



St. Matthew's Messenger

DECEMBER 2016

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Pennington, N.J. 08534

To receive the monthly Messenger and Constant Contact announcements please go to our website <http://stmatthewspennington.org/>, click on the link "sign up for emails" under "About us" to add yourself to our mailing list.



St. Matthew's Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 3, 2016

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Bazaar Set-up: Sunday, November 27 after the 10am service through Friday, December 2

Bazaar Takedown: Saturday, Dec. 3, after 4pm (classroom space)

Sunday, Dec. 6, 1:00pm (Belmont Hall)

Bazaar questions please contact the Bazaar Co-Chairs:

Amanda Morrison amandamorrison2008@gmail.com and Elise Thompson elise.thompson@gmail.com

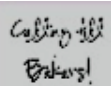
Please volunteer your time and talent by going to the Signup.com – <http://signup.com/go/NvduFz>



Bazaar set up: We welcome all who are available to help with the start of the set up! The setup will begin after the 10am service and coffee hour.



Frozen Casseroles and Soups: These items are big sellers each year! This year we have selected the recipes in an effort to be able to display the ingredients. We have these recipes on the bazaar table in Belmont Hall and the name of the casseroles and soups listed in <http://Signup.com/go/NvduFz>. We can send you the receipt as soon as you sign up.



Calling all bakers!!: We really need your delectable delights for the baked goods table - Cookies, cakes, candies, jams, and chutneys. These are some of the most requested specialties at the St. Matthew's Christmas Bazaar.

Cookies: Who doesn't love a home baked cookie? Why not whip up a batch of your favorites for the bazaar. Drop off cookies in the kitchen from **Thursday, December 1 until Friday December 2.**

Other Baked Goods: It wouldn't be a bazaar without yummy brownies, cakes and pies! Please donate your best baked goods to the bazaar. Items can be dropped off on **Friday, Dec 2 or Saturday, Dec 3 before 9am.**



The Antique Table: We need antiques and collectables for this popular table. Check your cupboards and drawers for anything you may be able to "live without" that others would love to live with. Please contact Penny Rodgers with any questions - dennypenny@verizon.net Donations can be placed in the box in the Belmont Hall under the Bazaar table.



Secret Santa Room: This is a great place for the younger members of St Matthew's to shop for family gifts. Donations of new or gently used (typically inexpensive) items are accepted – think of gift shop items – stationery, lotions and soaps, candles, picture frames, you name it. Donations can be placed in the box in the Belmont Hall under the Bazaar table.

A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel... be born in us today. The birth of an infant is a most holy and even miraculous experience. Suddenly, someone who has not yet been in the world is here, eliciting our love, wonder, awe, and gratitude. It is a new beginning—certainly for the child, and also for those who gather to help raise him or her from infancy to adulthood. It takes a village!

Advent and Christmas are times of wonder and expectancy—We hope for peace in our lives; amongst our families, friends, colleagues, and in our country and world. What kind of peace comes with Jesus' birth? As the Gospel says, it is not the peace the world can give. (It is not just the absence of strife, anxiety, or fear, although being set free from those is important!) The peace of Christ is a powerful peace, born of love so strong it refused to back down in the face of opposition and the apparent defeat on the cross between two common criminals.

As we look expectantly for new life, new hope and new birth in our everyday experiences, what catches our attention? How is God inviting us to nurture what we notice?

As I look for signs of new life at St. Matthew's, I see it bubbling up in everything we are doing. Let me mention just a few:

ADULT EDUCATION

Every year around the last week of December, many of us start thinking about New Year's resolutions. Some of us decide to get in shape by getting more exercise, or joining a gym. This January, we will be offering everyone the chance to get in shape spiritually by proposing an eight-week program of spiritual exercises.

NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

Among the many ideas to help us connect with those who are new to St. Matthew's and make them feel welcome, new signage has been erected in front of the church. Two parking spaces are now reserved for visitors on Sunday mornings. The Committee is also looking for people who will serve as ambassadors for St. Matthew's. They will be attentive to anyone who might be worshipping with us for the first time and greet them, answer their questions, and introduce them to other parishioners to help them connect and make friends. You can do this, too. An easy way to avoid the embarrassment of mistaking a long-time parishioner for a visitor is to ask: "Are you new to St. Matthew's or just new to me?"

PRAYER PARTNERS

Every Sunday during communion. Two people go to the chapel to welcome anyone who wishes to ask for prayers—either to give thanks for God's grace or to ask for it. Several months ago, the prayer partners began meeting together to share their experience of praying with another. What was the moment when they felt closest to God? What was the moment when they felt God's distance? They are now asking how God might be inviting them to grow their ministry of prayer to reach both parishioners and those not yet part of St. Matthew's. Will it include offering a healing service mid-week? They will begin by reading the book [Stretch Out Your Hand](#) Exploring Healing Prayer, by Tilda Norberg, a United Methodist Minister, and Robert Webber, a UCC pastor and professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological School in PA.

PARISH LIFE GUILD

Its three-pronged mission is to do Friend-raising, fundraising and outreach. **Friend-raising**—they plan a few events each year that gathers parishioners for a fun event, like the Taste of St. Matthew's and the Corn Hole tournament and chili cook-off, both wonderfully successful and fun events that were held within the past year. **Fund-raising**—they organize the rummage sales, one in the Spring and the other in the Fall. The camaraderie during the set-up for rummage is uplifting and fun. These events also serve the wider community by gathering donations for sale at rock-bottom prices that allow local organizations to put on events for those of limited means. In the past, these have included a clothing sale at a local nursing home and bundles of clothing sent to



Haiti. Local residents also take advantage of the sale to score great deals that help them stretch their income and reduce waste by re-using goods.

Outreach—they are currently looking to partner with Arm in Arm, an organization in Trenton that helps local residents avoid falling into homelessness. St. Matthew's already supports them financially and with our food donations. We are now looking to find ways to get to know the folks providing services as well as their clients. Arm in Arm does this in three ways.

1. A food pantry is set up like a neighborhood store. Families purchase food with points.
2. Job-counseling is offered to help clients write resumes, prepare job applications, and hone skills for their employment
3. Utilities and Rent assistance is available.

On **December 4**, Sarah Unger from Arm in Arm will come tell us more about their program during both services at 8 and 10.

MUSIC MINISTRY

We will be hiring a permanent Music Director in the coming months. What is it that we are looking to accomplish? How is music mission and how can we do mission through music? In this Newsletter, you will be reading about the vision and goals that have been developed through conversations with parishioners and outside professionals and we ask you to offer your feedback. How is God calling us to grow in mission through music?

Kairos Korner

Each Sunday morning our class time begins with gathering around our Christ candle and passing our prayer heart, each person sharing something that they would like to offer in prayer. The Christ candle reminds us that God is with us in our sacred space.

This Advent season the children are decorating candles to give as one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts to a special person that they would like to share the light of Christ with. All classes will decorate candles on December 4th and 11th. The candles will be blessed during the 10am service on Sunday, December 18^h.

Kairos Calendar

December 4: Lessons, candle decorating
December 11: Lessons, candle decorating
December 18: Lessons, blessing of Christ candles
December 25: NO CLASSES - Christmas break
January 1: NO CLASSES – New Year's Day



CHILDREN'S ADVENT SERVICE

We will **not have** a children's Advent Service this year, instead we will incorporate the assembly of the crèche during our Children's Christmas Eve Service at 3pm December 24th.



Christmas Eve Play! Due to a recent change in this year's play coordination, details will be forthcoming. We will have a Christmas Eve play which will be presented during the 3pm Children's Christmas Eve Service. Details will be posted on the Kairos bulletin board, the weekly bulletin and in parent emails.

Kairos Outreach 2016

The children of Kairos would like to thank all of you who contributed to this year's outreach project. With the donations made, we were able to assemble **303** children's meal bags for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen! We are grateful for your generosity without which this successful and meaningful project would not be possible.

