

Matt's Media



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

Published October 13, 2024

In this issue:	Talents Auction.....	p. 5	Next issue:	Advent/Christmas: December 1
	Reflections on Mindfulness.....	p. 6		Submissions due: November 6
	What's Happening.....	p. 12	Editors:	Kathie Oakden, Linda Harrison
	Resurrection Music.....	p. 16		kathie.oakden@gmail.com
	A Letter of Thanks.....	p. 23	Layout:	Lisa Tait

Back to School and Back to Faith

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

“And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years.” (*Genesis 1:14*)

I off-handedly joked on backpack Sunday that you were all preparing to go back to school — even if it had been many years for a few of us. Yet, I started thinking, this is an important season for all of us, even if we aren't actually going back to school. Seasons are helpful because they are cyclical reminders of what we need. We have been through the summer season of exploration, heat, and rest — now we turn to a season of getting back to task, making plans, studying, and looking forward with hope. This is important to all of us.

Did you know that God actually designed seasons as a cyclical reminder of His grace, redemption, power, and love? You might think most obviously of Christmas and Easter or maybe the winter-spring cycle of resurrection. This was true even at the beginning. Remember, God put all the stars and planets in their place to help us mark out the seasons. All of creation has been celebrating God's seasons. Throughout history, God kept setting up these seasonal celebrations as reminders of His past work and our continual need: the feasts of Passover, Booths, First Fruits, or Atonement (Yom Kippur) to name a few. To some degree we already celebrate, but we should grow in this process of faithfully reflecting on the season.

That brings us to this season, the back-to-work, back-to-school, back-to-business season. Everything becomes a little more consistent and practical, which is helpful. A lot of churches celebrate a back-to-church Sunday. An even better parallel is for this season to be about turning back to faith. Over the summer we lived in the faith we have built. Now we need to return to faith practically to reinforce what we have already learned, understood, and experienced, but also to grow even more, lay deeper roots, and shed some of those leaves that may have been good for a time but are no longer.

So I guess I'm challenging you, the season is challenging you, and God is likely nudging you toward a time of recommitment to Him and faith. There is already some amazing faith growth happening in this church. I am so excited to see how far many of you have come.

... continued

Back to School and Back to Faith *(continued)*

I continually hear wonderful things about our Bible Studies and GIFT Groups, our ministry small groups, and more. As I write this on September 9th, I am excited to have already received five applications for the Faith Mentoring Program, which shows how much people still want to grow. I would encourage all of you, whether you grew up in the church, have been here for decades, or are new, to purposefully take this season as a season of recommitting ourselves back to faith.

Here are a few practical ways of doing that:

- Pick up an *Our Daily Bread* (at the Welcome Table) and try to start your morning with it
- Download the Bible App on your phone and when you have a moment read it instead of whatever else your phone is distracting you with
- Join a Bible Study or ask about creating a new one with family, friends, or the church
- Set up a pattern of prayer and reflection before bed (start with the Lord's Prayer)
- Reach out to me with questions, thoughts, or for a meeting
- Listen to something Christian while you drive like Christian music (e.g., The Porter's Gate), talks (e.g., The Bible Project), sermons (e.g., Tim Keller), or a prayer

I know that September and October can already be full as we are relaunching a lot. So don't feel that you must do everything. But it is important, even if just for ourselves, to make sure that we are also recommitting to faith and giving it some priority. It is too easy to let it fall into second or ninth place. Accountability can be helpful in this too, because it can motivate us and inspire us — as it also builds friendships. If you want to do something, tell someone. As an example, you may say to a friend, "I want to try to start praying and reflecting on my day before bed, can you keep me accountable by just checking in on me?" We all have the capacity and time to grow in faith and, as we do, God fills us more and more. So, let's all take this season as a reminder to do just that.

"For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

May the Holy Spirit guide you all,

Rev. Philip



Wardens' Report

Karen Lee, Sharon Shao, Richard Farrar, Paul Lorimer

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

St. Matthew's continues to be thankful for the spiritual leadership of Rev. Philip Stonhouse and Rev. Merv Mercer. We continue to be grateful for the musical leadership of our music director, Dr. Tyler Versluis, and the many Choir and Praise Bands members.

In late July, St. Matthew's hosted its annual Summer Camp. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked very hard to ensure its success. We welcomed thirty children as well as fourteen Leaders in Training.

