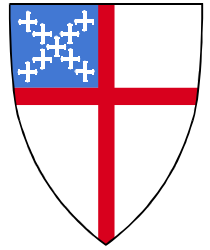


Saint
Matthew's
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

September 2011 Newsletter

FROM THE RECTOR ROB MEROLA



Dear Friends,

First, let me thank you for all the wonderful cards and gifts given on the 10th anniversary of our time together here at St. Matthew's. It has been a blessed 10 years and I have indeed come to better know God's love through your faithfulness in sharing it with me, each other, and the world around us. The thoughtfulness of your messages encouraged me; the creativity of your gifts inspired me; and the wonderful humor, that was so often evident in both, made me glad we are a family that can laugh and enjoy life together. People miss so much when they are not part of a community like St. Matthew's, don't they?

And that brings us to the next 10 years. What will we make of them?

To make as much of the next 10 years as we have the first 10, we must all continue to be faithful in following Jesus. We must—*each and every one of us*—ask God, "What would you have me do?" And then we must really listen for the answer, dreaming big dreams, embracing bold visions, and stepping out in faith as we resolutely seek to do God's will. Can I count on you to do your part in this?

To kick off this next chapter in our life together, we have a grand celebration planned for St. Matthew's Day on Sunday, September 25th. I hope you all will be there, and that together we will dedicate ourselves anew to doing all in our power—and then some!—to continue our most important mission of knowing and sharing God's love.

With much love and affection,
Rob+

WatCH (Wednesday's at Church) Returns!

Wednesday, September 14th at 7pm

Father Rob will teach an adult session entitled
"What Makes Saint Matthew's Great".

High school teens are invited to join us for an exciting
series on Relationships & Dating.

We will offer separate groups based on gender.

WatCH will begin at 7:00 pm each Wednesday in our
newly expanded parish hall.

We hope to see everyone there.

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September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>28 Eucharist Rite I 8 am Contemp. Eucharist 9:15 am Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am MCVN 3 pm Prayer Group 7 pm</p>	<p>29 MCVN 7 pm Free to Live NA 7:30 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm</p>	<p>30 AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>31 AA 12 pm</p>	<p>1 Interior Renov. Committee 7 pm</p>	<p>2 MCVN 7 pm</p>	<p>3 Fellowship Breakfast 8 am Renewal of Vows 3 pm MCVN 7 pm AA 7 pm</p>
<p>4 Eucharist Rite I 8 am Contemp. Eucharist 9:15 am Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am MCVN 3 pm Prayer Group 7 pm</p>	<p>5 Labor Day MCVN 7 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA 7:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Finance Comm. 7 pm AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>7 AA 12 pm Ladies Dinner and Movie Night 5 pm</p>	<p>8 No events scheduled</p>	<p>9 MCVN 7 pm</p>	<p>10 Spiritual Formation Comm Mfg 9 am Knit 2, Prayer 2 10 am Rite II Service 5 pm MCVN 7 pm AA 7 pm</p>
<p>11 Eucharist Rite I 8 am Contemp. Eucharist 9:15 am Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am MCVN 3 pm Prayer Group 7 pm</p>	<p>12 MCVN 7 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA 7:30 pm</p>	<p>13 SAGE 10 am AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>14 AA 12 pm WatCH 7 pm</p>	<p>15 No events scheduled</p>	<p>16 Confirmation Class 5 pm MCVN 7 pm</p>	<p>17 Fellowship Breakfast 8 am Confirmation Class 9 am Rite II Service 5 pm MCVN 7 pm AA 7 pm</p>
<p>18 Eucharist Rite I 8 am Contemp. Eucharist 9:15 am Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am MCVN 3 pm Prayer Group 7 pm</p>	<p>19 MCVN 7 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA 7:30 pm</p>	<p>20 AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Vestry 7 pm</p>	<p>21 Classroom of Discovery 9 am AA 7 pm WatCH 7 pm</p>	<p>22 Classroom of Discovery 9 am Knit2, Prayer 2 7 pm</p>	<p>23 MCVN 7 pm</p>	<p>24 Rite II Service 5 pm MCVN 7 pm AA 7 pm Craft Show Claude Moore 10 am - 4 pm</p>
<p>25 Bishop's Visit & Dedication 8 am Eucharist Rite I 8:15 am Contemp. Eucharist 9:15 am Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am Dedication Ceremony 11:45 am MCVN 3 pm Prayer Group 7 pm</p>	<p>26 Classroom of Discovery 9 am MCVN 7 pm Bread of Life 7:30 pm Free to Live NA 7:30 pm</p>	<p>27 Classroom of Discovery 9 am Dig a Little Deeper 10 am AA 7 pm Band Rehearsal 9:15 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm</p>	<p>28 Classroom of Discovery 9 am AA 12 pm WatCH 7 pm</p>	<p>29 Classroom of Discovery 9 am Capital Campaign Committee 7 pm</p>	<p>30 Classroom of Discovery 9 am MCVN 7 pm</p>	<p>1 Fellowship Breakfast 8 am Memorial Service 2 pm Rite II Service 5 pm MCVN 7 pm AA 7 pm</p>

