Mastering the Stay at Home Orders

MEMORIES FROM OUR ST MATTHEW’S FAMILIES

As we begin to tentatively venture out, the memories of those weeks of “stay at home” are quickly fading. Much like the pains of childbirth vanish when we experience the joys of a child, those weeks of deprivation seem distant with each trip to the hair salon or sitting on the patio of a favorite restaurant, and enjoying literally, eating out!

But, you know, we still had time. We had Zoom! Thank the Lord, we had internet. We also had each other. Here are some of the ways our parish family passed the time.

From Jim, Janet and Jamie Cocke—We enjoyed completing a 1000 piece puzzle “The Sixties” which featured many events well remembered. The three of us had fun playing board games (Payday, The Oregon Trail, and Chinese Checkers were Jamie’s favorites). We walked, read and watched classic movies (Dr Zhivago and Dead Poets Society were a couple). Janet worked on clearing out and organizing some closets, drawers and cabinets. We also face timed and enjoyed social distance visits with Beverly and Wendy. Jamie celebrated his 15 year post multi-organ transplant anniversary. We have enjoyed the online services and Bible studies, Zoom from Fr. Steve and Fr. Terry’s Art and mid week studies. We trust God to see us through this unsettling time, thanking Him for our many blessings and look forward to being at St Matthews in person. Many wrote to say they were cleaning and organizing. The Davidson’s were walking 5 miles each day, and sent adorable pictures of baby deer eating their landscaping. The Ray’s were working on puzzles, and catching up with some television. No one to date has admitted to binge watching, but I happen to have first hand knowledge that was the case in my house. Catching up with family on Facetime and Zoom seemed to be on everyone’s list. Some took on projects, like painting. One of my daughters bought this gigantic pool for the back yard, big enough for the teenagers. She gets our family’s creativity award. Sharing dinner with family and friends by BYOE (Bring Your Own Everything) was a popular solution to keeping friendships fresh, with patio eating at a social distance. Eating was very popular to a person— I believe the weight gained are called Covid pounds! It seemed everyone that responded read and cooked—a lot! This from the Wilkins family was pretty typical: Since our time at home began, we have laughed, cried, yelled, and loved one another a lot more than usual. To those working remotely we commend your perseverance, to those indispensable workers that have put yourself out there for us all, God Bless you!
Along with every other anxiety that plagues the world today, there is an anxiety inside the Church, frequently expressed by many Christian leaders, about the effect of the pandemic on the future of the Church. Because we have been unable to gather together in our churches for worship, we have had to resort to worshipping together virtually, remotely, each in our own homes, using screens or recordings, which are meant to replicate the experience of going to church. A part of the anxiety here is that this form of worship is so obviously inferior to the real-life experience of gathering together in church that many Christians have checked-out of the Church altogether and lost the habit of worship.

But a part of the anxiety here is that the rest of us are acclimating so well to this new habit of worship that, when we are finally free to return to our churches, we will decline the opportunity. Why go to the bother of getting up early, cleaning ourselves up, dragging our kids out of bed, dragging combs through their hair, and speeding off to the church to search for a parking place, when we can make our obligation from the comfort of our own homes? What are we missing, really?

For many of us, it’s Communion. For all of us, it’s community. And that’s something Zoom can’t replicate, because there are some things human beings can only share when they’re sharing the same space. All the non-verbal signals we send out and pick-up, which modify or amplify the words we say, or eloquently express the words we can’t find; the old bond that is renewed with a firm handshake or a hug; the reassuring effect of a friend laying a hand on your shoulder; the heartening effect of watching our children process gifts to the Altar; the encouraging effect of seeing old friends and even virtual strangers join us in the nave, the solidarity we feel when kneeling with our fellow believers to say a prayer or standing with our fellow believers to sing a hymn; these are just some of ways that fellowship fortifies and magnifies the act of worship.

Being known by others reinforces our sense of being known by God. Making real contact with others reinforces our sense of making real contact with Jesus, in no small part because Jesus makes himself very present to us when as few as two or three are gathered together in his Name—in person. So after months of being deprived of being together in person, it’s only natural that many of us are beginning to feel a sense of detachment from our community. And quite naturally, for some of us, this sense of detachment has begun to extend to our relationship with God.

