

Smatterings

Saint Matthew's
Episcopal Church
March 2020



Fr. Frank Impicicche

Hospitality: More than just the friendly entertainment of guests!

One of the most frequent descriptions that I hear (and have heard) about St. Matthew's is that it is a place of remarkable hospitality. As we continue to discern the results from our recent Appreciative Inquiry session, I have been sitting with this word, "hospitality" and reflecting on its deeper theological meaning.

I find myself in agreement with much of the literature about church growth that every church thinks of itself as friendly. But this kind of friendliness is rooted in the history and relationships of the people who attend and are members. For example, friendliness in a church might be an outgrowth of having raised children together or having sustained friendships over the years of attending church volunteering in various activities. While it is often a wonderful feeling to come to church to see old friends or make new ones, friendliness, in and of itself, is not transformative and does not possess enough "umff" for vitality and growth.

Sometimes we can conflate words like "friendliness" and "hospitality" when trying to describe the sense of warmth and acceptance one might feel in a congregation. But there is an important difference between a "friendly" church and a church that strives for hospitality. Friendliness is about the people who are already "within" the congregation. But hospitality is about the next person who walks through our doors. Hospitality is something beyond showing friendly behavior like a handshake, or a smile, or holding the door for someone. While these are good and important actions borne out of Christ-like attitudes, hospitality has more intention and purpose behind it. When we strive to be hospitable, we might be thinking of questions like, "How did that person find our church?" "Where did they park?" "How did they know where to go?" "Do they even want to shake hands with a stranger?"

Hospitality is biblically rooted. It is a virtue which reminds us of the care for strangers and visitors. Biblical hospitality includes such images as the foot washing of visitors and the kiss of peace. In the New Testament, Jesus said that those who welcome strangers, welcomes him. In the 53rd Chapter of the Rule of St. Benedict "all guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ." RB 53:1

Guests are like Christ for us to receive, and in them Christ is received. Further in the Rule St. Benedict instructs his monks to pray with guests and to read the Holy Scriptures with them and to sit with them and eat with them. The challenge for us spiritually is to always remember that, while it is good and enjoyable to create new friendships, an essential part of our actions in the church is done because we come here to seek and worship God and form ourselves as fellow disciples.

We can practice hospitality in a variety of ways. For example, we can consider the ways we are intentional about our physical space and signage, or our relationship to the neighborhoods and communities around us. How does our website and social media footprint invite and inform others about who we are and who we are striving to be? How do we orient and incorporate newcomers to St. Matthew's? Are there inroads to becoming more involved in the life and ministry of the congregation? I hope these questions

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will help fuel your own reflections and help generate new ideas about how we can grow in our ability to “welcome Christ as we welcome guests” at St. Matthew’s.

In the end, hospitality is about meeting, welcoming, listening to, and loving people in the way that Jesus loves us. It is the

willingness to share and to discern together what God has given us to do. It is an attitude of stewardship and lies at the center of what it means to be disciples and to make disciples of others. I am excited to see what God is up to at St. Matthew’s in giving us the gift of hospitality!



Fr. Ben Wyatt

Pathway Ponderings

I write to you all with a keen awareness that this will be my last newsletter article. As you know, my job requires me to rotate between parishes every eight months, and somehow my eight months at St. Matthew’s have come and gone in a flash.

In those eight months, your Pathways team has done a lot of hard, discerning work around what the vitality of St. Matt’s is. Your feedback at our appreciative inquiry in November was a crucial component of that discernment, and I want to again express my gratitude to all of you for being such generous and enthusiastic participants. As we reviewed the stories that we had heard, one theme emerged over and over again: hospitality. We often talk about the welcome we feel at St. Matt’s, and welcome is part of hospitality! But what we value about St. Matt’s goes deeper than being welcomed at the door. We value the kindness and generosity of spirit that St. Matt’s shows – how we are allowed to be vulnerable and sad with each other, and how folks here are not afraid to show the imperfect or painful parts of their lives to each other. We don’t just tolerate each other’s presence in the pews, we delight in it! We sit with newcomers just because we’re so pleased to see them there. We link hands with them at the Lord’s Prayer and make nametags for them – because they aren’t strangers anymore. They are part of the family. We love the spirit of this place, and we want to share our physical space with others who can benefit from it.

Several of you have remarked that St. Matt’s has a special something about it that is hard to put into words – you know it’s here, but you have a hard time naming it. I think that your commitment to hospitality, in the broad and spiritual sense of the term, is a large part of that special something that makes you so vital.

