

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

THE GOLDEN TREE

REV. MARY MARGARET WINN, ASST. RECTOR

When I was growing up, there was a tree about a mile down our street in Atlanta that had the most spectacular golden leaves in the fall. It is how we would mark the changing of the season, by driving by this tree and seeing it fade from green to chartreuse to gold. We even changed our route to school during those weeks to witness its progress. My favorite was when the leaves began to fall and the ground below looked like a blanket of soft gold. I now know it was an enormous Ginkgo, but during every fall in my youth, it was simply "The Golden Tree."

The autumn season consistently ranks as people's favorite time of year (only occasionally surpassed by spring) and it is easy to understand why. Beauty, like that of The Golden Tree, is everywhere. We see it in changing leaves and stunning sunsets, but we also find fall beauty in gathering with friends and family around the fire and carving pumpkins with our children. We find it in a good book and a warm blanket, in rainy afternoons and corn mazes. This season invites us to find beauty in moments that we perhaps haven't seen in an entire year. And while St. Matthew's has a lifestyle of generosity all year round, this October we are going to reflect and pray on how giving is beautiful.

So as you embrace this fall season and all the beauty it brings, see also the beauty of a generous life. Join us in church on Sunday mornings and at our events throughout the month to learn what it means to live generously. In particular, I'd like to highlight the Mental Health Workshops on Sunday evenings and Kids' Coat Drive happening now.

Giving is part of God's vision for the world—let us lean into it together.

Blessings,
Rev. Mary Margaret



"Giving is part of God's vision for the world—let us lean into it together."



THIS ISSUE:

- Communion Class
- October WatCh
- Outreach
- Trunk or Treat

WAYS TO CONNECT

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

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

Faith Factory for Kids

Sundays at 9:30am

Youth Group Sunday (Not) School

Sundays at 10:15am

Young Professionals (YoPros)

2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30pm

Email: Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org

Compline

Monday - Friday at 8:00pm

Facebook Live: 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

Social Time with Kevin

Mondays at 8:30pm on Zoom

Email Kevin Fletcher: Kevin@stmtts.org

Outreach Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Email Kristin.Drummond@stmtts.org

WatCh (Wednesdays at Church)

Wednesdays at 7 PM

Women's Group

Thursdays at 12:15 on Zoom

Meeting ID: 831 0241 0063

Passcode: 500696

Men's Group

Saturdays at 8:00am

Email Linden: Linden@stmtts.org



**WATCH
WEDNESDAYS
AT CHURCH**

Join us in October as we continue our study of the book of Philippians.

We'll continue to reflect more deeply on the habits that make for true and lasting happiness.

WEDNESDAYS 7-8 PM

Oct. 05: Philippians 3:1-11

Oct. 12: Philippians 3:12-21

Oct. 19: Philippians 4:1-14

Oct. 26: Philippians 4:15-23

OCTOBER EVENTS

EVENTS AT
OCTOBER
ST. MATT'S

OCTOBER

Tuesdays - Backpack Buddies Packing at noon
Wednesdays - Wednesdays at Church-The book of Phillippians cont.
Sundays: Oct 2, 16 & 30 - Mental Health Workshops
Saturday, Oct. 1st - Annual Pet Blessing
Sunday, Oct. 2nd - Backpack Buddies Coffee Hour Packing
Saturday, Oct. 8th - SterlingFest Parade 9 AM
Saturday, Oct. 8th - Ladies Night Out - 80's style!
Sunday, Oct. 9th - Episco-bowl Dunk Tank Sunday!
Sunday, Oct. 9th - Coffee Hour Kids, Halloween Slime Making
Sunday, Oct. 16th - Kids Communion Class
Monday, Oct. 17th - Spirit Night at Texas Roadhouse
Saturday, Oct. 22nd - Trunk or Treat & Youth S'mores
Sunday, Oct. 23rd - Coffee Hour Kids, Cotton Candy Monster Making
Sunday, Oct. 30th - Character Day Parade & Party

NOVEMBER SAVE THE DATES

Christmas Pageant Auditions and Info. Coming Soon!
Wednesday, Nov. 2nd - All Souls Day Special Compline
Sunday, Nov. 6th - Daylight Savings Time Ends
Thursday, Nov. 24th - Thanksgiving Day
Sunday, Nov. 27th - Advent Begins & Advent Wreath Making

FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENT DETAILS, VISIT STMTTS.ORG/EVENTS

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS FOR TEENS & PARENTS



Saint Matthew's is pleased to offer workshops specifically for our teenagers and their parents. We've partnered with Insight Into Action Therapy, and their providers will be leading three simultaneous workshops for middle schoolers, high schoolers, and parents of teens. These sessions are offered at no cost to the participants. Child care will also be provided for those parents who have a younger child, in addition to a teen.

SESSION TOPICS:

Oct 2 - Connection | Oct 16 - Coping | Oct 30 - Success
Sessions begin at 4 PM

For clinician bios, session descriptions and to reserve your space, visit:
stmtts.org/FamilyWorkshops

OCTOBER EVENTS

**FALL LUNCH MEET UP
PANERA BREAD
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28TH
11:45 AM**

GRAB YOURSELF A BITE TO EAT AND ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND GREAT COMPANY.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT OFFICE@STMTT.S.ORG



ANNUAL
PET
Blessing

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
AT 5 PM**

Calling all pets - furry, fluffy, slimy, and slithering - bring your owner and join us at St. Matthew's for our annual outdoor Pet Blessing. All well-behaved animals and their owners are welcome. Bring a chair or blanket and we'll meet on the front lawn for a short service and a blessing.



