



St. Matthew's Messenger

July/August 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 9:30am-4pm and Tuesdays and Fridays till 12noon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Sunday, July 3	8 & 9:30am, The Rev. Ali Vankuiken, Celebrant and Preacher
Sunday, July 10	8 & 9:30am, The Rev. Lisa Caton, Celebrant and Preacher
Thursday, July 21	7:00pm, St. Matthew's Book Club at the Weises'
Saturday, July 23	9:00am, Summit for Clean Energy Revolution (til 6:30pm)
Saturday, July 24	Diocesan Choir Camp (through Thursday, July 28)
Saturday, July 31	10:00am, Commissioning of the Urban Promise Mission Trip Members
Sunday, August 7	8 & 9:30am, The Rev. Joan Fleming, Celebrant and Preacher
Sunday, August 14	8 & 9:30am, The Rev. Joan Fleming, Celebrant and Preacher

CLERGY VACATION SCHEDULE

Rev. Barbara will be on vacation the first **two weeks in July and the first two weeks in August**. Our supply clergy for that time are:



July 3	The Rev. Ali Vankuiken
July 10	The Rev. Lisa Caton
August 7	The Rev. Joan Fleming
August 14	The Rev. Joan Fleming

Please contact the parish office for any pastoral emergencies. The Rev. John Goerss will be available as pastoral support in July.

Sunday Summer Service Schedule



Service times will be 8 and 9:30 AM. *We plan to continue these times until our fall program starts in September, when we once again resume the 8 and 10 AM times for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on **September, 11**.



The Prayer Partner teams will be taking the summer off and return following Labor Day. If you are in need of ongoing confidential prayer during the summer, the Prayer Chain is available by calling Gail LaFrance at 609 737 7881 or email her at gclafance@verizon.net.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS NEEDED

Eucharistic immediately can be a most who because



Visitors (EVs) are licensed lay persons who take Holy Communion following the Eucharist to those who are either sick or shut-in. This is or rewarding experience and indeed, provides an invaluable service to those of illness or an inability to leave home, are still given the opportunity to

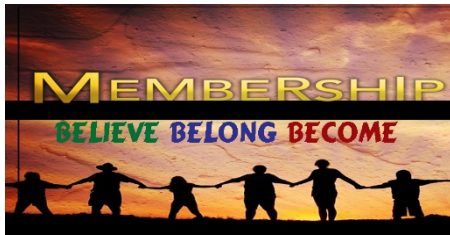
share this Sacrament with their church family.

While St. Matthew's doesn't have many members who require this benefit on an on-going basis, there are times when we have a need that is a little greater than our current resources are able to fill.



So, here is your opportunity! **If you think this is something you'd like to try, let's have a chat about it.** I am quite enthusiastic about this prospect and would love to meet with you.

Barbara+



How do I establish my membership at St. Matthew's?

If you are seeking God, we invite you to participate in the life of this parish in the way that will feed your search, and we recognize as members of the universal church all those who were baptized with water in the name of the triune God. For those who would like to join this parish of St. Matthew's officially or become members of the Episcopal Church, we offer the following guidelines:

Those who are not yet baptized: Please speak with the clergy. We would love to prepare you for baptism and share your journey into the Christian life. People who are baptized here become members of the parish at their baptism.

Those who are baptized but do not belong to any church: We need to know the date and place of your baptism. You become a member of this parish once we record your baptismal information in our parish register.

Those coming here from other Episcopal churches: At your request, the parish office will write your former parish and ask for a Letter of Transfer. Once St. Matthew's receives the letter, you are entered in the parish records as a member here.

Those coming from other denominations: The parish office can write your former church and ask for a transfer of records. Once we receive the transfer, or get your baptismal information from you directly, you can be entered into the book of communicants as a member.

Those who have not been confirmed: We offer programs to prepare both youth and adults for Confirmation. For most people this occurs after baptism but in some cases individuals are baptized and confirmed at the same service.

