

## TOWER TALK

December 10 and 11, 2011

Adult Forum will not meet this Sunday due to the Blood Drive in the Assembly Room.

### Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

during the 10:45 service

12/11—speaking parts; 12/18—all; 12/23—dress rehearsal for all 10:30-1:00, then lunch

### Advent Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 18, during the 10:45 am service

### Annual Caroling Hayride

Sunday, December 18, 2011 4:30—7 pm

Have you signed up for the Caroling Hayride yet? We will gather at 4:30 and “practice” our caroling before heading out on the first wagon at 5:00. We are sending postcards to our neighbors letting them know we are coming and we want to show them lots of enthusiasm! Flashlights will be provided but bring your own if you like. The “suggested” cost is \$5.00 a person and not more than \$20.00 per family. You can look forward to hot cider, hot chocolate and cookies when you return. Come and proclaim Christ’s birth in song!

### Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24, 2011

4:00—Family Service with Pageant & Communion

7:00 and 10:00—Holy Communion

Special music and Carols at 9:30 pm

No services will be held on Christmas Day.

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26.

### **Thank You!**

Thanks to the Atteridge family—William, Janine, Liam, James—for their help in placing 11 memory bricks in the Apostle’s Garden.



This year’s Scrumptious Cookie Sale was the BEST ever!! We sold over \$1,100 in cookies! All the proceeds will be given to our Youth Group and St. Paul’s Emergency Food Pantry! Thank you all for everything you do to make our Cookie Sale the BEST EVER!!!  
Sue Strom



Thank you very much for your recent donation in the amount of \$1,000.00. We are very grateful for your support of the Jo Co Interfaith Hospitality Network and the homeless families we serve. Your charitable contribution continues to further the mission of IHN as we empower homeless families by engaging people of faith. You are truly making a difference in their lives.  
Vicki Dercher—Exec. Director of JO CO IHN, Inc.

**Dear St. Thomas Backsnack Volunteers:** The United Community Services of Johnson County agency met **Friday, Dec. 2**, to elect new board members and recognize people and organizations who have demonstrated excellence in community service in Johnson County. The Backsnack program of Harvesters and its Johnson County partners—most of whom are affiliated with churches—received the award for service excellence.

Backsnack Johnson County partners include Asbury United Methodist Church, Community of Christ Church (Olathe), Gardner Church of the Nazarene, Hands to Hearts KC, Merriam Christian Church, New Journey Church, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, St. Andrew Christian Church, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, St. Michael’s and All Angels Episcopal Church, St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, and Village Presbyterian Church. St. Thomas’ award certificate is posted on the bulletin board. We attended to receive this special recognition.  
Denis and Ellen Peters

### **New Year’s Eve—December 31, 2011**

**Holy Communion—5:30 pm**  
with Renewal of Marriage Vows and Baptism

Nursery provided for birth through age 3.

Following the New Year’s Eve service, everyone is invited to John & Dola McNow’n’s for fellowship. The address is 9317 Carter Dr., Overland Park. Phone 913.541.9226 if you need directions. It’s a “come and go” or “come and stay” event ending at 10ish, so feel free to stop in even if you have other places to go. Beverages are furnished; bring a small snack if you wish.

### **YOUTH GROUP UPDATE**

**Winter Break Wednesday:** If you get bored easily over the holidays because you do not have school and all your friends are vacationing in the Caribbean, consider joining us on one of your days off. We will spend the day together similar to a day at ROTC (*Reaching Out to the Community*). We will gather in the morning for some fellowship, and then head off to do some outreach work. We will go out to eat for a noon meal, then head off to go ice-skating or bowling (if it is too cold.) This will take place **Wednesday, Dec 21, from 8am-5pm**. The cost will be \$30 per participant. Registration is available on the Youth bulletin board and open to children and youth in grades 3 -12.

### **Christmas Memorial Offering**

If you would like to contribute toward the flowers or the special music this Christmas season, perhaps in honor or remembrance of someone, or in celebration of a special event in your life, fill out the envelope found in your bulletin and place your donation inside (any amount). Envelopes must be received no later than Sunday, Dec. 18.

**Nursery News:** We are looking for a nursery attendant who can work as needed on occasional Sunday and weeknight services. Contact Anne Thompson 913-231-9701.

Please note that the Nursery will not be open on Christmas Eve, but will be open for the New Year’s Eve 5:30 service.

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

♦ in loving memory of my mother, Irene Crabtree  
—Maryanna Nerney



### **A Day of Shopping at Ten Thousand Villages**

**7947 Santa Fe Drive in Overland Park**  
**Sunday, December 11 -- 1 to 5 pm**

Fifteen percent of net sales at Ten Thousand Villages will help support Episcopal Community Service and the Episcopal Hunger Relief Network. While shopping, enjoy delicious complimentary holiday treats from Cornerstones Catering and the most recent graduates of the training program.



We welcome Ryan Conner Smith, son of Brent & Diane Smith. Ryan will be baptized at the 10:45 service this Sunday.

