



# THE KEY

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

### BEDFORD N.Y.

April

To know Christ and to make Him known

2018

Most of us trust God with our life ... which is to say ... we trust God to protect us, strengthen us, empower us and sustain us. Trust God to keep the good times rolling and generally keep things rosy for us. The message the church proclaims during the Season of Easter revises these expectations. Resurrection begins by trusting God with something completely different. It's about trusting God with your death. Yes, your death. Emily Dickinson begins one of her poems with this pithy line: "We will die, but that is all we will do for death." Until then, I can trust my death to God as a way to enter the mystery of Easter.

We live because we are free to die ... free by God's love to take death down to its own size and squeeze what's left of its fearful power out of our lives. Easter confronts our deep-seated fear and denial of the power of death; indeed, the reign of death, as well it should, with the declaration that the worst has already been known in our lives. The deaths we have known ... the deaths we are dying now.

In some ways, the whole Christian life is a preparation for death's undoing. It is a journey in the confidence of God to transcend it. It is crafting a life that can let go when the end comes, because it has been completely lived, regardless of how long a life it has been. The one true freedom in life is to come to terms with death, and as early as possible. Death knocks on our doors tempting us to outwit, outflank, out maneuver, and leave everyone in the dust of our success, save only for those we choose to bless with our favor. But the only way we die (and do only that for death) is to lead a life that is good for the whole human family. Lead a good one, full of curiosity, compassion, wisdom, and generosity so there will be no need at the close of the day to rage against the dying of our final light and go gentle into that good night. God holds us in our lives as well as in our deaths, and with each victory over death, God welcomes us home with Easter's joy. The more we do God's will, the less unfinished business we leave behind when we die. Until then, eternal life is not a possession conferred at death, it is a present endowment.

**ARE YOU READY? There will be something for everyone at this year's Bedford Spring Antiques Show which returns to the Harvey School's Athletic Center on Sat., Apr. 14 and Sun., Apr. 15.**

Purchase your tickets for the Opening Night Fiesta on Fri. Apr. 13 HERE:



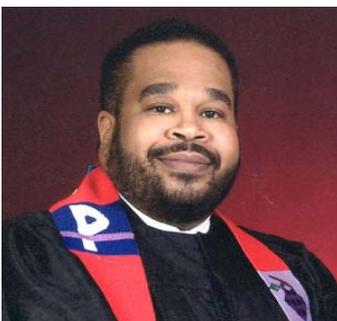
This is a can't miss social event complete with a wine pull and silent auction with some incredible items. Just to name a few: a week's stay at a private castle in England; US Open courtside celebrity seats; and, custom holiday wreaths and garlands curated by interior designer Hadley Scully. The new wine pull offering will feature a selection of the finest vintages from Bedford's private cellars. Take a chance and see what wine you pull. No one goes home empty handed!

Dealers from across the East Coast will have displays at this year's show. Since the show first opened its doors in 1986, it has been recognized by a loyal clientele that returns year after year to shop a beautiful and well-arranged mix of exceptional antique furniture, fine art prints, estate jewelry, silver, china, crystal and decorative accessories from various periods and at various price points. On Sun. Apr. 15, we have a special event planned called Bubbles and Bloodies at 11:15 a.m. Come back to the show following the 10 a.m. service and enjoy food, libations and shop for the treasures you saw at the preview party!

Many thanks to Kathy Abbott show manager and to our amazing party chairs, Christina Bresani, Anne Citrin, and Char Ryan and the entire committee for pulling together an exciting show.

## Celtic Evensong at the 5 p.m.

On Sun., Apr. 29, Celtic Evensong returns to the Children's Chapel at the 5 p.m. service. Come unwind towards the end of your Sabbath day and experience a new way of worship within our Episcopal tradition that is proving quite popular across the whole Church. Originally developed at St. Stephen's in Richmond VA, Celtic Evensong (with Eucharist) looks back towards our more ancient roots of worship, while developing the liturgy for a more contemporary congregation. And this month, this will all be served up along with the music of our very own Mark Weigel and Chloe Carrozza on cello.



