

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Brenda S. Overfield, Rector

11300 West Huguenot Road

Midlothian, VA 23113

Announcements for November 18, 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Morning Prayer via zoom—8:30 AM

For after-hour emergencies and pastoral care, please contact the Rector or Parish Administrator: 804-464-1842.

For baptisms, marriages, or funerals, please contact the Rector.

For use of the facilities, membership, or giving and pledges, please contact the Parish Administrator.

Church sponsored, Sunday bulletin announcements are due in the office by 12:00 PM, Tuesdays and should be submitted here:

www.stmatmidlo.com/news-announcements

Please see our community bulletin board in Morrison Hall for personal and community announcements.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday : 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Friday 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

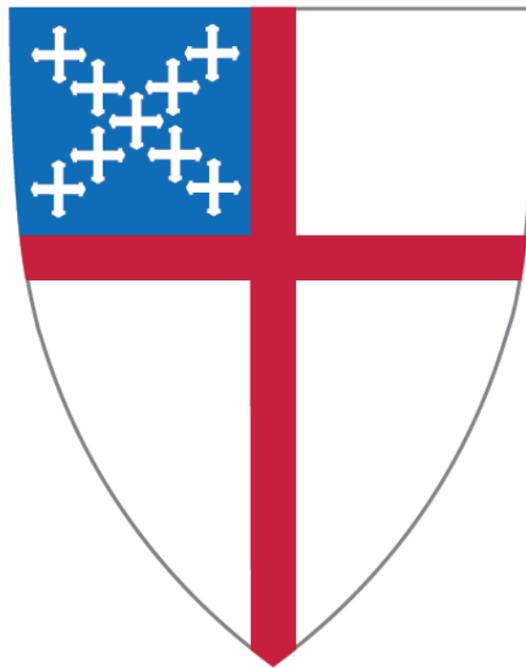
Masks Required.

Staff members are working from home and are checking voice mail and returning calls.

Phone: 804-464-1842 Fax: 804-594-5982

Weather/Emergency Text Updates: Text WeAreIAM to 84483

Web Site: www.stmatmidlo.com ~ Email: st.matthias@stmatmidlo.com



COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT

If you have either tested positive or been exposed to COVID-19, and have been at the church either for in-person services, or in the building for other ministries, we need to know as soon as you know this please.

This is not to be intrusive in any way. In fact, it will help us to support you and your family better. It is for the safety of all of our parishioners. Your cooperation and communication are appreciated!

Weekly Update

Prayers and Blessings to the persistently Faithful!

Here's our weekly update in a more concise fashion:

- The 8:30 Zoom service continues as usual.
 - The 11AM will meet in-person with the following guidelines:
- Masks required
 - 6' feet of personal distancing must be strictly adhered to:
- Please maintain distance upon entering church. Do not cluster together.
- Ushers will then usher you to your seat/s. Please do not move about the church after you have been seated. Only sit in assigned seating. (think of it as maître d' service!)
- Despite close friendships, if you do not live with the person, or if they are not in your "COVID pod", if you only see each other on a Sunday, you will be asked to sit apart.
- At the conclusion of the service, please wait for Ushers to clear your row for exiting the church. Do not just get up and leave.
- As difficult as it is, please do not congregate near each other following the service.
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- With COVID rates rising as rapidly as they are, this is a final effort to be able to continue to meet in person. If everyone is especially mindful of these guidelines, we should be able to succeed at this. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and effort—despite your own uncomfortability or personal disagreement with some of the requirements. We do not want to have to shut down again. We need your help to accomplish this goal.
- **As of Tuesday, November 17, we have been instructed by the Bishop to move to Virtual/ Zoom Services only if COVID positivity rates exceed 10% in our area. As of this writing, we are presently at 9.1% Please monitor your email for a possible last-minute notification that we have been required to move the 11AM Service to Zoom.**
- We will be tracing attendance for possible notification purposes. If, for any reason, you have been exposed to COVID, please let us know immediately. Your name will be kept absolutely confidential. We simply need to notify others of possible risk of exposure.
- The 11AM Service will be live-streamed if these guidelines will not work for you personally. Please have a Book of Common Prayer with you so you can follow along with the service and pray with us from your homes. **In the event of a required change to a Zoom service, there will be no live streamed service for that Sunday.**
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- The office presently remains open without requirement of appointments.
- Wednesday Communion is still offered between Noon and 2PM.
- All other current programs remain unchanged.

