



The Widow's Mite

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Monthly Newsletter

April 2024

Dear Ones of St. Matthew's,

ALLELUIA! Christ is Risen.

One of the wonderful effects of Christ's resurrection is the realization (that we all will have one day) of our eternal life with God and all the saints. We will be risen, as well. Yet, as wonderfully fantastic that this new is, we must remember that it in itself is not the endgame. I realize that it will come at the end of our natural lives, but we need not rest in this understanding thinking that all we need to do now is just wait for eternity ... that being our focus and attention. As I have mentioned before, Richard Rohr teaches us that Christianity is more about this life than the next, so into what do we arise? We arise into our resurrection reality here and now ... in the temporal. Our charge is to advance the Kingdom, now. This is not so God can have an army of volunteers to do God's bidding solely for God's benefit, as if God somehow profits from Kingdom growth. We advance, because it is in Kingdom work that we find our greatest satisfaction *and* peace *and* fulfillment *and* joy. "What's in it for us" is in the present not just the future.



I believe that it was in Thessalonians that Paul addresses this issue with urgency. You see, the Thessalonians were under heavy persecution, so Paul comforted them by telling them that Christ's return would happen soon, and at that happening not only would they receive their reward, but that their persecutors would get what's coming to them, as well. Paul's eschatology (the belief that a second coming of Christ will occur) was imminent. It would happen at any moment. Unfortunately, the impact of this consolation was that the Thessalonians stopped working, dropped their responsibilities, and just sat around waiting on Jesus to return. As you might imagine that was not a positive turn-of-events, especially considering the fact that Jesus has not returned as quickly as was presumed.

Dear Ones, we are called, and gifted accordingly, to RISE into action,

and spiritual fulfillment awaits us when we do.

Alleluia!

THERE WILL BE TWO SUNDAY SERVICES ON EASTER DAY: 8:30am & 11:00am.

THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, APRIL 1st,

FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY.

ASSOCIATE'S ACCOUNT:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! As we dwell in the luminous aftermath of the Holiest of weeks in which we united ourselves with Christ in his final days, in his saving Passion and glorious Resurrection, I find myself reflecting on my Lenten season this year. It was busier and less intentional than I wanted it to be, but it was also happier than I could have expected, so I find myself having been surprised this year by Holy Week—not unprepared, per se, but startled. However, this wonder and surprise turned out to be the best posture for me to carry into Holy Week, as I was reminded that these events—God redeeming the world with something as gruesome as the Cross and renewing the world with something as impossible as the Resurrection—were, are, and will always be chiefly bizarre, wonderfully irreducible, and ultimately mysterious. They are, in short, startling. So, friends, however prepared or unprepared you felt for Passiontide this year, I hope you were startled by what you found there, nothing less than the redemption of the world by the God that made us and loves us, and is always remaking us.

A blessed Easter season, friends!

-Fr. Dillon+

BELOVED COMMUNITY – SPECIAL EVENT!!! *by Katie Sewell*

Come hear the Reverend Bude Van Dyke! *(a former Associate Priest at St. Matthew's!)*

Sunday, April 21st, after the 5:00 service, in Gruman Hall.

The Rev Bude is an Episcopal priest who currently serves at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Decatur. He's also a singer/songwriter with a strong connection to his Cherokee roots. In addition, he offers spiritual direction, especially for addiction recovery. He has previously served as chaplain at St. Andrew's School in Sewanee and an Associate Priest at St. Matthew's.

Please bring a dish to share and a warm welcome for Rev Bude.

Men's Fellowship Opportunities

WING & A PRAYER men's fellowship & prayer group, will meet this month on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:00pm at Crickets in Madison. Meetings are every three weeks. **All men are welcome.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST is every Tuesday, 7:00am at St. Matthew's. **All men are welcome.**

ALTAR FLOWERS AND BREAD & WINE: sign up lists for 2024 have been posted in the hallway on the worship bulletin board. Cost to provide altar flowers for a Sunday service is \$45 per arrangement. Cost to provide bread & wine is at your discretion. Please sign up to give these in honor or in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a special event. Make check payable to St. Matthew's and note that it is for altar flowers or for bread & wine. Your help is appreciated!

