

Triumph *Newsletter*

New Tuesday Night Ministry Plan

Helping More People Get Connected this Fall

Prior to COVID, the Kitchen Ministry offered Tuesday Night Dinners (TND) from 5:30 – 6:15 pm, followed by worship with communion from 6:30 – 7 pm, and then Committees met beginning at 7:15 or 7:30 pm. We designed worship with leadership in mind, but the service was open to anyone. Attendance for dinner was consistently between 75 – 80 guests and worship averaged between 20 – 25 people, many of whom already attended worship on Sunday.

During the pandemic, TND moved to offering a curbside option with pickup from 5:15 – 6:00 pm and we witnessed many new families from the community – sometimes seeing as many as 150 to 175 meals prepared for our guests.

Also, our excellent music ensembles met throughout the week at various times prior to the pandemic – often requiring families to make a commitment across several days. For example, a family with school aged children would rehearse on Tuesday nights, while youth rehearsals for Joyful Noise

Singers met on Sundays after church, and parents involved in choir, bells, or the praise band rehearsed on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday! This is challenging considering that musical talent often runs in families and we all need time to rest, play, and lead a balanced life!

So... beginning this fall, we will transition to offering two of our most vital programs on the same night – TND and our various music ensemble rehearsals. We believe this will enhance both programs and accomplish the following as well:

- Foster community
- Make life easier for families who have members of different ages that participate in our musical groups (i.e. Parents / Grands / Children / Youth can all come out on the same night).
- Work towards aligning our mid-week offerings, which could eventually include other small group offerings or ensembles.

Here's the New Tuesday Night Schedule

Start Time	End Time	Activity	Location
5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Tuesday Night Dinner	Fellowship Hall / Curbside
5:00 PM	5:30 PM	SonShine Choir (3 years old – Kindergarten)	Room 300 – 302
5:30 PM	6:15 PM	Children's Choir (1 st – 5 th Graders)	Room 300 – 302
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Joyful Noise Singers (Youth)	Choir Room
6:30 PM	7:30 PM	Praise Band (High School & Adults)	Sanctuary
6:45 PM	8:00 PM	Chancel Choir (College & Adults)	Choir Room
7:00 PM	8:30 PM	Committee Meetings (Sept – December 2021)	Various 3 rd Floor
7:30 PM	8:45 PM	Hand Bell Choir (High School & Adults)	Sanctuary

In general, to learn more about the TND menus each week and reserve meals for your family, please visit our website; or, to see this month's menu go to page 8. More information about each musical ensemble can be found on our website, plus details about how to join one of our musical groups; or, you may turn to page 7 in this edition of the newsletter. What a great way to engage your whole family this fall around the dinner table and by using your creativity to praise God!

We hope to see you on Tuesday nights beginning Tuesday, September 7 at 5 PM!

Stewardship Thoughts

We have all been there...feeling like what we bring to the table isn't as good as what others are bringing.

Their gifts seem so much greater, they have more money, more time, more skills, more everything compared to you.

Why should I serve my church when there are so many people with greater gifts than me?

Why should I donate my money, when someone richer will double my gift?

Why should I offer my skills, when someone else is much more talented than me?

But friend, that is not how Jesus sees our gifts. When the poor widow offered her two coins into the temple treasury, how did Jesus respond? He said, "This poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21:3-4).

Friend, your offering is enough. Jesus looks at the heart behind our gift, and He will use it in a mighty way! What have you been scared to offer in fear that it isn't enough? How can you confidently offer it to God today?

By Karen Ehman for Proverbs 31 Ministries



NEW THIS FALL!

Sermon Series

(September 12)

AND

Small Group

(September 19)

Join us on Sundays in September.

Invite a Friend!

You're Invited

You believe...Now come and discover the evidence to back up your faith.

The Case for Christ is a film you won't want to miss. You and your family are invited on Friday, September 17 at 7:30 pm to see the full, feature-length film (outdoors weather permitting, indoors if rainy) that will inspire our sermon series and a new, small group study this fall.

