



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

January

To know Christ and to make Him known

2019

A New Year's Devotion from the Rector

January brings with it New Year's resolutions. Along with a few spiritual disciplines, I plan to cut down on sugar intake, and to exercise more. I share to convey, in part, that Christians (clergy included) are normal people in this regard. We see our shortcomings, regret them, and seek to become better people.

But, in another sense, our faith brings with it an alternative perspective on resolutions. Christians affirm that there is more to life than our performance. We acknowledge that our standing in the world is based upon more than our good deeds and are thankful for God's unlimited grace in this regard.

This means we can take resolutions with a grain of salt. We see through them a bit, knowing how quickly they bow down before our self-defeating instincts. And we are not surprised when this happens. St. Paul's words still ring true: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the book of the law." And, likewise, the Gospel message still brings comfort to those of us who have blown it by February, or who are feeling "weary and heavy-laden."

In George Eliot's brilliant novelette, *Janet's Repentance*, Janet comes to church hoping to hear a word of hope that is not contingent upon some form of self-improvement. We read:

"Perhaps there was some message of comfort, different from the feeble words she had become so used to hearing from others. She was tired, she was sick of barren exhortation... She wanted something to rely on besides her own resolutions; for was the path behind her not all strewn with broken resolutions?" It is into this place in our hearts, the place of regret and failed resolution-resilience, that the grace of God springs into high relief. "Come unto me..."

Theologian Steve Brown tells the story of a little boy who shoots and kills his grandmother's beloved pet duck with a sling shot. His sister, who spies the event, uses it to blackmail her brother into doing all of her chores. She whispers into his ear: "Remember the duck..." and the boy steps up to do her bidding. But after a year of such treatment, the boy becomes exhausted. He finally goes to his grandmother, and, with his head hanging low, tells her: "I know what happened to your duck. I shot and killed it with my sling shot." To this she responds: "I saw the whole thing from my kitchen window and forgave you then. I've been waiting for you to tire of your sister's blackmail, hoping that you might come tell me about it."

Just like that grandmother's voice, grace absorbs the accusations of our conscience. It says to every failed resolution: "Neither do I condemn thee..." Remember that God loves you as much on Dec. 31 as He does on Jan. 2.

Grace & peace,

Mark Your Calendars!

Art Show: Bedford Spans Two Winter Weekends!

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars to attend Art Show: Bedford which will be on display in the Parish House for two weekends: Jan. 25-27 and Feb. 1-3. The hours each day are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Art Show: Bedford is a juried show that features collector-quality artwork and crafts created by artists from this region. The Women of St. Matthew's donate one hundred percent of the proceeds of the show to support many local nonprofits that benefit needy and marginalized persons throughout Westchester.

The 46th Annual Art Show: Bedford will kick off with an exciting Preview Party in the Fellowship Room on Fri., Jan. 25 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. All parishioners should have received an invitation in the mail in early December. If you haven't already returned your RSVP cards or made your reservation through Realm, please do so soon. The Preview Party is sure to be better than ever this year. Tickets are \$125 in advance; \$150 at the door.

Parish participation is important for the Art Show since it is our church's major annual outreach fundraiser.

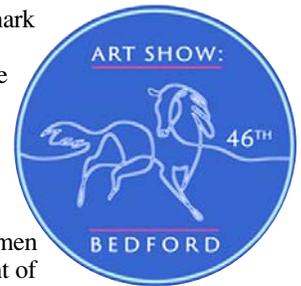
The Preview Party will feature delectable appetizers catered by Happiness Is, accompanied by champagne, wine and beer provided by The

Wine Connection and The Study Fine Wines. The ever-popular band, DogBone, consisting of Mark Weigel and friends, will serenade the party.

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

Again, please mark both Art Show weekends on your calendars and invite your friends. 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.



"GREAT BLUE" BY JULIE BETTS TESTA/WOOD



John Zahl is now Officially Our 13th Rector!

Immediately following the Pageant on Dec. 23, we had a wonderful celebration of a new ministry – the Institution and Induction of John Zahl as the 13th Rector of St. Matthew’s. Our Bishop, the Right Reverend Andrew Dietsche was the presiding

celebrant for the service, which included many Episcopal traditions, such as the wardens presenting John the keys to the church; the Altar Guild presenting the wine and the bread and Deidre and Daphne Zahl presenting him a stole, to “be among us as a pastor and priest.”



