



**SAINT MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
MAPLE GLEN, PENNSYLVANIA

2020
PARISH PROFILE



Letter to Our Future Rector

We have prepared this letter to introduce you to our congregation and the qualities we seek in a new Rector.

We will describe the areas of opportunity for our church, how we will collaborate with you, and how you can support us in ministry.

Saint Matthew's is nestled in Horsham Township, a vibrant middle-class suburban community located about 10 miles north of Philadelphia. It is considered to be one of the best places to live in the Philadelphia area. Reaching out to our community is our greatest opportunity for growth. We seek a Rector who can help us realize this growth by learning what our community needs, matching our existing ministries to those needs, and helping us develop new ministries for unmet needs.

Our Nursery and Sunday School programs are examples of ministries that serve our community. The Nursery School is highly regarded and our Sunday School features an innovative, Montessori-based, hands-on program called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) that cultivates each child's unique relationship with God. This program is led by devoted catechists who have undergone rigorous training. We feel the CGS and Nursery School programs are two of the best-kept secrets in our community.

We believe there is an opportunity to build stronger connections between the church, Nursery School, Nursery School families, and the CGS program. We believe we could attract younger families to our parish through these programs. We seek a Rector who will take the time to learn about these programs, listen to our teachers and catechists, and collaborate with us to make these ministries known in our community.

We have a desire to have a stronger youth program. We will work with you to strengthen our youth program, youth Sunday School, youth group activities, and annual Youth Mission Trip. We need to recruit parishioners and parents who have a heart for working with youth.

Another aspect that we highly value is our diverse worship services. We are pleased to offer three very different services: 7:45am - Rite I Service; 9:00am - Contemporary Rite II Service with Arise Band; and 10:30am - Traditional Rite II Service with choir, accompanied by organ and piano. We feel our worship offerings are unique and that we have something for everyone. We seek a Rector who will join us in our commitment to maintain these diverse worship offerings.

At worship, we value sermons focused on how to build our relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit in a challenging world. We are inspired by sermons and scripture applications that are down-to-earth, address real-world problems, and are practical for our daily lives. We want to rejoice in God's love for us as forgiven sinners, as we learn how to develop our relationship with Jesus and grow spiritually. Our desire is to hear the good news of God in Jesus Christ preached, taught, and modeled. We are both conservative and liberal, thus we are seeking a Rector who is not overtly political but will balance our different perspectives and point us to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

We had the wonderful gift of having a Rector shepherd us for over 34 years. We desire that you will have a long tenure with us. To that end, we understand your need for self-care and encourage you to keep the wardens informed of your needs for family time, vacation, continuing education, and sabbatical time. We are well aware of the challenges of ministry and we ask that you keep us informed as we work together.

Financially, we are quite blessed. We are a parish with no debt, well-kept buildings and grounds, and substantial investments. We exercise good financial stewardship, to the point of being risk-averse. Could our giving be more generous? Most definitely. Trusting that God will provide is an area of opportunity for us. We need to use the existing assets at our disposal in new and transformational ways, including breathing new life into the congregation, making new ministries possible, and inspiring creative outreach projects.

We seek a Rector who is approachable with high energy and enthusiasm. We seek someone who can provide pastoral care, listen to us, teach us, lead us, communicate a vision, and love us. Our new Rector will have a deep relationship with Jesus, and will shepherd us to grow in love and service to God and others.

We expect our new Rector will prayerfully discern the movement of the Holy Spirit when listening to us, analyzing the needs of our congregation, and identifying community needs. We promise to collaborate by being open and prayerful to new possibilities.

As you read our Parish Profile, **we pray** that God will speak to you and guide your discernment. Likewise, we pray that God will guide us in a similar way as we discern the call for our new Rector.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church!





**VISION,
MISSION and
BELIEFS**

Vision

Our vision is that the people of Saint Matthew's be a bright light for our community so that others will see our love of God and how He loves us. This is shown through our worship, education, fellowship, and service to others as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Mission

All Christians are called to "Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15.) We accomplish this by constantly striving to love God and by loving our neighbors. In undertaking this, we are conscious of, dependent on, and find the hope of eternal life in Christ's promise that He is with us always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)





Our Beliefs

Our beliefs are our shared values as stated in the Creeds. They are the convictions from which we build our faith in Jesus Christ and perform our vision and mission.

