

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Every 
 *Perfect*
Gift

October 10, 2021

**The Twentieth 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

Stewardship Moments



Janet Elsea

HI, Y'ALL: We're the Elseas, Richard and Janet, and we're new members of the St. Thomas family. We found this place, our new church home, after I stepped down from the vestry of St. Matthew's Cathedral in the fall of 2020. We had only three criteria in our search for a new church, and they were ...

1. It had to be an Episcopal Church
2. It had to feel like home
3. It had to be a progressive worshipping community which celebrates the right of same-sex couples to marry in their own church (or in "church-speak," a church "under alternate episcopal oversight for spiritual matters").

Well, I'm sure you understand. We had three whole churches in Dallas County from which to choose. And to compound our task, we were beginning our search in the middle of a world-wide pandemic. It sounds awfully difficult,

but oddly enough

it was not.

By the Grace of God, we started our search with St. Thomas, Zooming with you each Sunday morning. In the Zoomiverse we were immediately moved by Fr. Christopher's warm welcome each time we logged in, by his kindness and humor, and by his weekly declaration that this is a parish "where all are welcome – and we take ALL VERY SERIOUSLY." We shed tears of joy with Fr. Waller when he got a bit choked up at a particularly moving part of his sermon or during the celebration of the Eucharist. We grew fonder every Sunday of dear Allen Junek and the amazing work he does for this church. And we began to look forward to seeing the love you all so clearly showed for each other during the Brady Bunch social times at the end of each Zoom service. This place is all about love.

So, it was surprisingly easy for us to know right away that St. Thomas the Apostle is our new home, and we joined the family at the beginning of January 2021. Now it's time for us to step forward and become stewards of what we and this parish have to offer to God and his people. And here I feel I'm preaching to the choir. Your work for social justice issues and your giving to children and adults in need show that you know how to do ministry. We're here to say sign us up! We can't wait to get started!

Richard Elsea

I'm a strong believer in the synergism of modest gifts from many to one individual, or to a few individuals or causes, as well as the power of collective giving generally. I always thought \$25 apiece for the custodians at Christmas would be huge if all 25 lawyers in my (former) office participated. That's among the reasons I'm a long-time supporter of the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. Because we don't have any grandchildren to spoil, Janet and I like to spoil our "Angels," if only for Christmas day. The joy is in giving, but it's also really fun to pick out cute onesies and outfits, cool tweener wear, hip shoes, and shop in the toy aisles. Last year we added an adult Angel, and we always find some Angel siblings. I view these opportunities as seasonal or "one off" additions to our core giving. They take time and money, but not too much of either, and for us, they're fun.

It's easy to understand the joy of giving through things like the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. They tug at your heart. They can be impulsive. They provide instant gratification. If times get really tough, they may get skipped that year. It's the same for other programs and agencies, faith-based or not, promoting or supporting our favorite causes, from Planned Parenthood to our respective universities.

Our annual pledge differs from those single causes in that it represents the core of our giving. The core giving is primary and is done with prayer and greater deliberation. Like any recurring or large expense, it's built into our budget. And, unfortunately, there isn't nearly the "fun factor" involved in budgeting a pledge as there is in buying cute onesies. But isn't that life?

Of course, some people are able to give more freely of their talents and energies, and that's equally important to St. Thomas. Here's the thing about volunteering that you learn only after you do it – most of the people you just joined in whatever group or activity; they didn't know what they were doing when they first started either. You won't be exposed as a pretender because you don't possess certain skills or translatable experience. In my view, volunteering is like life ... 90% of it is just showing up.

That's not to diminish the skills and abilities of Vestry members and others. Continuity of leadership is important. Those experienced volunteers in all ministries are the bridge to, and mentors for, new volunteers. My message, though, is don't be intimidated because you haven't done it before. Just show up.

Stewardship Moments



Virginia Holleman

I became a part of St. Thomas the first Sunday after I retired at the end of June in 2011. As a retired priest I could really attend anywhere I wanted – or even not go to church at all! So why did I choose St. Thomas?

St. Michael & All Angels was my sponsoring church in the ordination process, and I recently attended an evening event to kick off their 75th anniversary celebration. One of the participating clergy in talking about St. Michael referred to that church's DNA, and it made me start thinking: what is the DNA of St. Thomas?

I think most of us know what DNA is biologically speaking. But it's also "the fundamental and distinctive characteristics or qualities of someone or something, especially when regarded as unchangeable, [such as] diversity is part of the company's DNA."

