

## Contents

This Week's Readings

## Rector's Ramblings

Fr. Dave is headed home to Bloomington, after another week of intensive study.

If you are praying and wondering how to best respond to the needs of the HurricaneS, please look at the details provided under the Outreach Section of this newsletter.

Summer is coming to an end and the Women's and Men's monthly Saturday breakfast fellowships are back. Why not try out these delightful, informal events to get to know others in a friendly, relaxed way.

In Christ,  
SMEC Staff for

Fr. Dave  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

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

## The Good News

September 8, 2017



### Parish Education

Formal formation will resume on September 20th. Our initial gathering will be to discuss the themes, books, or questions we want to study over the course of the year.

There will be a gathering of youth following evensong on September 10th. Evensong will be at 5:30 that day and youth will gather at Monicals on El Dorado at 6PM.

### Fr. Halt's Summer Schedule

This week will conclude travel, however Father has received a summons to serve as a petit jury member the week of 9/11.

### The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:  
[Good News Daily](#)

### Guild of the Holy Rosary

Meets immediately after the 10:00 service on Sunday morning.

### Breakfast Fellowships

Women's breakfast meets in the parish hall, 8:30 a.m., Saturday Sept 9th. See Amy Halt for details.

Men's breakfast - Saturday 9/16 at 8:00 a.m.

### Sundae Sunday

Please join in the celebration of 'Sunday Sundae' on September 17! Following the 10:00 a.m. service, St. Matthew Mission Leadership Team will provide the ice cream and toppings for everyone to enjoy while leaders of the various service groups will share information on how you can become involved in the life of our church. There will also be information about the planned education programs for children and adults. We hope to see you for this wonderful opportunity for fellowship.

### **Serving Schedule**

10-September

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: Bob Kohlhasse

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Cooper Family

17-September

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: SB Carter

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Martha Lakin & Linda Stawick

### **Outreach Opportunities**

**BOOK/DVD/BAKE SALE**

St. Matthew's will hold its fall Book/DVD/Bake Sale on Saturday, September 23, from 8 AM - Noon. All proceeds go to Outreach activities. Please bring your donations of gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and other recordings to the church and place them near the book shelves in the parish hall. If you need help getting your donations to the church, please contact Debbie Leighton at 662-7478.

**ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

Thank you for your past contributions to the Items-of-the-month

program sponsored by the Outreach Committee. Our efforts continue this fall with donations to Oakland School. Items are needed for grades K-5 now and throughout the year. Some suggestions include: large washable Crayola markers, #2 pencils (sharpened), erasers, Elmer's glue sticks, regular sized crayons, boxes of facial tissues and back packs (no wheels). Many other items are needed. Please see the complete list of supplies posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. School supplies can be placed in the baskets in the main hallway.

*This note is posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway:*

*St. Matthew's Family,*

*Thank you so much for bringing us some school supplies. We appreciate the additional love you have shown us. We look forward to a great year and having you be part of our success.*

*Thank you again,*

*Mr. LaFrance & Oakland Staff &  
Students*

In addition, we continue to collect "Boxtops for Education" labels found on packages of many food items. A long list of possible foods with Box top labels is posted on the bulletin board. The labels can be placed in boxes in the Narthex or on the bulletin board. Many thanks for helping with these collections.

#### OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES-HURRICANE RELIEF

We have all been so moved over the past two weeks by the impact of Hurricane Harvey. The damage from this storm is so widespread and recovery will take many months, if not years. From all accounts, the potential destruction from Hurricane Irma will be even be more significant. Midwest Food Bank is working closely with The Salvation Army to provide disaster relief boxes and other supplies to people who have been and will be impacted. As a Salvation Army First Responder, Midwest Food Bank can have supplies on the road within 24 hours of being called. To date, at least 10 tractor trailer trucks of relief boxes have been requested for Houston victims, with many more loads expected in the coming months. Disaster Relief boxes contain enough shelf-stable food to feed a family of four for 4 to 5 days as well as some toiletries. Each box also contains a Bible and a handwritten note of support and encouragement. These notes let those impacted by the storm know that people care about them, are praying for them and firmly believe that with God's help, they will recover and see better days ahead.

HOW ST. MATTHEW'S CAN HELP. If you would like to write a handwritten note to be inserted into the Salvation Army relief boxes being delivered by Midwest Food Bank to Hurricane Harvey and Irma victims, please place an undated note into the basket by the Outreach items of the month. This is a very tangible

way to show compassion for those in need and offer them encouragement amidst all of the upheaval in their lives. I know this will be very much appreciated by the recipients and by Midwest Food Bank.

YOU CAN ALSO PROVIDE DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT through the Diocese of Texas websight: [www.epicenter.org/harvey/](http://www.epicenter.org/harvey/) is a direct link for giving, along with information from their Bishop.

Other Ways to Help. Midwest Food Bank will have many opportunities available in the coming weeks and months for those who would like to assist with hurricane relief efforts. Please check the Midwest Food Bank website: [www.midwestfoodbank.org](http://www.midwestfoodbank.org) for dates of upcoming volunteer opportunities. The website also lists food, hygiene items and cleaning supplies currently being collected.

Please pray for all those impacted by these natural disasters. If you have any questions, please contact Chrissy Stoffer at 663-6450.

### **Parish Schedule for the week of September 10th**

*Coffee hour follows 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

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

Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies

Monday-7:00 p.m.-M.L.T. meeting

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

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

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

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

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Men's Breakfast

Saturday-1:00 p.m.- Smith/Levine family event

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 September 10, 2017

Hymns: #400, #435, #602, #593

Old Testament

Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to



turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalm 119:33-40

*Legem pone*

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Epistle

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## The Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries from September 10 - 16**

### Anniversaries

### Birthdays

James Cooper

Ray Durham

Bella Levine

## **Collect for Sunday September 10, 2017**

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost alway resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; 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

