



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

January

To know Christ and to make Him known

2018

The Power of the Past

Not long ago you tore off the December page of your calendar gazing at the beginning of a new year. But just as you turned that page, you were aware that unit of time will not cease to exist. What happened in 2017, for good or for ill, will not vanish because something else is moving toward you in the future to supplant all what came before. Scholar Rupert Sheldrake's phrase "The Presence of the Past" has more to do with shaping the future than any strategic plans will ever manage to do, however finely crafted. Every organization, every family, every church has the DNA of what is called the "persistence of form." If you think about the emotional landscape of a congregation like it is a bowling alley (remember that game?) the way bowling pins either rise or spin or fall in predictable patterns given the angle of the bowling ball, you will begin to understand the connections and behavior that rise or spin or fall in a congregation searching for their next Rector. The interim period and search has more to do with what has been transmitted successively for many generations in a congregational family than any logic of organizational development.

Interim periods in a congregation where there is a heightened sense of anxiety will unleash endless talent for "fixing problems" to clear the way for new leadership. Institutional memory and the emotional intelligence of the many generations that have created the map for how a church will function will not be denied for passage into the future. The more a congregation tries to fix its problems and ignore the presence of the past and the tenacious "persistence of form," the more the congregation will stunt its progress toward any successful call. Your Search Committee has been aware of the church's history as a road map for the future and has been open to various viewpoints, candidate suggestions and advice from parishioners.

In any family or congregation it is important to understand how one generation transmits its character, both its strengths and weaknesses, to the next. The power of the "presence of the past" is so formidable that it can both help a congregation to survive a crisis and at the same time create the resistance to needed change. For example, why do certain sports teams build dynasties? Why do some corporations recover? What is it about American history that preserves democracy? Why is it not possible to plant the American Constitution in another land? Why is it so rare for family businesses to last more than three generations? The second oldest family restaurant in New York City is only 50 years old!

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2018 Art Show: Bedford—45 Years of Supporting Local Charities

January marks the return of Art Show: Bedford, one of the highlights of the year, both for St. Matthew's and for Bedford. This year's show is even more special because it is the show's 45th anniversary. The celebrations begin with a gala Preview Party on Fri., Jan. 19, from 6:30 - 9 p.m. The show runs for two weekends (schedule below).

Chair of the art show, Laura Blau, explains, "For the 45th Anniversary of Art Show: Bedford, we wanted to honor the legacy of its founder, Mary Berol. From its inception as an outreach project of the Women of St. Matthew's Church, the exhibition featured work by local artists and all proceeds were donated to local charities."

The Art Show committee has been hard at work to create a memorable celebration of this landmark year. "When the committee met in June, we wanted the celebration of our 45th anniversary to offer the community a glimpse of our history," said Ms. Blau. "Since the first Art Show: Bedford was held in Historical Hall, the committee felt it would be appropriate to return to our original venue. We are especially grateful to The Bedford Historical Society for their generosity in hosting our event."

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 will find something appealing. There are moveable sculptures by Drew Klotz, paintings by Jane Cooper, and pottery by Paul Briggs.

The Friday night Preview Party, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., will be catered by Happiness Is. Delicious hors d'oeuvres will be accompanied by champagne, wine and beer. Lively music will be provided by Mark Weigel's band, DogBone.

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 have been sent out, so RSVP for the party if you haven't done so. As Art Show: Bedford approaches, visit www.artshowbedford.org for updated information or to make reservations online.

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Tulips Grow in the Grass by Pam Stoddart

Hours for the Show:

Preview Party	Fri., Jan. 19	6:30 – 9 p.m.
Exhibit and Sale	Sat./Sun., Jan 20 & 21	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Fri., Jan. 26	1 – 5 p.m.
	Sat., Jan. 27	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Sun., Jan. 28	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Admission to the show and sale is free.

Message from the Rector Search Committee

As the new year opens, your Search Committee is pleased to provide this update on our efforts. Back in the fall, we communicated the importance of launching the St. Matthew's rector search in mid-September – the traditional beginning of searches planned to be filled for the following September. We express again our gratitude to parishioners for completing the Survey providing us important guidance. Subsequent small group discussion forums and direct input from individuals have provided additional helpful parishioner perspectives as well as specific candidate suggestions.

Some parishioners have noticed and inquired about the revision on the Diocesan website of the "Open until" date of the St. Matthew's rector search. The Diocese has a standard procedure of a position posting staying up for eight weeks. Upon reaching that date, the posting is either taken down, or a new "Open until" date is requested by the subject church. We felt it was important to have our search posted by mid-September, but had not been wedded to a particular end date. As you may recall, the Vestry charge to the Search Committee is for us to deliver three names to the Vestry for its consideration. We have now extended our "Open until" date to March 2, 2018. This date was determined by the Committee to allow for the co-chairs to attend the meeting in late February of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP). The CEEP annual winter meeting effectively presents the final opportunity to meet candidates, from peer churches, with sufficient time to complete arrangements for the hoped-for September start.

