

The Matthean of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

7 N. Mast St. Goffstown NH 03045

www.stmattsepiscopal.org email:office@stmattsepiscopal.org 603-497-2003

February – April 2018



Celebration of New Ministry

A Celebration of New Ministry is more than just an opportunity for the bishop to formally institute the new Rector. It is an opportunity to gather and ask God's blessing on all the ministry that will happen by all the good folks of St. Matthew's in this new chapter of our life together. Be ready to celebrate – February 24 at 1pm, with reception to follow.

Meet & Greet Opportunities

Come meet The Rev. Nancy Vogle. These sessions offer an informal setting in which to get to know Nancy and for her to get to know us.

Tuesday Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper in the Undercroft, serving from 5:30-7pm

Saturday Feb 24 Celebration of New Ministry reception following the 1pm service

Sunday March 11 Home of Bengé & Sarah Ambrogi, 1280 Union St. Manchester 2:30pm-4pm. Please RSVP to the office if you can attend.

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

What a wonderful whirlwind the past few months have been! We finished our official interim period with Celeste and now it's time to transition to our full time Rector The Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogle. The welcome brunch at the restaurant was well attended but did not give Nancy the opportunity to talk one on one with parishioners. Coming up will be some smaller meet and greet sessions available for that to happen. In addition to the busy-ness of welcoming our new Rector, we about to enter the season of Lent. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will lead into Ash Wednesday with services at 7am & 7pm offered. I am hoping the season of Lent will be one of stillness and reflection and some quiet time to prepare for the coming celebration of Easter. There are many opportunities on Thursday evenings to join the Lenten Series group. It will begin with a simple supper at 6pm and then the program at 7pm. Please take advantage of these learning times; you don't need to commit to attend all five evenings - your presence is welcome at any time. I am looking forward to settling into our Lenten routines, the altar will be bare of flowers and our alleluias will be absent from worship. A quieter time is here in preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter on April 1. Please take the time to read this issue of The Matthean. There is a lot of information on the upcoming programs. There is an easy pull out that has dates of all activities in the upcoming months. If you have any questions, please give me a call in the office 497-2003.

Blessings,

Kelly Kennerson, Parish Administrator

Burying the Alleluia

Alleluia (from the Hebrew *Hallelujah*) means "praise the Lord." In the West, *alleluia* came to have a particular association with the celebration of Easter, and this led to the custom of omitting it from the liturgy during the season of Lent. It is a kind of verbal fast, which has the effect of creating a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returns at Easter.

To begin the *alleluia* fast, the custom arose of “burying the *alleluia*” before Lent as a reminder that we do not use it at all during the forty days of Lent. One way of burying the *alleluia* is the *Alleluia* Egg. At our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, we will create *alleluias* and put some of them in plastic Easter eggs for people to take home with them. Take your egg home and “bury” it wherever you wish. During the season of Lent, do not say the word. Let it lie buried.

At Easter, when you come home from church, gather around the “burial place.” Bring out your Alleluia egg and then sing or shout *alleluias*. Let the word be new and fresh. Let it help you praise the Lord that Jesus is alive. Put your egg in some prominent place in your home for the fifty days of Easter. Let it remind you that, as the chick bursts from the egg, so Jesus burst from the tomb.

You can even make the *Alleluia* Egg a family tradition. On the Day of Pentecost, put the egg away in a safe place so you can bring it out again next year as Shrove Tuesday approaches.

*Adapted from the website “Full Homely Divinity: Resources for Anglican Parish Life”
(fullhomelydivinty.org)*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Come to the undercroft Tuesday, February 13 from 5:30-7pm for a pancake supper. It’s a great opportunity to meet The Rev. Nancy Vogeles as well.

Ash Wednesday Worship Services – 7am & 7pm

“The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.” (BCP, 264-5)

Lenten Offerings

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John Lenten Series

Have you ever wished to deepen your relationship with God? To experience a warm friendship with God? Maybe even fall in love with God – again – or for the very first time?



Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is a journey into deeper intimacy with God through praying with the words of John the Evangelist. The beautiful 60-page journal inspires meditation on a daily verse from John, encouraging participants to respond through words, images, or however the Spirit leads. Subscribe online (meetingjesusinjohn.org) to also receive a daily short video in which a monastic brother from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist shares comments on the daily Gospel verse, having a relationship with Jesus, and possibilities for further reflection.

Beginning Thursday February 22 you will have the opportunity to join with Rev. Nancy Vogele and Linnae Peterson, M.Div., and others at St. Matthew's to explore Jesus in the Gospel of John with others.

Thursdays, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22

6-7pm simple dinner

7-8:30pm program

Sign up in the undercroft or contact the church office@stmattsepiscopal.org.

