



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

September

To know Christ and to make Him known

2009

We're on Our Way!

Dear Friends,

In my years at St. Matthew's, I can't remember being as excited to begin another fall season as I am now. Why? Partly because of the challenging initiatives we have currently in the works, including:

Long Range Planning. This month, we culminate two years of brain-storming, research and analysis by asking each of you, the people of St. Matthew's, to respond to a questionnaire you'll soon be receiving. (See committee chair Had Talbot's article in this issue.) With your input in hand, added to what we've already received from our vestry, commissions and committees, we'll be able to present you with the refined vision for where we feel God wants to take our church in the years ahead.

Nursery School. A great deal of effort and energy has been put into determining whether or not St. Matthew's should offer a pre-school to our children and children of the greater community. Hi-Ho, which rented Parish House space for several decades, has closed its doors. It would be logical for us to offer an alternative, a school which might take advantage of our fine facilities, lovely outdoors and the opportunity to offer a uniquely holistic curriculum. We seek your ideas and input, as the vestry and School Committee consider options.

Bicentennial 2010. As you know, in four out of six years we've featured historical events as precursors to our actual bicentennial re-consecration of our church building, set for 10 a.m. on Sun., Oct. 17, 2010. That weekend will also feature many fun and inspirational events for all ages— under the leadership of our Bicentennial chairs, Mary Farley and Roger Vincent. Ways you can get involved in making this a one-in-two-hundred celebration of everything St. Matthew's means to you will be published in the months to come. It will take all of us!

The above are merely highlights of what's new and energizing at St. Matthew's this fall. We also have our incredible Concert Series under the leadership of Director of Music Tony Newman and the music committee, a new church school year, a new assistant minister and innumerable outreach, fellowship and service opportunities. Everything we do here centers on worship of our Lord Jesus, who came to manifest the nature and personality of the mighty God we serve. This is His church. And the main reason I'm excited, energized and lifted up this fall is because HE is present with us in all we do and all we are as the people of St. Matthews!

See you in church,

Start of a New Church Year

Summer vacation is ending. Labor Day will have come and gone. Our kids will soon be back in school. And here at St. Matthew's, we'll be off to a running start for another incredible year of worship, music, friendship and community.

On Sept. 13, we go back to our normal schedule of 8 a.m. (Chapel-in-the-Woods) and 10 a.m. services, with St. Matthew's in full swing on Sun., Sept. 20, when Church School resumes. That Sunday is also Nametag Sunday when all parishioners are asked to remember to wear nametags at Coffee Hour and look around for new members (wearing blue nametags) to meet and greet. And in the afternoon at 3 p.m., it's Bingo and Pizza night for old and young alike.

Susan Wyper's very popular and thought-enticing Wednesday Eucharist and Bible Study begin on Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. Youth programs are also getting revved up with the arrival of our new Assistant Minister Daniel Lennox. Plans are so special, that mum has been the word until they are unveiled. And of course, Confirmation Class starts for our eighth graders.

Is a new tradition starting of a summer, and now fall, late afternoon service of prayer and song in the Chapel-in-Woods? On Sept. 27 at 4 p.m., join us for Autumn Grace in our natural chapel, with Danny leading the prayer and Mark Weigel the music.

The Men's Fellowship Breakfasts kick off on Sept. 19. Parishioner Bill Fagan and Terry launch a new four Wednesday evening lecture series, on Oct. 7, which will focus on the historical context and meaning of the Nicene Creed. On Oct. 31, Deacon Malcolm Barnum, who studied intensively what makes people truly happy, will speak on "Positive Psychology."

AND, the much-anticipated Bedford Concert Series kicks off its 2009-10 series: Music of the Courts of Europe on Oct. 21 at the Court of Czar Alexander with Beethoven.

These are some of the events happening this fall, but as we all know, St. Matthew's is so much more. It is the place where the doors are always open and friends are always around.

September Key Dates

Sun., Sept. 13, 20, 27	8 a.m. (Chapel-in-the-Woods) and 10 a.m. services
Wed., Sept. 16	
Wednesday Eucharist and Bible Study resume	10 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 19	
Men's Fellowship Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
Sun., Sept. 20	
Church School begins, Coffee Hour, Nametag Sunday	10 a.m.
Bingo and Pizza Party	3 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 27	
Autumn Grace (Chapel-in-the-Woods)	4 p.m.

