



# BUILDING BLOCKS OF GRACE: THEOLOGY 101



Wednesdays in October  
Fellowship Room &  
Live Stream  
7:00pm



*Building Blocks of Grace: Theology 101* kicks off in October, on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will survey some of the classic theological concepts that underpin both the Christian faith and our ministry at St. Matthew's. Think of it as the difference between being a passenger on an airplane versus learning about what goes on in the cockpit, and the dynamics that govern and enable flight to occur. If you wish to come in person, you are most welcome (we can accommodate by **reservation only**, up to 30 seats), and likewise, we will be streaming these classes for those who prefer to attend **virtually**. All are welcome.

## First Eucharist Since March

On Sept. 16, St. Matthew's resumed holding its Holy Eucharist service on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. **Reservations are required** and the sacrament will be received in "one kind," in accordance with the guidelines from the Diocese.



## Bible Study

Also on Sept. 16 at 11 a.m., St. Matthew's held its first in-person Bible Study in the Fellowship Room. By **reservation** and socially-distanced, parishioners were able to enjoy meeting together to read and discuss passages from Exodus. Parishioners may also participate **remotely through Zoom**.



Save the Date!

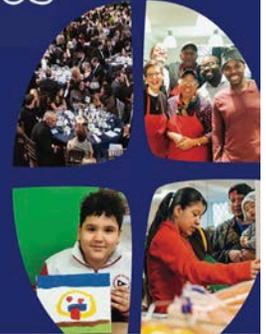
## Episcopal Charities

ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER

Please join us for a virtual Tribute Dinner like never before...  
...an evening of remarks and performances

by Friends of Episcopal Charities

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020



## Charities We Support



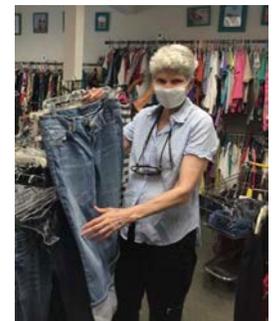
The Community Center remains a source of stability for those we serve, treating all with dignity and respect, and continues to meet the needs of our community that have become more urgent since the public health crisis began.

Because of coronavirus we are distributing pre-bagged food to twice as many local families at the back door of our Food Pantry. Since March, we have had 7,370 household visits to the pantry, distributed food to over 28,000 people and had 900 families turn to us for the very first time. Each family is provided fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, eggs, milk, bread, shelf-stable canned and dry goods and essential toiletries such as toilet paper, soap, feminine hygiene products, diapers and wipes. For local seniors or those with underlying health issues who are unable to make it to the Center, we continue to offer home deliveries, and since March have delivered to 1,000 homes.

In August, we began distribution of school supplies and cloth face masks to local children. To date we have distributed over 1,500 bags, helping to reduce the financial burden for families struggling to get by.

We have also reopened our clothing boutique, providing free-of-charge clothing support to help make ends meet. So far we have helped 1,937 individuals with much needed clothing through 536 visits to the boutique.

We would like to thank the St. Matthew's Church community for your extraordinary partnership. Your generosity is helping us to provide essential support to over 2,500 families; helping them put food on their tables, clothe their children and provide a helping hand to get them through difficult times. We so appreciate your continued support of our mission!



## Church School First Day Fun!

We are off to a great start! On Sun., Sept. 13 we had our first day of Church School. It was a sight to see – 13 children all clad in their Sunday best, accessorized with their favorite cloth masks. Everything from zebra print to marching band figurines was displayed on the masks so that the Fellowship Room was exploding with color as well as energy. We all had a great time as we learned about the dramatic parting of the Red Sea. We completed activity sheets that revealed how powerful our trust in God can be, and by the end of the lesson, many elaborate and energetic drawings of Moses defeating Pharaoh's army were scattered about.



We are looking forward to continuing Church School each Sunday with both **in-person** and at-home options. I thank you for trusting us with your children. I want to make sure that the lessons you teach at home are reinforced here with another voice, reiterating the values that you as parents model. Our Church School is here for you: to strengthen our church family and our community, and to know Christ and make Him known.