During the month of September, experience this compelling journey where challenging questions about Jesus and Christianity are explored and answered through the film, a four-week sermon series and a small group study based on the major motion picture, *The Case for Christ*.

Discover the real evidence of Jesus' death and resurrection! Whether you are a skeptic or have been a Christian for years, you will be touched by the true story of an award-winning investigative journalist (Lee Strobel)—and avowed atheist—who applies his well-honed journalistic and legal skills to disprove the newfound Christian faith of his wife.... with unexpected, life-altering results.

The sermon series will begin on Sunday, September 12, at both services followed by the small group book study a week later on Sunday, September 19 at 10 AM, facilitated by Pat Dodson in Room 306. To participate in the small group study, please sign up on your Connect Card in worship or contact the front office by email, receptionist@stthomasumc.org, or by phone, (703) 368-5161. Space is limited and we will start additional studies if need be.

Wherever you are at with your faith and questions, you won't be the same after you discover the evidence for yourself! Join us, and bring a friend! This is a life-changing journey you won't want to miss.

Finance Update

Rich Banner, Finance Chair

I am happy to report that overall, the finances of the church have tracked closely to the budget so far in 2021. The Lord continues to provide for the Church in a variety of ways. I will give brief descriptions of those ways in the following paragraphs.

Paycheck Protection Program: The Church participated in the 2nd round of the Paycheck Protection Program. The loan the Church received during the 2nd round totaled \$197,530. The Small Business Administration accepted our application for forgiveness on August 24, 2021. The proceeds for the loan were used to pay salaries and wages of the Church and Sunbeam Children's Center.

Employee Retention Credit: In August, the Church submitted a claim to the Internal Revenue Service to recapture overpayment of payroll taxes. This was done as part of the Employee Retention Credit program. The claim submitted was for the fourth quarter of 2020 and totaled \$94,152. We have not received any notification regarding this claim since it was submitted. We received a check from the IRS on August 24th in the amount of \$18,936.30 for the first quarter of 2021 as part of the ERC program.

Operational Updates: A check scanner and the related software was recently obtained through the efforts of Harry Elanko, Director of Finance. The Tellers use the scanner to process checks. The scanner and software improve efficiency, accuracy, and cash flow. Here is a list of several operational changes made since the beginning of 2021: moved the payroll processing to a third-party (ADP) who handles all payroll and related tax matters for the Church and Sunbeam Children's Center; moved the accounting system to QuickBooks Online allowing access for not only the Director of Finance but the

Finance Committee Chair and Vice Chair; made a change with how online transactions are processed by Vanco, the third-party online payment processor, which sends offerings directly to the three Church accounts (General, Designated or Local Relief).

Supporting Renovation Plans: As the Youth Center renovation project gains momentum, the Finance Committee researched several options by which the Church could finance the project. The financial institutions we researched were the Virginia Methodist Foundation, the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union, Truist Bank (formerly BB&T), TD Bank, and Wells Fargo Bank. The Finance Committee, after the research was presented, decided by unanimous vote to seek financing, when it's needed, from the Virginia Methodist Foundation. The low interest, responsiveness, and willingness expressed by the Committee to do business with an organization related to our denomination were the main factors for the decision. Several members of the congregation have contributed specifically to the Youth Center project. These contributions were used and will be used specifically for the renovations in compliance with the donors' instructions.

2022 Budget Call: The season of preparing the 2022 Church budget is commencing and I ask that you all pray God will continue to provide for our Church through gifts of our service, time, and offerings. What an exciting time to be a part of what God is doing in our midst.

Endowment Giving

Barry Barger, Permanent Endowment Committee Chair

This month, we introduce to you the **Property Fund**, which is another of the four recognized categories of Permanent Endowment Funds.

Property Funds are used for maintenance, care, improvements or additions to, or construction of physical facilities that are beyond the normal budgeted expenses to maintain and grow our church campus.

