

ST. MATTHEW'S

LIFE



NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PARISH OF ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH, NC

FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers at St. Matthews,

Over the past four months, the Vestry shaped a Strategic Plan for St. Matthew's. This plan is aligned with our mission statement from 2010 and defines specific priorities to meet the opportunities and challenges of this moment. The Strategic Plan consists of three priorities, which I describe below. Please take a moment to read these. You might see something that excites you or makes you curious. You might see how your lay ministry, your committee, your faith journey fits into one or more of these priorities. Ideas might bubble up about ways you or your committee could be involved! Everything in this plan is not for everyone, but there is SOMETHING for everyone. In the weeks ahead I and the Vestry will be engaging with you about these priorities. With your input we will further shape them and clarify the big three-year goals for each priority.

Eisenhower once said, "Plans are nothing; planning is everything." As we come out of the pandemic these plans are meant to clarify our parish commitment and direct the energy of our common life. The Plan is like a trellis to structure and support the life that is already breaking through the soul and seeking the sun. With grace, we will bear much fruit.

Engaging to Grow: A Strategic Plan for St. Matthews 2022-2025

Strategic Priority One: Engaging our Parish to Grow in Love

Our first priority is to engage a systematic and purposeful process to build engagement across all areas of parish life. As Albert Winseman wrote in *Growing an Engaged Church*, "Parish engagement is a thoughtful, rational and emotional commitment to a spiritual community: to its congregation, to its leadership and to its vision and mission. It is rooted emotionally but emotional commitment leads to rational commitment and results in spiritual growth." Christianity is essentially a communal adventure, and coming out of a pandemic which disrupted every aspect of parish life, the need for rebuilding engagement is obvious. Further, we will reach out to the many young families moving to Hillsborough and intentionally integrate newcomers into all aspects of parish life. Our vision for St. Matthew's is of a flourishing intergenerational community where different generations bring their unique gifts to support one another.

Strategic Priority Two: Engaging our History to Grow in Faith

With the Bicentennial of St. Matthews approaching in 2024, we prioritize a deep, new engagement with our history, learning to tell our parish story as a story of God's work in this place, intertwined as we are with the historic town of Hillsborough, North Carolina, and the Episcopal Church. Our bicentennial invites us to uncover, document, and share the events, movements, leaders, and parishioners of the past so that we can share the story of St. Matthews with our parishioners and the citizens of Hillsborough. We have a special concern for as yet untold stories of parishioners and community members whose lives reflected God's grace. We envision a permanent ministry for St. Matthew's in the local community in preserving and presenting the history of this place, and reflecting on the meaning of God's redeeming work in that history.

Continued on the next page

Strategic Priority Two *(continued)*

This will not be without challenge. As we reflect on our past, we are going to discover examples of faithfulness to the Gospel and times where we have been less faithful to that Gospel. We will find instances of heroism and human dignity and instances where the church has buckled under the worldly passions of its time and lost sight of its most basic baptismal commitments in Jesus. We will see how our parish has grown and changed over time in order to become more faithful to the Gospel and our Baptismal Covenant. Indeed, the point in witnessing such historical struggle and growth is to gain clarity and courage in our lives today. Our unique and powerful parish history is our single greatest asset for the spiritual work of growing in our faith today. We want to grow in faithfulness, and exploring our history, putting it in conversation with the Gospel, is the best way to do that.

Strategic Priority Three: Engaging our Community to Grow in Hope

Our third priority is to develop collaborative and meaningful relationships between our parish and other groups in the community. Building off our heritage in Outreach and Social Justice, as well as outward facing ministries peculiar to St. Matthew's – such as Faith and Arts – our aim is to be a part of the Beloved Community that happens “down the hill,” that happens, that is, when diverse groups from different churches, classes and ethnicities work together for the common good. In being a part of such a Beloved Community, we lend ourselves to the process of mutual understanding, appreciation and healing in our community. And when we experience little glimpses of Beloved Community in collaborating and celebrating life with our neighbors, that experience feeds our hope in God's reconciliation of all humanity in God's Kingdom. We experience what our future will be, and joy arises.

To sum up, our aim in this Strategic Plan as a whole is to grow in faith, hope and love. We believe that at this time and in this place, we can best grow in FAITH by engaging our history as a story of God's faithfulness through human error and human heroism. We can best grow in HOPE in God's reconciling power by experiencing deeper relationships in our local community. Finally we can best grow in LOVE by rich engagement with one another, newcomers and old timers together in a united and vibrant parish life.



