



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.

November

To know Christ and to make Him known

2017

Dreaded Transitions Can Bear Gifts

Dear Friends,

Moses had more than one burning bush in his lifetime. They crossed his path with regularity on his pilgrimage to the Promised Land. Would it interest you to know he also had a burning bush "wish list?" At the high priority end of the list was an escape hatch clause to suspend the onerous 40-year trek in the desert and return to the comforts of Egypt. His congregation was murmuring constantly about the inconvenience of leaving their beloved fleshpots and tabernacles. Once out in the harshness of the wilderness, slavery looked better to them than the perils of desert living. Moses, more than once, assembled the council to consider turning back to appease the tribes of Israel.

There were, nonetheless, valuable lessons learned in the wilderness. Once Moses let them chew and digest them, they actually put wind back in their sails to continue the journey. However, along the way, they continued to draw up itineraries to turn around, should they see reasons for considering a more opportune time. After all, if God had been willing to part the waters so vitriolically as he had when they beat it out of Pharaoh's reach, it made all the sense in the world to return, take a breather, and find a new and improved strategy to venture toward the land of milk and honey. (It cannot be hard to read between the lines that I am thrilled your Vestry has decided to return to the historic sanctuary and wait for a more opportune time for refurbishment.)

So, are there any lessons to be learned from having spent five Sundays worshipping in the wilderness of the Fellowship Room? I can think of one. Have you noticed on every wall there is a representation of the Nativity in either oil, ceramic, icon or pastel? So prodigious is their presence that it's a bit like sitting in an airport bar on Saturday afternoon surrounded with football projected on 8 screens, proclaiming the exhilaration of college life. It would be hard to ignore. Artwork in the Fellowship Room is replete with depictions of Jesus's birth. There is the Virgin, the angels and shepherds, the barnyard animals lowing. Above the central fireplace mantle is Joseph, with his head resting on a cane. You can't miss the look of bewilderment in the drawn lines in his exhausted face about what "has come to pass."

Is it not interesting that the transitions we are encountering at St. Matthew's are all about giving birth: a refurbished church, an interim chapter of ministry, and the anticipation of calling your new rector? Tony Newman would tell you there is a hymn that reflects our journey from the anxiety of interruptions in transition, to the satisfactions and joy of new birth. Hymn No. 665 finds in the first stanza these salutary words: "All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew, me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true. God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own."

Your Vestry has acted upon an escape hatch. In time, "it will be marvelous in our eyes".

We Are Thankful for November!

We are so blessed to live in a place that is beautiful all year round, but especially so in the fall. As the colder weather settles in around us, we are happy for our warm homes, and cozy gatherings with family and friends. It is a time when we give heartfelt thanks for all the wonderful things we enjoy. It is also a month filled with many activities (see Key Dates below), all great ways to celebrate the season.



BEDFORD BOUTIQUE

Calling All Shoppers

THE BEDFORD HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

From 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Happy Hour and Babysitting offered from 4 pm to 7 pm

Bedford Golf and Tennis Club

535 Cantitoe Street, Bedford

Calling all Shoppers!

More than 17 vendors, many new and some of our former favorites, will offer a fabulous array of holiday gift items, clothing, accessories, children's gifts and much more!

15% of all sales will benefit St. Matthew's Church

November Key Dates

Sun., Nov. 5	5 p.m.	All Saints' Festive Eucharist
	6 p.m.	Newcomers' Cocktail Party
Wed., Nov. 15	8 p.m.	Bedford Chamber Concert: Mozart
Sun., Nov. 19	10 a.m.	Thanksgiving Ingathering
Wed., Nov. 22	5:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve at St. Mary's
Thurs., Nov. 23	10 a.m.	Harvest Festival Service
Wed., Nov. 29	9 a.m.-7 p.m.	Bedford Boutique
Fri., Dec. 1	10 a.m.	Wreath Making at the Warden's
	7 p.m.	College Jamboree at Harvey School
Sat., Dec. 2	1:30-4 p.m.	Advent Quiet Afternoon
Sat., Dec. 2 & 3	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Christmas Tree Sale
Sun., Dec. 3	11:15 a.m.	Christmas Brunch

If St. Matthew's Matters to You, the 2018 Stewardship Drive Matters

When you consider that three-quarters of the operating expenses that run St. Matthew's each day comes directly from parishioners, there's a simple conclusion we must all reach: The Annual Stewardship Drive is one of the most important things we can do as parishioners to help our church.

