

Outreach

Vacation Bible School – This is held every summer and is wildly popular and wildly fun. It's hard to know who has more fun, the children or the adults and youth who lead the program! Held each August, this program is something you won't want to miss. For more information, contact Tommy Thompson, our director of Youth and Children's Ministries, at 215-233-3970 ext. 122 or tommy@stthomaswhitemarsh.org.

Family Outreach – We offer a wide variety of opportunities for families to help serve those in need. These include: The Harvest Festival, held at 1pm on Sunday, October 18th; the **Be An Angel Christmas Party** held on Sunday, December 13th at 1pm; and the **Pack-A-thon**, held on Sunday, January 17th from 11:05 until 1pm, where church and school families ages two to eighty-



two work side by side to pack 20,000 healthy meals for people living in poverty around the world.

Laudemus (Latin for *let us praise*) – This new class is designed for 2nd and 3rd graders as part of The Discovery Hour and will be taught by the Rev. Lara Stroud. It will help children jump into "big" church by teaching them about worship through our interactive sessions focusing on music, liturgy and movement. Participants will meet in the chapel, explore the whole church and learn how to become active worshippers, able to ask questions and practice various roles.

Advent Wreath Making – This is an opportunity for families to join together and create an Advent wreath made with real greens and candles to be lit each evening to signify the season of Advent, as we await Christ's entering our lives in new ways. This takes place on November 29th from 11:05 until noon in MacColl Auditorium.

The Christmas Pageant - All children are welcome to participate in this wonderful retelling of the Christmas story. All get to wear a costume and are given exciting roles, including scores of dancing angels and shepherds who sleep until they are awoken by the Angel Gabriel, who tells them exciting news that the baby Jesus, God's only son has been born. Rehearsals are Saturday mornings.

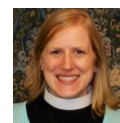
Clergy

Pastoral Concerns – Whether you are a member of St. Thomas' Church or not, our clergy are here to help you and your family, should any pastoral concern arise in your life. Whether it's adding a member of your immediate or extended family to our prayer lists, getting a prayer shawl, receiving a visit from a priest, Communion at home, a hospital visit or counseling, or just having a sounding board about life challenges or religious questions, we're here for you. Please feel free to call the clergy at:

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie at:
mzabriskie@stthomaswhitemarsh.org
215-233-3970 ext. 120



The Rev. Lara Stroud at:
lstroud@stthomaswhitemarsh.org
215-233-3970 ext. 113



The Rev. Daniel Stroud at:
dstroud@stthomaswhitemarsh.org
215-233-3970 ext. 128.



The Rev. William M. deHeyman
Associate Clergy
at: wmdm@sdllifestyle.com
"Pastor Bill" First Steps to Worship



Tommy Thompson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries at:
tommy@stthomaswhitemarsh.org
215-233-3970 ext. 122



Sermons to Go – If you would like to read a thought-provoking sermon on your own at home or work, contact Judy Lloyd at:
communications@stthomaswhitemarsh.org to receive our clergy's sermons, sent electronically to you each week.

Come, Enjoy and Spread the Word to Your Friends and Family

Dear Friends,

There are so many ways for you and your family to benefit from St. Thomas' Church and Nursery School. Building the core values of our children and family and developing a positive, healthy spiritual outlook on life are part of raising resilient children who will grow to thrive, love well and lead faithful, productive lives. Here are some of the many ways in which you can benefit from participating at St. Thomas' Church. Please feel free to take part in one, many or all of these programs, which will enrich your family's life.

*The Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie,
Rector of St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh*



Blessing of the Backpacks



St. Thomas' Church
WHITEMARSH
Come with us on a journey with Christ

Bethlehem Pike and Camp Hill Road
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-233-3970
stthomaswhitemarsh.org

Worship

First Steps to Worship – This (30-minute) worship service meets each Sunday in Haas Hall, conveniently located behind the church, from 10:15 – 10:45am for families with children six and under. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome. This popular service is fun and easy and a great place to make new friends and help your family encounter God's love.

Family Worship – Each Sunday, we endeavor to make our 10 a.m. service in the church relevant to families as we include children and youth in worship leadership. Whether it's the St. Francis Choir or the Choristers singing, a sermon that speaks to the needs of the family, collecting food to be blessed at the altar to share with the poor or having a youth read Scripture lessons aloud, the focus is on the family.

Faith at Five – This family-friendly 40-minute service is held in the church each Sunday from September to May at 5:00pm. If you're not a morning person or you cannot attend morning worship for some reason, join us for Faith at Five for a short sermon, an opportunity to light a candle, prayers for healing and the Eucharist.



The Discovery Hour

Messy Church – Come help us construct scarecrows depicting the disciples with Jesus at the Last Supper to be displayed at the Morris Arboretum. Have fun and make new friends. This "Messy Church" event will take place on Sunday, September 27 during The Discovery Hour from 11:05 a.m. – noon in the School House auditorium.



The Discovery Hour – Others call it "Sunday school," but we prefer a more exciting name for this 50-minute block of time to learn about God's love and to discover Jesus. St. Thomas' has a wonderful and friendly program with gifted teachers. We welcome your children to be part of this starting at age four through high school. It takes place from 11:05am – noon, directly after the 10 a.m. service and the end of First Steps to Worship and is held in the School House, which is located across from the Parish House where the St. Thomas' Nursery School is located.

Education & Music

The Family Forum, The Sunday Faith Forum and 6x4x1 – Wondering what you would do while your children attend The Discovery Hour? Our Family Forum is designed for young parents and adults to explore what it means to have faith and how faith in Christ affect our lives, offering group discussions about resonant issues and the joy of a life lived in Christ. The Sunday Faith Forum offers a variety of speakers on relevant and stimulating issues of faith. Twice a year, we interrupt the Sunday Forum to offer 6x4x1, offering six smaller classes for four weeks, allowing participants to explore a variety of interesting themes more deeply.



Children's Music – St. Thomas' offers one of the most comprehensive children's music programs of any church in the region, and it's all free. In addition to our wonderful Minister of Music Derrick Goff, we have recently hired Allison Miller as our Assistant Minister of Music for Children. After studying at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, Allison has been teaching music professionally in elementary schools. She now comes to us to help our St. Francis Choir (children in kindergarten to third grade) and our Choristers (fourth to eighth grade,) discover the joy of singing. Our choristers are finishing a recording of their first CD, which we hope to have ready soon. For more information, call Derrick at 215-233-3970 ext. 141, or email Derrick or Allison at: music@stthomaswhitemarsh.org or allisonmillermusic@gmail.com