

THANKSGIVING 2023

Matt's Media



The Newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

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From the Pastor: Thankfulness & Worship

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2

What are you thankful for? It is good for us to ask ourselves this question again and again. It helps us to recognize all the amazing gifts God has already given us. It helps us to show appreciation to others. It helps us live thankful lives of joy and so much more.

Have you ever realized, though, that thankfulness relates very closely to worship? As we worship God, we can go in and out of thankfulness. This makes sense because we discover God's character through His actions: how we have experienced His work and presence in our lives. So, thankfulness can also help to reveal God's character and can lead to even greater worship.

We should never forget that worshipping God and thankfulness come together. Thankfulness is recognizing the good that is right here, but worship is about recognizing the far-surpassing goodness of God. Our voices, our singing, our hearts, and our spirit can understand or experience God's greatness in worship long before our minds can. In worship we reach up to the great, grand, abundant, loving mystery of God and say, 'We long to know you more.' God meets us there and fills us – which is why, for myself and many others, worship can be a revelation, a revival, a rest, or even a restoration. Amazingly, worship can increase our thankfulness, just as thankfulness increases our worship.

Worship can be tough sometimes. It is easy to just get caught up in the words, to go into rote, or to get lost, instead of really entering and giving ourselves over to worship; I find myself doing it, too. If we really give in and give our hearts over to worshipping God, then we can know and experience God in wonderful ways. I am at a place in my life where I experience this daily, even in the midst of tiredness, doubt, and having too much to wrap my mind around. This is why I yell, 'Alleluia!' Even if only for a moment, I want to give my voice over to worship so wholly that it fills the rafters. There is so much joy to be had and shared. Thankfulness and Worship are two essential ways that we grow into this.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone. I hope yours is truly filled with thanks and worship.

"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 106:1

God bless you all.

Wardens' Report

Karen Lee, Marguerite Locke, Sharon Shao

Happy Thanksgiving! At this time of year, we particularly give thanks for the bounty of the harvest, for our beautiful country, and for our freedoms. We give abundant thanks to God for our community of St. Matthew's.

We hope you have had an opportunity to read the *75th Anniversary Edition of Matt's Media*. We are most grateful to Kathie Oakden – Editor, Lisa Tait – Production, Tatiana Saliba and Bryan Tran – Interviewers, and the many contributors for this special edition. Many hours of work went into this production, and it is a wonderful keepsake for us all. THANK YOU!

We hope you have received your copy of *St. Matthew's 75th Anniversary Photobook*. Special thanks go to Sharon Shao – Editor, Blessington Velagapalli – Photographer, and Nancy Hurn – Archivist, for this great photo book. THANK YOU!

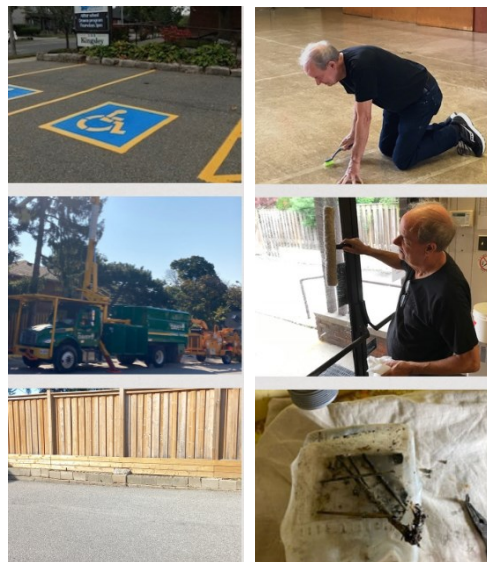
On September 24, 2023, we gathered to worship and celebrate our 75 years of ministry in Central Etobicoke! We were delighted to welcome the *Viva Choir* who accompanied our choir and praise band under the leadership of Tyler Versluis, music director, leading us in joyful praise. THANK YOU! We were delighted to welcome back many former clergy and parishioners.

