



## **St. Matthew's Messenger**

**March 2018**

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

To receive the monthly Messenger and other announcements please contact Pam at [admin@stmatthewspennington.org](mailto:admin@stmatthewspennington.org) or phone us at 609-737-0985. *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**

**Church Office will close at noon on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
and will be closed on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**Office will reopen on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Service times are at 8 and 10 AM for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist,



**REMEMBER TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD  
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON MARCH 10, 2018!!!!**

### **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Diocesan Convention is a time when representatives from around our diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. **All are welcome** to join us as we worship, conduct business, view and listen to presentations, socialize, and network. The Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 2349 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill NJ 08002 on March 2-3, 2018.

**PLEASE NOTE:** To accommodate our revised Agenda this year, voting Deputies and Clergy will be seated at assigned tables at the front of the Grand Ballroom. All visitors may occupy the chairs towards the back of the Grand Ballroom.

Please proceed to the Terrace Room upon arrival to sign in. Your table number will be given when you sign for your packet.

### **THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS**

The Rev. Joanne Izzo met with the Rector, Wardens and Vestry on Monday, February 26 as part of the reconciliation process.

As our Bishop wrote in his initial letter to us, “our primary efforts as followers of Jesus Christ are always aimed at reconciliation. It is important that all members of the parish support this process and honor the sensitivity of the work. Speculation and gossip will not be helpful for anyone, or for the overall health of the parish. Neither will it be helpful for people to get caught up in the difficulties by aligning themselves with one party or another. It is my hope that all members of St. Matthew’s will commit themselves to the spirit and work of reconciliation and unity. I ask that you support this process and the restoral of relationships by keeping all those involved fervently in your prayers and by working in a way that is unifying and healing.”

So, what if you are feeling “left out” of this process? What if you are disappointed not to be in the room with the Vestry, Wardens, and Rector when The Rev. Joanne Izzo is meeting with them?

- **Everyone’s** primary mode of participation is through prayer and by being intentional about saying and doing things in a unifying and reconciling manner.
- Our secondary mode of participation is by honoring the sensitivity of the work, and honoring one another, without judgment or speculation about outcomes.
- Our tertiary mode of participation will be through the **listening sessions with the Rev. Joanne Izzo**, for which you **MUST** sign up ahead of time by calling the office or by signing up on the sheet in the entry at Church by Pam’s office. There is a limit of 12 persons per session.
- The March sessions will be 45 minutes each: at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 on Saturday, March 10.
- The date and time of the April and May sessions will be announced as available.

## **CONNECTING WITH YOUR VESTRY, WARDENS AND RECTOR**

Dear Fellow St. Matthew's Parishioners:

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve you as your Wardens and Vestry. We are looking forward to serving diligently and in good faith with you and in representation of you, the congregants of St. Matthew's, to do the important work and to further the mission of our beloved parish.

In the interest of furthering parish communication with the Wardens and the Vestry, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce your Vestry and to identify the ways that you may connect with us to share ideas and insights, questions or concerns.

First, let us provide a little background information -

As many of you are aware, Bishop Stokes recently led us in two Town Hall meetings. At these meetings, some questions were raised as to the charge of the Vestry and the nature of our meetings.

At the first organizational meeting of the Vestry (post Annual Meeting), held on Monday, February 26, we sought clarification and confirmed that all Vestry meetings are open to parishioners. That is, parishioners may be present for the proceedings but may not have voice or vote at these meetings (i.e., there will be no opportunity for public comment). Meetings are open unless a sensitive issue is being dealt with. The Chair of the meeting - the Rector, Senior Warden or Junior Warden - will decide when an issue must be taken up in a closed Executive Session and will ask visitors to leave. Salaries and personal misconduct, for example, are sensitive issues to be discussed only in Executive Session.

At St. Matthew's, Vestry meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. Please consult the weekly bulletin for any changes to the regular schedule, as sometimes these meetings must be rescheduled. We encourage and welcome you to attend Vestry meetings as you are able.

