



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.



October

P A R I S H N E W S

2026

A Thought from the Rector

If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. (1 Cor 12:19-20)

I joined our clergy at a special dinner recently. It was an event hosted by Christ Church, Greenwich, in honor of a visit from The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally. Her visit functioned in part as a reminder that we in The Episcopal Church are members of a larger body of believers, that of the Anglican Communion.

In a related vein, the Bishop of New York joined the co-chairs of our Bedell Committee (Robyn McCree and Steel Swift) for a discussion about the important role Bedell has played in the life of the Diocese of New York over the past several years. The conversation was lively and I was delighted to hear stories of how much our support of neighboring parishes has blessed members of our church in turn.

Later this month, we have the privilege of hosting the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral for a luncheon as well.

Each of these instances has brought to the fore a sense of interconnectedness that can sometimes feel far removed from the day-to-day rhythm of parish life. Yet these further reaching bonds hold true even when they are not operating in the foreground. It is good that St. Matthew's is part of something more than just herself.

Likewise, the same is true for each of us. Life can seem so compartmentalized, but God breaks through. The church often serves as the facilitator of that sustaining interruption. Thank God for interruptions, and for the small roles we inhabit in the service of something far greater than ourselves.

Grace & Peace,



Welcome to the Pulpit, Patty!

Patty Dhar delivers her first sermon at St. Matthew's on Sept. 20 on the landowner and his dealing with the works and the questions of fairness and grace. We look forward to many more thoughtful and motivating sermons from Patty in the future.



Dinner with the Bishop Heyd to discuss the work of Bedell.



Stewardship: The Joy and Duty of Care of Our Church

As we approach Stewardship season at St. Matthew's, we are poised for another fruitful year within our parish. In a day and age when many churches are declining, St. Matthew's is bucking the trends. This past year we baptized 25 babies, confirmed 19, and saw record attendance at Easter. Plus, we welcomed approximately 15 new families into our fold. Our clergy, John Zahl and Matt Rossi, have made a remarkable impact by their faithful and creative presence in the lives of so many. Likewise, Jacob Gruss has grown our choir to 17 members in a single year. And we are delighted to have recently added a new curate, The Rev. Patty Dhar, to oversee Women's Ministry.

The truth is that St. Matthew's continues to flourish in large part because of the dedication and support of our amazing parishioners. We depend upon your generosity to fuel such life-giving ministry. When you make a pledge to St. Matthew's, you are investing in the ministry, values, and mission that we share together. It is about more than just meeting a budget; it is about orienting our lives toward God and reflecting back the gratitude we have for our many blessings. A pledge, in this regard, is actually a kind of prayer, one which helps us to keep God at the center of our lives. As you consider your contributions for the upcoming year, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a pledge to support our crucial ministry. Whether you are pledging for the first time, increasing your support, or maintaining your current level of giving, please know that every single pledge makes a difference, because it represents commitment and gives witness to God's goodness.

With deep gratitude and heartfelt appreciation,
Your Stewardship Committee of the Vestry
Andi Ahrens, Caesar Bryan, Sam Boe and Greg Gaynor



The Bible for Beginners

Join John and Matt on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m., beginning Oct. 4 in the Vestry Room, as they help demystify the Bible, from basic practical questions (what is the "Old Testament?") to headier ones (what do we mean when we call the Bible "God's Word?", do we read the Bible like any other book or in some special Christian way?). They will also give an overview of the main storyline of the Bible, breaking down its major parts, themes, and going into depth about their favorite pieces. If you've ever wanted to get into the Bible but weren't sure where to start, now is the time! Childcare is available.



Confirmation

Confirmation is off to a great start. Parents and students gathered for an informational meeting on Sept. 20, and the first session of classes began on Sept. 27 and will run through the end of October. Confirmands will also serve in the nursery on Sundays, participate in worship as acolytes, go on retreat in January, and fulfill a service requirement in addition to their instruction. We're very much looking forward to another great year with a new crop of confirmands!



