

Matt's Media

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

Thanksgiving 2025



Happy Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever (Psalm 107.1).

FROM THE RECTOR: MIGHTY IN ALL THINGS

This is a precis of a larger article which can be viewed on the St. Matthew's Website Blog

Every Sunday we say the Creed, a series of statements that convey the core of what we, as Christians, believe to be true. The Apostles' creed arose as a natural outpouring of what the disciples had learned as they met and followed Jesus Christ. The Creed begins with a simple and straightforward line, but in it we find the gospel, our hope and our way forward: **"I believe in God, the Father Almighty."**

"I believe." The creed may be about God and what he has done, but it actually starts with us. We have an essential part to play in this relationship. The early disciples understood that we need to be living and acting on that belief. God doesn't want just anyone, he wants you.

In its traditional form the creed starts with "I," although there are many ancient Christian Creeds that use "We". Both are important. First in importance is our personal relationship with God; if we don't have a personal relationship then we can't have a communal one. The community is also essential; we confess this together. We hold onto it together, we lift up each other in this reality, we experience it together and the Creed takes on flesh in our midst.

"I believe." Our belief is not something which lacks proof. The simple fact that we say "I believe" or "We believe" states that I or we have experienced something that led us to this belief. Indeed, our beliefs have a lot of proof, because we attempt to incorporate all avenues which lead us to truth—science, feeling, history, community, goodness, hope, love, and more.

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NEXT ISSUE:

Advent/Christmas: Nov. 30
Submissions due: Nov. 5
(kathie.oakden@gmail.com)

EDITORS:

Kathie Oakden
Linda Harrison

LAYOUT:

Lisa Tait

Mighty in All Things (continued)

This proof may confuse us though, because Christian belief is actually more about a relationship than a set of ideas. The relationship we have built with God is such that we know he is trustworthy, that he is good, and that he can do what is needed and more.

“In God.” This is the hardest part to define on its own and is dealt with later in the creed. It is important to realize that this God we are talking about has an identity which is particular, (unique, distinct, specific) and can be known. There have been many gods throughout the ages. Most were gods of certain things, but our God is different and his difference changes how we understand everything.

“I believe in God,” defines our primary belief. We say this before we say anything, which tells others that this is our fundamental belief. We don’t believe in ourselves first, we know we fall short, even our perception falls short. We don’t believe in the things of this world first, not even science, or worldviews or culture, governments, family, etc. because again they fall short. We trust God first, as he is the one that never falls short.

“The Father.” This tells us something profound about God. At its simplest it tells us that God wants us to look at him as a father and we should see that he wants us to be his children. Already, this tells us something amazing. The God that is beyond and greater than us wants to be close with us, even intimate, like a parent and child. This is an immense and beautiful invitation. Just as a parent grandly determines what a child’s life will look like, only imagine what our lives could be with such a great father.

“The Father.” The Father, the pinnacle of fathers, the capital “F” father, with traits perfected from the beginning of time. Think about the authority, the strength, the wisdom, the joy, the wonder, but also the love, the care, the guiding arm, the protection and embrace.

A small note on the gender of Father. We know that God in a sense does not have a gender, yet he purposefully revealed himself as Father on numerous

occasions. He also became a male in Jesus Christ. We could excuse this by saying that this was during a patriarchal time, but I think that is limiting God. I need to do more prayer on the shape of God’s Fatherhood, but I think on the surface this speaks to our experience of God as close and yet beyond us. This also poses a difficult struggle for all those with bad fathers, because it is harder to connect with God, the Father, when we don’t have a good earthly example.

“Almighty.” Or mighty in all things. What does it mean to be mighty in all things? Can he be mighty in the contradictory things? You would almost always say that strength is where you would find might. Yet God, the Father, is also the mightiest at showing weakness because he is able to stoop down without belittling himself. He shows his might over evil by redeeming it for good.

In seven words, we have seen so much. In “I believe” we can see our purpose, our foundation, our relationship. “In God” we can see our direction, our faith and trust, and we see our need. In “The Father,” we have seen the care, intimacy, authority, character, desire and purpose of our God. In “Almighty,” we have seen who God is and who he isn’t. We have seen how we are meant to relate to him and how we have fallen short. And so we hear the gospel that we are called to live in: God created us for a loving and intimate relationship with him, yet because we can’t always see it (our brokenness), we have to take a leap of trust in the one that has shown himself trustworthy in love and might and since he is both loving (having the desire to) and mighty (having the power to), we know that he is going to create for us a place abounding in everything that is good. I believe in God, the Father Almighty. AMEN

We haven’t looked at Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit, but these seven words should point us to the realities of both.

Your brother in Jesus Christ,

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

Wardens' Words

Happy Thanksgiving! We wish you and your families a peaceful Thanksgiving. Living here in Central Etobicoke, we do have much for which to be thankful: our magnificent countryside, our freedoms, our harvest, and our St. Matthew's community. God has blessed us richly.

