



# THE KEY

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

### BEDFORD N.Y.

December

To know Christ and to make Him known

2011

## Golden Moments

Dear Friends,

I don't know if you attended the ten o'clock service here at St. Matthew's on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 6. If you did, you know that this service—at which Danny and Abigail Lennox's baby daughter Grete was baptized—was one of the most beautiful and moving services held here in many years.

Not only did we combine our two Anglican sacraments, Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist, with the powerful All Saints' scripture readings, but we were blessed with the knowledge that tiny Grete—here in the presence of the church gathered, with her parents, two of her grandparents, an uncle,



an aunt and a cousin—was surrounded by a love so great it was almost tangible.

Most important, the Spirit of the Lord was with us that morning. His presence, in worship, in the service of baptism, and in the warmth of our St. Matthew's



family, was manifest. Seldom do I feel the presence of God with us in such a powerful way. But in this service, the very air (could we have seen it) was liquid gold!

That's what happens when the Lord is powerfully present in worship. You sense a difference. You actually partake of a spiritual reality that is always here in worship, though sometimes in a less apparent way.

Such golden moments as these remind us of the power of God's church in this place, a power which comes from the Lord Himself. There is nothing on earth like it. Because in worship we experience a mixture—a comingling—of the earthly and the heavenly, the natural and the spiritual. God becomes real to His people, to us, as we worship Him.

Come to church in this holy season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas. Come at Christmas, as we celebrate the greatest news there is: God born in a baby! No seasons of the church year are better designed than these for golden moments of worship.



O come, all ye faithful. Come to church this Advent and Christmas. Come and experience the real presence of the God who is alive and Who loves you.

Faithfully,

## A Christmas Wish to St. Matthew's Parish

Rev. Arthur Ketchum wrote this poem as a Christmas card greeting when he was rector of St. Matthew's.



When Mary came to Bethlehem,  
Which is King David's town,  
She sought a place in her distress  
Where she might lay her down.

She sought a place where she might lie  
All on the Holy Night  
But there-in was no open door  
Or any window light.

When-as our little Lord was born  
He had no bed at all  
But what a kind beast shared with Him  
Of hay and manger stall.

Lest we forget what He forgave  
At Christmas time for sign  
Let every door be open wide  
And every window shine.



## St. Matthew's Church Christmas House Tour

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

10am-3pm

\$65 per person by December 1st

\$75 per person at the door

small savories served  
Bring a friend

RSVP Please send checks payable to  
Women of St. Matthews  
PO Box #293 Bedford, NY 10506  
or put in basket in church office

\*Please come pick up list of houses and map at the church between 9:45 & 12:45



# Christmas at St. Matthew's



December is filled with glorious and wonderful events as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Make St. Matthew's the center of your activities as we await Christmas Day.

## ❁ **Adult Education, Dec. 4, 11, & 18**

Contemplative prayer continues through to Christmas. Contemplative Prayer takes place in the Church Undercroft between the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. Whether you have attended before or not, your presence is always welcome. The session lasts twenty minutes. See you there!

## ❁ **Advent Book Study**

During Advent, we are reading *Cutting for Stone*. This book by Abraham Verghese is a national bestseller and has received much praise around the world. If you haven't picked up a copy, it is not too late to join the Advent Parish Read. We will meet together as a group to discuss the book after Christmas on Sun., Jan. 15, after the 10 a.m. service in the Conference Room.

## ❁ **Lessons and Carols, Dec. 4**

The 10 a.m. service of Lessons and Carols sets the scene for our celebration of Christmas. Held on Sun., Dec. 4, the anthem will be "Holy Is God," the last movement in the first part of Tony Newman's "Angel" Oratorio.

## ❁ **Christmas Brunch, Dec. 4**

The Fellowship Room will be aglow with Christmas cheer and morsels and goodies at the Women of St. Matthew's scrumptious Christmas brunch at 11 a.m. Wreaths and seasonal plants will be for sale to brighten your home for Christmas. Over in the corner, the St. Matthew's Wish Tree will be glistening with stars with the name of an item wished for by someone from Hope's Door, A-HOME, or the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Please take a star and know that you will be making someone else's Christmas merry.

## ❁ **O Christmas Tree! Dec. 3 & 4**

Thanks to Paul and Lindsay Matthews, beautiful freshly harvested Frazier and Douglas fir of all sizes will again be available for sale. Come by on Sat., Dec. 3 and Sun., Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See you in the back parking lot.

