



St. Matthew's Messenger

July/August 2017

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* (See below)

OFFICE HOURS

Mon 9:30-3:30
Tue 9:30-2:30
Wed 9:30-3:30
Th 9:30-2:30
Fri 9:00-12:00

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, July 3 through Wednesday, July 5

The Office will be open on Thursday and Friday, July 6 & 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

July 8-14 Mission trip to El Hogar, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
August 26 Blood Drive

CLERGY VACATION SCHEDULE

Rev. Barbara will be on vacation on the following dates.

June 29 – July 7

July 31 – August 7

Please contact the Rev. John Goerss in the event of a pastoral emergency (609) 737-6320



Sunday Summer Service Schedule



Service times are at 8 and 9:30 AM until our fall program starts in September. We once again resume the 8 and 10 AM times for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on **September 10.**

Please welcome the Rev. Bob Legnani on Sunday, **July 2** and the Rev. Jim Hargrove on Sunday, **July 9.** The Rev. Paul Briggs will be our guest celebrant and preacher on Sunday, **August 6** while Barbara is with her mother for her mom's birthday. Barbara will accompany our mission team to Honduras July 8 until July 14.

PRAYER CHAIN--If you are in need of prayers, or maybe a Special Thanksgiving, call the Prayer Chain. This quiet ministry at St. Matthew's complimenting the bulletin listing and the Sunday Prayer Partners, is ready to offer immediate and confidential prayers for your intention. If this is something you ever need, please contact The Rev. Barbara Briggs, (609) 737-0985, Pattie Curtiss (609) 737-0985 or Sally Burkman at (609) 737-9495.

LEAVING ST. MATTHEW'S AS ADMINISTRATOR

In 1985, I was looking for a part-time job near home and my mother told me there was a secretarial job opening at St. Matthew's Church, Pennington. Now, in my family that was kind of a "funny" recommendation since my family role was that of the "high spirited" child. Maybe she thought that a little religion would change my "bad" ways.

I interviewed with Father Jack and started working on a part-time basis with Sue Watkins, who was at that time the parish secretary. Sue guided me through the various things that needed to be done. Then, Sue left her position and "here I am" sitting with the "New Dictionary for Episcopal Terms" since I came from a limited Methodist background and didn't have a clue what language Fr. Jack was speaking, i.e. Liturgy, Rite I, Rite II, Reredos, Narthex, Sacristy, etc. What????

So, this is a poem I wrote during that time that tells you where I was:

FOREVER

Searching for myself, I cannot find
am I kind, or cruel
am I good or bad
who am I

Searching for myself
who am I to me
to you
to others

What shows inside my eyes
the windows of my soul
is it deep or shallow?
who am I

I have searched inside myself
for endless days
and find that I am
me

Forever searching.

Although I will be forever searching. I have found that isn't such a bad thing. Being yourself is freeing. "Take me as I am" enables me to be open to God's will and accepting of his Grace.

Having grown up next door to my grandfather who had a farm, and respected the earth and all of God's creatures, I learned that every living thing; plant, vegetable or animal had a unique beauty. God created the beauty around me and the Spirit within me. Home has always been where my heart is and that is on that mountain where I find my peace and God's presence most.

But, this is where you all come in. This "job" wasn't ever really a job. You accepted me as I am, and have given me another "home" where I have shared laughter, tears, joy and sorrow with many of you. I have found that sometimes "just a hug" will help or the assurance that someone will take care of your need, whether it be a listening ear or making sure a priest knows your needs and reaches out to you.

This has been the only job that I have been able to use the F word frequently: Family. You have become more to me than parishioners, you have become my family. I will carry you with me always. I will remember those who have gone before me and my heart will always be full.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Administrative Assistant for 31 years. Thank you for sharing yourselves with me. And thank you, for always being there for me when I have had personal struggles.

Good-bye!

See you later, Alligator!



After while, Crocodile!



In an hour, Sunflower!



Maybe two, Kangaroo!



Gotta go, Buffalo!



KAIROS: The Kairos program is now on break for summer, returning on Sunday, September 10th with blessing of the backpacks. Classes will resume on Sunday, **September 17th**.

Upcoming Events

- September 10** **Blessing of the back-packs and commissioning of Church School Teachers Services at 8 + 10 in the Sanctuary**
Parents' meeting for Confirmation
- September 17** **Acolyte Training at 11:30 for all new and current acolytes**
Commissioning of music ministers (vocalists, director, instrumentalists)
Church School begins
- September 24** **Commissioning of acolytes**

LOOKING TO DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL THIS SUMMER?

Volunteers are needed at URBAN PROMISE TRENTON Summer Camps!

If you can help in ANY way or have questions, please contact Georgia Koenig (609/273-3351 cell, or gbkoenig@verizon.net)

Sites: Camp Truth at Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State Street

Camp Grace @East Trenton Community Center, 601 N. Clinton Ave

Dates: Wednesday July 5 through Friday August 4

At Trinity Cathedral – Camp Truth:

1. **SNACKS:** Provide, prepare and serve healthy snacks at Camp Truth (Trinity Cathedral) for Jr. StreetLeaders and StreetLeaders between 2 – 3 PM Monday thru Thursday. Approximately 30 kids from 6 – 12th grades. Week of July 10th is booked. All other weeks are open.

At East Trenton Community Center – Camp Grace:

1. Week of July 17: Provide afternoon programming for Camp Grace children aged K-3 (~12 children) for the week, from 1 – 4 PM. This will include daily structured activities and a healthy snack. Activities can be offsite but transportation must be arranged. There will be a Site Director as well as one or two interns on site to assist with classroom management.
2. Week of 7/24: Provide afternoon programming and snack for children grades K -6 (~ 22 campers) from 1 – 4 PM Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Monday has a musician booked which will cover a good part of the afternoon. Provide activities for small groups. Rotate groups from one activity to another. Park is nearby for outdoor play. Site director and two interns to assist with classroom management. Requires 1 adult to lead each activity planned.
3. Week of 7/31: Provide afternoon programming and snack for children grades K -6 (~ 22 campers) from 1 – 4 PM. Provide activities for small groups. Rotate groups from one activity to another. Park is nearby for outdoor play. Site director and two college interns to assist with classroom management. Requires 1 adult to lead each activity planned.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Stop by St. Matthew's and say hello to Pam. She will be with us beginning on Thursday, July 6.



The Rector's Blog?

What would it be like if you could read about your rector's internal conversation with herself and God about the things that amuse, provoke, or concern her; or about her gratitude, struggles, curiosity, enthusiasm, or joy? What's it like to be "out" as a Christian in the world? I "came out" long before I was ordained. I must have been only 16 or 17, but I wanted to engage everyone in conversations about faith, prayer, sacraments, Jesus, God, Scripture, tradition, history, and what it means to have the creator of the universe care about you and everyone on the planet as if you were the one and only person alive. It would be another thirty years before the bishop laid hands on me, and I was busy all that time trying to make God's love tangible to my universe.

For nearly the past year I have been on a weekly teleconference with the Rev. Rob Voyle and the Rev. Joanne Izzo, and a bunch of other Episcopal priests. We talk about our experience of leadership in the Episcopal Church. One of Rob's favorite questions is: "Aside from being with your family, what do you love to do?" You have probably heard me mention that question in some of my sermons, in one form or another.

I love to do a lot of things. Right now, it's gardening. Every day on my way to and from the office, (several times a day), I admire what's growing and curse the slugs and Japanese beetles who are trying to make meals out of my Eden. The few minutes I get to pull some weeds, or snip back over-enthusiastic shoots, or rejoice in all the colors and odors are like prayer. I feel connected. Grateful. In wonder. Alive.

As we all take time to be with our friends and family over the summer, or to do the things we love to do, let's remember that God is rejoicing with us, pleased with our ability to wonder, learn, breathe, appreciate, rest, play, and with all the other things that give us a feeling of joy at the gift of being here on the planet.

My plan for the summer is to remain curious as I awake every morning: what is God doing in our midst and how will I join in that fun or invite someone to join me in it?

St. Francis and the Animals (according to Richard Rohr)

St. Francis is known and admired for his connection with the created world, including the animals. The animals he loved the most were human beings. "The Crucified revealed to the world that the real power that changes people and the world is an inner authority that comes from those who have lost, let go, and are re-found on a new level. Twelve-Step programs have come to the same conclusion in our time.

"Both Francis and Clare had this kind of inner authority that is still part of their essential message for the world. They let go of all fear of suffering, all need for power, prestige, and possessions, and the need for their small self to be important. They came to know something essential—who they really were in God and thus who they really were.

“If suffering is “whenever we are not in control” (which is my definition)¹, then you see why some form of suffering is absolutely necessary to teach us how to live beyond the illusion of control and to give that control back to God. Then we become usable instruments, because we can share our power with God’s power (Romans 8:28).

“Francis did not wish for himself or his followers to be priests, to take higher places on the Church’s hierarchical ladder of education, prestige, and power. Francis was apparently ordained a deacon, likely under pressure, because he never talks or writes about it. The sign of a true Franciscan heart is devotion to the Gospel, regardless of title, group, or official status. These hallmarks of the Secular Franciscan Order (from the formation manual *For Up To Now*) can be claimed and practiced by anyone:

- *Simplicity* (A spirituality that is genuine; without pretense)
- *Poverty* (Love of Gospel poverty develops confidence in the Father and creates internal freedom)
- *Humility* (The truth of what and who we really are in the eyes of God; freedom from pride and arrogance)
- *A genuine sense of minority* (The recognition that we are servants, not superior to anyone)
- *A complete and active abandonment to God* (Trusting in God's unconditional love)
- *Conversion* (Daily we begin again the process of changing to be more like Jesus)
- *Transformation* (What God does for us, when we are open and willing)
- *Peacemaking* (We are messengers of peace as Francis was)

Re-read these qualities of a Franciscan and discern if you are called to live in such a way, making the Gospel the very core of your day-to-day doings and being. What is yours to do?”²

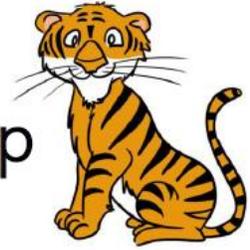
¹ Richard Rohr

² Richard Rohr Meditation: Franciscan Spirituality: Week 2 Summary



5th Annual

Children's Summer Art Camp

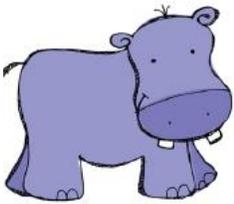


Who: Children ages 3-10

Where: Titusville Presbyterian Church (48 River Drive, Titusville, NJ)

When: July 17th- July 21st, 2017 @ 9:00am- 11:45am

Art Show for parents takes place on Friday, July 21st @ 11:00am



How: Contact the Church Office at 609-737-1385 to register. Registration form can be downloaded from titusvillechurch.org



Camp fee- \$30 per child (cash/check only)



Registration due by July 1st, 2017. Space is limited.





**St. Matthews Episcopal
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, August 26, 2017
300 South Main Street**

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY: [CLICK HERE](#)

Or SIGNUP USING SMART PHONE App

Enter sponsor code: **StMatthewsPennington**

To Download App: Search "American Red Cross blood" in your App store

"All Donors Will Receive a Coupon for a Free Dunkin' Donut Iced Coffee and a Donut"



Please Consider donating Double Red Cells: [Click Here](#)

Tips to boost your iron level: [Click Here](#)

Donor Eligibility Guidelines: [Click Here](#) or call 1 800 RED CROSS

Donation Tips: [Click Here](#)

Donor Recipient Stories: [Click Here](#)

Sickle Cell Disease Donor Program: [Click Here](#)

Please bring picture identification and remember to eat a healthy breakfast and drink plenty of fluids before donating!

If you have any questions, please contact: Jay Ottinger - 609-462-2770