



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

December

To know Christ and to make Him known

2017

We Are in Good Hands

Everyone knows that leading a church during a time of transition and change is one of the most difficult tasks clergy, staff and vestry face. In addition, there is no small taxing of the congregation. We can get glimpses of the future, yet there are many unknowns. Uncertainty can cause reluctance among parishioners, who decide to "wait it out" until things gel. Many vestries resort to short cuts or implement novel strategies for a quick fix. Happily, none of this is happening at St. Matthew's. While the whitewaters of change we are facing are unprecedented, nearly everywhere, the transition process by which we move through the uncharted is well mapped. St. Matthew's is in the sure hands of navigators with experience and innovation to get from one stage to the next. Practicing transition management is an art form known and well rehearsed by your vestry and staff. Most of all, there is acknowledgement about how defeating it can be to try to overcome people's resistance to uncertainty without addressing the threat that change poses to their expectation that the church should be the ballast in a time of gale-like conditions. Practicing transition management taps into an innate wisdom your leadership has sharpened through the years, and recruits tools and openness to learn and implement decisions that will sustain the momentum toward the promise of what will be next.

From this Interim Rector's wheelhouse, we are all in good hands. There will be many opportunities for you to weigh in on the future. Make an effort to join in the dinners and other gatherings intended to update you and listen for your input and guidance as our parish profile leads to the installation of a new Rector. In addition, pray and boldly make your financial pledge. We cannot do this transition well without you.

Stewardship Drive

In the midst of your Christmas giving, please don't forget to return your pledge card, or pledge online at www.stmatthewsbedford.org/annualstewardshipdrive. Every dollar matters, and we are depending on you.

The Wish Tree

While you're at the Christmas Brunch on Dec. 3, please visit the beautiful Christmas tree set up in the corner. It will be shining with stars. This is our Wish Tree, and each tree holds a wish of an adult from A-Home, Hope's Door, or a child from Hour Children, who are children of mothers incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Please take a star and return the unwrapped gift by Dec. 10, so all gifts can be wrapped and delivered before Christmas Day.



Christmas at St. Matthew's

It is the magnificent season of Advent at St. Matthews. The word advent is derived from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming" or "visit," and, indeed there many events coming up for parishioners to enjoy this wonderful time of year. Mark your calendars!

Wreath Making – Fri., Dec. 1, 10 a.m. at the home of Phillis Warden.

Come and enjoy a morning of fun and fellowship while creating beautiful Christmas wreaths. Please bring along any greenery from your gardens to decorate the pre-made wreaths.

Christmas Tree Sale - Sat., Dec. 2 and Sun., Dec. 3. Beautiful freshly harvested Frazier and Douglas firs of all sizes will be available for sale in the back parking lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. These trees are incredibly fresh – come early!

Advent Quiet Afternoon, Sat., Dec. 2 Follow the Star - Deacon Elena will lead us as we seek God's path through this beautiful, timeless season, 1-4 p.m. including lunch. Email: elbarnum@gmail.com to sign up.

Advent Lessons & Carols, Sun., Dec. 3. Enjoy the traditional readings that tell of the coming of Christ and sing the lovely carols of the season.

5 p.m. Advent Festival of Lessons & Music, Dec. 3 – Come hear the Advent message of hope and salvation in the Children's Chapel, with Mark Weigel leading our musical offering.

Christmas Brunch, Sun., Dec. 3 There is no better way to get into the Christmas spirit than by coming to the annual St. Matthew's Christmas Brunch, Dec. 3, after the 10 a.m. service. The Women of St. Matthew's will fill the Fellowship Room with beautiful poinsettias, magnificently decorated wreaths, plants, gifts, and a delightful brunch. And, keep a look out for that jolly elf.

Wish Tree, Sun., Dec. 3. Take a star from the St. Matthew's Wish Tree and brighten the Christmas of someone from Hope's Door, A-Home, or a child whose mother is incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

Festival of Music Service, Sun., Dec. 10. This 10 a.m. service features the first part of Handel's Messiah and other Christmas music, offered by our superb choir, with professional singers performing the solos, all led by our great music master, Tony Newman

Bedford Chamber Christmas Concert, Wed., Dec. 13. Don't miss the complete Brandenburg Concerti, performed by the sixteen-member Bedford Chamber Ensemble. Reserve early for this sellout performance. Ticket: \$45.

Christmas Pageant, Sun., Dec. 17. At the 10 a.m. service, come enjoy the Christmas story performed by our Church School children as they fill the parts of the Holy Family, friendly beasts, angels and wise men.

St. Mary's Christmas Service, Saturday, Dec. 23. Christmas story and carol service at 5:30 p.m., with Antioch Pastor Merle McJunkin and representatives of the Antioch Choir.

