

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE



September 26, 2021

**The Eighteenth 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*

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The Rev. Christopher Blake Thomas

September 23, 2021

EVERY PERFECT GIFT!
The Stewardship 2022 Campaign

My Dear Doubters of Great Faith,

If you have been on the property, in our sacred space over the past few weeks, you surely have noticed the “swarm” of beautiful butterflies that adorn the pathway into our beloved Nave, pointing the way, a proverbial “yellow-brick-road” leading us on the journey through baptism, toward the altar, and beyond to the foot of the cross of Jesus. It is the creative gift of the time, talent, and treasure of Mr. Stephen Toon and his merry band of decorators (the veritable Kathy Carson, who does as she is told!).

The journey that a single butterfly makes is so singularly synonymous with the many, varied, unique, and yet united journeys that we each find ourselves on. Butterflies, these signs and symbols of spiritual rebirth, change, transformation, hope, and new life, represent the many different possibilities that each of us lives into through our Christian faith. Going into cocoons and emerging radiant, resplendent, and new is something that we all can hope toward by virtue of the great good news of the Gospel.

And if there ever were a time that we needed that hope, that transformation, that rebirth into new life, it seems now would be the time!

But this particular sacred journey that we are on, as The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, all we “Doubters of Great Faith,” necessarily involves ALL of us, each and every one. Over the past 18 months, we have been in this cocoon of COVID-19 isolation, from each other, and the many ways that we knew how to do and to be “Doubters.” We are stretching, learning, leaning into the hope of a new day that is only just beginning to emerge.

What will our transformation look like? Who will we be as the people of God, on this very most important and strategic corner of God’s kin-dom, in 2022?

So much of that depends on you. Each and every Sunday morning, I am fond of saying that “your presence is a gift of the Holy Spirit.” Just by virtue of showing up, you bring a piece of the Holy Spirit into this place. Together we assemble Holy Spirit presence. Together we light the way for each other, and others, to find that very same hope in transformation. Together we make Jesus Christ’s incarnational work possible.

I hope and pray that you will be with us each and every Sunday of the “Every Perfect Gift” campaign. I hope and pray that you will lift up your church community in daily prayers of thanksgiving for the generosity that God has bestowed upon us to have this community. I hope and pray that you will prayerfully consider how you will support your community of faith throughout the coming year from your many gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

St. Thomas the Apostle IS NOT St. Thomas the Apostle without YOU.

Please come doubt with me!
Fr. Christopher+



Mr. Allen M. Junek

Dear Co-conspirators in the Gospel,

If you attended any of our worship offerings last week, then you heard Father Christopher mention an upcoming “Basics of the Faith” or “Episcopal 101” class. Mark your calendars! Our first class will be **Wednesday, September 29th at 6:00pm** and will continue weekly until November 3rd.

Classes will meet **in-person in the South Room** and **there will be a virtual option** as well. All are welcome!

While the Episcopal Church recognizes that all baptized with water in the Name of the Triune God are full members of Christ’s one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, we also recognize the need to make this faith our own. After this period of six weeks, participants may choose to be confirmed, received, or reaffirm their baptismal vows:

- ◆ **Confirmation:** the sacramental rite by which baptized Christians make a mature, public affirmation of faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism (BCP 412).
- ◆ **Reception:** Baptized persons who have been confirmed in another church (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, and others) may wish to be received into the Episcopal Church and the wider Anglican Communion.
- ◆ **Reaffirmation:** Those who have returned from a time of religious inactivity to an active practice of faith may publicly reaffirm the vows made at their baptism.

If you are unsure where you fall, please speak with either Fr. Christopher or myself; and of course, further discernment is always an option! Whether you’re new to the Anglican way of Christianity, or have been here for a while now, this is a great opportunity to either learn the ropes or explore your own faith. We will be exploring the Sacraments, the Church Year, The Book of Common Prayer, and more. If there is particular engagement around one aspect of our common life, we may use this to inform future offerings.

RSVPs are not required, but to help us get an idea of how many to expect, please email pam@thedoubter.org .

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 819)

Shield the joyous,
Allen

9/14 Mission Outreach Meeting

The Mission Outreach Committee met on Tuesday 9/14 with 5 members present. Several items were on the agenda.

Randy Hering will contact Cathedral of Hope about getting a specific list of items they need each month for their I Care program. He will also ask for other opportunities for St. Thomas to volunteer for. We thought perhaps if several of us went at the same time it would be easier for us to reach out to them. We know how to assemble packages for distribution to the homeless so that might be something we could participate in.

Virginia Holleman and Stephen Toon are researching other opportunities with Dallas Academy and K.B. Polk Elementary school. Others are doing research of possible other projects for us to investigate.

