



THE ANTIPHON

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

FEBRUARY 2019

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

Let me start 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 Christmas Purse that Van presented to me on your behalf. Many, many thanks!!

This year past has been a good one. I want to express my gratitude to Van 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, wisdom, and his friendship. 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! Van, Susan McQueen, and Don Conley will be rotating off next month 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. I am happy to announce that Jack Stotz has agreed to accept my appointment as Rector's Warden in 2019.

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, quite obviously, is the Altar Guild. Last Fall, the leadership of our Altar Guild was passed from Laura Stotz to Nancy Perrine, and now, Donna Wheeler has stepped up as Assistant Directress. These women especially, but also the rest of the members of the Altar Guild, deserve our thanks.

As you know Susan Williams resigned her position as our Parish Musician on the Feast of the Epiphany just a few weeks ago. I am currently involved in searching for her successor. Happily our singers Lisa Wells and Da'On Hinton have continued on with us. I am very grateful to them.

This past year Fr. Tom Hightower has continued to lend a hand here with us as he has been able. He has been a real blessing to us, at the altar, in the classroom, and in the pulpit. Likewise, in allowing me to have some time off, Fr. John Kalimi has been invaluable. As his role at our cathedral has recently changed, we may actually see him here with us on Sundays from time to time. And in the past year, we have welcomed another priest who has been a blessing - Fr. Richard Phelps SSC. He lives at the Bentley, and as his strength allows, he is among us and has assisted in hearing Confessions. I am grateful for his assistance and friendship.

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 to the men who have stepped up to fill the vacancies created by those leaving to attend college. Thank you also to our lectors and ushers. I especially want to thank Cindi Turnbull for her oversight of the Ushers' ministry. 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, to 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 Virginia Wallace for accepting my appointment to coordinate our Men's and Women's Ministries.

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 2019. We did end last year with a deficit, Van outlined the reasons for that. As our expenditures were actually less than we had budgeted, our shortfall was due entirely to a shortfall in pledged contributions. The meeting of our budget requires all of us to be both **faithful givers** and **careful stewards** of our resources. It is vital that we all do what we can to honor our stewardship declarations. If your circumstances change, affecting your giving, you need to be sure to communicate that to our Stewardship officer so that the Vestry can make the necessary adjustments. The tithe (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 14 through 17 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 very grateful to Randy

Hinshaw 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 is 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 is a canonical instruction to the clergy of our diocese to remind our people that they should have a will. We are directed to ask that the church be remembered in your estate planning. At the very least, we should make it known to the executors of our estate that if possible, we desire to fulfill the financial pledge that we have made for the current year. So as I do annually, I am making that appeal formal, asking you to make some provision for your parish family. We continue to be immensely blessed by the financial provision that Patsy McClellan made for us through the foundation she established.

This past year, three of our families finished their earthly course: Maggie Rever, Carl Grimes, and Elaine Warren. And in addition to them, Darrel Berres, Bob Caster, and Jean Duncan were also buried from our parish. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. And may Light Perpetual shine upon them.* The roster page at the back of your report lists all 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!!

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 are 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 certainly open to providing opportunities to make that possible. And we will be engaging that topic as we make our annual Vestry conference in a couple of weeks.

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 I love you in return.

God bless you all,



A MATTER OF BALANCE - MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS CLASS



This is a program endorsed by the National Council on Aging and we are pleased to offer it free at St Matthias.

Beginning Tuesday, February 5th, and every Tuesday and Thursday during the month of February with the last class ending Thursday, February 28th. The class is from 10:00am to 12:00 Noon in the Great Hall. Please contact Ida Perryman at 972-661-5117 if you have any questions.

FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

When? Saturday, February 9th, at 7:00pm

Where? In the St Matthias' Great Hall

Hosts? Donna Wheeler and Ida Perryman

Theme? Ancestry.food

Whether or not you've taken a DNA test or signed up with a service such as Ancestry.com, you have a heritage. Let's celebrate our diverse backgrounds by bringing a dish that either represents...

- your heritage (for example, if you're Italian you might bring spaghetti and meatballs),
- the heritage you'd like to be (if you don't know your heritage or you just wish you were something else, bring food that reflects what you wish you were), OR
- the fact that you're an American (go with your favorite all-American food, like Bluebell ice cream)

Please make your reservation by completing the form in the Sunday bulletin.



PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet Thursday, February 14th at 6:30pm in Duncan Hall. We have given almost 200 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.



MEN'S GROUP WHEELCHAIR RAMP BUILD

The Men's Group is going to build a wheelchair ramp with Dallas Ramps on Saturday, February 16th. This is a great opportunity to spend a half a day and make a profound difference in someone's life. Dallas Ramps makes it possible for disadvantaged people to have the ability to enter and leave their home.

We will meet at the Dallas Ramps warehouse at 7:00am to load up the truck, and caravan to the location of the build. We'll have an experienced leader who will show us how to build the ramp, and most projects wrap up in the early afternoon. Please plan to stay until the project is complete. Bring an electric drill if you have one, and water. We need at least 10 people to make the build go quickly, and this is a good opportunity to bring a friend along as well. Complete the tear off sheet in the Sunday bulletin or contact Van Neinst for more information.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Shelter Team: *Captains* Ken & Jackie Martin, Danelle Harris, James Nugent, Andrew Martin, Gene Polson, Karen Cantrell, Van Neinast, Penelope Schuchat, Nancy Gaines. Team meets at church 4:00pm, Sunday, February 17th.

Sandwich Makers: Team 2 - Nancy Gaines, Penelope Schuchat, Jackie Martin, Van & Margaret Neinast, Dusty Hurry, David & Rene Murray, Karen Cantrell, Gene Polson, Donald Montgomery.



NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

beginning February 24th to March 31st

MYSTERIES OF THE APOSTOLIC AGE: PART II

Instructor: Father Christopher Cantrell, *Rector*

We continue the look begun in the first part of the class at what happened during the first hundred years of the Church's life. This is part two of a two-part class.



WOMEN OF ST MATTHIAS'

Join us for a pot luck meal and planning session for the remainder of the year scheduled for Monday, February 18th in the Great Hall. We will begin gathering at 6:00pm, eat at 6:30pm, then have our meeting. So that we know how many women to expect, please make your reservation by completing the form in the Sunday bulletin.



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, March 5th**. 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'.



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 16th 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, March 3rd and March 10th. 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.