

THE GOOD NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOL. 18 ISSUE 7 JULY 2011

Rector's Musings

By the time you are reading (or not) these musings, I will be dutifully preparing for my two-week intensive doctoral seminars at Nashotah House in July. This year I am taking English Spirituality from Anselm to Coverdale (12th-16th Centuries) and Liturgy as Catechesis with a book list that reflects the enormity of both topics.

The Episcopal Church has always recognized the importance of an educated clergy and provides for two-week continuing education for parochial clergy. The goal of this work is not just education but continued formation in priestly ministry. This time is often used to attend conferences, seminars, or do graduate work. This derives from the old paradigm of priest as resident theologian in a parish.

Over the recent decades, a revival has occurred in emphasizing Christian Formation (Education) for all in the Church. Each of us, lay and ordained, is called to grow in both the knowledge and love of the Lord, for devotion and vocation.

The Episcopal Church is often described as resting upon a three-legged stool of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. While this may be a valid understanding of our theological method, it is not an accurate picture of our work. We are called as a church to at least three things: we are called to be a worshipping church, a people of prayer, centered on the Eucharist; we are called to be a missional church, serving both the physical and spiritual needs of our community, nation, and world; we are called to be a teaching church, training disciples of Christ to be about the first two.

Over the past several years, we have continued to be a worshipping church and are increasing our mission activities, both individually and as a congregation. Now, we are called to focus energy on becoming a teaching and learning church.

One of the challenges of being a teaching church is time, particularly when it comes to Children's Education. Each week our children and youth spend excellent hours learning in their local schools, and outside of the classroom have many opportunities to further their development as citizens, students, and athletes. However, they have less time to learn and explore the Christian faith. We as a church can do no less than provide a safe and structured environment, as well as time, for faith formation for all our members, including our children.

Starting in September, we will have a significant revision of our Sunday school program. Beginning at 9:00 each Sunday morning, we will offer Christian Formation for all ages. The Children's program will begin with a corporate time of prayer, singing, and instruction, then break out to their age-appropriate classrooms until 9:55. Since, as disciples of Christ, we are all life-long learners, youth and adult formation will be held at the same time. The nursery will still be available for children up to 3 years old.

There are at least two reasons for this change. The pattern of having Sunday school during the Liturgy of the Word effectively means we have no more than 30 minutes for education activities, although the actual time can vary significantly Sunday to Sunday. In addition, as our children are able to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion upon baptism, they are an

important part of the Liturgy (or work of the people). The Liturgy itself is a time for education and faith formation, and in reality, if we want our children to “stick” with it in their later years, it is imperative that we teach them today.

May God bless you on your journey of discipleship, and plan to join us in September!

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Fr. Halt will be at Nashotah House from 4 July to 16 July for his Doctoral studies. Deacon Bruce will be available for pastoral support during his absence.

YOUTH NOTES

The young people in our church have a lot going on this summer. We just finished Vacation Bible School and it was a Pandamania of Panda fun! I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to make it happen. The kids learned about Jesus and had a great time as well. I look forward to next year and all the fun we'll have!!

Our next big thing is the New Orleans Mission trip. We have nine kids and four adults making the trip with us on Sunday, July 17th. We'll get in our van that morning and head down to help out the people of New Orleans. It's going to be a great time to learn about God, each other and what heat and humidity are really like! The group would like to thank everyone who helped raise funds and those who gave so generously. Thanks for everything you do!

~Terra

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PARTNERS IN HEALING

Every month churches throughout our area pray for the patients and staff of Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Community Hospital.

During July, 2011, St Matthew's will pray for the staff and patients of the **Pediatrics Unit**.

The **Pediatrics (PED) unit** is a colorful 22-bed unit on 4 North, dedicated to the care of families with children who require hospitalization. Many of the children are on the unit for only a day as they recover from tonsil and adenoid surgery.

Please pray for the patients, their families and the staff in the **(PED) Pediatrics unit**.

ITEMS OF THE MONTH

School Supplies for Children's Home and Aid

For the last few years, our parishioners have generously provided school supplies for the children and youth who are served through the Mid-Central Regional office of The Children's Foundation of Children's Home and Aid (CHA) in Bloomington. CHA has helped the most disadvantaged low-income families of McLean County and the surrounding area for almost 120 years, which annually figures more than 3,000 children and families. Our parish donations have helped one of its most vulnerable population: children and youth recently placed in foster care situations who do not have access to shopping resources. During July and August, the Outreach Committee will again collect school supplies and deliver to the Foundation starting in August through mid-September. Several organizations collect in our community but tend to focus on elementary aged children; however, Junior High and High School youth have as great a need for supplies.

We have been pleased that our parish has recognized this oversight and helped to fill that gap. Backpacks (without comic characters), calculators, pens, filler paper, expandable binders, organizers, thumb drives and blank cds are just some of the welcome items for the youth. Of course, items for children are always welcome: we simply wanted you to know the critical needs of this organization.

To learn more about the Children's Home & Aid, see [http:// www.childrenshomeandaid.org/](http://www.childrenshomeandaid.org/)

Thank you for your generosity.

