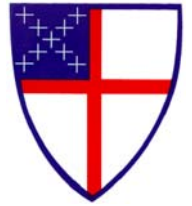
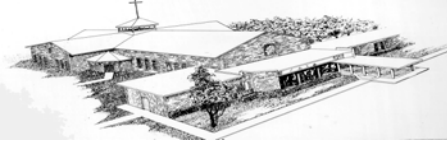




The Clarion



The Newsletter of St. Thomas Episcopal Church ♦ A disciple making community living for God and for others by being a community where everyone can experience the life-changing love of God in the truth of Jesus Christ in such a way that God is glorified and God's people are strengthened.



January 2010

Calendar at a Glance:

January 1, 2010

- HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Church Offices Closed

January 5, 2010

- School re-opens
- Book Club

January 6, 2010

- Epiphany

January 10, 2010

- Jr. Daughters of the King
- World Mission

January 11, 2010

- Threads of Love

January 13, 2010

- Wednesday Night Connection
Resumes

January 14, 2010

- Divorce Recovery Group

January 15, 2010

- *Clarion Deadline*

January 18, 2010

- Vestry Meeting

January 24, 2010

- ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 25, 2010

- Daughters of the King

January 28, 2010

- *Clarion Crew*

January 29, 2010

- Cowboy Breakfast

I am sitting here looking at an almost blank calendar. The 'almost' kind of scares me. We are two weeks away from 2010 and my calendar already has more entries than I care to think about. I have already put the important birthdays and anniversaries in there. Important St. Thomas events like The Annual Parish Meeting, Confirmation, Youth Sundays, Senior Recognition Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter, Christmas (and we haven't even had this Christmas yet), Vacation Bible School and meetings. Then there are Diocesan events such as Annual Council, the Abide in Me Conference at TMI in June and meetings. There are things we have to do simply because we are alive, and because we are members of a family or a community. There are things we want to do because they bring us joy and meaning and enthusiasm. There will be things added to the calendar as the year goes on. Weddings, funerals, illnesses, hospital calls and counseling sessions. Let me ask you, "How do you plan for the unplanned?"

A week before Christmas three doctors, who I respect and appreciate, ganged up on me and told me to have a heart catheterization with a possible stent implant. All is well, it was just some swelling caused by some plaque – the plaque wasn't the problem, the swelling was. Hey, that's what they told me. No stent was necessary and it can be handled by medicine. As we get older there are more of these events that we don't want on our calendars but are there anyway. I make a lot of visits to hospitals, but I learned some things from being on the other side of the sheets. You don't have to be alone in the hospital; people will visit if they know you are there. The nurses, techs, and staff are friendly if you are friendly, they'll even joke with you if you joke with them. It is hard to talk or even stay awake after a pre-procedure cocktail. The people who tend to you do care about you, but when it is chaotic it is hard for them to show it, because they care for the other patients too.

I think everyone knows some form of the story about a jar, some rocks, pebbles, sand, and liquid. Usually a professor is in charge. She puts the rocks in the jar first, and then the pebbles, then the sand, asking "is it full?" after each item. Usually the students say yes and then the professor puts the next item in. The liquid is last. She tells them that the rocks are the important things in life – family and friends. The pebbles are necessary –work, exercise, food and fun. The sand is the urgent stuff that pops up unexpectedly. All of this fits in the jar – our life – if we put the big stuff in first. The version of this story I like is when the liquid that is poured in is beer and the professor says "there is always time for a beer with your friends."

I am going to try to live this coming year based on this ancient and true philosophy. So now, if you will excuse me, I am going to find a couple of friends.

God bless you,

Chuck+

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is a fun and important part of our life together as a Church community. It is required by Canon Law to insure that everyone has an opportunity to be involved in electing leadership and learning of the state of the church. At the meeting we elect four new members for the Vestry, receive reports from the various committees and ministries, receive the budget for the new year, and generally have a great time in the fellowship of this wonderful congregation.

This year we will meet immediately after the 10:30 service on **Sunday, January, 24th**. Lunch will be served and then the business will begin. See the registration form below and turn it in by January 18th. **We need to know who is coming.** We will all eat together and then children will go to another space for crafts and movies while we conduct the business of the church.

