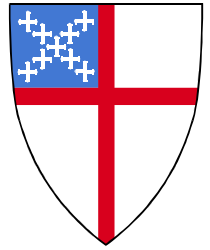


Saint
Matthew's
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

June 2011 Newsletter

FROM THE RECTOR

ROB MEROLA



I think the day I became an adult was the day I first realized I was out of my depth.

As a kid, life's challenges were relatively short term and often relatively easy. School years came and went, and it wasn't too hard to figure out what was expected of me. Catching big fish or finding a particular snake was always enjoyable; animals are creatures of habit, and most the time figuring out those habits wasn't too difficult.

But when I was 28, that changed. It was then, on June 14, 1986, that I was married. The magnitude of all that is involved, on so many different levels, in being a good husband... well, that is a challenge that is ongoing and not easily discharged.

Later that year I was ordained a priest. This, too, was a lifelong commitment, a high and weighty calling. Was I up to it? Did I really have what it takes?

Two years later, and then again two years after that, I became a father. Looking at my new born daughters... does anyone ever really become the father they, in their deepest hearts of hearts, want to be? Would I?

Nothing has ever been more important to me than that I do a good job in these sacred trusts. If I was ever to have any hope of succeeding, I would need help. I would need help from those smarter and more experienced than I. But most of all, I knew I would need God's help. It seemed to me, that only by His grace would I ever be adequate to the enormity of the tasks at hand.

These days I am feeling out of my depth again. Aging involves so many endings and goodbyes. What am I to make of these remaining years? I'm not entirely sure.

But what I do know is this: God has been faithful. The reason I believe in the Bible stories is because the stories found in its pages aren't just stories from a long time ago; they are my story as well. The story of my life is the story of a God who reached down in his son Jesus and gave me the grace I so desperately needed to be the person I so desperately want to be. It is the story of a God who through the mighty power of His Holy Spirit changed me when I could not change myself, and gave me the strength I needed when I had exhausted my own resources and will.

And so, I find myself longing not so much for tips or strategies or steps I can take to maximize this new season in life. Instead, I find myself longing for God. I find myself once again acutely aware of how much I need Him, His help, and His guidance. "In Christ alone my hope is found, all other ground is sinking sand." So true.

Perhaps you are also at a place in life where you could stand a little help. Maybe you are facing a challenge the enormity of which weighs heavily upon you. Personally, if we see clearly I think this is a place we all come to, and do so over and over again.

Seek God. Follow Jesus. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. God will be faithful in helping you too.

Faithfully,
Rob+

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June



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29 8 am Eucharist Rite I 11:00 am Service and Picnic at Algonkian Park 3 pm MCVN 5:30 pm LOL Food & Fellowship 7 pm Prayer Group</p>	<p>30 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA</p>	<p>31 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>1 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge 7 pm WATCH</p>	<p>2 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Interior Renov. Committee</p>	<p>3 7 pm MCVN</p>	<p>4 7:30 am Men's Group 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA</p>
<p>5 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 11:45 am Pastoral Care Training 3 pm MCVN 5:30 pm LOL Food & Fellowship</p>	<p>6 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Finance Comm 7:30 pm Free to Live NA</p>	<p>7 10 am Sage 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge 7 pm WATCH</p>	<p>9 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Building Committee</p>	<p>10 7 pm MCVN</p>	<p>11 6 am Volunteer Farm 7:30 am Men's Group 8 am Fellowship Breakfast 10 am Knit 2, Prayer 2 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA</p>
<p>12 8 am Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 10:30 am Eucharist Rite II 11:45 am Mission Trip Meeting 3 pm MCVN 5:30 pm Graduation Service</p>	<p>13 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA</p>	<p>14 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge</p>	<p>16 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Haiti Mission Trip</p>	<p>17 7 pm MCVN</p>	<p>18 7:30 am Men's Group 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA</p>
<p>19 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</p>	<p>20 Mission Possible 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA</p>	<p>21 Mission Possible 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Vestry</p>	<p>22 Mission Possible 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge</p>	<p>23 Mission Possible 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Knit 2, Prayer 2 7 pm Building Comm</p>	<p>24 Mission Possible 7 pm MCVN</p>	<p>25 7:30 am Men's Group 8 am Fellowship Breakfast 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA</p>
<p>26 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</p>	<p>27 Mission Trip Dinner: Ledo's 7 pm MCVN 7:30 pm Free to Live NA</p>	<p>28 10 am Dig Deeper Book Group 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29 12 pm AA 7 pm LOL Recharge</p>	<p>30 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Capital Campaign</p>	<p>1 6 pm Wedding Rehearsal 7 pm MCVN</p>	<p>2 7:30 am Men's Group 6 pm Wedding 7 pm MCVN 7 pm AA</p>

