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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

It is good to be back, although I am still awaiting my luggage. I have been assured that it is enjoying its world tour and was last spotted in Nairobi with a ticket to Amsterdam. I expect that it will bring me a souvenir of Dutch Chocolate when it decides to return home.

Seriously, it was a great trip to visit Bishop Elias and the Synod of the Diocese of Tabora. We were warmly received and it was good to reconnect with our brothers and sisters in East Africa.

A few highlights of the visit:

1. St. Peter's Secondary School is in the top 20% of schools in Tanzania, and top 10% in Tabora region.
2. The girls dormitory that we helped to rebuild is finished and housing students.
3. The Parish Hall for St. Stephen's Cathedral was dedicated on 7/2.
4. The 5 1/2 hour service on 7/2 also included three ordinations (1 Transitional Deacon and 2 Priests).

The best moment, however, was a visit to the small parish of Ndala about an hour out of Tabora. Here we met Fr. Elias who was recently made a citizen of Tanzania after living as a refugee from Burundi for 47 years. He and his family have been living in a rented home about the size of my office and without utilities as the church can not afford to complete the rectory. (There is a three kilometer walk required to buy water at the village well). We enjoyed a very nice visit with a tour of the

The Good News

July 14, 2017



Parish Education

Formal formation is on summer break. There will be informal gatherings on and off during the summer for youth and adults. Watch this space for information.

Breakfast Fellowships

Men's Breakfast will meet on July 15 at 8AM in the Parish Hall.

Women's Breakfast resumes in September.

Fr. Halt's Summer Schedule

The next intensive for his PhD work will take place from 27 August to 9 September. He is working on arranging coverage at this time.

Morning Prayer - Summer Schedule

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

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

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.

village, the parish property where the priest engages in subsistence farming, and "Tea" (actually a second breakfast). Thanks to the generosity of St. Matthew's, Brad, Cris, and Chuck were able to present enough funds to finish half the roof of the rectory, and Bishop Daniel has promised to fund the other half. There was not a single dry eye in the church at that moment. It was a truly overwhelming experience.

Please continue to pray for Bishop Elias, the Diocese of Tabora, and especially for Fr. Elias Chimpaye and the people of Ndala parish.

Thank you to all of you who make things like this happen! Your generosity is truly an inspiration and it is a true honor to represent you to our African friends and partners.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

Serving Schedule

16-July

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Brent Baughan

Lector: Ann Sokan

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Janet Hoffman & Dedee Champion

23-July

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Lector: Martha Carroll

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Phyllis & Dave Halt

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

In July we continue asking for donations for the Home Sweet Home Mission, a 100-year-old Christian organization which provides shelter and meals for the needy in our community.

Here are some suggestions: body wash, baby wipes, diapers sz. 4, razors, shaving cream, children's toothpaste, dish soap, paper towels; cooking oil, coffee, canned or jars of nuts, baked beans, fruit cups, pudding cups, dried fruit, dry milk.

Many thanks! The Outreach Committee

Coffee Hour Schedule

It's time to update the Coffee Hour schedule for August 2017 through January 2018. Many, many thanks to our faithful hosts - may we count on you again?

We will assume current hosts will continue to serve UNLESS we hear from you to the contrary.

There's always room for new hosts on the schedule. Please consider joining this important ministry. We will train you.

Please know we don't ask for an elaborate spread of treats, though you're welcome to provide one. Simple snacks and a cold drink are sufficient. St. Matthew's provides coffee, tea, creamer & sugar, dishes, tableware, and napkins.

Please contact: Ann Sokan, 644-1639 or Linda Thomas, 242-7160.

Parish Schedule for the week of July 16th

Coffee hour follows worship in the Parish hall

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

Sunday-10:00 a.m.-Rite II

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

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-8:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

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

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

Wednesday-8:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

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

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

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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

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.

Readings & Music for July 16, 2017

Hymns: #405, #376, #693, #343, #594

Old Testament

Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-14

Te decet hymnus

[1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.
3 Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.
4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.
5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.
7 You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at
your marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]
9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.
10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.
11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its
increase.
12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.
13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.
14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

The Epistle

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ
Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has
set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has
done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do:
by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and

to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

"Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in

another sixty, and in another thirty."

Birthdays & Anniversaries from July 16 - 22

Anniversaries

Birthdays

John Gibson
Tori Roberson
Doug Dyson

Collect for Sunday July 16, 2017

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; 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

