



The Way



**The Newsletter of St. Matthew's
Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church of Worcester**

St. Matthew's Church

695 Southbridge St.
Worcester, MA 01610

(508) 755-4433, office
(508) 757-8833, rectory
(716) 948-8194, Interim Priest
stmatthewsworcester@gmail.com
jlee.stmatthewsworcester@gmail.com

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher
The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee
The Rev. J. Edgar Freeman
Donald Irving, Organist/Choir Director
Audrey Cronin, Parish Secretary

Worship:

<u>Wednesday</u>	10:00am
(followed by coffee hour & Bible Study)	
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
	10:00 am
Church School	9:45 am
Nursery	10:00 am

Our website address is:

www.stmatthewsworcester.org

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Matthews-Worcester>



*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?*

[Isaiah 43.19]

**June 2019
The Season of Pentecost**

**Thoughts from your Interim
Priest**

*Where Jesus lives, the great-hearted gather.
We are a door that's never locked.*

-Rumi

While I was reflecting on how to speak about the Holy Spirit as we begin the Season of Pentecost I discovered this passage written by the Sufi mystic Rumi. It is apparently carved in stone over the door of a Christian church in the city of Shiraz in Iran.

We begin the month of June with two wonderful celebrations of the Holy Spirit's "great-hearted" presence at St. Matthew's. **June 2nd** will be Youth Sunday and the 10 am service will be led by our young people. Ryan Rossi will preach, and we will recognize our high school and college graduates as well as the recipients of the St. Matthew's scholarships and the Diocesan Bement / Waterfield scholarships.

On June 9th we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost with thanksgiving for the guidance of the Holy Spirit at St. Matthew's throughout our long history and we will welcome in Holy Baptism Christiana Jassie Selena Konneh – the third generation of her family at St. Matthew's.

The Holy Spirit is leading us through open doors that we may not have noticed and is showing us how to *be* an open door.

The Holy Spirit is growing in our hearts and making us “great hearted.”

The Holy Spirit is freeing us from fear and obstinacy and allowing us to put aside complacency and confusion.

The Holy Spirit is guiding us into the new life before us and giving us a trust and hope deeper than we thought possible.

Our young people inspire us to cherish with joy and confidence our unfinished lives. Their accomplishments and their commitment are visible signs that the Holy Spirit will continue to work wonders in and among us. I give thanks every day that I am able to share in this “great hearted” life with you.

Mother Judith

**From the Desk of Father Freeman:
Worcester African Community
Ministry**

ESSAY CONTEST: Deadline June 16th

The Essay Contest will include students presently enrolled in college or professional training programs. The topic this year is ***“Imagine a church where you and your friends grow spiritually. Describe the program and worship of that church.”*** The prizes for the Essay Contest will be announced at the Multicultural Festival on **July 7, 2019**. First Prize: \$200; Second Prize: \$150; Third Prize: \$100. Inquiries and submissions should go to: stmatthewsworcester@gmail.com. Put in the subject line: **Essay Contest**.

MULTICUTURAL FESTIVAL

Our 2019 Multicultural Food Festival will take place on **July 7, 2019 immediately following the service** on the front lawn at St. Matthew's. As customary, everyone is asked to prepare and bring food from their own cultural heritages and to wear their traditional dress. This year is expected to be even more exciting than last year's festival. Volunteers will be needed to setup and breakdown for the event.

We ask for your kind support to make these activities a success. We ask that you encourage our children, youth and families to participate.

-Fr. Freeman

RenewalWorks

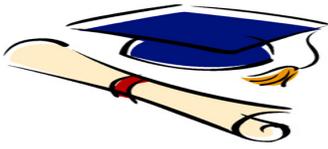
The Spiritual Growth Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the workshops on spiritual growth and catalysts over the past few months. We have gathered valuable information and are busy compiling and analyzing data. We plan to present a summary of our findings to the Vestry and congregation in the near future.

One prominent theme that has emerged from the data we have gathered so far is that many of the workshop participants are interested in exploring a regular routine of reading and reflecting upon scripture. In response, we plan to organize a parish-wide Bible Quiz Challenge for the fall-similar to what our youth have been competing in for the past couple years, but open to teams of all ages. We envision planning opportunities for teams to prepare for the challenge over the summer and early fall. We are excited about all the possibilities!

Please stay tuned for more updates and information!

Blessings on all,
Liz Kilpatrick and Cathy Goodwin

Congratulations Graduates!!



'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

[Jeremiah 29:11]

Congratulations to our college graduates:
Emmanuel Freeman – Worcester State University

Caroline N. Gingo – Westfield University, MA
Alexis S. LiDonde – St. John's University, NY
Angela Rossi – Anna Maria College

Congratulations to our high school graduates:
Ryan Rossi will attend the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

Alison Wood, granddaughter of Stephen and Nancy Smith, will also attend the University of Massachusetts at Lowell

Ethan Townsend, grandson of Charlotte and Rick Townsend, will graduate from Land Mark School in Beverly, MA, and will attend North Bennet Street School in Boston to study carpentry.

St. Matthew's Scholarships

At their May meeting, the Vestry awarded scholarships of \$500. to the following students:

Amanda Baldwin
Alisa Gailor
Festus Konneh
Francis Konneh
Ryan Rossi
Brenda Tete Thomas

We give thanks and congratulations to these students for their hard work and insightful reflections on their faith and their aspirations.

Diocesan Bement/Waterfield Scholarships

Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants help young people who are active in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts to pursue their educational goals after secondary school. Grants may be used at accredited training and technical institutions as well as for undergraduate study at 2 and 4 year accredited colleges. These awards represent an investment by the Church in its young people. The goal of the Committee is to provide some support to as many of the applicants as possible.

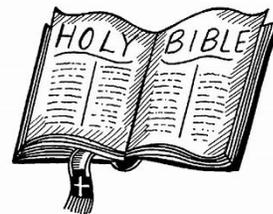
Five members of St. Matthew's were awarded Bement/Waterfield Grants for 2019:

Amanda Baldwin
Alisa Gailor
Ryan Rossi
Festus Konneh
Brenda Tete Thomas

The strength and commitment of these young people are great spiritual gifts to St. Matthew's

Bible Quiz Contest Winners

At the Worcester African Ministry Bible Quiz Contest at St. Matthew's on May 5th, **Jaiden Shekone** won first place and **Lauren Gingo** won 2nd place. We applaud their courage and grace in accepting this challenge.



The Women of St. Matthew's

The Women of St. Matthew's wish to thank everyone who helped make our Cookie Walk such a good success; from all the Bakers to the Buyers.

We will meet on **Thursday June 20th** in the Parlor for our annual meeting at **6:30 pm**. We will have a light supper followed by a short meeting and then our famous Penny Social (which was cancelled in January because of the weather). So gather up all that stuff that you don't want and come on down for a fun evening. Give Millie Cummings or Linda Albinson a call if you are planning to come.

Millie Cummings

The Mens Gathering

Twelve men from the parish gathered and had their first breakfast meal together on May 11, 2019. Each told their life story and what they liked best about belonging to St. Matthew's Church. Many stated that the church is welcoming, encourages multicultural diversity, keeps people actively involved, offers stability and regularity in its worship and activities, and is family- and community-oriented.

The men spoke about what they hoped could be developed. Those topics included: a seasonal schedule of assignments and what maintenance projects are needed, updated emails and telephone numbers of all active members, keeping to timeliness of meetings, mentoring youth and new parishioners, education for men, volunteering in the community at special holiday times, spiritual development of men (retreats) and development of special projects in the church.

The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 9 am**. Invitations will be sent and please respond with faithfulness and enthusiasm.

Stewardship

Don't Forget!!!

Summer's COMING and some of us are GOING – to the beach, to the mountains, out of state, out of the country... out of our minds if we don't get out of HERE!

But...wait: First Things First! Before you make a change of scenery, please consider sending in your pledge in advance. Of course we want you to have a good time and enjoy your vacation, but the bills don't stop coming in while you're away. *Have fun! Enjoy the sun! We'll be here when you return!* Remember our slogan, "St. Matthew's is here for YOU!"

And thanks for giving priority to your pledge payment! Now finish packing already ...and have a great time!

-Charlotte Townsend

Silent Retreat at The Society of St. Margaret September 27-29, 2019

Once again a Silent Retreat is being offered at the Society of St. Margaret in Duxbury, MA from Friday, September 27 through lunch on Sunday, September 29, 2019. Space is limited so reservations are FCFS (First Come First Served). Based on last year's cost, the price is \$80 per person per night plus a \$10 per person additional fee to cover the honorarium for our Retreat Leader.

If you are interested, please send a non-refundable deposit of \$85 by no later than **June 15, 2019**. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew's Discretionary Fund and write "Retreat" in the memo section of the check. Checks may be mailed to the Parish Office, ATTN: Mother Judith Lee, handed directly to Mother Judith or given to the Parish Secretary,

Audrey Cronin. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE – that only complicates matters! Financial assistance is available – speak to Mother Judith. Remember, there is limited space so please get your deposit in as soon as possible.

