



St. Matthew's Messenger

JUNE 2017

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

To receive the monthly Messenger announcements please go to our website <http://stmatthewspennington.org/>, click on the link "sign up for emails" under "About us" to add yourself to our mailing list. *The Church is open for prayer and meditation* during parish office hours on weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:30am-4pm and Tuesdays and Fridays till 12noon.



From our Rector

Pentecost and the gift of the spirit.

The Holy Spirit comes upon us from within and from without, and from any direction she chooses. She moves and inspires us and causes us to grow and change from the day we are born until the day we go home to our Lord. There are times in life when we become acutely aware of her presence, times when we need her desperately, and times when it is as if she doesn't even exist.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to you. She comes to you at every moment of every day, giving you the gifts you need for living. She is responsible for your desire for God, which is already a prayer deep within you. She prays in you and is the source of all joy, strength, comfort, inspiration, enthusiasm, and the power to choose life and love.

When I was a young adult, I wrote music. One of these songs was about the Holy Spirit and how she knows us and our deepest needs, and is singing reassurance to us all the time: "I am with you." The rector of the parish in which I worshipped asked me to sing this song for the congregation, but he made me change the pronoun for the Spirit from "she" to "he". I obliged. But it felt different to me to sing of "him" singing reassurance to us.

In Hebrew, the word for spirit is 'ruach'. It is a feminine noun. I liked that. Yet, ultimately, our God is bigger than any one gender or another, and more powerful and gentle than any man or woman we know.

We have entered the great, green growing season of Pentecost and the weeks after Pentecost. My prayer for you is that you may receive the gifts the Holy Spirit wants to pour into your life and find a way to listen to her and nurture whatever she is urging you to do. Unlike the things we buy, earn, win, or receive, the gifts of the Spirit are impossible to cling to. They cannot be possessed. They are given anew whenever we need them, like the next beat of our heart. They can only be employed for the building up of the Body of Christ, and it is only through sharing them that we can benefit from them and be astounded by their power.

Music at St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's Choirs Membership (as of May 7, 2017)

Adult Choir Member 2016-17 (approx. # of years)

Rose Ananthanayagam (15), June Crowther (45), Claire Cannon (46), Annie Gribbins (9), Sylvia Hunt (55), Robin Pearse-Drance (17), Cathy Price (6), Claire Thomas (1), Sally Burkman (45), Janice Kinnamon (26), Sara Ottinger (26), Sandy Parker (45), Larry Parker (45), Bob Thick (11), Paul Bell (31), Marty Nelson (47), Ron Sheay (51), Tom Pearse-Drance (17)

Handbell Choir 2016-17 (approx. # of years)

Sally Burkman (1), Phyllis Jones (11), Janice Kinnamon (5), Naomi Kinnamon (5), Natalie Kinnamon (5), Cheryl Ludwig (13), Jenn Miller (5), Sara Ottinger (8)

Children's Choir

Tea L, Michaela L, Olivia S, Ella M

Choir Sunday

The choir season draws to a close Sunday June 11. Most of the music programmed for the 10am service is chosen by the choirs.

Thank You!

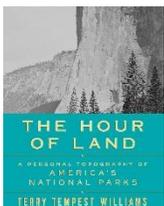
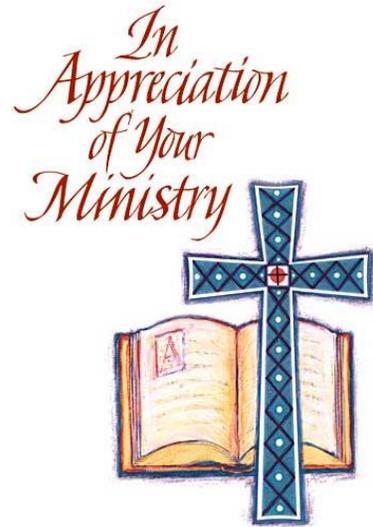
A special thank you to all those parishioners and children who offered their musical talents with us over the course of the year. Their singing and playing always enhances our worship services. Thank you!

Please look out for the summer newsletter for a recap of the 2016-17 choir season, information about July choir camp in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and a preview of the 2017-18 year.

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable and restful summer,
Jim Douglas
Director of Music Ministry

The June Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 14th at the home of Holly Weise. Holly lives at 5 Birch St., in Pennington, her phone number is 737 1064. Please bring a dish to share and please let Holly know if you are planning to attend. We will be collecting donations for Battle Against Hunger at the June luncheon.