So what do I think are the fundamental, distinctive, unchangeable characteristics of St. Thomas? Well obviously we were gifted with really good DNA! We are warm and welcoming – it's why we're all here. But we're also generous with our time – acolyting, ushering, lecturing, serving on the Altar Guild or Kitchen Krew, running our video system so that people can be with us via the internet, sewing pillowcases for CPS, collecting needed food and toiletries for the Cathedral of Hope and school supplies for Dallas Champions Academy, cooking and serving at Ewing House. The list goes on and on, and since we're a small church, most of us are involved in lots of these activities. It's part of being in this community, and besides which it can be a lot of fun! St. Thomas is also generous with our talent – just listen to the gorgeous music from our very small choir, or the butterflies on the windows (I'm not creative enough to even have thought of this).

And obviously you, St. Thomas, have been generous with your treasure and we need you to once again to step up and be so again this year. I need this place and so do you. And together, even though we're small we can be mighty!

So I guess the bottom line is St. Thomas is where I belong, you are my family, my faith community. I feel like I can give something to this church and receive so much more in return. And I can't imagine myself any place else.

Did you know...



that the Plate Income from the 2nd Sunday of every month goes to the Rector's Ministry Fund? This fund allows Fr. Christopher to spread the message of St. Thomas beyond the church campus, reaching into the community to help persons and organizations who are in need.

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, one (1) 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.



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 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.**

Did you know...

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.

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.

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 10th

10 Sunday	The Twentieth 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
4:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals/CG
11 Monday	Office Closed Columbus Day
12 Tuesday	
8:00 am	EDOD Executive Committee/PH
6:00 pm	Mission Outreach/SR
13 Wednesday	
Noon	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
7:00 pm	CoDA/ZOOM
14 Thursday	
15 Friday	
16 Saturday	
8:00 am	Step Up/SR
	Serving Altar Guild Members D. Calhoun & M. Followill
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
AnnieSandy Merjen Jack Harold Kelly David
RustyTim George John Rodney Ronny
LindaWynne Cody Boes Family JT Carlo Christoria
John S. Stephanie Annette Edward Dane & family Gina
Malcolm Ronnie Darin Gary Don People of Houma Chase
Glen

In Thanksgiving For: This Parish

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

Guidance: Gwen

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

Serving in the Armed Forces: Alex Aaron Connor Joyce

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

Holy Death: Sara

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

In the Diocese: Clergy Family Commission
Diocesan Youth Ministers

Liturgical Assignments & Lectionary

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Counters: D. Hess & M. Followill

LEMs: Sub-Dcn: 2nd LEM: N/A Ext: B. Day

Lectors: 9:00 am Zoom Service

M. Legacy

10:30 In-Person Service

1st: J. DeuPree 2nd: K. Carson

POP: Congregation Volunteer

Ushers & Greeters: J. DeuPree, M. Woods, T. Chaney

Acolytes: Crucifer: D. Hess Torches: C. Reed & R. Herring

Sound: Fred Ellis

First Reading

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm

22:1-15

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:12-17

Gospel

Mark 10:17-31

Homily for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stephen Waller

Homily for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B-10/03/2021

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Psalms 26

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

THEN HIS WIFE SAID TO HIM, "DO YOU STILL PERSIST IN YOUR INTEGRITY? CURSE GOD, AND DIE." I BELIEVE SHE SAID THESE WORDS BECAUSE SHE LOVED HER SPOUSE AND DID NOT WANT TO SEE HIM SUFFER.

NONE OF US LIKES WITNESSING THE SUFFERING OF ANYONE, UNLESS WE ARE DEMENTED. SUFFERING IS A PART OF EVERY LIFE PRESENT IN THIS CHURCH THIS MORNING. IF WE HAVE NOT ALREADY SUFFERED, BE CERTAIN THAT YOUR TIME WILL COME. IT IS PART OF LIFE...TOO OFTEN A LARGE PART OF LIFE.

AND NONE OF US LIKES TO TALK ABOUT IT. WE WOULD RATHER FOCUS ONLY ON THE GOOD THINGS GOING IN LIFE AND DISMISS OUR SUFFERING AS SOME SORT OF MISTAKE. SURELY GOD HAS NOT INTENDED FOR ANY OF US TO SUFFER. SURELY GOD HAS NOT CAUSED ANY OF US TO SUFFER?

WHAT WOULD JOB SAY ABOUT THAT LAST STATEMENT, IF HE KNEW THE DEAL GOD MADE WITH SATAN.

DOES GOD CAUSE SUFFERING? DID GOD CAUSE JOB'S SUFFERING BY MAKING THE DEAL WITH SATAN? DOES GOD WORK IN THAT WAY IN OUR LIVES ALSO? THE QUESTION BEFORE US TODAY CONCERNS WHAT PART GOD PLAYS IN OUR SUFFERING..THE SUFFERING WE HAVE DONE AND THE SUFFERING WE MAY BE DOING AND THE SUFFERING WE WILL DO? WHAT PART DOES GOD PLAY IN ANY OF THIS?