Hope you can join us for some rest, relaxation, rejuvenation, and restoration!

-Charlotte Townsend

Thank you



Many thanks to:
Joe Chilton,
George Gailor,
DePing Yang,
David and Dennis Wilson,
Joseph Kamenda, Kim
Messier, Mother Judith,
and Stephen Smith for the

Spring Clean Up of the Church Grounds on May 4, 2019.

Thank you to George Gailor, David Wilson, Kim Messier, DePing Yang, Emmanuel Ndebeh and Stephen Smith who transformed the garden at the Rectory by weeding, raking, trimming bushes, and planting on Saturday May 25th.

Thank you to Kim Rossi and Karen Baldwin for their faithful, inspired and inspiring leadership of Sunday School. Thank you to Kelly and Stephen MacGregor for your ministry as Sunday School teachers.

Thank you to Staci MacGregor for her leadership of the Youth Group.

Thank you to Robin Cheranak for her leadership of the Knitting and Crocheting Ministry.

Thank you to George Gailor and Stephen Smith for their leadership in forming the Men's Group.

Thank you to Dennis Wilson for planting the flowers at the sign on the church grounds.

Knitting and Crocheting Ministry



We met in May and we had a wonderful age range of young women from 11 to 80+ years! Some of us worked on Prayers Shawls. Some of us taught knitting or crocheting. Others worked on dishcloths and hats.

There were donations made to the Prayer Shawl Ministry, coordinated by Wendy Piscatelli. Additional donations were made to Pam Wilson for the Winter Wonderland Fair (which is scheduled to be held on November 1-3, 2019). Robin Chenarak collected donations for the South Worcester Neighborhood Center In-Gathering scheduled for early December 2019.

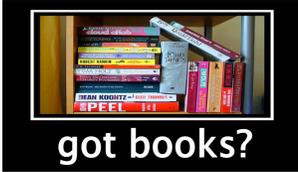
Please think about joining us at our final gathering before summer begins on **Saturday, June 15, 2019 from 10:00-noon** in the Parish Hall. We would love to have you stop by!

As is the case each and every time, we have patterns, yarn, knitting needles, and crochet hooks for you to practice with and keep! If you are not able to attend, think about donating to this group. Thank you!

Did you know that we have friends of this group from Texas? Geraldine, who lives outside of Houston, heard that we needed Winter wear for the South Worcester Neighborhood Center. So, she knit tons of hats! Two friends donated scarves, gloves, and hats, and socks. A local church donated a bag of hats, gloves, and scarves.

Sconeheads

The Sconeheads will meet on **Wednesday, June**



5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in The Parlor. We plan to discuss the novel *She Would Be King* by Wayetu Moore. Please

join us! This novel is a retelling of the Liberia's formation through three unforgettable characters who share an uncommon bond." It is an "intermingling of history and magical realism..."

South Worcester Neighbor Center



A very big Thank You is given to Ron Charrette for his dedicated years of service as Director of the South Worcester Neighborhood

Center! On June 8, 2019 from 11:00am -2:00 pm an outdoor celebration honoring him will be held at The South Worcester Neighborhood Center, 47 Camp Street, Worcester, MA. Please stop by to give Ron a fare-thee-well, as he retires soon from his full-time position. He will be dearly missed.

During this transitional time at the SWNC food needs still remain great. A big Shout Out is given to our Parish for the weekly food donations. Cereal continues to be the most needed food staple. If you would like to learn more, go to swnic.net. Thank you once again!

Sunday School & Youth Group

Sunday June 2nd is Youth Sunday and the celebration of the end of Sunday School. Ryan Rossi will preach at all three services, and he will be Worship Leader at the 10 am service on Sunday. We will recognize our graduates and scholarship recipients, and we will thank the Sunday School teachers and Youth Group leaders.



Summer Sunday School:

Home Town Nazareth

2 Sundays each month in July and August!
Watch for more information!

Monastic Musings: Father John Julian OJN

How many sides does a baptismal font have? Our own font near the pulpit, like most baptismal fonts, is shaped like an octagon. The reason for these eight sides is not accidental: it signifies how baptism makes us people of the "eighth day."

The story of creation in Genesis tells how after making the world, God "rested on the seventh day." This seventh day—Saturday—became the Jewish Sabbath. It was and is a time to enjoy the goodness of creation by refraining from work, a time to give God thanks for the world He made. Jesus said "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mk. 2:27). We are not made for work, for the "six days" of creation.

God does not value us just to be workers, not even His workers. He made us to enjoy Him, to rest in Him, to delight in Him. Every human being needs Sabbath—a regular way of breaking

the routine of work in order to be re-created through worship, rest, reflection and play.

Christians, as we know, transferred the observation of sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. How and why could they do this? Because Christ rose from the dead “on the first day of the week.” The Resurrection signals the beginning of the “new creation” where death and decay no longer hold the final rule. “If anyone is in Christ,” wrote St. Paul, “he is a new creation” (2 Cor. 2:17).

It did not take long for the Church to see in the “first day” of the Resurrection an “eighth day” beyond time. Since our ordinary seven-day week is one measure of time, an “eighth day” breaks out of these temporal boundaries. In the same way, the resurrected life begins now by releasing us into eternal life. This “new creation” begins with baptism, our life with God is the “eighth day” beyond the confines of time.

So each year at the celebration of Easter the Church blesses water at the baptismal font, invites us to renew our baptismal vows, and offers us our share in that meal which is the foretaste of the banquet of the Kingdom of heaven. “If then you are raised with Christ seek the things that are above,” urges St. Paul. Our “eighth day” life has already started!

Submitted by Stephen Smith

Please stay current with your Capital Campaign pledge commitment. See Rob Ermanski if you would like an update on the status of your pledge.



Employment Opportunities at Trinity Church-Milford

Trinity Episcopal Church-Milford is looking to fill two part-time positions beginning in September:

Sunday School Director

- Classes are held twice a month for approximately 45 minutes each - exact schedule to be determined (potentially 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month)
- Working with Trinity’s Christian Education Committee, concrete, specific themes will be planned for each month. Themes and dates will be “published”.
- Classes include children ages 4 through 5th grade.
- We utilize the Sparkhouse Digital “Spark All Kids” curriculum.
- Manage the Classroom and two or more volunteers.
- Seven hours per month, two Sunday classes plus preparation time.
- Some educational experience preferred.
- Salary will be consistent with diocesan guidelines.
- Full Day Safe Church Training required
-

Early Childhood Caregiver

- Nursery care for children three and under.
- 9:30 – 11:30 every Sunday.
- Work with volunteer nursery staff.
- Full Day Safe Church Training required

If you are interested in either the Sunday School Director or the Early Childhood Caregiver positions or know of anyone who is, contact Trinity’s Christian Education Committee at christian.education@trinitychurchmilford.org or by calling the church office at 508.473.8464.



June Coffee Hour & Greeter Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Greeter
6/2/19	Everyone	Rebecca Kasenge
6/9//19	Everyone	Linda Albinson
6/16/19	Everyone	Stephen Smith
6/23/19	Everyone	Wendy Piscitelli
6/30/19	Everyone	Linda Albinson

Coffee Hour

Providing for Coffee Hour is open to everyone. If you like the Coffee Hour, please consider bringing in something to share with others. Also, think about helping to clean up.

-Millie Cummings

Weekends in June

June 1st and 2nd

Saturday

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel followed by a Vestry Listening Session

Sunday

10:00 am Youth Sunday Service in the Parish Hall. Ryan Rossi will be Worship Leader and Preacher. Nick Baldwin will be the musician and Emily Baldwin will lead the singing. We will honor our graduates and give a special thanks to our Sunday School teachers and Youth Group Leader.

9:00 & 11:30 am – Vestry Listening Sessions

11:30 am Executive Committee Meeting

June 8th and 9th

Saturday 9:00 am Men's Gathering

11:00am-2:00 pm Retirement Party for Ron Charrette

Sunday Feast of Pentecost: Wear Red!!

10:00 am We welcome in Holy Baptism of Christiana Jassie Selena Konneh

11:30 am Search Committee Meeting - Parlor

June 15th & 16th

Saturday 10:00 am Knitting and Crocheting Ministry

Sunday Father's Day

Fr. Freeman will be Celebrant and Preacher at all three services

Janeen Baker will be our Guest Organist

11:30 am Vestry Meeting

Deadline for Worcester African Ministries Essay Contest

June 23rd

Janeen Baker will be our Guest Organist

June 30th The Rev. Meredyth Ward will be Celebrant & Preacher at all three services

Kamilla Isanbaeva will be our Guest Organist

7:00 pm Vestry and Profile Committee meeting

Donald Irving will be on vacation June 16 through June 30th

Mother Judith will be on vacation Wednesday June 26 Through Tuesday July 2nd

Fr. Freeman will be in Liberia July 8th through August 4th

Sunday July 7th: Multicultural Festival after the service.

Sunday July 7 through Sunday September 1st

Weekend worship Schedule: Saturday at 5 pm & Sunday at 9 am.

