

## Contents

This Week's Readings

### Rector's Ramblings

#### A Very Important Announcement

Not really that important, it's about coffee. Although, maybe that makes it important.

Anyway. Over the past several years we have gone back and forth between Fair Trade and major brands. Each has their strengths and weaknesses. Fair Trade is good for its social impact. Major brands are good for the bottom line.

The problem I have had with both is that neither is really good coffee. (I mean good taste and not simply a Caffeine Delivery Vehicle). I will admit to that being a bit subjective, but paying more for not so good coffee made no sense.

This set me to trying to figure out if there was a good compromise available. The standard is good coffee that does good and does not have a premium price. In talking with fellow clergy, I quickly discovered that many of us were having the same issue, wanting to have something like Fair Trade, but the premium price did not match the quality.

Eventually a friend in the clergy gave me the name of Hemisphere Coffee Roasters. This is a small Mennonite business in Ohio who specialize in Direct Trade, meaning they buy direct from the growers. This ensures a fair price and that the growers employees also receive a fair wage. In Nicaragua the grower has provided teachers for the

## The Good News

August 31, 2018



#### **Temporary Parking Situation (Update due to delays)**

**BEGINNING SOON** at St. Matthews-parking will be limited: all of the east side spaces (all the spaces facing the parish hall) will be reserved for the roofing work. Please plan accordingly for your events and meetings.

#### **Christian Formation**

Will resume on September 5th. We will meet for Eucharist at 5:30 with study to follow. Our topic for the fall is "Paul's Greatest Hits". We will follow a seminar format that includes a study guide published before each session.

#### **A New Year for Children's Formation**

Christian formation for children at St. Matthew's is growing! This year, not only will we offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) on Wednesday nights, but we are also offering Sunday School following our second service. Immediately after receiving Communion, the children will proceed to their classroom for a 50 minute session. Keep in mind, this isn't your mother's Sunday School! Our curriculum will help the children explore the Mass readings more deeply, but we will play together and pray together, too. In time, the older children will be able to coordinate their own prayer services-developing the habit of prayer, along with meditation and a lot of fun.

The Children's Sunday School will have its first session Sunday, September 9th, immediately after Communion. CGS will begin again on Wednesday, September 12th at 6pm!

#### **Confirmation/Inquirers Class (Time change, by request)**

government schools and health clinics. In addition to their purchase of coffee, they enter into true relationship with the local community, including the building of churches at the communities request (without regard to denomination).

Here is good coffee that does good, and we will begin to serve it this weekend. Currently, we have one pound bags of regular blends from across the world. We will use one each week and I ask your feedback as to taste and quality, to determine what will be our regular blend. For decaf we have the standard blend.

Hemisphere has given us a wholesale price on the coffee for our fellowship purposes, however if you wish to purchase for personal use, please let me know.

There is a 30 minute documentary that features one of the growers and hemisphere coffee called Café Diego that can be viewed [here](#).

Website for Hemisphere Coffee Rosters is [here](#).

Let us drink good coffee and do good at the same time.

In Christ,

Dave Halt, Rector  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

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

St. Matthew's is offering a Confirmation/Inquirers class for anyone interested in the Theology and History of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church. Sessions will begin on Sunday, September 9 at **11:15AM** and run through the Fall Quarter.

### **Theology Uncorked**

Will meet at 6PM on 9 September.

### **Outreach Opportunities**

REMINDER: next committee meeting is 9 AM, September 9

During the months of August and September, the Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies for needy children at Oakland School. Items are needed for Grades K-5. Some examples of school supplies include:

- #2 pencils (sharpened)
- erasers
- regular sized crayons
- Elmer's glue (bottles or sticks)
- boxes of facial tissues
- backpacks without wheels

A list of many other items is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please put your school supplies in the baskets in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the parish hall.

In addition, we continue to collect "Boxtops for Education," The PTO newsletter for Oakland School reads: "Simply save the boxtops from General Mills products." Collection boxes are in the narthex and attached to the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you for helping the Outreach Committee with these important projects.

### **The Daily Devotional Reading**

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

### **Serving Schedule**

2-September

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Valarie Jones

Thurifer: Emily Lavikoff

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Tuesday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Valerie & Rex Schaeffer

9-September

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Robin Levine & Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Dedee Champion & Janet Hoffman

### **St. Matthew's Schedule beginning September 2nd**

*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

Monday-St. Matthew's closed for the holiday

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

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

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

Friday-6-8 p.m.-Girl Scouts

Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's breakfast

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 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 September 2, 2018**

Hymns: #11, #628, #541

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what

I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

### Psalm 15

*Domine, quis habitabit?*

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

### The Epistle

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget

what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

**Birthdays & Anniversaries September 2-8**

*Anniversaries*

Kristi & James Williams

*Birthdays*

Dede Dyson

Sarah Halt

**Lamp Dedications for this week:**

The Memorial Lamp is lit in loving memory of

Bruce Boyle

by Debbie & Deacon Tim Leighton

**Collect for Sunday, September 2nd**

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works:; 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

