

Triumph *Newsletter*

OCTOBER 2022—VOLUME 10



Halloween is one of the most popular holidays in the United States; it is hard to escape its influence on our culture. Rather than avoid Halloween, during this season we remember that Christ is the light in the darkness, and God tells us: do not be afraid.

October 9 | Week 1

Things that Go Bump in the Night

John 1:4-5

As Halloween is the second most celebrated holiday of the year, it is hard to escape its influence on our culture. Rather than avoid Halloween, consider sharing some ghostly stories from our biblical traditions. Since ancient times people have been telling ghost stories. Most scary stories start in the dark of the night. This sermon illuminates the promise of light in the darkness.

October 16 | Week 2

Creepy Happenings

Daniel 5:17-30

For some of us, Fall is filled with fun and excitement, for others we are just not into the creepy things happening all around. Event planners and movie producers skillfully plan situations that frighten us. A hand that eerily writes cryptic messages on the wall will do the trick. Even amid trouble, God is still making a way.

October 23 | Week 3
Night of the Living Army
Ezekiel 37:11 – 14

It's hard to overstate what this moment meant to the people of God. The closest thing we might have is experiencing the attacks of September 11th. Never in their wildest dreams, despite the warnings of God, did they expect this. For those people, all hope was lost. Yet even in the darkness of those years in exile, God was working. While in Babylon, He raised up multiple prophets to speak to and encourage the people not to give up hope. One of those prophets was a man named Ezekiel—and God's good news came to him in the form of a zombie army.

October 30 | Week 4
Ghost Sightings
Mark 6:45-52

Visits to haunted houses and watching scary movies are a popular pastime in the fall. All of this heightens our fears and lets our imagination run wild. Maybe we allow ourselves to be scared by these "make believe" experiences because there are so many scary things that are happening in our own lives we can't control. The disciples faced some fright-filled moments themselves, including a haunted night at sea, but maybe it is more than the ghostly figure that is causing fear.

Have You Ever Considered Serving on a Committee or Ministry Team at STUMC?

We are looking for a diverse group of people who are committed to the mission and ministry of our church to serve beginning in 2023 on several of our Administrative Committees: Finance, Trustees, SPRC, and Nominations and Leadership Development.

We are hoping to expand the following Ministry Teams as well:

- Adult Discipleship Team
- Congregational Care Team
- Children's Council
- Communications Team
- Front Porch Team
- Mission Council
- Youth Council

If any of these ministry areas interest you, **there is a link** to the Leadership Application on the Serve at Church page on our website (stthomasumc.org/serveatchurch)

Deadline for nominations is October 23.

Mission Extravaganza

Materials for Mission Extravaganza were distributed on Sunday September 25th. **Please return your projects no later than October 23rd.** Socks can be placed in the bin marked Socktober in the narthex. Flood bucket items can be put into the boxes in the coat room closest to the social hall. All other projects should be returned to room 309. Thank you for your participation!

Financial Update

**By Rich Banner
Finance Committee Chair**

Your Finance Committee, church staff members, and volunteer leaders are currently preparing the 2023 budget as a guide to use the resources the Lord will provide our church next year. This is an opportune time to provide an update regarding your church's financial position as we move into a busy time for the church. Below is an explanation of funds from 2022.

Capital Improvement Fund

During the year, the church received approximately \$265,000 from the federal government through the Employee Retention Tax Credit. Of this total, \$225,000 was set aside for future capital improvements and to grow funds to help maintain the church's physical presence in the community. The church leadership invested these funds with the Virginia Methodist Foundation. With the remaining funds, we were able to improve the lighting system in the sanctuary.

Rebuild Virginia Grant

The Church received \$100,000 from the Commonwealth of Virginia in conjunction with a pandemic relief program. Thanks to Lori Perez for starting the application process and seeing it through to completion. These funds will be used for operating expenses to follow the program's guidelines.

