



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

March

To know Christ and to make Him known

2018

Dear Friends,

Lent, and once again, nothing much changes. Lent makes its bid on you to ponder a change of heart, if not a change in practice. You consider a change of heart in Lent the way a nun considers intercessory prayer, by rolling the beads of a rosary between her fingers, half in and half out of her inward searching soul. Lent bodes transition—beginning with the Ash Wednesday invitation for “the whole congregation to be put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the gospel of our Savior, and the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.” (BCP p. 265)

We are a church in transition. Your search committee fingers its way through resumes and sermons, a rosary practice, if you will, searching in the beads of insight for the competence and faithfulness candidates have so prayerfully penned on paper. But transition is not always a process direct from A to Z. Most of the time, the church’s leadership establishes strategic outcomes and then works backward, step-by- step, to create the necessary preconditions to attain the goals and objectives. During a period of transition, leaders start where people are and work forward, through leaving the past behind, getting through the wilderness, and profiting from it, and then emerging with new observations, insights and mission.

When Moses navigated the transition zone of the wilderness, many were tempted to turn back for Egypt because, at least back there they knew what to expect. Flights of mutiny must have been tempting when the pilgrim community, headed for the Promised Land, had second thoughts causing them to “murmur.” One of the things they must have murmured was, “Do you think Moses has any plan, or do you think he is making this up as he goes along?” Let me assure everyone, there is no need to turn back or worry about the promise of what is next. Your wardens, vestry and search committee are guided by your voices in the parish profile and architecture for a transition and search that is the best in the industry.

We Are Easter People

The celebration of Easter is at the core of our Christian being. Without Easter, there would have been no story to tell of the risen Jesus, the son of God – a story that catapulted its way around the rim of the Mediterranean like a wildfire and would in time conquer an empire. Without Easter, there would be no faith in the Christ child, the incarnate Prince of Peace, who showed us new ways to live and offered us new paths of life – paths that would honor ourselves and others in newfound bonds of affection and love. Without Easter, death’s mortal sting would remain the final word in our lives, and the balm of a Messiah that heals all wounds and makes our lives whole and new would remain nothing more than a prophetic pipe dream.

Instead we are the people of Easter, the people of the resurrection, and children of the Risen King, and we are thoroughly set in the ways of, and bathed in, the glorious Easter light. We are Easter people. We have graciously been given the tools to turn our backs on the darkened, chaotic world of Good Friday – and we very much look forward to welcoming you to St. Matthew’s this Easter to rejoice, give thanks and sing the praises of our Savior who gave us his all so we could live and love for an eternal lifetime. So come celebrate this Easter with us – and we will see you in church.

Rik Pike

March Key Dates

Mar. 3, Sat. 7:30 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast (every Saturday during Lent)
Mar. 13, Tues. Noon	Overnight Thomas Merton retreat to Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY
Mar. 21, Wed. 8 p.m.	Bedford Chamber Concert – Vladimir Feltsman
Mar. 24, Sat. 9 p.m.	Midnight Run – meet in Fellowship Room
Mar. 25, Palm Sunday 8 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
10 a.m.	Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist
5 p.m.	Liturgy of the Palms Eucharist & Passion Reading
Mar. 29, Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.	Maundy Thursday supper in Fellowship Room
8 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar
9:00 p.m.	Gethsemane Watch through the night
Mar. 30, Good Friday 7 a.m.	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit
Noon	Good Friday service
Mar. 31, Holy Saturday 10 a.m.	Holy Saturday Family Service
11 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
6:30 p.m.	The Great Vigil of Easter
Apr. 1, Easter Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Easter Day Holy Eucharist
9:15 a.m.	Festive Easter Holy Eucharist
11:15 a.m.	Festive Easter Holy Eucharist

Congratulations, Sam!

The Vestry is pleased to report that Sam Godoi, our Assistant Superintendent, has accepted our offer to become Head Superintendent, following Cliff’s retirement. Sam will be moving into the O’Reilly Cottage in March. Sam has been a most dedicated worker at St. Matthew’s for 8 years and has always taken great pride in maintaining the beauty of our campus.



St. Matthew's Dinner Groups

Fifty-five parishioners enjoyed dinners in small groups with Pierce at the rectory this winter. The opportunity for fellowship with other parishioners, touring the rectory, and getting to know our interim pastor proved to be a resounding success. These six groups are planning additional gatherings in parishioners' homes in the coming months for more fellowship and to deepen bonds. And, the food was outstanding!"