If you would like to discuss parish questions and concerns, the Rector, Wardens and Vestry will be making themselves available to parishioners in these ways:

- 1) First and foremost, please feel free to reach out to any of us at your convenience - contact information has been provided via an email to the parish and in the soon-to-be-released Parish Directory (via email and in print version). In the interim, please contact Pam Worthington in the Parish Office if you require contact information.
- 2) Vestry members will make themselves available at Coffee Hour following the 8 AM and 10 AM services. In the near future, we will host a Vestry Coffee Hour(s) – an opportunity to meet and greet Vestry members and to share your ideas, concerns, etc. More info to follow.
- 3) Please consult the Parish website and the new video screen in the church entranceway – a slide will be available shortly with pictures and information on Vestry members, so that you may connect “a name with a face” so to speak. (As a side note, please continue to wear your nametags each week. It is a simple yet important way for us to connect with each other. If you need a nametag, please write your name down on the clipboard on the nametag chart, and one will be created for you.)
- 4) We look forward to listening and to responding to your ideas, thoughts and concerns on these occasions. However, for those concerns that require further thought, we plan to build time into our future meeting agendas to share as a group the thoughts that have been presented to us on an individual basis. We will work to follow up on these topics in a timely manner.

Please know, while the Rector, Wardens and Vestry are tasked with leadership responsibilities of the parish, we rely on the input and participation of the parish to ensure that our work represents and

accurately reflects the will of God and of its parishioners. We will strive to do our best to incorporate your insights and opinions and encourage your assistance in this regard.

During this time of Lent, we are provided with numerous opportunities for introspection and prayer. For many, these moments provide us with a chance to reflect upon our innermost spiritual concerns. As we journey through Lent together, we hope that you will consider St. Matthew's in your times of reflection or devotion and, when appropriate, will feel open to sharing what is on your heart for the betterment of our parish community.

Thanks for your time and attention. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. Matthew's

### **LOOKING FOR LECTORS AND SUB-DEACONS**

St. Matthews is in need of 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](mailto:rector@StMatthewsPennington.org) or Tom Bruhl at [tbruhl@embarqmail.com](mailto:tbruhl@embarqmail.com).

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Altar Guild is looking for new members. If you have an interest in being part of the group working "behind the scenes" to prepare the Lord's Table for our worship services, please contact Elizabeth McGuire at [609-737-1776](tel:609-737-1776), [elizabeth.davis.mcguire@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.davis.mcguire@gmail.com) or Sue Nelson at [609-397-9021](tel:609-397-9021), [sue.nelson929@gmail.com](mailto:sue.nelson929@gmail.com)



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>March 2-3</b> | <b>234<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention</b>   |
| <b>March 4</b>   | <b>4:00pm Choral Evensong @ Doane Academy</b><br><b>Confirmation Class at 4:30pm</b>   |
| <b>March 5</b>   | <b>8:30am Lectionary Bible Study, chapel</b><br><b>11:00am Healthy Bones</b><br><b>7:30pm Lectionary Bible Study, chapel</b> |
| <b>March 6</b>   | <b>7:00-8:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Rectory</b>   |
| <b>March 7</b>   | <b>5:15-6:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Belmont Hall</b>  |
| <b>March 8</b>   | <b>11:30am Lenten Study, Library</b><br><b>7:30-9:00pm, Spiritual Practices, 26 Eglantine</b>                                |
| <b>March 10</b>  | <b>9:00-1:00pm, Vestry Retreat, Belmont Hall</b><br><b>1:30-4:15pm, conversations with Rev. Joanne Izzo</b>                  |
| <b>March 11</b>  | <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b><br><b>11:30am Sermon Reflection in Chapel</b>  |
| <b>March 12</b>  | <b>8:30am Lectionary Bible Study</b><br><b>11:00am Healthy Bones</b><br><b>7:30pm Lectionary Bible Study</b>                 |
| <b>March 13</b>  | <b>7:00-8:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Rectory</b>   |
| <b>March 14</b>  | <b>5:15-6:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Belmont Hall</b>  |
| <b>March 15</b>  | <b>11:30am Lenten Study</b><br><b>7:30-9:00pm, Spiritual Practices, 26 Eglantine</b>   |
| <b>March 17</b>  | <b>St Patrick's Day</b><br><b>Trinity Princeton Retreat, Belmont Hall</b>  |

March 18	Confirmation Class at 4:30pm 11am Bake Sale
March 19	8:30am Lectionary Bible Study 11:00am Healthy Bones 7:30pm Lectionary Bible Study
March 20	7:00-8:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Rectory
March 21	5:15-6:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Belmont Hall
March 22	11:30am Lenten Study 10am Book Club 5:30pm Family Fun Night 7:30-9:00pm, Spiritual Practices, 26 Eglantine

## HOLY WEEK

March 25	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:00 Liturgy of the Palms, Belmont Hall, procession (inside) Holy Eucharist, nave 10:00 Liturgy of the Palms, Belmont Hall, procession (outside) LOGOS at 5pm
March 26	8:30am Lectionary Bible Study 11:00am Healthy Bones 7:30pm Lectionary Bible Study
March 27	7:00-8:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Rectory
March 28	5:15-6:30pm, Spiritual Practices, Belmont Hall
March 29	<u>Maundy Thursday</u> 11:30am Lenten Study 8:00pm Holy Eucharist (with footwashing)
March 30	<u>Good Friday Ecumenical Service at 12:00pm</u> Children's Good Friday Service at 3pm
March 31	<u>Easter Vigil at 8:00pm</u>

## KAIROS KORNER

This month all classes will be focused on lessons about our savior, Jesus, and the events of His life leading up to His great sacrifice for us. This month we will use and see symbols to remember and prepare us for the Mystery of Easter, and to share the love and light of Christ. A symbol is an object that can tell a story or share a message. Symbols can be powerful. Here are some examples of how we will use symbols this month in Kairos:

In our Primary-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class:



### Symbols of Easter egg hunt

**The pretzel (blue eggs):** How can a pretzel remind us of Jesus?! More than a thousand years ago, an Italian monk (a monk is like a priest) made them as a special treat for his students. The three holes represent the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the shape is supposed to look like little arms crossed over the chest in prayer because that is how people prayed at that time. **The pretzel reminds us to pray.**

**The lamb (yellow eggs):** Thousands of years ago, people thought they were honoring God by giving some of their animals to Him as a *sacrifice*, a gift. Some of the animals were calves, doves, pigeons and lambs. The animal had to be the best one that the person had. I wonder if it was hard to give up the best animal? God gave us a sacrifice. He gave us the best *person*. He gave us Jesus. We call Jesus the "Lamb of God". **The lamb reminds us that Jesus is the best person.**

**The cross (purple egg):** During Lent we remember that Jesus died on a cross which is very sad. The happy part is that God made Jesus come back to life! **The cross reminds us of the sad part of Lent.** The colorful rope through the cross reminds us that after the sad part, there is a happy part. You may wear your cross around your neck to help you think of Jesus.

**The stone (orange egg):** I wonder if you know what happened to Jesus body after He died on the cross? His friends cleaned His body and wrapped Him in strips of cloth and laid Him inside a tomb (that's like a cave). To keep His body safe, the friends rolled a huge stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. **The stone reminds us of Jesus in the tomb.**

**The butterfly (green egg):** One day a caterpillar spins a cocoon all around itself. If you didn't know better, you might think that caterpillar was dead. But inside that cocoon, the caterpillar is changing into something beautiful. I wonder if you know what a caterpillar changes into? A butterfly! When Jesus' body was wrapped up and laying in a tomb, people thought He was dead, but He wasn't! God made Jesus alive again. When Jesus came back to life, some of His friends didn't recognize Him. I wonder how Jesus had changed? We call Jesus being dead and God making Him alive again the *Resurrection*. That is the mystery of Easter. **The butterfly reminds us of the resurrection.**



**In our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class:**  
**Symbols of the Story lesson**

**As the scripture verses are read in class a basket containing the appropriate symbol is passed from child to child. Each child leaves with a Symbols of the Story bag and the description below:**