Food Pantry, Clothing Closet and Local Relief

Our church continues to provide essential services to the community through our food pantry, clothing closet, and local relief. Although Prince William County supplemented the cost of these programs through an ARPA grant, the need for these services continues to be great. It is important for us to contribute our time and financial resources to continue His work in these areas.

Current Giving and Spending Trends

Currently, our spending is in line with the 2022 budget. However, our giving is not. Giving is running at 80% of the anticipated budgeted amount through August. The additional revenue received from sources other than giving makes up the difference, but these other sources will not be available in 2023.

The level of giving this year will inform the Finance Committee as to His resources available to conduct our mission for Him in 2023. We all want the Church to maintain and expand the mission He has for us. The Finance Committee will examine the current budget for opportunities for savings, but the committee asks the congregation to examine their giving for this year. If we have pledged to give at a certain level this year and we are able to, then let us make up any shortfalls in the pledge we made or increase our giving. We also ask everyone to consider prayerfully giving more if you are able so the church can continue to conduct the Lord's work in our community.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. 'Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will say, **'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'**"

Matthew 25:34-40.

News from the Kitchen

Thanks to everyone for signing up and coming to our Tuesday Night Dinners! We enjoy seeing you and hope you are enjoying the food and fellowship. We hope you find the new online sign up easy to use. If you have any difficulty please call the church office at 703-368-5161. Janel sends out the confirmation emails directly. If you do NOT get a confirmation email from Janel within 24 hours about your signup please call the church office.

We are happy to provide Gluten Free meals but we do ask that you sign up by noon on Monday if you need that. We cannot guarantee our ability to provide that special meal if you sign up after noon on Monday as we may not have all the ingredients on hand. Thanks for your understanding.

If you know of someone who is in need of a meal, please call the church office at 703-368-5161 or Janel Weed at 703-507-9075. We would be delighted to fix a meal or two to help out.

Our menus for October are:

October 4

Swedish Meatballs
Buttered Noodles
Roasted Butternut Squash
Anadama Bread
Dessert: Apple Turnover
Kid's Menu Entrée: Cheeseburger

October 11

Roasted Pork Loin
Mashed Potato/Gravy
Whole Kernel Corn
Cinnamon Roll
Dessert: Apple Crisp
Kid's Menu Entrée: Mini Hot Dogs
Cookie of the Month: Chocolate Chip

Cost for meals is \$7 per person, (\$25 family of 4, \$5 per each additional family member above 4) Kids meals are \$4 per person. Kids entrées as adult meals are \$7 per person.

JOIN THE KITCHEN TEAM!



VOLUNTEER ON TUESDAYS AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Sunbeam Children's Center

Sunbeam Children's Center is excited to announce that we have a new logo! We feel that the new logo represents our center as a whole and the logo includes our mascot, Oliver the Bunny (also pictured center right). The new logo means new polo shirts for teachers and students. When we have the new shirts in stock, we will let you know and you will be able to purchase one for your child or children.

Each month SCC makes Mission Cards for Birmingham Green Assisted Living here in Manassas. We are also excited to be working with Rudy Washington, a Vocational Counselor-Therapist. She runs a supported Employment Program for the Prince William County Government for young adults and adults with special needs. These trainees serve at the SCC to gain valuable work experience to help build their resume.

We currently still have availability in our 2, 3 and 4 year old programs. If you are interested, please stop by the school for a tour. We would be happy to show you our amazing school and staff and answer any questions you may have. You are also welcome to check out our website, stthomasumc.org/scc, for more information.



United Women in Faith

Our Annual Holiday Bazaar is back! After two years of virtual Bazaars, this year, join us live and in-person. One post-Pandemic change - the Holiday Bazaar will be held **Friday, October 14, from 4:00 to 8:00pm**. All proceeds from this event support mission projects benefiting women and children both locally and internationally. Shops include Crafts, Jewelry Booth, White House Ornaments, Bake Sale and dinner at the Manna Café.