~Also a big thank you to the McCloughan family for transporting the meal bags to TASK~

Music Ministry

Sunday December 11, 2016

10am Advent Lessons and Carols

A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist will take place Sunday, December 11, at 10:00am. All three of our choirs will offer music for the Advent season, interspersed with congregational hymns and scripture. Through word and song, we will tell the story of the great anticipation of the birth of Jesus.

Saturday, December 24, 2016 Christmas Eve

3:00pm Children's Play and Eucharist

Play rehearsals will take place from 11:30am-12:30pm after church on Sunday Dec 4, 11 & 18. "Dress" rehearsal with costumes will take place at 12:30pm Saturday, December 24, followed by the 3:00pm play and service itself. Snacks will be provided.

As mentioned above, the children's choir will be singing at the early Christmas Eve service, and all children of the parish are invited to join them in singing a special piece.

9:30pm Christmas Eve Music Prelude and 10:00pm Eucharist

A special 30 minute candlelit music prelude of Christmas choral, instrumental and handbell music will precede the 10:00pm Christmas Eve service.



St. Matthew's Church Christmas Flower Memorials



Anyone who would like to contribute to the Christmas Flowers in the Church is asked to fill out this form and return it together with a contribution to the parish office **no later than December 15th** to be sure that your loved one's name will be included in the bulletin.

In Memory of _____

Given by _____ Cash/Check \$ _____



WHAT A USEFUL WASTE!

This Fall, St. Matthew's made shipments to Terracycle of waste recycled, often from pieces gathered from the trash at St. Matthew's. The points were redeemed to feed eleven people. Help us turn recyclable waste into food for the hungry! Contact Robin Pearse-Drance for tips on how we can make meals out of recyclables.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE & RECORDING CLERK: 2016 PLEDGES

If you haven't, please look closely at the statement that you received in October detailing pledge and other contributions made through September 30, 2016. If you are behind in your pledge please make every effort to catch up by December 31st. If you have questions about your statement or need to discuss the balance remaining on your pledge for 2016 please contact our Recording Clerk, John Eckel at 609-737-8591.



Summer 2017 Mission Trips to Camden and Honduras

St. Matthew's Mission Committee is pleased to announce that we are offering two mission trip opportunities this coming summer:

El Hogar in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

July 8-15, 2017

Urban Promise in Camden, NJ

July 23-28, 2017

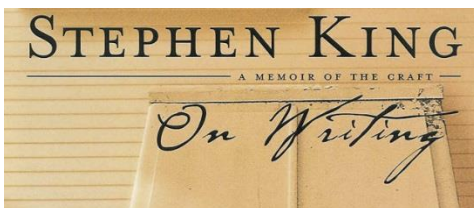
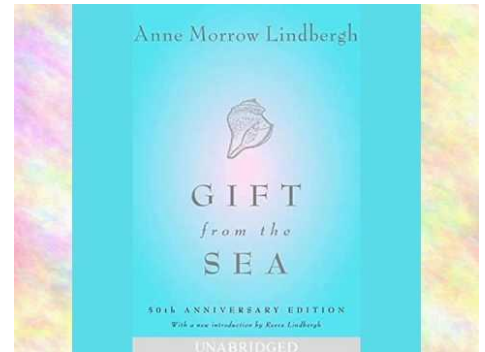
Applications and information are available on-line at <http://www.stmatthewspennington.org/outreach-2> and in paper

form outside of the Rector's office. Applications are due no later December 18. We hope to have both teams finalized shortly after that. Thanks in advance for your prayers and support!

SAINT MATTHEW BOOK CLUB

December: *Gift from the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh – December 15th

In this inimitable, beloved classic—graceful, lucid and lyrical—Anne Morrow Lindbergh shares her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment as she set them down during a brief vacation by the sea. Drawing inspiration from the shells on the shore, Lindbergh's musings on the shape of a woman's life bring new understanding to both men and women at any stage of life. Lindbergh casts an eye on the trappings of modernity that threaten to overwhelm us: the time-saving gadgets that complicate rather than simplify, the multiple commitments that take us from our families. She helps readers find a space for contemplation and creativity within their own lives. We will meet at church at 5:45 pm and carpool to Mickey Graham's house. Please bring and appetizer or a beverage.



