



Saint Matthew Messenger

News of the Congregation of St. Matthew Presbyterian Church
Happy Thanksgiving
November 2017



Welcome to November

by Leslie Klingensmith

This is the season of abundance, gratitude, and reflection. I hope you will join me in giving thanks for all the blessings we share as a congregation. It is also the season of stewardship - we are celebrating the ministries that take place in this congregation, this

neighborhood, and this world because of our faith community. We are prayerfully considering the ministries we would like to offer in the future, and considering what resources we need if we are to continue and expand our vision.

Stewardship season is a good time to revisit a community outreach effort that has been part of St. Matthew for over 40 years. Newer members and friends of St. Matthew may not be aware that there is a local child care center that uses our North Building all day Monday through Friday. The child care center (called Montgomery Child Care Bel Pre) is part of Montgomery Child Care Association (MCCA), a local non-profit that is committed to providing affordable child care for Montgomery County's working parents.

MCCA started as an organization in the 1960s as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Montgomery County leaders at the time understood that for parents to be able to work effectively and earn a good living, they had to have safe, affordable, and reliable places where their children could be cared for. A group of grassroots volunteers started MCCA in response to that need. MCCA's first center opened in 1968 at Mount Zion Church in Olney. The organization now operates 15 centers throughout the county, employing over 200 people and caring for over 1,000 children on any given weekday.



In This Issue

- Stewardship Update
- Potluck Luncheon
- Trunk or Treat
- Mary Martha Circle
- Bible Presentation
- Harvest Table
- Livingstonia Event
- New Members



Sunday, November 5:
Morning Worship.
Service at 10am.

Wed., November 8:
Mary Martha Circle.

In the early 1970s, St. Matthew decided that we wanted to be part of the worthwhile mission of caring for neighborhood children, and Montgomery Child Care Bel Pre (called "Bel Pre Children's Center" at that time) was born. MCCA staffs and operates the center, and we provide the space. Throughout our decades of relationship, we have not charged the organization any rent, although they do pay the majority of expenses for utilities in the North Building. We have occasionally partnered financially in making improvements to the interior of the building.



It's important to understand that the child care center is still an important way that St. Matthew contributes to the wider community. It is good stewardship of the building to have it used during the week. Research on rental costs for a building of similar square footage in Montgomery County shows that if we charged rent, we could earn somewhere in the neighborhood of \$60,000 a year for the North Building.

As we consider our ministry as a congregation, especially in our own neighborhood, remember that there is a wide variety of ways that we can contribute. Many of our programs are more hands on, with more direct involvement from St. Matthew members. It is easy for the Child Care Center to fly under the radar, since many church members are not here at the same time all the kids are. But I frequently look out my office window and see the children playing outside, leaving for field trips, or being dropped off and picked up. I'm glad that we can be a safe space for them, and am grateful that St. Matthew's leaders so many years ago decided to serve our community in this way.

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Leslie

"We Need Your Commitment!" **2018 Stewardship Update**

by Paul Neal

St. Matthew's 2018 stewardship campaign is now under way. This year's theme is *Opening the Doors Wider in 2018 and Beyond*. Our campaign celebrates the thousands of hours of time and talent contributed by our members. It also looks at necessary physical improvements to the church that serves as the foundation for our ministry.

If you are currently pledging to St Matthew, thank you. This year we ask that you consider increasing your pledge by 4% to 5%. This does not make up for all of the shortfall from last year's budget, but will enable us to continue on the path to *Opening Our Doors Wider in 2018 and Beyond*. If you have not pledged **we ask that you consider doing so**. Just like you plan your household budget your pledge helps us to plan our path doing God's work. The mean pledge is \$2000 but any amount small or large helps with our ministry.

10:30 am in the Agnes Wilson Room.

Sunday, November 12:
Morning Worship.
Service at 10am.
New Member Orientation
(See details in newsletter.)

Friday, November 17:
Diaper Cake Workshop.
2 to 4 pm. in the Commons. (See details in newsletter.)

Sunday, November 19:
Commitment Sunday.
Service at 10am.
Potluck Luncheon,
11:30 am to 1 pm.
(See details in newsletter.)

