



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HILLSBOROUGH, NC.

MAY 2024

Highlights this Month

May 2 at 6:30 pm - Bicentennial Lecture featuring Brooks Graebner+ - see page 2;

May 5 at 9:15 am: Village Church celebrating Rogation Sunday - see page 3;

May 12 at 9:15 am: Sunday Forum with Robert Fruehwirth - see page 4;

May 19 at 4 pm: Jazz Vespers - see page 9

June 1 at 7 pm: Faith & Arts Concert - see page 4

Dear Friends,

It is great to be back at St. Matthew's after my sabbatical. I am tremendously grateful to the parish and especially the vestry and staff for supporting me in my request to have this three-month sabbatical. I come back refreshed and with greater clarity of purpose. I had high hopes for my sabbatical; what actually happened surpassed them all. No kidding! The backbone of the sabbatical was three separate weeks in solitude, for study, writing, and exercise at Topsail Beach. In between these retreats, I was able to give more time to my family. We even enjoyed a week in Boston, visiting churches and museums through Holy Week. Throughout the sabbatical, I indulged in a great deal of physical exercise. (I'm fitter now than I've been in years!) **On May 12th I will host a Sunday Forum to report back more fully on my sabbatical.**

Countless people showed up and pitched in to meet the needs of this time. We must be especially grateful to The Rev. Lisa Frost-Phillips, Associate Rector, and Madeline Liddicoat, Senior Warden, for leading the parish through the Annual Parish Meeting, Lent, Holy Week, and the start of the Easter Season – no small task! They were fantastic. Every member of the staff put in extra work to cover for my absence and several lay leaders took parish ministries forward. I was glad to hear that The Rev. Dr. Eastman's course on St. Paul has attracted great and ongoing interest, and I understand that our guest preachers and celebrants did a fantastic job. Thank you to all of you!

The Vestry hoped that my sabbatical would be a time when the laity in the parish would grow in their responsibilities in and ownership of the parish, and that seems to have happened. As St. Matthew's grows and our programs diversify, Lisa and I, your clergy, will of necessity be less directly involved in our ministries and programs; our ministry will become more that of identifying and supporting your ministries. It seems my sabbatical has accelerated this process. I come back to a parish that has grown in my absence, that is brimming with vitality and vibrancy, and to new faces on Sunday.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate Pentecost, commonly called "the birthday of the Church." For the seven weeks following Easter, the

(Continued on page 2)



Caretaker Retires after More Than 20 Years of Service to the Parish

Dear Friends,

This past spring Pelham Jacobs, our longtime sexton and groundskeeper, decided it was time to retire. Since I arrived at St. Matthew's five years ago, I have treasured having Pelham around for the mindful and sensitive way he takes care of things, for the way he attends to the growing life of trees and flowers and hedges, as well as maintenance items in the campus buildings. I've always felt that Pelham walks around with quiet wisdom and deep skill and knowledge. He knows this land, these trees, and us his parish. He knows Hillsborough. Last year we celebrated Pelham's 20 years with us by planting a tree around the back of the Hayden Building, and Pelham has said he does not want more celebration. A response that is so typical of Pelham! A card to his home, or the parish office, would not be amiss.



With much arm-twisting, we have convinced Pelham to stay on in a very limited role, to assist in the oversight of those now tending the grounds, and to support the search for a new parish sexton.

God bless Pelham; may we preserve the gift of wisdom that he gave us.

Robert+, Rector

Thank you, God, for Pelham's caring and quiet ministry among us. Thank you for his humility and care among living things. Thank you for his gracious understanding of people and his honesty and earnestness. We ask you God to bless him and his wife Mary and their family, and their farm, for many years, in Jesus Christ. AMEN

Village Church: Rogationtide Sunday, May 5 at 9:15 am starting in the Memorial Garden

One Sunday every month or so, we pause our other Education Hour programming between the services to offer Village Church, a service where all ages and generations gather around various liturgical themes. This month, we will observe Rogation Sunday, traditionally a time of prayer and fasting for agricultural crops and fisheries.

Our observance will begin in the Memorial Garden with a reading and a prayer, then we will visit several other stations throughout the grounds before going back to the Memorial Garden for Eucharist. To learn more, please contact Stephany.





