

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

A Message from our Asst. Rector Rev. Mary Margaret Winn

Greetings, dear friends!

Since Fall 2021, I have had the good fortune to host Women's Group each Thursday at lunch time. The group varies in size, folks dropping in when they can, with a several "regulars" who try to be present each week. Each week, we read a fable and then discuss it in relation to our lives. It has been such a joy. I have been challenged and affirmed, constantly learning from this group and the people in it. We pray together, laugh, and support each other. Things often come up in my schedule, but that time is sacred. I would not trade my Thursday afternoons for anything.

I share this with you as a simple reminder that we need each other. I am terrible at keeping up with friends, but when we do connect, I immediately feel fuller. In a time when it is easy to hide from the world (because of COVID, weather, a lull in the year), I encourage you not to hide from your people. Connect however you can. Join a group, even if it seems scary. Read a book with a family member. While I believe in hibernating or "wintering," I also believe that connection with each other is vital. At St. Matt's, we are here for you and hope that you will utilize one of our many connection groups—take a look at the following pages to see what we have to offer.

I would also like to encourage you to pay special attention to the announcement about our Annual Meeting, happening Sunday, February 6 at 10:15 AM (see page 3). This is a great way to remember the past year with us and look forward to the year to come. Even though it will be on Zoom, it's still fun to see who is present and wave at each other from our quilt squares!

No matter how you connect—on Zoom, in person, on the phone, in prayer—it is good for the soul.

Many blessings to all of you,

Rev. Mary Margaret



This issue:

- **ANNUAL MEETING FEB 6!**
- **YoPro Games Day**
- **Valentine's Treats**
- **February Youth Events**
- **Outreach Updates**

WAYS TO CONNECT



Channel the Flannel Sunday

STAY CONNECTED VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

8, 9:30 & 11 AM
In-person and Online
stmmts.org/services

Faith Factory for Kids

Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am

Youth Group Sunday (Not) School

Sundays at 10:15am in the trailer

Raising Teens Connection Group

Sundays at 10:15am Classroom 4

Young Professionals (YoPros)

2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30pm

Email: Caitlin.Dronfield@stmmts.org

Compline

Monday - Friday at 8:00pm

Facebook Live: stmmts.org/live

Social Time with Candace

Mondays at 12pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

Bread of Life Small Group

Mondays at 7pm

Email Darrell: Darrell@stmmts.org

Social Time with Kevin

Mondays at 8:30pm on Zoom

Email Kevin Fletcher: Kevin@stmmts.org

Sandwich Generation Small Group

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Simple Path to Wealth Book Discussion

Tuesdays at 7pm | Jan 25–Feb 15

Email Miriam: Office@stmmts.org

Outreach Meeting

Email Kristin.Drummond@stmmts.org

WatCh/WonZ (Wednesdays at Church)

7pm–8pm | On Zoom for February.

Zoom ID 841 3217 6070 Password: church

Women's Group

Thursdays at 12:15pm on Zoom

Zoom ID: 886 5270 7607 Passcode: church

Men's Group

Saturdays at 8:00am

Email Linden: Linden@stmmts.org

SAVE THE DATE
PANCAKE TAILGATE
TUES. MARCH 1ST, 2022

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AT ST. MATTHEW'S
stmmts.org/Get-Involved



ANNUAL MEETING

SUN., FEB. 6TH
10:15 AM - ZOOM

ZOOM ID
828 2895 5922

Dearly Beloved,

After considerable prayer, thought, and discussion, the Vestry has unanimously approved a proposal to reduce the size of the Vestry from 9 people to 7 people. The principal advantages are these:

1. It brings tighter focus to what being on the Vestry means. The guiding principle here is the importance of working "on it", not "in it". Smaller groups with less responsibility for task management are best able to accomplish this.
2. It allows for deeper conversations. Successfully navigating the challenges before us requires the kind of discussions that happen best in smaller groups.
3. It allows more leadership opportunities for other church members. Historically, we have asked Vestry members to play multiple roles thereby diluting the time they can devote to each. Relieving Vestry members of the need to play multiple roles so they can better do the one thing most needed (see #1 above) means we will need more people to fill the roles and accomplish the tasks now vacant. We believe that service benefits those serving as much as it benefits those being served. We acknowledge this will require us to place a higher premium on leadership development.

