



## From the Assistant Rector, Rev. Mary Margaret Winn

Dear St. Matthew's,

Regathering is upon us! We are thrilled to begin worshipping indoors again, especially as the cicadas have made outdoor worship...interesting. In the past two weeks, we have received new information regarding CDC guidelines for mask-wearing and social distancing. In addition, the Diocese of VA Bishops have also released new instructions lifting previous restrictions. Based on all of these well-respected sources and our leadership discernment, your St. Matthew's team has made the following decisions:

Worship will move indoors for in-person and livestreaming options on June 6th, as planned. Social distancing between family units will be reduced to 3 feet in worship and gathering spaces. Pews and chairs will be marked accordingly. Faith Factory will take place at 9:30 and 11 AM in the trailer and classrooms 1 and 2, socially distant with masks required while indoors. The Parish Hall will be open and set up for coffee hour and service-viewing via livestream. Food and drink will be served with appropriate caution taken.

All of these decisions were made very intentionally and with the greatest care for our common life together and your individual safety. Given the number of families with children present at the 9:30 and 11am services and because those under 12 have not yet had the opportunity to receive the vaccine, we will keep these services as safe as possible. I think we can all agree that children are vital members of our congregation and share in the joy and holiness of worship and fellowship.

We will be communicating with you regularly and in many formats to make sure you have access to the most updated information. Additional information can be found at [stmtts.org/reopening](http://stmtts.org/reopening). Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to either myself or Fr. Rob.

My friends, we are in a season of great change. Our lives will be forever altered by this pandemic, and the world we once knew will pass away. And yet the Bible gives us every assurance not to fear change, but to put our faith in the Lord. At a time of tremendous change and upheaval in the Prophet Joshua's civic and spiritual life, God tells him over and over again: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) God is with us wherever we go—be it outside, inside, online, or somewhere new, as we continue to embody the spirit of worshipping Christ in the quintessential St. Matthew's way—full of joy, love, curiosity, and welcome.

In Christ,  
Rev. Mary Margaret



### JUNE MASK REQUIREMENTS

- 8am  
socially distant,  
mask optional
- 9:30am  
socially distant,  
mask required
- 11am  
socially distant,  
mask required
- Parish Hall  
socially distant,  
mask optional

### This issue:

- Return to Indoor Worship
- Rob's Sabbatical
- Children & Youth Events
- Outreach
- Baccalaureate Worship

# WAYS TO CONNECT



## STAY CONNECTED VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON

Learn More: [stmmts.org/get-involved](https://stmmts.org/get-involved)

**In-Person (Indoor) & Online Sunday Worship**  
Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

**Faith Factory for Kids In-Person**  
Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am  
Email [Adrian@stmmts.org](mailto:Adrian@stmmts.org) for information

**Young Professionals (YoPros)**  
2nd Sunday in June at 12:00pm  
Email Emily: [Emily@stmmts.org](mailto:Emily@stmmts.org)

**Noon Day Prayer and Compline**  
Monday - Friday at 12:00pm and 8:00pm  
Facebook Live: [stmmts.org/live](https://stmmts.org/live)

**Social Time with Candace**  
Mondays at 12pm  
Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

**Bread of Life Small Group**  
Mondays at 7pm In-Person  
Email Darrell: [Darrell@stmmts.org](mailto:Darrell@stmmts.org)

**Social Time with Kevin**  
Mondays at 8:30pm on Zoom  
Email Kevin Fletcher: [Kevin@stmmts.org](mailto:Kevin@stmmts.org)

**Sandwich Generation Small Group**  
1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm  
Zoom ID: 844 3193 1826

**WonZ - Crafting a Beautiful Life**  
Wednesdays at 7:15pm  
Zoom ID: 849 0700 9439

**Outreach Meeting**  
Second Tuesday at 6:00pm on Zoom  
Email [Kristin.Drummond@stmmts.org](mailto:Kristin.Drummond@stmmts.org)

**Men's Group**  
Saturdays at 8:00am In-Person  
Email Linden: [Linden@stmmts.org](mailto:Linden@stmmts.org)

**Saint Matthew's buildings are reopening. Some groups are meeting in-person and others will remain online. Please contact the church office (703-430-2121, [Office@stmmts.org](mailto:Office@stmmts.org)) to confirm.**



## CRAFTING A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

**Wednesdays at 7:15pm June 2 - 23**

Wednesdays on Zoom (WonZ) will continue each Wednesday, June 2 - 23, from 7:15 to 8pm. Join Fr. Rob as we consider readings from the Gospel of Luke and discuss how we can craft a beautiful life.  
Zoom ID: 849 0700 9439

# LET'S GET TOGETHER!

## RETURN TO INDOOR WORSHIP

We are thrilled to return to regular, indoor worship! Join us every Sunday at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am. It is our desire to focus on our strategic goals regarding returning to indoor worship:



- We will offer a welcoming environment for all people through dynamic, music-oriented, transformative worship by:
  - Creating a safe environment for the most vulnerable in our congregation, until all can be vaccinated.
  - Offering space and safety measures where the highest number of people can be together in one space for a full worship experience.
  - Continuing to offer livestream services.

Also, we're pleased to announce that we will no longer require pre-registration/rsvp for services! We thank you for sticking with us through all of the rapid, and exciting changes we have experienced these past few months. **Details can be found on page 1 of this newsletter, or by visiting [stmmts.org/reopening](http://stmmts.org/reopening).**

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## WHAT'S A SABBATICAL?



St. Matthew's has been blessed to have Father Rob as the Rector since 2001, and after 20 years of service to our St. Matthew's community, he is ready for, and earned, a well-deserved break. Rob will be away on sabbatical July 12 - November 20, 2021. We, as a vestry, fully support him in this decision.

Sabbaticals are a time for clergy to undertake spiritual, intellectual, and emotional renewal and personal growth. They are common practice in Episcopal churches as well as churches of many denominations. Sabbaticals are generally a three to six-month period of renewal, away from the normal workplace, but usually no more frequently than once every five to seven years. This will be Rob's first sabbatical.

I'm reminded of a personal success book by Dr. Stephen R. Covey that many of you may have read given its popularity -- "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People". Habit 7 is called "Sharpen the Saw" and means preserving and enhancing the greatest asset you have--you. This is our opportunity to allow Rob the time and space he deserves to take care of his own personal spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health.

Through that renewal, Rob will be better prepared to continue the outstanding service he has brought to the St. Matthew's community for the past two decades. It is also my hope this will be a time for him to connect with friends and spend dedicated time with his family.

The vestry members are all very excited for Fr. Rob to be able to enjoy this time of renewal. We further look forward to celebrating together as a church upon his return to work in November. I, for one, hope his sabbatical results in some sermon-worthy, but accident free, stories he will be willing to share as inspiration for us all.

In his absence, we are comforted to have Rev. Mary Margaret, along with a dedicated staff, to lead and support our church family. We, the vestry, ask that you join us as we pray for Rob during this time.

Blessings,  
David Lathrop, Sr. Warden

# JUNE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



## FAITH FACTORY THIS SUMMER

**SUNDAYS | 9:30 & 11 AM**

Preschool and elementary kids are invited to join us on Sundays this summer at 9:30 & 11AM for Children's Outdoor Faith Factory. Masks required.



## KICKBALL KICK-OFF FAITH FACTORY

**JUNE 6 | 10:20-10:50 AM**

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of summer Faith Factory with a game of Kickball. Masks required.



## CICADAS STORYTIME & CRAFT ONLINE

**JUNE 7 | 1-1:30 PM**

Join us as we read Cicadas!, Cecily Cicadas, and Noisy Bug Sing-a-long. We'll also make cicada crafts.

**Zoom ID: 753 6635 1082**

**Password: Church**

**MOSAIC STEPPING STONES ACTIVITY FOR KIDS**

**SATURDAY JUNE 12TH 10 AM**



## MOSAIC STEPPING STONES ACTIVITY

**JUNE 12 | 10 AM**

Check out the beautiful new mosaic in The Celebration Garden and make a mosaic stepping stone. Masks required



## CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

**JUNE 13 | 10:20-10:50 AM**

Join us as we celebrate everyone that has a Birthday in June, there will be games and mini cupcakes. Masks required.



