



St. Matthew's Messenger

October 2016

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

To receive the monthly Messenger 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.

Dear good people of St. Matthew's,

How good it feels to be together again after having been away for some of the summer!

- Nine LOGOS High School students came out for the "kick-off" meeting last Sunday.
- Eleven Middle School students gathered for Destinations on Wednesday.
- The 7th and 8th grade class welcomed back thirteen young people last Sunday
- The entire Kairos Sunday School program includes 55 children, and there is plenty of room for more.
- Approximately a dozen women have registered for the Women's Spirituality and Bible course
- The Music program will host an open house on **October 15**
 - 9:00am-10:30am Children's Choir Session
 - 10:30am-12:00pm Handbell Choir Session
 - 12:30-2:00pm Youth & Adult Choir Session
- The Music Youth Program is starting a program to develop leadership and music skills in young people.
- New Consecration Sunday will be sporting several new improvements from last year. It will
 - generate enthusiasm for our participation in God's Mission through St. Matthew's.
 - Be a time of gratitude and celebration for the varied gifts that make St. Matthew's so special.
 - Help us to see our personal finances as part of those gifts.
 - Help us discover the spiritual dimension of giving.
 - Offer us the opportunity to hear compelling stories about how God and St. Matthew's are making a difference in our own members' lives.
 - Spawn reflection and conversation around the question: What is God asking each of us?
- PLG is working on partnering with local organizations to fight hunger and illiteracy.
- The Battle Against Hunger brought out walkers and riders for a fabulous fund-raiser to benefit local non-profits, including our own Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and Rescue Mission.
- The book group, Bible Study and so much more are all back in full swing, nurturing, inspiring and supporting the members of our community.
- The Hopewell Township Municipal Alliance heard first hand at their September meeting of the exciting ways St. Matthew's is a resource for the area.
- Couples have been prepared for marriage, and children and families have been prepared for baptism.
- The ill and homebound get visits from us in the name of Jesus Christ, the healer, comforter and source of life and love.

It is such a gift to witness the multiple ways you are all making a difference in the world, in your family, and in your circle of friends and colleagues. Thanks be to God and to this wonderful parish. And I keep you all in my prayers with thanksgiving. May God bless you and everything you endeavor this Fall.

In Christ's love,

The Rev. Barbara Briggs, Rector

Thank You!

Thank-you to all our coffee hour hosts. Your hospitality and service make the time after the service refreshingly enjoyable. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones, and to connect with each other after worship. We are grateful for all the time and attention our volunteer hosts give for our benefit.

Would anyone like to join in as a host? Simply contact Debbie Linthorst for details, (dlinthorst@comcast.net), or sign up in the parish hall on the wall next to the kitchen.

On Sundays when no one has volunteered to serve, we can all still greet one another in Belmont Hall and connect with friends old and new.



Worship Fun! October 23 at 10:00: Special Blessing for all those involved in extra-curricular activities. Bring or wear your favorite “team” T-Shirt. Big kids, little kids and kids at heart: show your colors!

Kairos Korner

Teacher Appreciation Coffee Hour

Our wonderful Kairos teachers and staff play a vital role in the life and future of the church and in the lives of the children of St. Matthew’s, the future of our faith! To show our appreciation for the ministry that these wonderful people make possible, we will host a special coffee hour on **October 16th** following the 10am service. If you have a child or grandchild in the Kairos program or would simply like to express your gratitude for what our teachers do, please sign-up to bring a dish for the celebration. You will find sign-up sheets posted on the Kairos bulletin board in the hallway leading to the classrooms. Thank you in advance for your support!



Kairos Annual Outreach

Each year our Kairos classes come together for a special outreach project giving them the opportunity to think about those in our community who need our help. On Sunday, **November 20th**, we will continue our tradition of decorating and assembling children’s meal bags for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. As always, to make this effort possible we need your help! **Sunday, October 16th through November 13th**, we will be collecting the following food items:

- **Chef Boyardee single serving** microwavable containers of ravioli, spaghetti, lasagna, mac n’ cheese – hot meals please!
- **Single serving fruit cups, please NO SUGAR ADDED**
- **Single serving desserts** (pudding, cookies, fruit roll ups)
- **100% juice boxes** (6.75oz please not the tiny ones), please **NO SUGAR ADDED**



If you prefer, a **monetary donation** can be made and we will do the shopping for you!