Love of God; Love of Others

- We believe in a loving God—we are to love God our Father and each other. Love is the basis of all relationships. Love is to become one with Jesus our Lord and Savior.
- We come to know God's love in the threefold experience of God, our creator; Jesus Christ, his son and our redeemer; and the indwelling Holy Spirit. God's infinite love and compassion for us provides the focus of our worship and ministry programs.
- At Saint Matthew's, we welcome all people to worship with us and share in the celebration of God's love through the sacraments. Our sermons are grounded in God's love as proclaimed in the Bible.
- We believe the gift of love is to be shared with others. We value the individual differences in each person and seek to incorporate all people into our church community by providing a warm welcome, support, care, trust, respect, friendship, and companionship. These behaviors are the foundation of our ministry programs.

Seek God First

- In all actions and decisions we commit to seek God first. Loving and honoring God is a priority for people at Saint Matthew's. We seek to understand God's will, and we use our time, talent, and gifts to do the work of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We seek to understand God's purpose for us through the disciplines of prayer and Bible study. These daily disciplines keep our lives Christ-centered, while the discipline of discernment helps us identify how God's will is actively working in our life.
- Saint Matthew's offers many opportunities for individuals to use their time and talents in service to God. Typically, our ministry programs are led by church members. Our program calendar outlines our ministries and the people who direct these activities. The monthly *Oracle* newsletter, weekly church bulletin, church website, social media and bulletin boards give our ministry leaders the means for making service opportunities known.
- To accompany the gifts of time and talent, we also pledge a significant portion of our income to do God's work. Saint Matthew's is blessed with a generous and active congregation who continues to seek ways to reach out to others.

Grow in Faith

- People at Saint Matthew's value spiritual growth and development. We have the desire to continually learn and grow in faith. We recognize that as individuals we are each at a different point in our own faith journey.
- Our Sunday school, adult education programs, Bible study, and workshops provide opportunities to become better educated about God's love for us, the redemption of sin through Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit's activity in our lives. At Saint Matthew's, we lovingly welcome all people to share, learn, and grow with us in faith.

Work for God's Purpose

- Saint Matthew's honors God's vision for the world by responding to poverty, scarcity, hunger, sickness, and disease. We select our outreach ministry programs with these goals in mind. Saint Matthew's involvement in food cupboards and meal programs feeds people in our community. A previously homeless family shelters in an apartment sponsored by Saint Matthew's. We also help to fund several national and international outreach ministries.
- Saint Matthew's supports outreach programs through a combination of service and financial contributions. All our outreach activities are organized and led by church members. We invite individuals to serve as they feel called. Saint Matthew's parishioners continually search for outreach opportunities that support God's vision to help create a better world.





**WORSHIP,
EDUCATION &
MINISTRIES**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our Sunday worship services and education offerings inspire us to live out our faith. They bring us closer to God the Father, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our comforter and guide.

Saint Matthew's offers three diverse worship styles:

7:45am - Traditional Rite I Service without music

9:00am - Contemporary Rite II Service with Arise Band
(featuring guitar, keyboard, drums, bass, flute and vocals)

10:30am - Traditional Rite II Service with choir,
accompanied by organ and piano.

Music with Arise Band

The Arise Band at our 9:00 a.m. service includes talented and dedicated singers and instrumentalists and features music frequently heard on contemporary Christian radio. The group is led by band members who carefully select music that relates to the scripture passages for each Sunday.

Music with Choir, Organ and Piano

The choir, led by our dynamic and talented organist/pianist and choir director, offers a ministry of psalms and anthems at the 10:30 a.m. traditional service. The choir also sings on special days of the church year, enriched by contributions from guest instrumentalists.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Lay Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Acolytes

Lay Readers assist during the worship services by saying the prayers and reading scripture selections. Eucharistic Ministers may assist the priest at the altar by serving the wine or bread. Serving in this role can be a deeply spiritual way to take an active part in the worship of God in His church. Ushers are present in the Narthex before and after services to distribute worship bulletins and assist with the needs of parishioners arriving for the services. Saint Matthew's is blessed to have a faithful and enthusiastic team of young men and women who quietly serve the congregation as acolytes at worship services. This ministry is open to all young people who have completed the third grade and are interested in serving.

Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory Prayers are often available for healing and renewal during select worship services from parishioners who are trained intercessors.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild lovingly prepares the Lord's table for all three Sunday services and for weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Flower Ministry

The Flower Ministry operates as a ministry within the Altar Guild. At the conclusion of the Sunday services, the flowers are collected and rearranged in different vases for delivery to shut-ins or to members in attendance in recognition of service or circumstances. Flowers are a witness to the wonder of our Lord. Those who deliver to the shut-ins report what pleasure and comfort the flowers bring to the recipients.