BLESSING OF THE PETS



OCTOBER 4 4:00 P.M. CHAPEL-IN-THE-WOODS



ALL PETS WELCOME!

The Men of
St. Matthew's Present:

Wing Night

Oct 3, 6-9pm



Hot Wings* · Hot Takes · Cool Guys

\$20/Ticket
Wings and Beer included
Bring a wing-man

*dangerous heat available

Tickets:




MSM Wing Night

Sat., Oct. 3, 6 – 9 p.m.

Fellowship Room

Come eat your fill of hot wings (with some extreme heat available), have a drink or two, and share some hot takes, including a brief word about the hottest take of all: the gospel!

We'll have football on the TV, cornhole and other yard games, and a fire going all night. Bring a wing-man and a drink to share. Don't miss it! [Register here.](#)

Women of St. Matthew's

If you have joined St. Matthew's you are a treasured member of WSM! If you are new to St. Matthew's, we welcome you!! If you have been here for years and want to be involved, we welcome you!!

We are hosting a new event, Women's Game Night! So come on Thurs., Oct. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Room for an evening of wine and small bites, cozy fellowship and fun. We'll have a Mahjong lesson for beginners, Mahjong tables for intermediate to Advanced, Rummikub and Magic the Gathering!!! \$35 per person. Sign up online through the link in the SMC Weekly Blast, through your account in Realm, or email WSM at wsm@stmatthewsbedford.org.



Women's Bible Study moves to Tuesdays, beginning on Oct. 6 at 9:15-10:15 in the Vestry Room. Leading the class is our new Curate Patty Dhar. She begins the class with a seven-week series on the Book of Esther and the life changing experience it has had on her.

Would you like to volunteer for FOUR coffee hours per year? WE NEED YOU!!!

To volunteer email Amy Keeler, Coffee Hour co-chair at: coffeehour@stmatthewsbedford.org.

In faith and love,

The Women of St. Matthew's Board

Deanna MacLean, Michele Pelligini, Melissa Atkins, Denise Santomero, Amy Keeler, Jaclyn Dailey, Liza Clymer, Abby Langalis, Candy Borner & Mary Andryc



Join us for the

BLESSING OF THE COSTUMES

OCTOBER 2026

25

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

Wear your costume to Church for a special blessing!



Church School: Partnering with Parents to Be Their Children's Faith

We have kicked off a brand, new addition to St. Matthew's: Faith Steps! Faith Steps is a series of little milestones designed to partner with parents to help children grow in their faith. At each different age level, we'll offer some teaching and discussion around basic elements of the Christian life: prayer, Bible reading, worship, service, and study.

To see the full 2026-27 School Calendar, [please download it here](#).

New Programming Year/New Registration:

Register your infants - 5 year olds for Nursery Care and Pre-Church School [here!](#)

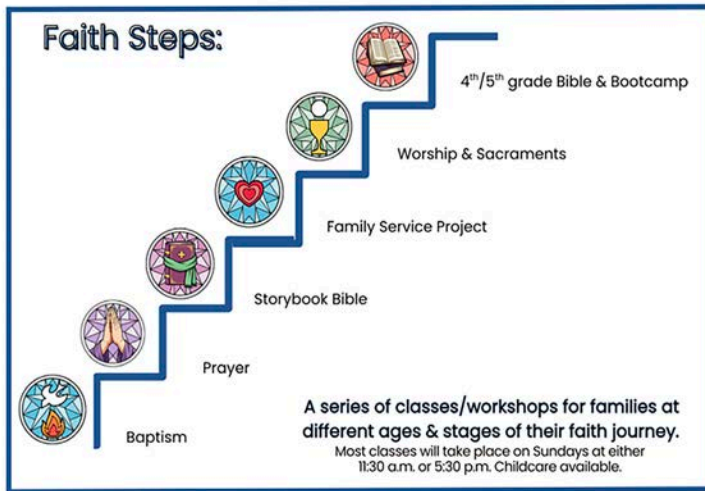
Register your Kindergarten - 5th Graders for Church School [here!](#)

St. Matthew's All Hallow's Fest!

