

# Triumph Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020



## Thanks Be to God! Our Food Pantry is Expanding!

The St. Thomas Food Pantry is extremely excited to announce that we received a \$35,000 CARES Act Grant from the City of Manassas to purchase a refrigerated box truck from North Carolina in October. Already,

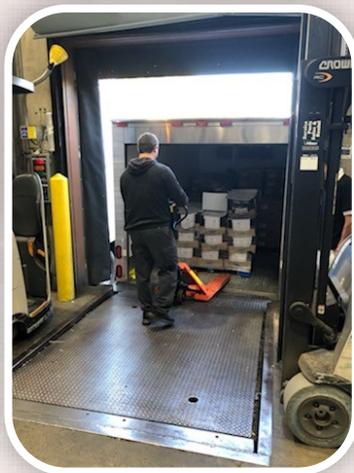
God has provided us with ways to use it. With the help of Frank Priest, we picked up a large donation (7,000 lbs. of turkey and 450 lbs. of sea bass) for our upcoming turkey drive. Without the new truck, we would have missed out on this opportunity.

The Prince William Food Rescue, the group

that supplies us with the combo produce boxes we distribute on Saturdays, has talked to our Director, Jhenny Michalek, about doing pop-up distributions in the areas around us. We would work in conjunction with them to distribute boxes during the week. For example, Manassas Park has asked if they could set up a pop-up distribution in their area. We would have a designated area to park the box truck and we would distribute the boxes from there. Prince William Food Rescue would provide the boxes, we would pick them

up in the box truck and set up for 2 hours (or until boxes are gone) to distribute them.

This opportunity will allow us to distribute one evening during the week. Volunteers that could not help during the day will now have an opportunity to help in the evening. The pop-ups would be mobile, so the location would vary depending on need. It could be a once a month, or even a weekly distribution. There is so much we can do with this opportunity. It would allow us to help more people and let them know that St. Thomas is there to reach, nourish, and serve the community.



# Notes from Leadership Summit 2020



My Father is glorified by this, that you  
**BEAR MUCH FRUIT**  
and become my disciples.  
John 15:8, NRSV

On Sunday, October 4, 2020, key leaders met to begin discerning a comprehensive discipleship plan for our children and youth. The 2020-2022 strategic plan, which outlines Christian Formation as one of five ministry priorities of St. Thomas, guided this work together. This is the third annual Leadership Summit held since 2018 and brings together key staff, lay leadership, and other stakeholders for major initiatives affecting the future of the community as a whole.

The purpose of this year's Leadership Summit was to create clarity and consensus about an intentional plan for Christian formation that includes teaching calendars for the ministry programs as well as a sustainable plan for milestones and special events to maximize the impact of the goals for Christian formation. This year's Summit focused on children's and youth ministries, while a longer process will begin in January to create a plan for adults to meet the needs of various ages and stages of their faith

development. Pastor Abi and the Nominations and Development Committee are currently recruiting for this work; see the article on page 4 if you are interested in joining the team.

The following categories listed below evolved out of the top choices for "Core Competencies" from the Leadership Summit. These competencies are what we want children and youth to feel, know and do by the time they "graduate" from our ministry and launch into the world as adults. Please keep in mind that the core competencies are manifested in a variety of ways - learning, doing, and "catching" (i.e. there are times when something is "caught" rather than taught explicitly). We also recognize that children's ministry places a heavy emphasis on the basics like teaching Bible stories, while youth ministry places a heavy emphasis on experiential learning.

