

# MAY NEWSLETTER

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

A message from our Rector, Rev. Rob Merola

Dear Friends

How is your relationship with Jesus doing these days?

Faith has a way of cooling off. Commitment has a way of fading into drift. My heart is “prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.” And I’ve seen this happen in others frequently enough over the years to know I’m not the only one who struggles with this.

So how is your heart? Are you walking close with Jesus? If so, we sure need your help. I sure need your help. We sure need the strength and passion of your faith to keep our heart fires burning bright. We sure need you to help makes St. Matthew’s the kind of church that brings joy to our Savior’s heart. There is a lot of post-pandemic rebuilding to be done.

If not—if your faith is a pale remnant of what it once was, and if your heart is wandering from (or has left) the God you love, then you need us. You need your church family to get back on track. People say they can worship God without being actively involved in a church, and perhaps they can. But in my experience, they don’t. They just do more of their own thing, hardly even (if at all) giving God a second thought.

Either way, we are not meant to go it alone. Either way, we need each other. Either way, we need to be sharing our lives in such a way that we encourage and inspire each other to be fully devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ. And when we do so, we discover life at its very best. It’s the remedy for what has ailed us in heart and soul these past two years.

Faithfully following Jesus is a challenge, there’s no two ways about it. But I think we are up for it. Together, by God’s grace and with God’s help, our best days are ahead. I look forward to experiencing them with you!

Faithfully,

Rob+



### This issue:

- **Worship in the Park May 29th**
- **May Baby Shower**
- **Youth & Adult Mission Trips**
- **YoPro Events**

# WAYS TO CONNECT

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**8, 9:30 & 11 AM**  
In-person and Online  
[stmtts.org/services](https://stmtts.org/services)

### Faith Factory for Kids

Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am

### Youth Group Sunday (Not) School

Sundays at 10:15am

### Raising Teens Connection Group

Sundays at 10:15am Classroom 4

### Young Professionals (YoPros)

2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30pm

Email: [Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org](mailto:Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org)

### Compline

Monday - Friday at 8:00pm

Facebook Live: [stmtts.org/live](https://www.facebook.com/stmtts.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@stmtts.org](mailto:Darrell@stmtts.org)

### Social Time with Kevin

Mondays at 8:30pm on Zoom

Email Kevin Fletcher: [Kevin@stmtts.org](mailto:Kevin@stmtts.org)

### Sandwich Generation Small Group

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm

### Leadership Lunches

1st Tuesday of every month on Zoom

Email [Miriam@stmtts.org](mailto:Miriam@stmtts.org) for Zoom link

### Outreach Meeting

Email [Kristin.Drummond@stmtts.org](mailto:Kristin.Drummond@stmtts.org)

### WatCh/WonZ (Wednesdays at Church)

6pm–8pm | At Rev. Rob Merola's House until May 25

Email [office@stmtts.org](mailto:office@stmtts.org) for more information.

### 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@stmtts.org](mailto:Linden@stmtts.org)

## WORSHIP AT ALGONKIAN PARK

**Sunday, May 29th at 11 AM**

Join us at Shelter One for worship and stay for burgers, hot dogs, games and fellowship!

**BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE**

**Learn more [stmtts.org/events](https://stmtts.org/events)**



**OUR 8AM SERVICE WILL STILL BE OFFERED IN-PERSON AND ONLINE**



# NEWS & UPDATES

# THANK YOU

*so very much!*

Thank you to everyone who made generous contributions to the Easter Offering supporting World Central Kitchen. Your gifts will go towards the amazing work they are doing to provide millions of meals to families in the Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Moldova, & Hungary.

Together, we raised over \$7,000 and could not have done it without you. Thank you!

Learn more about World Central Kitchen at [wck.org](http://wck.org).



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## MESSAGE ON THE GO

The weekly audio podcast for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Our hope is that this podcast will help you To Know and Share God's Love... and then some.

## CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY PODCAST

Listen at  
[stmtts.org/podcast](http://stmtts.org/podcast)





# EVENTS & SAVE THE DATES

*May* **WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH**  
at Rob & Linda's  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM - 8 PM**  
**APRIL 27TH - MAY 25TH**

Join us for good weather, good people, and good food as we gather on Wednesday evenings in the Edenic setting of Fr. Rob and Linda's back garden from 6 PM - 8 PM.

Rev. Mary Margaret will give a 15-minute talk at the end of each event on the shape of our worship and why the Eucharist is so important.

Main dish & drinks will be provided, please bring a side dish. Lawn chairs and/or blankets to sit on are recommended. Address: 34 Bedford Drive, Sterling VA

*In the event of bad weather, we will move to the Parish Hall at St. Matthew's for pizza and fellowship.*

**BEAR CHASE**  
Young Professionals  
A.K.A YoPro

## START OF SUMMER HANGOUT

**AT BEAR CHASE BREWERY, BLUEMONT, VA**  
**JOIN US SUNDAY, MAY 1ST AT 1 PM**

If you consider yourself a young professional (definition flexible!), come to hang out with the YoPros and see what we're all about!

