

St. Matthew Messenger



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

June 2018

Greetings From Leslie!

by Leslie Klingensmith



"I want, hope, and commit..."

Last month I wrote my newsletter article right before I left for the Board of Pensions CREDO Retreat. I've spoken in worship services about CREDO, what it meant to me, and how grateful I am that I had the chance to participate.

Although I was initially skeptical, it turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal. I met some great people, thought about a lot of things that don't normally grab my attention, and worshiped twice a day with no leadership responsibilities. That part was wonderful!

One of the exercises we did at CREDO was a process to help us discern our own "core values" - the values that are so important enough to us that we will shape our lives around them. It was really helpful to see our own spiritual priorities laid out in a visible way. The challenge then was to consider how our values could be incorporated into daily practices that shape and enrich our lives. We were each expected to design a "rule of life," a discipline originated by St. Benedict, by the end of the week. The idea is that we would bring our rules of life home and refer to them regularly, so that they become a pathway to a healthier life - spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially, and vocationally.

Some of the parts of my core values paper and my rule of life are private and I won't be sharing them. However, others have direct impact on how I live in the world as a pastor, a mother, a citizen, and a child of God. Therefore, I

Above: Horses on the Lessig Farm. Don't miss the Church Picnic on Sunday, June 10.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 3: Congregational Meeting:

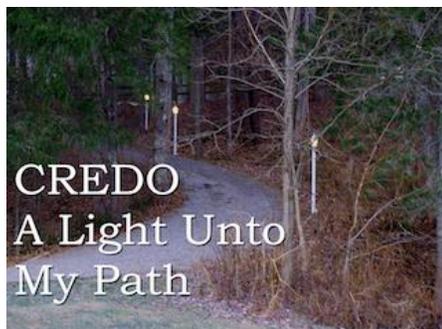
Immediately following morning worship, there will be a brief congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a new class of elders and some other members of various church boards. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

**Sunday, June 10,
Church Picnic:** Save the date for our Annual St. Matthew Picnic beginning at 2:00 pm at the Lessig Farm (21000 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville, MD). Bring fried or baked chicken enough to serve your family and a salad or dessert to share.

**Wednesday, June 13:
Mary Martha Circle:** Final meeting and lunch

thought there should be value in my sharing parts of them from time to time. I hope that some people might be moved to think about your own priorities and consider whether there are changes you wish to make in day to day life. One of the mantras of CREDO was "incremental change." Not every day includes major, life-shifting decisions - but we make hundreds of small choices every day, and if even some of the time we make the healthier choice for us, over time all those decisions add up to healthier, more whole people.

When I wrote a short paper (seen only by me) to express my values, I chose to begin each point with the words "I want, hope, and commit to live in such a way that..." Structuring my paper that way gave me a framework to work within and forced me to be succinct. Three of my commitments that I am working on read as follows:



"I want, hope, and commit to live in such a way that reflects faithfulness to the teachings of Jesus and that proclaims his truths."

"I want hope and commit to live in such a way that my words and actions are intentional and thoughtful."

"I want, hope, and commit to live in such a way that I continue to develop my intellect and engage my curiosity about God, our world, and all of God's people."

You all no doubt remember that I am fond of saying that we are all "works in progress." Clearly, I am not all the way "there" yet on any of these commitments. But I'm working on it! I share them with you as a way of holding myself accountable and making a conscious effort each day to be the woman God has created me to be. Thanks for being my partners in this ongoing effort.

What do you want? What do you hope? What do you commit to? How can I support you in those aspirations? I'm genuinely interested in your answers.

Happy Summer to All!
Pastor Leslie



SAVE THE DATE! Annual Church Picnic
Lessig Farm, Sunday, June 10

by Karen Brown Gonzalez

Join the St. Matthew Congregation for our annual picnic

before summer break.
Please see details below.

Sunday, June 17:
Beginning of Summer Church schedule.