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

DARRELL BREED



June has always been a special month to me. So many events happen in June - graduations, weddings, going on vacation - it seems there is always another significant event on the horizon. The weather in June is as good as it gets here in Virginia. We should start a letter writing campaign to get congress to amend the month of June by adding more days. I'd gladly give up a few days during the winter to extend June!

June is also noteworthy as the official start of summer. Out come the boats and campers. Tennis and golf compete for time in our lives. Add in gardening, picnics, barbecues, outdoor concerts, ballgames- the list is endless. Recreation becomes a much larger part of our lives. As much as we enjoy it, recreation should be seen for what it is- re-creating what we have already been given. I wonder how many times we stop and think about our lives and what we already have. I know I am not always as grateful for those gifts as I should be.

One of the seasonal effects of summer is a decline in church attendance. There is so much going on in our lives we just don't have enough time to fit it all in, so something has to give. We have to skip something and for many of us, that something is regular attendance at church. I don't mean to be preachy, but when re-creating ourselves wouldn't it be good to acknowledge the original creator and give thanks for what we have been given? There are many things we can do during the summer to continue our spiritual growth: attend a different service if our schedule conflicts with our usual service; help with vacation bible school; help at the volunteer farm; or volunteer with scout camps or any of the many other volunteer organizations in our area. The good feeling that comes from helping others can be just as uplifting as any of those other activities we normally think of as restoring our souls.

I hope you all enjoy your summer. Refresh yourselves and your faith. We'll all be better for it.

Confirmation Class Retreat - Save the Date

Confirmation with the Bishop will be September 25, 2011

Our Confirmation class retreat weekend will be
September 16 & 17, 2011.

If you are interested in being confirmed, please hold
these dates in your calendar.

More details about both events will be forthcoming.

MAKING SPACE TO (NOT) SHARE

PAUL SCHMID

Sharing space might be over-rated. When I was the ~~Senior~~ Senior Warden, on many occasions *all* of the offices and meeting places were in-use simultaneously, so I had to meet with Father Rob in the same closet where the choir hung their robes. I don't remember the exact topic of the meeting, but I think it might have been how to address building space issues. Later on that year, I recall Saint Matthew's getting a safety violation citation from the Fire Marshall for having too many chairs stored in that area because they blocked the fire extinguisher. After explaining that the chairs were being used for meetings, not storage; I think by God's grace we got away with just a warning - and the money we saved from not having to pay the fine was put into the building fund.

At that time, a new building seemed like a far-fetched dream and many other priorities and expenses seemed to keep the idea from getting wings. But, the Mustard Seed grant we received from the Diocese helped bolster the building fund (way beyond matching the fire extinguisher fine) and some of the requirements analysis and design work began in earnest. Although I still had my doubts about whether it would ever become a reality. Fortunately, after I passed the torch (flame-first) to the next vestry, the new energy and leadership along with countless volunteers (who never stopped believing) turned the vision into reality. The extraordinary generosity demonstrated during the *Making Space to Share* Capital Campaign, made it clear this was going to be awesome - and finally, we'd have enough space to share without having to create fire hazards for ourselves or our friends.

JOIN US FOR A GRADUATION CELEBRATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2011



Elise Lintelman, 2011 Graduate, BA
Art History and Studio Art.
Pictured here with sister, Sarah.

