

# TOWER TALK

February 27 and 28, 2010

## Lenten Booklet now available

A booklet of daily Lenten thoughts, prayers, and reflections is now available on the table at the back of the nave.



**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 (of any amount), 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.

## Join St. Thomas in learning about an exciting, life-changing opportunity with Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*.

This 13-week course teaches people to change their perception of money, gain control of their lives and dump debt. It is great for young singles and couples and those more experienced with life as well. Parents, bring your teens and college students! Start by attending a preview class on February 28 at 1 pm in the Assembly Room.

Contact Emily and Jason Barnes at emilyb0429@gmail.com or Dan and Lynn Elman at surrendernwin@yahoo.com with interest in joining or leading.

## This Week at St. Thomas

### Sunday, 02/28/2010

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  
1:00 PM Financial Peace-Asbly Rm  
6:00 PM AA-Asbly Rm  
7:00 PM Youth Group-LL/Rm 137  
EFM-Rm 133/134

Asbly Rm =  
Assembly Room

### Monday, 03/01/2010

1:30 PM FULL Staff Mtg-Asbly Rm  
5:30 PM Yoga-Asbly Rm  
6:30 PM Outreach Committee-Rm 133  
7:00 PM Explorers-Rm 134  
7:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry-Rm 137

### Tuesday, 03/02/2010

9AM-1PM Parents' Day Out-Nursery

### Wednesday, 03/03/2010

4:00 PM Children's Choir-nave  
5:30 PM Yoga-Rm 143  
6:30 PM Safety Training-Rm 133-135  
7:00 PM Lenten Formation with the Rabbis-Asbly Rm  
Praise Band Practice-nave

8:00 PM Adult Choir-nave loft

### Thursday, 03/04/2010

11:00 AM Bible Study-Asbly Rm

### Friday 03/05/2010

Rector's Day Off  
7:00 PM SCA-Asbly Rm

### Saturday, 03/06/2010

9:00 AM Safety Training-Asbly Rm  
5:30 PM Holy Communion

For a listing of more dates, go online to the website ([www.stthomasop.org](http://www.stthomasop.org)) and click on "Calendar." To add a mtg. or event to the calendar, contact Meribeth in the church office, 451-0512 or [calendar@stthomasop.org](mailto:calendar@stthomasop.org).

**CPR/AED Training: February 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to sign up.** This training is for Ushers, Greeters, Committee Heads, Vestry, Staff and any interested member. Forms are on the ushers' podium.

## Adult Formation Offerings during Lent!

### Sunday Morning Adult Forum

9:50—10:35 a.m.

February 28 through March 28

Join the conversation as we explore the themes of Sabbath, Reconciliation and Prayer each Sunday morning 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. For more information see "Sunday Lent Program" on back.

**Children's Offering:** The children will learn the story of Holy Week in ways they can understand. More details on back under "Sunday Lent Program."

### Wednesday Evenings with the Rabbis

7– 8:30 p.m. on March 3 and March 10

We will have the opportunity to have two distinguished Rabbis with us for a time of teaching and conversation. This class will meet in the Assembly Room. Childcare will not be provided.

**Rabbi 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 **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**

Just a reminder that we are concentrating on personal hygiene items at the present time: toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, deodorant, razors, shampoo, etc. None of these items can be purchased with food stamps, so they are very much needed. Large containers of cooking oil, sugar and flour are always needed also.

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. Remember that St. Thomas tries to help staff the pantry on the second Saturday of each month, so mark your calendar for March 13. Look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



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**

#### **EXTRA SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR SPRING BREAK**

Our next HOST week will be March 14-21 which happens to be Spring break. The kids will not be in school so we need some extra food for lunches- things like lunchables. Please check the supply sign up in the Narthex for a complete list of items we need.

STA volunteers will cover Sunday, March 14 and Saturday, March 20. Positions are still open so please check your schedule and see if you can help.

Volunteers must have completed one IHN 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](http://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.

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.

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

**Prayer Chain Update:** After many years of faithful service on the Prayer Chain, Mary Birkhead has decided to step down. For all future prayer chain requests, please call Therese Greene, 913-338-2952, or Diane Monteen 913-268-7788. If you wish to be added to the prayer chain to receive prayer requests, call the church at 451-0512.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:athompson@stthomasop.org).

### **Sunday Lent Program for Children and Youth**

**5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Program  
7:30pm Prayer in Nave**

#### **Children's Program**

Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kid's Station of the Cross  
Meets in Blue Room 134

Our children will enjoy many activities throughout this unit that include: Art, Baking, Singing, Story Telling, Dramas, and more! Using the Stations of the Cross as a way for our Children to better Understand the season of Lent.

#### **Youth Program**

Grades 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>: The Last Supper  
Meets in Lower Level Youth Room

Our youth will enjoy discovering what Jesus did with his friends during his last moment of freedom. We will discuss topics like; Servanthood, Humility, Sacrifice, Friendship, Trust. We will read and discuss the four Gospel stories of the last Supper. We will also prepare to provide St. Thomas with an Agape Dinner on Maundy Thursday.

### **Christcare Small Groups Update**

The Lunch Bunch small group has changed its name and meeting time. The group is now called "Coffee with a hint of Christ." Our group now meets during the morning from 9am-10:30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month for a coffee break. We enjoy our time by supporting the Backsnack program, getting to know one another and studying scripture. Please join us for a cup of coffee. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 3rd from 9-10:30am at St Thomas.

Any questions, contact Jean Adam at 402-4392 or [Jean\\_adam2004@yahoo.com](mailto:Jean_adam2004@yahoo.com).

### **Parent's Night Out—March 6th—6-11pm**

We want to watch your children while you have a night out. We have a night filled with fun including coloring, board games, big group games, great snacks, movies, and more. Please come when it is convenient for you and your children. We do not provide dinner but you can drop off your child with a meal. We ask for a free will donation for our youth. This provides funds for scholarships to go to Youth Events.

**Parish Leaders, you are invited to a leadership workshop with The Rev. Michael Battle entitled "Leading a Spirit of Reconciliation in the Congregation".** This will take place on March 13, 2010 (rsvp by March 10), 1:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Michael and All Angels, 6630 Nall Ave. Mission KS 66202, phone 913-236-8600.

**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](mailto: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.