Week of June 26 - 30,
Vacation Bible School:
See update below.

Saturday, June 30:
Re-Scheduled Work Day: The oft-postponed Spring Work Day has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 30. Save the date and see future bulletins and emails for further details.

Week of July 8-14,
Camp JOY:
See update below.

Help Needed June 17



On Sunday, June 17, we are asking folks to stick around for about a hour after church in order to move furniture in the narthex/ nursery and choir room in preparation for Vacation Bible School. We also need folks who will put together our canopies.

Many hands make light work! So please plan to stay for a little while to help!

- Konni Brantner

June Liturgists

at the Lessig Farm beginning at 2:00 pm.

Bring enough cooked chicken for your family and a side salad or vegetable or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. Bring chairs and/or blankets for your comfort.

There will be lots of fun, exploring the farm and the creek, water balloons, games and plenty of time to socialize and enjoy being outside.

Car pools will be arranged from the Church if you need transportation. The Lessig Farm is located at 21000 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville, MD.



June 3 Janet Froom
June 10 Julia McBee
June 17 Phil Tarnoff
June 24 Kit Boyle

Camp JOY Update



CAMP JOY is coming quickly: July 8 -14.

This youth work camp is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to put their faith into action while having a great time! We will be camping in Berkeley Springs, WV, along with about 125 other teens and their counselors. All paper work and money are due by July 1.

Some important deadlines for our volunteers:

- **Camp Joy Car wash:** June 24 immediately after church.
- In addition to our car wash, this year we are going to be selling **Panera coupon slips**. Each slip sells for \$10 and contains 6 coupons. The discounts are good for things like for: bagels, 1 French

Confirmation Sunday, Pentecost, May 20

Text by Konni Branter and photographs by John Lem



The 2018 Confirmands of St. Matthew

The future of St. Matthew is bright, as proven on Sunday, May 20. That was an exciting day- we received our 9 confirmands into full church membership. We had a wonderful class this year, full of enthusiastic, energy and terrific young people. We began meeting in early February. Besides our weekly classes, we also field trips, a lock in, prepared and served dinner to the women of Sophia House, worked on the Martha's Table sandwich making and participated in a retreat.

On Pentecost Sunday, our church presented these youth with a personalized NRSV bible, a cross and a confirmation certificate.

2018 Confirmation class:

- Mary Elizabeth Kincer*
- Suzette Grace Kincer*
- Koge Ngomekame Koge*
- Jacob Kofi NeNe Sackitey Matey*
- Hannah Manye Darley Matey*
- Yohann Sack Mbock*
- Ralph Youri Sack Mbock*
- Damali Ziwani Ondiek*
- Brandon Roderick Taylor*

Thanks go to not only the youth and their families, but also to our mentors.

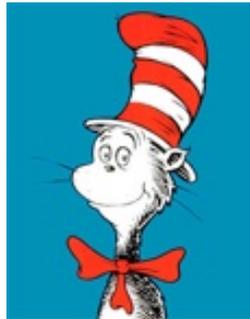


Youth Notes

by Konni Brantner

Cat-in-the-Hat Comes to St. Matthew! - Summer Church Begins Sunday, June 17

As in the years past, our children will continue to attend the first part of the worship service and then move to the Commons for a joint Church school program. All children, from 3 years to those who have finished 5th grade, will meet together. Our youth (unless they are helping) will be attending the worship service.



The theme for the summer will be "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss." Each week the activities, will revolve around a different Dr. Seuss book. We'll discuss the lesson and do a related craft or activity

Konni creates the lesson plans for each week and will lead the group most of the summer. **HOWEVER**, there are a few weeks that she can not be with the children. **SO**, we **NEED** your help on July 8 and 15.

If you are willing and able to help, please let Konni know.

Vacation Bible School, June 25 to June 29



God's Puzzle! That's the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School.

