



# St. Thomas

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DISCOVER TRUE COMMUNITY



Ashes to Go, Feb. 18, 2026

## A Rule of Life for Us All

The Rev. Bob Goolsby, Rector



Several weeks ago, and again at our Annual Parish Meeting, I shared that, with Vestry input, I was developing a Rule of Life

for St. Thomas—one we can each embrace to strengthen our faith individually and together.

At St. Thomas, we speak of being formed into the people God created us to be. This does not happen by chance, but through intentional practice. A Rule of Life is not a rigid set of rules; the word comes from the Latin regula, meaning a guide or pattern. Christians have used such frameworks for centuries to shape faithful, grounded lives.

### Our Rule of Life calls us to:

- Attend Holy Eucharist weekly.
- Participate in Christian formation and daily prayer.
- Seek and serve Christ in all persons.
- Share in the mission and ministry of St. Thomas.
- Observe the Church year.
- Financially support our mission.
- Welcome diversity and respect difference.
- Strive for justice and peace.

These commitments flow from our Baptismal Covenant. **Weekly Eucharist** centers us in Christ. **Prayer and formation** deepen our faith. **Proportional giving and service** put faith into action. **Observing** the Church year forms us in Christ's story. Our shared **commitment to hospitality, justice, and peace** reflects Christ's reconciling love.

A Rule of Life gives us steady direction when life becomes busy or distracting. It reminds us who we are and whose we are. As your rector and fellow pilgrim, I invite you to prayerfully commit to this Rule of Life. Lent is the perfect season to begin.

With God's help, this shared rule will continue to shape St. Thomas into a community that is sacramental, hospitable, generous, courageous, and deeply rooted in Christ.

God bless you and keep you. See you in church.

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### Dates to note

- Youth Sunday 3/1
- Lenten Study Each Wed.
- Parish Life Mtg 3/4
- Outreach Mtg 3/5
- Brotherhood St. Andrew 3/7
- Rummage Sale Mtg 3/12, 24
- The Wired Word 3/14
- Daughters of the King 3/19
- Membership Mtg 3/21

## Try Out Ushering



You can make a difference by joining us as an usher. All three services are in need, with an emphasis on 8 and 11 a.m. Try it out next Sunday! Contact Tom Witherspoon at [t\\_spoon1@bellsouth.net](mailto:t_spoon1@bellsouth.net), or (954) 309-7836.

## Membership Update



I met with Bill Heffern of Heffern Productions and we're considering May 23 or 30 as possible dates to host a **car show** at church. We may do a 50/50 to raise funds during the event. Heffern Productions would handle music and promotions, our communications department needs to provide a flyer. Bill said \$200 would cover all costs. We also discussed prizes for different categories. Award plaques are roughly \$40-\$50 each.

Promoted properly, I believe this event will attract new people to the church, and possibly attract them to start attending St. Thomas.

David K. Williams

David K. Williams

## Sr. Warden's Reflections

Charles Kreuz



As detailed in my recent annual report, we achieved many significant accomplishments in 2025 but also face some serious challenges going forward. With the new year, we will be developing plans to address these challenges, while building on our accomplishments of the past 12 months.

The new year also brings St. Thomas a new slate of Vestry members (5 to be exact, giving us a total of 14). We had 3 Vestry members complete their term and most recently, one gave notice of his resignation, as he and his wife are moving to Oklahoma City to be closer to family.

If you attended the annual meeting or streamed it, you would have heard me express my sincere appreciation to those Vestry members who have completed their term of office. Steve Graham, Judy Fields, and Courtney McDonald contributed greatly to our successes in 2025, and I want to reiterate my gratitude for their incredible contributions to St. Thomas.

That said, I believe it extremely important to recognize the individual who recently resigned from the Vestry, as well as his wife. Tim and Marcia McMullen are long-time members of St. Thomas and have always considered service to our Church Community to be exceedingly important, and a way of life for them. Marcia volunteered to serve as a member of the Altar Guild, and has been quite active. Long before Tim joined the Vestry, he served as a Lay-Reader, Crucifer, Chalice Bearer, and he has also delivered multiple sermons to our congregation.

To paraphrase, Tim and Marcia have always served with love and a willing heart. And that, in essence, is what I see in all those who serve at St. Thomas. It is an honor to know them and serve with them.

Blessings and trust in the Lord.  
Charles

## Jr. Warden's Report

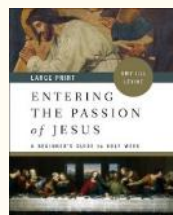
Steve Graham



This past month, the semi-annual Ansul kitchen system inspection and stove cleaning were completed, along with the annual sprinkler inspection. It was discovered that valves at the backflow were closed, and two pipes may have cracked due to cold weather; bids are being obtained for repairs.

The south entrance door was repaired and adjusted, and thanks to Rick and Jeff for adjusting exterior lights to comply with the city ordinance.

It has been a pleasure to serve with you on the vestry as Junior Warden. I am grateful for the opportunity to support our church and am confident Rick will do an excellent job in this role.