Coffee Hour

On **July 10**, the coffee served will be Bishop's Blend. This coffee is organic, shade grown, and certified fair trade. It protects the earth while ensuring that the growers are paid a living wage. Also, 15% of the purchase price goes to the Episcopal Relief and Development fund. So as you enjoy your coffee on July 10, you will know that you are helping others.

~ The Outreach Committee



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Club typically meets every month on the third Saturday - watch the bulletin for the location. All men are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and prayer. Due to a scheduling conflict, the group will not meet in July.



* JULY BIRTHDAYS

Ted Cox	2
Louise Hebert	3
Ken Mann	6
Terra Swisher	6
Zachary Jones	7
Kevin Forde	7
Abigail Bray	7
Walter Clark	8
Jeanne Johnson	9
Jennifer Strickley	11
Susan Mohr	12
James Williams	12
Connor Bennett	13
Linda Thomas	16
Doug Dyson	19
Samantha Williams	20
Dale Nitzel	20
Julie Cooper	23
Tim Leighton	25
Shawn Whiteside	25
James Hospelhorn	26
Benjamin Lucey	31



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Brad and Shelley Brenneman	2
Carter	
Charles Stuckey and Marilyn Snook	2
Craig and Linda Baughan	14
Walt and Elizabeth Clark	14
William and Maureen Angell	17
Eric and Marisa Owens	26

MID-WEEK COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Wednesday night community will not meet regularly during the summer, but will meet for special events. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

**Lord, hold our troops in your hands.
Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families for the
selfless acts they perform for us
in our time of need.
And give us peace.
I ask this in the name of
Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**



Our troops:

Michael Gault, Andy Grant,
Shane Kupferschmidt,
Jason Lynch, Jeff Riggs,
Jared Spaid, Paul Ward

FAITH IN ACTION

Want to find out what volunteering for *Faith in Action* is all about? Linda Thomas invites you to ride with her to transport care receivers to medical appointments on any first-through-third Tuesday of the month - mornings or afternoons – your choice. The half-day experience includes a stop for lunch or coffee and a visit to the *Faith in Action* office. Call Linda @ 309-242-7160.

MUSIC NOTES



We're continuing the St. Matthew's tradition of a variety of musical offerings during summer Sundays. Thank you to VBS participants, Amy Halt, and Chuck Palm for offertory and communion anthems at 10 a.m. services during June.

I'm sometimes asked how hymns are chosen for services, and thought I'd share a few thoughts about that this month. Many people have favorite hymns, and some have hymns they dislike. The Hymnal 1982 includes 720 hymns. We usually include four hymns in each 10 a.m. Sunday service. That's an opportunity to sing about 200 hymns, or not sing about 500 of the selections in the hymnal in the course of a year. Given the number of options, I keep track of when each hymn is used, and spread out how often a hymn is included.

The Episcopal Musician's Handbook is a resource published annually. It provides a list of hymns related to the lessons for each Sunday and Feast day. The recommendations are usually my starting point in choosing hymns. When placing hymns within a service, entrance and recessional hymns should be easy to walk to; the hymn during Communion needs a meditative quality.

When the Hymnal 1982 was developed, an effort was made to include hymns from a variety of Anglican musical traditions. There are times when the same text is set to two different tunes, as well as using a tune used with different texts. Many of the tunes have names that are separate from the texts, such as *Ton-y-Botel*, the tune for the *Te Deum Laudamus* this summer. Sometimes, tunes even manage to cross seasons, such as *Regent Square*, which many people remember as *Angels from the realms of glory*. We sang it June 19, Trinity Sunday, Hymn #368, as *Holy Father, great Creator*

I select hymns that represent various time periods and composers. When I include a hymn I consider unfamiliar, I attempt to balance it with others that should be familiar, based on my experience at St. Matthew's and in our Diocese. Some hymns that haven't been "regulars" for our congregation are well worth exploring. An example is #294: *Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King!* This hymn, which we sang a few weeks ago, was composed by David Charles Walker. Mr. Walker is an Illinois Wesleyan graduate, and friend of St. Matthew's member Ann Sokan. The musical rhythm varies from measure to measure, and evokes a running stream of water. While different from many of the hymns we sing, I found it both musically effective, and quite singable. Those are qualities I look for in congregational hymns.

~Melody Palm, Choirmaster



WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Life Together, the St. Matthew's weekly bulletin, has its deadline on Tuesdays, to allow time for layout, editing and printing. If you have any information for the bulletin, be sure to turn it in to the Parish Office by noon on Tuesdays. 662-4646 or e-mail: info@stmatthewsbloomington.org

THE GOOD NEWS

The deadline for submitting articles for the August edition of *The Good News* monthly newsletter is Wednesday, July 20 at noon. Articles are now being accepted for the August issue of *The Good News*. Please submit to the Parish Office: 662-4646 or info@stmatthewsbloomington.org

We are unable to publish articles or information received after the set deadlines.



**Happy Independence Day
from
St. Matthew's Church**