

St. Thomas'

Student Ministries

Who am I?

- Sara Smith
- 2nd year on staff with St. Thomas'
- Married Daniel Smith in Feb 2021
- Graduated from the College of Charleston in 2019



The Big Picture: What We Want To See Out Of A Graduating Senior

- **Spiritual Maturity**
 - Accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior
 - Understanding Biblical foundations
 - Understanding creeds and theological concepts
- **Practical Faith**
 - faith that is personal to each student and has real-life implications
 - “Ambassadors of Christ”
- **Spiritual hunger**
 - always seeking to learn more and grow in their faith
 - Asking questions
 - Valuing community
 - Commitment to the church

The Specifics: How (Overview)

- Life Groups
 - Reading the Bible
 - Prayer
 - Community
- Confirmation
 - October 3rd
 - Confirmation marks taking a hold of your baptismal vows and commitment to Christ and the Church by the laying on of the Bishop's hands
- Partnering with you as parents

Life Groups

- Life Groups will be held every Sunday afternoon
 - Middle School: 12:00-1:15 pm (right after church)
 - pizza
 - High School: 1:30-2:30 pm
 - snacks
 - This fall: reading through the Psalms
 - The questions we ask for every passage:
 - What do we learn about God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit?
 - What do we learn about people?
 - How does this apply to your life today?
 - How does this impact the way we are ambassadors of Christ's forgiving love where we live, work, play, and learn?
 - This is to shape their own personal scripture reading. (Bookmarks)



Praying for Students

- With your student's permission I will add them to a list and randomly assign them to members of St. Thomas' to pray for them throughout the school year.
 - If they wish it can be anonymous (student 1, 2, etc.)
 - involvement from the entire church body
 - Write down your name or what you'd like to be identified as (initials, student #, etc) and I will write these on folded cards for members to pick up on their way out from church next Sunday

What is an “Ambassador of Christ?”

- Using the love of Christ to be his Ambassadors in places outside of church
- Not being afraid to make non-Christian friends and inviting them into our community
- Sharing the gospel with those they live, work, play, and learn
 - practicing this in Life Groups, school, and their friend groups



IMPORTANT DATES

- Middle School/ High School Life Group
 - Sundays 12-1:15pm/ 1:30-2:30pm
 - At the FAME Encore Music Hall in the main space
 - Sept. 19, 26
 - Oct. 3, 10, 17, 31
 - Nov. 7, 14, 21
 - Dec. 5, 12, 19
- Fun Nights
 - MS: Oct 22, Nov 19
 - HS: Oct 15, Nov 12
- Students United (w/ the Cathedral and St. Michael's)
 - Dec 12th
- Confirmation
 - Oct. 3
- “How to talk to your students about sexuality and identity”
 - Led by me and Jessica Bean, M.Div.
 - Oct. 24 6:30-7:30pm

A Look forward into Spring 2022

- Middle School and High School Retreats
 - Date and COVID precautions still in the works
 - Scholarships available
 - Email Hamilton stthomasmt@gmail.com or me stthomasyouthmtp@gmail.com

Orphan Network Fundraiser

- Partnering with Church of God of Prophecy in Rio Mena, Nicaragua
 - Feeding 75 kids one nutritionally fortified meal a week
- Setting a money goal for the end of the year
- Finding ways for each student to be able to raise the amount of money they want
 - Babysitting, Yard Work etc.
- Details TBD



Above Reproach

- Number one priority is keeping your kids safe
- Every staff member/volunteer who works with the students has to go through abuse prevention training
 - Not being alone with students in a private place
 - Protecting students from adults and each other
- Confidentiality: Everything your student tells me will be confidential with me, the student and Hamilton unless it's about abuse, self-harm, or suicide
- Consent and Media Release Form
- COVID Precautions
 - Safety is my number 1 priority and we are following the guidance of the CDC as well as the Vestry
 - If we can be outside we will be, if not we will be indoors with masks
 - If you have any concerns please reach out to me or Hamilton

What I need from you

- Parents, I want to partner with you!
 - You are the primary discipler of your child/children
 - My goal is to come alongside you to help encourage your child in their faith
- Volunteering
 - I need help! Please text me to help with life groups and Fun Nights. I will create a group of rotating volunteers.
 - Background checks/online training
- I am happy to accommodate students who cannot come to life groups on Sundays
 - 1 on 1 meetings
 - Smaller groups before/after school
 - I'm here for you!
- A word from the Rector

Contact Information

- Sara Pilling
 - 843-412-9430
 - stthomasyouthmtp@gmail.com
- Write these down and go ahead and text me your contact information
- <https://stthomasmt.org/youth-ministries/student-ministries/>
 - Slide show will be here for reference
- Instagram: stthomasyouthmtp