It was a glorious July evening when St. Matthew's parishioners gathered in the Chapel-in-the-Woods for a "Down to the River to Pray and Sing Service" with Danny and Abigail Lennox. Afterwards, all moved to the lawn for barbeque and friendship.



Danny Lennox's Summer Reflection

It is hard to believe that I have been here for three months. The summer passed at an incredible rate. That said, however, I did have plenty of time to get settled at St. Matthew's and to get to know many of you.

Terry's being away provided me a unique opportunity to find out about the life of St. Matthew's (baptism by fire in church-speak). I had no choice but to become quickly ensconced in the life of the parish. For that I am very grateful, because now I can say with certainty that St. Matthew's is where I belong as a priest and as a Christian.

July and August were special months for me as a priest. Without wanting to be too transparent, I will say that I was a little apprehensive. It is hard to call someone out of the blue, or knock at an unknown door and invite yourself into a relationship. The amazing thing to me, however, was that everyone was open and welcoming—everyone invited me into a relationship based on the Biblical premise, “you shall love the stranger, for you were also strangers...” (Deuteronomy 10:19). I certainly do not feel like a stranger anymore at St. Matthew's. In fact, I feel right at home. It is a wonderful place and I look forward to our next phase together. I look especially forward to it because the summer was such a joy and a blessing.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Nicene Creed – and More

We recite it every Sunday at St. Matthew's, but how many of us know the fascinating story of the Nicene Creed?

Question: Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- 1.) The Nicene Creed was decreed by the Council of Nicaea of 325 A.D.
- 2.) Arius, the priest whose views were condemned at Nicaea, did not believe in the Trinity or in Christ's divine nature.
- 3.) Constantine made Nicene Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.
- 4.) The Council of Nicaea marks the first occasion Christians turned to a Roman emperor to help resolve a doctrinal dispute.

Answer: All are incorrect.

This fall, parishioner Bill Fagan leads an exploration of the Nicene Creed. According to Bill, “How the Nicene Creed came to be is little understood. The history is interesting, including some personalities that would not look out of place in the old Masterpiece Theatre series *I, Claudius*. We will consider the Council of Nicaea in its historical matrix, reviewing political, theological and ecclesiastic developments in the two centuries leading up to the council and in the century that followed.” Terry will co-lead the final session: a discussion of the Creed's meaning, both then and now.

Four Wednesday evening sessions are planned: Oct. 7: Background and context; Oct. 14: Constantine and the Council of Nicaea; Oct. 28: Empire, Church and creeds in the century following Constantine; and Nov. 4: What does it all mean?

Coffee and light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Room at 7:30 p.m., with lecture and discussion beginning at 8 p.m. and concluding by 9. RSVP: 234-9636.

Happiness Workshop

Come and learn how you can live life to the fullest! On Sat., Oct. 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Room, Malcolm Barnum (former Archdeacon of the Diocese of Connecticut and business consultant) will discuss the latest research in the field of Positive Psychology, presented in an interactive format. RSVP 234-9636 (Lunch provided)

Bedford Chamber Concerts Ninth Season Begins Oct. 21



How can maestro Anthony Newman and his chamber ensemble top the success of its “Cities of Europe” series, which won a glowing review from the New York Times and sold out or nearly sold out most concerts? With “Music of the Courts of Europe,” the theme of the 2009–2010 season!

The new season opens brilliantly on Oct. 21 with music of Beethoven connected with the court of the Czars, including Beethoven's violin sonatas and the third of his “Razumovsky” string quartets. On Nov. 11, we hear trio sonatas of J.S. Bach dedicated to Frederick the Great of Prussia and a flute concerto by Frederick the Great himself. The Dec. 9 gala concert features all six Brandenburg Concertos. As winter turns to spring, a March 10 solo piano concert commemorates the 200th anniversary of Frédéric Chopin's birth. The April 7 concert is dedicated to sublime wind quintets by Mozart and Beethoven connected with the courts of Josef II and Leopold II of Austria. We conclude on May 5 with music of the French courts in the 18th and 19th centuries, including Rameau, Franck, Couperin and Delibes.