Rev. Merle McJunkin

## Two Guest Preachers at the 10 a.m. this month

We are delighted to welcome not one, but two guest preachers in the month of April. On Sun., Apr. 15, we will welcome the Rev. Merle McJunkin, Pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford Hills, and on Sun., Apr. 22, we welcome Jack Marth, Director of Programs at POTS (Part of the Solution), in the Bronx. We are excited to hear them speak, and encourage you to come along to hear them preach the Word - and then join them at celebratory coffee hours after the main service on those days!



Jack Marth

## Important Rector Search Committee Update

The Vestry would like to thank the members of the Rector Search Committee (RSC) for their dedication, their thoroughness and the great effort that they have put forth for St. Matthew's Church.

Last June, the Vestry charged the members of the RSC with the very large task of searching for our next Rector, including:

- Creating a Parish survey
- Developing a Parish profile
- Conducting focus groups and periodic "town hall" sessions
- Conducting an exhaustive search for rector candidates, including interviews and on-site visits.
- Listening to one another, being prayerful, discerning, and accountable
- Submitting to the Vestry the names and profiles of 3 final candidates

With the leadership of Roger Vincent and Peter Keller the Search Committee has completed all of the above tasks in a timely and efficient manner. On Sun., Mar. 11, the RCS submitted the names and profiles of three outstanding Rector candidates to the Vestry.

It is now up to the Vestry to meet with each candidate, study their profiles, and determine who would be the best fit for our church going forward. The Vestry has invited each of the 3 candidates to St. Matthew's in early April and we are hopeful that a decision will be reached by early Spring.

We would like to close on an important note. We have heard from the candidates themselves that the process that they have gone through to apply as our next Rector has been an excellent experience for them. They praised the members of the Rector Search Committee for their professionalism, their kindness and their grace. They expressed that the members of the Search Committee have each shone a light upon St. Matthew's Church. It is with deep gratitude that we thank: Dale Akinla, Tina Foster, Greg Gaynor, Alison Gregory, Peter Keller, Meredith Kent, Sophie Kernan, Sally Ketchum, Jack Lange, Robyn McCree, Mike Struble, Roger Vincent, and Caroline Walker

*Dan de Menocal and Suzanne Bowers*

## Church School In April

April 8: Jesus Forgives His Enemies.

April 15: Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

April 22: Jesus on the Road Toward Emmaus.

April 29: Jew and Gentile: Peter Meets Cornelius.

Lent was an exciting season in Church School. The children brought home mite boxes to be filled with their earnings and donations to benefit Hour Children, a program supporting families of women incarcerated in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Palm cross making took place on Mar. 18 and were distributed to parishioners on Palm Sunday. Connie and deRaismes Combes designed another spectacular egg hunt for the children following the Easter Saturday family service. A joyful celebration for all church families!



Our March lessons focused on the stories leading to Jesus' death. During April and May, leading to Pentecost, we will focus on His message in the years that followed. We continue with a curriculum supporting the same lesson for all children providing a younger version for 3rd grade and below and an older version for grades 4-7. Three all-school communion services are scheduled for Apr. 8, May 6 and June 3.

## Bedell Fund Committee Update

As many of you may already know, St. Matthew's Bedell Committee, with Vestry approval, administers a grant program established in 1996 by a substantial bequest from Hope Bedell. Over the years, the Bedell fund has distributed almost \$3.2 million in grants to 31 churches. The grants are to be used for one-time capital projects or seed money, rather than for general operating costs, with primary focus, though not exclusive, for churches in Region II (Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties) of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. One of our grants in 2017, to Christ Church, Warwick, is particularly indicative of the program's objective to leverage Bedell funds to assist stable and growing churches be able to meet capital needs and continue to flourish.