Despite the extreme summer heat, Camp Matt '25 was full of fun and exploration. We are grateful for the expert leadership of all those involved. Thank You!

Sadly, we must report to you that we have accepted the resignation of our Youth Minister, Bryan Tran. We thank Bryan for his contributions to our Youth program and we wish him well in all his future endeavours.

We are pleased to share with you that Tanya Marcon Moore has accepted our Youth Minister's position. Thank you, Tanya, and welcome to the team!

On September 2, 2025, our new tenant, Newton's Grove School, opened its doors for Kindergarten

through Grade 3. A warm welcome to the students and staff.

St. Matthew's is truly blessed with amazing staff led by our Priest, Rev. Philip, along with Rev. Merv, Tyler, Tanya, Lisa, Tom, Grant, and Anita. Thank you for your continued great work.

Current details on our properties can be found elsewhere in this publication. We are grateful for the contributions of our property coordinators, Marguerite Locke and Stuart Watt.

The special Thanksgiving Offering will be directed towards 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.

Bountiful Blessings to you and your families!

Karen Lee, Sharon Shao, Paul Lorimer, Nancy Hurn

Financial Report September 2025

Many thanks to the Parish for your continued financial support to our many ministries and operations of our parish and as well as all the ways you support our community with your time and talents.

As you will see below, **our expenses have been greater than our income due** to required repairs for our facilities, increased property insurance fees and increased Diocesan allotment fees.

Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of August 31, 2025.

Operating Fund	2025 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Income	\$ 186,254	189,682	217,960
Expenses	\$ 224,224	224,157	229,680
Net Operations	\$ - 37,969	- 34,475	- 11,720

**For more information on events, worship times and more,
check our website at saintmatts.ca**

What's Happening

Tues Oct 14	Fall Afternoon Tea: 2:00 p.m. (Speaker: Tanya Marcon Moore)	In person (lounge)
Wed Oct 15	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sun Oct 19	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
	Concert—Gaia Quartet: 2:30 p.m.	In person
Wed Oct 22	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Men's bible study: 6:00 p.m., (Rev. Philip or Tyler for details)	In person
Fri Oct 24	Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sat Oct 25	Messy Church: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	In person (gym)
Sun Oct 26	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Oct 29	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sat Nov 1	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Sunset Grill, 1510 Dundas Street, Mississauga, contact dave.oakden@gmail.com	In person
Sun Nov 2	Unity Worship with Worship band: 10:30 a.m. (Morning Prayer)	In person & online
	Choral Evensong for All Souls: 2:30 p.m.	In person
Wed Nov 5	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Fri Nov 7	Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sun Nov 9	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m. (Remembrance Day)	In person & online
	BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Remembrance Day)	In person & online
Tues Nov 11	<i>The Chosen</i> (Season 2 episode 5)	In person
Wed Nov 12	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sun Nov 16	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Tues Nov 18 to Dec 2	Bible Studies begin (<i>The Chosen</i> season 2) (November 25 and December 2) 7:00 p.m.	In person
Wed Nov 19	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Men's bible study: 6:00 p.m., (Rev. Philip or Tyler for details)	In person
Fri Nov 21	Youth Group (rock climbing)	In person
Sun Nov 23	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Nov 26	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sat Nov 29	Messy Church: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	In person (gym)
Sun Nov 30	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online

Are You in the Right Church?

For many of you reading this, your answer is probably “yes”, because you go to St. Matthew’s, which is a very good church.

If you are a regular person, you probably chose to come to St. Matthew’s because it is a place where you feel God’s presence and you are being nurtured spiritually, and not because you scrutinized every line of the canons of doctrine of the Anglican Church of Canada and declared it personally to be the one true church founded by Jesus Christ and the Apostles. Funnily enough, there are plenty of people who fall into the latter category, and their rhetoric and reflections crowd theological spaces online and in books.

The funny thing is you won’t find many Anglicans among these people. For example, I can name several people personally who will zealously defend Catholic, Orthodox, and Reformed theological doctrine, but I really do not know anyone who would do the same for Anglican theology and doctrine. The Anglican Church has a reputation of being soft and squishy on a lot of things. Our favourite answers to theological questions are “Yes, but...” and “Yes, and...”. This is both fascinating and frustrating from someone like me who was raised Reformed, a theological tradition that for better or worse, loves to put its foot down, often on somebody else’s foot.

Regardless of what you think about the Anglican Church of Canada, we confess in the Nicene Creed that we believe and adhere to the holy catholic and apostolic church, even though it may seem that its holiness and catholicity are scattered amongst denominations and even in individual parishes. I often feel that no denomination or church gets it right, and at best we can attend a parish church that provides us

with the least number of roadblocks on that path of holiness that Jesus Christ aspires us to adhere to. So, I am deeply thankful for St. Matthew’s. But what about Anglicanism?