Presented in St. Matthew's Fellowship Room, with its superb acoustics and friendly intimacy, this splendid music can be heard as the composers intended—by a small audience of friends and neighbors, without the formality (and driving distance!) of a New York concert hall. Don't miss out on the next sellout concert—reserve your tickets right away. Brochures are available in the Parish House, or call 234-9636.

Autumn Grace: Music, Meditation and Prayer Service, Sept. 27

On Sun., Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. join us for a festive service of music, meditation and prayer in the Chapel-in-the-Woods. The “Down to the River to Pray and Sing Service” in July was such a joyous event that we thought we would do it again! All are welcome. Come to the Chapel-in-the-Woods and experience Autumn Grace. Bring family, friends and anyone who loves good fellowship.

Getting Ready for a Big Birthday

Throughout this coming year St. Matthew's will be preparing for the bicentennial celebration of the consecration of the Church. The weekend of October 15-17, 2010, will represent the finale of our multi-year program series focused on the long and fascinating history of St. Matthew's. Prior bicentennial events have included the recreation of an 1804 Episcopal service in 2004; a visit with John Jay, one of our parish's founders, in 2005; an introduction to our art and architecture in 2006; and a 1904 harvest fair in 2008.

Terry's vision for the entire bicentennial series has emphasized learning about and treasuring our heritage. It is Terry's and the Vestry's intention that this coming bicentennial year engage all parishioners. All Church committees and commissions will be invited to join in. Plans include not only a full weekend of events in October 2010, but projects over the coming year to preserve our heritage and to prepare for the third century of our Church. More information on the bicentennial year will be forthcoming throughout the fall.

To paraphrase the Shakers, the coming year offers the opportunity to put our hands to work and our hearts to St. Matthew's.

Mary Farley and Roger Vincent, Co-chairs, Bicentennial Series

Church School Begins Sept. 20!

Each September heralds many “new beginnings” for our children – school, sports, dance classes, scouts, parties and many other activities. But don’t forget their spiritual growth. Regular attendance in St. Matthew’s Church School provides a very solid foundation in understanding the Bible, our beliefs and our traditions.

Pre-kindergarten (3 year olds), kindergarten and 1st grade meet as a class during the entire 10 a.m. service. Children have their own worship service including a Sermon (more like a story telling) about characters in the Old Testament, stories about Jesus’ life and teachings, seasons of the Church calendar and more. An arts and crafts project is used to reinforce the message of the sermon. Juice and a snack are served. Please drop your children off with their teachers in their classrooms in the basement of the Parish House shortly before 10 a.m. and pick them up at 11:15 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend the Children’s Service.

2nd grade through 7th grade classes attend church with their parents for the first part of the 10 a.m. service. After the first verse of the Church School Recessional, they follow the Junior Crucifers out of the church and go to their classrooms. Lessons are taught on the Bible (both Old and New Testaments), our Church history and season of the Church calendar. For 2nd through 4th grades, arts and crafts still play a major role in class. For 5th through 7th grades the class work becomes a bit more studious – but our teachers do know how to make it entertaining and enjoyable. Juice and snacks are also supplied.

All children also learn about and practice “outreach” to help others in need and “stewardship” in the care of our wonderful St. Matthew’s Church. Music will be a part of each class, and children will be learning three or four songs for occasional performances before the entire congregation.

The Church School calendar and brochure, mailed in August, contains more in-depth information. Copies are available in the Parish House.

Linda de Menocal, Church School Director

Church School Bingo Party, Sept. 20

After our very successful Bingo/Twister/Pizza night last spring, we’ve decided to have a “Welcome Back to Church School” Bingo/Pizza Party. Bring your parents, bring your friends, young and young at heart. There will be prize tables for children and adults. Please RSVP to the Parish Office so that we know how many pizzas to order and how many gallons of ice cream to buy!

Registration will begin at 3 p.m., and the first numbers will be called by 3:30. (\$5.00 per person of \$20.00 for families of 4 or more.) Whether you like standard bingo, letter X, Letter T, postage stamp, or four corners, we’ll play them all. Pizza will be served at 6 p.m. and everyone will be sent home by 7—after all it is a school night.

Volunteers are needed, so if you can help, please contact Belinda Terry – BLW128@aol.com or Linda de Menocal – ldemenocal@stmatthewsbedford.org. Let’s show our new assistant minister what a fun parish he has joined. BINGO!

