

# St. Matthew's Messenger

September 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.

## IF YOU ARE NEW:

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday, Wednesday and Thursday all day, 9am-4pm. Tuesday and Fridays half days. Parish Office (609) 737-0985 or [admin@stmatthewspennington.org](mailto:admin@stmatthewspennington.org)



**WHEN YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL:** Due to the HIPAA Rules, hospitals no longer notify the Church if you are in the hospital, unless you request they notify us. If you would like us to visit, or be aware of your hospital stay, or to offer prayers, please call St. Matthew's Church 609-737-0985.



**WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL:** Please be sure to contact the parish office at (609) 737-0985 or [admin@stmatthewspennington.org](mailto:admin@stmatthewspennington.org) to notify the office of any email address change.



**IF YOU MOVE:** Please let us know your new address and any change of phone number.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

St. Matthew's Prayer Partners ministry starts up again after Labor Day this September and will continue until church school ends in the spring.

*What is Prayer Partners?* It is a means by which anyone attending the 10 AM Sunday service can receive confidential prayers in the chapel, during or after communion for themselves or a loved one, from a St. Matthew's prayer team.

**Prayer Chain** is available by calling Gail LaFrance at 609 737 7881 or email her at [gclafrance@verizon.net](mailto:gclafrance@verizon.net).



## EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS NEEDED

Eucharistic Visitors (EVs) are licensed lay persons who take Holy Communion immediately following the Eucharist to those who are either sick or shut-in. This is or can be a most rewarding experience and indeed, provides an invaluable service to those who because 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+

# ST. MATTHEW'S NEW CHURCH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Our Communication Committee has worked very hard to investigate, purchase, and implement a new church management system. The new system will enable us to keep our parish informed and maintain our records accurately.

The program is Fellowship One. Its selection was based on research into church management systems conducted by Brogann Sanderson Bowden for a previous committee chaired by Tom DiMuzio. It was thoroughly evaluated by the current Communications Committee for functionality, reliability, disaster recovery, and security. Gary Driscoll, working closely with Pattie Curtiss, transferred our data from the old system into Fellowship One. Gary has been providing hands-on training and mentoring to Pattie on the use of the new system. Other committee members involved in the evaluation included JC Kinnamon, who was our original webmaster, Bruce Weise, Jim McGuire, Lori Cooper, Tammy Eng. And, of course our Rector, Barbara, who has also been giving input about software needs and what we may need for creation of worship materials, etc. Bill Ducharme and his son Paul joined us to work on signage, and how we present ourselves in the community and beyond.

We have new email addresses for the staff as well as for our treasurers and wardens so that you can directly communicate with them when you have any questions or concerns. See the list below:

The Rev. Barbara Briggs	<a href="mailto:Rector@stmatthewspennington.org">Rector@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Pattie Curtiss, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:Admin@stmatthewspennington.org">Admin@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Lori Cooper, Christian Ed. Director	<a href="mailto:kairos@stmatthewspennington.org">kairos@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Marty Nelson, Treasurer, PLG	<a href="mailto:plgfinance@stmatthewspennington.org">plgfinance@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Jim McGuire, Senior Warden	<a href="mailto:Warden@stmatthewspennington.org">Warden@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Colleen Bell, Jr. Warden	<a href="mailto:jrwarden@stmatthewspennington.org">jrwarden@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Jim Douglas, Music Director	<a href="mailto:music@stmatthewspennington.org">music@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Bruce Weise, Finance	<a href="mailto:Finance@stmatthewspennington.org">Finance@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
Tammy Eng, St. Matthew's Pre-School	<a href="mailto:preschool@stmatthewspennington.org">preschool@stmatthewspennington.org</a>
General Information	<a href="mailto:info@stmatthewspennington.org">info@stmatthewspennington.org</a>



Tyler Caton and/or Marc St.-Pierre from Mercer County Computer Services volunteer their time to help with purchase of computers, upgrades of equipment, installation and management of our software and our Wifi system. They have upgraded all of our computers and are always available to help with any “glitches”. You probably have noticed that we have a public Wifi system that you can use while you are here at St. Matthew’s. This system is a great improvement from what was here before and allows all of the computers in our building to connect more efficiently.

That’s not all! We now have an official Webmaster, Mitchell Friedman, and a Social Media manager, Lynne Dorner. Hopefully you have checked our website out and found it to be greatly improved. You can also check us out on Facebook and Twitter.

This group has worked very hard. They will continue to work on various projects throughout the year. They have accomplished a great deal in a short time and we are very thankful for their gift of time and talent that enables us to grow as a community and stay connected.

## Kairos Korner

Hello Dear Families. The 2016-2017 Kairos school year will soon begin!