Although we may not know and appreciate it, the Anglican tradition has become a meeting place for the future of Christianity in the Western hemisphere; its softness and squishiness mean it yields well in our increasingly post-liberal, post-denominational world, a world that is currently suffering from growing pains. It is a church both of innovation and of Tradition, a haven for evangelicals feeling the rootlessness of their denominations, and for Catholics struggling with ecclesiological conundrums and trust issues in church leadership and magisterium.

However, we also have problems. The Anglican church risks dissolving with other theologically liberal denominations in a sea of subjectivity, mainly due to church leadership who believe Jesus to be nothing but radical cultural practice, and who risk pulling our denomination away from that holiness and catholicity that the Creed requires from us. The Anglican path was built on holiness and a respect for balance, and I am thankful that St. Matthew’s lives out that holiness in mission, worship, and prayer. Being part of a good church—and denomination—means that we no longer need hold on to replacement doctrines, because it funnels our reason towards the truth of Jesus Christ. We unfortunately witness the horror of these replacement doctrines daily.

Pray to God that He guides us as we mediate between the realness and grittiness of parish church life and the ideals of truth and oneness in faith.

In Christ,
Tyler Versluis

Early one morning, the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said, “You have to make the coffee. It’s in the Bible!”

The husband was shocked. “Is not! Show me!”

Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, “It says right here — HEBREWS!”

Property and Maintenance Report

The property team is pleased to share several "good news" items with the Parish:

Our new tenant, Newton's Grove School, has opened the renovated lower level for primary school. The work has been completed by their contractor and includes many new improvements for the church, including new washrooms, double glazed windows, fresh painting of various rooms. Costs of the renovation were paid by the school.

Many parishioners volunteered to assist in the cleaning and clearing of rooms and materials prior to the renovation and we sincerely thank all of them for this work.

Most importantly, the Parish owes a huge thank you to Karen Lee who acted as the project manager for this renovation. Her tireless work as the liaison between the school, their contractor, subtrades, and other tenants is greatly appreciated. This renovated space is a tremendous upgrade for our church.

Greentak Premier Signs updated our digital sign because pixels to display our messages needed replacing. They also facilitated the new school sign for Newton's Grove School.

Thank you to Tom Travaglini, our sexton, for his overall maintenance of our building during a very hectic and hot summer, and particularly for waxing the gym floors to a brilliant shine for another year of activity.



As outlined in our Pentecost issue of *Matt's Media*, we did have several very expensive repairs required during this past winter and spring for our roof and fire monitoring system. The M & M Fundraising effort which was celebrated with treats of candy M&M's on Sunday, August 31st, was most successful. We have to date received \$24,000 for which the Wardens are most grateful. Thank you to all individuals who have contributed to this effort.

The control panel and circuit boards are to be replaced shortly by Siemens, as we needed the school renovations to be completed first.

A couple of other jobs are pending, including a service call from Precision Elevators to replace a part for our elevator and Versatech (our boiler service company) will have to repair valves to increase the hot water temperature in our system.

Just as in any personal property, the church building and rectory are older structures which require ongoing maintenance and upgrades to keep them in good condition. We try to take a proactive approach in safeguarding the premises to the best of our ability.

Marguerite Locke and Stuart Watt



Introducing our New Youth Leader

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that the transition back to school is going well!

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Tanya Marcon Moore, and since January I've been serving alongside Bryan Tran in youth ministry, and I am now stepping into the lead role. Bryan and Emily Crump are still very much involved, so you'll continue to see them as well.

I've been part of St. Matthew's for almost 30 years, and all three of my boys went through Club Matt and

youth group here. It is an honour and a joy to now serve as a youth leader in this amazing church family. My husband, Mike, is originally from England, where he also worked with youth. Today, he is a Red Cross first aid instructor and a dad of four boys—so together, we are no strangers to youth ministry!

We are excited about all the youth activities we have planned for the year, starting with Diocesan Youth Retreat at Muskoka Woods Camp, in Rosseau, from September 26-28.

Tanya Marcon Moore

Youth Group

We are excited to share that Youth Group is off to a great start this fall! On September 12 we gathered for a fun pizza party with 14 youth in attendance — a wonderful mix of familiar faces and new friends. The evening was filled with laughter as we played games like Candy Pong and the Balloon Team Challenge.

By the time of publication, we will have participated in *Recharge Muskoka Woods* for our youth retreat, with nine youth signed up to attend. This will be a time of renewal, fellowship, and faith.

Throughout the year, our Friday night youth gatherings will focus on three things: having fun, building friendships, and learning from the book of Acts.

On Friday, October 10 we'll be talking about *Stone Soup* — a story about building community by coming together. In the spirit of the story, we'll be making a big pot of soup, sharing fresh bread, and enjoying time together around the table.



If you know a young person who would like to be part of Youth Group, they are always welcome! It's a place to connect, have fun, and grow together in faith.

