

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Vestry

Rob Alexander—Senior Warden (2013)

Lincoln Lirette (2012)

Mike Niette—Junior Warden (2012)

Julio Medina (2011)

Karen Chauvin— Secretary (2013)

Pearl Moss (2013)

Lee Stiel—Treasurer (2011)

Joan Pustka (2012)

JoAnn Caillouet (2012)

Albert “Lou” Waters (2011)

Martha Lynn Lewis (2011)

Tom Weed (2013)

St. Matthew's Episcopal
Church and School
243 Barrow Street
P.O. Box 568
Houma, Louisiana
70361-0568
www.stmattshouma.org

St. Matthew's
Episcopal Church
Houma, Louisiana
70361-0568
Return Service
Requested

The Reverend Craig Dalferes, Rector

Reflections...

March, 2010

On Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6)

I'm sure most folks remember the Broadway musical, “Fiddler on the Roof.” I remember seeing the play years ago at a dinner theater in Baton Rouge, and later I watched the movie on more than one occasion. The central character, you'll remember, is Tevye who is a milkman. He is a devout Jew who also happens to be the father of five daughters. Needless to say he has plenty of drama in his life!

One of the most memorable aspects of Tevye's character is that he prays all the time. I remember in one scene his great lament at not being a wealthy man: “Would it spoil some vast eternal plan,” he groans to God, “if I were a wealthy man?” All throughout, as the story unfolds, Tevye is talking to God, fussing at God, questioning God, and thanking God. For Tevye, prayer is about like breathing. It's just something he does naturally.

I think this is probably the way it should be when we pray. Although we probably can't get away with singing our prayers in public, our prayers ought to be frequent and conversational. I find very few people have great confidence in their ability to pray. Mostly we imagine we're probably doing it wrong. Also, sometimes when we most need to pray we find we can't even string two thoughts together—especially if we're angry or hurting, or upset. But from God's perspective a groan or sigh too deep for words may be the most eloquent prayer of all. The key is to know we are in His presence, even if we don't feel that way at all. All the same, I am thankful for friends and fellow Christians who have been there to pray with me and for me when I felt I couldn't pray myself. That is a great gift we can give one another.

Continued on next page....

A PUBLICATION OF ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Bonne Nouvelle

The Dolphin Dispatch-

243 Barrow
Houma, Louisiana 70360
Phone 985-872-5057, Fax 876-8797

266 Gabasse
Houma, Louisiana 70360
Phone 985-872-5573, Fax 985-868-9850

One prayer I like to pray when I don't have words is the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." Or sometimes I just pray, "Jesus, mercy." Another wonderful prayer, no matter the occasion, is the Lord's prayer. I think I do some of my best praying when I walk my dog early in the morning. I like to compliment Him on the sunrise. I also let Him know how impressed I am with the grace of an egret in flight. I sometimes talk to Him out loud, like Tevye. Nobody's around to notice, and Annie doesn't seem to mind one bit.

Take time to pray, and don't worry so much whether you're doing it right. If you feel you want to pray, you are praying!

See you in Church,
Fr. Craig

Vestry Vibes

- 1) "Congregational Assessment": Canon Mark Stevenson (Canon to the Ordinary) spoke to the vestry about a survey for the entire congregation to be completed in the near future for a congregational assessment. This will be taken by every person from 16-96 and will concern strategic planning for the church, both short term and long term planning. The survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete and Fr. Stevenson will follow up with the vestry to discuss the results of the findings and then be involved in the implementation of the findings. The survey will address communications, expectations, and tensions of the congregation among other things.
- 2) The vestry voted to move the Dreyfus money market funds to Morgan Keegan, to be managed along with the church's other investments, under the care of Dixon Lewis.
- 3) The Church and School financials were approved, both with surplus budgets.
- 4) The Diocesan Convention is on March 13 and our delegates will be...Ray Neigel, Sandra Deroche, Bonnie Siegrist. Alternates: Dixon Lewis, Lee Stiel, Rob Alexander
- 5) Steve and Claudia Braud will host a social on March 12. Sally Ellender is providing the food. All who have been confirmed or received in the last three years have been invited, as well as those who have been visiting St. Matthew's lately. This is an opportunity to get to know one another better. In the future, will be having "Dinners for Eight," to continue to provide opportunities to get to know one another.
- 6) A job description for a Christian Ed Director/Youth Minister is being formulated
- 7) The Lenten series, Fearless, will be held the first four Wednesdays in March following the healing service.

Robert M. Alexander, M.D.
Sr. Warden

MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6PM— EFM—PH	3 5:30PM—Healing Service 6PM— <u>Fearless</u> soup supper series	4	5	6
7 8AM—HE 10AM—HE	8	9 6PM— EFM—PH	10 5:30PM—Healing Service 6PM— <u>Fearless</u> soup supper series	11 5:30PM— Finance Com- mittee—Lib.	12 6PM— Girl Scouts—TH Church social at Brauds	13 Diocesan Conven- tion
14 8AM—HE 10AM—HE	15	16 6PM— EFM—PH	17 5:30PM—Healing Service 6PM— <u>Fearless</u> soup supper series	18	19	20
21 8AM—HE 10AM—HE	22	23 6PM— EFM—PH	24 5:30PM—Healing Service 6PM— <u>Fearless</u> soup supper series	25	26 6PM—Girl Scouts— TH	27
28 8AM—HE 10AM—HE	29	30 6PM— EFM—PH	31 5:30PM—Healing Service 6PM—Vestry meet- ing—TH			

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to: JoAnne Plessala, Tom Weed, Andree' Alexander, Brian Wiggins, Sally Ellender, Carolyn Teuton, Danae' Himel, Kaitlyn Lirette, Georgiana Randolph, Julio Medina, Ryan Fanguy, Kirsten Bazet, Janie Rhymes, Lona Smith, Shirley Use', Pam Duncan, Buddy Daisy, Jordan Beniot, Dylan Stien, Russell Johnson, Tom Schexnaildre

Happy Anniversary to: Steve and Claudia Braud, David and JoEllen Louviere, Julio and Rina Medina, Lee and Debbie Stiel, Brent and Denise Dufrene, Doug and Joan Harson, Gerald and Betty Bergeron

BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Watch over your child, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Lottie, Barbara & Alex S., Peggy & Berwick, Doris, Pixie, Charles & Kathy, Curtis, Todd, Karl, Bridget, Dane & Nina, Dean, Larry, Caleb, Gabrielle, Sybil, Mary, Adalaide, Blake, Lou, Bobbie, Marie, Marian, John, Stephanie, Heather and babies, Amy, Frances, Frances, Karin, Merle, Linnie, Gerald, Sidney, Mazel, Dale & Teddy, Owen, Samuel, Benji, Eugene, Robert, Carrie, The Fremin Baby, Joffrey, Marilyn & Laverne, Grace, Gwen, Florence, Violet, Jacques, Jenny, Diane, Zach, John, Hunter, PFC Bergdahl, Christy, Mary, Timothy, Pam, Mary Ann, Michael, Chee Chee and Susan, Elizabeth and Child, and our Partner-In-Mission sister parish, San Jose in Honduras

All names on the list will stay on one month then come off at the end of the month. Names can be added by calling the church office. All parishioners receiving home Communion will stay on the list indefinitely. Please add an asterisk next to any name you would like on the list indefinitely.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of our parishioners who on Sunday, January 31st at St. Matthew's came forward after the 10 o'clock service to express best wishes on the approaching of my 95th birthday and especially to Rhea Babin and Sally Ellender who provided the refreshments and to Rhea and Helen Domingos who were on hand to take pictures.

It was a most heart-warming experience for me, one I will always remember.

Roland Champagne

Inquirer's Class to Begin April 11, 2010

A number of people have expressed interest in learning more about the Episcopal Church, and perhaps even joining St. Matthew's. I will be leading an 8 session Inquirer's series beginning on Sunday, April 11, 2010. We'll meet in the Parish Hall on Sundays in April and May from 9:00-9:45 AM. Childcare will be provided. All are invited to participate; those interested in being confirmed, or reaffirming their confirmation, or being "received" into the Church must attend at least 6 of the 8 sessions in order to do so. The cost will be \$10 per person, with which we'll purchase resource materials for our study. Please call Erica at the church office (872-5057) to register for the course. By taking the course you are not committing to joining the church. However, upon completion, those who wish to join will have completed the requirement for doing so. Bishop Brown will join us for Confirmations/Receptions on Sunday, June 6, 2010. **Deadline to register is Sunday, April 4. Payment will be collected when the class begins on April 11.**

UTO (United Thank Offering)

From Ash Wednesday, February 17th until Easter Sunday, April 4th (the Lenten Season), St. Matthew's ECW will be sponsoring the UTO (United Thank Offering). The United Thank Offering is a program of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole Church, founded and administered by women since 1889. UTO is a corporate act of worship, by people around the world, growing out of the desire to express deep gratitude for God in their lives. The mission of UTO is to invite people to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God, and as outward and visible signs of these prayers, to drop coins or dollars in the blue UTO box, or perhaps put a check in the blue UTO envelope, for the benefit of others. After a period of time, these monies are collected, sent to the UTO Committee, and then redistributed by it to groups who have submitted grant requests for various needs. Several locations in Louisiana have benefited from this worthy cause, including St. Matthew's.

Don't forget to fill those boxes!

Wednesday, March 3, 2010 – Roland Champagne

March 7, 2010

TEAM 1	8 AM	10 AM
Eucharistic Minister 1 (EM 1)	1 volunteer needed	Ryan Kilgo
Eucharistic Minister 2 (EM 2)	Dixon Lewis	Sandra Deroche
Lector	1 volunteer needed	Dana Davis
Eucharistic Visitors (EV)	Ray Neigel	
Usher(s)	Lou Waters	Julio & Rina Medina
Altar Guild	Sandy Ostheimer	
Flower Guild	No flowers - Lent	
Homes Visited Today:	Margaret Shaffer	

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 – Bill Davis

March 14, 2010

TEAM 2	8AM	10AM
Eucharistic Minister 1 (EM 1)	Ray Neigel	Beulah Rodrigue
Eucharistic Minister 2 (EM 2)	1 volunteer needed	Ryan Kilgo
Lector	Jan McKim	Hilda Blanchard
Eucharistic Visitors (EV)	Beulah Rodrigue (1 more EV needed)	
Usher(s)	Sharon Pontiff	Lee & Debbie Stiel
Altar Guild	Sharon Pontiff	
Flower Guild	No flowers - Lent	
Homes Visited Today:	Frances South, Lottie Pellegrin	

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 – Roland Champagne

March 21, 2010

TEAM 3	8 AM	10 AM
Eucharistic Minister 1 (EM 1)	Alex Ostheimer	Roland Champagne
Eucharistic Minister 2 (EM 2)	1 volunteer needed	Sandra Deroche
Lector	Alex Ostheimer	Kathy Gilbert
Eucharistic Visitors (EV)	Hilda Blanchard & Sandra Deroche	
Usher(s)	Lou Waters	Calvin Babin & Helen Domingos
Altar Guild	Suzanne Alexander	
Flower Guild	No flowers - Lent	
Homes Visited Today:	Curtis Prevost, Marie LeBouef	

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 – Bill Davis

March 28, 2008 – Palm Sunday

TEAM 4	8 AM	10 AM
Eucharistic Minister 1 (EM 1)	Sharon Pontiff	Hilda Blanchard
Eucharistic Minister 2 (EM 2)	1 volunteer needed	Ryan Kilgo
Lector	Sharon Pontiff	Becky Becnel
Eucharistic Visitors (EV)	Fr. Craig & Ryan Kilgo	
Usher (s)	Grace Randolph	Harvey and Karen Chauvin
Altar Guild	Shanna Himel	
Flower Guild	No flowers - Lent	
Homes Visited Today:	Kathy Ryan, Linnie Hughes	

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 – Roland Champagne

Fearless—Lenten Soup Supper Series

On four Wednesday's (March 3, March 10, March 17 & March 24) in March we will have a Lenten series based on Max Lucado's book, Fearless. After the healing service at 5:30 PM, we'll enjoy a meal together followed by a brief talk and small group discussion on the topic. We will conclude at 7:30 PM. Child-care will be provided. Possible discussion topics: "Why are we afraid?," "Fear of running out," "Fear of Life's final moments," "Fear of global calamity."