



# St Matthias' Musings

*Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2014/15*

## **Across the Rector's Desk**

“Come, O Lord and set us free” – an Advent hymn

Free from what?

At one time church people would have had a ready answer: from sin and despair.

Sin has rather fallen out of our society's lexicon. There are churches that never mention sin because it is off-putting, the whole idea gets in the way of entertainment, getting younger folks to come and stay. And yet we don't have to look very far to see what sin looks like in our modern world: “Adult entertainment” is a billion dollar industry; girls and boys, young women are sold as sex slaves having been bought from their families or kidnapped or received false promises of work. The daily news offers example after example of sin: greed, violence, and apathy. The prophets of old would have no difficulty recognizing the kind of evil that they warned Israel and Judah was happening: “they did not do what was right in the sight of God”. Obviously we need a saviour because we cannot do what is right on our own.

We could despair of making any change in our society or in our own lives, give up and let the world “go to hell in a hand basket”. And some churches do just that. There is no need to work for justice because the end of time and judgment day are near and the more depraved the society gets the closer we are. We need a saviour to give us hope.

We believe that God entered human reality to bridge the gap between God and us, a reality regardless of how that occurred. We believe that in the relationship we have with Jesus God becomes a part of our lives. And, yes, we believe that Christ will come again.

Each Advent season is a reminder of what we are supposed to be doing: expecting a new experience of Jesus in Christmas and actively waiting for his return by preparing the way through acts of love, justice and peace.

## **Advent's Dream**

*We are fallen from grace  
All of us  
In this sweet, broken world.  
This Advent morning is frost  
And feathers strewn  
On the faded grass,  
The spatter of blood  
All that is left of the hawk's  
Hunger,  
It is just nature, we say,  
But still the remnant  
Of Cain's ancient folly:  
The stain of red,  
The mark of Eden lost.  
It is our signature,  
The old hatred haunting us,  
The rivalry of brothers,  
The loves we have lost,  
All jealousy and judgment,  
Our history told in war on war,  
Our young strewn like feathers  
For ever and ever  
On earth's frosted ground.  
But something saves us--  
A fierce and smiling thing,  
Jesse's root growing in the ashes.  
It is a dream that will not die,  
Though we may:  
The wolf and lamb will lie down,  
Our little child will play  
Where serpents coil.  
Maybe today  
Or someday.  
This dream may save us.*

*Timothy Haut 2010*

## Wardens Report

During the time of Remembrance Day, let us be aware of what we have and what we have enjoyed as a people. It is important that, as a church and a community we give God thanks for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us.

We are currently nearing the Christmas Season at an astonishing speed and our offerings remain the same. It is important to make a special consideration for your Christmas gift to St Matthias.

One amenity that has been addressed is the ladies washroom. At Vestry we received a request to replace the existing toilet with a taller, more adult sized one; this has now been done. In due time, the inoperable windows will be fixed. We have the contractor but are waiting for parts. The situation concerning the light bulbs in the church has also been addressed as we have found a reseller who stocks light bulbs in the appropriate size and wattage.

It is imperative we maintain focus when it comes to the town hall meeting. St. Matthias has been blessed to have the services of Rev. Fran and which path we choose to follow for our ministry must be our decision.

## Stress Busters

1. Pray
2. *Go to bed on time.*
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. *Say "No" to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.*
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. *Simplify and unclutter your life.*
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. *Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.*
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. *Take one day at a time.*
11. Separate worries from concerns.

If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.

12. *Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.*

13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.

14. *K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.*

15. Do something for the Kid in You everyday.

16. *Carry a book with you to read while waiting in line.*

17. Get enough rest.

18. *Eat right.*

19. Get organized so everything has its place.

20. *Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.*

21. Write down thoughts and inspirations.

22. *Every day, find time to be alone.*

23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud.

Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.

24. *Make friends with Godly people.*

25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.

26. *Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you God."*

27. Laugh.

28. *Laugh some more!*

29. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.

30. *Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).*

31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).

32. *Sit on your ego.*

33. Talk less; listen more.

34. *Slow down.*

35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.

36. *Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.*

I especially like #14.

## Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated the mother spotted an old friend in the audience and walked down to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "No Admittance".

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing. Suddenly the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive piano on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

At that moment the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep Playing" Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the bass part. Soon his right hand reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the master played. Only the classic Twinkle, Twinkle....

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However with the hand of the master, our life's work can be truly beautiful.

The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing".

Remember, God doesn't seem to call the equipped, rather he equips the 'called'. Life is more accurately measured by the lives we touch than by the things we acquire.

## Coming Attractions

### Outreach Potluck

For Ingles House and Youth Without Shelter  
Sunday December 7  
Following the 10 am service

### Special Vestry

Sunday December 14  
Following the 10am service

### Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols

Sunday December 21 10am

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist

Wednesday December 24 7pm

### Potluck

Sunday January 11  
Following the 10am service

### Book Club

January 23, 2015 10am  
[A Short History of Women](#)  
By Kate Walbert

### Card Party

Wednesday January 28 7:30pm  
Tea, Coffee, Goodies, 50/50 draw  
All for only \$5:00

### Shrove Tuesday Pancakes on Sunday

Sunday February 15  
Following the 10am service

### Ash Wednesday Service

Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist  
Wednesday February 18 7pm

### Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday February 22  
Following the 10am service

### Card Party

Wednesday February 25 7:30pm  
Tea, Coffee, Goodies, 50/50 draw  
All for only \$5:00

## Up-Coming Services

**November 30** 10am  
*Advent 1*  
Choral Eucharist

**December 7** 10am  
*Advent 2*  
Choral Eucharist

**December 14** 10am  
*Advent 3*  
Choral Eucharist

**December 21** 10am  
*Advent 4*



**December 24** 7pm



**Christmas Eve**  
Candlelight Eucharist

**December 29** 10am  
*Christmas 1*  
Holy Eucharist



**January 4** 10am  
*The Epiphany*  
Choral Eucharist

**January 11** 10am  
*The Baptism of the Lord*  
Choral Eucharist

**January 18** 10am  
*Epiphany 2*  
Choral Eucharist

**January 25** 10am  
*Epiphany 3*  
Choral Eucharist

**February 1** 10am  
*Epiphany 4*  
Choral Eucharist

**February 8** 10am  
*Epiphany 5*  
Choral Eucharist

**February 15** 10am  
*Last Sunday after Epiphany*  
Choral Eucharist

**February 18** 7pm  
*Ash Wednesday*



Imposition of Ashes and  
Holy Eucharist.

**February 22** 10am  
*Lent 1*  
Choral Eucharist