You can print out a journal and sign up for the videos at www.meetingjesusinjohn.org. St. Matthew's has a limited number of journals available for those who sign up for this program.

Lent to Go

Jesus said "I am..."

In the Gospel of John Jesus refers to himself as many things, The Light, The Good Shepherd, The Way. For this year's Lent to Go we will have the opportunity to explore some of these images of Jesus. Bags available on February 11th

Holy Week in a Bag

On March 25th pick up your Holy Week in a bag. Each bag contains ways to walk through the story of Holy Week.

Coffee Hour Questions

Here is a chance to share some of your reflections on questions inspired by our study of the gospel of John. Take a minute each week to respond and read what others are thinking. Questions will be posted each week in the undercroft.

February 18 – Parish breakfast is served 8:45-9:30am between 8 & 10am worship. This is also Brown Bag Sunday. Please bring food donations (easy to prepare items such as microwave mac&cheese, fruit cups, single serve vegetable cups, granola bars, juice boxes, etc.) to assist with the school weekend backpack program.

*Congratulations to the Goffstown Network who just received this year's Cornerstone award from the Goffstown School District for the weekend food program.

March 3 – "Meeting Jesus" Quiet Day

The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire will be hosting a *Meeting Jesus Quiet Day with the Bishop* on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at St. Andrews in Hopkinton from 9 am to 4 pm. This retreat day for lay people from across the Diocese will focus on meeting Jesus in Scripture, meeting Jesus in Prayer and meeting Jesus in our Neighbor. There will be opportunities to participate in prayer stations involving icons, a labyrinth, the newspaper, and more. There will be teaching with Bishop Hirschfeld and reflection with Tina Pickering, Canon for Ministry Development, and with fellow pilgrims. Worship and Taize music will be woven throughout the day. For more information and to register, please go to the Diocesan website – www.nhepiscopal.org and go the News, Events & Issues link.

March 11 – **Spring the clocks ahead** to join us for worship at 8 & 10am.

March 18 – Parish breakfast is served 8:45-9:30am between 8 & 10am worship & Brown Bag Sunday

SANCTUARY CLEAN UP SATURDAY MARCH 24

Roll up your sleeves and apply a little elbow grease. Lend a hand as we prepare our House of God for Holy Week. We shine the brass, mop the floors, dust sills and get the sanctuary ship shape for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day. Young and old are welcome to join with our **Altar Guild** in making our worship space a fitting place for worship and spiritual nourishment. Saturday March 24 10am-Noon.

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Descriptions of Holy Week Services at St. Matthew’s

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday - March 25th at 8 & 10am with Blessing of the Palms. If the weather is cooperative, we will gather in the garden before the service to receive and bless our palms and then process into the church together to begin worship.

Did you know that the traditional palms that many churches use on Palm Sunday are over harvested which damages forests and damages the environment. Also, the harvesters are not paid a fair price for their work. So using the traditional palms is inconsistent with the message of Palm Sunday itself.

Fortunately, there is an alternative source of palms called, “Eco-Palms.” These palms are harvested in a sustainable way and the workers are paid a fair price. The money we pay for the palms stays in the communities of the harvesters because there is no middleman. In fact, harvesting communities receive 5-6 times the normal payment per frond.



The Palms are beautiful but different than what many are used to so please keep an open mind and remember that these palms are not only Eco-Palms, they are Justice-Palms.

Maundy Thursday - March 29th at 7pm

On this day we remember the institution of the Eucharist (the Last Supper) as well as Jesus commandment to love one another. The word “maundy” comes from the Latin word for “commandment.” On the same night when Jesus and his disciples were eating this last meal together, he washed their feet as an example of being among others as one who serves and loves. There will be an optional foot washing at our Monday Thursday service as well. At the end of the service, Altar Guild members will strip the altar, symbolically leading us into the stark reality of Good Friday.

After the service, there will be a prayer vigil that people can sign up for, taking turns “keeping watch” - either at church or from home.

Good Friday - March 30th

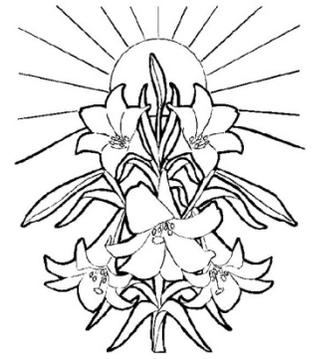
On Good Friday we remember Jesus’ ultimate act of love towards us: “having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. “ (John 13:1) There was nothing that anyone could do to keep Jesus from loving us to the end, even death on a cross.

From noon to 1pm, there will be an ecumenical service at the Congregational Church in town. This service is organized by the Goffstown Clergy Association. Various ministers from Goffstown will be preaching on the seven last words of Christ.

