

# Smatterings

Saint Matthew's  
Episcopal Church  
August 2023



## Renewal, Restoration, Recreation

As I return from the three-month Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal period, I want to reflect on some of the key aspects of my experience. In this month's *Smatterings*, I want to share some insights about the process of "being renewed!"

*Fr. Frank*

The renewal period began with a brief visit to family living in New York City followed by a trip to London. In London, we did two tours. The first was to explore various parts of the city that inspired William Shakespeare's plays. The second was similar: a walking tour of Charles Dickens's London. After leaving London, I did a retreat on Lindisfarne (also known as the Holy Island) and a few days in the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed (pronounced "Barrack"). Then off to Sicily, Tuscany, France, and then back to England; this time in Canterbury!

As you may know from your European history classes, many places throughout Europe were once ruled by the ancient Roman Empire (roughly, 27 BC–AD 476). The Empire included territory around the Mediterranean, North Africa, and Western Asia. The fall of the Roman Empire in AD 476, marked the end of what we call "classical antiquity" and the beginning of the Middle Ages. Cities all throughout Europe still bear the marks of the Roman Empire in various buildings, mosaic floors, city walls, amphitheaters, and coliseums. Also, dotted throughout these regions are signs of the golden age of Ancient Greece. Most of these structures – both Roman and Greek – now lie in ruins.

However, it was fascinating to me how many of these structures were "under construction." In fact, many of the amphitheaters we saw were being restored and used for the same activities as its original purpose. For instance, in Taormina, Sicily, we visited the ancient Greek amphitheater that still stands. Ongoing construction has made the ruins safe to use while preserving much of the old structures. And the same in Arles, France. In addition, Arles is restoring its coliseum (a smaller version than the one in Rome) and are making plans to eventually use it for entertainment events.

However, the construction/restoration projects didn't stop with ancient Roman and Greek ruins. It seemed that everywhere we went, something was covered in scaffolding! We saw parts of several churches, including Canterbury Cathedral, draped in scaffolding and workers making haste to repair the structure.

My first inclination was to feel disappointed since the scaffolding masked the beauty of these old structures. I wanted to take in their fully beauty and history, yet somehow the scaffolding was a distraction. At one point I thought it wouldn't be too bad if it were only an occasional building or two. But it was like nothing was spared from being draped in sheets of plastic and metal frames crawling up one side or the other!

Inside...

**Page 2** Page 1 cont.

**Page 4** Happenings

**Page 3** Reports: Outreach

**Page 5** Ministry Schedule

As I sat with these thoughts and saw building after building in such a state, it occurred to me that maybe God was trying to get my attention. After all, the buildings weren't being destroyed or knocked down or being replaced with something else. They were being cleaned, repaired, and restored so that they could continue to be useful to the people who came to visit. In a word, these buildings and spaces were being "renewed."

That is what renewal is. A momentary pause or set of pauses in the day-in day-out routine to make minor adjustments or to clean centuries of grime off the face of the stone in order to restore it to its natural beauty.

I believe this was the process happening to me on my three-month renewal period. Yes, I saw and did lots of wonderful things, but internally I could sense places of scaffolding draping areas of my life. As I emerged from some of these dormant places, it felt like new life was taking place. I loved the image of the old coliseums being restored and used for their intended purpose. In fact, in Arles, we watched a dance crew rehearsing for a performance on a stage made of ancient stone now adorned with modern stage lighting, and seats ready to welcome modern-day visitors where spectators of long-ago would have sat.

Renewal is an act of resuming an activity or state after an intentional interruption. Sometimes, renewal periods repair things that are broken and worn down. In my case, this intentional interruption was an opportunity to restore and refresh the activity and ministry that God has called me to – to wash away some of the dirt and grime that has naturally accumulated while "working in the trenches" of parish ministry.

I am grateful for this sign that God gave me. As I looked on the renewal of Canterbury Cathedral just prior to returning home, I smiled and found that joy was bubbling up and out of me. That old cathedral has stood in this place for centuries. It has lived through the Middle Ages, witnessed the death of Thomas Becket, endured blows from the pikes of the Puritans, welcomed hundreds of thousands of pilgrims over the ages, grieved at Becket's tomb being destroyed by Henry VIII's minions, watched in horror as bombs rained down upon Canterbury during WWII and so much more. Parts of this grand structure which stands as a witness to God's eternal love need rest, restoration, repair, and renew so that it can continue to stand strong into whatever lies ahead in its future.

So, too, with each of us!



The old TWA Terminal renewed as a retro-styled hotel at JFK airport.

An old Roman foot bridge now carrying cars and trucks on daily routes.



Ancient opera house, still in use



A church which now doubles as a theater



Canterbury Cathedral



ST. Martin's, the site of Augustine's original place of arrival in England. The oldest parish church still in service as a parish church in England.







