

# THE APOSTLE

*“Be at peace amongst yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.” 1Thessalonians 5:13-21.*

The season of winter is about to come upon us. Maybe this year our weather will be gentle, or maybe we will have an abundance of snow. Like life, we cannot predict the future and what is coming our way. Paul wrote to a fledgling group of Christians in many cities of the Greek world. They faced much uncertainty about their future, and even if they might make it to the next generation. In fact, they faced unclarity and debate as to understanding what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. Paul writes to encourage them much in the same vein as did other apostles.

St. Benedict was a profound leader in the Early Middle Ages. He brought Christianity to many communities in Europe, and much of our own Anglican identity is grounded in his understandings. When he came on the scene, the world was in a time of change and uncertainty. From Paul and Jesus’ words, he developed a “Rule of Life” by which communities of dedicated people could form community. Like the letter to the Thessalonians, Benedict writes to encourage stability, charity, moderation, and living a life of values found in the Gospel. *(He also encouraged a loaf of bread and a gallon of wine a day; we’ll save that for another article.)*

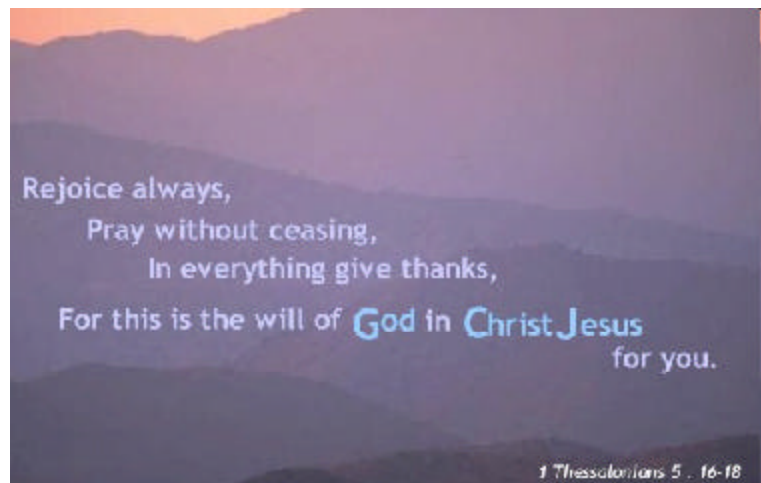
In many ways, our own community is not unlike the communities Paul and Benedict found themselves teaching. We are a place of worship, education, and outreach in the sea of an uncertain and changing world. One thing we offer is a stable community for people to join and journey with God. We share from our lives to care for others. We encourage the weak, seek to do good, rejoice, and pray. By no means are we perfect as we hold fast to God in the best ways we know.

St. Thomas is called to be a community grounded in God with the same virtues and understanding that we find in Paul and Benedict. The challenge is being willing to live these values out to our fullest. People will come and go from this place, but the values carry us forward. As we journey through winter, consider your faith community.

What kind of life is God calling you to live?

What can you share through this community to help others in that same journey?

Blessings,  
GRL



# Footnotes

Beth L. Elswick, Director of Music Ministries



## VOICES needed for the many musical events of this holiday season

Just know that if you would like to help with music and the arts at St. Thomas, there are plenty of tasks to do for the holidays. Since the quality of our work is usually very fine, I believe many people just assume that the music and arts departments need no help.

On the contrary, we have many seasonal productions to create in the next few months, and we welcome new talents. We always have fun, but I always remind myself that work is a blessing. **WE have much to do.**



Photo/Jim Elswick

We just finished special music for ground breaking, a fun blended service for Consecration weekend, and a synthesizer-spooky Boo Bash. The creative talents and clever effects of the youth as seen at the Boo Bash were awesome. As always, Katie and Ann organized a fabulous event.

The Youth Choir, Praise Band, and Traditional choir will be singing at the Veteran's Day service on the evening of November 11<sup>th</sup>. As always, the Traditional Choir and the Praise Band will lead worship at the Thanksgiving Eve service on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day.

The Youth Choir will assist with the music for the Christmas Pageant of the afternoon of December 24<sup>th</sup>. The children will rehearse the play during Advent, and the Praise Band will accompany the performance.

