

# THE ORACLE

## SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### A Letter from Our Rector, Father Rodney Roehner

St. Matthew's Family,

It hasn't been since 2018 that our parish has planned a full schedule of autumn activities with a rector. Quite a bit has happened since then! The staff and ministry leadership has been working diligently these last months to prepare a calendar of events that will enrich our faith, increase our bonds through fellowship, and open opportunities for us to assist others through outreach.

Regarding worship, the Wednesday night Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers will recommence on September 8th at 6 pm. Eventually, we would like to add a teaching component to that evening following the worship, which will include refreshments. St. Matthew's Day returns with fellowship among our parish family on September 26th, and it is, of course, a time to highlight that apostle and evangelist. In October, we will begin the month with Blessing of the Animals services at 4 pm on the 4th for the church and the following day for the preschool. We also have planned a combined event with church and preschool on Saturday, October 30th at 4 pm. This will be an opportunity for us to come together and worship, followed by a trunk or treat extravaganza in our parking lots. Further details to follow.

In addition to the fellowship outings listed in the previous paragraph, we have been enjoying active coffee hours throughout these summer months, and we will be making even greater use of that window for social interaction, especially on Youth Sundays (the last weekend of the month). The Men's Breakfast will be returning by popular demand, and we are interested in garnering interest for establishing a regular gathering of the women of the parish.

Much prayer and effort has been put forth regarding a consistent and engaging program for our youth throughout their years growing up in our church family. On August 29th, we will be having an open house to meet the teachers in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd following the 9 am service. Sunday School will officially begin on September 12th. A new offering this year will be a dedicated program for our middle schoolers (6, 7, 8th grades), which will also serve as a preparation for Confirmation.

Mentorship of youth has been a mainstay at St. Matthew's for over twenty years, and that will continue. The older teens will be offered the (sorely missed!) mission trips and regular meetings are scheduled for them as well. We also welcome and encourage all our youth to be active participants in the multiple ministries throughout the week and month, especially on Sundays.

In addition to several outreach opportunities familiar to St. Matthew's, we will also be expanding ways in which our parish family can actively share the love of Christ with others. Our relationship with St. James School in Philadelphia has been strengthening, and detailed ways in which we can partner with them are coming to fruition. I am also working with the diocese to find ways in which we can help the wider



community, and an initial contribution has been made to the new 'Thistle Hills' in Coatesville, which is a wonderful residential program that rebuilds the lives of women who have been the victims of trafficking and addiction. We are also actively looking to minister among our local communities in meaningful and lasting ways.

Finally, St. Matthew's Day will also mark the beginning of our annual pledge drive. Stewardship, our thankful response for the innumerable blessings showered upon us by God, should certainly be a daily activity, and much appreciation is extended to those who have expended so much effort for our parish throughout the clergy transition and pandemic. Thanks be to God, grace abounds at St. Matthew's.

This weekend, I will be conducting the tenth baptism this year alone. The number of those who have become members are in the double digits. Visitors are a weekly occurrence. Why? God is glorified, Jesus Christ is preached, the Holy Spirit is among us, and the result is that the Good News is shared and lives are changed. That is our mission and our calling, and it is a blessing to labor in this part of the Lord's vineyard alongside you.

With Love in Christ,  
Rodney+

# ST MATTHEW'S DAY!

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2021**  
**following the 10:00 a.m. service**



Please join us in the celebration of our patron saint (read more on pg 11), and the fellowship of our community!

**Bounce House | Pony  
Rides | Live Music with  
Barry's Basement**



**Chicken, Burgers &  
Dogs on the Grill!**



**Cost: \$10/person,  
\$30/family**

***Rain or Shine!***



# Upcoming Events at St. Matthew's

**Sunday, August 29, 2021:** **Youth Sunday** – The last Sunday of each month is Youth Sunday! Various ministries are led by youth, and all youth are encouraged to attend one of our services. There will be no Sunday School or Middle School group meetings that Sunday.

**Blessing of the Backpacks** – Bring your backpacks to church for a blessing from Father Rodney!

**Sunday School Open House** – Stop by the Sunday School classrooms in our modular building after the 9:00 a.m. service to meet the teachers and tour the space. Information about our program will be available, along with registration forms.