This committee is interested in knowing where you volunteer and how often. Amelia Roberts and Caroline Hoffman along with Allen Junek are crafting a survey for each of us to complete identifying our volunteer activities. Once we have an idea of where St. Thomas is volunteering outside of Church then we can offer the parish other places should someone want to branch out. We will publish the survey sometime in late October to early November. We will let you know more about this as the time gets closer.

David Aston reported that the handbell room was in place. He and Lee will start training ringers soon. If you are interested, please let one of them know.

Mission Outreach has a new project with Amelia Roberts as the point person. She will organize the Sunday Treats for Coffee Hour. She will make an announcement to that effect on Sunday at the 10:30 service. Treats can be home made, commissioned or store bought. The goal of Sunday Coffee Hour is to spend time with each other and welcome visitors and new members into our wonderful parish. Again, calling all cooks to help with this project.

Becoming part of Mission Outreach is open to anyone interested in doing some soft evangelizing. Each time we volunteer to help anyone we are displaying our love for Christ. As the old song goes, "they will know we are Christians by our love". We meet the second Tuesday each month starting at 6:30 pm and ending at 8:00 pm. Our next meeting will be October 12th.

We've had a bunch of really good ideas for outreach in the last couple of months to the point we can build a calendar of bite sized opportunities for members of the parish to participate in. Once this gets established, we will let the parish know what is coming up next.

Mission/Outreach Opportunities

Fellow Doubters,

The Outreach Committee is excited to announce a new partnership with Cathedral of Hope in supporting their three programs that help to serve the food insecure and homeless population of Dallas. Our goal in partnering with other organizations is to support existing, robust programs that assist those in need in our community. In partnering with Cathedral of Hope, we hope to provide volunteer opportunities to our members as well as encourage interaction between St. Thomas and likeminded local organizations.

In addition to the three volunteer activities, we Doubters can also support the programs by donating items for the food pantry at CoH. The items to be collected would be canned or nonperishable food items (single serve packaging and protein foods are preferred) and travel sized toiletry items. Both food and toiletry items are distributed to visitors on a regular basis along with hot meals. We will collect the items at the services in the Narthex. We will have a basket or similar container to leave any donations you may have.

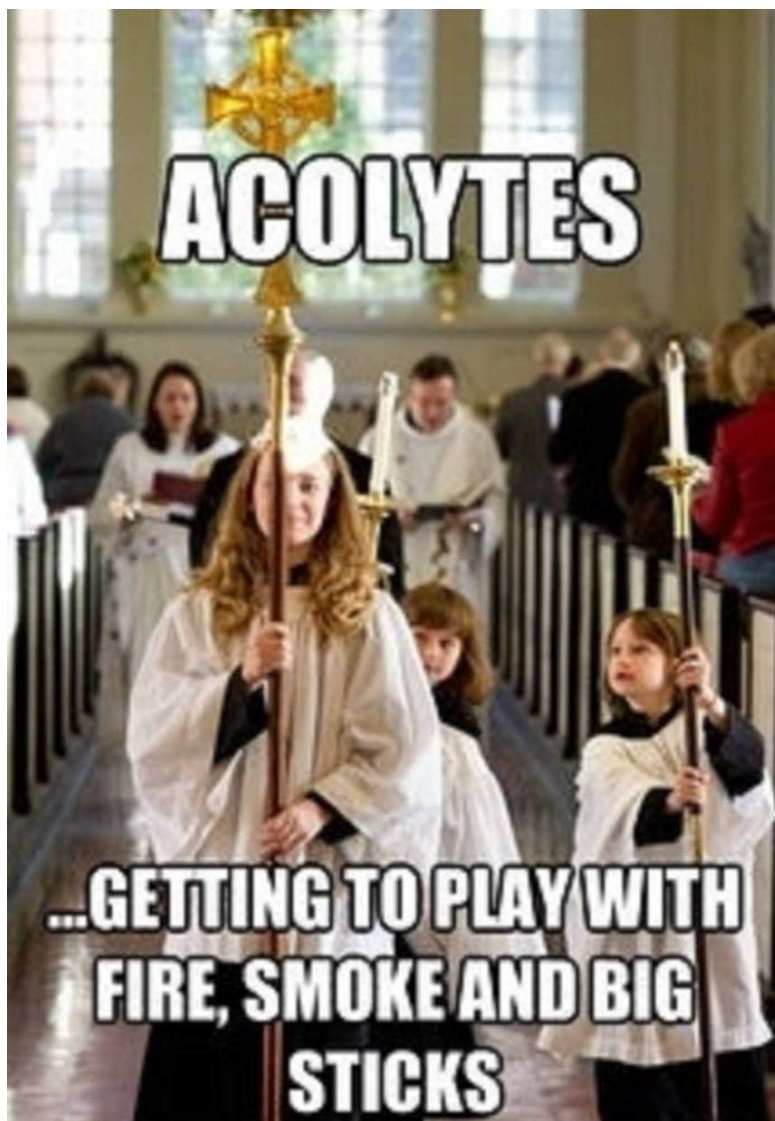
If you are interested in the new volunteer opportunities with Cathedral of Hope, please see the descriptions of the three food programs. To sign up or receive additional information, please contact Anita Haddy at the following link <https://cathedralofhope.com/anita-haddy> or call (214) 351-1901.



