

Triumph *Newsletter*

JANUARY 2024

Christmas Day Dinner

We are so grateful and give thanks to God for all who helped in some way with the Christmas Day Dinner—prayers, words of encouragement, monetary donations, food and non-food donations, turkey pickers, those who helped assemble desserts and meals, those who told others about the dinner, and those who came to enjoy the dinner. None of it would be possible without YOU!

We most especially want to thank Frank and his brother Bill for the delicious food! They did the hard work! Other thanks go to Steve and Connie Santee for their outstanding job of getting the first responder meals organized, and making sure the delivery drivers had everything they needed before they left. Many thanks also go to Dave Enke who made lots of phone calls to line up the deliveries to the first responders.

We also want to thank our anonymous donor who paid for the rental of the refrigerated truck. When Penske found out why we were renting the truck they gave us a special price.

Samantha and several office volunteers came to our aid in taking phone calls, passing along information about the dinner, and printing items for us.

Pastor Matt helped deliver meals after welcoming people to the dinner and saying a prayer. We are thankful for his support.

We enjoyed serving people both inside and curbside. The inside people enjoyed having live entertainment! Thank you, Pavel, Merv, and Meika.

Our goal this year was 2,000 meals and we ended up serving 2,036!

Please mark your calendars for December 25, 2024!



Advent and Christmas at St Thomas



The Praise Band placed First in their category at the Parade!



The St Thom Cats performing during Family Advent Night



So many cookies!!



Pastor Matt at Breakfast with Santa



Dom and the Chancel Choir performed a beautiful Cantata



The Children's Pageant on Christmas Eve morning

START Update

In the December newsletter, Cliff Farrar provided an article on the team's trip to New Bern, NC and their impact on the homeowners who they served. Steve and Kathy were so touched and sent the Christmas card below.

The START Team will begin planning for their Spring Mission with a meeting at the church on January 10 at 7PM. Please consider coming to the meeting if you have any interest in this Mission.



*This Christmas may you know
the blessings of the season
in a very special way.*

Steve & Kathy

Merry Christmas!
Steve & I would like to thank all of you for being there for us and helping with our home. We are very touched in our hearts to know you all & be able to call everyone a friend. Thank you for what you do & something that Steve & I will be able to participate in. The Lord does work in ways that we don't comprehend until you meet people like you guys - Thank you for your help & showing us that there are truly Gods helpers. Thank you all of you. Thank-you for your love.

Local Relief On Hold for January

Our Local Relief program has been an invaluable resource for our community, particularly during the pandemic and the recovery. We have always helped with funds donated by the congregation, but during the recovery from the pandemic we were able to help many more people through government grant money entrusted to us. At this time, the grant money has all been dispersed, but there are still many in need. Unfortunately, our available Local Relief funds are low, and the team has decided to suspend appointments for the month of January. Under our current guidelines (up to 4 appointments per week, with financial assistance of up to \$250), we generally give out around \$3500 to \$4000 a month. We hope to restart appointments in February, if sufficient funds have been donated.

SPRC News

As we start the new year, the Staff Parish Committee is looking forward to continuing to support Pastor Matt and the rest of our staff. We are so thankful for our excellent staff. We especially are grateful for the many services and activities during the Christmas season. The Church services, the music, the children's programs, the food, including the Christmas Day Dinner, were all exceptional and added to the holiday spirit. The feeling of unity and love was certainly apparent during this time.

The staff, including the office volunteers, met for lunch on Friday, December 22nd at The Publick House in downtown Manassas. The lunch included good food, excellent service, and lots of good conversation and laughs. A gift exchange only added to the fun.



SPRC is currently working on hiring a full-time director for the Food Pantry. We will also look at ways to offer further assistance and support to our staff. We hope parishioners will take the opportunity to express their thanks when they see a job well done.

News from the Kitchen

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to resuming our Tuesday Night Dinners. Did you know that last year we served 5,363 meals on Tuesdays? I wonder how many meals we will serve this year?

