

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Every 
 *Perfect*
Gift

October 17, 2021

**The Twenty-First 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*

THE
DODD
BIBER

Every 
 **Perfect**
Gift

**Ingathering is this
Sunday, the 17th!
Bring your Pledge card
to be blessed!**

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT STEWARDSHIP AND ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

As our annual Stewardship season draws towards its completion, we on the Stewardship Team feel it is important all of us know that over the past several years, St. Thomas has been operating at a financial loss. Our normal operations, including the wonderful outreach we do, cost more than we take in. With just a couple of years where unexpected, generous donations came in at the end of the year that allowed us to finish the year “in the black”, we are normally forced to dip into our reserves to finish out the year. This cannot go on unchecked!

We are indeed fortunate that we don't have to service debt, but effectively we're “mortgaging” our future by not paying our way each year. In 2021, we budgeted Pledge Income of \$266,490. We had to include a transfer of \$63,048 out of our Memorial Fund to “balance” the budget. Such large transfer amounts are unsustainable as we look to the future.

It may be unrealistic to think we can come up with another \$60,000 to \$70,000 during this pledge campaign to avoid having to use reserves in the 2022 year, but we believe we must set a goal of \$30,000 above what we pledged last year (\$296,490) to start closing the gap in funding the normal operating expenses of our beloved parish.

Please continue to hold the “Every Perfect Gift” campaign in your prayers as you consider how you will participate in the stewardship of our Doubter community!

Annual Parish Meeting & Elections

The Rector announces that the Vestry has set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting for election of:

- three (3) Vestrypersons, o
- one (1) Diocesan delegate,
- one (1) Alternate Diocesan delegate, and
- one (1) Endowment Fund Committee member

will be held in person in the sanctuary of St. Thomas the Apostle at 11:45 AM following the 10:30 in-person Sunday service on Sunday October 31, 2021. Pursuant to Canons and Bylaws only confirmed members of at least 18 years of age who have contributed to financial support of the Parish in the last year and who are physically present at this meeting shall be eligible to Vote. (There will be no proxy voting and no online voting for attendees. In order to vote, members must attend the meeting at 11:45 AM in person.)

The following Vestry members will complete their terms effective December 31, 2021: David Hess, Andrew Besterman, and Murray Followill. We thank them for their service. To be eligible to serve on the Vestry, an individual must be at least 18 years of age, a confirmed member, have been a contributor of record to the support of the Parish for at least one (1) year before the date of the election, and have taken communion at least 3 times in the last year. If you wish to nominate a person for the Vestry, please confirm with that person first that they are interested in serving and meet the criteria. Additional information on the nominating process will be forthcoming.



The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

Nomination Form

Return by Sunday, October 24, 2021

Positions available for nomination:

Vestry Member (3) for 3-year terms

Delegate to Diocesan Convention (1) for a 3-year term

Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention (1) for a 1-year term.

Endowment Fund Committee (1) for a 3-year term

Person being nominated: _____

Position nominated for: _____

Person making nomination: _____

Following is to be completed by the person being nominated:

- 1. How long have you been at member of St. Thomas and what brought you to St. Thomas?**

- 2. What other positions have you held at St. Thomas/Diocese?**

- 3. What do you believe you bring to this position, the diocese, and the future of St. Thomas and the diocese?**

- 4. What is the date of your confirmation/reception into the Episcopal Church?**

****If needed, please feel free to continue answers on another page and attach to this form.**

6525 Inwood Road Dallas TX 75209 214 352-0410

Mission Outreach Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

The Mission Outreach Committee met on Tuesday October 12 for our monthly meeting. Several on-going projects were discussed with more information needed before they can be presented to the Parish for Volunteer action.

The Committee decided to focus on three projects for the remainder of 2021. They are continuing to expand our participation at the Cathedral of Hope, partnering with the Community Partners of Dallas in their annual toy/gift drive, and completing and publishing the survey of each parishioner volunteer hours.

Please read Mother Virginia's article regarding our possible expansion of our volunteering at Cathedral of Hope into food distribution. The Doubter will publish what food and toiletries Cathedral of Hope needs that week. The Committee believes that if we know exactly what they are short of, our Parish will help provide those items.

Stephen Toon will have more information about the Holiday Angel Tree sometime this month. We will convey to the Parish what is the plan for our gift giving to Community Partners for the 2,500 children in the Child Protection Service system in Dallas County. No, we are not seeking 2,500 Angels! We will have just a few, but enough for each of us to have one Angel to shop for. Stephen Toon also provides the get-well cards for us to sign each Sunday. These cards go to the shut-in members of St. Thomas.

Last, watch the Doubter for the link to the survey of our volunteer activities. It will include detailed instructions on how to do this so that those of us from the non-digital generation can participate.