Please find the insert that has the names and information for the nominees for Vestry. All **communicants in good standing, 16 years of age and over**, are eligible to vote. A communicant in good standing is someone whose baptismal records are recorded in our parish register, and for the past year have been faithful in worship, and have worked, prayed, and given for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

Plan on being with us that day to celebrate the life God has given us together.

Come and Cast your vote at the Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 24th 12:00 Noon

Before voting, we will have lunch catered by Jason's deli. Reservations are required and all meals must be prepaid no later than January 22nd. Please use the form below to make your reservation.

=====
Name: _____

Nursery (infant thru 3's) needed for _____ children

Childcare (4's thru 5th grade) needed for _____ children

Children's Meals are \$4.00 and include a sandwich and fruit. Choices are:

___ Peanut butter & Jelly ___ Ham

Adult Meals are \$6.00 each and include a sandwich, chips and a cookie. Choices are:

___ Turkey ___ Roast Beef ___ Ham ___ Small Salad

Total Children @ \$4.00 each _____

Total Adults @ \$6.00 each _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____



Lera's Space .

Are you interested in visiting with the sick, the homebound, or others who are in need of a listening heart and the voice of hope in their lives? If so, you may be interested in a new ministry St. Thomas plans to begin early this spring—a center for Community of Hope chaplains.

What is the Community of Hope? Most simply said, it is a pastoral care community. The organization was started 15 years ago at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston as a response to a very real concern. Because we live in a society where few people really listen to others, so many people need someone to listen and respond appropriately to their spiritual needs—especially those who are ill, suffering, lonely, or in pain. The role of pastoral caregiver is not for clergy only, but can be filled by trained lay people.

The Community of Hope training is rooted in Benedictine spirituality and the pastoral care model that many hospitals use to train pastoral caregivers. Prospective chaplains receive 42 hours of training over a period of several months in areas such as Benedictine spirituality and Christian meditation, listening skills, coping with loss, making pastoral visits, and exploring spiritual gifts.

After training and commissioning, the lay chaplains at St. Thomas will form a Circle of Care—a monthly meeting that includes continuing education, peer support, spiritual formation, worship, and fellowship. Membership is not limited to members of St. Thomas or to Episcopalians.

If you feel that this may be a ministry to which you are called, please contact Cathy Villani or me. I also encourage you to look at the Community of Hope website for more information: www.coh-international.com/.



I want to share, with you, my greatest joy this Christmas Season. My 5 year old cousin, Emmy Spicer, is in remission from her 18 month battle with neuroblastoma. I think her mother, my only cousin on my mother's side, says it best.



Well, my cup runneth over. We received an email late Tuesday night from Emmy's Dr. in NY. The message is that the tests show no evidence of disease and Emmy is in complete remission. She will resume antibody treatment after the holidays in NY. God has given us the gift of life with Emmy 3 times now and, as a parent, I cannot begin to tell you what that feels like.

In addition to that wonderful news, the agency I run for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault has experienced a tremendous outpouring of generosity from our community this week. There are other areas of our life that are also presenting wonderful opportunities for the future. All of these things came to light between Tuesday and Wednesday. Needless to say I have been overwhelmed with joy. And again I say my cup runneth over.

Emmy is back in school and loves it. She is so happy and full of energy this week. She weighs more than she ever has at 40 lbs. Both of the children are excited about their Christmas program and they love their new music teacher.

Thank you all so much for your prayers for Emmy. She is evidence of the power of prayer. Everything is going well at the Spicer house and we hope things are going well for all of you!

Remember never lose faith, God has a plan for us all. We must use the gifts He gives us to better the lives of others as His son did so many years ago.

*Love in Christ who strengthens us,
The Spicers*

Thanks for all you prayers — I hope you have a healthy and joyous Christmas Season!

Kathleen



- Youth News -

MID-WINTER CAMP

Mid-Winter Camp Sessions begin January 8-10, 2010. For information or registration go to the diocesan website at www.dwtx.org and select the Camps and Conferences link at the bottom of the home page, or go to www.campcapers.org

Christian Education



Dave Ramsey's
FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY
Coming to St. Thomas

Don't be
NORMAL
Get on the road to
Financial Peace!

