

From: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org
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Rector's Ramblings

I am still pondering the meeting with Carrie Headington the EPISCOPAL EVANGELIST who works for the Diocese of Dallas. I wish I could have her hear to present to all of us, as I am sure I will do a poor job reporting, but here we go anyway.

The first question that she asked of those gathered was whether or not our parish is mission focused. So are we? Are we mission focused? Could each of us recite our mission statement? Does mission form the core identity of our parish?

As we went around the room and answered this question, I was not surprised to hear that most parishes are not mission focused. Most of us have great charitable ministries, many of us are doing good things, but mission is not a key identity and focus.

So what does it mean to be mission focused? Simply put, it means that all we do is built around the simple principle of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Each gathering, each service project, each conversation is an opportunity to talk about Jesus. In short, MISSION IS EVANGELISM. Charity is good, but it is a vehicle to Evangelism. This model was a cornerstone of the catholic revival in Anglicanism: works of mercy

The Good News

A weekly newsletter of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
October 2, 2015



Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is offered at 7AM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and at 7:30 AM on Thursday. The fourth Thursday at 7:30 AM is Holy Eucharist.

Children's Sunday School

For high school through nursery age are meeting downstairs. Kids begin at 9 am in the center room of the basement for a quick song and a prayer and then off to their classes - early years (roughly ages 4-7), middle years (roughly ages 8-11) and Jr./Sr. High (12-up). Teachers are eagerly awaiting your arrival!

Special Guest

The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa and his wife Lucy will be making a visit to the Diocese of Springfield over the week of October 12-19th. They will be visiting each Deanery of the Diocese and attending our Synod. Bishop Elias and Lucy will spend the night of the 17th at the Rectory as guests of Fr. Dave and Amy, and worship with St. Matthew's on Sunday the 18th. Bishop Elias will be our preacher and celebrant on that day as well. Please plan on attending on this day to show our support for our Companion Diocese and our brothers and sisters in Christ in Tanzania.

A potluck lunch and greeting time will follow the 10AM service. **A sign up sheet is available in the hallway.** Main course and drinks will be provided.

Speaking of Tabora

A year ago, a generous donor from St. Matthew's made it possible to fill a

are always accompanied by the sharing of the Gospel. Each of these are integral to the Christian Life. This is our heritage.

And it is not just a parish ideal, each of us individually are called by Jesus to be Mission Focused. Are we? What do we need to do to gain that focus if we lack it? What do you need from your priest, vestry, and community to become mission focused? How can we help?

Next week, first steps.

Dave+

Service Schedule for the week of October 4, 2015

Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
7:30 AM

Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
10:00 AM

Evensong 5:00 PM

Other Services:

Morning Prayer

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday mornings at 7 AM
Thursday morning at 7:30 AM
(4th Thursday - Holy Eucharist)

Rosary 5:30 PM Wednesdays.

Intercessory Prayer

Monday at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday
at 12:15 p.m., and Thursday at
10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
Rector's Blog

A year ago, a generous donor from St. Matthew's made it possible to fill a request from Bishop Elias to train Ms. Aksa Ernest as a financial assistant (treasurer) for the Diocese of Tabora. I am pleased to report that Ms. Ernest has completed her certificate of training in Dodoma and is working as a financial assistant in the Diocesan office. This has been a great blessing to the Diocese, and Bishop Elias has asked that I pass on his thanks to St. Matthew's.

Also, it has been reported that as of the beginning of September over \$9,000 has been raised by the ECW of the Diocese of Springfield for the construction of the new girl's hostel at St. Peter's Secondary School. St. Matthew's played a very large role in this project and we are very proud of how much this community did to assist. Well done! It will be a joy to see Bishop Elias presented with the "large" ceremonial check at Diocesan Synod.

Golden Celebration

Let's Celebrate at Coffee Hour, October 11, 2015. Roy and Pam Laws' family would like you to join in honoring their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Everyone come and help us eat cake!