## ❁ **Evening Advent Sunday Services, Dec. 4, 11, & 18**

Our Advent Sunday 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist continues throughout December. All are welcome to attend. We have added this service as part of our Praying People focus. The church is called forth by God to pray and we are taking this seriously. The 5 p.m. service is not meant as a substitution to the morning services; rather, our hope is that everyone will come to church in the morning and then return again at 5 p.m. to complete the day. Sunday is the Sabbath and it is meant to be holy and filled with unceasing prayer. Join in and be a praying person. Families and friends are encouraged! Come as you are!

## ❁ **Gingerbread House Decorating, Dec. 10**

Family fun, holiday music, hot apple cider & more! Hosted by St. Matthew's School Parents Association, the gingerbread house decorating party will take place on Sat., Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Suggested donations are \$40 per house. Make checks payable to the St. Matthew's Parents Association, Box 902, Bedford, NY 10506 or call Deanna Marano at 914-205-3255 or e-mail: deannamarano@gmail.com to RSVP.

## ❁ **Festival of Music, Dec. 11**

The Dec. 11 service at 10 a.m. features The Festival of Music and the first part of Handel's Messiah. Our superb professional singers will perform the solos and our excellent volunteers the great choruses. Come and enjoy a treasured St. Matthew's tradition.

## ❁ **Bedford Chamber Christmas Concert, Dec. 14**

On Wed., Dec. 14 at 8 p.m., the third in the 2011–2012 chamber concert series of performances will have a special Christmas treat! First, traditional Christmas tunes, including "Joy to the World," will be played as canons (such as "Frère Jacques" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"). The world premiere of Tony Newman's violin concerto will follow, played by one of our favorite violinists over the years, Yoon Kwon. Mendelssohn's monumental "Violin Concerto in e"—one of the best known violin concertos and the all-time favorite of his compositions—will be played by another of our favorites, Sean Lee, accompanied by members of the Bedford Chamber Ensemble. The Ensemble will feature over a dozen orchestral musicians and will make this Christmas concert a particularly memorable occasion! Tickets are \$40, and can be reserved by calling 914-522-5150 and paid for at the door; alternatively, tickets can be purchased online at [www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org](http://www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org)



## ❁ **Family Christmas Carol Sing and Chili Supper, Dec. 18**

The Second Annual Family Christmas Carol Sing takes place on Sun., Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m. Gather in the Fellowship Room, grab a bowl of chili and sing your favorite Christmas carols. Last year we had a full house. Come and join in the fun and fill the Fellowship Room with music, friendship and the Christmas Spirit. All are welcome – family, friends and neighbors far and near.



## ❁ **Christmas Pageant, Dec. 18 and Rehearsals**

A special treat during the Christmas season is our Church School Christmas Pageant, held this year on Sun., Dec. 18 during the 10 a.m. service. Come enjoy the telling of the Christmas story by our own angels, shepherds and wise men as they celebrate the birth of baby Jesus.

Pageant rehearsals will be held on Sun., Dec. 4 and 11, in the church immediately following the end of the 10 a.m. service and will last half an hour. The younger children act as the friendly beasts, shepherds, angels and handmaidens. The older children take part by reading the Christmas Story, the opening sentences and collects and serving in the roles of Mary, Joseph, and the three wise men.

## ❁ **Traditional Christmas Service at St. Mary's, Dec. 23**

There is no better way to get into the holiday spirit than to attend the traditional St. Mary's Annual Christmas Story and Christmas Carol service at 6 p.m., with the Rev. Dr. Paul S. Briggs, Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church, presiding. It is a service filled with joy and spectacular music, as the congregation is joined by members of the Antioch Chancel Choir to sing traditional Christmas hymns, led by Earl B. Brown, St. Mary's organist.

## ❁ **Pre-Service Christmas Eve Concert, Dec. 24**

On Christmas Eve, at 10:30 p.m. just before the 11 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist service, the choir will sing selections from the Messiah, accompanied by trumpet and timpani.

## ❁ **Christmas Eve Services, Dec. 24**

There will be three services on Christmas Eve: the Manger Service at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and the Festival Holy Eucharist service at 11 p.m.

## ❁ **Christmas Day Service, Dec. 25**

Holy Eucharist will be held at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day

## Mary had a baby...

Whether at Coffee Hour or at the Art Show, or at a delightful evening of music with Tony Newman at a Bedford Chamber Concert, we all get to enjoy the Fellowship Room. This time of year, as we approach



Christmas, the paintings and other works of art on the walls of our great room take on greater significance. Every painting and wall piece depict the nativity scene. Five years ago, as part of that year's "Bicentennial" event, Virginia Thors and Bob Blacker wrote about and photographed much of the artwork in St. Matthew's, including the Fellowship Room nativity scenes. These brief notes are taken from that presentation.