Thank you for signing up online or calling the church office by noon on Mondays. If the weather is looking like snow please check the church website or call the church office to check on the dinner status.

We have decided to postpone the start of the dinners until January 9th.

Our menus for January are: **Cookie of the month:**
Peanut Butter

January 2

No Tuesday Dinner

January 9

Pizza Party

Garden Salad

Chicken Wings

Dessert: Funnel Cake Fries

Kid's: Same as Adults

January 16

Beef Stew

Biscuits

Deviled Eggs

Dessert: Raspberry Bars

Kid's: Corn Dogs

January 23

Caesar Salad

Baked Lasagna

Roasted Vegetables

Bubble Bread

Dessert: Pistachio Pudding

Kid's: Same as Adults

January 30

Salisbury Steak

Mashed Potatoes/Gravy

Whole Kernel Corn

Dinner Roll

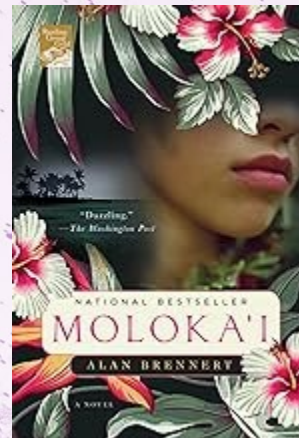
Dessert: Hot Fudge Pudding Cake

Kids: Cheeseburger

St Thomas Book Club

MOLOKA'I by Alan Brennert is the January choice for the St. Thomas Book Club. We meet on the second Friday of each month at 10:30 am on the third floor. We welcome new members. For more information email: beckyann555@gmail.com.

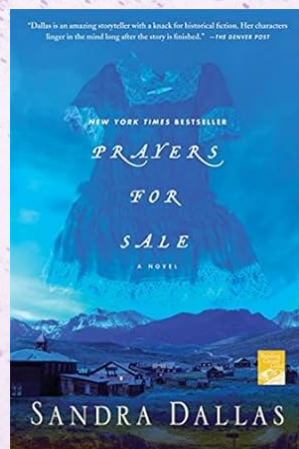
MOLOKAI is the tale of a young child banished to the Leper Colony on Molokai in the early 1900's. The book follows her experiences in the colony until late middle age. **Moloka'i** is the true-to-life chronicle of a people who embraced life in the face of death. Brennert is a master of weaving actual people, such as Father Damian, and events seamlessly into his novels. MOLOKAI is considered a modern classic – and a really good story. Join us on January 12 at 10:30 am.



Our February book is **PRAYERS FOR SALE** by Sandra Dallas.

PRAYERS FOR SALE tells the story of two women, one quite old and one very young, in a rugged Colorado mining town during the depths of the Great Depression. The harsh conditions create an enduring friendship between the two women as they struggle with hardships and secrets. Dallas is an award-winning Western writer, a six-time winner of the Willa Award and four-time winner of the Spur Award.

The Book Club is open to anyone connected to St. Thomas. Books are available at local libraries as well as for sale at new and used book stores.



Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle meets 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!

Life Line Screening Event | Thurs, Jan 25

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at St. Thomas United Methodist Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>



December was an incredible month for the children's ministry! We enjoyed many Advent events and activities and had a beautiful program on Christmas Eve. Now we are looking forward to the new year.