We fully believe this better positions St. Matthew's to move into a bright future in which we are better able to accomplish our mission of knowing and sharing God's love. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me (Rob), Mary Margaret, or our current Sr. Warden, Dave Lathrop.

With excitement about the possibilities before us,

Rob+

INCOMING VESTRY CANDIDATE Sharon Muniz

Sharon grew up in Reston, VA, and went to South Lakes HS.

She has three adult children, Natalia, Claudia, and Nicolas. The girls live nearby in Fairfax and Arlington and Nick is currently in school at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. She also has a 9-year-old Havanese named Chipper. Sharon lives in Sterling and primarily works from home. She established a software development company in 2009 that builds websites, mobile apps, and SharePoint services. During her time off she likes to run, read, watch TV and cook for family gatherings.

Sharon came to Saint Matthew's a few years ago looking for a new church and quickly felt right at home. She is excited about helping St. Matthews serve our community and continue her spiritual growth.



WHAT'S A VESTRY? ANNUAL MEETING?

If you aren't familiar with some of the terms used on occasion in the Episcopal Church, check out our blog post from January 21st for some great explanations!

stmmts.org/VestryExplained

**COME TO THE MEETING!
VOTE FOR THE VESTRY**

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!



Zoom ID 828 2895 5922

FEB. SERVICES & EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING
SUN., FEB. 6TH
10:15 AM - ZOOM

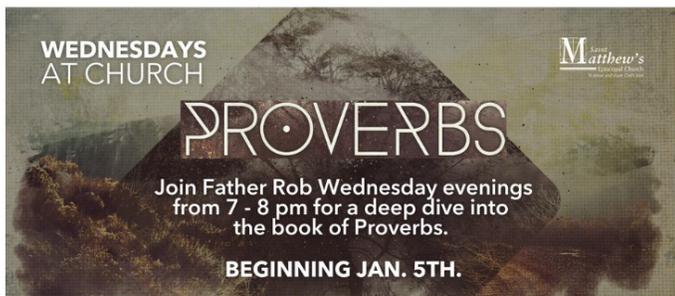
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ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH 10:15 AM

Join us Sunday, Feb 6th for our Annual Meeting- on Zoom. We will celebrate all God has done through St. Matthew's in 2021, vote for incoming Vestry members, and discuss the vision for 2022.

Zoom ID 828 2895 5922



WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH

PROVERBS

Join Father Rob Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8 pm for a deep dive into the book of Proverbs.

BEGINNING JAN. 5TH.

Matthew's

WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM

We'll be discussing the biblical book of Proverbs, seeking to better understand and apply to our lives the profound wisdom found there.

Zoom ID 841 3217 6070 Password: church



Young Professionals A.K.A YoPro

FEBRUARY GAME DAY
SATURDAY FEB 20TH
AT 12:30 PM

JOIN US FOR FOOD, GAMES, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

YO PRO GAME DAY

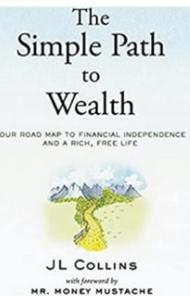
SUN., FEBRUARY 20TH AT 12:30 PM

In your 20's or 30's and seeking fellowship and a way to deepen your faith? Try out our Young Professionals Group (aka YoPros) Sunday, Feb. 20th at 12:30 PM for games, food, and fellowship!

Questions? Contact Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org

JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
THE SIMPLE PATH TO WEALTH
by JL Collins

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM
JAN. 25 - FEB. 15



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM - JAN 25 - FEB 15

Join Miriam Turner and Dan Robertson to discuss The Simple Path to Wealth and how to be wise money stewards while building wealth and sharing generously to glorify God's kingdom.



JOIN US FOR
VALENTINE TREATS

SUN., FEB 13TH
COFFEE HOUR
BETWEEN 9:30 & 11 AM SERVICES



VALENTINE TREATS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH COFFEE HOUR

Join us Sunday, February 13th for some Valentine's treats during the coffee hour between our 9:30 and 11 am services. Donut you know how much we love you? Can't wait to see you there!