If you have been a home owner for any length of time, then you know that there are normal, related expenses necessary to maintain the house and property. You anticipate those expenses and build them into your budget. Yet, there are other expenses that fall outside those that regularly occur. Perhaps you want to add a garage or outbuilding or pave your driveway. Or you need to replace your roof or heating and cooling system. These are only a few of the many anticipated and unanticipated examples of the ongoing challenges we face as homeowners.

Our spiritual home is no different. We give thanks to our Board of Trustees for their dedicated work to provide and maintain our church grounds and structures. Imagine what it would be like if we could establish a Permanent Endowment **Property Fund** for the purpose of helping to ease and supplement those unexpected and nonrecurring expenses that are necessary to keep us functional, attractive and welcoming. While the **Property Fund** principal is restricted to use within this designated fund, all income derived from appreciation, interest and dividends is made available to the Trustees for those unexpected and nonrecurring items.

Should you wish to contribute to the Permanent Endowment **Property Fund** or have questions, please contact me through the church office. We must always do all that we can to glorify His house and keep it Holy.

Blessings and Peace!

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

The OWLS were finally able to get together for their first adventure since the start of Covid 19. On August 20, fourteen of us met at the summer home of Nancy and Bill Buchanan. The rain kept us inside but it didn't dampen the spirit or fun. It was wonderful to get to catch up with each other as we enjoyed a pot luck lunch. Before heading home, many took a ride on the 8 seater golf cart as Bill gave us a tour of the community. Everyone agreed it was a great way to celebrate OWLS being able to get together again as we all enjoyed the food, fellowship and fun!

The next OWLS outing is tentatively scheduled for October 15 when we will meet at Bella Vita restaurant at 1:00 pm for lunch. More details will be posted when we get closer to the date.



Let's Celebrate!

Cheryl Rosko, Ignite Team

The Ignite Team would like to share a glimpse of what St. Thomas has been doing over the past few months towards accomplishing the goals of our 2020-2022 Strategic Plan:

- The Communications Team has developed a draft of a **“Communication and Social Media Policy”** for use by the church and the SCC to ensure our communication reflects the highest moral and ethical character of our Christian life together.
- SPRC has begun the search for a part-time **Children’s Music Director**, which will help to ensure a comprehensive and growing choir program for children and youth.
- The **children and youth have been active serving and leading**. Over the summer, children did a wonderful job presenting the weekly children’s message in worship with their families. Youth also served at Loch Lomond ES, the Bright Center, the Food Pantry, VBS, cleaning out the OCB and helping



a fellow church member during 2 separate mission weekends (see picture above and those in Pastor Arum’s article). Riley Miller is serving as our new Youth Worship Intern. Milan Steen and Jack Bailey are serving on the

Building & Grounds Committee, which is shepherding the renovation of the new Youth Center.

- The Buildings and Ground Committee is making progress on the Renovation of the OCB (Original Church Building) into a dedicated Youth Center.

Many hands worked together to sort through what was being stored in the OCB. Items were returned to their “rightful owners”, donated, or discarded if they were unusable.

The conceptual architectural plans have been approved and completed and are now in the hands of the Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, and Civil Engineers to develop more detailed plans suitable for submission to the City for construction permits. Also, the Finance Committee is ready to move forward on acquiring a loan through the Methodist Foundation.

Wow! God is good and we are seeing the vision come to life before our very eyes!

We ask that you please continue to pray the Breakthrough Prayer, developed by our Adult Discipleship Team, through September. We are expecting God to bear abundant fruit as we move through this next year together and our faith collectively deepens.

