

Dear St. Thomas Episcopal Church and School Families,

This morning a sweet couple with 2-year old twins came to tour our school. When asked how they heard about the school, the mother smiled and said that her husband attended when he was young. He still remembers the experience of the warm, caring community, and he wanted this for his children as well. The cost of a private education exceeds the revenue of tuition. At St. Thomas we strive to keep our tuition reasonable in order to offer more students an opportunity to attend our school; however, tuition can be a stretch for many of our families.

We are asking for your help to keep the preschool and elementary school at St. Thomas accessible to all with your gift to our scholarship fund. Many families who benefit from the scholarship fund have been able to offer their children an education that could change their lives. At this time of year, we ask for our school and church families to support our efforts to offer scholarships to those who are in need of extra support to afford a faith-based school. The school is one of the largest and most consistent forms of outreach to our community and an important way to build the Kingdom of God. Last year we did not ask for donations to the Jeremiah Fund because we were fundraising for our new facilities, but the need for scholarships is great now.

Many years ago we named this effort after the scripture from Jeremiah 29:11. "I know the plan I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." At St. Thomas we believe the promise that God has great plans for our children's futures.

I would like to encourage you to participate in this year's Jeremiah Fund Campaign. Your participation in the annual fund is vital to "bridging the gap" in funding. Our early childhood program will benefit from the recent grant we received to develop our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum for preschool through elementary. We will be able to offer an early childhood program unlike any other in the area through this generous grant.

Please consider a \$100 donation, or whatever is comfortable for you, to help us reach this goal. We encourage you to consider giving an amount each month such as \$10 to help the scholarship fund. Keep in mind that if you or your spouse work for a matching gift company, the value of your gift will be further enhanced. This tax-deductible gift to the St. Thomas Episcopal School Annual Campaign may be made using one of the following methods:

- Check the donate now button on the website www.stthomaskids.com
- Send in your gift by check using the supplied envelope
- Call the office at 210-494-3509 and make a credit card donation

Thank you for believing in the ministry provided at St. Thomas Episcopal School. Being involved in this wonderful opportunity allows us to meet our mission of ***being an inclusive faith-based community that empowers children to develop critical minds, caring hearts, and ethical foundations for academic excellence and spiritual growth.***

We are encouraging all those donating \$100 or more to dedicate your gift in honor of one or two school or church staff members. When you make your donation, please indicate which staff members you wish to honor and we will send a card to let them know of your gift in their name.

God bless you,

The Rev. Chuck Woehler