

# St. Matthew Messenger



## News For and About the Community of St. Matthew Presbyterian Church

March 2018

### Greetings from Leslie

By Leslie Klingensmith



#### **This is an exciting time for St. Matthew!**

The Session has agreed to move ahead on some capital improvements for the church that will make our buildings both more accessible and more attractive. There are a number of projects that have been in the pipeline for a while, and we will not be able to get them all completed this year. However, we will make significant strides in creating a campus that we can all take pride in.

**A committee is forming to steer** the improvements project. They will prioritize what we hope to accomplish. Throughout the process, they will make recommendations to the Session concerning what needs the project will address, how we will finance the work, and any other issues that come up. All final decisions will rest with the Session.

#### **Both the improvements committee**

and the Session are eager to hear input from the congregation regarding what you would like to see happen in this effort. Of course, we cannot guarantee that anyone gets everything on their wish list (in fact, that scenario is unlikely, given the diversity of opinions), but we do hope to spot trends - improvements that a critical mass of our community believe are important. To that end, there is an informal "town hall" style meeting scheduled for this coming Sunday, March 4. We will meet in the sanctuary right after church. We would like to hear your ideas, and all ideas will be considered before a final recommendation is made to the Session. Please plan to attend if you can.



**Also...the window is open.** At our Annual Meeting at the end of January, we spent some time discussing the possibility of an

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 4: Third Sunday in Lent - "SERVE."** Worship service at 10 a.m.

**March 4: Town Hall Meeting,** 11:30 a.m.:

The Session has decided to move ahead with financing some capital improvements to the church. Everyone is invited to a brief meeting after church to share ideas for what projects should take priority. The

improvements project and how we would finance such a venture. We assume we will need to borrow some money, but plan to stay within the parameters of our operating budget, using some of the money that would normally be placed in our deferred maintenance fund. While the support for moving forward was overwhelming, and while many were open to St. Matthew taking out a loan, several of you said you would like the opportunity to contribute directly to this project, outside of your normal annual pledge.



**I was thrilled by the energy** and "can do" spirit in the room that day. Due to people's interest in contributing, the Session decided to take a hybrid approach to financing the project. We have a window of time now in which people can contribute to the improvements project. If you plan to do so, please

make your contribution by Tuesday, April 10. That is the date of the April Session meeting and the Session will need to know how much money we have in hand and how much we need to borrow.

**I'm grateful to be part** of a vibrant, forward thinking congregation like St. Matthew, and I look forward to discerning the next steps together. Thank you for your willingness to make an investment in our congregation's future.

*Grace and Peace,*  
Leslie

**P. S. As I finish this writing,** I am once again amazed, touched, and overwhelmed at the kindness you have poured out on my family. I want to thank Konni for coming up with the idea for "100 Days of Joy" for Embree, and for organizing it so beautifully. To everyone who has sent gifts and treats for our girl, I can't thank you enough. Embree has a long road ahead of her, but the prayers and cards and love you all have showered on her make a huge difference in her outlook. Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ for our family in such a personal way. This is a hard time for our family, but the support of friends like you all makes it bearable. Thank you.

## YOUTH NOTES

*By Konni Brantner*

### 100 Days of Joy for Embree!

*By Konni Brantner*

**We are almost there!** We have almost 70 gifts toward our 100 days of JOY - but there is still time! If you would like to contribute toward St. Matthew's 100 days of Joy campaign, please bring any donations to Konni today (March 4th).

meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

**Saturday, March 10: Daylight Savings Time/Spring Forward**  
Don't forget to set your analog clocks ahead one hour!

**March 11: Fourth Sunday in Lent - "DENY"**

**Wednesday, March 14 and 21: Presbyterianism 101,** 5:30 PM Pizza Dinner, Class from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, Agnes Wilson Room

**March 18: Fifth Sunday in Lent - "GLORIFY"**

**March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday - "BETRAYAL"**

**March 30: Good Friday: Tenebrae**  
Service of Shadows, 7:30 PM in the sanctuary

**Saturday, March 31: Community Easter Egg Hunt,** The Commons, 10:30 a.m.

**April 1: Easter Sunday**  
8:00 AM service in the Columbarium, Easter Breakfast at 8:30 AM in The Commons, 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary

## March Liturgists



Mar 4 Paul Neal

Mar 11 Roger

100 DAYS

100 DAYS

**As you (hopefully) know,** St. Matthew is sending Embree Duffy (Leslie's 13-year-old niece) a box of surprises. She will be undergoing a bone marrow transplant, most likely within a few weeks. Leslie will be going to visit her this Sunday. Our goal is to send our 100 of days of JOY gifts with Leslie.

**Just a reminder:** We want to send 100 small gifts to Embree (who is 13 years old) and a few to her sisters, Maggie is 17, and Beatrice is 8. It would be great if you wrapped the gifts, but that is not 100% necessary.