Our sincere thanks go to the following folks whose contributions provided our joyous celebration: Ron and Barb Landry, Tanya Marcon, Katie Ward, Helen and John Prankie, Sandra and Stuart Watt, Pat Currie, Vivien Knowles, Sandy Easterbrook, Sandra Wilson, Dennis Locke, Ritah Namagambe, Nancy and Deborah Hurn, and the Warden team. Thanks to Lisa Tait, Tom Travaglini, and Grant Dunbar for all the extra duties. THANK YOU!

In preparation for a special event in our lives, we take stock of the repairs, improvements or jobs around our place of residence that may require work. In preparing for St. Matthew's 75th Anniversary celebration the Wardens did likewise. We found many jobs that required upkeep and others that, for financial reasons, had been postponed from previous years but very much needed completion.

To that end, some of the pictures attached will give you an overview of the jobs completed for both safety and security of the building as well as aesthetic improvements:

1. Parking lot lines repainted including all disability markings.
2. Pruning of tall trees on the east parking lot.
3. Removal of two large trees in rectory back yard which were leaning on both the rectory roof and neighbour's property.
4. Repairs to the retaining wall below the fence on the west side of the parking lot completed by our neighbours at the Wardens' request.
5. Replacement of missing floor tiles in the gym with as close a match as possible.
6. Painting of the brown handrail surrounding the front steps, ramp and parking lot.



Wardens' Report *(continued)*

7. Ongoing repairs to kitchen plumbing, gym washroom faucets and toilets due to high usage.
8. Garden sprinkler system extended to cover area at east side near gym doors.

We thank our sexton, Tom Travaglini, for the completion or oversight of many of these jobs.

Our "to do" list in a building the size and age of St. Matthew's is almost endless, and the Wardens will keep everyone updated as to our progress and priorities.

The Church has many groups (both Church activities and tenants) who use the facilities every day. It is very important that everyone helps to reduce heating and electricity costs and maintain a safe and secure building. Please remember to turn off lights, close windows, lock doors, and remove garbage and foodstuffs not eaten at the conclusion of events and meetings. These simple steps are most appreciated.

Expenses for supplies of paper products, cleaning supplies, etc., are all increasing as we know, and the Church is no exception. In the upcoming months the Wardens will be reviewing tenant leases with a view to being both competitive and realistic in our rental charges.

The Thanksgiving Offering this year will be directed toward offsetting the current deficit. Thank you for your continued financial support.

We give thanks to God for God's continued provision and care for St. Matthew's.

Blessings to you and your families!

Finance Report: October 2023

Karen Lee, Marguerite Locke, Sharon Shao

We are grateful to you all for the many ways that you continue to support St. Matthew's. As you can see below, our expenses do exceed our income mainly due to rising utility and maintenance costs. Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasures.

Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of September 30, 2023

Operating Fund	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Income	\$ 211,525	195,293	220,212
Expenses	\$ 232,188	217,891	228,960
Net Income	\$ -20,663	-22,598	-8,748

"Care and Share Campaign"

The Wardens wish to thank all the parishioners who generously donated to our Loonie/Toonie Jars during our extended Lenten/75-day drive. We received a total of \$1901.00 which was greatly appreciated.

Thanksgiving 2023

Rev. Merv Mercer

As Dawn and I prepare for thanksgiving and a family gathering – with all the expected culinary indulgences, I was horrified today by a headline that announced the current price of harvest turkeys as up to \$150 dollars. I was outraged! How has it come to this, I wondered? Grant it, that price was in a generally expensive store in the heart of upwardly mobile Etobicoke. But nevertheless, how could I be full of thankfulness facing such “criminal” costs? And it just seems to be getting worse every time you look!

