



THE ANTIPHON

The Parish Newsletter of
St Matthias' Church, Dallas, Texas

FEBRUARY 2018

Beloved in Christ,

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
Hebrews 10:23-25

I want to begin by saying thank you. It is a real joy for me to be your rector. I give thanks to God daily for our parish. I greatly appreciate your generous love. It is manifested in all sorts of kindnesses, things both said and done. And Karen and I both are quite grateful for the Christmass Purse that Van presented to me on your behalf. Muchisimas gracias!

This year past has been a good one. I want to express my gratitude to Van Neinast for the great help that he has been to me this past year in his capacity as Rector's Warden. I truly appreciate very much his dedication, kindness and wisdom. Van was promised that the Rector's Warden job is the best one in the church... until it isn't. It can't have been too difficult, I trust. I am happy to share that he has agreed to continue serving in that capacity. Likewise, I want to thank all of the members of our Vestry. You all have my profound gratitude. I continue to be grateful for the pleasant and constructive way in which we work together. You are an absolute joy! And that is a testimony to your dedication, faith, and your good humor! As the result of the election that we are accomplishing this morning, Donna Wheeler, Sara Luce, and Bob Priest will be rotating off next week when we commission the new Vestry. The dedication and faithful service of our Vestry go a very long way in making our parish life the very good thing that it is.

The primary purpose of the Church is to worship Almighty God, the Blessed Trinity. With very little exception, just about every day of the year, the public worship of the Triune God occurs here in this place. Supportive of this purpose obviously is the Altar Guild. Last Fall, the leadership of our Altar Guild was passed from Donna Wheeler to Laura Stotz and now Nancy Perrine has stepped up as Assistant Directress. These women especially, but also the rest of the members of the Altar Guild, deserve our thanks.

I am very grateful to Susan Williams for her contribution to our worship life. Susan brings a breath of fresh air and commitment to a high standard of ecclesiastical music. And we are off to good start in building our choir back up.

This past year Fr. Tom Hightower has continued to lend a hand here with us. Fr. Tom has been pulled away for the immediate future by the request of Bishop Iker to help out at his former parish. He has been a real blessing to us, at the altar, in the classroom, and in the pulpit. I am also grateful to Fr. Thomas for his assistance as well. Likewise, in allowing me to have some time off, Fr. John Kalimi has been invaluable. And we have another priest whom you haven't met yet - Fr. Richard Phelps SSC. Fr. Richard retired from many years of faithful ministry as a parish priest in East Chicago, Indiana. You haven't met him yet because he has been recuperating from an injury he sustained last Thanksgiving. Fr. Richard has a sister in town. But he tells me that he is here because of his desire to be a part of our parish life in his retirement. He lives at the Bentley, and as soon as his strength allows, he will be among us regularly. His stated goal is to be able to walk here, hopefully by Ash Wednesday! I am sure that you will greet him warmly.

The other components of our worship team are also essential to the quality of our liturgical life here. They are the Guild of Adult Servers, our lectors, and our acolytes. The members of the guild have my deep gratitude for their dedication and service. And just to be sure that I don't let an opportunity pass - if you are interested in joining the Guild, please speak to me. I want to also express my thanks to David and Dixie Turnbull who have oversight of our acolytes, and thanks also to our young

people who serve and especially the men who have stepped up to fill the vacancies created by those leaving to attend college. A special welcome to our newest acolyte, Etienne Greaves - his debut was just this morning. And I want to thank our lectors and ushers. I especially want to thank Bob Priest for his oversight of the Ushers' ministry - and to welcome Cindi Turnbull into that role. It takes all of us working together to make our worship here the fine thing that it is.

Supportive of the primary purpose, **the secondary purpose of the Church is to make saints** - so that our worship of Almighty God might be as pure and as sincere as we can possibly make it. The process of sanctification involves our ongoing personal daily surrender to the lordship of Jesus, allowing him to shape us more fully into his likeness. And part of that process is our education in the Faith "once and for all delivered to the saints." I want to express my great thanks also to Donna Wheeler for her continued leadership of our Christian Education endeavors, Fr. Tom, and to all of our Sunday School teachers. The opportunities for Christian education here are rich - if you are not currently participating in either the Tuesday evening Classes or the Sunday Morning Class, why not? It is certainly not too late to jump in.

Many thanks are also due to Tommye Marr for her leadership of the Daughters. I want to express my gratitude to both Bob Priest and to Nancy Perrine for accepting my appointment to coordinate our reconstituted Men's and Women's Ministries. Last week we got off to a good start.

Another part of the process of our becoming the saints we were created to be has to do with our relationship to things, specifically to our money. As you have already heard, we were able to adopt a balanced budget for 2018, and we finished 2017 with a surplus. Obviously, the meeting of our budget requires us all to be both **faithful givers** and **careful stewards** of our resources. The tithing (*10%*) is the standard of Christian giving and if you are not there yet, my prayer is that you will continue to move toward that as your level of giving.

The third purpose of the Church is to reach out to the world around us in order to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those who are not

yet Christians, that they might be brought into the Body of Christ - in order to make them saints - so that our worship of Almighty God might be even greater.

In part, we attempt to accomplish that here through the work of our Evangelism commission and the various other parish Outreach efforts - A quick look at the report on pages 15 and 16 of your packet will show you the range of the Outreach efforts of our parish and that they involve a significant portion of our membership. I am grateful to Bob Priest for his leadership of our Outreach Commission in coordinating these efforts. Especially I would like to thank the ladies of our Prayers and Squares ministry and to Nita Hinshaw in particular. The flow of quilts are a tangible expression of love and comfort. And I am very proud of the ministry of our parish to those outside of our congregation.