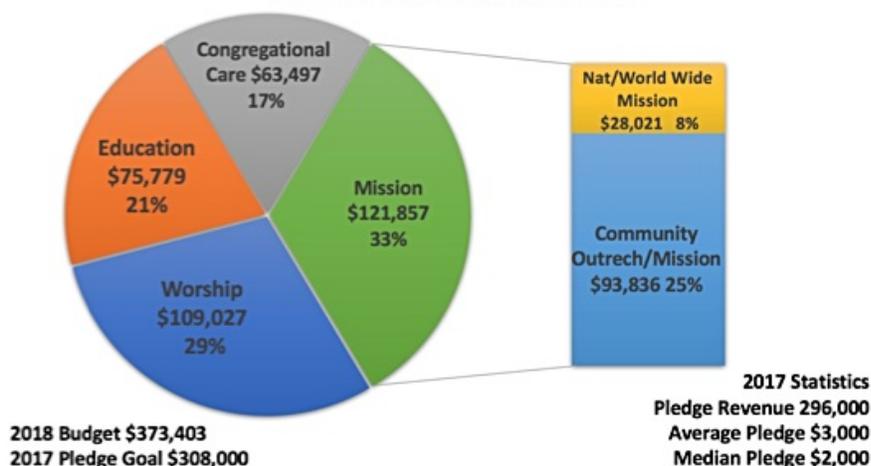
Sunday, November 26:
Morning Worship.
Service at 10am.



New Member Orientation,
Sunday,
November 12

The Evangelism Commission is sponsoring an orientation class on Sunday, November 12, for visitors to St. Matthew who are interested in learning more about our church and considering becoming members. We will be meeting in the Agnes Wilson Room after worship.

St Matthew Opening the Doors in 2018 and Beyond Time Tithe and Talent



November Liturgists

- Nov 5 David Hartley
- Nov 12 Mike Knorr
- Nov 19 Esemé Koge
- Nov 26 Steve Hursh

At present, there are 101 pledges in 2017 and 150+ families in our church community, so there is room to grow. Regular consistent giving allows us to plan. Please feel free to fill out a pledge card and drop it in the collection plate any time during the pledge campaign. Should you wish to fill out your pledge card on line, just click the link below and fill out the on-line pledge card. *Thank you for your pledge and consideration.*

[St. Matthew Pledge Form Link](#)

Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon for the Betty Anne Krahnke Center, Sunday, November 19

by Karen Brown Gonzalez

November 19 will launch the Thanksgiving season at St. Matthew with a weekend of fellowship and service for the children of the Betty Anne Krahnke Center for domestic violence victims in Montgomery County.

The potluck luncheon will be served in the Commons after service. Bring a plate of sandwiches or a crockpot of soup, a dessert or beverage to share.



You will be sent an email reminder through Breeze the Monday prior the Sunday you are to serve. Please respond to this notification.

If you do not use email, and you are unable to serve, please notify Jeanne Meyer at jredmeyer@comcast.net to let her know who will be your replacement.

-Jeanne Meyer

Diaper Cake Workshop

A workshop for making diaper-tired cakes is scheduled for Friday afternoon, November 17 from 2-4 pm. Bring disposable diapers and any of the following items and enjoy the fun. Please let us know you plan to attend by signing up in the bulletin board in the Narthex.



These are the supplies needed to make a diaper cake.

- *About 60 disposable diapers of any size
- *Rubber bands of all sizes
- *Ribbons for decoration
- *Small toys, baby lotion, shampoo, and wash cloths

Donations

If you cannot make the workshop, but would like to give the center with a donation, you can make your own cake or bring any of the wish list supplies. Please call Karen at (301) 260-9612 if you have questions.

Wish list of supplies

- Toiletries - full size shampoo, conditioner, body wash and lotion
- Shower shoes for all ages
- New Bathrobes
- Diapers and Baby Wipes
- Gift Cards to grocery stores, gas stations and Target
- Strollers
- Towels and Washcloths
- Twin size sheets flat or fitted
- Blankets and Pillows
- New Board Games
- Blocks and Lego Sets
- Arts and Crafts Supplies
- Coloring Books
- Suitcases and luggage

December Youth Events

Community Christmas Party, Saturday, December 16

December 16 will be our annual community Christmas party. Children (accompanied by an adult) from our church, neighborhood, Harmony Hills, Bel Pre Day Care and the 7th Day Adventist congregation will gather in the Commons to create Christmas master pieces, play some games and enjoy some light refreshments. .

Plan now to attend!

Invite your friends and neighbors and count on having a a great time! Of course, we need lots of help to make this happen- so please volunteer! Call Konni for more information.

This is a great morning- even if you don't have any children at your house!

St. Matthew Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 24

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is less than two months away!

So we are looking for angels, shepherds and kings. We are recruiting children to be in the Christmas pageant. This year the pageant will be held during the 10 a.m. service, Sunday, December 24th.

