

Wednesday Information - November 25, 2020



Dear friends,

Thanksgiving is a much loved US holiday. The tradition of thanksgiving stretches back to the early seventeenth century, when pilgrims commemorated a good harvest and safe passage to the New World. They were followed years later by those escaping persecution for their religious beliefs, who came to a country rich in resources and opportunity. The hope which carried them over remains today: to live in freedom, and by hard work to make a better future for yourself and your family.

The author Bill Bryson humorously praised Thanksgiving as being “a great holiday because you don’t have to give gifts or send cards or do anything but eat.” Thanksgiving usually reunites family members who live apart. This year, because of Covid, fewer families will gather. It will be telephone calls and Zoom meetings instead, and more leftover turkey than usual.

Christians relate easily to Thanksgiving, because our life is a gift from God, and thanksgiving represents our natural response to this gift. On a personal note, the older I get, the more I learn to give thanks for both the good and the bad, since my story comprises both, and by the grace of God I am still here.

Thanksgiving is central to our life as a worshipping community. The Greek word *Eucharistia*, from which we derive the word *Eucharist*, means *Thanksgiving*. We follow the command of Jesus to remember him in this way, by gathering as brothers and sisters around the Lord’s table, and partaking in a sharing of bread, which he calls his body, and wine, which he calls his blood. The Eucharist is called a *sacrament*, being an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. It is both a simple and yet deeply mysterious act.

Every time we receive the Eucharist, we are looking forward to the return of Jesus, who will come in great glory to gather up his faithful at the end of time. On Thursday, whether you are at home alone or with family, take time to give thanks for the gift of life and to count the blessings you have received. Light a candle; say a prayer. May God bless you richly as you journey on.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Father David

Upcoming events at St. Martha's

SMVBC

There will be no meeting on **Thursday, November 26**. Book club will resume on December 3.

Bible Study

Tuesday, **December 1 at 1 pm**. A study of Exodus, Chapters 23-25 led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required.

Handbell Choir

Wednesday, **December 2, at 1 pm** in the Parish Hall.

Watch and Pray

Wednesday, **December 2 at 7 pm**. Session One: "Hope in Times of Darkness" - an evening Advent Course. This will be conducted by Zoom. To join the group, please contact Father David at davidberesford@gmail.com.

Preparing for Christmas

Friday, **December 4, 1 - 2 pm**. Advent meditations and Bible readings, from the book by Richard Rohr. This will be conducted by Zoom.

To receive regular news updates, including links to events from St Martha's online, please contact admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org.

In Loving Service - A Quiet Day



Saturday, **December 5**, 10 am to 3 pm. The Church has honored Mary as the first disciple of Christ and her example of loving service continues to inspire us today. As we enter the Advent Season, Father David Beresford will lead a silent retreat exploring the discipleship of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

At Memorial House, Rehoboth, Saturday, December 5 from 10 am to 3 pm. Lunch will be provided. Admission is free, however donations are invited. Attendees are invited to stay for Holy Eucharist at 2:30 pm, although this is optional. Note that this is a *silent retreat* - no talking is permitted at any time. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jaclyn Hickman by email at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or by telephone on 302-539-7444.

Details of all our Advent services and events can be found
here: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/the-season-of-advent/>
or you can visit the individual links below.

For Watch and Pray: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/event/watch-and-pray-an-advent-course/2020-12-02/>

For the Bible Study: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/event/bible-study-2020-12-01/>

For the Richard Rohr Study Group: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/event/small-group-advent-study/2020-12-04/>

Maggie's 4th Annual Coat Drive

Mimi Dupont's granddaughter has begun her annual coat drive. The economic challenges brought on by the pandemic have increased needs. All coats donated will go to local charities as they have in the past. New and gently used. Adults and children of all ages. Hats, gloves, and scarves are welcome, too. Drop off locations are Selbyville Middle School, where Maggie is now a sixth grader, Next Step Learning Center in Selbyville, Coldwell Banker in Ocean View, Milton Police Department, and the Frankford Town Hall. Mimi will be glad to pick up coats from St. Martha's, if that is more convenient for donors, or call Mimi at 302-228-2755. See Maggie's flyer [here](#).

UTO

St. Martha's usually has the ingathering of UTO funds twice a year-Spring and Fall. We did not have one in the spring so our donations now will be our total contribution for the 2021 grants.