Christmas Eve Services, Sunday Dec. 24

4 & 6 p.m. Manger Services

9:45 p.m. Pre-Service Concert

10 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

2018 Art Show: Bedford— 45th Year!

To celebrate its 45th anniversary, Art Show: Bedford will return to its original venue at Bedford Historical Hall. The show kicks off with the Preview Party on Fri., Jan. 19, and the Exhibition continues on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20 and 21. The show then reopens the following weekend, on Friday, Jan. 26, and on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 27 and 28. As ever, proceeds from the show provide support for both local artists and local charities. The 2018 Chair of Art Show: Bedford is Laura Blau.

The Friday night Preview Party, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. will be catered by Happiness Is. Their generous hors d'oeuvres spread will be accompanied by champagne, wine and beer, adding sparkle to the festivities. Live (and lively!) music will be provided by Mark Weigel's band, DogBone.

About 30 artists will participate in this year's show, selling paintings, photographs and sculpture, along with pottery and glass items. Works range from contemporary to traditional styles, and everyone can find something appealing. There will be moveable sculptures displayed by Drew Klotz, paintings by Jane Cooper, and pottery by Paul Briggs. Several artists who were in past Historical Hall shows are returning, including Carol Bouyoucos and Leslie Wortmann.

Judges for the 2018 Art Show include Darsie Alexander, executive director of Katonah Museum of Art; and Peter MacGill of Pace/MacGill Gallery in Manhattan, which specializes in contemporary photography.

Parish participation is always important for the Art Show since it is the major annual fundraiser organized by the Women of St. Matthew's, with proceeds benefiting at least 20 local charities.

Dates and hours are as follows:

Fri., Jan. 19	6:30 – 9 p.m.	Preview Party
Sat./Sun., Jan 20 & 21	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Exhibit and Sale
Fri., Jan. 26	1 – 5 p.m.	Exhibit and Sale
Sat./Sun., Jan. 27 & 28	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Exhibit and Sale

Admission to the show and sale is free.

Please highlight both Art Show weekends on your calendars, and don't miss the Preview Party since it will be a grand celebration of the show's 45th anniversary.

Tickets are \$125 in advance; \$150 at the door. Invitations arrive in early December, so be on the lookout, and RSVP for the party as soon as possible. As Art Show:Bedford approaches, visit www.artshowbedford.org for updated information.

Nancy Dexter



45th Annual Art Show: Bedford committee members (l. to r.): Nancy Dexter, Susannah Swanson, Show chair Laura Blau, Laurie Sturz, Robyn McCree, Betsy Meyer and Tara Deeks. Missing committee members are: Katherine Bang, Cynthia Brennan, Claire Christ, Mary Farley, April Foley, Leslie Henshaw, Carolyn John and Dorothy Lanier. Photo taken by Kelly Napolitano.

Bedford Chamber Christmas Concert, Wed., Dec. 13

Start your Christmas season with the complete Brandenburg Concerti, performed by the sixteen-member Bedford Chamber Ensemble. Among the best-loved concert music of the holiday season, the Brandenburg Concerti of Johann Sebastian Bach are individually and collectively the most popular instrumental works of this great master. Although familiar individually, they are rarely performed together. Each of the six concerti has a different flavor and solo instruments. The Bedford Chamber Ensemble will be led by Anthony Newman on harpsichord and the sixteen instrumentalists will be: Cyrus Beroukhim, Renée Jolles, and Jesse Mills on violin; Danielle Farina, William Hakim, and Melissa Reardon on viola; Arash Amini, Alexis Gerlach, and Alberto Parrini on cello; Stephen Sas on bass; Michelle Farah and Roni Gal-Ed on oboe; Samuel Jones and Maximilian Morel on trumpet; and Alex Sopp and Andrew Rehrig on flute.

Concerts are held in the Fellowship Room of the Parish House and begin at 8 p.m. Tickets (\$45) may be reserved by phone (914-522-5150) or purchased on the BCC website, www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org.

This is a sell-out concert, so be sure to make your reservations promptly. Plentiful and seasonal food will be served at intermission.

New Vestry Member

The Vestry would like to announce that after nearly 7 years of service, Patrick Brennan is stepping down from the Vestry due to his work schedule and eventual move to eastern Long Island. Patrick has been a key member of the Vestry and was instrumental in researching and developing the Church restoration project, spending countless hours with architects and engineers to get us to where we are now on this important project. His knowledgeable input on all property and building related issues has been invaluable. Patrick will be sorely missed and we appreciate all the time and effort he has given to St. Matthew's for so many years. We wish him and his family all the best for their next chapter in life.