Invitation to Music Ministry

Dominick Izzo, Music Director

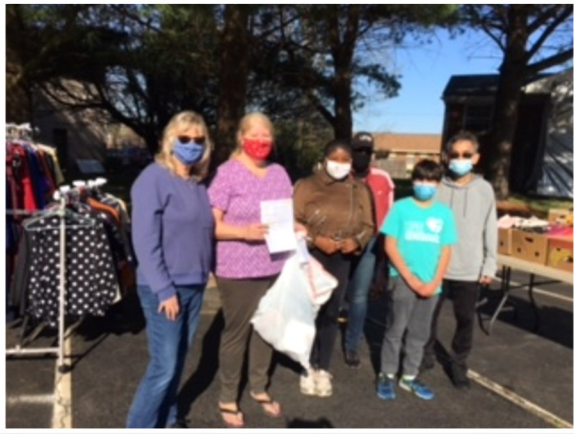
Are you feeling called to participate more in the ministry life of St Thomas? Do you enjoy the music you hear each Sunday and wish to be a part of it? Do you think to yourself “I’m not good enough” or “I don’t read music”. Well, regardless of your skill level, music ministry would like to personally invite you to come try to sing, ring, or play as we kick off our new Tuesday night rehearsal schedule.

If you are unsure, just come to a rehearsal and try it out. If you want to join any ensemble for a few rehearsals before you commit fully, we are grateful to you for giving us a try!

You can find the new Tuesday evening schedule on Page 2. Child care, in person or take out dinner options will be provided for the normal TND price!

If you wish to join any of our ensembles, contact our Director of Music Ministries, Dominick, via email at Dominick.Izzo@stthomasumc.org

The Community Clothing Closet



Do you have gently used clothing you could share? The Community Clothing Closet serves men, women and children of all ages. Currently, we are in need of the following items through the fall months:

- **Men’s pants** - all kinds (sizes 30-40)
- **Men’s T-shirts, long sleeve shirts**
- **Underwear and socks.**
- **Children’s fall/winter clothing**—all types and sizes

Interested in serving? Contact Renee Kinnear at Renee@rrkinnear.com to learn how you can help!

Caregiver Support Group

The Alzheimer’s Association’s Caregiver Support Group will be meeting each month starting this September on Thursday the 16th. The group will meet on the third Thursday at 10:30 AM in Room 300. Support groups provide a place for friends and family to share valuable information, caregiving tips and concerns. The group welcomes caregivers of people with dementia. If you have questions, please text Jane Priest at 703-895-7470.

Operation Christmas Child News



We have scaled back our obligations, but the collection of box-filling items continues! We are collecting gently used or new Happy Meal toys, new combs and brushes, Ivory soap bars, small notepads, rulers, tape measures, small sewing kits, Altoid tins and small Legos, new underwear and socks for children 2-14, and new flip flops.

Please email me if you have any questions or would like to help:

Tuesday Night Dinners Return!

We will begin our new season of Tuesday Night Dinners on September 7th and we are looking forward to seeing you again!

Signups for Tuesday Night Dinners will need to be done online at the church website: stthomasumc.org or by calling the church office by noon on Monday. There will be NO signups in the bulletin so that the kitchen team can prepare enough food for each meal.

We will offer a “dine in” option from 5-6:30 pm for those who would like to eat their meal at church. There will be 2 seating times: 5:00pm-5:40pm and 5:45pm-6:30pm. Right now we have 8 tables set up and seating will be by families. (If friends are comfortable sitting together you may do that with 4 people to a table.) Once those tables are full at 5:00 or 5:45 you will either need to choose the other seating time OR curbside pickup. When you sign up online you will receive an email back verifying that we have a table for you OR an email requesting you choose a different time or curbside pickup. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to keep everyone healthy and safe, while also seeking to return to our normal routines.

We will also continue to offer curbside pick up from 5:30pm-6:00pm.

Our cookie of the week is now our cookie of the month. You may indicate which week you would like to order and you may order every week, every couple of weeks, or once a month. The cookies remain \$10.00 per dozen. **Cookie of the month for September is:** Butter Toffee.

