

# June 2021 The Story

*All are Welcome  
No Exceptions!*

St. Thomas Episcopal Church accepts all people and we commit:

Celebrate the Eucharist regularly

Keep a personal and community discipline of prayer and study

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by promoting justice, peace, and love.

Nurture God's people as we grow in Christ

Live with thanksgiving, wonder, and openness to God's love

## **St. Thomas resumes indoor, in-person worship June 13**

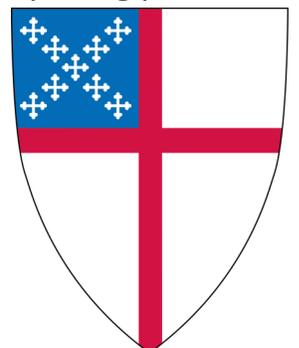
I'm pleased to report that St. Thomas, Franklin, will reopen for in-person worship in the building effective with the service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, June 13. St. Thomas plans to keep offering indoor Eucharist weekly, contingent on continuing lower numbers of COVID-19 cases in Johnson County.

For now, worshippers still will be asked to wear masks and social distance in the church. Pews are taped off to allow seating in every other row on both sides of the central aisle. If parishioners or visitors forget masks, ushers can provide them.

As we transition back inside, St. Thomas will keep livestreaming worship on Facebook.

The St. Thomas Regathering Committee approved the reopening based partly on Diocesan Reopening Guidelines. But the decision also comes during a shift in responsibility for reopening. Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows said in a recent Zoom call with clergy that she and her staff decided it will no longer be necessary for the Diocese to approve parish reopening plans.

*--Fr. Whitney Smith*



Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows will return to St. Thomas, Franklin, on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> for her next pastoral visit.

Please join us as Bishop Jennifer preaches and presides at our 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist. The service was planned to be in the Shelter House, but if the weather doesn't cooperate or the Bishop chooses otherwise, the service and congregation will move inside. A Q&A and social time will follow. This will be a great opportunity to meet the Bishop or get to know her better. The Bishop also will meet with the Vestry.

This will be Bishop Jennifer's third pastoral visit to St. Thomas. Consecrated as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis in April 2017, she was last at St. Thomas for a pastoral visit in December 2019.

All plate or undesignated money given during her visit will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund to support emergencies and non-budgeted ministry needs. If you would like to give to the fund directly, please write "Bishop's Fund" in the memo line of the check.



With the return to indoor worship, we have a need for Greeters, Lector's, Eucharist Ministers and Acolytes. If you have thought of serving in any of these ways during worship, please give Cheryl Faust a call at 317-374-3197 or email [mammyfaust@hotmail.com](mailto:mammyfaust@hotmail.com) or contact Fr Whitney.

## *St. Thomas Clinic Re-opens June 16*

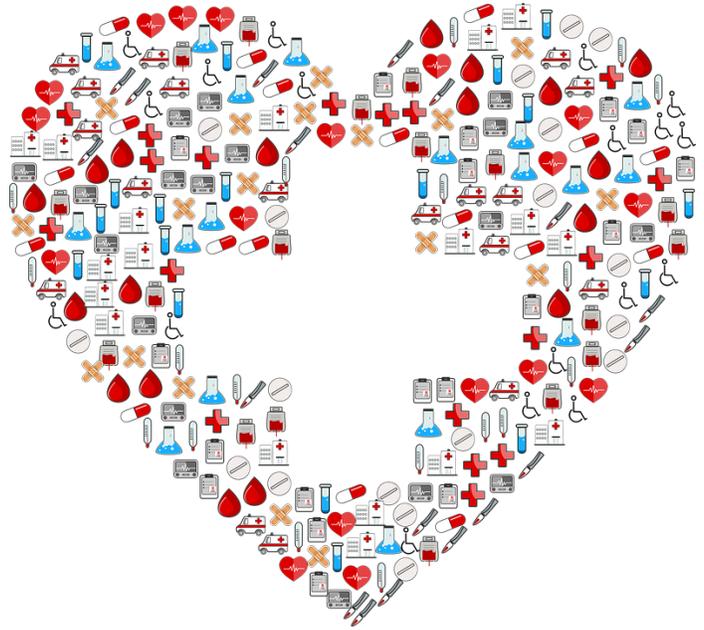
It is my pleasure to announce that St. Thomas Clinic will be reopening in the building on Wednesday, June 16.