## **Outreach at St. Thomas**

### **EPISCOPAL HUNGER RELIEF NETWORK**

**A Ministry of Episcopal Community Services**

#### **Breakfast at St. Paul's Outreach Program**

As we enjoy another Holiday Season, we hope you have an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings in your life. Sadly, there are many who will be going through this Holiday Season without much at all. We can help them experience God's love in our smiles and actions while volunteering at the "Breakfast at St. Paul's" Outreach Program on **Saturday, December 31**, which is the fifth Saturday of the month and St. Thomas the Apostle's weekend to volunteer at this event. Won't you consider sharing your time and talents with those in need during this beautiful season?

Each breakfast includes fun and fellowship as well as a short Eucharist before breakfast is served as we share the loving and giving spirit of St. Thomas the Apostle.

There are two shifts to choose from, but you may stay for both—no experience necessary! The first shift should meet at St. Paul's around 7:15-7:30am to help set-up, prepare and cook food until about 9:30am. The second shift should meet at St. Paul's around 9:00-9:15am to help greet, serve food and clean up until about 11:30. St. Paul's is located at 1300 N. 18th Street in Kansas City, KS approx. five miles north of I-35 Highway & US-69 N/18th Street Expressway/Roe Avenue Exit (Exit # 232B.)

A signup sheet can be found on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Elman via e-mail at dan.elman@yahoo.com or via mobile at: 913.620.5100 or Lynn Elman via mobile at: 913.908.0465

#### **Happy New Year at the Pantry!**

Ring in the New Year by giving of yourself before the parties begin. St. Paul's Food Pantry is having a cleaning day on **Saturday, 12/31/11, from 9am-12pm**. Anyone is welcome to join us for a few hours. The pantry will be closed on Saturday, 12/24/11 & 12/31/11 for the holidays and we are taking the opportunity on 12/31/11 to start 2012 with a clean pantry. We clean up the pantry on the days we are open before we leave, but there are some jobs that need to be done when we are not helping our neighbors. If you can help us, just come on down -there will be plenty to do and supplies will be provided. If you have any questions or suggestions of cleaning jobs contact Donna Fye at 913-963-5815 or djfyee@gmail.com as she is making a cleaning list.

**HOST: Hospitality Outreach of St. Thomas**  
**Part of JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network-**  
**a ministry to homeless families**

#### **What is Christmas Day like in a homeless shelter?**

Some of our current IHN guest families will NOT have places to go on Christmas Day. They'll be at the Family Center on Strang Line Rd all day on Christmas. We'd like to take a nice dinner to them.

If you are able to help, please see the signup sheet in the Narthex. Food and paper items can be brought to church when you come to the Christmas Eve services. Everything will be delivered to the Family Center Sunday morning.

Please keep all families in your prayers, especially at this time of year.

#### **Major New Fundraiser Needs Leader with Charity Auction Experience**

—Board member Don Davidson is seeking someone with experience managing or working on charity auctions to lead a volunteer team working on IHN's first auction on March 30 to benefit homeless Johnson County children and their families.

Don, whose Development Committee masterminds and handles major annual IHN fundraising events, is urging anyone with experience handling charity events to contact him at www.don777@swbell.net or 913-338-0129. Don also is interested in hearing from IHN volunteers who can provide the names of anyone who has charity auction experience.

St. Thomas is a founding member of IHN, a ministry to homeless families here in JoCo. We support them with volunteers for Host weeks approx. every 11 weeks. We host the annual Holiday party for guest families, provide space for quarterly meetings with the other 34 congregations, and financial support from our Outreach budget. If you have charity auction experience and interest, please contact Don Davidson.

## **This Week at St. Thomas**

### **Sunday, 12/11/2011**

Blood Drive—7 am to 1:00 pm in Assembly Room

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

Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Noon Stewardship Mtg-Rm 133/134 (G. Miller)

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

6:00 PM AA-Asbly Rm

6:30 PM Youth Group-LL/Rm 137

### **Monday, 12/12/2011**

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

5:30 PM Yoga—Asbly Rm

6:30 PM Small Group Equipper Mtg-Rm 137 (K. Lenon)  
AA-Women's Grp-LL

6:45 PM IHN Coordinator Mtg-Asbly Rm (D. McNown)

8:00 PM AA-OP Fellowship-LL

### **Tuesday, 12/13/2011**

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

1:30 PM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Journeymen Small Grp-Dutra's

### **Wednesday, 12/14/2011**

4:00 PM Childrens' 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

6:45 PM Tweens Small Grp-Asbly Rm (D. Kopp)

7:00 PM IHN Development Mtg-Rm 137

Praise Band Practice-nave

AA-OP Fellowship-LL

7:45 PM Adult Choir-nave loft

### **Thursday, 12/15/2011**

7:00 PM EFM-Rms 133/134 (L. Potts)

The Classics Small Grp-Asbly Rm (F. Roberts)

Al-Anon Family Grp-LL

### **Friday, 12/16/2011**

Rector's Day Off

7:00 PM SCA-Asbly Rm (S. Lynch)

8:00 PM AA-OP Fellowship-LL

### **Saturday, 12/17/2011**

Prayer Shawl Field Trip to Lawrence (L. Manuel)

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

5:30 PM Holy Communion

8:00 PM AA-OP Fellowship-LL

**Church Calendar:** To view more events on our calendar, go online to the website ([www.stthomasop.org](http://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](mailto:calendar@stthomasop.org).

### **SPECIAL IRA ROLLOVER (expires 12/31/11)**

People often 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.**

Asbly Rm =  
Assembly Room  
LL = Lower Level