

ST. THOMAS LIFELINES

VOLUME 32, No. 11

NOVEMBER 2025

Dear St. Thomas Family,

I like to say that holidays are special days when we celebrate something that we should really celebrate every day. Thanksgiving holds a central role in the worship and spiritual life of the Episcopal Church. Rooted in both scripture and tradition, the act of giving thanks is woven into the fabric of our liturgy, theology, and daily practice. Far beyond the observance of the national Thanksgiving holiday, thanksgiving in the Episcopal tradition is seen as a vital expression of faith and a response to God's grace.

The Book of Common Prayer is filled with prayers of gratitude, acknowledging God as the source of all blessings. The Eucharist, the central act of Christian worship in our Episcopal tradition, derives its name from the Greek word "eucharista," meaning "thanksgiving." This sacrament commemorates Christ's sacrifice and offers thanks for God's saving love. Each Eucharist is both an offering of praise and a communal act of thanksgiving, reminding worshipers of God's continual presence and generosity.

The General Thanksgiving, found in Morning and Evening Prayer, is a beloved prayer that encapsulates the Episcopal approach to gratitude: "We thank you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life..." This prayer not only recognizes material and spiritual gifts but also encourages worshipers to respond with lives of service and love.

Beyond corporate worship, thanksgiving is encouraged as a daily practice. Personal prayers often begin and end with words of thanks, fostering a habit of gratitude that shapes our outlook and actions. The church teaches that regular thanksgiving nurtures humility, combats entitlement, and opens the heart to God's presence in everyday life. Thanksgiving is transformative, deepening one's awareness of God's blessings and inspiring acts of kindness and justice.

Thanksgiving also informs our commitment to outreach and service. Recognizing that all blessings are gifts from God, we are called to share generously with others, especially those in need.

Thanksgiving is more than a liturgical element or annual observance in our Episcopal tradition—it is a way of life. Through worship, prayer, and acts of service, we strive to cultivate gratitude as a response to God's grace. This practice not only strengthens faith but also builds compassionate communities, making thanksgiving an indispensable part of Christian identity and spirituality.

In this season of thanksgiving, I am grateful especially thankful for our St. Thomas family and the spirit of love that binds us in mutual affection and support. God has blessed us richly.

Yours in Christ,

Mark



Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, Oct. 5, in the church gardens.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated blood at the American Red Cross drive on Saturday, Oct. 11. Fifteen units were collected! Thanks also to Joel and Sue Hagen for coordinating!



Thanksgiving/ Christmas Food Baskets

The Backpack program will once again distribute baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year the number of backpacks going home weekly has increased to 100/week. St. Thomas hopes to make a monetary donation for the holiday baskets. You can place your check in the collection plate written to St. Thomas, and in memo section indicate **Backpack holiday baskets**. The need will be even greater this year, so thank you for your generosity. The last Sunday to make a donation will be November 16.

Next Backpack Party is Wednesday, November 5, at 5:45pm, in the gym at Life Pacific University in Christiansburg.

In October we collected 42 boxes of granola bars!

RAT'T Update

On October 14, the St. Thomas team prepared 110 meals that were distributed in the parking lot of Christiansburg Presbyterian Church. Marie Painter, Crystal Priddy, Tom & Danielle Bland made up the team that day. Cold cut sandwiches, potato salad, applesauce and a cookie were prepared. Thanks to the team! If you would like to get involved, we prepare the meal the second Tuesday of every month, generally spending 2.5 hours together. For more information, contact Danielle Bland (danielle_bland@yahoo.com).

Stewardship Campaign

We kicked off our 2026 Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, Oct. 26. Our goal is to reach \$100,000 in total pledges. Stewardship packets with Fr. Mark's letter and a 2026 pledge card will be distributed through the first week of November on Sunday mornings and by mail. Please turn in pledges by Dec. 7. This will help in putting together the 2026 budget to be presented at the annual meeting on Dec. 14. If you have any questions about pledging, please contact pledge custodian, Jenny Stalvey, at the church office, Fr. Mark, or any vestry member.