Your pledge is what allows us to be the St. Matthew's that you know and love. The staff, the building and grounds, even the expenses needed to heat the rooms where we worship this winter—all of these are funded by the parish.

In 2017, slightly more than half the parish made a pledge, but we still fell short of our budget needs. Hope springs eternal though, so this year we are aiming for 100% participation. A pledge of any size is welcome, and we want everyone to make a pledge to St. Matthew's. You can make this happen by sending in your pledge card when you receive it in the mail in November, or by pledging online. <http://www.stmatthewsbedford.org/annualstewardshipdrive>

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we thank you in advance, and look forward to seeing you in church.

Paul Sturz, Lorraine Reeder, Douglas Kim

Advent Services in December!

Since we have moved back to the main church, we are now able to offer our traditional program of Sunday Advent services, which includes the Messiah. The confirmed schedule for December Advent services is as follows:

Dec 3, 10 a.m.	Lessons and Carols
Dec 3, 5 p.m.	Festival of Lessons and Music
Dec 10, 10 a.m.	The Messiah
Dec 17, 10 a.m.	The Pageant
Dec 24, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.	The Manger Service
11 p.m. service	Festive Christmas Holy Eucharist

Church School

November Lessons:

Nov. 5	All Saints: Focus on Brigid and Patrick
Nov. 12	Elisha Helps a Sick Foreigner
Nov. 19	The Trouble with Job

The children have just enjoyed two Halloween celebrations with a festive Coffee Hour and the Haunted Hike Evening. Thank you to the Saunders team and Mark Weigel!

On Nov. 5, we will have our first all-school communion, to include grades pre-k through seven. We begin the morning in the Fellowship Room to distribute banners, and the children will then parade through church to celebrate All Saints' Day. After a couple of songs, they continue to the Children's Chapel. This year, we will focus on the saints Brigid and Patrick.

Grocery bags will be distributed on Nov. 12 for the children to decorate and fill with holiday food for needy families. Please return them filled with gravy and stuffing mixes, fruit, nuts, yams, potatoes and cans of cranberry sauce. The bags should be returned to the Parish House by the following Sunday. The Outreach Commission will distribute them, along with turkeys and pies, to local organizations.

There will be no Church School over Thanksgiving Weekend. The nursery remains open for children under six.

Sophie Kernan

An important message regarding the Church Restoration project

The Vestry and Wardens would like to thank you for your patience regarding the slower than expected progress that has been made to date with our church restoration project. Your questions and concerns have not fallen on deaf ears. We are continuing the process of negotiating a contract for this complex project to ensure that the details of the scope of work are clearly defined. We are nearing completion of this important step, but do not feel confident that we have all the essential pieces in place to commence construction. Therefore, the Vestry unanimously elected to delay the start of the project until after Easter next year, which will allow us to resume our services in the church, and importantly, to conduct our Advent, Christmas and Easter services in our church building. We had originally planned to begin construction in April 2017 and finish in the fall of 2017, which would take advantage of the slower summer months at St. Matthew's and the warmer weather. Beginning in April 2018 allows us to maintain the original time frame, and also gives us the time we need to ensure completion of the project within our projected timeline and on budget. Finally, we feel strongly that it is important to be in our beloved church during this time of transition.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding. We as a Vestry are charged with being stewards of the parish's property, a charge we take very seriously. We feel this decision ensures that your financial commitment to our church restoration will be used prudently and wisely and that St. Matthew's will remain a stronghold for the next 200 years.

The Vestry

Some hardy parishioners showed up for the trail maintenance day on Oct. 7, helping to keep our woodlands clean.



Spend Thanksgiving Eve at St. Mary's with Terry!

Start your Thanksgiving celebrations at our sister church in the woods, St. Mary's, Wed., Nov. 22 at 5:30 p.m. Guess who will be presiding and speaking? Terry Elsberry. He is the perfect leader for this service, filled with seasonal songs and readings, which has been held at St. Mary's for over 100 years. The combination of Terry's preaching and the location of this picturesque church, surrounded by woods and rural roads, make for wonderful, wonderful Thanksgiving remembrances.