The Vestry has elected Scott Brown to fill the remaining two months of Patrick's term and we are thrilled that he has accepted. Scott's commitment to the parish is evidenced by his participation as a lay reader for both our children's service and our regular service, his service as an usher, as a former Bedell Committee member as well as many behind the scenes efforts. We welcome Scott to the Vestry and look forward to his input as we continue to work through our interim period.

Dan de Menocal/Suzanne Bowers



Thanks to all the hardy parishioners who made our Fall Clean-up successful.



Women of St. Matthew's

By now we hope you have received your dues letter in the mail. Your donation helps fund our operating expenses, allowing us to donate more of the proceeds from our fundraising efforts directly to the charities we support. We appreciate the help you give us.

A Busy Month for Church School

December Lessons:

- Dec. 3: The Eyes of the Blind Shall be Opened & God's Kingdom of Peace
- Dec. 10: Jesus Is Born for Us
- Dec. 17: Pageant

The children paraded through Church in the All Saints celebration on Nov. 5. Mark Weigel led them in our annual tradition of "I Sing a Song for the Saints of God" and "When the Saints Go Marching In", while each child carried the banner of a chosen saint. They continued to the Children's Chapel for the first all-school communion of the year led by Scott Brown and Rik Pike. Rik discussed how everyday people can be recognized for saintly behavior, whether they are doctors, teachers or parents.

Thanksgiving Ingathering bags were distributed on the second Sunday of the month, with the younger grades decorating turkeys in class to attach to the bags. They discussed the importance of helping families unable to afford a full holiday meal, and all church school children were encouraged to return bags with suggested foods. The following week, the "turkey corral" was on display in the Fellowship Room to return filled bags for the Outreach Committee to distribute. This is a wonderful project for young parishioners because they relate to the need of hungry children and the importance of family celebration. Members of all sorts contribute to this project and the parish-wide support is greatly appreciated.

There will be two pageant practices, Dec. 3 and 10 after the 10:00 service. If your child plans to be in the Christmas Pageant on Dec. 17 at 10:00, please attend at least one practice. On the day of the pageant, many parent volunteers will be needed to help with costumes and to guide participants. All children ages 3 through 7th grade are invited to take part.

December at the 5 p.m: the Return of our Cellist, Chloe Carrozza, and Advent Festival of Lessons and Music

On Sun., Dec. 3, we will continue the tradition of celebrating our Advent Festival of Lessons and Music to complement the earlier Lessons & Carols of the day in the main church. Come listen to the Advent story and to Mark's merry music-making, as together we witness the beginning of the season of Advent. We are also excited to welcome Chloe Carrozza back to the Children's Chapel on Sunday, Dec. 17 at the 5 p.m. service. Come enjoy her mastery of the cello as we worship together and celebrate our last 5 p.m. Advent service before the coming of Christmas.



Confirmation Class

After our Commissioning of the Confirmands on Oct 22, I'm delighted to report we have a class of 15 eighth graders this year. We have just begun our Confirmation Classes, which this year take place Sundays at 4 p.m. Between December and April we will have ten classes together, and we'll then begin our final preparations for Confirmation Sunday on June 3. Some key dates to note for our year within this parish family include:

- Sun., May 6 - Sponsorship Dinner at 6 p.m.
- Sun., May 13 - Sermon Sunday at 11 a.m.
- Sun., June 3 - Confirmation Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Sun., June 10 - Confirmation-led Service at 10 a.m.

Rik

The Presence of Tom Reilly

On Sunday, Nov. 19, Tom and Alice Reilly were honored in a dedication ceremony naming the superintendent's cottage "The Reilly Cottage."

Tom and Alice's gratitude and love for St. Matthew's began in 1969 the moment Rev. Arthur Hargate and Senior Warden Tom Keesee offered Tom a job and the couple a house. The couple desperately needed a home to care for seven nieces and nephews they took in upon the death in a car accident of the children's parents. Tom's sister was married to Alice's brother.

Tom served as Sexton and Superintendent of St. Matthew's for 36 years, retiring in 2004. Longtime parishioners recall Tom's Sunday morning cheerful greeting on the portico, attired in his signature sexton's cape and with his shock of white hair. At Art Show: Bedford and the Bedford Antiques Show Tom was a familiar presence greeting attendees with his ready smile and Irish wit. For many parishioners and for many years, Tom was the face of St. Matthew's.

Tom died in 2006. Alice survived him and died in May of this year. Although devout Catholics, at their wish they are interred at St. Matthew's sharing a headstone in a plot given by the Churchyard Commission. Parishioners who treasure the serenity of our Churchyard likely will have encountered the granite bench also given in Tom's memory. In a tradition begun by Dan de Menocal, ushers since Tom's death add one to the attendance count at every service for the "presence of Tom Reilly."

