

**Rector's  
Ramblings**

As I attempt to cover all the necessary bases for my sabbatical this summer, I realize that assistance will be needed to make visits to our sick and place bound.

The Episcopal Church has authorized the licensing of Eucharistic Visitors whose primary role is to bring Holy Communion to those who cannot be present on Sundays due to extenuating circumstances.

As this is a ministry that involves formal private personal interactions there is an increased level of accountability and training in order to receive the Bishop's license. Additionally, a Eucharistic Ministry is required to have a background check on file in the Parish, and complete the Episcopal Church's anti-racism and abuse prevention trainings.

Once licensed Eucharistic Visitors will be assigned to take Holy Communion to our homebound on a regular basis. I expect to continue to use EVs after my return.

If you believe you are called



**Wednesday Evening**

Our Wednesday Evening study will focus on "The History of the Episcopal Church" starting this Wednesday. Our topic for this week will be "Resolving Revolutions".

The Eucharist will commemorate Vincent, Deacon of Saragosa and Martyr, 304.

**Watch for a Great Addition**

We are putting a new electronic sign in front of the church; something that has been needed for a long time.

It is going to be such an improvement; no longer will anyone have to be out in inclement weather to change a sign with tiny letters that cannot be read from the street. Lots of announcements can be placed on there, i.e. Book Sale, and other special announcements, approved by Fr. Halt.

After much discussion, the MLT voted to approve the purchase of this sign using memorial funds, which cannot be used for day-day operations of St. Matthew's.

In order to be a good neighbor, we will set it up to turn off at 10pm and resume at 7am.

I was going to announce this during the Annual Meeting, but things moved a lot quicker than we anticipated, this is why I wanted to put it in the newsletter this week. Any questions please see me or one of the MLT members.

If you would like to donate to the new sign, please note New Sign on your check.

to this ministry, please let me know.

See you Sunday!

Dave+  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of  
Springfield

[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)

Find us on Instagram--stmattsblm  
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

Yours in Christ,  
Gary Ploense, Junior Warden

### **The Book of Common Prayer**

We have received our new copies of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Some of our original copies have been lovingly "used up" and replacements were ordered. Might you be interested in donating \$20 to help defray costs of a replacement copy of the BCP, and have a bookplate included to honor or memorialize someone dear to you?

If you wish to participate, please put your funds, along with the name of your honoree, in a separate envelope in the offering tray, marked: BCP. Thanks

### **Breakfast Fellowships**

Men's fellowship breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall, Saturday morning, January 18th at 8:00 AM.

### **Chili and Soup Cookoff/Trivia Night**

Our 2nd Annual Chili/Soup Cookoff will be held on February 8 in the Parish Hall. Watch this space for more information.

### **2019 Giving Statements**

Your annual giving statements are printed and available in the hallway outside the parish hall. Please help us avoid the high cost of postage by remembering to collect your statement before tax season gets in full swing.

### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held at 8:30 on Sunday, January 26th. A catered breakfast will be provided.

Bios for those who are running for Vestry and Synod Delegate are due no later than January 15th in order to publish the booklet by January 19th. Committee/Ministry reports are due the same day.

Nominations from the floor are permitted, but please bring copies of your bio to the meeting as time precludes us copying those the day of the meeting.

## **Bishop Election**

As was announced after our last Diocesan Synod, Bishop Daniel has called for the election of a new bishop for the Diocese and announced his own retirement in June of 2021. The Standing Committee of the Diocese, who is responsible for holding the election, has published a letter updating us on the process to elect the XIIth Bishop of Springfield.

That letter can be found [here](#).

More importantly they have asked that we keep this election in our prayers, and they suggest the following prayers for our use. We will use one of these each Sunday as part of the Prayers of the People.

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - BCP page 818, #13*

*Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the choosing of a bishop for this Diocese. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Adapted from BCP page 818, #12*

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

#### **HEARTLAND HEADSTART PANTRY DRIVE**

Heartland Head Start works to educate children and empower families. The goal of our family work is to help our families be as independent as possible. When families are trying to move from dependence on Government help to independence, we try

to fill in the gaps as they grow. For example; As family income increases government help decreases, leaving the family still in need. We provide what we can so that their paychecks go farther while they are making this transition. Our families use Snap cards (that diminish with rising paychecks) and food pantries. We try to make available items that cannot be obtained at these sources, often coming out of the pockets of our staff members. This is where I ask for your help. We try to maintain a small pantry of non- food items for our families, I am asking St. Matthew's outreach committee to hold a drive for our family pantry. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Patty Pitts

Heartland Head Start Home Educator

Shampoo

Soap/bodywash

Deodorant

Children's bath products

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Diapers (all sizes) (NO NEWBORNS)

Baby wipes

Laundry detergent

Dryer sheets

Cleaning supplies

Hand soap

Dish soap

Kitchen garbage bags

Gas card

Wall mart gift cards

### **Winter Needs**

As you go through your coat closet, do you find a jacket that you're tired of wearing but that is still in pretty good condition?

Do your kids' coats no longer fit?

Bring your gently used winter wear to church and put it in the big white box in the hallway opposite the main office. The Outreach Committee will deliver your donations to The Salvation Army for distribution to people in need. Thank you!

### **The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:

## **Worship Serving Schedule**

19-January 2020

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Jack Pitts & Harlan Noel

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Thurifer: Emily Lavikoff

Lector: Ann Sokan

E.M.: Bob Kohlase

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Pam & Roy Laws

26-January 2020

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Kathryn Morris

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Harlan Noel & Jack Pitts

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: Robin Levine

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Susan Long & Shelley Carter

## **St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of January 19**

*Coffee Hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall.*

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

*Coffee hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall*

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

6:00 p.m.-MLT meeting

Monday-9:00 a.m.-B-N Community Co-operative\*

11:00 a.m.-Private Music Lessons \*

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

10:00 a.m.-Quilters

Wednesday-1:30 p.m.-Private Music Lessons \*  
5:30 p.m.-Mid-week Holy Eucharist  
6:00 p.m.-Adult Study  
Thursday -7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & breakfast  
9:00 a.m.-Moms in Prayer \*  
2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons \*  
Friday-  
Saturday-

*Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*  
*\* Authorized Group--St. Matthew's guests*

*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 January 19, 2020**

Hymns: #427, #693, #539

Old Testament

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength--  
he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Psalm 40:1-12

*Expectans, expectavi*

1 I waited patiently upon the Lord; \*  
he stooped to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay;  
\*

he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God; \*  
many shall see, and stand in awe,  
and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Happy are they who trust in the Lord! \*  
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

5 Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!  
how great your wonders and your plans for us! \*  
there is none who can be compared with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! \*  
but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure \*  
(you have given me ears to hear you);

8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, \*  
and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: \*  
'I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \*  
behold, I did not restrain my lips;  
and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; \*  
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great  
congregation.

12 You are the Lord;  
do not withhold your compassion from me; \*  
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever,

### The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are  
sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all  
those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of  
God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way  
you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of  
every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been  
strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any  
spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may  
be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is  
faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

### The Gospel

John 1:29-42

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the  
Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he  
of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me  
because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I  
came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be  
revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit  
descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I  
myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize  
with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend  
and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I  
myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."  
The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,  
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is  
the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and  
they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them  
following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They  
said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where  
are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came



and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries January 19 - 25**

### *Anniversaries*

### *Birthdays*

Philip Brooks

## **Dedications for this week:**

### **Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 19th**

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that thy people, illumined by thy Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

