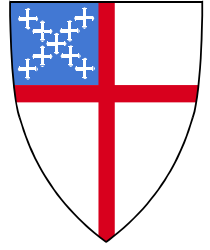


M *Saint* Matthew's Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

April 2011 Newsletter

FROM THE RECTOR ROB MEROLA



Dear Friends,

As I am writing this, it is one day before Lent begins. It is one day before I plan on giving up ice cream.

That is significant because I recently read that Häagen-Dazs has introduced a new ice cream flavor. Called "Caramel Apple Pie", it is described as "smooth apple ice cream with a hint of cinnamon delicately swirled with diced fresh apples, flakey pie crust, and rich caramel." That sounds absolutely delicious to me. I don't know if I can last 40 days without giving it a try.

But wait. How do I know Caramel Apple Pie ice cream really exists? I've never seen it. In fact, I don't know anyone who has. And believe me, I've been asking around, even going so far as to ask my hundreds of Facebook friends.

Well, the internet says it exists, and the internet is always right, right? Hmmm. OK, maybe not. Scratch that one.

Let's see... how about this: Häagen-Dazs says the flavor exists, and Häagen-Dazs is a name I trust. Believe it or not, I've been eating Häagen-Dazs ice cream for over thirty years. Occasionally a flavor isn't as good as they say it is, and a couple have even been disappointing. But most the time, following in the Häagen-Dazs way has lead me to nothing but gustatory bliss. It has steered me true.

And frankly, there is one other reason I'm willing to go out on a limb on this one. I want it to be true. I want this ice cream to exist. Maybe it's too good to be true; that's always a possibility. But on the outside chance that it really does exist, I'm more than willing to invest time and energy in searching for it.

So I've been doing just that. I've gone to Safeway and Bloom—no luck. I've looked online at Wegmans—no luck. I've gone to several convenience stores—no luck. I've had friends in different parts of the country check stores we don't have around here, like Publix. You guessed it—no luck.

But then... then it all changed. I stopped at Giant on my way home from an evening meeting—and there it was. And yes, it was every bit as good as I hoped it would be. Maybe better even. Some things are just worth the search, worth whatever it takes to find them.

Sometimes people talk about everything a person misses out on when they decide to follow Jesus. I've never understood that. I've always thought about all the things a person misses out on when they *DON'T* follow Jesus.

Faithfully,

Rob+

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April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 5:30 pm LOL Food & Fellowship 7 pm Prayer Group	28 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	29 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	30 9 am Classroom of Discovery AA 12 pm LOL Recharge 7 pm WATCH 7 pm	31 6:30 pm Capital Campaign 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	1 7 pm MCVN	2 7:30 am Men's Group 5 pm Eucharist Rite II 7 pm MCVN a 7 pm AA
3 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 5:30 pm LOL Food & Fellowship 7 pm Prayer Group	4 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Finance Comm Meeting 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	5 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	6 9 am Classroom of Discovery AA 12 pm LOL Recharge 7 pm WATCH 7 pm	7 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Interior Renovation Committee	8 7 pm MCVN	9 7:30 am Men's Group 9 am LEM Training 10 am Knit 2, Prayer 2 5 pm Eucharist Rite II 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA
10 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 5:30 pm LOL Food & Fellowship 7 pm Prayer Group	11 Mission Trip Dinner: Famous Dave's 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	12 10 am Sage 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	13 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge 7 pm WATCH	14 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Building Committee	15 Deadline for Easter Flower Dedications 7 pm MCVN 7 pm Haiti Mission Trip Mtg	16 7:30 am Men's Group 10:30 am Easter Eggstravaganza 5 pm Eucharist Rite II 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA
17 Palm Sunday 7:30 am Eucharist Rite I 9:00 am Contemp. Eucharist 11:00 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 5:30 pm LOL Food & Fellowship 7 pm Prayer Group	18 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	19 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Vestry	20 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge	21 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday	22 12 pm Good Friday 7:30 pm Good Friday	23 7:30 am Men's Group 10 am Holy Saturday 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA
24 Easter Sunday 5:30 am Sunrise Service 7:30 am Eucharist Rite I 9:00 am Contemp. Eucharist 11:00 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 7 pm Prayer Group	28 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	29 10 am Book Group 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	30 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge 7 pm WATCH	31 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Building Committee 7 pm Knit 2, Prayer 2	1 7 pm MCVN	2 7:30 am Men's Group 5 pm Eucharist Rite II 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

DARRELL BREED



Greetings,

The first Sunday after we vacated our parish hall so demolition and renovation could begin the coffee hours for the 9:15 and 10:30 services were set up in the rose garden in front of the Church. Several people have commented since then about how much they enjoyed the opportunity to meet and greet outside. The Wednesday after that Sunday, as usual, I attended the Watch program. We met in the sanctuary and at the end of the program I noticed how long everyone just stood around talking. No one ran for the door.

