

Triumph Newsletter

OCTOBER 2024

God's Work, Our Hands

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

As Christians we are called to be "servants"; Christians serve. Christians are gifted with many different roles in the life and ministry of the church. Christians are also "stewards". They are responsible for the faithful use of their many gifts. As servants and stewards we are able to offer to others the Good News of Jesus Christ, which is the calling of every Christian. These gifts are for the mutual upbuilding of the church, community, and the world.

This month we begin our "God's Work, Our Hands" campaign. I will be preaching on how, through the use of our hands, we are called to be "servants" to others and be faithful "stewards" of what God has already given us. In addition, you will be hearing from some of our faithful members as they share about why it is important to them to support the many ministries of our church. During the campaign, we will also encourage one another to be faithful servants and stewards to St. Thomas through the gifts of your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your

service, and your witness. The series will conclude on October 27th with a special in-person and online worship celebration at both our 9AM and 11AM services, where we will consecrate the many gifts that are offered that will move our ministries forward into the new year.

Friends, I am excited to see where God will be leading us in the new year and the gifts you offer through the God's Work, Our Hands campaign will ensure God's purposes will be done "...on earth as it is in heaven."

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Matt

- October 13th A Life of Simplicity and Generosity
Luke 12:13-21
- October 20th Extravagant Generosity
Mark 12:38-44
- October 27th God's Generosity, Our Response
Luke 17:11-19



It's great seeing you at Tuesday Night Dinners. Thank you for continuing to sign up online or calling the church office. This month we will have a fundraiser for the El Salvador mission trip in January. Please plan to attend and help the team raise money for the construction work they will be doing in January.

Our menus for October are:

Cookie of the Month: Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip
(\$10 / dozen)

October 1

BLT Salad

Cheeseburger Casserole

Zucchini Sticks

Dessert: Angel Cake with Strawberries

Kid's: Cheeseburger

October 8

Roast Pork Loin

Mashed Potato/Gravy

Butternut Squash

Cinnamon Roll

Dessert: Apple Cobbler

Kid's: Chicken Nuggets

October 15 Guest Chef: Dom

Caesar Salad

Baked Ziti

Italian Peas

Bubble Bread

Dessert: Italian Wedding Cake

Kid's: Same as Adults

October 22 El Salvador Fundraiser

Taco Bar-Inside

Taco Salad-Curbside

Chips and Salsa

Dessert: Flan

Kid's: Same as Adults

October 29

Pizza Party

Antipasti Salad

Garlic Parmesan Green Beans

Queso and Chips

Dessert: Oreo Ice Cream

Kids: Same as Adults

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.

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team

SAVE THE DATE

Charge Conference

Sun, Nov 3 | 12:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

During September church members were given an opportunity to express appreciation to our staff. We recognized them with a short video presentation, we wrote “love notes” to them, took a love offering, and, on Sunday, September 29th, following a single worship service at 10:00 am, we celebrated with a lunch in the fellowship hall. If you feel you didn’t have an adequate opportunity to celebrate our wonderful staff or have more to add, please feel free to reach out to them with love at any time. We are so blessed to have all of them.

As some of you know, we had hoped to partner with Sudley UMC to hire a joint youth director. Unfortunately, due to some unexpected changes at Sudley, they are not currently able to move forward with the partnership. Please keep their church in prayer, as they undergo some difficult times. This also means we at St. Thomas have to rethink our youth director position. As we’re regrouping and rethinking this position, we’ve put an “interim plan” into place. Kristi Swanson has graciously consented to increase her weekly work hours so she can assist with planning and implementation of our youth program, with volunteer assistance from John and Cheryl Rosko and the Youth Council, as well as other volunteers who wish to help. We are so grateful to Kristi for stepping up so we can keep this vital program active.

Discover St Thomas: Newcomer Orientation Program

If you’re new to St Thomas and interested in joining the church come join us on Sun, Oct 20 at 12:30pm. You’ll learn more about membership at St Thomas and get to meet some of our leaders. A light lunch will be provided. Signup on your Connect Card or the events page of our website.

Angel Shop Toy Drive

The Missions Committee is still collecting toys for the December Angel Shop. We collected some over the summer but not nearly enough. We are in need of trucks and cars, dolls, dinosaurs, super heroes, games, educational toys and all others. Please bring your NEW toy to the church and leave it in the box in the narthex. We will be collecting until the end of November. Our Angel Shop will be open the first two weeks of December. Please help the disadvantaged of the community and make a child's Christmas! We are forever grateful!!!

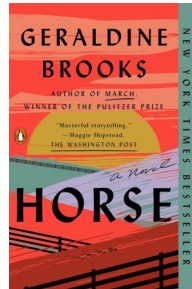




United Women in Faith

Ladies Book Club

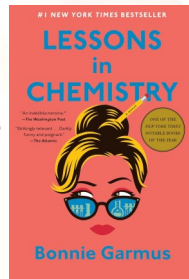
A dusty skeleton of a horse in the attic of the Smithsonian is the start of the novel *HORSE* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Geraldine Brooks. The forgotten skeleton is that of a famous race horse of the middle 1800's.



