

ST. THOMAS LIFELINES

VOLUME 32, No. 8

AUGUST 2025

Dear St. Thomas Family,

It's that time of year again. Even if you are not directly involved with education, it's back to school time. Stores have sales, teachers take one last summer fling, students leave whatever occupied their summer and prepare to return to the classroom. Churches follow a similar pattern. The rector has had a late-summer vacation, and now we are all preparing for new activities this fall.

First, I have inside information that our St. Thomas choir will soon be gathering to work on new music for the coming season. There is an unmistakable new enthusiasm about our music program, and this is reflected in the beautiful hymns and anthems that are offered in the context of our worship services. As you all know we had a major transition in leadership at the end of last year and our choir members have shown great resilience in learning to do new things in new ways. This renewed energy has resulted in some noticeable growth in choir membership. Thanks go to everyone involved!

The Wilderness Trail festival this year will be held on Saturday, September 20 on Main Street in Christiansburg. St. Thomas has had a station at this event for the last several years, and we plan to return. This is a great opportunity for us to be seen together as a faith community and spread the good news of welcome that makes us a warm and affirming church family. As we approach the date, please watch for further details about how you can be involved.

Sunday October 5 will be the date of our annual St. Francis Blessing of the Animals. This is a fun tradition when we gather in our parish garden and bring our pets to church for some very special attention. It's a nice fellowship opportunity for humans as well, and we always hope to welcome guests from the wider community.

As I mentioned in an earlier edition of *Lifelines*, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is in the middle of the process of choosing a new Bishop, culminating in the election planned for January, 2026 at our diocesan convention in Roanoke. A very nice profile of our diocese, which provides details about who we are and what we are looking for in a diocese, has been produced and is available online. The link to the website for this document is listed in our weekly announcements and reminders or you can contact the church office for more information. I plan on holding at least one discussion session after church on a Sunday this fall to further learn and reflect on this important process.

Finally, in November, our Daughters of the King chapter will host a Fall Quiet Day. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather at the Church on a Saturday morning for a peaceful time of extended prayer, fellowship, meditation, and a shared meal. It's a great way to ground yourself before the holiday season gets in full swing. More details to come as the time approaches. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I'll see you soon!

Yours in Christ,
Mark

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Red Cross blood drive on July 19. We collected 18 units of blood, which was 2 units more than the goal set by the Red Cross. The Red Cross was very happy with this outcome, because there is currently a nationwide shortage of blood products. They awarded us \$100 for exceeding our goal. The money will be donated to Boys Home for supplies. Our next blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, October 11. Please sign up using the Red Cross app or on the website: www.redcrossblood.org.



Room At the Table.... RATT

On Tuesday, July 8, Jane Ellis, Kathleen Fowler, Shelly Good, Liz Swinfen, Sam Wade (Liz Swinfen's grandson), and Tom Bland prepared 110 meals. The meal consisted of hot dogs, macaroni salad, mandarin oranges and a homemade chocolate chip cookie. Our next meal is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Danielle Bland.

Hospitality Sunday

Join in fellowship and enjoy some refreshments after church on the first Sunday of the month. Everyone is invited to bring a dish of finger food to share!

Upcoming hospitality Sundays: August 3 and September 7.

Food Bank Sunday

On the first Sunday of the month we collect donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank. Donations are taken to MCEAP later in the week. Food donations can be put in the baskets at the entrance to the church. If you would like to make a monetary donation, be sure to mark "Food Bank" on your check or envelope.

In June we collected 27 items and \$35.

Calling All Musicians!

Whether you're a seasoned singer or someone who hopes to explore (or return to) this ministry, there's room for you in the St Thomas choir! The vested choir will **return to worship** services on **Sunday, September 7**. To give us a jump on learning some new music and for fun, organization, and community-building, we'll have a **choir workday** on **Saturday, August 30**. We'll meet at 9 am in the sanctuary and work until noon-ish (with a break or two); we'll then share Eucharist and a potluck lunch. We're also going to move into our new first-floor space at this time! I've already spoken with our regulars, but if you're interested in choir and we haven't yet connected—let's do so! More joyful noise is always welcome! And if you'd like to sing but can't commit to weekly rehearsals and services, talk to me anyway—I'm thrilled to share sheet music and listening tracks with as-available choristers (think Sundays in Advent, Christmas Eve, etc.). This invitation extends to instrumentalists too—I'm considering several anthems that include parts for cello, violin, flute, percussion, brass of all sorts—you name it! I'm blessed to be part of this community—I think you will be too!