CLASSES BEGIN
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
FROM 3-5 PM

CHILD CARE PROVIDED
UPON REQUEST

FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT:
MATT AND PAIGE FELTER
AT 487-1875
OR CATHY VILLANI
494-3507 EXT 223

WEEKDAY STUDIES

Begin Week of January 11, 2010

Tuesday

6 am

Bible Study with Father Chuck

10-12 noon *Jesus The One and Only* by Beth Moore— Led by Ann Smith in the Christian Ed Room

7-9 pm

E.F.M. — The Rev. Lera Tyler, Missy Denny, Mike Allen

Wednesday 9:30—10:30 am Slow Walk thru the Bible

Thursday 9:30—10:30 am Slow Walk thru the Bible—Father Chuck

7-9 pm

Divorce Recovery Group—Led by Pam Curtis

more... **Christian Education**

Sunday Mornings at St. Thomas...

JANUARY 10, 2010

9:15 to 10:15 am

- [Women's Bible Study—The Woman of God](#)
Roni Kaupert in Room 131
- [Epiphany Class](#) in Parish Hall
- [Bible Study with Gary](#)
Gary Villani in the Conference Room
- [Children's Sunday School](#)
in Room 1 Main Church Building
- [Youth Confirmation and Junior High](#)
with Father Chuck in the Christian Education Room
- [High School](#) in Youth Room
- [Guitar Ensemble](#)
in Music Room of the Administration Building
- [Choir](#) in Sanctuary
- [Children's Choir Pre-K—2nd Grade](#) at 9:45 am

Wednesday Night Connection



Begins: January 13, 2010

- 6-7 pm Children's Choir 3rd-8th Grade
- 7-8 pm High School Choir
- 7-9 pm Adult Choir
- 6:30—8pm Youth Revive Night (6-12 Grade)
- 6—8 pm Nursery
- 6:30—8 pm Faith Weavers (Grade 1-3)
- 6:30—8 pm Kids For Christ (Grade 4-5)

6:30—8 pm Adult Classes:

- [Bible Study with Janet](#)
Led by Janet Biechlin
- [Grace and Peace in Fullest Measure—
Study of the Book 1 & 2 Peter](#)
Led by Cathy Villani

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES




January

January 01
Cheryl Mallan
January 02
Nancy Woodall
Philip Cabello
January 03
Jamie Strohl
Raul Hernandez
Isaac Argabright
Ryan Curtis
January 04
Chris Maddox
Ike Brunner
Heather Zurcher
Brian Lehman
Chris & Ann Weborg
January 05
Katrina McNairy
Jerry Lollar
Joyce Rennie
January 06
Mike Bantz
Martha Nasse
Linda Albrecht
Jordan Butler
Cooper Weborg
Linda Martin
January 07
Sheila Spence
Jess Moore
Keith Rupe
Lindsay Bundrick
Madison Barry
January 08
Robert Coronado
Rebecca King
Brooks Cornett
Bob & Sarah Clark
Cody & Cassie Fuller
January 09
Joy Scrivener
Lucy Barrow

January 10
Rachel Rayburn
Steve Denney
John Owens
Noelle Argabright
January 11
Matt Keller
January 12
Mary McConnell
Sophie Garriga
Missy Bantz
Sandra Tolbert
January 13
Channing Howarth
January 14
Ellen Foster
Martha Specht
Alex Goodwin
Casey Dickens
January 15
Jon Lull
Edward Kirkland
Amy Conner
Claire Haney
Cassie Fuller
January 16
Jeffrey Manship
Jim Bumstead
Noah Wood
January 17
Melissa Wyatt
Dewey Smith
Deborah Murphy
Michael & Elena Wellman
January 18
Sean Davis
Cynthia Samsel
Scott Winton
Patti Keller
John Cornell
Rodney Smith

