

# ST. MATTHEW'S

# LIFE



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NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PARISH OF ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH, NC

JUNE 2019

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Dear St. Matthew's,

We have been living in the fullness of the Easter season, and it has indeed been very full. In May, we said farewell to Judith and David; we celebrated with *Eileen Camp & Frank Casadonte* as they reaffirmed their wedding vows; we were fed and filled by the Spirit through the gifts and graces of our youth at the Youth Service; we cleaned and cleared at a parish workday; and we welcomed the Rev. Canon Dr. Cathy Deats from our Diocese as preacher and celebrant one Sunday. There's been a lot going on around here. And it is right and good and joyful.

The Feast of Pentecost, which marks the close of the Easter season, falls late this year on June 9. It's not as late as it could be. The latest possible date is June 13; the next time that happens is in 2038. The calendar date for Pentecost always depends on the date for Easter, because Pentecost falls fifty days after Easter. The word literally means fiftieth day. And since Easter was later this year, so is Pentecost.

And then after Pentecost, we'll move into what's sometimes called Ordinary Time.

I've always liked that term: Ordinary Time. Because it recognizes that so much of what we do, is done in ordinary time. And so much of our Christian faith and journey is about orienting ourselves towards Christ in and through our ordinary lives, in ordinary time. We seek, as our offertory sentence says, to walk in love as Christ loved us, "day in and day out."

Thomas Merton in his book *No Man is an Island* talks about ordinary holiness. That is, finding holiness not in some "other" place or time but right in the very soil of our lives. Holiness is right here in front of us, in what unfolds before us each day. Or as the book of Deuteronomy puts it so beautifully: "the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you can do it." (Deuteronomy 30:14)

This summer, in the midst of vacations, travels, and even preparations for all the excitement to come, may we heed the invitation to dwell in ordinary time, to practice ordinary holiness, by finding the sacred that is all around us.

*Lisa*

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## Searching & Discerning

As I write our news, we remain in a time of heightened confidentiality and waiting. We hosted candidate visits to St. Matthew's, and Searchers traveled to other parishes as well. Jehanne prayed to St. Francis and St. Clare on our behalf in Assisi; she was not visiting a candidate! The committee continues to contemplate scheduling of various sorts for the next two months; we did take off the first week of May, which speaks to a certain kind of progress.

We grow in deeper appreciation of what is not under our control and of the gift of ongoing prayer in this Time of Next Steps. Judith celebrated her last Eucharist as our Interim Rector; I trust she and David will be back to share the Feast as valued friends and journey companions. Judith provided us unstinting support and wisdom; her experience and her prayers soothed, informed, taught, and inspired. As she's done for all of us since her arrival! For holy friendships forged through change, promised in future and holding us now,

**Thanks Be to God.**

*-Betty Wolfe*



*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:3-6

Dear Friends,

David and I truly are overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity towards us! We so appreciate the generous financial gift. It will be put to good use as we set up our new home. We also cherish every gift, every card, every word of love and care. Thank you from the very bottom of our hearts!!

My heart also is full of gratitude for all of you who have done so much to insure that the mission of Christ Jesus continued during this interim time. We have renovated our facilities and began construction on a new education building. We have received many new members and increased the annual budget. All of that is extraordinary in interim times! It has truly been an honor and a privilege to be the interim rector of this extraordinary parish. Transition times are not easy; but, you have undertaken the journey of transition with faith and courage. In the words of St. Paul, "I will give thanks to God every time I remember you!" No matter where I go or what I do, each of you will remain in my heart as beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

David and I would love for you to come and visit us in the mountains! Our new address is: 161 Mountain Crest Drive, Hendersonville, NC. 28739. I will keep the same cell phone number and email address. I do hope we can keep in touch.

As the time draws closer to welcome your new rector, feeling some anxiety is only natural. Again, I would refer you to the above verses from the Epistle to the Philippians. I too am confident that the God who began a good work among you so many years ago, will continue that good work; and, as you travel down new avenues of mission, I know that same God will uphold you and fill you with grace through Christ Jesus, our Lord. What a gift it is to be able to go forth from this place knowing with confidence that the good work of God in Christ Jesus will not just continue, but will absolutely flourish.

