

Smatterings

Saint Matthew's
Episcopal Church
January 2018

Apologies: Due to the holidays, pastoral care needs, people out of town, and many of us ill, the *sMATTERings* is a week late and in a rather abbreviated form.



Greg Staab

Our Dear Friends of St. Matthew's

Happy New Year you all! With the 2018 Commitment to Community Stewardship completed, we are looking forward to a New Year at St. Matthew's!

Thank you to everyone for your thoughtfulness and generosity in completing and returning your Commitment Cards on time. We were delighted to see everyone's covenant of "time, talent, and treasure" to one another and the St. Matt's community. We saw many new names sign up to participate in Sunday services roles – thank you! This is truly a good sign of a strong and vital congregation. We also saw many of you sign up for the two new opportunities to participate in our spiritual community – Prayer Warrior and Personal Spiritual Growth. More information to come on these soon.

From a financial covenant perspective, we are also delighted at how you responded. Earlier in the year when we initiated our Stewardship planning, we set a goal based on a projection on how pledges would finish out in 2017. We were pleased to see that we met that goal! This is truly significant as the Vestry will follow the Strategic Plan that was developed in 2016 and sets its sights on planning for 2018.

As a brief recap, the Strategic Plan was developed in the first half of 2016 by the Vestry after hearing from the congregation in the previous fall during the SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) discussions. Two

main themes became obvious from those discussions: quality spiritual growth within the congregation and a greater presence with the community that surrounds us. At the time, we were in transition with our spiritual leadership. For health reasons, Father Mark had to leave us and we had a rotation of visiting clergy until January 2016 when Father Frank was assigned to us for a three-year stint as our part-time Priest-in-charge.

In mid-2016, using the Strategic Plan, and Father Frank's leadership, the Vestry developed a vision that would set a course for planning and decision making for future Vestries and spiritual leaders. That vision became: *"As disciples of Jesus, we aspire to open our hearts to the community. With love for God and neighbor, we offer restoring, caring hands to send forth the Good News to all with passion and determination."*

In early 2017, following this vision and the Strategic Plan, the Vestry set one of its goals to be the employment of a full-time priest in 2018. This wasn't because we had one before and we deserve one now, but we knew that as a congregation, and as a strong and vital spiritual community, we had much more to offer the community that surrounds us. We knew, and saw, that a part-time priest is limited in his/her time to form valued external relationships, attend community meetings, and to be involved with outside groups that could lend a greater

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presence for us and will lend ourselves to opportunities to better serve those who live outside our walls.

In planning for 2018, the Vestry and along with the Treasurer, have carefully considered a budget that incorporates the salary for a full-time priest at mid-year. Using the 2018 pledge numbers, we anticipate an overall budget deficit of \$12,433. As we considered this deficit we have looked at the various funds we have on our balance sheet. We have over \$67,000 in various accounts. Some of these are designated for specific purposes and should be only considered for those purposes. However, we have \$39,577 in both the Centennial Fund and the Founder's Fund alone. The intent of these funds was designed to sustain the growth and vitality of the St. Matthew's Community. We want to propose a plan that as the year goes by in 2018, and if pledges stay as anticipated, we feel we could draw on these accounts to make the general fund whole. In proposing this we know this as only a short-term solution. A longer-term solution and goal would be for our congregation to grow so we have the resources to sustain this goal. As we considered this proposition, it was the proverbial "chicken/egg" conundrum. Ultimately, in order to meet our vision and goals, we feel like we need to invest in the future today, and we believe a full-time priest would help make this become a longer-term solution.

Throughout our discussions, we also considered the alternative - continue down our current path of employing a part-time priest and doing what we can do with these risks.

Lastly, and certainly not least, we want to recognize that we have been and are blessed to have several new members who have joined us recently. We feel that your presence has given us more energy to pursue our goals and meet our vision. During our Community Day celebration this past fall, a phrase caught on that embraces the current vibe of our congregation, "Come Grow With Us!" We want to embrace this phrase and put the right pieces into place for the future.

