



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

October

To know Christ and to make Him known

2009

Where is God for You?

Dear Friends,

Where is God for you? If you were to answer that question, what would you say?

Through the years, people have told me God is for them in places like these: "In the eyes of my children." "When I feel really close to someone I love." "In Tony Newman's music." "In my walks in the Glebe." "In my favorite hymns." "In those bits of quiet time I manage to occasionally grab." "In my reading of favorite psalms." "I meet God on the golf course."

I could go on. If we were to compile a list of where God is for all of us at St. Matthew's, we could have a list as long—and as intensely rich—as our Parish Directory.

For me this fall, God is uniquely present when I give Him thanks. Early this past summer, Susan Wyper gave each of us attending the Wednesday Morning Eucharist what she told us were "Gratitude Journals." She asked us to take these little booklets with us and during the summer write down day-by-day the things we were most grateful for. In the first Wednesday service of this season, Susan shared with us some of her summer "gratitudes." They ran the gamut—like all of ours would—from the sublime to the delightfully homey and amusing.

I have a confession to make: I lost my "Gratitude Journal," so this summer I just thanked God verbally for all my innumerable blessings.

The Bible tells us that all good things come from God. And there's a spiritual principle attached to thanksgiving: the more we thank God for giving us, the more He gives us. As they say in Nigeria: "Give thanks for a little, and you will find a lot." I am blessed among men. When I start listing everything I'm grateful to God for giving me, I never reach the end. How about you? Try it. Begin today. Begin now. Start thanking God for all His blessings to you and see where it takes you. It might even bring you closer to Him.

Let's thank Him together this Sunday in church!

Terry speaks at the dedication of the renovated Antioch Baptist Church on Sept. 20.



Off to a Running Start

The start of the "new year" at St. Matthew's is always exciting -- shifting from the slower, quiet days of summer to the energy-filled, action-packed weeks of fall leading up to Christmas. The year ahead at St. Matthew's will be particularly exciting!

Under the leadership of Roger Vincent and Mary Farley, we will be busy preparing for our Bicentennial in October 2010 – it will be a grand and memorable celebration of our first 200 years and will include activities for all ages. Stay tuned for announcements! Each month, **The Key** will carry a special section on the Bicentennial.

The year ahead will also see the completion of our Long Range Plan, laying the foundation for our third century. Jeff Freeman and Had Talbot have been leading the effort started last year, which will include input from the entire parish through a parish-wide survey. We urge all parishioners to complete the survey so that your suggestions and feelings can be reflected in the final plan. (See page 4)

The coming year will also see active consideration of the proposed St. Matthew's Pre-School. This very exciting concept, which would provide another opportunity to engage further with young families, is being studied by Junior Warden John Belknap and a Vestry committee consisting of Sally Farrell, Holly Brown, Mary Farley, Kelley Johnston, Dan de Menocal and Peter Keller. A survey for young families has been circulated to help gauge parish and community interest for such a school. You will be hearing more in the near future.

So along with our "normal" schedule of services and special events, activities, and lectures, this will indeed be a special and very busy year! But as Terry often says, we are blessed to be a vibrant and growing church. Thanks to all of you who help make it so!

Robert Cummings, Senior Warden

Blessing of the Pets

Sun., Oct. 4 at 2 p.m.

Bring your furried, feathered, or scaly best friends to be blessed by the clergy. Refreshments for ALL will be served.



October Key Dates

Sun., Oct. 4	2 p.m.	Blessing of the Pets
Wed., Oct. 7, 14, 18	7:30-9 p.m.	Nicene Creed adult education
Sat., Oct. 17	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast Fall Trail Walk
Sun., Oct. 18	11 a.m.	Newcomers Orientation
Wed. Oct. 21	8 p.m.	Bedford Chamber Concert
Sun., Oct. 25	5 p.m.	Haunted Hike & Spaghetti Supper
Sat., Oct. 31	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Happiness Workshop

Nicene Creed Lectures Begin Oct. 7

Christians around the world have been guided by the Nicene Creed for centuries and Episcopalians recite it with every Eucharist, but where did it come from and what gives this statement of belief such extraordinary prominence?