This same week, I received a request for financial assistance for the building of a school in Bungoma, Western Kenya. The Diocese of Bungoma is part of the Anglican Church of Kenya, and a place I’ve had the good fortune to visit with theological students several times. The Bishop in Bungoma was a graduate of Wycliffe College and always welcomed us warmly to his diocese when I went with students to Africa to work in the church there for a month every other year.

As I thought back over that time, I was reminded how much we all learned there about thankfulness, from people who had so little. That was, in fact, the most powerful lesson I experienced. Christians could be living in what I knew as dire poverty, but still expressed their great thankfulness about being Christians. Not only that, but they were all more than willing to share their meagre “rations” with us as visitors, including the day’s milk and even their last chicken. And they always gave their thankfulness to God who had saved them. That was actually the key, I think. These good people knew in their hearts that they had much to be thankful for. The God who had given them new eyes to see their world, the world God had made and wanted to renew, had also changed their hearts to remind them how blessed they were. It made for a stark contrast to the church and culture to which we all returned after Africa.

On my return from one of our trips, I heard from the Bishop that he had experienced a break in and had everything in his home stolen, including the substantial amount I had left him to cover the costs we had imposed upon him during our visit. To my amazement, his response to this was only to reiterate his thankfulness for suffering for God’s work in this way. What a privilege to be part of God’s work, he went on. It was at this very point that I learned about the appropriate response for Christians, and the basis for our thanksgiving. The God who gave life to redeem us is always the One for which we must be thankful, in spite of the cost of turkeys!

Being Thankful

Dawn Mercer

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, we have so many things “close to home” that fill us with gratefulness to God for what He has done and what he is doing. This is a good time to take 10 minutes and sit down with a pen and paper and write down some of those things that can help us remember God’s goodness when we feel discouraged. It is hard to stay “down” when your heart is filled with gratitude.

Some things that come to mind quickly are the 75 years that God’s love has been shown to the neighbourhood of St. Matthew’s. We think also of neighbourhood folks (across the age spectrum) who have become part of the St. Matthew’s family over the past couple of years. We are so thankful for the lives of the very special St. Matt’s folks who have died over the past while. The example of their lives and their lived-faith encourages us even in our grief at their loss. As we slowly recover from the isolation of various levels of lockdown from COVID, we’re thankful for families who have come back together for Messy Church, and the Family Room, for the Youth

Being Thankful *(continued)*

Dawn Mercer

gathering for Sunday morning discussions, the Fall Retreat and Friday Evenings, and for Adults gathering to share growing in faith and enjoying music and worship together.

You probably have more things to put on your list, but I want to add my thankfulness for the youth who have grown up at St. Matt's who participated in Camp Matt this August as LIT's (Leaders-In-Training). Their continued interest in encountering God's love in their lives and sharing that with others demonstrates yet another way that God is able to do "more than we can ask or imagine."

So now, get out your pen and paper and keep that list in a safe place.

Messy Church

Dawn Mercer

Orange Shirt Day: The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—Saturday, September 30

At Messy Church we have been working at providing first-hand experiences for children and their families to get a better understanding of what Orange Shirt Day means and to begin to grasp what National reconciliation means to us. To that end, there had been a plan since June for Esther Wesley to lead a Children and Youth Blanket Exercise. Very sadly Esther's sister, Helen Cromarty, an elder in the Sachigo Lake FN, died unexpectedly in mid-September and Esther went to bury her sister following their traditional customs. We felt Esther's loss and look forward to rescheduling the Blanket Exercise at a later time when Esther is available.

We are so thankful that Nancy Hurn was able to get leaders John and Dorothy Patterson, from the Six Nations of the Credit Valley, to present to Messy Church. In the end, Dorothy was ill on Saturday but everyone at Messy Church was fascinated by John's display of tanned hides of Bear, Beaver, etc., as well as numerous items reflecting Indigenous knowledge and wisdom about living in the natural world.

The children also had an opportunity to explore in a more kid-friendly way what reconciliation means and took home with them a bag to offer as a gift for a time when they want to come together with someone after a conflict. They now understood much more that reconciliation is a two-way experience.