Birthdays

3 Sean Anderson, Boys Home
 5 Jane Carper
 8 Karen Bronaugh
 15 Shirley Hallock
 17 Walter Fowler
 Jacquie Graham
 19 Ruth Ashworth
 23 Elise Greene
 25 Bev Moulse

Anniversaries

9 Paul & Jenny Stalvey
 10 Jeff & Emily Pasciak
 19 Joe & Barbara Straub

**Advent Pottery**

On All Saints' Sunday the new Advent pottery was blessed in memory of Judy Koland, a dear lifetime altar guild member. Guild members pictured from left to right: Karen Bronaugh, Lora Beeken, Kathy Pollard, Rev. Mark Frazier, Gail Leist, Crystal Priddy. Guild members not pictured: Ruth Ashworth and Kathleen Fowler.



On Sunday, Oct. 12, we celebrated John Priddy's birthday. John has been serving as our pianist.

Congratulations Landon Cairns!
 Landon has been appointed to the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team. YMT plans and coordinates youth events and Youth @ Convention.

Jane Carper's 90th
 Birthday Party
 Sunday, Nov. 9, 3-5pm
 Riner Volunteer Fire
 Department
 4171 Riner Rd, Riner



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

SERVER SCHEDULE

	2	9	16	23	30
Altar Guild	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist Crystal Priddy	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist Crystal Priddy	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken
Announcements	Marie Painter	Joe Richmeier	Chris Witt	Danielle Bland	Jane Ellis
Chalice Bearer	Jane Ellis	Bill Kennan	Mark Priest	Danielle Bland	Landon Cairns
Lay Reader	Jennifer Miller	Val Tweedie	Jennifer Miller	Jane Ellis	Bill Kennan
Ushers	Joe Straub Chris Witt	Joel Hagen Chris Witt	Bill Kennan Joe Straub	Kathleen Fowler Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Bill Kennan
Zoom Operators	Joel Hagen	Mark Priest	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.

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 The 21st Sunday after Pentecost Hospitality & Food Bank Sunday 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum Daylight Saving Time Ends!	3	4 7pm NA ELECTION DAY	5 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA	6 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	7 8pm NA	8 DIOSWVA Fall Mission Day 9am-2pm Choir Rehearsal 2:30-4
9 The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11am Worship Committee Meeting 11:20am Adult Forum 3pm Jane Carper's 90th Birthday Party	10	11 7pm NA VETERAN S DAY	12 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA	13 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	14 8pm NA	15 FYE @ Camp Bethel
16 The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Loose Plate Offering → Rector's Discretionary 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum 11:30am Vestry	17	18 7pm NA	19 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA	20 10:15am DOK 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	21 8pm NA	22
23 The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum	24	25 7pm NA	26 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28 8pm NA	29
30 The 1st Sunday of Advent 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum						



Boys Home

The students are hard at work during the school hours. We have introduced clubs on Monday and Wednesday afternoon, which is fun! For those wanting to play basketball, practice starts Nov. 3.

Here are a few recent pictures taken by Laura Costigan at Boys Home. (Team building exercise, Key Club President/DeLeon and two students posed for fall).

Hurricane Melissa Relief

Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with partners to support people affected by Hurricane Melissa. The Hurricane Relief Fund is an important tool for responding to immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery. Visit episcopalrelief.org to donate and get more information.

Parish Directory

We are updating the our parish directory. Things listed in the directory include phone numbers, addresses, email addresses, and family members. If your information has changed or you would like to be removed from the directory, please contact the church office.

We are also updating our birthday and anniversary list. Send in your dates of celebration!

Zoom Information for Sundays

Join from a computer:

[https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?](https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdz09)

[pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdz09](https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdz09)

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://uso6web.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.

Advent Quiet Day
Saturday, Dec. 6, 9am-1pm
Hosted by the Ann-Frances Chapter of the
Daughters of the King

Veterans Day Holy Eucharist & Commissioning of Chaplains

Episcopalians are invited to join a first-time churchwide Veterans Day Holy Eucharist service at 7 p.m. ET Nov. 11—via livestream or in person at the Church Center chapel in New York City—to honor those who have served in the military and specially recognize the Episcopal chaplains who support them.

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe will preside, and the Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonja, bishop suffragan for the church's Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, will preach. The service will include a special "commissioning for further service" of chaplains who serve military veterans in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Links for livestreaming and viewing on demand can be found on the Episcopal Church website (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org>) and YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdVJpxCtK41c_-p6EaE4_2A).

Trex Update

To date 683lbs. Have been submitted and 317lbs are needed to reach goal. **Please remember pet food bags are not accepted.**

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 October we collected 34 items and \$70!

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!

The next hospitality Sunday is November 2.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
103 E. Main St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073