Those confirmed in other denominations who wish to become an Episcopalian: While any baptized person can become a member of this parish, some who come from other denominations wish to be received as Episcopalians at the hands of the Bishop. The same program which prepares people for confirmation also prepares people for Reception. To be received into this branch of the Church, the Bishop lays hands on and publically welcomes you at a service of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of baptismal vows. All those who have been received into the Episcopal Church enjoy the same rights as those who have been confirmed, including the right to serve on the Vestry and be licensed for various lay ministries, such as being a Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Lector, Preacher, Worship Leader, etc.

If you want to explore the many ways to be affiliated with St. Matthew's, or have questions about what is membership, please call the parish office or speak to the clergy. We are grateful that the Holy Spirit has led you here and we will support you in whatever way will be most helpful to you as you explore a deepening commitment to follow Jesus Christ.



Christian Formation Team

is born and invites you to join in the fun!

Over the past few months a small group has been meeting to begin planning for a variety of Christian Formation opportunities. Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to express our faith; the challenge we face is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live a sometimes countercultural life in a secular world. This team will look for ways that will help us all live out of our Christian identity and adopt practices that lead us to perceive our true selves and our place in the world. The team needs at least six more people to contribute to and expand on some of the ideas that have recently emerged. Or, we encourage you to simply share your dream with any of its members. (For now, Sylvia Hunt, Ellie Driscoll, Paul Bell, Jim Morrison, Nora Sirbaugh and Barbara Briggs).

Christian mindfulness aids growth in the spiritual life. Contemplative practices help us find a balanced, Christian response to the busyness and consumerism that is a hallmark of our sector of American society.

We invite you to join in the effort to discern together how to foster the discovery and adoption of our true selves rather defaulting to the ambient cultural norm. All of us are called to support and help each other discover our deeper freedom in Christ—a freedom to love others and to love creation. How can we help each other live a life of wholeness and integration rather than feeling pulled in all different directions?

We have been given the gift of community so that we can listen to each other and to our true, God-given selves and in the process, rediscover our sense of wonder. The way to wholeness can be found in contemplative and formational practices such as:

Silence

Admiring nature and the beauty of the earth

Centering prayer

Lectio Divina

Bible Study

Taize-style common prayer with space for silence

Listening deeply to self, to God and to others

Bible Drama and role play

Ignatian contemplation

Ecumenical events

Journaling

Spiritual Conversation

Stand alone talks and reflection on the challenges of being human

Small group study

Your input is needed as we develop a variety of offerings such as these, and more. We will be drawing on the many gifted people in our community, (that's you), to help us live into a year of contemplation and formation, beginning in the Fall of 2016.



Are you baptized?

Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the church, and constitutes full membership in the church. It is normally celebrated within the principle celebration of the Eucharist on a Sunday or another feast.¹ God establishes an indissoluble bond with each person in baptism. Through it we are adopted as God's children, made members of the universal church and inheritors of the Kingdom of God (BCP, pp. 298, 858). In baptism we participate in the new life of the Holy Spirit and in the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is the foundation for all future church participation and ministry. Each candidate for baptism in the Episcopal Church is sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Sponsors, (godparents), speak on behalf of candidates for baptism who are infants or younger children² and cannot speak for themselves at the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates.

During the baptismal rite the members of the congregation promise to do all they can to support the candidates for baptism in their life in Christ. They join with the candidates by renewing the baptismal covenant. Candidates are baptized with water by immersion or affusion, (from the Latin affusio, meaning "to pour on"),³ "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," and then marked on the forehead with the sign of the cross. Chrism⁴ may be used for this marking. The newly baptized is "sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever." When all baptisms have been completed, the celebrant and congregation welcome the newly baptized.

Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, the Day of Pentecost, All Saints Day or the Sunday following, and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the First Sunday after the Epiphany).⁵

KAIROS KORNER

SUMMER SUNDAYS

Our Kairos program takes a break during the summer months. All of the 9:30 services will be held in our air conditioned Belmont Hall. The services have a more casual feel which makes them a perfect time for children to get comfortable worshipping with their families for the entire service.



