

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

The goal of Hospitality is to actively bring all people of the church together in community to participate in activities and experiences in order to share our common life together as Believers, through our relationship with God and through Jesus Christ.

Hospitality focuses on organizing activities and events which provide opportunities for members to spend time with one another, meet more people, become better acquainted with each other, share experiences and have fun.

Coffee Hours

Five teams prepare and serve the refreshments at the coffee hours after the 8:00 and 10:15 Sunday services. Thanks to the team captains and members who so faithfully provide hospitality on Sundays. More volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

Enhanced coffee hours were conducted several times during the year to celebrate special functions. In January we held a special potluck for the Annual Church Meeting. In June we recognized Graduates, those being Promoted and the Ritchie family who was relocating. We welcomed Bishop Katharine and honored those Baptized, Confirmed and Received with special food and a cake in September. November had a special potluck to celebrate the in-gathering of our pledges. Several of these were coordinated with our Women of Worth (WOW) group.

Victuals with the Vicar

These special events were held at homes with small groups to get to facilitate getting to know Father Tim and Holly better and vice versa. Several dinners were held including a backyard BBQ at the Reid's in May, and in July at the Hicks' home prior to their moving.

Dinner All Around/Special Events

Members of St. Thomas of Canterbury gathered on many months this past year for lunch or dinner and fellowship, either at a restaurant, at the church, or at the home of members who very kindly offered to host the event. Memorable times were spent at the home of Father Tim and Holly to celebrate Fr. Tim's 50th birthday!, at the Corner Bakery for the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, Soup Suppers during Lent at the church, a special fundraiser for the youth with Italian Night, the Annual Church Picnic, a wonderful evening at the Temecula Pizza Company, a fun Oktoberfest BBQ at the Reid's, a special St. Nicholas potluck after the Wednesday evening service and a lovely Annual Christmas Party and fundraising event.

Youth Italian Night Fundraiser

This year for the first time we hosted a fabulous Italian night dinner and fundraiser to benefit the youth. It was spearheaded by Monica Walton, Brigitte Sipra and the youth together with the Hospitality Committee members led by Michelle Lee, Tess Crawford and Deb Mitchell.

Annual Church Picnic

This year's annual church picnic was held in June in the Reflection Courtyard at the church. Many thanks to Pete Hicks for his tireless efforts in making this a success before he and Jean moved to Arizona. Thanks to the Hospitality Committee and others who brought food and helped make it a fun afternoon.

St. Nicholas Celebration – Kathy Foxen

Our celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas took place on December 5. It was marked by a celebration of Eucharist, a potluck supper and the mysterious filling of shoes which were left at the altar rail. St Nicholas participated and many photos were taken with him and the children during the potluck. Many thanks to everyone who made the event a fun filled evening.

Christmas Party and Fundraiser

This year's theme of a "Starry Night at St. Thomas" was another memorable evening at the church. All enjoyed a fabulous dinner of ham and turkey and all the fixings. In addition to the spirited Silent Auction and Raffle, there were photos to be taken at the photo booth and great camaraderie. Organized by Michelle Lee, Virginia Patton, Deb Mitchell and Tess Crawford.

Greening of the Church

At the beginning of Advent, the church is officially decorated for Christmas. It is a group effort and the Sanctuary and Narthex looked beautiful. Decorations stay up through Christmas until the start of Epiphany.

Reverse Advent Calendar Outreach

During Advent 2018, parishioners were encouraged to pick up a purple/pink Advent bag along with instructions. This information guided them with prayers through Advent with a list of items to buy daily for Project Touch, our local agency to help the homeless and disadvantaged in our community. The school participated also and there was a great response. The bags were blessed at services on Epiphany. Thanks to Andrea Leisman and Barbara Bundy for the coordination and delivery.

Meals on Wheels for St. Thomas

This new program was officially started in October to provide meals to our parishioners who are in need of assistance with meals. A WOW program coordinated by Michelle Lee.

Ministry Fair and Ministry of the Month

A Ministry Fair was held on Sunday, September 16, in the Narthex and Julian Hall, following both services. The goal was to highlight the various ministries within the church and to encourage parishioners to sign up to participate. While the Bishop's Committee thought this was a worthwhile effort, we decided to focus each month on a Ministry of the Month which began in November with our Music ministry, ably led by Stephen Sturk. Stephen Ministry was featured in December with Deb Mitchell. Information is highlighted all month in various communications and on the second Sunday, the ministry has a special display in the Narthex hosted by the leader and/or volunteers. PLEASE stop by to see the displays, learn more about the services offered and thank those who have dedicated their time and talents to the special ministries.

Men of Saint Thomas (MOST) – Peter Mandery

The men of St. Thomas, otherwise known as MOST, gather at the church in the morning on the second Saturday of each month to enjoy fellowship, enjoy a shared breakfast, and participate in heartfelt discussions of the upcoming weekly Bible readings. To be useful and practice good stewardship of our facilities, they complete tasks and projects around the grounds and church building. Typical tasks are routine such as light cleaning in preparation of events, landscape maintenance with some replacement of mulch in the planters, repairing damaged sprinklers and drip lines, and providing preventative maintenance of the building HVAC filters and worn plumbing fixtures. All men are welcome. Are you interested in joining? Please contact Peter Mandery, John Crawford, Jack Bundy or Bill Leisman.

Women of Worth (WOW) – Andrea Liesman

The women of St. Thomas, also known as WOW, gather at church in the morning on the fourth Saturday of each month to enjoy fellowship, enjoy a shared breakfast and discuss the various activities going on at the church and in the community. The group helps organize special receptions and potlucks and provides service to other activities. They started a Friendsgiving coordination for Thanksgiving this year, began the Reverse Advent Outreach and helped provide the meals for Meals on Wheels. In addition there have been several off site get togethers. All women are welcome.

Canterbury Trails Hikers – Deb Mitchell

Several hikes were held this year although not at the pace as in previous years. Let Deb Mitchell know if you are interested in participating.

Baseball – Lee Eisenhut

A stalwart group from St. Thomas attended the Episcopal Night at Petco Park in July. A good time was had by all.

Pet Ministry

This year the Blessing of the Animals was held on Saturday, October 6, prior to the 5:00 service, in the Sanctuary by Father Tim. We were happy to see so many of our faithful pets attend along with their masters for the blessing. All were encouraged to stay for the 5:00 Eucharist.

Weddings

Hospitality assists with weddings held at the church along with other volunteers from Pastoral Care and Altar Guild as necessary. This past year we had one wedding with the reception also held at the church in St. Francis Courtyard. A grand time was had and we hope to encourage other wedding couples to hold their receptions on site as well. Policies and Procedures are being developed.

Baptisms and Funerals

Hospitality provides assistance with Baptisms and Funerals held at the church along with Pastoral Care and Altar Guild as necessary.

Greeters and Ushers

Greeters and Ushers all provide hospitality to our parishioners and to visitors. We thank them for all of their efforts.

Connections Ministry

John Priest, who is no longer in our parish, provided a wonderful service called our Connections Ministry. He called members once every 3 months to check in with them from St. Thomas. This was not only a social call but one to see if there were additional prayer requests or services needed from other members of the St. Thomas clergy/staff/volunteers. We are looking for a volunteer(s) to continue this important ministry.

Special Events

Throughout the year there are special events which come up and Hospitality is called upon to assist. This year St. Thomas hosted the Executive Council for breakfast and a meeting in June.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Virginia Patton, Chair.