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## Rector's Ramblings

"The Most  
Important  
Election Ever!  
(until, that is, the  
next one)."

I am increasingly discomfited by the political rhetoric and environment we are experiencing during this campaign season. While not new in, or unique to, American politics, I find the sound-bite culture, slurs, insults, half-truths and lies flung out by both major candidates and their surrogates simultaneously disturbing and wickedly easy to be tempted to adopt. Frankly, this is not healthy spiritual fare for us as Christian people.

So, during the last few weeks of this election cycle, I would remind myself, and you, that while our national politics are important, they are not our eternal inheritance.

We as Christians, are sojourners in this land, and even this great nation is not our forever home. By virtue of our baptism we are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God and responsible for living out the virtues of this Kingdom. We are always to remember that there is "a far off green country" that is our true home.

This does not mean that we are uninvolved, or uninterested, in what happens here, but that we are involved out of our Christian values, remembering always that there is only one Savior and one Lord of all.

## The Good News

October 7, 2016



### A Challenge for the Congregation

We are pleased to report that the financial challenge has been fully addressed by the people of this parish. We just received the bill which was slightly more than the anticipated \$10,000, but the response to the challenge has been such that we will be fully able to pay this and some other related drainage/flooding expenses. Thanks be to God!

### Breakfast Fellowships

Women's breakfast will meet this Saturday, October 8, at 8:30AM.

Men's breakfast will meet on Saturday, October 15, at 8:00 AM.

### Parish Education

We continue our Christian Formation program this Wednesday. We start with a soup and salad supper at 5:30 with classes for all ages at 6pm. There is no need to bring items to the supper, it will be provided this week. Adults will be studying Hebrews and Trinitarian Theology.

### Bishop's Homecoming

Bishop Martins will make his annual homecoming on October 30. He will preach and preside at both services and will be available for conversation after each service. Please greet your bishop on his visit.

Ultimately, no matter who is declared the victor in this election, it will not impact our citizenship in God's Kingdom. That is, unless we allow it to do so, for sin is always crouching at the door.

I leave you with these words from CS Lewis' (*Mere Christianity*, 134):

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth "thrown in": aim at earth and you will get neither."

Pray for our nation, her leaders, the candidates, and the Church.

Blessings,

Dave+

## Ministry Links

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

## Ordination Applications

The vestry will meet last Sunday following the 10AM service to discuss the applications for ordination of The Rev. Matthew Dallman to the priesthood, and Mr. Timothy Leighton to the diaconate. The vestry voted in affirmation of these applications. Congratulations Deacon Matthew and Mr. Leighton.

## Training for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Annual training will be held on November 6 (note change of date) at 8 & 11 AM. All current lectors/Eucharistic Ministers and anyone who wishes to serve in these ministries are invited to training.

## Diocesan News

The fall quarterly *Springfield Current* is available in news racks, please help yourself.

## Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule

Morning Prayer is offered at 7AM on Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 AM Wednesday and Friday, and at 7:30 AM on Thursday. The fourth Thursday at 7:30 AM is Holy Eucharist.

## Intercessory Prayer - Fall Schedule

Intercessory Prayer is offered at 8 p.m. on Monday, and on Thursday at 12:15.

## Outreach Opportunities

August-September-October we will continue collecting school supplies for Oakland School, items that will be needed throughout the school year. Here are some suggestions: Crayola crayons packs, baby wipes for hands after having peanuts, chalk, pencils, hard plastic pencil boxes, erasers (big pink ones and pencil-top erasers), markers, pens, Sharpies, highlighters. Also, soccer and playground balls, jump ropes, Lego's, puzzles, games for K--5 kids, such as Connect 4, chess boards, etc. And please continue to collect box top coupons for schools. Father Dave will be delivering supplies and coupons to Oakland School. If you want to donate funds instead, please designate "Outreach" on your envelope or check.

The Outreach Committee will hold its **fall Book/DVD/Bake Sale** on Saturday, October 22, 8AM - 12PM. Please bring your donations of books, DVDs, VHS tapes and other recordings to the parish hall and place them near the bookshelves. If you need

assistance getting your donations to the church please contact Debbie Leighton at 662-7478 (H) or 828-7600 (W).

## **Parish Schedule for the week of October 2 - 8**

*Coffee Hour follows worship, in the Parish Hall*

Sunday-8:30 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-8:00 p.m.-Intercessory Prayer

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

Wednesday-8:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Family potluck

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult Bible Study AND Catechesis of  
the Good Shepherd

Thursday-12:15 p.m.-Intercessory Prayer

Thursday- 7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Friday-8:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Friday-6:00 p.m.-Cub Scout pack meeting

Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's Breakfast

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday: Mornings, 8:00 a.m.- noon

*If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.*

### **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 8:30AM each Sunday and 5:30 PM on 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.

### **Good News Daily**

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

### **Readings & Music for October 9, 2016**

Hymns: #493, #633, #397, #655

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty

warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

### Psalm 111

#### *Confitebor tibi*

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, \*  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! \*  
they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*  
and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \*  
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; \*  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works \*  
in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*  
all his commandments are sure.



8 They stand fast for ever and ever, \*  
because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
his praise endures for ever.

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David-- that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

if we are faithless, he remains faithful--

for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

### **Ministry Assignments for October 9 & 16**

9-October

7:30

Greeters: Doug and Dede Dyson

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolytes: Shelley Brenneman Carter & Christian Pitts  
Crucifer: Alex Davingman  
Lector: Brad Bauman  
E.M.: Jack Pitts  
Monday Counter: Roy Laws  
Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer

16-October

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham  
Lector: Julie Bennett  
E.M.: Diane Gardner

10:00

Acolytes: Sarah Halt & Alley Roberson  
Crucifer: Brent Baughan  
Lector: Chrissy Stoffer  
E.M.: Bob Kohlhase  
Monday Counter: Gary Ploense  
Coffee Hour: Char Wald, Carole Cox & Robin Levine

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries      October 9 - 15**

#### Anniversary

Linda & Steven Waldron

#### Birthdays

Kia Griffin

Fr. Dave

### **Collect for October 9th**

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth, with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