A Special Devotional Series during Black History Month

During the month of February, we will be highlighting the lives of five African American women with connections to St. Matthew's.

Each Tuesday in February, you will receive an email. In this email you'll be introduced to a particular person, through essays written by parish archivist Elaine Druessedow, diocesan historiographer Dr. Brooks Graebner, parishioner and historian Sally Greene and myself. Each essay will be paired with a link to visual art, music and a prayer. The hope is that through this “mixture,” we might be drawn more deeply into their lives and inspired by their witness to courage, perseverance, faith, hope, love.

Every Thursday in February (3, 10, 17, 24), we invite you to the St. Matthew's Zoom Formation channel at 1:00 pm for an informal conversation around each week's offering and to share our reflections. Bring a cup of tea or lunch and join us.

We invite all of us to see these weekly offerings, not just as “another email in the box,” but as a way of going deeper into our history and allowing it to speak to us, to help guide how we will live and move and have our being as the faithful body of Christ in this place now.

- Lisa+ and Kim

Christian Formation

Village Church - Secret Pals!

Join us on Sunday, February 13th at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall for a beloved St. Matthew's tradition: Secret Pals Breakfast. In January, children in the congregation were matched with an adult or older youth "Secret Pal" who sends them treats and clues to their identity the week leading up to the breakfast. The Secret Pals will be revealed at breakfast on the 13th!

Godly Play and Growing in Christ

Godly Play and Growing in Christ will plan to meet in the Education Building on Sundays February 6, 20, and 27th. Please refer to the weekly email reminders for the most up to date information around gathering. If we are still online for church, we will remain online for Sunday School.

Youth Group

Join us every Sunday evening from 4pm - 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be continuing our series on Icon Writing where youth will learn how to write a traditional icon in the Byzantine style. All youth will be socially distanced and masks are required! Again, please refer to the weekly reminder email for the most up to date information around gatherings.

Habitat for Humanity Update



Krissy Dunn from the Orange County Habitat for Humanity will join our *Sunday Forum on February 6th* to share information concerning the Habitat Faith in Hillsborough Partnership program. This program had been discussed but was hindered by Covid. We are excited to see it now moving forward!

St. Matthew's plans to join with other local faith communities to build a home on Odie St in Hillsborough. The tentative kickoff build day is Saturday, March 19th. The full schedule will be communicated once confirmed.

Krissy will provide a Habitat Volunteer Hub link for signup. Sign up options will be on Saturday dates and include an AM shift (8-12), a PM shift (1-4) and a full day option (8am - 4pm). Lunch will be provided by one of the participating churches. No previous skills or experience required!

Orange County Habitat is doing an amazing job supporting the need for affordable housing, and St. Matthews has a long history of support. We look forward to this program's growth and success.

I have an email list for communication in addition to the church newsletter. If you would like to be added to this list, please email me at charlesmccamy@gmail.com.

- Charlie McCamy

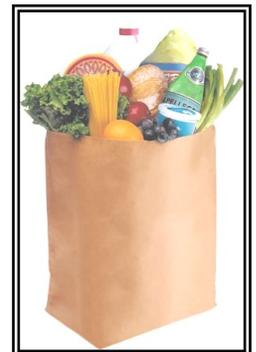
Fill the Bag for OCIM

It's time for our annual February "Give a little extra love - Fill the Bag" drive for Orange Congregations in Mission (OCIM).

We will be doing it differently this year. I will not be passing out bags since we have no inside service. Labeled bags will be available outside the office (inside the building) or on the bench in the Fellowship Hall. If you fill a bag, please return it to the Fellowship Hall so I can count them.

If you don't wish to pick up a bag, please consider making a financial donation directly to OCIM to help them help others with rent and utility payments. Please put St. Matthew's in the memo space so OCIM can tell us how much our church has given at the end of February. You can mail donations to: **OCIM, 300 Millstone Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278.**

- Carolyn Parsley



Music Notes from the Acting Director of Music



In the last few weeks, we have seen a good amount of snow and ice, which has reminded me of Harold Darke's well-known choral anthem, *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*, 1909. The anthem is a setting of a text by Christina Rossetti. This poem was published under the title of "Christmas Carol" in the January 1872 issues of *Scribner's Monthly* and later appears in a collection of poems compiled by Goblin Market, entitled *The Prince's Progress and Other Poems*.