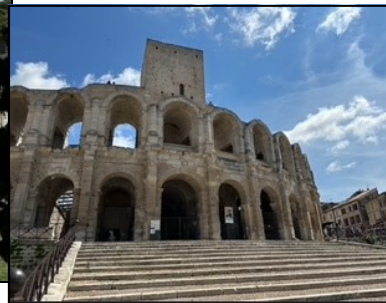
Old city wall now doubles as a Pub, restaurant, and Escape Room.

Greek amphitheater still in use today



Roman amphitheater in Arles, France

Roman coliseum in Arles, France



Cathedral Square in Arles, France



City Gate



Inner Gate/Entrance to Canterbury Cathedral



## Reports

### OUTREACH

COME Pantry Update

Things the Pantry needs right now:

1. **Bread** 2. **Volunteers** 3. **Cash**



Our next Miejer Simply Give Campaign will July 2nd - Sept 30th at E. Washington St. location, with two double Match days on August 12th and Sept 9th!

You can contact the pantry at: 317-891-5179.

ICAN assisted 108clients at the agency in June.



The ICAN Food Pantry served over 410 households in Quarter 2.

The Clothing Closet is currently in need of :

1. Shorts for men and women
2. Underwear for men and women
3. Tee shirts for men

### VESTRY

The Vestry did not meet in July.

## Announcements

### August Birthdays

August 1 Jennifer Albrect  
 August 2 Eric Higbie  
 August 4 Emerson Black  
 August 5 Jake Staab  
 August 10 Caitlin Wilkinson  
 August 18 Adie Bell  
 August 23 Gregory Harris  
 August 23 Linda Sykes



### August Anniversaries

August 24 Andy & Angie Wilkinson





# Happenings

## Welcome Home Fr. Frank July 30, 2023

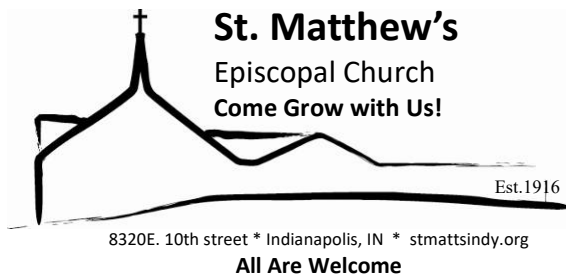
Parish Action Day on August 5



# *Sunday Ministry Schedule August 2023*

Ministry Schedule	August	August	August	August
	6	13	20	27
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Crucifer/Server</b>	Donna Olsen	Melissa Kleine	Bonnie Godfrey	Terry Kee
<b>Chalice</b>	Joan Porter	Joe Weaver	Heidi Kauffman	Donna Olsen
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Jody Breakell	Jennifer Albrecht	Suzanne Kissling	Joan Porter
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Wendy Blumenthal	Steve Albrecht	Vicki Mansfield	Missy Ellis
<b>Intercessor</b>	Heidi Kauffman	Crystal Black	Ellie Mattson	Linda Sykes
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	Hal Olsen	Angie Wilkinson	Greg Staab	Kaye Palmer
	Bonnie Godfrey	Andy Wilkinson	Missy Ellis	Martha Livisay
<b>Counters</b>	Terry Kee	Hal Olsen	Natalie Palmer	Heidi Kauffman
	Jennifer Albrecht	Kevin Sterrett	Jon Robbins	Dave Belisle
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>	Marla Davenport	Sylvia Robles	Jody Breakell	Greg Staab
	Randy Davenport	Bonnie Godfrey	Wendy Blumenthal	Missy Ellis
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and advise the Parish Office. Thank you.



**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**8320 East 10th Street**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46219-5399**

Phone (317) 898-7807

FAX: (317) 898-1443

<http://www.stmattsindy.org>

Parish E-mail [office@stmattsindy.org](mailto:office@stmattsindy.org)

Rector's E-mail [frfrank@stmattsindy.org](mailto:frfrank@stmattsindy.org)

*Smatterings*

**Formatting and editing:** Esther Weaver

**Photos by:** Kaye Palmer, Esther Weaver, Bonnie Godfrey

**St. Matthew's clergy and staff:**

The Revd Frank Impicicche, *Rector*

Brianna Owens, *Parish Administrator*

A. Paul Johnson, *Organist/Choir Director*

Crystal Black, *Hand Bell Choir Director*

**Services**

- Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite II  
8:00am and 10:00am
- Wednesdays : Holy Eucharist 10:00am

Nursery available on Sundays starting at 9:45

Parish Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8am-2pm, Fri. 9am-1pm

*August 2023*

**St. Matthew's Mission Statement**

The mission of St. Matthew's is

"to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

We do this through worship of God,  
education of ourselves and our children,  
care for each other and outreach to others,  
sharing faith stores with others,  
and caring for all our resources (our time, treasure,  
and talents).

*Smatterings* is published monthly except in the summer.

The deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's publication.