At 7 PM at St. Matt’s, we will have a Good Friday service that includes the Stations of the Cross.

The Great Vigil of Easter - March 30th at 7:30pm

We will gather to watch and wait for Christ’s resurrection, just as the faithful did in the Early Church. The service contains four parts: 1) the lighting of the paschal candle from a new fire, 2) singing and reading about God’s faithfulness throughout the Hebrew scriptures, 3) the sacrament of baptism or the renewal of baptismal vows, and 4) the celebration of the first Easter Eucharist.

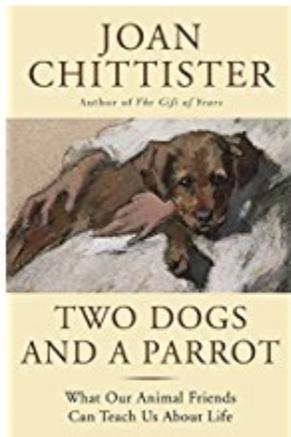


I love the Easter Vigil service. The fire, the candles, the quiet, and then the exuberant celebration at the end is what Easter is all about for me. If you’ve never attended, make sure to attend and you won’t miss it again!

Easter Morning – the Day of Resurrection – April 1st at 8, 9:15, and 11 am

All three services will highlight the joy that Christ was and is vindicated in the end by God and the He lives. There will be glorious music at 9:15 and 11.

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Book Group

If you are a dog owner, pet lover or just love watching animals, join us on April 12 7pm in the Parish House for a discussion of Two Dogs and A Parrot: What Our Animal Friends Can Teach Us About Life by Joan Chittister.

“The genius of Joan Chittister is to elevate the ordinary in life to become spiritual insights and lessons. One comes to understand better the importance and significance of the animals who share our lives and give us so much more than we are able to give them.”

THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S – ROADSIDE CLEANUP APRIL 22

Yes, that’s what the psalm says in the Holy Bible! As Christian human beings we are called upon to care for the earth by becoming more and more ecologically responsible. On Sunday April 22 at 11:15 am you are invited to meet in the Church Garden whereupon you can join in on the spring roadside clean up or the church grounds. Families and individuals not on the roadside cleanup can meet in the garden to help spruce up our own grounds. This is a perfect opportunity for young families. We will join the roadside folks for pizza, salad, drinks and dessert following the clean up. Coordinators: Happy Beale and Bob Jones and Sharon Benard.

Themed Basket Fundraiser for the Goffstown Clergy Association

Are you feeling creative? St Matt’s families and ministry teams are invited to build a basket on a theme that will be raffled on Sundays in May and at Old Home Day on Saturday June 2nd. The purpose is to raise money for the Goffstown Clergy Association’s Crisis Fund which helps people with emergent needs.

Please let the office know ASAP if you can help by making a basket by the end of April. Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

- + Kid's Basket: coloring books, crayons, jacks, rubber duckies...
- + Beach Basket: towel, sunscreen, snacks for the beach
- + Baking Basket: flour, sugar, aluminum pan, recipe...
- + Cooking Basket: church cookbook, oven mitts, olive oil, ...
- + Movie Basket: DVD, popcorn, M&Ms...
- + Teen Sports Basket: Frisbee, sports drink like Gatorade, water bottle...
- + Relaxation Basket: tea, candle, CD...
- + Gardening Basket: potting soil, gardening gloves, package of seeds...
- + Baby Basket: diapers, binky, stuffed animal ...
- + Pet Basket: cat brush, pet bed, catnip...
- + Men's Fix-it or Barbeque Basket: charcoal briquettes, grill utensils, apron OR screwdriver, hammer, duct tape...

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogele – rector@stmattsepiscopal.org

St. Matthew's Vestry: Sr. Warden Angie Battey; Jr. Warden Leo Steffens

Members: Abby Mathewson, Nancy Clark, Eric Battey, Chris Haines, David Betz & Randy Cheyne

Treasurer: Lauren Tennett Clerk: Morgan Pierce

Delegates: Karyn Battey, David Betz, Tony Howd, Amy Poisson

Alternates: Debbie Haines, Linnae Peterson



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
7 N. Mast Street
Goffstown, N.H. 03045

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 by appointment call: 497-2003 or email: office@stmattsepiscopal.org Rector – Rev. Nancy Vogele www.stmattsepiscopal.org