Please give your check (made out to St. Matthew’s Church with the notation “**FOR KAIROS OUTREACH**” on the memo line) or cash to Lori Cooper, Director of Children’s Ministries (mailbox across from Rev Barbara’s office).

Collection bins labeled “KAIROS OUTREACH PROJECT” will be located in the foyer next to the coat room and in the narthex beginning **October 16th**. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

HELLO

my name is

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Your Name communicates a lot more than what's on your nametag. It represents who you are to your family, friends and colleagues. The story of you, (in greater or lesser detail depending on how long you have lived and with whom you have lived out your life), is instantly recalled every time your name is spoken.

In the beginning of the story of the people of God, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, and Sarai to Sarah. Then he sent them out to be a blessing to the whole world. You are a blessing to us. We are a blessing to each other. Please help us to honor each other by name by wearing a name tag. If you need one, or you have lost yours, please let us know by signing up on the paper on top of the nametag cart at the entrance to our worship space.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE PRACTICE FOR FOSTERING SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS ENGAGEMENT WITH SCRIPTURES

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Research has shown that reading the Bible is the most effective spiritual practice.

“Transform Your Congregation: Read the Bible” shares how individuals, groups, or congregations can develop intentional reading and reflecting on scripture.

There are some researchers who have studied spiritual practices and vitality at hundreds of congregations of all denominations, beginning with the Willow Creek Church. As it turns out, church programs have almost no impact on spiritual growth. Instead, the survey paints a remarkably consistent picture of something entirely different.

The research identified stages of spiritual growth, ranging from seeker (“exploring Christ”) to fully Christ centered. Study of the data also revealed the key catalysts for advancing from one stage to the next. The most effective practice for fostering spiritual growth is engagement with scriptures.

To be sure, the Bible Challenge isn't the only way to engage with the vast sweep of the scriptural story. There are other read-the-Bible in a year plans. One can pray the daily office (for convenience, using the Forward Movement prayer website or our iPhone app). If you decide to try out the Bible Challenge, Forward Movement has published a companion book of essays to go with each day's reading, with contributions by clergy, lay leaders, and scholars from around the Anglican Communion. Among the contributors is Bishop Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

However you decide to read the Bible, I think you'll find that it will change your life. If your congregation can find a way to do this, amazing things will happen in your church. Really. I've seen it with my own eyes, and I've heard the stories from others.

By all means, let's continue to gather for worship on the Lord's Day. Let's serve those in need (another key catalyst for spiritual growth). But let us Episcopalians stop finding excuses to avoid reading the Bible. Our denominational allergy to the scriptures is closely related to our continued shrinkage. The good news is that it's easy to fix. Let us open our Bibles. And in that we will find the Good News.

By The Rev. Scott Gunn, executive director of Forward Movement, whose mission is reinvigorating the life of the church.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

“To enhance our worship and to help those who don’t hear as well, we will be printing all the announcements every Sunday in the bulletin insert. If you have an announcement for Sunday, please send it to Pattie by the preceding Tuesday. Thank-you!”



Do you like to knit, crochet or do any have any other needle craft? We need you! We are looking for donated items for our knitting table at the Christmas bazaar on Dec. 2, 2016. Please call Carol Flanders at (609) 882-4915 if you have any questions.



NEWS FROM THE CRISIS MINISTRY

The Crisis Ministry would like to share an exciting update with the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church community: in the fall, we will change our name!

Please be assured that **our mission and programs will remain the same** — to help those in Mercer County in need of food, housing, and job support to regain financial stability. We believe that our new name reflects the positive partnership we have with clients and our community in our daily work. Our new name will be:



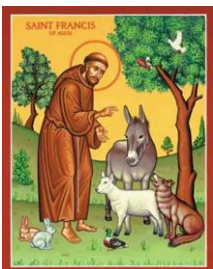
We will publicly announce our new name in the fall and provide our new contact information and website address at that time.

We are grateful to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for your vital support, and look forward to continuing our partnership Arm in Arm into the future!

Better together,

Sarah Unger

Communications and Development Director



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - OCTOBER 9

A Blessing of the animals will take place on October 9 at 11:30 on the porch of St. Tell your neighbors and friends and bring all the critters. Get **pet portraits**, pet treats and a pet certificate of blessing, too! A photographer will be on hand to photograph your pet and will make the photos available online for free. Costumes are optional.