In gratitude for Tom and Alice's service, in 1994 parishioners raised a purse to assist them in their aging years. These donations funded the Reilly Trust. Under the terms of the Trust, any funds that remained following Tom and Alice's deaths were to be given to St. Matthew's. In keeping with the enduring "presence of Tom Reilly" it is fitting that the financial legacy Tom and Alice have left to increase the permanent endowment of St. Matthew's is an amount greater than the total of the parishioner gifts that originally funded the Trust.

Mary Farley, Piers MacDonald, Roger Vincent



Presenting the Reilly Trust Funds, from left, Roger Vincent, Piers MacDonald, Pierce Klemmt, Mary Farley, Suzanne Bowers and Dan De Menocal

Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Dec. 16

The highlight of culinary delights is the annual Men's Fellowship Christmas Breakfast. Come on Sat., Dec. 16 at 7:30 a.m. for an unbelievable repast and the best of fellowship. You will be cheerfully nourished and depart at 9 a.m. full of Christmas spirit, well fortified to tackle your Yuletide chores. Come dine ye merry gentlemen; let nothing keep you away!

Poinsettias

Our church will be filled with poinsettias at Christmas – remembrances of our loved ones no longer with us. Please return the donation envelope with their names by Monday, Dec. 11.



December Church Calendar



First Sunday of Advent, December 3

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Fagan
Lay Reader: Ms. Getz
Lector: Mrs. Tilt
Acolyte: James Hancock

10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols and All School Communion
Ushers: Messrs. de Menocal, Eshoo, Ryan and Sturz
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lectors: Mrs. Ehrlich, Mrs. Finn and Mr. Gale
Acolytes: Clara and Sam Pakman
**Lay Minister: Mrs. Tisi

5:00 p.m. Advent Festival of Lessons & Music, Children's Chapel
Altar Guild: Mrs. Sturz
Lay Assistants: Emily and Matthew Hutchings

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Altar Guild: Mesdames Reed and Whitman
Ushers: Messrs. Reed and MacDonald
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Freeman
Acolyte: Ella Miller

10:00 a.m. Festival of Music and Church School
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson
Ushers: Messrs. Lange, Garten, Gaynor and Hancock
Acolytes: Charlie Gaynor and Sophia Garten
**Lay Minister: Mrs. Reeder

5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel
Altar Guild: Mrs. Meyer
Lay Assistant: Elizabeth Deeks

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Sturz
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Bogert
Acolyte: Emma Soderberg

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant
Ushers: Messrs. Fooshee, Miller, Moore and Scully
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster

5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel
Altar Guild: Mrs. Walker
Lay Assistant: George Marcogliese

Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 p.m. Manger Service
Ushers: Messrs. Garten, Gaynor, Mockridge, Sturz, Foster and Fagan

6:00 p.m. Manger Service
Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Burdick, de Menocal, Hancock, Swift and Lovering

9:45 p.m. Pre-Service Trumpet Concert
10:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Borner, and Robinson
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Firth
Acolytes: Harry Whitman, Sofia Soderberg and John Gregory

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner
Ushers: Messrs. Lange and Keller
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
**No Children's Service

First Sunday after Christmas, December 31

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Altar Guild: Mrs. Boe
Ushers: Messrs. Vincent and Fagan
Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan
Lector: Mr. Vincent

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. de Menocal and Garten
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich
**No Children's Service

5:00 p.m. No 5:00 p.m. service

First Sunday after the Epiphany (Epiphany Sunday), January 7, 2018

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Fagan
Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder
Lector: Mr. Firth

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and All School Communion
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Belknap, Borner and Burdick
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Brown
Lector: Ms. Swanson

5:00 p.m. Epiphany Eucharist, Children's Chapel
Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner

**Children's Service

Comings & Goings

Change of Address:

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Gaynor
21 Seminary Road
Bedford, NY 10506

Holy Baptism

Received into Christ's Holy Church
Cannon Gleason Nardini – November 19, 2017
Turin Jean Nardini – November 19, 2017

In Memoriam

In sure and certain hope
Josephine (Josy) Harrison Evarts – October 27, 2017

Middle School Youth Group Outing

On October 22nd, a group of middle schoolers and adult chaperones enjoyed an after church lunch together at Red Rooster and a friendly, competitive round of mini-golf. The outing wasn't about winning and losing; it was about the bonding and friendships that were strengthened over the afternoon. We plan to return to Red Rooster in the Spring. Hope to see you there!



Newcomers – Thanks to Caroline and John Walker for hosting the Newcomer's Party at their house.