This spook-tacular event is back for its second year with a Trunk or Treat, Haunted Hike, pizza, s'mores and more! Join the skele-ton of fun starting at 5 p.m. on Oct. 25! Want to be "a trunk"? Sign up with Melissa.

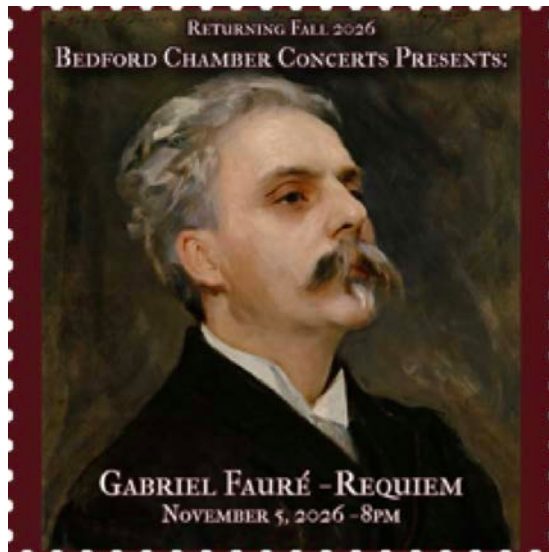
I am always happy to answer any questions about our Children's Ministry!

Melissa Torres, Children's Ministry Coordinator
mtorres@stmatthewsbedford.org



Another Fireside Chats are an element of the Faith Steps and we hope you had as much fun meeting with Melina Smith from STORYMAKERS at Coffee Hour and later at the Fireside Chat, as well as the as we did





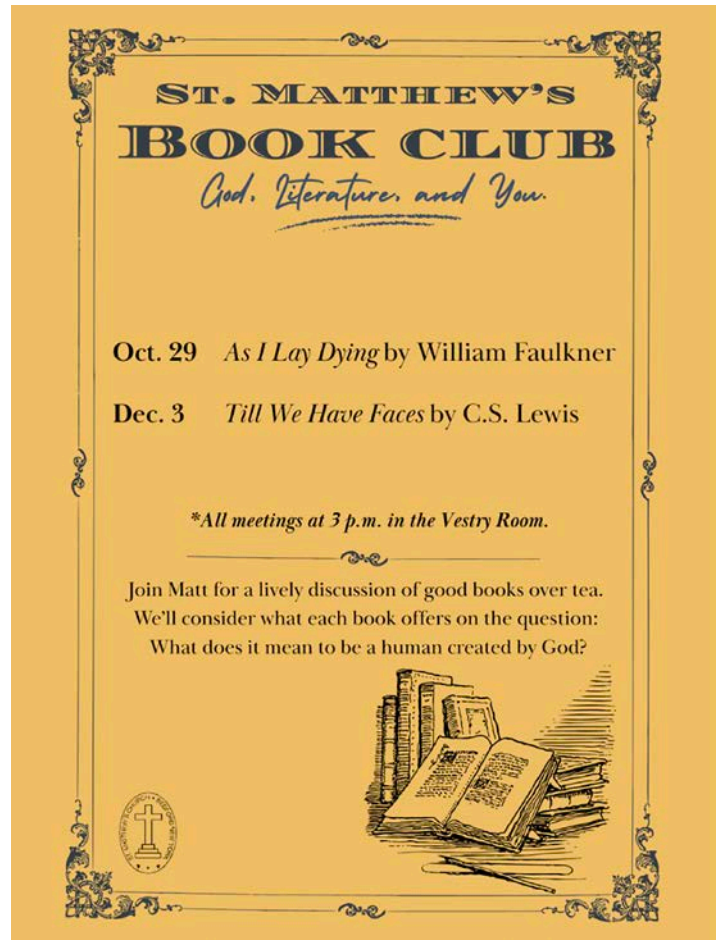
Fauré's Requiem Comes to St. Matthew's Church

Mark your calendars for Thurs., Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. when our beloved church will be the site of A Choral Concert for All Saints' Day as part of the returning Bedford Chamber Concert Series. This first concert will feature Gabriel Fauré's famed Requiem, Op. 48 with a professional chamber choir accompanied by organ.