1. Read Matthew 26:14-16 (Judas' plot of betrayal) – hand out **COINS**
2. Read Matthew 26:17-29 (Last Passover) – hand out **BREAD**
3. Read Matthew 26:36-46 (Jesus prays at Gethsemane) – hand out **TISSUE**
4. Read Matthew 26: 47-50 (Jesus is betrayed with a kiss) – hand out candy **KISS**
5. Read Matthew 27: 1-5 (Jesus is sentenced to death) – handout **ROPE**
6. Read Matthew 27: 11-24 (Pilate washes his hands) – hand out **TOWEL**
7. Read Matthew 27: 27-31 (Jesus is mocked) – hand out **CROWN of THORNS**
8. Read Matthew 27: 45-54 (Jesus' death) – hand out **CURTAIN PIECES**
9. Read Matthew 27: 57-60 (Jesus is buried) – hand out the **STONE**
10. Read Matthew 28: 1-10 (The resurrection) – hand out the angel **FEATHER**
11. Read Matthew 28: 16-20 (Jesus' promise) – hand out the **CROSS**



**In our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class:**

**Kindness Stones.** One message at the right moment can change someone's day, make a difference in their life. Our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class will decorate small stones. These little tokens of random kindness will carry positive messages that will be left around town, school (or even at church) with the intention of spreading joy, hope, and love. Look for additional information on how the entire parish can participate!





**In our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade class:**

**Tie dyed t-shirts.** This is a special tradition! The 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders create one-of-a-kind tie-dyed shirts for the second grade Eucharist class. The shirts are worn during Eucharist Instruction classes and for the Family Worship Service, after their instruction is complete, when the entire parish celebrates!

**All of our classes** will bake and enjoy Empty Tomb rolls on March 25<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday, following our morning's procession with Michael O'Halloran, bagpiper and Barnie, the Donkey! Look for additional information regarding our 10am Palm Sunday Service in upcoming bulletins and parent emails.

Looking Ahead:

**Children's Good Friday Service** will be held on **Friday, March 30th at 3pm.**

**Second Grade Eucharist Instruction: April 15th & April 22nd** with a **Family Worship Service Celebration** on **Sunday, April 29th.**

**REMEMBRANCE CANDLES**

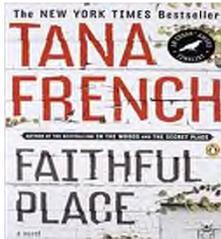
Many of us have lost loved ones and while we don't need anything tangible to remember them because they are in our hearts always, sometimes having a quiet place to go and something to hold on to or to look at centers our thoughts and feelings and does help in the remembering.

We now have a remembrance table in our chapel. The table has two marble trays, each one filled with votive candles. There is also a wooden heart shaped bowl that holds small prayer hearts.

We encourage and invite you to go to the chapel, light a candle and choose a prayer heart to hold onto while you spend some time remembering and loving the person or people who you've lost -- for now. You will find a candle snuffer on the table as well. For safety reasons, we ask that you extinguish your candle once you finish your prayer time. Just as we say with our Christ candles in Kairos ~ Let the Light that is in one place at one time, be in all places at all times.

May peace with you and those you love.

**BOOK CLUB**



*Faithful Place* by Tana French  
March 22 Library 10:00 am

“The most interesting, most important crime novelist to emerge in the past 10 years” (*The Washington Post*), the bestseller called “the most stunning of her books” (*The New York Times*). Back in 1985, Frank Mackey was a nineteen-year-old kid with a dream of escaping his family's cramped flat on Faithful Place and running away to London with his girl, Rosie Daly. But on the night, they were supposed to leave, Rosie didn't show. Frank took it for granted that she'd dumped him-probably because of his alcoholic father, nutcase mother, and generally dysfunctional family. He never went home again. Neither did Rosie. Then, twenty-two years later, Rosie's suitcase shows up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place, and Frank, now a detective in the Dublin Undercover squad, is going home whether he likes it or not. Getting sucked in is a lot easier than getting out again. Frank finds himself straight back in the dark tangle of relationships he left behind. The cops working the case want him out of the way, in case loyalty to his family and community makes him a liability. Faithful Place wants him out because he's a detective now, and the Place has never liked cops. Frank just wants to find out what happened to Rosie Daly-and he's willing to do whatever it takes, to himself or anyone else, to get the job done.

## MARCH LADIES LUNCHEON

### Ladies' Lunch



We will be guests of Betty Benton for the March luncheon. We will meet at 12:30 on Thursday, March 15th at 5 King's Court in Pennington. Betty will be providing turkey chili and cornbread. Please bring sides, dessert or drinks.

