

Wednesday Information - March 10, 2021

Identity Politics

Dear friends,

Yesterday I was in the Giant supermarket to buy some groceries, and noticed that certain items were marked as “Women Owned Business” or Black Owned Business.” It was a surprise to see it and I guess that the idea is to influence my purchasing decision, if I want to support those categories of people.

I wince a little as I type the word “categories.” It isn’t how I, as a Christian, think of people. I try to avoid putting people into groups or categories because that only takes away their individual identities. It is the root cause of racism, too, if we separate and categorize. Giant may want to help the minority group and also make the buyer feel good. But on reflection, it comes across as superficial and potentially misleading. For example, what if a black owned business employed mainly white people, or vice versa? Which one would you choose? If my great-grandparent was black, could I claim to own a black-owned business? How would you know if a women-owned business underpaid or mistreated its staff? If they did, would you still want to buy their products?

It’s been a strange week, when Ebay prevented the sale of Dr. Seuss books, but permitted Adolf Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* to continue to be sold. The banning of children’s books took place in the Soviet Union in 1922 - it is concerning that it is happening here as well.

I’m not sure why all this matters in quiet Bethany Beach. The sun is out and the weather is turning warmer, with a hint of Spring in the air. However, the cultural changes taking place around us *do* matter, and will continue to proliferate, unless they are challenged and questioned. The Church is as susceptible as a supermarket to these cultural winds blowing our way.

But for now, there is the more important matter of returning to church. I will shortly be announcing the Holy Week and Easter schedule. For early birds, there will be a 6:00 am Holy Fire and Vigil on Easter morning. Stay tuned for further details. In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming you to St Martha’s for Sunday worship at 9:00 am. (Remember that Daylight Savings begins this weekend - remember to put your clock forward one hour).

With blessings

Father David



Join us as we worship together in person.

*Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 14, 2021
9:00 am - Holy Eucharist*

**If you are unable to worship in person, please join
us as we livestream.**

To view the livestreamed service please click the Youtube link below.



UPCOMING EVENTS

God and Us

Today, Wednesday, **March 10** at 7 pm. “**God and Us**” comprises six online sessions and explores our relationship with God. There will be an opportunity to discuss the course material and the session will end with prayer.

Session Three: **The House of God**

A link to the course material is [here](#).

Contact the office for the Zoom link.

Life Before Death

Saturday, **March 13** at 10 am. Week Four

We continue with the fourth session on Saturday March 13 at 10:00am. Participants need to email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or call Jaclyn at the church office to sign up. Sign up is very important so that we can prepare the handout folder for each person.

Handout material will be in a blue covered file bin located by the red front door of St Martha's. Please make arrangements to pick up your materials that will be used in each session.

Week Four – Bereavement and more

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

This can be viewed through the link provided by Beebe Healthcare

In Person Bible Study

Bible study resumes Tuesday, **March 16** at 1 pm. A study of the Book of Numbers, Chapters 20-33. 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.

Movie Night

We begin a series of regular movie nights in the Church Hall, starting Tuesday, **March 23** at 6:30 pm. Our first movie will be the documentary **What Killed Michael Brown?** a thoughtful, visual essay written and narrated by the race scholar Shelby Steele, which examines the effects of social policies on black communities. This will be followed by a discussion.

Ministerium Prayer Service

A Prayer Service will be held in the Parking Lot of St. George's United Methodist Church on Wednesday, **March 31** @ 12 noon
led by Ocean View Presbyterian Church
(Sound system available, so you may stay in your car. As in past, a free will offering will be accepted to support the less fortunate that Ministerium provides for).



Outreach

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

Outreach is having our diaper drive during the month of March. Donations of diapers (no infant) can be dropped off at St. Martha's or at Wincy Jackson's home: 18 Morgans Turn, Ocean View.



Camp Arrowhead is opening at 50% this summer. Some scholarships are still available. To apply, please contact Jaclyn Hickman at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org to receive a copy of the scholarship form. When form is completed, please send to Josie Legeer at Jlegeer@comcast.net or mail to Josie Legeer 36310 Charleston Dr., Selbyville, DE 19975.

[Camp Arrowhead](#)

Flower Guild

Many thanks to all of you who have donated for Easter Flowers and have designated a person or event you would like to have remembered on that day. Donations will be accepted until Palm Sunday, March 28. Please call or write Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org, or at 302-539-7444.

There are still two Sundays in the near future that do not have designations of remembrance - Palm Sunday, March 28th and April 18th. The Palm Sunday arrangement will be beautiful palms, but without flowers.

Prayer List

Bev and Jack Shubert, Marie Hogsten, Robert Hicks, Christine Mains, Elsa Fuentes, Carolyn Clarke, Keith Smith, Jim Lucas, Jane Robbert, Michael Kilakis, Cathy Jordan, Aiden Custance, Robin Weaver, Sue Mantegna, Maria LaValle, Al Davidson, Ivette, Clari Hernandez and Paul Tarr

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/>.

For the Christian community

*We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbors' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
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