

THE GOOD NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOL. 18 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2011

Rector's Musings

“Where were you on _____?” The phrase has entered our national consciousness and vocabulary over the last century, and depending on the generation, there are numerous answers. “Where were you on December 7, 1941?” “Where were you on November 22, 1963?” “Where were you on April 4, 1968?” “Where were you on June 5, 1968?” “Where were you on January 26, 1986?” “Where were you on November 9, 1989?” “Where were you on September 11, 2001?”

I vividly remember walking into the library at United Theological Seminary, in Dayton, Ohio, to find my fellow staff members clustered around a small television set watching coverage of a random plane crash into the World Trade Center. I had just joined the group when a report was made of a second plane, and the talking heads started ruminating on the potential cause of this most tragic incident. By 10:00, chapel time, it was being announced as a terrorist attack, and we students quickly mobilized a vigil of prayer and scripture. As, I am sure, most of you were, we were in mourning, confused, angry, and glued to whatever piece of information we could get, whether true or not. By noon, I had received a call from the headquarters of my National Guard unit and was told that we were put on alert to be ready to report at a moment's notice. As I drove home to add a few items to my rucksack and mobilization duffle bag, hoping I'd at least get to see Sarah and Amy before we were called away, I saw full in my windshield three low-flying aircraft eastbound in the vicinity of Interstate 70. After a moment of panic, my mind processed the visual and I could identify the

fuselages of two F-16 fighter jets in escort of a Boeing 747 painted blue and white. After gathering my family in a relieved and tearful embrace, the numbness set in.

I kept asking, in my prayers, “Where were you, O God?” In the silence of that night, in what I thought was the unbreakable silence of God, a scene played upon my mind from Elie Wiesel's *Night*, at the murder of a child,

Behind me, I heard the same man asking: “For God' sake, where is God?” And from within me, I heard a voice answer: “Where He is? This is where—hanging here from this gallows...”

What Wiesel experienced as the death of God, was the answer to my own question. Our God was with the suffering, has known the pain of suffering, and in the end redeems, through his own passion, the suffering of creation. In what is an ineffable mystery, in that darkness, God was there, not as cause, but suffering alongside us all.

A decade ago this month, and the memories are as fresh as the day it happened. As I write this the same emotions return, lessened with time no doubt, but the same. It is important to reflect, and healthy to explore the memories and feelings, both individually and as a nation, but in our reflection we should always remember the call of the Gospel of Christ.

What shall we do? Remember and pray for all victims of 9/11 and their families. Remember and pray for all those involved in the continued conflicts on our post 9/11 world. Pray that the creation that groans will know the fullness of the redemption of God through Jesus Christ. Work for that reconciliation and redemption in the words of the One who suffered for us and suffers with us:

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

May God be with us all on this decadal remembrance.

9/11 REMEMBRANCE

Special prayers will be offered in remembrance of 9/11 at both services on that Sunday. The church will remain open for prayer throughout the day.

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum, led by Fr. Halt, will begin meeting on Sunday, **September 11**, at 9AM in the parish hall. The subject of the fall forums will be the Gospel of Mark.

2012 SYNOD

St. Matthew's has been asked to host the Diocesan Synod for 2012. We are looking for a volunteer to lead the coordination of this event. Please see Fr. Dave or one of the wardens if you are interested.

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES

We are beginning a weekly Saturday evening service on **September 17**. The service will be held at 5PM each Saturday, holidays excepted. If you cannot make Sunday service, you are invited to partake of this low-key and less formal gathering.

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PURCHASE PROCESS

In an effort to be careful stewards of the Parish finances, the Vestry is implementing an approval process for purchases made for St. Matthew's. **Purchases totaling \$50 or more must be pre-approved by the appropriate Vestry liaison, a Warden or the Rector.**

For ALL purchases: Complete a Request to Purchase form and obtain the approval before placing an order or making the purchase. This includes all areas of St. Matthew's, including, but not limited to coffee hour supplies, office supplies, music, Altar Guild, etc. The Book Store is exempt from approval at the \$50 limit as they use their own funds for ordering.

Purchases totaling \$500 or more or requiring contractual agreement with the vendor must have Vestry approval. Vestry meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Requests should be submitted in writing no later than one week prior to the meeting.

