



# THE KEY

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

### BEDFORD N.Y.

June

To know Christ and to make Him known

2018

Dear Friends,

Your Vestry, with the recommendations of the Search Committee, has taken rich delight in announcing the election of your new Rector, John Zahl. The entire national church is a buzz and emails are flying with the fervor of a birth announcement. Town criers, tower carillons and hand bell ringers, bag pipers, and trumpet clarions are all singing the news with joy and excitement. A new era for St. Matthew's is breaking across the horizon.

Those who pay attention to such transitions call this "field of dreams" the Changeover Zone. Moreover, biblical history is replete with testimony about leaders of God's people moving through changeover zones, passing their batons to successors. Whether it was Elijah passing the mantle to Elisha or Moses elevating Joshua, wise leaders know their leadership will be ultimately transferred. Belief that ministry is a journey into God's future compels us to pass the baton in a way that makes possible even more success under the leadership of the successor.

Terry Elsberry did that in spades for me. And as I have repeated, my North Star has been to ready this amazing congregation during the interim for John and his family to enjoy a sweet spot when they land in the middle of the fairway in Bedford.

Several parish-wide assessments with consultants over the last eight months have offered strategic plans ready to be implemented. Their recommendations will be in John's hands before I leave in July. Thank you for the energy all of you put into this transition, beginning with the parish profile, until I pass the baton to John in this changeover zone. You have dressed every hour of it for success!

## Annual Parish Picnic, June 10

It's here-- the Annual All-Parish Picnic and the official start of summer at St. Matthew's—Sun., June 10 at 6 p.m. Bring the whole family and join us for delicious burgers and hot dogs cooked to perfection on the grill. Bring a salad or a dessert to share. This is a great opportunity to introduce your friends to St. Matthew's—they will be very welcome! We will be also recognizing our new members, so be sure and say "hi" if you haven't had a chance to greet them before. There will be games and activities for the kids, and music by Mark Weigel and friends.

While Pierce will be staying with us through July, the picnic also gives us a wonderful setting to honor and thank him for his friendship and exceptional leadership during this transitional year. He has found a place in all our hearts and in the history of St. Matthew's.

Let's celebrate together – a well-done year of transition and the excitement of new things to come.

## Confirmation Class Events in June

June marks the end of the confirmation road for our sixteen confirmands. We've had a wonderful year together, we've learned a lot, asked many questions and delved into our shared church history with other Christians all around the world. We've studied the Bible (of course), theology, Jesus' morality, grace, the Sacraments, Salvation History, the church seasons and the Book of Common Prayer. Not to mention the New Testament dragon found in the Book of Revelation!



The children are now ready to take the final step, and on June 3 at the 10 a.m. service, The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, Assistant Bishop of our Diocese, will confirm them; and then on June 10 at the 10 a.m. service, the confirmands will lead us in worship, and will preach at all three services. They continue to amaze us each and every year with the words that come out of their lips and hearts.

Come support them on June 3 and June 10, and let us celebrate together as they take their first steps into adult membership of this Episcopal Church, and the wider Anglican Communion!

## Flowering of the Cross

A Mother's Day tradition at St. Matthew's is celebrating the bounty of nature with the Flowering of the Cross. Parishioners bring flowers from their gardens, and this year these were beautifully supplemented by donations from the Keller and Vincent families.



## A Word from the Rector-Elect:

Dear People of St. Matthew's

I am writing to you from my office in Charleston, where, just past my laptop, I can see a pile of recently opened cards from many of you, all of them extending the warmest of welcomes. And in a little while I'll head home for the evening, where the gorgeous bouquet of flowers sent to us by The Women of St. Matthew's now adorns our dining room table. We are so grateful (already) to all of you for these gracious gestures. They convey such thoughtfulness, and remind me of God's grace, which often seems so undeserved, and, thereby, brings forth great fruitfulness.

I, likewise, am full of eager anticipation, constantly daydreaming about St. Matthew's and things like: services in the Children's Chapel, the Haunted Hike for Daphne, walking our dog, Birthday through the woods in Ketchum Preserve, and especially Sunday mornings together... I'm even looking forward to the snow too. Can one still buy Freezy Freakies and Moon Boots? That tells you how long it's been since I last wintered in Westchester.

Please continue to shower St. Pierce with gratitude for all he has done to prepare things during the last many months. One could not wish for a better Interim at the rudder. And know that Rik and I had a lovely talk just after the news went out. I am so excited to join forces with him, and grateful for the line of continuity that he brings to this blessed equation.

I am praying for all of you, our future together, and have even begun - against my better judgment - working on sermons in my sleep. Pray for us as we prepare to move. Deirdre, Daphne, and I can't wait to see you! Thank you again for your kindness and for your faith.

In Christ's love,  
John

## Now and Then

This month's construction work is historically reminiscent of the major church construction project of 1964-1965. At that time the project was to expand St. Matthew's to deal with the growth of the church, by moving the altar and the Chapel of the Holy Sepulcher back 17 feet, allowing for an increase in seating of over 100 parishioners. Reverend Arthur Hargate was the Rector; Mott Schmidt was the architect and supervisor of the project. Parishioner Joseph Mullen offered to cover all expenses for the redecorating of the inside of the church in memory of his late wife Joanna. Her memorial is a small plaque on the front of the floral table in the vestibule of the church. Check it out.

