



THE ANTIPHON

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

JULY/AUGUST 2017

Beloved in Christ,

With the passing of the solstice, Summer is now officially upon us. And I have just had the distinct pleasure of leading the Twelfth Annual Saint Michael's Conference Southwest. It was another amazing week with a great crew of 75 young Michaelites. Out of a total community of 99 gathered, some 72 persons made their Sacramental Confession during the week. The famous Russian saint, Seraphim of Sarov is often quoted as saying, "Repent, and thousands around you will be saved." More precisely, what he said was, "Acquire the Spirit of Peace and thousands of souls around you will be saved." But it is easily argued that the acquisition of the aforementioned Spirit will only happen through repentance. The miracle of Saint Mike's is the Peace of God, made manifest to those participating. It changes lives. It has changed mine and I know it has changed the lives of others involved. I thank God for this blessing. And I very much appreciate you letting me take the time that it takes to lead this effort.

I want to challenge you to look for opportunities to invite someone to come to church with you. There is no question that our neighborhoods are full of folks who do not know what they are missing; a vital relationship with Our Lord and his Church. There is universal agreement that the most effective method of evangelism is a person-to-person connection. And you and I are called to be ambassadors for Christ. That can happen simply by asking someone if they go to church. If they say "No," then there is your opportunity to make an invitation. But if you don't ask the question, it will not happen. And if you do make the overture, the worst that can happen is that they will turn you down - but, even then, you will have made the offer, and in the process, you will have discovered that you can.

Our outing to the Rough Riders' game on May 31st was great fun. We had a pretty good-sized group turn out. The game could not have gone better, and we could not have had a nicer night for being at the ballpark.

The first of the new season's Fellowship Dinners was also very fine. The Vestry Beach Party was brilliant. And, by the way, a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Van, Jack and the Vestry! In July we will be gathering at Great Hall the second Saturday of the month (7/8) again for our Fellowship Dinner - This is yet another opportunity for you to invite someone new into our parish life.

And by all reports the Dallas Bus trip was a fine time. Several people remarked to me that they learned all sorts of things about our city of which they had no idea. And it was great fun! Many thanks to Robyn Priest for organizing the outing.



So you may well be wondering about this cartoon. Some bishop with an umbrella.... so what's the point? He is **Saint Swithun**, known most commonly in the Anglican world as the patron of that mythical parish, Saint Swithun's-in-the-Swamp. A famous Anglican saint indeed.

Saint Swithun was the saintly Saxon bishop of Winchester in England from 852 until his death in 862. He was buried, as

he had requested to be, in the cemetery near his cathedral - where he could be "trodden and rained upon". In 971 his remains were moved into the cathedral on **July 15th** (*against his expressed wishes!*). The day was marked by the occurrence of quite a few miraculous cures, as well as the fine outpouring of a gully-washing, frog-strangler of a rainstorm. Because of that, the tradition grew up of invoking Saint Swithun against drought.

The tradition also came to be that if it rained on Saint Swithun's Day, July 15th, you could expect 40 days of wet weather. I can well imagine the possibility of that being much more realistic in Merrye Olde England than in Texas, but one can always hope.

The old rhyme goes like this:

*'St. Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St. Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.'*

Bishop Swithun's real virtue lay in what he accomplished as a bishop. During his episcopate, he became known for generous charitable giving and for his missionary zeal. Many churches were founded in the Diocese of Winchester during his tenure as bishop.

So, in July, remember to enlist the aid of a powerful intercessor, Saint Swithun of Winchester, for "good" weather, to motivate our generous outreach, and to stimulate our dedication to the spread of the Gospel in the building up of the Church.

And that's just July - so stay tuned!

God bless you all,

JULY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Come join us on **Saturday, July 8th, 7:00pm** for a good old fashioned Barn Raisin' and Quilting Bee. But since the barn (Great Hall) is already "raised" and the quilts are already made, we'll just get together and enjoy some good old down-home food like grandma used to make. Prayers and Squares Ministry is hosting the July 8th Fellowship Dinner. Bring your favorite recipe that grandma would be proud of!

If you are so inclined, you may bring a bottle of wine or some beer to enjoy with dinner. Please remember, only beer or wine is allowed at the church.

We hope to see you there - Saturday, July 8th, 7:00pm in the Great Hall. Please sign up on the form in the Sunday bulletin.

<u>If your last name begins with</u>	<u>Bring either</u>
A through H	Vegetable or Main Dish
I through P	Salad or Main Dish
Q through Z	Dessert or Main Dish



PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

In **July**, the Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet Thursday, July 13th at 6:30pm and Friday, July 14th at 9:30am. In **August**, we will meet Thursday, August 10th at 6:30pm and Friday, August 11th at 9:30am. Please come to one or both meetings in each month. We have given over 165 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.

