

St. Matthew Messenger



News of and for the Community of
St. Matthew Presbyterian Church

April 2019

Greetings from Leslie

by Leslie Klingensmith



Happy spring, friends! It's so uplifting to see the daffodils blooming all over the grounds of St. Matthew. In a few more weeks it will be azaleas and then day lilies...each season offers its own gifts here, but the renewal of the springtime is especially wonderful.

As we enjoy the flowers, the trees, and the greening grass it's time to turn our thoughts to planting our community vegetable garden for the summer. As you probably remember, for several summers we have grown vegetables and a few herbs to supplement the summer lunch program that we participate in for neighborhood kids. The summer feeding program is designed to be a safety net for kids who receive free or reduced cost breakfasts and lunches at their schools and are at risk of malnutrition during the weeks of summer.



2018 St. Matthew garden seen from space

A few of us have had an initial planning meeting for the 2019 garden, but we will be looking for lots of help through the summer with planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. You do not have to have prior gardening experience to take part, and it's a lot of fun! For this

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Holy Week 2019
Services and Events



Sunday, April 14:
Palm/Passion Sunday. Join us for worship at 10:00 AM. Begin Holy Week by waving palm branches and celebrating communion.

Friday, April 19: Good

summer we intend to plant beans, squash, cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes. Prior experience tells us that these foods are popular with the clients and tend to grow well in our space. We plan to do preparation work on the beds at the May 5 work day and plant at 9:30 AM on May 9. We will be accepting donations of plants AND seeds for beans and squash and plants for cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes. Watch the church bulletin for further details on when and where to bring your donations.

I'm looking forward to celebrating Easter with you all in a couple more weeks. Take note of these special activities and worship services: April 14 is Palm/Passion Sunday - our worship service will include waving palm branches and communion as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and move into the solemnity of Holy Week. Our Good Friday service will be held at 7:30 PM on Friday, April 19 at 7:30 PM. Through the Tenebrae Service we will relive the somber night of Christ's crucifixion and reflect on our complicity and need for repentance. The community Easter Egg Hunt will be held here at St. Matthew at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 20. On April 21 we will celebrate the joy of the resurrection with worship services at 8:00 (in the columbarium) and 10:00 AM (in the sanctuary). In between the two services we will host our traditional Easter Breakfast in The Commons. You can find further details in this newsletter, but I do hope you will plan to join us.



Grace and peace,
Leslie

Youth Notes

by Konni Brantner

Sandwich Making Marathon, Sunday, April 14



Our goal is to make 2,500 sandwiches and "a ton" of trial mix for Nourish Now. To make that happen, we need LOTS OF bread, lunch meat, sliced cheese, sandwich bags, peanut butter and jelly. PLUS Cheerios, Craisins, M&Ms, cheese gold fish...

And lots of volunteers...

- Volunteers to set up Sunday the 14 at 8:30 a.m.
- Volunteers to help in the sandwich preparation
- Volunteers to help clean up

Friday. Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 7:30 PM. Experience the bleakness and loneliness of Christ's last days and moments, spiritually preparing for the joy of Easter morning.

Saturday, April 20: Community Egg Hunt and Easter Party. The party starts at 10:30 AM, but volunteers are welcome to come early and help set up the party and hide eggs.

Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunday

8:00 AM: Early Outdoor Worship Service in the Columbarium

8:30 AM: Easter Breakfast in The Commons

10:00 AM: Easter Service in the sanctuary.

Easter Lilies



It's Easter Lily time! The sign-up sheet for lilies is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Lilies are \$10 per plant.

Please pay for them by Palm Sunday, April 14. Payment can be given to Kit Boyle or Jeannette Dibble in the narthex/sanctuary, Alexa Boyle in the nursery, Louise Boyle in the North Building/Commons, or put in a labeled envelope in the offering plate.

Checks should be made out to St. Matthew Presbyterian Church with "Easter Lilies" ² noted in the memo area.

Your children won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of our cities' most under-privileged. Adults: please feel free to come help!

Please be generous with your donation of supplies, energy and time! We are also suggesting monetary donations which will be used to order the bread (and get delivered). For more information, contact Konni at stmatkmb@hotmail.com or call 301-598-4400.

Fun, Fondue and Fellowship, Sunday, April 14

Fondue and Fellowship is an event for young adults scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 6:30 pm in the Agnes Wilson Room. You are invited to bring your favorite thing to "dip" into chocolate or cheese.



Bring your favorite game, come and relax and have fun and feel free to bring your friends as well. Please respond by texting Louise Boyle 1-703-336-9842, Esemé Koge 240-406-6237, or Konni Brantner, 240-899-4809 or stmatkmb@hotmail.com.

Community Easter Party and Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 20



We'll hunt for eggs, enjoy some crafts and play some games beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your neighbors, friends, relatives and don't forget your basket for collecting eggs.

If you're willing,
please call Konni.

Of course we always need help.



