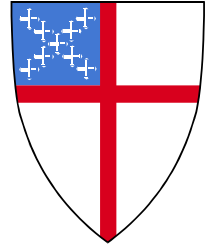


Saint
Matthew's
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

October 2015

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

MIRIAM TURNER



Sometimes our combined contributions to the community take root and blossom, ever so gently, and in seemingly unseen ways.

I met a man named Robert a year or so ago through my work at St. Matt's. He is a coordinator for one of the Anonymous groups that meets each week at St. Matthew's. This past May, he invited me to attend his personal anniversary meeting in June. I had no idea what to expect, but I was honored to attend as his guest. So, on June 15th, I entered the Classrooms on the Hill at the prescribed time. Instantly, I was stunned. The room was so packed that I could barely find a seat! Over 60 people were in attendance.

The meeting was, indeed, a celebration of Robert's sobriety. People listened to his story of trials and triumphs, and there was a lot of talk about support from friends and family; but there was also an overall emphasis on how important this meeting and space and block of time each Monday evening was, and is, to his ongoing sobriety. That certainly left me pensive.

The next morning, a man in a suit walked into the church office. "Hey, I know you," he said. "I'm Joseph. I left something up on the hill last night." I took Joseph up to look for the papers he needed. "You work here?" he asked. "You know, this place saved my life. Coming here each Monday has saved me and saved my family, too. I just thought you should know that." We found his papers, and he was quickly on his way, but his words echoed in my mind and in my heart.

"This place saved my life."

Saint Matthew's saved his life! Our church, simply by providing an open meeting space each Monday evening, saved this man's life, and likely many, many others.

October is stewardship season at Saint Matthew's. It is a time when Fr. Rob and the vestry will ask you to prayerfully consider your financial contributions toward St. Matthew's mission and vision for 2016. This information is essential for our vestry to create the church budget.

As you consider how much you'll give next year, I ask you to think beyond what you love about St. Matt's, like its Sunday morning worship, outstanding music, great programs for kids and teens, small groups, coffee hour, Oktoberfest, and all the other great parties we host. Think about our outreach programs, not just the incredible ones that extend beyond our geographic boundaries, but those which touch the lives of people in our community, people who benefit from using the space at St. Matt's, like Robert and Joseph, and other members of the Anonymous groups; and the Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; Community Lunch attendees; Backpack Buddies recipients; Classroom of Discovery preschoolers; three Hispanic Congregations; and (starting this September) a brand new Kindergarten Readiness program for at-risk youth.

I hope you'll join Mason and me and Mason II (he fills out his own pledge card based on his allowance) on October 25th when we give thanks for all we've been given by submitting our tithes for 2016.

Blessings,
Miriam

Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 18th, 12pm

Our annual Oktoberfest will be held on October 18, immediately following the 11am service. Authentic German sausages, pretzel rolls, and sauerkraut will be provided.

Our brew-masters Webster Anderson and Matt Brown will have some exciting beer to sample. Feel free to bring your own stein.

Depending on your last name, please bring the following items to share:

- A-E 24-pack of Root Beer or water and ice
- F-P Side Dish (15-20 servings)
- Q-Z Dessert (15-20 servings)

If you would like to help with this event, please contact
Maureen at maureen_pgh@yahoo.com



October WatCh Details

Wednesdays from 7-8pm

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday nights in October for Wednesdays at Church. We'll meet at the Church from 7 to 8pm and all are welcome.



Saint Matthew's Fall Yard Sale is Coming

Saturday, October 24th, 8am to Noon

As you start to pull out your fall clothes, please consider donating your gently used items to the Yard Sale. We'll start to accept donations the 2nd week of October. If you have questions regarding the Yard Sale and how you can help, please reach out to Wilma Sargent at wilsar2@verizon.net.



Costume Parade and Pledge Cards

October 24/25

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.stmmts.org. Look under "For Parishioners" in the left hand column.