



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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Web: www.StMatthewsPennington.org

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

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Parish Calendar

January 26	8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist 5:00pm Confirmation class
January 27	4:30pm Tai Chi Class
January 28	9:30am Bible Study
January 30	12:00pm Preschool
February 2	9am Holy Eucharist Parish Annual meeting

It is with sorrow that we announce the recent death of **Todd Lewis**, son of Judy Lewis. Todd's funeral will be here at **St. Matthew's this Saturday at 11:30 am** with a luncheon reception following in Belmont Hall. *May Todd rest in peace and rise in glory.*

YOU ARE INVITED:

1. Please join us this Sunday for **worship** at 8 or 10 am for the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany, ("epiphany" meaning **manifestation or revelation**). Health Dewrell will be our intern!
2. Confirmation class: Sunday, Jan. 26th, 5pm
3. The **Annual Meeting** of St. Matthew's on Sunday, Feb. 2, following a **9AM** service of Holy Eucharist, (**one service only on that day**) on which we will celebrate Candlemas.

Candlemas: A feast of our Lord celebrated on Feb. 2, also known as Candlemas and the Feast of the Purification. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus' birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2-8). The feast is celebrated about forty days after Christmas. According to the account of Lk 2:22-39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna. Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle Nunc dimittis (see BCP, p. 120). Celebration of the feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem.

THE GOOD BOOK PROJECT:

Join us as together we read the Gospel of John during the season of Epiphany. Reading for this week includes: John Chaps 7-9. Reading schedules and further resources can be found at <https://news.forwardmovement.org/tag/good-book-club/> **All welcome** for discussion of the week's readings on Tuesdays at 9:30 in St. M.'s library.

A REQUEST:

Our acolyte vestments are in rough shape – stained, wrinkled and some ill-fitting. If you have a son or daughter (or friend) who acolytes, will you please take a cassock (red) and cotta (white) home to launder and freshen up? Also, we have extra vestments downstairs if your youngster has outgrown his/hers. Please let us know and we will try to find an appropriate one.

DID YOU KNOW?

That you can listen to any **sermon** online by going to www.stmatthewspennington.org and clicking on the green banner on top?

INTRODUCING: Heath Dewrell.

St. Matthew's is blessed to have Heath join us this month as part of his formation/education as an Episcopal priest. He will join us Sundays beginning Jan. 19th and occasional days during the week through June, 2020 during which time Heath will preach, provide pastoral care, and lead occasional Bible studies and Confirmation class. Here is more about Heath in his own words, "Heath teaches Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. His research these days focuses on the prophets. He and his wife, Kimberly, have 2 children, Stephen (age 8) and Daniel (age 1). Heath spends his free time cooking, playing banjo (clumsily and poorly), and camping with his family." Please make Heath feel welcome when you meet him!

"HOPE GROWS HERE!"

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hope indeed grows at St. Matthew's! We are thrilled to tell you that as of January 9, 2020, we have received 111 pledges totaling \$288,568. This includes 56 increases and 24 new pledges. We have made a promising start on our 3-year stewardship campaign. As a result of your financial generosity and commitment, we are able to:

1. Contribute \$5,000 to Mar-Keith's college expenses, a promising young man from Urban Promise
2. Raise our Marks of Mission pledge to the diocese from 8% of the asking amount to 12%,
3. Reduce our budget deficit to \$17,000

In addition, there has been wonderful generosity beyond pledging/participation in the Hope Grows Here effort. Here are just a few examples; We have:

1. Collected and donated 169 backpacks to needy children
2. Donated 16 Christmas stockings to needy children
3. Donated \$1265 to the Pennington Fire Dept. on behalf of the Shamsey family, following a house fire.
4. Collected and donated 27 "reverse Advent calendar" bags of toiletries to Arm and Arm. I met recently with their Hunger Prevention Coordinator, Andrea Melton, who remarked that our donation of personal care items "have really made an impact," and have "made people very happy."
5. Assembled and sent 12 care packages to college students.
6. Assembled and donated approximately 30 bags of children's Christmas goodies to Homefront.

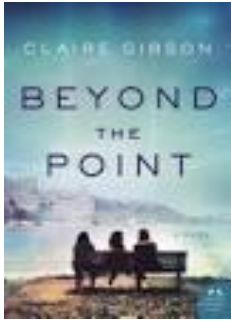
Friends, I do believe that the Holy Spirit has been at work around here and that we are on a roll! We most assuredly have work to do but I think it safe to say that *our best days are ahead*.

Thank you so very much for your wide-ranging generosity. I pray that it has brought the same joy to you as it has to all recipients.