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

DARRELL BREED



Shortly after I graduated from college, I went to work for the federal government. The particular agency I worked for had a little over a hundred field offices around the country. The way you got promoted in our organization was by accepting transfers to larger offices with more responsibility. In my case, those transfers came every couple of years so it meant disrupting the routine of an established life in one community to relocate to a new area with all the accompanying unknowns. Of course, I didn't make those moves by myself.

My wife and I started married life in a tiny little basement apartment. As the promotions came along we were able to afford larger apartments with more amenities. As our family grew, we moved into ever larger apartments until we finally ended up purchasing a home in the Sterling. The one constant about moving was it was a major hassle. Each one took a leap of faith that we were doing the right thing. We always had to redecorate, buy better or more furniture, locate the best church and schools, make new friends and otherwise adapt to our new home. We rarely were in an area close to any of our relatives so we were pretty dependent on each other. I was blessed with a wife and kids who rode in the same boat I did and rarely complained - even when the waves of life caused our little boat to rock.

Watching our kids grow has been a great delight over the years. Now that they are married and have lives of their own, it is still rewarding to see them continue to grow as caring people. I doubt if they know how much helping them grow has helped my wife and I to grow as well. Our love has grown over the years, as has our faith in God. I strongly believe our growing faith has enabled us to reach out to others in ways we never even thought of as a young couple.

We are really not so much different than the family of St. Matthew's- growing, trying new things, and taking leaps of faith. As a community of faith, we are beginning a new chapter in our corporate lives with bigger, better facilities in which to grow. I can't wait to see what our next move will be.

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@stmts.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.

Chicago Mission Trip Reflection

Mary Petersen

At 4:30 on the morning of July 17th, 33 students and adults meet at St. Matthew's to depart for a week of service in Chicago. Our group was comprised of 14 high school students, 11 college students (including our 2 summer interns), and 8 adults. After a 13 hour drive, we arrived at our housing site at North Park University and were greeted by our CSM (Center for Student Mission) hosts Rachael, Mattie, and Rachelle. After dividing into 3 groups, we met with our individual hosts to discuss the upcoming week and then took a prayer tour of the city. We learned about the issues affecting the city and the places where we would be serving during the week.

Our mornings began with devotions at 7:15, followed by showers and breakfast before heading out to serve at our ministry sites. On Monday morning we worked with preschoolers at YMCAs. Tuesday through Thursday mornings we served at "By the Hand Club For Kids" assisting the staff. By the Hand sites are Christ-centered after-school programs that provide tutoring and mentoring. We were all impressed with the work they are doing, the values they are instilling in the children and the education they are providing.

In the afternoon our groups worked at different ministry sites. We visited 4 different senior citizen centers and served meals at 3 different sites. We took a walking prayer tour of one neighborhood ending at the Racial Reconciliation Mural – a community project completed by more than 40 artists of all ages, including members of rival gangs. We participated in "Meet the Need" where we made a \$5 purchase used to help someone in need. It was amazing to see how helpful and appreciated a \$5 purchase could be. We participated in an Urban Exposure where we used public transportation to navigate the city. On our Exposure we talked with homeless people, sharing their stories and our hygiene kits. We were given \$2.00 per person for dinner and had to figure out how to eat with so little. Other evenings we experienced the various cultures of the city by eating at ethnic restaurants including Vietnamese, Chinese, West African, Mediterranean, and Peruvian. After dinner each evening we regrouped (the 36 of us) for debrief. During debrief we reviewed the ministries we had served at that day and how they had affected us.

IF JESUS CAME

Would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they had been?

If Jesus Came

Would you hide your worldly music and put some Christian music on?

Would you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder, if the Savior spend a day or two with you,

Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

If Jesus Came

Would you go right on saying, the things you always say?

Would life continue as it does from day to day?

If Jesus Came

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you go?

Or would you maybe change your plans just for a day or so?

If Jesus Came

Would you be glad to have Him meet your closest friends?

Or would you hope they stay away until His visit ends?

If Jesus Came

Would you be glad to have him stay forever on and on?

Or would you sigh with great relief when he at last was gone?

If Jesus Came

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do.

If Jesus came in person, to spend some time with you

I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to have traveled with this wonderful group of adults and students. I am extremely proud of how hard everyone worked, handled the extreme heat, and how much care they showed for each other and the strangers they meet along our journey. While the week was both physically and emotionally draining, I believe our lives have been affected by the bonds we formed together and the lessons we learned from those we meet. Many tears were shed at our last debriefing on Friday evening, and many promises were made to continue to serve in some capacity upon returning home.

