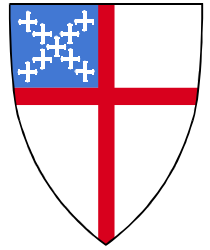


Saint
Matthew's
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

August 2011 Newsletter

FROM THE RECTOR

ROB MEROLA



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, our new building may well be finished!

We continue to plan to officially celebrate the dedication of our new building on Saint Matthew's Day. This will also be Confirmation Sunday, and Bishop Jones' last visit to our church before retiring. No one has been a more faithful or enthusiastic supporter of Saint Matthew's than Bishop Jones, and this is our chance to enthusiastically show our love and support for him. For all these reasons I hope you will mark September 25th on your calendars now so you can join us on this big day! It is our hope that our entire church family will be present and that together we will make this an occasion we will all remember for the rest of our lives.

In the more immediate future, we will begin moving into our new building as soon as possible. This will be a work in progress as we figure out who to put where when, where all of our old stuff will go (which will not necessarily be in our new building, if you catch my drift), and how we will procure and set up the new furnishings needed to make this building as functional as possible. It is an incredibly exciting time as we undertake new ventures in knowing and sharing God's love.

Take the nursery, for instance. We are looking to make the most of our new space and improve our nursery experience so that it is in line with the best child care practices available in our area. You'll be hearing more about this in the very near future. Or take Adult Sunday School. Education has always been such an important part of our Christian tradition, and come September we will be very pleased to offer an Adult Sunday School class.

We also continue to search for a part-time Youth Minister. We see this as going hand-in-hand with our new space, so that we can continue to develop our Youth Program in accordance with the new and increased space available. Accordingly, we are actively seeking someone (perhaps a teacher or student?) who can serve in this capacity. This is a paid part-time position, and if you know somebody who might be interested in it, please have them contact Miriam, Anne, or me.

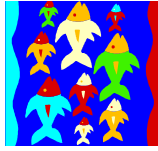
And of course, there is so much more planned that you will be hearing more about in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for putting up with the inconveniences of a building under construction. Thank you for your ongoing enthusiasm for and support of this project. We now have the great privilege of enjoying this new chapter in our life together. May God be praised!

Faithfully,
Rob+

Save the Date
Saint Matthew's Day Celebration and
Making Space to Share Dedication
September 25, 2011

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August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 7 pm High Schl Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Group	1 Mission Trip Dinner: Baja Fresh 7 pm Finance Comm. 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live 7:30 pm Bread of Life	2 6 pm Middle School Youth Group 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	3 12 pm AA	4 7 pm Interior Renov. Committee 8 pm Starbucks with the Interns	5 7 pm Haiti Mission Trip Meeting 7 pm MCVN	6 Haiti Mission Trip 8am Fellowship Breakfast 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA
7 Haiti Mission Trip 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 7 pm Prayer Group	8 Haiti Mission Trip 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	9 Haiti Mission Trip 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	10 Haiti Mission Trip 12 pm AA	11 Haiti Mission Trip	12 Haiti Mission Trip 7 pm MCVN	13 9 am Spiritual Formation Comm Mtg 10 am Knit 2, Prayer 2 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA
14 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 7 pm Prayer Group	15 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	16 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Vestry	17 12 pm AA	18 No events scheduled	19 7 pm MCVN	20 8 am Fellowship Breakfast 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA
21 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 7 pm Prayer Group	22 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	23 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	24 7 pm AA	25 7 pm Capital Campaign Meeting 7 pm Knit2, Prayer 2	26 7 pm MCVN	27 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA
28 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 3 pm MCVN 7 pm Prayer Group	29 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA	30 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts	31 12pm AA	1 7 pm Interior Renov. Committee	2 7 pm MCVN	3 8 am Fellowship Breakfast 3pm Renewal of Vows 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

DARRELL BREED



As I write this in early July, it appears probable that we will be moving back into our renovated and enlarged building before the end of the month. This has certainly been a project with its ups and downs. Fortunately, God has been good to us since we initially broke ground and has blessed us with an understanding congregation that has done all it can to be flexible and has done its best to keep our many ministries thriving in the face of less than ideal conditions. On behalf of the Vestry, I would like to say thanks to all of you. It took literally the work of hundreds to bring us to this point. Well done everyone! As much as we have accomplished these past few months, now is the time to show how much more we can do with our new facility. Each ministry area has been carefully considering what they can do to enhance the life of Saint Matthew's and the community we serve. You will see many new activities and programs. I hope you will take advantage of them and will help us to continue to grow with that "and then some" attitude that has been the hallmark of our congregation for many years. Now that we have the tools to work with I think we can build an even stronger community of faith. I can't wait to see what God- and

you- have in store for us now.

