



## The Widow's Mite St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter

MARCH 2024



Dear Ones of St. Matthew's,

As you receive this Newsletter, we will be approaching the Third Sunday in Lent, and as it is my practice to add a devotional study to my personal piety during the Lenten Season, I wanted to share with you the devotion from *Drawn to the Cross* that is assigned to 3 Lent. It is from Henri Nouwen, and I trust that it will touch you. The title is *Faithful Forever*.

*Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. ~ Joshua 1:9*

"Please, Lord, keep calling me back to you, by day and by night, in joy and in sadness, during moments of success and moments of failure. Never let me leave you. I know you walk with me. Help me walk with you today, tomorrow and always." (Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Heart Speaks to Heart*, 29)

Our devotions this week focus on our Faithful Lord. Henri Nouwen's prayer is poignant for our Faithful Lord to keep us Faithful in our daily walk with Him. And God does! In times of spiritual stumbling, Jesus calls us to repentance, assuring us of God's unlimited forgiveness. In moments of weakness and failure, God empowers us to be strong and courageous. In times of success and egotism, God calls us to humble ourselves and give God glory. And if we are tempted to leave God and stray from God's Word and Worship, God calls us back to God's self with a heart of love that is longing to welcome us home.

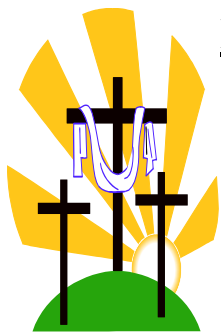
But that's not all. When we are overwhelmed by loneliness and despair, our Lord is always there to uplift us and sustain us, until the dark clouds pass by. And if we are ever frightened or dismayed by what the future may bring, be assured that the One Who is "the same yesterday and today and forever" will "never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:8, 5)

Faithful Lord, I thank You for Your sure promise that You will be with me wherever I go. Keep me faithful to You, no matter what may come my way. Amen

**THERE WILL BE TWO SUNDAY SERVICES ON EASTER DAY: 8:30am & 11:00am.**

**THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>,**

**FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY.**



## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

*The Daughters of the King are offering Compline every Monday during Lent at 8:00pm in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.*

**March 28 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm**

**March 29 – Good Friday, 7:00pm**

**March 30 – Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil 8:00pm**

**April 1 – Easter Day, 8:30am & 11:00am** (no evening service)

**April 2 – Easter Holiday – church closed**

## **ASSOCIATE’S ACCOUNT:**

Lent is a season of confession, and confession, I want you to consider, is just one form of storytelling. When we think back at the end of a day and narrate where we saw God and where we failed to see God; when we come together with the Body of Christ to collectively confess our sins with words written by our ancestor storytellers; and when we share with each other the deeply personal, specific stories of our journeys with Jesus; we participate in God’s creative act. Storytelling is at its heart an act of creativity. So, this Lent, consider your lives and confess your sins. Tell God’s story by telling your story and know that you are being caught up in the creative act of the God who made the stars, the God who created and creates life from death.

Lenten blessings, friends!

-Fr. Dillon+

## **Men’s Fellowship Opportunities**

**WING & A PRAYER** men’s fellowship & prayer group, will meet this month on Tuesdays, **March 5<sup>th</sup> & March 26<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm at Crickets in Madison. Meetings are every three weeks. **All men are welcome.**

**MEN’S BREAKFAST** is every **Tuesday, 7:00am** at St. Matthew’s. **All men are welcome.**



## **ECW news** by *Melissa Barton, President*

Thank you to all that participated in our Fundraiser/ bunco game night last month. All funds collected benefited the “Lift Up the vulnerable”.

Some of the upcoming events this year will be a Tea on April 13<sup>th</sup>, a DAR Presentation/ ice cream social on July 14<sup>th</sup>, and of course, our Annual Rummage sale the first weekend of November.

We have regular ECW meetings almost every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in Gruman Hall at 10:30. All women of the church are invited to join us.

**ALTAR FLOWERS AND BREAD & WINE:** sign up lists for 2024 have been posted in the hallway on the worship bulletin board. Cost to provide altar flowers for a Sunday service is \$45 per arrangement. Cost to provide bread & wine is at your discretion. Please sign up to give these in honor or in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a special event. Make check payable to St. Matthew’s and note that it is for altar flowers or for bread & wine. Your help is appreciated!