Our Traditional Choir will perform movements from Handel's "Messiah" during Advent and Christmas Eve. Some of our members have accepted the challenge of performing a recitative and aria—movements written to be performed as vocal solos. The choir is planning to sing "And the Glory of the Lord" as well as the "Hallelujah Chorus." We have fine voices, and we can always use the microphones to balance the volume of the accompaniment.

Honestly, doing artistic justice to this fine work requires many

voices on each of the voice parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) rather than amplifying just a few voices on each line.

Since the music is easily available online, we can all play the music over and over in order to learn the parts. Besides, listening to Handel on the way to work each day is more fun than listening to local news.

We need singers, and we can work to accommodate your schedule. Can you break free on Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings? We have fun, and I think the music has sounded very fine in the past year. Hope to see and hear you soon.



Photos/Judy Dutra

# CONGRATULATIONS

## to the parish of St. Thomas

On the weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held another **Consecration Weekend** as the culmination of the 2011 Stewardship Campaign. Based on the pledges received as of the **Apostle** deadline of October 30<sup>th</sup>, we estimate pledges for 2012 will total about \$603,000. With the additional income of \$61,000 that includes plate, building use and other income, our total operating income will be about **\$664,000** which is a 10% increase over 2011.

All of you deserve the credit for this level of giving in time, talent, and treasure. The many outreach and mission opportunities that you serve were listed in the Stewardship newsletter mailed in early October. Thank you for making our work easy.

Your Stewardship Team,

**Rick Bush, Co-chair**

**Tracie Glasscock**

**Jason Perez**

**Ann Clements**

**Gerry Miller, Co-chair**

**Sarah Persinger**

**Sue Elliott, Senior Warden**

**Kim Palmer**

**Judy Yakre**



This panoramic view of our nave on Consecration Weekend was taken by **Jim Elswick** who "stitched" together 8 photos to get this splendid shot.

## The time is NOW...

...to volunteer for the **seventh annual Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network Holiday Party** hosted by St. Thomas on Saturday, December 10, 2011, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Last year, we hosted 24 families which included 91 guests. We expect about the same participation this year.

Each family will receive gift cards and a holiday food basket. The party will include a kid's store (at no cost) for the children to shop for parents, grandparents, teachers, siblings, etc. Kids will also have the chance to play games and activities. Guests are treated to a delicious lunch and have time to visit and reconnect with other guests and volunteers. A special appearance from Santa and Mrs. Claus always thrills the children of all ages.

**The time is NOW. St. Thomas, this is your opportunity to help celebrate the joy of Christ.**

It can be done by:

- \*Purchasing \$20 gift cards to Target, Walmart, or QuikTrip,
- \*Provide small gifts (\$5-10) for the children's Christmas store,
- \*Supply luncheon food for the guests & volunteers,
- \*VOLUNTEER and experience the joy of Christmas!

(Volunteers - adults only- to protect the confidentiality of our IHN children)



**Deadline for the gifts/food is Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Questions: Contact IHN Holiday Party Coordinator **Jean Adam** at 403-4392 (H) or 530-9097 (C).

# It is Almost Time...

...to don our bakers' hats, aprons and find our best (heaviest) cookie recipes to bake for our **Scrumptious Cookie** sale event. This year, the cookie sale will be held on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** from **9 am – 4 pm**. The proceeds will be given to our Youth Group and to St. Paul's Food Pantry. The cookie sale will benefit both of these outstanding ministries.

We are looking forward to all your great sweet, heavy, scrumptious, yummy cookies as well as the camaraderie that results from being at such a fun, festive event. You do not need to be a baker to volunteer for the cookie sale. We need assistants to sell cookies, and setup and clean-up after the sale. Sign up sheets will be available on the church bulletin board. Please check your weekly **Tower Talk** for updates.

So, are you ready for the best ever cookie sale? Go, St. Thomas cookie bakers, cookie sellers and setter-uppers and cleaner-uppers! We are looking forward to having lots and lots of cookies to sell—the richer and unique, the better.

—Sue Strom, chair

See you at our  
**Scrumptious Cookie Sale!**  
 December 3, 2011 from 9 am to 4 pm.



*Continued from page 5*

Access to clean water is a vital precursor to learning. Children in Le Pretre most likely are already undernourished. If they expend valuable calories carrying water from the river one-quarter mile away, they will not be in top form to learn. Additionally, if they contract water-borne diseases like cholera, they are too sick to learn. That is why pure water and sanitation are an integral piece of any project in a Haitian village.