So when Anita Bruch first floated the idea of creating an occasional parish newsletter, I immediately saw that she was envisioning the remedy for one of our great ills. Now we don’t really need a newsletter, if by “newsletter” we mean an advertising supplement announcing upcoming events. But what Anita had in mind was something more like a community journal, in which the members of the Body could communicate some things that don’t come across on Zoom.

Words From Our Rector

Parish News

After months of on line worship, on Sunday July 12th St Matthew's was able to celebrate our first “in person” service. God is good!

There is still a wait until we can celebrate inside, however creativity abounds!

During the shutdown, Cupcakes were served for both Pentecost and Father's Day. We are so blessed with volunteers and staff that are working hard to keep us together, and provide ways we can grow in Christ. Thank you for the many submissions - please keep sending your thoughts and musings! For fun we hope everyone will share with us “Why I joined St Matthews?”

This “Why” was sent from Anna Baur: I initially started coming to St. Matt's because I happened upon some of the church's sermons online that I found challenging and insightful. At the time, we were attending a non-denominational church but did not feel like it was the best fit for our family. Having grown up Episcopal, I was interested in returning to the Episcopal church and so my online searching led me to some of the audio content from St. Matt's. Gradually, our family transitioned to attending together there on Sundays. We realized it was our church home as we felt so welcomed by the community there, and by Father Steve and Angie in particular. They took time to get to know us and to draw us further into the church family, inviting us to bible studies and church events. We came because of the Truth being preached with grace and love. We stayed because of the people who take that Truth to heart.

The Baur Family—Michael, Anna, Grayson and Evelyn

In a sense, a journal like this is as inadequate as any other substitute for “being there”; we can’t hug, shake hands or read each other’s body language in print. But it does communicate something that no other virtual medium can. You may remember that in the old days, before there was such a thing as Zoom, or even the technological virtuosity of a telephone, human beings would write letters to each other. Sometimes they would include pictures with their letters; sometimes they would include snippets of favorite poems or prayers. Sometimes they did that because they were geographically separated from their loved ones, but not always. Sometimes people would write letters to loved ones they met face-to-face quite regularly. They wrote letters to their loved ones because there are some things we communicate in a letter that we don’t in speaking—and never in banging out an email—because in the course of writing a real letter, we often discover things that would have never occurred to us by any other means.

So this is not just a remedy for an ill, after all, or just something to tide us over for a season, until we are face-to-face again, with our masks off. This is a collection of letters and reflections, written by loved ones, communicating their faith, their joys, their sorrows and their consolations, some of which you may have never been exposed to before. And you may find, to your surprise, that some of them reflect your own.
St. Matthew’s – Mission and Outreach Update

Earlier this year, the Mission and Outreach committees combined in an effort to bring more energy to mission work and focus attention to ministries and organizations supported by St. Matthew’s.

The responsibility of Outreach is to advise the Vestry of allocating funds to support ministries and charities that are consistent with the St. Matthew’s Vision Statement “To know Christ and to make Him known.” Historically, we would receive requests, meet, make recommendations and all was well. Over time, as the number of worthy charities that we supported grew, so did the challenge of staying in touch and understanding the changing dynamics of the charities. In addition, over the past couple of years, the amount requested from worthy organizations and missionaries far exceeded our ability to faithfully support them. Last year, the Outreach committee decided that we needed greater discernment in reviewing requests and created an application that we will ask every charity or missionary that seeks financial assistance to submit annually.

In addition, since we support over a dozen worthy organizations and missionaries, in order to better serve them, we determined that we need more involvement so the Outreach and Mission Committee joined forces. Members of the combined Mission and Outreach committee are invited to select organizations and/or missionaries and serve as their point-of-contact advocate and reach out periodically to see how we can pray and help serve them during the year.

For 2020, our annual targeted budget is approximately $50,000. Please note that the amount does vary based on the actual donations received during the year. A few of the charities that we support include: Anglican Frontier Mission, New Hope Peru (Tony and Julie Bolos), The Matlak Family, Cross Over Ministry, Needle’s Eye Ministry, Richmond Christian Study Center and others. Lori McDonald, has provided tremendous enthusiasm and passion as the chair of the Missions Committee. She will be stepping aside from her leadership position on the committee as she will be returning to the classroom as a full-time biology teacher for Colonial Heights High School in the Fall of 2020. Congratulations and thank you for your time and commitment! In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those St. Matthew’s parishioners who have contributed or currently generously give their time to the committee: Janet Russell, Mac Pace, Libby Danforth, Paula Butz, Christine Stenger, Bill Selden, Lori McDonald, Laura Allin, Chris Lloyd, Bethany Peirsol, Patrick DeFur, Greg Peete, Steve Schlossberg.