This requires two rehearsals. It is a very low pressure, casual type of



St. Matthew Trunk and Treaters pose (briefly) for their portrait

Halloween Party/Trunk or Treat, Saturday/Sunday, October 28/29

by Konni Brantner

Halloween at St. Matthew was BOOOOtiful and Spooktacular!

There were lots of games, crafts, laughs, and screams as we welcomed children and families from our church, neighborhood, day care, smart sack recipients and Linkage to Learning clients.

Thanks to the help and hard work of Esemé Koge, Abby Hartley and Louise Boyle and the youth (with some help from a few of our children) of our church created a wonderful, creative and spooky haunted house. The kids had a fantastic time creating this masterpiece, and the neighborhood loved it!

This was our fourth Halloween Party and Haunted House and it was extremely well attended and got rave reviews from our "guests". The kids are already talking about next year!



Green dragon Nnadjí Duru



A dapper domino

Thanks to all the folks who helped with the party and the haunted house. The Halloween festivities continued after Sunday service with Trunk or Treat in the Commons because of the weather.

service. Any child three years old or older is welcomed to participate. Please contact Konni if you are interested.

-Konni Brantner



Save The Date: 2018 Vacation Bible School

June 25 to June 29, 2018
9:30 am to 12:30 each day.
Theme: **God's Puzzle**



CONGREGATION NOTES



Mary Martha Circle Meets Wednesday, November 8

by Millie Ames

All women of the church are invited to join us for Bible study and fellowship on Wednesday, November 8, at 10:30 am in the Agnes Wilson Room. Following a presentation and discussion of the Book of Hebrews, we will break for lunch.

Each participant should provide a sandwich or something to munch on; drinks and dessert will be provided. If you need transportation,

Important Links

Leslie A. Klingensmith,
Pastor
301-598-4400

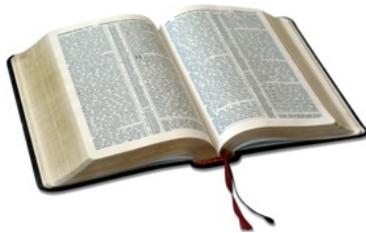
Konni Brantner,
Director of
Youth Education
and Outreach
301-871-6275

Jeremy Young,
Director of
Music and Organist
301-681-8013

please call Julia McBee 301-603-0450.

Bible Presentation, Sunday, November 19

by Konni Brantner



On November 19th we will be presenting our 3rd and 4th graders with their very own New Revised Standard Version bible. This is an important time in the lives of our children, come, help them celebrate!

Harvest Table Celebration, Sunday, November 19

by Julia McBee

Continuing our tradition of preparing a harvest table display, members are encouraged to bring vegetables, fruit, gourds, squash, etc., things which are typical of the harvest season. We will assemble the contributions on November 19, before worship.

Items should be placed on the Communion table in the Sanctuary no later than 9:40 a.m.

In order to promote a variety of items, there is a sign sheet in the Narthex where you can list your contributions. You are encouraged to reclaim your veggies after morning worship. Any questions should be referred to Julia McBee, 301-603-0450.



Al Conner,
Church Office
Administrative Assistant
301-598-4400

Janet Froom,
Clerk of Session
301-871-7239

Bill and Julia McBee,
Newsletter Editors
301-603-0450



**The deadline for
the December 2017
newsletter is
December 2.**



SongRiseDC singers performing

University of Livingstonia Fundraiser, Sunday, October 15

by Donna Chirwa

The University of Livingstonia Foundation annual fundraiser was held at St. Matthew on Sunday, October 15. In addition to brief narratives about the University, we had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Ken Gentili about current work that is being done and that the Foundation is participating in. Ken has been a long-time volunteer at the University, and has not only acquired funds for IT and Science equipment, but travels with the equipment to Malawi and helps to set and train while there.

We were entertained to a wonderful rendition of "Steal Away" by our own Robert Warr, Phil Henjum, and Jeremy Young and then by the acapella justice singers, SongRiseDC. The Malawi ambassador to the United States was kind enough to attend and bring a message.



*Rev. Leslie and Rev.
Gama doing Pelekani*

Another highlight was the Malawi tradition of pelekani-pelekani, where people dance up to the front to place donations in a basket. And finally, we all enjoyed a wonderful Malawi dinner prepared by Lucy Khunga, Ellen Kankhwende, Mwinji Mtonga and others.

We raised \$5,804 and promises of more in the pipeline. Members of the UNILIA Foundation Board and all the recipients of the funds at the University of Livingstonia are very, very grateful. Thank you.