

**Rector's Ramblings**

"How do you discern?"

I was asked this last weekend, and it is an appropriate question. Discernment is first a function of a solid prayer life. Without a regular, and consistent, prayer life discernment is impossible as it becomes an emotional activity rather than a spiritual work.

If we are in prayer regularly, I have found the following advice from an old friend to be incredibly useful. It is not a guarantee but a guide.

1. Has God given you a scripture that affirms a sense of call? If so, it will leap off the page and not leave your mind and heart. This is not mining the scriptures for what we want, but a prayerful reading of scripture in the course of our regular pattern. For Amy and me it was the lectionary at Morning Prayer in the same passage on the same day.

2. Are doors opening, or are you forcing them open? If you have to push, it is probably not the will of God for you. For us, the doors opened to simply walk through. This included Amy having a full-time position before I was asked to affirm the call.

3. Is the Holy Spirit prompting? This can be the most difficult of the three, as you need to make sure it is the prompting of the Holy Spirit and not indigestion, or emotion, or desire. The Holy Spirit's prompting will always line up with scripture and prayer, and is discerned through conversations with a spiritual director or spiritual friend. In the case of accepting a new call, there were, and are, tremendous moments of prompting by the Holy Spirit affirming the call, and each time we spent more time in prayer, and discussion with our spiritual directors. In the end if all three line up, you can take great comfort that you are walking the path God wants for you.

Other questions were asked about Amy's and Liam's futures.

Amy will be teaching music at North Heights Junior High School and Fairview Elementary in the Texarkana Arkansas School District. The district's mascot is the Razorback, and the University of Arkansas contracted with them to use the image and name for the university. Fairview Elementary has a magnet theme of Aerospace and Pre-Engineering.

Liam will complete his senior year at Pleasant Grove High School on the Texas side. The school offers significant opportunities to study Information Technology, Sports Business, and the Arts. The football team has been State Champions in their division two of the last three years.

I thank you for all your love and support over the years, and will continue to hold all of you in prayer as you discern how God is calling St. Matthew's.

With love and blessings,

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

**The Good News**

July 3, 2020



**Continuing Worship Guidance**

*St. Matthew's is authorized to have 40 individuals present at any given service.*

**With this new information we will be returning to our regular, or normal, schedule Sunday morning. There is no need to make reservations for these services.**

**For the near future, coffee hour must take place outside, and is tough to plan on short notice. A short fellowship time will take place outside following the service.**

**The guidance regarding masking and singing (below) still holds.**

1. All are reminded to take their own health issues into consideration when deciding whether to attend. Also, stay home if you have any symptoms that are not associated with a chronic health issue.

2. Most services will be spoken/read services. A cantor is allowed to sing, but congregants are asked to refrain.

3. All individuals who are in the building must maintain physical distance and have a face covering, unless actively leading a portion of the service.

4. Each service will have color coded seats in the Nave. Families are allowed to sit together.

5. Only the restrooms in the addition will be available for use.

**6. The 10AM service will continue to be streamed "live" on Facebook. If you are uncomfortable being in the worship space and still wish to commune, communion will still be available via the "drive-through" for 30 minutes after the service. It is expected that "drive-through" communion will not continued to be offered after the 28 of June.**

**Current Schedule for the week:**

**Sunday 7:30AM Rite I Holy Eucharist**

**10:00AM Rite II Holy Eucharist (also streamed)**

**Thursday**

**7:30 AM Morning Prayer with Holy Communion**

**July 5th, the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9):**

**Sunday Eucharist Outline is [here](#).**

**Full Service is [here](#).**

*Added Note: Please bring your own printed copy, or electronic device from home to avoid cross contamination in the Nave.*

Both bulletins have the music included, so there is no need to touch the hymnals.

**Outreach Opportunities ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

**A Big Thank You for your support of Advent! We have received confirmation that his funds arrived and school is in progress.**

**Mark Your Calendar**

A wedding shower for Emily Lavikoff and Roger Ayers is being planned for Saturday, July 18th. Please watch for details as arrangements are made. For questions, please call Dianne Wunderle (660-9653) or Shelley Brenneman Carter (275-3183).

**The Daily Devotional Reading**

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

**Worship Serving Schedule**

As noted above in the Phase III Reopening/Recovery article: all servers volunteer directly with Fr. Dave for the masses on Sunday.

We will resume traditional scheduling as events allow.

Thank you again, and may God bless you.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries July 5 - 11**

*[Anniversaries](#)*

*[Birthdays](#)*

Abigail Bray

**Dedications for this week:**

**5th Sunday after Pentecost, July 5th**

O God, who hast taught us to keep all thy commandments by loving thee and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to thee with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church