Confirmation and High School Youth Group News

Without doubt the January highlight for our confirmands and our High School children will be attending the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Worship Service at Antioch Baptist Church at 4 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 20. All those who come along will no doubt enjoy this moving community service in the late afternoon before heading over to Kicho in Bedford Hills for supper.



In other events this month, the High Schoolers will gather at 4 p.m. on Sun. Jan. 13 for another spiritual deep dive with pizza in the Fellowship Room; and confirmands will have class with me at 4 p.m. in the Vestry Room on Sun., Jan. 13 and 27.

Rik Pike

Happy New Year to all our Church School families!

Before we dive head first into this fabulous new year I wanted to reflect briefly on the one just past. John Zahl’s arrival in September brought many great changes to the Children’s Ministry and I know he still has lots of new ideas to share with us. January is going to be a month of planning – 2019 will be an exciting time!



Looking back over the last few months since I started my work here at St Matthew’s, I feel blessed to be part of something so special. Thank you all for the encouragement you have given me and most importantly to all the wonderful volunteers who work so hard to make our children’s offering so great. There is real energy in our efforts and you only have to talk to the children about what they are learning to understand the huge impact we are having sowing those seeds of faith.

Since this Church School year started we are delighted to have been joined by several new families, and a really good number of children are attending regularly on Sunday mornings. New Bibles were purchased for the classrooms, which are full text Bibles but translated using child friendly language and fun illustrations. The newly introduced lesson plans which complement our Episcopal curriculum are helping teachers really focus on the key learning points for children each week. Church School has also gone full time!...in the past, Church School tended to stop on holiday weekends. We are now working to make sure that we have a children’s offering every Sunday – so if you are at home for the holidays, we are here too and want to share them with you!

Looking ahead to next month, a date for your diaries: Feb.3, Super Bowl Sunday and our annual bake sale. Please start thinking about what you might bring to this fun event, savory or sweet. Let’s all join in on this “bring and buy” sale to raise money for Hour Children and also make the big game even more fun to watch!

I am praying that this year ahead will be filled with blessings for you and your children, that our faith and the St. Matthew’s Children’s ministry might grow and thrive to better reflect God’s glory. See you on Sunday.

Blessings, Tara Deeks

A Christmas Gift for St. Matthew’s: “Movies of Grace”

Dear St. Matthew’s,

As you know, I’m a big film buff. I especially love movies that breathe life into theological ideas. So movies that ooze grace, mercy, advocacy, redemption, faith, self-sacrifice, steadfastness, hope, etc... are the stuff that typically stays with me. With this in mind, we have just ordered a bunch of DVDs with which we can officially start our new “Movies of Grace” DVD Library. You can find them on a shelf in The Fellowship Room.

The selection features more than 50 carefully chosen movies, and the variety of genres is enormous, including mainstream Hollywood releases, documentaries, classics, indies, foreign films, and family-friendly options. We have already collected a huge list of great movies – we hope you will browse the stacks and borrow them (one-at-a-time) for home viewing. They’re free! Just check them out on the sign-out sheet. One final note: this library was funded through the generous contribution of a new parishioner. There are many movies (and TV series) that we would still love to add to the collection. If you would like to make a contribution toward this effort, please make a gift to “Adult Education Movies of Grace.” Thanks so much! If you have any questions about this project, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me.

Celluloid blessings,

Mark Your Calendars!

The annual St. Matthew’s Parish Meeting will be held on Sun., Feb. 10 following the 10 a.m. service. Rector John Zahl and Senior Warden Dan de Menocal will present the Annual Report and give an overview of the state of the church, highlights of the past year, and goals for 2019. Look for the February Key for the proposed slate of new Vestry, to be voted on during that meeting.

Coming Soon! Grace in Downton Abbey (& other British Television)

A new Rector's Class kicks off on Sunday mornings, starting on January 6, at 9 a.m. in the Vestry Room. If you like English television and/or grace, this series is for you. We will be focusing primarily on Downton Abbey,



Grantchester, The Queen, and Call the Midwife.

It will run each Sunday from 9-9:45 a.m. through the end of February. Please note that one does not need to be familiar with Downton Abbey in order to attend. All are welcome.

