

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Spirit of St. Matthew's

167 Spring Valley Road, Paramus, NJ

August 2021

My Dear Parish Family and Friends of St. Matthew's,

It has been a wonderful fourteen years serving St. Matthew's Parish as your Deacon. We had mostly all great moments, yet there were some sad times when we said goodbye to those who have gone to their rest. Watching and teaching our children grow up was simply a great joy for me. The confirmations and receptions will always remain wonderful memories as well as Easter and Christmas services.

Kathleen and I would like to thank the Reverend Liz Golub for such moving kind words during my Celebration of Ministry service. She is a wonderful priest; St. Matthew's is so blessed to have her. Of course, what can I say about our Warden George Hahn who for these many years and especially during the COVID pandemic kept this parish alive and well. Also, Owen our organist who brings the joy of Sacred music and song as we celebrate the Lord's Day each week. And what would our bulletins and Parish newsletters be without Janice and Linda.



For the rest of my Parish family and friends I thank you so much for your support during my ministry at St. Matthews. I have always said there is no letter I in the word TEAM. It is together we do the work of our Lord Jesus Christ as he sends us into the world always rejoicing in the power of spirit. If it were possible, I would love to thank each and every one of you individually for your generous gift and the love that you have shown me and Kathleen during my Celebration of Ministry service and throughout the years.

We are settled in Hernando, Florida and attend church at The Shepherd of the Hills in Lecanto. I am working with the Seamen's Church Institute to be a Chaplain Associate and working with the Christmas at Sea Ministry as well as visiting ships.

Please know I am a phone call away. If you do get down to Florida, Kathleen and I would love to welcome you here.

Much love and Blessings,

Jacque

Deacon Emeritus

Parish News

On June 13, 2021, deserving senior members of the diocese are honored with the David P. Hegg II Lifetime Achievement Award. Recipients are recognized for their many significant contributions of time and talent to church and community.

This year's recipients from St. Matthew's were Linda Finnegan and Linda LoPresti. Linda Finnegan has served many functions at St. Matthew's including Altar Guild, Vestry and is currently the Junior Warden. Linda LoPresti also serves as Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Worship Leader, the Vestry, and the Altar Guild.

All who knew him held the Rev. David P. Hegg II in the highest esteem. His commitment to matters of retirement, aging, and the role of seniors in the congregation made him the natural selection in 1991 to revitalize a diocesan Commission on Aging. These awards are named in memory of the man who led the charge and had the vision that continues to inspire Senior Ministries, Diocese of Newark



Congratulations to the two Lindas!

St. Matthew's Annual Meeting Our annual meeting, which usually occurs in January, was postponed due to the COVID virus restrictions. The meeting is planned for Sunday, September 12, immediately following the worship service. Church law requires that we have an in-person annual meeting to approve the budget and other important church decisions. Please keep this date open so that we may all gather to conduct important congregation business. **This depends on the pandemic guidelines in place at the time.**

Coffee Hour has been temporarily discontinued until further notice, pending Diocese pandemic precautions. We will resume as soon as possible.

COVID Restrictions Update Bergen County is once again in the orange or high risk level. Therefore until this status changes for the better, we will observe the following in church: no congregational singing, everyone must wear mask in the church, no coffee hour unless held outside.

Do You Have Something to Contribute?

Our church newsletter is a community newsletter, which means that anyone in the community can contribute articles, announcements, "thank you's," pictures, or other content to edify our congregation. In the past, members have contributed poetry, reflection pieces, encouragements, and other wonderful offerings. So, if you have something to share, send it to Linda LoPresti at LindaLoP@yahoo.com

Just a brief "thank you" to our Warden, George Hahn and our Junior Warden, Linda Finnegan. This great picture was taken at the Celebration of Ministry on June 13 for our Deacon Jacques Girard. You are loved and appreciated!



Votive Candles

The recent addition of votive candles at St. Matthew's has become very popular with visitors. The Anglican tradition is rich with stories of the tradition of lighting votives in church in honor of our intentions. Here is an excerpt from an article entitled "Spiritual Aids" by Ann Rose.

"Episcopalians can be skittish about certain things, without necessarily being able to define what the problem is. We want "tradition," but maybe not "too much tradition," and with things like icons and votive candles, which many find deeply meaningful as spiritual aids, there can be a divide.