These are our thoughts and our proposal to you as a congregation. Now we want to hear from you on how you feel about this. We are sure there will be many questions. We are open to further discussion in the weeks to come and at the Annual Meeting on January 29th. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Respectfully,

Greg Staab, Rector's Warden

Jeff Weir, People's Warden

Natalie Weir, Treasurer

Reports

VESTRY

Vestry has December meeting

Vestry Members Present: Natalie Palmer, Celeste Sheets-Eaton, Phil Sowders, Greg Staab, Jeff Weir, Angie Wilkinson. Priest-in-Charge Frank Impicciche and Vestry Clerk Dale Caldwell were also present.

Vestry Members Absent: none

Fr. Frank opened the meeting with reflections & prayer

Report from Fr. Frank

* Fr. Frank met with a representative from Grace House (a group home for women dealing with 'life-controlling issues') and found that St. Matt's might not be the best fit.

*He will meet with a representative of Community Health Network Faith Health Initiative to see what relationship St. Matt's might have with them.

*Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis – an organization that helps "children and their caregivers who face homelessness." Celeste will research what their vision/process is.

*He spoke with the two main counselors of Hope Counseling about the timeline of their future.

*Fr. Frank suggested putting together a short video of members talking about St. Matthew's.

*Shared new diocesan motto - "Bold witness.

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Radical hospitality.” Mission innovative grants are available. The initiative must be in partnership with groups outside of the church walls.

Approval of the Minutes from the November Meeting: moved by Angie Wilkinson, seconded Phil Sowders. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

- *People's Warden Report
- *Rectory Preparation - many issues discovered beyond general cleaning. Mold remediation will be done tomorrow (12/19) with 24-hour waiting time before occupation.
- *Greg Staab presented a 2018 Stewardship Update - there are many new pledges along with an excellent response to the time & talent portion of the Com

- ment Card. Pledges received exceed set goal.
- *Fr. Frank would like to explore setting up online giving.
- *Discussed 2018 budget options were fully explored.
- *Discussion: 2018 Vestry Candidate Nominations – Angie is cycling off the vestry. Two members will be joining as the Class of 2020 which will make a total of seven vestry members (the Class of 2018 is comprised of three members).

New Business

- *The date of the Annual Meeting was set for January 28 following 10 a.m. Worship.
- *Vestry Retreat was scheduled for February 10 with the location and time-frame to be determined.

The meeting was closed with prayer of thanksgiving.

Christian Education

Sunday School/Adult Forum resumes

This past Sunday, we resumed the 9:00am Sunday School/Adult Forum. We continue to make our way through The Book of Common Prayer. Please consider joining this growing group!

Announcements

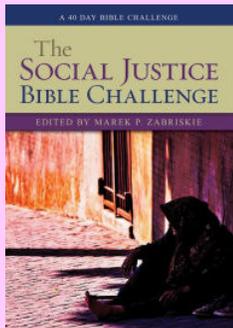
Save the Date

Sunday, January 28, 2018



St. Matthew's 101st Annual Parish Meeting

COMING IN LENT



Join us at 9:00am for Adult Forum/Sunday School

The Social Justice Bible Challenge is an extension of the Bible Challenge—an initiative encouraging daily reading of the Bible.

During the Sundays of Lent, we will reflect on topics such as poverty, hunger, displacement, and care of the vulnerable as we read a variety of spiritual leaders and writers.

The Social Justice Bible Challenge will help us bridge the gap between knowing the Bible and living it! Come and be a part of this Lenten discipline this year.

Remember:

Please sign up for Coffee Hour
Bring some of your favorite pastry and fix the coffee. Thank you.



The next **Wednesday Pitch-In** will be on **Wednesday, January 31** following the 10am service. Come join the fun. Bring whatever; there's no set menu.



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Thursday, January 25 is the **deadline** for sending in any calendar events, meeting dates and times, articles, and announcements for the February issue of *sMATTERings*.

