

St. Matthew Messenger

News of and for the Community
St. Matthew Presbyterian Church

October 2017

Greetings From Leslie!

by Leslie Klingensmith



Things are humming along here at St. Matthew, as we are fully immersed in the fall season and all of the ministries and activities the season brings about. You will read a lot in this October newsletter about programs coming up in the fall and

early winter that we hope you will participate in. Mission, education, worship, fellowship...we have something for everyone, and I look forward to being part of it with each of you.

But let's not forget...in the midst of all the worthwhile activity here at St. Matthew, God also calls us to pray and contemplate and meditate on our role in sharing God's love with the world. There is an extraordinary amount of suffering right now...I suppose there always is, but it feels like lately there have been even more causes for concern and heartache than usual. We weep for our neighbors whose lives and livelihoods have been torn apart by hurricanes in the last five weeks. We continue to hold our fellow citizens of Puerto Rico in our prayers as they struggle to get supplies and relief to people who need them. We mourn for the lives lost in two earthquakes in Mexico and terrible flooding in South Asia.

And, as I write this article, we are all still deeply saddened by the tragic and unnecessary shooting in Las Vegas that took almost 60 lives and injured hundreds of people. How long, O Lord, how long? What are we to do? Who are we to be?

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 8:
Morning Worship.
Service at 10am.

Wednesday, October 11:
Mary Martha Circle.
10:30 am in the Agnes Wilson Room.

Sunday, October 15:
Morning Worship.
Service at 10am.
University of Livingstonia fundraiser, 3pm. (See details in newsletter.)

Wednesday, October 18:
Book Discussion.
7:30 pm in the Agnes



Packing during Rise Against Hunger

Sometimes I fall into despair at the state of our world and the casual way that people inflict harm on each other. Our efforts to counteract the amount of hatred and violence in the world feel puny and ineffectual. But then I

remember each of you - how you filled the Fellowship Hall last Sunday to pack meals for Rise Against Hunger, and how our kids cooked a delicious, nutritious meal last Saturday and served it to the residents at the Women's Shelter. I think of the number of you who have already donated to hurricane relief efforts, and of the plans we are making to respond to that need as a community. I think of the support you give to the University of Livingstonia and Embagweni Hospital in Malawi, and of the faithful group that shows up month after month to serve dinner at Shepherd's Table.



Delivering baby at Embagweni Hospital

These examples are just the tip of the iceberg - I could go on for pages about the ways St. Matthew shares the good news of God's love in the world. But my point is this: We are part of something much bigger than our own congregation. Our work does not grab the headlines, but all over the world, at any given moment, millions of people are finding ways to help, to serve, to love. As long as that is true, hatred and destruction will not have the last word.

Enjoy this issue of the *St. Matthew Messenger*. Peruse the photos of events that have already taken place, and mark the upcoming programs on your calendar. Find a way that makes sense for you to love your neighbor and resist hopelessness. As Flannery O'Conner once wrote, "the life you save may be your own."

In faith and hope,
Pastor Leslie

Sanctuary and Stewardship Update

Text and photos: Phil Tarnoff and Paul Neal

Wilson Room.

Sunday, October 22:

Morning Worship.

Service at 10am.

Visitor's Orientation,

11:30 am to 1 pm.

(See details in newsletter.)

Saturday, October 28:

Halloween Party

(See details in newsletter.)

Sunday, October 29:

Morning Worship.

Service at 10am.

Trunk or Treat, following service.

(See details in newsletter.)

Disaster Relief



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

Presbyterian Disaster

Assistance is already on the ground and assisting our neighbors in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, Antilles and the Virgin Islands as they begin the long process of rebuilding from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Those interested in

contributing to the relief efforts can send a check to the follow address:
Presbyterian Church (USA),
P.O. Box 643700,
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.
Write "DR000169-Harvey"
or "DR000194-Irma" on the memo line of your check.

You can also give using a credit card. Click on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance logo above, or



Topping out the repair on the sanctuary facade

The refurbishing of the sanctuary facade is done. The work began in August and was completed in late September. The exposed wood of the facade was wrapped with vinyl-coated aluminum, which will minimize the need for future maintenance. The work also included replacing several broken panes of glass and the doors leading from the sanctuary to the balcony.

St Matthew's annual stewardship campaign begins later this month. This year's theme is *Opening the Doors Wider in '18 and Beyond*. Our campaign will celebrate the more than 12,600 hours of time and talent contributed by our members. It will also look at necessary physical improvements - such as the sanctuary repair - to the church that serves as our foundation.

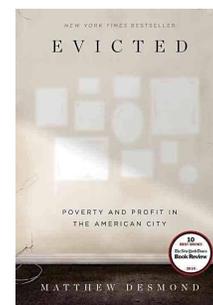
Our message will be told as a narrative budget which is based on traditional accounting line items, which are then combined to show how they serve our ministry. The categories include: Congregational Care, Education, Worship, Mission-Community Outreach and Worldwide Mission. The stewardship committee looks forward to the conversation.

Livingstonia Fundraiser



All are invited to join us on Sunday, October 15, 3 pm, in The Commons for a fundraiser for the University of Livingstonia in Malawi. The Foundation raises funds to help support the University of Livingstonia in Malawi. We have helped with building a women's dorm, student scholarships, IT and science equipment, as well as other needs.

