

THE MATTHEAN

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
7 North Mast St., Goffstown, NH 03045

www.stmattsepiscopal.org

497-2003

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December 2017 – January 2018

Sunday Worship 8 & 10am



From the Interim Rector:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Almost a year and a half ago, in my first Matthean opening article, I wrote about the five tasks for congregations in transition:

- Coming to terms with your history as a congregation.
- Discovering the special identity of St. Matthew's—what it dreams of being and doing apart from previous clergy leadership.
- Dealing with shifts in leadership that naturally evolve in times of transition.
- Renewing and reworking relationships with the Diocese.
- Building commitment to the leadership of the next Rector so you can be open to a future of new possibilities.

I explained that these are tasks for the congregation, not for the interim minister. The job of the interim minister is to help you accomplish these tasks.

Well, congratulations, praise, and appreciation on your success with the first four tasks! I encourage you to take some time to reflect on developments you have observed that relate to these benchmarks.

But don't spend too much time reflecting on the past, because now God is calling you to complete the final task: *Building commitment to the leadership of the next Rector so you can be open to the future of new possibilities.*

And what better season of the church year than Advent to prepare to welcome your next rector, The Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogele!

Advent, which means "coming", is the season of expectation and preparation for the coming of the Lord. In the church of my childhood, Advent was treated as a penitential time, in which we were encouraged to make ourselves worthy of the coming of Christ. Nowadays, however, we understand Advent to be a time of appreciative expectation. Our scripture readings during these four weeks, invite us to walk with people thousands of years ago who sensed that God was about to do a new thing, and who responded with hope.

May God bless you in this time of "looking forward."

Celeste+

From our incoming Rector:

Dear St. Matt's,

Last summer, I received a letter from St. Matt's inviting me to your 150th anniversary celebration. With the letter was a red button with a saying in simple text: "I Am St. Matthew's." I was deeply touched to have been invited and to have been given that button.

I thought you might be interested in reading a portion of my application to be your Rector.

My time at St. Matt's in the late 90s was an incredible opportunity. I loved being one of your priests and I learned so much from you. And I always wondered if I would be back. When your profile became available online, I clicked on the link and gasped when the page loaded. I said to my partner, Lynn, "You've got to come look at this!" As soon as she looked at my computer screen, she smiled and said, "Well, I guess you better apply. Why? Because of this:



It was a "You had me at, 'Hello'" kind of moment. I love to garden and my understanding of ministry is heavily shaped by that love. One morning while meditating on the question, "What is budding up in your life right now?" the image that came to mind was of me stooping down, intently observing the new shoots coming up. At once, I felt tenderness and delight towards this growth that I was witnessing and a deep desire to tend it.

Jesus told the story of the Sower and the seed; Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh talks about sowing seeds of love and mindfully caring for them; other traditions talk about cultivating the soul. As a gardener, I view the time I spend tending my garden as ministry. I also realize and am grateful that the plants are ministering to me at the same time.

Ministry, as seen through the lens of gardening, recognizes and celebrates the beauty and health of a religiously diverse landscape. It tends the soil to ensure a fertile spiritual environment, nurtures people's organic growth, and provides alternatives when this growth is threatened.

I am extremely grateful that you have called me to tend the garden that is St. Matt's with you. I can't wait to see what grows as a result of our life together. And can't wait to start in January. Until then,

Peace, Nancy

You are invited to a welcome reception for The Reverend Nancy Vogele, January 7, 2018 at Molly's Tavern and Restaurant, 35 Mont Vernon Rd (Rt. 13), New Boston Noon-2pm.

Search Team

We would like to thank the Search Team for their work throughout the last 16 months in the search for our new Rector:

Search Team: Karyn Battey, David Betz, Bonnie Calhoun, Barbara Carbonneau, Michael Domingue, Bob Jones, Roger Macon, Laeny McKahan, and Shea Sennett.