It has long been a canonical instruction to the clergy to remind our people that they should have a will, and to ask that the church be remembered in your estate planning. So as I do annually, I am making that appeal formal, asking to you to do just that.

This past year, three of our family finished their earthly course: Brit Potter, Jill Harrell, and Nicki Luce. (*And just Saturday, before our meeting, Carl Grimes finished his also.*) May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *And may Light Perpetual shine up on them.* The roster page at the back of your report lists those departures from the parish over the past year.

Our membership is something much more significant than simple affiliation. St. Paul says that we are members one of another. The parish is the local and immediate manifestation of the Body of Christ where we are *“to stir one another up to love and good works”* as Hebrews says, *“encouraging one another.”* Fundamentally, our attention needs to be about just that. Mutual encouragement! We are happy to formally welcome to our parish family Joan Chandler, Katherine Heidt, Betsy Hunt, Nick Vilay, Kerry and Veneshia Crowder and Dusty Hurry. We are very glad that you are here!

Saint Matthew's Gospel ends with what is called **the Great Commission** - Our Lord's parting words to his disciples - *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."*

That's the mission of the Church, to go and to make disciples. It is our mission to grow the Church. We have to intentionally accept the charge that we are **all** to be involved in the business of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Embracing our mission means that we all need to be intentionally looking to invite others we may meet, or know, to come and share what we have here. The Vestry and I are open to providing opportunities to make that possible. And we will be engaging that as we make our annual Vestry conference next week.

The Gospel has always been most effectively spread by one on one contact; by our extending the invitation to those around us. Even if we do nothing, some visitors will come out of curiosity. And the welcome we extend to them must be genuine and deep. Someone new in our midst must know and feel that their participation is valued and that they can have a real share in our common life.

Our heavenly Father has given us something very precious here. It is up to all of us to make sure that we don't hide what we have. It is up to us to see that we share it with those around us who do not know it yet. We need to be sure that we are busy giving what has been given to us **away**. And what that is, is the wonderful experience of the love of God poured out for us. It is the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. With God's blessing and your prayers and faithful witness, we will grow and change in good ways in the year ahead.

To reiterate as I began, it is my honor and joy to serve here as your priest, and I am grateful for your love and love you in return.

God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'The Rev. +', written in a cursive style.

PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet Thursday, February 8th at 6:30pm. We have given over 175 quilts and many prayers to those in need. If you know someone who would benefit from extra prayers and support, please consider a quilt for them. Contact nitahinshaw@aol.com to make a request.



FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Love, Love, Love!

Our February Fellowship Supper will be on **Saturday, February 10th** at the home of Penny Schuchat. Penny and her co-hosts Nancy Gaines and Sandra Hawley are ready to celebrate Valentines' Day, and all the love that brings. In fact, since Valentines' Day falls on Ash Wednesday this year, we will just transfer it to February 10th!

Our hosts ask that you bring the food you love - whether that be a main dish, vegetable, salad or dessert! If you would normally bring a main dish, but really love your dark chocolate brownies with raspberry sauce, bring the brownies!

Penny's address is 3708 Crestpark Drive, Farmers Branch, Texas 75244. The Love-ly dinner starts at 7:00pm! Sign up on the form in the Sunday bulletin. Maps will be available in the narthex the Sunday prior to the event. We hope to see you there!

If your last name begins with

A through H
I through P
Q through Z

Bring either

Vegetable or Main Dish
Dessert or Main Dish
Salad or Main Dish

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Shelter Team: *Captains* Ken & Jackie Martin, Danelle Harris, James Nugent, Dusty Hurry, Gene Polson, Paul & Sharon Walden, Van Neinast, Penelope Schuchat, Nancy Gaines. Team meets at church 4:00pm, Sunday, February 18th.

Sandwich Makers: Team 2 - Nancy Gaines, Penelope Schuchat, Brad & Eileen Sandy, Van & Margaret Neinast, Dusty Hurry, David & Rene Murray, Katy Coggins, Gene Polson, John & Linda Frith, Tommie Ragsdill.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



The Men's Group will be hosting the Annual "Brit Potter" Memorial Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St Matthias' on **Tuesday, February 13th**. Dinner will be served beginning at 6:30pm and is free to all (although we will be accepting "free will offerings.")

By the way, it's a GREAT opportunity to introduce your family, friends and neighbors who may NOT be members of our parish to the wonderfulness of St Matthias'.



NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS beginning February 18th to March 18th

WHAT'S LENT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Instructors: Father Christopher Cantrell, *Rector*

Each year we keep the season of Lent with great devotion. Where did it come from? Does everyone keep it the same way? What are some of the varying Lenten practices throughout Christendom? What is Lent for? We'll take a look at these and other questions surrounding one of the most significant seasons in the Church Year.

SAVE LIVES, – GIVE BLOOD LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Every day, close to 800 patients in North, Central and East Texas require timely blood transfusions. YOU can help. St Matthias' will be holding our Lenten blood drive on **Saturday, March 3rd from 9:00am to 1:00pm** in the parking lot in front of the Church. It is very quick and convenient (each person has an assigned time).

Chef Larry Magruder will prepare a *sumptuous* breakfast for all donors so you even get a free (terrific) breakfast. (Just ask former donors – the breakfast is GREAT!) Your fellow Parishioners will be soliciting volunteers on Sunday, February 18th and February 25th. You can even sign up on-line; we will send around a link that takes you directly to the St Matthias sign-up area at Carter's website. Please! give. If you have any questions, can't wait to sign-up or want to help, please call Jim Nugent at 972-980-6949 or e-mail him at jimcnugent@outlook.com.