



News of the Congregation of St. Matthew Presbyterian Church
Happy Thanksgiving
November 2018



Worship

November Greetings

by Leslie Klingensmith

Most of you have received your stewardship packets by now, which outline the financial needs for 2019 and articulate the hopes and dreams that we all share for St. Matthew. You can find more details in this newsletter about the 2019 steward-ship efforts, plus links to the materials if you don't have them.

It seems appropriate to me that with the timing of our budgets and fiscal year here at St. Matthew, we are immersed in conversation about financial giving in November - the exact same time that we are looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday, counting our blessings, and focusing our thoughts on gratitude. Theologically, gratitude and giving are intertwined. As we joyfully acknowledge God's presence in our lives, we think about ways that we can give back to God's work, God's people, and God's church.

You all have already heard that this is an unusually challenging stewardship season for St. Matthew. At the request of the Stewardship Commission, I'm reprinting a part of my sermon from October 14 that lays out why this is a difficult year and why, in spite of that, I believe we can meet our goals. This sermon was based on Mark 10, specifically Mark 10:27 where Jesus says "For God all things are possible." Here



Fellowship



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Sunday, November 4: 1
Morning Worship.
Service at 10am.

are the relevant paragraphs:

"There's one last thing I need to bring up about this whole impossible/possible business. In a few weeks, we are going to start talking seriously about St. Matthew's financial goals for 2019. I want to be upfront that this is a difficult year for us. Several families have moved away, and we have had some deaths that have had significant financial impact. We are going to have to stretch, as a group, to even reach the level we met this year. Some seasons in a church's life are just like that. I would not be honest if I didn't admit that this worries me.



Education

of you have contributed in 2018 to not just our annual operating budget, but you have made extra contributions to our property improvement projects. You come through again and again with your support of mission projects, with teaching our children, with fixing things around the buildings, and any number of other ways that you show your devotion to God and this place. Instead of entering the stewardship season with a grim countenance, let's pursue it with an attitude of trust in what God can and will make possible.

My first choice, of course, is that we all dig deep and St. Matthew has the money we need to fully fund all our programs. But, even if that doesn't prove to be the case, we will ask God to show us the way forward, and our vital ministry will continue. I urge you to prayerfully consider what you can do for God in 2019, and remember that with God all things are possible."

Heartfelt and sincere thanks to all of you for the ways that you make God's love alive and real here at St. Matthew and around the world!

Grace and peace,
Leslie

"But, I also want us to be optimistic. You all are a generous and dedicated congregation. Many



Mission

**Tuesday, November 6:
General Election**

**Sunday, November 11:
Morning Worship.**

Service at 10am.

New Member Orientation
(See details in newsletter.)

**Wed., November 14:
Mary Martha Circle.**

10:30 am in the Agnes Wilson Room.

**Sunday, November 18:
Commitment Sunday.**

Service at 10am.

Potluck Luncheon,

11:30 am to 1 pm.

(See details in newsletter.)

**Sunday, November 25:
Morning Worship.**

Service at 10am.



**Pantry and
Kitchen Closed
November 8-9**

The Dean Queen pantry/kitchen in The Commons will be closed and unavailable for use from 9 am Thursday, November 8, through around 12 noon on Friday, November 9.

We're having an exterminator come in using a very powerful anti-pest device to try to get control over the infestation of *las cucarachas*. If you have business in The Commons, you are advised to avoid the areas adjacent to the pantry/kitchen.

**What Vital Piece are YOU
in God's Puzzle? - 2019**

Stewardship Update

by Paul Neal

Sunday October 28 marked the **beginning** of this year's stewardship campaign. This year's theme is St. Matthew, *God's Puzzle: What vital piece are you in God's puzzle?* This fall's campaign is centered around four essential Ministry categories: Worship, Fellowship, Education, and Mission. We believe God is doing inspiring things in all these areas - and your pledge helps make it happen.



Click the links below for more information. In 2018 our total budget was \$379,800 of which \$302,000, 84% came from pledges. Of the approximately 150 families in the St. Matthew faith community, 108 pledged last year with an average pledge of \$2,800. This year your pledge is especially important. Due to an unusually large number of members passing and moving away and combined with funds spent on the property improvement projects, we are starting 2019 with about \$30,000 less than last year. Therefore, to make up that deficit, our pledge goal this year is \$324,000, an 8% increase over 2018. This amount will allow us to continue to support the important mission, education, worship and fellowship activities of our church without having to cut budgets.

If you are currently pledging to St. Matthew, we ask that you consider increasing your pledge by 8%. If you are a new member or have not pledged, we ask that you consider doing so. Commitment Sunday is November 18, but you can turn in your pledge anytime. You can just click on the link below and fill out your pledge card on line, or you can put your pledge card in the offering plate. **What vital piece are YOU in God's puzzle?** We need everyone's participation to be the community we are called to be.

Thank you for your consideration,
The Stewardship Commission

Click here for the Narrative Budget Brochure:

[2019 St. Matthew Budget](#)

Click here for the On-Line Pledge Card:

[2019 St. Matthew Pledge Card](#)

**Charitable Deductions:
Q & A with Tom**

New Member Orientation, Sunday, November 11

The Evangelism Commission will sponsor an orientation class for visitors to St. Matthew who are interested in learning more about St. Matthew and exploring the possibility of becoming members.

The class will be held on Sunday, November 11 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in the Agnes Wilson Room. We will serve a light lunch. If you are interested in attending, please let Leslie know or Elder Kit Boyle.

-Kitty Boyle



Thanksgiving Luncheon, Sunday, November 18

The Ministry Commission is sponsoring a pot-luck luncheon on Sunday, November 18, to celebrate all of our blessings. We will gather in The Commons immediately after church. Everyone is asked to bring soup, sandwiches, salad or dessert to share.

