

# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



Issue 124

February 25, 2016

## A New Addition to the Dalferes Family

This is my new puppy, "Zoe." She is about 6 weeks old and already she's won my heart. I'm going to get to bring her home soon as she's about ready to be weaned. I asked Jennifer to drop by the pet store and buy a couple of chew toys for her....well she came home with an arsenal of puppy toys! So chances are really good she's going to end up spoiled rotten.

I've decided since we'll have a new puppy I should study up on how to properly train dogs. I did some poking around on the internet and what I learned is that there's basically two schools of thought on the best way to train an animal. One approach is basically to use force and "break" the animal by teaching it who is in charge. So, the goal is obedience, and the means to it is to impose fear and dominance through force. This school of thought has been around quite awhile apparently, and is known to be effective.

The other way---the one I intend to use---has more to do with love and affirmation. It avoids shouting and hitting the animal, but tries instead to teach respect, and to come at training with a better understanding of how a dog thinks. It turns out, this approach is also known to be effective in teaching an animal to obey and to live within certain boundaries of behavior.

One guy who advocates the second approach said something that seems to apply not just to dogs, but could probably apply to how we understand our relationship to God. He said the first approach will definitely result in an obedient dog who will fear you and do what you say. But he won't love you as much....he won't feel joy in your presence. He won't be as devoted since his motivation is fear, not love.

There are plenty of religions which teach fear and punishment---and which use guilt as a means of motivating better behavior. They do this because it works. In certain times in history, in certain contexts, there is so much evil and chaos going on---that the fear of God may be the only thing to reign in atrocities that people commit against one another.

That said, I've often wondered if it's really possible to get people into heaven by "scaring the hell out of them." You can make people get in line, but you can't make them love God or enjoy God's presence. That has to come from a relationship grounded in acceptance and respect and love. Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to save it. He came to show us the way to Life---not by evoking fear but by giving all.

See you in Church,

Fr. Craig



## Announcements:

### SCHEDULE:

**February 28, 2016**

#### **TEAM 4**

Eucharistic Ministers	Jay Theriot, Kathy Theriot
Lector	Becky Becnel
Acolyte	Kalli Willet
Eucharistic Visitor	Beulah Rodrigue (visit Ingree Guedry, Margaret Shaffer)
Ushers	Sharon Pontiff, Glenn and Jessica Blair
Vestry Member on Duty	TBD
Altar Guild	Sandy Ostheimer, Karen Kelly
Flower Guild	No Flowers
Hospitality	Karen Chauvin

Save the Date

St. Matthew's Episcopal School presents...

### **Art Under the Oaks**

Thursday, April 28, 2016

6:00-8:00

*More information and tickets coming soon.*

#### *Altar Guild Prayer*

*O, God bless and accept the work  
of my hands and of all who minister  
to thee in the care and adornment of  
this sanctuary.*

*Grant to us, as members of the  
Altar Guild, a reverence of mind  
and purity of heart in making ready  
this sanctuary so that your holy  
name may be glorified; through  
Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Amen*

**St. Matthew's**  
Episcopal School

**ENROLLING NOW**

New preschool program for 3 year olds opening 2016-2017 school year

**Preschool through 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

[www.StMattsSchool.com](http://www.StMattsSchool.com)

St. Matthew's Episcopal School does not discriminate in regard to race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

**SMEC Website:**

[www.stmatthewshouma.org](http://www.stmatthewshouma.org)

**Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana**

[www.edola.org](http://www.edola.org)

**SMES Website:**

[www.stmattsschool.com](http://www.stmattsschool.com)



**St. Matthew's  
Episcopal Church**

**Sunday Service 10:00am**

Nursery & Youth Programs

### Prayers & Thanksgivings

Barbara & Alex S., Kathy, Margaret, Frances, Wilma, Ingree, Andr  e, Sharon, Sybil, Marian, Johanna, Angelle & Taylor, Emily, Rocelle, Warren, Harold, Gordon, Phil and Shirleen, Pete & Paula, Russell, Jennifer, Hunter, Penny, George, Delores, Kellie, Anna Belle, Barney, Flo, Ray, Louise, Kimble, Gerard, David, Denise, Gina, Jeanie, Steven, Aivyn, Chris, Genevieve, Connie, Fannie, Frank, Ed, Ben, Herman, Barbara, Grady & Teresa, Kim & baby, Janet, and our Partner-In-Mission sister parish, San Jose in Honduras. We give thanks and pray for St. Matthew's Episcopal School, S. Myers McAllister, Head of School, members of the Board, faculty, staff and students, our Parish Vestry and Building Committee.

### Happy Birthday!

1-Glenda Verdin	14-Jerry Turner
2-Trish Berry	21-Pearl Moss
4-Martha Lynn Lewis	23-Brian Rushing
4- Brendon McNelis	24-Suzanne Alexander
8 – Reece Gaudet	25-June Allemand
8 – Samuel Gaudet	27-Joseph Dalferes
9-Amanda Pellegrin	
12-Anne Bates	

### Happy Anniversary!

4-Lyle and Stacey Lirette
12-Gerard and Sharon Pontiff
17-Robert and Janet McKim
29- James and JoAnn Caillouet

### **BIRTHDAY PRAYER**

Watch over your child, O Lord, as his days increase;  
bless and guide him wherever he may be.  
Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when  
discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls;  
and in his heart may your peace which passes  
understanding abide all the days of his life; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Help The Homeless

Hello! My name is Charles Dalferes and I ask for your help. I am doing a project that involves giving care packages to homeless people. I require resources to help me out. Here are some items that I will need.

You are welcome to donate as much of an item as you want.

The items that you donate will be given to homeless people.

## *Items needed for donation:*

Toiletries (Deodorant, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, etc...)

Water Bottles (any brand will do, as long as it is water to drink)

Any food that is not canned, does not need to be refrigerated, will last in a bag for at least a week, and can be accessed easily without a tool  
(example - bag of chips)

A Bible (to help them get closer to God)

Solar/Spinning powered flashlights (Spinning flashlights require you to spin the wheel on them to power them and solar flashlights charge in the sun)

An other items that you want to donate will have to be approved by me.

# 985-868-8265