We also made signs and planted them in the sidewalk garden to show to people who walk by St. Matthew's our concern for Indigenous children. As well, everyone made a bracelet of the

Indigenous traditional Four Colours, white / black / red / yellow. In our worship time, the Four Colours were used to focus prayers and talk about our Creator God. Children took home a card to remind them of the Four Colours with prayers to use for each colour. After a meal reminding us of Indigenous foods (e.g., Wild Rice and Corn), everyone went home very happy.



The New Paganism

Tyler Vershuis

For those who have been following my articles in Matt's Media, you are aware that I have talked often about the decline of Christianity in the west. Based on my fixation on this topic, you might sense that I am pessimistic about the future of the Christian faith, or the life of the Church in general. In fact, the opposite is true, and I truly believe that the Church is undergoing a Pentecost moment. It reminds me of many times throughout history, when the growth and flourishing of the Church seems to happen in opposition to the "shrinking" of the world. I was recently talking to a friend, also a church musician, who commented that "...everything seems bad right now... except for church. But that's what happens. When life is grim, the church grows".

More than ever, Christians are living in a culture that is once again "pagan", with which we have an uneasy relationship. I do not use the word 'pagan' to paint a grotesque caricature of those that do not know Christ, but rather to describe a world that does not seem interested in transcending its fallen state, to what it once was. In the past, paganism was a system of beliefs in which humans were a small speck in a world of chaos. The spirits of the world and nature were fickle and ambiguous, and communities dedicated themselves to pantheons and rituals that were most advantageous to their situation. Most pagan cultures, such as the Romans', were apathetic about spiritual matters, and accepted that religion was just a spiritual prop-up to a materialistic and cruel world-vision. Paganism is the satisfaction of a grim status quo, which at its worst, masquerades as twisted practicality. Why consider the plight of the unborn, the elderly or terminally ill, when it is much more cost-effective not to? Why consider the status of the soul, when we can engage in "victimless" sins discreetly with guilty pleasure?

Paganism, in all its general manifestations, despises Christianity, because Christianity seeks to transcend the so-called natural order of things. Christianity is earth shattering, ruthlessly transformative and seeks to disrupt as much as it brings the serenity of knowing Christ. For these reasons, I believe this is why Christianity, along with Islam, has a history of being problematic: because these religions despise the paganism that the world seems to love dearly and unconditionally, despite all its diminishing returns.

As we once again enter pagan territory after an era of immense institutional advantages (the so-called "Christian society" we were once living in), there are two futures we could potentially manifest. The first, simply conform to the world and relinquish the mission of the Kingdom of God, or the second, manifest the energy of the early Church in pagan Rome, with all its underground activity, struggles and hardships.

"No one doubts that an ordinary man can get on with this world: but we demand not strength enough to get on with it, but strength enough to get it on. Can he hate it enough to change it, and yet love it enough to think it worth changing? Can he look up at its colossal good without once feeling acquiescence? Can he look up at its colossal evil without once feeling despair? Can he, in short, be at once not only a pessimist and an optimist, but a fanatical pessimist and a fanatical optimist? Is he enough of a pagan to die for the world, and enough of a Christian to die to it? In this combination, I maintain, it is the rational optimist who fails, the irrational optimist who succeeds. He is ready to smash the whole universe for the sake of itself."

G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), Orthodoxy

Musical Moments at St. Matthew's: October 22

Concert: The King of Instruments' Eight-Century Reign

Think about this for a moment: what is the most grandiose, awe-inspiring instrument you can think of? I can guarantee you weren't thinking about the kazoo. No, the **pipe organ**, of course! It is no surprise that Mozart called it the King of Instruments, and that is what inspires our upcoming Musical Moments at St. Matthew's concert on October 22 at 2:30 p.m.: the amazing eight-century reign of this royal instrument that graces our churches, concert halls and auditoriums. Organists David Simon and Tyler Versluis will start with the very first written pieces of organ music, written around 1360 AD, then proceed through the centuries to the organ's beautiful flowering in the Baroque era, and conclude with the composers of today. Come one, come all!