May God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, bless and keep you always,

*Judith+*

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### Vestry Report Wardens and Officers chosen for 2019-2020

Your vestry held its annual retreat on the evening of April 4. We went over Diocesan procedures for the late stages of the new rector search (a thicket Judith expertly guided us through), worked out a timeline for interviewing candidates for the new rector position, said goodbye to last year's Vestry class, and began to finalize the liaison assignments for each vestry member.

The retreat is the time when the members of last year's class (*Rick Brewer, Jerry Workman, and Marion Youngblood*) officially retire and the newly elected members (*Maria Costello, Vera Shanley, and Sonja Tilley*) become voting members. We expressed great gratitude for the work of all and special thanks to *Jerry* and *Marion* for two years of faithful and wonderful service as Junior and Senior Warden, helping us "lean in," in *Marion's* words, as a congregation in a time of transition from 27 years of one rector to getting ready to be a church with a new rector. It is also the time when the wardens and officers of the vestry are selected to serve for the coming year. I, *Jehanne Gheith*, will serve as Senior Warden and *Jim Charton* will serve as Junior Warden. *Dorothy Wood* remains Treasurer and *Susan Alden*, Clerk. Both Treasurer and Clerk serve by appointment.

Vestry members have accepted assignments as liaisons to areas of parish ministry. The Senior Warden is charged with monitoring the administration of the parish; the Junior Warden, the parish property; the Treasurer, the finances of the parish; the Clerk, the record-keeping of the Vestry. Other liaisons are: *Beth Swain*, Fellowship; *Maria Costello*, Service to Others-Pastoral Care; *Jane Clunie*, Service to Others-Social Minis-

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tries; *Dale Games*, Worship; *Vera Shanley*, Holistic Stewardship; *Sonja Tilley*, Education; and *Conrad Fulkerson*, Faith and Arts.

I have just returned from a pilgrimage to Assisi where I learned a whole lot about St. Francis and St. Clare (she was a spiritual powerhouse—who knew?). Clare said that if you gaze with love at the cross long enough, you will learn to see yourself and each person as the face of God. (She said it in Italian, which sounds even better.) I thought often of St. Matthew's as we went to different 'saint sites' and how, in this time of transition, each of you has shown courage, love, humor in ways that make Clare's words come alive. And about how we have grown together in these almost two years. It could be otherwise—long periods of uncertainty are hard, especially after 27 years of excellent and consistent leadership. I and all of us on the Vestry are so looking forward to growing with you all into who we are yet to become. It is an honor and a joy to serve St. Matthew's as we move into a different kind of transition, change, possibility.

-*Jehanne Gheith*, Senior Warden

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### Honoring Alissa Case and Family Pot-Luck Brunch Sunday, June 23

Please join us for a brunch on Sunday, June 23, between the services, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., to honor and give thanks for *Alissa Case* and her family who will be moving to Waco, Texas this summer. Alissa has served as the Director of Christian Formation for the past six years and has been a treasure in our midst. She has worked with all ages to develop wonderful programs for children and youth; she has ably coordinated, led, cajoled volunteers to teach Sunday school, help at Family Faith Formation, lead Children's Worship, travel to the beach and mountains with the youth, teach Adult Forums, lead retreats, fix food. She is beloved by all - children, youth, parents and all who work with her. I have so appreciated her able and gentle presence, her openness to new and creative ideas, and her love for the Church and for this place. Thank you Alissa!

Her family has been a treasure too. *Brendan*, her husband, has always said yes when asked to teach at our Adult Forums and has shared deeply of his knowledge of the church and early Christian theology. He also has served as lector, youth leader, and as a nursery volunteer. Their beautiful children - *Amelia*, *Estelle* and *Teddy* - have been a joy to watch and welcome into the world and into the household of God. What a gift their family has been to this congregation.

So come and celebrate and join in giving thanks and then sending them forth with our prayers and God's blessing. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

-*Lisa Frost-Phillips*

PS. Parish Life welcomes your donations of brunch goodies for this event. Please bring something to share if you are able.

