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Rector's Ramblings

So, things are often headed in one direction and then something happens and the Lord leads us in paths we never expected. Over the next 4-6 weeks, Fr. Dave will be a parent-in-residence. Liam is going to be housebound to successfully mend his leg, so Fr. Dave will be working from his home office.

What does that mean for the Parish? Well, when you need to speak to your Rector, please remember to call him on his cell phone (309-660-8515) rather than the office line. He is still available for conversation, consultation, prayer, home and hospital visitations and all of the important events in the life of St. Matthew's. It is only his office time that will be temporarily relocated to their house.

The parish office will continue to be open weekday mornings, as usual, to support your church business and to keep operations running on track.

Please continue to hold Liam, his medical care team, and the Halt family in your prayers for strength and comfort in this most challenging recovery process.

Blessings,

Pat
(your support staff)

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield

The Good News

December 2, 2016



Parish Education

Will resume meeting on 12/9.

Funeral Planning

Fr. Dave is holding a Funeral Planning Session, Sunday December 18th, following the 10 AM Service.

The Rev. Matthew Dallman

will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on 13 December at St. Paul's, Pekin. The service begins at 6PM.

Evensong.

Evensong will be celebrated at 5:30PM on Sundays during Advent. This is a time for meditation and prayer. Coffee and conversation will follow, for those interested.

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.

Guild of the Holy Rosary

Meets immediately after the 10:00 service on Sunday morning and Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

Christmas Book reading/signing and meet and greet with the Author.

Enjoy a family event for the Advent season! Bring your family, and friends with young children to the fellowship hall at St. Matthews on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. to hear a reading of a creative story of the first Christmas, *The Star Who Almost Wasn't There*. Learn how a tiny star who could not glow became the Star of Bethlehem and share messages of love with the children, messages that: God loves everyone, that He provides each of us with gifts, and how we can honor His name by sharing our gifts.

Meet and greet the author, Pamela Hahn Hieser, and get your books signed! Get copies for your children, copies to give away as gifts, and copies (for donations) to be distributed to other children who may not otherwise be learning about relationship with God.

Remember Christ this season and share His love with children everywhere! To learn more about StarGift Project, Inc. visit www.stargiftproject.org

Light refreshments will be served following the event.

Outreach Opportunities

Help keep someone warm this coming winter by donating your discarded but gently used coat to the **Salvation Army's annual coat drive**. It's easy - just place the coat(s) and any used gloves, mittens and hats in decent condition into the big white box in the hallway across from Pat's office. The outreach committee will deliver them to the Army's west Washington St. headquarters.

Thank you for helping those in need.

Quilters News

The Quilters want to thank everyone who participated in the "Secret Auction" of Peggy Blackley's quilt. It was nice to have so many people submitting bids. You all helped to make this a successful project. As you know all of the money has gone to the Outreach Committee to support their community projects. Thank you everyone for your participation.

Parish Schedule for the week of December 4

Coffee Hour follows worship, in the Parish Hall

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary
Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Advent Evensong
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.-pot-luck supper
Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd & Adult Bible Study
Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast
Thursday-6:00 p.m.-Cub Scouts
Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's Breakfast

Office Hours: Monday - 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.

Good News Daily

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

Readings & Music for December 4, 2016

Hymns: #59, #65, #487, #539

Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw
like the

ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall
be glorious.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Deus, iudicium

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *

from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *

like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no
more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *

who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *

and may all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen. Amen.

The Epistle

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our
instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement
of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of
steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony
with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed
you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become
a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in

order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";
and again he says,
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
and again,
"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
and again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

4-December

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolytes: Christian Pitts & Sarah Halt

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Crucifer: SB Carter

Lector: Bob Kohlhase

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour:

11-December

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolytes: Jack White & Nolan White

Thurifer: Bill Johns

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Baughan Family

Birthdays & Anniversaries December 4 - 10

Birthdays

Sarah DeMeritt

Collin Bennett

Mary Hunt

Collect for December 4th

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