St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough

Classical Violin with African Folk Music
Saturday, June 1 at 7:00pm in the Church

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a fantastic new offering from Faith & Arts. St. Matthew's will host Jennifer Curtis, violinist, and Diali Cissokho playing Senegalese kora in a unique and moving combination of Classical violin & African folk music. Weather permitting, we will enjoy this outside with people invited to bring picnic foods. Click [here](#) for a sample of their music.

A light reception will follow this performance. Join us as we celebrate the final event in the first year back for Faith & Arts. Details about purchasing tickets is coming soon. For more information, please contact [Jane Hamborsky](#).



Upcoming Sunday Forum:
All About That Base!

Sunday, May 12 at 9:15 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Join us as we gather to hear Robert+ offer reflections from his three-month sabbatical. He is eager to share how he used his time, the ways he felt the Spirit moving, and a new clarity about what is important for St. Matthew's. It's all about that Base!

Please note that the Bible study on Paul led by Susan Eastman will not meet that day so all might attend the Forum.

Shawl Ministry: Join Us on the
First Saturday of Each Month!

The Shawl Ministry meets at 9:30 on the first Saturday of the month. Not everyone arrives precisely at 9:30 and we usually end at 11:00. I say usually because some of us don't want to leave the good times. We start our meeting with a prayer and end our meeting by blessing the shawls, scarves and blankets..

The Shawl Ministry will continue to meet on through the summer. If you are interested in learning how to knit or crochet, we have needles, yarn, and expert teachers. If you would like to come and hang out with an awesome bunch of people who talk about all kinds of interesting things, come and join us. Men, women and children - all are welcome!

- Nancy Harris



Final Taco Wednesdays of the Season! *May 1 and 15 at 5:45 pm*

It's been a great year of tacos and fellowship but it's time to wrap things up for the summer. Before that happens, grab your favorite taco topping/filling or a dessert to share and join us for the last two Taco Wednesdays of the 2023-24 Program Year! We'll provide the tortillas, plates, napkins, and water. And together, we'll make it a fun time for all ages!

TACO WEDNESDAYS



News from the Newcomer Committee

In April, the Newcomer Committee sponsored a coffee hour for Newcomers on April 14th after the 8 am service. It was very well attended. The ministries highlighted were related to worship: Acolytes, Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild, Daughters of the King, Zoom worship opportunities, Shawl Ministry, , Parish Choir, Family Chapel, and Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Several new volunteers were signed up and everyone enjoyed conversation, coffee, and light finger foods. Will and Taylor Perschau hosted the event with the support of the Newcomers Ministry.

Taco Wednesday on April 17th was another wonderful community gathering celebrating Will and Taylor Perschau as well as Stephany Lazo and Will Lee as they both anticipate additions to their families in May. The baby shower was hosted by Megan Leiss, Rebecca Gallegly, and Anne Kenyon.

May will be the last month of Taco Wednesdays for the Program Year. May 1st and May 15th we will gather for Tacos and fellowship from 5:45-7:15pm. Just bring a taco topping, salad, or dessert to share!

Daughters of the King Discernment Class



Hello everyone! If you missed the Newcomers' coffee, you missed DOK recruiting. We are planning to offer a discernment class to all women interested in committing to our Order.

It will be held in late fall- winter. The discernment consists of a structured program of twelve weeks that allows you to fully understand the Order of the Daughters of the King. Our Orders are found in Anglican, Episcopal, Catholic, and Lutheran churches. The Order of the DOK organized in the 1890's in New York. We take vows to follow a rule of life. We are a community like other orders, The Brotherhood of St Andrew is one other example. We don't live in one space but we promise to follow our rules of life-prayer, service, and evangelism.

Please contact Blythe Thompson, Ann Taylor Burdette, Tricia Hill, or myself for more information regarding The Julian of Norwich Chapter of the Daughters of the King here at St Matthews.

- Kathy von St Paul



Enjoy this gorgeous late Spring sunset at St. Matthew's.

Do you have a photo you'd like to share? Send it to Sonja and it may appear in the next newsletter!

