

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Brenda S. Overfield, Rector

11300 West Huguenot Road

Midlothian, VA 23113

Announcements for December 2, 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

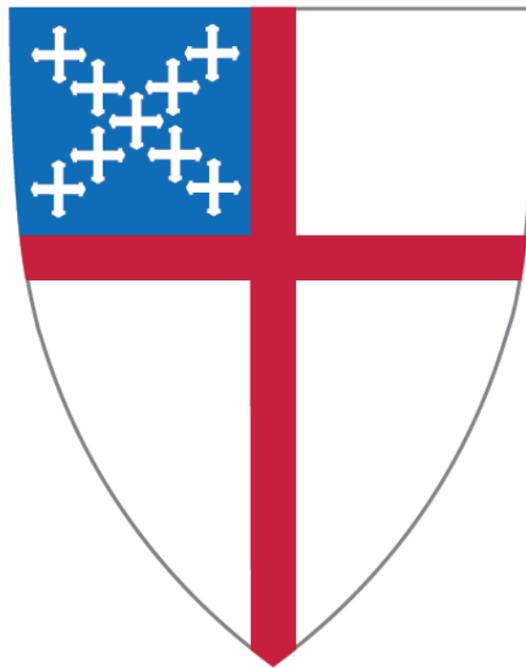
Masks Required.

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

Brothers & Sisters,

As another week passes, and the seasons of our lives continue to move on – December already!- I am noticing decorations going up and the usual annual increase in activity preparing for Christmas. What this gives witness to is that nothing – not even COVID or other events going on around us – nothing really stops our choice to continue to live our lives in faith, acting out of faith. Faith and hope that come from their source- from God- keep us all moving forward. We are a resilient, creative, and innovative people.

Let the lights of Christmas keep the light and hope of the coming Christ Child bright in your hearts. Out of the darkness the light shines. Always has. Always will. We have only to look for it.

Yours in Faith,
Brenda+



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](#)

SHARING HOPE

God has given us to each other to help and support each other. At this time in all of our lives this is especially important. We would like to ask all of our congregation/ readership- if you would like to- to please share your hope with us. What is helping you through this time? Are there particular spiritual practices that offer strength and hope? How is God at work in your life right now?

We will post one or two submissions every week. Please click [here](#) to share your hope with us all:
Thanks!

Top Ten Reasons I Find Hope in God, Chip Jones

10. I am not in charge. As Brenda reminds us, I am a Sheep. Jesus is my Shepherd. We can't understand everything in life, but we can trust in Him, and follow.
9. He is the potter. We are the clay.
8. At the births of our three children, the palpable sense of God's presence.
7. The hope on children's faces at Communion.
6. Tears of joy on the faces of prisoners when they realize they are forgiven, no matter what.
5. The smiles of people singing hymns they love.
4. The distinct sense of a weight lifted and feeling lighter after making a Confession.
3. The tears of a new father when he shares the good news that his newborn baby boy is doing well.
2. The child-like joy of men in prison when they eat cookies and see expressions of God's Love during a Kairos weekend.
1. Easter Sunday, when we proclaim, "Alleluia, the Lord is Risen Indeed!"

Hope, Lenny Anderson

A very dear friend of our daughters is bringing us all of the side dishes for a complete Thanksgiving Dinner and leaving it on our front porch as I will be cooking our turkey. She does not want to possibly infect us with Covid-19 and knows that I am a handicapped cook. She is a Chesterfield County teacher and one of my heroes and gives me hope.

Seekers Class Advent: During Advent we will be 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.

You do not need to purchase the devotional to join the class. Discussions will focus on the Sunday Advent lectionary readings from which each word has been drawn.

December 6 Speak
December 13 Go
December 20 Rejoice

DARKNESS TO LIGHT
A LITURGY OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

We are very happy to announce that Lessons and Carols will take place this year!! - albeit a bit differently.



There will be 2 in-person services On Sunday, December 13 at 11:00AM & 4:00PM. The 11:00AM service will be live-streamed.

