



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

December

To know Christ and to make Him known

2018

A Christmas Message from the Rector

Christmas is coming. Perhaps those words come to you as good news. But it may be that they fill you with stress. My hunch is that it's more a combination of the two: You love Christmas, but aren't yet ready for it. The great Phillips Brooks knew this well, and, in his classic hymn, put it succinctly: "our hopes and fears...are met in Thee tonight." The good news is that Christmas will arrive, and Christ will be born again in our hearts, regardless of whether or not you are 100% ready on Dec. 24th.

I wonder where the story will come to life for you this year? Maybe it will be the infant in the manger (who doesn't love a baby?), or Mary's patience (she endured so much!), or Joseph's humility (the ultimate second fiddle)? Maybe it will be the oft-forgotten shepherds who were first to be let in on the glad tidings (God often speaks in unexpected places.)? Maybe it will be the music, and the singing of the angels (*Silent Night*), or the long, difficult journey of the Magi and God's steering of them... Wherever it is, the old, old story comes to meet us once again. And who doesn't need to be met by God in the midst of the day-to-day bustle of life?

Years ago, I brought my newborn daughter, Daphne, to a Communion Service at a retirement home in Charleston. I let each of the elderly parishioners hold her, and many of them had not held a baby in years. They embraced her with such tenderness. They couldn't help but do so when they were presented with the child. Let us take a page out of their book this year, as we "let the little child come in." *Amen.*

46th Annual Art Show: Bedford Spans Two Weekends: Jan. 25-27 & Feb. 1-3, 2019

The 46th Annual Art Show: Bedford will begin with the Preview Party in the Fellowship Room on Fri., Jan. 25, followed by the Exhibition and Sale on Sat., Jan 26 and Sun., Jan. 27. The show will reopen on Fri., Feb. 1, and continue through Sun., Feb. 3. Art Show: Bedford is a juried show that features collector quality artwork and crafts created by artists from this region. The proceeds of the show support many local nonprofits that benefit needy and marginalized persons throughout Westchester.

Tara Deeks and Susannah Swanson are co-chairing the 2019 event, assisted by a committee of able volunteers. Christopher

Continued on page 5

Christmas at St. Matthew's

It is the magnificent season of Advent at St. Matthew's. 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!

Christmas Tree Sale, Sat., Dec. 1 and Sun., Dec. 2: Beautiful freshly harvested Fraser 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!

Christmas Brunch, Sun., Dec. 2: There is no better way to get into the Christmas spirit than by coming to the annual St. Matthew's Christmas Brunch, Dec. 2, 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.

Wish Tree, Sun., Dec. 2: 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.

Advent Lessons & Carols, Sun., Dec. 9: At the 8 & 10 a.m. services, enjoy the traditional readings that tell of the coming of Christ and sing the lovely carols of the season. At the 5 p.m. service of Festival of Carols & Carols, all the holiday readings and spirited singing of the Christmas carols, led by Mark Weigel.

Bedford Chamber Christmas Concert, Wed., Dec. 12: Don't miss this all-Vivaldi concert featuring one of the most popular holiday perennials, Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." Reserve early for this sellout performance. Ticket: \$45.

Festival of Music Service, Sun., Dec. 16: This 10 a.m. service features the first part of Handel's Messiah and other Christmas music, offered by our superb choir, with the professional singers performing the solos, all led by our great music master, Tony Newman.

Sun., Dec. 23

Christmas Pageant: 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.

Institution of John Zahl: At 11 a.m. Institution of John A. Zahl by Bishop Andrew Dietsche as the 13th rector of St. Matthew's Church.

St. Mary's Christmas Service: At 5:30 p.m., Christmas story and carol service with Antioch Pastor Merle McJunkin and Antioch Choir.

Christmas Eve Services, Mon., Dec. 24

Family Manger Services: 4 and 6 p.m.

Pre-Service Concert: 9:30 p.m.: Messiah

Festival Holy Eucharist: 10 p.m.

Christmas Day, Tues., Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist

Institution Postponed to Sun., Dec. 23

We had a glorious Institution planned Nov. 15 for the induction of John Zahl as the 13th Rector of St. Matthew's. Everything was organized perfectly, from trumpeters to flowers, but the weather did not cooperate. The snow and ice kept Bishop Dietsche from getting out of NYC, and the guest preacher's flight from Virginia was cancelled. A hardy group of more than 70 parishioners fought their way through the hazardous conditions, so the decision was made to hold a short Celebratory Eucharist, followed by a reception. It was a wonderful and moving night, with John's brother Simeon preaching, all recorded and streamed out to the parishioners who could not make it.