Forms and complete information are in the bin outside the parish office.

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YOUTH NOTES

Calling all Youth!!

Youth Group starts Sept. 11 from 6 to 8p.m!
We're having a kick-off party that day and everyone in 7th—12th grades is invited.
Youth Group will be held every Sunday evening with Junior High (7-8) from 5:00-6:30 and High School (9-12) 6:30 to 8:00.
This year is going to be great, see you all there!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION forms are next to the bulletins in the narthex and the hallway and on the Youth Board. Please register your kids for Sunday School so we have an accurate student count and order enough materials. Thanks!

~*Terra*

tswisher@stmatthewsbloomington.org

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 September 2011, St. Matthews will pray for the staff and patients of the **Same Day Services**.

The **Same Day Services (SDS)** is an 8-bed unit which provides both medical and outpatient surgical needs. The medical patients seen on this unit are primarily patients receiving IV infusions, injections and chemotherapy. Their surgical procedures include all types of outpatient surgery, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, and GI procedures.

Please pray for the patients, their families and the staff in the **(SDS) Same Day Services**.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST
September 17 - 8:00 a.m.**

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. *The September breakfast meeting will also be a work day.*

ITEMS OF THE MONTH



As the days dwindle down and get cooler, menus at my house (and probably yours) often include soup. As we shop for soup ingredients, let's include **Clare House** and its **Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen** on our lists. The Outreach Committee will collect and deliver canned and dried foods and paper & plastic goods to the Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's Catholic Church during September and October.

Suggested items: soup base, large cans of soup, canned vegetables and fruits, tomatoes, chili beans, baked beans, tuna, cereal, macaroni and cheese, 1-gallon baggies, 33-gallon trash bags, small heavy paper plates, powdered drink mix, baby food, baby wipes, diapers, toilet paper, sanitary pads, paper towels.

EXTRA GARDEN PRODUCE

If you have more garden produce than you can use, please bring it to Clare House, 703 East Washington St., Bloomington, and put it on their front porch to share with people in need.

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

ACOLYTES/THURIFERS

A training session for all incoming and current acolytes and crucifers will be conducted immediately following the 10:00 service on **Sunday, September 18th.**

A pizza party will follow for all participants and their parents. This ministry is open to all with a desire to serve the Lord at his table.

QUILTERS AND SEWERS GROUP



Gatherings will resume on **September 20** - meetings are every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Holy Eucharist will be at noon. Please come by any Tuesday if you are interested in sharing your time and talents!

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:
Aaron Bivins,
T.J. Correll, Mark D. Hill,
Shane Kupferschmidt,
Jason Lynch, Jeff Riggs,
Paul Ward

MUSIC NOTES



We were blessed with a variety of special music last month. Please join me in thanking Brent Swisher, Chuck Palm, Fiona Ward Shaw, Kimberly Bray and Abigail Bray for sharing their gifts of music in offertory and communion anthems during August. The St. Matthew's Men's Ensemble will be singing anthems on September 4. A number of parishioners, as well as the men in the group, look forward to the return of our singing men.

Chancel Choir will resume weekly Wednesday rehearsals at 7:15 p.m. beginning September 7, in the basement level choir room. Choir members also meet Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. to review music before the 10 a.m. service, starting September 11.

Children's music and Handbell Choir will both begin September 11. Following Sunday School classes, children will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel for singing and fellowship. Children will be dismissed in time for the 10 a.m. service. Handbells will meet to organize and rehearse following the service at approximately 11:30.

September 11 will also see changes in the liturgical music. As our tradition has been, we'll change settings for the sung portions of the service for the remainder of the season after Pentecost. This will include returning to use of the Gloria (replacing the summer Te Deum), using revised Anglican chant for the Psalm, and singing the Lord's Prayer at the 10 a.m. services.

I look forward to welcoming back the returning participants in the music ensembles. Our work together preparing and presenting music offerings is rewarding, and filled with fellowship and good humor. New members are invited to join us. Please let me know if you have questions or suggestions about the music program.