At this waypoint in our discernment journey we can report that the Committee is pleased with the quality of the many candidates that we have been interviewing. The recognition by candidates of the special opportunity presented by St. Matthew's has been a positive, consistent theme. The Committee continues to welcome your views, candidate suggestions and, particularly, your prayers. And we continue to ask for your understanding of the importance of the Committee holding its deliberations in confidence.

*Peter Keller and Roger Vincent
Rector Search Committee Co-Chairs*



Search committee members after a recent meeting: front row: Sophie Kernan, Caroline Walker, Meredith Kent, Allison Gregory; Back row: Dale Akinla, Jack Lange, Tina Foster, Peter Keller and Roger Vincent

Bedford Chamber Concerts 2018 Spectaculars

- February 14 (yes, Valentine's Day): husband and wife four-handed piano partners, Misha and Cipa Dichter, performing Schubert's Fantasia in f minor.
- March 21: world-renowned pianist Vladimir Feltsman will play Bach and Brahms
- April 18: symphonic music for small ensembles, including Anthony Newman's Trumpet Concerto
- May 9 (spring gala concert): all Beethoven, including the Kreutzer violin sonata and the Eroica Symphony

Bedell Fund Committee Update

On Nov. 19, Fr. John Williams, Rector, and parishioners of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Beacon, welcomed Bedell Committee members at a wonderful 10 a.m. communion service, followed by an expansive coffee hour thanking St. Matthew's Church.



Earlier in the year, upon the recommendation of the Bedell Committee, the St. Matthew's vestry approved a grant of \$100,000 to St. Andrew's. The grant covered the redesign of an existing dirt parking area in the front of the church into an attractive courtyard with proper drainage; the replacing of three furnaces and the provision of air conditioning for the sanctuary and parish hall; and renovating important kitchen and storage areas. Our grant complemented funds raised by parishioners themselves and significant parishioner labor to renovate the hardwood floors and the walls of the sanctuary.

Teresa Scott, Dale Akinla, Murray Mulligan, Fr. John Williams, Ewan MacQueen and Joe Maybank

The work was completed this fall and we were given a tour of the facilities. Expressing appreciation for the Bedell grant on behalf of St. Andrew's, Fr. John Williams said, "Your grant has made a clear and positive difference to us and our work ahead." Beacon indeed is a thriving, growing, diverse community. It is one of the most northern commuter towns on the Hudson railroad line, a vibrant arts community, and home to the DIA Museum. The Bedell grant helps St. Andrew's Church take advantage of the energy and tourism in Beacon to both grow as a church and be an active participant in the growth of Beacon in the years ahead.

Did You Pledge?

It's the new year – did you pledge for the Annual Stewardship Drive already? If not, it is not too late. Your pledge is important to provide funding for the day-to-day operations of the church, including our programs, stewardship and outreach.

An Evening on Prison Ministry

At the request of the Northern Westchester Interfaith Council, St. Matthew's hosted an evening on prison ministry on November 16. Attendees came from a broad swath of faiths in the region. The evening focused on Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and opportunities for faith-based outreach and involvement.

Dorothy Muller, who serves as a Protestant counsellor at Bedford Hills Correctional, began with an overview of challenges experienced by women inmates. Then Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) presented a very moving video, called "Amazing Grace," made with the active participation of Bedford Hills inmates. This was followed by a lively panel discussion that included two recent parolees who benefited greatly from their RTA experience. Volunteer opportunities for local churches were discussed by representatives from Hour Children, Woman2Woman, Marymount College, and RTA.

It was a deeply compelling evening that underscored the importance of Matthew 25:36; "I was in prison and you visited me."

Church School in January

Jan. 7: “Whose Am I?” Jesus Models the Baptismal Answer
Jan. 21: Jesus Makes People Well
Jan. 28: Who Is My Neighbor? The Parable of the Good Samaritan

December was highlighted by the Christmas Pageant on the 17th, in which all Church School children participated. Eva Dwyer and Christian Kim served as Mary and Joseph, with Hunter Struble as baby Jesus. The pre-K and K classes dressed as friendly beasts, the girls from grades 1-3 were angels, 1st-4th grade boys, as well as 4th grade girls, were shepherds, and grades 5-7 served as readers, as well as the Three Kings.

Mark Weigel led families in caroling by the fire mid-month. We enjoyed pizza, cider and wine, with festive tunes. Several children danced to the music and it was a merry gathering in the Fellowship Room.