Christ Church is a vibrant church in a small town that is about 60 miles northwest of NYC. The rector, Fr. Jim Erwin, has led the parish for five years, and membership has been growing, particularly with the closing of a nearby parish in northern NJ. The chapel (dating to 1866) was restored in 1988 and is still in fine condition. The parish house (which dates to 1976), was no longer adequate to support the church's offices and various programming—including Sunday school, a weekly breakfast ministry, and a longstanding (48-year-old!) thrift shop.

The church had already raised over \$800,000 in funding for Phase I of the renovation and expansion of the parish house, which included kitchen renovation, reconfiguration and expansion of the fellowship room, access for the handicapped, and integration with the gothic design and flow of the church. Phase II, which included the addition of second floor rooms for church school, was to be deferred until additional funds were available.

The Bedell grant of \$140,000 allowed the church to proceed with the key parts of both phases simultaneously, saving significant amounts of time, money and disruption to their outreach programs. Construction began in spring 2017 and parishioners celebrated Christmas in their "new" parish house. With this grant, we were able to support a vital church within the diocese in a very significant way, leveraging the funds already contributed by the parishioners and the diocese.

## A Weekend to Serve: POTS

On Palm Sunday, the Deeks family, Alex and Philip Bolen, June Blanc, James Hancock and Madeleine Brown and her friends and teacher from school spent an afternoon at POTS (Part of the Solution) in the Bronx serving a fresh, nutrition lunch to 424 people. This was the same weekend as Midnight Run - a St. Matthew's Weekend to Serve.



## Women of St. Matthew's Apr. 24

The Women of St. Matthew's will meet on Tues., Apr. 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the Vestry Room. We will be covering many topics, including outreach and plans for the remainder of the year. All women of the parish are automatically a member of WSM, so do come to the meeting and share your views!

## Bethlehem Film and Gaza Q&A, Apr. 21



As Herb Foster once told me, “You can’t believe everything you read in the newspaper.” He was talking about something that happened to him and he knew the facts. But it is also happens for news of the Middle East. The vision of Bethlehem envisioned by the words of the popular Christmas carol is quite different from today’s reality of walls and settlements, and the people of Gaza have a compelling story to tell. Come see the sites as recorded by a filmmaker who returned to her family’s home in Bethlehem in the hope of advancing the peace process, and meet a young man who came to the US for college and has not been allowed to return to visit his family in Gaza.

Bethlehem was 60 percent Christian in 1990, but today the Christian population is only 15 percent Christian, and 1,000 Christians leave every year. The Christian numbers in Gaza are even more appalling. Not only is this an assault on our Baptismal vows to spread the Good News, but both Bethlehem and Jerusalem are models for inter-faith peace, and reports predict that if this trend continues, the Christian community will be unsustainable within one generation. The Episcopal Diocese is based in Jerusalem and owns and operates the only Christian hospital in Gaza. Can we do anything but sit back and watch?

The viewing of the 90-minute film will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m., followed by a short talk and a brief question and answer period led by a now US citizen and Gazan native, as well as adult refreshments.

## Update on Church Restoration

We now have a signed contract, a firm start date and a much-shortened target completion date!

Over the past six months, our Restoration Sub-Committee has been examining alternate methods of achieving our restoration goals – shoring up our foundation, replacing the aging heating system with a new efficient HVAC system, masonry repairs and drainage improvement, roof replacement, electrical and plumbing upgrades, refinishing the floor and repairing and painting the interior surfaces. The Restoration Sub-Committee has been carefully defining the scope and methods of work to manage our restoration costs and we are now ready to commence the Church restoration.

