

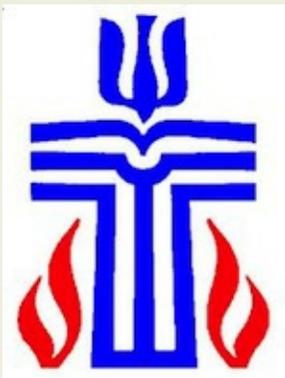
News of and for the Community of
St. Matthew Presbyterian Church

February 2019

Above: The sanctuary of St. Matthew was emptied for the installation of new carpet.

Pastor Leslie Away

Pastor Leslie will be away next Sunday, February 10, leading the Women's Retreat for White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. Konni Brantner will preach. Leslie will return to the office on February 12.



Your 2018 Contribution Statement

You can pick up your 2018 year-end contribution statement in your folder in the narthex. Any questions should be referred to our financial

The Holy Spirit Shows Up

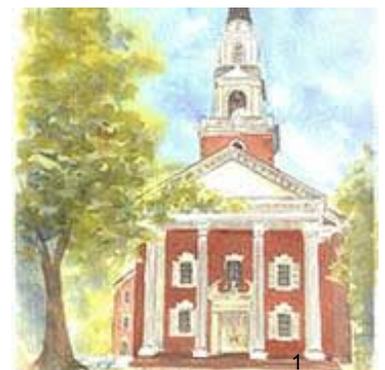
by Leslie Klingensmith



As I write this article, I'm also preparing to be the keynote speaker for the White Memorial Presbyterian Church women's retreat the weekend of February 8-10. Some of you might remember that I have led the retreat before, in 2010 and 2014. It's a different experience for me, and definitely gets me out of my comfort zone! The retreat has a theme, chosen collaboratively by the retreat planning

committee with some input from me. Throughout the weekend, I give three talks related to the theme and then I preach and serve communion on Sunday morning. I also make myself available to the women to share meals with them or spend time in conversation. I'm looking forward to the weekend - in the past I have found it energizing to explore a topic in depth and be surrounded by a supportive community of women. It helps that White Memorial is my twin sister Erin's church!

The theme for the retreat this year is "The Holy Spirit Shows Up," and we are exploring what the Spirit is, how we experience the Spirit in our lives, and how/when/where the Spirit acts through us. I've always been interested in the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit fits in with the other parts of the Trinity, so this preparation and contemplation has been interesting and fun. In studying different cultures' perspective on the Spirit, I came across this quotation from *Latina Evangelicas: A Theological Survey from the Margins* that I would like



White Memorial Presbyterian Church



Liturgist Schedule for February 2019

- Feb 3** - Kit Boyle
- Feb 10** - Leigh Leslie
- Feb 17** - Al Luce
- Feb 24** - Julia McBee

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

Thank you for serving as Liturgist.



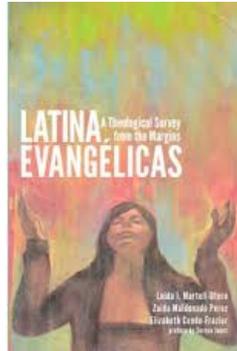
February Coffee and Tea Servers

- Feb 3** - Sofia & Norman Hammer
- Feb 10** - Sara Lou Cardwell & Leigh Leslie
- Feb 17** - Mary Beth Thompson, with Juliana & Angelina Thompson
- Feb 24** - Black History Luncheon

Thank you very much for volunteering to serve coffee

"I love the Holy Spirit. She is like the wild child of the Trinity, anywhere and everywhere moving, calling forth, and stirring things up. She is wonderfully illusive yet also fully present. She is untamable, full of possibilities and creative potential..She is and will be unconventional, even uncultured. She is the miracle of the melanges that terribly confound some but keep others praising the God who never ceases to surprise and amaze us. She is the wonder that moves all our questions from 'What does this all mean?' to 'What shall we do?' She can forever alter our lives and our world. She is life-giving breath, wind, and fire." (Zaida Maldonado Perez, Latina Evangelicas, pgs. 14-15)

Isn't this a fascinating take on the third person of the Trinity? I



liked that the Latina Evangelicas refer to the Spirit as "She", because that is how for most of my adult life I've reconciled gender questions around God - if God the Creator is known as our "Father," there's some balance to the Spirit emerging as our "Mother" or as "Wisdom" (*Sophia*). It's helped me to envision the Holy Spirit as the feminine "face" of God. There's not much that is certain, but when we feel Christ's

presence alive on earth today, I know that comes from the power of the Spirit. I certainly have never wanted to limit the Spirit's potential to show up where and how She wants - but the evangelicas open up the possibilities even more than I ever could have thought!

So, here in these short, cold, dark days of winter, where is the Holy Spirit showing up for you? Another way to ask that question might be to quote Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor: 'What's saving your life right now?' God's Spirit does surprise and amaze us, over and over again - but we have to have some ideas of where and how to look for that "Wild Child" of the Trinity. I appreciate your prayers as I lead the retreat next weekend, and look forward to sharing more thoughts with you!