January 19
Charlie Ledbetter
Jenny Barrow
Alex Gardyasz
Ana Rosito
January 20
Eliza Atkins
Aaron Goebel
Jessie Atkins
Courtney Bantz
Robert Wachsmuth
Ray Parker
January 21
Matt Newman
January 22
Byrne Cady
Gregory Pressly
January 23
Beverly Hamlett
Grace Copeland
Nathanael Woehler
Liliane Bailey
Brianna Acevedo
Gaby Garcia
Jason Souder
Sally Mills
Mike & Robin Karstens
Steve & Peggy Scheidker
January 25
Janet Robinson
Matthew Felter
January 26
Stephanie Keller
January 27
Dozie Ony
Luke Specht
Jason Bodnar
Marlayna Keller
Jay & Patty Barton

January 28
Rick Smith
Sophia Raimondo
Laura Rayburn
Leslie Anderson
January 29
Robb Swain
Joshua Vinson
Kyle Crusius
Delaney Mathews
Patti Moore
January 30
Mark Valderama
Christina Barton
Patty Barton
January 31
Hal Temple



**We will open the book.
Its pages are blank.
We are going to put
words on them
ourselves.
The book is called
Opportunity
and its first chapter is
New Year's Day.
~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce**

A Word From the Parish Administrator

2009 was another wonderful year for St. Thomas. We did roofing work, carpeted, painted, tiled most of the common areas, worked on the field and put in two new ramps. 2010 may prove to be a little rougher year. With a significant decrease in our pledges this year our 2010 budget will have large decreases in our Outreach, World Mission, Maintenance, Christian Education and Youth budgets as well as a freeze on staff increases for the third year in a row. We know that God has a plan for us and that with your help we will be successful in all that we do because of our committed congregation. Here is a recap of our 2010 Stewardship Campaign.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Pledges	\$895,081	\$843,604
Pledging Units	308	253

New Pledges 19 families for a total of \$34,208
 Decreases 38 families for a total of \$71,921
 Outstanding Pledges 50 families for a total of \$91,751

- As the new year starts, please resolve to keep your 2010 pledge current. If you are paying the balance of a 2009 pledge, please denote the purpose in the memo section of your check so that we can properly record your payment.
- School resumes on January 5th—remember the gate will be closed during the school day.
- Pledge statements will be mailed the first week of January. Please review them and call the church office if you have any questions.
- As always, please don't hesitate to call Kathleen at the Church office if you have any concerns regarding the physical plant or your contributions.

Kathleen Seeley Stephens
 Parish Administrator

Financial Update

November Revenue \$ 88,975.41
 November Expenses \$ 83,550.11

Pledge Payments Received \$ 788,261.54
 Actual Pledges \$ 808,188.33

Ahead (behind) (2.47%)

As always, thanks for your continued giving.

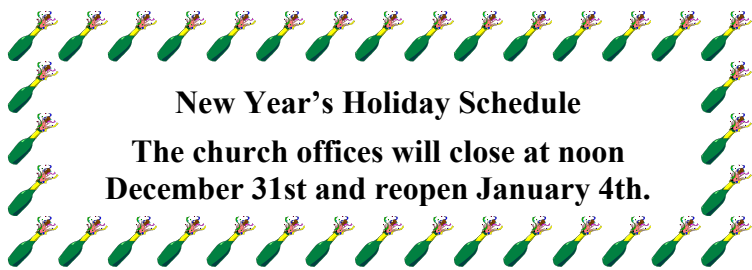


www.tom1604.org



Staff Volunteers

We have several spaces available—please call the church office if you are interested.



New Year's Holiday Schedule

**The church offices will close at noon
 December 31st and reopen January 4th.**

PLEASE NOTE!

This will be the last paper Clarion we will be mailing. February's mailing will come via e-mail. Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address. Paper copies will be mailed only to those requesting them, call the church office—494-3507. There will be copies in Gosnell Hall and in the Administration building. This will save trees and approximately \$250 per month/\$3,000 per year.



**January
 15th
 At Noon**

Clarion Crew

Come help assemble newsletters
 January 29th!



Parish Information ~ News You Need To Know



Men's Meat Burning

Men's Meat Burning will be held at the home of Jeff Kaupert, 203 Lariat,

Thursday - January 21st at 6.00 pm. Santa delivered a new BBQ pit to the group with instructions to get more merry people involved. Be there with your favorite cut of meat, sit back and kick off the year right.

