

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Spirit of St. Matthew's

167 Spring Valley Road, Paramus, NJ 201-262-5286
stmatthewsparamus.org

Summer 2022

Message from Bishop Hughes

As the increased numbers of people who have been vaccinated and the lowering of new COVID-19 cases allow us to loosen safety precautions, Bishop Hughes reflects on three things that God is bringing to our attention in a new way.

Video Transcript

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark. The season of Pentecost has begun. It began on Sunday with a celebration of the Feast of Pentecost as parishes all over our diocese gathered either in person in their churches or outside their church or online in people's homes. And many of those who gathered wore red, red to symbolize the powerful way the Spirit came to those first followers of Jesus and the way She continues to come with power and fire and passion, bringing change in us and with us and through us so that we are able to show God's love and mercy and compassion to the rest of the world.

That change that happened at Pentecost to the disciples and that happens to us is also a change that we're experiencing with pandemic. Thank goodness for the increased numbers of people who have been vaccinated and the lowering of new cases that has allowed us to loosen the strenuousness of the safety precautions that we have been taking. I'm aware also that in this change, I'm reminded of the new things God is doing with us. And I want to remind you of that passage that we keep talking about from Isaiah 43, verse 19, when God said to the people of Israel, "I am doing a new thing among you. Behold, can you perceive it?" Can you see it, can we see this new thing God is doing among us?

I want to highlight three of them that you may have noticed but you may not have and they are three that I think are going to continue to need our attention. One, that we want to stay the kind of church that cares about the vulnerable and right now some of the vulnerable in our church are people who cannot be vaccinated. And so even though safety precautions have loosened, we want to make sure that people who are under 12,

people who cannot be vaccinated, people who have an immune system that is compromised in some way or that are taking a medical treatment that makes them sensitive – that all of those people are safe in our churches. We're not going to ask if people are vaccinated when they come to church; we are simply going to say, “You are welcome in this place.” And to make them welcome, we're going to keep those safety precautions when we're indoors: we'll wear our mask and we'll stay distanced so that we can keep everybody safe. This is an old thing that's become a new thing. In the Episcopal Church, we have always said all are welcome and all means all and that is a new way for us to make sure that we include all – to take care of the safety of all people in our churches when we especially when we gather inside on a Sunday morning.

Another thing that is a new thing God has been doing among us is the sensitivity, the understanding, the compassion, and the care that we all developed around the subjects of race, racism, systemic racism, and white supremacy. All of this began for many of us in a new way, in a very deep way, a year ago with the death of George Floyd. We have become aware of the myriad ways that people's lives are not safe if they are of color and of certain religious backgrounds. We've watched an outpouring of hate recently against Jews, against Asian people, that has taken many by surprise. And the work that we have done in this past year, we are going to continue to do. It's new work for us – to deepen and strengthen our spiritual lives so that we are able to work in a committed way for the safety of all people, to learn more about our history so that we have a better understanding of why we're in the situation that we're in, and then to gather with others to take action. We want to make sure that all people are safe and that we're not taking that for granted. That is a new thing for us.

The one, last new thing will feel like an old thing also but I'm gonna ask you to treat it like a new thing and that is taking some sabbath time. We have had a full, busy and intense year and these first few weeks of Pentecost and of summer and of lessening of safety precautions. I hope you take full advantage – that you're able to spend time with friends that you haven't seen before, that you can go and visit the family that you haven't seen, that you can go to worship and simply enjoy worship rather than working so hard at worship. That you treat this time as a gift from God, as a sabbath, as a time to rest and restore and to keep ourselves ready to do the good work that God has given us to do.

These are old things but they are new things, new things that God has brought to light for us and sends the Spirit to help us with. Behold, God is doing a new thing among us – can you perceive it, can you see it?

Upcoming Baptism On Sunday, August 21, Valerie Rose Devido will be baptized into the Episcopal Church. The service will be celebrated by Rev. Liz Golub. Please join the St. Matthew's community to welcome Valerie into our church family.

Parish News

St. Matthew's is experiencing a difficult time. It is difficult to find priests to celebrate our Holy Eucharist services. Some Sundays we have services led by lay Worship Leaders, but this cannot include Holy Communion. Other times we are invited to attend the Church of the Annunciation in Oradell when they have a priest.

Service times have changed for the summer to 6 pm Saturday when supply priests are available to celebrate the Eucharist. In all of these instances the parishioner response has been very low. This lack of participation, to have a priest and altar servers and an organist present and to find there are only two worshippers in the pews is very disheartening.

The pandemic restrictions have eased to such a degree as to be almost the way it was before. Masks are not required. Spacing is not a problem. Our St. Matthew's community needs to resume worshipping together and enjoying our church community as it was before.

Despite these issues, pledging has continued and has stayed up to date enabling the bills to continue to be paid. Excellent as this is, pledging comprises 50% of the operating budget for St. Matthew's. The other 50% is provided by revenues from rental of the parish hall and also the church, thanks to George Hahn who has kept this rental income thriving.