Grace and peace,
Leslie

YOUTH NOTES - SAVE THE DATES!

by Konni Brantner

Camp Joy Planning Meeting, Sunday, February 10

and tea. If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please contact someone else as a replacement and let me know.

Glenda DeJong
301-460-8523

SAVE THE DATE!



BE THE ROCK!

St. John's Lutheran Church and St. Matthew Presbyterian Church present their

ANNUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 24-June 28
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

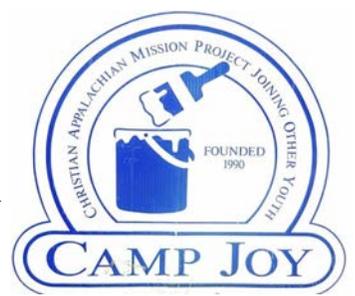


Volunteer as a Greeter

We need volunteers to serve as greeters to give visitors and members a friendly morning greeting as they arrive for

Our first Camp Joy meeting of the year will be held in the Commons, classroom 1, immediately after church.

If you are in Middle or High School and are interested in Camp Joy 2019, it's important for you to be present. Parents you are invited also!



Sandwich Making for Martha's Table, Date to Be Determined



Martha's Table is moving, so we cannot confirm a spring date for a few weeks. But stay tuned for more information about our spring sandwich making marathon!

But for now, please start saving those bread ties and sandwich bags! As always, we'll need lots and lots of whole wheat bread, baggies, meat, cheese, peanut butter and jelly!

Sanctuary Carpet Restoration Week, January 27 to February 1



St. Matthew's chancellory became a temporary attic.

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped get this enormous job done, with special thanks to Phil Tarnoff and Julia McBee.

worship. The requirements are that you arrive at church 15 - 20 minutes before the service begins and welcome people as they enter. If you're able to volunteer, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Any Questions? See Kit Boyle.



Visitor's Orientation, Sunday, March 10

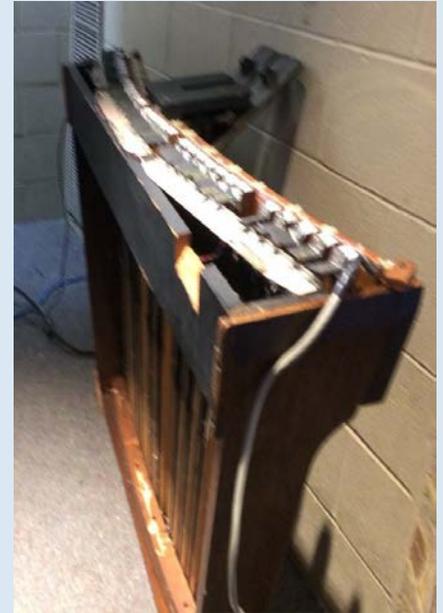
The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring an orientation session for visitors who are interested in learning more about St. Matthew and exploring the possibility of becoming members. The orientation will be held on Sunday, March 10 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. A light lunch will be served. If you would like to attend, please let Leslie or Elder Kit Boyle know so we have plenty of food and materials prepared.



Tuesday night "pop-up" service got the job done.



Wrestling with the narthex doors.



Secrets of the organ exposed.

CONGREGATION NOTES

Mary Martha Circle Meets Wednesday, February 13

by Julia McBee



The Mary Martha Circle will gather Wednesday February 13th for our monthly bible study and luncheon. We begin at 10:30 in the Agnes Wilson room. Bring a sandwich and stay for lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. If you need a ride call Julia McBee.

Book Group for Adults, Wednesday, February 13



Important Contacts

Leslie A. 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

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

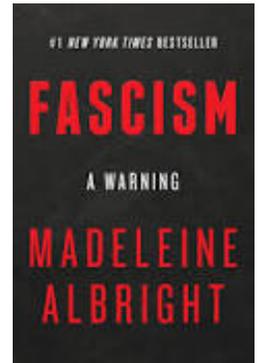
Janet Froom,
Clerk of Session
(301) 871-7239

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

**The deadline for the
March newsletter is
March 1.**

by Leslie Klingensmith

Our next book will be *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State. We will meet on Wednesday, February 13, at 7:00 pm in the Agnes Wilson Room. We will read chapters 1 through 4. Plan to join us for thoughtful conversation about a timely read. The book is available at local bookstores or through Amazon.com.



St. Matthew Celebrates Our African American Heritage, Sunday, February 24

by Glenda DeJong

St. Matthew will celebrate Black History Month on Sunday, February 24. Our guest speaker will be Elder Tressie Muldrow from Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church. Elder

Muldrow will share with us in worship about her experiences participating in the integration of the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. We will have a potluck luncheon after church in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to attend this interesting and inspiring event.

Lenten Bible Study Begins Sunday, March 10

by Leslie Klingensmith

Lent will be here soon! Think about participating in our Lenten Bible Study to make the season more meaningful. The study is from The Thoughtful Christian curriculum and is titled Faithful Citizenship.

Participants can choose between attending at 9:00 am on Sundays or 12 noon on Thursdays. The first sessions will be Sunday, March 10 or Thursday, March 14. This is a 6-week study. Come and join us!



The
Thoughtful
Christian.com