All friends of St. Matthew's should have received the following letter:

November 7, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Wardens and Vestry of St. Matthew's Church are delighted to announce that we have called the Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogele to be our next rector. She will join us on January 1, 2018.

The search team has spent 16 months praying and working through the extensive search process. We want to thank them for their faithful, tireless dedication to the search for our new rector.

In our parish profile, we said we were looking for a rector who will cultivate our garden in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. We asked for a rector that would have a strong sense of community involvement. We sought someone with an inclusive attitude and willingness to engage parishioners of all ages.

Nancy has a passion to help people and organizations become more fully who God created them to be. She is looking for a church that is welcoming, loving and respecting of all who want to be part of their community. She believes in celebrating and supporting people of all ages in their faith journey.

Many parishioners may remember Rev. Vogele from her time with us from 1998-2001 as an associate curate. Following her time with us she spent 11 years at St. Paul's Church, White River Junction, Vermont. She then spent 3 years as Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Dartmouth College. She is currently the Interim pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hanover, NH.

This is how she describes her liturgical style; "Reverent and joyful, inviting and warm, Eucharistically centered and down to earth. There are times that call for exuberance and there are times that invite us into silence. I like to explore the breadth of what the Anglican tradition has to offer us and see how we might incorporate that into our worship on occasion."

How exciting our future is here at St. Matthew's. We have much to celebrate in the coming months. We hope you will join us in welcoming Rev. Nancy Vogele when we celebrate our first worship service together on January 7.

Faithfully,

*Angie Battey & Rick Simons
Wardens, St. Matthew's Church*

Worship



Saturday December 2, 10am-Noon Altar Guild Clean Up: Come join us as we spruce up the church and prepare for the season of Advent. Saturday, December 2, from 10am to noon, the St. Matthew's Altar Guild will lead a two hour sprucing up of the worship space and decoration of the church in preparation for Advent. Cleaning, polishing, and wreath hanging; many hands make for quick work! We hope to see you there! **Children & youth are invited to come make the giant advent wreath 11am-noon.**

Sunday December 17, 7pm A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - It has become a tradition for St. Matthew's musicians young and old to offer Christmas anthems, songs, hymns and legends to the people of our greater community. Spread the word and invite friends and neighbors to have their hearts warmed. This year's Christmas concert and readings by community members will put us in the spirit.

December 24 – We will offer ONE morning worship service at 9am (without the choir).

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – “Let us receive her King!”

St. Matthew's loves Christmas celebrations and we do it right! The **4 pm** service is geared primarily to households with young children and early birds. It's a playful, short service including Christmas Communion for all people of faith. The **7 pm** service includes carols, sermon and Holy Communion for all to enjoy. **The late service offers a Choral Prelude at 10:30 pm followed by Choral Christmas Communion with the Senior Choir at 11pm.**

+Christmas Day, Monday December 25 10 am only, Holy Communion, simple and spoken.

+Sunday December 31 –We will offer ONE morning worship service at 9am (with the choir). Please note that this will be The Rev. Celeste Hemingson's last Sunday with us. Please come to give her our greatest thanks for her work at St. Matthew's and blessings for her next assignment at Grace Church in East Concord.

January 7, 2018 – Come and join in welcoming The Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogele to her mission at St. Matthew's Church. She will preach at 8am worship and enjoy the **The Epiphany Play at 10am.** On January 7 Christians all over the world celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, the recognition that the Light of the world had indeed come to us in Jesus Christ. Parts

of Christianity give great attention to the fact that spiritual leaders of the nations recognized Jesus' divinity. Others uphold Jesus' baptism at Epiphany. Both uphold the holiness of Jesus Christ and His power to heal and inspire souls and nations. Our parish children will offer a NEW play during worship on January 7 depicting the joyous realization that the Savior had indeed been born among us.

Outreach

Apprentice Needed - Our Baptismal Quilter, Margie Battey is looking for an apprentice or two to assist her with the quilts. Please contact the office if you would like to help.