We would value your feedback and involvement and if you would like to participate in this important ministry, please feel free to reach out to Steve steve@stmattsrva.org or Greg vgpeete@aol.com or wgpeete@sentara.com.

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St Margaret’s Circle

Did You Know? St Margaret’s Circle’s focus has always been on children and the youth of St Matthews. The monies we have raised over the many years have been to help furnish things for the youth and children as well as the Children’s Educational wing. A fun thing we have done over the years is giving a treat to our college students during their exam period in December. It started that we would send boxes filled with candy and mail them. That became an overwhelming task as numbers grew and the cost of postage. Then it became phone cards, to make calls from school. Now we give them Starbucks gift cards at exam time. All to let them know they are being remembered and to have fun during the stress of exams. When our college students graduate, we send each a card of congratulations.

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Pet Portrait Contest Winners

It was a tie— a victory for both Dog and Cat Lovers, alike!!!

Congrats to Norm Hyde and Linda Davidson—(there’s no money involved, just the glory, guys)
New Women's Bible Study
St. Matt's now has a Zoom Bible study designed for women who have difficulty making it to daytime Bible studies. This 8:00 p.m. Bible study is especially well-suited for moms whose evening routines are often consumed with getting kids to bed, helping with homework, etc. With this study, no one feels the need to make themselves presentable or hop in the car to drive anywhere. They can curl up in their favorite chair, sip on the beverage of their choice, and unwind with women who share similar joys and struggles in regard to faith. There are about a dozen women (not all of whom attend St. Matt's) who are now reading the book *What Happens When Women Walk in Faith* by Lysa Terkeurst. If you are a woman for whom this sounds appealing, please email Angie Schlossberg at adkschlossberg@gmail.com.

Monday Night Women’s Bible Study
Each week we study up to three chapters using an online study of Matthew, from the Gospel Coalition.org. Even though we have all read Matthew numerous times, we are learning so much. It's been wonderful “seeing” everyone each week, and being able to catch up. We would love to have more ladies join us at 7:15. Please let Ramona Neifeld know if you are interested. rsneifeld11@gmail.com

Thursday Women’s Bible Study
Our Thursday afternoon group meets at 4:30pm and follows the scripture and study questions from the Sunday service. The questions create an interesting exploration of the weekly text, and create meaningful discussions. Although the study officially begins at 4:30, we like to have some social time to catch up beginning at 4:00. We would love to have you join!
Please contact Linda Davidson for an invite link bfold@comcast.net

Monday Men’s Bible Study
Looking for an opportunity for fellowship and study the Gospel of Mark? We think we have the opportunity for you. On Monday evenings at 7:00pm we have a Men’s Bible Study Group that meets virtually on Zoom for about an hour. The group is informal, and we mix Bible Study with prayer requests and other discussion. We welcome any male from age 18 to 100.
Please contact Shawn Garitz at sgar0519@yahoo.com if you have any questions or would like an invite link.

www.stmattsrva.org

When our time apart began in March, we felt it best to share some resources that families could use on their own. Some were to help with worshiping at home together on Sunday mornings and others were additional activities like podcasts and other biblically based activities for children. In April, we shared resources specific for Holy Week and suggestions for stretching the Easter celebration out for all seven weeks. May brought Pentecost at Home resources which were hand delivered to families. They included materials and suggestions for celebrating Pentecost as a family.

The adventures of Narnia are unfolding on Thursday afternoons. A Number of St Matthew’s children are listening to The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe read by Lissa and Patrick deFur. Although the story is familiar, it is a joy to listen to the adventures of Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter as they venture into Narnia, where the White Witch has made it always winter and never Christmas. If there is a child in your life who may like to join in, email Heidi Wilkins hmwilkins79@gmail.com for the Zoom link (or perhaps pull the book off your bookshelf and re-read it yourself!)

Family Movies
Fun favorites for adults and kids

*The Princess Bride*
*The LEGO Movie*
*Toy Story 1,2,3,4*
*Jumanji*
*Inside Out*
*Matilda*
*The Sandlot*
*The Rocketeer*
*Cool Runnings*
*Searching For Bobby Fischer*
*Up*
*Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey*
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
*Hook*
*Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse*
*The Lion King*
Catching Up With Former Clergy!

