

Wednesday Information - December 2, 2020

Dear friends,

Last week a member kindly gave me a copy of the Smithsonian magazine, the official periodical from the Institution of the same name. The magazine's cover story was "Behind the Scenes at the White House." Inside the magazine, I learned that, in 2001, the pastry chef at the White House had made a replica of the original White House as it looked before British troops set it on fire in 1814. (In my ignorance, I didn't know that there was an original one.) Elsewhere, I learned that Gaius Matius, a friend of Julius Caesar, invented the art of clipping hedges - this detail appeared in an article about hedgerows, which in Great Britain apparently total 435,000 miles.

There's more besides, including a world map of poisonous snakes, and an explanation as to why South American animals are smaller than their counterparts on other continents, (except, of course, for the now extinct giant sloth.) If you're interested, I can pass the magazine on to you. It's a godsend to those fascinated by diverse and little know facts, as I sometimes am. The magazine offered some light relief in the face of a daily diet of gloomy news, which included reading about the falling numbers of people attending the Episcopal Church. So what's to be done? Sometimes, nothing - instead, you just need a bit of escapism, and the Smithsonian magazine provided just that.

Therefore today, inspired by the magazine, I offer something a little different. These are examples of answers children wrote in their exams. I apologize if you have read them before; I think they are genuine. In any case, they made me laugh. Enjoy!

Father David

In the first book of the Bible Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.

Noah built the ark and the animals came in in pears.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

The seventh commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery'.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibles.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotomy.

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.

Upcoming events at St. Martha's

Watch and Pray

Wednesday, **December 2 at 7 pm**. Session Two: "A Message of Love" - an evening Advent Course. This will be conducted by Zoom.

SMVBC

Thursday, **December 3rd**, 3:00 – 4:00 PM. The book club is discussing chapters seven and eight of "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life", by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join the discussion please contact Rick Legeer at rlegeer@comcast.net by Thursday at 9:00 AM so you can be added to the zoom invitation.

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.

Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 6 at 11 am. Your host will be Senior Warden Ron Kerchner. A link will be provided in the Saturday email.

Bible Study

Tuesday, **December 8 at 1 pm**. A study of Exodus, Chapters 31-33 led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required.

Handbell Choir

Wednesday, **December 9, at 1 pm** in the Parish Hall.

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

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 REMINDER

We are currently receiving our ingathering for the year to support next year's grants for our United Thank Offering period.

Some examples of the local grants received in the past are funding for the way home and for a daycare facility in Georgetown. National grant examples are computers for an after school program in Darby Borough, Pennsylvania and six tiny houses on the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. There are also international grants such as a community vehicle in Tanzania and the establishment of a pilgrim center in Pontevedra Spain.

100 % of our contributions are used for these types of programs. Any administrative costs or other fees are supplied by funds from other accounts. With our contributions we help others improve and enrich their lives as well as showing a measure of our gratitude for the gifts we have received in our lives.

Thank you for your support.

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 met on Monday, November 30 and completed final edits to the Rector Search Page. This document will soon be sent to the Vestry for its approval before being posted on the parish website. The Search Committee has now begun working on the eleven questions which are part of the Community Ministry Profile.

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.

 <p><u>December Birthdays and Anniversaries</u></p>	 <p>MEETING MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Vestry</u>• <u>Finance</u>• <u>Outreach</u>
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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, Kassandra 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.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 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, johannyeshort146@gmail.com
David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com
Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org