David Simon, organ <https://davidsimon.ca/>

Tyler Versluis, organ and piano

Pay What You Can (\$20 recommended)



**EIGHT
CENTURY
REIGN:
The King of
Instruments**
**October 22
2:30 PM**

New Ministries

Amanda Palias

We have three new offerings and the return of The Family Room.

CAMP Matt 2023 Highlights!

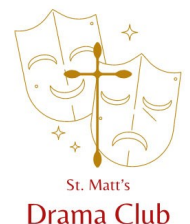
Our first Day Camp happened between August 14 and 18 this past summer. We had 28 children and youth participate and many volunteers praying, leading, running games, making crafts, teaching music and so much more. Our theme of 'Ride the Wave' emphasized that we can navigate the ups and downs of life with Jesus by our side. Rev. Philip encouraged us to have 'God sightings' and by the end of the week we were all excitedly participating in a powerful call and response. When we heard, "When life is chaotic..." we would all proclaim, "God is our rock." On Sunday, August 20 following 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship, we enjoyed a barbeque lunch in appreciation for all who contributed to Camp Matt. Thank you, St. Matt's, for your support. See you next year!



New After School Drama Program.

Calling Volunteers for the New Afterschool Drama Program

Starting Thursday, September 28 between 3 - 5 p.m., St. Matthew's launched a new, free program for youth ages 8 - 14. This drama program involves a variety of activities and a light snack. It will run from September to June with breaks for



New Ministries *(continued)*

Amanda Palias

Christmas and Easter. We are looking for volunteers ages 15 and up to help out in various capacities that can depend on interest and capacity. Some roles include:

- Monthly snack coordinator. We need one or two people to purchase and drop off snacks.
- Registers and Greeters. Love to provide welcome? Looking for a few people to greet children and families as they arrive.
- Games Leader. Lead a game to get the program running.
- Drama, movement, voice, or improv coaches. Looking for people with knowledge in these areas who could guide the group in practicing these skills.
- Supervisors. Come to assist the other leaders and offer a helping hand.

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to the New Ministry Associate, Amanda Palias, at family@saintmatts.ca



New Ministry: Condo Bible Studies (CBS)

Beginning this October, and in an effort to explore new ways of connecting with our surrounding community, St. Matthews has launched a regular Condo Bible study (CBS). These meetings will take place in congregants' homes in order to reach people in their condominium or apartment complex. Although they are meant to function as a satellite to our regular church community, we are looking for meaningful ways to connect with them as they meet and grow.



Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Amanda, Bryan, and Tatiana

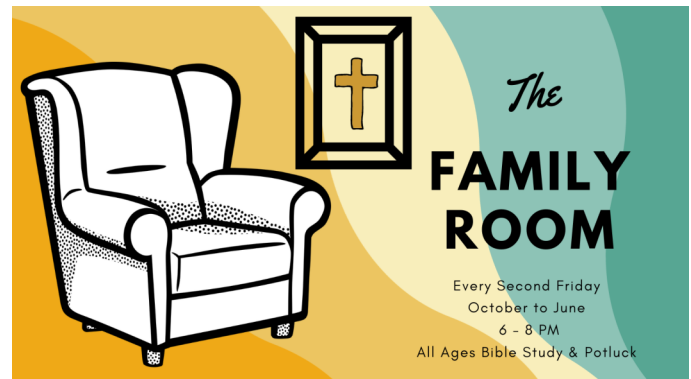
We have one already up and running! Please pray for this new group and ministry. Reach out to Rev. Philip Stonhouse or the New Ministry Associate, Amanda Palias at family@saintmatts.ca if you are interested in hosting your own group or would like to know more.