## **MARCH READINGS**

### **Mar 3 – Lent 3**

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 2:18-25

John 2:13-22

### **MAR 10 – Lent 4**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

### **Mar 17 – Lent 5**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 52:1-13

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

### **Mar 24 – Palm Sun**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1—15:47

### **Mar 31 - Easter**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18



# GOD AT THE OSCARS!

Cameras create with light and darkness, so there's no better time to talk about film than during Lent, a season in which we contemplate the darkness of sin inside us as we await the light of Christ's Resurrection. This year's Oscar nominees for Best Picture, full of complicated themes and people, are perfect for reflecting on sin's impact on us and on our society. Come at 6:00 pm to Gruman Hall on Feb. 15, 22, 29, and March 7, bring your favorite dish to share, and make this a part of your Lenten discipline!



**CURSILLO REUNION GROUPS – Please contact the church office and let us know the day/time of your weekly meeting and the space in which you prefer to meet - so we can get be sure that space is reserved for you. THANK YOU!**

**BELOVED COMMUNITY – SPECIAL EVENT!!!** *by Katie Sewell*

**Come hear the Reverend Bude Van Dyke!** *(a former Associate Priest at St. Matthew's!)*

**Sunday, April 21st, after the 5:00 service, in Gruman Hall.**

The Rev Bude is an Episcopal priest who currently serves at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Decatur. He's also a singer/songwriter with a strong connection to his Cherokee roots. In addition, he offers spiritual direction, especially for addiction recovery. He has previously served as chaplain at St. Andrew's School in Sewanee and an Associate Priest at St. Matthew's.

**Please bring a dish to share and a warm welcome for Rev Bude.**

## Youth Group News

By: Jann Eich  
Youth Director

The EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) is a group open to all teens! We have a Jr. EYC group for grades 6th through 8th and the Sr. EYC which includes teens in 9th through 12th grade. Sunday School will be in the Amy West House-across the parking lot from the church. Both groups meet in the 2nd room on the right.

HS Seniors-The 2024 class will be recognized and presented on April 28th at the 11 o'clock service. We will have brunch at 10 a.m. Sunday School time in the Amy West House, parents are welcome to join! If you know a HS Senior that isn't listed, please let me know asap. Each Sr is asked to turn in a baby picture, a formal or casual picture and a paragraph of what St. Matthew's means to you. Please send it to me via email no later than April 1st (not fooling;)



Collin Bagwell  
Loralei Mueller

Will Cassell  
Maeghan Kelleher

Carmen Cruz  
Faith Williams

Lillie Hartley

- Spring Break-March 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> Pizza With the Padre 5:30-7 pm Amy West House
- Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> Meet at Top Golf a 5:30 pm Event 6-8pm. RSVP
- Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Hide Easter Eggs/Pizza for lunch meet in Gruman Hall
- Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter: No Sunday School-Help with Easter Egg Hunt

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

By Lee Ann Mack

### Lenten Study Continues

Philip Yancey's "Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?"

Sundays: Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. in the Christian Education Bldg.

Fr. Chris, Fr. Dillon and Deacon Lynn will lead this year's study. In these sessions, you will benefit fully through discussions, Bible exploration, personal sharing and group prayer. The goal is to help you more fully consider, experience and cherish the priceless gift of prayer. The best part is you'll be encouraged to pray the way Jesus himself prayed – as if your prayers make a

difference, as if God is there and is listening ... to you.

### Lenten Ladies' Bible Study Continues

"The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" Thursday mornings, 9:30, in Gruman Hall.

Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.

### Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held at St. Matthew's this year the first part of June. We will again share in the fun with Messiah Lutheran Church. This will be for children 4 years old through completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. More information coming soon.

### Lent Madness

We will continue Lent Madness all during Lent. It's a great way to learn about the saints and it's just plain fun! March Madness, but Better! This helps people connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process!

Then you can see how your vote compares to Episcopalians around the country. Make sure to vote!!!

For more information, check out [www.lentmadness.com](http://www.lentmadness.com)



### Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00!

All children through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate. There will be over 1000 eggs, so bring your basket and get ready to search!!!



# Musical Musings by Tom Killian

*[My sincere thanks to Susan Fletcher, our organist, for penning this month's Musical Musings column. — Tom Killian, Music Director]*

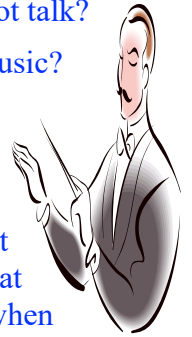
I have a question for you: What happens inside our brain when we sing a hymn?

First let's look at some more basic questions:

Why do advertisers pay big bucks to have often idiotic advertising claims set to music?

How is it possible that some victims of dementia can sing but cannot talk?

And what on earth does all this have anything to do with church music?



Most of us flatter ourselves that we are pretty much immune to advertising claims. Even the most credulous of us have built-in censors which keep us from automatically believing every word blaring from radio or TV. Let's test this assumption. Try saying out loud some phrase from a current musical commercial jingle. Your built-in censor warns you not to believe what you just heard. The problem is, you had to actually speak the words – divorce the words from the music, at least in your head - for your censor to kick in. You may not have consciously believed the words when you heard this jingle, but you didn't discard them out of hand, either. Those words are still kicking around in your brain somewhere. The advertiser is counting on it. They know from experience that those words kicking around in enough brains are going to improve their bottom line.

It appears that the brain centers which are active in processing speech are different from those that process music, even when that music includes words. So sometimes a person whose dementia prevents them from talking can still sing. As we see from the above example with the advertising jingle, this difference appears to apply to the listener as well as the singer.

Music is an excellent tool for brain-washing. You see this especially in stirring up patriotic fervor by authoritarian governments. The words sneak in under the radar. The words of our hymns have been carefully edited by the Church Publishing editors to allow us to take them into our hearts without having to examine the truth of each verse. The hymns help us give voice to our faith, our hopes and our beliefs. Often the words will come back to us years later, to strengthen, inspire or console us.

## PRAYER NEEDS:

*Please pray for St. Matthews's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit: Norm Smith, Bill Byrd, Chuck Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, George & Sandra Burgess, Ray & Shirley White, Canellia Patterson, David Osmond, Colleen Turner, Dick Pendleton, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, the King family, Mary Travers, Eric & Mel Seemann, Marie Lutz, Josie Cooper, Anne Sullivan,*

*Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, David Lawrence, Rebecca Franz, Maurice Hale, Jack Brown, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Tyron Newton, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Maurice Hale, Scott Martin, Lynn Beasley, Diane Loehr, Pamela Muery, Roberta Anderson, Janice Combs, Sande Smith, Brenda Kirkendall, Janet Wetzell, Daryl Carpenter, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Charles Bernhard, Marie Lutz, Kathy Montgomery. Also pray for our friends and family members, especially: Nancy Laws, Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Samantha Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jack Cooper, Michael & Nancy Laws, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Vaughn Cassell, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, family of Madison Gilbert, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Jessica Goodwin, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Bob & Peggy Wagner, Nancy Ford, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Sherry Sampson, Kate Winkler, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Ronnie Paul Rodriguez, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Phyllis Massiah, Felicia Temple.*

## March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Closed KENYA MISSION	2 KENYA MISSION
<b>3</b> KENYA MISSION  8:30/11:00/5:00 HE  10:00am Lenten Prog  2:30pm GriefShare	<b>4</b> KENYA MISSION  2:30 Reunion  5:00pm BSA  6:00pm EFM  6:30pm Bells  8pm Compline	<b>5</b> KENYA MISSION  7:00am Men's Breakfast  9:30 Reunion  6:00pm Vestry WG  6:00pm Wing & A Prayer	<b>6</b> KENYA MISSION  10:00am STAFF  11:00 Reunion  12:00pm HE  6:00pm Theology By The Slice  6:30pm Choir  6:30pm Strategic Planning	<b>7</b> KENYA MISSION  9:30am Ladies Bible Study  6:00pm God At The Oscars	<b>8</b> Church Closed  KENYA MISSION	<b>9</b> KENYA MISSION
<b>10</b> KENYA MISSION  8:30/11:00/5:00 HE  10:00am Lenten Prog  12:30pm DOK  2:30pm GriefShare	<b>11</b> 9:00am Sewing Sisters  2:30 Reunion  5:00pm BSA  6:00pm EFM  6:30pm Bells  8pm Compline	<b>12</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast  9:30 Reunion	<b>13</b> 10:30am ECW  11:00 Reunion  12:00pm HE  6:30pm Choir	<b>14</b>  9am Heart & Soil  9:30am Ladies Bible Study  4:00pm Madison Quilters	<b>15</b> Church Closed	<b>16</b>  9am Heart & Soil
<b>17</b> 8:30/11:00/5:00 HE  10:00am Lenten Prog  2:30pm GriefShare	<b>18</b> 2:30 Reunion  5:00pm BSA  6:00pm EFM  6:30pm Bells  8pm Compline	<b>19</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast  9:30 Reunion  6:30pm Vestry Meeting	<b>20</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  11:00 Reunion  12:00pm HE  5:00pm Endowment  5:30pm EYC Pizza w/ Padre  6:30pm Choir	<b>21</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study  6:30pm Community Engagement	<b>22</b> Church Closed  5:30pm EYC Top Golf	<b>23</b>
<b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b>  8:30/11:00/5:00 HE  10:00am CE  12:30pm DOK  2:30pm GriefShare	<b>25</b> 2:30 Reunion  5:00pm BSA  6:00pm EFM  6:30pm Bells  8pm Compline	<b>26</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast  9:30 Reunion  5:00 DAR  6:00pm Wing & A Prayer  6:00pm Security Team  6:30pm Choir	<b>27</b> 11:00 Reunion  12:00pm HE  6:00pm Tennebrae @ St. Timothy's	<b>28 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>  9:30am Ladies Bible Study  7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>29 GOOD FRIDAY</b>  12:00pm Stations of the Cross  7:00pm Good Friday Service	<b>30 HOLY SATURDAY</b>  10:00am EYC Egg Hiding & Pizza  8:00pm Easter Vigil Service
<b>31 EASTER DAY</b> 8:30am/11:00am HE 10am CE Egg Hunt	EASTER HOLIDAY – church closed	1				

