

2018 Annual Report for Associate Pastor William Moberly

My sixth year in ministry at St. Matthews has been a year of challenges and opportunities to share the Gospel. Just after the last Annual report I was able to assist with St. Matthew's 60th anniversary activities and services. This joyous event highlighted the many ways the church has been able to serve our members, our neighbors and people around the world in love. I continued to play a role in the life of the church through presentations to various Women's groups within the church. I spoke and showed photo slides of God's magnificent creation and God's handiwork within that creation and within us. I gave a special presentation about the ongoing program to capture and honor Veteran stories. This presentation featured segments from several St Matthews members who served in the armed services. I coordinated a special senior seminar featuring the "Three Catharine's". This presentation included informative discussions led by a CPA, an Estate Lawyer and a financial planner, all named Catherine! In addition I assisted with the P3 programs as the assistant buyer and logistics support. I had the opportunity to spend time providing pastoral counseling to several individuals experiencing school adjustment issues, grief and loss. In October I led the Blessing of the Animals Service which has been an ongoing 12 year tradition at St. Matthews.

In late May, I was asked to provide spiritual support to a State Department program that sponsors international exchange students. One of their students had been killed in a senseless school shooting and leaders of that programs felt that the presence of a pastor would be helpful when the students all assembled prior to going home. This support spanned several weeks and I had the opportunity to interact with these amazing kids and lend support to some who were experiencing grief over the loss of their friend. This opportunity came about due to my previous (and ongoing) work with the Chaplains program at CIA.

During the course of this year I have tried to have at least 1 article each month in the Church's newsletter writing about where I see God in everyday moments and events. Topics have included my support to the Exchange Students, the donation of my Mom's craft and art supplies to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, a journey to the Grand Tetons, my great grandfather who was a minister in the Midwest and several other topics. It is the daily walk and interaction with our creator that is the foundation of our faith.

The ongoing challenge this year has been the continuing decline in my mother's health and her death in mid October. A great deal of my time and energy has been spent caring for her and taking care of the logistics of her life and death. The end of last year and first quarter of this year was spent preparing for and executing the sale of her home. No easy task considering the 54 years our family had lived in that home. Significant time was required for her medical appointments and in-residence care at Aarondale. Of course these last weeks have been spent dealing with the logistics and administrative demands her passing. Unfortunately this cost me the opportunity to attend my Course of study class that was slated to begin the weekend after her mid-week death. I did however have the opportunity to read the course texts and prepare for the class room dates.

An ongoing highlight of my pastoral activities remains the Worship and Communion service that I conduct at Aarondale each Wednesday afternoon. We continue to worship, sing, reflect on the Scriptures, pray and partake of the sacrament of Communion each week with the resident there. Additional members of St. Matthews have begun supporting the service through music and presence which is an additional joy to me. I feel most pastoral and in the place that God would have me be when I am there.

The coming year will continue be challenging for me as I adjust to a new life schedule without Mom. I will need time, patience and reflection to prepare for my new reality. Throughout all of these difficulties I have firmly felt the presence of God supporting me and guiding me. The staff and St. Matthews members have also poured out there love upon me. I will remain open to what the Spirit would have me do in this coming year. Pastor Bill