

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

March 11, 2021
Issue 242



Craig's Corner

Soli Deo Gloria

[The following is an excerpt from a letter I received from Bishop Anthony Burton, who serves on the Board for the Anglican Digest. I found it inspiring and so want to share it with you]:

Johann Sebastian Bach was arguably the greatest composer of all time. He lived a storied life, punctuated by tragedy. When he was a boy, he lost both his parents. Later, one by one, he would lose ten of his children and his wife. He spent time in prison.

He has frustrated his biographers, however, for he didn't tell his own story. He wrote no autobiography and had no interest in posterity. Bach thought *his* story, as story, was of no importance. He never imagined that anything he wrote would survive him. And indeed for a hundred years he was entirely forgotten and his works were not performed.

The only story that mattered to him was Christ's story, and it was that he studied and proclaimed all his life. At the bottom of every composition, he wrote the letters "SDG"—*soli Deo Gloria*—"To God alone be the Glory." Not to the glory of God and J.S. Bach, but to the Glory of God alone. Before he even began to put notes on paper, he first wrote the letters "J.J." for "*Jesu juva*": "Jesus help me."

Bach had exchanged his story for God's story for he understood that his hope lay not in any story he could invent but in the story of Jesus Christ who loved him so much that he had died for him, who had defeated death, and who allowed Bach to look suffering, to look death, to look reality squarely in the eye in all its beauty and horror and strangeness and mystery.

The season of Lent is one in which we seek to do the same. This exchange of our story for God's story, and acting on its implications, is what Jesus was getting at when he said paradoxically: "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

I (Craig) found this to be so touching. I'm especially struck by the idea of beginning a composition with "Jesus, help me," and ending it with "To God alone be the Glory." I can think of no better way to frame any activity offered to God, whether a particular project, or an act of service, or an act of worship.

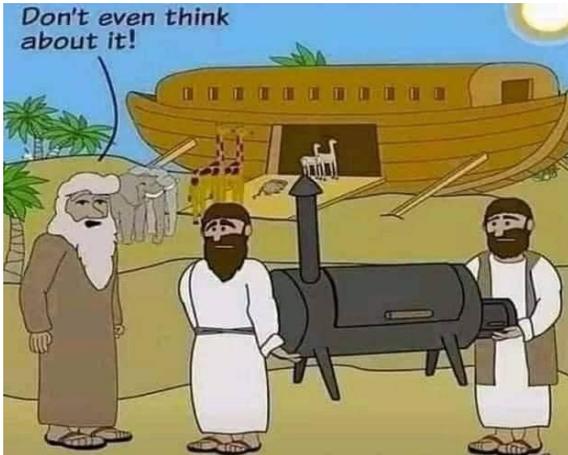
J.J & S.D.G !

Announcements:

March 21, 2021

TEAM 4

Eucharistic Ministers	Kathy Theriot
Ushers	Sharon Pontiff, Keith Hampton
Vestry Member on Duty	Rob Alexander
Altar Guild	Sharon Pontiff



SECC Silent Retreat 2021

Parable Retreat with Silence
May 7th - 9th, 2021

To register and for more information, please visit our website
[SeccLa.org/events2/secc-silent-retreat-2021](https://www.seccLa.org/events2/secc-silent-retreat-2021)

Don't Miss Out!

If you can't come to worship in person, then please join us on
Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewshouma>

We broadcast every Sunday at 10 AM

Blessings and Peace to You and Yours!



March

Happy Birthday

- 6- Noel Stiel
- 7-Carolyn Teuton
- 8-Danae' Broussard
- 9-Kaitlyn Blanchard
- 13-Andree' Alexander
- 14-Julio Medina
- 15-Ray Rhymes
- 15-Kirsten Bazet
- 17- Lynn Kelley
- 18- Sinclair Buquet
- 19-Janie Rhymes
- 21-Lona Smith
- 21-Sophia Clark
- 22-Mary Dupont
- 22-Shirley Use'
- 23-Gabriel Matherne,
- 27-Damian Willett
- 27 – Julia Bourque

Happy Anniversary

- 5-Julio and Rina Medina
- 5-Lee and Debbie Stiel

Parish Prayer List

Andr e, Jay, Norma, Sybil, Betty, Lydia, Clifford, James, Lona, Charles, Jules, Betty, Rod, Ursula, Carol & Bennett, Brenda, Beth, Pat, Mary, Helen, John, Mike, Ralph & Shirley, Betty Jean, Allen, Beth, and Legion Park School. We give thanks and pray for St. Matthew's Episcopal School, Head of School, Larke Leonard, members of the Board, faculty, staff and students, our Parish Vestry.



Mission Trip

July 5-9, 2021

This year, our St. Matthew's Episcopal Youth Community will again not be traveling out of state for our annual mission trip due to COVID-19. Instead, we have decided to give back to the community who has supported us over the years. We want to offer services to our church members. Over the years we have completed many minor home repair projects, so you will find some services we are able to do listed below. If there is something not listed that needs to be done, please still let us know, and we will see if it is within our capabilities. We are excited to be helping locally, and we also want to keep everyone's safety in mind. We will practice social distancing between our youth group and those in your home and stay outside if possible. If you are in need, please fill out this form below and return it via email the address provided below, or in church by **May 30, 2021**, and we will contact you. If you have any additional questions, please reach out.

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____

Services Needed:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure Washing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Return to: Courtney Cangelosi or courtneycangelosi@gmail.com
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Houma, LA 70364 Questions? (225)333-8475