



Triumph Newsletter

APRIL 2024

New Sermon Series: I Love My Church

I remember with happiness and joy the special welcome my wife, Barbara, our girls, and I received when I became your pastor last July. The celebration that first Sunday in worship, which included a delicious luncheon afterward, was something we will always cherish! What's more, we were sent home that day with several cards of welcome and gift cards to nearby restaurants, which told us you were delighted to receive us. It didn't take very long after that first Sunday for many of you to begin sharing with us the stories of this great church, and the sharing continued when Barbara and I met with you in several small group meetings we called "Hopes and Dreams of St. Thomas."

Since coming to St. Thomas, we keep hearing why this church is important to you. We have heard how much you love this church, our Lord, its people, and its mission to our community and beyond. You have even shared with us some of the challenges and sorrows you have been through but most of all we keep hearing how much St. Thomas has made a difference not only in your life but in the lives of so many people.

This is why I thought it would be good for us to share in a 4-week worship series titled "I Love My Church." In this series, we will continue to tell the stories of our love for this church as together we witness the movement of God here in this place. And, it is our prayer that others will come to know us because our church is founded on Jesus, and we seek to be an irresistible church that unapologetically connects us, our next-door neighbors, and the next generation to Jesus and his love. Our church is more than just a weekly gathering; it's a family doing life together. That's why we love our church. So, join us during this worship series to learn more as we explore why we love our church!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Matt

| | | |
|------|-------------------|------------------|
| 4/14 | I Love My Church! | Matthew 16:13-20 |
| 4/21 | Love by Serving | Romans 12:1-8 |
| 4/28 | Love by Sharing | Matthew 5:13-16 |
| 5/05 | Love by Giving | Acts 4:32-35 |

Holy Week at St Thomas

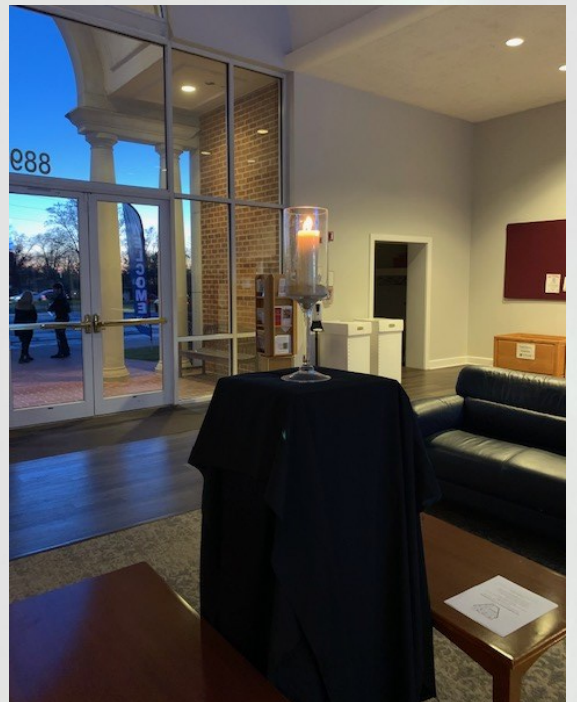


Cantata on Saturday Evening:
The Seven Last Words of Christ

Palm Sunday
Processional



Good
Friday



Easter Morning:
Christ is Risen Indeed!





2024

LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

Friday April 12 & Saturday April 13



Lay Servant Academy at St Paul UMC on April 12-13

Lay Servant training equips and empowers laity to grow as disciples who then make disciples and transform the world. It is a deep dive (8 hours) designed to build a foundation for leadership in the local church.

All laity are invited to participate in Lay Servant Ministries courses. This spring we are offering three courses: **Basic, Dancing with Words, or Soul Reset: Relearning the Rhythms of Grace through a Daily Life with God.** (Participants choose one course).

