



## Weekly Newsletter

Friday, September 27, 2024

# WORSHIP

## The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

~ St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten Sunday and Open House ~

**Sunday, September 29, 2024**

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Church

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion with Baptism in the Church

5:00 p.m. Last Chance Mass in the Old School Building

### SERVICE DETAILS AND REMINDERS

- 1) [Click here](#) to watch the **10:00 a.m.** service live and to find previous services on the St. Thomas' Church website.
- 2) You can access the worship bulletin at <https://bit.ly/ST-Online>

### We also offer weekday worship services!

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. in the Old School Building:  
Holy Eucharist and Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Old School Building:  
Morning Prayer



*This Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. service we will  
celebrate the baptism of*

**Graham Edward Parker**

Son of Jessica Katherine Nyce and Brian  
Edward Parker

We are delighted to welcome their  
Godparents, family, and friends worshipping  
with us today.



### ONLINE WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We're looking for just a few more volunteers to help stream our 10:00 a.m. services each Sunday. No experience necessary—you will be trained! Contact [Jane Farnan](#) for more information. *Thank you to those who have already volunteered!*



**Sunday, October 6 10:00 a.m. service**

## Blessing of the Animals

Join us next **Sunday, October 6th** at the **10:00 a.m. service** for the Blessing of the Animals. We will be in the grassy circle outside the church. All cats, dogs, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs, and more are welcome!

*\*In case of rain, we will have worship inside the church. Please bring a photo of your pet for a blessing.*

# LEARN



## October 12th First Fruits Farm Confirmation Class Event

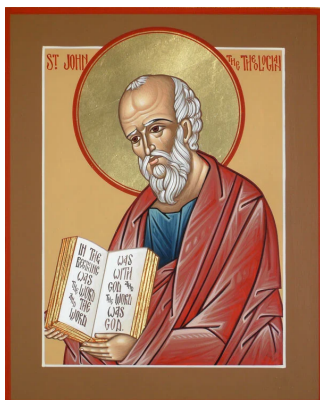
### YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

Youth in **Grades 8 and up** are invited and encouraged to register for Confirmation Class. To register, please contact [Rev. Tom](#).

The Class will begin with volunteering at **First Fruits Farm on Saturday, October 12, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.** Please click the button below to sign the waiver for all volunteers to sign before the event.

The Confirmation Service will be at **St. Thomas' on Sunday, June 8, at 10:00 a.m.**, with The Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent presiding.

First Fruits Farm Waiver



## Adult Bible Study: Mondays at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

### Join us for Adult Bible Study!

Join us for Adult Bible study as we progress through the Gospel of John. The author expressly wrote this gospel for you "so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that by believing, you may have life in His name."

Even if you have not read the Bible since confirmation class, or not at all, you're welcome to log on, to speak and share, or just to listen. There are no right answers or tests, only the willingness to read the Scriptures and to use supplemental resources of your choice.

Our weekly Zoom will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday nights through November 18th. Contact [Jane Farnan](#) to



**October 25-27, 2024**

## **Spiritual Practices Retreat at The Claggett Center**

Deepen your prayer practices during this weekend of reflection and meditation. This year's workshops include the Ignatian practice of Examen, meditative movement, Lectio Divina, Anglican Prayer beads, and more! Come learn a new spiritual practice or deepen your existing prayer life in community with folks from all around the Dioceses of Maryland and Washington.

[Click here for more information and to register!](#)

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## **Children's & Youth Ministries**



### **Sunday School is in the Old School Building at 9:45 a.m.**

Sunday School for children ages 4-10 is in the Old School Building at 9:45 a.m. Please join us!

To register your child/children for our Children & Youth Ministry programs, or to volunteer, click [here](#).

Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the Narthex each Sunday.

Questions? Please contact [The Rev. Tom Murphy](#).

### **Sunday School Teachers Needed!**

If you are interested in being a part of this important ministry, please contact [Jesse VanGeison](#) or [Michelle Schmidt](#).

## **This Week's Activity Links**

[Pre-Reader](#)

[Reader](#)

**GIVE**

**Greens Sale: September 29 - October 31**



## St. Thomas' Annual Greens Sale Begins!

Fall may have just arrived, but it is time to start thinking about the holidays! Order beautiful Christmas greens and support St. Thomas' at the same time. **Click on the button below** to place your direct delivery and local pickup items. You can pay through Tithely directly from the St. Thomas' Sherwood Forest website when ordering online. Make sure to scroll down to the Greens Sale option in the drop-down menu. **Orders are due by October 31st.** Contact [Kristin Nightwine](#) if you have any questions or need more information.

**Paper order forms are also available in the Narthex and Parish Hall.**

Please mail in or drop off a check, made payable to St. Thomas' Church, along with paper order forms to the Parish Office, or pay online through [Tithely](#), clicking on the drop-down menu to Greens.