We ask that folks remember that all of these requirements are grounded in love and the desire to keep everyone safe while still finding a way to be together. We recognize that it is not within our nature to be as separated from each other as current guidelines require. We recognize that we are all weary of the vigilance we are being asked to maintain – no one is excited about wearing a mask or not being able to hug anyone or to be close- especially for as long as this has been asked of us.

Please be gentle and patient with yourselves, and with each other. We will get through this. And as we are going through this, we can practice love and tolerance and build God's Kingdom along the way.

Your Sister in Christ,

Brenda+ Persistence is a spiritual discipline! Thank you for persisting!

We have been able to address and remedy the difficulties you have been experiencing with Live Streaming.

We thank you for your patience while we have worked to eliminate the problems.

This Sunday we should have everything operating smoothly!

Remember to bring your Book of Common Prayer to the service with you so you can follow along and pray with us from home.



Communion on Wednesday: The church is open each Wednesday from noon to 2:00 PM for those who wish to receive Holy Communion individually.

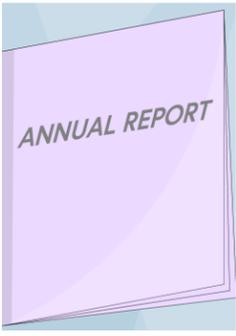
2121 Pledge Confirmation Statements: On Monday, November 16 statements confirming 2021 estimates of giving were sent out via email. If you did not receive a statement and believe you sent a 2021 Estimate of Giving Card please contact Br. Mark at 804-464-1842. Additionally, if you have not pledged yet and want to pledge for 2021 contact Br. Mark.



Sunday 11:00 AM Service Live Stream

Please click on the link below. Then scroll down to the large **Green** block titled **Sunday Services** and click on it, after that scroll down to the small [Sermon.net] box next to Rev. Brenda S. Overfield and click on it. " You are now Live Streaming the Sunday Service at St. Matthias Episcopal Church.

[Sunday Service Live Stream](#)



Annual Reports: Due to anticipated changes to the format in how we conduct our Annual Meeting in January 2021, Commission & Ministry Heads will need to submit their 2020 Annual Report to the office by **Thursday, December 10.**

PARISH DIRECTORY

Currently updated Directories are available at the office if you are missing your friends and want to get in touch! Please let Br. Mark know. You can either pick one up in person, or one can be mailed to you.

If you need to update your information or perhaps add a picture, Br. Mark can assist with that as well.

A note for everyone, please! THE DIRECTORY IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY KIND OF SOLICITATION WHATSOEVER. This is a community listing that needs to be kept for social purposes only.

Thank you for respecting the confidentiality of all of our members

Virtual Christmas Pageant 2020: As with most things in 2020, our Christmas Pageant will look a bit different this year. It will be a pre-recorded video that we will be able to show at a Premiere and during our services (dates TBA).

The pageant is a congregation-wide activity. Persons of all ages are invited to participate.

Scenes:

- We are looking for at least 7 households, from 1 person to as many people you have living there, to record their scene in the safety of their own home.
- You can record the scene on any smartphone.
- Recordings will need to be sent to Kristen by **12/9/20.**
- Costumes are available at church.

Music:

- We are looking for 6 persons/groups to record the hymns for the pageant.
- You can sing, play an instrument, or sing and play on your recording.
- You can record the scene on any smartphone.
- Recordings will need to be sent to Kristen by **12/9/20.**

If you are interested in participating in our pageant by recording a scene or hymn or both, please contact Kristen Ketron at kristen.ketron@stmatmidlo.com OR 464-1842, ext. 111 as soon as possible.

