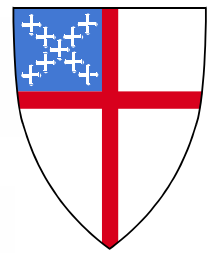


Saint
Matthew's
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

July 2019

FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR GRANT MANSFIELD



I've been reflecting a lot lately on what it means to live up to our resurrections as followers of Jesus.

When we look in our hearts and out in our world, we have a tendency to see the "death" that is occurring around us: numerical decline in people attending worship and devoting time to Christ; decline in people who trust our civic and spiritual leaders and institutions; decline in our communal response to address unjust situations such as gun violence, bigotry, racism, and greed; decline in our ability to have true conversation and relationship with one another; decline in our levels of happiness and hopefulness; decline in our ability to love ourselves and others the way God loves us. Much of the day, we spend our time and energy seeking out the dying things in the world, focused on what seems broken and wrong -- which places a tremendous, negative weight on our souls.

Why do we do it? Perhaps we do it because it is easy to focus on the death. It is easy to point to the things that seem broken, bewail our loss, and dwell in our grief. It is easy to look at others and blame them for the death we see each day. It is easy to keep doing what we have always done, desiring to bring back the thing that we feel has been lost or has died.

Yet, just because it is easy doesn't mean it is the most faithful response, nor does it mean that death is all that exists!

We are resurrection people -- followers of the One who left the tomb empty! That means something! Jesus, in response to those who do not believe in the resurrection, says in Mark 12: 26-27, "*And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.*"

He is God not of the dead, but of the living.

This is a radical statement of faith about the world! In this moment, Jesus reminds us that God is always about life and resurrection. While our human eyes look around and see death, Jesus invites us to look at the world through the eyes of God, to see where new life is being brought forth from the ashes -- much like how Fawkes the phoenix is reborn in Dumbledore's office in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

When I look out through these eyes, I see where God is bringing forth new life all around us. I see where God is inviting us to know one another more deeply at our Parish retreat and at WatCh; taking us out into the community to share the Gospel through Infuse, the Community Lunches, and Backpack Buddies; to love more deeply through providing support for those whom our society has chucked aside; and much more! This new life, this resurrection, is a gift for us all, an invitation to leave behind our obsession with death and see the world as God sees it -- a place of wonderful possibilities and full of life!

I invite you to see the resurrection happening in and around you. See how God is bringing forth new life. I invite you to see and believe that our God is "*...not a God of the dead, but of the living.*"

Peace,
Grant+

Bingo Night to Support Backpack Buddies

Wednesday, July 10, 7pm-9pm



Join us at Crooked Run Brewery for a night of Bingo fun! It's easy to support Backpack Buddies--just by playing bingo. Backpack Buddies receives ALL the proceeds from the sale of bingo cards (\$5 for four plays). Every time you play, you have the chance to win prizes while helping hungry kids in our community. This is a family-friendly place with tacos, drinks, and beverages available for sale.

Learn more about Backpack Buddies: <http://stmnts.org/backpack-buddies>

Popsicles in the Park

Tuesdays, 12pm-1pm

Don't spend your summer cooped up in the house when there is much fun to be had outside. Invite a friend and join Miss Meg at Briar Patch Park on Tuesdays from 12pm-1pm this summer. She'll be serving up frozen treats and leading a craft or activity. This is a great way to introduce a friend to our Faith Factory experience. We hope you'll join us!



Save the Date

August Community Lunch

Saturday, August 10, 12pm-2pm



In the spirit of a Family Reunion Potluck, you're invited to the next Community Lunch on Saturday, August 10, 12pm-2pm. Bring a side dish or a dessert to share. We'll have the BBQ available for hot dogs or other grill items.

In addition to outstanding live music, kids (and kids at heart) should be prepared for fun water games!

July Outreach Calendar

Backpack Buddies

Even though packing is done for the summer, Backpack Buddies is always accepting donations of shelf-stable, single-serve pantry items (tuna, ramen, snacks, fruit cups).

Contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at HLLearning@gmail.com to learn more about Backpack Buddies.

Spirit Night at Manhattan Pizza and Sweet Frog Monday, July 1, 4pm—8pm

Join us for a delicious meal and fellowship while supporting this summer's Youth Mission Trip. Manhattan Pizza and Sweet Frog are both located at 21800 Towncenter Plaza Sterling, VA 20164, on the corner of Route 7 and Dranesville Road.

Outreach Meeting

Sunday, July 7, 10:40am

Have you ever wondered what the Outreach Committee does? Have you wondered how you can help others? Have you wanted to get more involved, but you felt you didn't have the time? Join us for 15 minutes to learn more about what the Outreach Committee has for the upcoming month, and how you can be part of it. Topics will include The Community Lunch, The Celebration Garden and Mobile Hope.

Contact Adrian Mattina at Adrian@stmtts.org to learn more.

Outreach Meeting

Sunday, July 21, 10:40 am

Join us to learn more about what the Outreach Committee is doing this summer. The next Community Lunch is Saturday, August 10, 12pm-2pm. Learn how you can serve the community at this event and the other exciting events the Outreach Committee has planned this summer.