Thank you for your continued support of mission trips. They truly are spiritually rewarding and life changing.



Small Group Corner

Vicki Nelson



Why You Should Join a Small Group

1. Relationships

A small group gives you the opportunity to get to know people at a more intimate level. Sunday mornings are an awesome time to worship with the whole family of God, hear a sermon, engage in corporate vision, but a small group gives you a chance to build deeper friendships. Here is another way to look at it. At church on Sunday, you enter into the “foyer” of each other’s home. In the foyer, we talk small talk. At coffee hour, you may enter the “living room” where you may share a bit more about your personal lives. But, in small groups, we meet in the “kitchen”. This is where we really share about ourselves and open ourselves up to sharing and loving in a Christian environment.

2. Opportunity to Serve Others

One of the greatest joys of being in a small group is the chance to bear others burdens, serve their needs, and step out beyond your own issues. I know that if something bad happens in my family, I would first call my friends from St. Matthews. There is such a comfort knowing that they are there for me. And likewise, I am there for them.

3. Place to Pray and Share your Needs

A gathering of a few people is a natural environment for prayer. A big part of prayer is conversation with God and small groups provide the perfect environment for communing with God. Prayer will become more meaningful for you in a small group as you learn to pray as a group. You will witness the power of prayer as a group.

4. Engage in Worship

Gathering in a small group allows you to experience worship at a very intimate level. Singing at church is a wonderful thing. But, praising God with a handful of truly thankful folks who share in a common bond really takes worship to a new level.

5. Spiritual Adventure

In a small, safe environment, we can stretch ourselves beyond our Sunday morning routine. It is through these sessions that we really find our spiritual selves and develop an entirely deeper relationship with the Lord and each other.

6. We Need People Because Life is Tough

How many people do you know that can say they don’t need any more support because they have plenty? Now add to that the need for Christian support and the list gets even shorter. Let’s face it – we all need more Christian support. It is guaranteed that through participation in a small group, you will grow, connect, and laugh. You will feel like you are a part of a family.

7. You Won’t Be Left Behind

Do you ever feel during Church services that you are a bit behind with the sermon? Small group discussion gives you the ability to be fully present in the moment. You can ask what you want to ask without any embarrassment. Chances are that others have the same questions and thoughts. Small groups can help you weed through your question and help you more fully understand the message.

Planned Giving



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 St. 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 St. Matthew's, it typically does not impact your current income. The simplest planned gift is to make a bequest to St. 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 worshipping, learning, and serving as we have been blessed to do.

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

Thank you!



Sermon Series
10 Years Later
August 28th, September 4th and 11th

As we prepare to observe the 10th anniversary of 9/11,
join us for a thoughtful series on the events of that day and
the lessons we have learned.

ESL PROGRAM REBOOTS

KATT HANCHER

This year St. Matthew's ESL program will be enhanced by an alliance with the Loudoun Literacy Council whose Adult Literacy Program is improving the lives of both native English speakers and non-English speaking immigrants throughout the county. This alliance will provide:

- Formal training for instructor-volunteers, tentatively scheduled for September 10th and 17th.
- Testing and registration for students, assisted by volunteers from St. Matthews, tentatively scheduled the week of September 20th.
- Curriculum and learning materials (books and workbooks) for instructor-volunteers and students.

- Testing and certification for students at the end of 40 hours of instruction. Classes tentatively scheduled to begin the first week in October, Monday and Thursday evenings.

If you are interested in this important outreach program, please contact:

Katt Hancher, cathrinekatt@gmail.com, call me at 703.405.4057, or friend me on Facebook.

Or contact Annette Brennan, our wonderful Outreach Coordinator, at Abbrennan2@gmail.com.

GOOD SEARCH

RICHARD LEACH

Did you know there is a painless way to raise money for Saint Matthew's? It is called Goodsearch and 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.

Thanks, Richard Leach

Save the Date!

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

VBS AT HOME!

Check out this cool website for games and videos.
There are great resources for parents, too!

www.4everybuddy.com

Parish Retreat

Join us November 4—6, 2011
at Shrine Mont for a great family weekend

You don't want to miss it!