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.:** **Mess Fest is back!**

I wonder what happens when you encounter a messy situation? Because let's face it: life can get pretty messy sometimes. We might meet these challenges in our classrooms, on our sports teams, at home among our families, between our circle of friends, and — sometimes — even within our own hearts. But what do we do with these messes? Find out on September 7th from 12:30 to 3:30 PM as we **kick off the program year with the wildest youth event of the season!** Get ready to be messy, wild, wet, have fun, and compete in a team. This is an event for any middle school and high school youth in the community, so bring a friend. All are welcome!

**Sundays starting September 12, 2021:**

7:45 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite I in the sanctuary

9:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II Service with Contemporary music in the sanctuary, also available via Livestream

9:00 a.m., Sunday School in the modular (except last Sunday of the month)

9:00 a.m., Middle School Sunday School (grades 6, 7, 8)

10:00 a.m., Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II Service with Organ and Choir in the sanctuary, also available via Livestream

11:30 a.m., Adult Forum

**Sunday, September 26, 2021:** **ST MATTHEW'S DAY!**

7:45 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite I in the sanctuary

10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite II Service in the sanctuary, also available via Livestream

11:00 a.m. – LET THE FUN BEGIN!!



**Sunday, October 3, 2021:**

9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. services: **Special Guest, David Kasievich, Head of St. James School**

4:00 p.m. – **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**Sunday, October 17, 2021:** **CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

**Saturday, October 30, 2021:**

**St. Matthew's Church & Nursery  
School Special Event!**

4:00 p.m. – **Prayer Service in the Sanctuary followed by...**

**TRUNK OR TREAT!!**



# Treasurer's Report

**July 31, 2021**

	<u>MTD Actual</u>	<u>MTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Nursery S Income	\$20,428	\$30,036	\$235,055	\$173,502
Nursery S Expense	<u>4,513</u>	<u>4,941</u>	<u>220,286</u>	<u>210,378</u>
Net Total	15,914	25,095	14,768	(36,875)
Pledge and Plate	31,285	25,308	210,678	189,808
Other Income	4,360	5,641	102,885	56,991
Total Expenses	<u>28,654</u>	<u>31,933</u>	<u>254,649</u>	<u>258,540</u>
Net Total	6,991	( 984)	58,914	(11,742)

*Pledge and Plate giving continue to be above budget for the month of July and YTD, which for the summer months in the middle of a pandemic is very heartening. As you can see from the YTD performance relative to our budgeted amounts, we are doing exceedingly well in both church operations and the Nursery School. That is due to the fact that our PPP loan, received in 2020, was forgiven by the federal government this past spring. We recognized that income (\$44,000 to the Nursery School, and \$46,400 to church operations) as a grant in 2021, and it is reflected in the "Other Income" and "Nursery School Income" accounts. Netting out the grants, church operations are still producing a net income for the year of \$12,514, and the Nursery School has a net loss of \$29,232, which is still better than budget.*

## Outreach News

### Greetings from Mwamba Foundation, AUGUST 2021 NEWS

We are grateful to God for sustaining our organization. Without you our partners, we would not be in existence, thank you for standing with us. May God increase His blessings upon you for the sacrifices you make as an individual and a church to support the Mwamba Foundation.

The Foundation graduated 11 students in May, and all did well on their exams. Each child is getting the opportunity to join a college or university. We appreciate your support to these children. THANK YOU FOR CHANGING ONE LIFE AT A TIME!

Daniel Pchumba Mukelima (sponsored by St. Matthew's) graduated with honors, and would like to train as a teacher. He is preparing for college admission in September or when the government advises.

This year one of your scholarships goes to Victor Kipsang Chirchir. He is a very bright boy who is still discerning what he wants to be. He was raised by his grandmother, because the parents are separated and the father has not been responsible. His grandmother is very poor but we bless the Lord for how far he has come. Your Mwamba scholarship will help him realize his dream.

Another scholarship from St. Matthew's goes to Esther Chepchumba. She is a bright girl who has both parents, but the father is not responsible. Her mother is struggling to pay for three more children in high school and college.

Mwamba Foundation is so grateful that God has positioned us to stand with these children who would otherwise not acquire education in Kenya due to poverty. We thank you for allowing us to do this.

Again thank you so much for standing with us.

God bless  
Dorcas Chemengich  
MWAMBA FOUNDATION KENYA





# Life-Long Learning

SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

M a p l e G l e n | P e n n s y l v a n i a

## WORSHIP - YOUTH SUNDAY

Don't forget that the final Sunday of each month is Youth Sunday. Families and young people are invited to join us in worship that Sunday, instead of attending youth classes. Our youth will also read the lessons that Sunday!

