

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE



July 18th, 2021

**The Eighth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

Our Mission Statement

*Helping Hands - Healing Hearts  
Welcome All*

Our Vision Statement

*To be an engaging, passionate, spiritually healthy  
community, open to all God's people*

DOODLE  
THE  
BIBLER

## Mission Outreach Committee

The Mission Outreach Committee met on Tuesday July 13, 2021 for their regularly scheduled meeting. The purpose of these meetings is to receive updates on the progress of various outreach projects. We partner with other groups and churches to support some of their ongoing projects that fulfill our mission by “serving our community with joy, without walls!”

Committee member Caroline Hoffman defined bite sized projects as a one-time activity that require one or all of three things: money, items, or time. Collecting school supplies for Dallas Champions Academy was St Thomas’s first outreach project. On the July 1 Doubter, Father Christopher wrote about the Dallas Champions Academy and four of the programs that help break the cycle of poverty.



The picture is the trunk space in Virginia Holleman’s car with all the school supplies We had delivered to the church. She and Stephen Toon counted what We had collected and made the bags of supplies ready to be transported to Dallas Champions Academy. It is helpful for our parish to know what We are doing. The supplies included: 34 packages of notebook paper, 22 composition books, 21 small pencil sharpeners. 250 pencils, 55 3 x 5 packets of index cards of 100 each (5,500 index cards), 124 glue sticks, 11 pencil pouches, and the list goes one for a total of 662 items. Because I like to translate numbers into real time cash, 662 at \$1.00 per item equals \$662.00 that the parishioners of St. Thomas donated to someone outside of our parish. By all accounts, this was a

successful bite sized project.

Continuing with our support of Dallas Champions Academy projects, their summer camp program was asking donors to give \$300 to sponsor one child for a year. This money represents the financial support of one child for a year within the DCA programs including summer camp. Along with typical camp activities, the child is offered academic tutoring and life skills lessons. This is another way DCA prepares their students for the next academic year and to become leaders within their peer group.

St. Thomas has crossed the threshold of 10 to be classified as a sponsoring church. In fact, as of the publishing of this Doubter, 11 members of St. Thomas have sent in their \$300. We will again lead the Diocese of Dallas in our commitment to social justice and strengthening our communities in their quest to be free of poverty. Congratulations St. Thomas the Apostle. Another successful bite sized project.

Moving toward a longer commitment, we are partnering with Cathedral of Hope to become a sustaining member of their food and toiletries pantry. Randy Hering is the point person for this project. You will see a basket set out to collect your contributions to their need. Once Randy has the list of what they need for that month, Mission Outreach will publish their list. We are suggesting the third Sunday of each month to be the day the items in the basket get blessed and delivered to Cathedral of Hope.

Chuck Walters and Joe DeuPree are working with Community Partners of Dallas to have an Angel Tree during their toy drive in November. Hallelujah things are beginning to look like “normal”. Bite size project.

Caroline Hoffman suggested another bite sized project. Holiday Boxes for Moms are shoeboxes designed to bring a little cheer to women experiencing homelessness. The boxes contain donated items such as: socks, mittens, and hats; something sweet, toiletries; purse-sized tissues, gift cards and coloring books. More information about what is needed will be coming in the next month or so.

David Aston reported that the hand bells used during the service are well received. They were a service

the hymns. The bell was used to start the service as the organ was down for the count. Lee and David are looking for more people to be in the bell choir. If you can not read music, Lee can still use you and your time. Step up folks.

**Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 10 at 6:30. You are welcome to come and join us. Bring an idea or your time and interest.**



Mtr. Virginia handing over the school supplies to Darell Smith with Dallas Champions Academy.

Watch for information on mentoring and reading buddies. These groups will meet once a month on a Saturday afternoon. Location(s) are still being finalized. This is a great opportunity to give back to our community and

make a difference in a child's life.