Discovering that information, the horse's slave trainer's name and story, and the provenance of a painting of the horse, leads modern day investigators on a chase through history.

The Ladies Book Club will be discussing *HORSE* on Friday, October 11th at 10:30 am. Come join us for an interesting discussion. All are welcome.

The book for the November discussion is *LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY* by Bonnie Garmus. Women's roles in mid-century America stymie a female chemist when her male co-workers steal her work leading to a whole new career in television.



Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm, Room 300. Join us for food, fellowship and our continuing study, *Women of the Bible*. All women are welcome!

Walking Group

On Saturday, Oct 5, we will go to the Benedictine Sisters Monastery on 9541 Linton Hall Rd. Go straight in, turn left at the sign to **Place of Peace Columbarium**, then just past the swimming pool, park in the lot on your left.

This will be a leisurely and serene walk enjoying the Labyrinth, prayer garden, teaching garden, silos with stained glass, native plants and flowers. There will be as much walking as you want. Join for refreshments after.



The OWLS had a fantastic turnout for our September 27 outing at O'Brien's Irish Pub in Warrenton. We definitely didn't let the weather dampen our fun. It was wonderful welcoming back some friends that we haven't seen for awhile. Everyone had a great day as we dined on good food and enjoyed fun and fellowship.

Our October outing will be on October 25 when we will gather at Great American Steak and Buffet Restaurant, 8365 Sudley Rd, Manassas. This is an OWLS favorite where we have dined several times. Please RSVP via Connect Card, or by contacting Marian Ludlow or Lynn Furlong, no later than October 22 so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. Hope to see you there and remember to invite a friend.

United Women in Faith 51st Annual Holiday Bazaar

Please join us to celebrate our 51st Annual Holiday Bazaar on **Saturday, October 19 from 10am to 3pm**. All proceeds from this event support mission projects benefiting women and children both locally and internationally. Shops include Crafts, Jewelry Booth, Good As New, White House Ornaments, Bake Sale and dinner at the Manna Café.

- The **Bethlehem Craft Shop** is the highlight of the Bazaar. The ladies have been working all year on seasonal décor and gifts.
- Shop the **Jewelry Booth**. We would love to help recycle your jewelry donations for the bazaar. **Please place donations in the workroom labeled Jewelry**. At the Bazaar, shop for a whole new Jewelry wardrobe!
- The **Good As New Shop** is a great place to pick-up just the glassware, serving pieces, storage, gadgets or toys you have been looking for! **Until Wednesday, Oct 16, we are accepting your donations of NEW or Gently Used items**. Please place your donations in the workroom labeled 'Good As New'. No Electronics, Clothes, or Books please!
- 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, the Official White House Christmas Ornament honors President Jimmy Carter. The ornament's anchor shape, an iconic symbol of hope, represents Carter's service in the United States Navy.
- The **Manna Café** will be serving Sloppy Joes and Hot Dogs with all the trimmings, available for dine-in 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

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 \$15 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

The children's ministry had a great first month coming back for the school year. We have jumped right back in to learning, serving, and having fun together. This is going to be a great year for the sweet kids of our church. We hope you will choose to be part of their growth by serving in our ministry. We have opportunities to serve almost every Sunday and at many special events and activities throughout the year.

We kicked off Sunday School on September 8, and it was great to be back in our routine. It was so much fun hearing about all the fantastic activities and experiences our kids had this summer. We learned a lot and had some great fellowship in September. For October we will start the "Are We There Yet" series from our GrowKids curriculum. Can you imagine needing to walk through the desert? You'd be surrounded by cacti, sand, snakes, and more sand. With the heat of the sun, we'd wind up so thirsty and wondering "Are we there yet?"



That's probably how the Israelites felt as they wandered around the desert, waiting to enter the Promised Land. But no matter how tired our feet get, we can focus on what's happening in our lives right now rather than just on where we're going. In this series based on stories from Exodus, we'll explore how we can choose to be thankful, love God and others, turn to God when we're lost, go to God when we need rest, and remember God's promises.

Children's church will continue to be based on lessons from the curriculum and children's messages.

Also on September 8, the Tweens stayed after our kickoff for their first service day of the season. We cleaned up the King's Kids supply room and made a big difference. The kids also enjoyed pizza and boba drinks. We were excited that a few of our youth could also join us. For October, the Tweens will work the Bazaar bake sale for the UWF from 10am-3pm. Come by to see us and purchase a treat! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-51527459-tweens>

Our big event this month is Trunk or Treat. This year our theme is Noah's Ark. We'll have games, food, movies, a cake walk, a doggy costume contest, and of course candy. This is an all-hands-on-deck type of event, so we need you to volunteer. There are many roles available including signing up to host a decorated trunk. Thanks to a thoughtful and generous gift from a congregant, we have several premade trunk decoration kits available. If you sign up to host a trunk and are interested in one of the kits, contact Kristi Swanson. Kits will be given out on a first come first serve basis.

Volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-50825159-trunk>

Doggy Costume Contest: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-51185052-doggy>

The kids of our church are off to a great start, and our year of faith formation is sure to take us on exciting new adventures. We hope you'll join us every time you have the chance!



THE PACK

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By Kristi Swanson

The youth of this church are an amazing group of young people. If you have ever had the pleasure of attending a Youth Sunday, you know exactly what I mean. They are capable, smart, hard-working, kind, and most importantly, faithful. I am very honored to lead this exceptional group of teens, even if it is only in the interim. The Youth Council and I are setting forth a plan including learning, fun, service, and fellowship that we hope will bring meaningful experiences to our youth. They deserve the best and we will do our best to give it to them.

The Pack kicked off their year with mini golf and ice cream on September 22. Everyone had a great time and we are set to embark on the rest of the school year. The youth didn't wait to get started though –



they jumped in to help the Tweens with a service project on September 8th, cleaning and organizing the supply room downstairs, and having pizza and

boba drinks together.

On October 6, The Pack will attend the Youth Unite event at Arcola UMC in Dulles, VA from 5-7:30pm. We will sing praise, hear exciting testimony from a youth pastor, hang out, and have dinner together. The Youth Ministry will cover the cost of this event. If you want to attend but haven't registered, email Kristi Swanson as soon as possible at kristi.swanson@stthomasumc.org.

On October 20, The Pack will host a pumpkin carving contest! Pumpkins will be provided and there will be a prize. There will also be a spooky and fun atmosphere to inspire the most spectacular jack-o-lanterns. Please bring a pumpkin/fall themed snack to share. Invite friends – the more the spookier! Please be sure to register so we have enough pumpkins for everyone. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EABAA2CABFC1-51589484-thepack>

On October 27 from 4-6pm, the youth are invited to help with Trunk or Treat (and sample the candy). Sign up, dress up, and come out for the fun. This year is themed Noah's Ark, but costumes and trunks can be creative and are not required to stick with the theme. We just want everyone to participate together.

A Note to the Congregation:

We're kicking off a great year with The Pack and I am excited to be a part of it. I want to encourage everyone to mention our group to the middle schoolers and high schoolers in your lives. We always welcome new friends in grades 6-12.

Also, if we invite you to a gathering, please seriously consider joining us. The youth of the church will be the adults of the church before we know it, and our guidance and support is important to the faith formation of these incredible young people. Keep an eye out for what we're doing next!

YOUTH FOR TOMORROW COUNTRY FAIR Sat, Oct 5 | 10 am - 5 pm



Visit our Front Porch Team's booth & check out all the fun! Tickets on sale at youthfortomorrow.org

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Sun, Oct 13 | 1 pm

Pets will receive a blessing & a special treat!
RSVP on the Events Page of the Website.
All well-behaved pets welcome!



WELCOME TO ST THOMAS GATHERING Sun, Oct 20 | 12:30 pm



Come learn more about joining St Thomas
Signup on your Connect Card or the
Events Page of the website

TRUNK OR TREAT SUN, OCT 27 | 4-6 PM



Photo Booth, Cake Walk,
Games, Food, Movies & More!



ST. THOMAS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REACH • NOURISH • SERVE

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

Upcoming Events

- Oct 5 Women's Walking Group | 9am Benedictine Monastery
- Oct 6 Youth Unite Event | 5:00pm - 7:30pm Arcola UMC
- Oct 8 Dorcas Circle | 1pm Room 300/302
- Oct 11 Ladies Book Club | 10:30am Room 304
- Oct 13 Blessing of the Animals | 1:00pm Church Lawn
- Oct 13 - 19 START Trip | New Bern, NC
- Oct 19 UWF Annual Holiday Bazaar | 10:00am to 3:00pm
- Oct 20 Discover St Thomas Gathering | 12:30pm
- Oct 25 OWLS | 1pm Great American Steak & Buffet
- Oct 27 Trunk or Treat | 4:00pm - 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	8	9	10 Jean Callahan Kayla Lyle	11 Godfrey Ebuchulam
13 John Newlove	14	15 Gary Crawford	16 Josephine Schoch Lora Ometz	17	18	19 Matthew Santee
20 Carol Cole Bruce Wilson	21	22 Kimberly Fick Ryan Fick Emily Guice	23 Nicholas Thompson	24 Mike Travis Breanne White	25	26 Pat Brown
27	28 Bob McCurry Marie Davis	29 Becky Kilby Gene Close	30	31		