## FATHER'S DAY CRAFT AFTER SERVICE

**JUNE 20 | 10:20-10:50 AM**

Make a Father's Day gift after church. Craft kits and supplies will be provided. Masks required.



## SUMMER STORYTIME & CRAFTS ONLINE

**JUNE 21 | 1-1:30 PM**

Join us as we read some favorite summer books and make summer themed crafts.

**Zoom ID: 753 6635 1082**

**Password: Church**



## TEMPLE HALL FARM GROUP OUTING

**JUNE 26 | 10AM-12PM**

Visit the farm, play at the playground and giant bouncy pillow and have lunch together. A parent must accompany children. Pack a lunch and water. Masks required.

**RSVP at: go.stmmts.org/FarmOuting**



## NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

**JUNE 27 | 10:20-10:50 AM**

Search for items in nature in the Celebration Garden and all around outside the church. Masks required

# YOUTH EVENTS

## Fishing

Saturday, June 12 at 8am  
We will be taking a short walk to a local spot by the river and try our hand at fishing! Led by Rev. Mary Margaret's dear friend and priest colleague Pete Nunnally, you will definitely enjoy this time of fellowship and learning from a great fisherman!



## Movie Night

Saturday, June 26 at 8pm  
Join us for a fun night of POPCORN and a youth group classic: The Princess Bride!

## Baccalaureate Worship

Sunday, June 6 at 5pm  
The entire parish is invited to worship together to celebrate our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 6 at 5pm. Please RSVP for this service at [go.stmmts.org/RSVP](http://go.stmmts.org/RSVP). If you have a 2021 graduate, please contact the office ([Office@stmmts.org](mailto:Office@stmmts.org)) so your graduate can be recognized.



## Mission Week

July 19 - 23, 1pm - 8pm  
Our summer youth mission work is back! We will be volunteering at local area organizations in the afternoons and supporting Vacation Bible School in the evenings. There will be hard work, meaningful connection, and a whole lot of fun as we get to know some of the amazing work being done in our area. There will be an opportunity to sign up for different parts of each day, depending on your teen's schedule. For more information or registration, email [MaryMargaret@stmmts.org](mailto:MaryMargaret@stmmts.org).



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JULY 19 - 23 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM**  
**READY FOR AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE?**



Children aged 3 - 5th grades are invited to join us for a week of fun, games, and Bible Adventures as we learn we're Treasured by God. Teens and adults are welcome as volunteers! If you'd like to support VBS with a donation, **please visit: [go.stmmts.org/VBSdonations](http://go.stmmts.org/VBSdonations)**.



**Register at [go.stmmts.org/VBS](http://go.stmmts.org/VBS)**

# OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

## CELEBRATION GARDEN



Our Celebration Garden is a volunteer-operated organic Outreach garden that helps supply local families in need with much needed fresh produce. The garden has been buzzing with activity from the addition of the mosaic at the garden entrance, to the Small Hands Big Hearts' sunflower planting around the garden walls, to the installation of the Little Free Library by Boy Scout Ethan Gramling, to the addition of a pollinator hotel by Girl Scouts - come and take a look!

Heidi will be hosting volunteers in the garden on Mondays starting at 8:30am on May 31 and June 7 and 14. Starting June 29, volunteer hours will begin at 8:30am on Tuesdays. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heidi at [hlathrop@me.com](mailto:hlathrop@me.com) or follow the garden's Facebook page to stay updated on ways to stay involved: [https://www.facebook.com/ St.MattsCelebrationGarden](https://www.facebook.com/St.MattsCelebrationGarden)



## SMALL HANDS BIG HEARTS

Small Hands Big Hearts ("SHBH") is the children's volunteer group at St. Matt's that will focus on providing volunteer opportunities for our younger congregants. Teach your children the importance of volunteerism while doing some good and having a little fun yourself! More information can be found on page four or contact Adrian at [Adrian@stmtts.org](mailto:Adrian@stmtts.org).

# EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

This September, a new year of Education for Ministry (EfM) will begin, and new participants are welcome to join the program. **Learn more: [stmtts.org/EFM](http://stmtts.org/EFM)**

EfM is a small group program that provides an education in the content of the Christian tradition. We read the Bible and commentaries, as well as church history and theology. We also explore the social and religious issues of the present day. We'd love for you to join us.