If you did not sign up for the first round in the fall, there is another opportunity to join in the festivities now. Sign up on the [website](http://www.stmatthew.org) by March 15 to join.

The Fellowship Dinner Committee would like to express profound gratitude to Pierce who has been a remarkably generous host to all the groups, and whose interest in getting to know us has encouraged us to get to know each other.

The Great Vigil of Easter: Sat., Mar. 31 at 6:30 p.m.

In this transition year, Pierce has suggested if we'd like to try something new, then why not? So, this Easter we will incorporate The Great Vigil of Easter into our Easter celebrations. The first of our four Easter services, this ancient liturgical rite, with fire, stories of creation, a baptism and the first Eucharist of Easter shared after the Saturday sunset, will take place in the main church at 6:30 p.m. All the parish is warmly invited to come experience a new, yet ancient way to welcome the Easter light this year; and rejoice together as the Son of God breaks through the bonds of death and rises again for all eternity!



Update from the Rector Search Committee

The Committee is now in the final stages of the search process keyed to the Vestry-established charge to present three candidates to the Vestry. Following the Committee's review of written materials submitted by applicants as well as individuals to whom we reached out (cover letters, resumes and OTM portfolios), we conducted Skype interviews with the most highly rated individuals. These interviews addressed, among other topics, the areas of greatest importance to the parish as identified by the 2017 Parish Survey (Preaching, Pastoral Care, Spiritual Guidance and Governing the Parish).

The Committee then moved to in-depth evaluation of selected finalists - the stage in which we are presently engaged. This stage entails for each finalist attendance at services at which the individual both celebrates and preaches. Additionally, Committee members are meeting in smaller groups with each finalist and spouse. Extensive reference checking is also being conducted.

The Committee anticipates making its report to the Vestry in the early spring. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Wardens and Vestry for their support, to Pierce and Rik for their support and to all parishioners for the helpful input and encouragement that we have received.

Respectfully submitted,
Rector Search Committee

Church Restoration Update

The Restoration Sub-committee has made significant progress over the past few months. Most notably, we have hired a project consultant, Stone Harbor, to provide the needed project expertise. This is the same firm that advised Rippowam-Cisqua School on their building expansion project. Stone Harbor has helped us refine the scope of work and develop a more cost-effective approach to fulfilling our project objectives, including ensuring that we bring the cost of this project within our originally targeted budget. We have also brought in a contractor that we feel is well qualified to manage this project with our parish needs in mind.

Currently we have "checked most of the boxes" for the project: roof replacement, foundation, exterior masonry, electric, windows, excavation, etc., and are awaiting some additional proposals for our HVAC system. As we understand the excavation process currently proposed, it looks like the contractor will not be removing any of the flooring. This is very good news as it will minimize the dirt and dust in the building and may permit us to have use of the Church during much of the restoration project term. We have yet to see a finalized schedule, so it is too early to be more specific on when we will need to close the building for services or how long the construction will ultimately take. Our target start continues to be as soon as possible following Easter with completion expected prior to Christmas.

We have been having bi-weekly meetings with our consultant, the contractor and some sub-contractors and this process has been very productive in identifying and solving the many issues involved with restoring an 1810 building. Once we have a more definitive timeline and sense of when we will have access to the Church building, we will report those details to you. Thank you for your continued patience and confidence.

Dan deMenocal, Kathy Brenner, Camillo Santomero, John Walker

Bedford Spring Antiques Show Kicks Off with a Fiesta, Apr. 13!



The Bedford Spring Antiques Show will be held just around the corner at The Harvey School in Katonah, beginning Fri., Apr. 13. Our amazing party chairs, Christina Bresani, Anne Citrin, and Char Ryan have some exciting surprises in store this year! Festivities begin with an all-new Fiesta on Fri, Apr. 13, from 6:30 – 9 p.m. Come enjoy some margaritas, listen to a live band, and peruse the many fantastic offerings from a wide variety of dealers.

This year, we will offer a wine pull featuring a selection of the finest vintages from Bedford's private cellars. For a donation of \$50 you will have the opportunity to take home a bottle of red, white, rose or champagne worth over \$200. Special bottles include vintages from Caymus Special Selection, Colgin, Kosta and Silver Oak among many others. Take a chance and see what wine you pull. No one goes home empty handed!

Also featured is a silent auction with some fabulous items up for bid, such as a week's stay at a private castle in England and US Open courtside celebrity seats. Stay tuned--more exciting items will be revealed over the coming weeks!