JULY COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Shelter Team: *Captains* William & Tommye Marr, Kristen Beller, Danelle Harris, Randall & Suzanne Jackson, Ida Perryman, Lori Luckey, John & Laura Stotz, Nancy Perrine. Team meets at church 4:00pm, **Sunday, July 16th.**

Sandwich Makers: Team 3 - Ida Perryman, Randall & Suzanne Jackson, Robert & Robyn Priest, Lori Luckey, Randall & Nita Hinshaw, Donald Montgomery, Jason Hinshaw, William & Tommye Marr, Patricia Haney.



AUGUST COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Shelter Team: *Captains* Raymond & Cynthia Turnbull, Danelle Harris, Timothy & Abigail Harwood, Patrick & Megan McGehee, Christopher & Savannah Brown, David & Dixie Turnbull. Team meets at church 4:00pm, **Sunday, August 20th.**

Sandwich Makers: Team 4 - Patricia Goodwin, Patrick & Megan McGehee, James & Deborah Nugent, Susan McQueen, David & Dixie Turnbull, Donna Wheeler, Savannah Brown, Niesa Page, Raymond & Cynthia Turnbull, Tiffany Wright.



“THANK YOU” FROM TRUE AWAKENING

During this difficult year of rising food prices in Malawi and challenges in donations, we can't begin to tell you how much help the Lenten Offering has been to True Awakening. We continue to be encouraged by our Diocesan partner, Bishop Magangani to feed more children and we are close to getting the resources to commit to another 24,000 meals of the fortified porridge Lakuna Phali.

You can continue helping all year if you sign up with Amazon Smiles designating True Awakening as your preferred charity. That way, True Awakening gets a small percentage of your qualified Amazon purchases.

So a great big heartfelt thanks to everyone who sacrificed in order to contribute to the Lenten offering. Your sacrifice will put food into the mouth of a hungry child!

Bob and Robyn Priest



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LENDING LIBRARY

We're calling this a lending library until we find a better name. What we are setting up is an opportunity for the members of St Matthias' and their families to take advantage of medical equipment that is not needed by the owner. We currently have a wheel chair, a walker, a kneeling scooter, a set of crutches and a bed wedge. We are currently accepting donations. You will not lose ownership of what you put in the library. When you need it, you can have it back, until then, other parishioners will be able to use it. The item will be checked out like a library book with a return date based on your needs. Contact Bob Priest for donations or to check out an item.



**OH BOY! SPAGHETTI DAYS
FOR AUSTIN STREET CENTER!
Mark your calendars now!!**

On **Saturday, August 12th, 6:30pm**, we will be enjoying a tasty spaghetti meal as part of the St Matthias' Annual Austin Street Center (ASC) Dinner and Fund Raiser. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Cynthia Olson, Director of Advancement, at Austin Street Center.

The Austin Street Center in downtown Dallas is about changing one life at a time, providing emergency shelter and services to over 400 homeless men, women and children each day. The ASC mission statement is simple:

- When no love is expected, give it.
- When no sense of personal value is felt, offer it.
- Where there is a lack of respect given, provide it.

Each day these individuals find shelter, pastoral care, warm meals, medical care, clean clothes and hot showers at ASC. Additionally, ASC provides psychological counseling, work readiness programs, substance abuse counseling and voluntary Bible study and worship services.

All of these services and programs are offered free of charge to the clients of ASC. And here is an important fact: ASC does not accept state or federal funds. The Center is fully funded and supported by corporate and private donations and foundations.

On the third Sunday of each month a team of volunteers meets at the church and prepares a hot meal. This hot meal, along with hundreds of sandwiches prepared by another group of dedicated volunteers, is delivered to the Center and served to the evening's guests. St. Matthias has supported the Center for ALMOST 30 YEARS through our hot meal and sandwich ministry. Not many organizations can make that claim! Please join us and enjoy the food and fellowship.

SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Tour of Tables Luncheon Noon - Saturday, September 30th

We are happy to share that the ever popular Women's Luncheon is coming back this year. For those of you who remember these luncheons, some things will be new and different about the luncheon and some things will be just like before.

New and Different – We have a guest speaker lined up to give us an inspirational talk. This year we are proud to announce that the speaker is Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley. Additionally, the lunch will be prepared and/or catered and therefore you will not have to bring a covered dish. Since we won't be bringing recipes, we won't have the recipe booklet that we have received in the past.

Just like before – Our favorite part of the luncheon is all the beautifully decorated tables. We have parishioners who volunteer to decorate the tables with their selected theme.

So this is what we need from you! We need you to start thinking about being a table hostess as this is what makes the luncheon so special. We will have helpers that can deliver your goods to the church for you, so please don't let that be a deterrent.

Be ready to RSVP along with any guests you wish to bring (\$15 per person). Your RSVP is very important as this is how we determine how many people are needed to hostess the tables. Without a headcount, we really can't get started.

Thanks so much! More will be following this first announcement. Hope you can all join us for this very special ladies' event.