

THE DOUBLE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE



January 2, 2020

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

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*

What is Foyer?



What today we refer to as foyer dinner groups were born in the Diocese of Coventry, England, in the aftermath of the massive destruction at the height of the German bombings of London and Coventry during World War II. The fourteenth-century Cathedral of St. Michael (Coventry Cathedral) was destroyed in the nine-hour blitz of 14 November 1940, but a ministry of reconciliation evolved from that destruction. Rather than dwell on the violent loss of his beloved place of worship, Provost Howard was inspired to found a ministry of reconciliation that he called the *Community of the Cross and Nails*. While sifting through the rubble of the cathedral, he gathered many of the old nails that had fallen among the ruins and was inspired to have them twisted together to form a cross. This cross of nails and the words "Father, Forgive" became the unifying symbol of the International Ministry of Reconciliation, a group of devout followers who believe that understanding between peoples, nations, and ideologies can come only when human beings meet and know each other as individuals. [<http://www.allsoulsdc.org>]

In the mid-1960s, the staff of Coventry Cathedral began meeting in small groups to bridge differences, eventually giving these gatherings their present name. What they discovered were the strong bonds that formed from this communal experience. The concept spread to the cathedral congregation and then to Anglican churches across the country. Eventually it spread to the shores of the USA, including St. Thomas the Apostle.

The foyer groups at St. Thomas are strictly social events—sometimes dinners, sometimes brunches; sometimes picnics (I hosted one in my back yard when the house was under renovation), sometimes in a home, apartment, or condo; sometimes a meal at a local restaurant. They are a fun and easy way for parishioners to gather together on a regular, but informal basis for purely social reasons – to enjoy one another's company, to strengthen bonds of community, to meet new members and just to get to know other people in the parish, because we believe that participation in small groups, welcoming people into your homes, is the single best way to form personal bonds with fellow parishioners. The only constant is the presence of good food and wine (or beer)! We are Episcopalians, after all!

Foyer groups are what the members of each group decide to make them. It is a chance to visit and socialize outside of church with people from across the parish. There are no "rules," and there surely is nothing that says you have to host a sit-down dinner in your home. Each dinner group rotates having a meal at each group member's home. The host usually provides the main course. The other group members each bring an appetizer, a salad, a dessert, or beverages. In some cases, the host of each month does the entire meal, with the guests bringing appetizers and beverages. It is up to the group to decide how they want to manage the food part.

Here's what Foyer groups are not: they are not a Southern Homes tour, they are not an Iron Chef competition, nor are they a page out of Martha Stewart Living. They are casual gatherings where the focus is on fellowship and friendship, conviviality and conversation. We meet each other where we live and accept our surroundings as they are just as God accepts us as we are.

Dinner groups are formed with 5 to 8 people—singles, couples, young people, retirees, people with school-aged children, empty nesters, etc. In other words, it is a cross-section of St Thomas. Newcomers are especially invited to join one of the groups. You can even invite your Rector! The groups are put together randomly, such that each of us might have the opportunity to get to know others in the parish who may be outside our normal circle of acquaintances or Sunday morning coffee conversations. I do my very best not to have the same folks in two consecutive foyers. One of the fun parts I get to do is name the foyer groups—books of the Bible, English cathedrals, the seven deadly sins, the seven virtues and former Bishops of Dallas. The foyer stays together for six months (January to June and/or July through December) and then re-ups for a new group for the next six months.

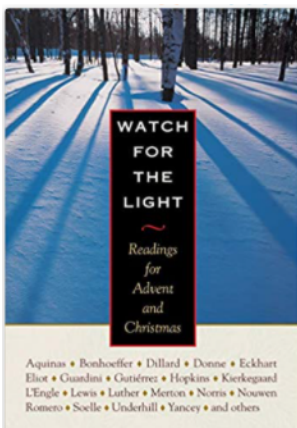
If you have never participated in Foyer before, why not give it a try? If you have sat out a few rounds, consider rejoining. Look for the sign-up sheet inserts that will appear in the Doubter and on the Narthex table during the first three Sundays in December. New groups will be forming soon for January – June 2022. The due date is December 27th. If you are brand spanking new to St. Thomas, I encourage you to get to know us.

Peace,

Michael Legacy

Advent Book Study

Watch for the Light: Preparing to Welcome Christ into the World



Wednesday, January 7th will be the last meeting of our Spiritual Formation class as we read together the book of daily Advent and Christmas focused devotions, *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*

at 6pm in the South Classroom and via Zoom. Each class has and will focus on one of the readings for the past week and will incorporate reflections from the visual arts and music on the mystery of the Season. And will also start with a brief period of fellowship over holiday goodies and conclude with a

brief Advent-themed Compline. Please join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ into our midst and its call for us to be Christ for the world.

TOY DRIVE 2021

benefiting Community Partners of Dallas

We would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who played a role in making dreams come true for the kids of Community Partners of Dallas through our Holiday Toy Drive!



thank you!