## God's Love

- Welcome & acceptance
- Belonging to a community
- Unconditional love & forgiveness

## Identity in Christ

- Christian beliefs
- Christian traditions
- Personal relationship with Christ
- Spiritual Journey

## Bible Knowledge

- How to navigate the Bible
- Stories
- Big picture of God's story & how I fit in

## Christian Living

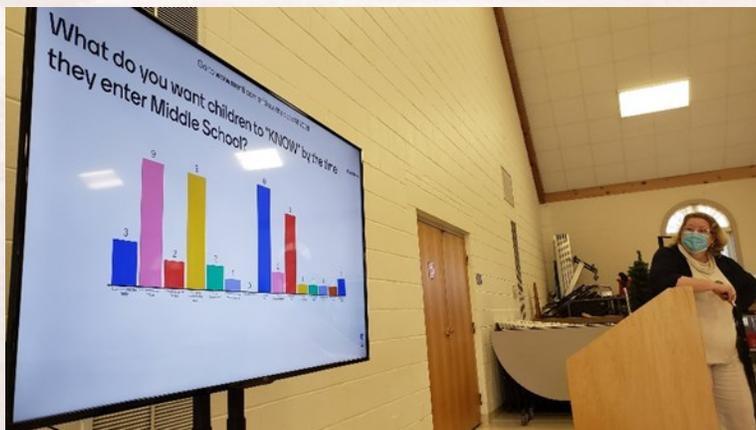
- Call/vocation
- Prayer
- Spiritual disciplines/practices
- Everyday application
- Church
- Community
- World

Next steps include the Children & Youth Council working with Pastor Abi and a coach from Ministry Architects specializing in this area. Together, they will finish developing the scope and sequence for these four core competencies and the themes that fall beneath each one. They will also evaluate the milestones that the Leadership Summit identified as being significant like birth, baptism, confirmation, etc. as well as the key events and traditions that animate these outcomes as well. Lots of ideas were generated by those in attendance at the Leadership Summit and it will require discernment to narrow down these ideas to a final plan. Ultimately, once all of this is identified and agreed upon we will pull all of the various parts together so that we are able to communicate our plan effectively to current and future families with children and youth.

As you can see, the Holy Spirit is hard at work within our community and we are excited to see the fruit that will develop as we work together to raise up the next generation with a strong faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Stay tuned for more details to be shared in the weeks and months ahead.



On Sunday, October 4, 2020 thirty leaders from various ministry areas met together to begin discerning a comprehensive discipleship plan for our children and youth. We followed the CDC-recommended guidelines of wearing our masks, practicing social distancing guidelines, and leveraged new technologies to help us accomplish our goals.



We used mentimeter, an online tool, to tabulate results about outcomes, milestones, and traditions based on the input from an earlier discipleship survey that went out to 100 leaders, parents, and youth before the Summit.

Leaders enjoyed a few minutes outside while eating their lunch to ensure everyone's safety. Many thanks to Janel and the kitchen team that day who provided us with delicious boxed lunches!



# Leadership Development & New Ministry Teams

In the fall each year, the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee (NLDC) meets for about six weeks to identify, recruit, and deploy the leaders who will work together to carry out the vision and mission of St. Thomas in the upcoming year. The NLDC is like the rudder of a ship or boat, which is often unseen but essential in helping to steer the craft successfully.

An effective committee on nominations and leader development identifies, develops, deploys, evaluates, and monitors Christian spiritual leadership so that the congregation carries out the ministries for transformation of the community. The committee guides church leaders on the Church Council on matters regarding laity in leadership of the congregation by considering spiritual giftedness, spiritual maturity, calling, and fruitfulness in ministry. It is our intent to have leaders grounded in the Word of God, growing in their faith, and regularly engaged in worship and other spiritual disciplines.

This year, with several key staff transitions there are a number of developments in our leadership structure to carry out our mission of reaching, nourishing, and serving the community so all may experience healing and new life in Christ.

## Here are the highlights for 2021:

The **Children & Youth Council** will be divide into two new teams – the Children’s Council (supported by Caleb Mathews) and the Youth Council (supported by Rev. Arum Kim). Perry Bailey is the chair of the Youth Council and we are working on identifying a new chair for the Children’s Council.

The **Congregational Care Team** is expanding to meet the needs of our congregation. Jane Priest will be serving as the new Chair and Amanda Hoxworth will be her Vice-Chair. Pastor Abi will try her best to fill Leslie Oakes’ shoes now that Leslie has retired and is relocating her home out of the area.