## WORSHIP - BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, **AUGUST 29, 2021**

I wonder how you're planning on carrying around your school books this year? Will you go out and buy a fancy new backpack, or will you use that familiar, trustworthy one that you carried around in years past? Whatever you decide, all returning students are invited to bring their school bags to church on Sunday, August 29th, for a blessing from Father Rodney! After the blessing, each student will be given a laminated prayer card to keep in their bag throughout the year.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL - CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (PRE-K - GRADE 5)

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd teaching team is planning a fantastic series of experiences for young people this season, and they can't wait to learn and wonder in our beloved atriums again.

CGS meets on **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. starting September 12**. Registration is required and forms will be available at the Open House and in the narthex. An online form will also be available later this month.

- **Don't forget to drop by the Open House on Sunday, August 29, after the 9:00 a.m. service!**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL (GRADES 6,7,8): *Weaving God's Promises*

Please join us this fall for a new Middle School program. We will be using the Weaving God's Promises curriculum as our guide for discussions.

## YOUTH GROUP for MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOLERS

Saint Matt's Youth Group is back in action this Fall! Youth Group is a space that fosters community for tweens, teens, and young adults. The group regularly gathers for fellowship, in and outreach initiatives, and prayer or bible study. We hope to see you at our Fall Kick-Off event . . .

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

(see the details on the Upcoming Events page, pg. 3)