John Zahl's brother, Simeon, a University Lecturer in Christian Theology at the University of Cambridge, England, stepped in and gave a wonderful sermon

NEWS FLASH

The Institution and Induction of our Rector John Zahl will happen after the Pageant on Dec. 23. Watch the Blast and church announcements for more details.

Bedford Chamber Concerts: Vivaldi, Dec. 12

Under the direction of Tony Newman, the final concert of the Bedford Chamber Concert series fall season will be presented on Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. This all-

Vivaldi concert will feature one of the most popular holiday perennials, Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." This quartet of violin concerti, written by the most prolific composer of the form, is one of the first examples of *program music* in the classical repertoire. Program music is music that tells a story or sets a scene.

In this case the concerti represent each of the four seasons in a dramatic and relevant manner. In the various sections you can easily recognize the barking of a dog, a summer thunderstorm or hunters chasing their prey, amongst other effects. Interestingly, there is a collection of sonnets by an unknown poet (often presumed to be Vivaldi himself) that accompanies the music and that will be handed out at the concert. Vivaldi's concerti for Two Violins and for Two Violins and Cello, will also be performed.

This holiday concert will be presented in the Fellowship Room. Single tickets (\$45) and season tickets for all four remaining concerts may be reserved at (914) 522-5150, purchased online at www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org, or purchased at the door. Sumptuous refreshments are provided during the intermission. School-aged children are welcomed to quietly attend, with a caretaker, the preconcert rehearsal from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 in the Fellowship Room, without charge.

We especially recommend purchasing tickets early, as this event is always the best attended of the year. The concert series will resume on Mar. 20 with guest pianist Vladimir Feltsman.



Stewardship Drive: Have you pledged?

As the calendar year comes to a close, we hope you will take a moment to reflect with us on the many successes that we, as a parish family, can be proud of, including:

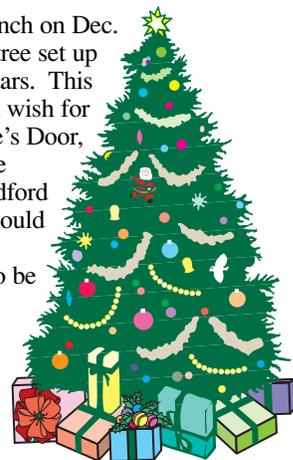
1. Almost all of the 186 three-year pledges to the capital campaign have already been paid in full, enabling us to have a stable physical foundation on which St. Matthew's can welcome and sustain worshippers for many years to come.
2. We successfully transitioned to a new Rector without a drop in attendance, or worse, losing any members ... In fact, our September 2018 attendance was the highest September number we have seen in more than five years.
3. During the interim period your Vestry did a thorough review of every line item in the budget, including staffing descriptions, to ensure our operations are efficient and that we are being good stewards.

Last year we also received the highest number of pledges to the Annual Stewardship Drive that we have had in a number of years. Thank you to those 236 families, who represent a little over half of what we believe our membership to be. If you were not one of them, won't you please make a pledge this year so that we can properly acknowledge your generosity? Our goal is 100% participation. Mail your pledge card today; or go into your Realm account, where you can set up single or recurring credit card payments and can immediately see the record of your pledge payments in your giving tab.

*Wishing you a blessed and Merry Christmas,
Your Stewardship Committee: Douglas Kim, Lorraine Reeder,
and Paul Sturz*

The Wish Tree

While you're at the Christmas Brunch on Dec. 2, 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 for an adult or child from A-HOME, Hope's Door, or a child from Hour Children, who are children of mothers incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. All gifts should be returned wrapped, except those for Hour Children. A-HOME gifts need to be wrapped and returned by Sun., Dec. 9. Please return all other gifts by Sun., Dec. 16. Gift cards are very welcome gifts for adults, because it gives them the rare opportunity to choose and buy something for themselves.



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 Wed., Dec. 12.



St. Matthew's Preschool

St. Matthew's Preschool is busy getting ready for Christmas. There are many fun events planned to include a Family Chapel Service and Sing-along on Thurs., Dec. 20. This year's community outreach project will be "The Pajama Program". Children will wear their pajamas to school and bring a new pair for a less fortunate child. Cookies, crafts and singing will fill the air!