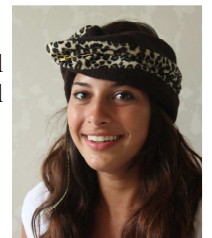


KNIT 2, PRAYER 2

KATHY GAMBEE

Knit2, Prayer2 will be participating in the Craft Show at the Claude Moore Park on Saturday, September 24th from 10 am until 4 pm. The fair is located near the museum. All proceeds will be donated to Making Space to Share – our beautiful new addition! We wish to offer a variety of hand-made items in our booth. In addition to knit and crocheted items, we hope to offer advent and pine cone wreaths, dried flower decorations, seasonal items for fall, Thanksgiving, and/or Christmas, machine embroidered items, hand decorated stationary, gift cards, greeting cards; matted photographs, paintings, and hand painted pottery. If you have any creations - crafts or artwork - we welcome your donations.

Come to the Fair and plan to spend a couple of hours. There will be many activities. The Festival will have hands-on demonstrations by the Foothill Spinners and Weavers, music by the Gary Smallwood Duet and the Park View High School's music ensemble, hot food, frozen cotton candy, a bake sale by the Friends of Claude Moore Park, scarecrow making (bring old clothes), and pumpkin painting. Saint Matthew's Knit 2 Prayer 2 Ministry will offer crocheting lessons. It's our hope that the public will help us make scarves for winter donations. We hope to see you at the Claude Moore Craft Fair this month!



Jessica Gil modeling the headbands some members are working on.

Sunday School 2011-2012

Rev. Anne MacNabb



Sunday School is starting up again on Sunday, September 11th. This year is probably our most exciting we've ever had as we will begin our Sunday School year in our new space in our new classrooms. We have an extraordinary group of teachers looking forward to sharing God's love with your children each Sunday morning.

Given our new space and our history of crowded classes, we do have a new breakdown of classrooms. This year we will offer classes for the following grades:

Preschool (Age 4) – Kindergarten
Grades 1-2
Grades 3-4
Grades 5-6
Grades 7-8
High School

We are hoping this new breakdown will help us manage class sizes better and provide the best environment for our children. Also, in order to help our teachers be prepared each Sunday, we are asking that for the fall semester that only children who have turned four by September 30, 2011 be registered. If they have a fall birthday and turn four by January 30, 2012, they can register and begin classes in the spring semester (January). If your child has a spring birthday, we ask that your child wait until the following school year to begin Sunday School. Your child is welcome to join the other children in the nursery during church services, where they will find age appropriate toys and wonderful caregivers.

For those who have attended Sunday School previously and have filled out a registration form, there is no need to register again, unless your child's medical status or allergy status has changed. Otherwise, only new student registrations are needed.

We look forward to another wonderful year of Sunday School, the foundation for all of us of learning about God's amazing love for us. We do hope that every parent will make Sunday School a priority this year and enroll your children in the most important education they will ever receive.



Adult Sunday School

Beginning September 11, 2011, we will offer adult Sunday school at 9:15am and 10:30am. The format for Adult Sunday school will be a Bible study covering the first or second lessons.

The 9:15am session will be led by Rob or Anne and the 10:30am session will be led by Richard Leach.

This adult Sunday school class will be a great way to learn more about the first and second readings and is open to anyone 18 or older.

If interested, bring your bulletin and join us in the Parish Hall beginning September 11th.



Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church Enrollment for Sunday School 2011-2012

Open to children age four - eighteen.

(Must turn four by September 30, 2011)

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip Code

Telephone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email Address: _____

Child(ren) Enrolling for This Term	Grade (Fall 2011)	Birthdate (mo/day/yr) (Must be potty trained)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

Allergies, dietary needs, or situations in your child's life that the teacher should be aware of: _____

Parental Support

Your participation is integral to the success of our Sunday School Program. There are many opportunities to assist in small ways that will have a huge impact on our children. We ask that you prayerfully consider ways your family might contribute to our program this year.

I/We would like to assist with the following:

Hospitality/Service

- Teacher Appreciation
- Attendance
- Time Keeper
- Usher
- Other

Teaching

- Teacher
- Substitute Teacher
- Teacher's Aide
- Other

Special Projects

- Christmas Program
- Special Craft Program
- Year End Program
- Other

Best time to contact you _____ Do you prefer to be contacted by phone or email? _____

Please submit the completed form to the church office.

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

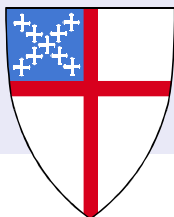
Services

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



Saint Matthew's Needs You

Watering

Have you noticed the beautiful new grass, trees and shrubs surrounding the church? We need your help to keep them watered! Sign up to help by going to this website: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/watering4>

LINK Deliveries

St. Matthews is delivering for LINK for the month of September We have an online sign up this year. Our sign-up sheet is located on <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/link4> Please help reach out to those in need of assistance. Contact Marcia Rugen at mrugen@aol.com with any questions.



M *Saint
Matthew's*

Episcopal Church

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Sterling VA 20164-2387

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Saturday Evening Rite II Service
Join us every Saturday starting
Saturday, September 10th at 5pm