What happened to Eric and Charlene Turner?

After six wonderful years at St. Matthew's, we moved in 1994 to Flemington, New Jersey where we set about planting a new church. After seven years getting that church up and running, we went to St. Paul’s, a very old, established congregation in Shelton, Connecticut. We had a relatively short tenure there and came to St. John’s Episcopal Church in Melbourne, Florida where we have served for over 16 years.

We raised our two children, Elizabeth and Woody, both born during our time at St. Matthew’s and they now live nearby and are now 31 and 29. They’re wonderful people, so I guess, by the grace of God, we did OK. Elizabeth is a nurse working in the ER and Woody is an EMT and working in the same hospital, as an anesthesia tech.

Charlene found her passion in Solar Light for Africa, a ministry that takes American teams on short term missions to deliver and install solar power systems on churches, schools, clinics, orphanages, mostly in Uganda. She has moved from being the “team mom” on the first trip in 1999 to now serving as Executive Director, running several trips each year. Well, until coronavirus shut down travel. Cary Langhorne (daughter of Bruce and Helen) went on one of her trips. (I’m sure she’d love to take others from St. Matt’s! Visit solarlightforafrica.org.)

We are doing well here in Melbourne and loving life in Florida, and we are now fully empty nesters, but thankful that the kids both live nearby. St. Matthew’s remains a very happy and blessed time in our memory!

In Christ,

Eric

Food Pantry Drive Continues

Welbourne UMC Food Pantry

Dropoff Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday

9am—1pm
St Matthews narthex door

Bible Show and Tell!

As one can readily assume, the bookshelves of your typical clergy family contain a wide assortment of Bibles and Bible story books. The Schlossberg family bookshelves are fairly typical in this way. But judging by the love that St. Matt’s parishioners have for studying the Word of God, I’m guessing that quite a number of you have multiple copies or versions of the Good Book. And I’m also guessing that, among the Bibles on your shelves, one or two hold a place of great spiritual or emotional significance.

For many of us, our Bibles become like treasured friends to whom we go for guidance, wisdom, and comfort. When studied with regularity, their pages become worn, dog-eared, and soft. Some are used as journals with underlined verses and margins filled with scribbled notes. Some become so packed with personal and familial importance that they are passed down from generation to generation.

Because Christians believe that the Word is life-giving, we naturally desire to share it with others, sometimes with childlike enthusiasm! So, we’d like to give you an opportunity to bring out your inner child with a St. Matt’s Bible Show and Tell!!! Simply send us photos of your favorite Bible along with the following information:

- The version (KJV, NIV, RSV, ESV, etc)
- The publisher
- The year it was published
- Who gave it to you or how you came to possess it
- A paragraph explaining its significance to you

Email these to Angie at adkschlossberg@gmail.com or drop them off at the church. We’ll share your photos with the rest of the congregation via email.

We look forward to meeting your “friends”!

A Very Honorable Pet Portrait also Winner!

Harriet Vincent painted this beautiful portrait as a fund raiser for Feed More. A member of the parish sent this in for Harriet. What a talented, generous and gifted congregation we are blessed to have.
From Your Vestry

Your new vestry persons (Sharon Cole, Richard Hollands and Tim Lough) attended their first vestry meeting in February. At that meeting, Megan Lloyd, Brad Foster and Tim Lough were elected to be your register and wardens, respectively. At the time, all of us were looking forward to the March vestry retreat; however, it was cancelled out of an abundance of caution (meetings of 10 or more persons were discouraged). Then the coronavirus mushroomed and everything else was cancelled.

Undaunted, Father Steve led us through 2 email "meetings" before switching over to Zoom meetings for May, June and, presumably, beyond. During those meetings we (1) discussed and approved the fate of preschool teachers (it was generous), (2) designated the loose plate Easter offering (was there any?) to New Hope Orphanage, the Matlak family, Anglican Frontier Missions and the West End Presbyterian ESL program, and (3) approved up to $4,000 from the R & M account to cover the cost of repairing the roof over the office wing. That's right, the same office wing that's been leaking and repaired so many times over the past 40 years that we've lost count.