This year, invitations will be emailed to St. Matthew's parishioners and Opening Night Fiesta tickets may be purchased directly [online](#). Or, to reserve your tickets now, [click here](#). For those who prefer a printed invitation, some are available in the church office.

The Bedford Spring Antiques Show is open to the public on Sat., Apr.14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sun., Apr.15 from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Sun., Apr.15, following the 10 a.m. church service, the show will host Bubbles and Bloodys at the Harvey School. Come to the show to enjoy food, libations and do the shopping you didn't have time to do at the Fiesta!

Remember, this wonderful annual event supports our church!

A Weekend to Serve



St. Matthew's families can now sign-up for two fun and meaningful New York City service opportunities the weekend of Mar. 24-25: first, a Midnight Run on the night of Sat., Mar. 24; and on Sun. Mar. 25, serving Sunday lunch at POTS (Part of the Solution) in the Bronx. Both of these service outings are much loved by parishioners young and old alike and have been well supported over many years, so do get involved! For Midnight Run information contact Dan Moore (dmoore@cjs-securities.com), and contact Rik for POTS sign-up.

June Mission Trip: A Return to Newburgh!

We have just finalized our plans for our annual late June Mission Trip, open this year to all members of the parish. We will return to Newburgh across the Hudson for three mornings, Tues., June 26 through Thurs., June 28. Those 16 and over will work with the fantastic folks at Habitat Newburgh, while the under-16s will work at the Downing Park Urban Farm. We will then each day gather together for a delicious lunch by the river, before heading home to Bedford. Please do register your interest with Rik ASAP, as space is limited!



Church School

- Mar. 4 Jesus Goes to Jerusalem
- Mar. 11 Jesus' Last Meal
- Mar. 18 Palm Cross Making Activity Sunday
- Mar. 25 Palm Sunday, children attend with families

During Lent, the children are taught to be prayerful, forgiving and especially about the importance of giving something up during this season. Mite boxes were distributed at the end of February so that children can focus on giving some of their allowance, or earned credit from chores, to improve the lives of other children. This year, Church School will support Hour Children, which helps support families of women incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. In the past year, 2200 child visits to the Taconic and Bedford Hills facilities were supported by Hour Children.

Both St. Matthew's School and the Church School hold a Christmas toy drive, and this organization has long been supported by St. Matthew's Church. For further information: www.hourchildren.org

Before Ash Wednesday, our children were provided a demonstration on how palm fronds are burned and how the ashes are prepared and blessed, with an explanation of the meaning and symbolism of Ash Wednesday. The annual Palm Cross Making will be held in the Parish House on Mar.18. This will be an Activity Sunday and children will receive attendance credit to compensate for a missed day earlier in the year. (There will not be class on Mar. 18 or 25 to maintain focus on Palm Sunday.)

Please continue to watch for Rik's weekly videos in the Thursday email blast, or on the website under Church School. They support and enlighten Church School families with insights on the relevance of chosen passages covered in the curriculum each week. Thank you to all our Super Bowl Bake Sale supporters, both bakers and purchasers. Connie's Olympic cake was an astounding creation!

Sophie Kernan

Bedford Chamber Concerts, Mar. 21—Vladimir Feltsman, World-Renowned Pianist

Born in the Soviet Union, Vladimir Feltsman debuted with the Moscow Philharmonic at the age of 11 and was educated at the Moscow and Leningrad (St. Petersburg) Conservatories. Frustrated with the rigid Soviet control of the arts, he defected to the United States in 1987.

An internationally known pianist, Bach authority and expert, Feltsman performs his compositions with both style and authority. Bach's Partita No.1 in B-flat major (BWV 825), the first of a series of six harpsichord suites, is among many works that Feltsman has recorded over the years. Feltsman will also perform Brahms' Opp. 118 and 119, ten small pieces in all, the last compositions Bach wrote for solo piano, and the best loved.

Tickets (\$40.00) can be reserved by phone at 914-522-5150 and paid for at the door, or ordered online at www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org or as part of a series subscription. Student tickets, which can only be purchased at the door, cost \$10. Families with younger children can attend rehearsals, starting at 6 p.m., for free. The concert starts at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Delicious treats are provided by the Music Committee at intermission.