APRIL READINGS

Apr 7 – Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Apr 14 – Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Apr 21 – Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Apr 28 – Easter 5

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:24-30
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

CPC COLLECTION: The ECW will be collecting for CPC (*Church Periodical Club*) on **April 14th** at all services. The mission of Alabama's CPC is to provide funds to assist seminarians from the diocese of Alabama. Contributions are divided and distributed each Fall. Please make checks payable to St Matthew's ECW with CPC in the memo line.



ECW news by *Melissa Barton, President*

The ECW Bunco fundraiser went very well; We raised \$257.00 for the Diocese Youth fundraiser, "Lift up the Vulnerable" or LUV. Thank you so much for your contributions!

Next month we are sponsoring a Ladies Tea on the 13th at 3pm in the Narthex. Please see the poster in the Narthex for more information and to sign up. This is open to all ages.

Below is our calendar for the next 2 months; the complete calendar is posted on our bulletin board in the hallway.

April

3rd Board Meeting 10:30 in Gruman Hall

10th General meeting in Gruman Hall 10:30am

13th Ladies Tea party 3pm

14th CPC ingathering at all services

30th Scholarship applications due

May

8th General meeting in Gruman Hall 10:30am

19th UTO ingathering at all services.

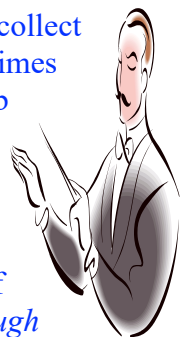
Please join us in Gruman Hall for our ECW meeting than stay for the noon service and go out afterward for lunch.

Musical Musings by Tom Killian

WITH VIRTUAL (UN)CERTAINTY: March, 2024, marked the fourth anniversary of a short suspension of in-person worship services at St. Matthew's and elsewhere, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With social distancing and outright isolation becoming the new norms, we had to explore non-traditional ways of worshipping as a corporate body, while constrained to separate spaces. Assisted by the likes of YouTube and the Internet, we began streaming live services to parishioners, using only a skeleton crew to accomplish this task. Later, as restrictions were gradually lifted and in-person corporate worship resumed, the decision was made to continue with live streaming of weekly services, since this enabled us to offer continuing

worship opportunities to the home-bound, as well as those who weren't ready to return to in-person worship at that time. As you know, the practice continues to this day.

However, I've always had questions about how effective this process may be. Sure, it's possible to collect metrics on how many people (actually, "viewing units") are watching the livestream, or how many times the stored podcast on our website has been accessed. But this begs the real question: how good a job are we doing, and does it meet worshippers' needs? From our perspective, we see this staring, unblinking camera lens, with no indication of who is on the downstream side. From the viewer's perspective, I imagine we are simply more "content," seen from a television screen, computer monitor, cell-phone or tablet display, what have you. Is the picture you see clear, focused, and bright enough? Is the sound (speech and music) audibly clean and intelligible? Most importantly of all, at the end of the service, *do you feel that you've been a part of the worship experience, even though you were not physically present?* Because that is our ultimate goal.



Consider these questions: Do you access our online worship services (livestream or podcast), whether the frequency is regularly, occasionally, or just once in a blue moon? If so, do you come away feeling a part of the experience? What parts do we do well? What parts need improvement? What specific suggestions can you offer which would make the worship experience more beneficial? I know I'm opening up a Pandora's box here; but I'd really like to hear your input. You can email me at: musicdir@stmatthewsmadison.org (and I hope you will).

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
By Lee Ann Mack

The Lord is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!

Thank you Fr. Chris, Fr. Dillon, Deacon Lynn and Andy Williams for leading the Sunday Morning Lenten Program, and to those who attended. We can never know enough about prayer. This was an opportunity to contemplate our own prayer lives and relationships with our

God. Wonderful discussions! Wonderful insights!

Another big **Thank You** to our youth for helping with the Easter Egg Hunt. As usual, it was a big success! Our youth are the best!!!

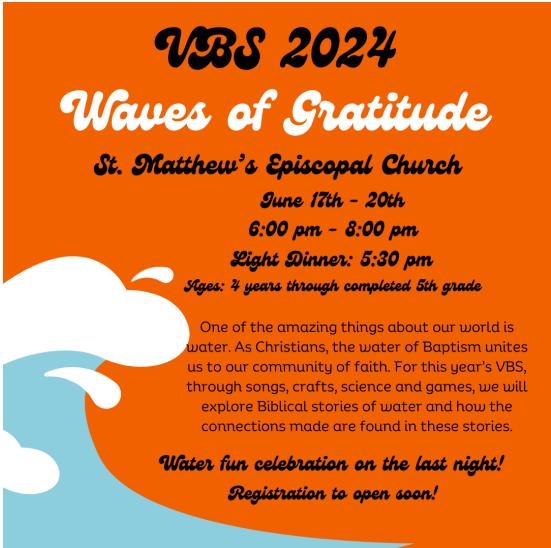
What's next after Easter???