Heart & Fish, JAZ+

The Spirit of Giving at St. Matthew's Preschool

The St. Matthew's Preschool Parent Association organized a schoolwide community outreach program for the Pajama Program. The children and families collected new pajamas and books and on Dec. 10 participated in "Wear a Pair, Donate a Pair!" All of the children and staff came to school dressed in their pajamas. Children were photographed holding a pair of pajamas or book they donated to the program.

The Pajama Program's mission is to "deliver good nights with an intention of providing good days." Further information regarding the Pajama Program can be found at: <https://pajamaprogram.org/ourwork>



Stewardship – Still Looking for 100%

Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas? Your stewardship committee was wishing for 100% participation in the Annual Stewardship Campaign, and we are not there yet ... Would you please make our Christmas wishes come true? We don't have a dollar amount in mind BUT if each of the families who did not pledge last year would make a commitment to \$20 per week, we can execute new programming, including a youth program! Please be part of the future of St. Matthew's by contributing today!

If you have suggestions on how to improve the life of St. Matthew's, WE WANT TO HEAR THEM. We will be randomly calling parishioners this month ... if you would like to be called, please send an email to one of us or to Kelly in the office.

Doug Kim, Lorraine Reeder and Paul Sturz

Bedell Fund Makes Two Grants

In November, Saint Matthew's awarded two major grants from its Bedell Fund, which was established in 1994 after a bequest from Hope Bedell to strengthen the Episcopal Church through funding of capital projects and clergy support.



The Holy Cross Monastery, located on the west bank of the Hudson and north of Poughkeepsie, is home to 13 life professed and 3 initially professed brothers, and also has over 3,000 guests per year, including many Episcopal, St. Matthew's, and other church groups from Westchester County. The monastery offers numerous and varied retreat programs to the public, a formal program of spiritual direction to clergy in the region, and several public worship services per day. Overall, the monastery is an invaluable resource to the diocese, to the public, and especially to the clergy.

The campus was established in 1904, and expanded significantly in both 1921 and 1965, and the buildings now require correction of deferred maintenance and important upgrades such as a handicapped-accessible elevator, modernized rest rooms, and some limited air conditioning. The monastery has independently raised over \$1 million for its endowment and \$1.5 million for other needed capital upgrades to the physical plant, and after a recommendation by the Bedell Committee, our vestry awarded \$100,000 toward a complete renovation of the sacristy and the bell-tower corridor in the 1921 church building.

St. Luke's Church, Somers, also presented an application for Bedell support of renovations and repairs to its main church building. The committee recommended and the vestry has approved another grant of \$100,000. The funds will go towards repainting the entire exterior of the church, replacing large shutters that have deteriorated, and installing a new handicap access ramp along with a chair lift. After raising funds from its parishioners, St. Luke's is also carrying out repairs to the church steeple, a major landmark in town.

Somers is a thriving community with new commercial developments in the works including town homes and a new supermarket. St. Luke's was incorporated in 1853 and is woven into the fabric of the community and beyond through a number of outreach programs including a thrift shop, addiction programs, a food pantry and a pet cemetery. We are excited to be part of the growth and future of a church in a neighboring community under the leadership of Mike Watson, priest-in-charge.

Dale Akinla and Luther Peacock, Co-chairs, Bedell Fund Committee

Looking for a good New Year's Resolution?

"Like the sugar in our tea, may we all be stirred by Thee..." There's no better way to deepen one's spiritual life than through the study of Scripture. Why not use this New Year as an opportunity to dig into the Bible afresh? The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group invites you to join us any Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Vestry Room, following an optional Eucharist service at 10 a.m. Bring your own Bible, any translation is fine. If you don't have a copy, we'll happily provide you with one. And we also have coffee and baked yummys. All are welcome.



WE WISH YOU A

A Bountiful Brunch

It was a joyful and festive day on Dec. 2 for our annual Christmas Brunch. The Fellowship Room was brimming with wreaths, plants, gifts, and scrumptious culinary delights... and a beautiful Wish

Tree, filled with stars to help a needy adult or child from A-Home, Hope's Door or Hour Children. Many thanks to the Women of St. Matthew's and everyone who worked so hard to make the day a wonderful success.



Great Trees

Many thanks to Paul and Lindsay Matthews and all the hard workers who organized the Christmas Tree Sale, Dec. 1- 2. 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 opens her house to a group of hard-working volunteers to make the beautiful wreaths to be sold at the Brunch. Thank you, Phillis, for donating the space and your expertise.



