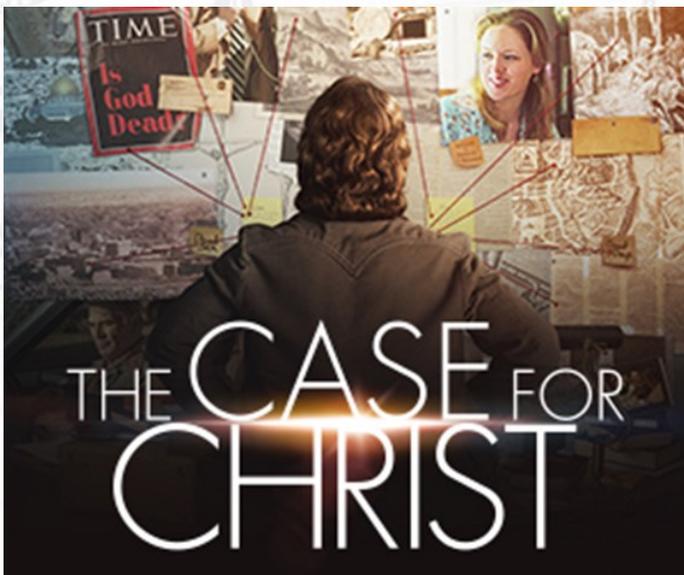


Triumph Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022 – VOLUME 9

You're Invited

You believe...Now come and discover the evidence to back up your faith.



The Case for Christ is a film you won't want to miss. Join us on Friday, September 16 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall to see the full film (movie will start at 7:15 pm). Nursery will be available. For complete details about how to RSVP, please see the back page of this newsletter.

During the month of September, experience this compelling journey where challenging questions about Jesus and Christianity are explored and answered through the film, a four-week sermon series plus a small group study based on the major motion picture, *The Case for Christ*.

Discover the real evidence of Jesus' death and resurrection! Whether you are a skeptic or have been a Christian for years, you will be touched by the true story of an award-winning investigative journalist (Lee Strobel)—and avowed atheist—who applies his well-honed journalistic and legal skills to disprove the newfound Christian faith of his wife.... with unexpected, life-altering results.

The sermon series will begin on Sunday, September 11, followed by the 6-week small group book study a week later on Sunday, September 18 at 9:30 AM facilitated by Paula Renfro and at 10 AM, facilitated by Pat Dodson.

Wherever you are with your faith and questions, you won't be the same after you discover the evidence for yourself! We hope to see you and your family, and of course, friends are welcome too! This is a life-changing journey you won't want to miss.

Discipleship 101

Join us this fall
for our first
Discipleship
101 Class

Learn the 4 habits
of discipleship

**TUES, SEP 6
6 - 7:30 PM**



God wants us to grow up and become mature disciples. But how do we do that? This is the first of several 101 Core Curriculum Classes that St Thomas offers as part of the new Adult Discipleship Plan. Co-led by Pastor Abi and Holly Banner, participants will explore over the 90 minutes the four most important habits that will help you move towards spiritual maturity. Of course, we take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love. Join us **Tuesday, September 6, 6—7:30 pm** and start the Fall off well!

RSVP on the home page of the church's website (www.stthomasumc.org), or call the church office by noon on Tuesday, September 6 at (703) 368-5161.

Other upcoming classes in this series: Bible 101, Prayer 101, Worship 101, and Generosity 101.

New Website

The Communications Team has been working faithfully behind the scenes to launch a new website for the church that will be easier for everyone to navigate and update. We hope that you find it beautiful and informative. Some of the new features include:



- Branded design across all pages with the church's new logo.
- Ability to RSVP to dinners, events, and classes -- and be able to add these events directly to your preferred calendar (i.e. Outlook, Google, etc.)
- Sunday morning essentials are all grouped together in one "hub" for easy access – a direct access link to the livestream, your bulletin, registration, and giving are all now in ONE place right on the home page.
- Fully built out pages for our Sunbeam Children's Center – with new logo, parent resources, payment portal, and staff information.
- Plus so much more!

