

**Rector's
Ramblings**

I received word this week that I was chosen as a clergy representative to the Bishop Election Committee of the Diocese. Chris Bennett has been appointed to the Committee as well. I do not know whether to ask for condolences, or not, but I would ask your prayers for Chris, me, and all who will engage this task. Our calendar will be quite full and our deadlines will arrive quickly. The goal, as I understand it, is to have all the relevant materials ready for potential nominations by the beginning of June.

With this news, I have been thinking about the Diocesan Vision, which can be found [here](#). What has received my attention is the phrase "concretely incarnate". I think this is the item that is the least understood in the statement. Yet, it is the most profoundly important.

Concretely does not mean immovable or immobile. Rather it is to be solid, real, visible, not abstract, physical.

Yet, it modifies incarnate. The simplest definition is to

**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 "Parties & Particularity".

The Eucharist will be a commemoration of the Chinese Martyrs.

Eucharist is celebrated at 5:30. Study begins at 6.

Breakfast Fellowships

Men's Breakfast meets on 15 February at 8AM in the Parish Hall.

Evensong

Will be celebrated on Sunday at 5:30.

Mission Leadership Team

Will meet on Sunday the 16th at 6PM.

Shrove Tuesday

The traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on 25 February. We will begin serving at 5:00 and go until 6:30. Please invite others to join us in this last feast before Lent.

be "enfleshed" or "inmeated". Think chili con carne-- "with meat". This is the theological term we use for Christ taking on human flesh and nature.

So the two together mean that we are to be really present physically as the Body of Christ. It means that the Gospel we share is not one of abstraction and escape, but one that really enters into our lives, and we in turn, really carry that Gospel in to the world around us in ministry. You might even say that as Christians we are the embodiment of Christ in all that we do and say. Maybe even considered to be "little Christs"--which is what the believers in Antioch were called in the book of Acts (11.26). The name given them is Christianoi, or Christians.

It is my hope that we can embrace this part of the vision each day.

May God bless you.

Dave+
309-660-8515

(I would also like to thank Shelley Brenneman Carter, Robin Levine, and Roy Laws for their willingness to serve on the Election Committee. Due to the level of interest the Standing Committee limited the number of members to 2

Ash Wednesday

Spoken Rite I service will be celebrated at 7AM.

Sung Rite II service will be celebrated at 7 PM.

Lenten Series

Our Lenten series will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6PM. We will be reading together, and praying together, through sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers on the life of prayer, spiritual disciplines, and forgiveness.

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.

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

per Eucharistic
Community).

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield

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

Find us on Instagram--stmattsblm

Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

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

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

16-February 2020

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

10:00

Acolyte: Harlan Noel

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Lector: Shelley Carter

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Julie & Jim Cooper

23-February 2020

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

10:00
Acolyte: Jack Pitts
Crucifer: Christian Pitts
Lector: Cris Embree
E.M.: Robin Levine
Monday Counter: Susan Clark
Coffee Hour: Valerie & Rex Schaeffer

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of February 16

Coffee Hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall.

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I
10:00 a.m.-Rite II
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 *
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 through Friday 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 February 16, 2020

Hymns: #616, #474, #344

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless

you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Psalm 119:1-8

Beati immaculati

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, *
who walk in the law of the Lord!
2 Happy are they who observe his decrees *
and seek him with all their hearts!
3 Who never do any wrong, *
but always walk in his ways.
4 You laid down your commandments, *
that we should fully keep them.
5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep your statutes!
6 Then I should not be put to shame, *
when I regard all your commandments.
7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
8 I will keep your statutes; *
do not utterly forsake me.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God

who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:21-37

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 16 - 22

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Ron Gordon

Lynn Gray

Dedications for this week:

The Memorial Lamp is lit in memory of
*Our Fathers: **George Dyson Sr. and Arthur Kipers***
and
*Our Sisters: **Patricia Salmon & Mary Fran Dyson***
by
Kathie & Loren Dyson

6th Sunday after Epiphany, February 16th

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in thee:
Mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness
of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant
us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we
may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our
Lord,; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