**If we don't meet our goal** this week, we will be sending what we have now and the reminder of gifts the next time Leslie goes to NC. For more information, contact Konni-smattkmb@hotmail.com

## Community Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 31



**We'll hunt for eggs,** enjoy some crafts and play some games. We need help beginning at 9:00 a.m. to hide the eggs!

Please bring your neighbors, friends, relatives and don't forget your basket for collecting eggs.

**Of course we always need help...**  
if you are willing, please call Konni.

## Sofia House, Saturday, March 31

**We'll meet at the church** at 4 p.m. to cook and prepare the meal and then travel to the shelter to serve. We'll be back to the church about 8 p.m.



## Martha's Table Sandwich Making, Sunday, April 15

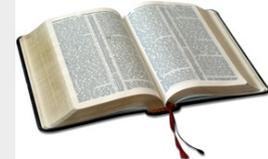
Seganish

Mar 18 Bill  
Leffingwell

Mar 25 Tom  
Benedict

Apr 1 Blair Kincer

### Reading for the Third Sunday of Lent



#### 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

*For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

*Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?*

*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.*

*For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the*

**It's time to start saving** your bread bags and bread ties! Martha's Table Sandwich-Making Marathon is schuled for Sunday, April 15.

**As always, we'll need** lots and lots of bread, baggies, meat, cheese, peanut butter and lots and jelly!

**For more information**, contact Konni at [stmatkmb@hotmail.com](mailto:stmatkmb@hotmail.com) or call 301-598-4400.

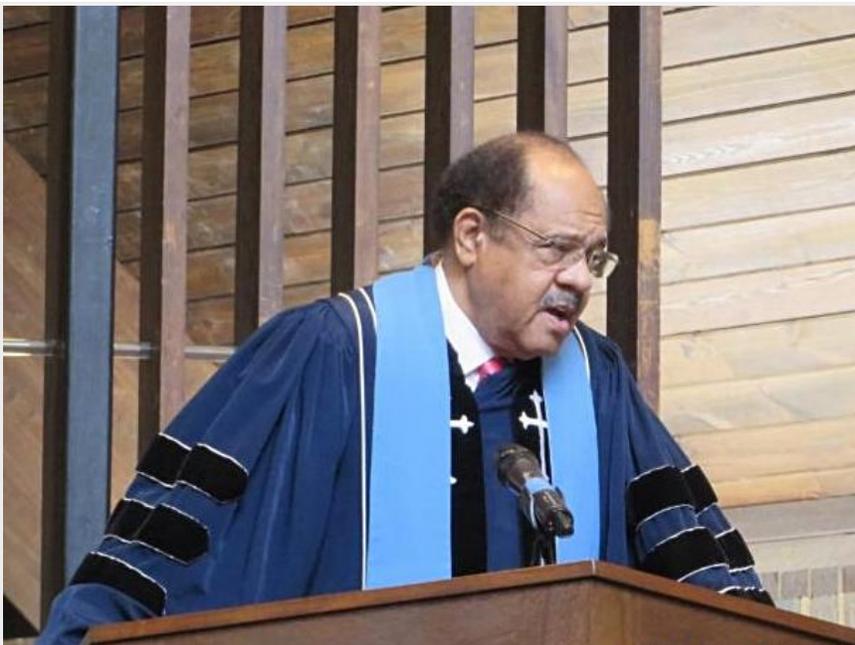


## Vacation Bible School, June 25 to June 29



**Once again this year** we are teaming up with St. John's Lutheran Church. Our theme is God's Puzzle. Sessions will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day.

**Vacation Bible School** is for children 4 years old through those who have completed 5th grade. Children need to be 4 by September 1, 2017, and be potty trained. For more information, contact Konni or Glenda DeJong.



Rev. Dr. Paul Smith, our guest minister, challenged us to seek the "deeper luminescence."

## African-American Heritage Celebration and Luncheon, Sunday, February 25

By Leslie Klingensmith

*called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

*For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.*

*Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.*

*But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.*

*He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."*

### March Coffee and Tea Servers



**Thank you for "volunteering" to**

**On Sunday, February 25,** St. Matthew celebrated Black History month by welcoming Rev. Dr. Paul Smith, an African-American Presbyterian minister, mediator and civil rights activist, as our guest preacher. Known for creating multi-racial churches in Buffalo, St. Louis, Atlanta and Brooklyn, Rev. Dr. Smith has been active in the civil rights movement since the 1950s. He preached a moving sermon and stayed for a lively question-and-answer session after lunch in the Commons.



Jim Leong, Betsy Lessig, Weyata Wright.

**The St. Matthew adult and children's choirs** were joined by church members for a vibrant "pop-up choir" performance of liberation songs. Look for return performances!



Kaleb Kankondo



Evelyn Benjamin

serve for our coffee and tea fellowship. If you are unable to serve on your signup date, please find a replacement or contact Glenda DeJong, 301-460-8523.

