



MATTHIAS MIDWEEK

Inspired by the life and compassion of Jesus Christ,
We are a church of action in our community, engaging in
Hospitality by offering bread for body and soul

REFLECTION FROM ANN+

Last Friday, during a routine inspection, the 'furnace guy' found a crack in the heat exchange of one of the church's two furnaces. That problem, I have since learned, is a death sentence. The deceased furnace was the one that supplied heat to the sanctuary.

No problem. We notified everyone and on Sunday had our service in the Parish Hall which was quite cozy. Lots of people showed up and sang beautifully acapella; this community is nothing if not flexible and ingenious.

However, we still had an immediate problem. What to do about the long-awaited one-woman show: "Eleanor Roosevelt: Across a Barrier of Fear"? We had all worked hard for this sell out performance. One hundred guests were expected in our stone cold sanctuary on Saturday afternoon.

After much discussion, we decided to replace the furnace -- if one large enough to heat the sanctuary could be found. As I write, the found furnace is being installed. Cost? Over \$6,000. That's a sucker punch to our meager budget, so an initial response is a gasp, a pained expression, or some variation of "if only..."

However, I suggest for Lent we try on gratitude instead. Usually, when we think of gratitude, we naturally think of being thankful that something good has happened, but, what if we could experience what Renee Miller* visions as a steady mountain stream of gratitude running through all our days. What if, she asks, "we grasped that gratitude is not really dependent on having something positive to respond to, but a way of life wanting to be expressed." Practicing gratitude means developing the skill for spotting grace even in the most stressful of circumstances.

Using our adventure with the fatally flawed furnace as an example, I notice that in a calamity most of my attention is directed toward crisis management. Certainly a furnace expiring in the midst of cold weather when a large audience is expected is no fun. But it is an opportunity to dig deeply to find the good and the grace-filled in our midst.

I am once again grateful for St. Matthias' vestry and especially for Mary Ross, our Junior Warden, with responsibility for buildings and grounds. She has done yeoman service. Even now, she is leaving the church in her fully loaded truck to sell the scrap metal from the old furnace -- always on the lookout for subtler graces.

Yours in gratitude, ANN+

* Renee Miller, [Strength for the Journey](#), "Gratitude"

THIS WEEK

(what's left of it!)

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 AM: Vestry Meeting (Undercroft)

11:30 AM: Morning Prayer - Sanctuary

11:00AM- 2:00 PM: Loaves & Fishes / Menu: Chicken Parmesan with vegetables and dessert, prepared & served by Calvary Lutheran

2:30 - 3:30 PM: Clean up and Reception preparation

4:00 - 5:30 PM: Eleanor Roosevelt: Across a Barrier of Fear, followed by Question & Answer, Sanctuary

5:30 - 6:00 PM: Reception: Parish Hall

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS -- "SPRING AHEAD 1 HOUR"

SUNDAY MARCH 12: 9:30 AM

Second Sunday in Lent

Readings:

Genesis 12:1-4A

Psalms 121

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17

10:45 AM Coffee & Conversation - Parish Hall

11:00 AM: SOS - Scripture on Sunday

11:30 AM: Rebirth Ministries Worship

1:30 PM: Renewed Minds Worship

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15:

10:00 AM: Morning Prayer, Sanctuary

10:30 AML: Lenten Discussion, Strength for the Journey, Renee Miller

OUR PRAYERS

Fern Grumbine and her family

Mel Berk and his family

Sylvia Hooper

Sally Morton

People of South Sudan

Thanksgiving for Jane Van Boskirk's (Eleanor Roosevelt) generosity

For Kathy Stack's hard work

For a warm Sanctuary!

PANCAKE SUPPER

THIS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS THANKS TO GREAT PARISH PARTICIPATION. WE SERVED 80 GUESTS, CLEARED \$632 ON THE DINNER AND \$132 ON THE RAFFLE OF A BEAUTIFUL AFGHAN CROCHETED AND DONATED BY SANDY ASHE'S FRIEND CHRIS

COMING UP

FRIDAY, MARCH 17: 5:00-9:00 PM
Seeing the Face of God workshop, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 University Parkway
SATURDAY, MARCH 18: 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Seeing the Face of God, continued.