



PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

One of my favorite days to gather for Eucharist is Thanksgiving. It always has been. There is something profoundly moving about the rich imagery of Thanksgiving and how it speaks to the heavenly banquet of which we are all invited to be a part. Thanksgiving Day itself is a major church holy day and a national day in the Book of Common Prayer. The Proposed Prayer Book of 1786 included,

“A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the Fruits of the Earth, and all the other Blessings of his merciful Providence”

(National Church Archives).

In the prayer book of today, this has been incorporated into the Prayer for Thanksgiving. Throughout seminary we gathered for a combined Lutheran/Episcopal worship service in honor of Thanksgiving. It allowed an opportunity to pause in our busyness and gather together in prayer, music, and offerings in thanksgiving for “thy bounties.” The hymn below was one that our Lutheran brothers and sisters shared with us. As I stumbled upon it in preparation for this note, it filled me with a feeling of love and warmth, a coziness that only God’s love can offer, and a feeling of genuine thanksgiving for the gifts I have been given. It reminded me that while stewardship season can often drudge up feelings of “here we go again”

or “all they ever do is talk about money,” the reality is that we are invited to respond to God’s abundant blessings with deep JOY. As the second stanza begins,

“with joy the people bring their off’rings round Thy throne,”

it reminds us that we are invited to gather in JOY, with our offerings, knowing that we can give because we have been shown by God how to give.

THY BOUNTIES, GRACIOUS LORD HYMN

*Thy bounties, gracious Lord,
With gratitude we own;
We bless Thy providential grace,
Which show’rs its blessings down.*

*With joy the people bring
Their off’rings round Thy throne;
With thankful souls, behold, we pay
A tribute of Thine own.*

*O may this sacrifice
To Thee, the Lord, ascend,
An odor of sweet perfume,
Presented by His hand.*

With thanks to all of you and your generosity this season.
Blessings, Lindsay+

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MILESTONES

In Memoriam

Richard Gamlen, beloved parishioner, October 8th

TAIZÉ CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, November 1st at 7pm

Everyone is invited to attend this ecumenical service characterized by meditative silence, repetitive songs, scripture and prayer. Taizé is the first Tuesday of every month (year around) in the side chapel. Mark your calendar for next month's service December 6th.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

The rotation for bringing treats to coffee hour after the Sunday service is as follows:

**November 6: A-D November 13: E-J
November 20: K-P November 27: Q-S**

We ask you to please put the food you are bringing on a paper plate (rather than in a package) and place it on the table in Julia Beylard Hall.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK AND ST. MATTHEW'S

When you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few extra canned goods or other non-perishable items. You can leave your food donations either in the basket at the back of the church or at the church office. These donations will be placed in a Second Harvest collection barrel for pick-up.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and thank you for your donations.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a women's spirituality group. We meet every week throughout the year at Charles House on Mondays at 9:15 am. This is a small group opportunity to reflect on scripture, God's presence in our lives, the challenges of discipleship and prayer. For more information, please contact Rev. Lindsay or Ginger Fortmiller via the church office.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: YG3

We still are working on a logo but at least we have a name! The "new totally awesome yet to be named youth group" is now named YG3, because we are pulling together from 3 different churches. In November we have lots of fun planned!

- November 6th Bowling at Bel Mateo Bowl (5-7pm)*
- November 13th Journey Home Walk for Home & Hope (1-3pm)*
- November 20th Youth Group @St. Paul's Episcopal, Burlingame (5-7pm)*

Please contact Rev. Lindsay for more information.

CELEBRATE SUNDAYS

On CELEBRATE Sundays at the 10:15 am service, there will be no church school. Instead, children and youth will participate actively in the liturgy as ushers, greeters, readers, acolytes and more. These services are a great opportunity for our congregation to connect intergenerationally. Join us for these upcoming Sundays:

- November 6th: All Saints Day*
- November 27th: Season of Advent*

ALL PARISH THANKSGIVING: MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Our annual all-parish Thanksgiving dinner is Friday, November 4th. Check your weekly Ivy Leaf bulletin for more details. Sign-ups for side dishes and desserts will take place at coffee hours leading up to event. Childcare will be provided.

This is a special time for us all to come together over a meal to give thanks for all of our blessings. We look forward to seeing you there! For questions, please contact Nancy Fischer at 650-552-9402 or nanfish@sbcglobal.net.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Day School will be hosting a second, and final, Admission Open House on Tuesday evening, December 6th from 6:00 until 7:30pm.

Families interested in applying to St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School are welcome and encouraged to attend. For questions or to register, please contact Ellen Williamson, Director of Admission, at 650-274-0728 or ewilliamson@stmatthewsday.org.

PIZZA FUNDRAISERS: A SUCCESS AND MORE TO COME!