GET YOUR RID OF STUFF

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH FALL RUMMAGE SALE – OCTOBER 7TH & 8TH, 2016

The Spring and Fall Rummage Sales are two of St. Matthew's most important outreach initiatives. Twice a year we rescue thousands of items from moldering away in basements or filling our landfills, we sell them to treasure hunters looking to give them a new home, and, what is left, we donate to the needy through the Rescue Mission. Through one event we do good for the planet, for our local community, and for the larger Body of Christ! Along the way, we have great fun, build friendships, and enjoy wonderful food. So, please clean out your closets, donate your gently used treasures, and pitch in a few hours as we once again get ready to Rummage!

Rummage Schedule:

Sunday, Oct. 2 nd	11:45-12:30	Sale Set-Up, Donation Drop Off
Monday, Oct. 3 rd	9-5 and 6-9	Displays, Sorting, Folding, and Donation Drop Off
Tuesday, Oct. 4 th	9-5 and 6-9	Displays, Sorting, Folding, and Donation Drop Off
Wednesday, Oct. 5 th	9-5 and 6-9	Displays, Sorting, Folding, and Donation Drop Off
Thursday, Oct. 6 th	9-5	Displays, Sorting and Folding
Friday, Oct. 7 th	9-5 and 6-8	SALE DAY!
Saturday, Oct. 9 th	9-12 and 12-2	SALE DAY and Sale Breakdown

Donations: We accept clothing in good, clean condition, electronics in good working order, gently used toys, linens, house-wares, etc. No analog TVs or adult books. Larger furniture items need to be approved by a chairperson. By law, we cannot accept child car seats, baby cribs, medical supplies, propane tanks, oil containers, flammables, or tires. Please place your donations in Belmont Hall or on the Church porch.



Our Co-chairs will be Joe Lawver, Ti Pearse-Drance and Kay Krisulewicz. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Joe at 609-937-6177.

Sale Hours: **Friday, Oct. 7th** – 9:00am – 5:00pm
 Friday Evening – \$10.00/ Bag Sale – 6:00pm – 8:00pm
 Saturday, Oct. 8th – \$5.00/Bag Sale – 9:00am – 12noon

LADIES LUNCHEON – OCTOBER 12TH



Save Wednesday, October 12th for our next Ladies Luncheon. It will be held at 12:30 at the home of Barbara vonOehsen. Barbara, Carol Luling and Kathy Woodhead will be co-hosting. A main course of various quiches will be provided. Please bring sides, salads, desserts or drinks. Barbara lives at 238 South Main Street, Pennington, which is about a block from the church. Parking may be easier near the church.

Please let Barbara know by October 9th, if you plan to attend. She can be reached by email at bvono@aol.com or call 737 0002.



St. Matthew's Church, Pennington, NJ
Fall 2016 Music Ministry
Community Open House
Saturday, October 15, 2016 9:00am-2:00pm

Music is an integral part of the parish life here at St. Matthew's. We sing and play all kinds of music together each week. Musicians of all ages and abilities from the greater community are always welcome and are encouraged to become involved in the musical life of St. Matthew's, regardless of faith or background.

Adult Choir (ages high school and above) leads the music for most principal Sunday services during academic year, with regular participation in Diocesan events and special services, often with choirs from other area churches.

Handbell Choir, (ages middle school or above) plays regularly for principal Sunday services during the academic year, offering a wide range of repertoire and congregational/choral music arranged with handbell accompaniment

Children's Choir (grades 3-8) helps lead worship for Family Worship services throughout the academic year, performing a wide range of music on their own or with the other choirs. They receive instruction aimed to introduce or improve musical abilities (vocal, choral, aural, vocabulary, music theory) and development time management, leadership and cooperative skills. A special camaraderie with fellow choristers is forged through this unique shared experience.

Other Opportunities exist for those who play an instrument are also encouraged to share their gifts, as instrumental music is played before, during and after all 10am Sunday morning services.

Registration is free. All are welcome to come and give us a try and enjoy some great music, food and fellowship!

9:00am-10:30am

10:30am-12:00pm

12:30-2:00pm

Children's Choir Session

Handbell Choir Session

Youth & Adult Choir Session

Contact: Jim Douglas, Interim Director of Music Ministry
email music@stmatthewspennington.org
phone 609-737-0985 x4

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you or someone you know might be interested in becoming involved in the musical life of St. Matthew's!

