

TOWER TALK

February 20 and 21, 2010

Lenten Booklet now available

To assist us in our Lenten journey, a booklet of daily Lenten thoughts, prayers, and reflections, has been created and is now available in the narthex. Many thanks to Mtr. Kelly Demo who graciously gathered information for this booklet, to everyone who contributed to it.



Easter Memorial Offering—You may recognize a loved one or give thanks by making a contribution for altar flowers or music for our Easter worship. Just fill out the front of the offering envelope provided in your bulletin, enclose your contribution (\$50 suggested), and pop it in the offering plate or mail it to the office. Checks and names are **needed no later than Monday, March 29**, for the Easter bulletins.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY #2

Join St. Thomas in the 2nd session of FPU! This exciting, life-changing course is back.

A free preview will be held Sunday, February 21 at 1 pm.

Classes will start on February 28 and run until May 30. Class times will be 1-3 pm in the Assembly Room.

If interested in joining or being a leader please contact: Jason & Emily Barnes or Dan & Lynn Elman

This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday, 02/21/2010

8:00 AM Praise Band Practice –nave
8:45 AM Holy Communion
9:50 AM Choir Practice-loft
Sunday School-all classrooms
Adult Formation-Asbly Rm
10:45AM Holy Communion
11:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal-loft
6:00 PM AA-Asbly Rm
7:00 PM Youth Group-LL/Rm 137
EFM-Rm 133/134

Asbly Rm =
Assembly Room

Monday, 02/22/2010

1:30 PM Staff Mtg-Asbly Rm
5:30 PM Yoga-Asbly Rm
5:45 PM Finance Committee-Rm 137
6:45 PM Vestry Mtg-Asbly Rm
7:00 PM Explorers-Rm 134

Tuesday, 02/23/2010

9AM-1PM Parents' Day Out-Nursery
7:00 PM Book Club-Asbly Rm

Wednesday, 02/24/2010

4:00 PM Children's Choir-nave
5:30 PM Yoga-Asbly Rm
7:00 PM Lenten Forum-Asbly Rm
8:00 PM Adult Choir-nave loft

Thursday, 02/25/2010

11:00 AM Bible Study-Asbly Rm
7:00 PM Semi Retired Men's Small Group-Asbly Rm

Friday 02/26/2010

Rector's Day Off
7:00 PM Bridge-Asbly Rm (7-10)

Saturday, 02/27/2010

5:30 PM Holy Communion

March 1: Full Staff Meeting-1:30 PM; Outreach Committee-6:30 PM; Prayer Shawl Ministry-7:30 PM

March 3: Safety Training Mtg-6:30-9 PM; Lenten Forum-7 PM;

March 6: Safety Training Mtg-9-Noon

For a listing of more dates, go online to the website (www.stthomasop.org) and click on "Calendar." You may also refer to the calendar on the bulletin board in the main hallway next to the office. To add a mtg. or event to the calendar, contact Meribeth in the church office, 451-0512 or calendar@stthomasop.org.



Adult Formation Offerings during Lent!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

9:50—10:35 a.m.

February 21 - March 28

Join the conversation as we explore the themes of Sabbath, Reconciliation and Prayer each Sunday morning from February 21 through March 28. This class will connect with the evening offerings on Sundays and Wednesdays during Lent. What does it mean for the modern person to take intentional time to rest and focus one's life? How do we do this in a 24/7 culture? How do I pray? Does it matter? Will God answer me? What does it mean to reconcile in a divided culture? How does one reach out? We will explore these questions from the standpoint of scripture and our traditions in the Episcopal church. This class meets in the Assembly Room.

Sunday Evenings

Soup Supper at 5:30, classes at 6:30

February 28- March 28

Please sign up to bring soup or salad!

Adult Offering: Connecting our faith to film and music.

Beginning February 28 through March 28 we venture through some of the most profound works that highlight the human desire to connect with God and understand our place in the universe. This class meets in the Assembly Room.