Please RSVP to Betty at 737 6460 or [bbenton2142@gmail.com](mailto:bbenton2142@gmail.com) so she will know how to plan. For directions, contact Betty.

(Our March Bake Sale will be Sunday, March 18th!)

### FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Fear not.....If you didn't complete your 2017 pledge in full you can still finish it up in 2018. So that we can keep our records straight for 2017 in the memo section of your check write 2017 Pledge and leave your check in the offering plate or put your check a plain envelope in the plate (don't use your 2017 envelopes or your 2018 envelopes for a 2017 payment so that you receive proper credit). If you have any questions about your 2017 pledge contact John Eckel, our Recording Clerk ([n60aj@yahoo.com](mailto:n60aj@yahoo.com)) 609-737-8591.

If you have questions about St. Matthew's finances contact Kevin Margiatto, Treasurer ([kmargiatto@withum.com](mailto:kmargiatto@withum.com)) or Bruce Weise, Vestry Member/Finance Chair/Assistant Treasurer([finance@stmatthewspennington.org](mailto:finance@stmatthewspennington.org)) 609-737-1064.

### AMAZON MAKES DONATION TO ST MATTHEW'S!

That's right, from now on, every time you make a purchase on Amazon.com, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to St Matthew's Episcopal Church, Pennington, NJ. It costs you nothing, but the Church gets a donation. Here's how you make that happen.

When you want to shop on Amazon.com, add one word to the URL, and that word is "Smile." Instead of typing <http://www.Amazon.com>, type <http://www.Smile.Amazon.com>. Everything is exactly the same when you arrive there—same products, same prices, same service. In fact, if you are an Amazon Prime member, even that's the same. Everything's the same EXCEPT—our church gets a 0.5% contribution based on the price you pay. Wow! Just think how much money St Matt's will receive if all our parishioners just add the word "Smile."

There is something you have to do the first time you go to Smile.Amazon.com. You have to let Amazon know who you are by logging in to your account, or by creating one, and also **who you want the 0.5% charitable contribution to go to**. From now on, please start all your shopping at Smile.Amazon.com.

### **2018 SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY CARE MOVES!**

The downstairs nursery is moving into the chapel for 2018. For the past several months, there have been no little client's downstairs. So, we're bringing it upstairs into the chapel. If you and your children would like to listen to the service together, the chapel will be open for you until the beginning of communion. (The prayer partners will gather there to pray with those who wish during and after communion). We welcome your feedback.

**LENTEN QUIET DAY, 9-12, SATURDAY MARCH 24:** Delve deeper into the mystery of Lent—a time to nurture our relationship with God through prayer, study, fasting, and service.

### **SPRING, 2018 PARISH RETREAT**

Come away and rest a while with Jesus and with others from St. Matthew's. Nourish your heart and soul with prayer, study and fellowship. (To be held on a week-end in April, May, or June). Dates to be determined.

### **2018 MONTHLY SERMON REFLECTION**

All are welcome to gather with the rector at 11:30 in the chapel, to deepen the themes of the sermon and to listen to what God is saying to us. We will meet on the following dates:

March 11  
April 15  
May 6  
June 3  
July 22  
August 19  
Sept 23  
Oct 14  
Nov 18  
Dec 9

### **PASTORAL CARE**

At some point everyone experiences difficult times in their lives. If you, your family or friends are going through a challenging time and need support please reach out to the pastoral care team. There are a number of ways in which the team can help - these include prayer, visits, providing prepared meals and/or driving assistance. These services could help provide a temporary bridge over a tough time. Please contact the parish office at [\(609\) 737-0985](tel:6097370985) to be put in touch with Rev. Barbara Briggs or other members of our pastoral care team - Sally Burkman, Linda Bucher, Lily Horsman, Dabby Palmer, Eleanor Pennington, Sally Barber or Anne Birkett.

**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, Pam Worthington (609) 737-0985 or Sally Burkman at (609) 737-9495.

### **St. Matthew's Messenger in images?**

Our Newsletter is full of information about things to come. We would also like to include photos of things we have done together. Have you been involved in something exciting or meaningful through St. Matthew's? Do you have photos of the event? If so, please submit to Pam a photo with a caption for inclusion in the Newsletter. Thank-you!