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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

The group formerly known as "The Vestry" met last Monday and completed its transformation into the new canonically named Mission Leadership Team. The elected MLT continues to exercise responsibility and accountability for all secular operations of this Eucharistic Community. This, of course, makes them solely responsible for the financials and the physical property of the Eucharistic Community.

What is new is that the elected MLT is now directly charged with the missionary focus of the Eucharistic Community. That is with its work beyond the walls of the Nave and the Parish Hall. These members who have volunteered to serve in leadership are charged, in consultation with the Rector, to develop and implement a Mission Strategy Plan that includes both our normal weekly activities and a specific outwardly focused mission program.

In order to start the process of discerning what that outwardly focused ministry will be, as well as continuing its previous role, the MLT has reconfigured itself in terms of areas of focus for each member. Here are the areas of responsibility for each MLT member:

Sr. Warden: Shelley Brenneman
Carter

Jr. Warden: Roy Laws

Volunteers: Karyn Smith

Community Knowledge: Liz
Gordon

Planning/Operations: Matt
Matsuda

The Good News

July 28, 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.

Youth members are invited to join Fr. Halt for Pizza and discussion on July 31st, 6PM, at Monical's on Eldorado.

From the Mission Leadership Team

As we enjoy the new hardwood flooring around the altar, we also want to enjoy the kneelers that will protect our tender knees. The kneeler pads have been ordered and we expect delivery in mid-August. The kneelers were not included in the original cost estimate for the flooring. Wouldn't you like to participate? Include "kneelers" on your supporting check memo.

Fr. Halt's Summer Schedule

Fr. Halt will be gone the weekend of August 6th to attend the wedding of Liam's Godfather.

The next intensive for his PhD work will take place from 27 August to 9 September.

This will conclude summer travel and absences.

Weekday 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

Finance: Jeff Clark
Building: Gary Ploense
Communications: Roger Hollis
Welcoming Ministries: Rose Adams

Remember this is a work in progress and the roles are being developed. If you have suggestions or concerns in these areas please speak with the MLT member responsible. However, please be patient as we all grow into this new structure. Further information on the specifics of each role will be published as the member responsible develops their own "job description" in consultation with the Rector and/or Wardens.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

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.

Serving Schedule

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

30-July

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: Robin Levine

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Char Wald, Carole Cox, Levine/Smith

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

Parish Schedule for the week of July 30th

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 30, 2017

Hymns: #368, #461, #455, #309

Old Testament

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm 119:129-136

Mirabilia

129 Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.
131 I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.
132 Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.
133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.
135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.
136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

The Epistle

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Birthdays & Anniversaries from July 30 - August 5

Anniversaries

Julie & Jim Cooper

Birthdays

Allan Horsman

Jenny Pitts

Zach Davingman

Collect for Sunday July 30, 2017

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy, that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; 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