Also, anyone interested in helping with the editing of the video should contact Kristen. I definitely need help with this!



Christmas Mother 2020: Like everything else in 2020, Christmas Mother will be different this year. Although we will not have specific families and seniors to sponsor, you will have the opportunity to make someone's Christmas special! Here are the ways you can participate:

- Go to the Christmas mother website (CCHChristmasMother.com). Click on the Amazon Wish list button and select from the books, clothing, toys or gift cards listed. Be sure the shipping address is Christmas Mother. Pay for the selected items and you are done!
- Purchase a \$25.00 Walmart or Amazon gift card and mail to CCH Christmas Mother, PO box 2500, Chesterfield, VA 23832
- Send a check made payable to Chesterfield - Colonial Heights Christmas Mother and mail to CCH Christmas Mother, PO box 2500, Chesterfield, VA 23832
- If you want your contribution to go specifically to a Senior, send a check made payable to Chesterfield - Colonial Heights Christmas Mother for \$20.00 and in the memo put for a Senior Bundle. You can also add \$25.00 for a gift card to go with the bundle.

The latest date to make a contribution is November 23.

Thank you so much for being flexible this year. Christmas Mother is always very appreciative of all St Matthias does.

Margaret Kolster (804-320-1074)

ADVENT KITS: PREPARING THE WAY

The kits have a lesson and activities for each week, geared to families. But the lessons use language and activities that are accessible to all ages. All are welcome to take an Advent Kit to use at home.

As we journey through this season of Advent together, we will be introduced to prophets or God's messengers who helped prepare God's people for Jesus' arrival. We will also meet individuals who faced the unexpected and continued to prepare for Jesus, trusting in the promises of God for their lives. And finally, each week we will create time and space to prepare for Jesus through scripture readings, discussions, and activities together.

Also available will be two devotional booklets (more appropriate for older youth and adults):

- *Living Well Through Advent 2020: Practicing Hope with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind* (Published by Living Compass)
- *Peace be with You* (Published by the Society of St. Andrew)

Pick up your kit from the designated table in the Commons.

DISTRIBUTION DATES - COME BY THE CHURCH TO PICK UP YOUR KIT ON:

- November 17-19; 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 - November 22; before & after service
 - November 23-24; 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
- November 29 (1st day of Advent); before & after service

ADVENT SERIES - Wednesdays in December

Join us for prayers and decorating different Nativity characters each week. Tables will be set up along the sidewalk for you to decorate the characters. The characters will be laminated and then you can hang them up in the trees in our church yard to help decorate St. Matthias for the season. This a fun event for all ages!

DATES & CHARACTERS:

- December 2nd - cows, donkeys, sheep, and shepherds
- December 9th - Magi, angels, and stars
- December 16th - the Holy family, Star of Bethlehem, and Emmanuel banner

TIMES:

12:30 - 4:30 pm (this allows people to come at varying times and stay properly distanced)

LOCATION:

The sidewalk in front of the church (In case of rain, we will be safely distanced apart throughout the SS classrooms and Morrison Hall.

*** PLEASE NOTE: CDC SAFETY PROTOCOLS - MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING - WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO ***

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH MINISTRY SUPPLIES FOR DECEMBER

Come by the church to pick up your Sunday school and/or Youth Ministry supplies - papers needed for class and extra fun activities - on the following dates (or by appointment):

- November 17-19; 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
- November 22; before & after service
- November 23-24; 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
- November 29; before & after service

Bags will be labeled and on a table in the Commons.



Call For Vestry Nominations: The Vestry would like to invite members of the parish to run for the Vestry. The Vestry is made up of 9 lay members of the parish along with the Rector. Individuals serve 3-year terms. The Vestry works with the Rector, staff and parish to facilitate the various ministries of St. Matthias Episcopal Church. Canons of the church require Vestry members to be confirmed or received members of the Episcopal Church, active in the church ministries and be currently pledging. If you are interested in serving on the Vestry please contact Br. Mark or Jeff Burke.



