



# St. Matthew's Messenger

JUNE 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.

### 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.

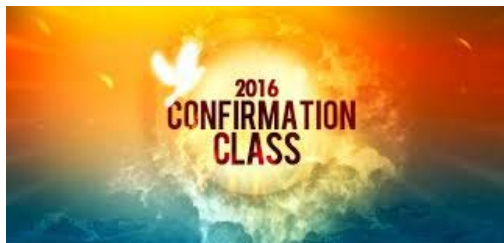
### Sunday Summer Service Schedule



On Sunday, **June 19th**, we will start our summer Sunday 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 (June 5 thru 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](mailto:gclafance@verizon.net).



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS!

Come recognize our amazing youth on **June 5** when we will be presenting them with their confirmation certificates and giving each of them their own Book of Common Prayer. Lauren Bruhl, Rickey Eng, Scott McCLOughan, Anna Neal and Tyler Robbins were confirmed by Bishop Stokes at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton on Saturday, **May, 21**.

This faithful group meets one more time on **May 31** to go do our shopping for meal packets for children who might otherwise go hungry at breakfast and lunch while they are not receiving meals at school over the summer. The Parish Life Guild has matched the \$225 the kids made at the carwash, so that we will be able to assemble approximately 22 packets for distribution.

### **New Traditions-Music Ministry Recognition Sunday**

On Sunday, May 15, 2016, we recognized all of those in the parish who in some way participate in the music ministry, from members of each of our choirs, to individuals who occasionally offer solo instrumental or vocal music. It has been a pleasure working with you all, and I am grateful for each of you who have shared your time and talent to enhance our worship services, particularly during Holy Week and Eastertide. **THANK YOU!**

The choir season draws to a close Sunday June 5. The majority of the hymns and anthems programmed for the 10am service that morning were chosen by the choirs. I hope this and Music Ministry Recognition Sunday will become annual traditions!

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable and restful summertime,  
Jim Douglas  
Interim Director of Music Ministry



### **CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR WITH JIM DOUGLAS!**

We are happy to announce that we will have Jim for another program year with him at the helm of our Music Program.

He will be

- working together with the Rector and Director of Children's/Family Ministry to enhance the varied worship services offered at St. Matthew's,
- helping us experiment with new models of music ministry, with an eye for the development of a missional approach, including collaboration in the local community and the fostering of fellowship and formation with youth,
- Modifying aspects of the current program to be able to champion missional initiatives,
- Continuing our traditional excellence in all three choirs: adult, children's, and handbell.



As the **Music Visioning Team** continues to discern God's call for how to engage with youth, how to do formation, and how to collaborate with members of the local community for expanding the opportunities for education and fellowship in music, they will be looking toward creating a job-description for the hire of a permanent Music Director, to be hired in the Spring of 2017. We hope our own Jim Douglas will be among the applicants, as already we are drawing on his considerable experience, creativity, musical excellence, and vision for moving our music beyond our walls and for recruiting new membership.

# 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 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 11<sup>TH</sup>:**

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND TEACHER  
COMMISSIONING 10AM SERVICE TIME RETURNS**



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER**

**Kairos Class**

**18<sup>TH</sup>: NEW KAIROS YEAR BEGINS!**



## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

- To contact anyone on the **Parish Life Guild** with questions or ideas about missional outreach and/or fellowship, simply email [stmatthewsplg@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsplg@gmail.com).
- There is a box for your old glasses in the vestibule by the office. They are picked up and donated by the Lions Club on a regular basis.
- Grocery donations for the hungry are needed every week. On any Sunday you choose, simply put your grocery donation in the baskets under the table in the narthex, (the hall between the chapel and the church).



## CELEBRATING ST. MATTHEW'S HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH... CAN YOU HELP?

Hello, St. Matthew's parishioners! The welcome arrival of The Rev. Barbara Briggs to our family has allowed us post-transition to step back and assess our strengths and opportunities in various church activities. Leaders of St. Matthew's high school youth efforts met recently with

Pastor Barbara to discuss our hopes and dreams for guiding and engaging the high school youth of our church. We will be infusing new ideas and energy into our meetings in coming months around a broader theme of "Exploring Faith."

If we have learned anything in our time with your wonderful teens, it is that we can't follow a course of "all talk and no action." We are looking for one or two additional volunteers to help plan and guide youth activities during our meetings. Maybe you know a young person from your family or the community who wants experience working with youth, or you have been considering joining St. Matthew's youth efforts. Now's your chance! This is by no means a solo gig. You will be working collaboratively with a few other youth leaders to plan and execute meetings, with a particular focus on organizing fun and engaging activities. Please contact Diana Drake at [drakeink@aol.com](mailto:drakeink@aol.com) or by text/phone at 609-610-0679 if you or someone you know would like to get involved. Thank you!