Upcoming Dates

February

- 11 – 8am Worship & 10am Family Worship (no Sunday School)
 - Sunday School Teacher meeting 11:30am
 - Theology Under Wraps with high school youth at Nadeau's Subs, Pinardville 12:30-2pm. This week's discussion will focus on social justice with special guest James McKim
- 13 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper serving from 5:30-7pm
- 14 - Ash Wednesday services 7am & 7pm (with Choir)
- 15 - Vestry Meeting 7pm
- 18 - 8 & 10am Worship (w/Sunday School, loose offering to St. Matthew's Discretionary Fund and collection of food for the school weekend backpack program)
 - Parish Breakfast served 8:45-9:30am
 - Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30-Noon
- 22 - Lenten Series simple supper 6-7pm followed by the educational program 7-8:30pm
- 24 - Celebration of New Ministry with the Bishop at 1pm, with reception to follow.
- 25 - Worship 8 & 10am (w/Sunday School)
 - Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30-noon
- 27 - Southern Convocation meeting at St. Matthew's. Refreshments at 7pm, meeting at 7:30pm.

March

- 1 - Lenten Series simple supper 6-7pm, followed by the educational program 7-8:30pm
- 4 - Worship 8 & 10am (w/Sunday School)
 - Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30-noon
- 8 - Lenten Series simple supper 6-7pm, followed by the educational program 7-8:30pm
- 11 **Don't forget to spring the clocks ahead!**
 - 8am Worship & 10 Family Worship (no Sunday School)
 - Theology Under Wraps with high school youth at Nadeau's Subs, Pinardville 12:30-2pm
 - Meet & Greet at the home of Benge & Sarah Ambrogi, 1280 Union St. Manchester 2:30pm-4pm
- 15 - Lenten Series simple supper 6-7pm, followed by the educational program 7-8:30pm
 - Vestry meeting 7pm
- 18 - 8 & 10am Worship (w/Sunday School, loose offering to St. Matthew's Discretionary Fund and collection of food for the school weekend backpack program)
 - Parish breakfast served 8:45-9:30am
 - Jr. Choir rehearsal 11:30-noon
 - Meet & Greet at the home of Bob Jones & Happy Beale, 467 E Dunbarton Rd Goffstown 1pm-3pm
- 22 - Lenten Series simple supper 6-7pm, followed by the educational program 7-8:30pm
- 24 - Altar Guild Clean Up of the Sanctuary in preparation for Holy Week, all are welcome 10am-Noon
- 25 - Palm Sunday 8 & 10am worship (no Sunday School)

- 29 - Maundy Thursday service 7pm
- 30 - Good Friday service 7pm
- 31 - Holy Saturday service 7pm

April

- 1 - Easter Sunday Services at 8, 9:15, and 11am (no Sunday School)
- 8 - Worship 8am & Family Worship 10am (no Sunday School)
- 12 - Book group meets to discuss Two Dogs and a Parrot, Parish House 7pm
- 15 - 8 & 10am Worship (w/Sunday School, loose offering to St. Matthew’s Discretionary Fund and collection of food for the school weekend backpack program)
- Parish Breakfast served from 8:45-9:30am
- 22 - 8 & 10am Worship (w/Sunday School)
- Earth Day Roadside & Grounds Clean Up following worship. Wear your work clothes, bring gloves and rakes. Adults only are welcome to pick up trash along our stretch of Rt. 114, Families are welcome to stay ‘on campus’ to do clean up and small projects.
- 29 - 8 & 10am Worship (w/Sunday School)

Save the Date!

- May 20 – Outreach Sunday & Parish Breakfast is served 8:45-9:30am.
- May 27 – Pentecost - worship 8 & 10am
- June 2 – Outreach Yard & Bake Sale
- June 3 – Sunday School Celebration & Flower Planting at 10am worship
- June 10 – Mass on the Grass 10am
- June 17 – 9am Summer worship begins

COFFEE HOUR HOST SCHEDULE

MARCH 4	Rosemarie & Steve Fry	irishrose20@icloud.com
MARCH 11	Joanna Wentworth	joannaw@comcast.net
MARCH 18	Abby Mathewson & Mark Stuenkel	abigailmathewson@gmail.com
MARCH 25	Nancy Clark	wasonorchards@comcast.net
APRIL 8	Leo & Erin Steffens	Leosteffens@usa.net
APRIL 15	Judy Johnson	529-0886
APRIL 22	Nancy Nichols & James McKim	njnichols1@gmail.com
APRIL 29	Susan Yost	sc2onlyost@gmail.com
MAY 6	Angie Battey	finelyorganized@msn.com
MAY 13	Benge & Sarah Ambrogi	ssambrogi@gmail.com
MAY 20	Kelly & Matthew Kennerson	kelly.kennerson@myfairpoint.net
MAY 27	Bob Jones & Happy Beale	jonesbeale@comcast.net

Fellowship is in need of some more coffee hour hosts. Please contact Angie Battey or Abby Mathewson if you are interested.