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Lent is here!

Details of the weekly schedule and special events during this time set apart for repentance and renewal can be found to the right of this space. Please take advantage of any opportunities you have to make your Lent one of spiritual growth.

Members of our Eucharistic Community recently approached me and asked if they could make a donation of an item that would be suitably "High Church" as a memorial for the mother-in-law of a good friend. My response was, of course, an enthusiastic "of course". So, in our discussions we settled on a small statue of Our Lady of Walsingham. This tasteful statue arrived this week and is located by the Columbarium.

I admit to being biased, but the Walsingham statue is one of my favorite images of Our Lady and is classically English. The original statue is located in the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, located in, well, Walsingham, England.

The Shrine itself is an important part of our Anglican heritage. It was founded by Lady Richeldis de Faverches in the 11th century after having a vision of the house in Nazareth where Mary received the Annunciation message from the Archangel Gabriel. In the vision Mary asked to recreate that "Holy House" in Walsingham. Legend holds that after the materials were gathered the house was

The Good News

March 24, 2017



Ordination Invitation

**On March 25th, being the Feast of the Annunciation,
at 11:00 a.m., in St. Matthew's Church,
God willing, and the people consenting,
The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins
Bishop of Springfield
will ordain
Mr. G. Timothy Leighton
to the
Sacred Order of Deacons.**

Reception to follow.

Parish Education

We are currently studying Revelation. All are invited to study this work together and discover the history and meaning of this most enigmatic of books.

Sign-Up Now

Sign-Up Sheets are always posted on the bulletin boards outside the office, and across from the Fellowship Hall.

Please help those homebound members with a meal. If you might be available to share in this occasional ministry, please sign up today. For questions contact Phyllis Halt.

Lent Schedule

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5:30 each Friday in Lent.

miraculously built overnight while Lady Richeldis was in prayer.

Whether the legend is true, or not, the Holy House became a central pilgrimage destination in England, rivaled only by Canterbury. It became known as "England's Nazareth". Lady Richeldis' son, Geoffrey, left instructions that priory was to be built on the site and guardianship of the priory was eventually under guardianship of Augustinian Canons.

Henry III, Edward II, Edward III, Henry IV, Edward IV, Henry VII, and Henry VIII were all patrons of the Shrine, and it was Henry VIII who, casting his rapacious eyes upon the wealth of the orders, ordered its destruction under the "Dissolution of the Monasteries" in 1538.

After an almost 400 year lapse, in 1922 Fr. Alfred Hope Patten, as vicar of St. Mary's, Walsingham, had the current statue made from a copy of the Priory seal. Under his leadership, and that of his successors the Anglican Shrine reopened and has once again become a place of pilgrimage for Anglicans from the world over.

If you wish to read more you may visit the Shrine webpage [here](#). The Pilgrim's Hymn, which tells the story of the Shrine from Lady Richeldis' vision to its restoration, including the verses referencing Henry VIII's pilgrimage and prayers for an heir and, "Who, alack, on the shrine cast his covetous eyes and the gold that shone fairer than stars of the skies", may be found [here](#).

With St. Matthew's long history of Marian devotion and images (see the Hartley Statue, the Annunciation Window, the Visitation Window, the Dormition Window, and the Mary Queen of Heaven Window), I am delighted that this piece of our Anglican

Fr. Halt will be available to hear confessions from 3-5 on Fridays in Lent, and between services on Sunday. Other times may be scheduled as needed. To help prepare for confession a small booklet is available in the literature racks.

Discussion of the Lenten book: Archbishop Justin Welby's, *Dethroning Mammon* continues each Sunday evening, following Evensong. Evensong is at 5:30 and discussion begins at 6 pm.

Movie Night

Join us Saturday Evening, April 29, for the movie "Queen of Katwe". This is the true story of Phiona Mutesi, the slums of Uganda, opportunity, tenacity, and chess. A truly uplifting film.

Movie will begin at 6:00 PM. Pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be provided.

PARTY!

My family and I would like you to help celebrate my 80th birthday, on Saturday, April 8, 2--4 p.m., St. Matthew's Parish Hall.

No presents, please. Just your presence! ANN SOKAN

Please see the invitation posted on our hallway bulletin board.

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.

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

March & April Items of the Month

As we continue into the new year please consider assisting those in our community who are seeking help to escape the abuse of

heritage has found a home in our community.

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us!

In Christ,

Fr. Dave
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

domestic violence. Mid Central Community Action's (MCCA) emergency shelter, Neville House, provides safe harbor, assists and provides families in crisis situations with individual and group counseling for adults and children, and serves as a community resource providing awareness, advocacy, and education on the issue of domestic violence.

Neville House personnel have suggested the following necessary supplies for the shelter and its residents: women and children who arrive with literally the clothing they have on their backs and nothing else need comfortable pajama/lounge-like clothes, in a variety of sizes along with t-shirts, underwear, socks, and diapers (of all sizes). In addition, personal hygiene items such as: bath soaps, lotions, shampoos/conditioners, toothpaste and brushes are always in short supply. Cleaning supplies for the bathroom and kitchen along with paper products (especially toilet paper) are always needed. Please help by providing nonperishable canned goods and boxed meals for the pantry. Grocery store gift cards also assist in helping provide fresh produce, dairy and other perishable items for the kitchen.

Keep in mind some children may arrive having left a favorite toy or book behind because of the need to leave quickly. Please consider providing some small (new or gently used) toys and books that may provide some comfort to a child who has been removed from all they have previously known.

And lastly, because of the ongoing unsolved problems with the transit situation, any monetary gifts would be appreciated to assist in transporting residents to doctor appointments, job interviews, and/or their children to school/daycare.

Please place supplies in the Outreach baskets in the narthex and the hallway beside the fireplace. We bless and thank each and every one of you for your continued generosity to those in need in our community.

Parish Schedule for the week of March 26th

Coffee Hour follows worship in the parish hall.

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Sunday-6:00 p.m.-Lenten Book Discussion

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-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.-Adult Formation and Catechesis
of the Good Shepherd

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast
Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Friday-5:30 p.m.- Stations of the Cross
Friday-6:00 p.m.-Safe Harbor meal service
Saturday-5:00 p.m.-private family event-Fellowship Hall

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 March 26, 2017

Hymns: #490, #645, #493

Old Testament

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel

said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who
trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Epistle

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

The Gospel

John 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of

him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know

that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Ministry Assignments for March 26 & April 2

26-March

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Chris Bennett

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: (Pam Laws)

Coffee Hour: Janet Hoffman & Martha Carroll

2-April

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Diane Gardner

10:00

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Lector: Jim Cooper

E.M.: SB Carter

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Phyllis & Dave Halt

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 26 - April 1

Anniversaries

Julie & Chris Bennett

Birthdays

Jimmy Bray

Gus Mather

Pam Laws

Collect for March 26th

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world:

Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

