

St. Christopher's News Summary

November 2018

“Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.” – Matthew 11:28



A Message from Canon Jeremy

Just the other day I was examining a new priest in our diocese, Deng Alaak Pager. Fr. Deng was one of the 'Lost Boys' of Sudan, when 40,000 children fled the vicious civil war in that country during the 1980s and 90s, either orphans or simply fleeing for their lives, fearful of being conscripted into an army, or worse. He and his fellow boys traveled on foot a thousand miles or sometimes more to arrive at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, to the South. Roughly half of the children making this trek did not survive. After a long sojourn in camps and other places, Deng was able to come to the US and is part of a thriving Dinka community here in DFW. And he is now their priest as well.

If you were to meet Fr. Deng you wouldn't know the trauma of his past, the destruction of his homeland. You would meet a sweet and gentle man who exudes the joy of Christ and a love for his people. When he speaks of his homeland you can feel the pain and regret in his voice, but he's even more ready to speak about his salvation by Christ, the goodness of God, and the building up of the church among his people in the camps and in the Sudan. He's remarkable.

Why do I share this with you? Perspective. Fr. Deng's story is a testimony to the power of God which is able to work in and through and around political strife, even in dire circumstances such as genocidal war. Who emerges from such scenarios with joy in their heart? Those who belong first to God and his Kingdom. What sort of people are able to see the good even in the midst of confusion and turmoil? Those who are grateful for gifts both great and small: the forgiveness of sins and hope of everlasting life and union with God, and also the little things here and now such as food, shelter, absence of war, family and friends. As we close out this year focus on the things that matter, and I guarantee it'll help you navigate the rest with peace and confidence in the goodness and providence of God.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Jeremy+

Dates and Activities to Remember

Saturday, Nov. 3 9 a.m.	Church Work Day
Sunday, Nov. 4	Daylight Saving Time ends
Sunday, Nov. 4 – 25	Fall Food Drive for St. Matthews Food Pantry
Sunday, Nov. 18 after the 10 a.m. service	Thanks+Giving Potluck Celebration

Save the date

Saturday, Dec. 1	Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, Dec. 8	Breakfast with Santa

Vestry Considerations for 2019

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to consider choosing new Vestry members to serve our church in 2019. New members will be elected during our Annual Parish meeting in January.

Due to the size of our current congregation and the availability of qualified persons to serve, we are considering reducing the size of our Vestry from 9 members to 6. This change would allow us to elect members who are able to attend the majority of the meetings, will give current leadership a much-needed break, and will allow us to operate even more efficiently while still being responsive to our Parish's needs. This change will require a majority vote by all qualified members of our parish at our Annual Parish meeting in January.

If you would like to provide input on this decision, please share your thoughts with Fr. Jeremy or a current Vestry member.

As a reminder, Vestry members must be at least 18 years old, confirmed, attend church regularly and be a "contributor of record." The Vestry typically meets once a month, after the 10 a.m. Sunday morning service.

Plan to attend the Thanks+Giving Celebration

Mark your calendar, and plan to join us for the annual Thanks+Giving potluck lunch on Sunday, Nov. 18, right after the 10 a.m. service. A sign-up sheet is available in the breezeway, just outside the Parish Hall. Please let us know if you and your family can

attend and what dish you will bring to share. Don't miss the fun and fellowship . . . and be sure to come hungry.

Introducing the Men's Thursday Bible Fellowship Group

And now for something completely different.....

Since August, we have been meeting every other Thursday in the Church Office for prayer and fellowship. This is not the regimented type of prayer and worship that we receive on Sundays. Sundays are good to be sure. The Episcopal Church provides us with a wonderful worship service. We praise our Lord and Savior by listening to the appointed Liturgy, sing praises to His name through song, and listen to the Word brilliantly explained by Canon Jeremy. (Do we get any points for this?)

Since August, the men's group has continued to explore the history of the Mideast from the Old Testament time to the present. We have discussed "UFOs – a Threat to Christianity?", Topography, Cities and Towns of Israel in Jesus' Time, entered into the world of ITC (Instrumental Transcommunication), and learned about our automated telephone system from the beginning to the present (frequency understanding). We have been exposed to new Bible study plans. Knowledge is good.

So, if you would like to experience something different, or you have any subject that you would like to present or pursue, please join us at 10 a.m. every other Thursday. We will be glad to see you. Please contact Morris Evans, Ernest Rager, or Bill Harris for any questions.

Support Our Fall Food Drive

St. Christopher's Fall outreach project gets underway Sunday, Nov. 4, with a food drive for the St. Matthews Food Pantry. The drive continues through Nov. 25. You can help by bringing non-perishable food items such as canned goods, peanut butter, dry cereal beans, rice and more. Watch for a complete list in your weekly service leaflet, A collection box is located in the parish Hall breezeway.

Chili Cook-Off and Halloween Party Review

St. Christopher's 2018 Chili Cook-Off and Halloween Party was a success! A number of volunteers signed up for all the available supporting jobs and contributed all the food, drink and other supplies that were needed. Further, we had a great turnout of St. Christopher's Montessori School children and their parents. With the combination of attendee from the church and school, more than 140 people had signed up for the event.

We had ten people who signed up to participate in the chili cook-off competition and many of the recipes proved to be quite tasty. Also, the kids took part in an enjoyable pumpkin decorating competition with many impressive entries. Of course, Randy Norman and his team prepared gourmet quality hotdogs and Wally Wheeler and his team provided great liquid refreshments. Taken together, the event was a great success and a total of \$1,138 was brought in.



Schedule of Services

Sundays

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9 a.m. Sunday School Lessons and Discussion

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II – Rite I on fourth Sunday

10 a.m. Children's Chapel – Ages 3 through 10

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I - with discussion afterwards

Weekly Readings

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
4-Nov	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	119:1-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34
11-Nov	1 Kings 17:8-16	146	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
18-Nov	Daniel 12:1-3	16	Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
25-Nov	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	93	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37