Our annual Toy Drive to benefit Hour Children at the correctional facility was another great success. We teamed with St. Matthew’s School and donated many boxes of gifts for the children of incarcerated mothers. Thank you to all who participated.

Art Show: Bedford *Continued from page 1*

Parish participation is all-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. As Laurie Sturz, a long-time committee member and Art Show supporter said, “Connecting with the community and raising money for local non-profits is what it is all about. Helping those in need is a mission so important to the church.”

Proceeds generated by Art Show: Bedford are contributed to the following charities: Abbott House, A-Home, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Boys and Girls Club, The Bridge Fund, Children’s Center Caring Circle of Hospice Care, Chaplaincy Committee of Northern Westchester Hospital, Community Center of Northern Westchester, Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship, Hope’s Door, Hospice Care of Northern Westchester/Putnam, Making Headway, Midnight Run, Mt. Kisco Child Care Center, Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, My Second Home, Neighbor’s Link, Pegasus Project, SPCA, Waterside School, and Westchester Exceptional Children’s School.

Nancy Dexter

POTS Trip

In early December, the High School Youth Group was invited down to POTS (Part of the Solution) in the Bronx to serve a Sunday lunch to those in need, and to work in the POTS food pantry. We are thankful to Meredith and David Pakman for leading the trip down to this exemplary social services organization in the city, and we look forward to our next youth trip on March 25!



Confirmation Update

We had a great end-of-year class on Sun., Dec. 10, when each confirmand was asked to bring in a “drawing of God.” Each and every child gave this careful consideration, and submissions ran the gamut; with a couple of blank pieces of paper (with suitable explanations), a picture of an atom, a photo of an unknown soldier’s grave and a couple of Patriarch-in-the-Sky pictures—we had it all! The children are all actively engaged this year and we are blessed with a wonderful class. In January, we’ll begin with the “Ethics of Jesus” and will take a first look at the Beatitudes.

This Month at the 5p.m.: Epiphany Eucharist

On Sun., Jan. 7 at the 5 p.m., we will bring the season of Christmas to a close with a light-filled and joyful celebration of the Eucharist. We will hear the story of the visiting Magi, or Three Kings, and pay homage to the newborn King who has made the whole creation new. Mark Weigel will provide the soulful music, and all are invited to join us as we offer up our final thanks for Christmas and the coming of the Prince of Peace.



St. Matthew’s Jamboree Still Humming Along

On the evening of December 1, four of the country’s best-known college a cappella groups met in the town of Katonah for a good, old-fashioned evening of song and camaraderie known as the St. Matthew’s College Jamboree. Harvard, Yale, Tufts and Sarah Lawrence brought their best, and the crowd of 120 people (mostly St. Matthew’s) loved every toe-tapping minute of it.

It was an evening of old and new favorites. The classics began with the Harvard Krokodiloes and their repertoire, largely from the Great American Songbook, and ended with the Yale Whiffenpoofs who performed all the perennial favorites, including a particularly soulful version of “Rainbow Connection.”

This year’s newcomers—the Tufts Jackson Jills and Sarah Lawrence’s Treble in Paradise—were both female groups that brought a fresh, new perspective to the Jamboree. All four groups sang the final song together on stage in an unforgettable, lively version of Yale favorite “Ride the Chariot.” It was obvious this crowd-pleasing spiritual is destined to be the signature finale of all future Jamborees.

All in all, it was a perfect evening for alumni from these beloved institutions, for college a cappella, and for St. Matthew’s. We are grateful for the generous use of the Lasdon Auditorium at Harvey’s Walker Center for the Performing Arts, and look forward to next fall’s Jamboree.

Mark Your Calendars

The annual St. Matthew’s Parish Meeting will be held on Sun., Feb. 11 following the 10 a.m. service. Our Wardens Dan de Menocal and Suzanne Bowers, and Treasurer Mark Weigel, will present the Annual Report and give an overview of the state of the church, highlights of the past year, and goals for 2018.

A JOYOUS ADVENT

A Bountiful Brunch

It was a joyful and festive day on Dec. 3 for our annual Christmas Brunch. The Fellowship Room was brimming with wreaths, plants, gifts, foodstuffs... and plenty of happy parishioners. Many thanks to the Women of St. Matthew's and everyone who worked so hard to make the day a success.



Best Trees Ever

Many thanks to Paul & Lindsay Matthews and all the hard workers who organized the Christmas Tree Sale, Dec. 2 & 3. This not only raised money for the church, but also supplied many people with the best Christmas trees they will ever have. A special nod goes to Will Gourd who oversaw the sales from beginning to end both Saturday and Sunday.



Wreath Making

Every year, year after year, Phillis Warden donates her house so a group of hard-working volunteers can make the beautiful wreaths to be sold at the Brunch. Thank you, Phillis, for donating the space and your expertise.



