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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

14%. This number comes from a survey of over 12000 active members of 200 Episcopal congregations over the past several years.

The survey returned an overwhelming desire on behalf of members and attenders of Episcopal congregations to grow in their spiritual life. Which is a good thing.

Yet, only 14% of respondents, spent regular (daily) time reading and reflecting on Scripture. This is not a good thing for individuals nor the church.

How important is Scripture in our lives within the Anglican/Episcopal Tradition? Our Book of Common Prayer liturgies are 85% quotes or allusions to Scripture. Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, the Holy Eucharist, and all the pastoral offices require multiple sections of Scripture be read. According to what is commonly, and incorrectly known, as the Anglican Three-legged Stool, is the primary source of Christian Knowledge, and its application is the model for Christian Living.

What 14% means in reality, is that we are not as engaged as we should be in our own daily liturgies of prayer. For if we were, we would read at least one section of the Old Testament, one section of the Epistles, and one section of the Gospels each day.

We cannot grow in our relationship with God without listening to the Word of God, which is expressed in the books of

The Good News

March 9, 2018



SPRING AHEAD

Please remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 10th. Its time to switch from Standard Time to Daylight Savings Time.

Adult Formation meets this week 3/14 at 5:30 for supper and study at 6. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd meets this week.

For Lent we will try something just a little bit different. We will study Hymns and Prayer. Each night we will discuss a couple of hymns from our Hymnal, different types of prayer, and spend time singing together and in quiet practicing prayer.

Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast for this Sunday has been cancelled. Amy has a funeral to attend in Decatur, and apologizes for any inconvenience.

Men's Breakfast meets at 8:00 on 3/17.

Theology Uncorked

Meets this Sunday (3/11) at 6PM. The topic for this month is Icons and Iconography.

Holy Week

Services will be held to honor the Triduum on Maundy Thursday at TBA pm, Good Friday at Noon (spoken) and TBA pm, and Easter Vigil at 7PM.

Easter Sunday will follow our regular schedule with a potluck brunch between the services.

Holy Scripture. We cannot "go deeper" in our faith without engaging our daily liturgies.

Please make this a priority in your life, and hold me accountable for it in my own. Let's change that percentage!

If you want help in this, please reach out to me, I would be thrilled to assist.

If you prefer to use the office or readings on computer or phone, a great source is [St. Bede's Breviary](#).

Pray for me, as I pray for you during this Lenten Season,

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

Time to Update the Directory

In the third week of March, we plan to publish a new Congregational Directory, and so it is time to gather updates and new information. We will leave 1 copy of the old directory out for you to examine - if your information is incomplete, inaccurate, or missing we ask that you fill out the reporting sheets provided. If you have a photo (.img format) to include, send it to the Office (office@stmattsblm.org) and if you want to have a photo taken at no charge, see Gary Ploense.

Gary is taking photos for 7:30AM worshippers on Sundays (Feb. 25, March 4 and 11). He sets-up in Parish Hall immediately after worship.

Outreach Opportunities

Very Special Project

Outreach committee has decided to raise money for Mr. Advent Chakupewa. He is the son of Bishop Elias Chakupewa of Tabora, Tanzania. He is attending Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences in Mwanza, Tanzania. The total cost per year is \$4000, upkeep included. He has wanted to do this for several years and plans to return to Tabora to practice medicine. Checks can be made out to the church with note in the memo that it is for *Outreach-Education*.

Outreach Opportunities For The Months of March and April 2018

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, children and occasionally men.

Personal hygiene items: full size shampoos, conditioners and body wash for men, women and children, along with bath soaps and lotions, towels and washcloths;

Clothing: women's underwear in various sizes, along with brassieres (C-cups plus); men's clothing and underwear in sizes M/L;

Shoes and/or sneakers: in a variety of sizes for men, women and children;

Laundry and Cleaning supplies; Laundry detergent, bath and kitchen cleaning products, paper towels and toilet paper;

Kitchen supplies: non-perishable items, canned soups and meats, and boxed meals for the pantry;

Gift cards and/or monetary gifts*; grocery, and other gift cards help

provide fresh produce, dairy and other perishable items for the kitchen, or other resident needs. Monetary and gas cards 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.

The Outreach Committee

**Please don't leave money or gift cards in the baskets. These should be clearly noted for OUTREACH and placed in the offering plates.*

Chrism Mass

Each year the clergy of the Diocese gather with the Bishop to celebrate a "Mass of Chrism". This special Mass is centered around the renewal of ordination vows for each clerical order, and the blessing of the oils used for anointing of the sick and baptism. In many ways this is the ancient picture of the Church, Bishop surrounded by clergy and laity.

Yet, it is a service that is usually poorly attended as in most places it takes place on a week day in Holy Week. In our Diocese the service has been moved to the Saturday before Palm Sunday in the hope that the laity of the Diocese will be interested in attending.

St. Matthew's will be setting up a carpool for anyone interested in attending the service. After the Mass we will head to a local restaurant for a meal and fellowship.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway.

Date: 24 March 2018

Place: St. Paul's Cathedral, Springfield

Time: 11 AM (Leave St. Matthew's at 9AM).

Return: ????

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

11-March

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Shelley Carter

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Valarie Jones & Kathryn Morris

18-March

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham
Lector: Liz Gordon
E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson
Lector: Chrissy Stoffer
E.M.: Robin Levine
Monday Counter: Susan Clark
Coffee Hour: Debbie Leighton & Patty Pitts

St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of March 4th

Coffee Hour follows 10:00 a.m. worship in the Parish hall

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

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

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

Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies

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.-Simple Supper

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult Formation & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast

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

Friday-3:00 to 5:00 p.m.-Confession

Friday-5:30 p.m.-Stations of the Cross

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

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 for March 11, 2018

Hymns: #620, #490, #145, #691

Old Testament

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray

to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Confitemini Domino

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Epistle

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Gospel
John 3:14-21

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 11 - 17

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Martha Lakin

Roy Laws

June McAnulty

James Gordon

Collect for March 11th

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