## **An Opportunity to Service Your Church**

As we return to our Sanctuary, and resume a more familiar worship service, an opportunity exists to take a more active role in our services. I am the Interim Acolyte Guild Head. The Acolyte Guild provides the Crucifer, and 2 Torches to each of our in person services, and for special services, when needed. It is an all volunteer group. At this point, each Acolyte will ideally serve no more than 2 Sundays each month. If you have a desire to become an Acolyte, or would like to know more about serving as an Acolyte, please feel free to contact me at [davidaheess@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidaheess@sbcglobal.net).

# A new way to see church!



We are now live-streaming our 10:30 AM service on Facebook Live. You do **NOT** need a Facebook account to watch the service. Simply click on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheDoubter/live/>

You will then have 3 options, log in to your Facebook account, create an account, or click on the livestream that you want to watch. If you do not have a FB account, simply click on the livestream that you want to watch, and it will open.

We will go live approximately 5 minutes prior to the start of the service. We hope that you will worship with us in person. However, we are offering this as we continue to move forward in a post COVID-19 world.



Celebrating 136 years of Prayer, Service and Evangelism

All women members of the church can look into this LIFETIME COMMITMENT to this important service to the Parish and our Rector by going to the website - <http://www.doknational.org> - prayerfully consider joining. They may call and leave word on Nan Alexander's voicemail and I will be happy to be of help to anyone interested. This is not a guild but a commitment.

# St. Thomas the Apostle in Person Service

DATE: Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**NOTE: The ZOOM service remains at 9:00 a.m.**

IN-PERSON LOCATION: The Nave

**During the months that the property was closed down due to COVID-19, the HVAC system throughout the entire property has been outfitted with advanced equipment for our safety. St. Thomas has installed air scrubbers on all of its HVAC units.**

**These air scrubber systems are many times more powerful than normal HVAC filtration systems at eliminating airborne pathogens. HVAC systems can capture dirt and dust from the air through their regular air filter inserts. Meanwhile, the scrubbers using UV light can get rid of much more minute living organisms such as bacteria and viruses, which further improves the air quality.**

Parking is available in both the South and North Lots.

**Unvaccinated people are expected to wear a mask.**

Temperatures will be taken prior to entering the Nave. Individuals with temperatures of 100 degrees or higher will not be allowed to enter.

**In case of the unanticipated need for contact tracing, attendees will need to sign a register in the Narthex before going into the Nave.**

**The entire service will be in a printed bulletin.**

Music accompaniment will be provided by the organ.

**There will be congregational singing.**

During the exchange of the Peace, please be sensitive to those around you during this time. If you sense that someone might not be comfortable with hugging or even touching, respect that person's space.

# Parish Schedule

## Week of July 18th

<b>18 Sunday</b>	<b>The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
9:00 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Zoom
10:30 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
11:30 am	Coffee and Social time/ PH
<b>19 Monday</b>	<b>Office closed</b>
<b>20 Tuesday</b>	
7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting/SR
<b>21 Wednesday</b>	
7:00 pm	CoDA/NR
<b>22 Thursday</b>	
<b>23 Friday</b>	
<b>24 Saturday</b>	
8:00 am	Step Up/SR
	<b>**Serving Altar Guild Members**</b> TBD & T. Chaney
Key Code:	SR - South Room; NR - North Room; CG - Community Garden; PH - Parish Hall; CR - Office Conference Room; K - Kitchen; N - Nave; IG - Interior Garden



Consecrated Hosts are available at the church office for those participating virtually in Sunday services. Please email or call the office ([pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) or 214-352-0410, ext. 104)

## PRAYER LIST

Do you know someone who is in need of our prayers? Please email [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) to add them to our Prayer List. Names will be kept on for the current month unless notified otherwise and those names are in *italics*.

