

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



HELPING A YOUNG MOTHER FROM WILLIAM O. ROBEY HIGH SCHOOL

William Obediah Robey High School is Loudoun County Public School's (LCPS) first Non-Traditional High School and is located right here in Sterling and serves students who are working, parenting, or need to earn credits more quickly than their traditional LCPS High School allows.

A few weeks ago, the school social worker connected us with Maria, a student who is a young mother of a 15 month baby. The baby had recently outgrown the hand-me down car seat they had been using since birth, and Maria was in need of assistance in replacing it.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Matthew's members, a brand new, convertible car seat was purchased for the mother and her child. The convertible car seat will ensure the child's safety for many years to come.

Thank you for saying yes and helping St. Matthew's continue to Know and Share God's Love in our community.

PUT FAITH INTO PRACTICE

REV. ROB MEROLA, RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Have you noticed that when we talk about giving at St. Matthew's, it is rarely for St. Matthew's? We ask people to give to Haiti, or Backpack Buddies, or to Christmas Bags, or for other community needs. And you do. I do not ever remember a time when you did not respond with a generosity that has exceeded all expectations. It is one of the many things that I thank God for about St. Matthew's.

The reality is, however, that St. Matthew's requires money to operate as well. As churches traditionally do, in past years we addressed this need through annual stewardship drives. We asked members to make a pledge, committing themselves to give a certain amount over the next year. We reminded people that the standard for those serious about following Jesus is the "tithe", or 10% of one's income and that some of us could give considerably more than that.

Several years ago, St. Matthew's made a conscious choice to quit doing this. Our guiding principle became "we want something for people rather than from people." But now, several years later, I can see the naiveté in that. All relationships involve both giving and receiving. We do hope people find great value in being part of our St. Matt's community. But I've come to realize that people also want to support that community. In fact, that support is a big piece of what makes people feel included in that community as they do their part.

So... if you are not currently giving regularly to support our mission and ministry here at St. Matthew's, will you please consider doing so? One way many people choose to do this is through online giving at stmmts.org/give, or scan the QR code below. Frankly, this is a great way to put faith into practice.

And if you are currently giving, will you please consider increasing the amount you now give? As I'm sure you can imagine, our costs have increased significantly and continue to rise. Increasing the amount you give helps us meet the heightened demands of doing ministry.

In both these circumstances, we invite people to ask God, "What would you have me do?" Take the time to listen. Be faithful in responding accordingly.

Thank you. We are deeply grateful for your love and support.

Warmly,
Fr. Rob+



THIS ISSUE:

- Pageant Details
- November Bible Study
- Coat Drive Totals

WAYS TO CONNECT

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP Sundays at 8, 9:30 & 11 AM

Faith Factory
Age 4 - Gr. 2 | Classroom 3
Sundays at 9:30 AM

Faith Factory
Gr. 3 - 5 | Classroom 1 & 2
Sundays at 9:30 AM

Donuts & Discovery with Ben
Gr. 6 - 12 | Classroom 1
Sundays at 10:30 AM

Young Professionals (YoPros)
1st & 3rd Sundays at 12:30 PM
Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org

Compline
Monday - Friday at 8:00 PM
Facebook Live: [stmtts.org/live](https://www.facebook.com/stmtts.org/live)

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

Bread of Life Study Group
Mondays at 7:00 PM
Darrell@stmtts.org

Wednesday Bible Study
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
office@stmtts.org

Men's Group
Saturdays at 8:00 AM
Contact MensGroup@stmtts.org

SAVE THE DATES

NOVEMBER

Sundays - Faith Factory (Age 4 - 5th grade) at 9:30 AM
Sundays - Donuts & Discovery with Ben (6th - 12th grade) at 10:30 AM
Tuesdays in November - HRTS Backpack Buddies Packing at 12 PM
Wednesdays - Bible Study 7 PM (No meeting Nov. 22nd)
Thursdays - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Sunday, Nov. 5th - HRTS Backpack Buddies Packing at 10:30 AM
Sunday, Nov. 5th - International Hot Sauce Day!
Tuesday, Nov. 7th - Thanksgiving Food Drive Ends
Sunday, Nov. 19th - Pageant Auditions at 10:30 AM
Sunday, Nov. 19th - S'mores at Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Nov. 21st - Pageant Cast List Emailed
Friday, Nov. 24th - Game Night 6 PM
Sunday, Nov. 26th - Pageant Table Reading
Sunday, Nov. 26th - National Cake Day & Christ the King Sunday!