## Potluck dinner and important conversation

### The Challenges of Racism

Wednesday, JUNE 8 from 6-9, St. Matthew's Belmont Hall

and how we can overcome our fears and obstacles to creating a society where we truly appreciate each other's gifts, differences, and experience. A "Chew and Chat" facilitated by Ms. Renata Barnes and drawing on the stories from other community leaders. You won't want to miss this! How often do we get the time and space to honestly express our views without needing to be politically correct? This will be a safe space where your experience and view point will be honored, not judged, and truly heard.

**In Belmont Hall and open to the entire Hopewell valley. Spread the news!**

OF ROOTS AND RACISM



SHARING OUR STORIES



## Make Trinity Cathedral your place of Worship on June 12 for a unique Flower Festival Eucharist.

The service – a Flower Festival Eucharist – begins at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Stokes will be the preacher, and the Very Reverend Richard C. Wrede, Dean of the Burlington Convocation, will be the celebrant. No other business, no motions, no votes, no speeches – just the wonderful worship of God in the sacramental presence of Christ and in "your" Cathedral, magnificently adorned with floral arrangements created by parishioners throughout the Diocese.

The Cathedral Major Chapter invites everyone to join them immediately following the service for a lunch specially prepared by some of the Cathedral's partner organizations in Trenton. Immediately following lunch, expert guides will be on hand to give short, informal tours of the Cathedral that tell its story and reveal its architectural and artistic beauties. There will also be a more leisured opportunity to enjoy the wonderful floral displays.

## Make or learn to make floral arrangements on Saturday, June 11

The free workshop on Saturday, led by Ira Lackey of Trinity Princeton, (and the source of the nearly two dozen arrangements that will adorn the Cathedral the following day), is open to all regardless of expertise and may indeed be an opportunity to for you to consider developing such a ministry at your church.

Interested persons should contact Ira directly at [iralackey10@gmail.com](mailto:iralackey10@gmail.com),

## LADIES LUNCHEON – JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>

Thank you to Mickey Graham and June Crowther for a lovely luncheon this week!



We collected money for Battle Against Hunger in memory of Chuck Inman. If you would still like to make a donation, you can see either Carol Flanders or Judy Lewis. We will continue to collect money until the end of May.

Our June luncheon will be at Hopewell Country Club on June 15th. Katherine Spych is coordinating this event. The cost will be \$25.00 which will include crudité's, cheese and crackers, unlimited coffee, tea or soda, three choices of entree and a dessert tray, plus tax and tip. The lunch choices are:

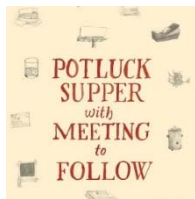
- Half sandwich and soup  
Tuscan vegetable soup with pastina, chicken salad sandwich with tomato, avocado, sprouts on whole grain bread.
- Half salad and soup  
tuscan vegetable soup with pastina, summer salad with mixed greens, watermelon, strawberries, chicken, almonds, and balsamic vinaigrette.
- Pappardelle pasta in a fresh plum tomato sauce with a dollop of ricotta cheese.

You will order your choice the day of the luncheon. The price is based on at least 15 people attending, therefore we are asking that you sign up now. Payment will be due by the day of the luncheon. Please email Katherine at [lakehenry@mac.com](mailto:lakehenry@mac.com) (or call 737 2560) or Judy at [Judithlew@aol.com](mailto:Judithlew@aol.com) to sign up. All checks or cash for the luncheon go to Katherine Spych.

September luncheon will be hosted by Barbara VonOehson, October will be at Sally Barber's.



**ST. MATTHEW'S BOOK CLUB - Thursday, June 16 at 7:00 pm** (Sunday School classroom) *Etta and Otto and Russell and James: A Novel* by Emma Hooper is incredibly moving and beautifully written. It is a book that restores one's faith in life even as it deepens its mystery. The book explores the interactions and connections between spouses and friends—the rivalries, the camaraderie, the joys and tragedies—and reveals the extraordinary lengths to which people will go in the name of love.



**POTLUCK DINNER AND PARISH MEETING WEDNESDY JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 6PM**  
Bring your favorite dish and topic of conversation to a get-together in Belmont Hall. What is important to you at St. Matthew's? We want to hear it and provide a time for all of us to share our ideas, passions, questions, and challenges about our life as an intentional community of Christians seeking to grow the church and serve God in a rapidly changing world.



God of Abundance!

Having adequate financial resources is critical in order to live boldly into the charge we are given to proclaim God's love in all the world and to learn about how God is alive and present in the midst of our normal lives!