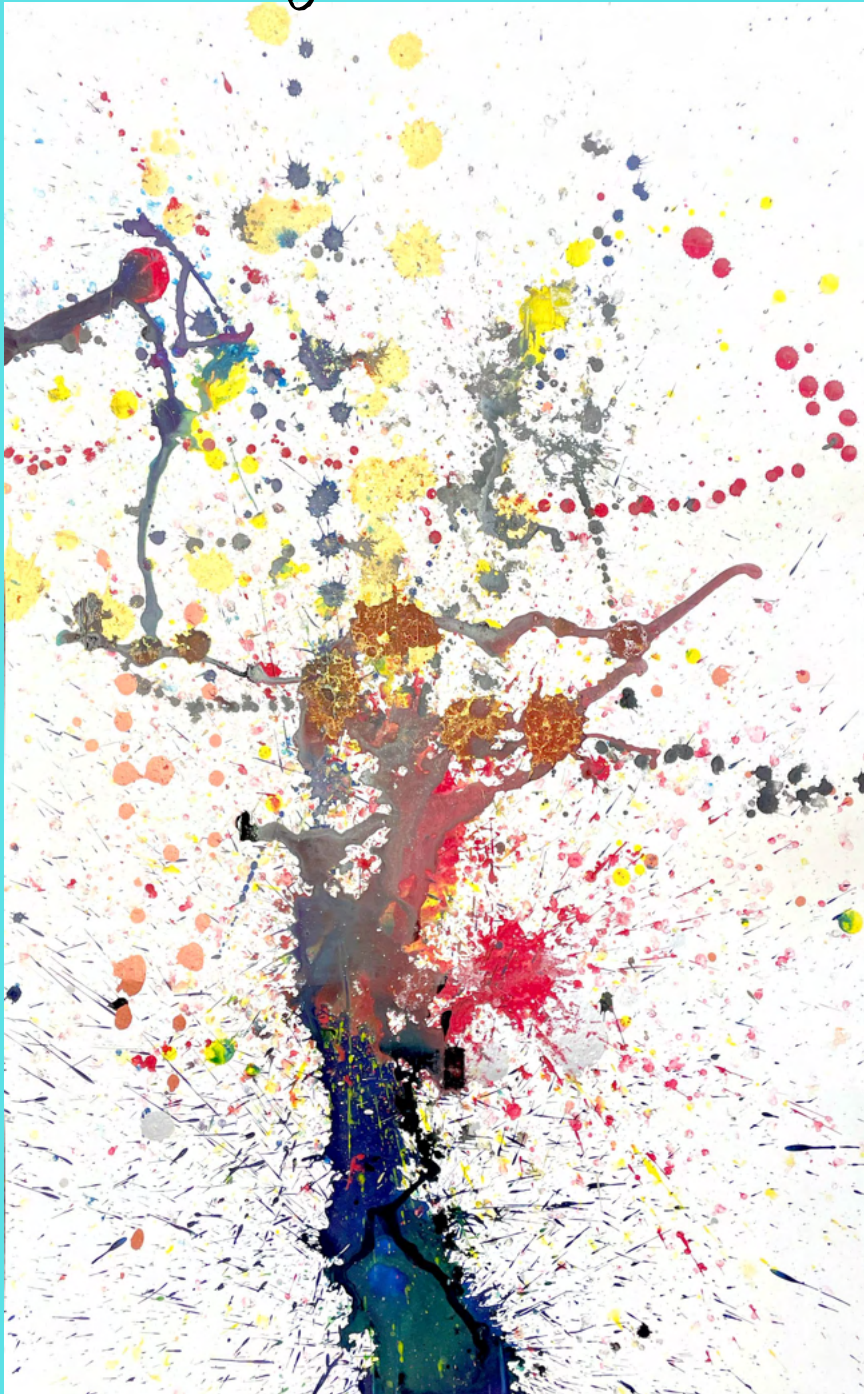
**Mess Fest is back!**

**Friday, October 8, 2021, 7:30 p.m.**

*Camping Under the Stars*

Save the date! On Friday, October 8th, you and your friends are invited to join us for a Saint Matthew's camping experience! Together we'll cook a meal over the fire, watch a movie on the blow-up projector, take in night-time stargazing, participate in the office of compline, and sleep in tents. Tents and equipment will be provided and will only be shared between family members and close friends only. Stay tuned for additional details in the coming weeks.

# L.L.L. Art Gallery



**Spontaneous Raindrops from Above, April 2021**  
Acrylic inks on illustration board.

In the fields beyond our Parish Hall, Saint Matt's youth emerged from pandemic quarantine for the very first time. Together, young people wondered about the COVID-19 virus and how each of our individual experiences could be likened to the creation and interpretation of abstract paintings. After producing marks on the canvas together, we made observations about the forms and tone of the work. As we closed our time in meditation and prayer, spontaneous raindrops began to fall upon us. We were stunned – hushed silence came upon us, and mouths became agape – as we observed God co-creating alongside us. These droplets produced what we later termed microsplatters throughout the painting.

*X. Buesgen, A. Carrella, M. Clark, A. Davis, N. Mathew, L. Nolin, A. Roehner, S. Roehner, M. Tokmajian*





*from bramble (to brushes)*, May 2021

Gouache, tempera, acrylic inks, and gesso on illustration board.

As irises bloomed and grasses grew taller, we wondered how we might capture the subtle majesty of our campus ecology on canvas. With the help of pinecones, reeds, and leaves, we set out to work – slowly organizing and layering visual elements in a way that 'sat well in our eye.' The result: *from bramble (to brushes)*, a piece aiming to transport you into the vast meadow God gifted our church. May this sacred place continually inspire our parish towards acts of ministry and service.



# WHAT'S NEW AT ST. MATTHEW'S?

Perhaps you are tempted to ask, "What ISN'T new at St. Matthew's?" In addition to being blessed with a new rector, and his family, and the ever present changes as we react to COVID-19, there have also been some changes around our campus, as well as program revisions.

## New Sculpture!

Perhaps you noticed the updated photo on the cover page? We are most grateful to Jane and Rick Baker for donating this amazing sculpture to St. Matthew's! It exemplifies our family orientation, and effort to be an open and welcoming community!



## New Feature: A Labyrinth!

St. Matthew's has formed relationships with some organizations that are new to us. Watch for additional information about ways to support and grow these partnerships.



### Thistle Hills

"Our mission at Thistle Hills is to serve women from the Chester County and Coatesville areas who are survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction that deserve a second chance at life."

[www.thistlehills.org](http://www.thistlehills.org)



"As the only Episcopal school in the city of Philadelphia, St. James is providing 85 students in grades 4-8 with a top-quality, faith-based private education. Thanks to more than 1,000 annual donors and scores of volunteers, our school is tuition-free."

[www.stjamesphila.org](http://www.stjamesphila.org)

**Nathaniel Mathew will be completing his Eagle Scout project soon at St. Matthew's, a labyrinth mown out of the grass off of the lower parking lot!**

**Why a labyrinth? In Nathaniel's words: "A labyrinth is an ancient prayer tool...which is a series of paths you walk through for contemplation. My plan is to build a labyrinth for members of the church and community to communicate with God, focus their thoughts, and meditate."**

*Where is the library?*

*Wait, I can't find Father Rodney!*

Come September, take a stroll through our office wing. There will have been some changes! Father Rodney has moved his office to what was the library. The reconfiguration has provided St. Matthew's with much needed conference space. Thank you, Father Rodney!



