

Wednesday Information - June 9, 2021

Dear friends,

The past seven days have provided us with a mixture of rain and sunshine. One evening last week the sky lit up with lightning flashes, in a sustained display of nature's power and beauty. It reminded me of the hurricane which hit Bethany Beach in the first month of my arrival here. That was strong enough to bring down trees and to cut power to parts of the town.

It's a reminder that human beings are ultimately subject to the power of nature, and in the Bible the chaos of the natural world is a metaphor for our own inability to control the forces around us. In the gospel of Mark, the disciples find themselves in a boat on the sea of Galilee, when a storm comes upon them and threatens to capsize the boat. (4:36-41). Jesus, who was asleep when the storm arose, is woken by the disciples. He gets up and stills the storm.

Jesus uses this event to reproach his followers for their lack of faith. He links their lack of faith to the fear they were experiencing. I can sympathize with the disciples, because I would have acted in the same way; it's natural to feel afraid when you are in situations outside of your control. The interesting detail about the story is that Jesus is asleep when the storm arises. Sometimes when we go about our lives, in our day to day business, we let Jesus go to sleep in our minds. Then, when a crisis comes, we are afraid and have to wake him up in our consciousness.

Jesus saves the disciples from the storm, and saves us too when our own storms come. How much easier it would be for all concerned if we took the trouble to keep a regular mindfulness of God, rather than wait for God to come only when we needed him. The way to do this is by developing a mental pattern of thankfulness - remembering to count your blessings, and thanking God for the true treasures of your life: family, friends and church.

As I mentioned last week, we are seeing the return of summer members to St Martha's, along with some new faces. This is something to be thankful for, and I pray God will continue to bless the church and send new people to share our worship and mission.

Have a blessed week,

Father David

Join us as we worship together in person.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 13, 2021

8:00 am & 10:00 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.



New Guidelines for In Person Worship (May 2021)

We have resumed In-Person Worship. All are welcome to attend, but please note our rules for worship at the current time:

- * All persons who have been vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus are allowed to attend church without the need to wear a mask. All those who are unvaccinated are asked to wear a mask. We will provide masks for anyone who wants one.
- * Entrance to the church will be via the large red doors on the corner of Maplewood St and S. Pennsylvania Ave.
- * Scripture readings are included as separate leaflets. These can be taken when you leave.
- * At the Peace, please remain in place. Do not exchange a physical greeting unless with a family member.
- * A Collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn.
- * Communion will be in one kind only. The priest will wash his hands before distributing communion. Communicants will line up before the altar to receive the host in the palm of their hand. "The doctrine of concomitance upholds the truth that the fullness of communion is available by receiving either the consecrated bread or wine." The Episcopal Dictionary
- * Hand sanitizers will be available in the church.

We appreciate that at the current time many of our members will choose to remain at home. A livestream of the Sunday Holy Eucharist is available on Sunday morning at 10:00 am on our YouTube channel, "St. Martha's Episcopal Church-Bethany Beach, DE".

For links to all online services and events, please contact the office on admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org.

Father David Beresford
Interim Rector
St Martha's Episcopal Church



St. Martha's
Episcopal Church
BOOK SALE

Saturday
July 3, 2021

9 am - 1 pm

117 Maplewood St.

Bethany Beach



UPCOMING EVENTS

In Person Bible Study

Tuesday, **June 15** at 1 pm. Led by Father David. A Study of the Pastoral Epistles- 1 Timothy Chapter 2. Meet in the Parish Hall.

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, **June 15** at 7 pm. Meet in the Parish Hall.

Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be held in the Lighthipe Hall on Wednesday, **June 16** at 9 am. Our guest will be Sgt Patrick Foley, from the Bethany Beach Police Department.

Parish Picnic

Our Parish Picnic this year will be held on Wednesday, **June 16** at 5:00 pm on the beach. Bring your own place setting, beverage and chair. Umbrellas will be provided. A sign up sheet is available in the Parish Hall.

Movie Night

We continue our monthly movie night in the Church Hall, on Tuesday, **June 22** at 6:30 pm. Our next movie will be **Keeping Mum**, starring Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith, Kristin Scott Thomas and Patrick Swayze. A British black comedy.

Book Sale

The long-awaited book sale is finally back! Saturday, **July 3** from 9 am to 1 pm in the Parish Hall. Set up will take place on Friday, **July 2** beginning at 9 am. Clean up will be held Monday, **July 5**. Many volunteers are needed for this event to run smoothly. Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

Committee Corner

What's new this week

Outreach

Summer Literacy Corp offers free reading lessons and books for students in first through fifth grades **June 28-August 5**. For more information contact Alexis Elkins at alexis@summercollab.com

Vision Mixer

We are looking for people to learn the art of mixing our livestream videos. Our aim is to build a team of people who are trained and efficient in operating the video technology every Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Father David or Clem Edgar or send an email to

admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org.



"Make a joyful noise **unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.**" The St. Martha's Adult Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, June 9th. Rehearsals are held from 7:00 – 8:15 pm. All voice parts are needed and welcomed! The ability to read music is not required. Please contact Dave Kemper for more information.



MEETING MINUTES

Vestry - [April](#)

Finance - [May](#)

Outreach - [May](#)

Time To
Celebrate

[June Celebrations](#)

Prayer List

Bev and Jack Shubert, Marie Hogsten, Robert Hicks, Christine Mains, Carolyn Clarke, Jim Lucas, Jane Robbert, Cathy Jordan, Al Davidson, Diane, Barbara Mahoney, Father John Mitchell, Emily Lawson, Pauline, Donald Williams, Harry Burlew, Patricia Austin and Matthew, Madison & Laura Henderson

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/>.

*God of faithful surprises,
Throughout the ages
You have made known your love and power
In unexpected ways and places.
May we daily perceive
The joy and wonder of your abiding presence
And offer our lives in gratitude
For our redemption. Amen.*

Have a wonderful week!

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