The United Thank Offering, which is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church, has long been a tradition of our congregation. Our funds are to help local, national and international groups through approved grants. 100% of our donations go directly to the needs of the recipients. Next year's focus is Recovering with Love and Gratitude.

In spite of all the hardships we have experienced this past year please help us to be as generous as possible. All of your gifts will be welcomed. They will be used to enrich the lives of others in need. Thank you.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. MARTHA'S CHURCH AND NOTE ON THE MEMO LINE "UTO".

UTO Coordinator
Bette Wade

Committee Updates

Outreach

St. Martha's Angel Tree Christmas program will provide gifts to 34 students this year. (Boy and girl in grades K-5 at Clayton and Showell Elementary Schools and 5 boys and 5 girls at Selbyville Middle School). Due to the Covid -19 restrictions, the Outreach Committee will do the shopping spending \$20-\$25 per child to purchase a lap blanket, arts and crafts supplies or games, and hat & gloves. To contribute towards these gifts contact Becky Bauer 410-935-7072, Carolyn Smith 302-542-0325 or Wincy Jackson 302-381-8638. Checks made out to St.

Martha's with "Angel Tree" on the memo should be received by December 13. Thank you for making the holiday a little brighter for our local kids.

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).

Search

The Search Committee is close to completing the text for the Parish Profile. With further editing and the addition of photographs and videos, it will be ready for Vestry review in early December. Our web page designer, Lee Ann Walling, will prepare the Profile for the website.

FLOWER GUILD IMPORTANT ADVENT NEWS

As you all are aware, Christmas is just around the corner. We will have the Greening of the Church on the Sunday before Christmas, December 20th at 10:00. Because of this crazy year, we are limiting the number of people who can be together to only six. If you would like to help with greening this year, please call Lee Moore, at 302-537-8051, as soon as possible, so she can put you on the list.

In addition to the Greening of the Church, I want to remind you that you may donate Christmas flowers with a notation indicating who you would like to have remembered or honored. The cost is \$25.00 or whatever you would like to give. You may call Jaclyn at 302-539-7444, or email her at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org, or you can fill out the attached **donation form** that will also be mailed to you in December, and be available in the back of the church.

Four more reminders:

- If you donate Christmas flowers, they will remain in the church until after the January 3rd service and you can take them home after that.
- We will need volunteers to take down the flowers and decorations after the January 3rd service. If you will volunteer, please call Lee Moore at 302-537-8051.
- We still have December 20 available for remembering a person or occasion with altar flowers. Call Alice Anne Freud 301-229-0799 or aafreund@verizon.net.
- It is now time to sign up for altar flower donations for 2021. The sign up list will be in the back of the nave, but if you are not physically going to church, please call or email Jaclyn with your chosen dates and notations - 302-539-7444 or admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org.

Annual Meeting Draft Minutes

Please review the minutes and accompanying financial reports and advise the office, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org of any needed modifications.

Minutes

Financial Reports

Quilts of Valor Dedication

If you haven't already seen it, please take a look at the article in the [Coastal Point](#) covering our recent Quilts of Valor dedication. It's a wonderful article!

Seashell Ringers

Rehearsals have resumed! All COVID precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of the ringers. There is a need for 1 or 2 more ringers. No experience is necessary, and we will happily train you! Our rehearsals are held every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-2:00 in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Kemper

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/>.

Prayer List

Bob Bauer, Ruth Simone, Ron Sutton, Martha, Wayne Argo, Paul Stutts, Justin Bence, James Moore, Jr., Evan Ballard, Cameron Vlassis, Charmaine Zoller, Tara Sprouse, Don Louk, Joey, Sara Suerose, Nancy Moore & family, Bill Ensor, Katherine Hobbs, Joe, Nancy Reed, Leigh Alexander Loeber, Ron Pickup, William L Brintnall, Laura N. Brintnall, Cuthie Family, Janice Fritsch, Cassandra Riddle, Pauline Wise, Becky Warlow, Jean Bunker, Carolyn Clarke, August Goeller, Bev and Jack Shubert, Margaret Duval, Marilyn Hoffman, Clari Hernandez, AJ Evans, Robert Hicks, Noel Tuck, Joanne Grant, Mimi Drew, John Conway, Keith Smith, Jim Lucas, Christine Mains, Lois Allen, Tony Combas and Catherine Jordan

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.

Almighty God,
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 him 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 Bill Freund, 301-229-0799, wmfreund42@gmail.com
Secretary John Short, 302-829-1699, johnnyeshort146@gmail.com
David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org