# Nursery School Update

This year the Nursery School will open its doors on Monday, September 13, 2021 and begin its 29th year in the community! The 2 ½ year old classes begin with a visiting day in which mom or dad comes to school with their child and stays to play and visit with the teacher and aide. The 3 year old classes begin with a short session in which half of the children in the class come by themselves for an hour and then the other half of the class comes for an hour by themselves. The 3 day, 4 day, and 5 day Pre-K classes begin with a regular full day of school. By the second to third day of school, almost all of the children are settled in and happy and ready for lots of fun!

St. Matthew's Nursery School will again this year be following all of the health and safety guidelines set forth by the Montgomery County Department of Health and OCDEL (Office of Child Development and Early Learning). Drop off and pick up will take place outside in the parking lots and masks will be worn indoors. This year the school will be welcoming therapists into the building for students that receive services from the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

This year the nursery school welcomes a new 2 ½ year old T-TH teacher, Mrs. Katie Perrone. Katie, who will be replacing Katie Barlup in the classroom, has four children, Anne, Kevin and Carolyn who attended St. Matthew's and now attend Maple Glen Elementary School and Rosie who will be joining the nursery school in the fall. We also want to officially welcome Michelle Avrich, who taught in our 2 ½'s MWF & T-TH last year and will continue with the 2 ½'s again this year. Michelle's daughters Genevieve and Isabelle attended St. Matthew's and now attend MMR Elementary School. We also welcome back an alumnae of St. Matthew's, Mrs. Bridget Wiley. Bridget was in our first graduating class back in the 1992-1993 year. During the 2020-2021 school year Bridget taught the T-TH 2 ½'s class and this year will teach the 4 day 4's M-TH class. Bridget has two children in St. Matthew's, Griffin who will be in the Pre-K class and Brynn who will be in the 3's MWF class. Cherrie Gutekunst will also return to St. Matthew's as an assistant to Mrs. Wiley in the 4's M-TH class. Cherrie, who now has three grown children, Ally, Jake and Zach, worked at St. Matthew's for several years, took some time away and is eager to join us again in the fall!

The Nursery School children will again be participating in Chapel with Father Rodney, Music with Mrs. Martha Reynolds and Gym with Mrs. Kim Gehlhaus. They will enjoy many programs that visit the school- the Horsham Fire Company, Horsham Police Department, GoldFish Swim School, and a traveling farm. The 3 and 4 year old classes will visit several different places in the community for field trips. Enrichment classes are held weekly for children in the 4 year old classes and include: Mathemagic, Science, STEAM, Kreative Kids, and Reading, Writing and Fun. The 3 year old classes can participate in Kids in Motion, Sensational Art and STEAM.

There are still a few openings in classes, if you have friends or family looking for a nursery school. Please call or e-mail the school with any questions at **215.646.4466** or **[nurseryschool@saintmattsec.org](mailto:nurseryschool@saintmattsec.org)**

*Jackie Anderson, Nursery School Director*



# Celebrations!!



## Baptisms

WE ARE SO PLEASED TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY:

- CAMERON FIEGEL, 05/02/21
- BLAIR EMERSON BOBENCHIK, 05/23/21
- ANGIE PACK, 06/06/21
- IAN PACK, 06/06/21
- AUBREY JEAN REYNOLDS, 08/01/21
- AUBREY JANE GEIST, 08/14/21



## August Birthdays

15th	Michael Acquaviva	23rd	William Lauder
15th	Cole Henderson	24th	Brent Schellhammer
16th	Karen Becker	25th	Abigail Hitchens
17th	Jarrett Brown	25th	Treva McLaughlin
17th	Christopher Snyder	26th	Robert Flood
18th	Lily Ricciardi	26th	Julie Hough
20th	Sue Irrgang	26th	Barbara Rhydderch
20th	Natalie Kennedy	29th	A. William Graham
21st	Anna Pascuzzi	30th	Donna Forbes
21st	William Reynolds	30th	Karen Randall
22nd	Brooke Fanizzi	31st	Jeffrey Haas
22nd	Sandie Preusch	31st	Susan Ricciardi
22nd	Ainsley Rimer		

