Judy Terrill

on the recent death of her mother.

Agape Group tours St. Paul’s Pantry



In late Spring, members of St. Cecelia’s Agape fellowship group took a tour of St. Paul’s Food pantry to learn how it operated. Since then several members have volunteered for continuing roles at the Pantry.
Photo and information/Deacon Gail Reynolds



Holy Communion Services

Saturdays

5:30 Holy Communion

Sundays

8:45 Holy Communion
with Praise music & Band

9:45 Sunday School and
Adult Forum

(starts September 12, 2010)

10:45 Holy Communion
with traditional music



Stone Soup meal is back

St. Thomas will host the next **Stone Soup Meal** for any and all St. Paul's pantry volunteers.

Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, September 28, 2010 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the assembly room.

We are inviting volunteers from all the congregations that support St. Paul's Neighborhood Pantry in KCK to join us for Stone Soup.

Watch for RSVP information in *Tower Talk* coming in September.



THE APOSTLE
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Return Service Requested

The next deadline for **The Apostle**
is **September 19, 2010**

CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 6-8: Youth Camping Trip
- 22: **YOUTH Group Kick-Off**

SEPTEMBER

- 6: **Labor Day—Office closed.**
- 11: **IHN Golf Tournament at Falcon Ridge Golf Course, 7:30 am**
- 12: **Rally Day for Sunday School**
Confirmation Classes begin; Youth Sunday School classes begin.
Small Group Leader Training begins.
- 13: **Parents' Day Out begins new year.**
- 19: *Junior/Senior High Youth — Fall Festival*
Next deadline for Apostle
- 26: Pastoral Care hosts coffee hour.

OCTOBER

- 4: **Blessing of Animals — 4 pm**
- 10: **All-Parish Hayride**
- 15-16: Women's Retreat
Youth Lock-In
- 22-23: **Diocesan Convention**
- 24: **"BOO BASH"** — an All-Parish event, 5:30 pm