*Thank you for your support of this wonderful tradition!*

[Click here to Order Greens Online](#)

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## ST. THOMAS' OUTREACH: COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER CARE BAGS

Each month, we will be making Care Bags consisting of smaller-sized items as a St. Thomas' community Outreach activity for household cleaning supplies and dental hygiene products.

[Join us Sunday, October 12th following the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services in the Parish Hall to assemble Care Bags!](#)

The Community Crisis Center is relying on St. Thomas' parishioners to provide **200 Care Bags each month** (100 Household Cleaning Supplies and 100 Dental Hygiene Products). Please consider donating these Wish List items on a monthly basis so we can fulfill our promise.

**We are in need of supplies to fulfill the next round of Care Bags!** If you would like to participate, please purchase the specific items either in-store or through the [Dollar Tree website](#) or app.

Items can be dropped off to the Parish Office during office hours or in the baskets located in the Narthex and Parish Hall.

*We are still accepting donations of diapers and feminine hygiene products.*

If you have any questions or need more information, please [contact Margaret Green](#).

**Click the button below to view and purchase Care Bag Wish List items.**

[Care Bags Wish List Items](#)



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## Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign is underway!

Over the next several weeks, look for TENS weekly reflections and “A Story of Stewardship” offered by some of our own St. Thomas’ parishioners. We hope you will be renewed and inspired to give your time, talent, and treasure. Please fill in your pledge card front and back, and mail back to us or pledge online by clicking the **GIVE NOW** button below.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the Stewardship Presentation during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 15th.

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## A ST. THOMAS' STORY OF STEWARDSHIP

### AFGHAN FAMILY OUTREACH

Two years ago, when I decided to attend the St. Thomas’ information session about establishing an outreach program for Afghan asylum seekers, I had no idea the impact that my participation in this ministry would have on my life. My involvement with other dedicated St. Thomas’ parishioners on the Afghan initiative, and in partnership with members of the Chizuk Amuno Congregation, Memorial Episcopal, St. Mark’s on the Hill, and ERICA, has generated for me an overwhelming sense of purpose by enabling our Afghan friends to successfully transition to life in the United States. This transition consists of myriad factors that we, as native born citizens, rarely think about. The seemingly insurmountable task of learning a new language, understanding unfamiliar social norms while honoring one’s own social structures, seeking employment, obtaining housing, learning to drive in order to gain independence, enrolling in school, and managing daily living tasks such as food shopping, are all components with which members of the Afghan outreach ministry have been involved.

As I reflect on my personal involvement with our Afghan friends - the 5 members of the Tahiri Family, their eldest son Abobaker, and our first asylum seeking friend, Hizbullah Baryal – I realize that they have enriched my life in ways that I could never have anticipated. Through conversations with my Afghan friends about life in Afghanistan I have a newfound appreciation of how God has blessed my life, regardless of past trials and challenges; I have a richer understanding of why, all over the world, the United States is seen as a land of opportunity, a land that individuals are, literally, willing to risk their lives to reach. Through many discussions regarding their religious practices, my Afghan friends have helped me to understand the intersection of the Muslim and Christian faith traditions, allowing me to live out my Baptismal Covenant more fully to “respect the dignity of every human being.”

While there have, at times, been moments of frustration and disappointment, there remains an overwhelming sense of joy and celebration as I continue my interactions with these special individuals that I have come to think of as my extended family. Nothing can compare to the excitement of Hizbullah as he earned his Maryland driver’s license and thus his independence, or to Arif when he was hired at Loane Bros., providing him the opportunity to contribute to the support of his family. What can match being able to witness Burhan’s very first day of school, not only in America, but in his life, or Sahil’s pride in his academic achievement in high school by earning a 4.0 GPA as a non-native speaker and being accepted into his “dream school” at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute? Abobaker’s feelings of accomplishment when being hired at the McCormick Company in Hunt Valley and his continued pursuit of higher education at BCCC continues to be reason for joyous celebrations!

God has been generous in allowing me the opportunity to create these meaningful, important relationships and, thus, to live out my faith more fully. I welcome others to join in

this wonderful journey that, prayerfully, leaves the world a little warmer and closer to God's kingdom on Earth.

— Jim Wolgamott



We're making contributing to St. Thomas' Church easy through our online system. No worries about finding stamps or envelopes. **Click on the Give Now button below.**

If you have not yet submitted your 2024 Pledge, please click [here](#).

[Make an online gift through Tithe.ly](#)

[Give Now](#)

2024-2025 Stewardship Reflections

## GROW



**Sunday, September 29th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

### **Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake Baltimore Boat Tour with the Green Team**

**This Sunday, September 29th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.,** the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is hosting a boat tour which will start with a tour of the Baltimore National Aquarium's new Floating Wetlands Project. This is a chance for participants to learn about the health of the harbor and the importance of clean waters, while meeting others in Baltimore's faith community. Tickets are \$50 each. Join the Green Team from St. Thomas' on this educational trip!