Baskets are located in the Narthex for collection of items such as canned and nonperishable food items - single serve packaging and protein foods are preferred - and travel sized toiletry items.

Weekly Service Schedule

Sunday Services	
8:00	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
9:00	Rite Two Eucharist/ZOOM
10:30	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
Wednesday Service	
Noon	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave



An Opportunity to Serve 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.



**Blessing of the
Animals
will be held on
Sunday,
October 3rd at
4:00 pm
beneath the
Oak tree in the
Community
Garden area.**

There is information from Episcopal Relief & Development on the table in the Narthex for those who may be interested in making a contribution to help with their on-going work for disaster relief.



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.



Consecrated Hosts are available at the church office for those participating virtually in Sunday services. Please email or call the office (pam@thedoubter.org or 214-352-0410, ext. 104) before coming to ensure there is someone here.

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.



Dear Doubters of Great Faith,

We need additional people to assist with the Audio Visual equipment and livestreaming of the 10:30 service. This involves being at the church by 10 AM on the Sunday scheduled, getting the system turned on, distribution of microphones, and getting the livestream ready to go. Once we go live, you need to be at the monitor in the back of the church throughout the service

in the event that there would be an issue. If this is something that you think you might be interested in, please contact Fred Ellis for more details. Fred may be reached at 214-704-3923 or fellis@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Masks are required for all in-person services.

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 September 19th

26 Sunday	The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am	Rite One Eucharist/Nave
9:00 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Zoom
10:30 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
11:30 am	Coffee and Social time/ IG
27 Monday	Office Closed
28 Tuesday	
29 Wednesday	St. Michael & All Angels
Noon	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
7:00 pm	CoDA/ZOOM
30 Thursday	
10/1 Friday	
2 Saturday	
8:00 am	Step Up/SR
9:00 am	Work day/CG
	Serving Altar Guild Members B. Day & R. Hering
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

PRAYER LIST

Do you know someone who is in need of our prayers? Please email 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 Merjen Jack Harold
Kelly David Rusty Tim George John Rodney Ronny
Linda Wynne Cody Boes Family JT Carlo Christoria
John S. Stephanie Annette Edward Dane & family Sara Gina
Malcolm Ronnie Darin Gary Don People of Houma Chase

In Thanksgiving For: This Parish

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

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 Aarib

Rest of the Soul: J.R. Carolyn Gayle Sharon

In the Diocese: Church Insurance Company, Church Medical Trust, Church Pension Fund

Liturgical Assignments & Lectionary

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Counters: A. Besterman & K. Carson

LEMs: Sub-Dcn: 2nd LEM: N/A Ext: T. Torres

Lectors: 9:00 am Zoom Service

1st & Psalm: M. Legacy 2nd: M. Legacy

POP: A. Junek

10:30 In-Person Service

1st: M. Followill 2nd: F. Owen

POP: A. Junek

Ushers & Greeters: N. Collier, A. Montague, M. Woods

Acolytes: Crucifer: M. Legacy Torches: C. Reed & D. Hess

Sound: Fred Ellis

First Reading

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Psalm

124

Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Gospel

Mark 9: 38-50

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



4th Stephen Toon



6th Henry Ayres



9th Steven Lee



10th Charles Mullins



12th Pam Liles



16th Paul McCright



22nd Emmett Sanchez-Brown



23rd Kenneth Goodwin



26th Fred Owen



29th Andy McCarthy

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

The Rev. Stephen J. Waller, Rector Emeritus

doubttertom@thedoubter.org

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

steve@thedoubter.org

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

allen@thedoubter.org

Mr Lee Corbin, Organist-Choirmaster

music@thedoubter.org

Mr. David Aston, Assistant Organist

daston1227@aol.com

Ms. Pam Liles, Parish Administrator

pam@thedoubter.org

Ms. Paula McCormack, Comptroller

paula@thedoubter.org

The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

6525 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX 75209 - 214 352-0410

www.thedoubter.org

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