The vestry also elected Jean Austin and Anita Bruch as our Representatives to Region 12. Many thanks to that dynamic duo for their willingness to serve in that capacity. It's a 3-year commitment, but we were able to entice them with the speculation that they would have no duties for the first year given the coronavirus lockdown.

Our Zoom meetings have ushered in an era defined by the shortest vestry meetings of all time. Perhaps we would do well to continue with some Zoom meetings after regathering, at least on a periodic basis. After all, some of us think we look more competent on a computer screen in a darkened room than in person. And we can wear shorts or pajama pants. Maybe drink wine if we're discreet. Furthermore, Doug Rucker's humor has not been compromised. Ditto for John Alley's scholarly contributions and Steve Wittmer's legal acumen. In addition, Patrick's treasurer's reports do not seem so boring. Going forward, Zoom meetings might be ideal for summer meetings (folks could zoom in from the Outer Banks or wherever they happened to be) or winter meetings, if it ever snows again on the 3rd Tuesday of a winter month. (We're not suggesting we resurrect the August meeting.)

To end on a more serious note, the reaction to the COVID retrenchment from the congregation varies from resigned indifference to mourning and emptiness. We encourage parishioners to avail themselves of the online offerings and, if so inclined, small group get togethers either in person or via zoom/skype/webex.

—Brad and Tim

Jr. Warden's musings on past and current vestry meetings

This year, a new look for the meetings greeted me when I attended my first vestry meeting in February. The first thing I noticed was that the library table was missing. Why? Father Steve has us meet in a circle of chairs. It's more productive, conducive to and favorable for a productive and favorable meeting. There is no campfire in the center to distract us. Second, as you know, the by-laws were changed recently, limiting the number of members on the vestry to 9. That's quite a change from my first vestry meeting in 1982 when there were 18 on the vestry. In 1984, Tad wanted to trim the number to 12, not because of any difficulty getting folks to run, but because 18 was an unwieldy number and consensus was often difficult to achieve. Tad also reminded us of a well known precedent for 12 (I'm not referring to the 1997 courtroom drama 12 Angry Men starring Henry Fonda, however, as I recall, there were some contentious meetings in those days). In the end, we compromised on 15. Years later, Chuck Alley successfully reduced the number to 12. And now we're down to 9, which reflects our dwindling numbers and difficulty recruiting nominees. That's ok, and it will probably result in more efficient and shorter meetings, irrespective of the Zoom effect.

Truth be told, with respect to the brevity of our Zoom meetings, I do remember a shorter meeting in 2004. It was over before it started due to the lack of a quorum. Chuck and I used the free time wisely by going to Melito's for a beer. Even then, Sue wondered why I had gotten home so early.

Perhaps the longest vestry meeting I recall was 20 years earlier in 1984 when John Knight and I were wardens. Tad had gone home after the vestry adjourned to a closed session to discuss his request for a sabbatical, a new concept for St. Matt's. The issue was tabled until the following month, but not before the closed session dragged on until midnight, after which I went to Tad's house for a debriefing. Somehow, the vestry had gotten the impression that he was just going to be painting his house during the sabbatical!! Tad was more convincing about his quest for spiritual growth during a subsequent meeting, and sabbaticals were written into our tradition.
Virtual Youth Ministry

Adaptation. That has been the theme for families, churches and workplaces across the country these past few months. For youth ministry, this has meant moving youth group on-line in March in order to maintain community and to continue to build faith among our teens stuck at home. Through shared Zoom videos, we continued our weekly meetings, translating with the usual elements of check-ins, teaching, and games to the virtual space. And, not to entirely dismiss the importance of in-person activity, we have also held a photo scavenger hunt and a shared puzzle project for students to do individually in real time.

With the start of summer, we have launched “Hollywood Jesus”, a bi-weekly movie night that students join in from home. The premise is that the youth ministers and students stream movies at home at the same time and then discuss the movie afterwards. The films we’ve selected are ones that students may or may not have seen, but that bring up a theological issue or idea. For example, in the slapstick comedy “Talladega Nights,” there’s a scene which Ricky Bobby prays to baby Jesus. It’s not only hilarious, but it brings up the question of who we pray to and what is our image of God. As of the writing of this article, we have watched two movies together—God’s Not Dead and The Help—and we plan to continue “Hollywood Jesus” through the rest of the summer.