The Committee noticed that sometimes during Sunday Happy Hour the coffee is not ready when our service is over. Amelia Robert, coordinator of Sunday Treats, suggested that who ever brings the treats turns on the coffee pots, the hot water pot for tea and single serve machine. Pam sets all this up for us so all we must do is flip a switch. Thank you, Pam, for doing this.

David Aston reported that he and Dan Hall polished the hand bells making them ready for use. Since I know nothing about hand bells, we learned from David that each bell can make 25 different sounds depending on how the bell is rung. He continues to recruit members for the hand bell choir. If this intrigues you, let David or Lee know. They will train, so experience is not required.

With Fall here, start looking for items that the homeless will need. If you see polar fleece blankets on sale, please consider putting one or two in your buggy. If you have or see other items people will need in the winter, please bring to the church for distribution.

If you have an idea or know about a way St. Thomas can continue reaching out, please let one of the Mission Outreach Committee members know. Those in need may come from within our church or from the world outside our doors. St Thomas has an open-door policy that we truly mean when we say, “All are Welcome here”.

Mission Outreach Committee members are Stephan Toon, Virginia Holleman, Randy Herring, David Aston, Amelia Robert, Caroline Hoffman, Father Christopher Thomas, Allen Junek and Kathy Carson. If this project interests you, please join us. We will find something for you to do have no fear as this is a working committee not an advisory one.

Kathy Carson,

Coordinator

Serving “To Go Meals” at the Cathedral of Hope

We have two opportunities to help at the Cathedral of Hope in their feeding programs for the unhoused people they are assisting – Saturday breakfasts and Monday lunches. Both require a Food Handlers Certification. Mtr. Virginia has taken the course on-line; it’s about 2-1/2 hours with a cost of \$7.00. (<https://www.360training.com/learn2serve/food-handler-training>)

Sign-up for volunteering is through SignUp Genius, and we can help with food preparation, serving, or welcoming and distributing the “to go” meals. If you are interested, please go on-line and take the necessary course and then forward your Certificate of Completion to John McFarland at the Cathedral of Hope. John is the lead for the Saturday Morning team. His email is chefmcfarland@gmail.com. And let Randy Hering and/or Mtr. Virginia know of your interest. Then we can plan to volunteer together!

Mtr. Virginia Holleman

Opportunities...

to serve your church:

- ✿ the **Acolyte Guild** is in need of people to participate in the service as Crucifer and Torches. If you are interested or have questions, please contact David Hess at davida Hess@sbcglobal.net .
- ✿ the **Audio/Visual Guild** is in need of people to set-up and monitor the equipment for live-streaming during the 10:30 am Sunday service. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Fred Ellis at fellis@sbcglobal.net .
- ✿ we are seeking nominees for our **Vestry**, a **Diocesan delegate** and an **Endowment Fund Committee member**. If you are interested, please contact a Vestry member or the church office.

to serve our community:

- ✿ through our partnership with Cathedral of Hope, you can donate food to their Food Pantry to help feed the food insecure. A collection basket is located in the Narthex.
- ✿ also through our partnership with Cathedral of Hope, you can donate travel size toiletries for the homeless. A collection basket is located in the Narthex.
- ✿ unwanted clothing is collected for the residents of Austin Street. There is a collection bin in the Parish Hall.
- ✿ There are opportunities to help in Cathedral of Hope's 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.

If you would like for your loved ones to be honored in the November 7th Doubter for All Saints' Day, please email the name(s) to pam@thedoubter.org by Noon on **Tuesday, November 2nd**. If you would like to make a memorial donation, please note on the memo line of your check "All Saints" and mail to St. Thomas, 6525 Inwood Rd., Dallas, TX 75209.



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.



St. Thomas the Apostle in Person Service

DATE: Sundays at 8:00 am & 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.

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 October 17th

17 Sunday	The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am	Rite One Eucharist/Nave
9:00 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Zoom
10:30 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave **Also Live-streamed on Facebook**
11:30 am	Coffee and Social time/ IG
18 Monday	Office Closed St. Luke the Evangelist
19 Tuesday	
6:00 pm	Vestry Meeting/SR
20 Wednesday	
Noon	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
7:00 pm	CoDA/ZOOM
21 Thursday	
22 Friday	
23 Saturday	St. James of Jerusalem
8:00 am	Step Up/SR
	Serving Altar Guild Members T. Chaney & TBD
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 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 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

Holy Death:

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

In the Diocese: The Bishop James Stanton Center for Ministry Formation
Episcopal Schools of the Diocese of Dallas

Liturgical Assignments & Lectionary

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Counters: M. Legacy & R. Woodward