Today our work is to secure our church and make improvements; back then it was to accommodate what had become an overflowing number of communicants. To put it in better perspective, the number of students in the Sunday school was over 300. The Vestry had been trying to deal with overflow situations in the Church since 1959. Consideration was given to creating a split-off church in Pound Ridge. Plans even went so far as to identify a location next to the library. Vestry notes of November 1965 stated that for most services there was an overflow condition in the balcony which required installation of rope ladders for safety reasons. Can you imagine?

Today's project and the '64-65 expansion are not similar, nor are the times that we lived in. The major 50's and 60's growth that occurred here at St. Matthew's was part of a much larger national expansion of church attendance. These were the baby boomers born of those who all were linked by the Second World War. Families were created and grew with connections to church being a major shared link. Two generations later, things are different. We now have fewer families joining at the same time with children of the same age. We now have greater mobility and many alternatives for ourselves and for our school age kids. Whether it's soccer, or hockey, or the internet or dance, there are just so many things in competition. And in today's world, whither our kids go, we go also.

*John Stockbridge*

## Peter Keller Appointed President of Episcopal Charities

After 11 years on the Board of Episcopal Charities and 5 years as President, John Talty is stepping down in June, and Bishop Dietsche has appointed Peter Keller to serve as the new President.

In John's words, "It was time for someone with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to take over. Last year was Episcopal Charities' most successful year ever in terms of fundraising and grant making, and I know Peter will do a fantastic job!"

John has exemplified compassionate and wise stewardship and so many people and organizations are better off thanks to his extraordinary guidance. He has expanded the reach of Episcopal Charities and truly transformed the organization into what it is today, leaving Episcopal Charities with a strong staff and board and positioned for ongoing success.

Peter joined the Board of Episcopal Charities in 2013 and has served for the past 5 years on the Advisory Committee (which is charged with conducting site visits and recommending funding levels to the full board), the Grants Policy Committee and the Tribute Dinner Committee, co-chairing the Tribute Dinners in 2015 & 2016.

St. Matthew's place in the Diocese has been enhanced by all that John has done.

How lucky and proud St. Matthew's is to have these two men, dedicated to our church and communities, as parishioners.



## Where Was This Photo Taken?

Under the first row of pews in the Church! Yes, we are making progress with the excavation and asbestos removal!! No gnome spotted yet... Look for weekly communications on the reconstruction, coming on Fridays, summarizing the work done that week and work to be done in the coming week.





## Annual Music Service at St. Mary's Church School

At 5:30 p.m. on June 17, our sister church in the woods – St. Mary's – will hold its annual Music Service, headlined by a duo that we know and love: Mark Weigel and Abigail Lennox. The two have played at this annual service for the last three years and are back by popular demand.

Mark, in addition to being on the Vestry, is a vital part of the music program at St. Matthew's, singing at the children's services and many other occasions, as well as being one of the leaders of our music committee and program development. Abigail is a St. Matthew's alumna, and many parishioners remember her crystal clear soprano voice when she was here with her husband, Danny Lennox. Abigail holds a B.A. in Vocal Performance from University of Michigan and an M.A. in Voice from Yale's Institute of Sacred Music; and continues to sing professionally.

Together, they produce a wonderful harmony, and bring the right amount of warmth and energy to this lovely, historic church in the woods. For those who have never attended a St. Mary's service, make the trip – to 197 Hickory Kingdom Road in Bedford, at the intersection of East Middle Patent Road and Hickory Kingdom Road. Built by farmers in the nineteenth century, St. Mary's has been a vital part of the community for over 150 years. Today, it stands out as a classically beautiful, simple country church where seven or eight times a year, friends and neighbors of many faiths gather for evening services.

## Happy Birthday to our Maestro, Tony Newman



## Mother's Day Treat

The Men of St. Matthew's not only provided the women of the parish with an extravagant brunch on Mother's Day, they also serenaded the ladies with a barbershop version of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart". Their efforts were much appreciated!



Church School is nearly finished for the year with only two days this month. On June 3, the lesson is about The Episcopal Church: One Body, Lots of Parts. On June 10, the Attendance Awards will be distributed in the Children's Chapel, followed by the annual Stream Stomp. After service, we will descend down the path in the woods to kick around in the water. Participating children are advised to bring water shoes.