**Healing in the Lives of:** Ben Gloria Ann Patricia Melba  
Ginger Annie Sandy JR Merjen Jack Harold  
Kelly David Rusty Tim George John Rodney Ronny  
Linda Wynne

**God's Grace for:** Children of Belize Gary Don Tammy James

**Guidance:** Gwen

**In Prison:** Allen Orlando Steven Aaron Brandon Hank  
GR Stephanie Frank

**Serving in the Armed Forces:** Alex Aaron Connor Joyce  
Collin Tyler Jesse

**Seeking Employment:** Bryan Maurice Brook Robin Vicki  
Trey Gabby Gabriel Gail Oliver

**Rest of the Soul:** Mildred Joyce George

**In the Diocese: Executive Council:** The Rt. Rev. George R. Sumner, The Rev. Victoria Heard, Mr. Greg Fox, The Rev. Leslie Stewart, Mr. Armando Barrios, Ms. Pat Bostian, Mr. Mike McCrew, Mrs. Rose Ofoegbu, The Rev. Roy Abraham Thomas, The Rev. Catherine Thompson, Mr. Cory Floyd, Ms. Sheryl Holton, Mrs. Jolayne LaCour, Mrs. Lee Spence, The Rev. Mark Anderson, The Rev. Paul Nesta, The Rev. Jennifer Smith, Ms. Hope Anderson, Mr. Tim Boswell, Mrs. Martha Lang, Ms. Kelly Reddell

# Liturgical Assignments & Lectionary

**Sunday, July 18, 2021**

**Counters:** Michael Legacy & Lisa Pearson

**LEMs:** Sub-Dcn: N/A 2nd LEM: N/A Ext: Charles Mullins

**Lectors:** 9:00 am Zoom Service

1st & Psalm: Michael Legacy 2nd: Michael Legacy

POP: Allen Junek

10:30 In-Person Service

1st & Psalm: Fred Ellis 2nd: Kathy Carson

POP: Allen Junek

**Ushers:** Randy Hering, Alyssa Montague, Virginia Holleman

**Acolytes:** Crucifer: J. Knight; Torches: S. Arellano & D. Hess

**Sound:** Fred Ellis

## First Reading

2 Samuel 7: 1-14a

## Psalm

89:20-29

## Second Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

## Gospel

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Click on or paste the following link to see the daily Lectionary selections:  
[www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)



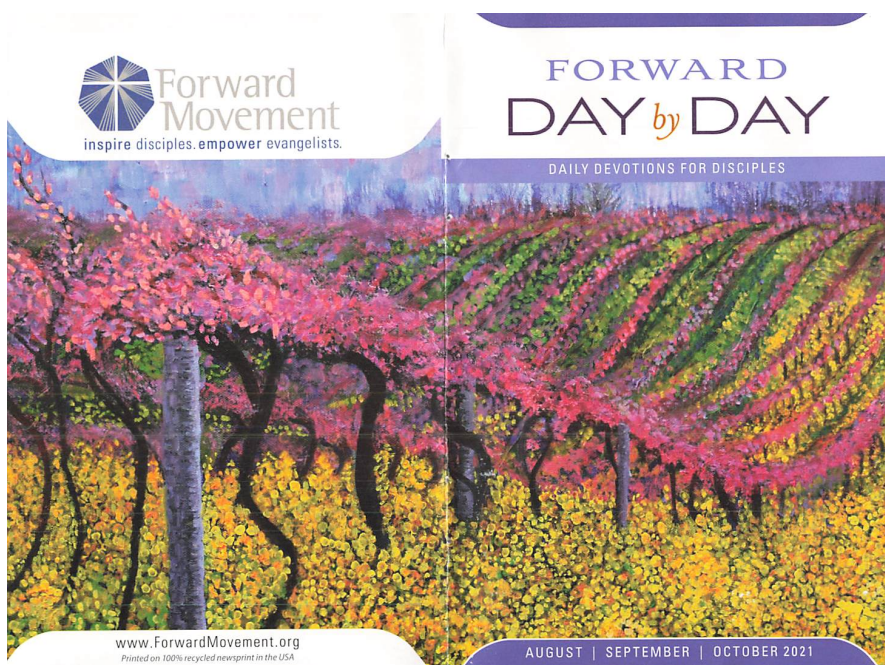
We now have a weekly service in the Nave on Sundays at 10:30 followed by a social gathering in the Parish Hall. We need folks to step up and take on some responsibility for making it happen. If you can help with:

- Coming a little early and help with setting up the service;
- Providing a snack; or
- Staying a little longer and helping put items away

please let Pam know at [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org) Together we can put social in the Social Time.