QUESTIONS? Contact Caitlin at [cdronfield@gmail.com](mailto:cdronfield@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE! FALL YOPRO RETREAT OCT 21-23!**



**BACCALAUREATE SERVICE & DINNER**  
Sunday, June 12  
5:00 PM

Join us for worship in celebration of our graduates.  
If you would like your graduate recognized, please email [Office@stmmts.org](mailto:Office@stmmts.org) by 5/31/22.

**TO RSVP, PLEASE VISIT**  
[stmmts.org/Graduation](http://stmmts.org/Graduation)

## BACCALAUREATE SERVICE & DINNER

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH AT 5 PM**

All graduates and their families are invited to our Annual Baccalaureate Service and Dinner.

Join us to celebrate our graduates!

**RSVP at [stmmts.org/graduation](http://stmmts.org/graduation)**



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

**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.

Visit [www.stmmts.org/Mission2022](http://www.stmmts.org/Mission2022) for details  
Questions? Contact Zena Horaibi Zena.Horaibi@gmail.com

**PRAYING PELICAN MISSIONS**

## ADULT MISSION TRIP 2020

**GULF COAST LAKE CHARLES, LA**

Join our Mission Team in Lake Charles, LA July 16-22nd to assist the communities impacted by hurricanes.

**Visit [stmmts.org/Mission2022](http://stmmts.org/Mission2022) for more information**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
**BABY SHOWER**  
FOR REV. MARY MARGARET & BABY WINN-SHERIDAN  
**SATURDAY, MAY 21st AT 2:30 PM**

**RSVP by Saturday, May 14th**  
**[stmmts.org/baby](http://stmmts.org/baby)**

## BABY SHOWER

**SATURDAY, MAY 21 | 2:30 PM**

Join us to celebrate Rev. Mary Margaret Winn & Rev. Sam Sheridan.

RSVP by Saturday, May 14, 2022  
**[stmmts.org/baby](http://stmmts.org/baby)**



# MAY CHILDREN & YOUTH EVENTS



## MONUMENTAL VBS

JULY 25 - 29 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

- Games, Skits, Live Music, Videos, and more!
- Ages 3 years old through rising 5th graders!

*\*3 and 4-year-olds must be accompanied by an adult.*

REGISTER TODAY AS A CAMPER OR TO VOLUNTEER!  
[stmtts.org/VBS](http://stmtts.org/VBS)



DELICIOUS DINNERS



WACKY CHARACTERS



GAMES



BIBLE DISCOVERIES



FUN SCIENCE LESSONS



LIVE MUSIC

## YOUTH MISSION

HARRISBURG, PA  
JUNE 26-JULY 2



**DEADLINE TO REGISTER - MAY 15, 2022!**  
[stmtts.org/YouthMission](http://stmtts.org/YouthMission)

## YOUTH GROUP OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH | 8 - 10 PM  
AT ST. MATTHEW'S

YOUTH AND THEIR FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR POPCORN AND AN OUTDOOR MOVIE!

Contact [MaryMargaret@stmtts.org](mailto:MaryMargaret@stmtts.org) for details

## YOUTH GROUP STRAWBERRY PICKING

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH  
OATLANDS HISTORIC MANSION

Youth are invited for a tour of Oatlands Historic Mansion in Leesburg, VA and Strawberry picking!

RSVP at [stmtts.org/StrawberryPicking](http://stmtts.org/StrawberryPicking)



# MAY OUTREACH



## BECOME A SATELITE FOR FOOD DONATIONS & SUPPORT SCHOOL FOOD PANTRIES

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

[stmmts.org/BeTheChange](http://stmmts.org/BeTheChange)



LINK is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit emergency food bank for the Herndon, Ashburn, and Sterling communities. It supplies food to approximately 50-60 eligible families monthly

**Learn more about Link:**  
[stmmts.org/link](http://stmmts.org/link)

**Questions?**  
Contact Melissa Hancock at  
[MelissaHancock@gmail.com](mailto:MelissaHancock@gmail.com)



## CELEBRATION GARDEN

Thank you to all those who attended our Earth Day Plant Adoption. Over 300 perennials and another 300+ veggies, herbs & other seedlings were distributed. Special thanks to Heidi Lathrop for coordinating the event!

Learn more about the Celebration Garden and upcoming events at [stmmts.org/garden](http://stmmts.org/garden)

## BACKPACK BUDDIES

Our Backpack Buddies program, provides meals dozens of local children. Each child receives a bag filled with six meals, snacks, and milk every weekend during the school year. You can help:

- MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT
- DONATE FOOD
- HELP PACK!

[stmmts.org/backpack-buddies](http://stmmts.org/backpack-buddies)

Contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at [HHLlearning@gmail.com](mailto:HHLlearning@gmail.com) to get involved!