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### More News on Christian Formation

I am pleased to share that *Sonja Tilley* - who also serves on the Vestry - has agreed to serve as the Interim Director of Christian Formation after Alissa leaves. This will be a temporary position allowing the new rector some time to get their feet on the ground before calling a new director. Sonja brings a wealth of experience in this area.

Sonja graduated from Duke Divinity School in 2009 with a certificate in Christian Education. She then served from 2010-2012 as the Director of Christian Education for the congregation at Duke Chapel. She also has worked with the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at Duke Divinity and has taught extensively - particularly in the area of Adult Education - at all levels in the United Methodist Church.

Please join me in welcoming Sonja and offering our sincere thanks to her for her willingness to serve in this capacity.

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While Sonja will be working in the general area of Christian Formation, we also hope to call a Duke Divinity School Intern who would work primarily with our youth. We are in the process now of seeking potential candidates.

In the meanwhile, we need help in the nursery. Would you be willing to spend one hour of one Sunday every 6-8 weeks in the nursery? This would allow the parents of young children at least a small window of quiet for worship and prayer in the midst of busy lives. Please consider serving and let Alissa know if you're able to volunteer. ~Lisa

### **A Time for Singing: A Case for Summer Choir**

We said "good-bye" and "thank you" to the Adult Choir for the summer on May 12. Borrowing the words of our departed Interim Rector, *Judith Foster Reese*, it wasn't so much a "good-bye" as it was a "see you later." As bittersweet as such moments are, I am also reminded of how grateful I am for the choir's dedication nearly every Sunday throughout the program year, along with their hard work, as well as special services on Christmas and Ash Wednesday. They rose to the occasion on May 12, solo voices and all, as I sprang a surprise on them for their final Sunday: the "Gloria" from Schubert's *Mass in G*. No slouches, them!

But they do deserve rest after such hard work, and we'll eagerly await their return in September. Yet, what's St. Matthew's 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday without a choir?

This is where you (yes, YOU) come in. For approximately half of the Sundays this coming summer, we invite all interested singers to sing on Sunday mornings in the Summer Choir. This is a pick-up volunteer choir, meaning that anyone, young or old, who can carry a tune and can attend a group rehearsal Sunday morning at 9:15, is invited to sing, regardless of previous choral experience. This is a great way to get a taste of the choral life if you've never sung in a church choir before, or for you to relive earlier days of choral singing which, for whatever reason, is simply not possible to commit to during the program year. Like last summer, we will sing unison and two-part music, include a few "oldies but goodies," and possibly create hymn-based anthems unique to that particular Sunday. Above all, we will have fun, lead the congregation in glorifying God in song, and perhaps learn some new things in the process.

The first Sunday will be June 9. If you're interested, simply come to the church by 9:15 a.m. and we'll hand out and rehearse the music for the service and hymns for that day. What could be better?!

We hope you'll join us.

~David Arcus, Music Director & Organist

### **Faith & Arts Programming Coming Up:**

† Robin & Linda Williams Concert  
Thursday, August 15, 7:30 / \$20  
This program will be a sell out.

Don't wait to purchase or  
reserve your ticket!!!!

† Art Exhibit:  
"Envisioning St. Matthew's"  
September 8-30

Opening Reception  
Sunday, September 8

### **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

We invite all artists to create work in any medium reflecting their personal view of St. Matthew's. Inspiration can come from places, people, events in the life of the parish, or something more private and personal. We hope this will be an artistic celebration of how we are all connected.

The exhibit will be hung or displayed at various locations throughout the property. Submission of one or two works is open to all members and friends of St. Matthew's, 18 or older. We ask that all works follow this theme; all works individually and jointly are to be part of this visual expression and exploration. We hope that artists will also submit an artist statement about the work.

† AJ Mayhew Book Reading  
Tomorrow's Bread

Sunday, October 13, 3:00 p.m.  
with the St. Matthew's  
Women's Singing Circle

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### Noon Eucharist and Healing Service

Our Wednesday Noon Eucharist and Healing Service will continue through June and then take a break during the month of July. This is a lovely small regular group who gather for worship to pray for one another, to receive prayers for healing and to break bread together in the name of Christ. Please join us. All are welcome.

