

Wednesday Information – October 14, 2020

Holding the thread

The numbers attending last Sunday worship were down, and yet there were enough of us -fifteen in total - to make it worth while. In fact, being in church on Sunday felt like being in the sanest place on earth right now. To hear the words of Scripture, to worship God together - what a privilege this is! And what a sense of calm and reassurance it gives, to know we are in God's house - the Church - and remember that we are blessed by his presence and nourished by word and sacrament.

We are seeing new faces among us - visitors to St Martha's, and that is an encouraging sign. The church goes on, and it feels like we are holding the thread of tradition that has sustained our community for years - not only at St Martha's, but within the longer tradition of Christians gathering together to praise and give glory to God, which is our practice for centuries past.

I hope those of you at home are finding comfort in the provision of our online worship. Soon we hope to make live-streaming a reality, so that your viewing of worship online will be live as it happens in church. Whether you are in church or at home, the message of the gospel continues to speak to us, with its eternal and life-giving truths. We are richly blessed, even at this time, to receive it and take it to heart.

Father David

Upcoming events at St. Martha's

SMVBC - Continuation of "Outliers"

St. Martha's Virtual Book Club meets tomorrow, **Thursday, October 15th** from 3:00-4:00 PM. The final discussion of "Outliers" will focus on the epilogue. The author details his personal history. It is a result of cultural privilege, luck and specific opportunities, and how with increased opportunities success can come to others.

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.

Coffee Hour

This Sunday, **October 18, at 11 am Coffee Hour** online will be hosted by Father David. A link will be provided in the Saturday Inspiration email.

Bible Study

A study of Exodus, Chapters 7 & 8 led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. **Tuesday, October 20 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 "Supper at Emmaus" by Caravaggio. **Tuesday, October 20 at 7 pm.** To join the group, please contact Father David at davidberesford@gmail.com

Focus Topic: Pledging Commitment

Last week's article from the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) focused not on the word "pledge" but on "commitment to demonstrate our connection to God and to each other." As Stewardship Co-Chairs Sharon Korody and Harry Burlew said in their letter to us: "Our ability, as a parish, to accomplish All Things In Love depends on your financial commitment to St. Martha's. Please be generous."

By Linda Buskirk

"Spread for me a banquet of praise, serve High God a feast of kept promises"
Psalm 50:14 – The Message

After months of churches scrambling to add or improve electronic and/or mobile donation options during the pandemic, it seems safe to assume that online giving is here to stay. What I wonder about is how churches are faring if they previously did not strongly promote the concept of annual pledging. Sure, people may find it easier to donate online, but how do they determine the size of their gifts if they did not promise to give a certain amount this year?

There are bottom line reasons why most faith communities appreciate those who pledge to give a certain dollar amount in the year ahead. The most obvious is that the total amount pledged helps the Vestry set the overall spending plan (budget) for the next year.

After serving many years in stewardship as a volunteer and as a consultant, I have done my own soul searching about the most important goal of an annual

giving campaign. My conclusion is that it has nothing to do with the church budget. It has to do with the hearts of the givers and their relationship to Jesus Christ.

To read the full article click [here](#).

Committee Updates

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).

Search

The Search Committee met in person on Monday, October 12. The Committee continues its work to write, re-write and edit the Parish Profile for the Rector Search Page.

Minutes from September Vestry Meeting. Click [here](#) to view.

If you would like to view any of the committee updates submitted to the Vestry, please contact the office and we will be glad to provide them.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries. Click [here](#) to view.

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, August Goeller, Josie Legeer, Jane Robbert, Bev Shubert, Margaret Duval, Marilyn Hoffman, Clari Hernandez, Lisa Carver, AJ Evans, Robert Hicks and Noel Tuck

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.

Memorial Service for J.H. Adams

The service will be held at St. Martha's Episcopal Church on **Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 11 am.**

Please advise the office before Saturday, October 24th if you would like to attend. Seats will be limited due to social distancing requirements. In addition, the family will also have a number of seats reserved.

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.

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*