Fall Kitchen Clean-up

Friday, October 9, 9 a.m.-Put on your grubbies and join the crew for cleaning, sorting, fellowship and snacks in the church kitchen. You'll be blessed!
Linda Thomas, 242-7160; Ann Sokan, 664-1639

Watch as this space disappears! :(However, it will reappear!

Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen technical complication with Forward Movement (the host for RenewalWorks), we will not be launching RenewalWorks this weekend. However, we expect the complication to be resolved in a short period and are planning on joining the January session of RenewalWorks.

RenewalWorks is offered by Forward Movement and is focused on assessing and improving our Spiritual Vitality as a Eucharistic Community and as individuals. More details will follow in this space as we move toward launching this program.

RenewalWorks is a key component to checking on the health of our ministries and spiritual lives, as well as helping the clergy and vestry ensure we are doing the things necessary to promote spiritual growth and health.

Books, DVDs, Baked Goods on Sale October 3

St. Matthew's next Book/DVD/Bake Sale will be Saturday, October 3rd, 8 AM - 12 noon.

Baked goods are received Friday morning (8 - noon), Friday afternoon 4 - 6 PM, or Saturday morning.

The Outreach Committee is in need of your help to set up the sale on Friday, October 2, 4-6 PM, as well as Saturday morning. To offer your help or if you need donations picked up, please call Debbie Leighton (H) 662-7478 or (W) 828-7600.

Popcorn Sales

It might be a well-kept secret, but St. Matthew's has picked up the responsibility of being the Chartering Organization of Cub Scout Pack 42 located at Oakland School. This was done at the request of the Oakland School PTO and the Boy Scout Council. It is a natural fit for us as we are also the emergency partner for Oakland School.

This Sunday a couple of the Cub Scouts with their families will be here at and after the 10AM service to promote their annual popcorn sale. Please welcome them warmly.

PS. We also have a couple of Cub Scouts in the parish that are not members of this pack, and we ask that you support them as well.

Bishop's Homecoming

Bishop Daniel will celebrate his homecoming visit on November 1. We already have several folks who wish to be confirmed and received on that day, if you have not let Fr. Dave know you desire for this, please do so as soon as you can.

Youth Group

The Youth Group meetings for October are 6-7:30 PM on the 11th and 25th.

Evening Prayer

Evensong is held each Sunday at 5PM.

Good News Daily

This Week's Good News Daily is [here](#).

Readings & Music for October 4, 2015

Hymns: #376, #397, #149, #343, and #450

Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not

found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Psalm 8 Page 592, BCP Domine, Dominus noster

- 1 O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals that you care for them?"

of humans, that you care for them.

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Ministry Assignments for October 4 & 11

4-Oct

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Bill Johns

Lector: E.M.: Diane Gardner

10:00

Lector: Robin Levine

Acolytes: Shelley Brenneman Carter, Alley & Devan Roberson

Crucifer: Sarah Halt

Shadow: Hally

E.M.: Fr. Bruce, assisting Priest

Mondav Counter: Pam Laws

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Coopers

11-Oct

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Ann Nadakavukaren

Lector: E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Lector: John Stoffer

Acolytes: Liam Halt, Jack & Nolan White

Crucifer: Alex Davingman

Shadow: Daniel

E.M.: Shelley Brenneman Carter, & Bob Kohlhasse

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Laws family - 50th Anniversary

Birthdays & Anniversaries October 2 - 18

Julie Bennett

Gabriella Owens

Sue & Bill Jones

Jeffrey Clark

Nancy Roberts

Andrew Dean

Charles Gordon

Steve Waldron

Kelly Gray

Caroline Leighton

Reva Alber

Kia Griffin

David Halt

Robert Wolfe

Linda & Steve Waldron

Pam & Roy Laws

Brad Brenneman

Natalie Laken

Collect for Sunday, October 4th

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



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