Contact Adrian Mattina at Adrian@stmtts.org for more information.

Mobile Hope

July 24 & 25

Thanks to Panita Greer for her proposal to provide meals to homeless teens through Mobile Hope. Mary Wardell has graciously agreed to lead this project, and with a group of volunteers packed 100 bagged dinners on Tuesday, June 25th and distributed them at Sugarland Elementary School in June. The next pack and delivery will be on July 24th and 25th.

Contact Mary if you'd like to get involved at germarwardell@gmail.com.



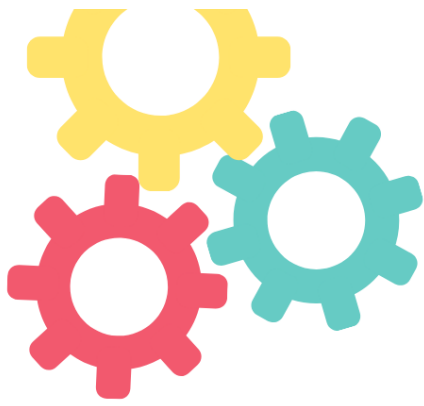
Have You Met Our Summer Interns?



Meet Meg Helein and Ashley Williams our 2019 Summer Interns!

Meg is back working with our elementary aged children again this summer. She'll be leading summer Faith Factory on Sundays, and hosting Popsicles in the Park on Tuesdays at noon at Briar Patch Park—plus lots more! She can be reached at Meg@stmtts.org.

Ashley is excited to be working with our middle and high school students. Along with Heather and Tom, Ashley will be leading SNL, planning hangouts, and launching some new summer fun experiences. Check out the final page of the July newsletter for an updated schedule. You won't want to miss it. Ashley can be reached at Ashley@stmtts.org



FAITHFACTORYKIDS UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULY
7**

SPIRIT SUNDAY: WACKY HAIR AND HAT DAY

We are gearing up for VBS fun with a series of summer spirit days. Show your summer spirit by wearing your wackiest hat or creating a wacky hair do! Let your creativity flow!

SPIRIT SUNDAY: SUPERHERO DAY

Today is the day to wear your best cape, mask, and/or costume as we celebrate some of our favorite superheroes!

**JULY
14**

**JULY
21**

SPIRIT SUNDAY: GO WILD DAY

It's the final Sunday before Vacation Bible School so let's Go Wild! Dress as your favorite safari animal or in your craziest animal prints as we prepare for the best week of summer!

SUMMER FAITH FACTORY EVERY SUNDAY

Faith Factory programming get's even better during the summer! Extra wacky, hands-on, sometimes messy, always fun lessons every summer Sunday at 9:30am or 11am.

**SUMMER
SUNDAYS**

**JULY
22-26**

ROAR VBS! LIFE IS WILD. GOD IS GOOD!

This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Learn more visit www.myvbs.org/StMatts2019

QUESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR SUMMER FUN? CONTACT [KATHLEEN@STMTTS.ORG](mailto:kathleen@stmtts.org)



JOIN THE FUN! VBS 2019!

At Roar! Kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life!

July 22-26, 2019

5:30 pm - 8:30pm

Join us this summer for five fun-filled evenings of VBS at St. Matthew's!
Dinner will be provided each evening along with live music, games,
creative activities, and lots of fun!

Ready to register for this adventure?

- Ages 3 through Rising 5th Grade!
- \$40 for the first child
- \$35 for each sibling
- Fees include dinner each night and a t-shirt!

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
201 E. Frederick Dr.
Sterling, VA 20164

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!**

REGISTER TODAY!

www.myvbs.org/stmatts2019

Questions? Contact Kathleen Bellamy, Children's Minister Kathleen@Stmatts.org

July Youth Happenings

Big Schedule Changes - See Below



What if God was one of us? What if He showed up as a normal person on the street and told you to get a job? Would you believe Him? Would you do it? Would you questions Him?

Our Youth Groups have been exploring these questions and more as we explore God, Christ, and Christianity in modern media.

The Middle School Youth Group also learned a little about building materials, communication, but mostly making a mess.

Check Facebook and emails for updates and other fun events throughout the summer!

go.stmmts.org/FBYouth

Youth Leadership Team:

Heather Tomaszek, Heather@stmmts.org

Tom Leary, Tom@stmmts.org

Ashley Williams, Ashley@stmmts.org

July Schedule of Events

- July 2: NO Middle School Youth Group
- July 3: Fun in the Park 1:00pm - 4:00pm; All SNL
Youth are invited to come hang out at Algonkian Park and learn a new lawn game or claim the title King of the Lawn!
- July 9: Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm; location TBD
- July 10: High School Youth Group 6:30pm -7:30pm, location TBD
- July 16/17: NO Youth Group! All leaders will be on the Youth Mission Trip. Please pray for the missionaries and those we will be serving this week.
- July 23/24: NO Youth Group! Volunteer at VBS and join us for exciting after hours events all week. (Bring service hour forms if needed)
- July 30: Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm; location TBD
- July 31: High School Youth Group 6:30pm -7:30pm, location TBD



Register for VBS at
go.stmmts.org/VBS