



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

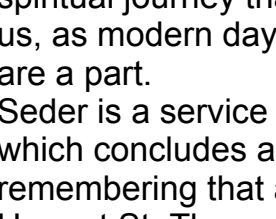


THE EPISTLE

March 28, 2019

A Note From Our Treasurer

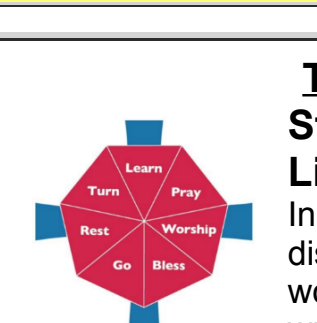
In April, we will begin sending Quarterly Pledge Statements by email. If you require a mailed statement please notify the Church Office.



Seder Supper 2019 -

Seder is a serious and joyful event where we retell the Passover story. Looking to our Jewish roots, we tell the Exodus story, with its themes of power and mercy, bondage and freedom, hope and despair. This is much like the spiritual journey that we continue in our lives today. Observing the Seder reminds us, as modern day Christians, of the story of God and His people of which we are a part.

Seder is a service interspersed with a dinner (lamb, chicken or vegetarian), which concludes as the meal ends. We follow the traditional Jewish Seder, remembering that at the Last Supper, Jesus celebrated Seder with His disciples. Here at St. Thomas, we will celebrate Seder on Tuesday, April 16, at 6 PM in the Parish Hall. The meal will be provided for a donation of \$10.00 per person; we request reservations by Wednesday, April 10, as we need to order meat. Childcare will be provided with a small meal for the children. Sign-up sheets are available in Information Hall.



Parish Workday - Join the hard-working folks of St. Thomas THIS Saturday, March 30, from 9 AM until Noon, as we gather for a parish workday. We will have tasks for people of all abilities. Please bring work gloves and tools, if you'd like, though they are not required. Come help us tend to our church grounds and buildings, and in doing so, meet new friends. We'll break for a grilled hot dog lunch! Let David Hattaway (256-337-0973) know if you have questions.



Theological Gumbo this Sunday

St. Thomas' Lenten Challenge: Living the Way of Love - GO

In Theological Gumbo next Sunday, we continue with discussing what it means to live the Way of Love. Based upon work done by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and a book written by The Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan, we will gather on **Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings** to share in these Jesus-centered practices as our spiritual discipline to draw us nearer to God. We challenge you to join us...

Wednesdays During Lent

Join us this Wednesday for a chance to slow down with contemplative Taizé Eucharist at 5:30 PM. We will have soup & salad dinner in the Parish Hall around 6:00 and our Lenten Program - "Living the Way of Love - REST" at 6:30.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Psalm 32

At 10:30 is the Children's Service with their own readings.

Parents' Night Out: The next St. Thomas Parents' Night Out is THIS Friday, March 29, from 5:30p-8:30PM. Drop your kids and their dinner(s) off so they can have fun with friends (under the watchful eye of nursery staff and their helpers) and you can have a little rest & relaxation. Children under the age of 5 will be in the church nursery, and ages 5 and up will be in a separate room. We will have games, movies and fun in store, while parents can enjoy a night off! Please sign-up via sheet posted in Information Hall or contact Laura Beth Bestor (laura.beth.dong@gmail.com, 662-648-9498).

EVERBODY NEEDS A MULLIGAN

Help First Stop Give Someone a Second Chance.

First Stop Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, April 29 @ Huntsville Country Club 8:00 AM

Flyers/registration forms are in the Narthex and Church Office.

SAVE THE DATE
Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell is scheduled for **May 3-5, 2019**. There will be activities and community-building for people of all ages! More details will follow soon. Mark your calendar, as you won't want to miss out!