Newcomer Ministry

Greeters for the worship services are recognized by their red ribbon name tags. Greeters welcome visitors and encourage them to sign our guest book. Then a member of our welcoming committee will bring you a welcome bag and a warm smile to personally welcome you to our congregation. This includes a note of thanks, church information, and bread, muffins or cookies. Last year, 21 new people signed the guest book and we also welcomed new parishioners from a nearby Episcopal church that recently closed. In the past, we have also welcomed newcomers with a newcomer's brunch.

EDUCATION

Children's Education

For nearly 30 years, Saint Matthew's has embraced the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program for toddlers through fifth grade. The goal of this program is to nurture each child's unique relationship with God. This is done through manipulative materials, prayer, songs, listening to Bible stories, preparing children for participating in the liturgy, and giving children time to explore their own spirituality through the Catechesis materials.

Saint Matthew's is proud to be one of only a few churches in the entire country to offer CGS at four levels of education: Toddler – 16 to 36 months, Level 1 – Preschool ages 3-5, Level 2 – Primary – Kindergarten through Grade 2 and Level 3 – Senior – Grades 3-5.

Saint Matthew's is blessed to have seven experienced catechists who have undergone rigorous training for at least 90 hours to lead our program. Some have already trained for hundreds of hours and continue to deepen their training with additional classes. In addition, we are fully staffed with volunteers who assist our catechists.

Each year, Saint Matthew's offers children in third grade and older the opportunity to participate in Solemn Communion/First Communion preparation. This program is an opportunity for children to explore the meaning of the Eucharist during five evening classes and a Saturday retreat before receiving communion during a Sunday Service.

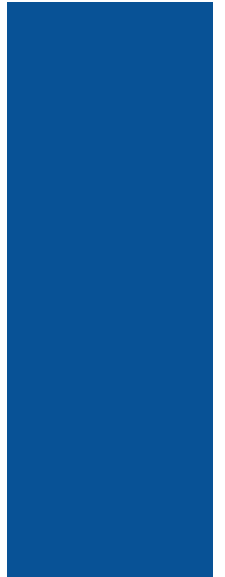
On the Saturday before Easter, a Liturgy of the Light worship service is held. This children's service, modeled after the Episcopal Easter Vigil, is an opportunity for children to participate in the worship service and to celebrate the risen Christ with their families.



An All Saints program is offered each November. This includes a worship service and "Salvation Stroll" where children and their families learn about the lives of various Saints from parishioners dressed as the featured Saints.

Our hope for the future is to attract young families to our parish so that more children can benefit from our wonderful children's education programs.





EDUCATION

Youth Education

After Grade 5, our youth progress to middle school and then on to high school Sunday School. Our curriculum is informal and focused on the lectionary for each Sunday. Teaching occurs with youth sharing their experiences and making connections between the scripture and their daily lives. There is plenty of time for sharing and discussing what is on the hearts of the youth.

Also at this age we offer Youth Group activities. We currently have a part-time youth associate on staff who plans, coordinates, and leads youth events. Our attendance at these events has dropped off during our transition. We seek a Rector who will be able to work with our youth associate, parents of youth, and interested parishioners to revitalize this important ministry. Our annual Youth Mission Trip is an outreach activity that engages our youth and our call to serve others.

Adult Education

The spiritual journey of faith is a lifelong process that has barely begun with adulthood. At Saint Matthew's we seek to encourage and equip our members to live with a vibrant faith in a challenging world.

Adult Forum

Our Adult Forum meets on Sunday mornings and is led by its participants. The group selects their own topics and explores them using scripture, books, podcasts, and other spiritual and inspirational materials.

Bible Study Groups

We currently have two Bible study groups that are led by parishioners. The meetings take place at Saint Matthew's or in the homes of parishioners on different days of the week. The Monday Evening Bible Study takes place twice a month at Saint Matthew's. Exploring Our Faith Together is held in various parishioner's homes weekly.

Men's Breakfast

Once a month, the men of the congregation gather for fellowship and a Rector-led Bible meditation. They gather early Saturday morning and prepare breakfast as they re-connect and enjoy each other's company. After breakfast, the Rector leads a reflection on a bible passage, usually from one of the gospels.



PASTORAL CARE

Through Pastoral Care, we support those in need at Saint Matthew's. This tradition of compassion and love reflects our commitment to follow Jesus by caring for those around us. Clergy visitation is only the starting point in these ministries of compassion.