Registration is OPEN and Online!

To register your child, please:

1. Go to [www.stmatthewspennington.org](http://www.stmatthewspennington.org)
2. From the Home page, go to "Education"
3. From the education drop down box, click on "Kairos"
4. Scroll all the way past the beautiful photos and photo gallery and you will come to the registration form link "HERE"

You will also see the link to view the End of the Year Media Presentation! The access password is: 4StMattKairos (password is case sensitive).



Kairos classes will begin on Sunday, **September 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Welcoming time begins at 9:45am. All classes begin at 10am. ALL grades will join their families during the Peace. Please visit our website [www.stmatthewspennington.org](http://www.stmatthewspennington.org) for detailed information on our children's programming located via the CHILDREN & YOUTH link.

*Please note: Children are invited to begin attending Kairos classes at age 4 yrs (must be 4 as of October 1<sup>st</sup> and able to take care of their bathroom needs, thank you!).*

### Kairos classrooms:

Primary – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Third/Fourth grade

Fifth/Sixth grade

Seventh/Eighth grade

Classroom A (first floor)

Classroom D (downstairs)

Classroom C (first floor)

Library (first floor)



### Kairos Kalendar

**September 11:** Kairos Teacher Commissioning and Blessing of the Backpacks (Nursery care returns)

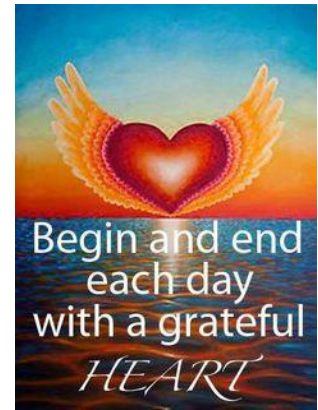
**September 18:** First day of classes!!

Should you have any questions, please contact our Director of Children's Ministries, Lori Cooper, at [Kairos@stmattpennington.org](mailto:Kairos@stmattpennington.org) (NOTE: Address has changed) Thank you!

## FEELING GRATEFUL

Every evening I have been watching the sun set over the Barnegat Bay on Long Beach Island. It's a constant reminder that it's beautiful here. Even on rainy days the sun often peeks through the clouds before sinking into the earth as another day disappears. "I'm pretty sure heaven will look like this," I keep thinking.

Sunsets make me grateful for every day, and my faith has had a similar impact on me. My trust in God has deepened my love and appreciation for His many gifts, and I have my St. Matthew's family to thank for this. I am truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful faith community!



As the chairperson for New Consecration Sunday (NCS), I hope you share similar thoughts about life, faith, and St. Matthew's church. As most of you are aware, NCS is our new approach to giving. Although we've had some growing pains, I hope you will continue to open your hearts and minds to this different approach to giving. Our church is strong and vibrant because of your grateful and generous gifts.

Although I will miss the sunsets, I look forward to reconnecting with you at St. Matthew's as we kick off another season of spiritual giving in mid-September.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me at any time.

Lynn Lorenz  
New Consecration Sunday - Chairperson  
(609) 356-2476  
[lynn@justmultiples.com](mailto:lynn@justmultiples.com)

## 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!



## St. Matthew's Music Ministry

Since the beginning of the summer, interest has been expressed in potentially starting a youth handbell choir and older aged middle school/high school age choir. As always, membership in all of our choirs is open to anyone, including those who are not members of the parish. Please speak with Jim Douglas after church on Sundays for further details or if you have any questions.

### Fall 2016

Choir rehearsals will resume in September, as follows:

<b>Handbell Choir</b>	<b>Wednesday, September 14, 2016</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Adult Choir</b>	<b>Wednesday, September 14, 2016</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>
<b>Children's Choir</b>	<b>Sunday, September 18, 2016</b>	<b>11:30am</b>

### Upcoming Special Events

#### Sunday, September 25, 2016 4:30pm

Choral Evensong for the Feast of St. Matthew

For those who were unable to attend the **April 24, 2016** Evensong sung by the combined choirs of St. Matthew's and All Saints', Princeton in the newly renovated sanctuary at All Saints', we will join forces again, this time at St. Matthew's to observe the feast of our parish patron Saint Matthew the Evangelist. Food and fellowship will follow.

#### Sunday, November 6, 2016 4:30pm

Solemn Requiem for All Souls' Day

Please join us for this special sung requiem for all faithful departed. Requiem setting of Gabriel Fauré, sung by the St. Matthew's Adult Choir.