Brown Bag Sundays – The 3rd Sunday of every month St. Matthew's will collect food for the Weekend Food Program. What is the Weekend Food Program? The Weekend Food Program for Children puts food in the hands of Goffstown and New Boston students who have limited access to food between school lunch on Friday and breakfast on Monday. It was established as a pilot program during the 2016-17 school year in partnership with the Goffstown Network, a community based non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of residents with food in times of crisis. **How can I help?** Since 1991, the Goffstown Network has been sustained by the goodwill of the community it serves. If you would like to donate food to this new initiative, you will find some examples of food on the reverse side of this notice. Items may be delivered to the food pantry at 7 N. Mast Road, Goffstown, NH.

FOOD DONATIONS:

All food items must be child-friendly, easy-open and prepared, single-serving size. Following is a list of EXAMPLES, not specific requests.

Breakfast:

- Cold and hot cereals: low in sugar preferred, instant oatmeal, with and without added flavors
- Cereal bars

Lunch/Dinner:

- Soups and stews: cold water added, microwave only
- Canned meats: ready-to-eat tuna salad, chicken salad
- Pasta: Chef Boyardee pasta and big bowls, Campbell's Spaghettios, Velveeta or Kraft macaroni and cheese, cold water added, microwave only
- Rice: Minute Rice, Rice-a-Roni flavored rice
- Beans

Fruits/Vegetables

- Juice boxes and juice pouches
- Applesauce, fruit cups, raisins
- Libby's individual vegetable cups, Del Monte individual vegetable cans

Snacks:

- Sandwich crackers with cheese or peanut butter
- Nuts
- Jif "To Go" packs, Nutella "To Go"
- Pudding "snack packs"
- Pretzel snack trays, bread sticks and cheesy dip, Ritz Fresh Stacks
- Granola and multi-grain bars
- Popcorn, microwave only
- Goldfish, animal crackers, Teddy Grahams, Hostess Mini-Muffins, Entenmann's Little Bites

**ITEMS MAY BE DELIVERED TO THE FOOD PANTRY
located at 7 N. Mast Road, Goffstown, NH.**

Christmas Food Basket Packing: Help Wanted Friday December 22, 6:30pm



It's become a wonderful community tradition for individuals, families, teams and Scout troops to gather and pack a generous food basket for our neighbors in need this Christmas. Everyone from individuals to families and sport teams are invited to help pack Christmas Food Baskets for close to 200 local households on Friday evening, December 22, 6:30pm at St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church. This community event of Network has become a great tradition wherein people join together and lend a helping hand. Also, the next morning from 9 – 11 am, able bodied people are needed to help load baskets into people's cars for delivery. If you are able to help with loading please call Dallas Lavigne at 497-8944.

The Network Food Pantry is open Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to noon for local residents struggling to make ends meet. Information for fuel assistance is also available at Network.

The New Hampshire Immigrant Solidarity Network

At its November meeting the vestry voted for St. Matthew's to join the New Hampshire Immigrant Solidarity Network, a project of the Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP), of which St. Matthew's is also a member.

The network seeks to respond to the fear and anxiety in our community as a result of an increase in immigration enforcement, heightened law enforcement and random acts of hate.

Each faith group in the network determines for itself what role they will play in the network and what level of support they will offer. Some of the ways in which the network supports immigrants and their families include

- Spiritual accompaniment of immigrants who have to report to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
- Support for people who are detained and assistance for their families;
- Sanctuary in houses of worship for people fearing deportation; and
- Rapid response to ICE raids and to acts of violence rooted in racism and xenophobia.

The vestry's resolution specified that our involvement will be to show support and advocacy as opposed to being a sanctuary.

The Network was convened by the GSOP six months ago to unify people statewide in support of immigrants. Over the summer, members of our church have participated in interfaith prayer vigils outside the Norris Cotton Federal Building.

Community Clothing Center (CCC) – we are waiting for news on the status of the repairs for the garage. We received \$6,108 during the months of August - October. There is a need for more volunteers especially on Thursday afternoons 3-5pm. Please prayerfully consider if this is something you might be able to do.



The Senior Health Inventory Network Endeavor, otherwise known as SHINE, meets weekly every Wednesday in the Parish House at 7 North Mast St. We begin at 10:30 am and conclude each meeting at 11:45 am. Sue Jepson, the parish nurse, will be on hand to take your blood pressure and to discuss any other health concern you may have. The SHINE program offers seniors the opportunity to socialize, exercise your brains and your body, enjoy tasty and nutritious food, plus the opportunity to learn new and interesting information from a guest speaker once a month. We hope to have Apotheca join us for the annual winter arrangement session. Many monthly presenters come from the Goffstown Community and are eager to share their knowledge and experiences in a given field. Come and see just how much fun SHINE can be. There is a need to assist Barbara Carbonneau (SHINE Coordinator) with food – please call Barbara if you can help 603-497-3295.

Buildings & Grounds

-Grounds Cleanup: a group of hard working helpers did some fall cleanup yardwork that included: Storage of summertime furniture in the Grove garage, tidying of the garden shed, shrubbery trimming, winter shut off of the hose faucets, cutting back garden plantings and lots of leaf raking. Those helpers included Margie Battey, Jim Buckless and family, Melanie Sherwood, Steve Fry, Deb Haines and myself.

-Snow blowers:

- The Husqvarna snow blower was tested and ran well. Started with only 2-3 pulls! The left tire was deflated but a spare tire found in the garden shed was put on. The flat tire has been pumped up and is holding pressure so we still have a spare tire.
- A second snow blower is being stored in the Grove Garage. Unsure of its status or intended purpose.

-Driveway Potholes: The pothole at the entry driveway is being filled with gravel temporarily. Rick Simons was in contact with Mike Hillhouse, of Goffstown DPW who explained that the plan is for repaving of the areas at the road (driveway apron area) once the current drainage work is completed. Options to repair to the damaged asphalt at the right rear corner of the church are being looked at as well.

-Undercroft carpeting – to be replaced soon

-CCC wall repair – planned for Tuesday 11/14

Lighting - we are exploring improvements to lighting the Undercroft staircase. Also, discussing backlighting methods for the stained glass window by the organ.

Eric Battey, Buildings and Grounds, Vestry Liaison

Stewardship

Our goal is that the Ministry of Stewardship encourages and equips young and old to identify and share the gifts and resources God has given them for the good of the parish that serves its members and community. We do this in many ways.

Environmental Stewardship: Bob Jones, Happy Beale, and Sharon Benard led folks on the 2.8 mile stretch for the Rt. 114 road side clean up. Eleven parishioners gathered 35 bags of trash in 2 hours! Others stayed on the St. Matt's grounds to rake and winterize.

Financial Stewardship: At the time of this printing, our goal of 100 pledges of \$170,000 has reached 52 pledges totaling \$120,052.

Lifelong spiritual Formation

+ **Sunday School Registration is ongoing & New Teachers are still welcome** There are open dates for teaching. If you would like to support and help educate the children of our church and encourage them in their faith journeys, please contact myself (mksherwood@comcast.net) or Jenn (jennifertreault@comcast.net) Sunday School continues weekly in the classrooms. The schedule during Advent/Christmas/Epiphany is as follows: We will have Sunday School December 3, 10, 17 & January 14, 21, & 28. February will resume the normal schedule of classes each week except for the second Sunday of the month for Family Sunday.

Intergenerational Advent in a Box – filled with activities related to the season. Available Advent 1, December 3.

YOUTH GROUP– will continue—*Theology Under Wraps*. This will be a monthly roundtable discussion led by Shea Sennett and the rector at **Nadeau's Subs Salads and Wraps** at 776 Mast Rd in Manchester. Our conversation in December 10 will take place from 4:00 to 5:30. Continuing dates in 2018 may be changed to 1-2:30pm.

All children and youth are invited to the undercroft to construct the giant advent wreath on Saturday December 2 from 11-Noon.

Epiphany Play Details

Rehearsal Saturday December 30, 10am-Noon

Dress Rehearsal Saturday January 6, 10-noon

Play- Sunday January 7: Actors arrive by 9:30am to get in costumes. The play starts at 10am. Cameras welcome.

Adult Lifelong Spiritual Formation Offerings:

Lifelong Spiritual Formation at St. Matthew's is just that: Lifelong. It's not just Sunday School for our young people. It's about providing opportunities for learning and growing spiritually for all who seek to go deeper in their spiritual journey and to be more open to the power of the Spirit.

January: Book group

The Winter meeting will be on January 11, 2018 at 7pm. We will be reading Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear by Scott Bader-Saye. Please rsvp to linnae.peterson@gmail.com if you plan to attend. The event will be cancelled if there is no response.

Weekly Tuesday Insight Meditation practice 7-8:30pm, in Parish House upstairs.

Weekly Wednesday Bible Chat: Throughout the Bible the concept of God's coming Kingdom appears and reappears. This year in Bible Chat we will be exploring the different ways that the coming of God's Kingdom is imagined. Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesdays at Noon in the Parish house beginning on Sept. 13th. The Bible Chats this year will be led by Paul & Linnae Peterson.

Daily Offerings: Daily Meditation / St. Matthew's Daily Reflection e-source – See website: www.stmattsepiscopal.org, friend us on Facebook, pick up a Forward Movement publication from the back table in the church. Episcopal Café website: www.episcopalcafe.com and The Daily Office – www.dailyoffice.org for daily readings of the greater Church and news.

If you have ideas for programs for winter and spring, please let us know. Is there something you might like to lead? Please spread the word and attend as many programs as you can. Invite a friend. It is a wonderful way to get to know others in our wonderful parish and best of all, it's a way to grow spiritually.

Fellowship: Our coffee hour assignments have been sent out and are listed here. We are always looking for additional hosts. Would you like to host a simple coffee hour or make a meal for one of our potluck events? Thank you for the ministry of food and fellowship. Contact Angie Battey or Leo Steffens with any questions.

Thank you for offering to host an occasional coffee hour. Below you will find a schedule for early winter. If the date assigned does not work for you, feel free to switch with someone. You will only need to make coffee, pour juice and provide a light snack for parishioners. The Fellowship team will provide coffee, juice, cream, sugar and paper goods.

12/03/17	Angie Battey
12/10/17	Joanna Wentworth & Eric/Karyn Battey
12/17/17	Steve & Rosemarie Fry
12/24/17	no coffee hour
12/31/17	Farewell Brunch for Rev. Hemingson
01/07/18	Welcome Reception at Molly's Tavern & Restaurant New Boston 12pm - 2pm Meet & Greet Rev. Nancy Voegel
01/14/18	Nancy Clark & Judy Johnson
01/21/18	Annual Meeting/ Potluck items needed
01/28/17	Nancy Nichols & Peg Darrah
02/04/18	Bob Jones / Happy Beale
02/11/18	Kelly Kennerson
02/18/18	Margie Battey & Sally Booth
02/25/18	Linnae Peterson & Sue Yost

Sign Up for the Parish Christmas Dinner/Yankee Swap It's time to sign up for the annual Christmas Dinner/Yankee Swap coming up on Saturday evening December 9 beginning at 6 pm. This is a wonderful event wherein we share great dinners at the homes of parish hosts and then everyone meets at the Church with an inexpensive, wrapped gift to enjoy the dessert course and laughs over a Yankee Swap & dessert. (Feel free to be creative with your gift giving – we like a good swap). **Sign up Poster in Undercroft or by contacting office@stmattsepiscopal.org before December 3.**

Pastoral Care

You have heard Rev. Celeste and the members of the vestry talk about the fact that it takes two kinds of treasure to make St. Matthew's work. First, there are financial resources that are used to pay salaries and bills. Secondly, and equally important, is the vast amount of time and talent that our volunteers give to St. Matthews.