Our monthly California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser has not only helped us raise about \$700 thus far for our church, but also it has become another avenue for fellowship. Whether you are sitting at the counter at CPK, driving across the bay to have dinner with church friends, or stopping in before you catch a flight, our monthly dinners have become another way for parishioners to build relationships. Please join us November 3rd for our next CPK fellowship fundraiser. A group will gather at the CPK in Hillsdale Mall at 6:30 pm. ~ *Ildiko Segreti*

FEAST OF ALL SOULS SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, November 2nd at 6:30pm near the bell tower as we celebrate the Feast of All Souls. We will honor the saints who walked among us and are now part of the "Great Cloud of Witnesses." In addition, we will read the list of parishioners and loved ones who have died in the past year. If you would like to include someone in the reading of names, please contact Parish Administrator Victoria Wolcott at office@episcopalstmatthew.org. All are invited to participate in this moving candlelight service, which will take place outside (weather permitting).

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

As we prepare for 2017, four Vestry members will be completing their terms. We would appreciate your insights and suggestions on people who would be great additions to the Vestry. Please share your thoughts with the Vestry Executive Committee: Bill James, Martha Phillips, Jim Alexander and Evan Powell. Please either call the church office to leave a message for them (650-342-1481) or email Bill James at billandelissa@comcast.net. Deadline for suggestions is November 6th. ~ *Bill James, Senior Warden*

JOIN THE ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT HOME & HOPE

The Journey Home is an annual walk/run event this year scheduled to take place at 1:00pm, on Sunday November 13th, at Seal Point Park in San Mateo. The event is organized by our parish to raise awareness about homelessness in our area and to provide an opportunity for supporters to celebrate their shared ministry. You can register for the event or donate by visiting journeyhome.homeandhope.net. When you register, you can form your own team or join Team St. Matthew!

Home & Hope is an interfaith collaborative that supports homeless families in San Mateo County. St. Matthew's partners with over 30 other congregations and over 1,400 volunteers who together enable *Home & Hope* to offer, "lots of love and support, shelter, meals and a full service Day Care Center," while placing families on the path to finding a new home.

In advance I give thanks for your support. I look forward to seeing many of you on the afternoon of November 13th! *Blessings, Fr. Eric+*

FINALS CARE PACKAGES!

For the past two years we have sent finals care packages to our college youth to remind them that even though they are off at college, their church family is still rooting for them. If you have a college student to whom you would like us to send a care package, please email Rev. Lindsay at lmhills@episcopalstmatthew.org with the student's name and address. Last year we collected some awesome loot from members of the parish! If you have access to company giveaways (pens, notebooks, mugs, bags) and are able to donate 25 of them, we would appreciate it. All items and names must be collected by November 20th to prepare for our Care Package Packing Event on Sunday, November 27th at 11:15am. Interested volunteers and donors, please contact Rev. Lindsay for more information.

LECTOR AND CHALICE BEARER COORDINATOR

After almost two years at the reins, Bonnie Fullerton will be stepping down as organizer of this important ministry. I am so appreciative of her and her ability to keep things going in spite of increased work demands and my complete absence over the spring. If you are an organized individual and are interested in taking on a leadership role in this important ministry, please be in touch with me as soon as possible at lmhills@episcopalstmatthew.org.
-Rev. Lindsay



THE TAU CROSS

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew
is a family called by Christ . . .

*to live God's Love,
to share the Gospel,
to grow Spiritually*

Come celebrate with us!

Services are 8:00 am & 10:15 am
every Sunday

Morning Prayer, 9 am, Tuesdays & Thursdays
Rite I Holy Eucharist, 9 am, Fridays

UPCOMING EVENTS	
November 1	Taizé Service
November 2	Feast of All Souls Service
November 3	Pizza Fundraiser
November 4	First Friday Thanksgiving Feast
November 13	Journey Home Walk
November 27	Finals Care Packages Pack Day



The Tau Cross is the monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew. We welcome submissions that have a connection to the parish. Inclusion is at the discretion of the staff and may be edited for space or clarity. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month and may be sent by email to Beth von Emster at bvonemster@yahoo.com or deposited in the Tau Cross mailbox in the church office. Entries should follow these guidelines: Include title of event or article; 200 word maximum description including when, where, cost and contact information as applicable; Avoid abbreviations and other "insider" lingo; Further guidelines and tips available upon request. Tau Cross Staff: Editor, Beth von Emster; Associate Editor, Cherie Hammer; Layout & Design // dadalab.com

Or Current Resident

*The Rev. Dr. Eric Kimball Hinds, Rector
The Rev. Lindsay Marie Hills, Associate Rector
The Rev. Amber Stancliffe Evans, School Chaplain
The Rev. Robert Caughey, Deacon*

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