## 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.



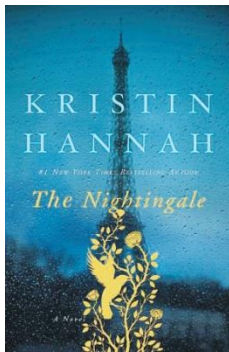
## **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS !**

**On Sunday, September 11th at the 10am service** - children are invited to bring their backpacks or book bags to church in order to receive a blessing in the context of worship. It is a wonderful way to acknowledge the beginning of a new school year.



## **SEPTEMBER LADIES LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

Our September Ladies Lunch will be held at the home of Barbara von Oehsen on September 14, 2016. She will be providing the entree consisting of Quiches. Guests are to provide salads, wine and desserts. Let Barbara know if you care to attend by calling her at 609-737-0002, or e-mailing her at [bvono@aol.com](mailto:bvono@aol.com).



## ***ST. MATTHEW'S BOOK CLUB*** ***Thursday, September 15, Classroom C***

*The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah, is set in France during World War II. It is a richly evocative examination of life, love, and the ravages of war, and the different ways people react to unthinkable situations. Two sisters find themselves estranged when they disagree about the imminent threat of occupation. Each must find her own way forward as she faces moral questions and life-or-death choices.



## **Altar Guild** **Currently** **Seeking New** **Members**

### **The Altar Guild invites you to serve:**

St. Matthew's Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, clean up afterwards, and supervise the decoration of the sanctuary of the parish with

flowers. Altar Guild volunteers can be male or female, young or old, longtime members or new to the parish. It is a wonderfully prayerful and contemplative way to serve.

### **From the "New Altar Guild Book":**

*Give me an open mind, O God, a mind ready to receive and to welcome such new light of knowledge as it is your will to reveal to me. Let not the past ever be so dear to me as to set a limit to the future. Give me courage to change my mind, when that is needed. Let me be tolerant to the thoughts of others and hospitable to such light as may come to me through them. Amen.*

If you think this might be a meaningful way for you to serve God in this parish, please contact either of the Altar Guild Chairpersons: Elizabeth McGuire or Sue Nelson. Call or email the office for their email or phone number, or speak to the rector.



**CHRISTIAN  
FORMATION**

## 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 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.

# WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Are you interested in exploring your Christian identity and spirituality in conversation with other women and with Scripture in a powerful way of connecting with the Holy Spirit? Then, join me in a women's spirituality group. We'll explore our Christian Spirituality together and support one another in our hunger for growth in faith and love. The format will be simple. In order to connect with our spiritual selves, God and each other, we will not be doing a Bible study in the traditional sense of the word. Instead, we will give ourselves the time and space to dwell in God's Word—to let ourselves be immersed in Scripture together, (and to giggle or cry as needed). This method of Conversation with God's Word and of listening deeply to each other is called Dwelling in the Word.



We'll spend half an hour or more dwelling within a particular biblical passage. Any passage or the daily lectionary may be used. We will use the story about the sending of the 72 in Luke 10:1-6. None of us will be coming to this as an expert, but rather as fellow seekers and companions in the search for meaning on the road of life. We'll let the text expand our thinking, open new pathways, encourage creativity, and make way for the Holy Spirit. Any passage may be dwelt upon for weeks and months.

## THE METHOD

- *We begin with prayer*
- *We read the text*
- *We sit together with the passage, in silence and in conversation. Some questions will help us sink into the text and listen to each other, then, we close with prayer.*
- *We will begin on Monday, September 26 in Belmont Hall from 8-9 PM. Here is the schedule for a total of six sessions:*

**September 26**  
**October 3, 24**  
**November 7, 28**  
**December 5**

If you would like to join me, please email me, [rector@stmatthewspennington.org](mailto:rector@stmatthewspennington.org), and let me know by the day after Labor Day. Put "Women's spirituality gathering" in the subject line. You will not need to bring anything. Copies of the Bible passage will be made available at each gathering.  
The Rev. Barbara Briggs



*AND CONVERSATION*

**Save the Date: Friday, November 18, 6:30-9:00**

**Potluck dinner and conversation:**

**Race, Diversity and Creating Community in the wake of the Presidential election.**



## NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Diocese of New Jersey Committee for Ministry with Older Adults announces with joy the Fourth Annual Evensong in Celebration of the Witness, Faithfulness, and Contributions of Older Adults, age 65 and older, in our Diocese.



### **Celebration of Older Adults Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 2:00 PM at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, New Jersey**

The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes, D.D. will be the officiant at the service and Genevieve Bishop will be the preacher. A member of St. Peter's-by-the-Light, Barnegat Light, candidate for priesthood in our Diocese, and founder of Bishop's Legal Services LLPC, Genevieve will bring her vast experience and commitment to serving the needs of older adults and their families to our service.

Following the Evensong, a reception will be held in Synod Hall. Families and friends of the honorees are welcome to attend the service and the reception. The Rev. Anne Wrede will offer guided tours of the Cathedral at 1:00 p.m.

The Committee for Ministry with Older Adults was formed in 2012 with the goal of recognizing, honoring, and utilizing the experience, wisdom, and gifts of older adults for the benefit of our churches and Diocese. We seek to advocate for respect, dignity and justice for older adults and to be a resource for their families. We wish to raise awareness of the faith and vitality that our older members bring to our Church.

At the Evensong Service we will honor older adults from your parish or diocesan organization who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, performed exemplary ministry, or served in multi-faceted ways. Please select one or two person(s) and submit their name(s) to us on the enclosed form. Their names and descriptions will be included in our service booklet.

Please take the following steps:

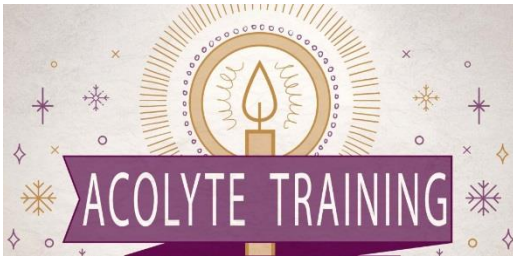
- \* In consultation with your wardens and vestry, select one or two older adults to honor.
- \* Complete the [nomination form](#) online or complete the [attached nomination form](#) and email to [mclisham@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:mclisham@dioceseofnj.org) or mail by August 1 to Mary Anne Clisham, Diocese of New Jersey, 808 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618. Be sure to include a descriptive reason (from 50 - 100 words) for each nomination.

### **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH REQUIRES**

anyone working with children to have completed a sexual abuse awareness training. In this workshop, both sexual abuse of children and sexual exploitation and harassment of all persons are covered. This training is required every five years for clergy, wardens, employees, and anyone regularly working with or around children or youth. It is recommended for church personnel who occasionally work with or around children or youth.



You could be among those who may be upset by this requirement. At first blush, this is understandable. However, there is another way of looking at this. The more people with this training St. Matthew's has, the better the whole parish can help each other recognize if anyone needs our help or protection. The better informed we are, the better we can serve one another and care for each other. When we promised to uphold each other, which we do at every baptism when we are asked, "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" To which we all answer, "We will." Participating in this training is one among the many ways we can do this. The Ministry Institute Catalogue will be out soon. Or, to find out when trainings will be held, please call or email Mary Ann Clisham. [mclisham@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:mclisham@dioceseofnj.org) (609) 394-5281, Ext. 10



**ACOLYTE TRAINING – SEPTEMBER 25TH**

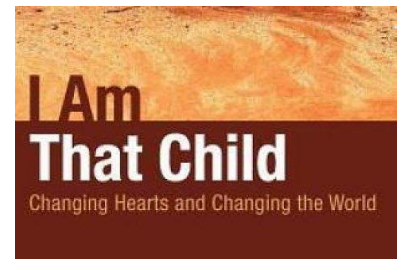
Acolyte Training, on **Sept. 25th** from 11:30am-12:30pm, in the church for new acolytes as well those who are already serving. Pastor Barbara, along with seasoned acolytes will be teaching you everything you need to know so that you can feel confident during worship and ably lead the congregation

during the Eucharist. Your service as an acolyte not only helps the clergy, but is an important part leading the congregation in an experience of worshipping and of meeting God in prayer.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

**OUR GUEST PREACHER WILL BE  
THE REVEREND ELIZABETH GEITZ**

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, October 2, the Reverend Canon Elizabeth Geitz will join us at St. Matthew’s as guest homilist. Reverend Geitz first joined us two years ago at the invitation of our interim rector, Rev. Peggy Hodgkins. You may remember her moving stories of the lives of Cameroonian orphans and the work of Episcopal nun, Sr. Jane Mankaa.



Reverend Geist will bring us up to date on the work of the Good Shepherd Foundation for Sustainable Learning. GSFSL has completed the first phase of construction of a residential secondary school in Bafut Cameroon. St Matthew’s parishioners have generously supported the project over the past two years with gifts totaling more than \$2,000.

Following both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, The Rev. Elizabeth Geist will meet with parishioners at a special extended coffee hour. A video presentation for the Cameroon will follow the 10 a.m. service.



Full Concept Design with Revised Project Phasing for  
**GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY**  
for Good Shepherd Sustainable Learning Foundation  
at Agyati Bafut, Cameroon

KEY TO PROJECT PHASES

- PHASE I
- PHASE II
- PHASE III
- PHASE IV
- POSSIBLE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION

