

THE WIDOW'S MITE

"...but she, out of her poverty, put in all the livelihood that she had" Luke 21:1-4

Rector's Corner

Chris Hartley, Rector

Dear Ones of St. Matthew's,

You may have noticed something different about St. Matthew's lately ... WE'RE GROWING! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!! The Holy Spirit is breathing in



our midst and the product of this occurring is new people, new & wonderful & gifted & purposefully placed in our parish community to fill the gaps and reinforce our lines. With this understanding, I would request your Christian Charity regarding a few details.

Please welcome all new faces with the warmth & hospitality that is the St. Matthew's trademark. One of the graces associated with parish affiliation is the gift of community, and the first step in that direction is the initial greeting. Please continue and be ever mindful of our opportunity to receive these Spirit-led ones into our fold.

Please be patient and accommodating as we make room and grant allowance to new ones in our church. Someone might upset the seating chart in the nave OR offer to new input in a Christian Ed setting OR serve as fresh air to an existing ministry OR suggest a new ministerial focus. These insights and introductions are the new seasonings to our recipe. Yet, we remain intentional in our becoming to stay true to our mission with the faith that (like a good roux for gumbo) we blend and marry together to the point of all being of one flavor, one body.

Finally, with this growth, stewardship is more important than ever before. Growing pains include the need for ministerial provision for those who are new to our parish community. Also, new faces bring new insights to outreach and community ministry. Due to this reality, we are evermore aware of the financial needs of the work that we are doing here at St. Matthew's. Please Give as we grow.

This implementation is a direct result of more activities; more excitement; more people and more offerings. ALL VERY GOOD THINGS!!

Finally, I would solicit your prayers that we would continue following the Spirit's lead, being obedient to God's will and responsible with this opportunity.

Peace of our Lord,
Chris+

The Associate's Account

Dillon Green, Associate Rector

With the end of our liturgical year and the beginning of our new year at Advent fast approaching, I wanted to make you all aware of a formational opportunity. For the four Sundays of Advent, I will be leading a class on Christian Mysticism, "Advent with the Mystics," if you will. I'm very excited about this opportunity, because the mystical, contemplative parts of our Christian faith have meant so much to my spiritual life, as I hope they can to yours as well. Through the Scriptures and the works of Evelyn Underhill, Julian of Norwich, and Meister Eckhart, we will wonder together about the nature of God and how we achieve union with God both in what we say and think and, as importantly, in what we do not say and do not think. In 1971 the Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner said, "The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist." 53 years have passed since Rahner made that bold statement, and we are the future Christians to whom he was referring. Let's come together during Advent, that dark season into which Christ's light is born, to find out if he was right.

Blessings, friends!

-Fr. Dillon+

Musical Musings

Tom Killian, Music Director

COMING ATTRACTIONS: I thought you might be interested in hearing about some pieces of music planned over the next few weeks for a worship service near you. The first of these is scheduled for Sunday morning, November 10, and involves two different settings of the same hymn in a single service. The processional hymn for that date is the well-known and ever-popular "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" – a solid, vibrant setting of the familiar hymn tune Nettleton. Later in the service, at the Offertory, the St. Matthew's Choir will present this same hymn, using the same hymn tune and text, but with an accompaniment penned by Johann Sebastian Bach and arranged by contemporary composer Ron Martin. It's difficult to believe that two settings of what is essentially the same hymn could sound so very different; yet indeed they do. Give them both a listen, and let me know which version you prefer. [And no, this was not an accident: the juxtaposition of these two versions was definitely intentional.]

Four weeks later, on Sunday, December 8, our St. Matthew's Choir will offer the first of two presentations of our 2024 Service of Lessons and Carols (with the second presentation to be given the following Sunday, December 15, at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Athens). For this year's services, we are fortunate to include two anthems composed by our organist, Susan Calvin Fletcher. The first of these, "Saw You Never in the Twilight," will be sung as carol number 8, immediately following the reading from the second chapter of Matthew. The second of the two, "Of the Father's Love Begotten," will serve as carol number 9, after the reading from the first chapter of John. To my ear, there is a certain kinship between the two carols; yet each stands solidly on its own in supporting and underscoring the reading with which it is associated. However, don't take my word for it. Join us on December 8 (or December 15), compare and contrast these two beautiful compositions, and let me know what you think.

Vestry Corner

Peggy Lane, Senior Warden

Hello to all of our St. Matthew's Family! Your Vestry members hope that this message finds all of you doing well and enjoying this cooler weather. Leaves are starting to fall, there is a crisp feel to the morning air. My, what wonderful gifts our Heavenly Father gives to us. We are truly blessed.

Your vestry is very pleased to report that almost all the HVAC repairs are now complete. There is one unit that is waiting on a specific part which is on order. These expedient repairs are all thanks to the wonderful efforts of our Jr. Warden, Ed Snell, and our terrific contractor, Don Carter Heating and Air Conditioning. Both were able to pull rabbits out of their respective hats to quickly remove the badly damaged HVAC units for Gruman Hall and from the sanctuary. Yes, we had two units that had to be replaced. Both units had long outlived their expected life spans. Other units are now functioning properly due to maintenance. Ed spent about nine days at the church overseeing all the repair work. It was a big job. I think it is safe to say, we are now ready for winter.

I want to personally thank those of you that donated goods or money to the Hurricane Disaster Relief effort coordinated by the Diocese of AL. I have family in Florida and NC that incurred damage to their homes and surrounding communities. All my FL and NC family, by the grace of God, are safe. I am humbled by the disaster recovery effort made by the St. Matthew's parishioners. Please know that the recovery effort has been made stronger by the heartfelt goods and financial support that you sent.

We are into the time of the year when we talk about Stewardship and Vestry service. Joy Werka and her team truly Walk in Love as they kick off our Stewardship campaign. Each donate their time selflessly to this very valuable undertaking. Won't you help them, and your church, by visiting their table in the Narthex, pick up and complete a pledge card, or by using the QR code in the bulletins to make your pledge for 2025? The gift you give helps to sustain our church and the valuable programs that we support. Your pledge does make a difference and is very much appreciated.

And, in closing, three vestry members will be rotating off the Vestry this year. We give our heartfelt thanks to Miranda Cassell, Gloria Boyd, and Diane Loehr for their service to the Vestry and St. Matthew's Church. Won't you consider joining the Vestry for the coming year? We will have three spots to fill and are actively seeking parishioners who are seeking to "give back" to St. Matthew's by Vestry service. Please contact Father Chris or a Vestry member for details.

Peace be with you.

Your sisters and brothers in Christ,

Peggy, Ed, Miranda, Margaret, Gloria, Beau, Ric, Jimmy, and Diane

ECW

Melissa Barton, ECW President

The Rummage Sale is here!



Please mark your calendars with the upcoming dates:

November 1st & 2nd - Rummage sale

November 13th - General meeting in Gruman Hall

November 17th - UTO Ingathering

UTO is a way to practice gratitude and change the world. Notice the good things that happen each day, then give thanks to God for your blessings, then make an offering for each blessing; your blessings become a blessing for others. One hundred percent of funds given to UTO are granted the following year to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal church.

December- Dinner out, date to be announced

For more information about the ECW, you can visit the website: www.alabamaecw.org

Thank you to all that have helped with the Rummage sale this year.

Important News

Peggy Lane, Senior Warden

As many of you know, our church is closed on Friday's. Since July 2024, we have had a contracted cleaning service for our church. The contracted dates and times are in the evening hours on Fridays. All rooms and buildings are cleaned. We do not have the flexibility to change the dates or times for cleaning. We must pay for our cleaning service whether they clean or not. Therefore, it is in our best interest to adhere to the terms of our cleaning contract. Beginning Friday, November 1, we are pleased to advise that our cleaning service has agreed to not begin their regular cleaning service until 8:30 PM on Friday nights. Please note that this is a temporary change to allow for necessary holiday activities. The cleaning team normally start between 7:30pm to 8:00pm and then continue until they finish. They will revert to their normal schedule after we are past the yearend holiday time. As you look to use the church for your holiday related activities, please 1) be sure to schedule your event with the Parish Administrator, Cynde Tannehill, first, and 2) keep in mind that you and your guests must vacate the premises before 8:30 PM. Your Vestry members thanks you in advance for your expected adherence to this cleaning schedule to assure that God's house is clean and ready for Sunday services.

Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Breakfast

Every Tuesday, 7 am at St Matthew's. All men are welcome!

Sewing Sisters

Second Monday of every month 9-noon in Gruman Hall. All crafty folks are welcome to join us!

Wing and a Prayer

Men's fellowship & prayer group will meet at 5:30 at Crickets in Madison on 11/12 and 12/3. All men are welcome!

Youth Group News

Jann Eich, Youth Director

The EYC 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 is in the Amy West House (across the parking lot). We meet at 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Friends are always welcome as well as new members of the EYC. Jann Eich- youthdir@stmatthewsmadison.org.

2025 HS Seniors:

Colin Beech

Sara Bruce

Mack Collier

Victoria Mullins

November EYC Events:

Friday, Nov. 11th - Firepit night- 5:30 pm Pizza and smores!

Friday, Nov. 15th - Botanical Garden Galaxy of Lights Walking Night. Meet at 5:45 at gate. If you are a member and want to go ahead and purchase tickets, let me know. I will purchase tickets for those that want to go in October! Please RSVP if you need a ticket!

Wednesday, Nov. 20th - Thanksgiving Celebration EYC at 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and a dessert. Fun games and challenges!

November Sunday School:

Sunday, Nov. 3rd - Sunday School in Amy West House

Sunday, Nov. 10th - Sunday School in Amy West House

Sunday, Nov. 17th - Sunday School in Amy West House

Sunday, Nov. 24th - NO Sunday School!!

Looking Ahead:

Friday, Nov. 11th - Firepit night- 5:30 pm Pizza and smores.

Friday, Nov. 15th - Botanical Garden Galaxy of Lights Walking Night. Meet at 5:45 at gate.

Wednesday, Nov. 20th - Thanksgiving Celebration EYC at 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 7th - Bowling Night at Star's and Strikes.

Friday, Dec. 20th - Christmas Party EYC 5 pm in Gruman Hall.

Tuesday, December 31st - Lock In New Years Eve in Gruman Hall at 6:30 pm.

Christian Formation

Lee Ann Mack

AVE MARIA GROTTO FIELD TRIP

Nov. 10th at 12:30

The Christian Formation Ministry invites all from the church to join us on a field trip to Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman. Ticket prices range from free to \$8 depending on age.

If you have not made a “pilgrimage” to the Grotto before, to the Grotto before, you will be totally astounded by what one priest with a vision was able to accomplish! To learn more about Ave Maria Grotto: <https://www.avemariagrotto.com>.

NEW ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAN Pk-5 TH

We have been tasked with a challenging and wonderful opportunity in our children's Sunday school program. Our numbers are growing! YAY! We have a heavy leaning of 3 rd – 5 th graders and bottom heavy with the younger kids with very few in between.

Therefore, we are splitting the classes into two Sunday School groups in separate classrooms. PreK-2 nd will be together as a unit. 3 rd -5 th will be the other unit. This way they are being taught the lesson and having the activities created specifically to that age group. They will still experience Bible story, arts and crafts, games, cooking, music and drama, depending on that Sunday's schedule. We will begin this process on Nov. 10 th and will carry it into the spring semester. The kids are going to really like this!

ADULT ADVENT PROGRAM

Our Advent program this year will be Advent and Mysticism – Led by Fr. Dillon. This will be held in the Christian Ed. Bldg. on Sundays during the Sunday school hour. The sessions will be held Dec.1, 8, 15, 22. More information to come.

Daughters of the King

A Reminder from the Daughters of the King:

The wooden box next to the front entrance is available for your special prayers that you want to keep totally confidential. These prayers are never read by anyone, yet they are still prayed for daily by the Daughters of the King, and once per month they are blessed during the service. These prayers are then burned while the Daughters pray over them.

We are a spiritual Order of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have a continuing commitment to daily prayer for our priest and parish. If you have any prayer needs, please let a Daughter know so we can add to our special prayer list. You can recognize us by the distinctive cross we all wear. It is an honor and a privilege for us to serve our parish in this manner.

If you would like to know more about us, there is information available on the bulletin board or just ask one of us.

Prayer List

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, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Marie Lutz, Josie & Ricky Cooper, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Jack Brown, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Charles Bernhard, Molly Killian, Laura Weimer, Mona Candia, Trudie Gruman, Walt Christopher.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Samantha Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jack Cooper, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Vaughn Cassell, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Jessica Goodwin, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Bob & Peggy Wagner, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Sherry Sampson, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins, Nancy Laws, Mileena-Haley Painter, Zach Guidry, Rachelle & Kevin Painter, Kim East, David Rayfield, John Freedman, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Kathleen Glor, and Ann Reid Cronin.

November Readings - Track 2 on November 10, 20, 27

November 3 - All Saints' Day



November 10



November 20



November 27



November 2024 Worship Team Schedule

	November 3		November 10	
	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00
Vestry of the Day	M Ott		E Snell	
Alter Guild	A Turner	P Lane	S Cape	G Lo
Ushers	A Utt/D Utt	J Weaver/M Harrison	D Prince/C Stagner	M Harrison/N Snell
Lector	A Utt	L Lanier	B Williams	P McGraw
Epistoler	T Clem	S Peterson	J Hawkins	J Salmon
Intercessor	A Turner	C Lanier	A Modrall	B Womack
LEM	K Scheuer	J Vaughn	S Smith	K Price
Crucifer	A Maddox	S Kerr	S Bruce	J Nixon
Gospeler	E Maddox	J Nixon	E Bruce	C Beech
Torch Bearer	A Utt	A Wales	A Wales	B Watson
Counter	J Glasgow	B Watson	C Pezzula	N Rasmussen
Hospitality	M Couch	L & J Weimer	T Sampson	D Kleinjung
Nursery	M Anderson/A Anderson	M Anderson/A Anderson	M Anderson/A Anderson	M Anderson/A Anderson

	November 17		November 24	
	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00
Vestry of the Day	M Cassel		R Lutz	
Alter Guild	K Holcomb	S Bagwell	D Buzby	P Lane
Ushers	B Buzby/R Sampson	R Cassell/M Barton	A Utt/D Utt	M Harrison/J Anderson
Lector	S Fletcher	L Weatherbee	L Mack	T Killian
Epistoler	B Buzby	S Kerr	D Carpenter	S Vaughn
Intercessor	M Pezzula	J Hubbard	B Carpenter	P Marques
LEM	W Christopher	S Weaver	A Williams	K Barr
Crucifer	J Glasgow	C Bagwell	S Bruce	S Kerr
Gospeler	C Glasgow	C Beech	E Bruce	V Mullins
Torch Bearer		V Mullins	A Utt	L Barton
Counter		B Mullins	C Pezzula	W Barton
Hospitality	K Hicks	M Brown	Annual Meeting	Annual Meeting
Nursery	M Anderson/A Anderson	M Anderson/A Anderson	M Anderson/A Anderson	M Anderson/A Anderson

November 2024 Church Calendar

Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

8:30 am - 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
 10:00 am - 11:00 am Children's Sunday School
 10:00 am - 11:00 am Youth Sunday School
 10:00 am - 11:00 am Adult Sunday School
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm GriefShare
 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Contemporary Eucharist

Monday

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Scouts BSA #628
 6:00pm - 8:00pm EFM
 6:30 pm Bells Angels

Tuesday

7:00 am - 9:00 am Men's Breakfast
 9:30 am - 10:30 am Cursillo Reunion

Wednesday

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Cursillo Reunion
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Noon Eucharist
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

9:30 am - 11:00 am Ladies Bible Study

Saturday

Office Closed

Please contact Cynde in the church office to reserve a meeting space. All meetings must be scheduled. Thank you!

Other Scheduled Events

Friday 1st - ECW Rummage Sale 7am-2pm

Saturday 2nd - ECW Rummage Sale 7am-1pm

Sunday 3rd - Daylight Savings Time ends @ 2am
 All Saints' Day all services
 Stewardship Pledge cards due

Monday 4th - Strategic Planning @ 6pm in CE1

Wednesday 6th - Staff Mtg @ 10am GH

Thursday 7th - Celebration/Lynn Bullard @ 6pm GH

Friday 8th - Foyers Groups @ 6:30pm GH

Saturday 9th - Ukrainian Bake/Craft Sale @10am

Sunday 10th - Baptism @ 11am of Eloise Dottie Thompson, daughter of James and Emily Thompson.

Monday 11th - Veteran's Day (office closed)

Tuesday 12th - Vestry Working Group @ 6:30pm

Saturday 16th - Heart & Soil @ 9am
 Interfaith Day of Prayer @ 10am
 Madison City Hall

Diocesan Day Camp McDowell
 10:30am to 4:30pm

Sunday 17th - Basket Raffle @ 10am
 DOK @ 12:30pm
 Cursillo @ 6:30pm GH

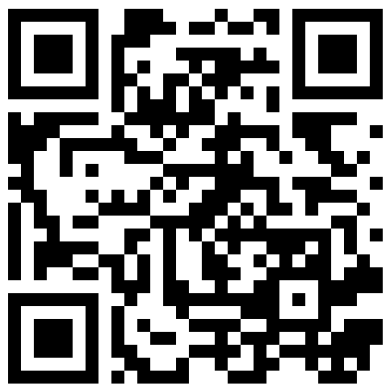
Tuesday 19th - DAR meeting @ 5pm GH
 Vestry Meeting @ 6:30pm CE1

Wednesday 20th - Newsletter Deadline @ 12pm

Wednesday 27th - Holiday (office closed)

Thursday 28th - Holiday (office closed)

Friday 29th - Holiday (office closed)



**Use this QR code to
complete your
pledge card online**

From October 13th through November 3rd, your St Matthew's family invites you to prayerfully consider how you walk in love and share your gifts with our church and our greater community. During our campaign period you will hear from your fellow parishioners about their own Walk In Love and why they give.

When you share your many gifts with your neighbors, every step is walking in love.