**Barthold,
Sunday,
November 4**



In addition, please bring canned goods, e.g., tuna, canned meat, chicken, corned beef hash, Chef Boyardee meals, etc.) to help stock our St. Matthew food pantry. Also, pasta sauce is always welcome.

- *Glenda DeJong*

An expert on Federal taxes, Tom Barthold has graciously offered to answer questions on Charitable Deductions after the service. Go down to the narthex, grab a cup of coffee, and come back up for the session.

In addition, Tom has prepared a brief primer that explains the interaction between your support to St. Matthew and your calculation of your Federal income tax liability for 2018.

Click below for the guidelines on charitable deductions.

[2018 Charitable Deductions](#)



December Youth Events

Community Christmas Party, Saturday, December 15

December 15 will be our annual community Christmas party. Children (accompanied by an adult) from our church, neighborhood, Harmony Hills, Bel Pre Day Care and the 7th Day Adventist congregation will gather in the Commons to create Christmas master pieces, play some games and enjoy some light refreshments.

Plan now to attend! Invite your friends and neighbors and count on having a a great time! Of course, we need lots of help to make this happen- so please volunteer! Call Konni for more information.

This is a great morning- even if you don't have any children at your house!

Calling All Child Actors: Christmas Play, Sunday, December 23:

If you have a child who is in elementary school and is interested in participating in our Christmas



St. Matthew Trunk and Treaters pose (briefly) for their portrait

Halloween Party/Trunk or Treat, Saturday/Sunday, October 27/28

by Konni Brantner

If you weren't at St. Matthew on Saturday, October 27, you missed a fantastic event! There were lots of games, crafts, laughs, and screams as we welcomed children and families from our church, neighborhood, day care, and smart sack recipients.

Thanks to the help and hard work of our young adults, youth and a few of our children our church created a wonderful, creative and spooky haunted house. The kids had a fantastic time creating this wonder, and the neighborhood loved it!

Thanks to all the folks who came and helped with the party and the haunted house. The Halloween festivities continued Sunday morning with Trunk or Treat.



Sasha Winter and Naomi Hill



Two neighborhood friends, Saniya and Mariya

play on December 23. Please let Konni know.

Your child will need to attend practices- which are held each Sunday before church, two December Saturday rehearsals, memorize their lines and be ready to cooperate.

The play is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. If you have questions, or if your child wants to participate, please let Konni know ASAP. (Stmattkmb@hotmail.com/301-598-4400). Rehearsals begin November 11.

St. Matthew Christmas Pageant, Monday, December 24

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is less than two months away!

So we are looking for angels, shepherds and kings. We are recruiting children to be in the Christmas eve pageant Monday, December 24th at 4:30.

This requires one rehearsals. It is a very low pressure, casual type of service. Any child three years old or older is welcomed to participate. Please contact Konni if you are interested.

-Konni Brantner

CONGREGATION NOTES

Columbarium Committee Meets Sunday, November 11

by Millie Ames



The Columbarium committee met September 18. Current and future needs of the columbarium were discussed. It was noted that the area has been looking cared for and has benefited from the recent change of weather. Norman Hammer has been

reviewing old records and updating them. Deed Wells has been placing new plaques. Weed pulling, clipping and removal of downed branches is ongoing.

A decision to meet more often was reached and the next meeting set for November 11. Jody Hursch has accepted the responsibility of Columbarium representative to the session.

2018 Financial Pledge Reminder

by Glenda DeJong

As we near the end of the year, please do your best to update your financial pledge. The church depends on pledge income to fund programs, and it is important that the year have a strong financial finish so that we are in good

shape to start 2019.

If you need to know how much you owe on your pledge, you can check with the Financial Secretary, Glenda DeJong.



November Liturgists

- Nov 4** Tana Ngwira
- Nov 11** Mike Knorr
- Nov 18** Esemé Koge
- Nov 25** Phil Tarnoff

You will be sent an email

Mary Martha Circle Meets Wednesday, November 14

by Millie Ames

Join us on Wednesday November 14 for our third lesson on *God's Promise: I Am With You*. We gather at 10:30 in the Agnes Wilson room. After a short lesson we have lunch. Deserts and beverages are provided but bring your own sandwich. Ruth Sasscer will lead the meeting and Julia McBee is presenting the lesson. If you need a ride call Ruth or Julia.



reminder through Breeze the Monday prior the Sunday you are to serve. Please respond to this notification.

If you do not use email, and you are unable to serve, please notify Jeanne Meyer at jredmeyer@comcast.net to let her know who will be your replacement.

-Jeanne Meyer

A Thanks Giving with Our Community of Faiths, Tuesday, November 20

by Julia McBee

Olney Interfaith Ministerium presents a Unity Service to Give Thanks on Tuesday, November 20th. The Shaare Tifila Congregation is hosting the service which will begin at 7:30. They are just up the road from St. Matthew on Georgia Ave. There will be light refreshments.



Contributions of canned goods are requested. They will be given to Olney Helps. Contact Julia McBee (301 603-0450) if you are interested in attending.



Save The Date: 2019 Vacation Bible School

June 24 to June 28, 2019
9:30 am to 12:30 each day.
Theme: **Be The Rock**



Important Links

Leslie A. Klingensmith, Pastor
301-598-4400

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

Jeremy Young,
6

The Commons was a blur of St. Matthew members in red hairnets standing, sitting, and packing LOTS of meals.

Rise Against Hunger, Sunday, October 14

Our goal was to pack 15,000 meals in just a couple of hours- and we surpassed it! See you at the next meal packing event next spring.



Members at each work station combined rice, flavoring, vegetables, and nutrients into a complete packaged meal.

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 December 2018
newsletter is Friday,
November 30.**