

## THE GOOD NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOL. 18 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2011

### *Rector's Ramblings*

The season of Lent is quickly approaching. By the time you read this, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) will be less than two weeks away and Lent will officially begin on Ash Wednesday. As we prepare for Lent, St. Matthew's will offer a "Jazz" themed evensong on March 6 at 5PM, and our youth will host Jambalaya dinner on March 8 to raise funds for their mission to The Big Easy (New Orleans) this July. Plan to attend these events for both great worship and fellowship.

Lent itself is a period of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection. Traditionally it is a season of fasting and prayer lasting 40 days, not including Sundays. In different expressions of Christianity, the fast ranges from abstention from meat dishes for the duration, skipping meals on Wednesdays and Fridays, to the more modern denying the self sweets, or even my personal favorite: giving up decaffeinated coffee (since I don't drink it anyway). All joking aside, Lent is a time focus more intentionally on our spiritual life, to add a prayer discipline, to deny ourselves so that we spend more time in prayer and study, to undertake works of mercy and to give alms, in order to more fully conform our lives to the mind of Christ.

However you choose to shape your spiritual life over the 40 days of Lent, may God grant you growth in grace, depth of prayer, and a renewed mind, so that you may celebrate with joy the Paschal Feast.

### **Alternate Prayer Book Usage**

During Lent, we will be using the King James Version of the Scriptures in our Sunday worship. We have also been given permission to use the version of the Book of Common Prayer contemporaneous with the release of the King James Version in 1611. The Book of Common Prayer (1559) is considered the Elizabethan Prayer Book, as it was the only prayer book published during the reign of Elizabeth I. Its language is akin to the language used in the work of William Shakespeare, and like the work of the Bard, may have at first an unfamiliar ring. You will also notice that the flow of the service is different from what we have in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. It is hoped that the use of this book will provide opportunity for reflection on the shape of our liturgies and the history and tradition of Prayer Book worship through the centuries.

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### **2011 VESTRY COMMITTEES**

Vestry members for 2011 will chair the following committees for St. Matthews:

Pastoral Care - Debbie Leighton  
Outreach - Elizabeth Clark  
Finance/Personnel/Stewardship - Tyson Mohr  
Parish Growth/New Members - Julie Bennett  
Spiritual Growth - Chante Forde  
Fellowship - Diana Holderby  
Building and Grounds - Roy Laws  
Communications Resources - Robin Levine  
Capital Campaign - Gary McGinnis

## CONSECRATION OF BISHOP

THE REV. DANIEL H. MARTINS will be ordained and consecrated a Bishop in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church and Eleventh Bishop of Springfield on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 2941 South Koke Mill in Springfield.

The Chief Consecrator will be The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church.

A light reception will follow.  
RSVP by March 11, 2011.

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Stations of the Cross will be offered each Friday in Lent beginning at noon.

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### LENTEN SERIES

Our Lenten series this year will be "Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything" by Timothy Keller and will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning March 16. If you wish to receive a participant's guide, please let Fr. Halt know by February 28. The evening will begin with a potluck supper at 5:30 with study to follow. We will conclude each evening by 7:15. Babysitting is available.

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### ~Youth Notes~



### Get ready for a Jambalaya Supper!

This is our first fundraiser for our New Orleans Mission Trip. The youth going on the trip will be making this delicious dish for Mardi Gras on

Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>, a free will donation will be collected for the supper.

There will be a few other fundraising opportunities included in this Mardi Gras party, including a silent dessert auction and more. We'd like a few people to donate some desserts. If you would like to participate in that part of the fundraiser, please contact me before Sunday, March 6th. This is going to be a fun fellowship opportunity as well as a great way to support our kids! We're excited to start our fundraising efforts so invite your friends and family to celebrate Mardi Gras with St. Matthew's!

~Terra

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### Healing Service

In continuing with our wellness theme, St. Matthew's will be offering a monthly service of anointing and healing on the fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayers and anointing for healing of any type, please plan on attending.

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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 March 2011, St. Matthew's will pray for the staff and patients of the **Mental Health Unit** at Advocate BroMenn Hospital. The **Mental Health Unit**, located on 3 North, is a 16-bed unit serving psychiatric patients. It is a voluntary, but locked door unit. Please pray for the patients, their families and the staff in the (MHS) **Mental Health Unit** at Advocate BroMenn Hospital.

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### ITEMS OF THE MONTH

During March and April the Outreach Committee is collecting items for the **Neville House Shelter**. A program of Mid Central Community Action., the shelter has a daily capacity of 13 women and children, and 4 infants. It offers special provisions

to assist individuals with disabilities, males in need of shelter, and families larger than shelter room capacity. Responding to crisis and increasing self-sufficiency among its residents are the central features of Neville House assistance. Residents work closely with trained domestic violence caseworkers who assist in finding resources for housing, childcare, employment, legal representation, transportation and enhancement of life skills.