Pastoral Care Visitation Team

The Pastoral Care Visitation Team is composed of a group of parishioners who have had pastoral care training and who have an interest in serving in this ministry. Their mission is to visit members of the parish who are homebound, can't get to church very often, or just need a visit. These visits provide the recipient an uncommon depth of listening to their cares and concerns as well as prayer in the name of Christ through the community of Saint Matthew's. The team also alerts clergy and other pastoral care ministries when a parishioner has sacramental or other needs. These visits are uplifting and enjoyable experiences for team members. The team members meet to serve as a support system for one another and to refresh their spirits. Clergy provides supervision and ministry support.

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Our Lay Eucharistic Ministers bring the sacrament from Sunday services to members of the congregation who are unable to be present at the celebration because of illness or infirmity. They offer prayers and a loving presence in addition to the blessed host and a brief liturgy. Both the ministers and the recipients are enlivened in the Holy Spirit by this ministry.

Neighborhood Shepherds

Our Neighborhood Shepherd ministry provides a meal and visit to parishioners recovering from challenges such as surgery, illness, or the birth of a baby. Traditionally, this included a freshly prepared meal and a visit but we are extending this ministry to include a supply of home-cooked then frozen meals, for use by any families or individuals in need.

Prayer Chain

Less visible than our other pastoral care ministries is the Prayer Chain Ministry. The participants pray daily for those who have special needs.



OUTREACH

Our commitment to serving others is how our church lives into God's call to be a visible sign of his love in our community. While the list of initiatives is long and diverse, at present we only provide financial support to some of these ministries. **Our feedback from focus groups was that parishioners have a strong desire to extend our outreach efforts to include more direct engagement both within our immediate communities and in the wider world.**

SAINT MATTHEW'S NURSERY SCHOOL

Our Nursery School serves children ages two-and-a-half to five and offers a wide range of flexible schedule options to families. This is our 27th year, and our reputation is well established in the community. This is due to the excellent staff, caring parents and the strong support of the church and congregation. The school has an enrollment of approximately 120 children and a staff of more than 20 teachers, enrichment teachers, and teacher's aides. Our dedicated and caring staff provide the children with arts and crafts, singing, cooking, stories, academics and lots of love every day. The Nursery School prides itself on accepting all children regardless of their needs or abilities. The staff works very closely with county agencies to ensure that students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) are reaching their goals.





OUTREACH



Youth Mission Trip

Our youth program enjoys enthusiastic support by our congregation. The older youth are active throughout the year raising money and planning for their annual summer mission trip. They have participated in a range of projects from the near to the far (Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota). Our youth inspire the whole congregation as they embrace the opportunity to serve others.



Vacation Bible School & Middle School Summer Service Camp

Vacation Bible School (VBS) provides Christian education and fellowship in a fun atmosphere one week during the summer for children of Saint Matthew's and children in the community. This past year, Saint Matthew's was transformed into an African landscape thanks to the many volunteers who donate their time. There is a very dedicated and ambitious team of volunteers who make this a tremendous success every year. In 2019, we had 81 children participate. In addition to the adult team, VBS provides an opportunity for our middle-schoolers to serve others. Middle School Summer Service Camp allows participants to spend their mornings helping the VBS teachers and then the youth spend their afternoons performing service at various non-profit organizations in the area. For example, this past year they sorted clothing and donations at Cradles to Crayons in Philadelphia, as well as spent time with our home-bound members who are living in a local retirement community.



Operation Bear Hug

Operation Bear-Hug is a simple but powerful outreach program. On Christmas Eve, parishioners bring stuffed bears to the patients at Abington-Lansdale Hospital and Fox Subacute Nursing Care. For the very ill patients that need to remain in the hospital on Christmas, the kind words and prayers offer a bright reminder of the promise of Christ's arrival.



Mwamba Foundation / Kitale Diocese in Kenya

Kitale is a largely rural region and lies in the north of Kenya bordering on Sudan and several other countries. The region is quite poor, and the Kitale Diocese strains to help its 150,000 rapidly growing active members. The Mwamba Foundation partners with the Kenyan Church to offer scholarships to assist with the secondary education of girls and very poor boys in the diocese. Saint Matthew's participates in this program, pooling our donations to sponsor students. It costs about \$400 per year to educate a high school student in Kenya. Each year, for the past several years, we have supported over a dozen students enabling them to complete their high school education. We sponsored seventeen students in 2019. Mwamba Foundation is a separate non-profit, but our parishioners have always been a significant part of the governing board and our congregation is the largest single source of sponsorship for Mwamba Foundation.