Restoration work will begin May 1st. There will be some pre-preparation work needed, particularly asbestos abatement in the basement, that may begin before the May 1 start date. The work is expected to be substantially complete by Labor Day. The work will not require the Church to be closed for services during most of the restoration period. During the latter part of July and through August, our “slow” summer period, the building will be closed to complete the carpentry, interior painting, refinishing of the floor and carpet installation. During this period, we will hold worship services in the Chapel-in-the-Woods or the Children’s Chapel as we did last summer. There may, however, be an occasional need to limit access to the Church, but we will have ample notice if this is required.

Additionally, we will also be reviewing improvements that will be needed for the Rectory as recommended by Keith Kroeger. We expect that these improvements should begin once the Rectory is vacant later this summer. Also, we will attend to several Pre-school and Church School safety recommendations.

I would like to thank our Restoration Sub-Committee, Kathy Brenner, Camillo Santomero and John Walker for getting us to this critical stage. They have been the force behind finding the better way to achieve our initial Campaign objectives and, as a result, have brought the cost of this project to a manageable number. Thanks also go to Jim Markowski for his work on negotiating the contract.

*Dan de Menocal*

## Bedford Chamber Concerts, Apr. 18 —Symphonic Music for Small Ensembles

The April concert will feature the first performances of two compositions by Anthony Newman—his Overture and Concerto for Trumpet and Strings—as well as Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor, Op.34, and Mozart’s Serenata Notturna in D major (K.239).

Anthony Newman describes his own concerto as “a modern neoclassical work much like a concerto of Vivaldi—short and to the point, with melodies that are sing-able. It is in typical baroque style: slow movement, fast movement, slow movement, fast movement, with the trumpet part unusually high and brilliant. It is dedicated to David Glukh, who edited and improved the trumpet part.”

The Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor (Op.34) was initially written in 1862 as a string quintet with two cellos. The final version, composed in 1864 for piano and string quartet, remains one of his most popular chamber works.

The Serenata Notturo in D major—the Serenade No. 6 for Orchestra, K.239—was written by Mozart in 1776. It is one of 13 serenades, and, like his others, were instrumental pieces that were performed indoors. It will be performed by a string quartet, piano, and double bass.

The Bedford Chamber Ensemble for this concert comprises Renée Jolles and Emily-Anne Gendron, violin; Danielle Farina, viola; Alexis Gerlach, cello; Stephan Sas, double bass; David Glukh, trumpet; and Anthony Newman, piano.

Tickets (\$40.00) can be reserved by phone at 914-522-5150 and paid for at the door, or ordered online at [www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org](http://www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org) or as part of a series subscription. Student tickets, which can only be purchased at the door, cost \$10. Families with younger children can attend rehearsals—starting at 6 p.m.—for free. The concert starts at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Delicious treats are provided by the Music Committee at intermission.



## Midnight Run

On Saturday evening, Mar. 24, a group from St. Matthew’s completed another successful Midnight Run thanks to the generosity of so many across the parish. Among those who participated,

Keeley, Scott and Brady Johnston, Mark Carson, Molly Friedrich, Nando Carson and Dovran Meredov, Erik and Emma Soderberg, Drew and John Gregory, Will Gourd and Dan Moore loaded up their vans with food,



clothing and other supplies to distribute among the homeless across Manhattan. Thank you to all who donated generously to make it possible and special thanks to those who helped prepare and donated food, etc., including Tina Foster, Caroline Shephard, Marilen Tilt, Robyn McCree, Linda de Menocal, Janet Schloat, Traci, Alex, Nancy Vincent, Nancy Wise and Amanda Griffin, and Lily and Cora Moore. See you on the next run!!

Midweek Holy Eucharist and Bible Study on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

# April Church Calendar



St. Matthew's Church  
Pierce Klemmt, Interim Rector  
382 Cantitoe Street P.O. Box 293  
Bedford, N.Y. 10506  
(914) 234-9636  
[www.stmatthewsbedford.org](http://www.stmatthewsbedford.org)

## Easter Day, Sunday, April 1

### 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Easter Service

Altar Guild: Mrs. Reeder  
Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Fagan  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder  
Lector: Mrs. Tilt  
Acolyte: Henry Weigel

### 9:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz  
Ushers: Messrs. Ketchum, LaMotte, Sturz and Swift  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi  
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich

Acolytes: Trip Brown, Brady Johnston, Clara & Sam Pakman

### 11:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner  
Ushers: Messrs. Belknap, Hancock, Kim and Moore  
Lay Reader: Mr. Heath  
Lector: Mason Santomero  
Acolytes: Ben & Brayton Howard, Mason Santomero, Harry Whitman

### 5:00 p.m. No Service

## Second Sunday of Easter, April 8

### 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Altar Guild: Mesdames MacDonald and Reed  
Ushers: Messrs. MacDonald and Vincent  
Lay Reader: Mr. Jackson  
Lector: Mr. Vincent  
Acolytes: Will and Evan O'Brien

### 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Ushers: Messrs. Ketchum, LaMotte, Sturz and Swift  
Lay Reader: Mr. Brown  
Acolytes: Amelia Frelinghuysen and Lucy McGinnis

### 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel

Lay Assistant: Cliff Belknap

## Third Sunday of Easter, April 15

### 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt  
Ushers: Messrs. Foster and Reed  
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge  
Lector: Mrs. Tilt  
Acolyte: Luke Breitenecker

### 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz  
Ushers: Messrs. Belknap, Hancock, Kim and Moore  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster  
Lector: Mason Santomero  
Acolyte: John Gregory

### 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel

Lay Assistant: Maggie Parsons

## Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 22

### 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott  
Ushers: Messrs. Bolen and Bowers  
Lay Reader: Ms. Getz  
Lector: Mrs. Talty  
Acolyte: Alexandra Griffin

### 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Ushers: Messrs. S. Brown Jr., Eshoo, Ryan and Scully  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson  
Acolyte: Charlie Gaynor

### 5:00 p.m. Celtic Evensong and Eucharist, Children's Chapel

Lay Assistant: Alexandra Paul

## Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 29

### 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Altar Guild: Mrs. Boe  
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Reeder  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan  
Lector: Philip Bolen  
Acolyte: Cliff Belknap

### 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner  
Ushers: Messrs. Cameron, Garten, Keller and Miller  
Lay Reader: Mr. Kim  
Lector: Mr. Firth  
Acolyte: Jack Foote

### 5:00 p.m. Celtic Evensong Eucharist, Children's Chapel

Lay Assistant: Elizabeth Deeks

## Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 6

### 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Altar Guild: Ms. Getz and Ms. Morella  
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Bolen  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder  
Lector: Mr. Bogert  
Acolytes: Will & Evan O'Brien

### 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner  
Ushers: Messrs. Cummings, Foosee, Gaynor and Kent  
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi  
Lector: Mrs. Finn  
Acolytes: Clara and Sam Pakman

### 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel

Lay Assistant: Ella Miller

\*\*Children's Service

## June Mission Trip: A Return to Newburgh!

Don't forget the June Mission Trip, open this year to all members of the parish, which will return to Newburgh across the Hudson for three mornings, Tues., June 26 through Thurs., June 28. Those 16 and over will work with the fantastic folks at Habitat Newburgh, while the under-16s will work at the Downing Park Urban Farm. We will then each day gather together for a delicious lunch by the river, before heading home to Bedford. Please do register your interest with Rik ASAP, as space is limited!

## Bible Study Retreat To Holy Cross Monastery

On Tues., Mar. 13, members from the Wednesday Bible Study group headed up to Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY for an overnight retreat and enjoyed the



hospitality of the Benedictine monks who call this vibrant and thriving monastic community home. The group of 12 souls met twice with Brother Peter, to talk about the life of a monk, and the writings and wisdom of Thomas Merton, the much-loved American Cistercian monk. Much fun and relaxation was had by all, along with good food and fellowship. We hope to return in 2019!