Check the [website](#) for a list of upcoming Youth events.

Tanya Marcon Moore
on behalf of the Youth Group Team

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4:15)

Club Matt Summer and Fall

Club Matt's Summer Theme was *The Armour of God*, taken from *Ephesians 6:10-18*.

Each Sunday highlighted a different piece of armour:

- The Belt of Truth
- The Breastplate of Righteousness
- The Shoes of Peace
- The Shield of Faith
- The Helmet of Salvation
- The Sword of the Spirit

Sunday worship following Camp Matt week was led by Camp Matt participants! On the long weekends, activities were available, led by Mercy Njeteneh.

After the Blessing of the Backpacks Club Matt began its regular structure in September with a new Theme, *God and Creation*, which will include Light & Darkness, Day & Night, Heavens & Earth, Plants, Sun, Moon, Stars and Animals.

Club Matt Renovations



Thank you to Lianne, Dawn, Linda, and all who worked tirelessly to create our new Club Matt spaces.



Installations - Repairs - Winterization - Exterior Lighting

Jon Harrison

Office	905 625 7315	Mail	1600 Bough Beeches Blvd
Mobile	416 951 7315		Mississauga, ON L4W4G6
Email	jon@bharrisonservices.com	Website	www.bharrisonservices.com



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St. Matthew's Sunday: September 21, 2025

St. Matthew's Day was celebrated during Unity Worship at 10:30 a.m. Hymns and songs were chosen by Tyler Versluis to suit all age groups. Singing was led by a broad range of musicians: Soloist, Choir, Praise Band singers and instrumentalists—violin, cello, guitar, piano and organ. We thank visiting organist/pianist Damien Macedo who joined Tyler in organ/piano duets for Prelude and Postlude.

There followed a BBQ lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, home-made salads and desserts. Our celebration was well attended with a great turnout of folks from all

Congregations, Messy Church, and Camp Matt families.

Many thanks for our BBQ lunch which was delicious. Thank you to Tanya Marcon Moore, Stuart Watt, Sandra Watt, Vivian Knowles, Sandy Easterbrook, Barb Landry, Cathy Cross, Kanae Doi, Josh Marcon, all salad chefs and bakers. Thank you to Stuart for manning the barbecue, to Kanae for donating the burgers, and to all participants who set up and put away the tables and chairs, and who worked in the kitchen.

Kathie Oakden



Camp Matt: The Light of the World

Camp Matt ran from Monday to Friday, August 11-15, 2025. On the following Sunday, participants led Sunday Worship at Church.

During the week, campers arrived between 8:30-9:00 a.m. Four Groups of campers plus teen Leaders-in-Training (LITs) rotated through morning worship, Musical Petting Zoo/morning snack/Games, lunch at Smithwood Park, The Light Lab/movie snack/Creation Station crafts, and closing worship,

with camp ending at 3:00 p.m.

On Wednesday morning all campers and LITs went to the Splash Pad at East Mall Park. On Friday afternoon they all went to the Free Swim at Wedgewood Pool.

Thanks to Rev. Philip, Linda Dickson, Dawn Mercer, Tyler Versluis, Jenna Wukasch, Vanessa James-Locke, Emily Crump, summer student Kristina Suggs, teen Leaders-in-Training and many adult helpers.

Camp Matt: The Light of the World



Camp Matt Reflections

Ashley (LIT - Leader in Training) Reflection

Camp Matt was an amazing experience. From a leader's perspective, just hanging out with the kids was lots of fun and such a joyful experience. They would always make me smile. One of my favourite memories is walking to the park, splashpad, and pool. We would think of funny ways to walk, for example, like fairies, or dinosaurs, princesses, etc. Just a little way of adding more fun to the mixture.

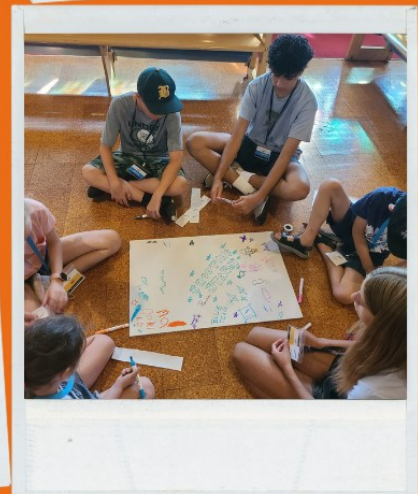
Lucas (LIT) Reflection

This camp was really something else. So much to do that the kids were never bored. So much energy and fun packed into one week was just the perfect setting for this camp.

Crafts, games at the park, even movie time every day was so much fun that it was really hard to leave.

Rachel (Camper) Reflection

From a camper's perspective, Camp Matt was fun. The leaders were incredibly nice and I learned so much when I was there. It was so hard to leave. The fun never ended. The trips to the pool and splashpad were incredible. It was so much fun. Making new friends was one of the best parts I enjoyed. Going outside to play games, as well as going to the park was so much fun. I wish this camp would never end.