- The **Bethlehem Craft Shop** is the highlight of the Bazaar, located this year in the Fellowship Hall. The ladies have been working all year on seasonal décor and gifts. Check out the curio cabinet in the Narthex for a sneak peek at some of their wonderful crafts.
- Shop the **Jewelry Booth** would love to help recycle your jewelry donations for the bazaar. Please place items in the workroom labeled Jewelry. At the Bazaar, shop for a whole new Jewelry wardrobe!
- The **Bake Sale** will be selling treats of all kinds: cookies, brownies, bars, cakes, candies, breads and your final chance to purchase Apple Pies. **We gladly accept your donations beginning Friday before the Bazaar.**
- **White House Ornaments** are available to purchase for \$24 each. This year's ornament represents the cherished White House tradition of displaying a gingerbread house each holiday in the State Dining Room. Included with this beautifully gift-boxed keepsake is a gingerbread scented booklet and recipe card featuring a gingerbread recipe from First Lady Pat Nixon's time at the White House.
- The **Manna Café** will be serving Baked Ziti, Salad and Garlic Bread available for dine-in or or carry-out.



Would you like to help? We are always looking for some new people to join in the fun and help serve at this event. We are sure to have a place that fits your abilities and personality! You don't have to lead, just come and work with other like-minded ladies to raise money for missions! For more information, contact Pat Dodson at andyandpatd@yahoo.com

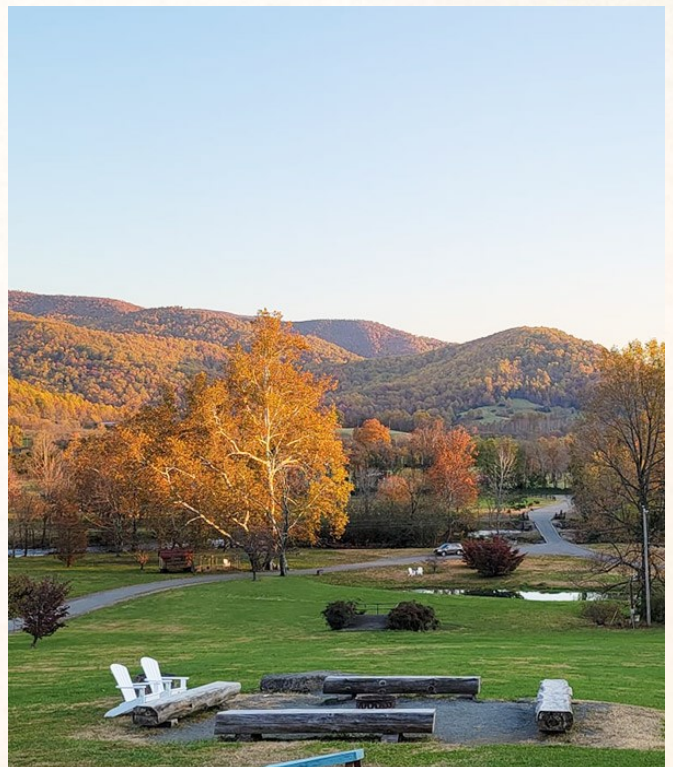
Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle, led by Martha Barlow, meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm, Room 300. Join us for food, fellowship and a new study, *Women of the Bible*. Also, please note that a celebration of life for Jocile Johnson, a long-standing member of the Dorcas Circle will be held on Friday, November 4 at St. Thomas.

Older, Wiser Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

Thirteen OWLS enjoyed lunch on a cool Friday in September at Hog Shack BarBQ. The food was good and the fellowship was great.

Our trip in October will be on Friday, the 28th when we travel to Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria VA. We have visited Graves Mountain Lodge once before and everyone enjoyed the ride almost as much as they enjoyed the food and the fellowship. Graves Mountain Lodge does not serve lunch on weekdays so they are doing this as a special event for the OWLS. Lunch, a fried chicken dinner all inclusive (including tax and gratuity) for \$28.00 will be served family style. We MUST give them a final count by October 21. We will be taking the church van but may need to car pool depending on numbers. We will meet at the church by 10:15am and leave NO LATER than 10:30. Please RSVP to Lynn (703-499-0243) NO LATER THAN October 20. I know you will enjoy this adventure.