On the evening of Wed., Oct. 7, St. Matthew's parishioner Bill Fagan begins a series of lectures and discussions focusing on the Creed. The four sessions will cover:

- October 7 – Background: empire and church in the second and third centuries
- October 14 – Constantine and the Council of Nicaea of 325
- October 28 – Doctrinal and political developments to the fall of Rome
- November 4 – Discussion: What did the Creed mean in the fourth century and what can it mean for Christians today?

All sessions begin with coffee and light refreshments at 7:30 p.m.; presentations and moderated discussion will begin at 8: and conclude by 9. Terry Elsberry will join Bill to lead the November 4 discussion. No prior historical knowledge is presumed. Bill hopes that this series will give everyone a better understanding of and appreciation for this ancient statement of Christian beliefs." RSVP: 234-9636.

Bedford Chamber Concert Opens Oct. 21



Tony Newman has chosen Music from the Courts of Europe as the theme for the 2009-10 season of Bedford Chamber concerts. In the first concert on Oct. 21 at 8 p.m., we will visit the court of Czar Alexander I, of Russia who was a great patron and admirer of Beethoven. The program will be all Beethoven and performed by Tony and the Archduke Quartet of extraordinary young musicians. We will welcome back Sean Lee who alternates as lead violin with Jessica Lee and is assisted by Mark Holloway, violist and Dane Johansen, cellist.

The program is as follows: String Quartet in C, Opus 59 #3; Sonata in C, Opus 30 #2; Rondo from Piano Quartet in Eb, Opus 16; Russian Themes: Opus 59 #1 and Sonata in G, Opus 30 #3. The refreshment committee is already at work providing sumptuous fare suitable for the occasion. The coffee will be dark and rich and the wines suitable for a fall evening deep in the heart of Russia.

Tickets are \$35 each; reservations: 234-9636. Checks should be made out to Bedford Chamber Concerts. See you there.

Newcomers Orientation

The Welcome Commission will sponsor a Newcomers Orientation on Sun., Oct. 18, after the 10 a.m. service. If you are new to St. Matthew's, please join members of the Vestry and the clergy to learn more about St. Matthew's and how to get involved. Grab a cup of coffee and a goody and join us in the Conference Room in the Parish House during Coffee Hour. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Janet Schloat at 914-764-1680 or e-mail: jschloat@verizon.net.

Newcomers

Please join the Vestry and Welcome Commission for the Newcomers Cocktail Party

Sun., Nov. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

at the home of John and Caroline Walker

If you have not received an invitation, please telephone Janet Schloat at 914-764-1680

Holiday Shopping Events

Please join us on Wed., Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a Holiday Shopping Boutique. There will be vendors with something for everyone on your holiday list—from toys to jewelry to all the season's must-haves for men, women and children.

On Thurs., Oct. 15, one of our vendors, Paper Plus, will host an early opportunity to purchase your Christmas cards. The hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. You won't want to miss this beautiful selection of cards and personalized paper gifts.

Both events will take place in the Fellowship Room. 15% of all sales go to St. Matthew's.

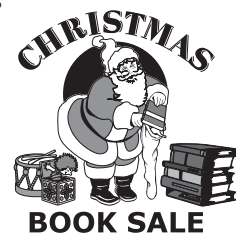
Christmas Book Fair

Sun., Nov. 15 At Coffee Hour

Do your Christmas shopping early!

Books, Advent calendars, CDs, crèches, puzzles, and so much more...

10% of the proceeds go to St. Matthew's outreach programs



Harry Potter Comes to St. Matthew's

On Sun., Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Room, Harry Potter scholar Danielle Tumminio of Yale University will give a presentation on Christian theology in Harry Potter. Ms. Tumminio instructs a popular course at Yale entitled Christian Theology and Harry Potter. Her acclaimed course deals with all seven of J.K. Rowling's books and engages Christian themes such as sin, evil and resurrection. Ms. Tumminio is currently working on a book on the subject. We are delighted to invite her to St. Matthew's to enlighten us on the books that have transformed modern literature. Following Ms. Tumminio's presentation we will share a potluck meal together. All are welcome! Bring family, friends, food and your Harry Potter books. RSVP: 234-9636.

Same Caring Services Delivered Under a New Name

The Northern Westchester Shelter is pleased to announce that, after nearly 30 years, we are changing our name to better reflect the expanded scope of our mission: To end domestic violence and to empower victims to achieve safety, independence and healing from the trauma of abuse. Our board of directors and staff believe that *Hope's Door, Embracing Life Free from Domestic Abuse* more accurately captures the essence of what we do, as well as the compassion that accompanies our work.

We thank you for your continued support and invite you to two upcoming events. Just in time for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Benjamin Moore and O, The Oprah Magazine will join forces to add a dash of color and a measure of hope to our agency by painting the interior of our emergency shelter. Please spend a few hours on the weekend of Oct. 3-4 to paint walls and restore color and vitality to our home. If you are interested in signing up to paint (17 or older, please!) you may contact jtryon@hearst.com at O, The Oprah Magazine.

Our first official luncheon as *Hope's Door* will be held at Crabtree's Kettle House in Chappaqua on Oct. 8. Please visit our website: www.NorthernWestchesterShelter.org or contact Andrea Naso Nord at 914-747-0828.

The Voices of St. Matthew's

As part of the upcoming bicentennial celebration, I have decided to do "interviews" of parishioners or parish families as a way to record for The KEY our current life at St. Matthew's and to give one another, especially newcomers (like myself), a greater sense of those around us.

The first to participate in "Voices" were Joe and Jean DiMicco whom I got to know during my summer visits. They were kind enough to share with me part of their history. After sitting down with them, and their faithful dog, Belle, in their beautiful home in Somers, I learned that Joe and Jean have been active members of St. Matthew's since 1974. I learned that Jean sang in the choir from 1974 to 1992 and that Joe was Chairman of the Property Commission. I also learned a little about their early lives together. I was particularly touched by the story Jean told about her being anxious about the day Joe was to return from the Korean War. She was new to a teaching job and was worried about asking for leave. Finally, she managed the courage and told the principal that she would not show for work. Joe and she then spent the week together in Montreal and they have been together ever since. Indeed, it is wise to take a day off from time-to-time, especially for love!

In light of learning about their lives I asked them what has kept them inspired about St. Matthew's. Jean quipped, "Tradition, fellowship, and our dedicated clergy. St. Matthew's is our home." Joe also expressed similar affection: "St. Matthew's is a close knit and accepting family that is based on love."

Even as a newcomer, I can say that there is something very special about this place and it is no wonder that St. Matthew's will reach its 200th birthday as relevant and vigorous as it was at its founding.

While it is impossible to share the DiMiccos's entire story, it is possible to get to know them because they are the voices of St. Matthew's. If you would like to participate in the "The Voices" Series, contact dlennox@stmatthewsbedford.org

Danny Lennox

Update on Parish Finances

Those who attended our budget presentations at the beginning of the year know that the vestry prepared a budget that would be sustainable in anticipation of a considerable downturn of revenue. While we have suffered some reduction in revenue from auxiliary enterprises, many parishioners have stepped forward to help fill that gap. The staff and commissions have been extremely diligent about reining in expenses. We have also received the good news that the Diocese has relieved parishes of 20% of their assessment burden due in 2009 in light of the hardship expressed to them by churches.

Our own efforts, with the addition of the reduction in the assessment, allow us to cautiously predict a year-end without a deficit. However, we request that all parishioners continue their support, with time, talent and treasure, to help ensure that we arrive at this goal. Thank you all for your contributions of every kind in this effort.

Mary Farley, Treasurer

Fall Trail Walk, Oct. 17

Fall leaves should be at their peak. And what better way to enjoy the crisp air and fall colors than a walk through our cherished Glebe and Ketchum Preserve. Put on your hiking boots and meet on Sat., Oct 17 at 9:30 a.m. There will be two walking groups, depending on your desired exercise level.



Bicentennial Brief



The Bicentennial Year kicked off on Sat., Sept. 12 at the annual meeting of the Vestry and heads of the church's commissions and committees at which time the plans for the year were presented and discussed. We approach the final year of the bicentennial program series that Terry initiated early this decade guided by his vision to involve the entire parish, to bring to life the rich history of St. Matthew's Church, to preserve our heritage, and last, but assuredly not least, to accomplish all in a joyous manner. The Bicentennial Year is comprised of two components. First, during the coming year under the direction of various church commissions, projects will be undertaken to preserve and protect treasures of our church. Some projects will focus on preservation of physical assets; some will focus on documentation of St. Matthew's history.

As to the second component, do you know what Oct. 17 in 1810, 1910, and 2010 have in common? All three dates did or will celebrate the consecration of St. Matthew's Church, engage clergy and parishioners alike, and include attendance by visiting bishops, clergy and lay dignitaries. Finally, all three dates launch St. Matthew's on a new century of Christian mission. So the second component of the Bicentennial Year - and the finale of the series - will be a glorious 200th anniversary celebration of the consecration of the church with a full weekend of events on Oct. 15-17, 2010.

Would you like to join in these endeavors? Contact Terry, Danny or Susan. Or contact Mary Farley or Roger Vincent (Bicentennial Co-Chairs) or contact Connie Lindsay-Stewart (Volunteer Coordinator). The Bicentennial Year offers an unprecedented opportunity to become more involved in St. Matthew's Church, meet people, and contribute to church projects that best suit your interests.

And now we introduce what will become a regular feature of our monthly reports throughout the Bicentennial Year.

Did You Know...?

- For over one hundred fifty years the name of our church was The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United Towns of Bedford and New Castle. Although colloquially referred to as St. Matthew's even in earliest times, the name by which we know our church today did not become its legal name until 1958.
- The earliest burials in the Churchyard date from 1797 and are of soldiers who served the country during the Revolutionary War. If you have not visited the oldest section of the Churchyard directly behind the church, this location provides a logical start for a walk through our incomparably beautiful Churchyard.
- Our church newsletter, The KEY, takes its name from the old brass key to the church whose location hanging on the maple tree inside the stonewall entrance to the rectory was well known to parishioners. Mr. Ketchum (rector 1923-57) launched The KEY in WWII as a means of communication with the young servicemen and women of the parish. The name itself provided a familiar and comforting reference to home.
- In 1706 Rector George Muirson whose riding circuit included the far-flung outpost of Bedford, reported "Every fourth Sunday I preach at Bedford, and I am afraid, without success, for they are a very willful, stubborn people in that town." Just over one hundred years later on Oct. 17, 1810 at the consecration of the just completed sanctuary our then rector Rev. Nathan Felch proclaimed "The Episcopal Church in Bedford is in a very flourishing state. The congregation is numerous, respectable and devout."

Mary Farley and Roger Vincent

Midweek Holy Eucharist followed by Bible Study is held Wednesday mornings at 10 AM.

October Church Calendar



St. Matthew's Church
The Reverend Terence L. Elsberry, Rector
382 Cantioe Street P.O. Box 293
Bedford, N.Y. 10506
(914) 234-9636
www.stmatthewsbedford.org

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 4

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Kimberly Morella and Ginger Getz
Ushers: Mr. Bernson and Mrs. Fagan
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge
Lector: Mr. Heath
Acolyte: Emma Boyd
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Blacker and Borner
Ushers: Messrs. Blacker, Proctor, Needham; Rob Vincent
Lay Reader: Mr. Conrad
Lector: Mr. Bogert
Acolytes: Hannah Swift and Jireh Swift
Junior Crucifers: Fiona Casson & Annie Downs
***Lay Minister: Mr. Chace*
- 2:00 p.m. Blessing of the Pets**

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 11

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Whitman and Mankiewicz
Ushers: Messrs. Fagan and MacDonald
Lay Reader: Mrs. Farrell
Lector: Mrs. Mankiewicz
Acolytes: Pierce Coté and Susannah Davies
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon**
Ushers: Messrs. Boyd and McCree; Mr. & Mrs. Burdick
Lay Reader: Mr. Bernson
Acolyte: Katherine Lange

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 18

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Ehrlich and Keese
Ushers: Messrs. Claude and Marcotte
Lay Reader: Mr. Jackson
Lector: Mr. Bogert
Acolytes: Virginia Durfee and Brooke Edgar
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz
Ushers: Messrs. Brown, Keller, Mockridge, Montross
Lay Reader: Mr. Seaman
Lector: Mr. Wyeth
Acolytes: Taylor Matthews and Christian Magnan
Junior Crucifers: Ethan Duty and Reed Duty
**Lay Minister: Mrs. Thompson*

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 25

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Bowers
Lay Reader: Kimberly Morella
Lector: Mr. Freeman
Acolytes: Andrea Fleming and Andrew Harrison
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Church School, and Sermon**
Ushers: Messrs. de Menocal, LaMotte, Maybank, Tingué
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge
Acolytes: Claire Talty and McKinley Talty
Junior Crucifers: Jack Fife and Rory Fleming
**Lay Minister: Mr. Conrad*

All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Kimberly Morella and Ginger Getz
Usher: Mr. Bernson
Lay Reader: Jane Wood
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich
Acolytes: Andrew Izzo and Victoria Lange
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Blacker
Ushers: Messrs. McCree, Schimmel, Talty, Taylor
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson
Lector: Mrs. Banks
Acolytes: Frances Kronenberg and Erik Long
Torch Bearers: Jack Vallar and Colin McCree
Junior Crucifers: Henry Knoblauch and Matthew Magnan
**Lay Minister: Mrs. Farrell*

* Children's Service

Comings & Goings

Please Update Your Parish Directory

Change of Address

Dr. Ashby C. Moncure
3 Glen Oak Drive
Wayland MA 01778

Holy Baptism

Received into Christ's Holy Church
Isabella Cooney, August 29, 2009

In Memorium

In sure and certain hope
Malcolm Brewster Barton, July 15, 2009

Mark Your Calendars

Sun., Nov. 1	10 a.m.	All Saints' Day Church School All Saints' Parade
Wed., Nov. 11	8 p.m.	Bedford Chamber Concert
Sun., Nov. 15	11 a.m.	Annual Book Sale at Coffee Hour
	4 p.m.	Guest speaker: Harry Potter scholar
Wed., Nov. 18		Fall Shopping Boutique
Thurs., Nov. 26	10 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Harvest Festival Service

Long Range Planning

The Parishioner Preference Survey will be released on Oct. 8. Your participation is a critical part of the development of the Long Range Plan that has been underway for the past year. On that date, parishioners aged 14 and over who have provided an individual e-mail address to the Parish Office will receive an e-mail invitation with a link to the online Parishioner Preferences Survey. All responses to this survey will be anonymous.

We hope all parishioners aged 14 and over will fill out the survey. However, if you have supplied the office with only one e-mail address for your entire family, only one person in your family will be able to complete the survey on-line. Other people in your family have two options: 1) Provide their own e-mail addresses to the Parish Office by Monday, October 5, so that they can receive their own e-mail invitation and Survey link. 2) Call the Parish Office and ask that printed surveys be mailed to you, or stop by the Parish Office to obtain copies.

Please help make sure that our survey results include your views as well as eligible family members. Thank you!

The Long-Range Planning Committee

Happiness Workshop, Oct. 31

How to live life to the fullest. Learn about the latest research in Positive Psychology with Malcolm Barnum, on Sat., Oct. 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. RSVP: 234-9636 (lunch provided).

Haunted Hike and Spaghetti Dinner

The spooks will be out haunting the churchyard on Sun., Oct. 25 at 5 p.m. Could the Youth Group really be unleashing the residents of the yard to turn the graveyard into the scariest, coolest place in Bedford? Hauntings can make one very hungry, so afterwards, come into the Fellowship Room for a warm, yummy spaghetti dinner prepared by the Men of St. Matthew's. Don costumes and join the spooks for this traditional All Hallows' Eve event.