Teachers' Appreciation Sunday - May 12th, both morning services

Last Day of Sunday School – May 19th

Michael Cape's class will continue through summer. Feel free to join his class, even if it is not the one you usually attend

VBS!!! – June 17th – 20th, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm



VBS 2024
Waves of Gratitude
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
June 17th - 20th
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Light Dinner: 5:30 pm
Ages: 4 years through completed 5th grade

One of the amazing things about our world is water. As Christians, the water of Baptism unites us to our community of faith. For this year's VBS, through songs, crafts, science and games, we will explore Biblical stories of water and how the connections made are found in these stories.

Water fun celebration on the last night!
Registration to open soon!

Youth Group News
By: Jann Eich
Youth Director

The EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) is a group open to all teens! We have a Jr. EYC group for grades 6th through 8th and the Sr. EYC which includes teens in 9th through 12th grade. Sunday School will be in the Amy West House-across the parking lot from the church. Both groups meet in the 2nd room on the right.

HS Seniors-The 2024 class will be recognized and presented on April 28th at the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Pick which service you will choose or if you are unable to make it, let me know and I will get your basket to you. We will have brunch at 10 a.m. Sunday School time in the Amy West House, parents are welcome to join!

Each Sr is asked to turn in a baby picture, a formal or casual picture and a paragraph of what St. Matthew's means to you. Please send it to me via email no later than April 1st (not fooling;) Thank you to the ones that have already completed this!

Collin Bagwell Will Cassell Carmen Cruz Lillie Hartley Lorelei Mueller Maeghan Kelleher Faith Williams

April EYC Events

Monday, April 1st HS Senior Baskets go out in Gruman Hall to fill for our graduates!

Saturday, April 6th Spring Inflatable and Nerf Day 1-5pm Grill Out at 4 pm. Please rsvp

April 15-17th Mrs. Jann at a Youth Director Retreat

Wednesday, April 17th, Pizza with the Padre-5:30-7:00 pm rsvp pizza choice

Friday, April 19th-Game Night in Gruman Hall- 6-8 pm rsvp

Sunday, April 28th Senior Recognition at 8:30 and 11:00 service

Sunday, April 28th 10 a.m. Brunch in Amy West House. Bring a brunch dish to share!

Sunday School - April 7th, April 15th, April 21st, April 28th in the Amy West House @ 10 a.m.



Summer Dates for EYC-

HS Seniors welcome through summer and upcoming 6th graders are welcome to join us!

Wednesday, June 12th- Youth Director for a Day! 10 am to 4 pm. Lunch and activities included. RSVP

June 17th-20th VBS Evening-5:30-8:00 pm EYC Volunteers needed.

July 5th-American Celebration Fun-Bring the family at 2 pm and bring your favorite American dish

July 12th-Pool party at Mrs. Jann's House- Time TBD

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 EASTER HOLIDAY - Church Closed 5:00pm BSA 6:00pm EFM 6:30pm Bells 6:30pm Strategic Planning	2 7:00am Men's Bkfst 9:30am Reunion 6:00pm Vestry WG	3 10:00am STAFF 11:00am Reunion 12:00pm HE 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Outreach	4 9:30am Ladies BS 6:00pm Theology By The Slice	5 Church Closed	6 1:00pm EYC Inflatables/Nerfs/Cookout 2:00pm Wolcott Baby Shower
7 8:30/11:00/5:00 HE 10:00am CE	8 9:00am Sewing Sisters 2:30pm Reunion 5:00pm BSA 6:00pm EFM 6:30pm Bells	9 7:00am Men's Bkfst 9:30am Reunion	10 10:30am ECW 11:00am Reunion 12:00pm HE 6:30pm Choir	11 9:00am Heart & Soil 9:30am Ladies BS 4:00pm Madison Quilters	12 Church Closed	13 2:00pm ECW Mother/Daughter Tea
14 8:30/11:00/5:00 HE 10:00am CE	15 2:30pm Reunion 5:00pm BSA 6:00pm EFM 6:30pm Bells	16 7:00am Men's Bkfst 9:30am Reunion 6:00pm Wing & A Prayer 6:30pm Vestry	17 11:00am Reunion 12:00pm HE 5:30pm EYC Pizza w/ Padre 6:30pm Choir	18 9:30am Ladies BS 7:00pm Stations of the Cross	19 Church Closed 6:00pm EYC Game Nite	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00am Heart & Soil
21 8:30/11:00/5:00 HE 10:00am CE	22 2:30pm Reunion 6:00pm Madison Quilters 5:00pm BSA 6:00pm EFM 6:30pm Bells	23 7:00am Men's Bkfst 9:30am Reunion 5:00pm DAR	24 11:00am Reunion 12:00pm HE 6:30pm Theology By The Slice 6:30pm Choir	25 9:30am Ladies BS	26 Church Closed	27
28 8:30/11:00/5:00 HE 10:00am CE 11:00am Graduate Recognition 6:00pm Beloved Community	29 2:30pm Reunion 5:00pm BSA 6:00pm EFM 6:30pm Bells	30 7:00am Men's Bkfst 9:30am Reunion				

