

# Triumph *Newsletter*

May 2019

## Rise Up With Jesus

Our Easter Event for families was awesome! We had 113 kids and 100 adults explore the Easter story through 6 different stations. The morning also featured a petting zoo, a short service, and the big egg hunt. 2,953 eggs were filled by our congregants. 40 volunteers were involved between planning and implementing the morning.

This event serves as one of our biggest opportunities for people to connect with faith who may not have a church home. Thank you to all who made the day such a success!



## Church Events

- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Youth Sunday
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – OWLS Trip to Tangier Island
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – JNS Yard Sale
- May 19<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation & UMW Spring Tea



# From the Senior Pastor

When I was ordained in 1997, one of the historic questions that I was asked as I joined the ranks of the clergy was, "Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?" I answered, "YES!" along with so many who have come before me and those who will come after me. Part of the reason we are asked this question is because John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, understood that children are important to God. In fact, he is known as having said, "Gift or no gift, you are to do this, or else you are not called to be a Methodist Preacher." Obviously, he felt sharing Christ with the next generation of children and youth was an essential task of the church!

Why is it so important to share Christ with children? In the context of the great revival Wesley launched in England and the United States, he believed without a commitment to children that revival would be a single-generation revival without intentional focus on children and youth. This means spending time with children, being with children, loving children. You may be thinking, "That's not my gift!" But, this can be quite a cop-out in the Body of Christ. Paul teaches us about spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 and 13, and we will be exploring this in worship during May and the first part of June (through Pentecost Sunday on June 9). Paul teaches us that the greatest of gifts are those that build others up. We are to "eagerly desire," seek, and pray for these gifts that we might be a blessing to all, and especially the youngest among us.

Rev. Christopher Ritter, Lead Pastor at Geneseo First UMC in Illinois, shares about his grandmother who worked assembling aircraft in the early 1940s. Her training and gifts were in home economics, not riveting. So why did she involve herself in such an ill-suited task? A war was on. The need was urgent. The workers were few. So, she jumped in as so many "Rosie the Riveters" did at that time,

and got better as she went along. This is certainly the spirit that John Wesley calls his preachers to adopt when they are ordained in regard to children, but it is also the spirit that all of us must adopt when it comes to sharing Christ with children! The task is too large and urgent to restrict it to only those who are equipped, gifted, or even willing.

Worship during the month of May will lift up our children and youth in a variety of ways as we celebrate together the following...

- Youth Sunday on May 5
- Graduate Sunday on May 12 (Mother's Day)
- Confirmation Sunday on May 19
- Baptism of Children on May 26 (Pre-Baptism Class is Monday, May 20)

Also, the Principal of Loch Lomond Elementary School will be joining us in worship at the 9:40 and 11 AM service on May 19 as she shares the needs of the students who attend and some of the ways we might answer these needs as a church community beginning next fall. I ask that you be in prayer about the ways God might use each one of us to be the hands and feet of Christ with the children and youth of our community. It is my firm belief that we have been blessed to be a blessing.

May it be so.

Grace upon grace,

Pastor Abi



Have you ever wondered who or what is the Holy Spirit and how does it help us to work as one cohesive community to reach out beyond the walls of the church to help others receive the love of God? There may be many gifts, but one Spirit! Join us beginning May 12 through June 9 as we explore the Holy Spirit!

# News from the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC)

By Bill Bixby, Chair

We are pleased to announce that Aaron Priest, adult son of Frank Priest, joined the staff team at St. Thomas as the part-time food pantry coordinator on Monday, April 22, 2019! He brings a great deal of experience working in warehouses, developing efficient processes and organizing them -- which will translate nicely to the Food Pantry operations! This position is a new position created to help expand our services through the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry Assistant Coordinator plays a vital part in helping the church accomplish its overall vision to become a community of Christ-followers by ensuring that the broader community beyond its walls has its basic food needs met and giving members and non-members alike the opportunity to build community by being the hands and feet of Christ when volunteering at the Food Pantry. This staff position will work closely with the Food Pantry Director, Samantha Daniel, and our many volunteers to accomplish this vision together. Please welcome Aaron next time you serve in the Food Pantry or when you see him with his wife, Kate, and their son, Gabe, on Sundays in worship.