Decorating

A hardy group of parishioners (big elves and little elves) helped get the Christmas tree in the church and decorate it.



Did you see the window decorations in the Children's Chapel? Connie Lindsay Stewart and Linda DeMenocal led a crew that did a fantastic job but changed them weekly.

Carols & Lessons

The annual Carols & Lessons service had wonderful readers including Alexandra Griffin and Polly Finn.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Near Perfect Pageant

When our Church School brought the Christmas story to life for our annual Pageant, we had Joseph and Mary, friendly beasts, wise men, three kings, glowing angels and even a pony from Endeavor Therapeutic who made the day even more memorable.



What would Advent and Christmas be without Music!

Throughout all the events in December, the music was spectacular. On Sun., Dec. 9, we had a beautiful service of Lessons and Carols, with interludes of harp. On Wed., Dec. 12, the Bedford Chamber Concert presented its holiday all Vivaldi concert including the Four Seasons. The Festival of Music on Dec. 16 was outstanding with our super choir performing Part One of Handel's Messiah. The choir again performed before the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service with Christmas favorites and selections from the Messiah. We are so lucky to have Tony as our music director, a magnificent choir and parishioners who love to sing.



Caroling on a Cold Night

Over 25 parishioners gathered on a cold Sunday evening to bring Christmas cheer to parishioners home bound. A wonderful night for both those singing and those inside.



Men's Breakfast

The Men of St. Matthew's met on Dec. 15 for a breakfast feast prepared by Bill Fagan, singing carols by Doug Kim on the piano and John Zahl leading the conversation.



Our Holiday Boutique

Thanks to hard work by Missy Renwick, Suzanne Bowers and a great committee, the annual Holiday Boutique was a huge success.



January Church Calendar



Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2019

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

First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 13

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Reed and MacDonald
Ushers: Messrs. MacDonald and Reed
Lay Reader: Mr. Brown
Lector: Mr. Bolen
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**
Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Belknap, Borner and Brown, Jr.
Lay Reader: Ms. Swanson
Lector: Mrs. LaMotte
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Meyer

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 20

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Reeder
Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan
Lector: Mrs. Tilt
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz
Ushers: Messrs. Burdick, de Menocal, Eshoo and Fooshee
Lay Reader: Mrs. Akinla
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich
- 4:00 p.m. Rev. Martin Luther King Worship Service, Antioch Baptist Church**

Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 27

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Fagan
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge
Lector: Mrs. Tilt
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**
Ushers: Messrs. Douglas, Gaynor, Hancock and LaMotte
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Lector: Elizabeth Deeks
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Talty

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 3

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Mrs. Reeder
Ushers: Messrs. Bowers and 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. Lovering, MacLean, Maybank and McKenna
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Lector: Helen Dorothea Jorgensen
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner

With Heartfelt Gratitude and Thanks

Deacon Elena Barnum has been a treasure to St. Matthew's Church, especially during our transition over the past 18 months. It is with sadness, though we are happy for her, that we announce that she will be leaving St.

Matthew's to begin a new chapter in New York City where she can be closer to her family. She has given so much of herself to our parishioners. Her loving and wise presence, her gentle grace and guidance will certainly be missed by us all.

We would like to celebrate Deacon Elena and recognize her invaluable pastoral contributions at the 10 a.m. service on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6 which will be her last day with us. This will be followed by a celebration of her ministry at Coffee Hour. Please come to help give thanks and wish her well.

May God bless her in the bountiful ways that she has blessed us.



Comings & Goings

New or Returning Parishioners

Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Peter Hallock 696 Old Post Road
Bedford, New York 10506

Mr. & Mrs. C. Michael Phillippo 9 South Bedford Road
Pound Ridge, New York 10576

Change of Address

Mr. Abram Claude, Jr.
The Bristol
Apt. 269
90 Business Park Drive
Armonk, New York 10504

Holy Matrimony

May they grow in love and peace with our Lord and one another
Lily Geiger and William Kast – December 29, 2018

In Memoriam

In sure and certain hope

Helen Henshaw – December 1, 2018
Robert Dell'Angelo – Dec. 12, 2018
Odette Austin – Dec. 15, 2018
Katherine (Cassie) Kernan, Dec. 18, 2018

A strong showing of St. Matthew's parishioners showed up at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine to see John Talty honored by Episcopal Charities for his 11 years of outstanding service to the organization.

