

*Saint Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church*  
**CANTERBURY TALES**

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∞ SEPTEMBER 2019 ∞

## Prayers heard, Dream Fulfilled

### A Reflection on the Tenth Anniversary of St. Thomas' Worship Space

Almost 40 years ago a small group of Episcopalians started to meet for Sunday services in a private home in what would become Temecula, CA. This minimal core of hearty worshippers became the nucleus of St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church. Subsequently, the core grew enough to warrant renting Sunday worship space from such places like public schools and the



*Artist's drawing of the church property from the project plans in 2005*

water district.

Eventually a dedicated worship space was established by renting a light industrial building on Enterprise Circle. From there the peripatetic congregation moved to a restaurant building at Jefferson and Overland. The congregation grew and became one of the larger mission churches of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego.

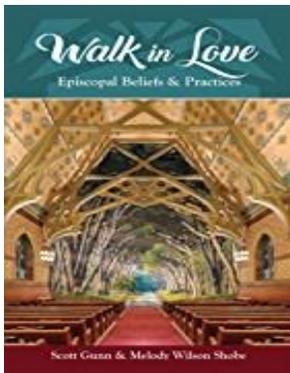
As early as the mid

1980's several members discussed plans for a "real church" for St. Thomas and started a building fund by opening a thrift store in Old Town Temecula. The store was eventually turned over to the church and became the basis for raising enough capital to purchase a property on which St. Thomas could have their own building. That property was located at the corner of Ynez and Rancho Vista Roads. The congregation went through some difficult times with the rise and fall of the local economy in the 1990's as well as at least one crisis of leadership, but the dream of a church building stayed alive. The congregation prayed each week for the fulfillment of God's will for the St. Thomas congregation.

In the early 2000's the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego collaborated with St. Thomas leadership to begin drawing up plans for the church we worship in today. The original property was exchanged for the larger one on which the church was finally built over a two-year period in 2007-9.

This September we celebrate our tenth anniversary in this beautiful Mission style building. Join us in the next few weeks as we mark this milestone with special music scheduled by Dr. Stephen Sturk, our Music Director, on September 22, and a special rededication prayer led by our new Bishop Susan Brown Snook during her first official visit to us October 6.

And remember in your prayers of thanksgiving this month the contributions of hundreds of congregation members who kept the dream of a church building alive over several decades, a dream fulfilled in many cases long after their passing.



### FORUM SERIES BY FATHER DAVID

Time: 9:10 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
 Dates: Sundays now thru 9/22/2019 (no meeting Labor Day weekend)  
 Theme: **Episcopal Practices and Beliefs**  
 For Whom: **All are invited.**

For anyone interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church and our faith. Those who are being confirmed, received, or reaffirmed into the Episcopal Church on October 6, 2019 when the bishop visits us should consider attending these sessions. Those being confirmed are expected to attend all sessions. Those preparing for Confirmation are also expected to complete other assignments.

Week 6	9/01/19	Labor Day Weekend No class
Week 7	9/08/19	Bible 1
Week 8	9/17/19	Bible 2
Week 9	9/22/19	Church History and Polity (governance)



*A mission of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, St. Thomas is a “pet-friendly” church that cares deeply for our beloved pets. We work with local senior citizens to provide food for their pets and support the Animal Friends of the Valleys. We also hold a blessing for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, and welcome well-behaved pets to attend worship with us.*

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**EPISCOPAL PRACTICES AND BELIEFS—Sundays September 8, 15, 22 from 9:10-10 AM**

Fr. David continues his forum series. All are invited. In Julian Hall. See p. 2

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP—Monday, September 9, Noon- 1 PM**

This is an informal group open to all who like reading and fellowship. The group has been reading *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell. This is a true story of an American who worked in a key role with the French Resistance in World War II. The group meets in the St Benedict conference room. All are welcome. Email Bill Liesman [asiaboill@aol.com](mailto:asiaboill@aol.com) for more details.