**Click on the button below for more information and to register.**

[Green Team Baltimore Boat Tour Information](#)



### **A CELEBRATION OF OUR LONG-TIME PARISHIONERS!**

To RSVP for this event, please send an email to [Jane Farnan](mailto:jane.farnan@stthomas.org) or call the Parish Office at [410-363-1044](tel:410-363-1044).

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**April 21, 2025 - April 25, 2025**

### **Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama: Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2025 Annual Trail of Souls Event**

Join Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent and members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on a profound journey through history with the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland's Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama. This immersive tour invites you to walk in the footsteps of the courageous people who fought for justice and equality during the pivotal Civil Rights Movement. Explore iconic landmarks in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, where you'll gain insight into the struggles and triumphs that shaped the nation. With expert guides, poignant storytelling, and reflective discussions, this pilgrimage offers a powerful, faith based educational experience of the nation's civil rights and social justice struggle.

[\*\*Click here for more information!\*\*](#)

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# ST. THOMAS' HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

FOLLOWING THE 10:00 AM SERVICE

*All are welcome for a cook-out, corn hole, cotton candy, lawn games, bake sale, face painting, craft sale, and more!*

*Music provided by St. Thomas' parishioners*

*• Sign Up coming soon! •*

*For more information, please contact Rev. Tom.*

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## STPS Open House Sunday

St. Thomas' Preschool and Kindergarten is opening its doors **Sunday, September 29th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** to our amazing community and to those interested in enrolling their child for the 2025/2026 school year!

Visit our classrooms and outdoor play spaces! Learn about our nature and play-based programs! See the chick eggs right before they hatch! Meet our fabulous director and some of our amazing teachers!

Come celebrate **PRESCHOOL SUNDAY** and experience the "magic" for yourself! Contact [Nicole Norris](#), Director, for more information.

[Access online registration for St. Thomas' Preschool & Kindergarten](#)

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Join Us for our Annual VOLUNTEER DAY!  
SATURDAY October 12th  
FIRST FRUITS FARM  
9:00am - 11:00am  
20431 Middletown Road, Freeland MD 21053



All volunteers must sign our waiver  
BEFORE arrival.



FIRST FRUITS 10/12

Dress for the weather, and expect to get dirty  
- no sandals or flip flops please! First Fruits  
Farm will provide: work gloves, drinking water,  
and on-the-job training.



If you have any questions, please contact  
Nicole Norris [nnorris@stthomaspreschool.info](mailto:nnorris@stthomaspreschool.info)



**Saturday, October 12th 9:00 a.m.**

## First Fruits Farm Event

Join us for a fun community service project in conjunction with the St. Thomas' Preschool & Kindergarten families and the St. Thomas' Confirmation Class. Dress for the weather and expect to get dirty! **All volunteers must sign a waiver before arrival that morning.** If you are logging volunteer hours, please bring paperwork to have signed. For more information, contact [Jane Farnan](#) or [Nicole Norris](#), STPS Director.

[Click on the button below to sign the First Fruits Farm volunteer waiver.](#)

[First Fruits Farm Waiver](#)



ST. THOMAS'  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. THOMAS'  
PRESCHOOL  
AND KINDERGARTEN



# Fall Fest

Please RSVP using the QR Code:



OCTOBER 26 2:30-4:30

Parking: If you do NOT plan to participate in trunk or treat, please park in the circle near the Church. The parking lot by the school is reserved for Trunk-or-Treat parking only and will be closed at 3pm for safety. No cars will be permitted in or out of the parking lot while the kids are trunk-or-treating.

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED



Saturday, November 2nd

## Save the Date for a Newcomers Reception!

Welcome all newcomers - we are glad you are here! Join us for a reception Saturday, November 2nd at the Rectory from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. To RSVP, please email [Jane Farnan](mailto:jane.farnan@stthomas.org).



## SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP

Come join us for fellowship, following the 10:00 a.m. service each Sunday in the Parish Hall. Coffee, conversation, and good eats await! **Click the button below to sign up to bring food items for Fellowship.**

[Sign up for Fellowship!](#)

## The Thursday Morning Group

**COME JOIN THE FUN - ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The Thursday Morning Group meets in the St. Thomas' Church Library **each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. to noon**. Friendship, laughter and stories are shared, as well as ideas for many different kinds of projects.

## Prayer List

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely, especially Allannah, Amy, Barbara L., Carter, Dan R., David, David G., Dixon, Ellen, Emma, Eric S., Gee, Jacqueline, Katharine, Kathleen D., Lidia, Michael, Michael Z., Mike P., Morgan B., Nick, Randy, Rhonda, Rose, Sara H., Steve S., Susan, Verna, and Vicki; Give them all the joy of your saving help, and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:  
Richard Jackson ~ Mary Maccoun Watts ~ Margaret Lastique*

In our Parish Ministry Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Parish Staff.

## DAILY READINGS

[CLICK HERE](#)

### St. Thomas' Church Owings Mills

232 St. Thomas Lane, Owings Mills  
MD 21117 United States

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