OUTREACH

Episcopal Community Services / Fill the Bus

For many years, we have supported ECS's Fill the Bus initiative, which this year supplied over 700 students with backpacks filled with all the necessary school supplies to start their school year. We have routinely donated over twenty filled packs, along with gift cards for teachers' supplies. In addition to supporting this specific program, we urge the congregation to prayerfully consider the financial support of ECS, especially as they reach out to support communities with disaster relief in times of need.

Support for Mattie N. Dixon Food Cupboard

Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard distributes food items to families in need in the Ambler area and surrounding communities throughout the year. Parishioners deposit non-perishable foods in designated boxes any time they are able. These items are delivered by volunteers on a monthly basis to the Cupboard location in Ambler. There is also a special large collection in early November for Thanksgiving. In addition, Saint Matthew's donates clothing and provides monetary support.

Clothing Drive for the Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia & South Jersey

Each fall, we have a clothing drive to provide warm clothing such as coats and gloves for a mission in Philadelphia that provides assistance for visiting seafarers.

Support for Grace Bean Soup Kitchen at Saint John's Church in Norristown

We contribute generously to the Feed the Hungry program by sending \$250 each month to Grace Bean Soup Kitchen at Saint John's Church in Norristown. As many as two hundred persons receive a nourishing meal on a regular basis through this ministry.

Layette Sunday Ingathering

The Layette Sunday clothing ingathering takes place in the early part of each year. Clothing from infant through age six is sent to St. Timothy's Mission on Barnes Mountain in Kentucky, which is located in one of the poorest counties in the United States. The clothing is always greatly appreciated.

Adopt-a-Family/Hope Gardens Transitional Housing Charity

The Adopt-A-Family Program is an extension of the Interfaith Housing Alliance (IHA). IHA maintains Hope Gardens, an eight-unit apartment complex in Ambler. These apartments provide transitional housing for families leaving the IHA program who continue to need help in establishing a permanent residence. A prospective family may find sanctuary at Hope Gardens for two years while receiving continued support from parishes such as ours. We provide supplemental rent support to a family during their stay at Hope Gardens and sometimes act as an extended family by providing continuous emotional support and friendship.



FELLOWSHIP

Our life as a congregation is enriched by our strong relationships with our brothers and sisters in faith. We gather throughout the year for a variety of fellowship events such as Chili Bingo, concerts, Shrove Tuesday Dinner and church cleanup days. **There is a strong desire to expand our fellowship opportunities as this encourages connections among members of our congregation.**

Coffee Hour

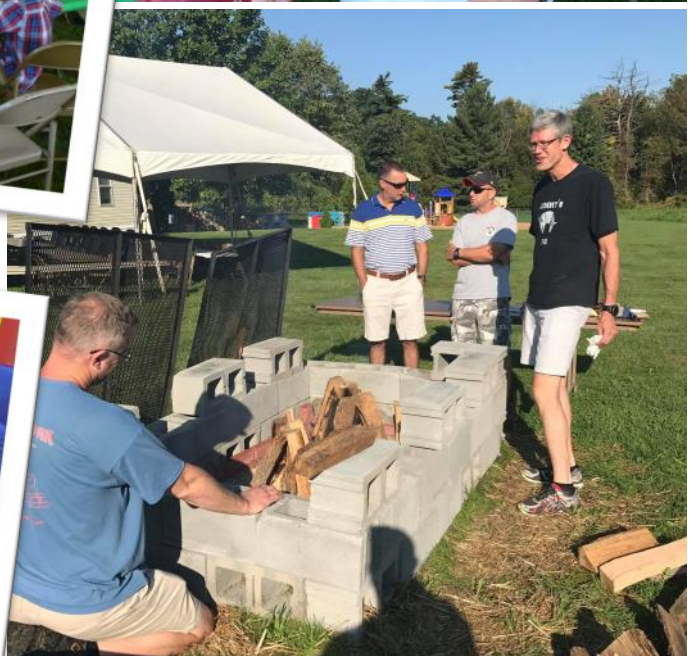
Coffee Hour is held immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service and before the 10:30 a.m. service. This is an opportunity for parishioners to congregate until the children's education program ends, share in a cup of coffee, grab a bagel, chat with others, and make new friends.

The Knitwits

"The Knitwits" meet weekly for fellowship, where along with other projects, they knit caps and scarves for seafarers and beautiful prayer cloths bearing the image of a cross for the blessing of the children's backpacks in September.

