

Wednesday Information – September 23, 2020

Dear friends,

Last Sunday was our second time for in-person worship, and among our numbers were people new to St Martha's. I am hoping that while the church continues to remain open, we will welcome all who want to join us in worship.

During the service we blessed the new bishop's chair in memory of Carol Boebel, a much beloved past member of St Martha's. Present in church for the blessing was Carol's husband Don and their daughter Sharon.

In ancient times, a chair was a sign of authority to teach. The bishop's chair is a symbol of the bishop's teaching office and pastoral authority in the diocese. It is also a sign of the unity of believers that the bishop proclaims as shepherd of the Lord's flock.

The service also included the corporate renewal of our baptismal vows. As well as affirming our belief in the familiar words of the Nicene Creed, we declared our opposition to all death-dealing forces in the world, including, evil, corruption and sin. In our lives we practice and embody the life-giving qualities of forgiveness, service and love, as followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Be blessed and be a blessing to others.

Father David



Upcoming events at St. Martha's

SMVBC - Continuation of "Outliers"

St. Martha's Virtual Book Club meets tomorrow, **Thursday, September 24th** from 3:00-4:00 PM. This week the book club will discuss Chapter four (impact of external forces on success) and Chapter five (heritage, culture and social systems impact on success).

Come one, come all – participants from the most recent book, "The Alchemist", those who joined us for "Welcome to Anglican Traditions," or anyone interested. No need to have read the chapters – you can always join in the meandering conversation. Contact **Rick Legeer** at rlegeer@comcast.net by **Thursday at 9:00 AM** so you can be added to the zoom invitation.

"Outliers" is available on Amazon (e-reader and hard copy) and possibly at local bookstores as well.

Bible Study

A study of Genesis, Chapters 49 & 50, led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. **Tuesday, September 29, at 1 pm**

Art and Faith

An online study which draws us deeper into the mystery of faith through the study and appreciation of art, led by Father David. The evening will conclude with Compline. This week's painting is "Golden Crucifixion" by Norman Adams. **Tuesday, September 29, at 7 pm**

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 at 11 am. We will celebrate the Blessing of the Animals at a service with our families. We will gather outside the church, in Maplewood Street, weather permitting, with our beloved companions to celebrate life with all of God's creatures. All creatures are welcome: leads, crates or other ways of containing their energy is best. If you prefer, a photo or collar will also work. This service will last around fifteen minutes. Please bring your own chair

Focus Topic:

The Importance of a Mission-Focused Vestry

This article is Part 2 of an Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices paper.

By Betsy Ivey and Kirk Berlenbach

Change is inevitable; and vestries are the key to the transformation. Governance for the sake of governance gives little attention to transformative leadership; but governance that focuses on missional ministry brings not just new structures but also new meaning. By leading such transformational change, the vestry creates the opportunity for the church to find not only vitality but growth. “The transformation of the church can be accomplished without losing what is precious to it, but it cannot avert change ...the real work is to live into and through the dissonance that automatically comes with change, emerging with an even stronger faith.”

At our 2019 Diocesan Convention, citing Jesus in Luke 5, Bishop Gutiérrez urged us to “take our boats into deeper water to catch more fish.” Staying safely by the shore, maintaining the status quo, doing only what we knew how to do was not going to bring in the catch we were seeking. Instead he instructed us to “live fearlessly, and ...continually reassess if our current structures are working. Let’s reassess and if they are slowing us down, if there are obstacles, if they keep us close to the shore, throw it overboard. Review what people are doing around the world and develop new structures that will help us to be innovative, agile, and keep going deep.” The charge of the transformative vestry is to go deeper into the un-chartered waters of ministry, following the missional template that Jesus gave us, only to discover a church we may not know but to which our faith will lead us.

[Click here to continue article](#)

Committee Updates

Search Committee

The Search Committee met in person on Monday, September 21. We continue to reflect upon the Vital Signs as we discern what qualities we should seek in our new rector. If you would like view last week’s presentation of the Vital Signs Executive report please click on this link: <https://youtu.be/dU4PAeWjgro>

If you would like to read the entire Vital Signs report, please e-mail Tempe Steen at tbsteensr@gmail.com.