Messy Church, Pizza in the Parking Lot, and July Pool Party

June, July, and August were a busy three months around St. Matthew's with our last Messy Church of the season, Club Matt, and the annual Pool Party!

On June 7, Messy Church explored *Empowerment God's Way*.

Crafts focused on 'power' with Helicopters made with paper which spun to the ground when we threw them up in the air. We decorated doves with white feathers. We made a car and then made it move by blowing it with a fan. It was so much fun to see how there is power in the wind.

On June 20, St. Matt's family and friends came together for a Pizza in the Parking Lot with yummy pizza, chips and pop. Children enjoyed playing in the water followed by making S'mores over the fire.

The children went home sticky, happy, and ready for the next time we got together.

Yes! There was another time the families and friends of St. Matthews got together. On July 19, we gathered for a pool party hosted by the Hurns. Thank you, Nancy and Deborah. What a wonderful time to watch children play and adults relax, to enjoy good food and to laugh a lot (except when we had to go home).

All of these events are for all ages. It is wonderful to see everyone coming together and enjoying each other's company. Please mark your calendar for Messy Church. It takes place the fourth Saturday of the month from 4-6 p.m. (except December.) Get a pamphlet on the Welcome Table or check the [website](#).

Linda Dickson



Family Swim Party Reflection

It's always a joy to reconnect with our St. Matt's family at the annual pool party at the Hurns'. We love seeing the familiar faces again and meeting new people every year. Everyone is keeping well, and all the children grow up so fast.

I definitely indulged in all the food from the grill to the dessert and salad bar!

Thank you, Nancy and Deborah, for your usual warm and welcoming hospitality. You know you are a huge part of our family.

Aina and the Forbes Family

2025-2026

September 27

October 25

November 29

January 31

February 28

March 28

April 25

June 6

SATURDAYS

@ 4 PM

Program free of charge

Donations welcome



FUN!
FOOD!
FAITH!

Book Review: *Help is Here* by Max Lucado

The season of Pentecost is a constant reminder of the Holy Spirit's role in our lives. During a Children's Focus, Mercy Njeteneh used the hand as a great analogy of the Holy Spirit, with each finger representing a way the Holy Spirit is there for us: Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Comforter and Standby, from *John 14:26*.

I went to the library looking for something to open my thoughts. Rev. Phillip often quotes or recommends C.S. Lewis, so that is where I began my search. Next to C.S. Lewis' location on the bookshelf was '*Help is Here*', a book by Max Lucado. He is an author I have picked up multiple times since the 1980s. I have always found him insightful, easy to read and biblically based.

The front cover declares, "Finding fresh strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit." Yes, I need that. The inside flap states, "*Help is Here* reminds us that our Good Shepherd doesn't just feed us; he leads us. He does more than correct us; he directs us.

God keeps us on track—and best of all, he's commissioned the Holy Spirit to guide us down the winding roads of life, wherever they may lead us." Yes, I need that guidance. Each chapter of this book describes and gives biblical authority to the understanding/introduction to the Holy Spirit's ability to be part of our lives. There is also a study/discussion guide for each chapter, for more depth and growth.

Help is Here provides guidance to understand and learn how the Holy Spirit can be active in our life. Max Lucado has a wonderful way with words, supporting them with appropriate bible passages to provide their authority. Reading this book, I hear a voice that understands what goes on in my everyday life and I hear encouragement to keep the Holy Spirit close to guide and direct me. This book is a good refresher and reminder that the power and gifts offered by the Holy Spirit can deliver overwhelming and lifegiving energy.

Linda Harrison

OCT 19



GAIA
STRING QUARTET

MUSIC

AT ST. MATTHEW'S

2 0 2 5 / 2 6

NOV 2



ALL SOULS
CHORAL EVENSONG

FEB 1



SOUTHERN
HARMONY II

2:30 PM

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\$20 SUGGESTED

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Congratulations Tyler!

Tyler Versluis, our Organist and Music Director, has won two awards this summer from the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) in separate Organ Composition Competitions.

Early in the summer, Tyler placed third in the RCCO Rachel Laurin Composition Competition which attracted 29 submissions from around the world. On July 8, Tyler's *Toccata-Gigue* was performed at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church (Kitchener) by Joshua Ehlebracht, as part of the *Organ Festival Canada 2025* held in Kitchener – Waterloo – Guelph. [Press release](#)

Most recently, Tyler's organ prelude *Cantilena* was awarded the Prelude Prize of \$1500 by the RCCO Toronto Centre for its 2025 100th Anniversary Organ

Composition Competition. Composers submitted a two-movement organ work, about eight minutes long, playable either as a complete recital work or as a prelude and postlude in a church service. Prizes were awarded for 'complete recital', 'prelude' and 'postlude' winners. All three prizewinning works received their first performances at a *Celebration of Organ Music* in Toronto on September 19, 2025, at the Church of St Mary Magdalene (477 Manning Avenue). Tyler's prelude *Cantilena* "displayed artful melody-writing idiomatic to the organ, as well as formal clarity and balance. The second movement, *Sainte-Clotilde*, was a close runner-up in the postlude category, and so the jury recommended that both movements be available when published."

