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Rector's Ramblings

This week we celebrated the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. During the reading of his conversion story in Acts, I was again drawn to the statement that persecution of the Church is persecution of Christ himself. We must never forget that what happens to one part of the Body of Christ impacts the whole and Jesus himself. Of course, this is true of blessings and struggles.

With this in mind, I received several updates this week from our friends across the Communion.

Fr. Kari in St. Vincent sent word that the roof of St. John's, Owia will be completed today. Thank you to all who so generously donated to the project. Below is just one picture he sent, and there will be more available at the annual meeting.



Bishop Elias sends greetings, and an invitation for a small delegation from our Diocese to attend Tabora's annual synod in late June/July. If you wish to be a part of this delegation, please let me know.

Yet, as excited as he is to invite his friends to Tabora, the Church in Tabora is facing tough times. January is normally the rainy season, and therefore, the primary growing season. This year the

The Good News

January 27, 2017



Annual Meeting and Annual Reports

St. Matthew's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017. There will be one service at 9AM on that day. This year, there will be no meal served, but Coffee Hour will be held during the Annual Meeting.

An important piece of business will be to amend our Constitution to be in agreement with the Diocesan Constitution and Canons. The changes are primarily semantic and not structural/substantive, in that, Mission Leadership Team, Eucharistic Community, and members, replaces Vestry, Parish, and parishioners.

The document may be viewed [here](#).

All are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting. Every baptized member is entitled to seat and voice. Communicants in Good Standing according to the Diocesan Canons (36.3) are entitled to vote in those matters that require a poll.

Parish Education

We have finished the course and completed the Letter to the Hebrews.

On Wednesday 2/1, we will begin a study of Revelation. All are invited to study this work together and discover the history and meaning of this most enigmatic of books.

Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule

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

rains have not come and the "plants are drying up". Food security is becoming a major concern, and Bishop Elias is looking to purchase supplies of corn and beans to feed his clergy and people, but they are very expensive. A bag of corn (220lbs) is \$59 and a bag of beans (220lbs) is \$100.

Please pray for our partners in ministry, always remembering that their joy and suffering is ours as well.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

Intercessory Prayer

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.

Outreach Opportunities

Remember - Outreach Committee meets Sunday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m.

January & February Items of the Month

During the cold winter months of January & February 2017, the Outreach Committee will be collecting items for the Salvation Army, with emphasis on products for its local shelter. The shelter houses and feeds men, women, and children in need of a warm place to sleep and a good breakfast and dinner.

You can help by filling the outreach baskets with such items as: 1. Cleaning Products: laundry detergent, dish detergent, bathroom cleanser, bleach; Paper & Plastic Products: toilet paper, napkins, 40-45-gallon garbage bags, latex gloves; Personal Hygiene Products: razors, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, foot powder, lotion; Miscellaneous Products: dish towels, face towels, coffee, gift cards from Sam's Club (for general operation of the shelter).

Many, MANY thanks for your marvelous generosity to those in need in our community. The Outreach Committee

Faith in Action - Annual Fundraiser "Sweethearts 2017 Auction & Carnival"

Date: February 11, 2017

Time: 5 PM, Cash Bar & Silent Auction 6 PM

Dinner (Choice of Chicken Marsala, Pork Tenderloin, or Vegetarian Lasagna)

7 PM, Live Auction

Cost: \$65 per person, or a table of 8 for \$455

Location: Parke Regency Hotel & Conference Center, 1413 Leslie Drive, Bloomington

RSVP by calling the office @ 309.827.7780 or ONLINE at bnfia.org by 2/1/2017 If registering with Faith in Action, designate St. Matthew's as your table choice, or contact: Linda Thomas, FIA liaison 309-242-7160, lthomasheyworth@gmail.com

FAITH IN ACTION Make a Difference - Drive a Senior! Faith in Action (FIA), an ecumenical ministry served by volunteers

from 22 local congregations, is one of St. Matthew's principal outreach ministries. FIA serves senior citizens with special needs for transportation to medical appointments, shopping assistance and light home repair. It also provides "Friendly Visitors" for care receivers with issues of loneliness and isolation. Currently several St. Matt's members volunteer to assist FIA with a base of 564 seniors. Faith in Action needs more drivers especially for the winter months! Qualifications include a simple background check and attendance at a short orientation session. Upcoming orientation sessions are scheduled for February 16th from 10:30-12:00, March 28th from 1:30-3:00 and April 20 from 10:30-12:00 or by appointment. If interested, contact Faith in Action (309-827-7780/ bnfia.org). For questions or more information, contact Linda Thomas, 309-242-7160, lthomasheyworth@gmail.com.
FIA Liaison

Parish Schedule for the week of January 29th

Coffee Hour included in the Annual Meeting following worship in the parish hall.

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

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

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

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

Wednesday-7:00 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 Scout pack meeting

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

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 January 29, 2017

Hymns: #525, #656, #439, #615

Old Testament

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15

Domine, quis habitabit?

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.
5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Ministry Assignments for January 29 & February 5

29-January Annual Meeting

9:00

Acolyte: Chris Bennett

Crucifer: Colin Bennett

Lector: Robin Levine

E.M.: Bob Kohlhasse

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Shelley Brenneman Carter & Susan Long

5-February

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Lector: Amy Halt

E.M.: SB Carter

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Laws

Birthdays & Anniversaries January 29 - February 4

Anniversaries

Charlotte & Charlie Casperson

Birthdays

Collect for January 29th

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