Those two events made me think about the relationships that have been formed in our congregation. The fact is (even though we are not always aware of it) that we truly like each other and care about what goes on in each other's lives. I have been in other churches where the end of the service was marked by a rush to the door to get out and do all those other "important" things in our lives. You could almost smell the burning rubber from the sneakers on our feet as we bolted from the pews. We would show up for services but couldn't wait to get back to our real lives. St. Matthews has an entirely different feel. We are a family, and it shows.

Before and after services, meetings, or other events; while sharing the work on mission trips; or having fun during social events like dinner dances and fishing trips, we genuinely enjoy being in each other's company. We spend time to talk and share life's events, be they large or small. Many of us have formed friendships that carry beyond the confines of our church walls. What a gift that is in an area like Sterling where there is a constant transition of people moving to and from our community due to work or military reassignments. I think this sense of community has grown from the many ministries, activities and events we have to offer. There are opportunities to interact with other parishioners every day and night of the week. We enjoy, support and encourage each other.

Saint Matthew's has been a large part of the lives of my family for over 25 years. Our closest friends have all come from this church. It is hard to imagine what our lives would have been like without this church, the clergy we have been blessed with, and the family we have found here. It is my hope that you too have felt this sense of family. If not, give us a try by coming to an event, participating in a ministry, or just sharing conversation during a coffee hour. You, and we, will be glad you did. *Amen.*

Parents Workshop Sunday, May 1st

Join us on Sunday, May 1st at 11:45am for a showing and discussion of *Consuming Kids, The Commercialization of Childhood*, a documentary about the wholesale commercialization of childhood, raising urgent questions about the ethics of children's marketing and its impact on the health and well-being of our children.

This is a great opportunity to invite friends. Lunch and childcare will be provided.
Please RSVP at Office@stmmts.org