Diocesan Spiritual Renewal

The Diocese of Toronto is currently running three multi-session online study series as part of its *Season of Spiritual Renewal*. These began on Tuesday, September 16, but you might catch the remainder if they interest you.

The free courses have required the purchase of a book to be read before each online discussion and used midweek as a workbook.

Christian Foundations: this nine-session program, exploring foundational teachings of the Christian faith, is running on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., weekly from September 16 to November 11. Each participant purchased their own workbook and registered for the Zoom invitations. The enrollment has been popular: many St. Matthew's parishioners have joined, including the Tuesday evening GIFT Bible Study which is participating during their meeting.

Everyday Witness: this nine-session program, equipping everyday people to share their faith with others, is also running on the same Tuesdays but from noon to 1:00 p.m., weekly from September 16 to November 11. Each participant needed their own reflections journal and to register for the Zoom link.

The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: this six-session course, exploring how the ancient Rule of St. Benedict can guide us today, is running on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. from September 18 to October 23. Each participant should have a copy of the Rule of St. Benedict, for use during this course. Registration was needed for the Zoom link.

Immediately following the session on the first evening of *Christian Foundations*, Rev. Philip gathered all St. Matthew's participants in a Zoom link. It was exciting to greet new faces and begin to know each other!

Kathie Oakden

Community Concert and Dinner was a Great Success!

This wonderful, amazing concert in the church showcased breathtaking talents from within our St. Matthew's family. Beginning at 5:00 p.m. (on Father's Day, June 14) allowed everyone to participate, young and adult. Our Music Director, Tyler Versluis, did a brilliant job of producing and directing 19 heartwarming musical performances from all age groups within our community.

The dinner buffet afterwards in the gym was delicious, maintaining St. Matthew's tradition of fabulous food. Thank you to our Hospitality Chiefs/Chefs, Katie Ward and Tanya Marcon Moore, and to everyone who prepared home-made salads and desserts. Coupled with time for fellowship, door prizes, and raffles, we enjoyed a grand social event. Approximately \$3,000 was raised to assist in reducing our roof debt, as part of the M&M Fundraising to support the upkeep and maintenance of St. Matthew's building.

One of our performers, Mercy Njeteneh, when asked about her involvement, wrote:

"My experience singing at the parish concert was phenomenal as I have never sung in a concert before. Standing in front of that crowd felt so surreal. I found myself asking, 'How on earth did you choose to do this?' However, I overcame this thought by simply encouraging myself to see the end of it.

The main reason I agreed to participate was solely for the contribution that would ultimately go to the church maintenance fund. Being a part of the group was breathtaking! I had never sung to an audience here in

Canada before. It was all worth it! Finally, I enjoyed gathering with everyone to share a meal. I specifically loved the rice mixed with red kidney beans. The food was delicious. This made my day! I am looking forward to being part of future concerts."

Vanessa James-Locke wrote and performed a song parody, titled *The Church Song*.

*Saint Matthew's needs a new roof
They've been tellin' us all night long
Plumbing and the Fire Codes
The list goes on and on*

*The Office bell ain't workin',
Why does Tom work so hard?
Don't worry 'bout the building
We're gonna' fix it with these funds*

(Refrain)

*I, here comes Psalm 2 and Psalm 3 and Psalm 4
Talk to Reverend Philip now, he's got 50 more
Keep prayin' in the chapel so that we can bless more
Oh my, Good Lord*

*Someone go and say a Benediction for me
They know me and St. Matthew's got a history
There's a party in the lounge servin' coffee
Everybody in the church gettin' happy*

*I been praisin' since I left, I ain't ceasin' for a sec
I'll be faithful to the end, Oh Lord
Go and round up all your friends, tell em Sunday
never ends
See the blessings that He sends, Oh Lord*

St. Matthew's Men's Breakfast

On the first Saturday each month (or the second if the first falls on a long weekend) the Men's Group has been getting together for Breakfast at the Sunset Grill, 1510 Dundas Street East, Mississauga at 8:30 am.

It is located in the Costco/Walmart Plaza on the south side of Dundas, east of Dixie Road. We enjoy fellowship and discussion on a wide range of subjects.

All men of St. Matthew's and/or any of your friends are welcome to join us.