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### The Men's Fellowship Breakfast Thursday, June 20

The Men's Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday, June 20, for an open presentation of biographical sketches. The group began in 2005 with a series of biographies, one per meeting, until most members had made a presentation. It now seems appropriate, at the beginning of our 15<sup>th</sup> year, to bring back the biographical feature on a smaller scale. We'll limit the presentations to about 15 minutes, and anyone who wishes to speak may do so until time runs out. There will be a catered breakfast for \$7.00, which will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

*-John Druessedow*

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### News from Social Ministries

The Social Ministries Committee will meet on Thursday, June 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the Graebner Room. This meeting will conclude our program year activities. The Committee will begin meeting again in the fall; our annual retreat will be held in September (date to be determined).

Have a Happy Summer!

*-Allan Parnell and Becki Horne, Co-Chairs*

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### Racial Justice & Reconciliation News

The RJR Task Force has begun planning for next year's programs, but a brief summary of the 2018-2019 program year seems to be appropriate first. We sponsored discussions of three books by African American authors: Kindred by Octavia Butler, Proud Shoes by Pauli Murray, and The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin. Many thanks to those who attended and special thanks to *Margaret Brill* and *Jehanne Gheith* who led the discussions, which were enjoyable and quite lively at times.

We supported Orange Correctional Center's Parent Day by providing breakfast foods in October and by hosting the children's caregivers at St. Matthew's in April. We hope to continue our cooperative relationship with Coastal Horizons, the mental health program in Durham that organizes the visits to the Center for the children of inmates.

In the fall, we are very excited to be hosting a workshop by the Racial Equity Institute (REI) on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all to attend. Scholarships will be available and registration details will be provided in August or September. Several of us have attended and can tell you how valuable and informative the workshops are.

Book discussions return next year and we are adding a movie, too. In preparation for the REI workshop, we will read and discuss White Fragility in the early fall. In January, we hope for a 5 pm showing of If Beale Street Could Talk, based on a novel by James Baldwin (reading the novel might enhance our understanding of the movie). In the spring, we hope to read and discuss The New Jim Crow (tentatively in March) and Between the World and Me in May.

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in the fall, as we continue our journey toward racial justice and reconciliation.

*-Jane Clunie*

**People News**

**Thanks to:**

- All who showed up to spruce up the Rectory grounds on Saturday morning May 18: *Jim Char-ton & Yvonne Petitmaire, Betty Wolfe, Robb Smiley, Ran Hamner, Todd & Kristi Holland, Sonja Tilley, Conrad Fulkerson, Jim & Carolyn Parsley, Edward Wright, Bob & Susan Shelton, Pelham Jacobs, Jean Bartholomew, and Tom Anderson.*
- *Jehanne Gheith*, Senior Warden, for orchestrating all events related to Judith & David's last Sunday on May 12 and to *Janice Stratton* and Parish Life for hosting special Coffee Hour Receptions after the services.
- *Parish Archives* for working tirelessly to go through old files and documents from the Rector's Office so that it will be clean and clear when the new rector begins; and for hosting the special Adult Forum program "Religion & Politics in NC" in early May.
- *Jean Bartholomew, Cindy Cook, and Phyllis Wright* for subbing for Mary in the Church Office in May.
- *Vera & Jim Shanley* for hosting a Faith & Arts Angel Reception at their home.
- *Gordon & Carolyn Carlson* for hosting a Newcomer Social at their home.

**Congratulations to:**

- College Graduate, *Zachary Burhans*, from Catawba College (*Nell Schrader's* grandson)

**Recent Hospitalizations:**

- *Karen Thomas, Bob Quackenbush*

**THANK YOU,  
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

I am grateful for another rich and wonderful year of children's and youth ministry at St. Matthew's. Together, we have written letters to the sick and the suffering, supported children's choral music in our 10:30 service, cradled newborn babies, worshipped together at Family Faith Formation, forged intergenerational friendships through Secret Pals, and most importantly, helped our young people grow in love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

None of this would have been possible without your steadfast support of our Sunday School program. You are the backbone of this ministry, and I am grateful for each and every one of you.