Over the summer, we also hope to announce a new part-time youth ministry position and are now in the process of developing the job description. Our intent is to fill the position in time for the new school year in the fall. If you know someone you think would be a strong candidate for this position, please don't hesitate to speak with me directly and we'd be happy to include them in our communication once the particulars are worked out. I attend the 11:00 AM service most Sundays, or may be reached by email, [wgbixby@gmail.com](mailto:wgbixby@gmail.com).

# El Salvador Mission Team

This year we are sending to El Salvador two separate teams on two different weeks and doing two different projects. Below are the dates, projects, and leaders. We have space on both teams for more members, so please consider joining us. We even have a handful of youth traveling this year.

## **Nov 7-14, 2019: Vacation Bible School (VBS) &**

**Food Distribution:** Leader: Deb Angerman - [debangerman@aol.com](mailto:debangerman@aol.com)

## **Nov 14-21, 2019: Construction &**

**Food Distribution:** Leader: Tim Grembowski - [timgrembowski@comcast.net](mailto:timgrembowski@comcast.net) 703-753-7471

To support this work, the El Salvador Mission team plans to raise the mission cost (\$8,800) through several projects. The projects include:

- **Work projects** (contact Will Ameen, [WEAmeen@aol.com](mailto:WEAmeen@aol.com), so he can evaluate the project). Includes Yard work, Painting (indoor and out) and general fix-ups. Payment for these tasks are what you feel called to pay.
- **Pet/House sitting** (contact Marian Ludlow, [marianldlw5@gmail.com](mailto:marianldlw5@gmail.com) so she can setup the sitters). Payment for these tasks are what you feel called to pay.
- **Tech Help** (contact Paula Renfro, [paula.renfro@outlook.com](mailto:paula.renfro@outlook.com) or 571-535-5958 so she can schedule an appointment). The cost is a minimum of \$15 per hour. For your Android device, iPhone/iPad or PC:
  - Perform standard configuration
  - Set up email and other accounts
  - Help with questions about Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint etc.

Tell your friends and neighbors! Contact Tim Grembowski at [timgrembowski@comcast.net](mailto:timgrembowski@comcast.net).

# Update: Back Pack Attack



Thanks to all of our kids, teens, and adult who made our Backpack Attack happen on Sunday March 31! Thanks to the funds donated by St. Thomas and this team we were able to put together 300 bags of food to send home to 75 kids in our local schools this Spring!

Jill Spall, our partner from Prince William County in this program had this to say about what we've helped accomplish: "This year we filled approximately 1,500 bags of food. This is 12,000 meals and snacks!! STUMC is responsible for approximately 500 of those bags and 4,000 of those (and future) meals/snacks. This Spring, you are feeding 75 kids for 4 weeks and we are all set financially to start the Fall next year with STUMC feeding approximately 75 kids for their first 3 weeks

of identification! We can't thank you enough for your stewardship of our program over the past 8 years. I firmly believe we have helped at least 450 unique individuals see a brighter path to learning and well being through our dedication to their healthy food options."



As you can see St. Thomas has had the opportunity to make a lasting impact in another way on our community, to allow the love and light of Christ to shine through us!



## Tuesday Night Worship: May 7 - ACTS

ACTS is a local non-profit that St. Thomas works with to help the local people in Manassas and Prince William County with utilities and rent. They have a Manassas presence just down the street from the church on Grant Ave. They also have a large support system for abused woman and children, including sexual and physical abuse. Another program involves helping and reaching out to those that are home bound. Come hear LuLu, a representative of ACTS, on how we can further engage together in reaching people for Christ in all we do.



This summer our Children's Ministry team plans to host several day camps for 6 to 11 year olds in addition to Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out:

Sports Camp, June 17-21, 9am-4pm

Science Camp, June 24-28, 9am-4pm

VBS: July 8-12, 2019, 8:45 am-12:15 pm (FREE)

Cooking Camp, July 15-19, 9am-4pm

Music and Arts Camp, July 22-26, 9am-4pm

Cost is \$150 per camp. After care from 4-5 pm is available for an additional \$25. Visit [stthomasumc.org](http://stthomasumc.org) to register today!

# Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors



Eight OWLS spent a wonderful Sunday afternoon at the Riverside Dinner Theater on March 17. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner, which offered many different entrees. With great seats, everyone settled in to enjoy the riveting production of *The Color Purple*. It was agreed that the actors were wonderful, and the music was amazing. Lots of comments were made concerning the quality of the actors' voices. Everyone agreed that it was a fantastic show and definitely worth the trip to Fredericksburg.



On April 12, several of the OWLS joined the KidsCare2 Tweens for a Mad Hatter Party. It was a wonderful opportunity for all to meet new friends and get to know each other. We learned a bit about chores, pets and slang from each generation, played Easter Charades, and danced The Electric Slide (led by Lynn Furlong with music from Mike Palian's smart phone!)

May 17th we will be traveling to Tangier Island, a remote island in the Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay. We will leave the church, via church van, by 6:15 AM to ensure that we make the trip down I-95 to Reedville, VA to catch the one and only boat to Tangier Island. While on the island we can explore the island, visit the quaint shops, stop by the Tangier Island History Museum, and have lunch at one of the four restaurants, and ice cream at Spanky's Place Ice Cream Parlor. The boat back to the mainland leaves Tangier at 2:15 PM arriving at Reedville at 4:15 PM. We will stop on the way home for a quick dinner, arriving back at the church around 8:00 PM. As you can see, this will be a very long day but it promises to be lots of fun. The boat trip is \$30.00, round trip, and must be paid for, in full, in advance. Lunch and any other activities you wish to participate in are pay as you go. PLEASE RSVP Marian (571-315-6881) or Lynn (703-499-0243) no later than May 10th. This will give us time to go online to purchase boat tickets to insure that we have space on the boat.



As always OWLS is open to anyone over the age of 50. Friends and family are always welcome.

# Student Ministry

THE PACK AM: SUNDAYS AT 9:40 AM in Room 305

Students 6th-12th grade are invited to join us as we journey together through "The Gospel Project," God's redemptive story for mankind.

THE PACK: 1ST, 3RD, AND 5TH TUESDAYS

Meet us at 5:30 pm for dinner in the Fellowship Hall! After dinner, we head over to "The Den" where we play games and talk about relevant faith topics that impact our every day lives until 7:00 pm. All students grades 6th-12th are welcome!

UPCOMING PACK MEETINGS

May 4: Youth Sunday Dress Rehearsal, 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

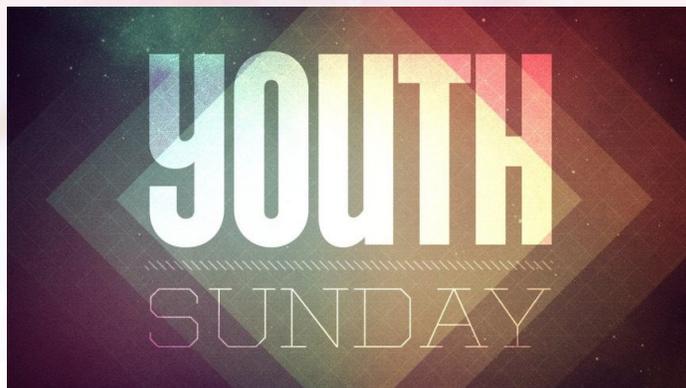
May 5: Youth Sunday, All Three Worship Services

May 7: The Pack

May 21: The Pack, SPARK Parent and Teen Meeting



ROAR VBS Registration is now open! July 8-12, 8:45am-12:15 pm. VBS Sunday is July 14! Our VBS is open to all kids who have just completed Kindergarten-5th Grade (based off the 2018-2019 school year). Visit [stthomasumc.org](http://stthomasumc.org) to register today!



