



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+

Today is the first day of summer. With a nod to the season, I played hookey yesterday and went kayaking near the mouth of the Gunpowder River. Lots of blessings: first, the weather was beautiful. Next, I didn't have to arrange anything; a friend of a friend owned the kayaks and served as our guide. He actually knew his way around the various coves and waterways, which are a maze once you're in a kayak floating just above the surface of the water. Third, because it was a weekday, the river traffic was nil.

Three of us set out. Not much talking. There didn't need to be. When we saw something we wanted to share, we just pointed our paddles. We watched Great Blue Herons wading out looking for fish to stab with swordlike beaks. One standing on the shore let us get quite close -- apparently preoccupied with swallowing the fish he'd just caught. We watched his throat bulge as his lunch made its way down.

As we turned into a short tributary, I loved watching turtles of all sizes basking in the sun. I was reminded of how hard it is for human beings not to 'mess' with their surroundings as I longed to catch a baby one and take it home. As we paddled in silence, suddenly a large beaver slid off the bank, landed right in front of us, and then was gone. So much life we don't see.

Lots of osprey -- huge birds who are actually larger than bald eagles. In order to protect them and encourage their reproduction, tall poles topped with nesting platforms have been erected. They have proved to be good home sites: we saw a nest with chicks and watched as Mom (or Dad) dropped to the surface of the water, grabbed a fish in its talons and circled back with lunch for the 'kids'.

Even as I reveled in moving quietly through the tributaries of God's creation, I was aware that this experience is shared by all too few people in this country. If folks do have an opportunity to go out on the water, big boats with noisy motors are generally preferred over the humble, silent kayak. But consider all the beauty and drama provided by the creatures that you'd pass by in search of excitement. Then there is the fear and ignorance that results from never having left the city. Creation is scary. Who wants to be alone in its midst? For so many, fear stifles wonder.

I have two thoughts. First, except on the hottest of days, God is clearly beckoning us outside, luring us with bright colors and lush greens. We are blessed to have air conditioning, but be sure you take some time to step away. Walk barefoot in the morning dew, watch fireflies at night, renew your sense of wonder. And secondly, invite someone else to join you outside - whether it's your own backyard or a nearby park. And to quote the fisherman, Isaac Walton, "In everything, give thanks".

ANN+

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 6:30 PM:
AA Meeting, Parish Hall

SATURDAY, JUNE 24:

11:30 AM: Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Loaves & Fishes

SUNDAY, JUNE 25: 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:30 AM: Worship, followed by Coffee Hour & SOS

11:30 AM: Rebirth Worship
1:30 PM: Renewed Minds Worship

TUESDAY, JUNE 20: 7:30 PM
Renewed Minds Addiction Group, Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28:
10:00 AM: Morning Prayer
10:30 - 11:45 AM: Wondering with The Word: A
difficult Gospel

12:30 - 3:45 PM: Visit to Future Care Nursing Facility

MONDAY NIGHT MOVIES
AT MATTHIAS!!
6:30 - 9:00 PM
UNDERCROFT

July 10, "Hidden Figures"
The story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the space program.

July 17, 24, 31, TBA

OUR PRAYERS

Cindy Humphrey- for a speedy, thorough recovery from knee surgery

Otis Cutler - for strength as he goes through radiation treatments for cancer

Sally Morton - for strength and hope as she battles breast cancer

Dawn Delph - Loaves & Fishes guest in her quest for a place to live

Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Baby Eric, son of Loaves & Fishes guests, Robert & Chris.