

## November 2020

**FROM THE ASST. RECTOR**

**REV. MARY MARGARET**



Dear St. Matthew's family,

What a glorious fall we have had! This cool, sunny weather has done my soul well, and I wish the same blessing for all of you.

For many, November is a month of apprehension: a time change, colder weather, flu season, and the election. All of these things are real and important, yet there are so many things that will pull us through. We will continue outdoor worship at 3:30pm and 5pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, a time to gather in community and enjoy the socially-distant presence of those we love. I had missed the Eucharist deeply and when we got the go-ahead, I could not wait to taste the bread. While it was wonderful, I realized that the part I missed the most was sharing the Eucharist *with all of you*. If you are comfortable and able, I encourage you to join in these beautiful and holy moments.

If outdoor worship is not for you, there are many other ways that we can share in each other's presence. On Wednesday evenings, I will be hosting a WonZ (Wednesdays on Zoom) series focused on the transformative nature of Dolly Parton. Based on the podcast "Dolly Parton's America," we will be discussing music, hometowns, spirituality, and so much more, all through the lens of this truly remarkable woman. Whether you love, can't stand, or couldn't care less about Dolly, this will be a place to connect with each other and explore our own upbringings. Details appear later in the newsletter.

There are also many opportunities throughout the week to engage virtually with each other, all of which are highlighted in the following pages. Whoever and wherever you are, St. Matt's is here to welcome and get to know you.

My friends, we are all struggling right now, and no amount of great Zoom sessions is going to change that. But we are here for you. WE LOVE YOU. And we will do whatever we can to ease the burden of this month and those to come. If you are struggling and could use someone to talk to, please reach out either by phone or email, 703-430-2121 or [marymargaret@stmtts.org](mailto:marymargaret@stmtts.org). And if you have some love to give others, I encourage you to reach out to your fellow parishioners. You are all in my prayers as we make it through this together!

With love,

Rev. Mary Margaret

## Note from our Senior Warden

My Dearest St. Matthew's Friends and Family,

We are approaching Thanksgiving – traditionally a time to give thanks for the harvest and for the year just past. We at St. Matt's have much to give thanks for, especially the love we have experienced and shared through what has been a hard year for us, the nation, and much of the world. The word "Thanksgiving" describes the day but, at the same time, calls us to respond to the blessings that God has given us: to give God praise and share our blessings with our community. St. Matt's continues to support that community through Backpack Buddies, the Care Response Team, and the many examples of care that we have shared with you during our online services.

During the past month, special meetings were held to identify additional needs in our community and to discuss ways that St. Matt's could help. This led to Vestry agreement on a range of new initiatives, which include: providing gift cards to local teachers for their dedication and commitment, especially during these challenging times; funding for a Children's Wellness Coordinator to assist local children who are experiencing a difficult time during the pandemic; donations to several local organizations working to support our local community; and financing to undertake essential work on the church building and trailer. We thank you for your ongoing support that allows us to undertake these projects.

We are also busy planning this year's Advent and Christmas services which will, for the most part, be online, but we are planning an outdoor Christmas Day service on the church grounds – more on this and the Christmas program later.

A Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Best,  
Linden Sanders  
Senior Warden

P.S. We are eagerly anticipating Rev. Mary Margaret's ordination to the priesthood. God willing, this joyful occasion will happen on or around December 16. We'll share more details as soon as we are able.



## Thanksgiving Compline

**Thursday, November 26, 8pm**

**[STMTTS.ORG/LIVE](https://stmtts.org/live)**

# Connect Virtually

## Live Stream Sunday Services

Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

## Faith Factory for Kids

Sundays at 10:30am

Email [Adrian@stmtts.org](mailto:Adrian@stmtts.org) to join

## Youth Bible Study/Topical Discussion

Sundays at 10:30am

Google Meets

<http://meet.google.com/jya-nkrr-sis>

## Young Professionals (YoPros)

2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 1051 7955

## Mid-Week Prayer and Compline

Monday - Friday at 12:00pm and 8:00pm

Facebook Live: [stmtts.org/live](https://www.facebook.com/stmtts.org/live)

## Social Time with Candace

Mondays at 12pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

## Bread of Life Small Group

Mondays at 7pm

Email Darrell: [darrellandmerry@verizon.net](mailto:darrellandmerry@verizon.net)

## Sandwich Generation Small Group

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Zoom ID: 844 3193 1826



## NEW: WonZ: Dolly Parton's America

Wednesdays at 8:15pm-9:15pm

Zoom ID: 884 1853 6414

## Women's Uncommon Prayer

Thursdays at 12:00pm

Email Susie: [susie.harding@gmail.com](mailto:susie.harding@gmail.com)

## Sacred Ground with Rev. Mary Margaret

Thursdays at 6pm

Email to join [MaryMargaret@stmtts.org](mailto:MaryMargaret@stmtts.org)

## Men's Group

Saturdays at 8:00am

Zoom Meeting ID: 581 005 941

## Compassion Craft and Story Time

1st Saturdays at 10am

Zoom Meeting ID 865 9982 1819

Password: church

# ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN!

## Fall Faith Factory Sundays at 10:30am

Faith Factory will continue to meet on Zoom by grade.