On behalf of the staff, children and families of St. Matthew's Preschool we wish everyone a Christmas filled with special times spent with family and friends. We are all looking forward to an exciting New Year filled with more learning adventures and fun!

Susan deBrigard

Veterans Day

Unbelievable Veterans Day decorations in the church, followed by Bobby Finn, in uniform, reading the prayer written by Chuck Windsor. Bobby fought in the Battle of the Bulge.



As is the St. Matthew's way, a large number of parishioners filled bags for the Thanksgiving Ingathering, collecting food for families in need.



December in the Church School

This is such a special time of year! As I write, the temperatures are dropping, the trees are in a final blaze of glorious yellows, reds and orange and we are in the middle of our Church School Ingathering project to help give local families in need a beautiful Thanksgiving meal. Huge thanks to all of you for contributing and helping our neighbors in this heartwarming way.

Our outreach projects will continue in December with a toy drive for the Hour Children program and the Wishes on Stars which decorate our Christmas tree in the Fellowship Room. So many opportunities to give and share in the blessings which we enjoy so richly.

In Church School we are excited to be spending December learning all about the Christmas Story, the meaning of Advent and of course rehearsing for the famous St. Matthew's Pageant which will take place during the 10 a.m. service Sun. Dec. 23 - mark your calendars now!

Our Church School mission is to launch the children on their individual journey of Faith by teaching them Bible stories, the messages of which are consistent and timeless. Our St. Matthew's children's library is full of wonderful Christmas books, some Biblical and other allegories of the Christmas message.

These books will be on display in the conference room throughout December and you are encouraged to borrow as many as you like to take home and read to your family ... Advent is a time of preparation and reflection - what better way to teach the children than with lots of quality story time!

Tara Deeks



The church school presented John Zahl with a picture to commemorate his Institution. Unfortunately the Institution had to be postponed but their gift was truly appreciated by the Rector.

Don't Miss the Christmas Tree Sale- Sat., Dec. 1 and Sun., Dec. 2.

Come to the back parking lot Dec. 1 & 2, there will be 150 of the most beautiful freshly harvested Frazier and Douglas firs of all sizes available for sale - The best trees you could possibly get - come early. They sell fast.



Christmas in Film, Sun., Dec. 2, 9 & 16

Come on Sun., Dec. 2, 9, and 16 at 9 a.m. in the Vestry Room for the rector's new series.

Christmas time is both wonderful and stressful. Often, getting into the mood of this "most wonderful time of the year" can prove difficult. There is so much going on, so many presents to wrap, and so much to plan... St. Matthew's is here to help. After all, Advent is meant to be a time of preparation (for Christmas). Toward that end, John Zahl will be offering a new series: Christmas in Film, every Sunday morning leading up to the big day. In this class, we'll survey some of the great portraits of Christmas found in movies and television. Of course we'll visit Mr. Scrooge and a few other classics (e.g., A Charlie Brown Christmas), but also, we'll look into some less familiar gems (A Midnight Clear, Call the Midwife, Home Alone, The Holly & the Ivy, Children of Men, and even a TED Talk). This series is sure to get you into the spirit. Join us!



Confirmation Class

The Confirmation classes have begun in earnest, and we have started to get to know each other and find out where we all are on our various journeys of faith. This month, we'll meet twice, on Dec. 2 and Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. in the Vestry Room – and I'm delighted to announce we have a definite date for Confirmation Sunday in 2019: May 19. This December in class we'll be concentrating on the timeline of Salvation History from the Garden of Eden to Easter Sunday, and we'll finish with a conversation around Christian morality.



Our 2018-2019 Confirmation Class, holding their first meeting with Rik Pike.

Rik

Have You Signed Up for A Fellowship Dinner?

Don't forget – we have started a new season of Fellowship Dinners! This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow church members by sharing small, casual meals in parishioners' homes. As our Rector, John, explains, "Fellowship is an opportunity to get to know new people, which is part of what makes the experience of being a member of a church so special."

How it works:

Choose whether you prefer a family group or an adult group, or both.

Choose the day/time you prefer – Friday evening; Saturday evening; Sunday brunch; or Sunday evening. If you are flexible, you may choose more than one.