Saint Matthew's Day

Saint Matthew's Day is our annual parish celebration, which is held in late September. A dedicated group of individuals organizes this event, which traditionally features a feast of chicken barbecue, a whole roast pig for pulled pork, and wonderful homemade desserts. There are also games, pony rides, and a bounce house!



THE STORY of SAINT MATTHEW'S:

A Brief History of Our Church

Over fifty years ago, the idea to form a new church began in the living room of Harry and Phyllis Barbin. They invited others to join them in discussing the idea of establishing a new Episcopal Church in Maple Glen, Pennsylvania.

Conversations with Diocesan officials and local parishes in the area soon followed. The Holy Spirit led the group and the first worship service of Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church was held in a rented church building in nearby Prospectville on September 10, 1967. Over 60 people were in attendance and the Vicar and Celebrant was Albert Mahan.



In 1997, a new sanctuary was built and the original church became the Parish Hall. In 2000, a modular unit became the home of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Sunday School program. In 1999, Saint Matthew's began offering a third service that included contemporary music from our Arise Band. Complete with keyboards, guitar, bass, drums, flute and vocals, the Arise Band continues to delight and inspire parishioners with their music. Another service, more traditional, continues to feature outstanding choir and organ music.

Today, Saint Matthew's has about 600 members. We are involved in a wide variety of ministries and outreach programs. As a vibrant, multigenerational congregation, we exist to honor God and serve Christ. We have built a community of worship and caring fellowship where each member can grow spiritually and be fulfilled. We encourage all members to offer their gifts and talents for ministry, reaching out to others in the power and love of God's Spirit.

In 1969, the van Steenwyk family made ten acres of land available on Tennis Avenue in Maple Glen to build our church. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 2, 1971, followed by the first regular worship service which took place on March 19, 1972. In October 1975, Saint Matthew's became a self-supporting full parish church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

In 1976, Ed Ranck accepted the call as Rector. During this time a new Sunday School and Administration building was built to accommodate the growing Parish. In October 1985, David Robinson accepted the call as Rector. The parish flourished during Father Dave's tenure. Under his guidance, many new ministries and programs were implemented including Saint Matthew's Nursery School, which is open to preschool children in the local community. This ministry provides the foundation of Christian education to approximately 120 students between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years and welcomes students with various disabilities. A Memorial Garden was established in 1990. There are over 60 parishioners presently interred in this garden.



PARISH PROPERTY:

An Overview of Our Buildings & Grounds

Saint Matthew's is situated on a beautiful 10-acre campus along Tennis Avenue in Horsham Township. Our campus is in constant use, for worship and for parish and Nursery School activities.

SANCTUARY (Looking Back to Front)

Imagine the church filled with parishioners worshipping at the Traditional Rite I Service without music, Contemporary Rite II Service with Arise Band, or Traditional Rite II Service with organ and choir. Our priest stands at this spot to dismiss the congregation at each service, proclaiming the love of Christ and telling them to go out into the world loving God and loving others.



SANCTUARY (Altar and Pulpit)

In the sanctuary we gather to hear God's word preached and taught. After sharing God's Word, we pray the prayers of the people. Our priest absolves us of our sins and invites us to remember Christ as celebrated in the Holy Eucharist. This sacrament nourishes us and fills us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus. Our altar rail is circular signifying our oneness with God and the unending love of Jesus Christ.



NURSERY SCHOOL

Children ages 2½ to 5 from our community are educated in our Nursery School where they are taught about Christ during Chapel. Our Nursery School offers enrichment programs, lunch bunch, music and gym. Children with special needs are welcomed.



SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING

This building houses our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atriums. Here, children learn about the Good Shepherd in a Montessori environment where they can explore and reflect as they grow in faith in preparation for involvement in the larger worship community.



PARISH PROPERTY:

An Overview of Our Buildings & Grounds

For a virtual tour of Saint Matthew's, please visit: https://bit.ly/smec_mapleglen

PARISH HALL

This is our gathering place where the people of Saint Matthew's share in coffee and bagels during coffee hour, and where parishioners gather for meals such as: Shrove Tuesday, Men's Breakfast, and Saint Matthew's Day (when it rains)!



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

This wing is directly above the Nursery School and contains offices for the Parish Manager, Parish Secretary, Rector, Assistant to the Rector, and Youth Minister. The building also includes a small library which is often used for small group meetings, and quiet, contemplative reading.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

This lovely landscaped area adjacent to the church's main entrance is where many of our beloved parishioners and friends have had their cremains interred. To the north of this space there is a lovely bench sitting area ideal for prayer and reflection.