The operation of St. Matthew's continues because of the hard work and perseverance of George Hahn. Help is needed for this work to continue.

Help is needed by making phone calls to contact supply priests to fill our Sunday schedule. There is a list of available supply priests but it takes time to contact them and fill the schedule.

Help is needed paying bills and keeping up with bookkeeping. Help is needed making repairs, making appointments for inspections, moving trash and recycling, cleaning up the church and parish hall. At the moment this is all done by George.

Help is also needed to stream the services to YouTube and manage the microphones at the services. George is available to coach someone with these skills to help here.

New activities need to be planned such as dinners and parish luncheons but volunteers are needed to provide these opportunities. During prayer time, take a look at your time and talents and see if you can lend a hand in any of these areas. If you can, please contact Janice Walker at jcw1979@optimum.net and you can get started right away. You may also call the office and leave a message.

St. Matthew said "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" and this is true, but our worship celebrations are so much more meaningful when the pews are filled with those we love all singing and praying together. Come to church, bring friends and family, keep St. Matthew's thriving and alive and well and ensure that we can survive!

Easter at St. Matthew's 2022



May Concert by Les Non Triolets

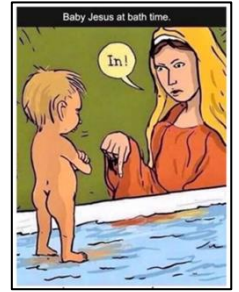


May concert by Les Non Triolets accompanied by Minister of Music Owen Davitt performing some of his original compositions.

Spring Town Wide Garage



Kathie Baccala welcomes a new baby boy to her family, Nico Colby Baccala. Unfortunately, they live in Boston so not many visits from Grandma.



2022 Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

To reserve your desired dates for these please contact Linda Finnegan, manager of the calendar, at 973-928-5508 or 201-370-8192 or by email: lfinn24@gmail.com. Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew's Church with "Altar flowers for (name and requested date)" or "Sanctuary candle for (name and requested date)" noted on the memo line.

Paramus Community Pantry

As part of our outreach programs, St. Matthew's is supporting the Paramus Community Pantry. Most of us do not realize that there are many in our own neighborhoods who rely on the help they receive from this Pantry. Visit their website for more information about this organization: <https://paramuscommunitypantry.org> Please help by donating items for the pantry Right now, needed most are: Chef Boyardee and canned pasta products, boxes of spaghetti, jar pasta sauce, apple juice, rice, snack and dried beans and cereal. Please make sure the product dates have not expired. A complete list of needs is posted on the website and all donations are appreciated. The items may be dropped off in the donation boxes located in the Narthex.

Trex Bench Project

We have reached our goal of 500 pounds of plastic and our fourth bench will be arriving shortly. Thank you everyone for collecting your plastic all this time and please enjoy the benches outside on the sidewalk behind the church! Many, many thanks to Linda LoPresti for spearheading this project which has benefited both St. Matthew's and the environment!

Save the Date

Church of the Annunciation in Oradell invites everyone to their second annual Fish & Chips Dinner. It will be held on Thursday, September 29th 2022 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Tastefully British will cater the dinner which will be served in Laura's Room (their fellowship room) adjacent to the church located at 343 Kinderkamack Road. Eat In or Take Out dinners are available – 5:30 for takeout, seating at 6:00. Adults \$22.00, Children \$11.00. If you don't like fish, no worries, chicken is also available. See Linda LoPresti for tickets.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

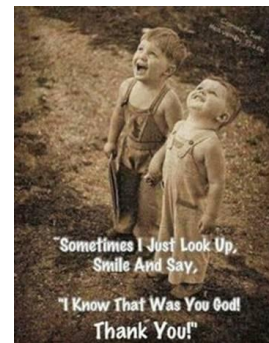
3~Kitty Kempton
3~Anthony Perrone
4~Skip Cherven
7~Scott Cherven
11~Jennifer Tuzik
14~Linda Cherven
17~Becky Joosten Catanzaro
18~Linda LoPresti
20~Kathleen Dean
20~Norma Sontag
22~Cathy Stephens
25~Paul Baccala
25~Chris Chubb
26~Kristin Pinkerton
27~Jennifer Sternbach
28~Hunter Sternbach
30~Serafina Tomasulo
31~Vivian Chester

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

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

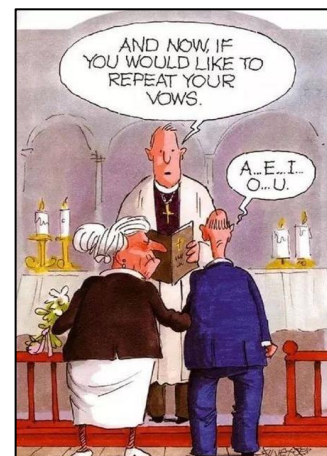
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