Book Group



We will be restarting the book group for adults on Wednesday October 18. We will meet at 7:30 pm in the Agnes Wilson Room. Our fall book is titled *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. It is a look at the patterns of eviction, the factors that lead to chronic housing insecurity and the stories of people who live in



The restored facade of St. Matthew

Youth Notes

by Konni Brantner

Halloween Party Saturday, October 28

Once again, the Middle School youth have decided to create a haunted house, and of course we want to pair that with a Halloween party.



The Halloween Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. We'll have games, crafts refreshments. The haunted house will be open for those who want to go through it.

If you are interested in working on our haunted house, please let Konni or Esemé know.

Join us for workshops on the Haunted House:

- October 7 - at Mission Marathon
- October 8 - 11:30-1:00
- October 15 - 11:30 -1:00
- October 22 - 11:30 - 1:00
- October 27- 7:00pm - October 28 - 9 am

THE EVENT IS OCTOBER 28!

tenuous circumstances. For the October 18 meeting, we will read chapters 1 - 8.

Mary Martha Circle



The Mary Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 11, in the Agnes Wilson Room. All women of the church are invited to join us in studying the Book of Hebrews which will be led this month by Konni Brantner.

You are invited to stay for a casual luncheon, bring a sandwich and a friend if you like. Beverage and desert will be provided. If you need transportation, please call Millie Ames at 301-942-6105

- Millie Ames

Columbarium News



The Columbarium Committee met after church on Sunday Oct 3rd. Nell Taylor presided. Many projects were discussed in the interest of maintaining the Columbarium itself. Projects such as weeding, seasonal planting, tree trimming,

Trunk or Treat



**Trunk or Treat,
Sunday, October 29
(After morning service)**

Gather your favorite Halloween candy or treat to share and wear your best costume. Decorate your trunk, hatch, or tailgate with a family friendly theme, and come share in the fun and also share the message of God's love for us.

If you plan to participate, park in the upper lot with trunks facing the interior of the lot. Children will don their costumes and gather around the circle outside the Sanctuary to parade to the lot with great expectations that your trunks will offer lots of treats!

- Karen Brown Gonzalez

**Looking Ahead:
Children's
Christmas Play,
Sunday,
December 17**

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is less than three months away! If you have a child in elementary school to 6th grade who is interested in participating in our Children's Christmas play on Sunday, December 17, please let Konni know.



Your child will need to attend practices which are held each Sunday before church, two December Saturday rehearsals, memorize their lines and be ready to cooperate. The plays are a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. If you have questions, or if your child wants to participate, please let Konni know by emailing her at Stmattkmb@hotmail.com or calling 301-598-4400.

We're also recruiting children for the Christmas eve pageant. This requires two rehearsals. It is a very low

mulching, and feeding especially of the azaleas.

Also discussed was the placement of the plaques for the memorial wall as quickly as possible. The committee continues to review the Columbarium records in order to update a number of forms and procedures. As the meeting adjourned committee members walked through the Columbarium noting new tasks and reviewing completed projects. You may contact Nell Taylor or Millie Ames with questions.

- Millie Ames

Visitor's Orientation



The Evangelism Commission will sponsor an orientation class for visitors to St. Matthew who are interested in learning more about our church and considering becoming members. We will meet on Sunday, October 22 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in the Agnes Wilson Room. If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Leslie or Evangelism Elder Kit Boyle know.

Dinners for Six

pressure, casual type of service. Any child three years old or older is welcomed to participate. Please contact Konni if you're interested.



The Dinners of Six schedule has been completed. It has been emailed to all members of the program and a copy is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. See Nancy or Phil Tarnoff if you don't have computer access and would like a printed copy.

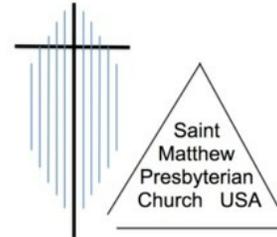
Interfaith Works Women's Center Saturday, September 30

On Saturday, September 30, a wonderful group of children, youth and some parents gathered to prepare and serve dinner to the women of the Interfaith Works Women's Center (formally Sophia House).

Thanks to the generous donations of our congregation, they were able to prepare and serve a delicious and nutritious dinner as well as leave breakfast items for Sunday morning. The women love seeing the kids and it's a great experience for our children and youth have some involvement and exposure to persons who are not as fortunate as they.

Thank you St. Mathew for supporting "our kids" and the women at the IWWC center.

Important Links



Leslie 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

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

Janet Froom,
Clerk of Session
301-461-2968

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

Rise Against Hunger, Sunday, October 1



Packing with our Ammadiyya Muslim friends

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Rise Against Hunger (formerly known as Stop Hunger Now) packing event a success. Held on World Communion Sunday, October 1, nearly 15,000 meals were packed to be sent to hungry people all over the world. St Matthew's Mission Commission thanks all who participated!



Filling the bags...

The deadline for the next issue of the *St. Matthew Messenger* is November 3. Please send your articles and pictures to Bill McBee <whmcbec@gmail.com>. Thank you!

Two "Anyas"



Anya Lynch and Anya Kuetcha enjoy each other's company at the International Potluck Luncheon held at St. Matthew on Sunday, September 17.



...getting boxes ready to load.