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MISSION TRIP GULF COAST
(LAKE CHARLES, LA AREA)

JULY 16TH - JULY 22ND

PRAYING PELICAN MISSIONS

MISSION TRIP GULF COAST

JULY 16TH - JULY 22ND

Step up to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus by caring for and providing for the people's needs in their communities. Join our Adult Mission Trip to Lake Charles Area, LA to make an impact on hurricane victims on the Gulf Coast.

For more information, details, and fees, visit stmtts.org/MissionTrip

FEBRUARY CHILDREN & YOUTH

JOIN US FOR FAITH FACTORY!

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 & 11 AM

Ages Pre-K through 5th grade



JOIN US FOR KIDS VALENTINE TREATS

SUN., FEB 13TH
COFFEE HOUR

BETWEEN 9:30 & 11 AM SERVICES



SUNDAY (NOT) SCHOOL SUNDAYS AT 10:15 AM

TACKLING LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS:

Youth are encouraged to decide for themselves based on their faith, experiences, and relationships (with God, family, and each other).

YOUTH GROUP VALENTINE'S PARTY & BAKING!

FEB 12TH | 6:30 PM

Saturday, Feb. 12th at St. Matthew's from 6:30 - 8 PM. Dinner will be provided.

Contact MaryMargaret@stmmts.org for more information.



YOUTH GROUP ICE SKATING

Saturday, Feb. 26th
Skating at Reston Town Center 4-5 pm followed by an early dinner.

COST: \$10 per person
(skate rental and dinner included)

www.stmmts.org/IceSkating

YOUTH MISSION HARRISBURG, PA JUNE 26-JULY 2



Details and pricing coming soon, visit stmmts.org/YouthMission for updates

FEBRUARY OUTREACH



BE THE CHANGE

Supporting school food pantries in Sterling, VA



BECOME A SATELLITE FOR FOOD DONATIONS

HELPING IS EASY!

1. PLACE A BIN ON YOUR FRONT STEP
2. TELL THE NEIGHBORHOOD
3. DROP OFF DONATIONS AT CHURCH!

PRINT-AT-HOME BIN SIGNS & SPECIFIC NEEDS POSTED
stmtts.org/BeTheChange



In the six schools in Sterling that St. Matthew's serves, there are over 3,000 children who meet the definition of Economically Disadvantaged - a designation that means a student qualifies for the federally subsidized meals program, which means they are at or near poverty levels. Each of these schools has started food pantries on-site to support the needs of these families.

How can you Be the Change in your area? Here are a few options:

- Become a Donation Drop off point - Add a bin to your front step and tell your neighbors about supporting school food pantries
 - Bin sign - print one to place on your collection bin
 - Hi Neighbor! Door signs - print out to hand to neighbors or leave on their door!
- Pick up a few of the most frequently needed items or something from our What we need Wednesday list and drop them off at the church on Tues/Thurs from 8 am - 4 pm or on Sundays from 8 am - 12 pm.
- Share our What we need Wednesday posts with friends on social media

stmtts.org/BeTheChange

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Through our Backpack Buddies program, we currently provide support to dozens of local children in need. Each child receives a bag filled with six meals, snacks, and milk each weekend during the school year. Here's how you can help:

- MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT | stmtts.org/give.
- DONATE FOOD | Tues/ Thurs 8 - 4, Mon/Wed 12 -4 or Sun 8 - 12
stmtts.org/shopbb
- HELP PACK | Tuesdays at 11 am (or the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm) or pack on your own.

For more information, contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at HHLlearning@gmail.com

LINK FOOD PROGRAM

LINK exists to provide emergency food and financial assistance to qualified people in need in the Sterling, Herndon, and Ashburn communities. LINK needs volunteers on an ongoing basis to help run their food pantry distribution, make deliveries and help unload bulk food deliveries. You can sign-up to help at www.stmtts.org/link

There are also vacancies for the Treasurer position, Food Coordinators, and Food Packers that need to be filled.

For more information, please contact Melissa Hancock at melissahancock@hotmail.com.