



TOWER TALK

November 19 and 20, 2011



Upcoming Events

Adult Forum

This Sunday, November 20, 2011
9:50 am in Assembly Room
led by The Rev. Ben Varnum

This Sunday, we'll continue a conversation about our "calling" today and in our tradition. Some brief readings (less than ten minutes!) are available this week from Rev. Ben at the church or by e-mail. You don't need to read (or to have been here last week for part 1) to attend! Please feel free to come and talk about what it means to be called into something.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at 7 pm



Pumpkin Dessert Bar and fellowship afterwards. Everyone is invited. You may bring a "sampler" (6-8 small servings) of a pumpkin dessert. Cider and coffee will be furnished.

Questions? Call Dola McNown at 913-541-9226. Nursery will be open during the service.

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011

Wreathmaking during Sunday School Hour—
for all ages! Sign up on bulletin board.

Pageant Rehearsals begin

November 27, 2011 during the 10:45 service

Outreach at St. Thomas

HOST Update

(Hospitality Outreach of St. Thomas)
Part of JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network—
a ministry to homeless families

HOST WEEK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Host week signups are in the Narthex (same table as the Holiday Party Signups). St. Thomas needs to fill all positions on Nov. 29, 30 & Dec. 1, and Overnight positions for Dec 2. Please check your schedule and help. The food supply list is also in the narthex.

All volunteers interacting with guest families must have completed one IHN training session. The next training will be January, 2012, so mark your calendars to start 2012 by attending training and joining this ministry caring for homeless families in Johnson Co.

IHN Holiday Party – 2011

Very soon the joy of Christmas will be celebrated here at St. Thomas. We will be hosting the seventh annual IHN Holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011 from 11am-1pm. We are thrilled that St. Thomas continues to lift up our IHN families.

How can you help make Christmas special for our IHN families? Sign up to purchase a gift or volunteer at the party. There will be signups in the narthex on **Nov. 19/20**. Items needed are: \$20 gift cards to Walmart, Target or QuikTrip, new items for the kid's store (\$5-10 range), food for the lunch, and volunteers.

**Note (Due to keeping the confidentiality of the IHN children – only adults can volunteer to help at the party).

Questions: Contact Holiday Party Coordinator, Jean Adam at 402-4392 or 530-9097.

EPISCOPAL HUNGER RELIEF NETWORK A Ministry of Episcopal Community Services

St. Paul's Food Pantry

The pantry needs about everything right now, especially toilet paper, soups, canned fruit, canned meals (like chili, ravioli, stew, spaghetti O's), spaghetti sauce (in cans) and we have lots of empty bottles that need to be filled with cooking oil, shampoo, dish soap (not dishwasher soap), laundry soap and bar bath soap or liquid bath soap.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Parents' Night Out - December 3, 6-11pm

Just a reminder that our next Parent's Night Out is coming up. This is a night that the youth put on for our families at St. Thomas. We play games, make a craft, watch movies, have great snacks and experience a lot of fun at church. We ask for a free will donation be made to St. Thomas youth to help provide scholarships to Church and Diocesan youth events. This is a great evening for you to bring your child and go have a night out! Signup Sheet is on the Bulletin board!

Parents' (with youth 11-18 yrs old) Meeting, December 5th 7-8pm

I would like to gather together and talk about our youth program here at St. Thomas. I am seeking your input on programs that are set, and brainstorming ways to make our youth ministry fit the needs of our youth and families. It is our goal to provide a space for all the youth that attend St. Thomas, whether that be Sunday school, Youth Group, Acolyting, Confirmation class, or one of our numerous other ministries offered at St. Thomas. Your sharing will help us build a youth ministry program that fulfills the needs of all our youth.

Save the Date to Help Save a Life



What better gift could you give than to help save a life by donating 1 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 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood and 1 pint can help up to 3 people. What a great gift to give someone and it is priceless. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway or go to kredcross.org and click "Give Blood", our sponsor code is StThomasEpiscopal. Any questions contact Donna Fye 913-963-5815 or djfyee@gmail.com

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Building Committee met on Wednesday evening, Nov. 16 with Gould Evans Architects to discuss submittal of the Architectural Drawings to the City. We previously met with the City of Overland Park to discuss the preliminary submittal of drawings required to secure a Building Permit. The City personnel explained to us the requirements of submittal for a permit. The Architects showed the committee the progress they were making with revising the drawings. It is their intent to have the drawings completed by April 25, 2012 for submittal to the City for a building permit. If a permit is issued at that time, we would plan to start construction immediately. We will keep you posted as project moves on.

Weldon L. Fate

BRIDGE 2011

The last Friday of November falls on the day after Thanksgiving. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board. We will play Bridge at 7:00 pm, November 25 in the Assembly Room. See you there!



St. Thomas' Annual Scrumptious Cookie Sale is just around the corner!

Saturday, December 3, 2011
from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

We hope to have many scrumptious (heavy) goodies! We look forward to seeing many varieties of cookies—chocolate chip with walnut or pecan, brownies, holiday-decorated cookies, to name a few. Please bake about 6 dozen cookies.

There are signup sheets for Cookie Bakers, Cookie Sellers, and Set-up people and Take-down people on the first bulletin board in the church hallway.

**OUR SCRUMPTIOUS COOKIE SALE 2011
THE BEST EVER!!!**

All proceeds will go to our Youth Group and St. Paul's Food Pantry.