Our properties continue to require attention. In particular, the following repairs were completed during the summer months:

- Repair of roof leaks at the Rectory
- Extensive trimming of the trees on the church property
- Installation of a portable air conditioning unit in the Lounge
- Replacement of the water faucets in both the Lounge and Gym kitchens
- Continuing address of the water leaks in both the Youth room and the Lift Pit
- Church eavestroughs cleaned on both sides of the church and gutter protectors installed
- Purging and shredding of outdated files

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

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!

Financial Report: September 2024

Many thanks to the Parish for your continued financial support of the 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 Budget due mainly to significant repairs and operational costs.

Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of August 31, 2024.

Operating Fund	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Income	\$ 189,682	186,983	202,336
Expenses	\$ 224,157	205,506	210,448
Net Operations	\$ - 34,475	-18,523	-8,112

Our special 2024 Thanksgiving offering will go towards offsetting the deficit. Thank you for your gifts.

Living Water Fundraiser

Katie Ward, Vanessa James-Locke

Held in the gym on June 15, 2024, St. Matthew's Living Water Fundraiser – Dinner and Silent Auction with Musical Interludes – was a great success! Approximately 70 people attended to enjoy amazing musical talent, an abundance of good food, and more than 25 raffle baskets and individual items up for bid. All the raffle basket and individual items were graciously donated by members of our congregation.

When we all pool our energies and resources together, amazing things can happen. Many St. Matthew's friends blessed the silent auction with a multitude of exciting treasures. Items ranged from cosmetics to crafts, tasty cooking items and fancy wine, stylish coats, and luxurious skin care products. We even had original art and, of course, toys for kids.

The musicians were Tyler Versluis and Liliana Benker (piano), Olga Kostianiuk and Lauren Kuljis (violin).



To quote Karen Lee, "It was a wonderful event – well planned and executed." We raised \$3,100 to assist in the St. Matthew's Living Water fundraising efforts towards our plumbing renovations. Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered to help make this evening a beautiful night to remember.



God continues to bless our church and all the beautiful people who make this congregation a very special place to be.

As it is written in *Corinthians*, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." What a bunch of truly cheerful givers we have at St. Matthew's! Thank you to everyone who donated and bid on items. Your generosity made the event a great success!

'Let all that you do be done in love.' – *1 Corinthians 16:14*



FUN FACT: This summer marked the 25th anniversary of the first mission trip to Cochabamba, Bolivia in partnership with Hands Across the Nations, for about 15 of St. Matt's youth and adults. Such an amazing experience of sharing Jesus' love in our thoughts, actions and words.

Living Water Campaign

Marguerite Locke

This past spring the church responded very favourably to a fundraising initiative to offset the costs of unexpected and very significant plumbing repairs. At Vestry, the Wardens presented the details of repairs and it was agreed that a special appeal to the parish was appropriate over a three to four month window.

Rev. Philip thought of the title, which seemed very apt, given that water was backing up both inside the church lower level and outside on the west side, causing flooding in a couple of rooms.

Thank you to the generous donations of all parishioners who assisted our effort of reaching our goal of \$25,000. In fact, contributions including the June Dinner and Auction organized so capably by Katie Ward, topped off the funds at \$27,543.

An older building like our church requires constant maintenance and proactive steps to try to keep it in excellent condition for all users.

A heartfelt thanks is extended to all.

Coming Soon...Talents Auction and Fellowship Event

When: Sunday November 3 after the 10:30 a.m. Unity Service

What can you donate: Maybe you write and would offer a reading, maybe you draw or paint, maybe you cook or bake, maybe you would like to host, maybe you have any interest like bird watching, card games, or history that you could introduce to others, maybe you fix cars, or can help out around the house or garden, or maybe you have something you could share like a boat, or a cottage.

How to participate: This is a great opportunity for us to share what God has given us, so please sign up at the Welcome Table, online or by email.

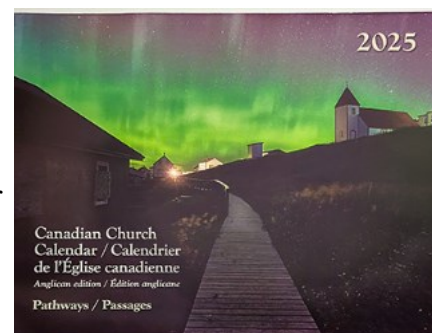
How does it work: During the event there will be **food** and **performances**, but each will require a set donation to begin or be served. There will also be donated **objects**, **baking**, etc. that can be purchased. In between performances, **experiences** (and anything else fitting) will be auctioned.

Order Your 2025 Anglican Church Calendar

The 2025 Canadian Church Calendar is available for order through St. Matthew's Church Office. This year, the theme of the calendar is *Pathways*. As has been the custom, the calendar includes a range of photos featuring our beloved churches across the country. Pricing is based on the quantity we order—your order may make it cheaper for everyone. The cost will not exceed \$12 per calendar.

<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025-anglican-canadian-church-calendar-preview.pdf>

To order, please call or email the office (416-231-4014, office@saintmatts.ca) or fill out a form in the Narthex by October 20.



Strengthening Connections with the Mind, Body, and Soul: Reflections on the Mindfulness Course

Mary Anne Perta

Mindfulness is the practice of being fully present and engaged in the current moment, aware of your thoughts, feelings, and sensations without judgment. It involves paying attention to the present environment with intentionality, curiosity, and openness.

This spring, a small group of parishioners, led by Tatiana Saliba, embarked on an eight-week journey to explore, and practice mindfulness. The course, based on the program “Mindfulness for Stress Reduction,” was enriched with prayer and Christian meditation concepts. Each week, Tatiana introduced new ideas, led discussions, and guided us through physical and mental practices.

Physically, we engaged in slow, gentle stretching to release tension and bring awareness to our bodies. (A treat after working at a desk all day!) Mentally, we engaged in breathwork exercises, guided meditations, and body scans to bring awareness inward. I found the practices to be effective at calming the mind and bringing a sense of peace. A highlight for me were the rich discussions at the start and end of each session and the way in which trust and support between course participants were built, resulting in a loving space to grow and share.

One of the significant takeaways from this course is that mindfulness can be valuable for everyone even if the motivations and practices look different from one person to the next. This was evident through the diversity of course participants and the different reflections that were shared. As a first-time parent with a fulfilling (but demanding) career, energetic toddler, and countless personal commitments, my motivation for developing a mindfulness practice was to support sustainable high performance at work, be more focused in the moment, and cultivate a sense of calm. Learning and growing in a community setting also provided accountability for the work required to reach these goals. Like others in the group, I made a commitment to meditate every day (body scans before bed consistently resulted in the deepest sleeps) while finding ways to incorporate intentionality into my routine (e.g. during meals, walks and showers). For other group members, motivations and daily practices looked different but similar benefits were shared. By slowing down, focusing on my breath and being more intentional with my responses, I have personally felt more grounded and calmer, especially when faced with chaotic situations that toddlers are experts at cultivating.

I do believe that mindfulness is a practice that anyone can adopt, and it complements Christian faith beautifully. God calls us to meditate on His word, His work, and His creation. One of God’s most repeated phrases is “Do not be afraid.” I understand this to be a loving call to settle the heart, mind, body, and soul. Another relevant passage that came up through our course is “Be still and know that I am God.” Sitting in silence for extended periods can be challenging – especially for someone who has an overwhelming desire to be productive and cross things off her “to-do” list. Through personal reflection I’ve come to understand that “stillness” can be moving, and “silence” can be loud in terms of what we can discover about ourselves and our surroundings. Perspective is everything and sometimes we need to stop and view things from a different lens before we can effectively move forward.

I would encourage others to learn more about mindfulness, approach practices with curiosity and see how it can inspire you to be more present and connected in your daily life. For me, practicing mindfulness in the context of a supportive faith community was incredibly energizing. The course strengthened my connection to my mind, body, and soul, while allowing me to build meaningful relationships with others. I am grateful for the experience, for Tatiana’s generous leadership and for every person who participated and contributed valuable insight.

Men at St. Matt's

Bryan Tran

WhatsApp Men's Group at St. Matt's

Last year, a few of the men of St. Matthew's started to go on evening walks together, and on one particular night, there were two groups of men walking independently of each other! There seemed to be an interest for men of St. Matthew's to meet outside of the church for connection, fellowship, and spiritual support. An informal WhatsApp group was created, and potluck dinners on a weekday evening worked best for everyone. They were hosted at one of the member's residences voluntarily, and the gatherings have been quite enjoyable! There is always lots of great food, even better conversation, and a feeling of camaraderie that is starting to grow. If you would like to join this WhatsApp group and gather approximately once a month (we have chosen Wednesday evenings this year), you can email tran.bryan@gmail.com, or text/call (416) 825-9180. We would love to have you.