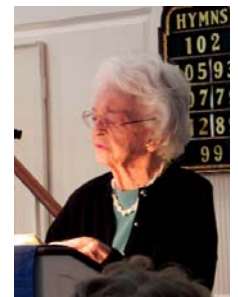
Decorating the Chapel

Connie Lindsay-Stewart and Bonnie Tisi work on the spectacular decorations for the Children's Chapel.



Words and Music of the Season

Elizabeth Deeks and Polly Winans Finn were among the wonderful readers at the annual Lessons & Carols Service, Dec. 3.



AT ST. MATTHEW'S

A Perfect Pageant

Beasts, Angels and even Baby Jesus -- they were all there -- from the friendly beasts to Mary, Joseph and Jesus -- when the Church School Pageant brought the Christmas story to life.



Great, Great Music

Throughout all the events in December, the music was spectacular. The Festival of Music on Dec. 10 was outstanding with our super choir performing Part One of Handel's Messiah. Then on Dec. 13, the Bedford Chamber Concert got us really charged up with the Bach Brandenburg Concerti, a sold out performance dedicated to Richard Henshaw, long time treasurer and supporter of the Concert Series. The choir again performed before the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service with favorites and pieces from the Messiah. We are so lucky to have Tony as our music director, to have such a strong choir and a Music Committee leading the way.



Singing by the Fire

A new event this year -- Singing Carols by the Fire -- was supposed to be outside but snow and frigid cold moved the hardy parishioners into the Fellowship Room.



Our Innovative 5 p.m. Services

Our 5 p.m. services in the Children's Chapel continue to be interesting and fun. It was great to welcome Chloe Carrozza back on Dec. 17.



Men's Breakfast

The Men of St. Matthew's meet for breakfast and conversation on a regular basis but the Advent one, on Dec. 16, is a feast of food and thought... Here led by Chef Extraordinaire Bill Fagan and assistant chef Paul Sturz



Bedford Holiday Boutique

Thanks to hard work and great organization by Missy Renwick and Suzzane Bowers, the annual Boutique, held at the end of November, was a huge success.



January Church Calendar



First Sunday after the Epiphany (Epiphany Sunday), Jan. 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: Mrs. Tilt
- 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
Lector: Ms. Swanson
- 5:00 p.m. Epiphany Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January, 14

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Reed and MacDonald
Ushers: Messrs. Reed and Boe
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge
Lector: Mrs. Talty
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**
Ushers: Messrs. Cameron, Keller, Struble and Sturz
Lay Reader: Mr. Brown
*** No Children's Service*
- No 5:00 p.m. service**

Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 21

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Reeder
Lay Reader: Mr. Heath
Lector: Mr. Vincent
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz
Ushers: Messrs. Gaynor, Lange, Lovering and Miller
Lay Reader: Mr. Kim
Lector: Mr. Gale
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel**

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, January 28

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott
Ushers: Messrs. Bowers and MacDonald
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster
Lector: Mrs. Tilt
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**
Ushers: Messrs. Ketchum, Lange, Markowski and Maybank
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Children's Chapel**

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 4

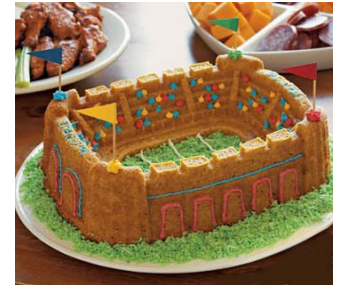
- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz
Ushers: Messrs. Bolen and Fagen
Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan
Lector: Philip Bolen
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and All School Communion**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Foshee, Garten, Kent and Kim
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Lector: Mrs. Finn
- No 5:00 p.m. service**

***Children's Service*

Super Bowl Bake Sale

Delay the start of your post-holiday diet for another month! The annual Super Bowl Bake Sale will be held after the Coffee Hour on Sun., Feb 4. Stock up on fabulous treats provided by St. Matthew's bakers for watching the game.

(Attention, talented St. Matthew's bakers: be thinking about what you're going to bring!)



The Power of the Past *Continued from page 1*

Well differentiated leadership is what mobilizes a congregation's multi-generational process. It can either throw things off track or it can lay the groundwork for identifying the best of past generations to fashion a promising future. Leaders who search a congregation's history of emotional process will be able to delineate both the difficulties and capacities that will set the table for what is next.

Here is the good news. By my lights, St. Matthews's is a congregation with leaders of high integrity and a congregation with a built-in immunity system that fosters excellent organizational health. Map out the delineation between the resistances and capacities that are the powers from your past and whomever you call will become a resounding success.

Peter Klumant

Mark Your Calendar

for our spectacular Spring Antiques Show – the Preview Party will be Friday, April 13, with the show running the following two days: April 14 and 15

