St. Matt's Day of Service
Sunday, September 20
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Under Outreach

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

September 2020

From the Assistant Rector

Rev. Mary Margaret Winn

Greetings St. Matthew's family and friends,

How is it already September?? It is hard to believe that it has been 3 months since you all welcomed me to St. Matt's, but I also already feel so at-home here. Thank you for continuing to be such a warm and loving community.

As things shift dramatically for so many with the start of school, with God's grace, we will remain here for you and for our community. There are some beautiful offerings beginning or continuing this month, which we do hope you will explore in the following pages. One in particular that I would like to highlight is Sacred Ground.

Sacred Ground is a dialogue, film, and reading series focused on race and grounded in faith. This transformative offering is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice. This series is open to all, and was designed especially to help white people talk with other white people about this topic, to lift some of the burden of racial education from our Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color friends and family. That said, I want to reiterate that this series is open to EVERYONE, and we welcome your voice. Having participated in and led cohorts three times, I can attest to the transformative nature of this work, and I truly believe that it is an essential part of our growth and calling as witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus.

This 11-week series will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 PM, September 3rd through November 19th, with one week off on October 15th. Due to the intimacy of discussion, we will be capping the group at 15. To sign up or for more information, please email me at marymargaret@stmtts.org. This is a true series, with the readings and films building on each other. I ask you to prayerfully discern your ability to participate and your desire to be challenged. If you anticipate missing more than 3 of the sessions, please let me know of your interest, and we can discuss other ways you can be involved in the transformative work of racial healing and justice.

I will be co-facilitating our St. Matt's group with my dear friend and talented colleague, Conor Salter. Conor and I bonded at seminary over our shared passion for racial justice, and I am thrilled that he has agreed to be part of this group. He is looking forward to getting to know the community that I rave about so often!

Please do take a look at the many beautiful and rich ministries in which St. Matt's continues to engage. We love you immeasurably and hold you in deep prayer every single day.

Blessings,
Rev. Mary Margaret

My dearest St. Matthew's Friends and Family,

I have now been Senior Warden at St. Matts for 6 months and I can say, without any fear of contradiction, these months have been unprecedented in the life of St. Matts. Let me start by saying **THANK YOU!!!** You have demonstrated our service culture of *"and then some"* in spades. (Is that an American phrase?? If it's not, it means in excess, above and beyond, a lot!!) Staff and volunteers have worked long hours in preparing and leading worship and coordinating all aspects of our online presence. Behind the scenes, our saints have donated towards our campaign to feed and supply our community, an army of volunteers has ensured that those supplies have been distributed, and many have held our community in their prayers. I will not single out any names – there are too many. You have all continued to support St. Matts with your time, talent, and treasure, and Rob and the Vestry thank you for your ongoing support.

In August we heard from Rob, our Rector, that St. Matthew's buildings will remain closed until the end of September as a result of rising COVID-19 cases in Fairfax and Loudoun counties. This tough decision was made in accordance with prevailing guidance from the Diocese of Virginia, Virginia Department of Health, and Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. You also heard that a St. Matt's COVID-19 working group, which includes me, is meeting regularly and is planning for our phased regathering when the time comes. Before the end of September, we will meet to re-evaluate and determine our gathering policy beyond September. As Senior Warden for this community, I never could have imagined being in this position, and it saddens me that we cannot worship in person together as a St. Matt's family. In spite of that, I have faith God is working in St. Matt's. **WE** are the church, not the building. And while I hold dear the beautiful sanctuary I have committed to devotedly care for, I know that **WE,** the St. Matt's **CHURCH**, are thriving. God is working through us, and I see that in our *"and then some"* philosophy towards supporting and loving our community during this difficult time.

You will hear an update from Rob in the coming weeks as well as my update in this newsletter every month to keep you apprised of our plans. In the meantime, I encourage you to review the Diocese of Virginia COVID-19 Resources and Virginia Department of Health COVID-19 Daily Dashboard.

We usually finish our Vestry meetings with this prayer, and I commend it to you:

Teach us good Lord to serve You as You deserve, to give of our time, talent, and treasure, and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we are doing Your will. Amen.

Please stay safe, and may God bless you and keep you well until we are together again.

Regards,
Linden Sanders
Senior Warden

OUTDOOR WORSHIP CONTINUES

September 12 & 26 at 7pm

Connect Virtually

Live Stream Sunday Services
Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

Faith Factory for Kids
Sundays at 10:30am
Email Adrian@stmtts.org to join

Youth Bible Study/Topical Discussion
Sundays at 10:30am, starting September 13
Zoom Meeting ID: 846 5151 5074
Password: YouthGroup

Young Professionals (YoPros)
2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 832 1051 7955

Mid-Week Prayer and Compline
Monday - Friday at 12:00pm and 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: darrellandmerry@verizon.net

Sandwich Generation Small Group
1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm
Email: Harding.Brent@gmail.com

Bible Study with Genevieve: Men of the Bible
Wednesdays at 8:15pm, starting September 9
Zoom Meeting ID: 884 1853 6414

Women's Uncommon Prayer
Thursdays at 12:00pm
Email: Susie to join: susie.harding@gmail.com

Sacred Ground with Rev. Mary Margaret
Thursdays at 6pm
Email to join MaryMargaret@stmtts.org

Men's Group
Saturdays at 8:00am
Zoom Meeting ID: 581 005 941

Compassion Craft and Story Time
1st Saturdays at 10am
Zoom Meeting ID 865 9982 1819
Password: church

Young Professionals (Yo Pros!)