Our menus for September are:

September 7

Garden Salad

Spaghetti and Meatballs

Roasted Veggies

Bubble Bread

Dessert: Chocolate Cheesecake

Kid's: Same as adults

September 14

Chicken Stir Fry

Fresh Vegetables

Roasted Redskin Potatoes

Fresh Bread

Dessert: Carrot Cake

Kid's: Chicken Nuggets

September 21

New Orleans Jambalaya

(Chicken, Shrimp, Andouille)

Fried Okra

Corn Bread

Dessert: King Cupcakes

Kid's: Pepperoni Pizza

September 28

Roast Pork Loin

Mashed Potatoes/Gravy

Corn Souffle

Buttermilk Biscuits

Dessert: Apple Dumpling/Caramel Sauce

Kid's: Hot Dogs/French Fries

See you on September 7th!

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team

United Methodist Women

Dorcas Circle



The Dorcas Circle kicked off their program year with a Hymn Sing! Dom Izzo, our Music Director, led the singing and provided historical information about the hymns. The ladies enjoyed the opportunity for singing and fellowship. The Dorcas Circle, led by Martha Barlow, meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1pm—usually in Room 300

Time to order Apple Pies!

Our annual Holiday Bazaar will again be Virtual this year, but The United Methodist Women will still be making our Real Apple Pies! There will be 50 pies available for sale each week, beginning September 21 through October 19. Pies are \$12 each, cash & checks accepted. (Please make checks out to St. Thomas UMW - not the church). All the money will be donated to local and international Missions.



As always, we freeze the pies as soon as we make them on Thursday afternoon, so transport is easy and they will keep until the holidays (and beyond!). This year there will be 3 options for pickup: After Worship services on Sundays, at the Church on Monday or Tuesday during office hours (9am to 5pm), or on Tuesday evenings from 5pm to 6pm (Convenient if you ordered Tuesday Night Dinner!)

Check the Events Page on the Church website (beginning Sept. 3) to order your pies. When you sign up, please leave a note in the comments about when you expect to pick up your pies so we can be prepared for you. We ask that you pick up your pies by Tuesday evening at the latest so that we have freezer space available for the next batch!

Last year we sold out, so don't miss the chance to order your pies!

If you are interested in making pie dough, donating supplies or joining our pie making team on Thursday afternoons, please contact Pat Dodson at andyandpatd@yahoo.com Thank you!



RADA Cutlery Sales

With pumpkin-spice-everything and the lure of orchard visits and apple picking just around the corner, **we've got what you need** this fall, from Pie Servers & Paring Knives to Vegetable Peelers & Cutting Boards! When you shop from our fundraiser, you'll be **supporting Missions through The United Methodist Women**. Pick up a catalog on Sunday morning at the Welcome Desk or during the week in the Church Office.

Student Ministry

By Pastor Arum



The PACK is back! Starting August 29th, The PACK is gathering for The PACK AM (Sunday School) at 10 – 10:50 AM and for The PACK Night (Sunday gathering) at 6 – 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary at the new Youth Center (formerly, Old/Original Church Building). Please pray for our students, so that they

may stay healthy and safe, make lots of good memories, and most of all, grow in faith.

During The PACK AM (Sunday School), we will continue our faith talk with the “Jesus Studies” curriculum. We are meeting in person, but you can join via Zoom, too! Please find the Zoom link from The PACK weekly email or our church website (<https://stthomasumc.org/nourish/students>), or ask Pastor Arum.

This new school year we will try a new monthly schedule for The PACK Night:

1st Sunday of the Month – Worship Day: Music, Message, Communion & Birthday Celebration

2nd Sunday of the Month – Fun Day: A great day to invite friends!

3rd Sunday of the Month – Small Groups Day: Talk about student-life-relevant topics

4th Sunday of the Month – Mission Day: Serve our church and our community!

5th Sunday of the Month – No PACK Night



If you haven't registered your student (6th – 12th grade), please do it right now by visiting here: <https://forms.gle/y52JEx1EkW1Xpby89> or by taking this QR code with your cell phone photo app. It directs you to an online registration form. If you prefer a paper copy of the form, please let Pastor Arum know.

2nd PACK Summer Home Mission Weekend A Huge Success!