~Melody Palm, Choirmaster



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

William Johns	1
Reta Holderby	1
Kyle Ciani	2
Sarah Halt	3
Dedee Dyson	3
Tom Lucey	4
Michael Strickley	5
William Rolley	6
Megan Williams	8
Jim Cooper	11
Sara Patterson	11
Raymond Durham	12
Stephanie Meihofer	12
Melody Palm	13
Isabella Levine	15
Kim Bray	17
Bronwen Boyd	17
Haley Stuckey	18
Ina Rehtmeyer	18
Spencer Strickley	19
Linda Stawick	20
Daniel Whiteside	22
Theresa Garrison	22
Carol Genge	23
James LeBreton	24
Geoffrey Kohlhase	24
Roberta Meihofer	27
Robin Levine	28
Karyn Smith	28
Roger Thomas	30



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

James and Kristi Williams	5
George and Mary Dyson	6
Eric and Diana Holderby	9
Dale and Nancy Roberts	19
Doug Cutter and Kyle Ciani	24
Daniel and Mindy Laken	27
Woodrow and Jane Shadid	29

Pray

Join us for a special evening dedicated to breast cancer survivors, their families, friends & healthcare providers.

Pray for the Cure

Enhancing the breast cancer survivor's spiritual well being in healing and recovery through special prayers and music.

Thursday, September 8, 2011

6:30 - 8 pm

Evelyn Chapel- Illinois Wesleyan Campus
1301 North Park Street, Bloomington, Illinois
Light refreshments will be served.

Prayer & music service is open to the public.
Please invite your family and friends.

Donation of Projector

An Epson EX3200 Multimedia Projector has been donated to the church for program use by all church groups. The donor requests that it also be made available for members' home use for a \$10 per 2-day use fee for maintenance and bulb replacement.

Contact the office for more information or to reserve the dates.

VOLUNTEER AT MIDWEST FOOD BANK

The Outreach Committee wants to make everyone aware of a fun volunteer opportunity at Midwest Food Bank on Tuesday, **September 20th** from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Midwest Food Bank is a food warehouse and distribution facility located at 1703 S. Veteran's Parkway (across from Famous Dave's). Midwest Food Bank donates around \$3 million of food per month to over 600 organizations locally, nationally and internationally. It also provides disaster relief assistance for The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.

With only three paid employees, Midwest Food Bank relies heavily on volunteer groups to help fulfill its mission. The primary task performed by volunteers is repackaging bulk food items.

Volunteers come from churches, civic organizations, corporations, college fraternities and sororities, scouting, youth sports teams and the like. Volunteering as a group is a great way to build new relationships or to strengthen existing ones.

We hope you'll consider this as an opportunity to join together as a church community in support of a worthy cause. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall. If you can't make it on

September 20th, please know we have already scheduled another volunteering opportunity at Midwest Food Bank on **December 13th**. If you have any questions, please contact Chrissy Stoffer at 663-6450 (home) or 735-2161 (work).

We hope to see you there. Thanks.

Directions to Midwest Food Bank: Go South on Veteran's Parkway. Take a right at Morrissey Boulevard (Dennison Ford is on the right) and then take the first left onto Gilmore Drive. The driveway to Midwest Food Bank is immediately on the left. Although Midwest Food Bank has a Veteran's Parkway address, there is no direct access from Veteran's Parkway.

**HOME SWEET HOME MISSION
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Facilitator of a Mom's Support Group.

Morning is the optimal time, however evening is an option. Would like the group to be a fairly long term group as it takes several weeks for group to get to know and trust each other. Looking for 10-12 week commitment. Topics covered to be determined by the attendees of the group.

We are gearing up for our 5th Annual Art Show on October 25th. Our clients will be offered classes in a variety of art forms. The following are ways you can help give our clients a new and fulfilling experience.

Photography instructor. Two night commitment. Provide basic information about photography in first session. Evaluate and critique the pictures taken as a group in the second session.

Photography Mentors. Mentors would come to photography class to meet client. Take client out for a session of photo taking using Mentor's camera. Provide the best 3 pictures to Home Sweet Home Staff for a photo contest in digital format. (CD, emailed, flash drive). Mentor could come to second session if desired to participate in the evaluation and critique of pictures.

Sculpture instructor using "found" items. All sculptures would be made totally from items donated at the Mission Mart. 2 sessions or more as needed.



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 October edition of *The Good News* monthly newsletter is **Wednesday, September 21 at noon**. Articles are now being accepted for the October 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.