Even though our group did not get to Le Pretre in June, we did not travel to Haiti in vain. God, in His infinite wisdom, found much work for us to do. We held three impromptu medical clinics, where we saw and treated hundreds of children for intestinal worms, dermatological problems, abscesses, pneumonia and other illnesses. (Our Pensacola teammates included a pediatrician, nurse midwife and dental hygienist.) What if we had been unavailable to all of those people? As one of our team members reminded us, “In Haiti, nothing works, but *everything* works out!”



Since our trip in June, workers in Haiti have begun drilling the well in Le Pretre. Another trip, planned for early 2012, will include building the new latrines for the church and school and, hopefully, to begin health screenings for the children there. Down the road, we will begin plans to build the School of the Incarnation.

There are many ways to get involved in St. Thomas' ministry in Le Pretre, Haiti. We, and our Episcopal church partners, are all they have to help secure their community's future. Maybe you are an educator who has a passion for building a school in a Third World country... or a health care worker who would like to perform health screenings... or perhaps you would like to help with fundraising or hosting an informational event. If you have a heart for Haiti, there is work for you to do either here in the states or in Haiti.

Please contact **Mary Novaria** (phone: 816-853-0980) to see how your talents fit with our Haiti partnership. Her email address is: [mary.novaria@gmail.com](mailto:mary.novaria@gmail.com).

# In spite of the rain, Le Pretre will get its well and, eventually, a school

by Mary Novaria



The best laid plans of mice and men... *L'homme propose et Dieu dispose...* Man plans, God laughs. You get the idea. No matter how much we plan, no matter how pure our intentions, there are some things in life that are simply out of our control. Nowhere is this more true than in Haiti. And in Haiti, it's never more true than in rainy season.

My daughter Hannah and I went to Haiti in June with every intention of spending most of our 10-day trip in Le Pretre, building relationships with St. Thomas' partners at the Church and School of the Incarnation, working on construction of a well, and performing medical screenings. With us were the rector and two members of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Kansas City and the associate rector and seven members of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Pensacola, Florida. (Haiti, by the way, is the largest diocese in our Episcopal Church.)

I visited La Pretre for the first time eight years ago. It is a small mountain village so remote that visitors must cross two rivers to get there. I remember our partner priest stopping the truck to get out and

manually put the vehicle into four-wheel drive. We then drove into the shallow, rocky, river bed, rumbling across and up the riverbank on the far side. There were women in the water bathing and doing laundry.

As one approaches the edge of Le Pretre, there are poinsettias and other lush vegetation along the roadside which is merely dirt and rocks. Beyond Le Pretre, there is no road at all and travelers venture up the mountain from there on foot or donkey.

June can be very rainy in Haiti and, in fact, marks the beginning of hurricane season. Haiti has been devastated by tropical storms and flooding numerous times in recent history with thousands of lives lost. Unrelated to weather but even more destructive was the massive earthquake which hit the nation last year killing more than 200,000 people and injuring 300,000 others. Today, more than 600,000 people remain homeless as a result of the quake. Most are living in tents... in the rain.

To our great disappointment in June, the rain kept us from Le Pretre. The river was so high and so fast that it was impossible for us to cross. Some brave kids were swimming in the deep, rushing current, but there was no way to get vehicles and supplies to the other side. As demoralized as we felt, unable to reach our brothers and sisters in Le Pretre, we soon began to imagine what it must be like on their side of the river.

When the river is high, they are completely cut off from the villages and people below. We couldn't get there, but they couldn't get anywhere! They had only paltry amounts of food—whatever they could grow or had on hand; no access to medical care—there was a cholera outbreak; and no clean water. *Never* any clean water or sanitation. In fact, the first order of business on our trip was to begin the work of putting in a well in Le Pretre. Sadly, that was not to happen on this trip. There also is no electricity or phone service there.

Our group stood on the edge of the river looking longingly across, praying as we continue to do for the people of Le Pretre, and hoping they knew how much we wished to be with them.