Apple Pies Available Now!

We are half way through Apple Pie season and the pies are selling quickly! We sell these 'church-made' pies, frozen and ready to bake, for \$12 each. Check the Events Page on the Church website to order your pies. Stock up for the Holidays - these make wonderful gifts for friends and neighbors. When you sign up, please leave a note in the comments about when you expect to pick up your pies so we can be prepared for you.

Last year we sold out, so don't miss your chance! If you have questions, contact Pat Dodson: 703-850-5912 or on email at andyandpatd@yahoo.com





By Kristi Swanson

Sunday School

King's Kids has had a great start to the year. Our Famous curriculum was a great way to learn how famous Jesus really was and how the only fan we need to have is Him. All of the kids did an awesome job!

Our October curriculum is Choose Your Own Adventure. Here's what it's all about:

Did you know that every day is full of adventures that we get to choose? Some are small, like choosing which book to read. Others are bigger, like deciding how to react when a family member makes us upset. It's not always easy to know what is best but there is hidden treasure you can take into every choice: wisdom. Wisdom is a valuable gift that helps people choose what's best. Together we can choose wisdom, by not choosing sides, choosing our words carefully, choosing to do good, and choosing God!

Children's Church

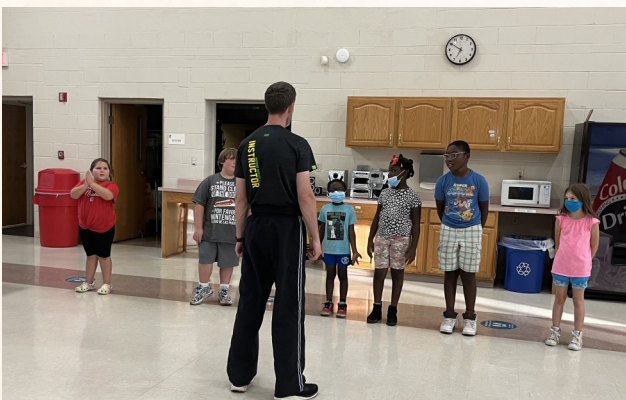
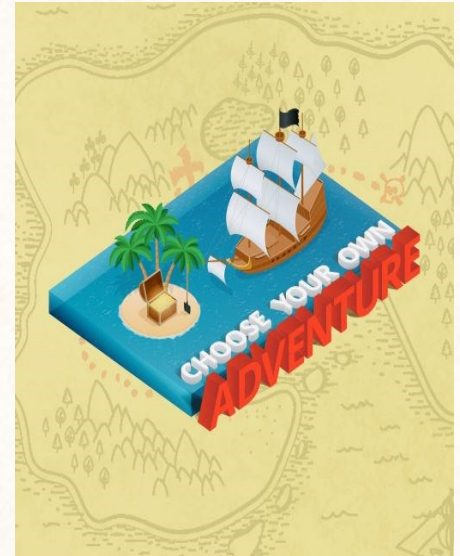
Mr. Dominick and Ms. Angela are now joining is for the first half of Children's Church to practice for children's choir! The kids will perform October 9th at 11 a.m.

After practice, we continue to reinforce the message of the Sunday School curriculum and Biblical principles using various methods of play and learning.

Tweens

The Tweens kicked off their year with a martial arts themed event learning what the Bible says about building our character. Special thanks go to Tim Rook, owner of Premier Martial Arts for doing a class with us and to Mitchell Banner and Karen King for helping the evening of the event. Ms. Karen did a great job leading our sword drills!