Contact Adrian for the meeting ID and password at

[Adrian@stmtts.org](mailto:Adrian@stmtts.org)

## Compassion Storytime with Miss Adrian

### Saturday, November 7 at 10:00am

Join Adrian for compassion themed stories & crafts. We will be reading special Thanksgiving stories and making a Thankful Turkey craft and Thank You cards to give to friends and family.

Zoom Meeting ID 865 9982 1819 Password: church





# Outreach Happenings

## Outreach Spotlight

The Outreach Committee would like to recognize Amanda Sternitzke for leading the Parkview Food Share Program. Amanda is only a teenager but proving that you're never too young to make a difference. She is helping provide food, diapers, masks, feminine hygiene products to local Parkview High students and families.

If you would like to help Amanda shop, pack, distribute or deliver, please use the sign up <http://go.stmtts.org/parkview>



Amanda Sternitzke

## Backpack Buddies

We continue to accept donations of shelf-stable food items and school supplies this month. Drop off items at church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am - 4pm. Sign up to pack here: [go.stmtts.org/Pack4BB](http://go.stmtts.org/Pack4BB).

For more information, please contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at [HHLlearning@gmail.com](mailto:HHLlearning@gmail.com).

## Thanksgiving Bags

Please help us provide Thanksgiving meals and basic supplies for our neighbors by dropping off food and other necessities by Thursday, November 12th. Donations can be dropped off by the church backdoors on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 8am-4pm. If you have any questions or would like to assist with delivery, please contact Darrell Breed at [Darrellandmerry@verizon.net](mailto:Darrellandmerry@verizon.net) for more info.

## Outreach Committee Zoom Meeting

Join us on Zoom on Friday, November 13 at 7:00pm. Email [Adrian@stmtts.org](mailto:Adrian@stmtts.org) for more info

# ALL SOULS DAY

*Service of Remembrance*

Remembering our loved ones and all  
those who have died due to COVID-19

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020  
7:00 P.M | FACEBOOK LIVE



## Youth Happenings

### **Aerial Adventure Park at Harpers Ferry**

**Saturday, November 14 at 10am**

### **Parent's Coffee and Catch-up**

**Saturday, November 14 at 10am**

(while youth are at Aerial Adventure Park)

### **Youth Trivia**

**Saturday, November 28 at 7pm**



If your child is in grades 6-12 and would like to receive Youth Group Updates, please email Rev. Mary Margaret at [MaryMargaret@stmtts.org](mailto:MaryMargaret@stmtts.org). Check out our Facebook Page and the St. Matt's Instagram account for more details on upcoming events!

## Wednesdays on Zoom (WonZ)



### **Dolly Parton's America**

**Wednesdays from 8:15-9pm, November 4 - December 9**

Zoom ID: 884 1853 6414

In this intensely divided moment, one of the few things everyone still seems to agree on is Dolly Parton—but why? Through the popular podcast of the same name, we will explore the personal stories, music, and spirituality of one of America's great icons as a way of connecting more deeply with ourselves and each other. Questions? Contact Rev. Mary Margaret, [marymargaret@stmtts.org](mailto:marymargaret@stmtts.org)

## What is a strategic vision?

A basic definition of strategic vision, is "what an organization wants to become in the future". Our Strategic Vision will help guide all our efforts toward a common vision and goals as a church.

Mission = Why we exist

Vision = What we want to do

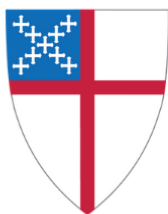
Core Values = What we are

Strategic Goals =  
How we achieve our vision

### TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION, WE NEED YOU!

- Pray for our church as we journey together to achieve our goals.
- Help guide all our efforts toward a common vision as a church. Everyone's talents are needed to help achieve this vision.
- Get involved! Volunteer for Backpack Buddies, Youth Group, Faith Factory, small groups, virtual community building, bible study, Celebration Garden, worship team, or any way you feel you can contribute!

SET GOALS, AIM HIGH, AND LIVE INTENTIONALLY.



2020-2024

# ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STRATEGIC VISION

**MISSION** TO KNOW AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE

**VISION** To develop a deeper connection with God, each other, and those in need in our global community

## CORE VALUES



### Creative

Seeking innovative and engaging ways to know and share God's love.



### Loving

Sharing God's love faithfully with everyone, everywhere, all the time.



### Adaptable

Remaining flexible to meet the ever-changing needs of our congregation and community.



### Curious

Inspiring continuous learning, questioning, and growth in faith. Never settling for what's comfortable.



### Enthusiastic

Working in God's name with joy in spirit, mind, and body.  
**HAVING FUN!**

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- Experience God through dynamic, musically-oriented, and transformative **WORSHIP**.
- Cultivate a **WELCOMING** environment for **ALL** people and family structures seeking deeper relationships with God and each other.
- **FORM** our identity in Jesus so that we find common ground through making a difference rather than making statements.
- Prioritize the development of our next generation through relatable experiences that attract and engage **YOUTH** of all ages.
- Fill the whole world with God's Word and love through mission, community, and **OUTREACH**.