In partnership with parishes of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Christopher's, we now have a long-term plan in the works for the community of Le Pretre. As you may know, St. Thomas already contributes to teacher salaries at Incarnation. There are five teachers and about 80 students, who have class in the church building because there is no actual school. Ultimately, we wish to build a school in Le Pretre, but first we must bring basic sanitation to the village. That means a well dug deep enough—70 feet or so—for the water to test at a healthy level, hand washing stations and latrines. It is not unusual in Haiti for missionaries and volunteers to teach basic hygiene practices.



*Continued on page 4*



# Advent - a time of preparation, waiting, and excitement!

Ann Clements, Director of Children's Ministries

As I sit down to write this, my head is still whirling from a super-fun **Boo Bash**. St. Thomas families were treated to a scary haunted house created by our youth, and kids had a blast vying for various prizes at our carnival games. It was the end to a very, very busy October which also included *Blessing of the Pets*, the groundbreaking ceremony, and Consecration Weekend. I'm still trying to convince myself that summer is over, even though chilly nights are now mixed in with our (mostly) pleasant days and the trees are beautiful shades of autumn. I suppose when we set our clocks back, I'll finally accept it. Perhaps we'll all have some time to slow down a bit and recharge before we begin a new church year and busy holiday season.

As we come into this time of preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child and the joy and celebration that follows at Christmas and through Epiphany, we invite you to join us at a few annual St. Thomas activities:

**November 27<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving weekend:** All are invited to join us during the 9:45 education hour for our **Family ADVENTure** wreath-making activity. We'll meet in the Assembly Room and share in food and fun. Wreath-making supplies will be provided, and if you have some fresh evergreen, shrub and/or holly trimmings we'd love to have them. The cost is \$7.00 per wreath to cover materials. You will find sign-up sheets in the hallway on the bulletin board.

**Christmas Pageant rehearsals—11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18:** All children from preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to be in the Christmas pageant. **Kelly Demo** and **Barbara McCall** will be our co-directors this year, and our practices will be on Advent Sundays after the 10:45 service (lunch provided). More information will be provided to parents and students in early November.

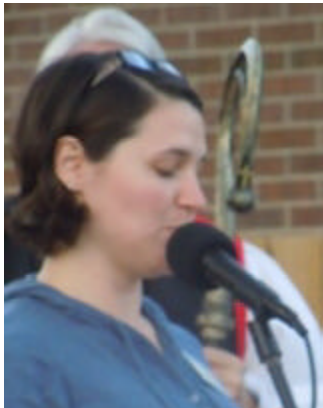
**Christmas Eve Family Service—Saturday, 12/24 at 4:00 pm:** The Christmas pageant takes the place of our scriptural readings and sermon at this worship time. Join us for lots of music and great performances by our church school kids.

As both Christmas Day and New Year's Day are on Sundays this season, we will have two weeks off. Classes will resume January 8<sup>th</sup>, celebrating our arrival into 2012 and the beginning of Epiphany.

Enjoy this exciting time of preparation, waiting, and excitement.

Holiday blessings to all of our friends at St. Thomas.





# Winter won't be boring to our Youth Group members!

Katie Knoll Lenon, Director of Youth Ministries and Small Groups

## Caroling in the Neighborhood via horse-drawn wagons!

**When:** Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 4:30 pm: Gathering at St. Thomas and purchase of tickets

5 pm: First wagon ride leaves

5:15 pm: Second wagon ride leaves

5:30 pm: Third wagon ride leaves

**Cost:** \$5 per person, \$20 per family

Our annual caroling ride is a fun way to evangelize in our community. We have a great time bundling up and heading out to sing carols, and then returning to the warmth and coziness of our church to eat cookies and drink hot cocoa and cider. Sign ups will be available December 4<sup>th</sup>.



**"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"**

## Plaza Lights Trip

The youth group will be taking its annual Plaza Lights trip on December 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun evening where we travel to the Plaza and have a scavenger hunt. We search for all the signs of Christmas. We end with a hot chocolate together.

## Christmas Break

We will not be having Sunday School or Youth Group meetings on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed

The youth will be providing the festivities for this Mardi-Gras (or Fat-Tuesday) celebration! Our Pancake Feed is a huge success every year, so plan on joining us and getting your fill of eggs, sugar, meats and fat before the 40 day fast in Lent begins. Please mark your calendars and do not miss out on this very fun evening!

**Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 6 pm.**

## Miqra (A Public Reading of Scripture)

This Diocesan youth event is a fun way to approach the Bible. We have a marathon reading of the Bible from beginning to end; youth sign up and take turns reading the Word in shifts. While the reading is going on, there are workshops, talks, and games that further our understanding of the Bible and how we can apply it to our lives.

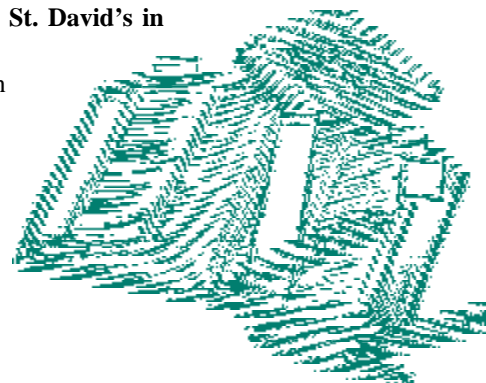
**Where:** Grace Cathedral and St. David's in Topeka, KS

**When:** January 14-16 (Martin Luther King Day)

**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Cost:** \$55

Registration:  
[www.episcopal-ks.org/youth](http://www.episcopal-ks.org/youth)  
and Youth hallway.



# More Groundbreaking snapshots



Photo/Rosemary Abbott

At the ready!



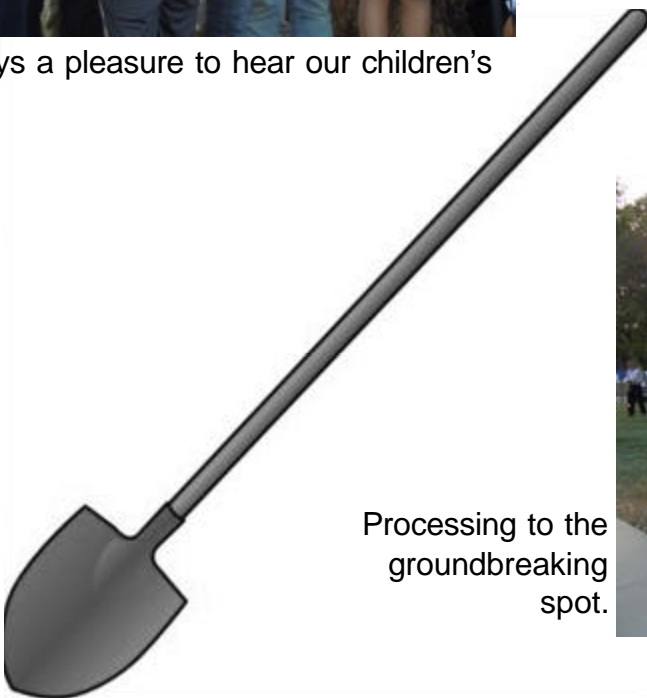
Photo/Jim Elswick

Aidan Barnes knows in what direction to look to thank God for His many blessings.



Photo/Judy Dutra

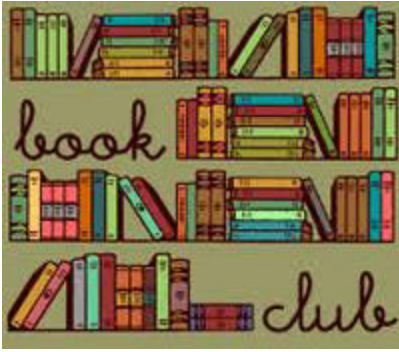
It's always a pleasure to hear our children's voices.



Processing to the groundbreaking spot.



Photo/Judy Dutra



## “One Good Reader is worth 1000 Boneheads”

—Rainy Day Books

The **St.Thomas Book Club** met to discuss *The Moonflower Vine* in October – a wonderful family saga set in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in rural Missouri.

We’d love to have you join us at our upcoming meetings. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Please join us for a lively discussion. All are welcome!

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** – *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** – *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** – *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

Please contact **Mindy Parker** (814-8545 or santaprints@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Apostles’ Garden Memory Bricks

Just a reminder that NOW as we approach the holiday season when we especially remember our family and friends, it is a good time to share your thanksgivings and memories by placing a memory brick in the **Apostles’ Garden**.

Order forms are located on the entryway table. It takes 3 or 4 weeks to be processed. Let’s get them in the garden before the snow falls.

If you have any questions call **Marge Dellinger** at 492-3305.