Residents arrive at Neville House in crisis with little to nothing from their homes, and are often in need of an initial change of clothing. Donations of NEW sweat suits/lounge wear for adult women, NEW packages of underwear, socks and sweat suits for children, and UNOPENED packages of diapers, feminine hygiene products, and toiletries are in constant need. Personal travel bags and used cell phones are also important donations for Neville House. The phones are cleared of all personal information and can then be used by victims of domestic violence as an emergency phone for 911 calls as no service plan is required to utilize 911.

Thank you for your generosity.  
 ~ *The Outreach Committee*

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Hockey Night in Bloomington **March 25th!** St. Matthew's and Christ the King have rented a box for the Prairie Thunder Game on Friday, March 25, at 7:05PM. A sign-up sheet is located in the parish hall. Tickets are \$20 per person and seats are limited. The box is also handicapped accessible. Please join us for a night of fun and fellowship, and get ready to **Make Some Thunder!**

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**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

There will be no Men's Breakfast in March due to the Consecration of the new Bishop. The Men's Club typically meets every month on the third Saturday - watch the bulletin for the location.

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**\* MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Barbara Hanson Dennis	2
Lorinda DeMeritt	3
Dianne Priess	3
Jason Woith	4
Heather Mather	5
Susan Waring	5
Jane Shadid	6
William Angell	6
Mollie Ward	6
Diane Wuesthoff	6
Geraldine Vollbracht	7
Roger Hunt	7
Kiersten Douglass	8
Janet Johnson	9
Lizzie Hebert	10
Ora Bachman	12
Roy Laws	12
Martha Lakin	12
Abel Thomas	15
June McAnulty	15
James Gordon	17
Jessica Hospelhorn	18
Daniel Laken	18
Patricia Marton	19
Bob Pitts	21
John Iliff	25
Jimmy Schuler	26
Robert Mather	26
Pamela Laws	27
Stephanie Hospelhorn	28
Suzanne Sherman	29
Kathryn Leighton	30
Alexandra Cordill	31



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Doug and Dedee Dyson 6  
 Paul and Janenne Schmidt 18

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### 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:

Andy Grant, Runyon Henderson,  
 Shane Kupferschmidt, Jason Lynch, Jeff Riggs,  
 Jared Spaid, Paul Ward

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## MUSIC NOTES

February turned out to be a month of contrasts, with the blizzard of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by temperatures hovering around 60 two weeks later. That's very much the way the approaching weeks of Lent feel to me.

March 6, the last Sunday of the season of Epiphany, the final hymn will be the last time we sing

“Alleluia” until Easter. The Handbell Choir will assist with the recessional hymn, #123—*Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die*. I invite you to raise your voice!

Evensong will be celebrated at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 6. Music for this service will be from the traditions of Spirituals and Gospel music. While the music may not be a regular part of services for

many Episcopal congregations, the selections are all included in *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, one of the optional hymn collections published by and for the Episcopal church.

The liturgical settings we use will change for Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 9. While I admit that I'm glad it's not part of our services every week, I look forward to the Great Litany on the first Sunday of Lent. This year, in recognition of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the King James Bible, we'll use an earlier form of the Great Litany.

During 10 o'clock services in Lent, the Chancel Choir or a Cantor will lead a responsive Kyrie (S-85). Simplified Anglican Chant will be used for the Psalm. We'll be using the last verse of hymn #143 (*The glory of these forty days*) as the Offertory response during Lent. The Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy—S113) and Agnus Dei (O Lamb of God—S157) are settings by John Merbecke. These are probably among the most familiar of the “older” settings in the hymnal. Participation in the children's music program is growing. The schedule change to Sunday mornings at 9:30 seems to be working for families, and young people are singing with enthusiasm. The children will continue to offer an anthem on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month, and to share fun and fellowship singing together.

### ~Melody Palm, Choirmaster

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## MID-WEEK COMMUNITY GATHERING

*Our Wednesday midweek gathering continues!*

**MEAL - POTLUCK - 5:30-6:00 PM**

*Please bring a dish to pass.*

*Program:*

**BIBLE STUDY 6:00-7:00 PM**

*March 2 - “The Reason for God”*

*March 9—Ash Wednesday*

*March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13*

*Lenten Series—“Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything” by Timothy Keller*

*For more information, contact the office.*

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**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 April edition of *The Good News* monthly newsletter is Wednesday, March 16 at noon. Articles are now being accepted for the March 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.*

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*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*