Rediscovering Sacred Reading

By The Rev. Terry Miller

With the start of summer typically comes an accompanying easing of work schedules and the anticipation of vacation days many will enjoy. COVID-19 has undoubtedly put some wrinkles in those plans this year. But it hasn’t stopped us from indulging in another seasonal pleasure: summer reading.

As a grade school student I hated having to read books over summer vacation. These days, however, I look forward to summer as a time to catch up on the many books that have gotten stacked up on my desk and around the house. Of course, I am always more ambitious than is realistic when it comes to reading!

A few years ago, I took up the challenge to explore some of those great books of literature that I somehow managed to miss in high school and college—books like Brave New World, Fahrenheit 451, and Invisible Man. I’ve made some progress, but I recognize that becoming a well-read person is a lifelong avocation.

That’s not an easy goal to pursue, especially given the sheer volume of information that bombards us daily from any number of outlets: the internet, email, text-messaging, talk radio, social media, and of course, television. Being assaulted by all these words from so many sources can be exhausting. Worse, in keeping ourselves up-to-date with events, we are losing our capacity to reflect on the larger meaning of things.

One of the greatest gifts of reading a book is that it allows us time to reflect on what we are absorbing. Good literature does not simply fill our heads with the latest information; it provokes thought, reflection, and new or deepened understanding. It invites us into stories that communicate universal truths about the world and the human condition, and encourages us to wrestle with matters of ultimate significance.

In his book, Take and Read, Eugene Peterson argues for a rediscovery of what he calls “spiritual reading,” which he explains this way:

the modifier ‘spiritual’ in spiritual reading does not refer to the content of what is read but to the way in which a book is read. Spiritual reading does not mean reading about spiritual or religious subjects, but reading any book that comes to hand in a spiritual way, which is to say, listening to the Spirit, alert to intimations of God. ...Spiritual reading is mostly a lover’s activity—a dalliance with words, reading as much between the lines as in the lines themselves. ... It is prayerful, convinced that all honest words can involve us in some ways, if we read with our hearts as well as with our heads, in an eternal conversation that got its start in the Word that ‘became flesh.’

Reading good literature is, as Peterson observes, a matter of love, and like any matter of love, it needs to be nurtured and tended. So if your travel plans have been curtailed this summer, I encourage you to enlarge your horizon—and deepen your faith—by taking up a good book, one which can open you not simply to new information, but to the power of God moving in you through words worthy of your time and energies.
The recent pandemic has brought to the surface many anxieties about our daily lives. Never before have we lived through a similar situation. We are all feeling lost at times and unsure how to proceed with our usual activities. One question many people are asking is about children. As adults struggle to cope, they can't help but wonder about the children in their lives. As people of God, we all have children, we care about. Whether it be our children, grandchildren, godchildren, or children connected to us in other ways, we worry how this pandemic is affecting them. We wonder what can be done to help children cope during these strange times and how we can help to strengthen families.

New research has been conducted on family resiliency. It shows that families who spend time sharing stories and weaving them into the fabric of their family can more easily adapt when life gets hard. Storytelling helps children to see that they are part of something bigger. The most effective storytelling comes when it is about the ups and downs of life and how the family has coped. Children have a stronger sense of control over their lives and higher self-esteem when they know about their family history. Sharing stories helps children (even adolescence and young adults) feel secure and enables them to easily adapt in new situations.

If telling stories helps to strengthen a family, what would happen if these stories were woven into God's stories? Wouldn't this create a stronger fabric, one that would not be easily broken? Children at a young age intuitively understand how their stories are linked to the Bible Stories they hear. As they grow up and develop a sense of the Christian language, they are able to explicitly perceive the link and explain it. This helps to strengthen and deepen their faith.

You may be wondering how a family can do this? There are many different ways a family can share stories. Storytelling seems to come easy for some people, but not all. Grandparents can tell stories of their youth, godparents can share stories of their faith, and we can all share stories with each other of the things we remember. There is something else that might help. Stories of God at Home was created to help families weave God's stories into their family narrative. The stories chosen are anchored in the church year and allow a family to weave their families stories with the stories of God which will help to strengthen the family. These can be used by anyone who has children in their life that they care about.

If you are interested in reading some more about this or viewing some videos, visit www.storiesofgodathome.com. You can also join me on August 5 at 7pm for a special Zoom get together. You can see an example of how this works in the home, we can discuss any questions you might have, and get you set up with the materials you may need. If you have any questions, feel free to email me-hmwilkins79@gmail.com.