On Sunday, March 17, the following 3rd and 4th graders received their bibles: Matthew Ernest Winter, Elena Hope Jewett Powell, Anya Brielle K. Kuetcha, Christabel Gabriella

Lenten Bible Study



Though we are now more than half way through the Lenten Season, you still have an opportunity to make the season more meaningful.

Consider dropping by and join us in this study entitled Faithful Citizenship, part of the Thoughtful Christian curriculum. You may choose between attending at 9:00 am on Sundays or 12 noon on Thursdays.

April Coffee and Tea Servers



Apr 7 - Epie Ebenizer and Lilian Robinsone

Apr 14 - Susan Watters and Bruce Dorrier

Apr 21 - Easter

Apr 28 - Elsie and Don Maxam

Thank you very much for "volunteering" to serve coffee and tea. If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement or contact Glenda DeJong 301-460-8523.

April Liturgists

Ainebyona, and Ekese John Ewane Jr. Lichien Lili Wang also received her bible, but couldn't be with us. Congratulations!



Mystery Meal for Camp Joy, Sunday, May 19

The Camp Joy crew will be hosting a MYSTERY MEAL on Sunday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m. This is a lot of fun for all ages. Save the date and plan now to attend.



- Apr 7 - Deidra Gallager
- Apr 14 - Louise Boyle
- Apr 21 - Amy Hartley
- Apr 28 - Jim Leong

For any questions or changes regarding this schedule, contact Jeanne Meyer at jredmeyer@comcast.net.

Thank you for serving!

Vacation Bible School, June 24 to June 28

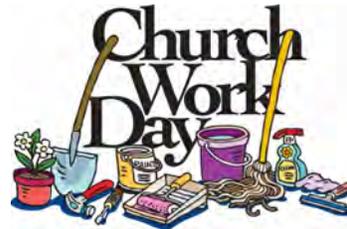


Be The Rock! That's the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School. Once again we're partnering with St. John's Lutheran Church for an exciting week, which will be held from June 24-June 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day.

You won't want to miss the fun. For more information, contact Konni. Click below for a registration form that you can print out, complete, and return to the church.

[2019 VBS Registration Form](#)

SAVE THE DATE!



Spring Work Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, starting after church.

Come dressed casually and have a light meal before helping to do the many projects-of all kinds, for all ages and abilities.

We need you all. Any questions or ideas? See David Hartley or Jody Hursh. Thank you.

St. Matthew Mission / Refugee Ministry

by Ruth Burgos-Sasscer

For I was hungry and you gave me food... I was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Matt. 25:35)



Organizing food in the Narthex

VBS Wishlist



It's time to start collecting those strange and miscellaneous items for

About one month ago, St. Matthew enthusiastically agreed to collaborate with the Sligo 7th Day Adventist Church with a program to help refugee families from the Middle East who now reside not far from us in Maryland. Shortly after expressing our interest, the Rev. Joseph Shabbbaz asked if it was possible for St. Matthew to provide specific food and household items for 27 families that would complement a larger donation from the Sligo church and which they planned to deliver on April 6.

Members of our newly created Mission/Refugee Ministry met and unanimously agreed to collaborate with this project, although we were aware that we only had a little over two weeks to assess the request, get the word out, receive the donations, and get them ready for the scheduled delivery date. Amazingly, we did it!



Loading food onto the Sligo Adventist truck

On Sunday, March 31, members of the Mission/Refugee Ministry sorted and counted all the items donated by St. Matthew members and friends. Although the bins were overflowing with the requested items - rice, cooking oil, olive oil, sugar, dish-washing liquid, bath soap and toothpaste - we wondered if we had enough of the specific items for 27 families as, for example, 54 five-pound bags of rice (2 per family). To our surprise and delight, the donations exceeded the goals for each item.

When Rev. Joseph Shabbbaz asked Linda Rhoad, chair of the Mission Commission, if we had enough additional items to meet the needs of two additional families (recent arrivals from Syria), she was able to respond "of course." Thanks to the generosity of so many, St. Matthew helped meet the needs of 29 (not 27) families. As Amy Hartley, one of our members expressed it, "this was a labor of grace, love and teamwork!" Many, many thanks to all.

Vacation Bible School.

As of now, we need...

- Those socks that have no match
- Duct tape
- Crepe paper streamers
- Tiny sea shells
- Rocks- about the size of a fist
- 1 quart mason jars (with lids)
- Empty Water bottles - both 8 & 12 oz.
- Caps, lots and lots of every size and color bottle caps.

-Konni Brantner

St. Matthew Long-Range Planning

On Sunday, March 24, the Planning Commission presented St. Matthew's Long-Range Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 to the Congregation.

The Commission's planning process was reviewed, and how the Plan takes into account the demographics, the community, the environment, and the financial security of the church. Linda Rhoad explained how the changes were made primarily to ensure an inclusive and earth-friendly environment. Ruth Burgos-Sasscer elaborated on how the objectives fit into the activities that St. Matthew is undertaking.