The Basic Course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

For more details and to register: <https://novaumc.org/lay-servant-training/>

YOUTH SUNDAY

April 7 | 9 & 11 am
Guest Preacher Riley Miller



START Mission in New Bern, NC March 24 - 28



START Mission raised \$3200 at the March Tuesday Night Dinner fundraiser. We had a packed house and the START team wishes to thank everyone who helped cook, cleanup, eat, and financially contribute to this great cause.

All of the raised funds were used to support our work for families in need whose houses we helped repair in New Bern, NC.



Save the Date: Please support the El Salvador Mission fundraiser Tuesday Night Dinner on April 23.



Twenty-seven OWLS had a wonderful outing in March when they dined at Cracker Barrel in Manassas. Whether it was enjoying the rocking chairs on the outside patio, browsing the store, enjoying the delicious meal, or fellowshiping with good friends, everyone agreed that it was a great day.

Our next outing will be on Friday, April 26 when we will gather at Foster's Grille, 10266 Bristow Center Dr, Bristow, VA. As usual, we will meet at 1:00 PM. Foster's offers both indoor and outdoor dining, weather permitting. Foster's is looking forward to us coming and is happy that we have chosen to dine with them this month. Please RSVP, no later than April 23, via Connect Card or by notifying Marian Ludlow or Lynn Furlong. We hope to see everyone there and don't forget to invite a friend.



St Thomas Has Talent!

Do you have any hidden talent you want to display? Do you sing in the shower, or maybe dance when no one is watching? Does your group or class have great actors? Well here is your chance to show off your stuff! Front Porch presents "St Thomas Has Talent"; whether you're young or old, sing, dance, have a fun skit, or even play the spoons, everyone is welcomed! So tell your friends and family! Auditions will be held on Sat April 6th, and Sat April 13th between 1-4pm in Room 300/302.

The Talent show will be on April 27th between 6-9pm. So save the date! Our 2007 Talent Show was a huge hit - check out the fun pictures below. To sign up, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex, or you can reach the church office at 703-368-5161.





United Women in Faith

Our Food Pantry Work Day on March 16, was a success - 10 women spent a couple of hours sorting, cleaning and of course, chatting. Our next get together will be Tuesday, April 16. Come for Tuesday Night Dinner if you can - remember to sign-up: dinner is \$7 and the menu is Beef Stroganoff - then at 6:15 we will head upstairs to Room 300 to help sort and fold clothes for the Clothing Closet.



Future plans include our annual Spring Tea on Sunday, May 19, a hands-on flower arranging workshop at Flower Gallery in June, and a family Ice Cream Social in July. There will also be some opportunities to help with simple projects to support VBS. So watch for more details!

Dorcas Circle

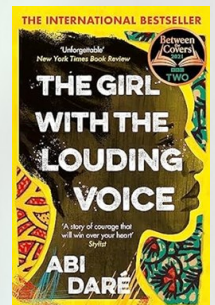
The Dorcas Circle continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm, upstairs at the church in Room 300. Join us for food, fellowship and our continuing study, Women of the Bible. All women are welcome!

Women's Walking Group

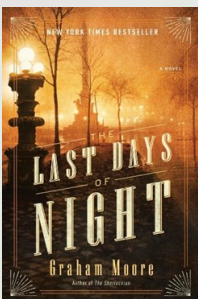
This month the Women's Walking Group meets on Saturday April 6 at 9:00am. Meet us Jennie Dean School - rain or shine. From the light at Prince William St and Wellington, park near the ball fields on the right. After our walk we'll find a place for coffee and more fellowship. Add this to your calendars on the first Saturday of each month and look for announcements of the meeting place in the Triumph Newsletter and weekly bulletins. If you have questions, contact Marian Ludlow, (571) 315-6881, marianldlw5@gmail.com

Book Club

THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE (by Abi Dare) is the story of fourteen year old Aduni, the third wife on a small Nigerian farm. Not to be stopped, Aduni, facing adversity at every turn, has her heart set on an education. Written in Aduni's speech patterns, her determination and humor become clear as she follows her dream to the bustling (and wealthy) town of Lagos despite the obstacles in her path.