YOU filled wishes, collected toys for our undesignated drive (virtually and in person!), sorted and processed wishes and lent a helping hand to caseworkers during wish distribution.

YOU made donations, volunteered and got your companies involved.

YOU were there in every way we needed, and **YOU** made this drive a huge success!

Because of YOU, more than 4,400 children received two or more gifts each and were reminded they are loved this holiday season.

From all of us at Community Partners of Dallas, thank you for your support. Your generosity and involvement will inspire SO MANY happy children in the days ahead!

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a safe new year!



Epiphany Taize Service

January 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall

Masks required

Doubters of all ages are warmly invited to a special service in observance of the feast of the Epiphany. Join us on Thursday, January 6th in the Parish Hall beginning at 6:00p.m. to celebrate the Epiphany through a Taize-style service. If you've never participated in this style of worship before, it originates from the ecumenical Taize monastic community in France, and uses simple chants, sung prayers, and silence —all while we meditate upon the God who came to dwell among us. If singing isn't necessarily your thing, don't let that stop you! Please feel free to come and pray internally while others lift up the prayers in song around you. Masks are required and will be available at the door. Holding true to the spirit of Taize and the Epiphany, all are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Epiphany Study



Paired Saints: Exploring Desire, Embodied Spirituality, and the Renewal of Sacred Imagination

I will lead a study of **Paired Saints** for five Wednesday evenings during the season of Epiphany, January 12, 19, 26, February 2, and 9. Everyone is invited. There is no prerequisite, and no books to read. We will learn about three sets of same-gender saints who have been celebrated by the LGBTQIA+ community for many generations: Ss. Perpetua & Felicity, Sergius & Bacchus, and Polyeuct & Nearchus. Sessions will feature media presentations, icons, and lots of discussion of same-sex desire and

holy love in antiquity and its influence in the present. I will issue a prospectus on the sessions in the near future. Please attend, either in person or online, and bring your imaginations with you!

Stephen V. Sprinkle, Your Theologian-in-Residence

Parish Schedule

Week of January 2nd

2 Sunday		The Second Sunday after Christmas
	8:00 am	Rite One Eucharist/Nave
	10:30 am	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave *Also Live-streamed on Facebook
	11:30 am	Coffee and Social time/ PH
3 Monday		Office closed.
4 Tuesday		
5 Wednesday		
	Noon	Rite Two Eucharist/Nave
	6:00 pm	Advent Book Study
	7:00 pm	CoDA/ZOOM
6 Thursday		The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
	6:00 pm	Taize Service/PH
7 Friday		
8 Saturday		
	8:00 am	Step Up/SR
		Serving Altar Guild Members
Room Codes:		SR - South Room; NR - North Room; CG - Community Garden; PH - Parish Hall; CR - Office Conference Room; K - Kitchen; N - Nave; IG - Interior Garden; M-Music Room

Liturgical Assignments & Lectionary

Sunday, January 2, 2021

Counters: TBD

LEMs: Sub-Dcn: 2nd LEM: N/A Ext: Allen Junek

Lectors: 10:30 In-Person Service
1st: TBD 2nd: TBD
POP:

Ushers/Greeters: Andrew Besterman, Nelson Collier & Ben Day

Acolytes: **Crucifer:** Michael Legacy **Torches:** Chris Reed & David Hess

Sound: TBD

Lectionary

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm

84:1-8

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

PRAYER LIST

Healing in the Lives of: Ben Gloria Ann Patricia Ginger
Annie Sandy Merjen Jack Harold Kelly
David Rusty Chase Maxine Anne Diana Sherry Peter
Alan Steven Phillip Gary Don Kaden Etta

In Thanksgiving For: Annie Jones

God's Grace for: Children of Belize Anne Nelda

Guidance: Gwen Emri

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: Glen Paul

Rest of the Soul: Jeff Harold

In the Diocese: Athens: St. Matthias - Rev. Matthew Frick

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



4th Nelson Collier



9th John VanBuskirk



12th Jan Scogin



24th John Mullen



27th Nan Alexander



29th Kathy Carson



30th Lee Corbin

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

Tuesdays through Fridays

214-352-0410

Emergency contact: Rev 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

doubtertome@thedoubter.org

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

steve@thedoubter.org

Mr. Allen Junek, Seminarian-in-Residence

allen@thedoubter.org

Mr Lee Corbin, Organist-Choirmaster

music@thedoubter.org

Mr. David Aston, Assistant Organist

Ms. Pam Liles, Parish Administrator

pam@thedoubter.org

Ms. Laura Giffin, Controller

laura@thedoubter.org

Ms. Annelies Moeser

annelies@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 2020 Vestry

Joe DeuPree

Senior Warden

Michael Legacy

Junior Warden

Andrew Besterman, David Hess, Kathy Carson, Lisa Pearson,
Ruth Woodward, Murray Followill, Randy Hering

Chancellor
Rusty Rippamonti

Treasurer
Randy Hering

Paul McCright
Clerk