



# St. Matthew's Messenger

July 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



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

## SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Service times are at 8 and 9:30 AM for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist,

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2	10:30am Healthy Bones 5:00pm Tai Chi Classes (Basement)
July 3	9:30am Bible Study – Library
July 4	Independence Day
July 9	10:30am Healthy Bones 5:00pm Tai Chi Classes (Basement)
July 10	9:30am Bible Study – Library
July 15	Diocese of NJ Choir Camp at Cape May
July 16	Diocese of NJ Choir Camp at Cape May 8:30am Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 10:30am Healthy Bones 5:00pm Tai Chi Classes (Basement) 7:30 Vestry Meeting
July 22	11:30am Sermon Reflection (Chapel)
July 23	8:30am Lectionary Bible Study (Chapel) 10:30am Healthy Bones 5:00pm Tai Chi Classes (Basement)
July 23-29	RSCMA King's College Wilkes Barre, PA Summer Choral Training Course
July 25	Articles for the Newsletter Due
July 31	Publication of the Newsletter



## 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).

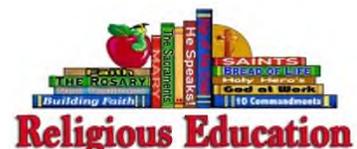
## ALTAR GUILD

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

## ADULT CLASS: EPISCOPAL ESSENTIALS AND CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

for those who wish to deepen, renew or discover the richness of our Episcopal identity and Christian hope. Bring your curious friends. Tuesday evenings at 7:30PM. Email or call the office to register. OR, sign up online

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094eafa722a4fe3-episcopal>





## **COFFEE HOUR**

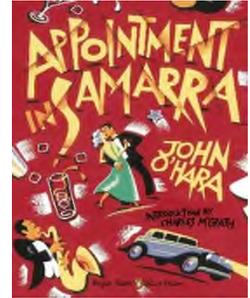
Coffee hour is on holiday during the summer months but will return Sunday, September 9th, the first Sunday after Labor Day. With the support of many St. Matthew's parishioners, we held vibrant coffee hours after each of the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. Their commitment to community hospitality is an important contribution to St. Matthew's as a special community for worship. Sincere thanks to all our volunteer hosts and hostesses. We look forward to another successful season of hospitality in the fall.

## **BOOK CLUB**

*Appointment in Samarra* John O'Hara

July 19 Holly's porch - 7:00 pm

*Appointment in Samarra*, published in 1934, is the first novel by American writer John O'Hara (1905 – 1970). It concerns the self-destruction and suicide of the fictional character Julian English, a wealthy car dealer who was once a member of his town's social elite.



## **FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

For the period January 1 through May 31, 2018 we budgeted to receive 46.2% of total pledge revenues for 2018 and we received 40.5%. On the expense side for the same period our expense budget was for 41.6% of total expenses for 2018 and our actual expenses were 39.6%. Actual expenses were behind budget due to the timing of some planned repairs.

The shortfall in revenue hurts our cash flow especially as we enter the summer months when giving usually declines with attendance and we have to draw against our investments to pay our bills which reduces investment income. So please take a look at your giving year to date and if you are behind please endeavor to catch up. If you have any questions about what you have given year to date please contact John Eckel, our Recording Clerk ([n60aj@yahoo.com](mailto:n60aj@yahoo.com)) 609-737-8591. Also remember if you weren't able to complete your 2017 pledge it's never too late! Write 2017 Pledge in the memo section of your check.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- If you divided our 2018 budgeted expenses by 52 our weekly expenses are \$7,286.00
- Instead of writing a check for your pledge payment or regular offering (someone who hasn't pledged) 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, no pledge envelopes, you only have to deal with it once a year when you tell your bank how much to send and you won't forget your pledge payment or regular offering! Contact your bank before you go on vacation this summer.
- We are extremely fortunate and grateful that many who have preceded us remembered St. Matthew's in their will or estate planning. Their generosity has provided us with a certain level of financial sustainability in times of declining giving but we have to continue add to this resource as it is also declining. Please consider you own Planned Giving for the future of St. Matthew's. See our website for more information and contact John Krisulewicz or Rev. Barbara.

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.

## **ARM IN ARM**

The St. Matthew's Pantry Team has been regularly working 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.

## **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.

## **2018 SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY CARE**

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.

## **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:

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 – The Rev. John Goerss, 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!

## **RECTOR'S REFLECTION**

### **Reading the Bible**

During the next few months, we will be preparing to make a spiritual resolution to read the entire Bible during the year, (or read the New Testament, read one of the gospels, or read the Psalter). In January of 2019 we will launch the **Bible Challenge**. We will also be Inviting people in the community who do not belong to the church to participate in The Bible Challenge as a way to offer a vital spiritual outreach to others who may eventually join our church.

When you open the Bible, you are opening yourself to an encounter with the living God. God's Word has the power to transform your life. But, Episcopalians have not been taught or encouraged to read the Bible on a daily basis. These days, many Episcopalians are finding that "regular church attendance" means coming to church only once per month. How can we ever hope to let God get our attention through his Word if we are only hearing it twelve times a year in church, and then, very likely, forgetting what we heard? There is no more important story for Christians than the one we find in the Bible. Our very identity is rooted in it.

Participants in The Bible Challenge will read three chapters of the Old Testament, one psalm and a chapter of the New Testament each day. This will help them read the entire Bible in a year. (Reading a chapter of the New Testament and a psalm daily sustains readers through spiritually drier parts of the Hebrew Scriptures).

Participants will be encouraged to adopt the ancient monastic practice of lectio divina, where a reader reads the text, meditates on the reading, offers a prayer to God and listens in silence for God to respond. So as not to get bogged down in tedious sections of the Bible, they will just skim over long genealogies or dietary codes.

Every day, beginning in the new year, participants will put themselves in the presence of God before they begin reading the Scriptures and read with a desire to understand and follow the teachings of Scripture, so that their lives might be transformed by the Holy Spirit working within them as the Word of God is revealed to their heart, mind and soul.

The Center for Biblical Studies<sup>1</sup> has designed a one year reading schedule to help those who commit as individuals or as members of a church to read successfully through the entire Bible in a year's time. The CBS intentionally focuses on reading the entire Bible, reading the books of the Bible in sequence and ensuring that a psalm and a portion of the New Testament are read each day in order to provide strong spiritual daily content to sustain readers working through the entire Bible.

### **The Bible Challenge for Families**

Throughout the Bible God uses families as a way to tell a story of love, forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. The Bible is God's family story. Together, as church and family, we invite you to learn how to read the Bible with your child or children and emerge from God's story as people of God, changed, and excited to do God's work. The purpose of The Parent Child Bible Challenge is to:

- invite families to become fully engaged in The Bible Challenge

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<sup>1</sup> <http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org/the-bible-challenge/what-is-the-bible-challenge/>

- explore how the church can support families in reading an age appropriate Bible
- share how the church and families grow together and are strengthened in their relationship with God through regular Bible reading.

Reading and learning the Bible together as a family does the following:

- helps families grow closer
- opens communication
- helps kids know that faith practice begins at home
- transforms our lives every day and all the time

### **Summer musings on the Gospel**

Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

What do you make of this story from the Gospel according to St. Matthew?

Should Episcopalians obey Jesus’ command?

How? (What should they do)?

What would happen if they did?