As we gather again in person for worship, if you would like to sponsor the **Altar Flowers**, **Mary Candle** or **Sacrament Lamp**, please contact [pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org).



***Forward Day by Day***  
for Aug/Sept/Oct  
is now available in the  
Narthex, the church office  
and on the newsstand  
outside the South room.

# Sermon for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**Christopher Thomas**

**Sermon for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 10, Year B – 7/11/21**

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalms 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

The collision of truth and power.

It's the tale that is old as time, and yet it defies time, this cornucopia, a banquet feast of sexual lust, seduction, political ambition, scandal, and murder! It titillates, scintillates, actuates, if we are honest, our most intrinsic human responses. For we are after all, and in the end, gloriously and wonderfully made, in the image and likeness of God, we humans. Not perfect. But human.

For it is in these tragedies that we so often identify resonant traces, footprints, of our own humanity bound up in "larger-than-life" representations of who we have been, who we are, and who we aspire to be. Maybe that is why these stories hold such great allure!

Has the Baptizer John been raised from the dead, resurrected, as it were, to new life, in the form of this Jesus? Or is this all just import, a foretaste, for us of things yet to come? Follow in John's footsteps, and here's what happens. Follow in Jesus' footsteps, and this is the outcome.

Herod knows. Somewhere, deep within the dark recesses of his mind, Herod knows. Within Herod, there resides a conscience.

For Herod, I believe, knows in that moment, that the voice he condemns to death, the voice crying truth in Herod's own wilderness that night and many nights before, would not, could not, ever be silenced by Herod's kind of power. I can imagine it is frightening for him. Why else would he replay that bacchanal scene? What else could take him back to that pivotal moment when he must decide, in that instant, between doing what is right, saving a man's life, and saving his own face in front of all these people?

But if we are honest, there is some part of our own personal identity bound up with Herod's, in this moment of choice. And it is not always as easy and straight forward as it seems, when you are watching the drama of someone else's larger-than-life existence. Truth and power collide in a multitude of ways, in our lives, each and every day, large and small, and we are presented with choices, moral moments, to decide between doing what is right, and saving face.

So often, we acquiesce to saving face because of our intense desire to belong, to be a part of, to be accepted as one of the group.

In her book "The Gifts of Imperfection," author and shame researcher Brene Brown defines belonging as:

"the innate human desire to be part of something larger than us. Because this yearning is so primal, we often try to acquire it by fitting in (acquiescing) and by seeking approval, which are not only hollow substitutes for belonging, but often barriers to it. Because true belonging only happens when we

## Sermon for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance.”

This desire to belong is an incredibly powerful aphrodisiac, motivating us beyond what is right into what gains us acceptance.

And so I find myself ruminating through the ash heap of Herod’s own existential struggle, hoping upon hope to find some remnant of what might have been, how things could have gone differently, to see over which horizon redemption might lie? For there must be, after all, at the very least, the possibility of redemption in every story. (For that is the great hope of gospel!)

As I look to other stories of prodigal redemption, stories that involve repentance and turning, stories rewarded by mercy and grace, they seem always to be fueled by humility, the risk-taking, self-effacing ability to humble one’s self to another. This is scary stuff! It takes courage and the willingness to be vulnerable to meet another human being in humility. It takes strength to say, “I was wrong. I am so sorry,” and mean it. But in humility, that kind of humility, we really are speaking truth to power. It is our truth. We are showing up and being our authentic selves, the ones that we really do want to have accepted, and to belong.

