

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

Welcome Back UD Students

ECM starts back up
September 4th.
Join them for a dinner!

Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to
the calendar: email
stthomassooffice
@googlegroups.com

World Day Of Prayer for Creation

Ecumenical Prayer
brings the family
of God together

We go by many names: St Thomas', St Thomas's Episcopal Church, St Thomas Episcopal Parish, and the list goes on. But, without taking time to talk about the apostrophe "s" debate, one of the more important titles we hold is **The Parish & University Church of Saint Thomas**, which boldly labels us as the Episcopal home for the University students. Not surprisingly, more than 95 percent of students say feeling welcomed at church is very important to them. College students are looking for a safe place to relax, away from the stress and busyness of life on campus.

Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM) is a place where our college-age students explore and live spirituality in community with other students, faculty, staff and parishioners. Through service projects, regional and national events, and weekly gatherings, they connect to the world and to one another. There is always food and fun, time to worship and time to just hang out.

ECM students meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. for Evening Prayer and then enjoy dinner prepared by parishioners at 6:00 p.m. The sign up sheet is posted on the board by the kitchen. It would be a gift for you to sign up to fix a meal for our students. They would love to have you dine with them! A home cooked meal is so much more delicious than any dining hall food. An individual can fix the meal or a group of people can get together and share the dishes. Call the office (302-368-4644) or sign up personally. The kids will love you forever!

College students attend class hours away from their hometowns, and any new environment can be a scary place. Familiarity—a sense of belonging—is something young adults are seeking. Personal relationships are foundational when building that sense of belonging. Make a point to meet and speak to college students when they come to church. Feeling welcomed is the #1 concern of students who attend a new church. Invite students to sit with you during worship so they don't sit alone. Offer to drive students to worship. Send birthday cards, a bookmark, or words of encouragement throughout the year. Students love mail.

Students are hungry for the Word of God as they grapple with new ideas and challenges to their faith; it is imperative to provide them with the beacon of biblical teaching as they navigate these uncharted waters. Most importantly, shower the college-age students in our congregation with love, understanding and prayer, knowing that you are planting seeds that will produce spiritual fruit in their lives for years to come.



O Lord, seize us with your
power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better
future,
for the coming of your
Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and
beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.
POPE FRANCIS
(Laudato Si' 246)

Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians are being asked to join in the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1st and to use the following month, leading up to the feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th, as a Season of Creation.

The late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios introduced the Season of Creation into the Orthodox Churches in 1989. In 2015 Pope Francis designated September 1st as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; and in 2016, he called on Catholics to join “together with all Christians” in the Season of Creation. The Pope’s request echoes a call from the Anglican Consultative Council in 2009 for provinces to “celebrate a liturgical ‘Season of Creation’ as an integral part of the church’s yearly pattern of worship and teaching” and again in 2012, when it asked provinces to “consider the inclusion of a season of Creation in the liturgical calendar.”

Now, the Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN) has partnered with the Global Catholic Climate Movement and other agencies to promote the day of prayer and gather resources “to assist all faithful people to take part in the Season.” The season is set to be celebrated by tens of thousands of Christians around the world.

Volunteers organize a range of events and activities in their own communities from prayer services to litter clean ups or advocacy actions.

What do you think our Saint Thomas's family can do?

The timing of the Season of Creation means that it falls during Harvest-tide in the northern hemisphere and in the Spring season of rebirth in the southern hemisphere.

ACEN, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, and their partners have created a website with resources to help churches take part in the World Day of Prayer for Creation and the Season of Creation. This can be found at seasonofcreation.org. Along with a whole variety of events listed on the Season of Creation website, there will be global action during the month, which churches and individuals are invited to join in.

When the season comes to a close on St Francis Day, faith leaders from around the world will come together to reflect on how St Francis has informed their spiritual journey and to celebrate the month-long journey of the Season of Creation. We are all encouraged to join with our faith families and communities to celebrate Creation and reflect on what this movement has sparked in us.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 1

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:15am (DO) Coping with Grief
- 10:30am (U) Nursery
- 10:30am (GH) Children's Worship
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, September 2

- Labor Day-** offices closed
- 6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA

Tuesday, September 3

- 6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
- 8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, September 4

- 6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 10:30am (C) Bible Study Group
- 4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
- 5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
- 8:00 (GH) South College Speakers AA

Thursday, September 5

- 6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 3:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty

Friday, September 6

- 6:00am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
- 12:00pm (C) Al-Anon
- 6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, September 7

-available-

Sunday, September 8

- 8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
- 9:15am (GH) Sunday School Register
- 9:15am (DO) Novel Theology
- 9:15am (P) Adult Education
- 9:30am (U) Nursery
- 9:30am (GH) Children's Worship
- 10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:45am (GH) Coffee and Fellowship
- 5:00pm (grove) Picnic and Sing Along
- 6:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

- (C) Classroom
- (GH) Great Hall
- (N) Nave
- (P) Parlor

- (MR) Music Room
- (U) Undercroft
- (DO) Deacon's Office
- (RO) Rector's Office