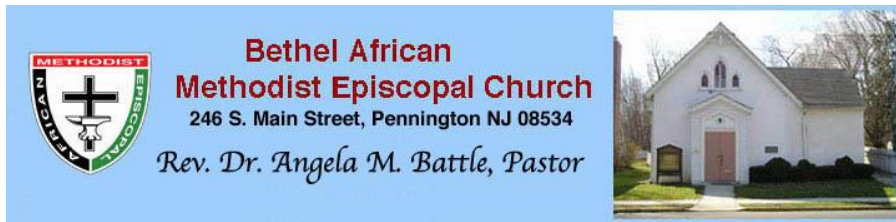


AND CONVERSATION

Save the Date: Friday, October 14, 6:30-9:00

Potluck dinner and conversation:

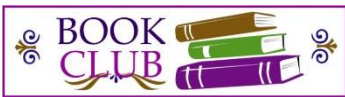
Race, Diversity and Creating Community



We have been invited to participate in the The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Pennington celebration of their 200th Church Anniversary on Sunday, **October 16** starting at 1pm. Bethal is the third oldest church in Pennington and a pillar of endurance in this community.

- 1:00pm - Gathering at the African Cemetery on Main St. w/a short historical skit followed by the Legacy Walk to Bethel for a Living Tree Dedication and tour of the Church
- 1:30pm - We proceed to the Pennington Presbyterian Church for an Ecumenical Service
- 2:00pm - Ecumenical Service
- 3:00pm – Gospel Concert featuring the Capital City Gospel Singing Group

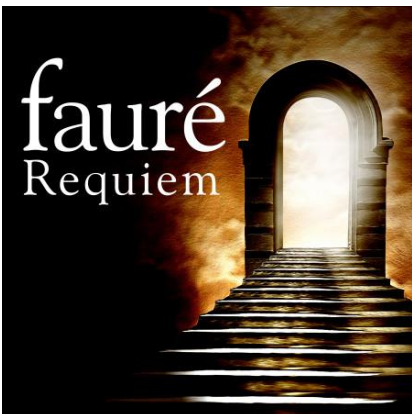
Should you wish to make a donation in support of their ministry please make a check to: Bethal AME Church Pennington, 246 South Main St., Pennington, NJ 08534.



SAINT MATTHEW’S BOOK CLUB
Thursday, October 20 Library

Lucky Jim, by Kingsley Amis, is acid satire of postwar British academic life and remains as trenchant, withering, and eloquently misanthropic as when it first scandalized readers in 1954. It is considered by many as the finest and funniest comic novel of the twentieth century.

Thursday, November 17 Classroom C *A Man Called Ove: A Novel* by Fredrik Backman Ove has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.” Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. It is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life can have on countless others.



ALL SOUL’S SERVICE
 Sunday, November 6, 2016 4:30pm
 The Commemoration of All Faithful Departed.

Mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, November 6th for the Commemoration of the faithfully departed. One of the most beloved works in all of choral music, Gabriel Faure’s Requiem Mass setting, will be sung by our adult choir.



NEW CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING – OCTOBER 30th!

Save the date, because we are getting ready to CELEBRATE! New Consecration Sunday is a very special day at St. Matthew's that we are looking forward to. It is a day to come together as a parish family, appreciate each other's company, enjoy a meal, and to share stories about all of the wonderful things that we are doing as a faith community. Most importantly, New Consecration Sunday is a day to reflect on and celebrate the many blessings that God has given us.

Before gathering in Belmont Hall for a celebration brunch (we promise no green eggs and ham this year!), we will ask our attendees to make their financial commitments to St. Matthew's many activities and ministries as we do our best to carry out God's work. Every attendee who completes a "Giving Card" will do so *voluntarily* while attending morning worship on New Consecration Sunday. We encourage you to attend the worship service and brunch even if you are undecided about completing a Giving Card.

You will hear more about New Consecration Sunday events through our communications in the coming weeks. We are grateful for your attendance and will do all we can to inform, inspire, and facilitate your RSVP to attend the New Consecration Sunday worship service and the celebration brunch.

Thank you, in advance, for your enthusiastic participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us. We look forward to a wonderful celebration on **Sunday, October 30th!**

The New Consecration Sunday Team

Lynn Lorenz, New Consecration Sunday Chair
William Compton, Stewardship Chair
Pam Inman, Team Member
Phyllis Jones, Team Member
Steve Spencer, Team Member
Barbara Briggs, Rector
Jim McGuire, Sr. Warden
Colleen Bell, Jr. Warden

Bearers of Christ's Light





Heart-to-Heart: Comienzos East, Inc.