Pastoral Care is one of those ministries that requires very little financial support; but, would be impossible without all of the volunteers that make it possible. Recently, nine of those volunteers completed a training program that prepared them to be pastoral visitors. Another set of volunteers has been providing meals for a few parish families that are in need of support. This represents an increase over the usual amount of meals support that might be provided. Due to this increase, a call for additional meals volunteers was placed in the parish news. Thank you to all of the new volunteers that responded. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Any other people that are interested in providing an occasional meal are encouraged to contact the parish office via phone or email. Additional help is always welcome.

Leo Steffens, Pastoral Care, Vestry Liaison

St. Matthew's exists by the grace of God to seek and serve the sacred in all people, loving our neighbor as ourselves. To that end, our clergy, elected leaders and staff are available to you for the asking. Please feel free to contact us for help, advice, guidance, or to offer your assistance. Office hours Tu/Wed/Thurs mornings by appointment call: 497-2003 or email: office@stmattsepiscopal.org

Interim Rector: Rev. Celeste Hemingson+ **Website:** www.stmattsepiscopal.org



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Goffstown, N.H. 03045



December 2017 Advent & Christmastide

- Saturday December 2 – Altar Guild Clean Up, 10am-Noon
- Wreath making for children & youth in the undercroft 11-Noon.
- Sunday December 3 - Advent I, Worship 8 & 10am w/baptism & Sunday School
- last day to sign up for the Progressive Dinner/Yankee Swap
- Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30am-noon
- Saturday December 9 - Progressive Dinner 6pm at host home, Yankee Swap at 7:45pm in the undercroft
- Sunday December 10 - Advent II, Worship 8 & 10am & Sunday School
- Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30am-noon
- Theology Under Wraps for high school youth at Nadeau's Subs 4-5:30pm with Rev. Celeste & Shea Sennett
- Thursday December 14- Vestry meeting, 7pm.
- Sunday December 17 - Advent III, Worship 8 & 10am w/baptism – Brown Bag Sunday & Sunday School
- Parish Breakfast 8:45-9:30am
- Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30-noon
- For Christmas: A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, 7pm
- Friday December 22 - Christmas food basket packing at St. Lawrence Church, 6:30pm
- Sunday December 24 - Advent IV, Worship 9am ONLY (NO choir or Sunday School)
- Christmas Eve Services at 4pm, 7pm w/Jr. Choir, & 10:30pm Choral Prelude w/Sr. Choir
- Monday December 25 - Simple, Spoken, Worship 10am
- December continued**
- Saturday December 30- Epiphany Play rehearsal 10am-noon
- Sunday December 31 - Worship 9am ONLY (with choir, NO Sunday School). Come celebrate Rev. Celeste's last service with us.

January 2018 - Epiphany

- Saturday January 6 - Epiphany Play dress rehearsal 10am-Noon
- Sunday January 7 - Worship 8 & 10am (no Sunday School) – Welcome The Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogele
- The Great Epiphany Play at 10am (participants arrive at 9:30am)
- Welcome luncheon for Rev. Vogele at Molly's Tavern and Restaurant, 35 Mont Vernon Rd. (Rt. 13) New Boston, Noon-2pm
- Thursday January 11 - Book group in the parish house, 7pm (please rsvp)
- Sunday January 14 - Worship 8 & 10am, Sunday School resumes
- Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30-noon
- Theology Under Wraps – NEW TIME, same place! 12:30-2pm with Rev. Nancy Vogele & Shea Sennett
- Thursday January 18 - Vestry meeting, 7pm. All are welcome.
- Sunday January 21 - Worship 8 & 10am – Annual Meeting
- Annual Meeting continues after worship with Pot Luck Coffee Hour
- Sunday January 28 - Worship 8 & 10am