Contact Cathy in the church office to reserve a meeting space. All meetings must be scheduled and will be placed on the church calendar once the space is reserved. **THANK YOU!**

**MARCH 2024**  
***St. Matthew's Worship Team Schedule***

	<b>MAR 3</b>	<b>MAR 10</b>	<b>MAR 17</b>	<b>MAR 24</b>	<b>MAR 31</b>
<b>VOD</b>	Ed	Diane	Rick	Gloria	Miranda
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cape/Carpenter	Hamilton/Bagwell	Glasgow/Lane	Combs/Gruman	Buzby/Carpenter
	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>	<b>8:30 Servers:</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
<b>Hospitality</b>	K Hicks	G Boyd	J Turner	M Couch	T Sampson
<b>Ushers</b>	Prince/Stagner	Sampson/Driesbach	Buzby/Carpenter	Prince/Stagner	Sampson/Driesbach
<b>Lector</b>	B Carpenter	A Williams	J Burch	B Buzby	T Clem
<b>Epistoler</b>	B Pope	T Sampson	A Modrall	M Pezzula	J Hawkins
<b>Intercessor</b>	D Carpenter	J Glasgow	W Christopher	B Williams	A Turner
<b>LEMs</b>	R Centanni	J Glasgow	W Christopher	T Christopher	TBD
<b>Counters</b>	Tidwell/Driesbach	Mack/Cooper	Christopher/Lewis	Cechovic/Modrall	Tidwell/Driesbach
<b>Acolytes</b>	S Bruce E Bruce C Pezzula M Pezzula	A Maddox E Maddox	A Maddox E Maddox	L Hartley E Bruce C Pezzula A Wales	S Bruce F Williams C Pezzula M Pezzula
	<b>11:00 Servers:</b>	<b>11:00 Servers:</b>	<b>11:00 Servers:</b>	<b>11:00 Servers:</b>	<b>11:00 Servers:</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
<b>Hospitality</b>	P Klasing	M Brown	D Kleinjung	M Pezzula	Weimer
<b>Ushers</b>	Barton/Snell	Utt/Utt	Weaver/Harrison	Anderson/Cassell	Sampson/Beasley
<b>Lector</b>	A Coiner	L Lanier	J Bishop	J Salmon	P Marques
<b>Epistoler</b>	M Harrison	A Utt	J Anderson	B Womack	S Peterson
<b>Intercessor</b>	A Hartley	C Lanier	P McGraw	J Hubbard	D Lawrence
<b>LEMs</b>	J Bishop	J Vaughn	K Barr	A Hartley	TBD
<b>Counters</b>	Harrison/Cox	Barton/Coiner	Bishop/Monroe	Harrison/Keary	Cox/Coiner
<b>Acolytes</b>	M Collier V Mullins B Watson B Mullins	C Beech C Bagwell A Utt N Rassmusen	L Hartley V Mullins B Mullins	J Nixon A Utt M Collier B Watson	L Hartley M Collier B Watson N Rassmusen

**If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, please find a replacement.**  
**Your service is a valuable ministry to St. Matthew's.**