And we still have room for you! Click below for a registration form that you can print out, complete, and return it to the church.

[2018 VBS Registration Form](#)

baguette, 1 ciabatta loaf, 1 brownie slice or 2 cookies.

Stay tuned for more details and our Panera kick off!

- Konni Brantner

Need Summer Ushers



Many thanks to Dan Zaharko, Mark Parker, Evelyn Benjamin, Elizabeth Akuffo, Linda Rhoad, Arlene Dookwah, Julia Su, and Alice Byrne, our wonderful ushers this past year. Most have been ushering more than a few years. We appreciate their dedication to St. Matthew and service to God's work.

Now, we must give them a break to refresh themselves and hopefully continue their mission.

We need substitute ushers for the months of July and August. If you could help in any way, we would appreciate it very much. We basically need two ushers per week and for those who are volunteering for the first time, we will provide some basic training.

Please contact Ida at idaeong4035@aol.com or call 240-893-2625. We look forward to hearing from you.

- Ida Leong

Summer Lunch Program: June 18 - August 31

Once again this summer, St. Matthew will be running a lunch program. This exciting program works like this:



First, a counselor at Bel Pre Elementary School will identify children (*children, not families*) whom she feels are in serious need of supplemental food; this year we have a group of 20 to 25. We are currently waiting for this list, but it has been promised! Hopefully we'll get it within the week.

Then St. Matthew will contact each family to explain the program. Next St. Matthew family and friends will pack and deliver lunches to these children twice each week for the summer.

Each lunch will have a minimum of: A sandwich; a bag of chips, pretzels, etc.; a piece of fruit or an individual serving of fruit or applesauce; a dessert; and a drink. The lunch program will run from the week of June 18 - August 31. Lunches will be delivered on Tuesday and Friday between 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

How can you help? You can pack lunches once (or better yet, twice) a week. And then deliver them to the families. You can donate money to help purchase supplies. Or you can bake some goodies. Donate some individual bags of chips, trail mix, juice boxes, Capri suns, etc. You can volunteer to deliver lunches that someone else has packed.

The children will all be from our immediate neighborhood. If you're interested in helping, please let Konni know. As soon as we have our confirmation and information from Bel Pre, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex.



We are so proud of our high school graduates! Congratulations to all:

Finian Gallagher
Nick Seganish
Bailey Sanford
Roberta Ewone

If you know of any graduates that we do not have on our list... please let the church office know!

- Konni Brantner

Columbarium Thoughts



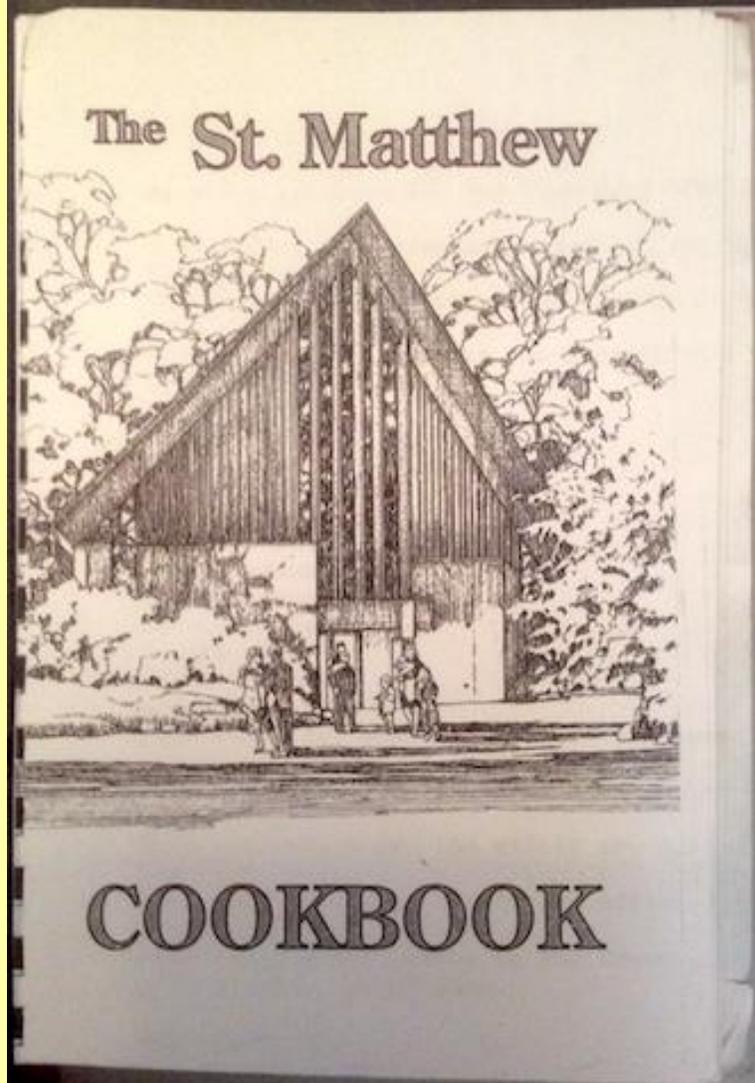
The azaleas made a great show this Spring thanks to the labors of last Fall to get rid of weeds, vines and fallen limbs. The Lenten roses also flourished as well as the ferns that Sylvia McPherson has been providing.