The final bake sale before summer is after the 9:30 AM service on June 18th. We hope to see you there!



SAINT MATTHEW'S BOOK CLUB

June 15, 2017: *The Hour of Land*, by Terry Tempest Williams, is celebration of our national parks and an exploration of what they mean to us and what we mean to them. From the Grand Tetons in Wyoming to Acadia in Maine to Big Bend in Texas and more, Williams creates a series of lyrical portraits that illuminate the unique grandeur of each place. Part memoir, part natural history, and part social critique, *The Hour of Land* is a meditation and a manifesto on why wild lands matter to the soul of America.



7,500 Reasons to Thank You

Another Rummage Sale is in the books and once again, because of dozens of dedicated volunteers, I can report that it was a success in every way. Here are some of the highlights:

- We helped a non-profit that cares for retired military service dogs by donating unsold shoes.
- We donated dog crates and leftover towels to a local animal rescue.
- Our valued partners at the Rescue Mission of Trenton took away two truckloads of our unsold goods.
- Individuals continue to shop our sale to provide relief in the Philippines and Haiti.
- Volunteers worked to enhance our on-line presence and it led to more shoppers.
- The communications committee shared with our shoppers a one page sheet about all the good happening at St. Matthew's.
- Our experiment with taking credit card payments was a great success.
- Volunteers were rewarded with great food and fellowship as we shared our noonday meal. Thank you cooks!
- We raised about \$7,500 for our outreach programs.

A very special thank you to everyone who had a hand in this great St. Matthew's tradition.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Congratulations St. Matthew's on a strong first four months of meeting your pledge obligations! For the first third of the year, January through April, total pledge receipts were \$108,000 against pledge commitments of \$290,238 for the full year 2017 or 37% of the amount pledged! Therefore, overall, we are ahead of our pledge budget for the first third of the year. Pledge revenue is 76% of our total budgeted revenue and 89% of our contributions budget. Our Recording Clerk reports that some folks are ahead, some are up to date and some are behind in their payment schedules. Our hope is that those who are behind would catch up in the next month and that everyone would stay on their plan through the summer and the rest of the year. As always if you have any



questions about St. Matthew's finances don't hesitate to ask Bruce Weise, Vestry Member/Finance Chair (finance@stmatthewspennington.org) 609-737-1064, or Kevin Margiatto, Treasurer (kmargiatto@withum.com) or if you have any questions about your pledge payments ask Bruce Weise or John Eckel, Recording Clerk (amyeckell@verizon.net) 609-737-8591.

DID YOU KNOW? Instead of writing a check for your pledge payment or your regular offering which is not a pledge many banks offer the service of mailing a check for a recurring amount on the frequency that you request to St. Matthew's. No check writing!

KAIROS KORNER

Summer Sundays

Our Kairos program takes a break during the summer months. All 9:30 services will be held in our air conditioned Belmont Hall. These services have a more casual feel which makes them a perfect time for children to get comfortable worshipping with their families for the entire service.

We understand that attention spans may be short so we have Worship Bags available for children (look for the tie dye bags!) which contain quiet things to occupy little hands while their little ears listen. We will also have a child friendly worship space in Belmont where children can sit comfortably with parents close by to supervise.



Here are some ideas for making the most out of worship time with your child:

- Talk with your child at home about the service: how to be respectful and attentive. We call our classrooms “sacred space” which is anywhere that we invite God to be with us. Any place that we gather to worship is sacred space and so we try to keep our bodies still and listen.
- Once you are in your seats, encourage your child to sit quietly and pray for/think of people in their lives or things that may be on their minds. This is how we begin our class time – by passing the prayer heart and offering whatever is on our hearts in prayer.
- Assist with and encourage your child to follow along in the bulletin. We worship with our bodies as well as with our mind and heart, so there is movement throughout the service! Stand, sit or kneel when appropriate etc. Doing this engages their entire body in worship.
- Be a good “peace” giver! Be sure to extend a handshake to all those around you and encourage your child to do the same during the Peace.
- Let your child place your offering in the collection plate when it is passed – they can even add some coins of their own.
- After church, take the bulletin insert home so you can pray for the people on the prayer list.

Looking ahead:

Online registration for Kairos Sunday School classes is open all year around. The link may be found on our webpage stmatthewspennington.org.

**SUNDAY, SEPT 10TH: BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND TEACHER COMMISSIONING
10AM SERVICE TIME RETURNS**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER: 17TH: NEW KAIROS YEAR BEGINS!