

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]

**May 2019
The Season of Eastertide**

Thoughts from your Interim Priest

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me,
save that thou art -
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.*

The Parish Meeting with the Profile Committee after the 10 am service on May 5th will be a significant milestone in this period of transition. Guided by the questions formulated by the Profile Committee, you will share your vision of the future: What core values will guide your Vestry as you continue to build upon the past? What joys and challenges have made St. Matthew's your spiritual home?

Since January, our days at St. Matthew's have been filled with launching RenewalWorks, responding to the Holy Cow survey and taking the first steps in the search for a new Rector,

preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and adjusting to the unfamiliar rhythms of a new priest, a new Vestry, and a new Parish Secretary. Our Parish Meeting on May 5th will be a first opportunity to have a conversation about your future: What does it look like *to provide a Christian community for worship and fellowship that extends to others in joy, witness, and outreach*—as your Mission Commitment says? How does this mission determine your worship schedule? Your new ministries? Your Sunday School? Adult spiritual formation?

The Profile Committee has asked that you “think, pray, and reflect” on five questions:

1. Can you tell us about a recent successful and fulfilling moment at St. Matthews?
2. What talent and skills would a new Rector need to lead St. Matthew’s into the future?
3. What part of our worship life together do you find most meaningful and how could it grow to include others?
4. Describe a time when St. Matthew’s showed you they cared about you, your family, the community, or the world.
5. In what ways, large and small, do you support and care for St. Matthew’s?

There is no task more important now than for each person to respond to these questions. Individual quotations will give prospective candidates--and visitors to our website—a true sense of the living faith of this congregation. Individual quotations will reflect the vitality and grace of this congregation. Candidates will read your words to discern whether their ministry might be to lead St. Matthew’s.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.

Mother Judith

Altar Guild Quiet Day
Saturday June 1st
9 am – 2 pm
Meeting Mary Magdalene
Witness, Prophet, Teacher

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

The Worcester African Community Ministry is sponsoring three very important events this spring and summer:

BIBLE QUIZ CONTEST: May 5th 4-6 pm

This year the Worcester African Community Ministry (WACM) 2019 Bible Quiz Contest will involve 2 separate divisions: youth in grades 6-8 and in grades 9- 12. It is designed to motivate students to learn and understand the Bible. This year, we are reading the Gospel of Luke from which questions will be drawn. There will be first, second, and third prizes.

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.”** This competition will include college students from other churches as well. The prizes for the Essay Contest will be announced at the Multicultural Festival on **July 7, 2019**. 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 at noon** on the front lawn at St. Matthew’s Parish. 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.

RenewalWorks

A Prayer for Discernment

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we consider the renewal and mission of our congregation. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us by your Holy Spirit to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it, and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Profile Committee

The Profile Committee met on April 23rd and we would like to hear from you!

Please join us at a special Parish Meeting on **May 5th** for a Cinco de Mayo celebration! After the 10:00 service, we will be serving some Mexican treats – chili, chips and salsa, and flan! It will be a wonderful time of fellowship and a time for sharing ideas as we prepare to call the new rector for St. Matthew's. We hope to see you there. Bienvenidos – All are welcome!

The St. Matthew's Profile Committee: Ellie, George, Nancy, Rob and Cathy

The Men of St. Matthew's

The first monthly breakfast of St. Matthew's Men's Gathering is to be held on **Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 9:00 am**. Please RSVP to either Stephen Smith or George Gailor by Saturday, May 4, 2019.

Spring Clean-Up Days Church and Rectory

All men and women are invited to help in the annual Spring Clean Up of the Church property on **Saturday, May 4, 2019, from 8:00 am to Noon**. Refreshments will be served. Bring your rakes and brooms as well as gardening techniques and muscle that day.

Also, all men and women are invited to help in the Spring Clean Up of the Rectory at 17 Exeter Drive, Auburn, MA on **Saturday, May 27, 2019 from 8:00 am to Noon**. The more the merrier.



Blessings,
Stephen Smith

The Women of Saint Matthew's Annual Cookie Walk May 12th



The Women of St. Matthew's will have their Annual Cookie Walk on May 12th after both services.

So, get out your best cookie recipe and bring in a batch to sell. This is one of our fund raisers and what comes in goes out to a charity. You can also buy a plateful for \$5. Our next meeting will be on **June 20th**

Millie Cummings

Knitting and Crocheting Ministry

FREE KNITTING AND CROCHETING LESSONS

Bring a Friend

Saturday, May 4,
2019, from 10:00-
12:00.