10~Kate & Dan Slone



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

17~Janet & Jerry Herrick
25~Mary & Bob Pinkerton
25~Jennifer & David Sternbach



Calendar

August

- 21 Pentecost 11** Holy Eucharist 10 am
Rev. Liz Golub, Celebrant and Preacher
Baptism of Valerie Rose Devido
- 27 Pentecost 12** Holy Eucharist 6 pm (Saturday Service)
Fr. Yesupatham Duraikannu, Celebrant and Preacher

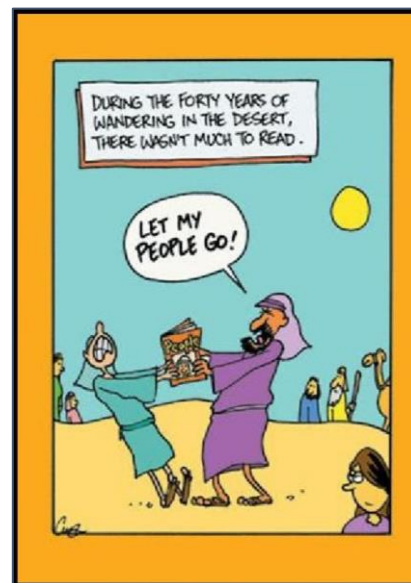
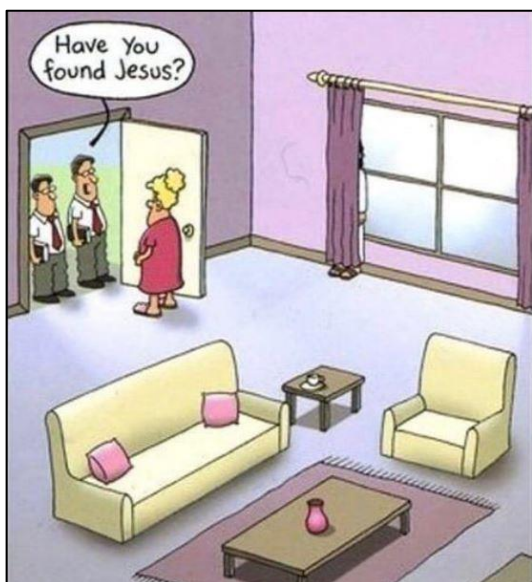
September

- 4 Pentecost 13** Holy Eucharist 10 am
- 5** Labor Day
- 11 Pentecost 14** Holy Eucharist 10 am
- 18 Pentecost 15** Holy Eucharist 10 am
- 25 Pentecost 15** Holy Eucharist 10 am
Rev. Susan Schink, Celebrant and Preacher

October

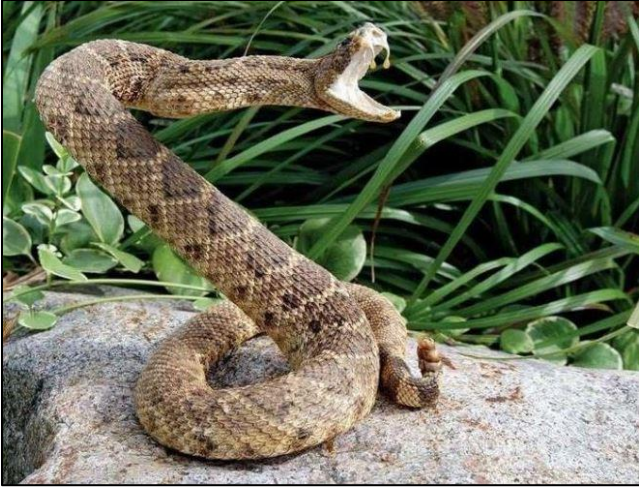
- 2 Pentecost 17** Holy Eucharist 10 am
- 9 Pentecost 18** Holy Eucharist 10 am
- 16 Pentecost 19** Holy Eucharist 10 am
- 23 Pentecost 20** Holy Eucharist 10 am
- 30 Pentecost 21** Holy Eucharist 10 am

Just for Laughs . . .



I visited a monastery and as I walked past the kitchen I saw a man frying chips. I asked him "Are you the friar?" He replied "No, I'm the chip monk..."

Internet Gem!



Blessed by God – Author Anonymous

“A rattlesnake bit one of my sheep in the face about a week ago. Deadliest snake that lives around here. The sheep’s face swelled up and hurt her terribly.

But the old rattlesnake didn’t know the kind of blood that flows through the sheep. Anti-venom is most often made from sheep’s blood. The sheep swelled for about two days but the blood of the lamb destroyed the venom of the serpent.

I was worried but the sheep didn’t care. She kept on eating, kept on drinking and kept on climbing because she knew she was alright.

Often she serpents of this life will reach out and bite us. They inject their poison into us but they cannot overcome the Blood of the Lamb of God that washes away the sin of the world and the sting of death. Don’t worry about the serpent or his bite, just make sure that the Lamb’s Blood is flowing through your veins.”

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

The Episcopal Church 
Welcomes You

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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.