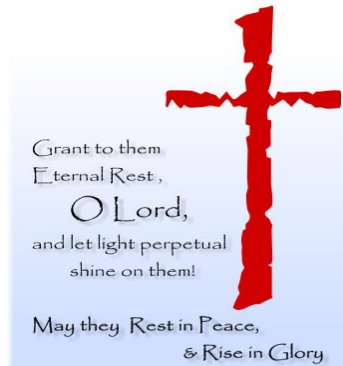
Our next breakfast is on November 1, at 8:30 am. We look forward to seeing you there. If you would like a friendly reminder each month, send your email address to dave.oakden@gmail.com and I will be happy to send you a reminder email.

Church Records

Deaths

Verna Wilkinson
June 28, 2025

Dale Shuttleworth
October 2, 2025



Baptisms

Everett Lucius Kemp
October 5, 2025



Animal Blessing



Food Cupboard

Our food cupboard is still operating in a very limited way. We currently have only two clients asking for food: they come regularly, and we need to be able to help them.

Presently, we are running low on canned fruit, vegetables and pasta, as well as canned meat, stews,

soup, and chunky soup.

We hope you can help with some of this need. Your generous donations, of any amount, whether food or cash, are appreciated.

Noel Martin

The Tuscan Sun: Travelogue by Damien Macedo

Many of you will remember Damien Macedo as our guest organist on several occasions. Damien has been studying abroad and, when he returns to Etobicoke, practices on St. Matthew's organ. He has written a travelogue recounting his adventures, which we will share in this and subsequent issues of Matt's Media.

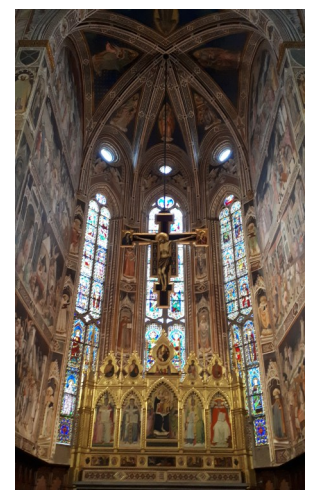
For the past three years, I have been in Cambridge, UK, undertaking a PhD in law. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience, but I thought I could use a break, both from the pressure-cooker environment and from the scenery, lovely though it is. The friendly folks at St. James Episcopal Church in Florence offered me a solution: play some recitals and assist from the organ during Holy Week and for regular Sunday services, and I could have use of their carriage house, behind the church, for all of Easter break, to write, cook, host friends passing through, and be a part of the church community. It is not often that a trip leaves me speechless, but if one could, it would be this one. Couple simply being in Florence with an excursion to Umbria and La Marche chauffeured by my singing teacher who happens to live in the neighbourhood, a walk through the Chianti region to Siena staying overnight in independent wineries, and the food—oh, the most wonderful food—and you have one of the most extraordinary adventures I can recall. My experiences were so many and so diverse that it is difficult to tell them chronologically, so I have collected them into different categories that will be spread out across multiple editions of Matt's Media. I hope they prove interesting reading.

An Opening Excursion

Trinity College Cambridge provides its singers with some of the most renowned singing teachers around. Mine, Sheila, has worked miracles with my singing over the past 3 years or so. It also happens that Sheila



resides for much of the year in a small township near Perugia, and our schedules overlapped for a few days. Thus, my time in Florence actually began with an excursion out to the surrounding regions, chauffeured around La Marche and Umbria for fine food and wonderful natural scenery in excellent company.



Perugia, the capital of Umbria, sits quite high and offers some beautiful views of the surrounding hills. Some years ago, Sheila was a student of Italian there, so she served as the perfect guide around its streets and many stunning buildings, though I did on one occasion have to question a rather scenic "shortcut" that took us around the edge of the city on a seemingly endless circuit. We did eventually get where we were going, of course, and, though the weather rarely cooperated throughout my visit, we saw some remarkable landscapes and ate many, many outstanding meals.

Among the many memorable sites and meals, I must highlight the Baroque churches in Cagli, one with a recently-refurbished organ, for which Sheila kindly pumped the bellows while I played, and the incredible restaurant, La Gioconda, which offers a "workman's menu" with a glass of wine and a bottle of water, a starter and a pasta, plus a main, all for €15 or so. It would hardly be the last of such places I encountered on this trip: it was a common theme that made me increasingly appreciate why the lengthy lunch hour is a cultural norm.