Tender Loving Care does make a difference and more is always needed. If you are interested about working with others to keep this sacred place inviting contact Millie Ames (301) 942-6105.

- Millie Ames

Mystery of the St. Matthew Cookbook

Text and Photographs by Nancy Zaharko



Cover of the 1993 St. Matthew Cookbook

Once upon a time - 25 years ago in 1993 - many men and women of St. Matthew gathered together, exchanged recipes, and produced a booklet of 187 pages.

Many of the contributors you know include:

Laurie Barthold	Fran Kauffunger
Scott Black	Sylvia McPherson
Sara Lou Cardwell	Jeanne Meyer
Eleanor Cox	Nancy Tarnoff
Chuck Gonzalez	Nancy Zaharko
Karen Gonzalez	Peg Thompson
Sofia Hammer	Dean Queen

Decorative artistic sketches were contributed by Marilyn and Guy Henry. The cookbooks were stored in the church office, which at that time was in a trailer. While moving the office to The Commons, the cookbooks went to someone for storage.

It's Time to Cook!



June has five Saturdays, and you might know what that means: it's St. Matthew's turn to cook for the women's shelter!

On Saturday June 30 we'll be gathering at 4 to cook and then traveling to the shelter about 6 to serve. We normally return about 8.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Konni.

- Konni Brantner

Salute to Volunteers

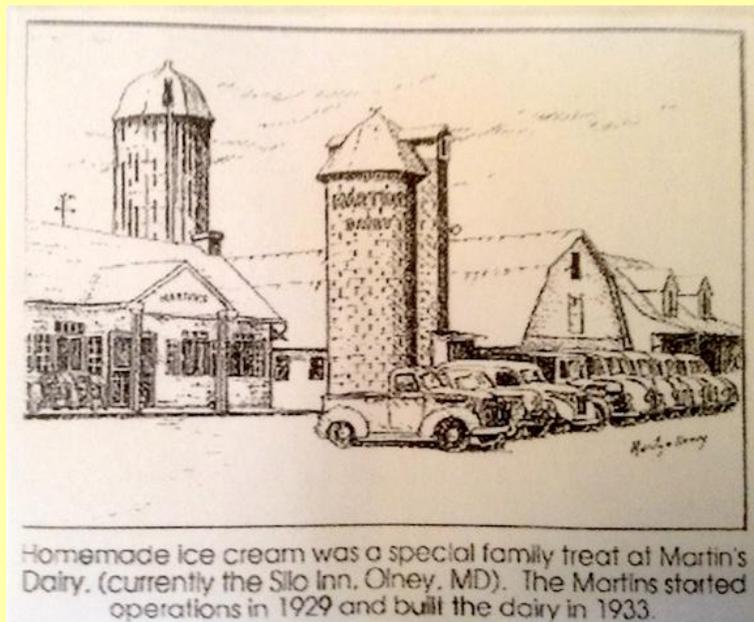


We at St. Matthew are lucky! We not only have wonderful group of children and youth, we also have a terrific team of dedicated volunteers!