Gratefully,

Ophelia Laughlin, (Priest-in-Charge)
Jim McGuire (Chair, Stewardship Committee)
William Compton, Deb Linthorst (Wardens)

BOOK CLUB



February 13 10:00 am - library

Beyond the Point by Claire Gibson

In this powerful novel set at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, three women—a nationally-ranked point guard, the granddaughter of an Army general, and a rebellious Homecoming Queen—are brought together in an enthralling story of friendship, heartbreak, and resilience. **Duty. Honor. Country.**

LADIES LUNCHEON

Our February luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 12th at 12:30 at Carol Flanders' house. Save the date.

Our first Bake Sale for 2020 will be on Sunday, February 23rd.

We are still looking for someone to host the April luncheon, if you are interested, please talk to Carol Flanders (caf1118@aol.com)

Hope to see everyone soon!

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.

ARM IN ARM

The St. Matthew's Pantry Team has been regularly working at this ministry the **3rd Monday and Thursday of the month**. You can support Arm in Arm by bringing non-perishable food items to St. Matthew's and dropping them off on the shelves across from Pam's office. For more information or to volunteer please contact Carl Weber at 609-955- 0508. *In addition to food items Arm in Arm needs personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, floss, etc. Thanks to all for your continued support!*

AMAZON

Amazon Smile is a way for customers to support St Matthew's every time they shop with Amazon. Shoppers who start at smile.amazon.com will find the same Amazon they know and use, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion (0.5%) of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. If you have an Amazon Prime account, your AmazonSmile account will automatically be Prime. Signing up is easy!

Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice
Search "**St Matthews Episcopal Church**" (enter it in the search exactly this way no .org)
4. Select your charity
You will find St Matthews Episcopal Church, Pennington NJ in the search drop down selections
Select our church as your designated charity
We will receive contributions from Amazon on eligible purchases at no extra cost to the consumer.
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile

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 several 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 members of our pastoral care team – Sally Barber, Linda Bucher, Sally Burkman, Richard Del Monaco, Ellie Driscoll, Lily Horsman, Sue Nelson, Alexa Udy, Linda Weber, Holly Weise or Rev. Ophelia Laughlin.

PRAYER PARTNERS/PRAYER CHAIN

Are you, a family member, or a friend in need of special prayer? Please call Pam Worthington at (609)737-0985 (Ext. 1). Your prayer request will be included in our weekly church bulletin. Or you can make use of our Prayer Partners or Prayer Chain.

Prayer Partners: Confidential prayer time is offered by rotating Prayer Partner teams every Sunday in the Chapel, just before or after you receive Communion. Your requests are private, and although your concerns may seem overwhelming – no need or request is too big or too small. We pray for those in need and those celebrating answered prayers, so please feel welcome! *If you'd like, consider completing the blue Prayer Request Card in your pew (see directions on the back).* (Coordinator is Ellie Driscoll)

Prayer Chain: Prayers are offered for those who need immediate and confidential prayer, usually short-term. People in need call in, and word is spread through the prayer chain volunteers. Please contact Sally Burkman at s_burkman13@msn.com

PRAYERS OF THE PARISH

Emily & Kimberly (infectious disease)

Julianna (toddler-healing) - Cheryl

Barbara Beaulieu – (rapid onset dementia) - Joan

Doc (cancer) - friend of Kinnamons

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

Rose A. – (health problems)

Aldonna Ambler – (cancer)

Mary Lou Nelson – (possible cancer)

Mark Kalinowski – (cancer) – friend of Nora

Tony & Anne Boden (stroke & cancer)

The Ezzo Family – Denise

Ann Scott (healing) – Joan Verplanck

Kelly Belmont

Emily Flanders

Matt Buns

Todd Lewis (Repose of the Soul)

Liam

Shirley Swanson

Jeff Winegar

Ruby Clarke

Juanita Gibbs

Sara Cooper – (ALS)

Tony – (stomach cancer)

David Nissen – (heart attack) – friend of Nora

Misha Hill

Amanda Buchanan

Bill Comiski

Flo and Jim Cunningham

Jon Elliott

Pam Inman (healing)

Olivia H. Storb

To stay current, the office will remove names after 90 days, unless there has been a request for them to remain. Please understand that this policy is the best way for us to keep the prayers list current.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Dioceses of Hpa-an (Myanmar).

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Members and Ministry of the Committee on the Diaconate.

In the Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

Birthdays this week: Stevie Bowden, Bill Ducharme, GG Godly-Rabe, Justin Grgurich, Gioia Miranda, Jane Ellen Lennon, Elise Thompson and Howard Thompson.

Anniversaries this week: Edye & Howard Dumhart.

Please note that the Episcopal Church supports and encourages organ and tissue donation as the ultimate gift of one person to another. Take time to discuss organ and tissue donation with your family and join the donor registry. For more information, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org