## May 5th - All Services

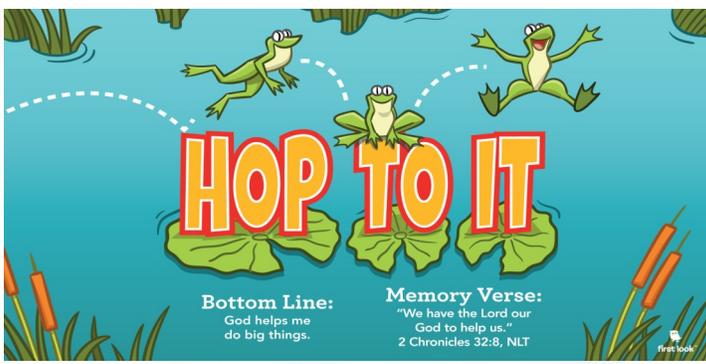


**May 12th** Calling all graduates! Are you graduating this year from High School, College, Graduate School, or a Technical or Professional Program? Please let us know by emailing your name, school graduating from, graduation plans, and a photo to [samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org](mailto:samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org). Plan to attend worship on Sunday May 12 to be recognized.



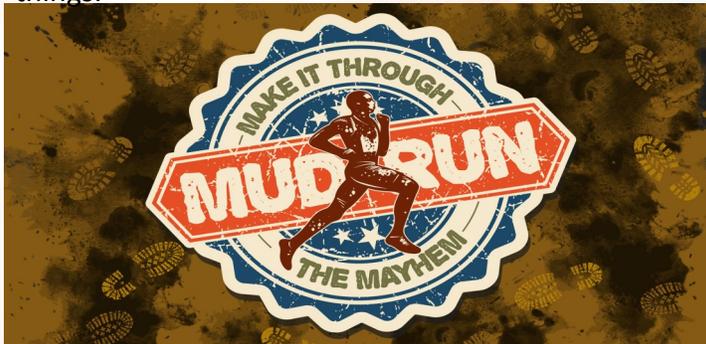
## Confirmation - May 19th

Please keep our 5 Confirmands in prayer as they wrap up the process and are Confirmed during worship on May 19!



**PRE-SCHOOL—Hop To It:** What would you do if you were assigned a huge building project to manage? Or, do the one thing you would be most afraid of doing, while everyone you know watches?

These are pretty big things and would intimidate most of us. However, God can help us do really big things. When our preschoolers are faced with big things, we want them to remember to hop to it, because God will help them. Our world is filled with things that are big and sometimes scary. When our preschoolers face these big things, we don't want them to run. We want them to hop to it because they know God is bigger and will help them do big things.



**ELEMENTARY—Mud Run:** Throughout history, God has offered strength to help people persevere through difficult situations. Jesus persevered through death itself to make it possible for us to have a forever relationship with God. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can trust Him to help us find the strength to persevere through whatever we face.

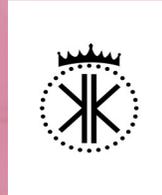
**BOTTOM LINE:** Perseverance is refusing to give up when life gets hard.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31, 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 MORNINGS AT STUMC:



**Nursery, 0-2 years old:**

Provided during all three worship services from 8:00 AM—12:15 pm.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:40 am



**Preschool Kids, Room 107**

**Elementary Kids, Worship Center**



## KIDS CHURCH @ 11:00 am

**3 years old-2nd Grade**

Families begin worship together in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, kids are escorted downstairs to the Nursery for worship through song, activities, and play. Parents may pick up there after service. The Kid's Church Choir will sing monthly at 11:00 am Worship.



**KidsCare2:345**

**NEXT TWEEN MEETING:** Friday May 10, 6:00pm-8:00pm

All 3rd-5th Graders are invited to this month's gathering in the Children's Worship Center. Every month we gather for food, fun, faith, and a hands on service project. This month we'll be traveling to Caton Merchant House Assisted Living to visit with some seniors. We'll also be recognizing our 5th graders so you won't want to miss out! Plan to join us this month and bring a friend.



## United Methodist Women

Thank you for supporting our Spring Mini-Bazaar! All proceeds go to missions. Our Summer Mini-Bazaar will be on June 2nd.