REMINDER:

The Altar Guild will meet Saturday, January 13 from 10am—12 noon

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- January 6 Catherine Ellis
- January 7 Matt Wilkinson
- January 9 Phil Leswing
- January 9 Benjamin Robbins
- January 18 Lee Ervin
- January 23 Kelly Swain-Leswing
- January 25 Landon Leswing
- January 26 George Kirkendall
- January 27 Greg Staab



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- January 21 Jon and Robin Robbins



The Book, Yarn, & Prayer group's next meeting will be February 5 at 7:00pm We will finish discussing the book *Origin*.

The title of the book we will be reading for the March meeting is *When Breath Becomes Air*. The Indianapolis Public Library has many copies in hardback, large type, CD - Audio book and even in Spanish.

Keep those needles, hooks, whatever going. Our little box in the narthex has some lovely items in it.

Happenings



Singing Christmas Carols with St. Matthew's musicians on Wednesday morning December 27, 2017



Advent IV children's sermon

Advent IV



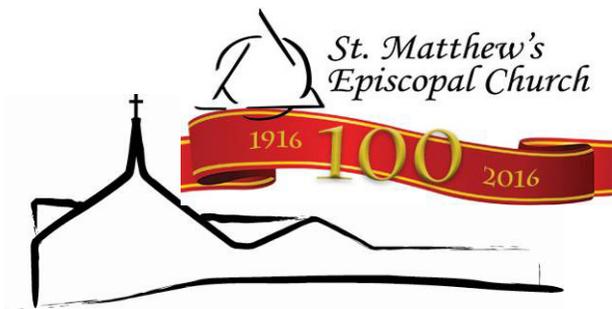
Christmas Eve 2017



Sunday Ministry Schedule January 2018

Ministry Schedule	January	January	January	January	February
	7	14	21	28	4
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
	Epiphany 1 / Baptism of Je-	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Epiphany 4	Epiphany 5
Lectors	Phil Sowders	Vicki Mansfield	Steve Albrecht	Andy Wilkinson	Scout
	Missy Ellis	Crystal Black	Natalie Weir	Joe Hauptmann	Scout
Intercessor	Jennifer Albrecht	Jeff Weir	Vicki Mansfield	Missy Ellis	Jeff Higbie
Chalice	Andy Wilkinson	Joe Weaver	Bonnie Godfrey	Elaine Mattson	Tom Higbie
Crucifer/	Bonnie Godfrey	Jon Robbins	Cody Lock	Brayton Leswing	Andy Wilkinson
Ushers	Joe Weaver	Jan Higbie	Andy Wilkinson	Nancy McFarland	Scout
	Jeff Higbie	Tom Higbie	Angie Wilkinson	Bonnie Godfrey	Scout
Oblations	Suzanne Kissling	Missy Ellis	Natalie Palmer	Joe Weaver	Scout
	Vicki Mansfield	Greg Staab	Denyse Palmer	Celeste Sheets-	Scout
Counters	Angie Wilkinson	Andy Wilkinson	Joe Hauptmann	Jennifer Albrecht	Missy Ellis
	Julie Hauptmann	Zella Rosene	Greg Staab	Natalie Palmer	Jon Robbins
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and advise the Parish Office. Thank you.



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Smatterings

January 2018

Formatting and editing: Esther Weaver,
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The Revd Frank Impicciche, *Priest-in-Charge*
Dale Caldwell, *Parish Administrator*
Crystal Black, *Hand Bell Choir Director*
Dale Caldwell, *Organist/Choirmaster*

Services

- Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00am
- Wednesdays : Holy Eucharist 10:00am

Nursery available on Sundays starting at 9:45
Parish Office Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 8am-1pm, Wed. 8am-2pm

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The mission of St. Matthew's is
"to restore all people to unity with God and each
other in Christ."

We do this through worship of God,
education of ourselves and our children,
care for each other and outreach to others,
sharing faith stores with others,
and caring for all our resources (our time, treasure,
and talents).

Smatterings is published monthly except in the summer.

The deadline is the 15th of the month for the following
month's publication.