It was Gustav Holst, who first set the text to music in 1906. Holst's setting is a hymn that appears in our hymnal, *The Hymnal 1982*, No. 112. Holst gave the tune the name *Cranhafter Cranham*, Gloucestershire and was written for the *The English Hymnal*. A side note here, have you ever wondered why in our worship bulletin there is another title that follows the hymn title? The title that appears after the semicolon is the tune name. Most often Opening and Closing Voluntaries are based on hymns tunes that are sung later in the service. At the time of Darke's composition, Darke was a student at the Royal College of Music. During WWII, he was the conductor of the King's College Choir. The music is more complex than Holst's hymn setting. Even though the carol became highly favored among musicians, Darke himself almost resented composing it as it became the piece he was known for and not his other compositions.

The anthem speaks to the Incarnation of Jesus, his first and second coming, the simplistic surroundings of the stable, of Mary's ability to provide for baby Jesus (a breast full of milk), and ending with how we might respond to his coming into the world.

Text

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

Listening Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ai9zDFqqP74>

Stay warm, we are just in the early days of winter and The Season After the Epiphany, this year 8 weeks long. Next month, we will find ourselves not just at the beginning of March but in the season of Lent.

Pax, Dr. Jason

Pauli Murray Movie Discussion

Tuesday, Feb. 8th at 7 pm

Please join the Racial Justice & Reconciliation Committee (RJRC) for a Zoom discussion of the film *My Name is Pauli Murray*. We will be on the Meeting Channel on Tuesday, Feb. 8th at 7 pm. The film is available on Amazon. Please watch at your convenience then come and share your thoughts. Pauli Murray was an astounding woman who was ahead of her time on issues such as civil rights, gay rights, and women's rights. Her family has ties to St. Matthew's, as explained in her book, *Proud Shoes*, and she grew up in Durham. In addition to being a lawyer and author, Pauli Murray was the first African American woman ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church and celebrated her first eucharist at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill. You will be impressed.

- Jane Clunie



Justice United Assembly Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Justice United kick off Assembly meeting February 10 from 7:00-8:30 pm over zoom. We will ratify our vision for 2022, which includes focusing on Fair and Affordable Housing in Orange County, Mental Health access and care for the Latinx community, and advocating for equity focused policies from those running for District Attorney. Please register on the Justice United Orange County webpage or feel free to reach out to our parish representatives Martha McCamy and Ran Hamner with further questions.

It's a powerful way to live out our baptismal promises- to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; and to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. Hope to see all of you there!

FeST Wrap Up

Once again, a huge thank you to all who participated in any way with FeST this year. The final tally is in and we raised \$6128.38 this year from baked goods, surprise boxes, and the silent auction. For those who donated items for the surprise boxes, please know that we have heard wonderful comments from a variety of recipients. All were so very pleased with what they received - volume, quality, and creativity. Everyone really went all out this year and it was evident. Each and every donation was very much appreciated. And it's never too early to start thinking about 2022! Regardless of what form FeST takes in 2022, your crafts will be a needed and most welcome addition. Consider starting early and setting items aside throughout the year. For all you bakers out there, you have 11 months to perfect those recipes. Thank you all for being such a generous congregation.

- Chris Peterson and Robin Langford

Safe Haven for Caregivers Support Group

Each day, I receive a short verse, voice, and prayer from [Sojourner Magazine](#). This came today:

Verse: And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. *1 Timothy 5:8*

Voice: "when i say / the land is my /ancestor / believe me." *from poet leilani portillo, "believe me."*

Prayer: "May I care for my relative, the land. May my actions honor them."

When I first read these few lines, I thought of family members who have needed care at one time or another. I did not think of the land, which is as important to this poet as "relatives." I realized that there is truth in bringing both into the same breath or poem. For without caring for the land and its bounty that feeds us, we cannot care well for our relatives. There is no limit to information about the necessity for human well-being of good nutrition, air quality, spiritual practices, and being able to walk in nature. I'm sure you know of other "must-haves."

1 Timothy's short verse may sound harsh. The whole chapter 5 reads as commandments for treating others in the community of faith. But, harshness aside, Timothy teaches us the value of caring for one another and those who are closest to us. So often, we discount the care we give to our own loved ones, likely because it can be a hidden giving and an often thankless opportunity for service.

I hold these words from Timothy as a calling for all who labor in care for a loved one, a friend, or a stranger, in any circumstance, both to live into that calling and to join others who share it with you. So often, "carers" are so focused on the commitment to caring that they ignore their own need for support and friendship.

Regardless of how you are caring for another person, we hope you will join St. Matthew's Safe Haven Support for Caregivers on the Zoom meeting channel once a month, on the last Sunday, from 1:55- 3:00 pm. We will be mindful of the time and welcome you warmly.

- Rev. Para Drake and David McDuffie, co-facilitators

People News

Thanks to:

- Bob Shelton and Charles Thomas for managing the Epiphany Bonfire, and Karen Ireland for obtaining the permit that allowed us to have it
- Andrea Edith Moore (soprano), Alissa Roca (soprano), and Keegan Welford-Small (baritone) for sharing their musical gifts during our Zoom worship services
- Dr. Jason Wright, Nick Ruden, and others for transitioning the musical portion of our worship to Zoom, and making it such a source of spiritual nourishment for our community
- Liz Dowling-Sendor for her gift of editing, and Helen Conrad for her wisdom and guidance.
- The Churchyard Committee for moving several hundred bricks for the raised beds the Youth Group are building
- The Altar Guild for continuing to vest and maintain the church even through COVID-related closures
- Pelham Jacobs for making sure the church parking lots, walkways and steps were safe after three (!) different winter storms in January
- Mary Roca for her wisdom and graciousness as she shared her 16+ years of knowledge and experience to help ensure a smooth transition in the church office, and to both Mary and Sara Brewer who continue to patiently answer hundreds of questions

Recent Deaths:

- We extend our sympathy to Jan Boyd Grant at the death of her husband, Rowen Grant

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

Parish Operating Budget as of the end of December 2021 (100%)			
Budget Expenses	2021 Budget	Total Spent	%
Work Outside the Parish	\$68,250	\$67,138	98%
Maint. & Improvements	\$73,694	\$77,239	105%
Clergy-related	\$153,957	\$148,404	96%
Administrative	\$94,763	\$96,547	102%
Christian Ed. Program	\$59,347	\$58,034	98%
Worship-related	\$49,087	\$47,374	97%
Expenses Total:	\$499,098	\$494,735	99%
Budget Income	2021 Budget	Total Received	%
Plate/Gift Offerings Received	\$40,000	\$92,794	232%
Pledge Payments	\$444,340	\$436,215	98%
Other	\$21,600	\$22,300	103%
Income Total:	\$505,940	\$551,309	109%

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 27, at 9:15 am

St. Matthew's will hold an *in-person* Annual Meeting during which we will elect new vestry members, consider changes to the parish by-laws, and other important matters. Information packets including vestry nominees and suggested by-law changes will be mailed the first week of February.

Rector's Sabbath Day

Please note that *Robert+ has changed his weekly day off* from Mondays *to* Fridays. He will be unavailable on Fridays except for emergencies. If an emergency arises, please call Sonja Tilley, Parish Administrator, at 919-451-4629.

Office hours for the parish office have changed.

The new office hours are:

Tuesdays, 8:30am to 3:00pm
Wednesdays, 8:30am to 3:00pm
Thursdays, 8:30am to 3:00pm

In addition to these hours, the new Parish Administrator, Sonja Tilley, will work an additional 6 hours from home on Mondays and/or Fridays each week based on the needs each week brings. The email for the office remains unchanged: welcome@stmatthewshillsborough.org.

Treasurer's New Contact Information

Happy 2022! As many of you know, I retired from Durham Tech in September 2021. My previous email address is no longer in service although I continue to receive residual emails thanks to a former colleague who graciously offered to link my old address to hers and forward messages while everyone gets used to my new address. *Please change my email address in your records so that sensitive information is not being received outside of St. Matthews.* As of February 1, my old address is retired completely, so if you email me and don't receive a reply, please check that my gmail address is in use! As always, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding church finances.

My current email address is:

dorothywood241@gmail.com

- Dorothy Wood, Treasurer



FEBRUARY 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Epiphany 5 8a Eucharist, Rt I (chr) 10a Service of the Word (W) 11a Sunday Forum (W) 11:15 Children's Formation (F) Youth Sunday School (M)	7 10a Archives 6:30p Education for Ministry 8:30p Compline (W)	1 7:30a Morning Silence (W) 11a Staff Meeting 8:30p Compline (W)	2 The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ 8a Morning Prayer (W) 1p Daughters of the King (M) 5p Those Who Live Alone (M) 6p Finance	3 7p Personnel (M) 1p Devotional Reflection (F) 8:30p Compline (W)	4 8a Morning Prayer (W) 8:30p Compline (W)	5 9:30a Shawl Ministry
6 Epiphany 5 8a Eucharist, Rt I (chr) 10a Service of the Word (W) 11a Sunday Forum (W) 11:15 Children's Formation (F) Youth Sunday School (M)	7 10a Archives 6:30p Education for Ministry 8:30p Compline (W)	8 7:30a Morning Silence (W) 1:30p Property Meeting 7p RJR Movie Discussion (M) 8:30p Compline (W)	9 8a Morning Prayer (W) 1p Daughters of the King (M) 5p Those Who Live Alone (M) 6:30p Choir 8:30p Compline (W)	10 1p Devotional Reflection (F) 8:30p Compline (W)	11 8a Morning Prayer (W) 8:30p Compline (W)	12 9a Parish Life (Fellowship Hall)
13 Epiphany 6 8a Eucharist, Rt I (chr) 9:15a Secret Pal Breakfast 10a Service of the Word (W) 4p Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)	14 10a Archives 6:30p Education for Ministry 8:30p Compline (W)	15 7:30a Morning Silence (W) 11a Staff Meeting 5p Newsletter deadline 6p Vestry 8:30p Compline (W)	16 8a Morning Prayer (W) 1p Daughters of the King (M) 5p Those Who Live Alone (M) 6:30p Choir 8:30p Compline (W)	17 8:30a Morning Breakfast Group 1p Devotional Reflection (F) 8:30p Compline (W)	18 8a Morning Prayer (W) 8:30p Compline (W)	19 11a Companions of the Holy Cross (Fellowship Hall)
20 Epiphany 6 8a Eucharist, Rt I (chr) 9:15a Education Hour 10:30a Eucharist, Rt II (chr+W) 4p Youth Group (Fellowship Hall) 7p Women's Singing Circle	21 10a Archives 6:30p Education for Ministry 8:30p Compline (W)	22 7:30a Morning Silence (W) 8:30p Compline (W)	23 8a Morning Prayer (W) Noon Eucharist (chr) 1p Daughters of the King (M) 5p Those Who Live Alone (M) 6:30p Choir	24 Saint Matthias the Apostle 1p Devotional Reflection (F) 8:30p Compline (W)	25 8a Morning Prayer (W) 8:30p Compline (W)	26 8a AEHS Retreat (Ed)
27 Last Epiphany 8a Eucharist, Rt I (chr) 9:15a Annual Meeting (chr) 10:30a Eucharist, Rt II (chr+W) 2p Safe Haven (M) 4p Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)	28 10a Archives 6:30p Education for Ministry 8:30p Compline (W)	<p>Please check the website (stmatthewshillsborough.org) for the most up-to-date information about worship services and other events. Events are sometimes added or changed after the newsletter is published. And we continue to monitor COVID-related news and make adjustments as needed. Masks continue to be required in all parish buildings.</p>				

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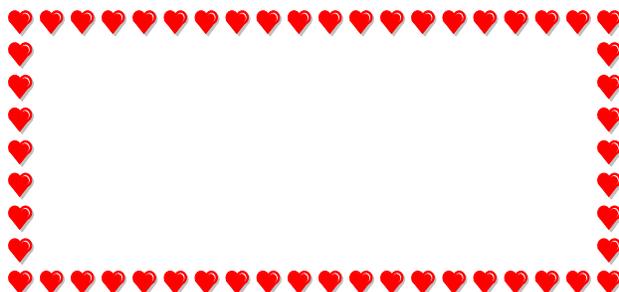
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Altar Guild News

The Altar Guild had a busy day decorating the church for Christmas. It was lovely with gorgeous red poinsettias. We had a small group of ladies and a gentleman to complete our tasks. Thanks to all that were present.

We finished just in time to learn that we would have no in-person service. I hope you all enjoyed seeing the church on Zoom. It was beautiful!

On the 25th and 26th members of our church delivered 36 plants to members that have been unable to attend during Covid. Our deliveries were well received and the deliverers loved their assignments. As Robert had hoped, many blessings occurred as we made a blessed community!

For now, we are not preparing the church for any services due to Covid restrictions. Service in the altar guild is a wonderful role that feeds the soul. I find it centers me and never feels like a "job". We have lost many of our altar guild members due to health issues. Please give prayerful consideration to joining us in preparing the altar for our services. We work in teams and the tasks are easily learned.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Plambeck and Kathy von St Paul

The Order of the Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King has begun its discernment study at St. Matthews. Our group is meeting on ZOOM weekly to follow the structured program. We are so glad to be on this journey and look forward to being an integral part of our community at St Matthews.

We are women that are committed to prayer, spreading the love of Jesus Christ, and service in our world.

Our group is seven women, four of us will transition into our newly chartered chapter, 3 of us are new and will have a service of admission. That service will occur on June 5, 2022 which is Pentecost.

Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for our group as we build our community.

We plan to be another active part of our blessed community!

We will update you as we travel this journey.

For his sake,

Kathy von St Paul