Men's Breakfast Group

Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Saturdays, November 2 and December 7, at 8:30 am. at Sunset Grill, 1510 Dundas Street, Mississauga. Contact David Oakden at dave.oakden@gmail.com or 426-626-7781.

Weekly Wellness Exercise Program

Katie Ward

On Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. everyone is invited to join the Weekly Wellness Program in the lounge as we connect to the Holy Spirit by reading a Daily Bread Meditation, reflect on personal experience and enjoy exercise to soulful music. The class runs about 45 minutes with standing and sitting exercises that include Qigong, Tapping, and Yoga as well as a range of motion and strengthening exercises. We have fun getting our blood flowing, our muscles moving and, most importantly, our souls connecting. Those who wish may stay to attend the 10:30 a.m. BCP Eucharist Service immediately following the program. It is wonderful on Wednesdays to feel refreshed, restored and anchored in God's Grace. The fall session will run from September 25 for six weeks: come for one week or every week. A suggested donation to the church for the six-week session is \$40 or \$10 per class.


INVESTIA
 FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.
 MUTUAL FUND DEALER

Scott Millar, CFP
 Mutual Fund Representative

 2244 Springfield Crt.
 Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1V4
 Office: 905-855-7425
 Fax: 1-866-363-8624
keystcott@sympatico.ca

investia.ca

 Member of Industrial Alliance group

Know you Advise you Guide you



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

Club Matt: Autumn News

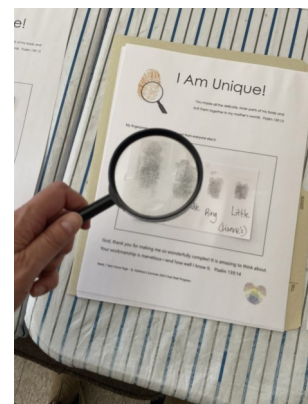
The Club Matt Team

Happy Fall! Even though the trees are changing colour and we are pulling on warmer clothes, somehow things seem new as we start back to school and we meet new friends. It was great to celebrate this fresh start with Reverend Philip and the *Blessing of the Backpacks* at the September 8th All Ages service, preparing for the year ahead and knowing Jesus is always with us.



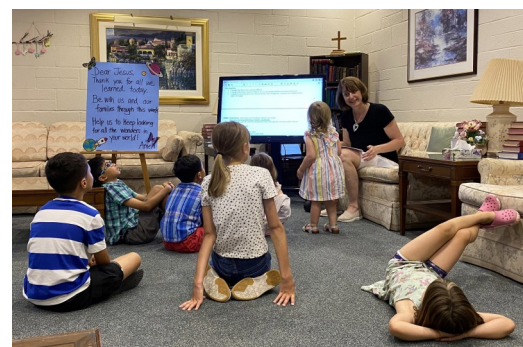
Looking back at science in the Summer

The Club Matt special summer program — *Learning About God with Science!* — was a huge success. Every week, 7-12 children (and some parents ☺) took part in science experiments to explore some of the cool things in this world. The super leaders made special bible connections to link the science to God, Jesus, & being children of God.



The following are the amazing lessons we followed together:

1. We are unique (fingerprints and solving a mystery)
2. Reflecting God (mirrors, photos and reflections)
3. Full lives (overflowing jars & expanding marshmallows)
4. Praising God (jumping, swimming raisins)
5. Shining our lights for Jesus (light and luminescence)
6. Spiritually healthy (stethoscopes and our hearts)
7. Cling to the good (water molecules, movement & pepper)



...continued

Club Matt: Autumn News *(continued)*

The Club Matt Team

Club Matt this Fall – the Prophets!



We continue to learn a lot about the special people in the bible. Now the Club Matt Junior and Senior kids will learn the fascinating stories of the prophets every Sunday this Fall: how each prophet is someone special whom God called on to speak his words to nations and the world. Prophets could be almost anyone, as long as they were willing to listen, follow, and speak for God. Join us to find out about them all!

Reading at Sunday services

Also starting this Fall, a member of Club Matt or the Youth Group will read from the bible every week at the 9:30 All Ages and 10:30 Unity services. We know our St. Matthew's family will warmly encourage the children and youth as they take an even more active part in the services.

