



Wednesday Information – October 7, 2020

Dear friends,

Ruth and I are very grateful for all your email messages of support and goodwill. Ruth's condition has improved and she is making a steady recovery at home in Wilmington. We keep in touch via Zoom and telephone calls. She is being looked after by friends and family who bring her groceries and pots of chicken soup. Thank you all for your prayers at this time.

At St Martha's we will re-open the church on Sunday for in-person worship at 9 am, followed by the Blessings of the Animals at 11 am, postponed from last week. Here are the guidelines again:

1. dogs and cats must be on leashes or in carriers
2. birds, small mammals, reptiles, etc. must be in cages or tanks with secure lids
3. each animal may receive an individual blessing during the service
4. since we will be outside, please bring a blanket or chair to sit on during the service
5. if an animal is too frightened to attend, please bring a photo instead
6. if children have a favorite stuffed animal, they are invited to bring it for a special blessing.
7. All persons to wear masks for the service (around fifteen minutes long).

A special thank you to those who responded to our request for new vestry members - we were delighted with the response and now we have a slate of six candidates for four available positions. A link to the biographies of each candidate are included in this email. Please read each biography carefully. Details about how to vote will be advised shortly.

Finally, on Sunday, October 11, the Right Reverend Kevin S. Brown, the Bishop of Delaware, will be on our coffee hour call at 11 am. He wants to hear from the members how they are handling the transition. A link to this Zoom call will be included in the Saturday Inspiration.

Have a blessed week!

Father David

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will take place via Zoom on November 8, 2020 at 11 am.

For last year's minutes, click [here](#).

The Nominating Committee is proud to present six very qualified candidates to serve on St. Martha's Vestry for the next three years. There are nine total vestry members, the remaining members are : Ron Kerchner, Bill Freund, Don Boebel, Bob Cardoni, and Rick Legeer. There are four positions that need to be filled, the candidates are:

Mary Davis
Carl Long
Eric West
John Short
Keith Smith
Mary Thompson

Read, pray and PLEASE VOTE,

Tina Edgar, Committee Chair
Don Clarke
Carl Long

[Bios](#) of our candidates.

The annual meeting will also include a vote on amendments to our bylaws as well as the delegates and alternates for Convention. To review the amendments, click [here](#).

Upcoming events at St. Martha's

SMVBC - Continuation of "Outliers"

St. Martha's Virtual Book Club meets tomorrow, **Thursday, October 8th** from 3:00-4:00 PM. This week the book club will discuss Chapter 8 – Rice, Chinese students and math – success is a result of hard, engaging, intellectually challenging work with a lots of practice. Chapter 9 – Summer vacation – the problem with American education.

All are welcome! 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.

Bishop's Forum

The Bishop of Delaware, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Brown, would like to check in with St Martha's members and speak to us online about our transition, on **Sunday, October 11 at 11 a.m.** A Zoom link will be provided in the Saturday, October 10 email. If you have specific questions for the bishop which you would like him to consider in advance, please email them to admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 11 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, collar or lead will also work. This service will last around fifteen minutes. Please bring your own chair.

Bible Study

A study of Exodus, Chapter 2 led by Dianne Bulew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. **Tuesday, October 13 at 1 pm**

Art and Faith

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 "The Virgin and Child with St Anne and St John the Baptist" by Leonardo da Vinci. **Tuesday, October 13 at 7 pm**

Focus Topic: Stewardship

As we all prayerfully reflect on our pledge to the 2021 financial wellbeing of St. Martha's, our focus topic for October is stewardship. We often think of stewardship as the "treasure" portion of time, talent, and treasure. The real focus is not the number on a pledge card, but what our personal and communal generosity accomplishes – the impact. From https://episcopalchurch.org/files/stewardship_what_is.pdf.

Christian stewardship is grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit,

commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions.

Stewardship is lived out in:

- living and telling the Good News;
- sharing God in seeking justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in an interdependent universe;
- wisely employing God-given human resources, abilities, and relationships;
- sharing the material resources we hold and giving them in service, justice, and compassion;
- providing for future generations, sharing in the life, worship, and responsible stewardship of the Church and of its mission

Both for the individual and for the community, stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God's world.

This definition comes from the Standing Rules of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The Episcopal Church is a founding member of this group and remains active in its continuing work. Stewardship has also been defined as: What I do, with all that I have, after I say, "I believe." Using the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do.

Committee Updates

Altar Guild

Dear Everyone,

As you may already know, Carolyn Smith has been filling in for Bev Shubert who is dealing with some health issues. Bev has now decided to step down from the Altar Guild and we are both delighted to report that Carolyn has agreed to become the new co-chair. Bev is resting between tests to determine what's going on. For the time being, Bev and Jack have requested prayers please instead of phone calls.

~Diane

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. 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.

Community Food Pantry, located at Salem United Methodist Church, is looking for volunteers to help with their monthly Friday food preparation and Saturday drive-thru distribution. If you can help October 23 or 24, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-9402).

Pastoral Care- Thank you

I would like for all the parishioners to know how thankful I am for all their prayers for someone that they don't personally know.

I'm a woman 72 years old with pancreatic cancer, who firmly believes in the power of prayer.

Elsa Fuentes a friend of mine attends your Church and I'm sure she gave you my name. God bless you all with lots of happiness and health.

Clari Hernandez

Planning Committee seeks your input

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

St. Martha's Planning Committee has been meeting since late July and wants your input. They have been working in cooperation with the Search Committee and building on the results of the Holy Cow survey to develop a new mission and vision. The Holy Cow survey showed that St. Martha's has much energy but a lack of focus. Whatever the cause, the Vestry and the Planning Committee think it's time for a new mission and vision to lead us into the next decade and to call a permanent rector who wants to make that journey with us. The Search Committee needs these for the website Rector Search page.

In the coming few weeks the Wednesday email will contain a link to a short survey (short – they promise!) in which you can tell them what you think of the draft mission statement, vision statement, and vision narrative – a longer version of the vision suggesting what St. Martha's might look like a decade from now.

Given the pandemic restrictions and limited human resources, St. Martha's focus must be on those things we as a congregation deem most important. Not only does our parish leadership want to demonstrate that they are listening, but they also hope this approach will generate your willingness to help live out St. Martha's Mission.

A mission and vision we can all support is essential for a clear call to a new rector and for developing goals and objectives that will guide the Vestry and our parish committees throughout 2021. Keep an eye out for the SURVEY button so you can influence the choice of 2021 goals and objectives – the ways we will bring our Baptismal covenant to life.

Prayer List

Bob Bauer, Ruth Simione, 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, Cassandra Riddle, Mimi Drew, Sammy Schweers, Pauline Wise, Becky Warlow, Jean Bunker, Carolyn Clarke, Richard Hay, August Goeller, Josie Legeer, Jane Robbert, Bev Shubert, Margaret Duval, Marilyn Hoffman, Clari Hernandez, Lisa Carver and AJ Evans

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.

A message from Rev. Mary Allen,

I have had a number of parishioners contact me with concerns about the smoke, fires and civil unrest in Seattle. The smoke has cleared (thank God for rain) I am well, and the demonstrations are in a very small area of Seattle and I am 45 miles away from Seattle. Thank you everyone for your concern and prayers.

Here is a picture of my new [home](#).

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.
Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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
David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org