Indicate whether you would be willing to host/coordinate the first dinner for your group.

The committee will organize all those who sign up into small groups of 7 to 12 people based on their choices. We will ask someone in each group to host/coordinate the group's contributions for their first dinner. After the first dinner, groups organize themselves to hold one to three additional dinners during the year.

Signing up: Sign up online here or using paper forms that are in the Parish House (leave completed forms at the reception desk). Sign-ups are still available. Please call 914-666-5522 or email maryl.e.farley@gmail.com.

High School Youth Group Update

We are excited to have started the spiritual deep dives with the high schoolers in November – and we look forward to our next meeting at 4 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 9. The spiritual deep dives are run by three parishioners, Inness Hancock, Susannah Swanson and Noriko Akinla.

The goal of the youth group meetings is to have an open environment where everyone can get to know each other, share ideas and make some impact in our community – while embarking on a journey of spirituality, outreach and fellowship.

So, calling all High Schoolers: bring your ideas, your friends and anyone who wants to be a part of the High School Youth Group. We'll be in the Fellowship Room with food, drinks and possibly a roaring fire at 4 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 9 – and we look forward to seeing you there!



A "deep dive" session, including pizza



Fall Clean-Up

A hardy group showed up for our annual Fall clean-up.



46th Annual Art Show: Bedford

Continued from page 1

Brescia and Sarah Ryan of the Lane Contemporary Art Gallery of Katonah will assist with curation and attract new artists to the venue.

The Friday night Preview Party, on Jan. 25 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., will be catered by *Happiness Is*, with champagne, wine and beer provided by *The Wine Connection* and *The Study Fine Wines* adding sparkle to the festivities. Mark Weigel & Friends Band, DogBone, is providing music for the party.



Our great Art Show: Bedford Committee: Left to right: Shannon McKenna, Ursula La Motte, Sally Ketcham, Caroline Walker, Tara Deeks, Susannah Swanson, Jenny Convery, Betsy Meyer, April Foley, and Marilen Tilt. Not present: Terry Long and Laurie Sturz.

when Lewis and Laura Kruger will offer their insightful perspectives on collecting art. Lewis Kruger is Chairman Emeritus at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City. Laura Kruger, an art historian, is the curator of the Hebrew Union College Museum. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door for \$45 which includes wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Thirty-eight artists will participate in this year's show, selling paintings, photographs and sculpture, as well as hand-made jewelry, glass items and pottery. Works run the gamut from contemporary to traditional styles, and there is something to appeal to everyone.

Parish participation is important for the Art Show since it is the major annual outreach fundraiser organized by the Women of St. Matthew's, and all proceeds directly benefit local charities.

Please mark both Art Show weekends on your calendars, and don't miss the Preview Party that is sure to be better than ever this year. Tickets are \$125 in advance; \$150 at the door. Look for the invitations in early December, and RSVP as soon as possible. In the meantime, visit our newly updated website at www.artshowbedford.com to view artists' works and bios and to obtain more information about this exciting show.

The Exhibition and Sale continues on Sat, Jan. 26 and Sun., Jan. 27. The following week the exhibit is closed from Monday to Thursday, but then reopens on Fri., Feb. 1 and continues on Saturday, Feb. 2 and Sunday, Feb. 3. The hours each day are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Saturday evening, Feb. 2, from 5-6 p.m. all are invited to attend a Collector's Evening

Realm Flash

Get to know Realm - it is a wealth of information. If you haven't already, set up your account now to see what you are missing. If you can't find your invitation from St. Matthew's to set up an account, or are having problems setting up your account, please call the office or email Kelly Napolitano

(knapolitano@stmatthewsbedford.org).

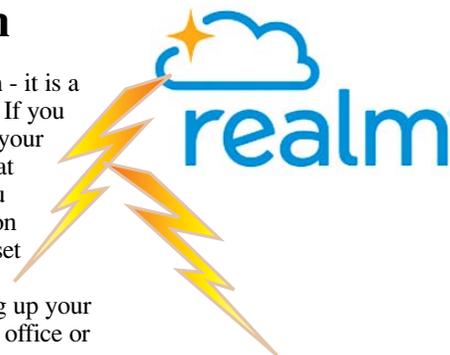
Realm is available for your computer and for mobile devices through an app called Realm Connect. What can I do with Realm?