The Family Room Returns



A monthly, all ages potluck meal and bible study.

Held in St. Matthew's lounge every second Friday of the month, 6-8 p.m.

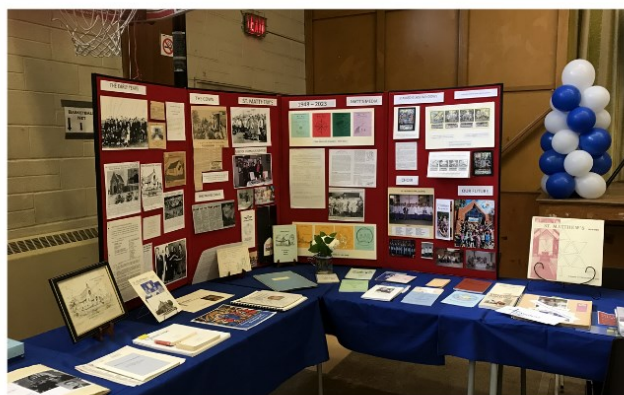
Join in November 10 and December 8.



What's Happening

Sun Oct 15	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Tues Oct 17	Fall Tea: 2:00 p.m. (Speaker: Rev. Merv Mercer)	In person (Lounge)
Wed Oct 18	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Book Club: 7:30-9:00 p.m. (<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>)	In person
Thurs Oct 19	After school Drama Club every Thursday: 3:30-5:00 p.m.	In person
Fri Oct 20	Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sun Oct 22	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
 Wed Oct 25	CONCERT—Eight Century Reign: 2:30 p.m.	In person (Sanctuary)
	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Book Club: 7:30-9:00 p.m.	In person
Sat Oct 28	Messy Church: 4:00 p.m.	In person
Sun Oct 29	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Nov 1	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Book Club: 7:30-9:00 p.m..	In person
Thurs Nov 2	All Souls Service: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sat Nov 4	Men's Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.	Sunset Grill
	Daytime Retreat: 1:00-4:30 p.m.	In person (Lounge)
Sun Nov 5	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Tues Nov 7	Film (The Chosen, 6th Episode): 7:00 p.m.	In person (Sanctuary)
Wed Nov 8	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Fri Nov 10	The Family Room & Youth Group: 6:00 p.m.	In person (Lounge)
Sun Nov 12	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Remembrance Day Service)	In person & online
 Mon Nov 13	CONCERT—Young Artists Series: 2:30 p.m.	In person & online
	Prayer Practice: 7:00 p.m.	In person (Lounge)
Tues Nov 14	Bible Studies Begin: 7:00 p.m. (to Nov 28)	In person (Sanctuary)
Wed Nov 15	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sun Nov 19	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Fri Nov 24	Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sat Nov 25	Messy Church (Advent): 4:00 p.m.	In person
Sun Nov 26	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Testimonials)	In person & online

St. Matthew's Celebrates 75 Years





St. Matt's Youth

Bryan Tran

The summer was a fun time for the youth as we enjoyed the outdoors not with just our youth group events, but also the bigger church-wide events! There was a nature hike led by Simon Wukasch, a couple of Ultimate Frisbee sessions led by Guillaume Palias, and the end-of-year pizza party in the parking lot which was great fun for the entire family. Many of our youth were also leaders at our first-ever Camp Matt, where they demonstrated strong leadership, communication, and creativity, not to mention patience and endurance!

Kickstarting the school year we had lots of fun at the pool party and BBQ hosted by the Hurns, our first youth group event where we played games, ate pizza, and raffled off some prizes, and our second youth group event where we made our own Anglican rosaries and learned how to use them. Special thanks to Lisa Oppitz for providing the materials and sharing her expertise in jewelry making, Amanda Palias for gracefully leading us in a prayer workshop, and Bob Holloway for sharing some of his rosaries.