And finally...as we dive into a new year, we are thrilled to welcome new faces to the Club Matt team. Deborah Hurn is helping Club Matt with her spectacular scheduling, coordination, and communication superpowers. And we are delighted to welcome Tyrene Jackman to the teacher team, joining Dawn Mercer, Jenna Wukasch, Diana Lewis, Sophia Lorimer, Tatiana Saliba, Vanessa James-Locke, Linda Dickson, and Lianne Thompson.

Paul Lorimer, Deputy Warden

Paul Lorimer

Hello, I am your deputy warden, Paul Lorimer. I grew up in Stouffville, Ontario and enjoyed many aspects of small-town life including working at two local golf courses and a lumber yard in my teenage years. My wife, Michelle, and I now make our home in Rexdale, in the north Etobicoke area, with our two amazing teenage children, Sophia and Joshua. I enjoy cycling and have recently taken up kayaking; both are reprieves from busy city life and a career in software sales.

We have called St. Matthew's home for almost three years now. We felt very welcomed from our first visit to St. Matthew's and cherish the new friends and relationships that have grown organically from our time in this caring church community.



Messy Church: Fun, Food, and Faith

Linda Dickson

It seems like just yesterday that we had our last Messy Church in June and celebrated *Empowerment* using flames and learning how the Holy Spirit empowers us. We made 'Shields of Faith' and within its four sections we described what makes us feel strong. We ended our year with a Pizza Party, roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. Many people enjoyed walking in the rain.

The theme for our September Messy Church was *Indigenous, All Children Matter*. Crafts included drum-making, family talking-sticks and making Bannock with Blueberry Compote for our dessert.

Messy Church takes place in the gym from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month. Reminder calendars can be found on the Welcome Table. For more information, contact the church or email Linda Dickson at mrsldickson@gmail.com.

We love to welcome new families and anyone who would like to help at Messy Church.

Program free of charge. Donations welcome.

The date for our next Messy Church will be October 26.



JOIN US!

October 26	March 29
November 30	April 26
January 25	June TBA
February 22	



Call me for your home care needs

Diana Locke-Reardon
Care Manager, Etobicoke
dreardon@bayshore.ca

Home Care Services:
• Complimentary in-home consultation
• Personal care • Home support
• Companionship • Respite • Nursing

CELL: 647.280.4595

OFFICE: 416.927.7850

www.bayshore.ca

Bayshore
Home Health

LET IT RAIN
Roofing and Home Renovations

Bruno Levesque - President

5456 Tomken Road, Unit 15, Mississauga, ON L4W 2Z5

Tel 905.795.0212 Fax 905.602.7275

Email bruno@letitrain.ca www.letitrain.ca



“Bring the Little Children Unto Me”

Rev. Philip Stonhouse has published an article on page 16 in *The Anglican*, September 2024 Issue: ‘Bring the little children unto me: *Five ways to get kids, youth excited about the gospel.*’

1. It starts with you
2. Be consistent
3. Let them ask questions, search and decide
4. Look at it many ways
5. Dig deeper

We encourage you to read this article online at <https://theanglican.ca/bring-the-little-children-onto-me/> or pick up a paper copy in the Narthex. *The Anglican* <https://theanglican.ca/archives/sept2024/> is the newspaper of the Diocese of Toronto, www.toronto.anglican.ca, a section of *The Anglican Journal*.

To receive a subscription to future issues, call 416-924-9199 ext. 259 or email circulation@national.anglican.ca.

Youth at St. Matthew's

Bryan Tran

And just like that, summer's over! It was a busy summer for our youth, with many finding their first jobs, attending summer school, and travelling. For our second year of Camp Matt, 11 of our youth volunteered as leaders, and once again they did a great job. The high leader-to-camper ratio gave plenty of opportunities for connection, relationship building, and much-needed breaks. Some memorable moments included playing *Capture The Flag: Leaders vs. Campers*, seeing Rev. Philip smack dab in the middle of a water fight at the splash pad, and a surprise pizza lunch at Wedgewood Pool. The youth also enjoyed an end-of-summer pool party hosted at the Hurn residence. The weather was nice, the water was warm (we made very good use of the diving board), and the food, as always, was delicious.