As the Pathways team has thought about how to deepen and improve our hospitality, a theme has emerged: “No Story Untold, No Space Unshared.” This project has two parts. The first – “No Story Untold” – is about taking our relationships with our fellow parishioners to the next level of depth. Many of us marveled at the stories we heard our fellow parishioners tell about their life and faith at the appreciative inquiry. I have been privileged to hear many of your stories as I have gotten coffee

with you all over my time at St. Matt’s. Everyone has a story, and at St. Matt’s, everyone’s story matters. So what would it look like to normalize telling those deep stories with each other? The team is working out the logistics of this, but the broad idea is to do something like NPR’s Story Corps – a compassionate interviewer speaks with the storyteller to uncover the powerful stories that we all have. There may even be a place for some audience Q&A at coffee hour!

The second part of the Pathways project – “No Space Unshared” – relates to our building. We are rightly proud of our space, and especially our commercial kitchen on the lower level. We already share our space with many community groups: the eleven vendors who use our kitchen, Hope Counseling Center, Templo, the Boy Scouts, and more! Yet on an average day, most of our space, especially on the downstairs level, is empty. We believe there are other groups in our community that could benefit from our space, just as we would benefit from their presence. Identifying those groups, however, is a challenge. So the Pathways team will be putting together grant applications to retain the services of a space optimization consultant who can think with us creatively about how to use our buildings to best serve our neighbors.

I am thrilled to have been a part of your discernment of this project. I believe this project is authentic to the spirit of St. Matt’s, and I am confident that it will bear fruit in your life together for many years to come. Beyond the auspices of the Pathways program, I just want to say how grateful I am for my eight months at St. Matt’s. You all have been so generous in opening your hearts and minds to me, even knowing that I was only with you for a short time. Thank you for having me as a celebrant, preacher, teacher, and catchy-slogan-generator among you. I am eternally grateful for the privilege.

When I walked into St. Matt’s on the first Sunday of August, I looked out at a room full of friendly but unfamiliar faces. Now, when I look at all of you every Sunday, I see a congregation full of kind, faithful people whose stories I have rejoiced to hear, whose ministry I have been blessed

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Reports

VESTRY

Vestry holds retreat

Steve Albrecht, Senior Warden

The Vestry held a retreat on February 15 at Saint Matthew's. We were joined by Deacon Cathy Scott of Holy Family Episcopal Church who led the Vestry in a discussion centered on questions stemming from a reading from Exodus 3: 1 – 5:

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush: he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Members of the Vestry used this scripture to reflect on a series of questions that fostered discussion on what is God asking me to do at Saint Matthew's, what is God up to with me and what is God up to at Saint Matthew's? In addition, each Vestry member took time to walk throughout the building and reflect on the "holy" spaces of Saint Matthew's. During this time Vestry members contemplated how these spaces are currently used and what future opportunities may exist.

Later in the day Father Frank led a discussion focused on the vision statement of Saint Matthew's and how each member of the Vestry sees themselves as individuals and as Vestry members fulfilling the vision statement, which is as follows:

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.

Throughout the meeting the Vestry spent time getting to know one another better and discussed the upcoming year. The next meeting of the Vestry is March 16 at 7:00 PM.

January 2020 Financial Review

Year to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Total Receipts	\$32,001	\$20,575	\$11,426
Total Disbursements	\$21,875	\$20,575	(\$1,396)
		\$10,126	

The higher than normal amount of receipts for January is due to the benefit of a some of parishioners paying their full year pledge in January.

OUTREACH

Second Sunday Pantry Drive for COME and ICAN is this Sunday, March 8.

Please continue to help St. Matt's to help stock several neighborhood shelters pantries on the far east side. Thank you all for helping. Please bring your items to the church on Sunday or no later than Wednesday, March 11.



As you are able, please consider giving to ICAN with canned soups and warm clothing and possibly financial assistance. You can mail personal checks made out to ICAN C/O IAM and mail to ICAN, c/o Emerson Ave. Baptist Church, 308 N. Emerson Ave. Indianapolis,

IN46219 or you can give on line at: <http://rally.org/ICAN>.



This month COME is in need of donations of laundry detergent, paper towels, dish soap, and toilet paper.

The main office is at Irvington United Methodist Church, 30 N. Audubon. It is open Mon./Tues./Thurs. 9:30-11:30am.

The Clothing is located at Emerson Ave. Baptist Church, 308 N. Emerson Tues. 1-3pm and Fri. 10-11:30am. (317)322 -9645

E-Team Updates

The E-Team will be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Forum meets

Join us **Sunday mornings at 9am** in the upstairs conference room.

