

Wednesday Information – October 21, 2020

Dear friends,

The fog is beginning to clear, as Wednesday morning opens to a new day. Outside the children are being dropped off at the pre-school by their parents. There is a sound of a leaf blower somewhere. The smell of the bread in the toaster fills the kitchen as I drink my second mug of tea.

The day has begun. Our days are an accumulation of simple actions, thoughts and plans. Days can become a series of small rituals - morning coffee, a visit to the doctor, or a phone call to a relative on the other side of the country.

One ritual I would encourage you to adopt is the practice of daily prayer. Members of the Vestry and those who attend Art and Faith will be familiar with a version of Compline (Night Prayer), from the modern Church of England liturgy, which concludes our evenings together. Here is a link to three daily “offices”, as they are called: Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

In your prayers please pray for those named on our prayer list. A list of their names is given below. By including this additional ritual in your daily schedule, you will be following an ancient and fruitful tradition, and be a blessing for the church, for God and for your neighbor.

With the blessings of the Holy Spirit,

Father David

Upcoming events at St. Martha's

Coffee Hour

This Sunday, **October 25, 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 11-13 led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. **Tuesday, October 27 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 "The Vision after the Sermon" by Paul Gauguin. **Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm.** To join the group, please contact Father David at davidberesford@gmail.com.

SMVBC - Continuation of "Outliers"

The book club concluded "Outliers" last week and will take a two week break before starting the next book. We will resume on **Thursday, November 5th**. The next book will be "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr. It is available on Amazon (e-reader and hard copy) and possibly at local bookstores.

Focus Topic: pandemic-influenced stewardship

This article from the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) explores the effects of the pandemic on stewardship, particularly on following through with pledges made before covid struck. Our stewardship co-chairs remind us that "Our ability, as a parish, to accomplish All Things In Love depends on your financial commitment to St. Martha's. Please be generous."

The full article is at: <https://www.ecfvp.org/blogs/3831/stewardship-during-the-pandemic>

Committee Updates

Outreach

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.

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 November 20 or 21, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-9402).

Stewardship

Did you know that, if you are 72 or older and are required by the IRS to take a yearly minimal distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you can make a direct transfer of IRS funds to a qualified charity and not pay tax on the withdrawal? Have an IRA check sent directly to St. Martha's to take advantage of this. Thank you to all who have returned a pledge. Remember, every pledge is important, needed and appreciated.

Search

At its October 19th meeting, the Search Committee continued to edit and format the Parish Profile and Rector Page which will eventually be posted on the website.

Flower Guild

We still have one date in November, **NOVEMBER 8**, that is available for donating flowers for the altar in memory or honor of a loved one or an event.

Fr. David has approved the use of understated arrangements for the altar during Advent. We have two dates still available - **DECEMBER 13 AND DECEMBER 20**.

If you are interested in any of these three available dates, please write or call Alice Anne Freund, 301-229-0799, or aafreund@verizon.net

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.

Volunteer Needed

Mimi Dupont is retiring as Focus Topic editor and is asking anyone interested in taking on this ministry to contact Senior Warden Ron Kerchner or Father David. She's happy to discuss resources and where she researched the focus topics. Contact info for Ron and Father David is at the end of this email.

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.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. 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
David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org