



# THE KEY

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.



November

P A R I S H N E W S

2020

### A Thought from the Rector

We have made it through to November. This year, I consider that, in and of itself, to be an accomplishment of real significance. Nothing about this year has been easy, and one of the lessons learned is: the life of faith does not enable people to avoid difficulty; rather, it equips us to face difficulty with grace. That has been our story at St. Matthew's all year long.

In spite of all the constraints, our ministry has continued her steady course, with vitality and fresh vigor. We have had to adjust at every step of the way. And yet, our summer numbers (even with the required capping) exceeded last year's. Online ministry has become a language in which we are now fluent (note: if you haven't checked out our archives, full of sermons, classes, and guest speakers, do yourself a favor). Behind our masks, we have continued to pray, ponder, and smile. We have continued to baptize babies, marry excited couples, and bury the faithful. We have continued to train new confirmands, nurture our youngsters through our Church School, care for each other pastorally, and study Scripture. Plus, we have a fresh appreciation for our lovely campus. Our Sunday mornings in the Chapel-in-the-Woods will certainly go down as some of our most memorable experiences of worship ever...

My point is two-fold. First, we have continued to be who we always have been as a Christian Church, supporting each other and trusting in God, in fair weather and foul, especially foul. But, we can also praise God for the ways in which we have been able to thrive in these trying times. As the saying goes, we have made lots of lemonade. I look back on it all and feel like a proud parent. I'm grateful to all of you for the ways you have looked to St. Matthew's, and really to God, for sustenance in 2020.

So as we begin to see that this crazy year will soon be a thing of the past, I hope you can find it in your heart still to give thanks for your many blessings, especially for the greater depth of soil from which fresh shoots will surely sprout in the year(s) to come. This will not have been for nothing, I promise. And thank you for all the continued support you have given to St. Matthew's. We are so grateful.

I hope, when you think about the things you are grateful for this year, even with what may be a shorter list than usual, that you can say that your faith and church have made a difference.

Happy Thanksgiving. With gratitude for each of you, Grace & Peace,

### Thanksgiving Services

There will be two opportunities to celebrate Thanksgiving this year. On Wed., Nov. 25, St. Mary's will hold their traditional service at 5:30 p.m., and on Thanksgiving Day, there will be the special Festival of Thanks service at 10 a.m. Both will be held in the church and and live-streamed. Each are wonderful ways to celebrate the spirit of the season and give Thanks to God for our many blessings.

**St. Matthew's Thanksgiving Ingathering**

**Help provide a Thanksgiving meal for our neighbors in need!**

**On Sunday Nov. 22nd, Donate any of the following items:**  
**Gravy, Stuffing mix, Canned cranberry sauce, Apple sauce, Canned fruit, Canned yams, Instant potatoes, Can of nuts**

**OR**

**Donate funds to purchase turkeys [online here](#) or by check**

### St. Matthew's in November

At least some things haven't changed this year. November is Stewardship Month at St. Matthew's. We hope that you will continue to support St. Matthew's with a pledge for 2021. Each Sunday, we will hear from various members of our parish about what stewardship means to them, and why it is that they choose to support St. Matthew's. As you spend time reflecting upon stewardship this month, it is our hope that you will pray about how you can support St. Matthew's in the coming year. That our pledges have held fast throughout this trying year is a great testament to the solid foundation of our ministry. And we intend to continue our witness to God's grace as always in the coming year. We hope to model what a healthy church looks like in 2021, just as we have endeavored to do even in 2020. I think it is fair to say that we have remained as fully functioning as any parish in the entire Diocese of NY this past year. But also know that we understand this has been a difficult year. Give what you can. We are so thankful for your continued support.

*Blessings, JZ+*

## What Does St. Matthew's Mean to You?

That's a question that will be answered by your fellow parishioners as we go through November and each of us considers how we might support the church in 2021. It's that time again when we consider an annual pledge to support the many works and efforts of St. Matthew's.

The stories of others are always thoughtful, but the real ask here is that each of us take some personal time to reflect on the role our church plays in our lives. Sunday worship, Church School, mission works to spread God's love throughout our community, the music, our preschool, the beautiful grounds, the staff that make it all run, BLTs, Wednesday classes, the Rector's Bible Study...the list goes on. For each of us the work of our church takes a different path but all in an effort to help us "To Know Christ and to Make Him known."

This work is made possible through many helping hands but also through the financial support of each individual member. Your annual pledge enables our Vestry to build a budget and make prudent financial plans to ensure these financial resources are used wisely.