St. Matthias relies on plate contributions (non-pledged income) to help balance the budget. Mainly because of little or no Sunday attendance allowed at church, our plate contributions are almost \$20,000 below budget. In order to help alleviate this gap, we ask all non-pledgers (and pledgers if they wish), to consider making a contribution to plate income. Just put "plate" on the memo section of your check. Thank you.

You can also give to the plate by clicking [here](#).

Or by texting stmatmidlo plate and amount to 73256

Weekly Zoom Gatherings

All you have to do is click on the links below to join. By September 27 Zoom will require access codes for all meetings. If there is an access code listed with a link, you will need to use that access code to enter that meeting.

All Sunday Service information and links will be sent to you in a separate email.

[Morning Prayer Sunday 8:30 AM](#) Pass Code: 847445

[Seekers Sunday 9:30 AM](#)

[Monday Evening Kerygma Monday 7:00 PM](#) Pass Code: 555850

[Men's Group Tuesday 8:30 AM](#)

[Passing the Peace Tuesday 7:00 PM](#) Pass Code: 579942

[Wednesday Kerygma 10:00 AM](#)

[Centering Prayer Wednesday 7:30 AM](#)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets via Zoom on Sunday mornings, from 12:15 - 1:00 pm. Feel free to eat lunch during the class.

Here is the link to the Zoom Sunday School class: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002087633>

You will be in the waiting room until the host (Sunday School teacher) lets you into the meeting.

November 22nd - *Daniel and the Lions* (At home activity - Thanksgiving Bingo)

November 29th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Thanksgiving weekend (At home activity - Advent Wreath & start Advent Kit)

December supplies: Come and pick up your supplies at church, along with your family Advent Kit (see above for more information).

The Seekers class meets via Zoom each Sunday morning @ 9:30. A book discussion led by John and Debbie Vance is on *The Monastery of the Heart* by Joan Chittister, a book on Benedictine spirituality for contemporary seekers. A weekly Zoom link will be sent in the eNews, as well as with Sunday's Morning Prayer link.

The book can be ordered using this link: [Amazon](#)

- November 15: Our Spiritual Growth, Chapters 21,22,23
- November 22: Our Spiritual Growth, Chapters 24,25, Epilogue

If you have any questions contact Debbie Vance debra.vance10@gmail.com The book is an easy read, chapters are only a few pages, but the substance is extraordinary. Each week's discussion stands alone based on listed Chapters. Please feel free to join us. All are welcome.

Youth Ministry

Sundays

We meet weekly, along with youth from St. Michael's, on Sundays from 4:00 - 5:00 pm via Zoom.

Here is the link to the Zoom Youth Ministry meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81326382189>

November 22 - *Canceled (a series on loving others)*

December 6, 13 & 20 - *Merry Christmas to Me* - We all know the Christmas season is supposed to be about generosity, family, and celebrating the gift of Jesus . . . but be honest — how much of your Christmas holiday is actually spent thinking about yourself and what you want? Since we're all familiar with this selfishness struggle, this 3-week series will take us back to the very first Christmas — a day that was only possible because of the selflessness, generosity, and sacrifice of God and God's people. On the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and God gave everything. So, this Christmas, what will you give in response?

EYC Game Night and Upcoming Events

Don't forget that there are youth Zoom game nights on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 5:00 p.m. For the two Thursdays in November, we will be playing *Among Us*. Come join us Thursday, November 19th to figure out who is the most suspect among us!! All youth are invited! [Click here to join us.](#)

Things to look forward to!