We understand that attention spans may be short so we have Worship Bags available for children (look for the tie dye bags!) which contain quiet things to occupy little hands while

an emergency arises, in which case, baptism may be administered anywhere by a priest or anyone else if the priest cannot arrive in time.

² The Catechism notes that "Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God." The baptismal promises are made for infants by other baptized persons, such as their parents or sponsors, "who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him" (BCP, pp. 858-859).

³ (BCP, p. 307).

⁴ Oil blessed by the diocesan bishop for this purpose

⁵ In 2016-2017 these feasts fall on the following dates:

All Saints Day: November 1, 2016

All Saints: the Sunday after, **November 6, 2016,**

The Baptism of our Lord: Sunday, **January 8, 2017**

The Easter Vigil: Saturday night, **April 15, 2017**

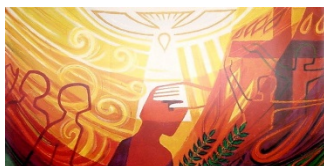
Pentecost: Sunday, **June 4, 2017**

All Saints, the Sunday after, **November 5, 2017**

their little ears listen. We will also have a child friendly worship space in Belmont where children can sit comfortably with parents close by to supervise.

Here are some ideas for making the most out of worship time with your child:

- Talk with your child at home about the service: how to be respectful and attentive. We call our classrooms “sacred space” which is anywhere that we invite God to be with us. Any place that we gather to worship is sacred space and so we try to keep our bodies still and listen.
- Once you are in your seats, encourage your child to sit quietly and pray for people in their lives or things that may be on their minds. This is how we begin our class time – by passing the prayer heart and offering whatever is on our hearts in prayer.
- Assist with and encourage your child to follow along in the bulletin. We worship with our bodies as well as with our mind and heart, so there is movement throughout the service! Stand, sit or kneel when appropriate etc. Doing this engages their entire body in worship.
- Be a good “peace” giver! Be sure to extend a handshake to all those around you and encourage your child to do the same during the Peace.
- Let your child place your offering in the collection plate when it is passed – they can even add some coins of their own.
- After church, take the bulletin insert home so you can pray for the people on the prayer list.



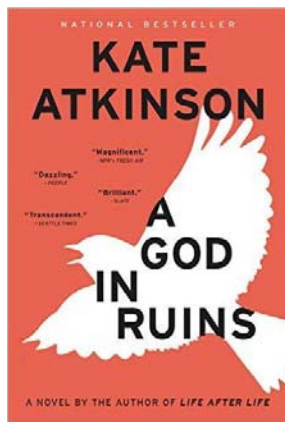
SUNDAY, SEPT 11TH:
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND TEACHER
COMMISSIONING 10AM SERVICE TIME RETURNS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER

Kairos Class

18TH: NEW KAIROS YEAR BEGINS!



ST. MATTHEW'S BOOK CLUB
Thursday, July 21, 2016 - 7:00 pm
at the Weises', 5 Birch Street

A God in Ruins, by Kate Atkinson, is an ingenious and moving exploration of one ordinary man's path through extraordinary times. It tells the dramatic story of the 20th century through Teddy - a would-be poet, heroic World War II pilot, husband, father, and grandfather - as he navigates the perils and progress of a rapidly changing world. After all that Teddy endured in battle, his greatest challenge is living in a future he never expected to have.

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 23, 2016

**SUMMIT FOR A
CLEAN ENERGY
REVOLUTION**

Join us for a one-day conference with experts and activists about stopping fracking, fossil fuel infrastructure, and all dirty energy sources and building the Clean Energy Revolution.

Friends Center • Philadelphia, PA

SUMMIT FOR A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION

Saturday, July 23, 2016

9:00 AM - 6:30 PM

At the Friends Center

1501 Cherry Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Join the Diocesan Environmental Commission at the Summit for a Clean Energy Revolution in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, July 23rd - the day before the March for a Clean Energy Revolution!

Work with professionals and activists through educational workshops, organizing skills trainings, and strategy development sessions. Be a part of this gathering of people working to ban fracking, keep fossil fuels in the ground, stop dirty energy infrastructure and justly transition to 100% renewable energy.

The day will have a mix of educational workshops, organizing skills trainings, and strategy development sessions. Come prepared to acquire new skills and strategies to take back to your local campaigns and to meet people working on similar efforts in their communities across the country.

Event Details:

— Tickets are free, with an option to purchase breakfast and lunch.

Agenda:

— 9:00 a.m. — Registration begins

— 9:30 a.m. — Conference begins

— 6:30 p.m. — Conference ends

Transportation to Summit:

— If you are planning to attend the summit and need transportation to Philadelphia, please email lchamberlain@fwwlocal.org (include your phone number, city and state) in order to learn more about hosting or joining a carpool.

To get tickets, go to:

<https://secure.foodandwaterwatch.org/site/Ticketing.jsessionid=D382FEF384F17B2A1C6BD950C0617F23.app361b?view=Tickets&id=120632>



God of Abundance!

You are essential to God's Mission at St. Matthew's!

How do we fund our mission at St. Matthew's? We can't do it without you!

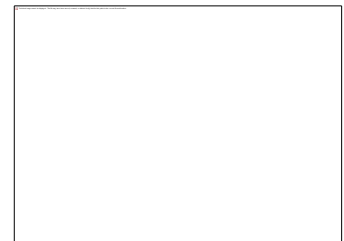
Having adequate financial resources is critical in order to live boldly into the charge we are given!

To learn more about ways to fund our life in Christ as a parish, come attend a workshop on raising funds for mission called Project Resource. (All you need is a love for St. Matthew's. No prior financial expertise necessary)!

Join the 14 Innovator Congregations already signed up and learn more about Project Resource and how the materials may be used specifically to address our congregation's financial needs. There will be two opportunities for you to participate on July 23rd (St. David's, Cranbury) or July 30th (Christ Church, New Brunswick) To register email: projectresource@dioceseofnj.org

Diocesan Choir Camp
Saturday, July 24-28- Youth
Holiday House, Cape May, NJ

Choir Camp is sponsored each year by the Diocese and the Church of the Advent in Cape May, New Jersey. Singers ages 10-21 are welcome to



register at a cost of \$350 per camper, which includes housing. Two scholarships are available from the Diocese of New Jersey. Contact [Diane Caruso](#) for details.

[Visit for more information, or to register.](#)

Battle Against Hunger

NEW

George & Kinny Bike or Walk - September 9 - 11



The BAH charity bike ride was inaugurated 14 years ago as a 2 day 200 mile event between Gettysburg, PA and Trenton, NJ. Two years ago we added one day out-and-back rides of from 35 to 100 miles. We have raised nearly a million dollars for agencies that feed the less fortunate. (see battleagainsthunger.org)

This year we are adding family friendly off-road options crossing the historic Washington Crossing Bridge through lovely Titusville Village with views of the Delaware, then as far as you care to go – Lambertville, Stockton or Bulls Island State Park and return via the Delaware Raritan Canal tow path (anywhere from 1.5 to 36 miles).

A delicious barbeque follows at the Washington pavilion on September 11th in Washington Crossing Park on the Pennsylvania side. can raise funds for one of our existing charities or for one that you support that feeds the hungry.

Contact Denny Rodgers at dennypenny@verizon.net or at 609-458-2211 for more information.

George & Kinny Gallup were instrumental in establishing the BAH ride.