DECEMBER

Sundays - Faith Factory (Age 4 - 5th grade) at 9:30 AM
Sundays - Donuts & Discovery with Ben (6th - 12th grade) at 10:30 AM
Tuesdays in November - HRTS Backpack Buddies Packing at 12 PM
Wednesdays - Bible Study 7 PM
Thursdays - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 3rd - Advent Begins! Advent Wreath Making
Sunday, Dec. 10th - Christmas Card Making
Sunday, Dec. 17th - Christmas Sweater & Hot Cocoa Bar Sunday!
Sunday, Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Services:

8 AM - Advent IV Service
11 AM - Christmas Pageant
8 PM - Festival Service with Band
11 PM - Candlelight Service with Choir

Christmas Day Service:

10 AM - Communion Service

For individual event details, visit [stmtts.org/events](https://www.stmtts.org/events)

NOVEMBER *outreach*



WINTER COAT DRIVE TOTALS

The Winter Coat Drive came to a close on Sunday, October 15th. With Julie Kane and Taylor Marr at the helm, St. Matt's collected 391 coats for our local students! Thank you to all who led, spread the word, donated, sorted, and delivered!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

DROP OFF DONATIONS ON OR BEFORE NOV. 7TH

It is a wonderful time to share our hope and joy with friends in the community by packing a reusable grocery bag full of food. We invite you to pack a bag or several with food items to be shared with students and their families in our neighborhood schools. You can also add a notecard or drawing with an individual message.

Help is also needed to organize donations, shop for additional food, and bag packing.

DOWNLOAD THE SHOPPING LIST & SIGN UP TO HELP:
stmmts.org/ThanksgivingBags



GIVING TREE 2023

What better time of year than Christmas for us to Know and Share God's Love with others in our community? Our annual Giving Tree will be up beginning Sunday, November 19th for those interested in adopting a family or picking up single items.

**THE TREE WILL BE UP BEGINNING NOV. 19TH,
DROP OFF GIFTS ON OR BEFORE DEC. 9TH**

stmmts.org/GivingTree



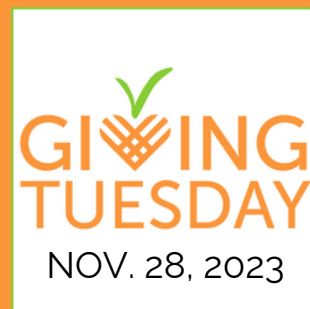
SUPPORT BACKPACK BUDDIES THIS GIVING TUESDAY

Backpack Buddies is part of the Hunger Response Team of Sterling (HRTS) and St. Matthew's is proud to continue to partner with this nonprofit.

Help HRTS reach their goal of sponsoring 100 kids in Sterling. How can you help?

1. Follow HRTS on Facebook and Instagram @hungerresponse
2. Spread the word! Share information about HRTS with a friend or family member.
3. Sponsor a child, just \$40 feeds a child six meals a week for an entire month.

Visit sterlinghelp.org/GivingTuesday
or scan the QR Code:



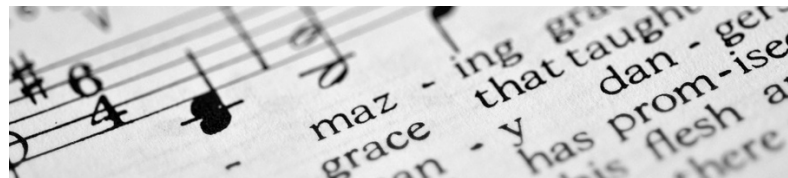
NOVEMBER

events



NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY **BOOK OF PSALMS** **WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM**

In the month of November, our Wednesday Bible study will be focusing on the book of Psalms. From 7 to 8 PM we'll take a closer look at this book of the Bible and how it has deepened people's life of faith down through the ages. We'd love for you to join us! (Please note: We will NOT meet on November 22, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving).



JOIN THE CHOIR! **THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM**

All voices are welcome in the choir. Join us on Thursday evenings at 7:30PM as we prepare for the Sunday 11AM worship services.

The choir will also begin rehearsing music for our Christmas services, please contact Kevin@stmtts.org if you are interested in joining in.



BACKPACK BUDDIES PACKING **SUNDAY, NOV. 5TH**

Join us the first Sunday of every month during coffee hour between the 9:30 & 11 AM services to help pack food bags for Backpack Buddies.

Learn more:
sterlinghelp.org/BackpackBuddies



INTERNATIONAL HOT SAUCE DAY **SUNDAY, NOV. 5TH**

Celebrate the spiciest of condiments with us during coffee hour on Sunday, Nov. 5th between the 9:30 & 11 AM services. Enjoy a sample of hot sauces and chips. Have a favorite hot sauce? Bring it to share!

Questions? Contact office@stmtts.org



NATIONAL CAMP DAY - S'MORES! **SUNDAY, NOV. 19TH**

We're always looking for an excuse to have a delicious s'more! When we saw Nov. 19th was National Camp Day, it seemed like the perfect excuse!

Join us Sunday, Nov. 19th during coffee hour between the 9:30 & 11 AM services for a s'mores bar!