Series: January 12—February 16
We are studying the Lesser Known Saints

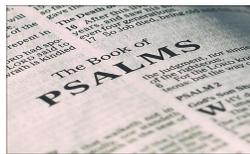
All are Welcome

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP
The Men's prayer Group will be meeting on the third Tuesday, at 6 p.m. This group is open to all men.

Adult Education meets

This group will meet the **first Tuesday** of every month from **6:00-7:30pm**.

Lead by Father Frank, the series will study the Psalms and how they can guide us along our spiritual journeys.



IRVINGTON AREA CHURCHES ANNUAL LENTEN PRAYER AND SOUP SUPPER

Soup Supper 6pm Worship 7pm

Wednesday, March 4

Irvington United Methodist Church
Rev. Bob Heimach, preaching
Irvington Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, March 11

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Trey Flowers, preaching
Pastor of Downey Avenue Christian Church

Wednesday, March 18

Irvington Presbyterian Church
Fr. Rick Ginther, preaching
Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, March 25

Downey Avenue Christian Church
The Rev. Justin Thornburgh, preaching
Pastor of Emerson Avenue Baptist Church

Wednesday, April 1

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
The Rev. Barb Dahl preaching
Pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Announcements



Sunday, **March 8 Daylight Saving Time will begin.** Please remember to set your clocks **ahead** when you go to bed on Saturday evening.

Friday, March 27 is the **deadline** for sending in any events, meeting dates and times, articles, etc. for the April issue of **sMATTERings**.

The next **Wednesday Pitch-In** will be on **Wednesday, February 26** following the 10 am service. Come join the fun.



March Birthdays

March 7	Kaye Palmer
March 14	Joe Weaver
March 15	Jessica Weir
March 16	Denny Krauser



March Anniversaries

March 3	Jeff and Natalie Weir
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Remember: Please sign up for Coffee Hour. Thank you.



Cont. from page 2

to partake in, and whom I will sorely, deeply miss when this month is done. My consolation is that, as Michael W. Smith sang:

And friends are friends forever

If the Lord's the lord of them

And a friend will not say "never,"

Because the welcome will not end.

Though it's hard to let you go,

In the Father's hands we know

That a lifetime's not too long

To live as friends.

I am sure I will see you all again – either at diocesan events, or around Indianapolis, or on an odd Sunday in the future. Until then, the God who brought us together will hold us close, and my love and my prayers will stay with you always. God bless you all. Fr. Ben

May your blessings outnumber
The shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you
wherever you go.

An Irish Blessing
Happy St. Patrick's Day



Sunday Ministry Schedule March 2020

Ministry Schedule	March	March	March	March	March	April
	1	8	15	22	29	5
	10:00 AM Lent 1	10:00 AM Lent 2	10:00 AM Lent 3	10:00 AM Lent 4	10:00 AM Lent 5	10:00 AM Palm Sunday
Lectors	Dale Caldwell	Crystal Black	Marla Davenport	Mark Carpenter	Natalie Weir	Vicki Mansfield
	Ron Iacocca	Steve Albrecht	Linda Sykes	Suzanne Kissling	Missy Ellis	Andy Wilkinson
Intercessor	Suzanne Kissling	Elaine Mattson	Joan Porter	Linda Sykes	Joe Weaver	Natalie Weir
Chalice	Bonnie Godfrey	Terry Kee	Cody Pucillo	Lee Ann Kee	Chuck Jones	Suzanne Kissling
Crucifer/ Server	Joe Weaver	Cody Pucillo	Brayton Leswing	Devon Teague	Andy Wilkinson	Chuck Jones
Ushers	Andy Wilkinson	Jeff Weir	Missy Ellis	Natalie Palmer	Melissa Kleine	Jennifer Albrecht
	Angie Wilkinson	Natalie Weir	Greg Staab	Denyse Palmer	Vicki Mansfield	Joe Weaver
Oblations	Vicki Mansfield	Joe Weaver	Natalie Palmer	Missy Ellis	Natalie Weir	Leswing
	Melissa Kleine	Jennifer Albrecht	Denyse Palmer	Greg Staab	Jeff Weir	family
Counters	Natalie Palmer	Jon Robbins	Andy Wilkinson	Greg Staab	Julie Hauptmann	Jennifer Albrecht
	Missy Ellis	Linda Sykes	Steve Albrecht	Angie Wilkinson	Zella Rosene	Natalie Palmer
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 1

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

Coming Events



Robert Bolyard, Artistic Director
Brenda Iacocca, Managing Director

<http://voceindy.org>
Carmel, IN

ROAD TO RESURRECTION

music of hope and wholeness

featuring Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* and
works by Purcell, Rheinberger, Paulus, and Hogan