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

RICHARD LEACH

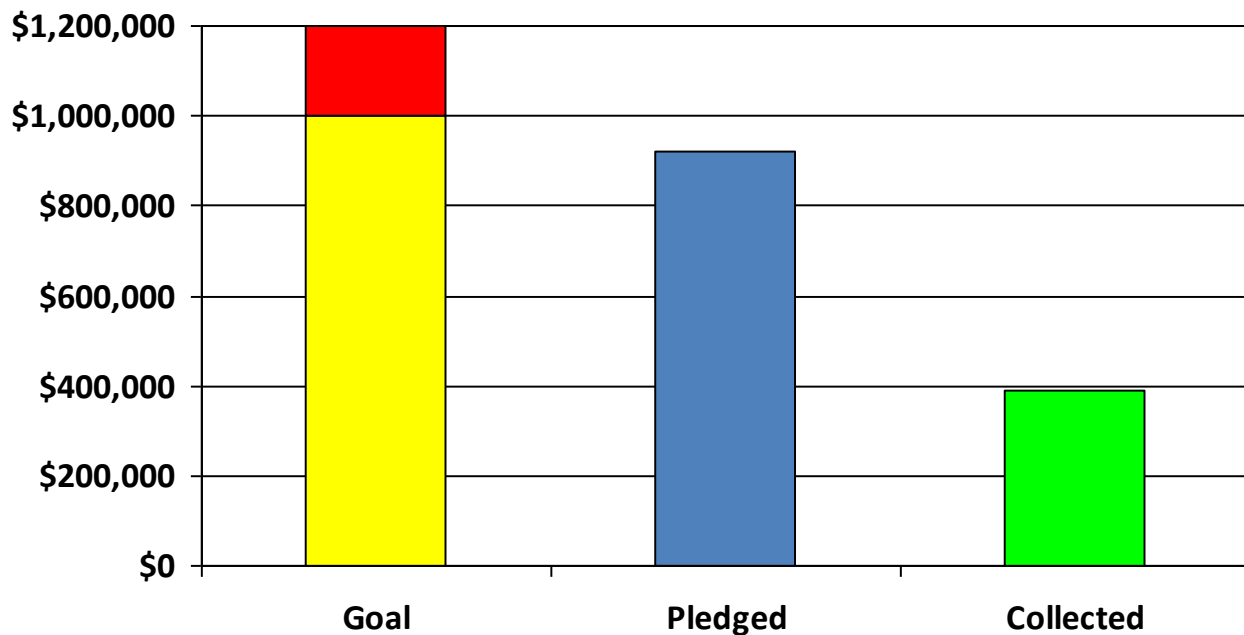


Our building expansion is underway. The Building Committee has done, and is doing, a wonderful job. We are well on our way to having more space to share so we can bring more people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. What an exciting time!!!

As we hope everyone remembers, our goal for our building expansion capital campaign is to raise at least \$1 million. Our stretch goal is to raise \$1.2 million.

As of February 28, 2011, we have received 114 pledges for \$0.92 million. If you have made a pledge to our Marking Space To Share campaign, THANK YOU!!

Capital Campaign Update



As one can see from the figures above, and from the chart, we are only 92% of the way to our goal and 77% of the way to our stretch goal. Or said another way, we need to receive an additional \$80,000 in pledge to reach our goal and \$280,000 in pledge to reach our stretch goal.

If you have not yet made a pledge, we need your help. Any pledge amount will help. Please pray about this campaign, listen to God, and, if called, please make a pledge.

Pledge cards can be obtained from, or questions regarding the capital campaign can be addressed to, the church office or Richard Leach.

Thank you for your interest in our Making Space to Share Capital Campaign.

Holy Week and Easter Services

There is no holier time of the church year than Holy Week and Easter. If there had been no Easter, there would be no Christmas, nor any other church holidays. Saint Matthew's is offering a variety of services for Holy Week and Easter so everyone can participate.



Palm Sunday, April 17

- 7:30 am – Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist I
- 9:00 am – Contemporary Eucharist
- 11:00 am – Procession with Palms and Holy Eucharist II

All services will include a dramatic reading of the Passion.

Maundy Thursday, April 21

- 7:30 pm – Maundy Thursday liturgy

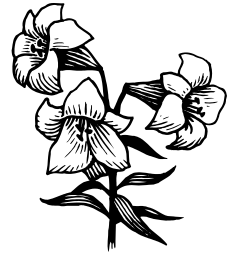
This special service will include a dramatic reenactment and celebration of the events in the upper room including the Last Supper. The service will also contain special music, Communion and traditional alter stripping by the Alter Guild.

Good Friday, April 22

- 12:00 pm – Good Friday liturgy (no Eucharist)
- 7:30 pm – Good Friday liturgy (no Eucharist)

Holy Saturday, April 23

- 10:00 am – Holy Saturday liturgy (no Eucharist)
- The regularly scheduled 5:00 pm service will not be held



Easter Day, April 24

- 5:30 am – Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Eucharist II
- 7:30 am – Holy Eucharist I
- 9:00 am – Contemporary Eucharist
- 11:00 am – Holy Eucharist II

There will be a Children's Easter Egg hunt after the 9:00 and 11:00 am services. These services will lift your heart and make this Easter a special time of praise, celebration, and renewal. Bring any friends, family, or even strangers who may not have a place to worship on Easter.



FLOWER DEDICATIONS FOR EASTER

The Flower Guild is asking for dedications to help fill the church with Easter flowers. Easter will be celebrated on April 24th this year. Dedications may be made by sending this form to the church office with your dedication and a check for any amount. **The deadline for sending a dedication is Friday, April 15th.** For more information, please contact Martha Olson at Hispanic_in_a_panic@verizon.net Please mail this form to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on any Sunday prior to Friday, April 15th.

Given by: _____

In memory of, thanksgiving for, or celebration of: _____

HAITI MOMENTS

As we prepare to head back to Haiti in August 2011, some members of our 2010 team would like to share some memories of how their trip touched their lives. We hope you will join us this August as we go back to work in Haiti.

