

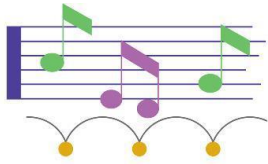


St. Matthew's Messenger

FEBRUARY 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. *The Church is open for prayer and meditation* during parish office hours on weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9am-4pm and Tuesdays and Fridays till 12noon.



REHEARSALS

ST. MATTHEW'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL TIME CHANGE

FEBRUARY 7TH

11:30AM – 12:15PM



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR...PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

FOR THE 2016–2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Has been postponed to the Snow Date Below

OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH.

10AM – 12 NOON

CONFIRMATIONS PARENTS! We will have a meeting, February 1st at 6pm, in the library. All parents of children in 8th grade are welcome.

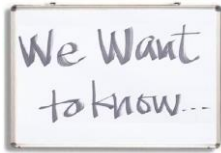
ANY QUESTIONS? If you or your child would like to receive communion or to be baptized or confirmed, you may like to speak with Mrs. Lori Cooper or The Rev. Barbara Briggs. We welcome your questions, whatever they are!



Have a comment, question or request? We are all ears! Or, if it makes it easier, you can write us a note on the clip-board in our mail-boxes outside the offices of the Rector, the Childrens' and Family Ministries Director, or the Music Director. Make sure you let us know to whom we can respond so we can follow up, and thank-you!



OUR PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE is looking for anyone who would like to offer a ride to parishioners who are unable to drive to doctor appointments, Church, or other short distances. Please contact Colleen Bell at colleenwbell@gmail.com



**PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A
TOWN HALL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7**



A time to reflect on our common life as a parish, share concerns, expectations; disappointments and thanksgivings; hurts, joys, and hopes. Where are we now, six months in? Where do we see God leading us! The Rev. Bud Holland, our former Transitions Consultant, will be our facilitator and our guest preacher that day.



Kairos Prayer Hearts Sale!!

On Sunday, February 7th, just in time for Lent and St. Valentine's Day, Kairos will be selling prayer hearts the proceeds of which will be given to a local charity (TBD). We will have a lovely selection of little hearts to choose from to give as gifts or to use at home for prayer time just as we do on Sunday mornings in our Kairos classes. Hearts will be on sale in Belmont Hall between services and following the 10am service.

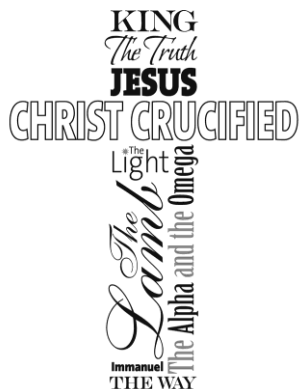


**Join us at St. Matthew's for our
Annual Mardi Gras Pancake Supper
on
Tuesday, February 9th
5 to 7:30pm
Adults \$7.00
Children (ages 6-12) \$4.00
Children under 6 FREE!**



The Pancake Supper is sponsored by the Parish Life Guild and staffed by our youth groups and our mission trip participants.

All proceeds benefit our summer mission trip to Urban Promise!



LENT - HOLY WEEK - EASTER SCHEDULE

February 10, Ash Wednesday

- 7:00am, Ash Wednesday Service w/Imposition of Ashes
- 12 Noon, Ash Wednesday Service w/Imposition of Ashes
- 4:30pm, Children's Ash Wednesday Service w/Imposition of Ashes
- 7:30pm, Ash Wednesday Service w/Imposition of Ashes

March 20, Palm Sunday – 8 and 10am

March 24, Maundy Thursday – 8:00pm, Service with Foot Washing

March 25, Good Friday – 12noon, Ecumenical Service

March 26, Saturday - 8:00pm, EASTER VIGIL

March 27, Sunday - 8 and 10am, EASTER SUNDAY

Lenten Small Group Offerings



Sign up and join a group during Lent as a way to intentionally practice and deepen your faith in one of the following ways. Hosts, leaders, dates, and times are listed following these group descriptions.

Dwelling in the Word

This method spends half an hour or more dwelling within a particular biblical passage. Any passage or the daily lectionary may be used. We will use a reading chosen from the Easter Vigil—“the record of God’s saving deeds in history”, as the Book of Common Prayer puts it. The invitation is for the text to expand thinking, open new pathways, encourage creativity, and make way for the Holy Spirit. A passage may be dwelt upon for weeks and months. We will explore this same brief passage for five weeks. No advance preparation is necessary.

Centering Prayer

“Be still and Know that I am God”. Centering prayer is a meditative practice in the Christian Tradition that will help us to become aware of our authentic selves and become closer to God. According to Father Thomas Keating, a Cistercian priest and monk, “Centering prayer is designed to withdraw our attention from the ordinary flow of our thoughts... and open our awareness to the spiritual level of our being.” The small group experience will discuss and demonstrate this contemplative practice by using Father Keating’s video to guide us in Centering prayer and help us to understand our corresponding psychological experience. We will sit comfortably in silence for twenty minutes followed by time to process and reflect as a group.

Christina Kales will facilitate a small prayer group in the reading of Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz’ book, **I Am That Child Changing Hearts and Changing the World**. The book documents her journey to Cameroon Africa where she confronts her own experiences with race and cultural privilege, global poverty and sexism. The book is divided into four sections, each with a discussion guide to focus your reading.

Each meeting will begin with a reading of scripture followed by a discussion of the text. Scripture will be read again at the conclusion of the evening to share additional insights. Books are available in advance of the first meeting planned for Wednesday February 17 at 7 p.m. Participants are invited to meet at the Kales Pennington home or at a location amenable to the group. Contact Christina Kales @ christina.kales@gmail.com or text to 609-203-9437.

Dwelling in the Word

Host	Leader	Time
Sylvia Hunt, library @ St. Matthew’s	Sylvia	Sunday Morning, 11:30
Elizabeth Gardner	Paul Bell	Monday, 7-8PM
Holly and Bruce Weise	Mark Lederer	Tuesday, 7-8PM
Ellie Driscoll, library @ St. Matthew’s (Note: this is a brown-bag lunch)	Ellie	Wednesday, Noon-1:30
Barbara Briggs	Paul Briggs	Thursday, 7-8PM
Loretta Varhley, library @ St. M.	Loretta Varhley	Friday, 7-8PM

Book Study

Host	Leader	Time
Christina Kales	Christina Kales	Wednesday, 7-8:30PM

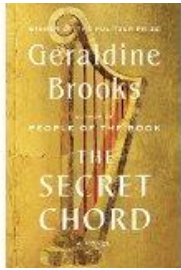
Centering Prayer

Host	Leader	Time
Jim Morrison	Jim Morrison	Monday, 7:30-9PM

Sign-up sheets will be posted in Belmont Hall and will include our hosts’ addresses. You can also call or email the office to sign up. “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by

self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." BCP p. 265

All groups will have their first meeting in the week beginning Monday, **February 15** and finish in the week ending Friday, **March 18**.



ST. MATTHEW'S BOOK CLUB

February 18, 7:00 pm (Note the new time.)

The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks. What Mary Renault did with Alexander the Great, Geraldine Brooks has done with King David: breathed life into an ancient hero. Here is a man who is both great and flawed, just like those tragic heroes Oedipus and King Lear.

The Secret Chord—a thundering, gritty, emotionally devastating reconsideration of the story of King David—makes a masterly case for the generative power of retelling. . .some of the magic here has to do with setting and time—for sensory dramatics, it's hard to compete with the Iron Age Middle East. . .but Brooks's real accomplishment is that she also enables readers to feel the spirit of the place."



ALTAR GUILD NEWS: THANK-YOU JOY AND WELCOME ELIZABETH AND SUE!

After many years of dedicated and loving service to St. Matthew's and to the members of the Altar Guild, Joy Zumbrun is stepping down as its director. We are immensely grateful for all the hours of attention to detail both in the care of the individuals who serve on the guild, and for organizing the care and provision of the many liturgical vessels, linens, candles and other appointments which make our worship so lovely. A heart-

felt thank-you and congratulations for a job superbly done is in order.