Please feel free to call me with any questions, ideas or feedback: 914.234.9636.

*Charlotte Santomero, Children's Ministry Coordinator*

## Confirmation Class Begins

On Sun., Oct. 4, this year's Confirmation Class will be commissioned at the 10 a.m. service. Please pray for Amanda, Amelia, Eloise, Erica, Henry, Jamie, Lachlan, Lindsay, Lyon, May and Sam as they begin their year of preparation with Drew. Interested eighth graders can still join before the 4th! Contact [Drew Courtright](#) to sign up.

## Blessing of the Pets

Have you ever wished you could bring your pet to church? On Sun. Oct. 4, you can! All four-legged friends and their owners are invited to our annual celebration of the feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the Pets, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel-in-the-Woods. Friends and neighbors of the human variety are welcome, too!

# BLESSING OF THE PETS



Sunday October 4th  
2:00pm  
Chapel in the Woods

## A Special Thank You to Tara Deeks

On Sept. 20 at the 10 a.m. service, Drew Courtright thanked Tara Deeks for her work as Church School Ministry Coordinator. In presenting her with a gift from the children and parish, Drew noted: "Tara has been our Children's Ministry Coordinator for the last two years and has seen St. Matthew's through two transitions. She has supported our children and young families with joy and faith. She brought me onboard and taught me everything I needed to know about Church School. Even on her way out this summer, she prepared the Church School for the fall and is still working diligently to be a pivotal resource for Charlotte Santomero, our new coordinator."



## Teens Diving Deeper

The first two meetings of the high school youth group have seen informative discussions about the scripture and sermon for the day. From Reggae and the Red Sea to a guest appearance by Paul Zahl, the new format has enabled deeper engagement with the texts among our teens. October meetings are Oct. 11 and 25 from 11 to 11:30 a.m., following the 10 a.m. service.





# 2020 HAUNTED HIKE

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH YARD**  
**FRIDAY OCT. 30**

6:00-6:30 PM  
LESS SCARY FOR YOUNGER KIDS

6:30-7:00 PM  
MORE SCARY FOR OLDER KIDS

OUTSIDE RAIN OR SHINE  
SOCIALY DISTANT  
SPAGHETTI? NO. TREATS? YES!

## St. Matthew's Preschool

St. Matthew's Preschool opened the doors for the 2020-2021 school year on Sept. 8! It was a glorious day for everyone to be able to see our teachers and friends, play outside and show everyone our new face coverings. The sounds of happy children filled the campus, and the past six months of not being together were almost forgotten. Flexibility has become a popular word at St. Matthew's Preschool. The teaching staff, parents, but most of all the children, are so flexible. A special thank you to the parents for following the reopening guidelines, the teachers for being such a great team to work with, and to Kelley Johnston for being at all of the Town Hall Informational Meetings to answer parents' questions. Face coverings are worn when we are unable to socially distance; handwashing is frequent; touchless temperature scanning is used to complete children's health checks before entering the building; extremely popular lap desks are being used; and chapel will be held on the patio or at the Chapel-in-the-Woods with Father John and Father Drew. Mr. Kenny, our early childhood music teacher, conducted music classes with the children outside.

We are extremely fortunate to be on this beautiful campus surrounded by nature, with so many opportunities for learning. You will always find people who are helping when things seem uncertain. Thank you to all the SMP helpers who made reopening a possibility!

*Susan deBrigard, Director*



## 11 Years Serving St. Matthew's Preschool Thank You, Kelley Johnston!

This month marks the end of a tenure of great service as Kelley Johnston steps down as board president of St. Matthew's Preschool. Kelley's contribution to our school is significant and broad reaching. Seven parishioners and two clergy persons formed a focus group to discuss the viability of St. Matthew's running a preschool in the space recently vacated by the Hi-Ho School. Kelley was part of that initial focus group and, once the school was "a go" and our first little students were enrolled, she continued to lead our preschool for 11 more successful years.