**KNIT W.I.T.S.\* (\*With Intent to Serve)—Monday, September 9 from 7-9 PM**

At Andrea Liesman's home. Email ministry leader Irene Eisenhut for details.

**MEN OF ST. THOMAS (MoST) – Saturday, September 14 at 8:00 AM**

MoST is an informal fellowship that meets each second Saturday of the month at 8:00 am in Julian Hall for a potluck breakfast, brief Bible Study, and sometimes assisting afterwards with maintenance and property projects at the church. All are welcome, including friends and neighbors. The emphasis is on fellowship. Come join the fun!

**MINISTRY OF THE MONTH – Canterbury Youth Group—see p. 4-5 and the display in the Narthex**

**BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING—September's Meeting will be a retreat on September 15**

**FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT AT THE PADRES—Saturday, September 21 at 5:40 PM at PETCO Park**

See p. 9

**SPECIAL SERVICE MUSIC—Sunday September 22 at the 10:15 Service**

In celebration of our Tenth Anniversary in this building.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT—Saturday, September 28 from 7:30 AM-Noon**

At Rancho Damicitas. See p. 6

**WOMEN OF WORTH (WOW)---Saturday, September 28, 8:30 AM**

In Julian Hall

**SAVE THE OCTOBER DATES: Saturday, October 5, 10 AM: Blessing of the Animals  
Sunday, October 6: Bishop Snook's Visitation**



***We will offer healing prayer with anointing immediately following each service on Sunday September 1. The prayer will be offered in the chapel for all in need, either for themselves or another.***

# Ministry of the Month

## *Canterbury Youth Group (CYG)*

CYG is open to youth who are currently in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Our goal is to provide the youth of St Thomas the opportunity to interact with their peers and support the church and community. We provide opportunities to have fun with fellowship and participate in service projects in our community. We also provide opportunities to earn



Community Service hours for those in high school. The annual CYG sponsored “Italian Nights Dinner” at St. Thomas is our major fundraiser. The money raised supports both our local and diocesan activities. These have included a night at the movies, bowling parties, Mission trips, Night Watch at the Cathedral, and several other activities throughout the year.

In addition to the activities at St Thomas, CYG is supported by the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego (EDSD) Collaborative!! This is a diocesan wide youth group. The youth that participate have been recognized throughout the diocese for participating in major events such as:

**Choose Joy - Diocesan Convention • Reality Check**

**Epiphany Retreat • Fearless Love – Bishop’s Consecration**

*EDSD youth including St Thomas’ CYG members being briefed on church construction in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, in July*

### **Where have some CYG members gone?**

- Epiphany Retreat at Camp Stevens in the beautiful surroundings of Julian, CA.

### **High School Mission Trips**

- 2019 Mexico: San Luis Potosí: This cultural experience allowed EDSD youth to interact with local youth and exchange cultural experiences. They also worked on the constructing of a church and a Temazcal, a traditional Mexican steam bath.
- 2018 Guatemala: Partners in Development in the community of Ixtacapa: The youth completed the construction of one home and began the construction of a second home for families within the village. They also raise money to start a computer lab at the Community center for the local kids to use. *(Continued p. 5)*

## Middle School Mission Trips

- 2019 SSP (Sierra Service Project) Imperial Beach: completing small home projects, cleaning park areas, learning about the community
- 2018 Walking with Angels: The youth spent time in LA working amongst the homeless at Union Rescue Mission and My Friend's Place, a drop-in center for homeless teenagers and the Los Angeles Food Bank

You can find more information about this year's activities at our table in the Narthex. Stop by and visit with us on Sunday, September 8.

Please contact Monica Walton if you would like to join Canterbury Youth Group  
[monica.walton24@gmail.com](mailto:monica.walton24@gmail.com)



Frankie Rojas and Lauren Walton join other EDSD youth in church repair and construction in San Luis Potosi, Mexico in July

# FUNDRAISER

All  
Donations  
Welcome



Canterbury  
Youth  
Group

Do you  
have jars of  
change?