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

“The Road to Brown”

A Documentary about the Events that Led to the 1954 Supreme Court Decision, Brown v. Board of Ed

HIGH COURT BANS SCHOOL SEGREGATION; 9-TO-0 DECISION GRANTS TIME TO COMPLY

McCarthy Hearing Off a Week as Eisenhower Bars Report



Charles Hamilton Houston
“The man who killed Jim Crow”



**June 9
at 3PM**
At the Passmore Center
103 Meadowlands Dr.
Hillsborough, NC

Film Screening will be followed by a panel discussion

- Moderator: **Dr. Freddie Parker**, Professor of History, NCCU
Hon. Anna Richards, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch of the NAACP
Betty Eidener, Retired Teacher, Orange County Schools
Jennifer W. Marsh, Civil Rights Attorney, Self-Help Credit Union
Xavier Adams, High School History Teacher, Orange High School
Rep. Renée A. Price, North Carolina General Assembly

Free and open to all
Not intended for young audiences

Program on Black Attorneys in Orange County

On Saturday, June 1, The Orange County Public Library will offer Saturday, June 1, James Williams will lead a program on Black attorneys featuring Lisbon Berry, the first Black attorney in Orange County.

Lisbon Berry was the son of Rev. Job Berry, founder of Dickerson Chapel A. M. E. Church, and had a close association with St. Matthew's. He even arranged for the wedding of older brother, Richard, and Mildred Whitted to take place in the church.

In addition to being an attorney, Berry was an educator and missionary who founded schools for Black children in Eastern North Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee.

Hillsborough Excursion Day: Volunteers Needed
May 18, 10 am - 4 pm

Experience Hillsborough, the small town with big history, through a day of FREE activities at local sites! Some of the sites and activities include:

- Ayr Mount: a kid-friendly archeology dig and self-guided house tours
- Hughes Academy: Children's activities, Hogg House Ruins, Cameron Ice House
- Churton Street: Historic re-enactors recount the bygone businesses of the founding streets' and more!

We are looking for volunteers to greet visitors to St. Matthew's during this event. If you can help out, please contact **Sonja** in the parish office.

MEALS on WHEELS
ORANGE COUNTY, NC

Dining for Others

A NIGHT OF FABULOUS FOOD, FRESH COCKTAILS, BLOSSOMING FRIENDSHIPS, FUN GAMES, AND FUNDRAISING!

May, 16 2024 | 6-9 pm

THE BARN AT UNION GROVE FARM
1052 LILYPAD LANE
CHAPEL HILL, NC

Dressy Casual Attire

MAIL RSVP CARD OR REGISTER AT
WWW.MOWOCNC.ORG
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
ENDS APRIL 26

Springing into Summer



Spring is usually a season that flies by for me. We hit Easter Sunday and then all of a sudden it is summer! Reflecting on my last newsletter article, I believe that honoring the season of Easter has helped slow the Springtime down for us as a family.

It also really helped shape our time in Family Chapel. We began each service with the same words proclaimed in our Sanctuary, "Alleluia Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!" Followed by Gospel stories that tell of Jesus's work after his resurrection. We have continued to celebrate through joyful songs of praise, acknowledging Easter through our song choices. Family Chapel is a time to worship in way that meets the needs of our youngest as they explore and discover the love of God. It is very much rooted in the Liturgy and mirrors the worship taking place in our Sanctuary.

Our Youth Group spent the Spring diving into and preparing the Youth Service. When

we started the planning process, our teens explored what sentiments and atmosphere they wanted to convey during the service. It was a heartwarming conversation, they wanted parishioners to feel what they feel when they come to youth group: safety, joy, laughter, critical and deep thinking, and interaction. This conversation was eye opening for me. I spent the year planning lessons, focused on how to fit in more Bible study time, to then step back and see that those intentions were just a small slice of the bigger picture. For our teenagers, the feeling of emotional safety was the kicker. By providing time for play, open check-ins, and fellowship over food, the learning and harder questions of faith became easier. When one feels safe, loved, and welcome, there is space for more to enter. I truly see God's grace and love in the interactions of our teenagers, they listen to one another earnestly, ask about each other's challenges, and lighten our moods with jokes and playfulness. One could even say that our youth group is a reflection of our St. Matthew's community at large, welcoming, loving, and ready to embrace the weary. What a blessing to be a part of the St. Matthew's family!

As many of you know, Lazo Lee baby #2 is on the way! I will be on maternity leave from late May to early August. We'll be sure to send pictures when our baby joins the family! Thank you all for your love and support of our family.