Youth Service Day with A-Home

On Sunday, Nov. 19, our high schoolers have the opportunity to spend a service day working with A-Home, an affordable housing non-profit here in Northern Westchester. Organized by the Westchester Youth Alliance, simply register your child at www.westchesteryouthalliance.org. The service day will begin at 10 a.m. and will wrap up around lunchtime. Full details are available on the WYA website.

November 15: All Mozart

The second chamber concert of the 2017–18 season presents a few of Mozart's best (and best-known) compositions: a violin sonata performed by flute (K.376), his second piano quartet (K.493), and his "Jupiter" Symphony in C—No.41, K.551). The piano quartet, written in E-flat major and composed in 1786, radiates a far more positive, more "classical" aspect than piano quartet No. 1, written just a year earlier.

The sonata K.376, originally written for violin and piano, was composed in 1781.

We hear the work performed by Mimi Stillman, one of the most celebrated and innovative flutists of her generation, who has been a soloist at many Bedford Chamber Concerts.

The "Jupiter" Symphony, No. 41, which was Mozart's final symphony, composed in 1788, demonstrates his mastery of the form and of orchestration. The majestic sound that dominates much of the piece earned it its nickname. Perhaps most compelling is the coda to the last movement, which brings the movement's themes back for one final hurrah in a cacophonous climax. The symphony was arranged for chamber ensemble, one instrument per part, by Anthony Newman.

In addition to Mimi Stillman on the flute, the Bedford Chamber Ensemble will include Renée Jolles and Emilie-Anne Gendron (violins), Danielle Farina (viola), Alexis Gerlach (cello), Stephen Sas (double bass), and director Anthony Newman (piano).

Tickets (\$40) 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. Children and their parents are welcome to attend the rehearsal, at 5:30, for free!

The concert starts at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Sumptuous treats are provided at intermission.



The Bigger, Better St. Matthew's College Jamboree on Dec. 1

When change comes to St. Matthew's, it's generally exciting and significant—and that's exactly what's coming to the St. Matthew's College Jamboree, now in its eighth year. This year's Jamboree will take place at The Harvey School. Harvey has generously agreed to host our beloved a cappella event in the Walker Center for the Arts on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. In this expanded setting, the Jamboree will now have twice the capacity. Located just down the street at 260 Jay St. in Katonah, Harvey is a spacious, beautiful and acoustically outstanding setting for this St. Matthew's tradition.

It's important to point out that the St. Matthew's College Jamboree now benefits the church's outreach fund. Proceeds will go directly to fund our annual outreach, as from Art Show: Bedford. It's a win for the parish, the town of Bedford, and the important local causes we help fund each year.

This year, we have commitments from the Yale Whiffenpoofs and the Harvard Krokodiloes, so mark your calendars, and join us on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. for the 8th Annual St. Matthew's College Jamboree at The Harvey School. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$30 for students. We anticipate filling the room to capacity and selling out, so please purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://www.stmatthewsbedford.org/collegejamboree>. You may also pay by check at the church office, or buy them at the door, if available. Any inquiries, including recommended college a cappella groups, should be sent to the Jamboree Chair, Douglas Kim, at CollegeJamboree@gmail.com or 917-907-4394.

CROP Walk 2017



Participants, left to right: Betsy Meyer, Missy Renwick, Charles, Bonnie and Buddy Tisi, Connie Combes and Philippa Kennedy

Newcomers' Cocktails

Please join Clergy, Vestry and The Welcome Commission for the Newcomers' Cocktail Party, on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 6 to 8 p. m. Call for the location (914) 922-1857. Babysitting will be provided in the Church nursery; please be sure to let us know in advance if you would like to use this service. Invitations have been sent. If you think you should have received an invitation, contact Janet Schloat (jschloat@verizon.net); 914-922- 1857. We look forward to meeting you there.



All of our wonderful animal friends – some furry, some feathered and some stuffed—were blessed by Pierce and Rik on St. Francis Day!