Confirmation Class to Camp Washington

This year’s Confirmation Class, open to any rising 8th grader, will begin their year of preparation and study with a fun get-away to Camp Washington, Lakeside CT from Sat., Sept. 19 to Sun., Sept. 20. Confirmation forms, due now, can be delivered to either Susan or Danny in the Parish Office. If you did not receive the forms, please let us know! The teaching team of Danny Lennox, Susan Wyper, Nancy Elsberry and Sally Farrell looks forward to shepherding this year’s group through this time of fellowship, study, growth, and fun!

What are you doing Wed. mornings?

Just before 10 a.m. on Wednesday mornings, St. Matthew’s sanctuary starts to purr. I walk in to signs of Wednesday morning life; someone’s books sit ready on the vestry room table, an early-bird offers quiet prayers in a pew, the sound of coffee-making rattles from the kitchen, a faithful altar-guild prepares the altar, and happy conversation and words of greeting fill the air. If you haven’t been to Wednesday worship and Bible study, welcome! If you know what I’m talking about, welcome back! St. Matthew’s weekday service of Eucharist followed by Bible Study resumes Sept. 16. Come for either or stay for both, Wednesday mornings at St. Matthew’s are a special time. We’ve got a robust group from 30’s to 80’s with every age in between, men and women, scholars and those brand new to the Bible; it’s a rich mix. We hope you’ll join us.

Susan Wyper

Men’s Fellowship Breakfasts

Saturday, Sept. 19 brings a new season of Men’s Fellowship Breakfasts to St. Matthew’s. On the third Saturday of every month from September through June (and each Saturday during Lent), the men of St. Matthew’s come together for coffee and conversation, fellowship and food. At each breakfast, a short presentation is given by one of our group, which stimulates the conversation that follows. The discussion topics revolve around current events of local or national importance, family, faith and St. Matthew’s. It’s a relaxed, enjoyable and intellectually stimulating hour and fifteen minutes once a month. For 2009-10, the Men’s Breakfasts will be held from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Room of the Parish House on the following Saturdays: 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19, 1/16, 2/20, 2/27 (Lent), 3/6 (Lent), 3/13 (Lent), 3/20 (Lent), 3/27 (Lent), 4/17, 5/22 and 6/19. Please join us.

Aaron Taylor

The Long Range Plan

As part of our long range planning process, we are now ready to seek input from all parishioners about hopes for the future of St. Matthew’s Church. Your ideas – and concerns, if any – will enable us to sustain what is great and to plan for what we might undertake to fully meet the aspirations and future needs of the entire parish.

To engage as many parishioners as possible, we will be using a Parishioner Preferences Survey to obtain your thoughts and ideas. Results will be compiled and a summary report will be available for all to review in late fall, 2009. The results will then be incorporated into the Long Range Plan, which will be completed early in 2010 and distributed to all members. The Plan will be a statement of purpose and direction that will both mark our 200th Anniversary year and lay out a course for decades to come.

The survey will be available in both online and printed versions. It will take about 25 minutes to complete. Your ideas really count! Please take time from your busy lives to think about the survey questions and offer thoughtful responses. We have a great church: your participation in this survey – and thus the Long Range Plan – will ensure that we keep it that way!

Had Talbot

St. Mary’s Church Schedule

St. Mary’s, our beautiful sister church in the Middle Patent section of Bedford, has a series of wonderful services this fall, starting on Sept. 13, 5:30 p.m., when our rector, Terry Elsberry will preside and preach. The next service will be Sun., Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m., when Gina Sharpe, founder of the New York Insight Meditation Center and a nationally recognized expert on Buddhism, will speak. St. Mary’s, a classic country community church, built by farmers in the mid-1800’s, is located at the junction of Hickory Kingdom and East Middle Patent roads. All are welcome.