Mar 4 Sylvia and Bruce McPherson

Mar 11 Julia and Bill McBee

Mar 18 Nancy and Phil Tarnoff

Mar 25 Hannelore and Michael Meszaros

### Lenten Readings



**During this season of Lent,** we will be reading and studying Richard Rohr's book, *Wondrous Encounters: Scriptures for Lent*.

**There will be discussions** held Thursday at 10:30 a.m. on March 15 and 22 in the Agnes Wilson Room. The book is available via Amazon, or see Pastor Leslie so she can order you a copy.

## CONGREGATION NOTES

### St. Matthew Easter Breakfast, Sunday, April 1

By Karen Brown Gonzalez

### CAMP JOY



**St. Matthew's traditional Easter Breakfast** will be held after the Early Morning Easter Service on April 1 (8:30 am). In addition to our favorite breakfast foods of scrambled eggs, sausage links from the Mt. Airy butcher and John Meyer's famous cheese

grits, we will share breads and cakes prepared by our very own cooks.

**These activities cannot happen without your help.** The planning committee needs volunteers to help set-up the afternoon of March 31, provide bowls of fruit, bake your favorite breakfast cake or bread, cook early Easter morning, clean up and set 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 John Meyer (301 312 7698) or Karen Brown (301 332 2491).

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!

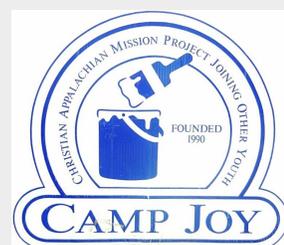
## Presbyterianism 101, Wednesday, March 14 and 21

*By Leslie Klingensmith*



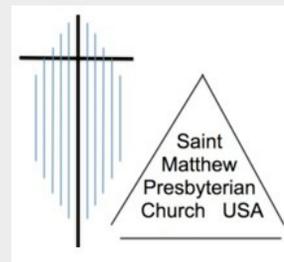
**Are you a new Presbyterian?** Are you a long-time Presbyterian who has questions about different points of our history, theology, or polity? If so, consider attending "Presbyterianism 101" on Wednesday evenings, March 14 and 21. The class is sponsored by the Evangelism Commission. We will look at the history of the Protestant Reformation and how Presbyterianism fits into it, our polity and government, and the theology that pervades who we are and how we do things.

**Everyone is invited** - our confirmation class will be attending as part of their curriculum, and we would love to have people of all ages and stages of faith to contribute to the conversation. We will begin at 5:30 PM with a pizza dinner for all participants, and class will go from 6:00 PM to 7:30. Lent is a perfect time to examine our traditions and beliefs - plan to make this class part of your season of preparation for Easter!



**Be sure to reserve your spot!** Deposits for Camp Joy are due.

## Annual Contribution Statements



**Your 2017 year-end contribution** statement is now available for pickup from your folder in the narthex. Any questions should be referred to our financial secretary, Glenda DeJong.

## Important Links



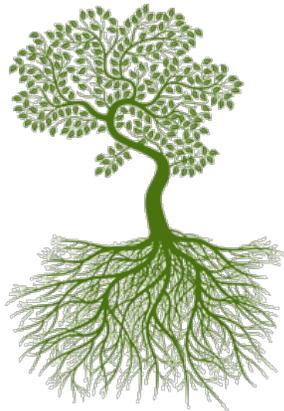
Leslie A. Klingensmith,  
Pastor  
301-598-4400

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

Jeremy Young,  
Director of Music

## St. Matthew Endowment Fund Update

By Bill Leffingwell



**The St. Matthew Perpetual Endowment Fund** ended fiscal year 2017 (September 30, 2017) with a total market value of \$139,175. This total represented an \$11,325 increase over the previous year end. The increase was due to \$2,064 in contributions with the remainder representing interest, dividends, capital gains and positive market returns. At fiscal year end the fund produced \$1,849 of interest and dividends to be used for the annual disbursement. The trustees met in

January and approved three recipients of the funds. \$649 will go to the fire relief fund for the Kankhwende family, \$600 will go to the Pastors Discretionary fund and \$600 will go toward Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now).

**With the most recent distributions,** the Endowment has distributed just over \$20,000 since inception, to worthy causes locally, nationally and internationally. The current trustees are Bill Leffingwell, Jim Leong, Kit Boyle, Thecla Brathwaite and Tana Ngwira. Ed Buchanan and Terry De Jong continue their long service to the Endowment as treasurer and secretary, respectively. Pastor Leslie as always, provides insight and direction to the trustees. As a reminder the Endowment gratefully accepts donations, so please consider donating a time or two throughout the year. If you have any questions or thoughts concerning the Endowment please don't hesitate to call or email.

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### Newsletter Deadline

**The deadline  
for the April 2018  
St. Matthew  
Messenger  
will be Friday,  
April 6.**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)