Confirmation Class Retreat

Bishop Jones will visit Saint Matthew's on Sunday, September 25, 2011. One of the purposes of the Bishop's visit is to perform the sacramental rite of confirmation. In confirmation one expresses a mature commitment to Christ and receives strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop. Confirmation is normally a sacramental rite for teens and up.

To prepare for confirmation, a mandatory confirmation study will be held at the church from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, September 16, and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17 (lunch will be provided). Even though this study is mandatory for those wishing to be confirmed, it is open to anyone. This study is an excellent way to learn more about the Episcopal Church. Those wishing to attend this study should send an email to Richard Leach (rpleach1226@aol.com) and Miriam Turner (miriam@stmtts.org). In addition, for those wishing to be confirmed, a Confirmation application form should be completed and returned to the church office. The forms can be obtained from the church website (under the "Online Forms" quick link), Richard Leach, or Miriam Turner.

For more information on confirmation please contact Richard, Rob, Anne, or Miriam.

GOOD SEARCH

RICHARD LEACH

Did you know there is a painless way to raise money for Saint Matthew's? It is called Goodsearch. Saint Matthew's will receive funds if you use Goodsearch in two ways:

1. As a search engine - Saint Matthew's will receive one penny for each internet search you make.
2. For on-line purchases - if you make on-line purchases through Goodsearch, Saint Matthew's will receive a percentage of your purchase from the Goodsearch vendors.

Using Goodsearch is easy:

- A. You can find it at www.goodsearch.com.
- B. After arriving at the home page - where it asks you to enter your charity here...type "st matthews" (no period and no apostrophe) and hit Verify.
- C. Scroll down the list of names until you find St Matthew's Episcopal Church (Sterling, VA) and click on it.
- D. Then search away or purchase away (the vendors are shown under Goodshop).

Please give it a try. It will not cost you anything and yet it will bring some needed revenue to Saint Matthew's.

MAKING SPACE TO SHARE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

RICHARD LEACH



Our building expansion is close to completion and we may even be using the space by the time you receive this newsletter. The Building Committee, its subcommittees and all coordinating committees have done, and are doing, a wonderful job. We will have 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. It has become clear that we need to raise our stretch goal amount in order to keep our future mortgage payment manageable, and allow us to continue all the great mission work we do at Saint Matthew's.

As of June 30, 2011, we have received 115 pledges for \$0.923 million. In addition we have received \$37 thousand from non-pledgers. If you have made a pledge to our Making Space To Share campaign, THANK YOU!! If you have contributed to the campaign but have not pledged, THANK YOU for your contribution!

If you have not yet made a pledge, whether you have given to the campaign or not, we need your help. Any pledge amount will help, no pledge is too small. 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.



On Tuesday morning of this week my wife found out that her entire department was being laid off and her last day at her job would be this Friday. This was completely unexpected and a total shock to our lives. We immediately reached out to our church family. Within short order, we had been contacted by Rev. Rob and Rev. Anne to check on us. Friends from church arranged a get together Tuesday night to help comfort us. The outpouring of love and support was truly amazing. It made the initial shock of this life changing moment much easier to confront.

I have no doubt we will be shored up by the continued support of Saint Matthew's in the upcoming months as we work through this event. We are extremely thankful for the love of God that manifests itself through Saint Matthew's. I know that this type of support goes on all the time for any of our congregation who ask for God's help in dealing with their own personal events, both positive and negative. This support and love is a big reason of why we are part of the Saint Matthew's family.

A grateful family.

PLANNED GIVING

RICHARD LEACH

Planting seeds for future fruit is both an act of hope and an expression of faith.

We plant in hope that the small seeds will one day produce a tree whose fruit will bless future generations. We plant in faith by entrusting those who follow to nurture our tree, harvest the fruit properly, and use it for the best purposes.