## Help save lives this Christmas— DONATE BLOOD

What better gift could you give than to help save a life by donating ONE pint of blood over the holidays? We will have a blood drive with the American Red Cross at St. Thomas on **Sunday, December 11, 2011 from 9am - 1pm** in the assembly room. Anyone over the age of 17 can donate, and 16 year olds can donate with parents’ permission. It only takes about 45 minutes, which includes a mini exam, questionnaire, and snacks afterwards.

Every two seconds someone in the US needs blood and ONE pint can help up to THREE people. What a great gift to give someone and it is priceless. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway or go to [www.kcredcross.org](http://www.kcredcross.org) and click “Give Blood.” Our sponsor code is **StThomasEpiscopal**.

—Donna Fye

## PARISH NOTES

### Births

**Ryan Connor Smith**,  
was born October 7, 2011.  
Parents are *Brent & Diane Smith*.

**Mae Adeline Humphrey**,  
was born October 10, 2011.  
Parents are  
*Clinton Humphrey &  
Krissy Freyaldenhoven*.

**Ella Lee Richardson**,  
was born October 11, 2011.  
Parents are *Cody & Maggie Richardson*.

### Baptisms

On Sunday, November 6, 2011,  
**Samuel Martin Humphrey** and his sister,  
**Mae Adeline Humphrey**  
were welcomed into the  
household of God.

### Deaths

*The St.Thomas family extends its sympathy to the following parishioners:*

**Tom Laird** on the death of his brother,  
*Jim Laird*;

**Bill Henderson** on the death of his  
mother, *Betty Henderson*;

**Rita & Frank Lange** on the death of  
their son, *Chris Lange*;

**Gar Demo** on the passing of his cousin,  
*Dustin Demo*;

**Jay Lehnertz** on the death of his  
brother *Jake Lehnertz*;

**Kay Allen** on the deaths  
of several relatives:  
her brother *Frank Jaedicke*,  
her brother-in-law *Frazier Allen*,  
her niece *Elise Schmidt*;

**William Atteridge**  
on the death of his mother,  
*Julia Jean Atteridge*.

# Advent/Christmas schedule at-a-glance

## Advent begins November 27<sup>th</sup>

During Advent, there will be Christmas Eve pageant rehearsals during the 10:45 am service, starting November 27<sup>th</sup>.

## The Lessons and Carols service

will take place on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the 10:45 service.

## The Caroling Sleigh Ride

will be December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

**Christmas Eve services** will be 4:00, 7:00, and 10:00 pm.

## New Year's Eve service at 5:30 pm.

This will be a Renewal of Marriage and Baptismal Vows. Party at McNown's after (info below).

## No Sunday School

on December 25, 2011 or January 1, 2012.



## New Year's Eve Open House at McNown's

**Time:** Immediately following the 5:30 pm service on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Party ends at 10:00 pm.

**Location:** 9317 Carter Drive, OP 66212

All members of the parish are invited.

Wine will be furnished.

Guests may bring an hors d'oeuvres to share.

It's a "come and go" or "come and stay" occasion, so feel free to come even if you need to leave to go to another event.

The party will end at 10 pm, so everyone is safely at home to celebrate the New Year.



St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
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**The next Apostle deadline is  
January 28, 2012**

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

- 23: **Thanksgiving Eve** service at 7 pm.
- 24: **Gobble, Gobble.** Office closed.
- 27: **Family ADVENTure** -- Advent wreath-making, 9:45 am

### DECEMBER:

- 3: **SCRUMPTIOUS COOKIE SALE!** 9 am to 4 pm
- 4, 11, 18: **Christmas Pageant** rehearsals
- 10: **IHN Christmas party**, from 11 am to 1 pm.
- 11: **Youth group Plaza Lights** trip  
**Blood Drive** at church
- 18: **Lessons and Carols at 10:45 am service.**  
**Caroling in the neighborhood**, starts at 4:30 pm.
- 24: **Christmas Eve** services at 4 pm, 7 pm, and 10 pm.
- 31 **New Year's Eve Service** at 5:30 pm, followed by party at McNown's.

### JANUARY:

- 14-16: **MIQRA**
- 17: **Book Club** meets at 7 pm.
- 25: **ANNUAL MEETING** starting with supper at 6 pm.