The members of Saint Matthew's are cordially invited to attend a Baccalaureate Service to honor the achievements of our graduating high school and college seniors. The service will be held Sunday, June 12th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. LOL will not meet that evening. Instead we encourage the members of LOL to attend the baccalaureate service to support their fellow youth group members.

After the service there will be a dinner for the graduates and their immediate families. Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Lane Bolyard at 703-404-7750 or lanebolyard@hotmail.com.

Your Adventure

Now that you've graduated,
Your adventure has begun.
Your schooling has prepared you
For the race life has you run.

We praise you for your efforts,
And send good wishes, too,
For a future filled with happiness,
And your fondest dreams come true.

By Joanna Fuchs



SMALL GROUPS CORNER

Do you ever wonder how small groups are formed? In the past at St. Matthews, they have formed somewhat serendipitously. That is, without any real structure. We have several wonderful small groups that have been formed this way – the Knit2 Pray2 group, the Men's Saturday Bible Study group, the Saturday breakfast group, the Parents of Small Children group, and the Mothers of College Kids group, the adult Bible Study group, just to name a few. If you think about it, if you are on a committee or sing in the choir, you are in a small group. You are sharing a common experience and I'm guessing you also talk about what is going on in your lives and support each other.



But, we want to create the "And Then Some" small group experience. We want to provide opportunities for each person at St. Matthews to experience relationships in a whole new way. We fully believe that it is through strengthening those Christian connections that your relationship with God will grow as well. This will take some forethought and structure and we are working on putting that together now.

We will keep you updated with our plans for a small group program at St. Matthews. There will be a full kick off in the Fall with additional small group offerings. Keep watching the bulletins and newsletters for more information about this exciting program.

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 and fund ministry activity via income derived from principal investment.

You can help by providing gifts to the St. Matthew's endowment fund. Funding sources will 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). Thank you.



LINK NEEDS OUR HELP!

MARCIA RUGEN



Thank you for all your generosity to LINK throughout the year. As a member church of LINK we have one month where we are the primary collection point. June is our month!

All donations are welcome, but specific needs at the pantry include: jelly, canned meat, rice, Hamburger Helper, pasta, soup, beans, cereal, pears, peaches, oatmeal, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers (size 4, 5, 6 and pull ups).

Please place your non-perishable food items in the narthex.

Our delivery month for LINK is September so watch for information on that in the coming months.

LINK is also in need of packers. The dedicated volunteer that has packed on a regular basis is retiring. If you have time in your schedule to perform this valuable service, please contact Bob Ashdown, Pantry Coordinator at rashdown3@aol.com

For any LINK related questions please contact either Marcia Rugen mrugen@aol.com or Dawn Sharp at dawnsharp1@verizon.net.



MUSIC

RAY MUELLER



It's always fascinating to me how fast the 10 months from September to June pass. It's even more fascinating when you look at all the Choir and Vocal Ensemble did! They are like a group of energizer bunnies – providing consistent weekly music, a massive Christmas concert with orchestra, Christmas Eve music into the wee hours of the morning, Holy week music, Easter services (5:00am – noon), and the literally countless hours of rehearsals in trailers, hallways, living rooms and rooms that are being dismantled around them.

Thank You to Sue Reier, Debbie Mueller, Katie Robertson, Ashly Townsend, Maria Rondinaro, Chris Lesser, Richard Henry & Keith Townsend for your time, talent & dedication. Also, thank you to all who support the Music Ministry in the *many* various ways that you do – including your singing each week from the pew!

Choir rehearsals will begin again in September - should you feel called to join this ministry, look for details in August!



Vacation Bible School

July 25 - 29, 2011

5:30 - 8:00 p.m. • Dinner Included

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
201 E. Frederick Drive, Sterling, VA 20164
703-430-2121 www.stmatthewssterling.org

We'll be hosting VBS this summer at Rolling Ridge Elementary School.

Child Registration Form

Individual registration cost is \$40; for each additional sibling the cost is \$35. Cost includes dinner for five nights, a t-shirt, five nights of crafts, drama and Bible adventure fun! (Scholarships upon request.)

Send checks to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, 201 E. Frederick Dr., Sterling, VA 20164.
Write "VBS" in the memo section of the check.