Outreach

Join St. Martha’s team for **Crop Hunger Walk 2020**. The “walk” will be open from Sept. 20 to Oct. 18. You may donate on-line (crophungerwalk.org, click search, type in St. Martha’s) or send a donation to St. Martha’s made out to CWS with Crop Walk notated on the memo line of your check. Contact franmcelvey@verizon.net for more information.

Outreach needs your monetary donations to help with school supplies this year. Instead of backpacks, we are purchasing supplies and plastic containers for the supplies. Please send your donation to St. Martha's (P.O. Box 1478, 117 Maplewood, 19930) with "school supplies" notated on your check. Contact franmcelvey@verizon.net if you need more information.

Stewardship

Stewardship letters were sent to every member of the congregation last week. Please review your pledge and return the pledge card in the envelope provided. A link to Father David's sermon on Stewardship is found [here](#).

Prayer List

Bob Bauer, Ruth Simone, Ron Sutton, Kristen Jankowski, Martha, Wayne Argo, Paul Stutts, Justin Bence, James Moore, Jr., Evan Ballard, Cameron Vlassis, Charmaine Zoller, the family of Ron Smith, Tara Sprouse, Don Louk, Joey, Sara Suerose, Nancy Moore & family, Bill Ensor, Katherine Hobbs, Joe, Nicole Filipelli, Dominic Filipelli, Noelle Filipelli, Nancy Reed, Leigh Alexander Loeber, Ron Pickup, Ann Adams, William L Brintnall, Laura N. Brintnall, Cuthie Family, Janice Fritsch, Kassandra Riddle, Mimi Drew, Sammy Schweers, Pauline Wise, Becky Warlow, Jean Bunker, Carolyn Clarke, Richard Hay, Frankie Ferrell, August Goeller, Josie Legeer, Jane Robbert, Bev Shubert, Margaret Duval and Marilyn Hoffman

For Our Serving Military: Quinn Barber, HM3 Kevin Murphy, Conner Warlow, Daniel Olnick

Prayer LIST – If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office at (302) 539-7444 or email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The Prayer List is a way to ask for prayer from the whole congregation for a loved one who is dealing with a stressful issue such as chronic illness, job problem, or other personal problem. Only the person's name is listed. Names stay on the list for two months unless and until renewed.

Prayer CIRCLE – These volunteer prayer warriors pray for a person who has asked for urgently needed short-term prayer for a specific purpose like surgery or an upcoming medical test. These requests are confidential. You can email prayercircle@stmarthasbethanybeach.org for Prayer Circle intercessions. You can also contact Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or 539-7444. Voicemail messages are being monitored and you will receive a return call during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

Pastoral CARE –If you have a pastoral care need, please call Elsa or Carol at (732) 216-6875 or contact the office using the email address or phone number listed above.

Pastoral Care EMERGENCY – Please contact Father David Beresford at (302) 468 9062.

Vestry Members Wanted

Do you feel called to serve as a member of St Martha's Vestry in 2021/2? We are seeking nominations for three vacant positions for this leadership role within the church. For further information about the role please speak to Father David or one of the wardens. Elections will be held by mail and successful nominees announced at our annual meeting in November. Deadline for applicants is Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Delegates to the Diocesan Annual Convention Wanted

Each year St Martha's sends two delegates to the diocesan annual convention. In previous years this was held in Dewey Beach. If you are interested in attending - it is usually a three day event - please speak to Father David or one of the wardens. Elections will be held by mail and successful nominees announced at our annual meeting in November. Deadline for applicants is Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Please give by mail or website donate button

Please continue to support our mission work by submitting your pledge to St. Martha's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1478, Bethany Beach DE 19930 or give via the donate button on the website where there is a box to note your contribution purpose: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/make-donation-or-pledge/>.

Email Dave Kemper with your hymn request

Remember to email Director of Music **Dave Kemper** at dc.kemper@hotmail.com if you want to request a particular hymn.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Have a wonderful week!

The Rev. David Beresford, 302-468-9062, davidberesford@gmail.com
Senior Warden Ron Kerchner, 609-424-7281, thekerchners@msn.com
Junior Warden Tina Edgar, 302-519-8688, tedgar543@mchsi.com
Secretary Mimi Dupont, 302-228-2755, mdupont228@yahoo.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org