If you haven't been to one of these events, you're missing out. Call Victor at 325-4050 to find out more.



Men's Breakfast

Meet at Jim's Restaurant on 281 between Thousand Oaks and

Brook Hollow each Wednesday morning at 7:00 am for breakfast and good Christian fellowship. Call Bill Todt, 497-4106, for more information.



The Book Club

Book Club will meet on January 5th at 10:00 am in the Library.

We will review *Broken for You* by Stephanie Kallos. This is an engaging story of a wonderful friendship between two lonely women who become family. All are welcome.

ST. THOMAS BOOK CLUB— 2010

FEBRUARY—*People of the Book* by G. Brooks

MARCH—*Last Light* by Blackstock

APRIL—*Teacher-Man* by McCourt

MAY—*Suite Francaise*

by I. Nemirovsky

JUNE—*The Chosen* by C. Potok

JULY—*Teapot Dome Scandal*

by McCartney

AUGUST—*My Life in France*

by Julia Child

SEPTEMBER—*Guersney Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by M. Shaffer

OCTOBER—*Time Traveler's Wife*

by Niffenegger



ST. THOMAS GOLFERS'

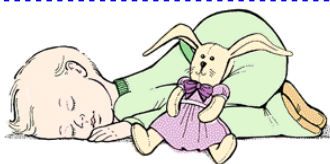
If you would like to be included in golf e-mail notices of events, contact Steve Scheidker—493-8222 or scheidker@sbcglobal.net.



EPIPHANY ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

WATCH THE WEEKLY
BULLETINS FOR
WHAT'S HAPPENING.

Editor's Note—Sorry—I missed putting this in the December Clarion and this is something you'll want to know!

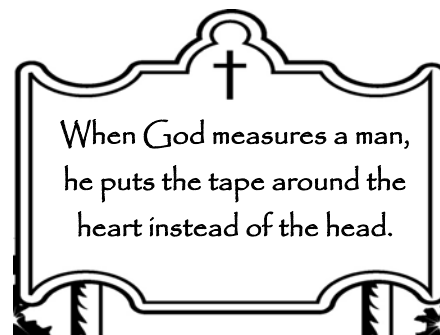


The Souder Family announced the arrival of
Jonas David Souder
on November 21, 2009
7 lbs—20 1/4 inches
Proud parents are
Jason & Angela Souder
Excited siblings are
Aidan & Kendall.

DIVORCE RECOVERY GROUP

We are excited about a new ministry we are providing at St. Thomas.

We will begin a **Divorce Recovery Group**, led by **Pam Curtis**, a long time member of St. Thomas. Pam is a Psychotherapist and has a Master's in Education and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. The course will be held on **Thursdays at 7:00pm**, beginning **January 14th** and run for **10 weeks**. It will meet in the conference Room of the Administration Building. The course will offer support as well as tools to use in recovery. The course will cost \$25 for the whole 10 weeks which is an incredible offer. If cost is a problem, don't let that hold you back. You may talk to the clergy if you need assistance or if you would like more information. We hope to offer this course three times a year. If you know anyone who might benefit from this ministry please let them know. It would be a big help if you let us know if you will be participating as we are limited to the first 15 people who register. To register, call the church office—494-3507.



—To the Family of Sue Ann Roland
Mother of DeAnn Wood
—To the Family of James Damron
Father of Patti Evans



THE POWER OF LOVE

...KNOWS NO BOUNDS



On the 7th of December, we gathered and shared tamales. We enjoyed good homemade cookies before we packed up some for Independence Hill and the nurses working on Christmas Day. Liz and Joe Page packed up our handiwork, Christmas angels for the babies and pins for the nurses.

Independence Hill sent about 35 blankets and one of their volunteer's, Maureen Lancaster, has joined our group. She will work with five ladies there twice a month. Gayle Bretz is looking for another retirement home where the ladies may knit and crochet.

We will meet on the second Monday in January, the 11th as the 4th is too close to the holiday weekend. We will make Valentine pins for the nurses and share valentine patterns for the blankets and hats.