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

Lectors: 9:00 am Zoom Service

R. Woodward

10:30 In-Person Service

1st: F. Owen 2nd: R. Hering

POP: Congregation Volunteer

Ushers & Greeters: A. Besterman, F. Balderas, V. Holleman

Acolytes: Crucifer: M. Legacy Torches: S. Arellano & K. Carson

Sound: Fred Ellis

First Reading

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalm

104:1-9, 25, 37c

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:1-10

Gospel

Mark 10:35-45

Sermon for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Christopher Thomas

Sermon for Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B, Proper 23 – 10/10/21

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm 22:1-15

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Not murdering, check; no adultery, check; no stealing, check; not bearing false witness, meh; not defrauding folks; honoring the parents, pretty good; showing up for church every few weeks or so; I think I’m even on a committee, but I’m not really sure. I got this! I know I have this. I must have this. Look how God has blessed me!

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? I’ve obviously already done it.”

“I want to hear you say it. Please, say the words I want to hear!”

“Why, my son, isn’t it obvious, you have all the markers of success. You drive a great car, you live in a great house. Your 401k is so impressive! You give some to the church, volunteer every now and then. You have done what it takes to inherit eternal life. You will get to keep all of this, and more, forever.”

“...Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come follow me.”

(Silence)

Beads of discomforting perspiration turn to downright sweat, first on his brow, then his spine, as he contemplates the reality of what this might mean, selling everything I own, giving the money to the poor? The treasure stored up in heaven may be incredible, but I have to live here, in this world, at this moment. And in this world, these things, that I have, are the markers of success. These are the markers of security and safety, the things that let me know that I will be all right.

I abide by the law, and God rewards.

I must admit, I understand his dilemma, his reticence, his fear; maybe you do too.

Jesus opens for us the Theology of Stuff.

Sermon for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Our “stuff” tells the intricate and complex story of who we have been, who we are, and who we want to be. If you want me to know you, what do you do? You invite me over for dinner, and you show me your home. In a matter of seconds, I receive all kinds and sorts of visual cues about who you are, where you have been, and where you think you might be going, based solely off of what you have collected in your space, and how you have chosen to collect it.

Our identities are intimately bound up in the things that portray and display who we are.

I learned this myself when I went off to seminary. I packed up every single thing that I owned (which, by the way, at 44 was way too much), moved it into storage, and took only my clothes into furnished housing for three years. For three years, whenever I wanted to tell the story of Christopher Thomas, to anyone, I did not have the luxury of turning to an old photo album, or a piece of furniture, or a cherished memento. The way that I had to express who I had been, who I was, and who I wanted to be, was with words. That is when I learned how “stuff” becomes the identifier of who we are.

What we collect, what we hold on to, what we cherish, what we will pay to store on a shelf in a room we rarely access, what we devote our time, and our talent, and our treasure to, speaks volumes to and about our identity.

And identity is the target Jesus zeros in on in his response to the question, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit the eternal life, the kin-dom of God?”

Eternal life. The kin-dom of God. It’s not what you do, it is who you are. And if in fact, it is who you are, the identifiers of that will be all the many fruits of the spirit – faith, hope, love, charity, mercy, grace. Those will be the things that are the markers of who we, as Christians are. Not what kind of car we drive, or where our house is located, or if we have the largest 401k, or if we got lucky enough to get the first parking space. Can others tell our story, do they know who we are, based on the fruits that are pouring out of our very own spirits?

Do people know you are a Christian by your love?

This Christian thing, this fundamental change in our DNA that occurs when we rise up through the waters of baptism is not just some random club membership, a certificate to hang on a wall, a “one-and-done.” It is a brand new identity that, if it really and truly has caught hold of you, fundamentally changes who you are. This is not the “Prosperity Gospel,” if I do these seven things, God will bless me with a BMW, so I know I did the seven things correctly. They will know I am a Christian because I am fundamentally changed, to the very center of my inner being.

Sermon for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

And all of the things around me that speak to that will identify me as such. Faith, hope, love, charity, mercy, grace.

It cannot help but fundamentally reorient how I prioritize my own perceptions of the generosity of God's abundance, because what I have is from God, of God, entrusted to me, these many gifts of time, talent, and treasure, Every Perfect Gift. God provides these resources as channels of faith, hope, love, charity, mercy, and grace. What am I to do with each of these, God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure, if I want to be identified as Christian, if I want eternal life, if I want to inherit the kin-dom of God?

"...Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and then come follow me."

Amen.



October Birthdays



1 William Leazer



1 Martha Blair



3 Alberto Galue



4 Clara Cantu



12 Randy Hering



19 Bridgette Ball



19 Alyssa Montague



20 Linda VanBuskirk



22 Janet Elsea



22 Stephen Sprinkle



31 Betty Bass

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

doubtertom@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