EASTER FLOWERS-

Easter flower dedication envelopes are in the pews if you'd like to make a donation in honor, memory or in thanksgiving for someone special. It's a wonderful way to both beautify our church and honor loved ones at the same time. Please be kind and print to ensure correct spelling. Please leave envelopes in the offertory plate or in the church office. All memorial envelopes must be received in the office before Tuesday, April 16.

Ministry with Children and Youth

Youth this Week
Sunday School 9:30-10:20 AM
Continuing, Christ our Companion
EYC
4-6 PM Beautification project continuing. Come and join us outside as we laugh, play, and hammock together.

Children this Week
Sunday School 9:30 am
Children's Service at 10:30 am
No Children's Chapel during 10:30 service, will resume April 7th



Shout out to two outstanding youth, Zane Starnes and Helen Poplin! Zane and Helen stepped up and went above and beyond. They chose to spend EYC time fixing the back garden and picking up rubbish. These two teens also worked out a schedule to care for the back garden and take turns tending to the seeds they planted.

Receiving Community Support through St. Thomas

Pastoral care happens in many different ways in our parish. One way is through community support groups. We have a group that meets to provide help and reassurance for caregivers - those tending to the needs of a parent, spouse, child, or friend who is unable to care fully for themselves. Liz Byrne, LPC, moderates these conversations. The Caregivers Support Group meets in the Parlor from 1-2 PM on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Our next gathering is April 8th.

Another group gathers to support one another through a loss or change in life, whether a death, job change, move, or other shift in the rhythm of daily living. The Grief Recovery Group meets in the Parlor from 5:30-7:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Our next gathering is April 4th.

If you have questions or a pastoral care need, please contact Katherine Harper (256-880-0247, curate@stthomashuntsville.org).

SPECIAL EASTER HALLELUJAH CHORUS

The choir invites you to rehearse "Hallelujah Chorus" with us as we prepare for Easter. Please join us in the Choir Room on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 or after the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings in the Nave. If these time slots do not work for you, you can rehearse on line by exploring the following links. Simply click on your part listed below.

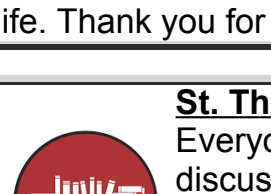
- [Soprano part](#)
- [Alto part](#)
- [tenor part](#)
- [bass part](#)
- [Mormon Tabernacle Choir](#)

Volunteer Opportunity: Meals on Wheels Drivers

We're in need of folks who are willing to join our St. Thomas Meals on Wheels team. Contact Mark Dixon at 256-426-0381 or mddixon@aol.com. Thanks to those who are scheduled to help this coming week!

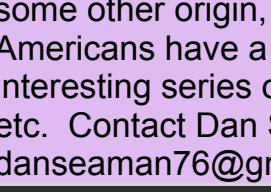
Meals on Wheels for the week of April 1 - 5

Tue: Susy Thurber & Kay Strobel (T route) | Barbara & Don Hauler (P route)
Tue: Mark Dixon (T route); Thu: Bill Kistler (T route);
Fri: Susan Smith (T route), Nareatha Studdard (P route)



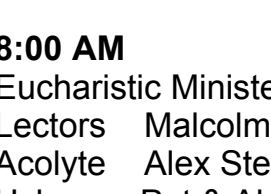
Mark your Calendar for the 2019 Acolyte Festival

All Acolytes and soon-to-be Acolytes are invited to join Kristi Boyer, Acolyte Master, and Paul on Saturday, May 11, at St. Luke's in Birmingham. There will be engaging workshops, Acolyte Olympics, fellowship with other Acolytes from around the diocese, and a closing Eucharist and Acolyte commissioning with Bishop Sloan. If you'd be interested in attending, please call the church office at 256-880-0247 before May 2.



First Stop Outreach Need:

Outreach teams from First Stop provide medical care, along with food and other supplies, on a weekly basis to area homeless camps. The First Stop Board is asking congregations and other organizations to sponsor drives for particular needs. St. Thomas has taken on the responsibility of collecting batteries -- sizes AA, AAA, C and D. The batteries will be collected in black cans located in Information Hall and the office that have the battery logo on the outside with the words, "Put a Charge in First Stop". Please consider helping support this project. We take for granted that we have power and light. For those living on the street, a battery can be critical for them to enjoy some very simple quality of life. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.



