

Wednesday Information - February 3, 2021

Dear friends,

Super Bowl Sunday, between Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, is on February 7 this year. When I came to live in the USA, I had very little understanding of American Football. Why do they crash into each other? Why are forward passes legal? Ruth and I would watch the games together and I would ask her to explain the rules and tactics. With its stops and starts, it seemed a long way from the more free-flowing game of rugby on which I was raised.

My interest in football grew stronger when I was at the Church of the Redeemer in Springfield PA. My second year as Rector coincided with the Philadelphia Eagles being in the Super Bowl. In the congregation was Bob, a banjo player who had played at President Clinton's inauguration, and whose son was the official singer on the recording of the Eagles theme song, "Fly, Eagles, Fly." On the morning of the Super Bowl, at the end of the Sunday Eucharist, Bob led the congregation as we sang the Eagles' song together. As I looked out over a sea of green, I heard an almighty sound of voices, and wondered why they didn't sing this way on a normal Sunday.

Anyway, we know what happened: the Eagles won, and I became a confirmed Eagles supporter. Watching the live broadcast, I was surprised at the end of the game to hear the players and coach, one after another, give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ for helping them secure victory. What a great advertisement for Christianity, I thought, although I recalled that God takes the losers' side, too.

The week before the Super Bowl I had preached a sermon to the congregation on this subject, saying that "if the Eagles lose at the Super Bowl, we will give thanks to God. And if they win, we will give thanks to God." At the time, I admired the attitude of Carson Wentz, the Eagles' star quarterback who, due to injury, had to sit out the game. In his place stepped Nick Foles, who was decisive in the Eagles' victory that day.

It must have been hard to miss this historic moment, but Wentz showed good grace and gave an example of how to behave in the face of disappointment. Frank Reich, the Eagles' offensive coordinator, said this about Carson:

"To me, one of the greatest things about a person that you can say is when you see him celebrating somebody else's success...human nature tells you that's hard to do, but I see how Carson has the maturity to truly celebrate Nick's success...and also with the frustration of knowing that he wants to be in there."

When we celebrate our heroes' achievements, let us not forget those on the other side, who experience defeat and disappointment. Winning takes determination and effort, and sometimes a little luck, but to lose well and with dignity takes a special grace and humility. This is the lesson we are to teach our children.

With blessings

Father David

Please Join Us For Online Worship

Beginning this week, we will be live streaming on Youtube only. You will not be able to view the service on Facebook. If you miss the live version you can view the recording shortly after the service has concluded. Click the Youtube link below to access our channel.



The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 7, 2021

9:00 am - Holy Eucharist



[Online Bible Study](#)

Tonight at 7 pm Father David will lead an online study of Chapter 4 of St Paul's Letter to the Philippians. All are welcome. If you would like to join please contact the office.

[SMVBC](#)

St. Martha's Virtual Book Club will meet this Thursday, February 4, 3:00 – 4:00 PM to discuss chapter seven of *What is the Point of Being a Christian* by Tony Radcliffe – "I Am Because We Are". If you would like to join please contact the office.

In Person Bible Study

Tuesday, February 9 at 1 pm. A study of the Book of Leviticus, Chapters 5 & 8. Led by Dianne Burlew. Meet in the Parish Hall. Masks and physical distancing required. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jaclyn Hickman by email at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or by telephone on 302-539-7444.

Men's Group

Our next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 9 am. Our guest speaker will be Dan Cowell, a director of The Way Home. He will speak on the topic of "Listening: the Power of Non-judgemental Acceptance".

We follow Covid protocols, wearing masks and keeping physically distant. If you are interested in coming, please RSVP to Ron Kerchner at thekerchners@msn.com so we know how many to plan for.

Life Before Death

Beebe Healthcare in association with St Martha's Episcopal Church, Bethany Beach, is pleased to announce a special five week program on the topic of Life Before Death (Living a Better Now by Planning Ahead).

This will be an online program. The first four sessions will be livestreamed from Beebe Healthcare and the fifth session will be livestreamed from St Martha's. The recording of each session will also be available for upload after the livestream.

We will offer five consecutive weeks, Saturdays at 10am on 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13 and 3/20. Sessions will run 1.25 hours. Participants will be able to type in questions during the live broadcast. Contact info for follow-up questions will be provided.