To all Preschool Parents:

Preschoolers are welcome at PandaMania! Three year olds must be accompanied by a parent or dedicated care giver each day.
All children must be potty trained. Age is based on child's age on July 25, 2011.
Questions email jodieleach2@aol.com

Child's Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Age of Child: _____ Date of Birth _____

School Grade (during 2010-2011) _____ Allergies/Medical Conditions _____

Parents/Legal Guardian _____

Name of Adult picking up child _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Friend or Sibling's Full Name to be placed with, if possible: _____

Home Church _____



• T-shirt size (Hanes 50/50) **Circle one**

Child X Small (2-4)

Child Small (6-8)

Child Medium (10-12)

Child Large (14-15)

Adult Small

Adult Medium

Adult Large

Adult X Large



Note: Shirts will be ordered on July 7, forms turned in after that date will not be guaranteed a shirt.

I give my permission for my child to be photographed during VBS with the knowledge that such photos may appear on the Saint Matthew's website, www.stmatthewssterling.org

Signature _____ Date _____

7TH ANNUAL

MISSION POSSIBLE 2011

A week of volunteering and sharing God's love.



HELPING  LOUDDOUN

WEEK OF JUNE 20-24

RIISING 3RD GRADE TO 5TH GRADE

If you are looking for some summer fun, searching for ways to volunteer, share God's love... this is the program for you!

HOURS: 9:30-3:00

Cost: \$50

Planned Missions

Monday



Church Grounds

Weed & trim our Butterfly & Rose Gardens, Tie Dye shirts, Clean up Briar Patch Park, Grocery shopping & sorting for LINK Pantry, VBS Decorations, make cards & posters for places we will visit during the week.

Tuesday

Sterling Elementary School

Drop off & pick up at the school. We'll be clearing out & organizing closets, moving rooms around. BINGO with residents of Sunrise Nursing Home for half the group.

Wednesday



Great Country Farms

We'll be taking a field trip to experience farm life and learn about composting & recycling.

Thursday

Sterling Elementary School

Drop off & pick up at school again. We'll be working on the courtyard and mulching gardens. BINGO with residents of Sunrise for the other half the group.

Friday



Claude Moore Park

Drop off & pick up at park. Trim & clean up the Purple Trail. Cookout & games to close out our week. Family are welcome to join us for lunch!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST YEAR

We had a total of 30 campers, 2 CITs, 3 Interns, & 12 drivers during the week for a grand total of 1036 volunteer hours!



Some of the highlights from the 2010 week included:

- cleaning & organizing the GSA Thrift Store
- playing BINGO with residents of Sunrise
- built a Butterfly Garden
- picked up trash at Briar Patch Park & St. Matt's property
- purchased groceries & packed for LINK
- made decorations for VBS

- assembled toiletry kits for the Nashville Mission trip
- visited the new Sterling Sheriff's Station
- cleared trails and had a cookout with families at Claude Moore Park



Space is limited so register early!
For more information, contact
Heidi Lathrop:
hlathrop@me.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@stmtts.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

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Service Times

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

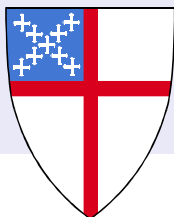
LOL Youth Service

Sunday 5:30 p.m.

Phone: 703-430-2121

Fax: 703-430-2635

www.stmtts.org



Do You Buy Scrip Cards?

Scrip is cool

Scrip is great

Maybe I exaggerate?

But it's easy

And it's free

Please consider joining me

Supporting scrip, just makes sense

The church earns money while you shop

You don't buy stuff that you don't want

Order your scrip cards, don't delay

In-stock cards are ready today

The scrip program is a mission trip fundraiser. Purchase scrip (gift cards) for the places you normally shop like Safeway, Giant, Wal-Mart, Target, Chipotle, iTunes, and hundreds of others. You pay the regular retail price of the gift card and the church gets to keep a percentage to raise money for our mission trips. For more information call Miriam in the church office at 703-430-2121 or Jodie Leach at 703-4321-6310.



Episcopal Church

201 East Frederick Drive
Sterling VA 20164-2387

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