The Planning Commission received several recommendations at the well-attended meeting:



Many thanks for a job well done!

Congregational Notes

Mary Martha Circle Meets Wednesday, April 10

by Ruth Burgos-Sasscer

All women of the church

(members, family, friends) are welcome to attend the next meeting of the Mary Martha Circle on Wednesday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the Agnes Wilson room. We will continue our Bible study and discussion of *God's Promise: I Am With You*. Millie Ames will lead the discussion. Bring a sandwich and our hostesses, Nell Taylor and Thecla Brathwaite, will provide a beverage and dessert. If you need a ride, call Ruth Burgos-Sasscer (301-367-7670) or Julia McBee (301) 603-0450.

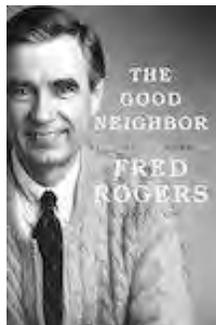


Adult Book Discussion Group Meets Wednesday, April 10

by Leslie Klingensmith

The book discussion group for adults will next read *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers* by Maxwell King.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 pm, in the Agnes Wilson room. We will read part III of the book (pp. 155-225). Come join us for interesting conversation!



Easter Breakfast, April 21

by Glenda DeJong

- **Emphasize growth.** St. Matthew should be bold in its growth, commit itself to growing the congregation, or ensuring church growth, in both Goals 1 and 3.
- **Engage new members** to ensure that they become involved and committed to faith development and service to Christ. Both growth and retention are vital.
- **Strike the words** "whenever possible" in Goal 1, b) so that it reads "Session and Nominating Committees will work to ensure that our decision-making bodies represent our diversity."
- **In Goal 5,** emphasize a) Financial Management, and b) planning for greater use of the facilities in years to come, include and expansion plan in the columbarium.



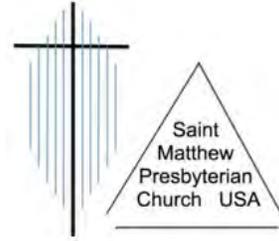
The full text of the Plan is available from the church office. The Planning Commission noted that it will consider the Congregation's recommendations and present a final draft to Session for approval.

The Planning Commission members are Rev. Leslie Klingensmith, John Meyer, John Klem, Linda Rhoad, Ruth Burgos-Sasscer, Phil Tarnoff, Gus Clay, and Tana Ngwira. 6

St. Matthew's traditional Easter Breakfast will be held after the Early Morning Easter Service on April 21 (8:30 am). In addition to our favorite breakfast foods of scrambled eggs, sausage links and grits, we will share breads and cakes prepared by our very own cooks.



Important Links



Leslie Klingensmith,
Pastor
301-598-4400

Konni Brantner,
Director of Youth Education
and Outreach
301-871-6275

Jeremy Young,
Director of Music
and Organist
301-681-8013

These activities cannot happen without your help. The planning committee needs volunteers to help set-up the afternoon of April 20, provide bowls of fruit, bake your favorite breakfast cake, cook early Easter morning, clean and set up the Commons for church school and wash dishes. Youth volunteers are needed to help set up on Easter morning and serve tables. If you can help in any way, tell us by signing up on the Narthex bulletin board or by contacting Deirdre Gallagher or Glenda De Jong.

The cost will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. The money is used to pay for the food and supplies and any excess cash supports Coffee Hour.

In order to purchase sufficient food, tell us you are coming by signing up on the narthex bulletin board. We look forward to the celebration!

Al Conner,
Church Office Administrative
Assistant
301-598-4400

Janet Froom,
Clerk of Session
301-871-7239

Bill and Julia McBee,
Newsletter Editors
301-603-0450

St. Matthew New and Notable



Thanks to organizer Mellissa Duru, seven of St. Matthew's youth group went on their first college tour on Wednesday April 3. They participated in a tour by a University of Maryland senior. They visited classrooms, residence halls, "The Mall," two libraries, and the student union. Photo above shows the prospective students by a sculpture of "Testudo the Terrapin."

Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for the May St. Matthew Messenger will be Friday, May 3.

Many thanks to all our photographers:
Sofia Hammer, Linda Road,



Kit Boyle, Konni Brantner,
Leslie Klingensmith, Paul
Neal.

The Session celebrated Leslie's 17th anniversary at St. Matthew Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, March 12.



The Bell Choir under the direction of Jim Lessig will be performing Day of Resurrection and Canticle for Easter on Easter morning.



St. Matthew welcomed 10 new members on Sunday, March 24: Sonia CHIRINDZA (daughters: Jenny and Julliana Timbane), Michael JONES, Sabrina MAKULA, Stephanie MAKULA, Daisy NAMULONDO, Wright SELEMANI, Leah Brownlee TAYLOR, Jenny TSE, Jufang TSENG (children: Lili, Leo and Leah Wong), and Mary Beth WERTIME WALKER.