*On the left wall, as you enter the hall are two wall pieces. The first is an enameled terra cotta altarpiece in the style of Andrea Della Robbia; the second is a Renaissance style plaster plaque of Madonna and child with cherubs. The large painting over the mantel is after a 16th century, Netherlandish panel depicting both the annunciation of the shepherds and the nativity. There are two copies (one large and one small) of the famous Raphael Madonna Delle Sedia (Madonna of the Chair), and an additional beautiful Madonna and child painting as you enter the hall on your right.*

*John Stockbridge*

## Art Show: Bedford, Jan. 20 – 22

The 39th Annual Art Show: Bedford will kick off with the Preview Party on Fri., Jan. 20, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, provided by Table of Bedford Hills, will be served. The show and sale will continue throughout the weekend, on Sat., Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Art Show co-chairs are Laura Blau and Laurie Sturz. This year the selection of artwork will have a contemporary flair. Susan Grissom, the manager of Contemporary Art at the Lionheart Gallery in Pound Ridge is the curator of the show and will work with artist Leslie Henshaw.

This major fundraising event, organized by the Women of St. Matthew's, directs 100% of the proceeds to worthy non-profit organizations. Local organizations supported by proceeds from Art Show: Bedford include: Abbott House, The Children's Center at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, The Bridge Fund, The Caring Circle of Hospice Care of Northern Westchester and Putnam, The Community Center of Northern Westchester, Fessenden House, Hospice Care of Northern Westchester, Midnight Run, Mount Kisco Day Care Center and Hope's Door.

Please save this weekend on your calendars, and attend the Preview Party! Tickets are \$95 per person in advance; \$125 at the door. The show is a unique local opportunity to find original artwork, and to support area artists. Many of the artists also attend the Preview Party, so it's a great time to meet and mingle. Look for your invitation in the mail, or call 234-9636 to RSVP.

## Annual Christmas Toy Drive

Please bring an unwrapped gift to church for children whose mothers are incarcerated at the Bedford Correctional Facility. Contact Libba Claude at lclaude@optonline.net or 914-669-5273.



*Planning Committee (l.to r., front to back): Jean Donlon, Laurie Sturz, Laura Blau; Cynthia De Carlo, April Foley, Cindy Dwyer; Robyn McCree, Carolyn John, Leslie Henshaw; Michele Schimmel, Elizabeth Perkins, Jan Pinckney and Christian Daviron.*

## Fall Clean-Up

On Sat., Nov. 12, members of the parish volunteered their morning to prepare the church and its grounds for winter and mount the new Bicentennial plate.



## Crop Walk

The 18th annual Crop Walk was held on Sun., Oct. 30 at the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation despite the "Halloween" snow storm! The Walk raises awareness and funds for fighting hunger, with 25% of the donations going directly to the Katonah Community Center and the Interfaith Food Pantry of Mt. Kisco. This year, St. Matthew's contributed over \$16,000! Five St. Matthew's parishioners (Cliff Lanier and his daughter Hudson, Robert and Poppy Cummings, and Connie Combes) joined a handful of others to participate in this worthwhile effort.



## Christmas Poinsettias Envelope

Please return your Christmas envelope to the Parish Office along with the names of those whom you would like to be remembered this Christmas by Wed., Dec. 21

## Newcomers Cocktail Party

The Newcomers Committee along with the clergy and Vestry welcomed new members to the parish at the home of John and Adèle Talty.



*Host John Talty and Danny Lennox with newcomer Kitty Foley*



*From left to right: Vestry member April Foley, newcomer Cliff Lanier, Head of Welcoming Committee Janet Schloat and Senior Warden Dan de Menocal.*



*From left, John Belknap, Tom LaMotte, newcomer Tom Sullivan and Terry Elsberry.*

Midweek Holy Eucharist on  
Wednesday at 10 a.m.