I think one of the reasons that humility is such a frightening choice, so frightening that we continue to power on in our own authority, seeking the world’s approval, is because we don’t always really trust that grace, God’s grace, is big enough, or wide enough, or long enough, or deep enough, to catch us when we take the plunge of making ourselves vulnerable, of speaking our truth, and being who God has called us to be. Imagine if Herod could have experienced the redemption of God’s all-encompassing grace in the face of saying “no” to the execution of John the Baptist. Maybe the other party-goers wouldn’t have liked him. Maybe they would have made fun of him. Maybe he would have lost his throne. But could he have had his own prodigal son story if Herod had found his way, through humility, out of his own proverbial pig sty?

I have had a week of confronting my own humanity, with a heaping helping dose of humility. I would modify the subtitle of Brown’s book, “The Gifts of Imperfection,” from “Let Go of Who You Think You’re Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are,” to “Let Go of the Priest You Think You’re Supposed to Be and Embrace the Priest You Are.” Admitting that you are wrong, humbling yourself, the repentance process is a scary, frightening, loving, liberating, life-giving, grace-filled act.

Humility, true humility, is not about finding the log in someone else’s eye. True humility is being willing and open to see and to witness our own humanness, our own humanity, and how we impact those around us. True humility is being willing to see that we can and do have flaws and imperfections, and that we can learn and grow from just those very things. True humility comes with the risk of God’s redeeming mercy and grace, just around the corner, waiting with outstretched arms.

There is a reason why Jesus models humility for us and commands it of us. We need humility for the process, God’s process of salvation, to work. We need to recognize that we are human, that God is God, and we are not.

And being found in human form,  
he (Jesus) humbled himself

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<sup>1</sup> Brene Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You’re Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are* (Center City, MN: Hazelden, 2010), p. 26.

## Sermon for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

- *Philippians 2:7b-11*

What is waiting on the other side of humility is grace!

Amen.

# July Birthdays



4th Hank Cofield



23rd Kathryn Tucker



24th Annie Jones



30th Keith Carney

**Parish Office hours are 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM**

**Tuesdays through Fridays**

**214-352-0410**

**Emergency contact: Rev 'd Christopher Blake Thomas 214-352-0410 ext 6**

*(Please leave message with name, call back number, and brief explanation of urgency. Fr. Christopher will receive an urgent message to call back as soon as possible.)*

**The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop**

**The Right Rev. G. Wayne Smith, Bishop of Oversight (Missouri Diocese)**

**The Right Rev. George R. Sumner, Bishop of Dallas**

**The Right Rev. Michael Smith, Assistant Bishop of Dallas**

The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas, Rector

[christopher@thedoubter.org](mailto:christopher@thedoubter.org)

The Rev. Stephen J. Waller, Rector Emeritus

[doubttertom@thedoubter.org](mailto:doubttertom@thedoubter.org)

Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle, Theologian-in-Residence

[steve@thedoubter.org](mailto:steve@thedoubter.org)

Mr. Allen M. Junek, Seminarian-in-Residence

[allen@thedoubter.org](mailto:allen@thedoubter.org)

Mr Lee Corbin, Organist-Choirmaster

[music@thedoubter.org](mailto:music@thedoubter.org)

Mr. David Aston, Assistant Organist

Ms. Pam Liles, Parish Administrator

[pam@thedoubter.org](mailto:pam@thedoubter.org)

Ms. Paula McCormack, Controller

[paula@thedoubter.org](mailto:paula@thedoubter.org)

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[www.thedoubter.org](http://www.thedoubter.org)

[www.facebook.com/thedoubter](https://www.facebook.com/thedoubter)

## **The 2021 Vestry**

**Joe DeuPree**

**Senior Warden**

Kathy Carson

Lisa Pearson

Rusty Rippamonti

Chancellor

David Hess

Ruth Woodward

Randy Hering

Randy Hering

Treasurer

**Michael Legacy**

**Junior Warden**

Andrew Besterman

Murray Followill

Paul McCright

Clerk