Making a planned gift to Saint Matthew's is a similar undertaking. A planned gift is a seed whose promised fruit will support the church well beyond your lifetime.

Planned gifts are funded from accumulated assets of your lifetime. When you make a planned gift to Saint Matthew's, it typically does not impact your current income. The simplest

planned gift is to make a bequest to Saint Matthew's in your will.

Planned gifts are used to build the endowment fund, which is important for the long-term health of the church. The endowment fund empowers ministry beyond what is possible through annual operating funds. It provides future parishioners with the means to continue worshiping, learning, and serving as we have been blessed to do.

Your planned gift represents your hope for the future mission of Saint Matthew's and your faith in generations to come. Please consider a planned gift to Saint Matthew's. 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).

Small Group Corner

Vicki Nelson



It's finally here! The Small Group Program kick-off will be held over two Sundays, September 11 and 18, during church. You will have an opportunity to talk to the small group leaders and learn about curriculum offerings. You will learn the process for starting a new small group, if you are so inclined. Until then, here are a few FAQ's about the program:

What exactly is a small group? A small group is a group of people, preferably fewer than 10, led by a trained leader, whose members are committed to meeting on a regular basis and dedicated to strengthening their relationship with God and each other and committed to the goals and purposes of the group.

I like the idea of being in a small group. But I can't imagine having something else on my calendar. It sounds like you may be the perfect member of a small group. One of the functions of a small group is to provide something that many of us do not take time from our busy schedules to have in our lives – vital Christian relationships. Plus, the flexibility of the Saint Matthew's program allows small groups to develop their own schedule and their own rules within a framework. You meet when the group wants to meet in an environment that works for you. Perhaps you should consider starting your own small group. How about an online group? There are many opportunities within the context of Saint Matthew's program.

Why start a small group program at Saint Matthew's now? Every church has an ebb and flow, with seasons of various activities going on. While the capital campaign is not over, the building expansion is almost complete. It's time to introduce new programs. What perfect timing, to coincide with the opening of the church expansion. Our new facilities are just what we needed to launch this program. While the idea of small groups has been discussed for quite awhile, we just did not have the space.

Don't only mega-churches have small groups? No. In fact, many small churches have well established small group programs. Jesus did not have a mega church when he started the first small group. We've heard so much about the small group programs of mega churches because they have the resources to advertise their programs. But in this case, size does not matter. It's all about the quality of the groups. And the Saint Matthew's program has been developed to offer quality programming through leadership training and support. Saint Matthew's already has several successful small groups. With this program, we are creating an intentional, structured approach to ensure that all small group members maximize their opportunities for life-changing relationships.

Can I form my own small group? Sure. There are three required components: a trained leader, a request approved by clergy, and an approved curriculum. We have a Small Group Coordinator, Vicki Nelson, prepared to help you with obtaining all three. Then, it's off to the races!

We hope to see you at the kick off! In the meantime, any questions can be sent to Vicki Nelson at van@sacklaw.com.

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

Pete Hart
PFHart@gmail.com

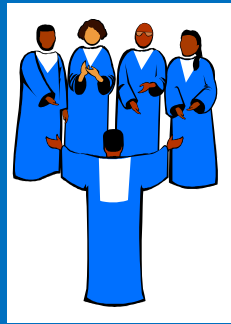
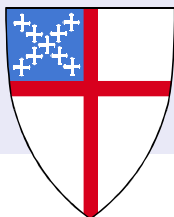
Services

Sunday Service Times
8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Phone: 703-430-2121

Fax: 703-430-2635

www.stmmts.org



Music Ministry Needs You

"My life flows on in endless song:
Above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, tho' far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul--
How can I keep from singing?"

The music ministry is looking for volunteers who love to sing. Volunteers will sing twice a month, and can still sit with their families during the 10:30 service.

If singing isn't for you, but you still want to volunteer your time with the music ministry, we have plenty of opportunities. (Riser set-up/take-down, music preparation / photo copying, concert assistance, etc.) If you think you have a skill that might be helpful, share it with us!

All singers and volunteers, please contact Ray Mueller either before or after the 10:30 service, or via email rfmueller@fcps.edu as we prepare for our September kick-off.



Episcopal Church

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