Damien Macedo



Coffee Hosting Instructions

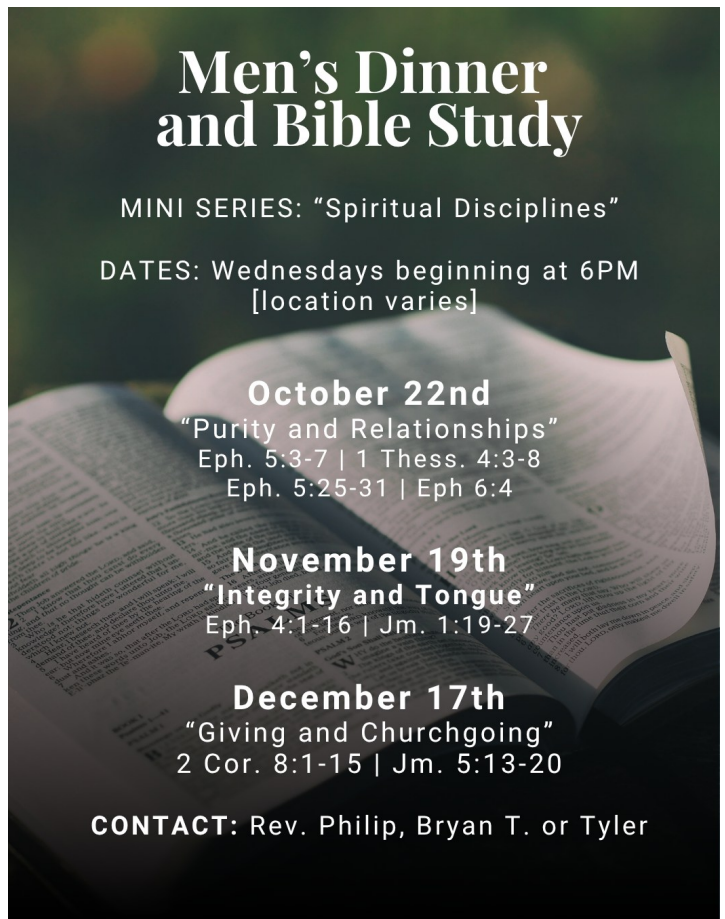
Please volunteer to host coffee hour on Sunday mornings after the 10:30 (Unity) or 11:00 a.m. service.

Coffee (grounds, water) is already set up in the coffee maker on Saturday morning (by Jim Currie) in preparation for Sunday Service. All you need to do is plug it in on Sunday morning—see below.)

- Bring on Sunday morning:
 - Whole (3.25%) Milk (works for both coffee and tea) – 1 Litre
 - Cookies (store-bought or home-made) for 30 people
 - If a Unity Service (10:30 am), also bring juice (and cookies for 50 people)
- On Sunday 15 minutes before the service starts, set up Lounge:
 - Plug in coffee maker
 - Fill kettle with fresh water
 - Put out sugar and milk
 - Put cookies on plate
 - Tea bags on counter or white cabinet (key in tea wagon drawer)
 - Napkins on serving table (extras in drawer underneath)
- Leave church during the final hymn
- Plug in kettle and make tea
- Serve coffee and tea as required
- Collect cups for washing
- Wash cups, put on tray, leave beside coffee maker in lounge

Please let me know if I can add your name to the rotation.... Many, many thanks for all that you already do!

Nancy Hurn



Men's Dinner and Bible Study

MINI SERIES: "Spiritual Disciplines"

DATES: Wednesdays beginning at 6PM
[location varies]

October 22nd
"Purity and Relationships"
Eph. 5:3-7 | 1 Thess. 4:3-8
Eph. 5:25-31 | Eph 6:4

November 19th
"Integrity and Tongue"
Eph. 4:1-16 | Jm. 1:19-27

December 17th
"Giving and Churchgoing"
2 Cor. 8:1-15 | Jm. 5:13-20

CONTACT: Rev. Philip, Bryan T. or Tyler



FALL

*Tea & Conversation
with Tanya Marcon Moore*

OCTOBER 14

2:00 PM

ST. MATTHEW'S LOUNGE

Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered in person, over the phone, by email or via Zoom. Please contact 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 the church office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.

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 pray for individuals and families of St. Matthew’s in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names are mentioned in our prayers and we 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.

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Casual (in person & online)
followed by Coffee Hour in gym

11:00 a.m. Classic (in person & online)
12:10 p.m. Coffee Hour in lounge

10:30 a.m. Unity Worship
Followed by Coffee Hour in lounge
(replaces 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship)
Generally first Sunday of each month
Please check saintmatts.ca

Wednesday Service

10:30 a.m. BCP Service
(Posted on YouTube afterward)

Messy Church

Last Saturday of the month
Next Messy Church is October 25

GIFT Groups

Contact the office for information

The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent

416-231-3060 / philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca

The Rev. Canon Dr. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant

The Rev. James Liu, Visiting Priest

Dr. Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist

Tanya Marcon Moore, Youth Ministry Associate

Tom Travaglini, Sexton

Grant Dunbar, Verger

Lisa Tait, Administrator

Office Hours & Contact Information

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9:30 - 3:30

416-231-4014

office@saintmatts.ca

3962 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, ON, M9B 1M3

Email: office@saintmatts.ca

Telephone: 416-231-4014

Website: www.saintmatts.ca



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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTIBsRzvoz-zJcKv5nKb7g>

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To be removed from the distribution list, please contact the Church at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.