Week One – Advance Care Planning

- Completing an Advance Directive
- What are the medical alternatives (CPR, ANH, DNR, DNI, and more)
- Selecting a surrogate decision maker
- Durable Power of Attorney for healthcare
- DNAR, DMOST
- Palliative Care

Week Two – Talking to your loved ones

- Getting ready for the conversation
- Where do you stand on important health decisions
- Who, When, Where, and What to say

Week Three – The Episcopal Church and End of Life

- Burial Services
- Cremation or Burial
- Legal Requirements upon death

- Planning your service
- Obituary Planning

Week Four – Bereavement and more

- Options for care toward end of life (SNIF, Assisted Living, Alzheimer’s care, independent living)
- Grief resources

Week Five- Legal Information

- Organizing essential information
- Choosing an executor
- Delaware law
- Estate Planning (Wills, Trusts, Probate)
- Estate Administration

Further details to follow.

Committee Updates

Outreach

St. Martha’s Outreach continues to distribute Food Lion gift cards and donations each month to five local food pantries. We are also helping a family of five from John Clayton School who all have Covid-19. The parents are unable to work during their quarantine and the family is in need of food.

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 February 19th or 20th, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-940).



I wanted to thank everyone who was able to help with gifts of gratitude in this unusual year. Due to Covid-19 we were only able to have one ingathering in 2020 and we were able to raise \$340 for the 2021 grants.

Every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away in support of innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church. Since their official founding in 1889,

UTO has awarded 5,331 grants for a total of \$140,177,924.73. There are both smaller and larger grants depending on the needs of the ministry.

Thanks to everyone who helped last year as well. As a result of your generosity and the generosity of other congregations, UTO raised over 1.5 million in thank offerings that were distributed in 2020. The following are a sampling of projects we were able to help with last year:

Diocese of Delaware \$47,975

Prayer as a tool for pain management joins faith and medicine to offer a drug-free alternative for pain management. Run by an ordained priest and medical doctor who is well positioned to develop and validate a "Pain and Prayer Scale" which will connect church and academia in an unprecedented way to alleviate pain and suffering.

Diocese of Texas Prison Choir \$2,800

This project provides a way for prisoners to connect with Christ, one another, and experience community through choral music. Starting a choir with incarcerated persons provides inmates with a chance to experience a way to share their God-given gifts in any circumstances.

Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast \$50,000

The Beloved Community Outreach Center of Mobile proclaims the Jubilee year Good News of God's peace and blessing through story-sharing meals, arts, wellness, and worship among those racial, cultural and ethnic groups our church has historically excluded and 10 existing Episcopal congregations in a 9-mile radius of the Midtown Neighborhood.

Diocese of Minnesota in companion with Belize Water to Bless and Build Upon \$101,000

As generous and compassionate neighbors, this grant will construct a 34,000-gallon concrete cistern at Holy Cross Anglican School collecting and storing critically needed water for daily use and provide the structural foundation of a community building providing worship space, classrooms, hurricane shelter, and water to the school and neighborhood in times of crisis.

Diocese of Washington in companion with Masai, Tanzania St. Catherine's Secondary School for Girls \$66,868

St. Catherine's Secondary School for Girls is the first ever boarding school for girls in the Tunduru district of Tanzania. Funding is needed to obtain operational status and open enrollment. Critical projects include: finishing dormitories and classrooms, building of a laboratory, water tank, solar power, toilets, and a matron house.

UTO Coordinator
Bette Wade



Vision Mixer/Videographer

A qualified individual is needed to operate church's audio/video system for livestreaming and recording Sunday services. *This will be a paid position.*

Responsibilities

Operating and maintaining audio/video recording equipment so that professional quality livestreaming and recording are available to the parish. Recording to take place mostly on Sunday mornings, and on other occasions as and when directed by the Rector.

Uploading recording to the St Martha's You Tube channel.

Qualifications

The candidate must:

Be familiar with camera techniques, including still and video, tripods, types of connectors, cables and the like.

Be familiar with Facebook, YouTube and other platforms that may be of interest to the church.

Hours required

Two and a half hours each Sunday morning and at other times when needed.

If you are interested, please contact Father David direct on 302 468 9062
or davidberesford@gmail.com



If you are in Phase 1B and haven't received your first vaccination, [click here](#) to learn about options.

The Division of Public Health recently announced updated plans for administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccinations. [Click here](#) to view the details.

Prayer List

Bev and Jack Shubert, Marie Hogsten, Harry Burlew, Caryn Short, Jodie Gallons, Robert Hicks, Christine Mains, Allison & Carolee, Elsa Fuentes, Elizabeth, Ruth Robson, Carolyn Clarke, Joanne Grant, Ed Kapnic and Craig Brosi

For the recently departed: Pamm Ferris and Shelly Gooch

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 one month 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.

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/>.

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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