Join us for this discussion on April 12 at 10:30 in Room 300. **ALL** are welcome even if you haven't finished the book.



Looking ahead to May 10th, we will read and discuss THE LAST DAYS OF NIGHT by Graham Moore. No science background is necessary to enjoy this tale of Nicola Tesla, Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse as they race each other to be the first to produce a working (and safe!) electric light bulb. Told through the eyes of Westinghouse's young lawyer, this is an endlessly fascinating tale that is part legal thriller, part history lesson and part devious doings by larger than life characters. The price society pays for new technology is germane to our current times.

News from the Kitchen

We are excited about the warmer weather and longer days. If you know of someone who is interested in helping with our dinners please have them contact Janel at ibgirl211@yahoo.com. We could use help from time to time. Please note: our last meal for this year will be June 4.

Save the Date: The El Salvador Mission fundraiser will be held during Tuesday Night Dinner on April 23.

Our April menus are as follows:

Cookie of the Month: Pecan Sandies

April 2

Hawaiian Chicken

Rice Pilaf

Glazed Carrots

Cinnamon Roll

Dessert: Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Kids: Chicken Nuggets

April 30

Chili Dog

Cole Slaw

Sweet Potato Fries

Dessert: Apple Pie

Kids: Grilled Cheese

April 9

Garden Salad

Baked Meat Ziti

Green Beans

Bubble Bread

Dessert: Bread Pudding with Vanilla Sauce

Kids: Same as Adults

April 16

Beef Stroganoff

Buttered Noodles

Roasted Vegetables

Dinner Roll

Dessert: German Chocolate Cake

Kids: Cheeseburger

April 23 - El Salvador Mission Fundraiser

Baked Meatloaf

Baked Potato

Corn on the Cob

Buttermilk Biscuit

Dessert: Boston Cream Pie

Kids: Corn Dog



Guest Chef Dom Izzo prepping for his Street Tacos dinner under the watchful eye of Frank, Janel & Connie

Summer Camps

After Vacation Bible School, the fun continues with six more Summer Camps for kids 6 to 11. Don't miss out on the adventure, fun, and lifelong memories waiting for your child this summer. From being a secret agent, a junior chef, creating their own magical creatures and more, our camps offer a wide range of experiences to ignite your child's (or grandchild's!) imagination and foster new friendships. Visit our website <https://www.stthomasumc.org/summercamp2024> to learn more and to register your camper today!

The Great Adventure Camp | June 17 - 21

Come along with us and explore God's creation through a variety of activities, art, science, nature, water, animals and so much more!

Secret Agent Camp | June 24 - 28

Calling all Secret Agents! Come complete your training and embark on the ultimate mission as you solve clues and learn secret agent techniques to help you crack the case!

Cooking Camp: A Frozen Fiesta | July 8 - 12

During this week your junior chef will learn from our top chef and talented teachers about food safety, how to mix and prepare foods and make their own snacks and meals. This will be a week of team building, fun activities, responsibility and trying new foods. Parents be prepared to enjoy a special dinner at the end of the week.



Last year's Cooking Camp was a huge success!

2024 SUMMER CAMPS REGISTRATION OPEN

Cooking, Music & Arts, Secret Agent & More!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

Magical Creatures Camp | July 15 - 19

Join us for a week of fun filled fantasy and folklore. Learn about mythological creatures, the meaning behind them and even create your own! Dragons, Unicorns, and Fairies, oh my!

Music & Art Camp | July 22 - 26

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to explore their creativity and develop musical talents. The children will dance, sing, and learn a variety of new songs. We offer art experiences that include drawing, painting, collage and puppet making to encourage the development of fine motor, observation, and listening skills as well as self-expression and sequencing skills.

Carnival Camp | Aug 5 - 9

This week we will emphasize manipulation skills with juggling balls, spinning plates, balancing feather sticks and more. Clowning, hands free cupcake eating, with circus themed arts and crafts, face painting and preparing for a fun filled Carnival Day on Friday.