In October the Tweens have a super important responsibility— helping the UWF run the bake sale for the Bazaar! We will discuss service and stewardship, enjoy dinner prepared by the UWF, and the Tweens program will purchase a bakery selection for each participant to take home. Come by to see us and choose your treat! We are ready to provide friendly service and correct change!





Trunk or Treat

This is your VIP ticket to make your way through the paparazzi and join us as St. Thomas UMC King's Kids hosts our annual Trunk or Treat event with a Hollywood movie theme. We hope you can join us for an evening of festivities including games, photo booth, food, cake walk, and lots of candy, popcorn and movies! Jesus has rolled out the red carpet and you are invited to worship Him — and to fellowship with our church community.

If you are interested in hosting a trunk or finding another way to help on the day of the event, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-trunk1> This link is also on our website under Events.

We encourage everyone to think of a movie to inspire their trunk, but this is not required. A little spooky is ok (think Casper or Harry Potter) but please no scary decorations.

Candy donations are needed. Last year we ran out of candy! There is no way for us to have too much! We had well over 600 attendees last year and we hope even more will join us on Sunday, October 30th. Please leave candy donations in the bin in the narthex.

Save the date

- Tweens - Oct. 14, 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat - Oct. 30, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Tweens - Nov. 11, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Advent Night - Nov. 27, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

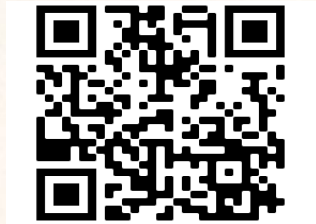


THE PACK

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By Pastor Arum

Our Student Ministry has a successful kick-off of the new school year! Now we got back to our regular schedule: PACK AM (Sunday School) at 10 AM and PACK Night at 6 PM on Sundays. It's not too late to register for this school year. All students, both new and returned, need to register! Simply, take a photo of the following QR code to go to the registration page.



2022-23 The PACK Registration Form

Please complete this form to register your students (10-17th grade) for The PACK (youth ministry) at St. Thomas UMC in the school year of 2022-23.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Arum at pack@stthomasumc.org or 571-438-3953 (mobile).

Image Title

Student Information

Student's First Name *

Short answer text

Student's Last Name *

Short answer text

One more thing I would like you to sign up is for The PACK Night Dinner. On Sundays, we always begin our gathering with sharing dinner together. We need only 15 or so sign-ups needed to cover the whole school year. If you would like to support our youth students, please sign up to bring dinner on Sunday nights! The following QR code leads you to the sign-up page. If you have any trouble, please Pastor Arum know.



PACK Parents

PACK Sunday Dinner
22/23

In our efforts to reach and nourish our youth, we hope that you will please sign up to bring a meal that the youth can share during the PACK meetings. Currently, we would like to plan for feeding 20 youth/adult helpers (this may change as we get a more accurate idea of the number of youth attending each week). If possible, please provide a meal that is free of dairy, egg, seafood, and tree nuts. Thank you!

If you need to cancel your sign up, please let me know by Thursday so we can make other plans. You can contact me at contradancemom@gmail.com.

Here is upcoming schedule. The second Sunday of the month is always a good day when the students bring their friends. Both the student and their new friend will receive a gift certificate that they can buy an ice cream at Nathan's!

- October 2 (1st Sun): Worship Day & Celebration of October Birthdays
- October 9 (2nd Sun): Fun Day with Roller Skating at Skate N Fun Zone (7878 Sudley Rd)
- October 16 (3rd Sun): Small Group Day
- October 23 (4th Sun): It's supposed to be our Mission Day, but we will NOT have the PACK Night and instead gather on October 30.
- October 30 (5th Sun): Mission Day. We are helping with the Trunk or Treat event as the parking attendants and candy refillers and also hosting our own Trunk. Let's gather at 3:30 PM.