As our 2017-18 church school years draws to a close, we want to offer a HUGE thanks to our team of Church School leaders:

Louise Boyle
Jody Hursh
Abby Hartley
Mary Beth Thompson

NOT seen since. Perhaps you know the answer to this cookbook mystery.



Sketches were contributed by Marilyn and Guy Henry

Congregational Notes

Mary Martha Circle: Spring Luncheon, Wednesday, June 13

by Millie Ames

The women of **St. Matthew** are invited to join with the Mary Martha Circle members for their Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, June 13. We celebrate our fellowship by sharing past studies of the Bible and look forward to a new topic for this Fall. All are welcome.

We are going to **Mrs. K's Toll House Restaurant** in Silver Spring. We will carpool from the church, leaving about 11:15am, or if you need a ride we can pick you up at your residence. You can also meet and join us at Mrs. K's. We will have a table reserved. Please contact Millie Ames (301) 942-6105 or Julia McBee (301) 603-0450 if you plan to attend or need a ride.



Campus Improvement Updates

by Paul Neal

Work on our property improvement projects has begun. The three initial high priority projects are underway. The new railing is finished (*at left*). The contract for the new lavatories has been signed and work will begin after Vacation Bible School. Prep for painting in the commons has begun and the project will be completed after VBS, as well. Total cost for the initial three projects \$50,000 and is

Eseme Koge
Maisie Lynch
John Meyer
Deeds Wells

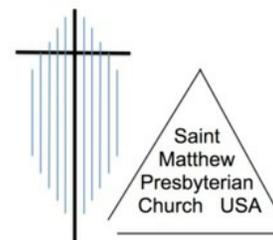
We also want to give a huge thanks to:
Our Vacation Church
School coordinator:
Glenda DeJong

Our Smart Sack team:
Terry Dejong and Al Luce
Leith Speiden
Mark Parker
Dan Maxam
Deeds Wells
Eddie Brantner
Al Conner
Dan Zaharko

Please plan to be in church on June 10th as we say thank you to our tremendous team of volunteers.

- Konni Brantner

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

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

Janet Froom,



funded with funds on hand. The next two projects are new carpeting in the Sanctuary and Narthex and replacing the tile in the Commons. These two projects can't be completed until the lavatories and painting is complete and await further funding.

Many members have expressed interest in contributing to this effort separate from your 2018 pledge, and we are encouraged by your willingness and enthusiasm. Any contributions that we receive soon will be used to pay for the short list, high priority projects, reducing (or even eliminating) the need to use deferred maintenance funds. For additional information on how to support this effort see Phil Tarnoff or Rev. Leslie Klingensmith or click on the link to Property Improvements letter below.

[St Matthew Combined Improvements](#)

SUMMER SINGER (or Instrument) SIGN-UP

by Jeremy Young

Calling all extroverts! Click on the link below if you would like to share your musical talents with the St. Matthew congregation during this summer. Pick the Sunday you would like to perform, and then work back and enter a date you would like to practice, if needed. You should be able to see anyone else's choices and adjust accordingly.

[Music Sign-Up Sheet](#)

Clerk of Session
301-871-7239

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

Newsletter Update

The St. Matthew Messenger will not appear during July and August. The deadline for the September issue is September 8. Please send your articles and pictures to Bill McBee <whmcbec@gmail.com>. Thank you and have a great summer.