Kristi Swanson

The children's ministry is very pleased with our Easter celebration this year. Easter was a great day. We had 68 individuals join us for our egg hunt events, including kids and some parents too. The Photos with the Easter Bunny event hosted 85 people and was so much fun! We had 15 new families join us, and it was wonderful to talk with each one of them. All the kids enjoyed celebrating together.

Most importantly we had a chance to celebrate the resurrection with our church family and had the opportunity to meet new families.



Sunday School for April will continue with the Heroic series. Kids will learn how they can use their unique gifts and abilities and have the power to work as a team and spread the good news.



Tweens will meet on April 14 from 5-6:30pm. We will have a lesson on kindness and gratitude, paint kindness rocks, and share dinner with the youth. Upcoming 3rd graders through 5th graders are invited to join us at the youth center.

Tweens will also have the opportunity once again to attend Camp Tweens Bible Camp on July 31. Graduating second graders- graduating 5th grader are invited to join us for a day of summer fun while

we learn to read the Bible. Bibles will be presented at the 11:00 service on August 3. Tweens can register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-48533264-camp>

We are getting everything set for VBS June 10-14. It will be an amazing week including a movie night on the last day of VBS and a very special program on VBS Sunday -- a Father's Day luncheon for some of the heroes in our lives — our father figures! Registration is now open.

Kid's registration: <https://st-thomas-umc.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child>

Volunteer registration: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-47364685-vbsvolunteers>



This summer will also boast a number of Sunday Fundays. Kids will get together on summer Sundays during the 11:00 service in children's church. We have set up several fun activities for the kids to celebrate summer with fellowship and fun. Specific dates and themes will be announced soon.

We are looking forward to all the learning ahead. We hope you will join us for our upcoming events and activities.

In Memory of Linda Barger: Youth Center Door Dedication

On Wednesday, March 13, family and friends of Linda and Barry Barger gathered to remember Linda and dedicate the door at the rear entrance of the Youth Center in her memory.

To replace the original solid wooden doors, Barry worked closely with the Building Committee and Trustees to bring as much light as possible into the space. The Cross & Flame above the door was crafted by Carl Juran and Debbie Barnard to remember the original steeple of the church that had to be removed several years ago.



Upcoming Events

8899 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20110

Rev. Matt Sergent, Senior Pastor

stthomasumc.org

703-368-5161

Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org

receptionist@stthomasumc.org

Apr 7

Youth Sunday | 9am and 11am Services

Apr 6

Women's Walking Group | Jennie Dean School 9am

St Thomas Has Talent | Auditions 1-4pm

Apr 9

Dorcas Circle 1pm

Apr 12

Book Club 10:30am

Apr 13

St Thomas Has Talent | Auditions 1-4pm

Apr 14

Tweens Gathering 5:00pm

Apr 16

UWF Event | Clothing Closet Sort & Fold - 6:15pm

Apr 23

Tues Night Dinner | El Salvador Mission Fundraiser

Apr 27

St Thomas Has Talent! 6 - 9pm

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | 1 Dominic Johnson | 2 | 3 Carl Juran | 4 Pat Dodson | 5 Grace Jung | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Kathy Swancott | 9 Merv Lyle | 10 Jessica Page | 11 Brodie Sutton Katie Yost Will Ameen | 12 Barbara Sergent | 13 Don Rickerson Heather Cortez Connie Santee |
| 14 | 15 Steven Burnett | 16 | 17 | 18 Melissa Hall | 19 Rodney Miller | 20 Earl Amstutz Daniel Goldfarb |
| 21 David Norman Jamie Thornton Violet Minnus | 22 Maddie Assor Samirah Jarrett | 23 Renee Klnnear | 24 | 25 James Flynn | 26 | 27 Ryan Page |
| 28 | 29 Pam Ackley Dan Harcup Kathy Evans | 30 | | | | |