So what about the average Anglican and votive candles? Well, if the Anglican cathedrals of England are any indication of tradition, candles are alive and well in Anglicanism. York Minster, Durham Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Bath Abbey -- they all have votive candles, an alms box for the contributions for the candles and for the poor, and frequently a box for prayer requests. Our eyes are drawn to the flickering of the lighted candles. The whole community of tiny flames is a wonderful symbol of light and warmth burning in the darkness.

We can rest assured that we are in keeping with our Anglican tradition when we light a candle as we pray. It is a way to focus and be intentional in our concerns, for ourselves or for someone else. It is a symbol of what prayer frequently is: coming to God in darkness, confusion, loneliness, and helplessness, and seeking his light, clarity, companionship, and help. It is meeting our Lord in the darkness and discovering that he really is Light, "the Light of the world."

In the Anglican church, where we affirm the spiritual value of visual, tangible beauty in churches, candles are a wonderful sign and symbol of prayer, of Jesus' coming as the Light, of the burning flame of the Holy Spirit, of community, and of the timelessness of our life with God. They remind us that we are standing on holy ground, where our Lord is truly present."



Visitors to Trinity Church Wall Street, the Chapel of All Saints, and St. Paul's Chapel often light votive candles. In this short video, the Rev. Kristin Kaulbach Miles explains the spiritual reasons behind this ancient practice.

"Votive candles are a sign of an intention of prayer for god and when people come into the space at any time all are invited to light a candle as a symbol of an intention for themselves for healing for strength for this world in memory of someone they've loved and so candles are really a visible prayer and an offering of our intention our hope to God." The Rev. Kristin Kaulbach Miles

It is customary to make a donation when lighting the candles. We hope you enjoy having the votives to pray for your intentions.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1~Michelle Baccala Klein
6~ Karla Chebba
7~Dr. Aaron Yang
13~Janet Herrick
14~Betty Nevard
16~Claudia Yen
16~Anna Perrone
17~Linda Morrisette
31~Bonnie Winters

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1~Suzanne & Walter Ullrich III
15~Barbra & Bill Joosten
17~ Steve Evans & Linda LoPresti
26~Judy & Jim Albro

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

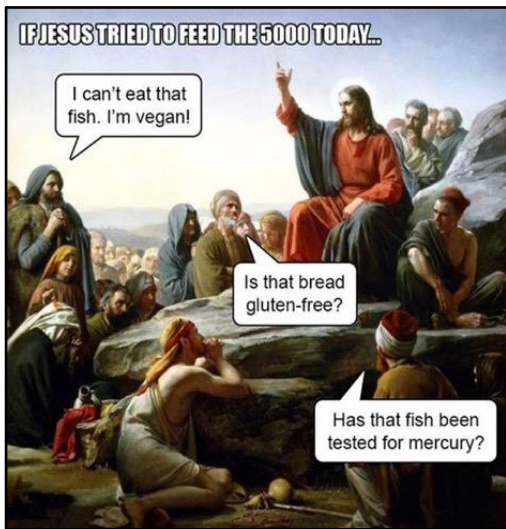
2~Jerry Herrick
6~Rosalind Reid-Lloyd
8~Kim Tomasulo
9~Allison Kulesza
9~Francesca Lama
13~James Albro
16~Dean Chebba
16~Shawn Herrick
16~Janice Walker
22~Sarah Knapp
24~Janet Lightbody
27~Maria Lama
29~Laura Coohill
29~Ryan Slone

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

19~Kate and Dan Slone

You know you are Episcopalian when:

- It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- ...if you ever find yourself saying, "Oh, but we've never done it that way before"
- ...if, when visiting a Catholic Church, you are the only Ah-men amongst a sea of Ai-mens
- Dessert is a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "And also with you."
- ...if you know that the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden are not positions in the local prison
- ...if you reach a point when you're not sure about anything theologically but you still feel completely at home at the altar rail and somehow know you're meeting God there, even though you can't begin to understand how.
- And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye.



ON DEATH

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'*(I want this line used at my funeral!)*



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The Episcopal Church 
 Welcomes You

Senior Warden: George Hahn
Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Jacques Girard
Parish Administrator: Janice Walker
Webmaster: Shawn Herrick
Newsletter Editor: Linda LoPresti

We, the Congregation of St. Matthew's, seek to know the gifts that Christ has given us, to use them as Christ would have us, in a ministry of love and encouragement to each other and the community, with God's help.