Each of the 2 services can accommodate up to 40 persons per service. **Even if you are already signed up for Group A or B at 11:00 AM, you will still need to make a reservation for these services.**

Please use the link below or call the office for reservations and designate which service you wish to attend, Guests are welcome. If you are bringing guests, please include the number of persons who will be with you. They must follow all of our present safety guidelines regarding masks and social distancing. They will also need to sign a statement of responsibility upon their arrival. **The deadline for reservations is December 9 at 3:30PM.**

Because space is limited, and if something comes up that precludes your ability to keep your reservation for Lessons & Carols, please call the office as soon as possible so that as many as would like can attend.

There will be no reception following the services, and attendees will be asked not to congregate before or after the service. We are sorry to have to ask this, but it is the only safe way to be able to have this service at this time.

Thank you for your support and understanding. We hope you are as excited as we are!

The Music Ministers of St. Matthias

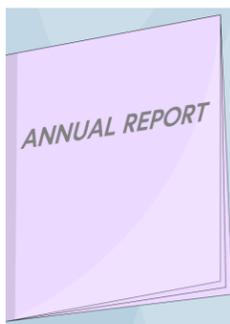
[Advent Lessons & Carols Reservations](#)

Food Pantry Collection Day: The Food Pantry will be collecting food in the parking lot behind Morrison Hall on Friday, December 4 from **10:00 AM -11:00 AM.** The pantry is in need of the following items:

- Crackers
 - Fruit
 - Soup
 - Canned Veggies
 - Canned Chicken
- Pancake Mix and Syrup



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



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!

ADVENT KITS FOR ALL!

“PREPARING THE WAY” kit includes:

- Advent Activity Calendar
- Weekly devotions, with:
 - o Scripture reading
 - o Reflection
 - o Discussion and Coloring Page
 - o Family Activity
 - o Prayer

**** DEVOTIONS ARE WRITTEN SO THAT THEY CAN BE USED BY CHILDREN & ADULTS OF ALL AGES ****

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) [This booklet is also available as a PDF file. Contact Kristen Ketron to be emailed a copy.]

Pick up your kit from the designated table in the Commons during business hours: M-Th, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm; Friday, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm.

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 9 & 16 □ 12:30 □ 4:30 PM

- ⇒ Stop by 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 (while you wait).
 - ⇒ 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!

CHARACTERS (Come once, twice, or all three weeks!):

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

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 *

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.

December 6th - *Angels Visit* (Activity - Story of the Candy Cane)

December 13th - *Mary Visits Elizabeth* (Activity - Illustrated Ornaments)

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

Even if your child does not attend our Zoom Youth Ministry gatherings on Sundays - feel free to come and get the supplies so you/they are able to participate in spiritual formation when the timing suits you.

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>

December 6, 13 & 20 - *Merry Christmas to Me* (a series on giving)

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?

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

Even if you/your youth do not attend our Zoom Youth Ministry gatherings on Sundays - feel free to come and get the supplies so you/they are able to participate in spiritual formation when the timing suits you.

EYC Game Night

Don't forget that there are youth Zoom game nights on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 5:00 p.m. December's dates are the 3rd and the 17th. All youth are invited! [Click here to join us.](#)

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:

David Baum	For the repose of the soul of Ronnie Crumpton
David Britton	
The Bowman Family	We also pray for those in the military,
Cathy Britton	especially:
Larry	Todd Batteau
David Ottoway	Sooky Brooks
Sarah	Alex Burton
Gwen	Christopher Garland
Pat	Michael Handlan
Dot Worsham	Jake Hentges
/Mark Redstrom	Rebecca Jenkins
Kirby	Donta Mason
Annie	Tom Montgomery
Rob	Phillip Plourd
Mary	Andrew Rodgers
/Pamela	Heather Smith
Rinaldo Redstrom	Hank Truillo
Claude	Nat Williams
Elliott Woodaman	Corey
Jane Griffin	Spencer
Liz Brengel	Zach
Rodger Hardy	
Gretchen	
Dick Harman	
Ed McCowan	
/Paul Wiedeman	
/Mike Lecik	

MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Martin Beekman	9
Brenda Hentges	9
Buddy Blackwell	11