Richard Leach, Haiti August 2010 Missionary and Team Leader:

When we first arrived in Haiti, I thought to myself, “what I have gotten us into?” The poverty one sees on TV is one thing, but the heat, smell, noise, and sight overwhelms the senses. But as the week went on, I noticed more than the bad. As humans it is easy to focus on the negative – but this trip taught me to focus on the positive. 28 girls living in an orphanage filled with joy. Workmen working to rebuild with joy in their hearts. People attending church service praising God. In this unimaginable poverty – their “joy” – their belief in God was inspirational. Going to Haiti had an effect on me. If you go, I am certain it will have one on you too.



Hillary Tattersall, Haiti August 2010 Missionary:

There was nothing that could have prepared us (Northern Virginia missionaries) for serving in Port au Prince, Haiti August 7-13th. We were surrounded by wretched conditions ... dirty, gray filth, extreme poverty, shanty shacks of tarps, cardboard and tin, massive trash piles everywhere, visible exhaust, rotting city smells, large black pigs trash picking, public urination, and even a tarantula. We were internally overwhelmed with sadness, grief, hopelessness and helplessness ... not to mention our own anxieties of how we were going to manage the heat, our stomachs, the sleeping and bath conditions.

We visited an orphanage of 28 girls. Their only home was 3 tents. Their toys were non-existent-- Their clothes old. However, the smiles, songs and squeals of delight gave us the first ray of sunshine

since we had landed in Haiti.

The construction sites required much physical labor. We were helping rebuild a large concrete school, and secondly, dig a level area out of a steep hill so the pastor could rebuild his home. As we shoveled, pick-axed, made cement, bent rebar, and wheel-barrowed thousands of pounds of rubble, we were hoping that we were useful. Then one of the local church leaders told us that our presence was priceless -- that working side-by-side with the barefoot Haitian construction men in Jesus' name meant more to them than we could imagine. That was our second ray of sunshine.

Now that I look back, we all mentioned at various times missing home. Now that we are here, we realize that we also left a piece of our hearts in Haiti ... and we want to go back to see our projects completed. School house project now complete.



Charlie Martel, Holy Trinity (Georgetown) Mission Trip, Joining St Matthew's trip in 2011

A friend who'd been to Haiti told me “when you're in Haiti you can't wait to leave because the conditions are so bad, and when you leave you can't wait to go back because the people are so good.” Haiti is full of broken things. The toilets are broken, the plumbing is broken, the electricity is broken, the buildings are broken, the government is broken, the churches are broken, and the hospitals are broken. Everything in Haiti is broken--except the people.

You don't so much go to Haiti as you go into it and it goes into you. You are jostled and jangled, disturbed and disoriented, hot and gasping, confronted and offended, you go into sights, sounds, and smells, they all get into you, and so does the sadness. Guilt reaches up from inside and grabs you, it turns you and makes you look at human suffering right in the eyes and then it gives you a good, hard shake. It feels like you are surrounded, and covered every inch, inside and out, by the hardness of this. So when you go to Haiti, this is your first few hours are like-- And then you meet the people.

DeAnne Payne, 2010 Haiti August 2010 Missionary—Returning in 2011:

"Growing up I always had a pretty good idea of what the people from Haiti were like. I have a French aunt who was married into our family. She was from Haiti and would tell us stories of what it was like (both good and bad). When I went to Haiti in 2010 with St. Matthews, I knew the spirit of God was within this country. Despite the lack of food, lack of water and worn out tents for a home; they still smiled, laughed and joked with us daily. For me, this was another affirmation that God is real...his love is real.

Space is still available for our 2011 trip. Won't you prayerfully consider joining us August 6 - 12, 2011? If you have questions regarding the experience of traveling to Haiti, please contact any of the missionaries above or Dave Diegtel, 2011 Trip Leader, at Diegtelsport@gmail.com



Easter Baskets for Families in Need

One of the traditions many families have each year is the giving and receiving of Easter Baskets. Usually these are filled with lots of tasty goodies such as jelly beans, chocolate bunnies, marshmallow eggs as well as some little stuffed animals or other toys. Unfortunately, in our community there are many families that will have a hard time even putting the simplest of food on the table for their children to eat this Easter.

This year at St. Matthews, we will again be distributing a different type of Easter basket to needy families in our area this year. We are asking families to volunteer to fill a laundry basket with food, toiletries, laundry detergent and other essentials that can mean so much to a family struggling to make ends meet. A bag or two of Easter candy would also be a welcome treat. The families will get to keep the laundry baskets for their future use.