Identity, Mission, Vision **Identity - Who We Are**

We are a collaborative of learners and teachers,
Growing together in the skills and awareness needed
to live increasingly free and fruitful lives.
Our lives and our work spring from and return us to the Heart,
the Center of the human person,
Where Ultimate Reality lives and from which all creative action flows.

Mission – Our Purpose

Our mission is to empower incarcerated people, those at risk of incarceration or who were incarcerated, their families, and others seeking freedom from destructive habits and patterns, both inside and outside of correctional facilities, to live increasingly free and fruitful lives.

Vision

PERSONAL : We envision a time when those released from jails and prisons are recognized as resources for our communities and carriers of wisdom. We see our program participants as the next generation of leaders, specially equipped to lead us in responding to our needs for safety, justice, peace, compassion, and forgiveness.

COMMUNITY: We envision Heart-to-Heart communities in a growing number of jails and prisons and in a growing number of communities that welcome those released.

SOCIETAL: We envision a growing partnership with correctional facilities, the justice system, institutions of higher education and communities of faith, sparking a transformative impact in each of these systems.

A heartfelt Thank-you!

Dear St. Matthew's,
Thank you again for your support of our Summer Heart-to-Heart Matching Challenge. We raised \$13,250 in one month thanks to a number of donors from Saint Matthew's and over fifty others. This amount was then matched and effectively doubled by one donor. This outpouring of support enables us to continue and grow our work in three correctional facilities. Thank you.



Below is a special message for you from me and from the men and women whose lives you are touching forever. I am deeply grateful.

“Heart-to-heart allowed me to open up to other people and express my feelings more freely.”

“This experience taught me to think more of others.”

“They treated me like a person, not an inmate.”

“I am able to be more understanding and compassionate than ever before.”

“I've become more patient, confident that tomorrow will be better than today. I feel more liberated emotionally because of heart-to-heart.”

Sincerely,
Stephen Michael



The Diocese of New Jersey

Theo's Cafe
Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 pm
Young Adult Dinner (Ages 18-30)

Theo's Cafe Dinner



Join Bishop Stokes and Young Adults from around the diocese to discuss the topic:

Voting and Faith:

Should my Christian beliefs affect my decisions in the voting booth?

Bishop Stokes asks:

In the United States there is a strong recognition of the principle of "separation of Church and State." Does this mean that our identity and beliefs as Christians do not have a place in our consideration of candidates and issues in the up-coming election? How do we square this with the baptismal promises to "persevere in resisting evil," "striving for justice among all people" and "respecting the dignity of every human being?"

Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 pm

at

[On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, Rt 1 in Princeton](#)

Register by October 3rd by contacting
[The Rev. Debi Clarke, Dcn](#) at 609 394-5281, ext. 36.

Leadership is About Empowering not Controlling



Posted: September 23, 2015 by Rob Voyle

One of the core tasks of leadership is to empower others to act, it is not to control who acts.

Turf wars seem rampant in our churches and society. "No you can't do that." Is the common refrain as people grasp control, rather than the leaders response: "What do we need to do to empower you to do that?"

One of the last things Jesus did before the ascension was to give away his power to forgive. We have his total backing. Whomever we forgive will be forgiven in heaven... We have been empowered and Jesus has our back.

It is interesting to ponder that Catholics and my own Episcopal tradition want to control that power and limit it to priests, and I hear the Spirit whisper: "Would that you all were in the world forgiving people their sins." I could also digress and say that Protestants also get this wrong by saying only God forgives when Jesus clearly empowered us to be in the world forgiving people.

But I digress and am more interested in the task of leaders giving away their power to empower others. Congregations who are always pondering over who is in control will always have power conflicts, and these conflicts will never be resolved by creating models of governance that describes who is in power. The only way to resolve the issue is to change the fundamental question from:

- Who is in control/power?

to:

- How do we share power to empower people for ministry in our community?

Take a moment and think of who you depend on for your success. (Note: If you are not dependent on others for your success you are not leading anyone.) How do you empower those who you depend on?

How do you resource them to fulfill their ministry and the ministry of the community? And:

How is it working? If it isn't working you may need to change your empowerment strategy. Different people need different resources to be empowered. Some need a lot of "hands on" empowering, while others need a "hands off" form of empowerment.

Jesus never relied on a "one size fits all" mentality when leading or engaging with others. Likewise, competent leaders need to know their followers and what they specifically need to be empowered to perform at their best. So one of the things you may need to do when giving someone a task is to ask them: "What will you need to be successful?"

I wish you great joy in giving away your power and enabling others to act

Rob Voyle

Director, Clergy Leadership Institute