Liz told us about the new building for Threads of Love at Oak Hills that should arrive the end of January. Be sure you are getting Liz's newsletter. They have picked up two more hospitals. Let me know if you don't get mail from her. I am trying to update our e-mail addresses. Let me know if you know someone who is not receiving mail from me.

We will give the 2009 report next month, which will be about 3000 items. May you and your family enjoy the peace and joy of the Infant Savior these holidays. Bless you for all you do in His Name.



AFRICAN JEWELRY & CRAFTS

Every year we host the African Team Ministries sale of native carvings, jewelry, and other crafts, to support the work of missionaries in Africa. This year the products will be available on **Sundays January 31st and February 7th.**

The products are of very good quality and not expensive. All the proceeds go to the ministries in the area of the craftsmen.



Remember To pray for the Diocesan Council

Diocese of West Texas

Bear One Another's Burdens...



Ayúdensen uno a otro soportar sus cargas

2010 COUNCIL CORPUS CHRISTI

February 18-20, 2010

St. Thomas SchoolNews

CONGRATULATIONS



Greg & Christy Hutchinson received an early Christmas present and are the proud parents of a new baby girl Leah Grace Born December 23, 2009 19 1/2 inches—7 lbs 3 oz.

Sister for Rebecca & Hannah

St. Thomas Episcopal Church & School
1416 North Loop 1604 East
San Antonio, Texas 78232-1400
(210) 494-3507—Published Monthly

Nonprofit Organization
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT ...

The Newsletter of St. Thomas Episcopal Church and School

Articles for publication should be submitted by the 15th of the month unless otherwise noted in this newsletter or Sunday service leaflets. Submissions should preferably be by email submitted to erickey@tom1604.org, or in Word on disk, but may be submitted to the church office at the address above.

Publication is at the discretion of the Editor, Esther Rickey, and the Rector.

ALL ABOUT US

Clergy

The Rev. Chuck Woehler, Rector
 The Rev. Lera Tyler, Assistant Rector
 The Rev. Don Wilkinson, Assisting Priest
 The Rev. Jack Beebe, Assisting Priest
 The Rev. Turner Hubby, Assisting Priest

Church Staff

Kathleen Stephens, Parish Administrator
 Ryan Becker, Minister of Music
 Spencer Stocker, Youth Minister
 Cathy Villani, Director of Christian Education
 Esther Rickey, Parish Secretary
 Billy Jackson, Sexton

School Staff

Greg Hutchinson, Head of School
 Connie Gallovich, Business Manager
 Robin Rosen, Office Manager

Vestry

Each member of our vestry is a chairperson or liaison for one area of parish life. They oversee these areas and are available to you, the parishioners, if you have concerns, ideas, or desire to help in any capacity. Below is a list of our vestry members and their areas of oversight. Remember they are your elected representatives and welcome hearing from you.

Steve Denney, Senior Warden
 Robb Swain, Jr. Warden
 Mike Allen, Treasurer
 Tres Bain, Chancellor
 Charlotte Greathouse—Worship
 Tom Green—Development
 Mike Karstens—Youth
 John Owens—Clerk
 Janet Robinson—Senior Adult Ministries
 Peggy Scheidker—School Liaison
 T.K. Smith—World Mission
 Bill Traylor—Outreach
 DeAnn Wood—Christian Ed
 Jackie Worthington—Hospitality & Fellowship

Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist- Rite I
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Tuesday & Thursday

9:30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist & Unction

Communication

Church Telephone 210-494-3507
 Church Fax 210-494-7124
 School Telephone 210-494-3509

Extension & E-Mail

Ryan Becker	220	rbecker@tom1604.org
Greg Hutchinson	208	ghutchinson@tom1604.org
Esther Rickey	205	erickey@tom1604.org
Kathleen Stephens	202	kstephens@tom1604.org
Spencer Stocker	219	sstocker@tom1604.org
Lera Tyler	206	ltyler@tom1604.org
Cathy Villani	223	cvillani@tom1604.org
Chuck Woehler	204	cwoehler@tom1604.org
Church	205	stthomaschurch@tom1604.org
School	210	info@stthomasschoolsatx.com

Web Site

www.tom1604.org

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8:30 am–4:30 pm