Baskets are due back no later than Sunday, April 17 (Palm Sunday) so we can distribute the baskets in the community in time for them to be enjoyed on Easter. Please volunteer to provide a basket by signing up on the sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex and taking an empty basket with you when you leave. If we run out of baskets but you would like to participate, just let us know and we will provide additional baskets. Contact Darrell Breed at 703-444-2451 or at darrellandmerry@verizon.net for more information.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

Saint Matthew's Knit 2 Prayer 2 Ministry will host a booth at the Fall Craft Festival in Claude Moore Park, September 24. We are seeking donations of a variety of hand-made crafts for our booth sale. All proceeds will go toward our Building Fund. We had a wonderful assortment of items last year, thanks to many generous and talented parishioners, and brought in over \$600.00 for the fund. One new idea is to have a wreath-making workshop and create pine cone wreaths for sale at our booth. Please save your pine cones – we'll announce the workshop date in a future newsletter.

The Knit 2 Prayer 2 Ministry knits and crochets Prayer Shawls and Baptismal Blankets for distribution by Parishioners and Clergy. We enjoy teaching knitting and crocheting and welcome all to our meetings the second Saturday at 10AM and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Classroom Trailer. For information, please contact Kathy Gambee kathryngambee@yahoo.com ; Ellie Hilz eah127@verizon.net ; or Merry Breed darrellandmerry@verizon.net



MEMORIAL GIFTS/THANKSGIVING GIFTS/PLANNED GIVING RICHARD LEACH

The Vestry and Finance Committee have established an endowment fund for Saint Matthew's. An endowment fund is a financial instrument whose goal is to have the principal live in perpetuity while funding ministry from the income generated from investing that principal.

You can help by providing a gift to the St. Matthew's endowment fund. Funding sources could include:

- Celebrating a special event in the life of your family with a gift
- Providing a gift as a memorial to an individual
- Making a bequest from your estate to the endowment fund

All of these endowment fund donations will allow the gift to "live forever". And you will have the satisfaction of knowing that the income from your gift will be funding ministry work here at Saint Matthew's.

As you plan your financial future, please remember our Saint Matthew's endowment fund.

If you have any questions, please pick up an Endowment Fund tri-fold pamphlet or contact Richard Leach (rpleach1226@aol.com or 703-421-6310).

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
Cameron Parish

Clergy & Staff

Rector

The Rev. C. Rob Merola Jr.
DaddyRob88@aol.com

Assistant Rector

The Rev. Anne MacNabb
ASCMacNabb@aol.com

Director of Music Ministry

Ray Mueller
RFMueller@fcps.edu

Parish Administrator

Miriam Turner
Office@stmmts.org

Wardens & Committees

Senior Warden

Darrell Breed

Darrellandmerry@verizon.net

Junior Warden

Fred Brittain

Fred_Brit@hotmail.com

Community

Hillary Tattersall

Hatattersall@comcast.net

Outreach

Annette Brennan

Abbrennan2@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

Robert Cranson

Rbcranson@aol.com

Spiritual Formation

Richard Leach

Rpleach1226@aol.com

Sunday School

Caroline Coghill

ccoghill515@gmail.com

Youth Group

Bronwyn Berger-Hughes

BronwynBHP@gmail.com

Services

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Service Times

8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

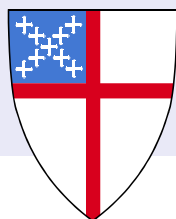
LOL Youth Service

Sunday 5:30 p.m.

Phone: 703-430-2121

Fax: 703-430-2635

www.stmmts.org



Easter Eggstravaganza Saturday, April 16th



St. Matthew's will be hosting the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm at Briar Patch Park. There will be games, crafts, face painting and, of course, Easter Egg Hunts for children 10 and under. This is a great opportunity to invite friends that may be looking for a church home. All are welcome!

The Easter Egg Hunt is just one of many wonderful projects that is supported by our Outreach Team. You can help to make this and other projects a success! If you are interested in helping, join the Outreach Committee the third Thursday of each month at the Cascades Starbucks at 7pm.

We would love to see you there.

Contact Annette Brennan at 703-304-2305 or Abbrennan2@gmail.com.

Matthew's
Episcopal Church

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Sterling VA 20164-2387

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