Dear St. Thomas Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl my sister Diane sent me from your ministry. I immediately wrapped myself in it and felt not only the presence of God but of sisters and brothers in Christ from your congregation. The power of prayer is awesome and the peace it brings is overwhelming. I encourage you to pursue this ministry not only for the blessing you bring to others, but the blessings God bestows on you., His worthy servants.
In Christ, Marsha Kenney



Asbly Rm =
Assembly Room
LL = Lower Level

This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday, 11/20/2011

Youth Happening at St. David's in Topeka

8:00 AM Praise Band Practice-nave
8:45 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM Choir Practice-nave loft
Sunday School-all classrooms
Youth Confirmation-Rm 137

9:50 AM Adult Forum-Assembly Rm

10:45 AM Holy Communion

2:00 PM Eagle Scout Reception-Asbly Rm (2-5pm)

3:00 PM Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony-nave (Kline)

3:00 PM Financial Peace Univ-Rm 133/134

6:00 PM AA-Asbly Rm

6:30 PM Youth Group-LL/Rm 137

Monday, 11/21/2011

9:00 AM Parent's Day Out-Nursery/Rm 143

5:30 PM Yoga—Asbly Rm

6:30 PM Westmont Board Mtg-Asbly Rm
AA-Women's Grp-LL

7:00 PM Children & Youth Commission Mtg-Rm 133/134

8:00 PM AA-OP Fellowship-LL

Tuesday, 11/22/2011

9:00 AM Parent's Day Out-Nursery/Rm 143

1:30 PM No Staff Mtg

Wednesday, 11/23/2011

4:00 PM Children's Choir-Asbly Rm

Daisy Girl Scout Troop-Rms 133/134 (A. Fleischaker)

5:30 PM Yoga—Asbly Rm

6:30 PM AA-Women's Grp-LL

7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service/Reception

8:00 PM Praise Band Practice-nave
AA-OP Fellowship-LL

8:45 PM Adult Choir-nave loft

Thursday, 11/24/2011

Thanksgiving Day—Church Office closed

7:00 PM Al-Anon Family Grp-LL

Friday, 11/25/2011

Church Office closed

Rector's Day Off

7:00 PM Bridge-Rm 133/134

8:00 PM AA-OP Fellowship-LL

Saturday, 11/26/2011

10:30 AM AA-Women's Grp-LL

5:30 PM Holy Communion

8:00 PM AA-OP Fellowship-LL

Childcare provided
during music
rehearsals.

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

The St. Thomas annual Caroling Hayride is coming! Plan to join your church friends on Sunday evening, December 18, at 4:30. We have reserved two wagons which will accommodate 60 people, so make your reservation soon! The signup sheet will be on the bulletin board by the office beginning the week-end of November 19 and 20. A donation of \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family of 5 or more is suggested. We will need to have a final count of participants by Sunday, December 11. The Evangelism Team will be serving hot spiced cider, hot chocolate and cookies when you return. Let's show our neighbors our holiday spirit!



Flowers on the Altar have been given to the Glory of God and

- ◆ In thanksgiving for the many blessings to my family—Feanette West
- ◆ In celebration of Brian's birthday (Nov. 17)—Jerry & Susan Carman

CHANGE THE DATE

The NEW date for the 2012 Women's Retreat is October 12 and 13, 2012. By switching dates we were able to get a larger meeting area and more sleeping rooms to accommodate the increasing number of women interested in being part of the 3rd Annual Heart and Home Retreat.

Please mark your calendars today! We begin between 5pm and 6pm on Friday and complete our retreat by 3pm Saturday.

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.

Church Calendar

To view more events on our calendar, go online to the website (www.stthomasop.org) and click on "Calendar." To add a meeting or event to the calendar, contact Meribeth in the church office, 913-451-0512 or calendar@stthomasop.org.

SPECIAL IRA ROLLOVER (expires 12/31/11)

Often people look for alternative ways to make financial commitments to the church. One way is to make the contribution from an existing IRA.

- When properly sent directly to a charity, the distribution is treated as a 'rollover' and does not increase the IRA owner's taxable income nor does the owner receive a deduction.
- You must be 70 1/2 at some time in the year the distribution is made.
- Your rollover distribution to charity can be used to satisfy your RMD (required minimum distribution) that everyone 70 1/2 and older must take from their IRA each year.
- It is not subject to the 50% of income limitation for deducting cash gifts to charity.
- Your direct to charity rollover is limited to \$100,000 per tax year per person.
- Currently, the law says that 2011 is the final year.
- Distributions can only be made from IRAs, not from 403(b) and 401(k) plans. In most cases, a person 70 1/2 can do a tax free rollover of some or most of their 401(k) to an IRA even if they are still working for their employer via an 'on service distribution.'
- The advantage of making a direct rollover to a charity is that it doesn't increase your income and by doing so, it doesn't reduce certain deductions (like medical) or adversely affect your Medicare premiums, Social Security taxes and Alternative Minimum Tax.
- In addition to using the IRA to charity rollover, a person can additionally deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income through charitable gifts. For example: If you turn 70 1/2 this year and your income is \$100,000, you could give up to \$150,000 to charity this year (\$100,000 from IRA via a direct rollover to charity+\$50,000 cash gift).

Consult your financial advisor for more information.