The crowning achievement of Gabriel Fauré, his Requiem Mass was written and revised from 1887-90 and features seven movements for choir and soloists. The piece is a hopeful, contemplative, and romantic exploration focused on a sense of rest and peace. Rounding out the program are selections for All Saints' Day by Vaughan Williams, Duruflé, and Palestrina.

Our next concert will be the annual Festive Holiday concert on Thurs., Dec. 17 that will showcase, among other works, Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Corelli's beloved "Christmas Concerto".

Join us this November for Fauré's Requiem in the pews of St. Matthew's. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Room. To become a supporter of our series, or to purchase tickets visit: <https://bedfordchamberconcerts.org>



Book Club

We enjoyed a rich discussion of Gilead by Marilynne Robinson in September, certainly one worth your time if you haven't read it! Our book club book for this month is *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner, and we'll meet on Thurs., Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. in the Vestry Room to discuss. Please join us!



A Wonderful Welcome Sunday





Join us for a benefit concert of classical music, hosted by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bedford, NY, on October 16 at 7 p.m.

This very special event will feature pianist Cynthia Peterson, soprano Sasha Gutierrez, and harpist Liann Cline, along with David Fiedler (violin), Sarah Adams (viola), and Seth Jacobs (cello). These gifted musicians will perform Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat, works by Ravel Dvorak, and more.

All proceeds will support the programs of Rural & Migrant Ministry. We look forward to seeing you!

To purchase tickets, review sponsorship packages, or make a contribution, [click here](#).

Newcomers Welcome Brunch

Sun., Oct. 4 from 12 to 1 p.m.
Vestry Room

Joint Service with Antioch Baptist Church, St. Mary's and St. Matthew's, Oct. 18

We invite you to join the three churches for this wonderful annual service at Antioch Baptist Church in Bedford Hills on Sun., Oct. 18 from 10:15-11:15 a.m. for a joyful celebration of music, fellowship, and community. Antioch's Reverend Merle McJunkin will be joined on the altar by St. Matthew's Curate Patty Dhar. Antioch Baptist Church is one of Bedford's longest-standing churches. Its choir is extraordinary and, with Music Director James Farley on the keyboard and Earl Brown on the organ, this is always an inspired and moving service!



Youth Group

Youth Group is back! We had a lovely kick-off party for the Youth Group in the field. The morning rain broke just in time for a gorgeous afternoon. Rick Mast grilled hot dogs and burgers on the Dwyer Grill, volleyball and other outdoor games were played, and there were more than enough cookies to go around! The Youth Group will meet on October 4th and 18th, along with putting on the Haunted Hike on October 25.

Preschool Off to a Great New Year

Another wonderful year at St. Matthew's Preschool has begun. Fifty-four happy, smiling faces run into school each morning excited to see their friends and teachers. First week jitters have eased and the twos and new students have settled into the routines of school. We have welcomed three new teachers this fall and suffice it to say our little community is thriving.

The playground structures are up, and the children could not be happier! They are running, jumping, climbing and sliding on so many different slides! The springy new mulch confirms what an important safety feature this is. As one child said, "it is sinky!" Sandboxes and the mud kitchen area are still in progress, and we are awaiting a delivery of a wooden play tractor, a gift from John Jay Homestead. Playground rules will be shared with parents and parishioners in the next week so that we can keep our children safe. SMP is most certainly off to the start of another amazing year.

Liz Peck, Preschool Director



Comings & Goings

New & Returning Parishioners:

Mr. Edward and Mrs. Emily Forbes
52 Horseshoe Hill Road
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

Holy Baptism

Received into Christ's Holy Church

Milo Joseph Ferlisi, September 6, 2026

Alexander Lewis Peck, September 20, 2026