Please  
donate to  
CYG

September 1-30  
Jug in the Narthex

Thank you for your support and dedication to our growing program. All donations will go toward programs and activities.



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Saturday September 28

You're invited to participate in a special Habitat for Humanity construction project for our community.

This will be a fun filled, impactful day where over 100 volunteers will come together to revitalize Rancho Damacitas Empowerment Village! Activities will include: painting and repairing 1-2 homes, building 3 play houses, transform a dirt area with new landscaping, building custom mailboxes for each home and completing a fire pit area. It will be capped off with a **free lunch and special performance by Mary James!** She is a 4-time female inspirational vocalist of the year.

Come ready to make a difference, with closed toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. We will provide water, materials, tools, snacks, lunch and a volunteer shirt.

**Date:** Saturday September 28 2019

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Rancho Damacitas 38950 Mesa Rd. Temecula CA 92592

**TO SIGN UP:**

(1) Sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex (so we'll know)

**AND**

(2) Sign up on-line with Habitat for Humanity (so they'll know).

***Be sure to indicate St. Thomas as your group!***

We are hoping to build a team of at least 20 men, women and older children!

## Mark your calendar – The Bishop is coming!

Sunday, October 6, 2019



*"Dear Clergy and Congregations of the Diocese of San Diego,*

*Thank you to all who participated in the ordination service on Saturday, June 15, and to all who have prayed and supported this episcopal transition. I am grateful, honored, and overjoyed to serve you as your bishop. I so look forward to getting to know you and your congregations and sharing Jesus' fearless love with you and with our communities.*

*I look forward to visiting you on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. A bishop's visit is the visible sign of the unity we share in the Body of Christ, and I anticipate that my visit to you will be one of the chief joys of my episcopal ministry."*

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### Special Plate Envelopes—September

As explained in previous issues of Canterbury Tales, those “extra” envelopes in your pledge packets serve a purpose—supplementing income for unexpected and unbudgeted expenses here at St. Thomas. Any contribution helps, and if you use the envelopes, whatever is given is recorded and receipted as a donation. Please use them!



# Christmas in August—A *Project Touch* Outreach



On Sunday, August 18, St. Thomas congregation and preschool donations that were collected over the previous few weeks were distributed through a *Project Touch* event held at the Cal Oaks Sports Park in Murrieta. The beneficiaries were the homeless and families in



economic transition served by the *Project Touch* outreach ministry. Andrea Liesman coordinated the collection and distribution of the St. Thomas donations and she describes the event here:

“Thank you so much to everyone who gave so generously to the *Project Touch* Christmas in August event. A very special thank you to Sandra for coordinating with the preschool parents to participate in this event, and to Jackie Klippert and Liz Barclay, for helping to work at our table at the event. The event was well attended with about one hundred men, women, and children. Just about everything you donated was gone by the end of the event. Jackie made sure every bag had a flyer with the church information and service times, and recipients of your donations were genuinely appreciative and grateful.”



*Project Touch* Coordinator Anne Unmacht addresses the participants



*Liz Barclay, Andrea Liesman, and Jackie Klippert distributed household paper products, health and beauty supplies, non-perishable food, and children's books, toys, and games to the participants in the *Project Touch* event*



# FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | D-BACKS vs PADRES | 5:40PM



SPECIAL GUEST  
JOSH WILSON

## THE SAN DIEGO PADRES INVITE YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO PADRES FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT!