**On July 23rd** – at St. David's, Cranbury we have the opportunity to learn more about Project Resource and how the materials may be used specifically to address our congregation's financial needs.

Time TBA

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES THIS JUNE:



### SCREENAGERS

This documentary is the first to explore the impact of screen time on kids and offers parents solutions. Only 2 showings. Parents are encouraged to bring their children (recommended 5th-12th). A facilitated discussion will follow. [Buy Tickets for June 5](#) at 6:30 PM or [Buy Tickets for June 7](#) at 9:00 AM.

### Hopewell Valley Come Outside and Play!

Happening June 9-11...activities abound! Complete listing: [bit.ly/1sOzNHF](http://bit.ly/1sOzNHF) Registration required for some with limited participation!

### Community Day Music Festival

As part of Hopewell Borough's 125th Anniversary this event will be held Saturday, June 18 from 4-11PM at the St. Michaels Farmland Preserve. This is a free family event. For more information: [www.hopewellblockparty.org/](http://www.hopewellblockparty.org/)

### Hopewell Community Camp Out

Space will be limited for Saturday, June 25 event. Additional information and registration can be obtained online thru D&R Greenway Land Trust at: [www.drgreenway.org/2016%20Campout.html](http://www.drgreenway.org/2016%20Campout.html)

### Hopewell Valley Night at Trenton Thunder

The entire Hopewell Valley community is invited to discounted tickets on this special night Tuesday, June 28. A great way to kick off summer! Ticket information flyer: [bit.ly/1WPMAWp](http://bit.ly/1WPMAWp)



## 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:

- May 19, Music Ministries: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Handbell Choir and Interim Music Director.
- May 22, Kairos appreciation and media presentation.
- June 19, Service: Recognition & Commissioning of our Hospitality & Coffee Hour Hosts, Pastoral Care, Prayer Partners, Eucharistic Visitors, Ushers, Greeters & Clergy.
- 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!

## SUMMIT FOR A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION

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

When: Saturday, July 23rd, from 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Where: Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Join us at the Summit for a Clean Energy Revolution on Saturday, July 23rd – the day before the March for a Clean Energy Revolution! We will be working with professionals and activists through educational workshops, organizing skills trainings, and strategy development sessions.

# Music at St. Matthew's

## *Congregational Hymns by the Numbers*

Since the start of the 2016 calendar year, we have kept a list of the weekly usage of congregational hymns and service music. Many thanks to Larry Parker and Paul Bell for their assistance in compiling a list of familiar hymns to the parish. More than twelve new hymns and a new service music Enriching our Worship setting have been introduced so far in 25 different worship services in 2016.



Below is the 1982 Hymnal usage programmed from January 3, 2016 through May 15, 2016. (\*indicates new hymn introduced)

Xmas/Epiphany - 102, 480, 324, 109, 339, 512, 295\*, 448, 124, 135, 423, 126, 497, 409, 530, 632, 631, 539, 359, 598, 440, 437, 427, 137, 134\*, 460

Lent - 142, 411, 150, 559, 401, 675, 455, 149, 152, 309, 344, 686, 467, 641, 690

Palm Sunday/Holy Week/Easter Sunday - 154, 458, 167, 474, 168, 480, 171, 315, 329, 172, 160, 168, 296, 207, 187, 199, 210, 207, 208, 174, 193, 180

Eastertide - 208, 212, 328, 193, 191, 535, 255, 256\*, 522, 391, 691, 645, 400, 405, 376, 518, 538, 508, 511, 494, 214, 483, 542

Pentecost - 225, 516, 513

Below is the usage of other hymnals and other hymns from other sources programmed from January 3, 2016 through May 15, 2016.

Lift Every Voice and Sing 24\*, 119\*, 157\*, 89\*, 165\*, 147\*, 120

Wonder, Love and Praise 779, 742

My Heart Sings Out 105\*

Taize "God is forgiveness," "Into your hands, o Father,"  
"All my heart lies open to you," "Stay with us," "Peace I leave you"

New hymns from other sources "In silent hunger, Christ we reach for you,"\*  
"Jesus calls us o'er the tumult"\*

## *St. Matthew's Choir Membership* (as of January 3, 2016)



Adult Choir Member 2015-16 (approx. # of years)

Rose Ananthanayagam (14), June Crowther (44), Claire

Cannon (45), Annie Gribbins (8), Sylvia Hunt (54), Robin Pearse-Drance (16), Cathy Price

(5), Sally Burkman (44), Janice Kinnamon (25), Sara Ottinger (25), Sandy Parker (44), Larry Parker (44), Bob Thick (10), Paul Bell (30), Marty Nelson (46), Ron Sheay (50), Tom Pearse-Drance (16)



