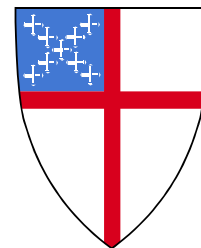


Saint
Matthew's
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

September 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

ROB MEROLA



Dear Friends,

I had a dream last night. In it, I was called to another church. It was a big church. It had a large staff. It had expansive and beautiful buildings.

It wasn't exactly clear how I got there. In the dream, I wasn't looking for a new church. It was just one of those situations where one thing leads to another, and all of a sudden, there I was.

And the truth is, it wasn't a dream. It was a nightmare. Because the most vivid thing about the dream is the feeling that where I really wanted to be was back at Saint Matthew's. I was never so relieved as when I woke up and realized that I still get to be with you, the people I have worked so hard with and with whom I have fallen so deeply in love.

Because in the end, that's what a church really is. It's a group of people. And there is no group of people I'd rather be with than you.

During the summer, it's easy to let church slip to the back burner. Part of what makes summer summer is that we let our normal routines go in order to take vacations or to go places or do activities we can't do during the heavily scheduled school or work year. I get that.

And the truth is, even in life in general, it's easy for one thing to lead to another and for church to drop out of the picture. Life happens, as they say. I get that, too.

Maybe God gave me that dream not just to remind me of what is so good about Saint Matthew's, but also to remind you as well. And so as summer draws to a close, I hope we will all make a point of coming together once again to do the work that God has given us to do: the work of knowing and sharing God's love. Perhaps Back To Church Weekend on August 29 and 30 is the perfect time for all of us to do just that.

Because the thing is, what makes St. Matt's St. Matt's is... well, it's you. I so look forward to seeing you there!

With much love and affection,

Rob+

Join Us For Back to Church Weekend

August 29 and 30

Small Groups, Backpack Blessings, Faith Factory, and Sunday Night Live!

Bishop's Visit & Saint Matthew's Day Picnic

Sunday, September 20 at 11am



Join us on Sunday, September 20, as the Rt. Rev. David C. Jones visits Saint Matthew's. One of the purposes of the Bishop's visit is to perform the sacramental rites of confirmation, reception and baptism.

In confirmation, one expresses a mature commitment to Christ and receives strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop. Reception is a rite designed for those who have been baptized as an adult or confirmed in another Christian denomination who now wish to join the Episcopal Church. During the Confirmation service, all of us are asked to do all in our power to support those being confirmed in their life with Christ.

At 12pm, please join us for our Saint Matthew's Day Picnic.

Saint Matthew's will provide the main dish.

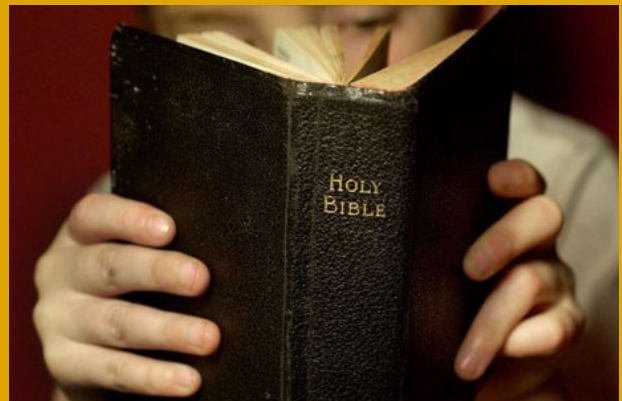
If your last name begins with the letters A-N, please bring a side dish or salad to share.

If your last name begins with the letters O-Z, please bring a dessert to share.

4 Short Books in 4 Short Weeks

Wednesday, September 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 7-8pm

Join us for WatCh (Wednesdays at Church) this September for a look at four books of the Bible. We will read one book of the Bible per week and join together to discuss how the book spoke to us. No homework, no pressure, no guilt. Just join us Wednesday nights and bring your Bible, if you have one, or, if you read the Bible on your phone, bring your phone.



Meredith Ehler, a local speaker and Sterling resident, will lead us through each book and share how she sees the book relating to today's world. Living here in Northern Virginia, we need the Bible to help us navigate the constant traffic and stressors that plague us in our unusual area. This is not a traditional Bible study. This is simply a way to get into the Lord's word with as little stress as possible. We hope you will leave refreshed and feeling closer to the Lord with a fresh look at His word.

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.