

From: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org
Subject: St. Matthew's Newsletter
Date: January 29, 2016 at 11:49 AM
To: roghollis@mac.com

PM

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Rector's Ramblings

At the annual meeting we will hear an update on the timeline for reconstruction of our hole-y building. As we receive that report, and prepare for the work to be done, I would ask that you join me in discerning what the architecture of our building communicates about our Christian faith.

There are obvious references to the Temple of Jerusalem in our building.

1. Uncut stones. The actual masonry is designed to look like uncut stones. One of the tradition of Deuteronomy is that an altar should be made of uncut stones (Deut 27.6). Obviously, the stones of our structure have been cut in a quarry, so they do not live to the letter of the law, but the spirit is seen in the care used to make it appear as if they are uncut and pieced together. Each stone is unique and only bound together by the common mortar. So, we are, each unique but bound together in the common mortar of the common Faith.

2. Tri-partite arrangement. There is some dispute as to the exact layout of the Temple, yet the consensus is that the building itself was divided into three sections: porch, Holy Place, and

The Good News

January 29, 2016



Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule

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.

Bible Study

Returns for the Lenten Series which on February 10. We will meet before the 7PM Ash Wednesday service.

During Lent we will study the lives of the Apostles after Pentecost. Each evening will begin at 6PM with soup and salad and conclude at 7:30 with Compline.

Diocesan Clergy Retreat

Fr. Halt will be attending the Diocese of Springfield Pre-Lenten retreat Monday through Wednesday of this week. Should a pastoral emergency arrive please call his cell phone at 309-660-8515. He will check messages each morning and evening.

The Guild of the Holy Rosary

Several of our members have formed a guild for the promotion and praying of the Rosary. The Guild has put together a devotional manual that they are eager to share with anyone who wishes. They meet at 5:30 PM each Wednesday to pray together, and invites all members of St. Matthew's to join them in prayer. Please join the Guild in prayer for our Church, our Parish, our clergy, and each other.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31. We will have

Holy of Holies. St. Matthew's reflects the same division. If you enter through the main doors, you will pick up your service leaflet in the Narthex (porch), worship in the Nave (Holy Place) and receive Holy Communion at the entrance to the Sanctuary (Holy of Holies). During the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Altar is the holiest place in the building, and like the ancient Temple holiness is supposed to resonate from this place. In short, as we leave the Holy of Holies, through the Holy Place, and eventually out the porch we are supposed to carry the holiness of God with us.

3. Four Horned Altars. The ancient Israelites were big fans of four Horned Altars (cf. Exodus & Leviticus). There are many archaeological examples of these in the Holy Land. When one sought sanctuary they would cling to the horns of the altar (1 Kings 1.51). Both the Altar of Incense and the Altar of Sacrifice were constructed with four horns. In Levitical Law the blood of the sacrificial victim for a sin offering is placed upon the horns of the Altar (Lev. 4). On the Day of Atonement the blood of the bull is placed on the horns of the altar (Lev. 16). The Day of Atonement is also supposed to be the day when a Jubilee year begins and a horn is sounded that cancels all debts and returns all of Israel to their original equal state (Lev. 25). Incense was also offered with each of these sacrifices.

We see the four horned altar motifs on the exterior of St. Matthew's on the door handles of the entry way and the limestone next to them. Often overlooked, however, is the steeple. Someone asked me once if it was a pagoda. No, it is not. The steeple consists of a central spire arising out of two four-horned altars,

one service at 9AM that day with the meeting immediately to follow. Meat and drinks will be provided, please bring something to share at the meal. Vestry members will handle set-up and clean-up duties.

Parish Mission Trip

If you are interested, please see Fr. Dave. The trip will leave the week of June 27 and return on July 8. The cost of the trip is \$1500 (inclusive).

The goal of the trip is 1) to build relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and 2) to rebuild a roof at St. John Church, Owia, St. Vincent.

No shots are required, but a passport is. All ages are welcome and you don't have to know how to swing a hammer.

Local Mission Opportunities

ITEMS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2016-The old year goes and the new year comes, but the need never ends. The Salvation Army is always there to help; and we can all help this fine, historic organization feed, clothe, and shelter those in need by donating food for the Safe Harbor Shelter and the Army's food pantry. Please place supplies and imperishable foods in the Outreach baskets in the narthex and the hallway beside the fireplace. We bless and thank you!

Here are some suggestions from The Salvation Army: Ketchup--Mayo--Hot Sauce; Italian & Ranch Dressing; Butter, Sugar & Syrup; Coffee & Kool-Aid; Fruit Juice & Tomato Juice; Jell-O (not pudding); Cereal (hot or cold) & Grits; Canned Meats; Canned Fruits/Vegetables; Boxed Meals; Mac-N-Cheese; Cereal; Crackers.

Good News Daily

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

Readings & Music for January 31, 2016

Hymns: #440, #381, #321, #448

Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the Lord came to me saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."
But the Lord said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you,
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,

reminiscent of the the Altar of Incense and the Altar of Sacrifice. The steeple also is situated directly above the entrance to the Sanctuary proper.

Here is the place where the ultimate sacrifice is commemorated and the sacrifice of thanksgiving (Eucharist) is made.

It should be noted that none of these details are accidental and show a great knowledge of Biblical Tradition and Theology. As we meditate on the details found in our building, may we discover their deeper meaning and draw us ever closer to Jesus Christ, the One offered for our salvation.

Dave+

PS I will be migrating my personal (and most often checked) email from gmail to frhalt@protonmail.com over the next month or so. The Church email for me (rector@stmattsblm.org) will continue to be "live".

Service Schedule for the week of January 31, 2016

Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
9:00 AM

Evensong 5:00 PM

Other Services:

Morning Prayer

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday 7:00 AM
and Thursday 7:30 AM

says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

Psalm 71:1-6 In te, Domine, speravi

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; *
let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *
incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, *
my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4:21-30

In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus read from the book of the prophet Isaiah, and began to say, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and

Rosary 5:30 PM Wednesdays.

Intercessory Prayer

Monday at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday
at 12:40 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

there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Ministry Assignments for January 31 & February 7

31-Jan

9:00

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

Acolytes: Chris Bennett, Sarah Halt, Christian Pitts

Crucifer: Alex Davingman

Shadow: Sean

E.M.: Bob Kohlase

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Annual Meeting Potluck

7-Feb

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.:

10:00

Lector: Sandy Kohlase

Acolytes: Liam Halt, Jack & Nolan White

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Shadow: Sean

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Leighton Family

Birthdays & Anniversaries January 29 - February 14

Charlotte & Charlie Casperson

Ora & Rutger Bachmann

Kathie & Loren Dyson

Donna Dyson

June Gault

Matthew Owens

Payton Owens

Julaine Ingersoll

Abby Larson

Jarod Roberson

Collect for Sunday, January 31st

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



Contact Information

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