The youth also had an amazing time at the Diocesan 'Recharge' Youth Retreat at Muskoka Woods, with 12 youth attending along with three adult leaders. We were blessed with the best possible weather as we performed challenges, played games and sports, sang together in worship, and shared the youths' vision for the church in the 'Cast the Net' session. We learned about the example of the saints living out their faith as ordinary people and had our fill of great food and conversation while being surrounded by fellow Anglicans and God's wonderful creation in nature. We also got the opportunity to ask Bishop Andrew any question we wanted, so we asked some very important questions like: How long can a person hold their breath underwater? Where did you get your shoes? How long have you worked for the Church? What was your favourite childhood memory? And to his wife Mary, what is your favourite and least favourite thing about being the Bishop's wife?


All in all, it was a wonderful experience, and we look forward to the upcoming winter 'Radiate' Retreat. We have some exciting youth events coming up, including rock climbing, a movie night, and a gift creation station. There has also been some interest among the youth in the Youth Alpha program, so we are looking at starting that up in the new year!

Food Cupboard

Noel Martin

Thank you to those who have been bringing items for the food cupboard; every bit has helped.

As to date, we still have only two clients for our food bags, but they are in need every month. We have struggled to meet that meagre need. Although not a large amount of food is needed every month, each bag is substantial, and we do need the many items we have always needed. All contributions will be gratefully received by the Church and by the recipients who live in our community.



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Club Matt Children's Program

Lianne Thompson

Looking back over the last few months, I can't believe Summer is over and that Thanksgiving will be over by the time this issue is in print.

The Summer is usually a quieter time for the children's program as so many families are on vacation. However, this was one of the most -attended Club Matt summer seasons in years. Each week regularly had 8 – 10 children coming out to join the *Rock-Solid Followers* program. Our Summer program had a fun camping/outdoor theme (did you catch sight of the tent in the Lounge?). Focusing on Paul and the missionaries of that time, the children explored who we are as Jesus' followers, and how much He loves and cares for us.

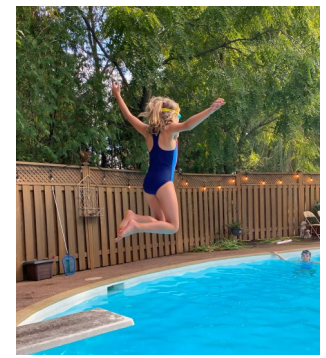
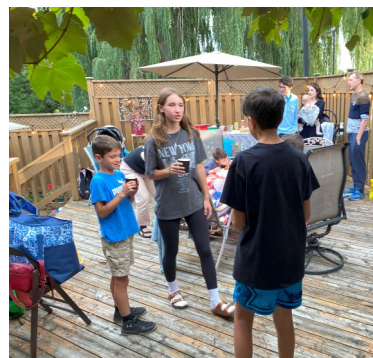


Club Matt & Families Events



Celebrating the end of school and the start of Summer, our annual *Pizza in the Parking Lot* event was held on June 23. We were thrilled that we had over 70 people attend. WOW. Even though it was a rainy evening, that did not stop the children from playing water games out in the parking lot for hours. We did move dinner inside the gym and what a joyous occasion for fun and fellowship that was.

We bid farewell to the summer season with a pool party at the Hurn house on September 16. Almost 50 people attended, and the weather cooperated with lots of sunshine. It was hard to get the children out of the pool, while the adults enjoyed catching up with our wonderful community. Thanks to Deborah and Nancy for opening their home as wonderful hosts!



And now it is Fall!

The Fall Club Matt program launched with the *Blessing of the Backpacks* on September 10, and then we began our Old Testament section focusing on *Judges and Kings* in the bible. Each week

Club Matt Children's Program *(continued)*

Lianne Thompson

the children are learning about another of these amazing women and men (like Deborah, Ruth, Samson, Gideon, David, Samuel and more). The program focuses on how God knows each one of us and wants us to help with his plan. Ask the children who they learned about on Sunday!