Handbell Choir 2015-16 (approx. # of years)

Sally Burkman (1), Phyllis Jones (10), Janice Kinnamon (4), Naomi Kinnamon (4), Natalie Kinnamon (4), Cheryl Ludwig (12), Jenn Miller (4), Sara Ottinger (7)

Children's  
Tea L,



Choir

Michaela L, Olivia S, Stevie S, Clementine S, AJ R, Nora C, Charlotte C





## PROMOTING CHURCH GROWTH

Rob Droste



### **Seven Church Attitudes to Let Go Of – And What We Gain When We Do**

When it comes to church growth, there are few factors more important than attitude. Attitudes form a kind of mental shorthand. Vital to managing our thought processes, attitudes are how we pack our thoughts and feelings about something into an instant, no-thought response. The attitudes we carry have tremendous impact on our lives. Winston Churchill once said “attitude is a small thing that makes a big difference,” and he was right. Few things can have as positive an outcome in our lives as individuals and as congregations as a change in attitude. Here are a few attitudes that you may have observed in your congregation. A quick look shows the benefits of changing them. Naming them is the first step.

1. **“This is my church and it should be how I like it.”** We human beings really do like to have things our way. We never say it this way, but it’s an often-unquestioned attitude that keeps us from putting ourselves in the place of newcomers. *The benefits of changing this attitude:* We get a church that’s much more welcoming to visitors. It also **includes new members more effectively, who need to know that their desires count if they’re going to stay.**
2. **“We’re just a big family.”** This one sounds so good – but underneath it is a whole raft of beliefs, ideas and experiences (that are different for everyone, and not always positive). It can even be exclusive, as in “we’re a tight-knit family”! *The benefits of changing this attitude:* When we focus on being a community, not a family – a group of people tied together by passion for a shared purpose – we are much more welcoming. Our shared passion for a purpose also gives newcomers a compelling reason to join us.
3. **“We need more people who will pledge and do the things we’re tired of doing.”** I have personally heard this statement many, many times. *The benefits of changing this attitude:* People sense immediately if we want them for their money and energy – and they run the other way. But if we do our best to approach people for the opposite reasons (to give to them and help them do things in their lives that need doing), many will be genuinely interested. Who approaches people wanting to give them great stuff for free? Christians do.
4. **“It’s the clergy’s job to get people in here.”** This is a tough one. It’s an attitude that often covers our fears of rejection. What if the people we invite say no? What if they think I’m weird? *The benefits of changing this attitude:* Of course, if everyone brought people to church, we’d grow incredibly quickly. It’s more important than that, though. The primary benefit is personal, as it’s the responsibility of every single Christian to help other people become followers of Jesus. When we do it, we’re living into who we really are called to be.
5. **“It’s soccer’s fault.”** This is a tough one, too, because it seems so true, and it’s a relatively new problem for the church. *The benefits of changing this attitude:* If we don’t let ourselves blame Sunday sports and accept that the world has changed (and isn’t changing back), it will open us up to try some new things. (God apparently wants us to, so saying yes is a good thing.) As John Roberto, one of the country’s leading experts in Christian “e-formation” says, “when those soccer moms and dads are out there, what are they looking at besides their kids? Their mobile devices. We can be there with them.”
6. **“Christians are obnoxious, self-righteous and not very bright.”** This is a really deep and pervasive story in some circles. We’ve experienced being preached at. We watch television, where Christians are often hypocrites or stupid. *The benefits of changing this attitude:* When we decide that Christians run the gamut of smart and dumb, good and evil, hard-workers and lazy, and many more, we can relax and know there’s a place for us, too. As one person said, “yes, the church is full of hypocrites. We’ve got room for one more.” When we recognize that some Christians are among the smartest people around, and doing some of the best things around, that we’re imperfect people beloved of God, we can relax a little bit more. That makes us more appealing as individuals and as a church.
7. **“My actions are how I talk about Jesus.”** In a very real sense, this is true. But we can change it by addition: “My words and actions are how I talk about Jesus.” *The benefits of changing this attitude:* First, it’s essential that we actually talk about the Jesus we know if someone is going to consider following him and become (hopefully) part of our church. But even better, we can learn some new skills with practice. We grow spiritually when we’re sharing our story with others – and learning all about their stories at the same time.

These are just a few of the powerful attitudes at work in our lives together – the shorthand stories we tell ourselves. If we want our churches to be healthy, we can admit these are the ways we sometimes think, and take positive action to change. The greatest power of changed thought – the Holy Spirit – will be with us as we do that work, “transforming us,” as St. Paul said, “by the renewing of our minds.” Growing churches will be the fruits of our labor.

# 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](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dennypenny@verizon.net) or at 609-458-2211 for more information.

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