Patients will still need to make appointments by calling the Clinic at (317) 535-6057. However, the Clinic will be operating under a new COVID-19 Return to Duty Plan. Our new guidelines will include walking a patient from the car directly to the patient room, rather than asking patients to gather in the waiting room.

Clinic staff will meet for Safety & Procedure training prior to reopening to ensure that all are on board with the new guidelines that will help facilitate the health and safety of patients, staff and volunteers – as well as the building's overall maintenance and sanitation.

While we are grateful that we have been able to provide limited services via the parking lot to date, we are excited and thankful to be able to get back to full service in the building. Thank you all for your faithful support of St. Thomas Clinic.

--Terresa Branham



## **Panera Bread Sign-up**

St. Thomas resumed our ministry with Panera Bread with a slight change. The end of day bread will be picked up at Panera Bread Sunday night and delivered to the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County Monday morning. Please use the link below for more information and to sign up to help. Questions: contact Steve Wahlberg.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BA9A62BA46-panera>

## Search for Parish Admin and Treasurer Continues

St. Thomas, Franklin, is still seeking candidates for a part-time Parish Administrator position. The Admin will be expected to work in the church office 16 hours per week. Duties will include serving as Receptionist, producing a weekly bulletin, assisting the Rector and lay leaders, financial reporting and reconciliation, and assisting with a monthly newsletter. Familiarity with the ACS accounting system and/or Publisher is a plus. A background check will be required. Applicants should submit a resume with three professional references to [stthom-aspersonnel@gmail.com](mailto:stthom-aspersonnel@gmail.com). If there are questions, please contact Fr. Whitney Smith at [whitinindy@hotmail.com](mailto:whitinindy@hotmail.com)



St. Thomas is seeking a volunteer to serve the parish as Treasurer. As you may know, Marti Ramsey has announced her intention to leave the position soon. We would like to thank Marti for her many years of dedicated service.

Treasurer responsibilities include helping to develop the annual parish budget, balancing the books each month with the assistance of the Parish Administrator, and presenting monthly financial reports at Vestry meetings. Upon hiring of an administrator, the Treasurer will work in concert with that individual to make sure debits and credits are logged properly.

The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis provides training for Parish Treasurers. Marti also will be available for tutoring and assistance.

If you or anyone you know is willing to serve as Treasurer for St. Thomas, please contact me at [cgatc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgatc@sbcglobal.net) or (317) 716-2438 (cell), or Fr. Whitney Smith at [whitinindy@hotmail.com](mailto:whitinindy@hotmail.com) or (317) 383-7876 (cell).

Peace, Dave Buchholz, Senior Warden

# June Celebrations *It's a Girl!*

## Birthdays

1 Mary Moffett  
 7 Teresa Voorhees  
 8 Elizabeth Moffett  
 10 Lydia Woolery  
 11 Darby Merriman  
 27 Rachel Allen

## Anniversaries

10 Jim & Katy Alexander  
 17 John & Cynthia Dozier  
 24 Jerry & Sue Downs  
 25 Robin Kares & Paula Sites

Congrats Maggie and Jim Lewison the birth of Josephine Mae on May 28, 2021. Welcome to the St. Thomas Family!

## ST. THOMAS VESTRY

### The 25th Vestry of St. Thomas (2021--2023)

2021 .....Robin Kares, Joshua Craft-Rutan, Jan Skopecek  
 2022 .....Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke  
 2023 .....Rachel Allen, Brandi Ashlock, Cheryl Faust, Steve Wahlberg

### The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

Rector.....Fr. Whitney Smith  
 Senior Warden ..... Dave Buchholz  
 Junior Warden .....Steven Wahlberg  
 Clerk ..... Karen Smith  
 Treasurer .....Marti Ramsey  
 Organist/Choir Director .....Heather Orvek  
 Assistant Treasurers .....Robin Kares, Mike Ramsey, Eric Smith

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please submit it to Father Whitney at whitindy@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month.