"Learn to Breathe in COVID" Youth Gathering - November 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Join youth from around the diocese for a special virtual gathering where we will be discussing self-care with an expert and talking through how to support loved ones during this emotionally exhausting time in our lives. High school is tough, especially during a pandemic. Our hope is to provide a safe place for students to come and discuss the challenges that they are facing and walk about with some insight on concrete ways to handle those situations. [Register here.](#)

Happening Reunion - December 6 at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a special prayer service where we will join in community and prayer for this season that we are in. While we miss seeing all of you in person during this time, we are excited about seeing you in this virtual space to catch up and pray for the upcoming year. [Sign up here.](#) We are also putting together a short video to the song "Give Yourself to Love" that we would love to feature you in. Please send us clips of you singing to this classic Happening song, or acting out how yourself to love, or even photos from your Happening experience. You can send all your videos and photos to mdern@diosova.org or upload them [here](#).

After registering for one or both of these events, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Seekers Advent: The Seekers class will start a new series for Advent using a resource from forwardmovement.org called Waiting and Watching: Advent Word Reflection.

This daily devotional pairs with [Advent Word](#), a global community praying and walking together- hosted by Virginia Theological Seminary.

If you would like to purchase a devotional (cost \$5) contact Barb Stout at bnbstout@comcast.net.

However, you do not need to purchase the devotional to join the class starting the first Sunday in advent, Nov. 29, 2020.

Co-Ed Book Club: The November book for the Tues. afternoon book club is Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The book will be discussed at 4 pm on Nov. 17th. In the Dec. meeting we will pick books for 2021. On Tuesdays that are not a book discussion we discuss a movie. Anyone is welcome. Contact Ned Armstrong at ncarmstron@aol.com for more information and the Zoom code.

Updated

Contributions to the Church

Please continue to offer your faithful gifts by mailing your check to our church office at 11300 West Huguenot Road, Midlothian VA 23113. Please be sure to note on your check if it is for the General Fund or the Outreach Fund and or how you would like your amount split between the two.

Now that staff are in the office you may also give via debit/credit card over the phone by calling Br. Mark.

On-line giving has been set up and activated to provide an avenue to continue to receive members' donations. This includes debit and credit cards as well as direct ACH transactions. We offer these various forms of payment of your donations for your convenience and ease, but never with the wish that you indebt yourselves in so doing. We are grateful for your generosity.

On-line giving is available through our website at www.stmatmidlo.com.

Text Giving

Text: Stmatmidlo and Amount to 73256

PRAYER LIST

Prayer requests can be sent to Br. Mark at Mark.jenkins@stmatmidlo.com.

Our Congregation is asked to keep in their prayers the following:

Pamela
Rinaldo Redstrom
Claude
Elliott Woodaman
Jane Griffin
Liz Brengel
Rodger Hardy
Gretchen
Dick Harman
Ed McCowan
/Paul & Betty Wiedeman
/Mike Lecik
/Alex
William
Dot Worsham
Denay
Jackie Warren
Renee Weddle
Anna
Tammy
Ann
James
Nicolas
Jessie & Keene Mendenhall
Marcia Jenkins
/Maryann Garnett
Orlo Zumwalt
Sharon Wiesner

Susan Hoffman
/Kenny Welton
Ann Biesecker
Susan Means
The Bellomy Family
Ellen Whitehead
Melisa
M.L.
Kay Firestone
/Jeff
Madison
Craig Fabian
Joanne Parker
Libby Board
Matt Allen
Luca
Nancy
Mike
Wayne
Malcolm
The Daley Family
Mark Redstrom
Kathleen

We also pray for those in the military,
especially:
Todd Batteau
Sooky Brooks
Alex Burton
Christopher Garland
Michael Handlan
Jake Hentges
Rebecca Jenkins
Donta Mason
Tom Montgomery
Phillip Plourd
Andrew Rodgers
Heather Smith
Hank Truillo
Nat Williams
Corey
Spencer
Zach

MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Linda Hudgens	22	Jean von Schilling	23
Stella Seales	23	Larry Cardwell	26
		Vern Snipes	27



The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God by the people of St. Matthias' Parish.