In the last month, we hosted our annual Advent Night after the Hanging of the Greens service and it was so much fun and a meaningful experience making fresh Advent wreaths for our homes, and many other activities. We also pitched in with the first Carols, Cocoa, and Christmas Cookie Competition and also Breakfast with Santa. Both events were a great experience and we met many members of our community. Hopefully we will see some of those faces at church again soon. The Christmas pageant, held on Christmas Eve at 10am, was a lovely presentation in which the children led us to the manger and the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Sunday School in December focused on the Church wide Faithful study series. Thank you to the Hall family for providing gorgeous wooden nativity sets for the kids to paint. Now we are moving on to Measure Up which is part of our GrowKids curriculum. "When I'm older!" "When I'm taller!" Every kid is excited to grow up — even if it's just to finally ride that big kid roller coaster they've had their eye on. This five-week series is about another kid who grew up — Jesus! Through stories from Jesus' early life and ministry, kids will learn five important truths to help them continue growing: God guides us to safety, we can love God with our actions, we can follow Jesus, God makes us ready at the right time, and God's words help us make wise



choices. Kids are welcome to join us in the Children's Worship Center at 10 a.m. without registering. If you would like to attend virtual Sunday school, please register at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-46937063-virtual> Children's Church continues to reinforce the lessons and ideas from our curriculum and children's messages.

We are looking for volunteers to help with Sunday School and Children's Church. Planning and teaching is done by Ms. Kristi. You just need to be the second adult present and pitch in if the kids need help. You may register to help with Sunday School here, and for Children's Church here. Of course, if you are interested in teaching sometimes, that is a possibility too!

Sunday School: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-46936492-sunday>

Children's Church: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-46936618-childrens>

The Tweens helped the Kitchen Ministry prepare for the Christmas Day dinner. It was a lot of fun had by all, and a meaningful way to contribute to the community. The kitchen team does incredible work and we are thankful that we could be part of it. For January, we will have a game night to celebrate the new year. Don't worry! We will still serve. We'll play an online game for part of the time that earns food for people in need. 3rd-5th graders can register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-46936373-tweens>

We are looking forward to January when we will distribute the preschool devotionals. Kids age 3- kindergarten who have not yet received the preschool devotional are eligible for this gift package. There will be a ceremony presenting the children with their devotionals on January 21, during both services. Families can register their children here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-46936857-preschool>

We are looking forward to a great new year in the Children's Ministry.



Painting Nativity sets during the Faithful Advent Study



The Nativity scene at the Carols, Cocoa and Cookie Competition



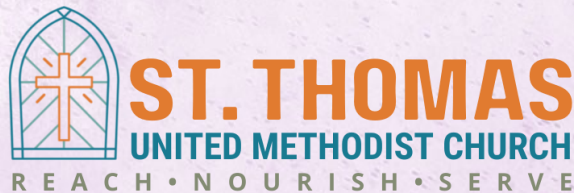
Sunbeam Children's Center

What a beautiful time of year this is and before you know it Winter will be upon us. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!! SCC collected 20 Advent bags for the Food Pantry to help families in our community this holiday season. A big thank you to everyone who supported this mission.



We are still accepting applications for our 3 and 4 year old classes and registration for the 2024-2025 school-year will be available January 2, 2024. If you are interested please check out our website or stop by the school for information. We welcome guest readers or anyone who would like to share their talents with the children. It's a great opportunity for members of the church or staff to meet these amazing children and see our great school in action.

Sunbeam would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



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

Jan 9

Dorcas Circle 1pm

Jan 12

Book Club 10:30am

Jan 14

Tween Gathering 4:30pm

Jan 15

Martin Luther King Day - OFFICE CLOSED

Jan 21

Pre-school Devotionals.Presentation 9am and 11am

Jan 24-25

Life Line Screening Appointments

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
January Birthdays	1	2 Gary Gallahan Ron Weber	3	4 Chloe Izzo	5	6	
	7 Joan Doggett Jamison Weed	8 David Ometz	9	10	11 Wyn Weber Mitchell Sutton	12 Riley Miller	13 Teresa Johnson
	14	15 Sue Booher Holly Banner Susan Must	16	17	18	19	20 Zachary Beckett
	21 Dwayne Young	22 Sarah Jarrett Lydia Schnack Dean Quick	23	24 John Guice	25 McKayla Wright	26 Samuel Jarrett	27 Marian Ludlow Janie Russell
	28	29 Matt Hammack Doreen Enchell	30	31 Kristi Swanson			