January 19: *On Writing* Stephen King the church library

You don't need to be a King fan, a horror fan, or someone who wants to write to love this book. It's just a great book about determination, and how the past shapes us, and how the love and support of a single person can make all the difference. It's also the best explanation of addiction, and overcoming addiction, that I've ever read."

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



The First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, November 27

8:00am, Holy Eucharist
10:00am, Holy Eucharist & Kairos
5:00pm, Taizé Service

The Second Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 4

8:00am, Holy Eucharist
10:00am, Holy Eucharist & Kairos
5:00pm, Taizé Service



The Third Sunday of Advent, December 11

8:00am, Holy Baptism with Eucharist
10:00am, Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
5:00pm, Taizé Service

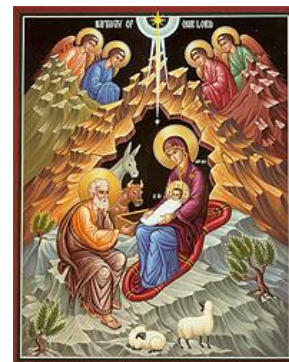


The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 18

8:00am, Holy Eucharist
10:00am, Holy Eucharist w/ Blessing of Kairos Candles
Guest Preacher from El Hogar
5:00pm, Taizé Service

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

3:00pm, Children's Christmas Play
9:30pm, Music by the choir, bell choir, and guests
10:00pm, Festive Choral Eucharist



Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

10:00am, Come as you are! Christmas Day Service (PJ's welcome)

The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, January 1

10:00 am, Holy Eucharist

St. Matthew's Music Vision



The Music Visioning Committee has been meeting regularly for some time for the purpose of discussing and articulating the next steps for the St. Matthew's music program. The Committee has developed the following draft

Vision Statement and Goals. An earlier draft was presented and discussed at a well-attended parish forum on November 20 and again with the Vestry on November 21. Comments received were included in the following draft. If you have comments, suggestions or questions about this draft of our Vision and Goals, please contact any committee member, Paul Bell (paul.bell@hotmail.com) or Rev. Barbara (rector@stmatthewspennington.org).

The committee members are: Paul Bell (facilitator), Barbara Briggs, Janice Kinnamon, Mary Kay Krokowski, Andy Swords, Bob Thick, Cheryl Watterson, Benita Wittenborn, and Loretta Varhley.

* * * * *

Vision

(What will the music program look like in two to five years?)

Music is a form of worship and faith formation, essential to the life of the entire parish. Music offers praise to God. It is a ministry rooted in thanksgiving, allowing people to joyfully connect with God and each other. The music repertoire will be wide-ranging – vocal, choral, instrumental; and involve all ages – adults, teens, children.

Goals

(How will we implement the Vision Statement?)

1. Foster a culture of faith formation and mission.
 - Faith formation necessitates that we be intellectually curious and open to how God might be using music to reach us, and to develop our Christian ethic.
 - Mission requires us to look outward. What forms will that take?
 - Invite a transformative experience for musicians and all worshippers.
2. Create an engaging music program for children and teens.
 - Help children and teens discover a wide variety of music.
 - Explore connecting college-aged musicians with children and teens, including Destinations and Logos participants.
 - Provide an opportunity to develop music skills, character, self-esteem and the traits of a leader.
 - Look for opportunities to serve unchurched and underserved populations.
 - Investigate and evaluate the potential for an after-school choir program.
3. Develop and further enrich the existing music program for adults
 - Sustain an environment respectful of tradition, but open to a wide variety of music
 - Cultivate a repertoire that is wide-ranging – vocal, choral and instrumental.
 - Encourage results that delight and transform our understanding of God's call to us.
 - Learn from other music programs, including through choir exchanges.
4. Recruit new participants from within and outside the parish.