As we thank Joy for her service we also welcome Elizabeth McGuire as our new Altar Guild Coordinator and Sue Nelson as her Assistant. So much for which to be grateful! Serving on the Altar Guild is a way to get ready for worship in the quiet of the sanctuary. It is a prayerful and contemplative time of work and service to the whole community of St. Matthew's. The work of guild members may be quite hidden, but it is an essential part of helping each persons experience worship at St. Matthew's. So, we thank all of you who have ever served on the altar guild. Your quiet and hidden service is deeply appreciated. And we thank Elizabeth and Sue for their leadership in this important ministry going forward.



Cornhole Tournament And Chili Cookoff February 27th Beginning at 6pm



St. Matthew's next fellowship event promises to be fun for the entire family. Plan to come out for the innaugual Cornhole Tournament and Chili Cook-Off on **February 27th** at 6 pm.

Our Corn Hole Commissioners, John Eckel and Denny Rodgers, will instruct you in the finer points of Cornhole and have you tournament ready in no time. Come to St. Matthew's on **February 17, 18, 24 or 25** for instruction. Contact Denny Rodgers at dennypenny@verizon.net, or call him at (609) 883-5701 to sign up.

St. Matthew's best cooks are warming up their crock pots and breaking out their secret spices. In between cornhole rounds, you will decide which St. Matthew's cook claims the title of Chili Champion. Bragging rights and unbelievable prizes for our winners. Fun and fellowship for all!



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

OUR COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE is looking for people interested in volunteering to review our current signage, exterior and interior, sign lighting, letterhead,

etc. and make recommendations about how St. Matthew's can create a more visually current and appealing impression to the community. Please speak to Gary Driscoll, chair of the Communications Committee to express your interest or email him at drisc011g@gmail.com.

KAIROS KORNER

Our Children's Interactive Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 10th at 4:30pm.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is an annual opportunity for us to grow in our faith. It is a perfect time to abstain from unhealthy things in our lives and to make choices to do things that will make our relationship with God and His children healthier and stronger. Challenge yourself and be creative in how you make Lent meaningful for you and your family!

Christians are called to renew their commitments to spiritual practices like Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving (Giving). Try thinking of these things in a broader context~

1. Reduce your dependence on electronics for 24 hours (FASTING); take a few minutes each day to think of people throughout the world you have no electricity (PRAYER); spend the extra time you have "unplugged" on personal interaction with someone important to you (GIVING)
2. Reduce your carbon footprint for a day by using less electricity – think fireplace and candles! (FASTING); Reflect for a few minutes on the wonderful gift of the natural beauty that surrounds us – take a walk along the river, in a park or on a nature trail (PRAY); place a set amount of money, \$1 per day, in a collection bowl. Use that money to buy a shrub, a perennial flower to plant in your yard come spring time or give the money to a needy charity (GIVING)
3. Eliminate negative words and thoughts (FASTING); take a few minutes each morning to think positively about the people in your life. Ask God to help you with difficult relationships and situations (PRAYER); send or bring a card or letter to someone you care about (GIVING).
4. Think about what you usually spend your money on. Clothes? iTunes? Eating out? Pick one type of expenditure that you'll "fast" from during Lent and give the money you would usually spend to a local charity. Offer a prayer of thanks each day for all that you have.
5. "Fast" from listening to the radio while you are driving. The quiet will be deafening at first but let the quiet work its way through you. Focus on your breath, notice your surroundings, be open to God.
6. As a part of your Lenten **almsgiving**, make a point to learn as much about a particular social issue (immigration, human trafficking, racism, AIDS victims, child poverty) as possible. Give money to an organization, related to your chosen issue, that supports the dignity of the human person.
7. **Pray** for a stranger. As you're walking the streets, driving the highways, sitting in your cubicle at work, or going to a movie, pick out a person who and pray for that person. Be mindful of the words of Philo of Alexandria, who said, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."



Kairos Lesson Schedule

February 7th: Lessons ~ Prayer Heart Sale! (See below)

February 14th: Lessons, Lent 1

February 21st: Lessons, Lent 2

February 28th: Lessons, Lent 3

Looking Ahead:

Children's Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 20th at 4:30pm.

Children's Good Friday Service will be held on Friday, March 25th at 3pm.

Second Grade Eucharist Instruction: April 10th & 17th with Family Service Celebration on the 24th.