Worcester African Community Ministry



2019 Essay Contest

Requirements

Applicants - must be between the ages of 18-24 and attending college

Deadline for submission - Sunday June 16, 2019 at 9:00 am

How to submit - please submit the essay in a Word Document to the following e-mail address:

stmatthewsworcester@gmail.com

In the subject line write: Essay Contest

Prizes to be awarded- Sunday July 7, 2019, at the Multicultural Festival at St. Matthews Episcopal Parish, 695 Southbridge Street, Worcester MA, 01610

Topic- *"Imagine a church where you and your friends grow spiritually. Describe the program and worship of that church. "*

Length - 2 pages

Formatting - Font Size 12- Times New Roman- margins 1 inch top, bottom, left and right- double space

Heading- top left corner of page 1

Name - (to ensure fairness, the identifying markers will be removed prior to the judging)

College Attending

Parish or Church

Date

THE POWER OF
Writing

Saint Matthew's Parish Calendar

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Mother Judith's Schedule</u> Office: Monday- Thursday 9am-1pm 1pm-4pm: pastoral visits & meetings by appointment Friday Day off Saturday meetings by appointment; 5 pm HE Vacation: 6/26 through 7/2</p>						1 5pm Mass Followed by a Vestry Listening Session
<p>2 Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord [transferred] Youth Sunday 8:00 am Mass 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Mass:Parish Hall 9:00am & 11:30am – Listening Sessions with the Vestry 12:30 pm – Executive Committee</p>	3	4	5 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study 7:00 pm Sconeheads	6 Thursday Night Work Crew	7	8 9:00 am Men's Gathering 11am – 2pm Retirement Party for Ron Charrette 5pm Mass
<p>9 Day of Pentecost Wear Red!! 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Choir 10:00 am Mass Baptism 11:30 – Search Committee Meeting - Parlor</p>	10	11	12 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study	13 Thursday Night Work Crew	14	15 10am-noon Knitting and Crocheting Ministry 5pm Mass
<p>16 Trinity Sunday Father's Day 8:00 am Mass 10:00 am Mass 11:30 am Vestry Meeting</p>	17 Anniversary Day – Al-Anon	18	19 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study	20 Thursday Night Work Crew 6:30 pm Women of St. Matthew's	21	22 5pm Mass
<p>23 2nd Pentecost 8:00 am Mass 10:00 am Mass</p>	24	25	26 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study	27	28	29 5 pm Mass
<p>30 3rd Pentecost 8:00am Mass 10:00 am mass The Rev. Meredyth Ward will preside and preach at all three services 7:00 pm Vestry & Profile committee meeting</p>						<p><u>Office Hours:</u> 9:30 am – Noon Monday-Thursday</p>

Monthly Lectionary

June 2

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

June 9

Day of Pentecost

Psalm 104:25-35, 37 Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 16

Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8 Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31
Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

June 23

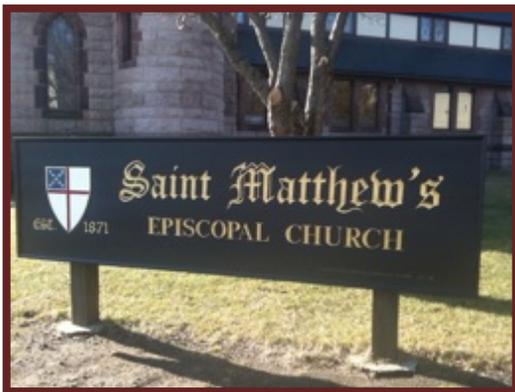
Second Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 42 1 Kings 19:1-15a
Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39

June 30

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Galatians 5:1,13-25 Luke 9:51-62



Meetings at St. Matthew's

Sundays 6:30pm Al-Anon (parish hall)
Mondays 7:30pm AA (parish hall)
10:00am Al-Anon (parish hall)
Tuesdays 7:00pm AA Young Beginners
8:00pm AA (parish hall)
Wednesdays 8:00pm AA (parish hall)
Thursdays 8:00 am -3pm Deaf Seniors
(parish hall)
Fridays & Saturdays No Meetings

Saint Matthew's Vestry

Festus Konneh, Senior Warden
Augustus Kormah, Junior Warden
Rob Ermanski, Treasurer
Tim Rossi, Clerk
Charlotte Townsend, Corresponding
Secretary

Vestry Members

Rob Ermanski
George Gailor
Staci MacGregor
Emmanuel Ndebeh
Kim Rossi
Stephen Smith
Dennis Wilson

*Our Mission is to build on the past, while
looking towards the future, and provide a
Christian community for worship and
fellowship that extends to others in joy,
witness, and outreach*

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs
forth, do you not perceive it?*

[Isaiah 43:19]