OPEN SPACE / MEADOW

This wonderful grassy space is north of the church. It could be used for future building expansion. For now, it is a great area for a youth flashlight tag activity, Saint Matthew's Day picnic, or just watching the deer and wildlife that live in the woods next to the church property.



HORSHAM TOWNSHIP

and the Greater Philadelphia Region

Saint Matthew's is located in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, a suburb of Philadelphia.

Located about 10 miles north of Center City Philadelphia, Horsham Township is a community with a unique blend of residential neighborhoods, open space, and a wealth of shopping and dining opportunities. **The township has been recognized multiple times by *Money* and *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best places to live in America.**

The township was first established in 1684, when William Penn made property within the township available for sale. Samuel Carpenter, a partner and friend of Penn (and later deputy governor of the colony), purchased just over a third of that property and sold off tracts of land to Quakers. Horsham was named for Carpenter's birthplace - a town of the same name in West Sussex County, England. The township was formally established as a municipal entity in 1717, and is one of the oldest original municipalities in the county.

There are many housing options in the areas surrounding Horsham, from single family homes to townhome communities. The area is served by several highly-rated school districts and numerous independent schools, making Horsham a desirable place to live and work. Businesses with corporate headquarters in Horsham include Janssen Biotech, Toll Brothers, Bimbo Bakeries USA and Penn Mutual. Other large employers in the region include Comcast, Aramark, Merck Sharp & Dohme, SmithKline Beecham, and Lockheed Martin.

Horsham is about a 45 minutes' drive from Center City Philadelphia, our country's first World Heritage City. Philadelphia offers incredible historic and cultural landmarks, including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, two world-class art museums (the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Barnes Foundation), and the Philadelphia Zoo. It's also the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra, one of the "Big Five" orchestras in the United States, and is renowned for its live music scene.

If you love sports, Philadelphia is one of only five cities that hosts teams in the five major sports leagues: the Philadelphia Phillies (baseball), the Philadelphia Eagles (football), the Philadelphia 76ers (basketball), the Philadelphia Flyers (hockey) and the Philadelphia Union (soccer).

In addition, both New York City and Washington, DC are easily accessible by car or train.



A PRAYER for Saint Matthew's New Rector

O Lord, you have blessed Saint Matthew's with wonderful priests who have led our congregation to share your love and serve you unselfishly. Lord, you promise to be with us, to help us, and to guide us always. We ask that you guide our discernment as we consider candidates for our next Rector.

We pray for a priest who will:

- Lead us, teach us, listen to us, communicate a vision, and love us
- Be energetic, enthusiastic, and approachable as we collaborate in ministry together
- Be a compelling preacher who calls, inspires, educates, and challenges us with sermons that are scripture-based and relevant to our daily lives
- Support us in our spiritual growth in love and service to God our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
- Identify areas of opportunity as we look for new ways to minister to our community and the world

For our new Rector, we pray that our congregation will:

- Collaborate with him/her by being flexible and open to new possibilities for our community and ministries at Saint Matthew's
- Assist him/her by helping to identify the unmet needs of our community and aligning current and new ministries to meet those needs
- Embrace and be inspired by his/her love of Jesus Christ, leading us to be more active participants in serving others and in deepening our individual spiritual relationship with God
- Listen to his/her needs for self-care, rest, and replenishment of the soul

Lord, we know that you will provide a Rector who will assist us in fulfilling your purposes in the world. We ask for spiritual discernment and ask that you bless those who we meet during the search process. **Thank you for listening to us and blessing us always!**

**In gratitude,
Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a church interior. It shows rows of light-colored wooden pews in the foreground. In the background, there are stained glass windows depicting religious figures, likely saints, in colorful robes. The ceiling is made of horizontal wooden planks, and a vertical wooden post supports the structure. The floor is covered with light-colored square tiles.

APPENDICES

FINANCIAL NOTES
INCOME STATEMENT
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FINANCIAL NOTES

Saint Matthew's is fiscally conservative, and we consider ourselves blessed to be debt-free. We strive to maintain a balanced budget each year. Our results for 2019 showed a small surplus of \$2,700. Our operations are supported predominantly by pledge income, although we do assess our Nursery School \$70,000 per year, and our endowment provides approximately \$16,000 in income.

We have always paid our full diocesan assessment and have also provided an additional pledge. Our 2020 diocesan pledge was increased significantly to reflect our support of our bishop and the work of the diocese.