We had 88 children participate in Church School this year, with a dozen from new families. Teachers guided students through lessons in the classrooms, and our parish is fortunate to have had so many generous parents and grandparents offer their time and talent:

Julie Bacon	Philippa Kennedy
Tina Barrett	Sally Ketchum
Anne Citrin	Alexandra Kotur
Tara Deeks	Terry Long
Catherine Eshoo	Lynn Neeck
Tom Eshoo	Tracy Pike
Leigh Garten	Melissa Raezer
Traci Griffin	Christie Sasso
Inness Hancock	Susannah Swanson

Essential to the energy of the Children's Service is Mark Weigel's music by piano, guitar and voice. He invigorates participants, encouraging clapping and toe tapping, as he guides children through a rotating selection of church favorites. Lay ministers officiate most Children's Services and they offer meaningful homilies to support the day's lesson. Thank you to our superb volunteers:

Scott Brown  
Doug Kim  
Lorraine Reeder  
Bonnie Tisi  
Jane Wood

The Church picnic on June 10 will be celebrated with games for the children. Any adults interested in helping with entertainment, please contact: [skernan@stmatthewsbedford.org](mailto:skernan@stmatthewsbedford.org).

## A Brief History of Time...keeping

If you enjoy hearing historical stories or want to learn about mechanical clocks and watches, please join us for refreshments at 7 p.m. on Thur. June 21, in the Fellowship Room. At 7:00 p.m. our fellow parishioner, Alison Gregory will present "The History of Timekeeping and Mechanical Clocks," a topic which has interested her for decades. This interest began when she was researching her genealogy at a young age and discovered that the Ellicott branch of her family included some notable clockmakers.

She will describe early timekeeping devices, mechanical clock movements, and the importance of accurate timekeeping for navigation, for train travel, and for astronomical measurements. She will also discuss a few notable clocks, some of which are local. Alison recently delivered a version of this presentation to the Bedford Historical Society, and it is being repeated by popular demand!

For a relaxing summer evening with friends, come and learn something new on June 21.



# June Church Calendar



## Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 3

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
*Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz*  
*Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Reeder*  
*Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney*  
*Lector: Mr. Vincent*  
*Acolytes: Will & Evan O'Brien*
- 10:00 a.m. Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner*  
*Ushers: S. Brown Jr., Hancock, LaMotte and Lange*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster*  
*Lector: Mr. Gale*  
*Acolytes: John Gregory and Sophia Soderberg*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Lay Assistant: James Hancock*

## Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 10

- 8:00 a.m. \*Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames MacDonald and Reed*  
*Ushers: Messrs. MacDonald and Reed*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan*  
*Lector: Mr. Freeman*  
*Acolyte: Luke Breitenecker*
- 10:00 a.m. Confirmation-led Service and Last Day of Church School**  
*Ushers: Messrs. Keller, Lovering, Miller and Sturz*  
*Lector: Confirmation class*  
*Acolytes: Confirmation class*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Lay Assistant: Maggie Parsons*

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 17

- 8:00 a.m. \*Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Bowers and Fagan*  
*Lay Reader: Mr. Jackson*  
*Lector: Mrs. Tilt*
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Cameron, de Menocal, Fooshee and Ketchum*  
*Lay Reader: Mr. Kim*  
*Lector: Helen Dorothea Jorgensen*

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 24

- 8:00 a.m. \*Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Foster and MacDonald*  
*Lay Reader: Ms. Getz*  
*Lector: Mr. Bogert*
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer**  
*Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Belknap, Borner and Cummings*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Brenner*

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 1

- 8:00 a.m. \*Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz*  
*Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Fagan*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder*  
*Lector: Philip Bolen*
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Eshoo and Kent*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi*  
*Lector: Mrs. Finn*

\* Weather permitting, the 8:00 service will take place in the Chapel-in-the-Woods

\*\*Children's Service

## Hour Children and St. Matthew's— A Growing Bond

More than a dozen parishioners attended the annual Hour Children luncheon held at the Westchester Country Club on May 17. Rik Pike offered a prayer before the meal. The luncheon raised over \$20,000, and our St. Matthew's table was proud to be a part of the event.

On Sunday, May 20, Hour Children's Sister Tesa spoke at the 10 a.m. service, thanking St. Matthew's for its support and describing the important services that Hour Children provides to women at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and Taconic Correctional Facility.

Janiah Keller and Sam Parsons presented Sr. Tesa with \$775 that the Church School

children raised with their mite boxes during Lent. Church School is grateful to all who contributed.

Sr. Tesa and two mothers who benefitted from Hour Children's services during their incarceration stayed afterward for a special coffee hour in the Vestry Room. Sr. Tesa thanked St. Matthew's for all the ways in which it helps inmates be closer to God and maintain vital relationships with their children and families. Our recent baby clothes drive was a huge success, and Sr. Tesa remarked that Bedford Hills Correctional now has the best-dressed babies!

Hour Children is in need of host families for children who come for four days of day camp at the prison during the summer. This is an important way to keep mothers and children bonded in a loving relationship. If you are interested in hosting a child, please contact April Foley at [aphrfoley@aol.com](mailto:aphrfoley@aol.com). A "Coffee and Conversation" tour inside the Bedford Hills prison will be held on Wed., July 25 from 8:30-11:15 a.m. More details will follow.



**COMINGS & GOINGS – June 2018**

**New or Returning Parishioners:**

Michael and Charlotte Cady  
67 Byram Shore Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830

Mrs. Adelma Gillespie  
460 High Cliffe Lane  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

**HOLY BAPTISM**

*Received into Christ's Holy Church*  
Hunter Robert Struble – May 19, 2018