CYCLE OF THANKS FOR TIME AND TALENT

In appreciation for Time and Talent that so many of you freely give to St. Matthew's, the Rector, Wardens and Vestry have launched a "Cycle of Thanks for Time and Talent." We will recognize a different group of ministries each month except during the summer, Christmas and Easter months. The Schedule for the next few months is listed below and we will fill in the remaining dates in the Fall. We are both humbled and deeply grateful for your Time and Talent. St. Matthews could not function, and would not be the special place that it is, without

your efforts.

Please join in us in recognizing and thanking the following groups for their Time and Talent:

- September 11, Recognizing & Commissioning of Kairos Teachers and blessing of backpacks.
- September 25, Worship: Recognition & Commissioning of our liturgical ministers including Altar Guild, Acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, Sub Deacons and Lectors.
- October 9, Youth Ministry: Recognition & Commissioning of our Youth Ministries including Kairos, Destinations, Logos/High School, Nursery Care, Pre School, Adult Ed, director of Children's Ministries & Director of Pre School.
- October 16: Teacher Appreciation
- More to come!

IN PREPARATION FOR THE RENEWAL OR LICENSING OF OUR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND VISITORS.

We are currently not in compliance with the diocesan guidelines and are looking forward to bringing everyone up to date. If you wish to serve, or are currently serving in these ministries, you will need to provide certification that you have attended a Sexual Misconduct Awareness training and a Eucharistic ministry workshop. (The Sexual Misconduct Awareness training opportunities are listed on the diocesan web-site on the Ministry Institute page:



<http://www.dioceseofnj.org/mi/>. The Eucharistic workshop will be held on a date to be announced). If you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Barbara Briggs. Thank-you for your faithful and prayerful service!

Team Camden Thanks You!

We are very grateful for all who have offered your prayers, kind words, and generous financial support toward our upcoming trip to Camden on July 31 – August 5. We again will be working with Urban Promise – an organization that has an ongoing presence in Camden, providing school, support, and jobs to the children and families of Camden. We will be working with Urban Promise’s summer camp in the mornings and doing work around their campus in the afternoons. This year we will be participating in all-camp day – a fun and friendly competition among the several camps that the kids prepare for all week practicing their own songs, skits, etc. that show why their camp is special.



Thank you to all those who participated in our fundraising efforts, including the Super Bowl hoagies & chili sale, the Mardi Gras pancake supper, and the Wildflower’s fundraisers.

Still wondering how you can help? Pray for the Team before, during and after the trip. Write us a note! These notes are read at our evening devotional meetings and help to keep us inspired with words from home! Just give your finished letters (either to individual Team members or to the Team as a whole) to Lynn Lorenz (lynn@justmultiples.com) or Phyllis Jones (PJ_SoccerMom@Yahoo.com)

The team will be commissioned during the 9:30 service on July 31. Later in the year, the team will get a chance to share its experience with the parish.



The Heart-to-Heart Challenge!

Many of you may remember the compelling and inspiring visit and sermon by Stephen Michael and Rob a few weeks ago. Just as a reminder, Heart-to-Heart brings life-changing education to people that are pushed to the margins- our sisters and brothers who are locked up in correctional facilities. Our community’s participation in this thirty-day challenge is a direct expression to these members of our family that their lives matter. Thank you. Every dollar our community members give, up to \$10,000, will be matched and effectively doubled thanks to a generous donor who has initiated this challenge.

You can give on line immediately at <https://hearttoheart.networkforgood.com> OR, checks can be written to “Heart-to-Heart” and mailed to PO Box 1441, Merchantville, NJ 08109. Heart2Heart is a 501(c)3 public charity and contributions are tax-deductible. Since the match is limited to thirty days, please give as soon as possible.

Beyond this campaign, Stephen Michael and the people of Heart to Heart look forward to partnering with St. Matthews in offering training for our community and for creating together opportunities to serve, perhaps bringing contemplative prayer and communication skills to the Mercer County Corrections Center in Hopewell Township. This may be our chance to meet some amazing people. This brief video introduces their work: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-w7SZdd1Ng4&feature=youtu.be>