See and hear you soon!

Amy Frazier

He who sings prays twice. –St Augustine of Hippo

Boys Home

Our collection of donations to buy school supplies for the Boys Home continues for a few more weeks. In addition to standard school supplies, Boys Home is also looking for folders, backpacks, water bottles, notebooks, tape (for dispensers), twin-size comforters, shower curtains and liners. If you'd like to contribute, place your monetary donation in the Sunday offering plate and please note "School Supplies" on your check or envelope. See Chris Witt or Tom Bernard for more information.

Trex Update

During the month of July, 48 lbs. of plastics was collected. To date, 492 lbs. has been collected, and 508 lbs. will bring us to the 1000 lb. goal for the next Trex bench. Thanks to all that participate in this program and remember: **dog/cat food bags are not Trex recyclable.**



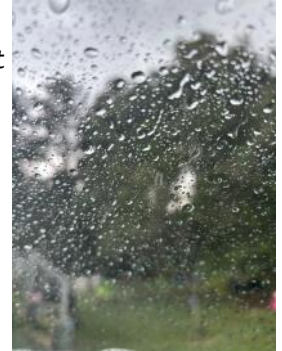
Sunday Summer Suppers

August's Sunday supper will be 5pm at Jane Carper's home, 1962 Tyler Rd, Christiansburg.

Here are scenes from the July supper at the Ashworth's. Catch more on our webpage!

Sadly a rain storm ended the picnic.

Photos: Gail Leist



Anniversaries

- 8 Graham & Liz Swinfen
- 12 Harvey & Gail Leist
- 14 Roger & Gwynn Polidoro

Birthdays

- 2 Bayne Sandridge
Liz Swinfen
Kelly Tardy
- 6 Carol Cummings
- 8 Mollie Straub
- 9 Rachel Morgante
- 10 Rick Ellis
- 14 Royal Cummings
- 17 Cynthia Berthold
- 19 Janet Webster
- 20 Mark Frame
- 23 Harold Ashworth
- 24 Bridget Miller



SERVER SCHEDULE

	3	10	17	24	31
Altar Guild	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken
Announcements	Joe Richmeier	Chris Witt	Danielle Bland	Jane Ellis	Bill Kennan
Chalice Bearer	Bill Kennan	Joel Hagen	Mark Priest	Val Tweedie	Jane Ellis
Lay Reader	Mark Priest	Val Tweedie	Amy Frazier	Jane Ellis	Bill Kennan
Ushers	Joe Straub Chris Witt	Jane Ellis Bill Kennan	Kathleen Fowler Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Joel Hagen	Bill Kennan Chris Witt
Zoom Operators	Val Tweedie	Joel Hagen	Joel Hagen	Mark Priest	Val Tweedie

Contact Us: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com, 540-382-4365

Website: <https://stthomaschristiansburg.org>

Volunteer: <https://stthomas.ivolunteer.com>

Email List Signup: <http://eepurl.com/gxP6Dj>

Ways to give to St. Thomas

Along with the Sunday collection plate, donations and contributions can be mailed to the church, paid through online banking, or made through PayPal using the link on our website.

AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8pm NA	2
3 The 8th Sunday after Pentecost Hospitality & Food Bank Sunday 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum	4	5 7pm NA	6 8pm NA	7 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	8 8pm NA	9
10 The 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11am Worship Committee Meeting 11:20am Adult Forum	11	12 7pm NA	13 8pm NA	14 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	15 8pm NA	16
17 The 10th Sunday after Pentecost Loose Plate Offering → Rector's Discretionary 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum 11:30am Vestry	18	19 7pm NA	20 8pm NA	21 10:15am DOK 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	22 8pm NA	23
24 The 11th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum	25	26 7pm NA	27 8pm NA	28 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	29	30 9am-12pm Choir Workday
31 The 12th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum 5pm Sunday Supper at Jane Carper's						

Zoom Information for Sundays

Join from a computer:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPDzo9)

pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPDzo9

Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 646 931 3860 and Enter

Meeting ID 817 3954 4575 and Passcode 845478 .

Zoom Information for Thursdays

Join from a computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89544248014>

Meeting ID: 895 4424 8014

Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 309 205 3325 and Enter

Meeting ID 895 4424 8014.

*If you need to meet with Fr. Mark,
please feel free to contact him at
276-791-3175 or
frazimw9@gmail.com.*