Youth Offering: The youth will take time each week to learn about the Passion in each Gospel Lesson. This will help them as they prepare to lead the congregation in an Agape Meal as part of our Maundy Thursday worship during Holy Week. All youth are invited to attend and participate.

Children's Offering: The children will learn the story of Holy Week in ways they can understand. Exploring what events took place through a children's stations of the cross. Each week they will work on crafts and other projects to help them connect with the story of Jesus.

Wednesday Evenings with the Rabbis

7– 8:30 p.m. on February 24, March 3 and March 10

We will have the opportunity to have two of distinguished Rabbis with us for a time of teaching and conversation. This class will meet in the Assembly Room.

Alan L. Cohen, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Beth Shalom in Kansas City. Alan Cohen served as Beth Shalom's senior rabbi from 1989 – 2008. Since leaving Beth Shalom, he has become Director of Interreligious Affairs at the Jewish Community Relations Bureau (JCRB)/American Jewish Committee (AJC), working with clergy of all faiths to strengthen relationships and expand interfaith learning opportunities in Kansas City. He also serves as an Assistant Chaplain in the Spiritual Wellness Department at St. Luke's Health System. Rabbi Cohen will join us on **February 24 and March 3** to explore the origins and meaning of Sabbath keeping and reconciliation in the Jewish Tradition.

Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn, was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and ordained at Hebrew Union College (Cincinnati, Ohio). He hails from a line of Hasidic Polish rabbis who emigrated to Brazil in 1929. His maternal grandfather came to Uruguay in 1930 where he became one of the founders of that Jewish community. Rabbi Cukierkorn is the spiritual leader of the New Reform Temple in Kansas City where he is committed to Classical Reform Judaism. He also serves as Vice-President of the [Society for Classical Reform Judaism](#) and as former President of the [Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City](#). He will join us on **March 10** to lead us in a discussion of spiritual practices and prayer.

- OUTREACH AT ST. THOMAS -

EPISCOPAL HUNGER RELIEF NETWORK A Ministry of Episcopal Community Services

News from St. Paul's

February 10 and 13 saw smaller crowds than usual at the pantry -- perhaps due to the cold weather. What we need now: personal hygiene products (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes), laundry and dish soap, and cooking oil. Our storage space for canned goods is maxed out at the present time -- especially canned vegetables. While we are grateful for all donations, we don't need canned goods right now. We'll continue to keep you updated as shelves empty. Thank you!



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, You did it for me.



Pantry tee shirts are now available at St. Paul's. Various sizes, white logo on maroon, \$10 donation. A volunteer meeting will be held Saturday, **March 6**, at 4 PM in the Pantry. Then at 5:30, all are welcome to join the Community Supper and Eucharist upstairs in St. Paul's dining room.

- HOST-

(Hospitality Outreach of St. Thomas)
Part of JoCo IHN-a ministry to homeless families

HOST WEEK SIGNUPS

Our next HOST week will be March 14-21 at First Christian Church of Olathe. The signup sheet for volunteers and supplies is in the Narthex.

Volunteers must have completed one INT training session. The next training will be Sat., March 6, 9:30-noon at Southminster Presbyterian, 6306 Roe Ave, Prairie Village. New volunteers are needed and always welcome. Volunteers can attend training at any location.

For more information, see www.jocoihn.org If you have questions, contact Dola McNow, 913-541-9226, Suzanne Hicks, 913-768-0940 or Becky Bullock, 913-338-1573.

UTO Blue Boxes are Back!

The United Thank Offering (UTO) blue boxes will be back at St. Thomas during the Lenten season, allowing us all to include outreach, prayers and an acknowledgement of our blessings into our daily life.

Many of you raised in the Episcopal Church may already know the blue boxes. Since UTO's beginning in 1869, the United Thank Offering has been looking for new ways to be a vibrant ministry throughout the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church. The phrase "blue box" was coined in 1952, by Bishop Gordon of Alaska, who was awarded UTO money for an airplane in order to reach the parishes. In 1970, the offering started to be given on an annual basis.