Walk more closely with Jesus through [Entering the Passion of Jesus](#) by Amy-Jill Levine. We meet Wednesdays through March 25 at 5:30 p.m. This study offers time for prayerful reflection on our Lord's final days. A light supper is included. All are welcome. Please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office.

# The Future Is Bright!



Left: Playground Focus Group (part of the [Building Our Future Together Campaign](#)). Key preferences: Swings, Slide (curling slides are favored), Shade, Monkey/Climbing Bars, Rock Climbing Wall, Ground/Landing Material (not to include sand or mulch). Shredded rubber or rubber padding is preferred. **Playgrounds make a statement that families and children are welcome!** [Check out BYO Recreation, our nationally recognized playground contractor, located in St. Augustine, Florida.](#)



Above: Sunday School students prepared posters and “Buried the Halleluiahs” for Lent.



Above: Youth Sunday, February 1, 2026. The future of worship leadership looks great!

Below : Nathan makes mashed potatoes for the Cold Weather Shelter.



Supporting children in the life of the Church is both a sacred responsibility and a joyful calling, for Jesus himself welcomed them and declared their importance in God’s kingdom. Children are not merely the future of the Church; they are a vital part of its present life, full of faith, wonder, and openness to God’s love. By supporting and encouraging our children, we help them grow in faith and ensure that the light of Christ continues to shine brightly in the generations to come.

## Rummage Sale

Your help is needed! Sign-up in the narthex. Clean out closets and dust off recipes for the café and bakery. Ask for donations, and invite folks to come shop. Contact Fran Graham 516-768-6281, or Cindy Shannon 404-539-7670. March meetings are the 12th and 24th at 10 a.m. Donations are accepted April 13-15. Sale dates are April 17 and 18.

## St. Thomas Goes to St. Thomas



Join your fellow parishioners on a 7-Night Caribbean cruise to St. Thomas and Nassau, Bahamas aboard Royal Caribbean’s Harmony of the Seas, departing January 9, 2027 and returning January 16. All are welcome – family, friends and acquaintances.

**Simply call Royal Caribbean at 1-800-465-3595 to book your cruise with “St. Thomas goes to St. Thomas” Group 9385727.**

Discounted prices are \$854 per guest for Balcony, and \$752 for interior stateroom. **Prices are good until March 12.** You’ll receive \$100 onboard credit per stateroom. Deposit is \$500 per stateroom booking.

# Member Milestones

## March Anniversaries

- 7 - Paul & Ana Gloria Eiseman
- 8 - Alvin & Claudia Downs
- 9 - John & Sally Morris
- 11 - Brian & Tracy Jones
- 17 - Barrington & Joyce Jones
- 21 - Henry & Marie Valentine
- 23 - Kenneth & Victoria Arthur

## March Birthdays

- |                    |                     |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Annette Bowman | 8 - Mackenzie Smith | 23 - Tim Abram      |
| 1 - Sue Fray       | 11 - Diane Hardos   | 28 - James Daniels  |
| 3 - Linda Anderson | 13 - Les Hylander   | 29 - Kenneth Arthur |
| 3 - Betty Tobias   | 16 - Paul Robinson  | 30 - Carolyn Ellis  |
| 4 - Steve Graham   | 17 - Syndi Gulli    | 31 - Frank Lagocki  |
| 7- Bradford Lake   | 19 - Beth Rowden    |                     |
| 8 - Grace Lopez    | 22 - David Mower    |                     |

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
BUILDING OUR FUTURE  
TOGETHER CAPITAL  
CAMPAIGN AT

[www.stechurch.org/future](http://www.stechurch.org/future)

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF  
ST. THOMAS CHURCH.



The Wired Word, Adult study meets Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m.



**St. Thomas**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Send submissions for the *St. Thomas Tidings* to [karla@stechurch.org](mailto:karla@stechurch.org).

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9-3



## ECW Sheltering Tree Ministry

Sally Morris

[The Sheltering Tree](#) is a Flagler County nonprofit that provides shelter during cold weather. After learning about this ministry from Susan Bickings, ECW members began preparing meals for guests in need.



This year, St. Thomas has served as one of the Sheltering Tree’s “Super Teams.” In December, we served 17 guests and staff, and on January 27 we provided dinner for 26–27 guests. With only a few days’ notice, volunteers generously do-

nated and prepared a full meal, including meatloaf and soup, which was warmly received.

We are grateful for the strong spirit of cooperation among St. Thomas volunteers, including those who prepare, serve, and support behind the scenes. Special thanks to all who participated in this meaningful ministry including: Deanna Arthur, Dolly Bordinger, Barbara Bowles, Pat Butler, Anne Marie Brennan, Sue Clark, Judy Fields, Claudia Howard, Sherri Lagocki, Barbara Livingston, Carole MacDonald, Courtney MacDonald, Sally Morris, John Morris, Dolores Walker, and Ann Williams.

If you would like to help, contact Sally Morris at 201-396-3889 or 386-313-5096.