And not wanting to look too far ahead, but Advent and the Christmas pageant seem to be just around the corner. Stay tuned!



Goodbyes and Hello...

We were sad to say farewell to Ann Marie Pupulin, long-time parishioner, volunteer, Club Matt leader and dear friend in August. Ann Marie and her boys, Chris and Will, moved to Stratford to be closer to family and we wish them well. (We will be happy to welcome them back whenever they are in town.)

We are also thrilled to welcome Vanessa James-Locke and Tatiana Saliba to the Club Matt team – they will be teaching in the Club Matt Junior and Senior classes starting this Fall. Welcome!

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

The Club Matt team is always looking for people to assist with special events, help out leading in the program or supporting children. If you are interested in participating this Fall, for the pageant, or in the Winter/Spring programs, please speak to Lianne Thompson – we would love to tell you more!



**“Children are a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb is the reward.”**
Psalms 127:3

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Roofing and Home Renovations

Bruno Levesque - President
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Warm Clothing Drive on October 17/18th

Doing Fall Cleaning?? Please donate any gently used, clean adult or children's WARM clothing and footwear to the St. Matthew's fall clothing drive.

Articles should be placed in bags, labelled please as to contents, and may be dropped off at the church on the afternoon of Tuesday October 17th from 4-5 pm OR Wednesday morning October 18th from 9-11 am. All donations will then be delivered on Oct. 18th to the Scott Mission for distribution to their clients.

Kindly remember that the articles need to be suitable for our colder weather as the Mission does not have room to store items for springtime. Thank you for any contributions you may have.

Questions? Contact Marguerite Locke at mdlocke@hotmail.com.



Memorial Tree

With the assistance of Orianna of GreenTerrart, Richard Farrar planted an Eastern Redbud tree in memory of his late wife, Bridget, in the west garden. The tree dedication in June was attended by Richard's family.



Church Records

Deaths

Jean Tovey
June 20, 2023

Elizabeth "Betty" Smith
June 26, 2023

Terrence Reece
July 3, 2023

Anthony Denham
August 26, 2023

Marriages

Tyrene Jordan-Jackman & Jessie Adair
July 1, 2023

Sylvia Galano & John Mazenauer
August 19, 2023

Baptisms

Edward McLean Yestrau
October 1, 2023

Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered over the phone, by email or via Zoom. If you would like to arrange for home communion, please contact Rev. Philip or the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.

Partners in Prayer: Should you desire prayer for yourself or for another person, please make details known to Bob Holloway at 416-253-4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca. If necessary, the request can be transmitted through the church office.

Cycle of Prayer: “Beloved, pray for us.” This is Paul’s way of asking the Thessalonians to pray for him (5:25) and it expresses the genuine need for believers to support one another through prayer. Each Sunday, we will be praying for individuals and families of St. Matthew’s in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names will be mentioned in our prayers and we will have the opportunity to support one another through prayer. Please take the time to remember these people during the week in your own prayers as well. If you do not wish to be included in our “Cycle of Prayer” please let the office know and we will be sure to keep your name off the list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew’s. If you would like a shawl for someone, please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca. If you are knitting shawls for this ministry, please contact the office to arrange to drop them off.

Weekly Worship

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. BCP Service

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Casual*(in person & online)

11:00 a.m. Classic*(in person & online)

12:10 p.m. Coffee Hour

*First Sunday of each month:

10:30 a.m. Unity Worship

(replaces 9:30 & 11 a.m. services)



Join Us

Messy Church

Next Messy Church dates:

October 28, 4 pm

November 25, 4 pm

GIFT Groups

Contact the office for information

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9:30 - 3:30

416-231-4014

office@saintmatts.ca



The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent
416-231-3060 / philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca

The Rev. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant
Dr. Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist
Amanda Palias, Family and Discipleship
Ministry Associate
Bryan Tran, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Travaglini, Sexton
Lisa Tait, Administrator

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