The United Thank Offerings collected go to fund grants that are awarded around the world. Some recent grants have included building a vocational training center in North India (Diocese of Delhi); purchasing science and language equipment and building classroom space for a high school in El Salvador (Dioceses of Ecuador Central); and supporting affordable and accessible dental care in Pauma Valley, California (Diocese of San Diego). Closer to home, Episcopal Community Services in Kansas received a 2008 UTO grant to help fund the Weekend Backpack Feeding Program.

We encourage each member of your family to take home a box. During Lent, give thanksgiving for joy, blessings and challenges by filling the box with money. While you could simply add your spare change to it at the end of each day, we hope that you will find a way to incorporate the box and the meaning behind it into your daily prayer life. This ministry helps others with their own daily life and makes a difference -- bringing everyone closer to God.

Keep an eye on the Tower Talk for tips and ideas on how to make that Blue Box burst at the seams -- or cause you to pick up an additional box! Boxes will be collected the Sunday after Easter.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
And his mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 107:1

St. Thomas Parents' Day Out is starting enrolment for the Fall of 2010. The program will be offered Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 to 1:00. The program will run from Sept. through May for children 12 months and walking, through the age of 3. If you are interested in more information please contact Anne Thompson at 913-231-9101 or athompson@stthomasop.org. Reserve your spot now!!!

The St. Thomas Nursery is available for all children birth through 3 years of age. It is open 8:30 to 12 every Sunday and for most all parish events. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Anne Thompson at 913-231-9701 or athompson@stthomasop.org.

Bridge 2010

Friday, February 26, 7:00 PM

Assembly Room at St. Thomas

Sign up now for Bridge on the 26th. The sheet is on the bulletin board by the office. If you want/need a reminder, leave a phone number.

- Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care -

Support Grieving Families

Volunteers needed to co-facilitate groups for children and adults, utilizing writing, art, music and discussion. Groups consist of children of similar age or adults with similar loss. Support group curriculum is pre-designed. Volunteers work in teams of two and commit to facilitate a 16-week group that meets during evening hours at Solace House, 80th & State Line Rd. A 2-day training is provided on Saturday, March 6 and 13, 2010. For more information and to set up your pre-training interview, please contact Kathy Fetters at 816-276-2640.

Recycling at St. Thomas

Don't forget to spread the word to family and friends that we recycle at St. Thomas. Turn in your used cell phones and printer ink cartridges to the box in the copy room. The recycling bin for magazines, newspapers, and catalogs is on the east end of the parking lot. (Please no phone books.)

Articles for "Tower Talk" are due by **NOON EVERY MONDAY**.

Articles will only run for a duration of two weeks unless notified otherwise. Send info and articles to Meribeth by e-mail mrisebig@stthomasop.org, put a note in her box in the Communication Room, call her at 913-451-0512, or hand it to her directly.

Change of Address

Mark & Beth Anderson: 14823 Newton St, Overland Park, KS 66223. Phone number remains the same.

Vonnie Kane's e-mail address: vonbk25@aol.com

Joe & Melody Pratt: PO Box 25344, Overland Park, KS 66225



The Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe, *Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas*; The Rev. Gar Demo, *Rector*; The Rev. Kevin Schmidt, and The Rev. Edwin Sisk, *Associated Priests*; The Rev. Barbara Adam, *Deacon*; Ann Clements, *Director of Children's Ministry*; Dr. Beth Elswick, *Director of Music Ministry*; Katie Knoll Lenon, *Director of Youth Ministry and Small Groups*; Anne Thompson, *Director of Nursery*; Meribeth Risebig, *Parish Administrative Assistant*

The Vestry: Sue Elliott, *Senior Warden* 913-302-2086; Bob Beeler, *Junior Warden* 913-239-8914; Deb McArthur, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Brian Geary, *Finance Chair*; Kathy Townley, *Treasurer*; Emily Barnes; Judy Dutra; Brad Eldridge; Holly Farkes; Karen Leftwich; John McCall; Kim Palmer; Jeff Rapp; Jan Summers