# December Church Calendar



**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

## Second Sunday of Advent, December 4

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
Altar Guild: Kimberly Morella and Ginger Getz  
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Fagan  
Lay Reader: Mr. Jackson  
Lector: Mr. Cox  
Acolytes: Henry Farrell and Jack Farrell

**10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols, and Church School**  
Ushers: Messrs. Belknap, de Menocal, Cummings, Keller  
Acolytes: Hannah Swift and Emma Boyd  
Junior Crucifers: Maddy Carlson and Bear Fox  
\*Lay Minister: Mr. Conrad

**11:00 a.m. Christmas Brunch**  
**5:00 p.m. Advent Holy Eucharist**  
**Third Sunday of Advent, December 11**

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
Altar Guild: Mesdames Whitman and Meyer  
Ushers: Messrs. MacDonald and Foster  
Lay Reader: Kimberly Morella  
Lector: Mrs. Finn  
Acolytes: Gamble Freyberg and Danielle Kulick

**10:00 a.m. Festival of Music, and Church School**  
Ushers: Messrs. Swift, McCree, Fife, Maybank  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Mr. Thompson  
Acolytes: Will Conway and Harry Woodhull  
Junior Crucifers:  
\*Lay Minister: Ms. Farrell

## Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
Altar Guild: Mrs. Keese  
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Bowers  
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge  
Lector: Mr. Freeman  
Acolytes: William Bae and Meghan Moran

**10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant**  
Ushers: Messrs. Talbot, Lange, Baldwin, Tingue  
Lay Reader:  
Acolytes: Erik Long and Susannah Davies

## Christmas Eve, December 24

**4:00 p.m. Manger Service**  
Ushers: Messrs. Gaynor, Sturz, Mockridge, Taylor; Lee Brown, Scott Brown

**6:00 p.m. Manger Service**  
Ushers: Messrs. Swift, Fife, Baldwin, de Menocal, Lovering, Gourd

**10:30 p.m. Pre-Service Concert**  
**11:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pickney and Sturz  
Ushers: Messrs. Lange, Borner, Blacker, Talty  
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney  
Lector: Mr. Gale  
Acolytes: Christine Owen and Michael Gourd  
Torch Bearers: Chris Gourd and Adrian Crasto

## Christmas Day, December 25

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner  
Ushers: Mr. LaMotte; Roger Vincent  
Lay Reader: Jane Wood  
Acolytes: Evelyn Robinson and Xiaoling Keller

## First Sunday after Christmas, January 1, 2012

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
Altar Guild: Kimberly Morella and Ginger Getz  
Ushers: Messrs. Bogert and Vincent  
Lay Reader: Mr. Claude  
Lector: Mr. Bogert  
Acolytes: Gabby Yablonski, Katrina Yablonski

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Blacker  
Ushers: Messrs. Markowski, Borner, Lovering, Keller  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Allen  
Lector: Mr. Keiser  
Acolytes: Cooper Talty, Mac Talty


## Epiphany Sunday, January 8

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
Altar Guild: Mesdames Whitman and Meyer  
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Bowers  
Lay Reader: Ginger Getz  
Lector: A.J. Heath  
Acolytes: Natalie Harrington, Matthew Harrison

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and Church School**  
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Blacker  
Ushers: Messrs. Burdick, de Menocal, Swift, Freyberg  
Lay Reader: Mary Hamill  
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich  
Acolytes: Brendan McCree, Colin McCree  
Junior Crucifers:  
\*Lay Minister: Mrs. Foster

\*Children's Service

**An Old Friend Will Call You!**  
Unless You Return Your Pledge Card!  
**EMC Phonathon**  
Now, more than ever. Help Support St. Matthew's



## Comings & Goings

### New or Returning Parishioners

Ms. Claire R. Danaher 137 Old Mill Road Greenwich CT 06831	Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Lanier III 183 Long Ridge Road Bedford NY 10506
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### Change of Address

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Proctor 20 Nottingham Road Richmond VA 23221	Mr. & Mrs. W. Creighton Reed 141 Putnam Park Greenwich CT 06830
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Swank 120 Hook Road Bedford NY 10506	

### Holy Baptism

*Received into Christ's Holy Church*  
Tomoya Kano, November 2, 2011  
Grete Lucille Lennox, November 6, 2011  
George Mason Troyer, November 13, 2011

### Holy Matrimony

*May they grow in love and peace with our Lord and one another*  
Eamon O'Tuama & Hanna Choi, October 15, 2011

### In Memoriam

*In sure and certain hope*  
Alexander Taylor Baldwin III, October 12, 2011

## Mark Your Calendars

Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 8	
8 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Fri., Jan. 20	
6:30 – 9 p.m.	Art Show: Bedford Preview Party
Sat., Jan. 21	
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Art Show: Bedford
Sun., Jan. 22	
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Art Show: Bedford