*** IMPORTANT: Save the date for the Youth Cohort Fall Retreat on November 4 (Fri) – 6 (Sun). Find more information from the PACK Weekly Emails or ask Pastor Arum!**

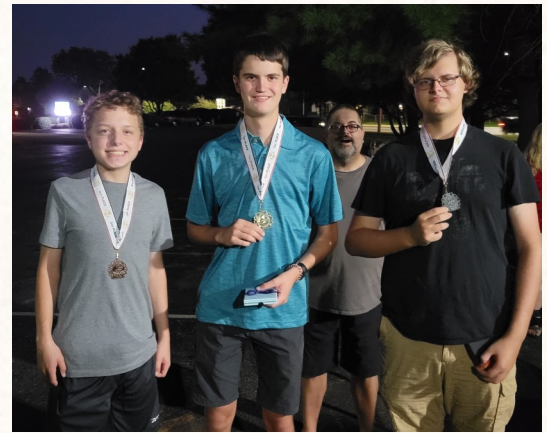
Finally, if you have any questions or would like to know how to support the Student Ministry, please feel free to contact Pastor Arum at arum.kim@stthomasumc.org or 571-438-3953 (cell).

Here are the highlights of THE PACK Nights in the month of September.

On September 11, the PACK had a fun night with bowling instead of having the Kick-Off Night, as Pastor Arum had to stay one more week in South Korea. It's always fun to roll the ball with friends.



On September 18, we finally had our Kick-Off Game Night. Both the students and their family member played 4 of the anyone-can-play games. The winner of the night were Milan (1st), Nick (2nd) and Daniel (3rd) and they received a prize and medal!



On September 25, our Mission Day, we participated in two of the church-wide Mission Extravaganza projects: the Chemo Kit and the Blessing Bag for the Homeless. We stuffed 20 of the Chemo Kits and 38 of the Blessing Bags. We hope that the recipients may feel the love of God we share!



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Bazaar featuring handmade Crafts, White House Ornaments, Bake Sale, Jewelry, Dinner to eat in or 'to go'.

Fri, Oct 14 | 4pm - 8pm



2022 Holiday Bazaar

In Person, but on a new day and time:

Friday, October 14, 4pm to 8 pm

Shop with us on Friday afternoon and evening to help the United Women in Faith support local and international missions

Trunk or Treat Needs You!

Kings Kids and The Front Porch Ministry need your help to make Trunk or Treat a success. Candy donations are always needed - place donations in the marked bin in the Narthex.

Trunks and volunteers are also needed—sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-trunk1>

This link is also on our website under Events.



St. Thomas UMC

8899 Sudley Road,

Manassas, VA 20110

Rev. Abi Foerster, Senior Pastor

Rev. Arum Kim, Associate 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

October Church Events

- Oct 2 Leadership Summit 12:15p.m.
New Bern START Trip Oct 2- 8
- Oct 11 Dorcas Circle 1:00pm
- Oct 14 UWF Bazaar 4:00 to 8:00pm
- Oct 15 Larry Steen Memorial Service 4:00p.m.
- Oct 22 Linda Barger Memorial Service 1:30p.m.
- Oct 30 Trunk or Treat 4:00 to 6:00pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	October Birthdays					1
2 Athenae Granados	3 Kelly Evans Bernadine White	4	5 Larry Burch	6 Sabrina Schoch Valyn Johnston Amy Thornton Barry Barger	7 Christopher Adams Stephen Gardner	8
9 Landon Young	10 Kayla Lyle Jean Callahan	11 Godfrey Ebuchulam	12 Lindsey Mouser	13 Harmon Davis	14	15 Gary Crawford Jim Sexton
16 Josephine Schoch Lora Ometz	17 Katie Palian	18 Regan Lowry Barbara Coleman Sim Stidham	19 Mark Mouser Matthew Santee	20 Carol Cole Bruce Wilson	21	22 Kimberly Fick Ryan Fick Emily Guice Daniel Deem
23 Nicholas Thompson	24 Mike Travis Colleen Sexton	25	26 Pat Brown Sharona Concha	27 Laura Deem	28 Bob McCurry	29 Gene Close
30	31					