Homily for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

SOME OF US HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH DIVORCE. SOME HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH THE BREAK UP OF A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. SOME OF US HAVE SUFFERED WITH DEPRESSION. MOST OF US HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH THE LOSS OF SOMEONE OR SEVERAL PEOPLE (AND ANIMALS) DEAR TO US. SOME OF US SUFFER BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THE GOALS WE THOUGHT WE WOULD. SOME OF US SUFFER BECAUSE WE JUMP OFF FENCES AND BREAK OUR HEALS. OTHERS SUFFER BECAUSE THEY FALL FROM LADDERS AND BREAK THEIR LEG. OTHERS SUFFER BECAUSE THEIR BODY HAS DECIDED TO TURN ON THEM, CAUSING THEM CONSTANT PAINS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER. SOME SUFFER BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE IN A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS YET TO HAPPEN.

SUFFERING IS SOMETHING EVERYONE OF US SHARES WITH OUR BROTHER, JOB. AS I SAID EARLIER, HIS WIFE ASKED HIM TO CURSE GOD AND DIE BECAUSE SHE LOVED HIM AND WANTED HIS SUFFERING TO END.

I AM ON HER SIDE. WHENEVER I SEE SUFFERING, I, TOO, WANT IT TO END. IT IS PAINFUL TO WATCH ANYONE SUFFER...JUST ASK ANY PARENT WITH A CHILD WHO HAS BEEN HURT IN A FALL...THEY WANT TO TAKE THE PAIN...TO KISS IT AND MAKE IT ALL BETTER. PERHAPS WE ALL WANT TO "KISS THE SUFFERING OF OTHERS" AND MAKE IT ALL BETTER.

WHEN A PRIEST GOES INTO A HOSPITAL ROOM, SHE ENTERS INTENDING TO SOAK UP SOME OF THE SUFFERING IN THAT ROOM. WE DO IT IN SEVERAL WAYS....SOME INVOLVING HOLY OIL, SOME SIMPLE TOUCH...SOME BY SIMPLY BEING PRESENT WITH THE ONE SUFFERING. BUT, OUR INTENT IS TO "KISS IT, AND MAKE IT BETTER." WE INTEND TO TAKE AWAY THE HURT.

Homily for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

HOW HARD IT IS TO BE WITH ANYONE WHO IS SUFFERING! IF YOU LOOK AT JOB'S FRIENDS WHO CAME TO BE SUPPORTIVE, WE HAVE EXAMPLE AFTER EXAMPLE OF WHAT ONE SHOULD NOT DO OR SAY... WE ALL NEED TO LEARN TO BE WITH THE WOUNDED WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF WORDS. TO BE PRESENT. SOMEHOW OUR VERY PRESENCE CAN BE A BALM FOR THE WOUNDED IF WE ARE TRULY PRESENT TO THE SUFFERING ONE.

YOU AND I WILL SUFFER AT SOME POINT IF WE HAVE NOT ALREADY. NOTHING ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN SHOULD MAKE US THINK WE WILL BE EXEMPT FROM IT.

LOOK AT WHAT ALL OF US ARE EXPERIENCING NOW THAT CENTERS ON THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY THIS PANDEMIC AND HOW IT HAS CURTAILED OUR LIVES CAUSING MANY OF US (IF NOT ALL OF US) TO SLIDE INTO SOME SORT OF DEPRESSION, CAUSING US TO EXPERIENCE FEELINGS OF ANGER AND FRUSTRATION AND EXHAUSTION...JUST BECAUSE WE ARE LIVING IN AND THROUGH THIS. THIS SUFFERING, MY FRIENDS IS HORRIFIC. AND IT IS COMMON TO ALL OF US.

NO SUFFERING COMES FROM GOD. GOD DOES NOT CREATE US AND THEN CAUSE US THE TYPES OF SUFFERINGS WE EXPERIENCE IN LIFE...FROM THE BEGINNING OF LIFE TO ITS END. AS TEMPTING AS IT MAY BE FROM TIME TO TIME TO WANT "TO CURSE GOD AND DIE," THE PROPER RESPONSE, JOB'S RESPONSE, TO SUFFERING IS TO ENDURE...TO LIVE INTO IT AND THROUGH IT AND, SOMETIMES, WITH IT... ALWAYS KNOWING THAT WE ARE ALL IN GOD'S HANDS AND IN THE HANDS OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS HERE WHO LOVE AND SUPPORT US WHATEVER OUR PARTICULAR SUFFERING MAY BE.
A M E N...

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



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

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

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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