- *Stephany Lazo, Director of Formation*

Special thanks to ...

- ✦ *Pelham Jacobs* for 21 years of faithful service on the parish staff, caring for our buildings and ground;
- ✦ All who showed up for last month's Parish Work Day: *Ken & Sharon Billings, Chris Broderick, Betty Eidenier, John Gagnon, Ran Hamner, Bob & Marion Horn, Pelham Jacobs, Greg Kolb, Chris Liddicoat, Charles & Martha McCamy, Jim & Carolyn Parsley, Chris Peterson, Lisa Frost-Phillips, Drew Powell, Bob & Susan Shelton, Elizabeth Witherspoon!* LOTS of hard work was done and the churchyard looks great;
- ✦ *Karen Ireland and the Parish Life Committee* for all their hard work preparing for various events around the church, including the Maundy Thursday dinner;
- ✦ The Coffee Hour hosts who quietly go about making sure there is coffee and refreshments after worship each Sunday, and cleaning up afterwards: *Sharon Billings, Suzanne Blankford, Jim Charton & Yvonne Petitmaire, Cindy Cook, Sam & Maria Costello, Geraldine Fleming & Maline Rosemond; Jonathan & Megan Leiss; Martha & Charles McCamy, Gail Pearson, Michael Wood, and Phyllis & Edward Wright;*
- ✦ *Dr. Jason* for having the vision to form a Junior Choir at St. Matthew's and then leading that group through their first year.

PARISH OPERATING BUDGET STATUS			
as of the end of:	February 2024		17%
EXPENSES:	Budgeted	Spent	%
Work Outside the Parish	\$77,240	\$1,725	2%
Maint. & Improvements	\$75,282	\$13,652	18%
Clergy-related	\$221,715	\$36,598	17%
Administrative	\$102,508	\$24,392	24%
Christian Ed. Program	\$54,906	\$8,001	15%
Worship-related	\$60,132	\$8,538	14%
Total Expenses:	\$591,783	\$92,906	16%
INCOME:	Budgeted	Spent	%
Plate/Gift Offerings Received	\$70,000	\$15,986	23%
Pledge Payments	\$527,742	\$225,838	43%
Other	\$25,600	\$22,650	88%
Total Income:	\$623,342	\$264,474	42%

Congratulations to...

- ✦ The children who completed their first full year of Junior Choir: *Evie Schneidewind, Corinne and Sebastian Fruehwirth, Serena Meckman, ...*



Thank you from the Altar Guild!

The Altar Guild thanks everyone for everything they did for Holy Week and Easter 2024.

We appreciate the extra hands for the additional services of Holy Week and for decorating the church. Thanks to Lisa for leading us in the Holy Saturday service in the garden. It is lovely and a blessed time for the work of the Altar Guild.

Special thanks to Allison Bass for creating such a beautiful plan for the Easter flowers. The execution of her plan was flawless!! I hope everyone enjoyed the gift!

Thank you all for giving us a sacred feast for the eyes!

- *Kathy von St Paul & MaryAnn Plambeck*

We extend sympathy to...

- ✦ Para Drake along with Daria, William, Weston, and the entire Drake family at the loss of *Wil Drake*;
- ✦ the family of *Jamie Huntington-Meath*



Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord: And let light perpetual shine upon them.



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ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH CHURCH
 CHARTERED 1752

THE REV. ROBERT FRUEHWIRTH
 RECTOR

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 June 1, 2024.

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Sunday, May 19 at 4:00 pm

Save the date for our next
 Third Sunday Liturgy featuring a
 Jazz Vespers service. Jason will
 have something special
 planned to end the program
 year strong.



JAZZ
 vespers

You don't want to
 miss t!

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Workdays

A BIG thank you to all who helped out with the April Build Days! We have two dates on the Habitat Build for the Faith in Hillsborough project this month:

- May 4 & 18

You may sign up for a 1/2 day (8-12 or 1-4) or a full day. To sign up for one or more of these dates, please visit <http://vhub.at/faithinhillsborough> and register.

A great community experience and a great way to participate in providing affordable housing for a family in need! No experience necessary, just a desire to be involved.

If you have questions or have any trouble registering for a build day, please contact [Charles McCamy](#).