Join us on the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 12:00pm

Are you in your 20s or 30s and looking to enrich your spiritual life? Please join the YoPro's in going through the 8 session program: Renovaré. September thru December, every other week we will gather via Zoom where we will be learning how to follow the example of Jesus Christ and develop renewed, sustainable and enriched spiritual lives.

For more information, please contact Emily Palmer at emily@stmtts.org or (703) 587-2966. Zoom Meeting ID: 832 1051 7955

Summer Hike
Rev., Mary Margaret, Caitlin, Emily, & Robby

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN!

Fall Faith Factory Sundays at 10:30am

Faith Factory will continue to meet on Zoom by grade.
Contact Adrian for information on how to join Faith Factory and get the meeting ID and password at Adrian@stmtts.org

Compassion Storytime with Miss Adrian
Saturday, Sept. 5 at 10-10:30am

Join us the first Saturday of each month for compassion themed stories & crafts.
Zoom Meeting ID 865 9982 1819
Password: church

Small Hands-Big Hearts Card Making Project for Residents at Falcons Landing Retirement Community

Help spread some good cheer by making cards to be delivered to Falcons Landing. Drop off cards at the church, mail them to the church, or email them to Adrian@stmtts.org.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

September Formation & Fellowship

Saturday, September 12th: Outdoor Movie @ Church, 8 PM

Saturday, September 26th: Trivia Night on Zoom, 8 PM

Sundays beginning September 13th: Bible Study/Topical Chats on Zoom, 10:30-11 AM

Life is a series of unknowns right now, but St. Matt's is your rock! Youth group will continue to meet online and in person (with masks and social distancing of course!), for both formation and fellowship. YOU are welcome and so are your friends. Join good people for good times!

Questions? Email Rev. Mary Margaret (marymargaret@stmtts.org)

Outreach Happenings

Outreach Spotlight

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies! We would like to recognize the Church Liaisons working with the local schools to determine what their needs are and how we can best serve them this year. Thank you Darrell Breed, Tim Cooke, Wilma Sargent, Stephanie Zebrowski, Adrienne Miller, & Kristin Drummond.

St. Matthew's Day of Service and Talent Show - September 19 & 20

To celebrate Saint Matthew's Day, we will be offering great opportunities for you to know and share God's love with your neighbors.

On Saturday, September 19th at 7:00pm everyone is invited to join us online for a virtual **Talent Show**! We can't wait to showcase YOUR talent to help raise money for Backpack Buddies. To participate in the show with your amazing or funny talent, or for more information contact Adrian at Adrian@stmtts.org.

On Sunday, September 20th, from 1:00pm-3:00pm we will be cleaning up local parks in a socially-distant, masks-required day of service. For those that aren't able to join us, we will be sharing ways you can serve in your neighborhood during a special segment in all three online worship services.

There are a number of service projects you can participate in.
Please sign up for Projects on the Sign-Up Genius Here: go.stmtts.org/serviceday

SIGN UP HERE!

Spirit Night at Choolaah - Monday, September 7, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Join us for a delicious meal or take-out while raising money for Backpack Buddies. 21426 Epicerie Plaza, Sterling, VA 20164 (Cascades Overlook Town Center)

Backpack Buddies

We are accepting shelf-stable food items and school supplies this month. Drop off items by the church doors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am-4pm. Sign up to pack here: go.stmtts.org/Pack4BB.
For more information, please contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at HHLlearning@gmail.com.

Outreach Committee Zoom Meeting - Friday, September 18, 7:00pm

Email Adrian@stmtts.org for more info.

Email Scam Alert

Just a reminder that St. Matt's clergy and staff will NEVER ask you for gift card codes via email. If you receive an email similar to the one below, please do not respond. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call the office at 703-430-2121.

Fraudulent email example:

Hello
How are you doing
Let me know when you are available. There is something I need you to do.
I am going into a meeting now with limited phone calls, so just reply my email.
Blessing
The Reverend Rob Merola
Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

Sacred Ground

A Race Dialogue Series

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. This 11-session series is open to all and asks participants to invest fully and whole-heartedly.

Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 PM
September 3-November 19

To sign up, please email Rev. Mary Margaret (marymargaret@stmtts.org). Due to the nature of the discussion, our group will be capped at 15 participants.

For more information, please read the newsletter cover, visit episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground, or email Rev. Mary Margaret.

Main Men of the Bible: Heroes or Zeros?

Wednesdays on Zoom

Abraham, Jacob, David, Samson … our Biblical heroes talked with God personally, ruled empires, slew enemy armies, and often seem larger than life. But how great were they, really? We'll take a look at some of the biblical figures we tend to idolize and uncover their very human flaws, because God can and does work through and in people who are just like us - people who make bad decisions, hurt others, and sometimes aren't very nice at all. Take a look at biblical heroes with fresh eyes and explore what that might mean for us today with Lay Preacher Genevieve Zetlan starting Wednesday, September 9 at 8:15 pm.

Zoom Meeting ID: 884 1853 6414