All Saints' Sunday, November 5

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz
Ushers: Messrs. Vincent and MacDonald
Lay Reader: Ms. Getz
Lector: Philip Bolen
Acolyte: James Hancock
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. Cameron, Lange, Swift and Struble
Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson
Lector: Mason Santomero
Acolytes: Clara & Sam Pakman, John Gregory, and Mason Santomero
**Lay Minister: Mrs. Tisi
- 5:00 p.m. All Saints' Festive Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Lay Assistants: Will and Evan O'Brien

Lector: Mrs. Finn
Acolytes: Clara and Sam Pakman
**Lay Minister: Mrs. Tisi

5 p.m. Advent Festival of Lessons and Music
Lay Assistant: Elizabeth Deeks
**Children's Service

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, November 12

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Reed and Whitman
Ushers: Messrs. Reed and Powers
Lay Reader: Mr. Brown
Lector: Mr. Freeman
Acolyte: Alexandra Griffin
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**
Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Belknap, Borner and Budick
Lay Reader: Mr. Heath
Acolyte: Harry Whitman
**Lay Minister: Ms. Wood
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Lay Assistant: Cliff Belknap

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 19

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt
Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Reeder
Lay Reader: Mr. Stockbridge
Lector: Mr. Vincent
Acolyte: Luke Breitenecker
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Church School**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz
Ushers: Messrs. S. Brown Jr., Cummings, Ketchum and Kim
Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi
Lector: Mr. Firth
Acolytes: Amelia Frelinghuysen and Lucy McGinnis
**Lay Minister: Mr. Kim
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**
Lay Assistant: Henry Weigel

Thanksgiving Day, November 23

- 10:00 a.m. Ushers: Messrs. Bowers and Mockridge**
Lay Reader: Ginger Getz
Lector: Mason Santomero

Last Sunday after Pentecost, November 26

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott
Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Fagan
Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan
Lector: Mr. Gale
Acolyte: Alexandra Paul
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer**
Ushers: Messrs. Inglis, Keller, LaMotte and Kent
Lay Reader: Mr. Jackson
Acolyte: Mason Santomero
**No Children's Service
- 5:00 p.m. No 5:00 p.m. Service**

First Sunday of Advent, December 3

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Ms. Getz
Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Fagan
Lay Reader: Ms. Getz
Lector: Mrs. Tilt
Acolyte: James Hancock
- 10 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols**
Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner
Ushers: Messrs. de Menocal, Eshoo, Ryan and Sturz
Lay Reader: Mr. Stickney

Comings & Goings

Change of Address:

Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Morse
72 Glendale Drive
Stamford, CT 06906

Mr. & Mrs. James Markowski
2570 Landale Loop
The Villages, FL 32162

All Saints' Festive Eucharist at the 5 p.m. this November

Rik Pike and Mark Weigel will be trying something quite new this November on All Saints' Sunday at the 5 p.m. service. All members of the congregation will be offered a candle as we take our places at the start of the service. As we light our candles, we will all remember one saint in our lives



– a grandparent, a parent, a loved partner or sister or brother – and we will then gather all those lit candles together as we give the good Lord thanks for all those who we love who have passed on to the New Life, yet still keep their eye on us. It will be a wonder-filled celebration of light, life, and love as those darker nights begin to roll in and we approach the colder winter months ahead!

A Look Inside the Prison Walls, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.

St. Matthew's will host a screening of Amazing Grace, a short film about the work of Rehabilitation Through the Arts inside Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. There will be a panel discussion with RTA alumni (formerly incarcerated) and prison ministry leaders.

Local Northern Westchester prison ministry organizations will be in attendance, and all local clergy and members of our multiple congregations of faith will be warmly welcomed and are encouraged to join us.

Doors open for refreshments at 6.30 p.m. and opening remarks are set for 7 p.m.

Donations will support RTA's ongoing work.

Advent Quiet Afternoon, Sat., Dec. 2, 1:30 – 4 p.m.

Join us in the Vestry Room for a quiet afternoon of Advent prayer and reflection to seek God's path for each of us. Frantic expectations and festivities can so easily overshadow this beautiful, timeless season of light and darkness, angels and shepherds, and, in the quiet simplicity of the manger, God coming to birth among us - over 2000 years ago - and here in our lives today. Sign up sheet at reception desk or email Deacon Elena: elbarnum@gmail.com.