



# THE EPISTLE

September 27, 2017  
St. Thomas Episcopal  
Church

## Celebrating St. Francis of Assisi at St. Thomas



Please join us for the annual Blessing of the Animals Sunday at 3 PM. Our youth will offer a dog wash starting at 1:30. The wash is free however, donations are certainly welcome and will benefit the youth fund. Last year we had more than

100 families from our church and community turn out to have their pets blessed. Even if you don't have a pet, you'll have fun seeing all the different animals. We even have a nativity petting zoo this year! Come join us!

### Inter-generational Theological Gumbo this Sunday!

After breakfast this Sunday morning, stay in the Parish Hall for an all-ages\* celebration of our animals and St. Francis of Assisi. To get ready for the afternoon's Blessing of the Animals service, we'll watch a video, share conversation, and have art projects for everyone. We begin at 9:30 AM and will wrap up by 10:15 AM. (\*Our youngest parishioners, from birth to 4 years, are invited to enjoy playtime in the Nursery during this session.)



**Introducing...the Lay Weeders!** Do you consider ridding your gardens and beds of weeds a therapeutic activity? Is getting on your knees something you do at church and in your yard? Do you experience a sense of deep accomplishment when you've beat back the attack of the weeds? If you answered yes to any of these question then we have a ministry opportunity for you! On Tuesday, October 3rd at 7 AM in the Parish Hall the first gathering of the St Thomas Lay Weeders will convene. The mission is simple - to begin the

process of weeding the numerous beds that surround this beautiful physical plant and providing for their ongoing maintenance through regular gatherings of the Lay Weeders. Debbie Harriman and Marsha Samples have agreed to lead this fun and significant new ministry. All skill sets, genders and ages are welcome. The only requirement is a willingness to get to your fellow parishioners a little better and the patience required to pull some weeds! Join us on Tuesday morning and bring whatever you require to get a little dirty and make St Thomas a little more beautiful!

**Christian Formation Note** The lectionary Bible Study group will not meet for the next two weeks, resuming on Sunday, October 15.



**Sunday, Oct. 8  
9:30 AM during  
Theological Gumbo**  
Come see what your job could be at Lobsterfest this year! We'll learn about all the different committees that need your help. Lobsterfest 101 - Theological Gumbo next week.

St. Thomas hosts

**UT/Knoxville Alternative Break community service students**

Students from UT/Knoxville will be our guests Thursday, Oct. 7 - Sunday, Oct. 10. While working in Huntsville on "Intersectionality & Inclusion" service projects they'll be camping in the St. Thomas Parish Hall, preparing meals in our kitchen, and showering at the Southeast (Weatherly) YMCA. Arriving midday Thursday, Thursday evening they plan to have dinner at the Space & Rocket Center's Biergarten. Friday and Saturday St. Thomas will provide their breakfast and dinner. (They know about our Sunday breakfast ritual and will be up early and ready to help us clean up and prepare that meal.) Cooper Green will serve as primary point of contact. Cooper can be reached at (256) 212-0999 or coopergreen3@gmail.com if you have any questions.

**God in the Natural Sciences**

Would it be possible for God both to exist and be scientifically irrelevant? Are there scientific riddles (light as wave vs. particle? an electron can appear in two places at once?) that can be solved only by taking into account the continually creative, omnipresent energy worshiped by many or most under a variety of names? Laj Utreja will lead the discussion. In 2001 Laj received the George M. Low award, NASA's highest honor for quality and technical performance to a

small business. 7 to 9 pm this Thursday in the parlor. RSVP is helpful for seating and required for handouts: meisterp@uah.edu.

## **This Week at St. Thomas**

### **Thursday, September 28**

- 11:45 AM Neighborhood Store Fashion Show/Luncheon
- 4:00 PM Centering Prayer, St. Anne's Chapel
- 6:00 PM Grief Group, Parlor
- 7:00 PM Men's Spirituality Group, Youth Room

### **Saturday, September 30**

- 8:00 AM Farmers' Market - Last one for this year!

### **Sunday, October 1**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Nave  
Nursery Available
- 9:00 AM Breakfast, Vestry
- 9:30 AM Christian Formation Classes  
Playtime for 3-4 year olds, Nursery  
Celebration of Our Animals and St. Francis of Assisi  
Intergenerational Event for kids 5-105, Parish Hall  
Centering Prayer, St. Anne's Chapel
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Nave  
Nursery Available
- 1:30 PM Dog Wash (Donations benefit Youth Fund)
- 2:45 PM Children's Choir (all ages)
- 3:00 PM Blessing of the Animals

### **Tuesday, October 3**

- 6:00 PM EfM, Conference Room

### **Wednesday, October 4**

- 9:30 AM Bible Study, Conference Room  
Nursery Available
- 11:00 AM Healing Service, St. Anne's Chapel
- Canceled Brown Bag Bible Study, Conference Room
- 5:15 PM DOK Prayer Time, St. Anne's Chapel
- 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Nave  
Nursery Available
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

## **WORSHIP TEAM for October 1, 2017**

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Jim Elliott
Curate	The Rev. Katherine Harper
Diaconal Postulant	Marilyn Lands
Organist	Melanie Payne
Choir Director	Donna Clark

### **8:00 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers      Sally Barnett, Bryan Dodson

Lectors Pat & Al Johnson  
Crucifer/Server Penny Neilson  
Ushers Elouisa & Al Stokes  
Greeters Norma Oberlies, Pat Stueck

**10:30 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers Carol Covell, Laura Tucker  
Lectors Kathy Heim, Susan Smith  
Acolytes Nathan Cantrell, Erin Slagle, Maggie Jones, Grayson Brewer  
Ushers David Hattaway, Preston McGill  
Greeters Cooper Green, Jenna Pirani, Lloyd Cook

Vestry on Duty Wyn Christian, Greg Alburl  
Altar Guild Brenda & Horton Smith, June Curtis, Mary & Tom Lackey  
Flower Guild Susy Thurber, Norma Oberlies  
Breakfast Vestry - Genie McCoy, Garry Griffith, Wyn Christian,  
David Hattaway, Kathie Clayton, Elaine Poplin

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