### CARNATION SALES

Our last day for selling carnations for Mother's Day will be May 5th. Please take your carnations at the end of your worship service on Mother's Day. Father's Day carnation sales will start on May 19th. Please help us support our two Compassion International boys, Juan and Mika, by purchasing carnations. For more information on the boys, see our table in the Fellowship Hall.

### UMW SPRING TEA

Our next event is our Tea on Sunday, May 19th from 2-4 pm. Jennifer Lewis from Merrifield Garden Center will bring examples and speak about Perennials for Your Garden. Join us for fellowship and to learn about possible plants for your yard.

## From the Kitchen

Thank you, thank you to all who helped clean the kitchen last month. We were able to get many projects accomplished that day. Our last Tuesday Night Dinner will be June 11<sup>th</sup> before we take our summer break. We look forward to serving you each week until then.

### May 7

Salisbury Steak  
Grilled Onions  
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy  
Fresh Bread  
Vegetable  
Dessert

### May 14

BBQ Pulled Pork  
Cole Slaw  
Hush Puppies  
Vegetable  
Dessert

### May 21

Baked Cod  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Vegetable  
Dessert

### May 28

BBQ Ribs  
Bacon Baked Beans  
Fresh Bread  
Vegetable  
Dessert



### MANASSAS CAMPUS

8899 Sudley Road  
Manassas, VA 20110

Phone: 703-368-5161

Abi Foerster - *Senior Pastor*

### WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sundays 8:15, 9:40 and 11:00 AM

Tuesdays 6:30PM

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

### HAYMARKET CAMPUS

Sunday Meeting Place:  
Gravely Elementary School  
4670 Waverly Farm Dr.

Haymarket, VA 20169

Brian Johnson - *Campus Pastor*

### WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

10:00 AM

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May Event Calendar</b>			1  6:00pm Alzheimer's Networking Group	2	3 9:30am Care Giver's Support 7:00pm Media Circle	4
<b>5 Youth Sunday</b>  5:00pm DC Homeless Mission	6	7 5:30pm The PACK 7:15pm Trustees/ Cong. Care Team/ Stewardship	8	9	10  6:00pm KidsCare2	11
<b>12 Mother's Day Graduation Sunday</b>	13	14 1:00pm Dorcas Circle 6:00pm Confirmation 7:15pm Evangelism, Finance, Child/Youth Communications	15	16	17 6:15am OWLS Trip to Tangier Island	18 8:00am JNS Yard Sale 11:00am Memory Café 11:30am Confirmation Luncheon
<b>19 Confirmation</b>  2:00pm UMW Spring Tea	20	21 4:00pm Worship Arts 5:30pm The PACK 7:15pm Missions/ SPRC	22	23	24	25
26	27	28  7:15pm Church Council	29	30	31	
<b>Weekly Schedule (subject to change due to holidays or other events – check with your coordinator)</b>						
12:15pm Joyful Noise Singers	7:30pm St Thom Cats	5:30pm Tuesday Night Dinner 6:15pm KidzRock Choir 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Praise Band 8:00pm AA Meeting	10:00am Quilts for Kids  6:45pm Chancel Choir	9:30am UMW Bazaar Crafters  7:30pm Bells of St. Thomas	9:30am Mom's Group	8:00am Ladies Emmaus Group 8:00am Men's Breakfast Group 9:00am Food Pantry

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May Birthdays</b>			1 Jess Seagle Don Mootz	2 Brenda Mootz Betty Kadel	3 Bill Clouse	4 Sophia Page
5 Shannon Lauren Sharon Schrack	6	7 Jerry Foster	8 Jessica Dodson Cliff Farrar Lori Harper	9 Kathy Rea Diane Ameen	10 Ethan Saari	11
12	13 Sharron Anderson Courtney Gay	14	15 Frank Michalek	16 Brendan Banner	17 Kimberly Bixby Ellis Adams Riley Mostoller Mary Blay	18
19 Linda Sears	20	21 Marie Davis Jane Yost	22 Madison MacFarlane Jan Burch	23 Lee Enke Braden Mostoller	24 Zuzanna Steen	25
26	27 Deb Crawford	28 Tim Birdsell	29	30 Scott Wagner	31	