- Join hundreds of other churches from around Southern California
- Post-game Q&A, testimony with Padres Players and a concert by Josh Wilson
- Baseball Night in San Diego All-Fan Giveaway 2019 Team Photo with 2020 Schedule



***More info and sign-up sheet in the narthex. Direct any questions to Lee Eisenhut.***

*Fun and Fellowship at the Yard House*

# **DINNERS ALL AROUND RETURNS**

**Saturday, Aug. 24 Dinners All Around made a welcome return with a record turnout at the Yard House in Temecula.**

**Close to 40 people assembled in the outside patio area of the restaurant to take part in this popular event. Due to the high numbers the service was a bit slow, but that did not dampen our enthusiasm for the evening and a great time was had by all. Thanks to Michelle Lee for organizing the event.**





**Next up?  
Stay tuned for  
announcements!**





## A Letter from our Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is God calling us to become, here in the Diocese of San Diego? How are we called to love God and love our neighbors in a time of change and division in our society? In a world where church attendance is no longer a social expectation, how do we proclaim by word and example the good news of Christ?

These are the questions I want to discern with you as we enter this first autumn season of my episcopacy. I believe that God has given the Episcopal Church many challenges and also many opportunities in our beautiful part of the world. Together, we can pray, discuss, and discern how to follow Jesus in his mission to our communities.

I invite you to begin this discernment process with me: what are we called to do and how are we called to do it? This discernment will happen in three stages:

**1. Pray.** For each of nine days, from September 14 through September 22, I ask you to pray in faith that God will open us to vibrant possibilities for mission, focused in ministry areas of discipleship, evangelism and service. By God's grace, I believe that the fruits of this season of prayer will be known in our lives, in the congregations and organizations that we serve, and for the mission and ministry of the diocese.

[This prayer guide](#) offers focus scriptures, prayers, and reflection questions for each of the nine days of this Season of Prayer. You may download the guide and print it for your congregation; study it in congregational gatherings or home study groups; or use it in your personal devotions. I pray that the Holy Spirit inspires us all with ideas and insights about God's call to us here and now.

*(Continued next page)*

**2. Listening Sessions.** I invite you to take part in listening sessions to be held around the diocese the week of September 23 through September 30. These listening sessions are part of my work in getting to know the diocese more completely. With the help of an outside facilitator who will moderate the sessions I will listen to your thoughts about opportunities for community building, your hopes, dreams, and concerns that will lead us into clearer discernment around God's call to us and our ministry in our communities.

Following are the locations for the listening sessions, **scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m.** each night. While there is no cost to attend the listening sessions, please register online so that we can plan the sessions accordingly.

- Monday, September 23: St. Bartholomew's, Poway
  - Tuesday, September 24: All Saints, San Diego
  - Wednesday, September 25: St. Andrew's La Mesa
  - Thursday, September 26: All Saints, Vista
  - Friday, September 27: St. Paul's, Palm Springs
- Monday, September 30: Clergy Conference (Clergy Only)

[Register Online](#)

We will share what we learn through the listening sessions at the [diocesan convention](#) on November 8-9 so we can hear your feedback on the results.

**3. Plan.** The results of the listening sessions will form the basis for a new strategic plan for our diocese that develop beginning in January 2020. The Executive Council has formed a subgroup that is busy gathering data to prepare for the January 2020 start time for a strategic planning committee. A full strategic plan will be created by July 2020, and we will present that plan to the diocese in August 2020. The plan we create will form the basis for our ministry for the next five years.

Throughout this development and staging time, defining who the diocese is and where God calls this body to go, hope prevails and Jeremiah says, "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 12:11). Jeremiah reminds us that God dreams of a more abundant future for us than we can dream of for ourselves, and that planning for our future as a diocese is work that is grounded in prayer, discernment, and holy discussion with other Christians, and a sincere desire to accomplish God's vision for us.

Please join me in helping to discern God's dream for the Diocese of San Diego today.

Faithfully,  
The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook  
Bishop

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## **St. Thomas Preschool Fundraiser**

### **All Net Proceeds to Benefit Playground Improvements**

Sale starts Thursday September 20 for the preschool, and catalogs available for church members on Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>



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# St. Thomas of Canterbury

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Holy Eucharist

10:15am Children's  
Chapel/Sunday School

#### Wednesday

7:00pm Evening Prayer