St. Thomas Book Club will next meet on April 9th.

Everyone is invited to join us at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. We will discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee for this meeting. On May 13, our book will be *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck and on June 10 we will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Even if you cannot read the book, we'd love to have you join in the conversation. It usually takes an hour and we often go to lunch after. For information, call Elouisa Stokes at 256-539-2058.

Tremor Support Group Meeting

An organizational meeting of the Huntsville Essential Tremor Support Group will be held on **Saturday, March 30, at 11:00 a.m.** at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. We will gather in the Parish Hall to discuss creating a support group for people with all types of tremors, whether from Parkinson's Disease or of some other origin, like Essential Tremor. More than two percent of older Americans have a tremor. Please join us for what we hope will be an interesting series on treatments (new and old), medications, guest speakers, etc. Contact Dan Seaman for more information 256-337-4616 or danseaman76@gmail.com.

WORSHIP TEAM For March 31, 2019

Celebrant The Rev. Paul Pradat
Preacher Polly Robb, Seminarian
Assisting Clergy The Rev. Katherine Harper
Deacon The Rev. Jeannie Randall
Organist Melanie Payne
Choir Director Donna Clark
Treble Choir Kathy Heim

8:00 AM
Eucharistic Ministers Sally Barnett, Kristi Boyer
Lectors Malcolm Tagg, Kathleen Redman
Acolyte Alex Steel
Ushers Pat & Al Johnson
Greeters Nell & David Fisher

10:30 AM
Eucharistic Ministers Maggie Clark, Bob Harwell
Lectors Vivianne Brown, Josephine Harper, Brylie Nielsen
Acolyte Ryan Demos, Brady Jones, Olivia Moore, Rowan Duling
Ushers Jeanne & John Crown
Greeters Sally Upchurch, Evie Wilson

Vestry on Duty Nancy Ward, Kelly Evans
Altar Guild Gail Perna, Penny Nielsen, Pat Stueck, Mike Jones
Breakfast The Fifth Breakfast Group
Cookie Crew Jean Simon

This Week at St. Thomas

Thursday, March 28
4:00 PM Churching Prayer, St. Anne's Chapel
7:00 PM Men's Spirituality Group, Conference Room I

Saturday, March 30
9:00 AM - Noon Parish Work Day

Sunday, March 31
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Nave
Nursery Available
9:00 AM Breakfast, Faith Covenant Academy
9:30 AM Christian Formation Classes:
* Theological Gumbo, "Living the Way of Love - GO," Parish Hall
* Children's Sunday School, Hiers Hall Classrooms
* Youth Sunday School, Youth Room
* Centering Prayer, St. Anne's Chapel
10:30 AM Children's Service/Holy Eucharist, Nave
Nursery Available
4:00 PM EYC, Youth Room
4:00 PM Treble Choir, Choir Room

Monday, April 1
6:00 PM Outreach Meeting, Conference Room I
7:00 PM Great Emergence, Conference Room II

Tuesday, April 2
6:00 PM EfM, Conference Room I

Wednesday, April 3
9:30 AM Bible Study, Conference Room I
Parents' Morning Out - drop-off
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Healing Service, St. Anne's Chapel
Noon Bible Study, Conference Room I
12:45 PM Parents' Morning Out - pick-up
5:30 PM Taizé Eucharist, Nave
Nursery Available until 7:15 PM
6:00 PM Soup & Salad, Parish Hall
6:30 PM Lenten Series "Living the Way of Love - REST"
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

St. Thomas Episcopal Church | stthomas@stthomashuntsville.org | <http://www.stthomashuntsville.org>
12200 Bailey Cove Road
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