September Church Calendar

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 6

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Altar Guild: Kimberly Morella and Ginger Getz
Ushers: Messrs. Proctor and Thompson; Mr. and Mrs. Burdick
Lay Reader: Mr. Seaman
Lector: Mrs. Finn

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II*
Altar Guild: Mesdames Whitman and Mankiewicz
Ushers: Messrs. Foster and Seaman
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon
Ushers: Messrs. de Menocal, Farrell, Harrison, LaMotte
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson
Acolytes: Margaretta Burdick, Tommy Farrell

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II*
Altar Guild: Mesdames Ehrlich and Keesee
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Bryt
Lay Reader: Jane Wood
Lector: Mrs. Banks

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, and Church School Opening
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz
Ushers: Messrs. Markowski, Needham, Schimmel, Taylor
Lay Reader: Mrs. Allen
Lector: Mr. Gale
Acolytes: Place Wilson, Ben Colley
Junior Crucifers: Jack Altman & May Brennan
***Lay Minister: Mr. Banks*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 27

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II*
Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott
Ushers: Mr. Bowers and Roger Vincent
Lay Reader: Mr. Banks
Lector: Mr. Vincent
Acolyte: Alex Bae and Andrew Bianco

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Church School, and Sermon
Ushers: Mr. Belknap, Borner, Moody, Sturz
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster
Acolytes: Cathy Kulick and Sam Kelly
Junior Crucifers: Madeline Brown & Nathalie Campbell
***Lay Minister: Mrs. Allen*

4:00 p.m. Autumn Grace: Prayer, Meditation and Music Service (Chapel in the Woods)

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. Claude
Lector: Mr. Heath
Acolytes: Emma Boyd and Saskia Cosman-Connery

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and Church School
Altar Guild: Mesdames Blacker and Borner
Ushers: Messrs. Blacker, Proctor, Swift; 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

* 8 AM service at Chapel-in-the-Woods, weather permitting

** Children's Service

Comings & Goings

Please Update Your Parish Directory

New or Returning Parishioners

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Cooney Mr. Richard Dwyer & Ms. Tina Barrett
 12 Autumn Ridge Road 79 Old Deer Park Road
 South Salem NY 10590 Katonah NY 10536

Holy Baptism

Received into Christ's Holy Church

Matthew Wolcott Hawkes, June 13, 2009
 Charles Richard Cleveland, June 20, 2009
 Kata Marija Gibbons, June 21, 2009
 Mark Richard Sylvester, July 11, 2009

Holy Matrimony

May they grow in love and peace with our Lord and one another

Douglas Kidder Cilley & Hayden Harrison Roach, June 19, 2009

In Memorium

In sure and certain hope

G. Palmer LeRoy, June 17, 2009
 Gustave James Richter, June 25, 2009
 Henry Williams, May 13, 2009
 Barry A. Calder, July 7, 2009
 Malcolm Brewster Barton, July 15, 2009

The Living History of St. Matthew's

As I have been learning my way around St. Matthew's, I've gotten more and more interested in its history. So in honor of and in preparation for the bicentennial, I would like to write a series of brief reflections for The Key entitled "The Living History of St. Matthew's." These reflections will look at the history of St. Matthew's through the eyes of some of our current parishioners. "The Living History of St. Matthew's" series hopes to provide you with a unique glimpse into the lives of the saints that live, move, and have their being here at St. Matthew's.

Danny Lennox

Mark Your Calendars

Sun., Oct. 4, 2 p.m.	Blessing of the Pets
Wed., Oct. 7, 7:30-9 p.m.	Nicene Creed adult education class begins (continues October 14, 28 and Nov. 4)
Sat., Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m.	Glebe Trail Walk
Sun., Oct. 18, 11 a.m.	Newcomer Orientation
Sun., Oct. 25, 5 p.m.	Haunted Hike & Spaghetti Supper
Sat., Oct. 31, 9 a.m to 4 p.m	Happiness Workshop with Deacon Malcolm Barnum

Join the Senior Choir in Song

Music is one of the things that makes St. Matthew's so special. And the chance to sing with Tony Newman and professional choir members is a once in a lifetime treat. So if you can sight-read music, have a clear voice and relative pitch, and love music, please talk to Roger Blanc (tel. 241-1268) about volunteering for the Senior Choir. The Choir rehearses only on Sunday mornings before the 10 a.m. service.



St. Matthew's Church

The Reverend Terence L. Elsberry, Rector
 382 Cantitoe Street P.O. Box 293
 Bedford, N.Y. 10506
 (914) 234-9636
www.stmatthewsbedford.org