As an extremely challenging 2020 draws to an end, your participation and consideration are more important than ever. In the days ahead you will receive your pledge card in the mail. We need each member of our parish to do what they can to help support further growth of our parish and its mission. Please be prayerful, thoughtful and as generous as you are able. If you should have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch with one of us, other Vestry members, or the church office.

*Dave McCree, Sim Ketchum, and Douglas Kim*

## What Would Fall Be Without a Harvest Celebration?



The Harvest Fair was a huge success – with over 140 dinners delivered, raising over \$34,000! All due certainly to the creativity and hard work of a great team, led by Libby Whitman and Katie Carlson as co-chairs, Meredith Pakman and Cutler Whitman. Thank you all for pulling this off in a very difficult environment.

## St. Matthew's Churchyard Enters the Digital Age

Just two years after St. Matthew's was consecrated in 1810, the St. Matthew's Churchyard was established in the northwest corner of the property next to the church. Over the years, the Churchyard has grown considerably, and is now divided into three distinct sections, including the beautifully integrated columbarium located in the northwest corner of what is called the "S" yard. Maintaining this vital space requires regular mowing, seeding, pruning, and deer fence, but it also requires proper care of its records dating back centuries. Today, this care now extends to a full digitalization of records that once resided in the parish house in a dedicated file cabinet. Each of the people laid to rest in the Churchyard currently has their own file folder containing varying amounts of personal information. Included are usually the dates of birth, death and burial, as well as contact information for next of kin, town records, and notes from staff and clergy. This information is now being entered into a digital database where records can be accessed and shared as needed far more quickly and accurately.



### A few facts and observations about the Churchyard:

- The oldest tombstone is for Daniel Smith and is dated 1796. It's believed to have been moved there at a later date.
- The second oldest tombstone is a headstone dated 1820. This is believed to be the first formal burial in the Churchyard as we know it today.
- There are nine Revolutionary soldiers buried in the Churchyard. None died during the war and all were members of St. Matthew's.
- For at least 50 years, there has been a clear trend towards cremation. Today, a full burial is not as common.
- Although there are no longer any plots available in the cemetery, the Columbarium (consecrated in 2003) is a modern, spacious burial site that still has availability.
- The Guion family who sold St. Matthew's its original 40 acres are prominently buried in the Churchyard.
- Although there is a dedicated Jay family plot, full of generations of family members, John Jay is not buried in the Churchyard. He was buried in Rye, NY.

Our many thanks to Doug Kim who has been undertaking this mammoth job of converting all 1000 Churchyard records into digital form.

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast meetings will be held on Sat., Nov. 21 and Sat., Dec. 19 from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. The meetings will be both in-person and by Zoom. For planning purposes, please let [Eric Parsons](#) or [Ian MacLean](#) know if you plan to attend either in-person or virtually.

## St. Matthew's Preschool

St. Matthew's Preschool has been quite busy with fun fall activities! The children are busy raking leaves on the playground, attending weekly chapel, and who could have imagined a virtual "Back to School" night complete with some bubbly and a dessert to enjoy at home! The SMP Parents Association has been very generous and purchased new toys for the playground including rakes, a wheelbarrow, and a basketball hoop. The children are enjoying raking leaves and one child told me he was helping Sam. The Parents Association collected over 900 diapers for a local community organization and we are now gearing up to join the church in their Thanksgiving food collection. Children will make specially designed cards to accompany the food for families.



Father John and Father Drew are the Children's Chapel rock stars. You might even hear the children saying "Amen" with great enthusiasm if you are on the campus on a Thursday morning! This season of thankfulness reminds us to look for the joy in the little ones as they show us in many ways how to be thankful. God Bless your family during this "Season of Thankfulness."

*Susan deBrigard, Director*

## Bedell Committee Grant

In July, the Vestry approved the Bedell Fund Committee's recommendation for a \$45,000 grant to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Mamaroneck. This grant was used to purchase and install a generator for the Parish Hall and Heathcote Hall. The generator is the last piece of a large project in which St. Thomas replaced HVAC/dehumidification/pumps/air handlers. The church is located in a flood plain and has many issues with flooding and the consequential wetness issues such as mold. The overall project is critical to preserving their buildings as well as protecting the services they provide (such as their Thrift Shop and Brown Bag programs). The generator allows these systems to run during storms when power is likely to fail and also the church to be an emergency shelter for the area.

*The Bedell Fund was established in 1994 after a bequest from Hope Bedell to strengthen the Episcopal Church through the funding of capital projects and clergy support, with priority to Region II of the New York Diocese.*



# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

## SUNDAY SERMON & SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

**Upcoming Dates:**

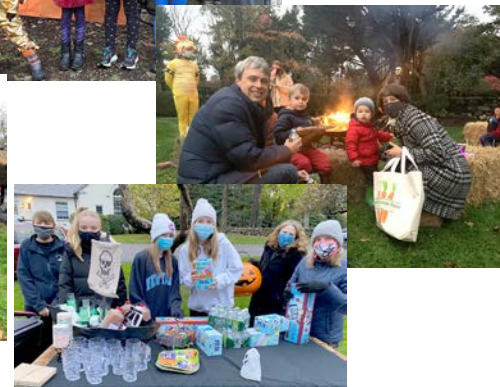
|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>November 8</b>  | <b>December 6</b>  |
| <b>November 22</b> | <b>December 20</b> |

**11:00 - 11:30 AM**

**OUTSIDE OR UNDER THE CHURCH**

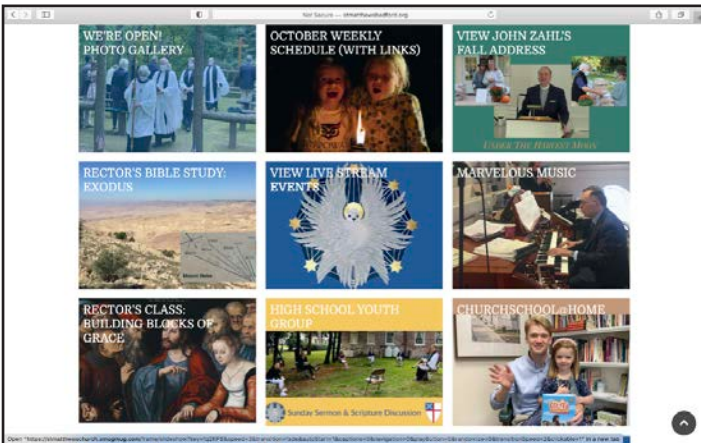
## Haunted Hike

Despite a morning of snow and still chilly temperatures, the St. Matthew's Haunted Hike was a spook-tacular success! Many thanks to the Confirmation Class (set up and scare leaders), the Saunders family (beverages and snacks), the Men of St. Matthew's (pizza and cleanup) and Drew Courtright, who organized and ran the entire night. And of course, thanks to all who braved the chill for a memorable 2020 Haunted Hike!



Let our website be your go-to place for upcoming events, services, registration and streaming and giving. AND – Did you miss one of John’s theology or Bible study classes? Or, you want to mull over a sermon that you heard a couple of months ago. You’ll find them all on our website. Or are you in need of one of Tony’s glorious concerts?

Marvelous Music is also there for your pleasure. Want to see how St. Matthew’s is doing? -- check our running photo gallery. Whether you are a bit old for Church School or just right, Churchschool@Home has weekly lessons that are ageless in their telling. Bookmark Stmatthewsbedford.org – and you will be transported to the beauty and spirit of St. Matthew’s no matter where you are.



## O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum

The St. Matthew’s Tree Sale is Here

Sat., Dec 5 and Sun., Dec. 6

from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fresh Frazer and Douglas Fir  
5 ft - 12 ft.

Home delivery is available



## Episcopalians We Are!

*Even on cold mornings we flocked to the Chapel-in-the-Woods*



## Blessing of Pets

*Celebrating the spirit of St. Francis, Sun. Oct. 4 was a wonderful day in the Chapel-in-the-Woods as our clergy blessed our special friends of all sizes...some with small paws and others with big hoofs.*



*We bid farewell to the Kellers, who have been integral members of St. Matthew’s, and are moving to SC. Peter will be continuing his involvement with Episcopal Charities as co-chair of its Board.*

## Saints They Are!

Normally on All Saints’ Sunday, the Church School parades in the church aisles, but this year, they met the parishioners from the 10 a.m. service coming up the hill from the Chapel-in-the-Woods, with waving flags and singing with Mark Weigel. It was wonderful... heartwarming.... uplifting and a symbol of hope.



## Comings & Goings

### New or Returning Parishioners

Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Renwick  
850 Pacific Street #326  
Stamford, CT 06902

Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson Willets  
515 Hillsborough Steet #105  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

### Holy Baptism

*Received into Christ’s Holy Church*

William Hughes Drexler – October 4, 2020

Beckett Anderson Young – October 18, 2020

### Holy Matrimony

*May they grow in love and peace with our Lord and one another*

James Brevoort Renwick, Jr. and Margaret Patricia McDermott

October 3, 2020

Elizabeth Davis Walker and Jefferson Dillard Willets, Jr.

October 17, 2020

### In Memoriam

*In sure and certain hope*

Rosemary Mankiewicz (Ketchum Society) – October 20, 2020