*-Alissa Case*



**Parish Operating Budget Status as of the end of April 2019 (33%)**

<b>Budget Expenses:</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>Total Spent</b>		<b>%</b>
Work Outside the Parish	\$62,716	\$15,491		25%
Maintenance. & Improvements	\$67,604	\$21,284		31%
Clergy-related	\$179,881	\$52,828		29%
Administrative	\$87,942	\$26,145		30%
Christian Education Program	\$45,365	\$12,154		27%
Worship-related	\$46,536	\$14,969		32%
<b>Expenses Total:</b>	<b>\$490,044</b>	<b>\$142,871</b>		<b>29%</b>
<b>Budget Income:</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>Total Received</b>		<b>%</b>
Plate/Gift Offerings Received	\$50,000	\$17,722		35%
Pledge Payments	\$427,617	\$172,588		40%
Other	\$23,100	\$21,065		91%
<b>Income Total:</b>	<b>\$500,717</b>	<b>\$211,375</b>		<b>42%</b>



# JUNE 2019

**Sun**                      **Mon**                      **Tue**                      **Wed**                      **Thu**                      **Fri**                      **Sat**

							1 9:30a Shawl Ministry
<b>Easter 7</b> <b>OCIM Sunday</b> 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist 5p Integrative Living Group	2 9:30a Archives & History 6:30p Education for Ministry	3 10a Property Meeting 6:30p Rector Search	4 9:30a Staff Meeting Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers 4p Brookshire Service 6p Finance Committee	5 10a OCRA Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	6 5:30p Social Ministries	7 9a Parish Life	8
<b>Pentecost</b> 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist	9 9:30a Archives & History 5:30p OCRA 6:30p Education for Ministry	10 <b>St. Barnabas the Apostle</b> 6:30p Rector Search	11 10a OCRA Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	12 10a OCRA Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	13	14 5p Newsletter deadline	15
<b>Trinity Sunday</b> 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist 5p Integrative Living Group	16 9a Communications Meeting 9:30a Archives & History 6:30p Education for Ministry	17 5:30p Food for All Hugh Tilson's Team 7p Vestry	18 Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	19 Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	20 8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast	21	22
<b>Pentecost 2</b> 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist 9:15a Goodbye Brunch for Alissa & Brendon Case Noon RJR Task Force	23 <b>Nativity of St John the Baptist</b> 9:30a Archives & History 5:30p Food for All Gordon Carlison's Team	24 6:30p Rector Search	25 Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	26 Noon Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	27	28	29 <b>St Peter &amp; St. Paul, Apostles</b>
<b>Pentecost 3 / 5th Sunday</b> 8a Holy Eucharist 10:30a Morning Prayer 11a Dickerson Chapel Worship 5p Integrative Living Group 7p Women's Singing Circle	30						

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### **Greetings from the NewComers Committee!**

Thank you to all parishioners who joined us for the NewComers Coffee Hours after services on Youth Service Sunday, May 19. We had the button machine available one last time before summer that day, but, if you haven't had a button made yet and you would like one, please fill out the sign-up sheet in the foyer of the Ruffin House and we'll make one for you.

The NewComers Committee had a very successful and well attended NewComers Social in May. We're excited to be able to get to know our visitors and encourage them to return to St. Matthew's.

Did you know that the NewComers Committee is currently working on placing thick felt pads in the small pew holders where visitor information cards are kept? We hope this will help the cards to stay in place and be more visible instead of slipping through the cracks!!

Our thanks to everyone at St. Matthew's for being open and welcoming and for greeting your neighbor on Sunday mornings!  
~The St. Matthew's NewComers Committee

### **Summer Programming (through August)**

- Sunday Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. continues with child care at both services
- No 9:15 a.m. Sunday Education Hour for adults, children, or youth
- No Adult Choir
- No Youth Group on Sunday evenings
- No Ladies Night Out in June & July
- No Wednesday Noon service during July
- The Women's Singing Circle meets the last Sunday of the month at 7pm

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE  
THIS NEWSLETTER AND  
OCCASIONAL UPDATES BY E-MAIL.