Contact Cathy in the church office to reserve a meeting space. All meetings must be scheduled and will be placed on the church calendar once the space is reserved. You can check the online calendar for availability prior to requesting your space. THANK YOU!

APRIL 2024 Worship Team Schedule

	APR 7	APR 14	APR 21	APR 28
VOD	Peggy	Ed	Jimmy	Margaret
ALTAR	Hamilton/Bagwell	Buzby/Lo	B Combs/Gruman	Glagow/Lane
	8:30 Servers:	8:30 Servers:	8:30 Servers:	8:30 Servers:
Nursery	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
Hospitality	Tidwell	Sharpe	Boyd	Turner
Ushers	Utt/Utt	R Sampson/Buzby	Stagner/Carpenter	Prince/Buzby
Lector	Mack	Clem	Christopher	Glasgow
Epistoler	Utt	Killian	B Williams	B Buzby
Intercessor	Fletcher	Pezzula	Modrall	Hawkins
LEMs	Williams	Carpenter	Glasgow	Cantanni
Counters	Mack/Cooper	Christopher/Lewis	Cechovic/Modrall	Tidwell/Driesbach
ACOLYTES: Crucifer Gospeler Torchbearer Torchbearer	A Maddox E Maddox C Pezzula A Wales	A Maddox E Madox	S Bruce M Pezzula C Pezzula A Wales	A Utt E Bruce C Pezzula M Pezzula
	11:00 Servers:	11:00 Servers:	11:00 Servers:	11:00 Servers
Nursery	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
Hospitality	Hastings	Klasing	Kleinjung	Brown
Ushers	Harrison/Snell	Weaver/Anderson	Beasley/T Sampson	Cassell/Barton
Lector	Losheurtos	Kerr	McGraw	Hubbard
Epistoler	Anderson	Marques	Salmon	Hartley
Intercessor	Weatherbee	Womack	Peterson	Harrison
LEMs	Price	Bishop	Weaver	Anderson
Counters	Barton/Keary	Bishop/Keary	Harrison/Cox	Barton/Coiner
ACOLYTES: Crucifer Gospeler Torchbearer Torchbearer	J Nixon V Mullins B Mullins N Rasmussen	L Hartley V Mullins B Mullins B Watson	C Bagwell M Collier B Watson N Rasmussen	L Hartley C Beech W Barton L Barton

**If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, please find a replacement.
Your service is a valuable ministry to St. Matthew's.**

PRAYER NEEDS:

PRAYER NEEDS: *Please pray for St. Matthews's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit:* Bill Byrd, Chuck Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, George & Sandra Burgess, Ray & Shirley White, Canellia Patterson, David Osmond, Colleen Turner, Dick Pendleton, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Marie Lutz, Josie & Ricky Cooper, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Maurice Hale, Jack Brown, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Tyron Newton, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Lynn Beasley, Janice Combs, Sande Smith, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Charles Bernhard, Steve Gruman. *Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:* Nancy Laws, Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Samantha Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jack Cooper, Michael & Nancy Laws, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Vaughn Cassell, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, family of Madison Gilbert, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Jessica Goodwin, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCaLpin, Bob & Peggy Wagner, Nancy Ford, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Sherry Sampson, Kate Winkler, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple.