



St. Matthew's Church

300 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ

609-737-0985 (Office)

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Web: www.stmatthewspennington.org

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GOD'S MISSION and ST. MATTHEW'S

We are a community centered in Jesus Christ

Being led by the Holy Spirit

Learning and spreading the good news

Living and sharing the love of God

December 3, 2017

Pastoral Care: Your pastoral needs will be addressed promptly and are a priority. You can contact the parish office at (609) 737-0985, or call The Rev. Barbara Briggs on her cell: (860) 560-6992.

Parish Calendar

Sunday, Dec 3	8:00am, Holy Eucharist 10:00am, Holy Eucharist Set-up for the Christmas Bazaar Confirmation Experience, Rectory, 5:30-7:00pm Choral Evensong for Advent @ All Saints' Church, Princeton 4:30pm (note time change) Mission Trip Informational Meeting @ 11am
December 6	Children's Advent Service 4:30pm @ in Belmont hall
December 7	Christmas Bazaar Baked Goods Night
December 9	Christmas Bazaar
Sunday, Dec 10	8:00am, Holy Eucharist. 10:00am, Holy Eucharist LOGOS – 5pm
December 13	December Ladies Luncheon @ 12:30 in Belmont Hall
December 14	Book Club Christmas Brunch @ 10:00 am at Christina Kale's
December 17	Advent Lessons and Carols/Blessing of Kairos Christ Candles @ 10:00am

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Let's play a friendly challenge game during year B, starting on December 3. EVERYONE can play.

The object of the game is to be the one who has invited the most people to church over the course of the year. (The average Episcopalian invites one person to church every 25 years).

- ❖ We will use the honor system—each of us will keep track of the number of people we invite, (*not the number of people who accept our invitation and actually show up, since that is the work of the Holy Spirit*).
- ❖ We are playing this just for fun... *for fun*—not for results. (If God wants to use our fun for his results, that's God's business).
- ❖ At the feast of Christ the King in 2018, we will announce to the parish how many people we invited to join us at St. Matthew's over the course of the year.
- ❖ Are you game?

GRATEFUL GIVING REMINDER!

If you have a completed Grateful Giving pledge card, please drop it in the stewardship box on the wall in the narthex, or mail it to John Eckel c/o St. Matthew's Church 300 S. Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534. If you need a Grateful Giving pledge card, you can find one next to the guest sign-in book in the narthex, or email Lynn Lorenz (lynn@justmultiples.com) to request one. Thank you for your support of St. Matthew's!

COMMUNICATIONS



The Communications Committee will be publishing our Parish Directory by Sunday December 3rd, 2017.

The list will be available through our Parishioner Portal web page (password protected, info to be provided). We're also planning on emailing the directory to those parishioners with email addresses. For those without email, the list will be available through our church office.

Thanks for your patience, and we look forward to having the most complete St. Matthew's Parish Directory available very soon!

OPTIONAL 'PERSONAL ACCESS' ONLINE ACCOUNT

A parishioner has the option to modify their personal information through your own 'personal access' online account at Fellowship One. If you receive emails from our church office, your name is already in our database. Here are the steps to create your own 'personal access' account:

1. Click on, or copy to your browser, the Parishioner Portal link: <https://smecpnj.infellowship.com/UserLogin>
2. Click on 'Sign Up' at the lower right on your screen. Do not click on 'Register' as you are already registered in the database if you receive emails.
3. Please fill in the requested info which provides the link to your existing information.
4. Go to your email inbox to find an email from Fellowship One and click the link to activate your 'personal access' account.
5. Return to your Parishioner Portal link to login: <https://smecpnj.infellowship.com/UserLogin>
6. From the Main screen, you can Update your Profile, Select Privacy Settings, or choose the Church Directory to see other members.
7. Note: you can also reach the portal link at <http://stmatthewspennington.org/parishioner-portal>

ADVENT!

Happy New Year, everyone! We begin the new liturgical year on **December 3** with the first Sunday of Advent. We will enter year B of the Revised Common Lectionary and of the Episcopal Lectionary. For a handy-dandy guide, you can go online to find the year B readings for all the Sundays of the year: <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

As you enter the church for worship, you may notice some subtle changes in lighting. This is to reflect the Advent theme of light coming into our darkness. The worship committee, (Jim Douglas, Loret Varhley, Tim Cooper, The Rev. John Goerss, Matthew Hill and The Rev. Barbara Briggs), read the Bible readings appointed for this coming Advent and worked together to discern how to best reflect in our worship what they heard in the Word of God.

LOOKING FOR LECTORS AND SUB-DEACONS

St. Matthews needs parishioners to serve as lectors and sub-deacons, especially at the 8 a.m. service. Lectors read the First Lesson and the Prayers of the People; sub deacons read the Psalm and the Epistle, and assist with Communion. If you have any interest in participating in this important ministry, please contact Rev. Barbara Briggs at rector@StMatthewsPennington.org or Tom Bruhl at tbruhl@embarqmail.com.

ALTAR GUILD

The ALTAR GUILD would love to have new members. If you are interested in learning more about this "behind the scenes" group that prepares the Lord's Table for our services, please contact Elizabeth McGuire at 609-737-1776 or elizabeth.davis.mcguire@gmail.com, or Sue Nelson at 609-397-9021 or sue.nelson929@gmail.com. Thank you!

KAIROS ADVENT PROJECT

Each Sunday morning our class time begins with gathering around our Christ candle and passing our prayer heart, each person sharing something that they would like to offer in prayer. The Christ candle reminds us that God is with us in our sacred space.

This Advent season the children will decorate candles to give as one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts to a special person that they would like to share the light of Christ with. We will decorate the candles on Sundays December 10th and 17th and they will be blessed during the 10am service on the 17th.

KAIROS CALENDAR

December 3: Advent 1, Lessons

December 10: Lessons, candle decorating

December 17: Lessons, candle decorating and blessing of Christ candles

December 24: NO CLASSES

December 31: NO CLASSES

CHILDREN'S ADVENT SERVICE

Advent is a time for getting ready to celebrate the mystery of Christmas. On **Wednesday, December 6th at 4:30pm**, we invite our children (and their adults!) to our Children's Advent Service where they will have the opportunity to build our crèche; our Nativity scene. This will be a very short service (30 minutes) so we hope you will be able to join us as we remember the Reason for this season of hope and joy!

DECEMBER LADIES LUNCHEON

The December Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at 12:30 in Belmont Hall. This will be a true potluck. We are also having a cookie exchange for anyone who is interested in participating. If you would like to take part in the cookie exchange, bake 2 dozen cookies and put 2 cookies per bag, having a total of 12 bags. Bring these to the luncheon and you will pick up 12 bags of assorted cookies of your choice to take home.

Please RSVP to Carol Flanders at caf1118@aol.com or 882-4915.

CHURCH BAZAAR

The Knitting Table at the St. Matthews Church Bazaar needs your help. If you can knit or crochet an item for us it would be great, we would love to have your donations. The Bazaar is Saturday, December 9, 2017. You can reach out to Carol Flanders, (609-882-4915) Carol Luling, (609-737-3833) or Barbara Von Oehsen (609-737-0002) for more information. Thank you.

2017 ST MATTHEWS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IS THE SECOND WEEKEND OF DECEMBER!

Bazaar Set-up: Sunday, December 3rd 12pm in Belmont Hall, classrooms and multipurpose room (This will be going all week)

Bazaar Date: Saturday, December 9th, 10am-4pm

Bazaar Post Sales and Takedown: Saturday, Dec. 9th, after 4pm (classroom space); Sunday, December 10th, after the 10am service and break down at 12pm

Bazaar Contact: Amanda Morrison, 468-3434 or amandamorrison2008@gmail.com

THE SAINT MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IS LESS THAN 1 WEEK AWAY! WE ARE IN NEED OF BAKED GOODS, FROZEN CASSEROLES AND FROZEN SOUPS!!!

Frozen Casseroles, Entrees and Soups

With many people having such busy schedules, these items are a big seller each year. We are looking for delicious family friendly casseroles, entrees and soups to be donated to the bazaar. Recipes have been printed and placed on the bazaar table in Belmont Hall. If you need them emailed to you, please email amandamorrison2008@gmail.com.

Cookies

Who doesn't love a home baked cookie. Why not whip up a batch of your favorites for the bazaar! Drop off cookies in the parish kitchen on Thursday, Dec. 7th after 4pm.

Other Baked Goods

It wouldn't be a bazaar without yummy brownies, cakes and pies! Please donate your best baked goods to the bazaar. Items can be dropped off on Friday, Dec 8th until 6pm or Saturday, Dec 9th before 9am.

Also... donations of containers for cookies, cakes, casseroles etc. are accepted. Please place under the bazaar table in Belmont Hall.

Gourmet Treats

A bazaar tradition! Fruity preserves, buttery shortbread, decadent fudge, not to mention chutney and other exotic sauces. Please consider making some of your specialty for the bazaar. Drop-off is in the parish kitchen on Thursday, Dec. 7th after 4pm

Baked Goods Night: Thursday, Dec. 7th in the Belmont Hall at 6pm

Please join us for a fun night of packaging our donated baked goodies

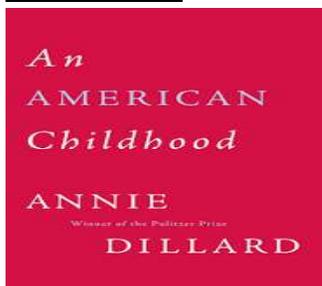
Thank you to all of your generous contributions and time volunteering for our big event!

Cheers!

Amanda Morrison

amandamorrison2008@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB



An American Childhood by Annie Dillard

Book Club Christmas Brunch 10:00 am, December 14
at Christina Kale's

Dillard's luminous memoir of her childhood captures growing up in the 1950s in Pittsburg. Dillard's parents helped her acquire a love of nature and a taut sensitivity. The events of childhood often loom larger than life; the magic of Dillard's writing is that she sets down typical childhood happenings with their original immediacy and force.

SUMMER 2018 MISSION TRIP TO CAMDEN

St. Matthew's Mission Committee is pleased to announce its mission trip opportunity this coming summer:

Urban Promise in Camden, NJ – July 29-August 3, 2018 (Probable dates)

If you have never been on a trip or want to go on a different one, learn more at an Informational Meeting in the library on **Sunday, December 3 at 11:30 am**. Applications will be distributed at this time. Applications are due no later **December 17**. We hope to have both teams finalized shortly after that. Thanks in advance for your prayers and support!

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Pledge statements for the nine months ended September 30th were mailed out during the week of October 15th. Please review your statement to see if it matches your records and if you have questions or comments about the status of your payments email or call John Eckel our Recording Clerk (n60aj@yahoo.com) 609-737-8591. Although many pledgors are either ahead of their payment plan or on plan for the nine months, overall our pledge payments for the period ended September were significantly under our budget. If you are behind we would appreciate you meeting your full pledge during the last month of this year. If you have any questions about St. Matthew's finances contact Kevin Margiatto, Treasurer (kmargiatto@withum.com) or Bruce Weise, Vestry Member/Finance Chair (finance@stmatthewspennington.org) 609-737-1064.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Instead of writing a check for your pledge payment or regular offering which is not a pledge many banks offer the service of mailing a check to St. Matthew's for a recurring amount on the frequency that you request. No check writing and you won't forget your pledge payment or regular offering! Contact your bank.
- Our Parish Life Guild is providing \$20,000 to our Operating Fund budget for 2017 and the primary source of their fund raising are the Spring and Fall Rummage Sales and the Christmas Bazaar. Please be generous in your support of Time, Treasure and Talent to these events.

- The flower arrangements each Sunday on our altar and for Christmas and Easter are funded by flower memorial donations in the name of family and friends made by parishioners prior to Christmas and Easter. Look for instructions in the monthly newsletter and in the Sunday bulletin insert leading up to Christmas and Easter on how to make a flower memorial donation.
- That you may donate appreciated stock and not pay the capital gains tax? St. Matthew's gets the full market value of the stock and you get the full charitable deduction and meet your pledge or donation without paying the capital gains tax on the shares. Remember that the shares must have been held long term or greater than one year to qualify. Just send a letter of instructions to your broker specifying the specific shares and the date of purchase so you gift the most highly appreciated shares in your account. Contact your tax advisor for specific advice regarding your tax situation and deductions and contact John Eckel regarding your contribution and for instructions on where to have the stock sent.

ARM IN ARM

The St. Matthew's Pantry Team has been regularly working the **3rd Monday of the month**. You can also bring non-perishable foods to St. Matthew's and drop them off at the shelves across from Pam's office. Contact Joe Lawver (jlawver@yahoo.com) if you would like to get involved.

TASK VOLUNTEERS

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen always needs volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the St. Matthew's effort at TASK should call Bob Holmes at 609-730-8354 for more information and to sign up.

Prayers of the Parish: *Listed below: Person(s) in need of prayer-Contact parishioner*

In Need of Continual Prayer: Amanda Buchanan, Bill Comiski, Liam, John Cannon, Bob & Sylvia Hunt, Shirley Swanson, Emily Flanders, Flo and Jim Cunningham, Jeff Winegar, Ruby Clarke, Jean, John Elliott, Juanita Gibbs, Valerie Kozak, Pam Inman

Prayer Requests

Don France (husband of Virginia France)

Parkinson's and dementia,

Kelly (friend) - disabled, homeless

Steven Ferguson –Hill's nephew

Phil Boone - father of Phyllis Jones

Abi (healing) – Sara Ritchie

Emily & Kimberly (infectious disease)

Julianna (toddler-healing) - Cheryl

Barbara Beaulieu – (rapid onset dementia) Joan

Doc (cancer) - friend of Kinnamons

Reid – (bone infection) – friend Tom Pearse-Drance

Alex (seizure disorder) – Godfrey

brother of John Krisulewicz

Billie Bowden Sanderson

Joyce Harbourt – recovery from surgery

Patricia Ashforth – cancer

Ann Scott – (healing) – Joan Verplanck

Susan - (healing) – Cheryl Ludwig

Ken Boone – brother of Phyllis Jones (treatment for Leukemia)

Nick Brown – (healing) - Depression

Birthdays this week: Jim Gaffney Sr., Teri Landis, Elizabeth Luciano, Diana Drake, Paige Hansbury, Lou Giallella.

Anniversaries this week: Virginia & Donald France.

Please help us update the Church Office staff about your prayer requests. In an effort to stay current, names will be removed after 90 days, unless there has been a request for them to remain. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE: If any of your birthday or anniversary dates are incorrect please contact the Parish Office at admin@stmatthewspennington.org.