We are developing a new **Adult Discipleship Team**, which will be made up of current Sunday School and Small Group Leaders as well as other key adults who are in various stages of life and faith development. Initially, this team will work closely with Pastor Abi to develop a comprehensive Christian Formation Plan for adults in the year ahead. Then, a chair will be identified as the team continues its work in the future.

The Mission Council is also birthing a separate **Food Pantry Board** (much like the Board of the Sunbeam Children’s Center) who will work with Director Jhenny Michalek and other key staff and volunteers to create protocols for existing ministry structures and sustainable plans for future growth.

We are expanding and potentially renaming the **Outreach & Evangelism Committee**. Pastor Arum supports this ministry area and the chair is Merv Lyle in 2021. The purpose of this team is to help create a positive first impression both in the community and when a guest walks through our front door. They do this through a variety of key events and by shepherding guest services.

We are expanding the **Communications Team** to include new members with multiple disciplines and expertise. This team includes folks with background in writing, editing, photography, video production, social media, and IT.

If you feel God calling you to be a part of any of these new endeavors, please don’t hesitate to speak with any of our Lay Leaders – Deb Crawford (retiring), Gordy Haines, Pat Brown, and Paula Renfro (new) or either pastor. We would be happy to help you get involved!

# A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS



## NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES & STUDY

Every year, we say we're going to cut back and simplify our family Christmas and instead focus on the real reason for the season – Jesus! This year, more than ever may be when we need to do this the most to keep our sanity in the midst of all that is happening in our world. Don't let beckoning advertisements, pleading children, and every want or whim get the best of you. Overspending,

overeating, and maddening busyness rob us of the peace and joy God wants us to experience and they rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of the celebration. This November, join Pastor Abi and Pastor Arum as they explore how to prepare for a different kind of Christmas this year!

## Small Group Studies

You're also invited to join one of the small groups or Sunday School classes exploring this theme in more detail as they dive into the book by pastor emeritus, Michael Slaughter, "Christmas is Not Your Birthday." Materials are being provided by the church.

- 9:30 AM Sundays with Paula Renfro beginning Nov. 8
- 10:00 AM Sundays with Pat Dodson beginning Nov. 1
- 6:00 PM Sundays with the Bristow Food & Fellowship Group beginning Nov. 1
- 5:30 PM Sundays with the Purpose Driven Friends beginning Nov. 8
- 7:00 PM Fridays with Bill Coppia beginning Nov. 6

## Celebrate Advent

This year we are offering Advent resources in a box for all to pick up from the church. The resources will include a devotional, Advent calendar, Jesus Birthday cake mix, craft, and lots of other fun goodies! These are for anyone in the church and are meant to help your family have a more meaningful Advent season at home. You may indicate your devotional preference, "Christmas is Not Your Birthday" by Mike Slaughter or "A Wonderful Life in Christ" by Michael Hoy. The Advent Boxes will be available for pick up in a drive-thru fashion on Sunday November 29 from 12:30-1:30pm at the church. Then join us at 5pm on the St. Thomas Facebook page for a virtual Family Advent Night experience.

Drive-Thru Pick Up: November 29, 12:30-1:30 pm



Virtual Family Advent Night: 5pm on Facebook

Please sign up for a box by November 15, one per family please, so we know how many to prepare at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4EA8A82BA7FF2-advent>

# United Methodist Women

Thank you for supporting our Virtual FALL Bazaar in October! This month, we are going to hold a Virtual CHRISTMAS Bazaar. It will include all our winter and Christmas crafts except ornaments. To see the items available for the CHRISTMAS Bazaar, go to

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/oZciL6NaaA4LVz6m6>

beginning Nov 1st. Orders will be accepted through Nov 14th. Click on the photos to enlarge and read the information. To place an order, email item number from photo to Chair.STUMW@gmail.com We will respond with a pickup receipt.



Curbside pickup will be from 4:30 – 5:30 pm on Nov 17th by the carport at the Parsonage House. Please have exact change for cash payments or checks made out to STUMW. We will bring your order to your car.

*Coming in December: Virtual ORNAMENTS Bazaar. Orders will be taken Dec 6-12 with pickup on Dec 15th.*

**Peanut Brittle:** is available for order, \$7/pound. Two remaining pickup dates: Nov 17th and Dec 15th.

Curbside pickup at the church parsonage house 4:30-5:30 on those days (same day as Bazaar pickup). To place your order go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4FADAB2CA3F85-purchase1> This link is also available on the church website, Virtual Christmas Bazaar page

**RADA Cutlery Products:** are available for sale through the UMW. Since we can't take orders in person, you can order online by going to: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=4803461.2b654e>

***All proceeds go to local and international missions.***

## Virtual Christmas Party

Our Virtual Tea in October was such a success, we'll do it again for our Annual Christmas Party! **Save the Date: Friday, Dec 4 at 7pm.** Even though it will be a bit different, join us for fellowship, fun, gifts and, of course, food!

As part of the festivities, we're planning a Gift and Cookie Exchange, so to participate bring a wrapped gift and up to 3 dozen cookies or treats to the church on Wednesday, Dec 2. Someone will be here from 9am to 5pm. Gifts should be \$15 to \$20 value and for the Cookie Exchange - bring 1, 2, or 3 dozen depending on how many you want back! Homemade cookies or bars are great, but festive store bought is also great - whatever works for you. We're not trying to add to your stress-level!

We'll give you the Zoom access information and on Thursday evening, Dec 3, a pair of UMW elves will deliver your gift and cookies. Then decorate your space, wear your favorite Christmas sweater and earrings, settle in with your dinner or dessert and join us Friday evening, Dec 4 at 7pm on Zoom.



# News from the Kitchen

Thank you for ordering online or calling the church office and coming to get your meals curbside. We enjoy seeing so many of you on Tuesdays. Since it is getting dark earlier (and colder) we would like to shorten our time for pick up. Please plan to pick up your meals between 5:30pm-6:00pm. If you are running late please call or text Janel at 703-507-9075 so we know you are on your way. (Please leave a message if no one answers.)

## Our November menus are:

### Nov. 3

Hawaiian Chicken

Island Rice

Glazed Carrots

Cinnamon Roll

Dessert: Key Lime Pie

Kid's Entrée: Chicken Nuggets

Cookie: Coconut Macaroon (\$10/Doz)

### Nov. 11 \*Special Pricing for this meal\*

\$12 for Adults. JNS will be helping raise money for the Christmas Day Dinner

Lobster Salad Roll

French Fries

Corn on the Cob

Dessert: Whoopie Pie

Kid's Entrée: Hot Dog, French Fries

Cookie: Moose Tracks (\$10/Doz)

### Nov. 17

Thanksgiving Feast

Kid's Entrée: Same as adult meal

"Cookie": Pumpkin Spice Cupcake (\$10/Doz)

### Nov. 24

**No Tuesday Night Dinner-enjoy your Thanksgiving**

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team

# 20 Years of Christmas Day Dinners!



Did you know the first Christmas Day Dinner was served in 2001? We are excitedly preparing for our 20th Dinner on December 25. We have been blessed by the participation of so many over the past 19 years.

Now, we need your help as we prepare for this year's meal. As you can imagine serving hundreds of people requires **a lot of food along with many people to help**. This year we plan on serving 1500 people. (This includes our meals for first responders, hospitals, and home bound sweethearts.)

The year brings some new challenges for us but we are working to make this dinner memorable in its own unique way. We are paring down the menu and all food will be prepared at church. Meals will be packaged individually for pick up curbside.

We will use sign up genius for our donations and volunteers. Please look for the link beginning November 10th. There is a place for **YOU!** We look forward to your help with this ministry.

Please come on December 25th from 11:00am-2:00pm to pick up your meal curbside. We encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to come and get their free meal on Christmas.

*The Christmas Day Dinner Team*

# Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



We will honor Veterans in our congregation on Sunday, November 8th at all services. Please email photos of Veterans to [hoxworth3@yahoo.com](mailto:hoxworth3@yahoo.com) no later than November 3rd. Please include your name, military serves dates, rank, branch affiliation. These photos will be used to create a slideshow.

## 2020 Trunk or Treat

A BIG thanks to our 70 volunteers who packed 11,900 goody bags and welcomed 620 of our neighbors at this year's drive-thru Trunk or Treat!



We had 17 decorated trunks and loads of great costumes!



# October Mission Extravaganza

Thanks to all who participated in the October Mission Extravaganza. You completed over 280 projects!



The Manassas City Police Department posted on their Facebook page: We would like to thank members of St. Thomas United Methodist Church for dropping off goodie bags for our officers. We greatly appreciate it.

(Thanks to Cathy and Ron Campbell for delivering - They're probably happy to get their living room back!)



## Coming Soon: Untrim-A-Tree and A Senior Christmas

To celebrate the Christmas season with cheer and generosity, we would like to let you know that details on this year's Untrim A Tree and A Senior Christmas will be coming in mid-November. Names and wish lists will be online and gifts will need to be returned to the church in December. Details to come.

### Operation Christmas Child

Julie Bailey will be hosting a Packing Party on Saturday, November 21 from 9am to 5pm. Family units of 10 or fewer can sign-up for a time slot at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d48a9ab2baafc1-occbx>

Bring your masks and come to fill boxes in our Fellowship Hall. If you want to fill your own box, boxes and brochures will be available in the church office beginning Nov. 2, for return by Nov 21. All filled boxes will be taken from the church on Sat, Nov 21. For event questions contact [pnjbailey@verizon.net](mailto:pnjbailey@verizon.net).



# Student Ministry

By Pastor Arum



This school year the Pack is gathering in a hybrid style: in-person and via Zoom. We are enjoying a variety of COVID-safe activities during in-person gatherings to give our students the opportunity to get away from the virtual world.

## The PACK AM on Sunday at 10:10 AM via Zoom

We continue our journey of faith together through “The Thread,” where we discover the thread of the Gospel through the big picture of the Bible.

## The PACK on Tuesday via Zoom or in-person

Time varies depending on the activity for the day. We will hang out, play fun games, and talk about relevant topics that impact our everyday lives.

### November Schedule:

November 3 (Tue): PACK via Zoom at 4 PM

November 10 (Tue): **PACK in person** at the church parking lot at 5:30 PM. We will play a kickball and other games. A winning team will get a prize!

November 17 (Tue): **Friendsgiving** via Zoom at 4 PM. We will invite an adult Sunday school group to our PACK for fellowship and fun.

November 21 (Sat): **Special PACK in person: Scavenger Hunt** at 10 AM at Manassas Battlefield. Stay tuned for more information!

November 24 (Tue): **NO** PACK in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

## Highlights of our PACK recent gatherings



Fall Kick-Off on September 22



M&M Night (Mission Projects & Movie) on October 20

## Call for Volunteers for the Student Ministry!

We would like to build a team of Youth Sunday School teachers. Currently, we are offering a PACK:AM (Sunday School) only via Zoom, so you can lead the meeting from anywhere. You have the option to lead meetings either regularly or whenever you are available. We invite you to this important ministry to support the faith journey of our next generation! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Arum at [arum.kim@StThomasUMC.org](mailto:arum.kim@StThomasUMC.org). Thank you!

# Thankful Tree

Memory Verse:  
"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good."  
PSALM 107:1, NIV

Bottom Line:  
God is good.

**PRESCHOOL:** It's time to make thankful trees! Making thankful trees is so much fun! The colors get prettier and prettier as the trees get bigger and bigger. And, it feels so good to think about and write down what we're thankful for – for an entire month!

This time of year helps us refocus on all the good in our lives. And there is SO much good when it comes to God. Because God is good! That is what we want preschoolers to learn this month. God is good and we have A LOT we can thank Him for. So, get ready to create those thankful trees and tell God, "Thank You" for all the good things He's made and done! We can't wait to celebrate thankfulness all month long!



**ELEMENTARY:** Gratitude sometimes feels like a lost art. Yet gratitude is an idea close to God's heart. Think about all of the Bible stories where people give thanks to each other, celebrate God with feasts and festivals—not to mention the Psalm filled songs of praise. Just take a moment to consider everything God has done for you: the world He made, the promises He's kept, the new life He offers through Jesus. When we remember all of that, we can always be thankful.

**Bottom Line:** Gratitude-Letting others know you see how they've helped you.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1, NIV

# King's Kids

*Our ministry with children seeks to share the faith with the next generation of children from birth through 5th grade.*

*The primary ministry occurs on Sunday mornings. Check it out...*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 10:15 am



### FOR PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY

**KIDS ON ZOOM:** : All kids are invited to join us on Zoom for lessons and activities around each week's Bible Story. Ms. Michelle is taking the lead in our Preschool class and Mr. Caleb is working with our Elementary kids! We'd love to

have you join us. Be sure to sign up for our weekly King's Kids E-News to stay up to date and receive Zoom codes each week by contacting our Children's Ministry Director, Caleb Mathews.

Supply bags are available for all kids filled with supplemental resources to our Sunday lessons for anyone to come pick up from the church anytime Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Just let Caleb know beforehand so we can have it ready for you!

## KIDS CARE 2: 345

Our next gathering is Friday November 13 from 6:30-8pm at St. Thomas! We'll be working on a mission project related to our Food Pantry and the Thanksgiving meals we are giving out this month. Eat dinner before you come and we'll have a snack at the end to take home. Please RSVP by completing the Online Health Form by Tuesday November 10.



In October we had a great time participating in the Mission Extravaganza.



# Upcoming Events

- Nov 1 Virtual Christmas Craft Bazaar (Through Nov. 14, Pick-up Nov. 17)
- Nov 15 Senior Christmas Gift Collection (Through Dec. 13)
- Nov 19 UnTrim A Tree Gift Collection (Through Dec. 7)
- Nov 29 Advent Box Pick-Up, 12:30 - 1:30 PM
- Nov 29 Virtual Family Advent Night, 5:00 PM
- Dec 5 Drive-in Christmas Movie, 6 PM
- Dec 6 Virtual Christmas Ornament Bazaar (Through Dec. 12, Pick-up Dec. 15)
- Dec 19 Living Nativity, 5:30 PM
- Dec 20 Special Christmas Music Celebration / 9 AM Traditional & 11 AM Contemporary
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services / 7 PM Contemporary & 9 PM Traditional
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Dinner, 11 AM - 2 PM
- Dec 27 Family "12 Days of Christmas Carols" Sing-a-Long Service, 10 AM



**St. Thomas**  
United Methodist Church

*8899 Sudley Road, Manassas,  
Rev. Abi Foerster, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Arum Kim, Associate Pastor*

[stthomasumc.org](http://stthomasumc.org)

703-368-5161

## **Newsletter Deadline:**

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

[samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org](mailto:samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org)

[receptionist@stthomasumc.org](mailto:receptionist@stthomasumc.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Doug Byard Stella Bouquet	2	3 Jane Amstutz Hank Heuser	4	5	6 Debbie Barnard Kennedy Alexander	7
8 Kimberly McGregor	9 Joe Workman	10 Jackie Pearson Daniel Ometz Daniel Lewis Jennifer Lewis	11	12	13 Alicia Hamilton Bryant Alexander	14 Janel Weed
15 Samantha Seagle	16	17	18 Dick Crompton Jill Guice	19	20	21
22 Jeff Thornton	23	24 Lee Becker Nailey Norman	25	26 Brenda Farrar Daniel Deem	27 Karen King Meghan Perez	28 Tammy Fick Jeffrey Barlow Cindy Enke
29 Steve Verosko	30 Nicholas Kinnear			<b>November Birthdays</b>		