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We will meet in the Parish Hall. We have knitting needles, crochet hooks, patterns and yarn available.

We make Prayer Shawls. We make winter hats, scarves, and much more for The South Worcester Neighborhood Center. We will also make Crafts for St. Matthew's Fair.

PLEASE JOIN US!

South Worcester Neighborhood Center



57 Households Per Day!

Did you know that on average, the Food Pantry at the South Worcester Neighborhood

Improvement Corporation (SWNIC), serves 57 Households per day?

Weekly, families from St. Matthew's Church bring cereal to church, (and other food as well). This food is blessed at the altar on Sundays. Later, it is delivered to the SWNIC.

Thank you for your donations. Cereal is still the most needed food staple. Let's continue to help in stamping out hunger. Please check out all of the wonderful programs that are available to individuals and families @ swnic.net.

Sconeheads

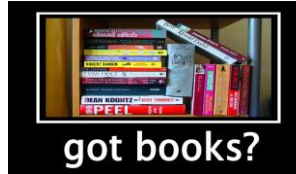
The Sconeheads plan to meet on **Wednesday**,

June 5, 2019 @ 7:00

p.m. in The Parlor. We plan to discuss the book,

She Would Be King by Wayetu Moore. Please

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



Sunday School & Youth Group

Our Sunday School students raised \$82.00 for the South Worcester Neighborhood Center through their Crafts Sale on April 7th. They made seashell ladybugs, stained-glass tiles, tile hangers, and bead crosses. Thank you to everyone who supported this project. These proceeds were combined with all our Lenten offerings to benefit SWNC.

The Youth Group participated in the Stations of the Cross with Sacred Heart/St. Catherine of Genoa on April 14th.

Sunday June 2nd is Youth Sunday and the Celebration of the end of Sunday School.





May Coffee Hour & Greeter Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Greeter
5/5/19	Everyone	Rebecca Kasenge
5/12/19	Everyone	Linda Albinson
5/19/19	Everyone	George Gailor
5/26/19	Everyone	Wendy Piscitelli

Coffee Hour

This is open to everyone. If you like the Coffee hour, please think about bringing in something to share with others. Also, think about helping to clean up. Don't always leave it up to someone else.

Millie Cummings

Weekends in May

May 4th & 5th

Saturday

8:00 am – noon Spring cleanup at the church

10:00 am – noon Knitting and Crocheting Ministry

Sunday Cinco de Mayo Celebration

10:00 am Family Service

11:15 am – 12:30 pm Special Parish Meeting: A Profile of St. Matthew's

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Bible Quiz Contest

May 11th & 12th

Saturday

9:00 am Men of St. Matthew's

Sunday Mother's Day Women of St. Matthew's Cookie Walk

11:30 am Executive Committee Meeting

May 19th

11:30 am – Vestry Meeting

May 25th & 26th

Saturday 8:00 – noon Spring cleanup at the Rectory

Sunday Rogation Sunday

10:00 am Blessing of the Church Grounds

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

May 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</p>			<p>1 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study</p>	<p>2 Thursday Night Crew</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Spring Cleanup 8am-noon Knitting & Crocheting – 10am – noon 5pm Mass</p>
<p>5 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Choir 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Mass 11:15 am – Parish Meeting with the Profile Committee</p>	6	7	<p>8 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study</p>	<p>9 Thursday Night Work Crew</p>	10	<p>11 9 am – Men's Gathering - Breakfast 5pm Mass</p>
<p>12 4th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Cookie Walk after both Services 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Choir 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Mass 11:30 – Executive Committee</p>	13	14	<p>15 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study</p>	<p>16 Thursday Night Work Crew</p>	17	<p>18 5pm Mass</p>
<p>19 5th Sunday of Easter 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Choir 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Mass 11:30 am Vestry Meeting</p>	20	21	<p>22 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study</p>	<p>23 Thursday Night Work Crew</p>	24	<p>25 8 am – noon – Spring Cleanup at the Rectory 5pm Mass</p>
<p>26 6th Sunday of Easter Rogation Sunday 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Choir 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Mass</p>	27	28	<p>29 10am – Healing Service & Bible Study</p>	<p>30 Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord</p>	31	<p><u>Office Hours:</u> 9:30 am – Noon Monday-Thursday</p>

Monthly Lectionary

May 5

Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm 30 Acts 9:1-20]
Revelation 5: 11-14 John 21:1-19

May 12

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23 Acts 9:36-43
Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

May 19

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 148 Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 26

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rogation Sunday

Psalm 67 Acts 16:9-15;
Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5
John 5:1-9



*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?
[Isaiah 43:19]*

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*