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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Greetings from Austin.

A few quick takes from the General Convention.

1. It is hot. It is sticky. Of course, this is expected deep in the heart of Texas in July.

2. The first few days have been taken up with getting organized.

3. It has been nice to catch up with old friends from across the church.

4. Presiding Bishop Curry is as engaging a preacher in person as he appears on video.

5. The real "power" at GenCon is not in the House of Deputies or House of Bishops, but in the committees. They alone determine what reaches the floor, and testimony before them is limited to 2 minutes. This indicates to me that we have much more legislation than we really need.

6. I struggle with the amount that TEC spends on this event. I do not dispute that we need to have a General Convention to do necessary work, like a budget and electing officers, but I find myself wondering what good could be done with the approximately 1M USD we spend each day. (And that does not count our individual or diocesan expenses).

7. The pace is exhausting. Yesterday, apart from time spent in general session, I spent an additional 4 hours in committee meetings. This pace will most likely continue until the middle of

The Good News

July 13, 2018



Christian Formation

Is finished for the Summer.

The sessions on the Sacraments have been recorded and are on DVD. If you would like to view them from the comfort of your home, please see Fr. Dave.

Habitat Build Continues

We are asked to provide volunteers for 28 July, from 8AM to Noon. We are limited to a total of 12 volunteers. If you wish to volunteer, or have already signed up on our sign up sheet, please click on this [link](#) to confirm your status and fill out your waiver.

Thank you to all who will work on this project.

Theology Uncorked

Will meet at 6PM on 15 July.

Men's Breakfast

Will take place on Saturday, 21 July, at 8AM.

Giving Statements Ready

Giving statements for the first half of 2018 are printed and ready for your review. Please help us save expenses by picking up your envelope in the hallway, just outside the Parish Hall. Any statements remaining will be mailed on Monday, July 16th.

General Convention

next week.

Please continue to keep GenCon, your deputation, and me in your prayers.

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

Fr. Dave will be heading to General Convention as a Deputy from the Diocese of Springfield. Convention this year is in Austin, Texas and runs from 4-12 July. Please pray for this national gathering and for our Deputies.

The Thursday following General Convention Fr. and Amy will be taking a trip to Ireland to celebrate (belatedly) their 25th Anniversary. They will return on 2 August.

Services in July are as follows:

July 1 Regular Schedule (Fr. Halt--Celebrant)
July 8 Morning Prayer (Deacon Tim--Officiant)
July 15 Regular Schedule (Fr. Halt--Celebrant)
July 22 Morning Prayer (Deacon Tim--Officiant)
July 29 Regular Schedule (Fr. Wells--Celebrant)

Outreach Opportunities

Due to the increased need of all local food pantries, the Outreach Committee is adding the month of July for our collections, which go to St. Vincent de Paul. Your generosity continues to be greatly appreciated.

Outreach Opportunities for May and June - St. Vincent de Paul
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an international organization, has been in Bloomington for over 50 years. Its mission is "to seek and find the forgotten, suffering and the deprived." It is maintained entirely by volunteers. This past year they served around 1000 households a month.

Specifically, the following supplies are needed:

- Canned foods, especially those with protein as peanut butter and tuna fish
- Vegetables of all kinds
- Boxed foods as rice and varieties of rice and beans
- Macaroni and cheese
- Instant oatmeal
- Dry cereals
- Drinks as Gatorade and water
- Baby diapers and wet wipes

Please place supplies in the baskets in the Narthex and in the hallway by the fireplace. If you prefer to give money, make your check out to St. Matthew's and in the memo line write "outreach." Place these in the plate offering, not the baskets.

The volunteer workers of St. Vincent de Paul are most grateful

for all we give and the Outreach Committee thanks you for your continued generosity in helping those in need.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

15-July

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Christian Pitts

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Ann Sokan

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Susan Long & Shelley Carter

22-July

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Lector: Martha Carroll

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter &

Coffee Hour: Dedee Champion & Janet Hoffman

Summer Lector's Serving Schedule

Lector's are scheduled by a fixed rotation that sometimes does not fit with their family plans. Please look ahead and trade with one another if you are unable to serve. Thanks.

7/15 Mark Gibson

Ann Sokan

7/22 Liz Gordon

Martha Carroll

7/29 Bill Johns

Robin Levine

8/5 Mona Johnstone

Cris Embree

8/12 Chris Bennett

Sandy Kohlase

St. Matthew's Schedule beginning July 15th

Coffee hour follows 10:00 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-6:00 p.m.-Theology Uncorked

Monday-6:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

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

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

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

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

Saturday-11 to 3-Noon Group's Annual Picnic on the Grounds

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

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 July 15, 2018

Hymns: #450, #635, #408

Old Testament

Amos 7:7-15

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;

the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile

away from his land.' "

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Psalm 85:8-13

Benedixisti, Domine

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Gospel

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him,

and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Birthdays & Anniversaries July 15 - 21

Anniversaries

Birthdays

John Gibson
Tori Roberson
Dpug Dyson
Rose Adams
Valarie Jones

Lamp Dedications for this week

Collect for Sunday, July 15th

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