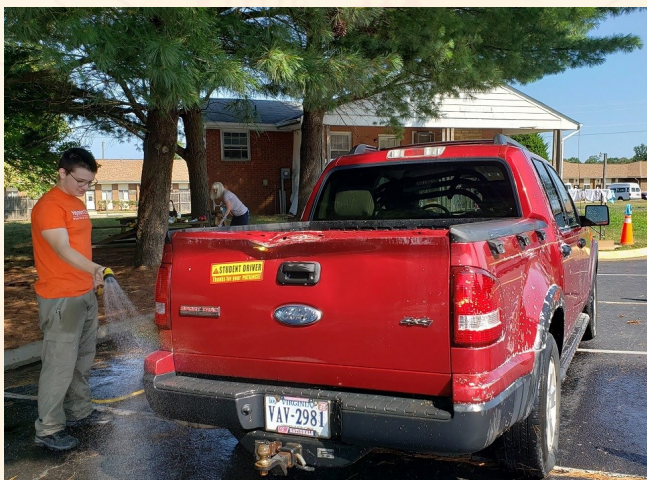


11 students and 10 adults participated in various mission projects to share God's love. We helped in the following ways:

- We set up the fundraising luncheon at Bright Center (a facility to offer care to the adults with special needs),
- We painted paws, planted flowers and pulled out weeds at Loch Lomond ES,
- We served at the Food Pantry,
- We helped clean up the storage units of a church member in need, and
- We did a fundraising car wash. We are so thankful for your support at the Car Wash Fundraiser! We earned \$818 in total! This will be used to purchase necessary items for the new youth center.



PACK Home Mission Weekend Highlights



Mission Extravaganza 2021



Mission Extravaganza 2021, hosted by the Mission Council, begins this year on September 2nd. We have old favorites as well as some new projects this year. Please go to our website, and click on the tab, "Serve" and "Serve Our Community" and look for the [Mission Extravaganza 2021](#) and choose your projects.

This year, we have no-sew blankets and scarves, pillow case dresses for girls in Africa, "Thinking of You" notes, painted "Manassas" rocks, birthday boxes for the St. Thomas Food Pantry, chemo kits for VA Cancer Specialists in Gainesville, and we will be serving dinner at SERVE on October 17th.

Materials will be given out on September 26th from 9 AM until 12:30 PM. If you cannot pick them up that day, please contact Cathy Campbell at ssteechur@yahoo.com. All projects are due on October 31st. Participate in the Mission Extravaganza — be the hands and feet of Christ!



St. Thomas
United Methodist Church

8899 Sudley Road, Manassas,
Rev. Abi Foerster, Senior Pastor
Rev. Arum Kim, Associate Pastor

stthomasumc.org

703-368-5161

Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:
samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org
receptionist@stthomasumc.org

Upcoming Events

- **Sep 6** Labor Day - Church Office Closed
- **Sep 7** Tuesday Night Dinner Returns
New Tuesday Night Ministry Plan Begins
- **Sep 10** Kids Care 2
- **Sep 16** UMW Pie Making starts
- **Sep 17** Movie Night - The Case for Christ
- **Sep 19** The Case for Christ - New Adult Study
- **Sep 26** Mission Extravaganza project pickups

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September Birthdays			1 Revonda Wack	2 JD Sayle	3	4
5 Mandy Burnett Carolyn Close Teddy Palian	6 David Norman	7	8	9 Hannah McGregor	10 Olivia Santee	11 Abi Foerster Scott Yost
12 Chloe Doell	13	14 Jon Weed	15 Maxine Prather	16 TJ Ntungwen	17 Julie Bailey	18 Catherine Brookwell Paula Harper
19 Christina Tacik	20 Faith Michalek	21 Leslie Oakes Bob Stanley	22 Judy Fake	23 Susannah Bailey	24 Wayne Avery Julie Palian	25 Bea Flynn
26 John White	27 Julie Doell	28	29	30		