

201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

## June 2015

**FROM THE RECTOR**

**ROB MEROLA**



Dear Friends,

Truthfulness is one of our cherished values at St. Matt's. So here's the truth about Saint Matthew's: this past year has been a time of HUGE transition. And, in many ways, that transition has been hard.

Most recently, for instance, Christian finished up his time as a Seminarian with us and headed for New York where he is doing an internship at Trinity Wall Street. I really miss him. He had a big smile and a bigger heart. Saint Matthew's doesn't seem quite the same without him.

Before that, it was Anne who heard God calling her to be the next rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Elkridge, Maryland. Anne did great work with us for seven wonderful years. I, like many of you, feel her absence keenly. Once again, St. Matt's doesn't quite seem like St. Matt's without her with us.

In times like these, we are tempted to feel like something is wrong with us, to be anxious about the future, and maybe even to feel like our best days are behind us. It is important to acknowledge this.

This is a tough season in our life together. Grief is an appropriate response to the loss that every good-bye entails. And we sure have said a lot of good-byes.

But, that said, this is not the whole story. Our best days are not behind us. God is still doing great things in our midst. The thing about being given the gift of such a great past is that it lets us do even greater things now. In fact, the way we best honor the past and the people we've been privileged to share it with is by building on the work they have done to create an even better future.

And that's precisely what is happening at Saint Matthew's. Miriam, Trevor, Tracey, and Ray are all doing exceptional work, both as individuals and as a team. Whether it is pastoral care, music, children's ministry or youth ministry, the stories I am hearing bless me beyond all measure. New ministries are being created, like our Celebration Garden designed to provide food for the community. Our commitment to Outreach is as robust as ever, and continues to find new groups of people with whom we can share God's love. At precisely the time in the church year when many churches begin to lose steam (summer!), we're picking up steam and gaining momentum. These are exciting days, friends.

One final note: church finances always take a hit during times of transition, and ours have. We're running about \$4,000 a month behind where we need to be. Again, that's natural enough given the circumstances. But we're going to have to turn that around soon, and any help you are willing to offer in this regard is much appreciated.

To the end of my days and beyond, I will always be grateful that God saw fit to let me be a part of this.

With much love and affection,

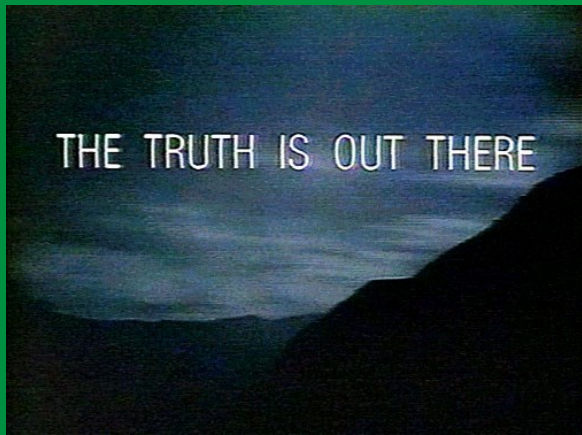
Rob+



**Ice Cream Social**  
**Monday, June 22 at 6pm**

Join us to celebrate the beginning of summer with ice cream and tons of toppings!!!





## 90's Music Weekend June 6, 5:00pm & June 7, 9:30am

Flannel, Grunge, Beanie Babies, Scrunchies, Fanny Packs,  
Doc Martens, X-Files and Seinfeld.

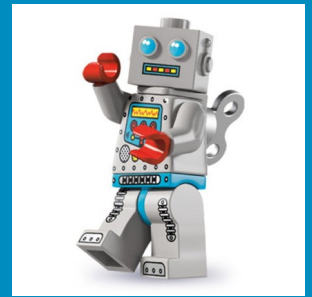
Grab your "Friends" and plan on being at St. Matt's for a "Titanic" weekend as we celebrate all things '90's. Invite your friends and dress in your best 90's fashions!

**I ♥ THE 90s**

## Summer Sundays will be FunDays

On June 14th, we will kick off our "St. Matt's Summer Sundays Series" for grades PreK-5. This summer we will feature themed Sundays including: Legos, Nature, Water (they will get wet,) Robotics and many more Sunday FunDays. We want to encourage our children to build friendships while Idren and have them work on some great activities together and have lots of fun along the way. The kids won't want to miss a single week!

The last day of our formal Sunday school program is June 7th. We had such a great year. I hope you'll take a moment to thank the amazing Sunday school teachers who worked so hard to bring Bible lessons into the hearts of our children.



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2015



This summer's youth mission trip will take place July 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> to Philadelphia, PA. In Philadelphia we will serve the city through a variety of different ministries such as food distribution (food banks, food packing and delivering), children's programs (camps, VBS), visiting with veterans and senior citizens, and homeless ministries (shelters, soup kitchens). The trip is open to rising 9th graders and college age students. Adult chaperones are also needed. A sign up sheet is located in the hallway.

The cost of the trip is \$500. We never want money to deter anyone from a mission trip. Please see Mary Petersen (mjpteach@yahoo.com) for details on scholarships.

## Vacation Bible School July 28—31

Get ready for St. Matthew's Vacation Bible School this summer — where kids discover God's love! We're going to travel on a life-changing adventure that leads kids in search of a love that lasts forever! At Bible Blast to the Past, kids will participate in the large-group excitement of Blast to the Past Bash, experience God's Word at Timeless Truth Tent, learn ways to serve others at Mission Quest Cave, and discover ancient arts and play games at Discovery Ruins!



Registration is \$40 and additional siblings are \$35. Cost includes dinner for five nights, a t-shirt, five nights of games, projects, drama, and Bible adventure fun! Go to [www.stmtts.org](http://www.stmtts.org) and scroll down to Vacation Bible School for more information and to register.

This is only a small selection of our upcoming events. Read the weekly bulletin for the most up to date information. Can't make it to church, read the announcements online at [www.stmtts.org](http://www.stmtts.org). Look under "For Parishioners" in the left hand column.