Our other expenses are relatively stable. Clergy salary expense for 2019 was reduced from prior years, reflecting our transition. We seek to spend wisely in maintaining our physical plant, assuring that our property and systems are serviced appropriately, and replacing them when needed. In 2019, we focused on security/safety and efficiency, replacing our security system, installing new railing, and replacing our aged boiler with a new, highly efficient model.

Our nursery school experienced a drop in enrollment for fall 2019. We are working to develop a new marketing strategy, which includes a dedicated website, in an effort to better "get the word out" about our fantastic early-learning program. We are also in the process of applying for state licensing through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

Our endowment was valued at just over \$744,000 at the end of 2019. It is invested according to a conservative allocation model, and is rebalanced at least semi-annually. A new part of our endowment for 2019 is a Youth Scholarship fund that was funded with seed money of \$5000.



INCOME STATEMENT

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
INCOME					
Contributions	\$363,194	\$396,509	\$402,990	\$383,179	\$356,516
Investment Income	\$11,401	\$11,842	\$12,518	\$15,065	\$15,597
Other Income	\$84,212	\$88,863	\$87,961	\$86,468	\$85,926
Special Gifts	\$400	\$300	\$300		\$7,590
TOTAL INCOME	\$459,207	\$497,514	\$503,769	\$484,712	\$465,629
EXPENSES					
Compensation	\$293,593	\$301,201	\$313,173	\$323,080	\$257,831
Property	\$93,018	\$91,344	\$80,721	\$92,862	\$111,691
Office Operations	\$15,884	\$13,959	\$14,999	\$15,533	\$15,866
Programs and Outreach	\$72,916	\$69,207	\$66,625	\$64,933	\$77,541
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$475,411	\$475,711	\$475,518	\$496,408	\$462,929
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-\$16,204	\$21,803	\$28,251	-\$11,696	\$2,700
NURSERY SCHOOL					
INCOME					
Tuition	\$353,121	\$382,032	\$386,118	\$377,380	\$350,243
Special Events	\$1,620	\$3,526	\$2,181	\$1,904	\$2,645
EXPENSES					
Operating Expenses	\$260,870	\$281,607	\$289,467	\$304,981	\$304,812
Transfer to the Church	\$56,300	\$66,300	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$37,571	\$37,651	\$28,832	\$4,303	-\$21,923

SURVEY RESULTS

We engaged the services of Holy Cow! Consulting to help us formulate and execute a survey to further explore what was discussed in focus group sessions. With the survey, we also hoped to engage parishioners who did not participate in the focus group process. We utilized Holy Cow's Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an online survey designed to gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in a church. The survey, which was completed in late March 2020, collected information on a wide variety of topics from 125 parishioners. **A copy of the survey results are available upon request.**

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, OUR TOP GOALS ARE

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.
4. Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships.
5. Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society.

TOP SKILLS OF SAINT MATTHEW'S NEXT RECTOR ARE

1. **Preaching:** Capacity to inspire and connect people to God's word.
2. **Strategic Leadership:** Capacity to cast a vision and lead the church toward realization of the vision.
3. **Pastoral Care:** Capacity to engage people empathetically and care for persons in time of need.
4. **Teaching/Training:** Capacity to deepen understanding, form character, and equip members with new skills.
5. **Change Management:** Capacity to lead a church through a significant and necessary period of change.
6. **Administration:** Capacity to manage a church operationally including facilities, finances and staff.

KEY INDICATORS

- 49% of respondents are satisfied with how things are in our church.
- 80% attend worship the same or more as compared to three years ago.
- 56% believe that their participation in church activities is very meaningful.
- "The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content" was a key driver of satisfaction among respondents.



SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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The Rev. Dr. Peter B. Stube, *Interim Rector*

The Vestry: Chris Suhy, *Rector's Warden*; Bill Reynolds and Christine Strittmatter, *People's Wardens*; Karen Randall, *Treasurer*; Joe Buesgen, Marie Clark, Tim Jennings, Mary Anne Noon and Tim Walsh

The Parish Profile Committee: Joe Buesgen (Chairperson), Pam Dunlap, Jane Baker, Sheryl Barbin, Katie Brown, Marie Clark, Jeanne Garrison, Jim Garrison, John McLaughlin and Kevin Randall

The Rev. Melford E. (Bud) Holland, Jr., *Search Consultant*

Photography by Bright House Photography, John McLaughlin and others

PLEASE SEND YOUR MATERIALS TO: abenoitjoseph@diopa.org, or mail to:
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