



## **St. Matthew's Messenger** **July 2019**

**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**

**Happy 4th of July!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1	4:30pm Tai Chi Class
July 4	Independence Day
July 8	4:30pm Tai Chi Class 4
July 15	4:30pm Tai Chi Class 7:30pm Vestry Meeting
July 22	4:30pm Tai Chi Class
July 25	9:15am Preschool Board Meeting
July 26	Articles needed for August Newsletter
July 29	4:30pm Tai Chi Class
July 31	Distribution of Newsletter

**Christian Formation:** *Soul Keeping*: a 6 week, DVD Program featuring Pastor John Ortberg, led by Ophelia in the library, Tuesdays 9:30am **AND** Thursdays, 7:30pm, beginning July 2 **and July 11** respectively. Come for 1 session or for all. Bring a friend!

## SPECIAL NOTES

1. Very special thanks to **Ruth Cuncell** who has donated her beautiful painting, The Prodigal Son, to St. Matthew's! Please wish Godspeed to Ruth who moves to Michigan in July to be closer to her family. The presence of Ruth and Bishop George has been an incredible gift to our diocese.
2. Please continue to honor your **financial pledge** to St. M's as best you can during the summer months when cash flow becomes difficult.
3. Do you enjoy cooking or shopping for others? Consider joining our new ministry, "**Food for Friends**" and provide food for parishioners in need. If interested, contact Ophelia: [rector@stmatthewspennington.org](mailto:rector@stmatthewspennington.org) or Linda Weber at [lbw60@comcast.net](mailto:lbw60@comcast.net)
4. From our **Music** Minister, Mark Dolan: Sing to the Lord a new song! As I continue to learn about seasonal traditions here at St. Matthews, I was so pleasantly surprised at the beauty enjoyed by holding summer worship in Belmont Hall. The space is bright, roomy, and fresh Oh, and it is air conditioned! The hymn singing is FANTASTIC! The high ceiling and hard surfaces in that space make it so easy to hear each other and sing in full voice. It is true I'll miss using the organ for worship and the calm our Sanctuary brings, but for now I'll enjoy the sound.  
The **Adult Choir** will resume rehearsal Wed, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 8pm. The Adult Choir is especially in need of **Sopranos!** If you aren't sure if that is you, see Mark Dolan for a quick and painless vocal interview. The **Jr. Choir** resumes Wed. Sept. 11, 6pm (open to (to all kids 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through middle school). Not a singer? Be a ringer! **Bells** resume Wed. Sept. 7pm, undercroft.

## ST. MATTHEW'S MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Each month, St. Matthew's middle school students venture out on a secret destination to learn about their community and explore related themes of life and faith. Typically, they meet on a Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m. and arrive at their destination around 7 for a tour and some hands-on activities. Do you have suggestions for interesting and engaging destinations that would enrich this middle-school ministry? Please email Diana Drake at [drakeink@aol.com](mailto:drakeink@aol.com) or call/text her at 609-610-0679.

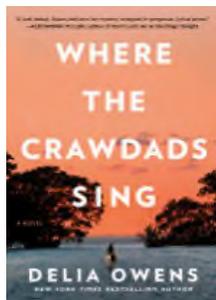
## **KAIROS**

I hope you are having a wonderful summer! If you or your teenager has time to volunteer for Vacation Bible School, please reach out to Ashley Calhoun at [armoore257@gmail.com](mailto:armoore257@gmail.com). VBS will be held as usual at Pennington Presbyterian Church, and it will run from August 5th-August 9th 9:15 am - 12:15 pm. They are in need of many volunteers!

Although the Nursery will not be staffed this summer, we will try to have the room open during the 10 am services in case parents need a place to take a break with their little ones.

Kairos registration will begin again in the middle of August. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

## **BOOK CLUB**



*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Thursday, July 18, 7:00pm on the Weises' porch- 5 Birch Street, Pennington

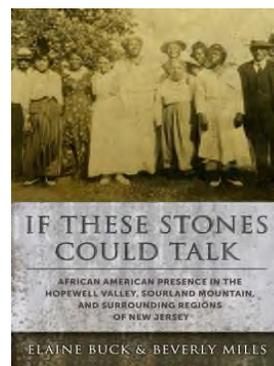
"A painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative, and a celebration of nature." *The New York Times Book Review*

*If These Stones Could Talk: African American Presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain and Surrounding Regions of New Jersey* by

Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills

Thursday, September 12, 10:30 am

Cemeteries have stories to tell, voices to unearth--and lessons from the past that we can draw upon to better shape the future. *If These Stones Could Talk* brings fresh light to a forgotten corner of American history that begins in a small cemetery in central New Jersey.



Barbara von Oehsen has kindly arranged for the authors to lead the discussion. Though you can buy the book from Amazon, but I suggest we support our local authors. You can purchase the book directly from Bev Mills. You may contact her via email at [bmills72@verizon.net](mailto:bmills72@verizon.net). There will be a free will offering at the meeting.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Altar Guild is looking for new members. If you have an interest in being part of the group working "behind 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)

## **FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

For the period January 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> we budgeted to receive 44.5% (\$108,992) of total pledge revenues (\$245,000) for 2019 and we have received 43.8% (\$107,394). Thus we were \$1,598 under budget on pledge revenues for the period. We are grateful for your giving and hopeful that all who pledged will fulfill their pledge over the balance of the year. On the expense side for the same period our expense budget was for 45.6% (\$194,208) of total expenses (\$426,112) for 2019 and our actual expenses were 46% (\$194,943). The dollar variance being \$735. Our budgeted deficit for the year is \$99,630. For the five months ended May 31<sup>st</sup> the actual deficit was \$49,523 vs a budget of \$51,974. This positive difference of \$2,451 is primarily due to the "Manna Project" to reduce our deficit. Through May 31<sup>st</sup> this has resulted in \$2,870 in revenue from donations for events and \$3,056 from specific donations to reduce the deficit. Please watch for future opportunities to support reducing our

deficit through events and auctions. If you want make a specific contribution to reduce the deficit write “Manna” in the memo section of your check and place it in the offering or mail it.

Pledge Revenue and revenue from those who do not pledge always tends to slow down through the summer months as we enjoy time away from home and don't always remember to send in our payments or catch up on the Sundays that we missed. This has a significant effect on our cash flow because unlike life slowing down a little during the summer St Matthew's expenses continue at the same pace. Please keep up with your contributions during the summer. If you do not attend services regularly, consider mailing your payments to the church. Address your payment to St. Matthew's, 300 S Main Street, Pennington; either enclose your pledge envelope in the mailing with the check or note “Pledge Payment” in the memo section of your check. Although we do not accept electronic payments, many banks offer a service where they will mail a check for a predetermined amount at intervals that you designate to the church in payment of your pledge.

If you have any questions about what you have given year to date or if you haven't received a pledge statement please contact John Eckel, our Recording Clerk ([n60aj@yahoo.com](mailto:n60aj@yahoo.com)) 609-737-8591 and 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.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

That our mortgage will be paid in full on July 17<sup>th</sup>! Annually the savings of not having a mortgage payment is \$11,662.00.

### **ARM IN ARM**

The St. Matthew's Pantry Team has been regularly working at this ministry the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 is in need of personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, floss etc. Thanks to all for your continued support!*

**PRAYER CHAIN**--If you need 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 Pam Worthington (609) 737-0985 or Sally Burkman at (609) 737-9495.

### **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 1 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 into 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.

## **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.