We encourage you to check out the new website and let Samantha Bouquet (Administrative Director) or Nathan Hall (Communication Committee Chair) know of any updates or oversights we may need to correct.

News from the Kitchen

We will begin our new season of Tuesday Night Dinners on September 6th! We are looking forward to seeing you again!

We will continue to use signups for Tuesday Night Dinners online at the church website: stthomasumc.org or by calling the church office by noon on Monday.

Our new pricing for this year will be as follows:

- Adult Meals: \$7.00 per person
- Kid's Meals: \$4.00 per person
- Kid Adult Meal: \$7.00 per person
- Family Plan: \$25.00 for a family of 4, each additional person \$5.00

We will offer a dining in option from 5:00pm-5:45pm for those who would like to eat their meal at church. We ask that you leave the Fellowship Hall by 6:30pm so our volunteers are able to clean everything prior to leaving.

We will also continue to offer a curbside pickup option from 5:30pm-6:00pm.

Our cookie of the month will be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month; and the price remains \$10 / dozen.

In other news we are starting up our 1st responder meals again. If you would like to donate to them you may do so in the following increments: (to make it easier for us on Tuesdays) \$3.00, \$5.00, \$10.00.

See you on September 6th!!

Our menus for September are:

September 6

BBQ Meatloaf
Baked Potato
Corn Soufflé
Fresh Bread

Dessert: Oreo Strawberry Cheesecake

Kid's: Cheeseburger, Hush Puppies

September 13

Garden Salad
Chicken Pot Pie
Buttermilk Biscuit

Dessert: Hot Fudge Pudding Cake

Kid's: Chicken Strips

Cookie of the Month: Oatmeal Raisin

September 20

Caesar Salad
Baked Meat Lasagna
Roasted Summer Vegetables
Bubble Bread

Dessert: Cannoli

Kid's: Spaghetti with Meatballs

September 27

Chicken and Waffles
(Maple Syrup and Gravy)
Glazed Carrots

Dessert: Carrot Cake

Kid's: Waffles and Bacon

Questions, concerns, or menu requests, please speak with our chef, Frank Priest, or Janel Weed.



Missions Council Expenditures through June

Cathy Campbell Missions Council Chair

The Mission Council has been trying to be good stewards of your mission donations. Below is what we have done for the first part of 2022.

We have **supported our missionaries**, the Gieschens, Rachel and Nolo, the Hammacks, Helping Children Worldwide, Kathy Virunurm, Prosperity House and Kevin Burgess in Alaska. Our missionaries are abroad, in the United States, and locally here in greater Manassas. Their work continues partially because of your generous donations. Our missionaries, Rachel and Nolo gave birth to a daughter in April and we sent them a gift of \$100 for the baby. We have also completed the last of our pledge (\$15,000) to the Sembrandoraices scholarship fund in El Salvador. This money was paid over 3 years and provided scholarships to school children.

Ukraine has been near and dear to our hearts and we have used some of your donations to send \$4,000 **to UMCOR for Ukrainian relief**. If you are still interested in supporting this mission, you can give to Missions and put Ukraine on the envelope or designate it online. We will see that it gets to where it is supposed to go.

Supplies for health kits have been purchased and thanks to the Tweens Group for packing 100 of them and to the Men's Group for packing 100 of them as well. The Tweens packed them for our homeless blessing bags, which you will be hearing more about during Mission Extravaganza in October. We sent the ones that the Men's Group packed to UMCOR via the conference collection in June. We also sent \$200 for the cost of tooth paste (UMCOR's request) and postage to UMCOR. Thanks to both groups for your help.

The **Community Clothing Closet** needed supplies and we donated \$300 to that endeavor. They continue to give out used clothing twice a month in

conjunction with the Food Pantry. Volunteers can contact Renee Kinnear. Volunteers are needed to fold and sort clothing during the week and to work on Saturday mornings when they are open twice a month. They are always in need of gently worn clothing for men, women and children. New underwear and socks are always appreciated.

The Missions Council also transferred \$2,000 of our Easter offering to support our **Local Relief Ministry**. Remember the ARPA grant we received only applied to Prince William County residents who were affected by Covid. Those who do not qualify and live in Manassas or Manassas Park cannot receive money from these funds. Thus we gave money to be used for these neighbors. In the past, the congregation donated to Local Relief directly. You can still do this by writing Local Relief on your checks or online. Everything helps.

Given the circumstances of the school climate in our country, we thought we would thank the faculty and staff of **Loch Lomond Elementary** (our school partner), for taking such good care of our children. We provided lunch for all faculty and staff right before school was out for the summer. Each staff member also received a special prayer thanking them from the people of St. Thomas. They were very thankful that we took the time to recognize them. We also donated money to one of the parents of a student of Loch Lomond that needed surgery, and needed transportation to the hospital in Charlottesville. We hope to do more things as school starts up again in August.

S.T.A.R.T went on a trip to North Carolina in March to work on houses damaged from past storms. Plans for the next trip will be forth coming. We thank the men and women who participate in these trips and are the hands and feet of Christ.

Our **Food Pantry** continues to serve the local community and beyond. They received part of a grant that will continue to keep the Food Pantry running. New freezers were purchased and running water is now available at the Food Pantry. They help between 150 – 200 families a week. They now are open twice a month on Wednesdays for those who can't make it on Saturdays.

Three hundred dollars was provided to **Kevin Burgess of Camp Beyond in Alaska** to sponsor a child to go to Bible Camp. Camp Beyond caters to military children and is a part of Young Life. We also made a \$200 donation that was added to the church donation for our **Annual Conference offering**, which supports mission in a variety of settings.

In the month of June, we collected **toys for our Angel Shop** in December. We thank everyone who participated and want you to know that you can donate at any time. Just leave a toy in the office and put a note on it that says Angel Shop. Thanks again!

This is just what we did for the first half of 2022. None of this would have been possible without your continued support. We thank you and look out for things to come.

Mission Extravaganza

Begins September 6th

No sew blankets and scarves, Chemo kits, Blessing Bags for the homeless, Socktober (socks for the clothing closet), Pillow case dresses and volunteer opportunities. Check the bulletin for the sign ups. We always have a fun time creating all of the different missions.

August Update



In August, Missions sent **48 backpacks to Loch Lomond Elementary School** to help the children prepare for the new school year. Missions received two notes of thanks:

Hi Cathy and Arum,

Thank you for providing backpacks for our students! Some of them were already distributed last Tuesday during our community event.

Arum, thank you so much for bringing volunteers to make our garden so beautiful! I apologize that I wasn't able to respond to your emails in a timely manner as I didn't have access to my school email for a while.

We want you to know that we truly appreciate your partnership with us, and we are able to walk this journey because you are by our side.

Thank you again for all the love and support your church has been providing for Loch Lomond!

Sincerely,

Katie Choi, Professional School Counselor

Loch Lomond Elementary School

Thank you Cathy and Arum!! Many families were so grateful for the backpacks. Our community really appreciates your help.

Sincerely,

Erika G. Yoder, Parent Liaison, Loch Lomond ES

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors - OWLS

On August 19 the OWLS traveled to Potomac Landing Beach to the summer home of Nancy and Bill Buchanan. We were small in number this month, but everyone sat around and chatted while eating lunch, giving us the opportunity to get to know each other better. After lunch, Bill took us all on a tour of the area on their 8-seater golf cart. The weather was excellent. The food was excellent. The fellowship was excellent. And a good time was had by all.

Our get together in September will be on Friday, September 23 when we will meet at Hog Shack Bar-B-Q, 10470 Dumfries Rd, at 1:00PM. Please RSVP to Marian Ludlow (571-315-6881) or Lynn Furlong (703-499-0243) by September 20 so we can have a count to give the restaurant. Hope to see you there!



Taste of St. Thomas for Newcomers!



Taste of St. Thomas
Sunday, September 18
@ 12:15pm

All newcomers and guests are invited to the Taste of St. Thomas on **Sunday, September 18 at 12:15 pm** in Room 300! You can learn a little more about St. Thomas and meet pastors, key lay leaders and other newcomers, all the while enjoying a lunch made by our awesome kitchen ministry team. Please sign up in worship, on the website, or by calling the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Arum at arum.kim@stthomasumc.org

United Women in Faith (UWF)



Potluck Lunch - 11:00 am Saturday, Sept 17

We invite all ladies of the church (and your friends!) to join us for food, fellowship and an exiting program. Rev. Marg Kutz will speak about her ministry and her recent book, *Nevertheless, She Preached, The Story of the Two Earliest Methodist Clergywomen in Virginia*. You can find the book on Amazon if you would like to read it before the meeting. If you need to join us via Zoom, contact Pat Dodson.

Time to order Apple Pies!

It's Apple Pie Season! There will be 60 pies available for sale each week, beginning September 20 through October 14. Pies are \$12 each, cash & checks accepted. (Please make checks out to STUMW - not the church). All the money will be donated to local and international Missions.

As always, we freeze the pies as soon as we make them on Thursday afternoon, so transport is easy and they will keep until the holidays (and beyond!). This year there will be 3 options for pickup: After Worship services on Sundays, at the Church on Monday or Tuesday during office hours (9am to 5pm), or on Tuesday evenings from 5pm to 6pm (Convenient if you ordered Tuesday Night Dinner!)

Check the Events Page on the Church website to order your pies (available for orders now). 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. We ask that you pick up your pies by Tuesday evening at the latest so that we have freezer space available for the next batch!

Last year we sold out, so don't miss the chance to order your pies!

If you are interested in making pie dough, donating supplies or joining our pie making team on Thursday afternoons, please contact Pat Dodson at andyandpatd@yahoo.com Thank you!

White House Ornaments

This year's White House Ornament depicts a two-sided Gingerbread version of the White House. The price this year is \$24, with proceeds going to local and international missions. You can purchase your ornaments now through the church office.



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.

Welcome Back Sunday

All the volunteers who helped with the Welcome Back Sunday, thank you SO MUCH! Even though we were short-handed, the school bus came late, the moon bounces came late, and we had quite a LOT of rain (all possible "bad" scenarios happened), I still want to call it a Success. Despite all of this, we had lots of the guests from our community and all participants enjoyed the event. We gave away close to 200 backpacks, prayed for our students and educators, and ate lots of great food! It was possible with your faithful service and help. Praise to the Lord! *From Pastor Arum*





from Kristi Swanson

The Children's Ministry had a super fun summer with a ton of activities. We kicked off the school year at Welcome Back Sunday with Blessing of the Backpacks, including lots of prizes and rides on a school bus on top of all the other Welcome Back excitement. Almost 20 kids attended with their backpacks for a blessing and lots more stopped by to enjoy our activities. While we were having fun, the



Missions Council/Food Pantry team also joined the festivities and gave out approximately 200 backpacks to kids in need. If you couldn't make it, we missed you! We have a few gifts remaining for any kids who might have missed the blessing.

Sunday School This Month

Our Famous curriculum continues through September. Lots of kids dream about becoming



famous... and why shouldn't they? It sounds awesome to have fans who celebrate your wins with you. On the flip side, it would be pretty tough to have people always watching, even when you're not having the best day. In Famous, we are going to talk about a family in the Bible who lived in such a spotlight. Fame and fans may come and go, but you don't need to be liked by everyone when you're loved by God!

Tuesday & Sunday Children's Choir

Children's Church during the 11:00 service will continue to reinforce the themes and lessons from Sunday School, but we will now split the time with our Children's Choir practice (choir also meets on Tuesdays, from 5—5:30 pm). All kids can participate in both, or one! Just come downstairs after the children's message in the 11:00 am service.

Tweens Ministry

Our Tweens program for 3rd—5th graders will kick off on Friday, Sept. 9 with a martial arts themed event in Fellowship Hall. The son of SCC Assistant Director, Teresa Rook owns Premier Martial Arts and is coming to give us a great lesson in martial arts and character, and how God asks us to live. Dinner is always served and we look forward to continuing to learn and fellowship together. We can't wait to see YOU at our first event!

The Children's Council is also working on plans for Trunk or Treat. The annual event will be held on Sunday, October 30 from 5-7pm. Please mark your calendars! You can help by volunteering to decorate a trunk and hand out candy, donating candy for the event, or volunteering for a host of other roles to help the event run smoothly. Check out the next newsletter for more information on how to sign up.



THE PACK

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

from Pastor Arum

This month, our Student Ministry gets back to our normal schedule: PACK AM (Sunday School) at 10 AM and PACK Night at 6 PM on Sundays. Due to Pastor Arum's family emergency, the PACK Kick-Off event has been rescheduled for September 11. We will officially welcome the rising 6th grade students and their family into the PACK, and also have a Family Game Night. The Winning family will receive a gift! Stay tuned for more information from the PACK emails!

- Sept 11: PACK Night Kick-Off Family Game Night at 6 – 8 PM
- Sept 18 (3rd Sun): Small Group Day ("Get to know each other" Day)
- Sept 25 (4th Sun): Mission Day (Mission Extravaganza projects)

* IMPORTANT: Save the dates for a Nova District Youth Cohort Retreat on November 4 (Fri) – 6 (Sun). More information is forthcoming!



If you have any questions about 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 from the 2nd PACK Mission & Fun weekend on July 28 (Thu) – 30 (Sat)! 11

Students and 2 Adults participated. On Thursday, July 28, we visited the Rising Hope Mission Church, Alexandria. This church is one of the Virginia Annual Conference's mission churches, specialized in offering the need-based assistance and service, such as Food Pantry, Rising Hope Kitchen, Hope Closet, Hypothermia Shelter. We painted the main office area and helped the food distribution from the Food Pantry.



On Friday, July 29, we visited Loch Lomond Elementary School again this year. We pulled all the weeds from the school garden. It was quite a sweating job in a hot humid day. In the afternoon, we thankfully moved inside to pack hundreds of the school supplies!



On Saturday, July 30, we had fun at the Splash Down Water Park. My family joined the PACK, too! It's a nice ending of the two days of our hard work of mission!



MUSIC REHEARSALS RESUME TUES, SEP 6



CHILDREN



YOUTH



HANDBELLS

Our traditional music ministry groups is resuming rehearsals for the 2022-23 program year. All current members or new and interested singers are welcome to attend—no prior experience is necessary. Chancel Choir has already kicked off on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and beginning on Tues, Sep 6, all other rehearsals will follow:

- 5 - 5:25 pm | Children's Choir (PreK-5th)
- 5:30 - 6:20 pm | Joyful Noise Singers (6-12th)
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm | Bells of St Thomas (adults 18 years old and no longer enrolled in HS, must read music)



Join us for a movie night on **Friday, September 16 at 7 pm** (Doors open at 7 PM & movie starts at 7:15 pm) in Fellowship Hall! We will be showing "The Case for Christ (2017, PG)," as our church is having the sermon series based on the same movie in the month of September (see front page of this Newsletter for full details). To ensure we have enough space and food, please reserve your table by signing up on Signup Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4ea8a82ba7ff2-the>

A clickable version of this link is also on our website, on the Announcements Page. A party of four to six in your group may share a table. Concessions, including hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, etc. will be available for purchase. Don't forget to bring your friends and neighbors!

Any questions? Please contact Pastor Arum at arum.kim@stthomasumc.org.



St. Thomas UMC

8899 Sudley Road,
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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

September Church Events

- Sept 6 Tuesday Night Dinner Returns
Discipleship 101 Class - 6:00pm
- Sept 11 Apple Pie Sales Begin
- Sept 12 Dorcas Circle
- Sept 16 Movie Night - *The Case for Christ*
- Sept 17 UWF Potluck Lunch
- Sept 18 Taste of St. Thomas
- Sept 22 Church Council

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September Birthdays				1 Revonda Wack	2 JD Sayle	3
4	5 Mandy Burnett Carolyn Close Teddy Palian	6 David Norman	7	8	9 Hannah McGregor	10 Olivia Santee
11 Abi Foerster Scott Yost	12	13	14 Jon Weed	15	16 TJ Ntungwen	17 Julie Bailey
18 Paula Harper	19	20 Faith Michalek	21	22 Judy Fake	23 Susannah Bailey	24 Wayne Avery Julie Palian
25 Bea Flynn	26 John White	27	28	29	30	