Parishioner contact information is on Realm — look for the Search icon (magnifying glass) to find a parishioner's contact information - name, address, phone number and email. (To be findable, parishioners must select the privacy setting "Everyone." Since Realm is a self-contained database — it is only accessible to St. Matthew's parishioners who have accounts.

At the Giving tab, you can view your donations to St. Matthew's, including the Capital Campaign. As the tax year ends and you need your tax statement — there is where you go to print it out.

You can also make your 2019 pledge on Realm and set up your pledge payments including automatic payments with a credit card.

St. Matthew's will also use Realm for event reservations and payments.



Our Wonderful Church School on All Saints' Day



Left to right: John Zahl, Mark Blanchard, Jennie Nolon with daughter Emma

Newcomers' Party

A wonderful group of new St. Matthew's parishioners came to our Newcomers' Party in early November. Thank you to Janet Schloat and the Welcome Commission for all their hard work.



Left to right: Dan deMenocal, Modupe Otelaja, Femi Otelaja, Bob Reeder



Left to right: Michael Philippo, Anne Philippo, Janet Schloat



Sam Polk, Phoebe Polk, Meredith Pakman

December Church Calendar



First Sunday of Advent, December 2

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Mrs. Reeder
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Bolen
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Freeman
- 9:00 a.m. The Rector's Class: Christmas in Film (Vestry Room)**
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Belknap, Borner and S. Brown, Jr.
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Gale
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Meyer

Second Sunday of Advent, December 9

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Reed and MacDonald
Ushers: Messrs. Reed and MacDonald
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Bogert
- 9:00 a.m. The Rector's Class: Christmas in Film (Vestry Room)**
- 10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols**
Lay Reader: Mr. Brown
Ushers: Messrs. Eshoo, Fooshee, Gaynor and Keller
- 5:00 p.m. Advent Festival of Lessons & Music, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner

Third Sunday of Advent, December 16

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt
Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Reeder
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Freeman
- 9:00 a.m. The Rector's Class: Christmas in Film (Vestry Room)**
- 10:00 a.m. Festival of Music and Church School**
Ushers: Messrs. de Menocal, MacLean, Oden and Scully
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Talty

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott
Ushers: Messrs. Bowers and Vincent
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Soderberg
- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant**
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Ushers: Messrs. Kim, Miller, Struble and Foster
- 11:00 a.m. Institution & Induction of 13th Rector**
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Walker

Christmas Eve, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Manger Service**
Ushers: Messrs. Garten, Gaynor, Mockridge, Sturz, Fagan and Foster
- 6:00 p.m. Manger Service**
Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Belknap, Burdick, de Menocal, Hancock and Swift
- 9:30 p.m. Pre-Service Concert**
- 10:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Borner, Lange, Maybank and Robinson
Lay Readers: Mrs. Brenner and Mr. Stickney
Lector: Mr. Soderberg

Christmas Day, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner
Ushers: Messrs. Inglis and Lovering
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi

First Sunday after Christmas, December 30

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Boe
Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Fagan
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster
Lector: Mrs. Tilt
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. LaMotte and Moore
Lay Reader: volunteer needed
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich

Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2019

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Mrs. Reeder
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Foster
Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder
Lector: Mrs. Talty
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Inglis, Kent, Ketchum and Keller
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson
Lector: Mr. Gale
- 5:00 p.m. Epiphany Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Sturz

Comings & Goings

New or Returning Parishioners

Ms. Pamela Davis & Mr. Alan Winick Mr. & Mrs. N. John Louras
4 Tanglewood Lane 19 Butler Hill Road
Westport, CT 06880 Somers, NY 10589
Mr. & Mrs. Obafemi Otelaja
43 Bedford Avenue
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

Holy Baptism

Received into Christ's Holy Church

Isla Mary Sturz – October 28, 2018
Grey Gardner Clarke – November 17, 2018
Malcolm Piers MacDonald, II – November 17, 2018
James Roy Drexler – November 18, 2018

Holy Matrimony

May they grow in love and peace with our Lord and one another
Georgiana Katherine Bryan and Christian Michael Henry Brown –
October 20, 2018

In Memoriam

In sure and certain hope

Frederick Conrad Holland, Jr. – October 2, 2018
Nancy Benkhart – October 20, 2018
Ann McDuffie – October 22, 2018

Again, for
Thanksgiving, the
Flower Committee did a
spectacular job on the
window decorations.