Few people could accomplish all that Kelley achieved during her time at St. Matthew's Preschool. In the early days, she helped establish the school bylaws, the financial structure, safety measures and operational policies. She presided as board president, conducted two school director searches, supported the parent group, upgraded facilities (including a new playground) and communicated monthly with the Vestry. Kelley established and ran the all-time favorite children's activity at St. Matthew's — the annual gingerbread house decorating day, which has drawn little ones from all over Bedford for years.

It is one thing to achieve all this. It is quite another to do so with such grace, diplomacy, professionalism, good humor and poise as Kelley possesses. As John Zahl notes: "Kelley is basically the most fun person to get a lot done with whom I've ever met. The impact of her vision and leadership upon our school cannot be underestimated, and she leaves an amazing legacy in her wake."

As Kelley steps down to prepare her family for their upcoming move to Charlottesville next spring, we offer Kelley our heartfelt thanks, appreciation and love for all she has given to St. Matthew's Preschool. We will dearly miss her presence in our classrooms, yet we take heart that she has set in motion a preschool that will continue long into the future.

## St. Mary's Church

In view of COVID continuing regulations on attendance and space, the first fall service of St. Mary's Church will be held in person and **streamed** at St. Matthew's Church at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 25.

We are pleased to welcome **Stephen W. Nicholas M.D.** as our guest speaker. He will speak on **Reflections on COVID-19 After a Career Spent Treating Children with AIDS**. Currently, he volunteers at **Harlem Hospital Center** with the **Helping Healed (H3) COVID Response Team** after a career in medicine that has included **Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at Columbia University**; **Senior Associate Dean for Admissions at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons** and **Director of Pediatrics at Harlem Hospital Center**.

Although social distancing and stay-at-home orders have halted services at St. Mary's Church for the foreseeable future, all is not at a standstill in the Peaceable Kingdom. Since last spring, the St. Mary's Vestry has doubled down on stewardship of the 19th century building and grounds. Beginning in April, we undertook an expansive clean-up of the property in an effort to restore historic views of the rural church. Fallen trees, limbs and underbrush were cleared from the steep slope along East Middle Patent Road to reveal the dramatic cascade of granite on which St. Mary's was constructed in 1852. The small island at the intersection of East Middle Patent and Hickory Kingdom Road, neglected and misshapen by snowplows, was cleared, graded and seeded. A dense tangle of shrubs was removed from a stretch along Hickory Kingdom Road, and the area was graded and seeded. Historic stone walls, ruins of the area's agricultural past, were freed of climbing vines and poison ivy. Stumps in the lawn surrounding the church were ground down, covered with topsoil, and seeded. To improve the visitor experience, the parking area was re-graded and fresh gravel was added, and the chain and stanchion were removed from the entryway. Plans are underway to rebuild deteriorated sections of the stone walls, plant a bed of ferns along the roadside at the north end of the property, and flesh out a master plan to replace recent losses of mature trees with new plantings on the grounds. Using Ashwood Restoration's 2012 Conditions Survey Report and Treatment Recommendations as our guide, the Vestry has also turned its attention to the historic structure. Priorities include making isolated repairs to the magnificent handmade double-hung wood windows and controlling humidity levels rising from the dirt floor in the basement crawl space.



*Stacy Albanese*

## Comings & Goings

### New or Returning Parishioners

Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Cocciardi  
5 Rockledge Road  
Katonah, New York 10536

### Change of Address

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Mr. Andrew Heath<br>703 Deep Hollow Road<br>Millbrook, New York 12545 | Ms. Terry Gumz<br>287 Turquoise Lane<br>Osprey, Florida 34229 |
|---|---|

### Holy Baptism

*Received into Christ's Holy Church*

Beatrice Mandeville Vincent – September 5, 2020  
Alessia Kate Benefico – September 13, 2020