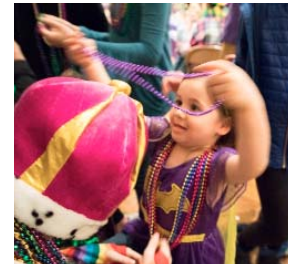
Easter Flowers

Envelopes for memorial flowers are available in church or from the office. Please return your envelope with the names of loved ones by Mar. 22 for inclusion in the church bulletin.



The Good Times Rolled!

A great time was had by all at the annual Mardi Gras bash. Four members of Eli's Chosen Six played lively Dixieland tunes. Lucas Peacock and Amanda Griffin were crowned King and Queen of Mardi Gras. Best costume honors went to Pat Thompson and Lyon Hancock. For more photos, visit the website, www.stmatthewsbedford.org.



Midweek Holy Eucharist and
Bible Study on Wednesday at
10 a.m.

March Church Calendar



St. Matthew's Church
Pierce Klemmt, Interim Rector
382 Cantitoe Street P.O. Box 293
Bedford, N.Y. 10506
(914) 234-9636
www.stmatthewsbedford.org

Third Sunday in Lent, March 4

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz
Ushers: Messrs. Bowers and MacDonald
Lay Reader: Mr. Jackson
Lector: Mr. Vincent
Acolyte: Alexandra Griffin
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and All School Communion**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. LaMotte, Lange, Robinson and Struble
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Lector: Mr. Gale
Acolyte: Harry Whitman
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Lay Assistant: Alexandra Paul

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 11

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Reed and MacDonald
Ushers: Messrs. Reed and Foster
Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder
Lector: Mr. Firth
Acolyte: James Hancock
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**
Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Borner, Garten and Ryan
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster
Acolyte: John Gregory
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Lay Assistant: Eliza Deeks

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt
Ushers: Messrs. Mr. & Mrs. Reeder
Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan
Lector: Philip Bolen
Acolyte: Emma Soderberg
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Church School Activity Sunday**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz
Ushers: Messrs. Burdick, Kent, Miller and Scully
Lector: Mrs. Swanson
Acolyte: Jack Foote
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Lay Assistants: Emily & Matthew Hutchings

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, March 25

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Foster
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge
Lector: Mrs. Talty
Acolyte: Ella Miller
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Cameron, Fooshee, Ketchum and Sturz
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster
Lector: Ms. Swanson
Acolyte: Sofia Soderberg
- 5:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Palms Eucharist and Passion Reading, Children's Chapel**
Lay Assistant: George Marcogliese

Maundy Thursday, March 29

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Supper**
- 8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar**
Ushers: Messrs. Borner and Foster
Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster
- 9:00 p.m. Gethsemane Watch through the night**

Good Friday, March 30

- 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit**
- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service**

Holy Saturday, March 31

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Family Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt**
Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Akinla
- 6:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter**

Easter Day, Sunday, April 1

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Easter Service**
Altar Guild: Mrs. Reeder
Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Fagan
Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder
Lector: Mrs. Tilt
Acolyte: Henry Weigel
- 9:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz
Ushers: Messrs. Ketchum, LaMotte, Sturz and Swift
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Lector: Mrs. Ehrlich
Acolytes: Trip Brown, Brady Johnston, Clara & Sam Pakman
- 11:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Belknap, Hancock, Kim and Moore
Lay Reader: Mr. Heath
Lector: Mason Santomero
Acolytes: Ben & Brayton Howard, Mason Santomero, Harry Whitman
- No 5:00 p.m. Service**

Help Us Bridge the Gap

How many parishioners do we have at St. Matthew's? Unless someone who knows you and sees you in church on a regular basis reviews the directory, we need to rely on the pledge register. As of Feb. 14, we have 201 pledges but the Vestry believes we have more than 400 families.



Financial situations become clear for everyone at different times of the year but we need to count on you now. We are currently almost \$100,000 short of what the Vestry is counting on to meet budget this year. Please help us bridge this gap by submitting your [pledge today](#). The job description for our incoming rector depends on an accurate membership roll and a balanced budget; we want to count you IN!

Maundy Thursday Supper – Mar. 29 at 7 p.m.

This supper is a tradition at St. Matthew's. Bring a salad or a vegetarian dish and join parishioners for a meal together before attending the 8 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office. Child care is available for children 3+.

Super Bowl Bake Sale

The Super Bowl Bake Sale raised more than \$450 for Hour Children. There were tons of beautiful and delicious treats. Connie Combe's fabulous Olympic Rings cake was auctioned off and Sebastian Akinla was the lucky bidder.