Presented by VOCE
Special guest: Erica Rubis, *viola da gamba*

Sunday, March 15th 3:00pm
reception to follow
St. Francis In-The-Fields
Episcopal Church
1525 Mulberry Street,
Zionsville, IN 46077

Sunday, March 22nd 4:00pm
reception to follow
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
8320 E 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Free will offering



sfz SFORZANDO
CONCERT SERIES
ST FRANCIS IN-THE-FIELDS • ZIONSVILLE

St. Matthew's
Episcopal Church
8320 E 10th St
Indianapolis, IN 46219
Open Hearts and Caring Hands

St. Francis In-The-Fields
EPISCOPAL CHURCH • ZIONSVILLE, IN

You are cordially invited to

Episcopal Women's Ministries Spring Luncheon

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6050 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Times:

- * Registration: 10:30am
- Eucharist: 11:00am
- Luncheon: 12:00pm
- Program 1:00pm

Program:

*Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, as speaker

* Recognition of Honored Women of the Diocese of Indianapolis

TO REGISTER ONLINE

Use the following link to register and pay with a credit card. <http://bit.ly/EWM2020Lunch>

Registration fee is \$20

Registration deadline is March 24, 2020.

Register for the luncheon by filling out and mailing the registration form with your check. Upon receiving your registration and check, a letter will be mailed/e-mailed to you as your receipt. If you have questions, contact Erinna VanDever at 317-926-5454/vanderer@indydio.org or Lisa Matucheski at 317-777-5142<jmatuche@sbcglobla.net>

A CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION TO REGISTER BY MAIL

Make checks payable to Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis
Detach and mail to:

Episcopal Women's Ministries ATT. Erinna VanDever
Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis
1100 W 42nd Street #235
Indianapolis, IN 46208



Registration Form



Name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Parish

Phone

E-mail Address

Special Needs

Dietary Restrict Circle one

Gluten-free

Vegetarian

Honoring Women of our Diocese

Once again, the Episcopal Women's Ministries Council (EWM) of the Diocese of Indianapolis will be choosing one of the Honored Women of our diocese to represent us as Distinguished Woman from our diocese. She will be listed among the other Distinguished Women from all 9 provinces in the Episcopal Church at the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Triennial Meeting in Baltimore, MD during the General Convention next year. We encourage your parish to participate.

Your EWM Council is asking each parish to submit one name of an Honored Woman. **Fr. Frank is asking each of you to consider submitting one name of a woman from St. Matthew's that you would like to nominate for the Honored Woman for EWM. This should be a person who gives so much of herself to the parish, community and world. The deadline for submissions to Fr. Frank is March 15, 2020.**

The Council will honor the woman chosen by you, who gives so much of herself to the parish, community and world. The Honored Woman from each parish will be invited to the EWM Spring Luncheon and will be our guest. If your Honored Woman is unable to attend, she will still be acknowledged at the luncheon. The Spring Luncheon is on Saturday, April 18, 2020, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. All women of the church are invited to attend the luncheon to celebrate each other and the Honored Woman from their parish. Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows will be joining us for our time together to celebrate the contributions of all women of our diocese.

Soon after the luncheon, the EWM Council will select one of the nominees to be recognized as the Distinguished Woman for the Diocese of Indianapolis. The Distinguished Woman and the Diocese will be notified in a letter. Later in the year, her name and biography will be submitted by the EWM Council to the National ECW Triennial Committee to be published in a booklet and her name announced in a ceremony at the Distinguished Woman Luncheon during the Triennial Meeting in July 2021. She will also be recognized at the Diocesan Convention in the fall of 2021.

Address questions to: Bev Ruebeck – phone 317-490-3212; email: beverlyruebeck@gmail.com Lisa Matucheski – phone 317-777-5142; email: jmatuche@sbcglobal.net

Happenings

Sunday, February 9 was Scout Sunday at St. Matthew's



On Shrove Tuesday the Scouts provided a pancake supper for St. Matthew's. The price of the dinner was a donation to ICAN or COME.



I nominate _____ as the Honored Woman for EWM from St. Matthew's.

Please fill in the blank and give this to Fr. Frank. Thank you.



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<http://www.stmattsindy.org>

Parish E-mail office@stmattsindy.org

Priest-in-Charge E-mail frfrank@stmattsindy.org

Smatterings

March 2020

Formatting and editing: Esther Weaver

Photos by: Alex Picillo, Esther Weaver

St. Matthew's clergy and staff:

The Revd Frank Impicciche, *Rector*
Dale Caldwell, *Parish Administrator*
Crystal Black, *Hand Bell Choir Director*
Dale Caldwell, *Organist/Choirmaster*

Services

- Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite II
8:00am and 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.

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