## September Birthdays

2nd	Gabrielle Pascuzzi	20th	James Carter
3rd	Gavin Brown	20th	Sean Kennedy
3rd	Cara Mundell	21st	Sharon Hunter
4th	Judith Ermigiotti	21st	Julia Nolin
6th	Anne Maiale	22nd	Stuart Sumner
7th	Eric Miller	23rd	Susan Acquaviva
7th	Lisa Naegle	23rd	Dianne Versak
7th	Kathryn Raskay	24th	Jason Honer
7th	Justin Ricciardi	26th	Elyse Bedics
8th	Matt Bartie	26th	Marilyn Sokoloski
8th	Matthew Piotrowski	27th	Janine Buesgen
8th	McKenna Sartori	27th	Dana Smith
9th	Kayla Caddick	27th	Patrick Stasio
9th	William Garver	27th	Ryan Zakrzewski
9th	Alfred Giuliani	28th	Joshua Ricciardi
9th	Polly Lodise		
12th	Maggie Shaffer		
13th	William Murwin		
13th	Hunter Ricciardi		
14th	Emerson Waysz		
15th	Nancy McElwee		
15th	Grace Raskay		
18th	Thomas Bantley		
19th	Karin Davis		
19th	Pamela Garver		
19th	Ethan Mathew		



## October Birthdays

2nd	Katie Davis
3rd	Alice Austin
3rd	Lydia Nolin
3rd	Susan Purvis
4th	Tricia Carter
4th	Marilyn Chubb
4th	Neil Mundell
4th	Edward Purvis
5th	Kelsey Roy
6th	Kate Barrera
6th	Alexander Mundell
7th	Camryn Holmes
8th	Robert Lyerly
9th	James Shaffer
10th	James Klauder
14th	Gregory Rowe
14th	Maira Sotherden
15th	Christopher Hastie
16th	Robert Smith
17th	Pamela Sartori
17th	Sean Walsh
18th	Samantha Snyder
19th	Doris Hunsicker
24th	Patricia Milnes
25th	Eleanor Whittall
26th	Laura Meschio
26th	Ava Ricciardi-Kaschube
29th	William Tokmajian
30th	Cindy Higgins
31st	Caterina Birett
31st	Maggie Clark
31st	Christopher Whittall



# WHO IS ST. MATTHEW?

St. Matthew was one of the twelve Apostles and the traditional author of the first Gospel of the New Testament. The son of Alpheus, he was presumably born in Galilee. Matthew collected taxes from the Hebrew people for the ruler Herod Antipas, a position that while lucrative would have made him unpopular and an outcast among the Jewish people. Having this job would, however, mean that Matthew was likely literate in Aramaic and Greek.

Jesus called Matthew (also identified as Levi in the Gospels of Mark and Luke) from the customs post in Capernaum, near present day Almogor, where he was collecting taxes. His apostolic mission was at first restricted to Palestine and while little is known about his later life some traditions indicate that he travelled to Ethiopia, still others state that he was in Parthia and Persia.

The Gospel According to Matthew was written for a Jewish-Christian community, most likely in greater Syria. Matthew presents Jewish custom without explaining it and he traces Jesus' lineage back to Abraham the father of the Jews rather than Adam as does Luke.

Jesus most likely first encountered Matthew near the house of Peter, in Capernaum near the Sea of Galilee. The meeting of the two was dramatic, as Matthew's third-person account in his Gospel captured: "As Jesus passed on," the ninth chapter recounts, "he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, 'Follow me'. And he got up and followed him."

Matthew's calling into Jesus' inner circle was a dramatic gesture of the Messiah's universal message and mission, causing some religious authorities of the Jewish community to wonder: "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus' significant response indicated a central purpose of his ministry: "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

A witness to Christ's resurrection after death, as well as his ascension into heaven and the events of Pentecost, Matthew also recorded Jesus' instruction for the apostles to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

*-excerpted from stmatthewcorona.org*

## LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH ST. MATTHEW'S?

There are any number of wonderful ministries where you can get to know more people at St. Matthew's, as well as have a significant impact on the successful operation of our church. Listed below are some of our many ministries, and contacts. Reach out today!

### We could use some help now!

- Acolytes (Father Rodney, rector@saintmattsec.org)
- Altar Guild (Susan Ricciardi, susanricciardi7@gmail.com)
- Choir (Phil LeFevre, organist@saintmattsec.org)
- Flower Ministry (parishmanager@saintmattsec.org)
- Livestream (Joe Buesgen, buesgen@gmail.com)
- Sunday School Teachers (CGS & Middle School)  
(Anthony Carrella, anthony@saintmattsec.org)

### We always need extra hands!

- Lay Readers
- Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Newcomers
- Fellowship
- Ushers

Please contact the Parish Office for more information (215.646.4092 or parishmanager@saintmattsec.org)



SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
919 Tennis Avenue  
Maple Glen, PA 19002  
Church Office: 215-646-4092

