

February 2022

The Story

*All are Wel-
come
No Exceptions!*

St. Thomas Episco-
pal Church accepts
all people and we
commit:

Celebrate the Eu-
charist regularly
Keep a personal
and community dis-
cipline of prayer
and study

Proclaim the Good
News of Jesus
Christ by pro-
moting justice,
peace, and love.

Nurture God's peo-
ple as we grow in
Christ

Live with thankgiv-
ing, wonder, and
openness to God's
love

Restore all people
to unity with God
and each other

The Intimacy and Impact of Small Services

At our Annual Meeting on January 31st, I was glad to hear Senior Warden Dave Buchholz mention that our Christmas Eve service was well-attended. We had a solid turnout, our biggest of 2021. Beyond that, whether it was the return of a choir up front, the way the light played on the poinsettias, or the sight of families I hadn't seen in a while, the service was heartwarming.

However, services before and after Christmas Eve reminded me that spirituality is also at work here on a smaller scale. The intimacy of small services in late December and late January continues to have impact on me.

With December 21st, the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, being on a Tuesday, it seemed likely that the Eucharist that evening would be small. Six chairs were set up, allowing for a service with our stained-glass windows in the background. But the red double doors kept opening, which was fun! We ended up with eleven, the same number of apostles present in the gospel lesson I preached on.

Though the St. Thomas service was planned well in advance, our January 26th service was more spontaneous. It happened in response to the death of Judith Mullinix, a longtime former St. Thomas parishioner and St. Thomas Clinic volunteer. Saying Noonday Prayer on a Wednesday after the clinic closed for the day seemed a good opportunity for those who knew Judith at the clinic and those who knew her at church to worship together. Eighteen attended, including a good representation of both communities that do ministry and mission in our building.

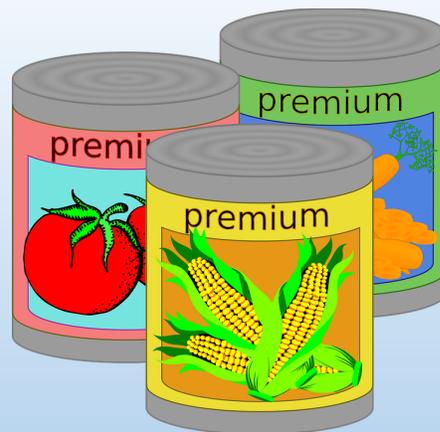
In a few weeks, I'll be tallying attendance and membership for the Annual Parochial Report for the National Church. When I do, I'll remember that church isn't only about the numbers.

--Fr. Whitney

Interchurch Food Pantry Seeks Items

Thanks to everyone who donated items in January on behalf of St. Thomas for the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County.

For February the Food Pantry is asking for canned goods and non-perishable boxed food items. We will be collecting donations at church on **February 20th**, the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Cheryl Faust if you would like to help: 317-374-3197 or mammyfaust@hotmail.com



Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and declared 6 more weeks of winter!



Pay Pledges Online

The Bishop's office is continuing to process online gifts on behalf of congregations. If you wish to pay your pledge online, visit [Give Now \(onrealm.org\)](https://onrealm.org) and select Give to a Congregation. Then select St. Thomas—Franklin.

The Altar Guild Ministry

The Altar Guild, as known to the Episcopal Church, serves under the direction of the Rector. The main responsibility of the Altar Guild is to prepare for worship. Being a member of the Altar Guild is a labor of love and an important commitment, one that gives you the opportunity to be an integral part of the worship at St. Thomas. This important ministry is open to those men and women who desire to help prepare for the Sunday Eucharist and other services. If you would like to learn more concerning the Altar Guild ministry, please contact Marti Ramsey, Karen Smith or Fr. Whitney.



Adult Education Begins February 13th

Adult Education Forums will start meeting once a month February through May at 9:00 Sunday mornings. We will be studying saints and sainthood in the Anglican tradition.

The opening session will be February 13th. I will provide an introduction and overview of sainthood in the Episcopal Church. On March 13th, Fr. Whitney will lead a session on Thomas Cranmer. He was the main figure in the English Reformation, primarily known for the first Book of Common Prayer.

On April 3rd, Joshua Craft-Rutan will give a presentation on Mary of Egypt, one of the "Desert Mothers." The final discussion will be May 8th and the leader and topic will be announced later.

--Marikay Kapke

February Celebrations

Birthdays

3 David Beck & Olivia Tullis
9 Marta Pincheira & Austin Smith
13 Thomas Smith
21 Olivia Bachman & Ann Kieffer
23 George Alexander

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month

ST. THOMAS VESTRY

The 25th Vestry of St. Thomas (2022--2024)

2022Dave Buchholz, Marikay Kapke
2023Rachel Allen, Brandi Ashlock, Cheryl Faust, Steve Wahlberg
2024Eric Smith, Julie Stogsdill

The Staff and Officers of St. Thomas

Rector.....Fr. Whitney Smith
Senior Warden Dave Buchholz
Junior WardenSteven Wahlberg
Clerk Julie Stogsdill
TreasurerJim Lewis
Parish AdministratorJoy Tucker
Organist/Choir DirectorHeather Orvek

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.