OCT 8TH
Sterling
Fest
PARADE

**HELP DISTRIBUTE BAGS
AT STERLING FEST PARADE**

Sign up to pass out candy collection bags to families along the parade route!
Meet at Park View High School at 9 AM

**SIGN UP TO HELP:
stmmts.org/sterlingfest**

STARTING SEPTEMBER 29TH

WOMEN'S GROUP
THURSDAYS AT 12:15 PM ON ZOOM

We will be reading A Year of Biblical Womanhood by Rachel Held Evans. Please contact Rev. Mary Margaret for a copy of the book.

Meeting ID: 831 0241 0063
Passcode: 500696



St. Matthew's

LADIES NIGHT OUT
80'S STYLE!

SATURDAY, OCT. 8TH | 8 PM - 11 PM

PUT ON YOUR TOTALLY RAD 80'S GEAR, BREAK OUT THE AQUANET & JOIN US AT CROOKED RUN IN STERLING FOR A TOTALLY AWESOME NIGHT OUT!

This event is adults only, 21+. Carpooling Encouraged
RSVP at stmmts.org/LadiesNight



St. Matthew's
SPIRIT NIGHT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
4 PM - 10 PM

10%
DONATION NIGHT
Enjoy a night off cooking & support St. Matthew's



19990 RIVERSIDE COMMONS PLZ,
ASHBURN, VA



All Souls Day
PRAYER & REMEMBRANCE FOR
THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 8 PM
COMPLINE SERVICE ONLINE

stmmts.org/Live

THANKSGIVING FOOD BAGS
DROP OFF BY NOV. 8TH

Please fill a reusable grocery bag with all of the following items:

- Canned meats (tuna or chicken)
- Canned vegetables
- Dried beans
- White rice
- Corn flour (like Maseca)
- Vegetable oil
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Disposable diapers
- Baby wipes
- Formula
- Special Treat (your choice)
- \$20 grocery gift card

REUSABLE BAGS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BY THE FRONT DOORS OF THE CHURCH STARTING OCTOBER 15TH

stmmts.org/ThanksgivingBags



St. Matthew's
Episcopal Church
To know and love God's love.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

October

COFFEE HOUR KIDS

Elementary-aged kids are invited to join Ms. Aurelia between the 9:30 & 11 AM services for coffee hour fun while parents enjoy fellowship in the Parish Hall. Grab your snack and head into classroom 2!



OCTOBER 2
BACKPACK BUDDIES PACKING

OCTOBER 9
HALLOWEEN SLIME &
EPISCO-BOWL DUNK TANK!



OCTOBER 16
ALL ABOUT COMMUNION

OCTOBER 23
COTTON CANDY MONSTERS



OCTOBER 30
CHARACTER DAY PARADE
& PARTY!

TRUNK OR TREAT AT ST. MATTHEW'S!

Saturday, Oct. 22
2PM - 4PM

Come in your (non-scary) Halloween costumes. Play games and trick or treat at decorated car trunks for nut-free candy.



SIGN UP TO HOST A TRUNK OR LEARN MORE AND COME TO THE EVENT!
stmmts.org/TrunkOrTreat

SUNDAYS
10:15 AM

sunday NOT school

CLASSROOM 1



TACKLING LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS:
Middle & High School Youth are encouraged to decide for themselves based on their faith, experiences, and relationships (with God, family, and each other).

TRUNK OR TREAT + FIRE PIT & S'MORES

SATURDAY, OCT 22

1 PM DECORATING
2 PM TRUNK OR TREAT
4 PM S'MORES!

The youth will have a trunk to decorate, candy to pass out, and games to host! A firepit with s'mores will follow the event!



OCTOBER OUTREACH



TIME TO DUST OFF YOUR BE THE CHANGE BINS!

In the twelve schools in Sterling that St. Matthew's serves, there are over 4,800 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. Download signs & flyers to hang by your bin and notify your neighbors.
- 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.

LEARN MORE:
stmmts.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.

Ways you can help:

- Visit stmmts.org/give to make a financial gift
- Drop off food donations: Tues/Thurs 8-4, Mon/Wed 12-4 or on Sundays.
- Help pack - Group Packing on Tuesdays at noon and the first Sunday of the month during Coffee Hour!

Contact Hilary Hultman-Lee for more details:
HLLlearning@gmail.com

WINTER COAT DRIVE

DROP OFF BEFORE OCT 23RD

COLLECTING NEW & GENTLY USED KIDS' WINTER COATS
SIZE 6-16

DROP OFF:
TU/TH 8-4 & SUN 8-12

SHOP THE WISHLIST:
stmmts.org/WinterCoats



LINK FOOD PANTRY

Help fight food insecurity in Loudoun County.
Donation drop off Tues/Thurs 8AM -5PM

- Toilet Paper
- Paper towels
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Feminine Products
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Rice, Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Hamburger Helper
- Soup

stmmts.org/Link