GAME NIGHT **FRIDAY, NOV. 24TH AT 6 PM**

Do you love tabletop games? Parks, Forbidden Desert, Sushi Go, Wing Span, Who Killed Dr. Lucky? There are so many great games! Which is your favorite? Bring your favorite board or card game and a snack to share, as we enjoy hanging out and trying new games.



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY & CAKES **SUNDAY, NOV. 26TH**

Christ the King Sunday celebrates the last Sunday of our liturgical year (the last Sunday before Advent).

Join us to celebrate Christ the King Sunday with an assortment of cakes during coffee hour between the 9:30 & 11 AM services.



ADVENT WREATH MAKING **SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD**

Save the date!

Join us in the Parish Hall between the 9:30 & 11 AM services to create a beautiful Advent wreath to take home and celebrate the Advent season.

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

This Christmas, experience the retelling of the nativity story as only children can do. The Story of Christmas Nativity Play tells the traditional Bible-based nativity story, with music, jokes and all the joy that children bring to the Christmas season.

AGES: Kids ages 3 through Middle School

COST: Free to participate!

AUDITIONS

- Sun. 11/19 - Auditions for Speaking Roles 10:30 AM*
 - **Speaking role not required, non-speaking roles available, there is a part for each child that registers!*
- Tues. 11/21 - Cast List Emailed to participants

REHEARSALS

- Sun. 11/26 at 10:30 AM - Read through with speaking roles only
- Sun. 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 - 9:30 - 10:45 AM - Classrooms 1&2
- Sat.12/23 - 3:00 PM - Parish Hall Dress Rehearsal

PERFORMANCE:

Sunday, December 24th at 11 AM

REGISTER TODAY!
stmtts.org/Pageant

SCAN
ME! >>>



YOUTH GROUP AT ST. MATT'S



JUNE 23 - 29, 2024 | DINWIDDIE, VA

YOUTH MISSION TRIP



JESUS CENTERED

Every year, the Group Mission Trips team dedicates extensive time and energy to create a new Jesus-centered program experience through morning and evening programs, crew devotions, and youth group devotions.



HOW YOU'LL SERVE

Students age 11+ (or age 10 and rising 6th grade) through 12th grade will work together to meet the tangible needs of each resident we are serving.

Projects may include porch and deck repair, wheelchair ramp construction, painting, and other general home repairs.



ABOUT GROUP MISSION

Group Mission Workcamps are 6-day missions where participants get the opportunity to not only repair homes for a person/family in need but also create/build and strengthen relationships with people on their work crew, people from St. Matthew's, and most importantly, God.



TYPICAL DAY

- 6:45 AM Wake-up call
- 7:00 AM Hot Breakfast
- 8:00 AM Morning program
- 8:30 AM Depart for sites
- 12:00 PM Lunch and devotions
- 3:30 PM Return to camp
- 5:00 PM Dinner
- 7:30 PM Evening program
- 8:30 PM Youth Group devotions
- 9:00 PM Free time
- 11:00 PM Lights-out



COST

*Tuition for the week is \$500 and includes lodging, meals, a camp t-shirt, and materials for your worksite.

(Spending money for snacks and extra food during travel not included).

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to register.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER:

stmmts.org/YouthMission



DONUTS & DISCOVERY SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

Middle & High School students are invited to join Ben Merola, Youth Ministry Intern, for a weekly discussion on "guardrails". This bible study challenges us to stop flirting with disaster and establish personal guardrails. Guardrails: they're everywhere, but they don't really get much attention...until somebody hits one...

Questions? Contact Ben
Ben.Merola@stmmts.org

NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

YOUTH HIKE AT GREAT FALLS

Monday, November 7th | 11 AM - 2 PM

For Middle & High School Students

Cost: **FREE EVENT** - Bring a bag lunch

Schools out, let's go on a hike! Meet Ben at 11 AM at St. Matthew's and we will carpool to Great Falls. If you can't make it to the church contact Ben for transportation.

SERVICE PROJECT: VOLUNTEER KITCHEN

Wednesday, November 22nd

3:30 PM - 6 PM

For Middle & High School Students

Cost: **FREE EVENT**

It's Thanksgiving Break! Come get your service hours in with Ben at Anna Sudha Volunteer Kitchen (located in Dulles Town Center Mall), where we will help prepare free meals for those who need it.

3:30 PM Meet at church (we will be carpooling, if you can't make it to the church contact Ben for transportation)

BOWLING

Friday, November 24th | TIME TBA

For Middle & High School Students

Cost: **COMING SOON**

School will be out, and the Thanksgiving turkey packed away! Join Ben and some of your St. Matt's youth group for an afternoon of Bowling at Bowl America in Sterling (just off of Dranesville Rd.) Time and cost coming soon.

REGISTER: stmmts.org/YouthEvents