Looking ahead at the year, we are very excited to start a year-long bible study on the *Influencers in the Life of Jesus*. We will look at the people in Jesus' life and explore all the influences that helped guide their decisions. As we examine the various influences that shaped the people in and around the Life of Jesus, we can reflect on all the things that influence us in our own lives... and we might just find that they aren't so different, despite being thousands of years apart.

The annual Diocesan retreat was once again held at Muskoka Woods at the end of September, and our bi-weekly youth group gatherings have started up again as well. You will also see some of our youth on the third Sunday of the month performing at the 11 a.m. service as part of a worship band (we are so blessed at St. Matthew's to support TWO worship bands!), and they are always actively volunteering at various events throughout the year.

If you feel inspired to participate or volunteer with the youth, please let us know! There is always room for partnership and growth in our youth ministry.

What's Happening

Sun Oct 13	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Tues Oct 15	Fall Afternoon Tea: 2:00 p.m.	In person (lounge)
Wed Oct 16	Weekly Wellness: 9:30 a.m.	In person (lounge)
	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	MAID Conversation (part 3): 7:00 p.m.	In person (lounge)
Sun Oct 20	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Oct 23	Weekly Wellness: 9:30 a.m.	In person (lounge)
	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	MAID Conversation (part 4): 7:00 p.m.	In person
Fri Oct 25	Youth Group	In person
Sat Oct 26	Messy Church: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	In person (gym)
Sun Oct 27	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Oct 30	Weekly Wellness: 9:30 a.m.	In person (lounge)
	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sat Nov 2	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Sunset Grill, 1510 Dundas Street, Mississauga, contact dave.oakden@gmail.com	In person
Sun Nov 3	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. (Morning Prayer)	In person & online
	Talents Auction (after service)	In person (gym)
Wed Nov 6	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Thurs Nov 7	All Souls Service: 7:00 p.m.	In person & online
Sun Nov 10	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 12	<i>The Chosen</i> (Season 2 episode 1)	In person
Wed Nov 13	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sun Nov 17	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
	Concert— <i>Singing Strings</i> : 2:30 p.m.	In person & online
Tues Nov 19 to Dec 3	Bible Studies begin (<i>The Chosen</i> season 2, episodes 2-4) (November 26 and December 3) 7:00 p.m.	In person
Wed Nov 20	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Fri Nov 22	Youth Group (rock climbing)	
Sun Nov 24	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Sat Nov 30	Messy Church: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	In person (gym)



MUSIC

AT ST. MATTHEW'S 2024/25

*Concert series in loving memory
of Ron Landry*

**2:30
pm**

October 6: Lark Music
piano, violoncello, clarinet

November 17: Singing Strings
Polymuse Quartet

**February 2: Diapente
(Young Artists Series)**
Five-person vocal ensemble

May 25: Poetry and Force
Violin and Piano

Pay what you can (\$20 suggested)

3962 Bloor St. W. saintmatts.ca 416.231.4014

Housing Crisis in Our Community

“For I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”
(*Matthew 25:35–40, NKJV*)

“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” (*John 6:35, KJV*)

Canada has been a safe haven to asylum seekers and refugees from all over the world. With the significant increase in the number of immigrants allowed into Canada in recent years, especially in Toronto, many are finding it difficult to afford housing, forcing most people to opt for government shelters which are already at maximum capacity.

It is important to know that many immigrants are hardworking and, when given an opportunity, they will work and not rely upon social assistance. One of the challenges for newcomers is that they only know the community where they first landed, which puts pressure on the already strained systems within these communities. Also, to move out of a major urban area like Toronto is difficult because most of the settlement services are found only in major cities.

Twenty-four years ago, St. Matthew's began hosting the Out of the Cold program for unhoused men in Toronto.

Now, there is a massive housing crisis looming right here, right now, within our own St. Matthew's community. St. Matthew's has been blessed with the vibrancy and deep faith of newcomers. Now our parish faces a desperate and urgent need for rooms in people's homes. Newcomers in our own church community risk becoming homeless, going to overcrowded shelters or ending up in housing situations where they risk being exploited.

We need prayerful action. “What would Jesus do?” “What would Jesus expect of us?”

From an affordability perspective, the solution is likely a bedroom or other room in a home that can be adapted into living space along with access to a bathroom, kitchen, and laundry facilities.

- Do you know of anyone, or would you consider making a bedroom or living space in your home available to a newcomer we know for a fee (perhaps \$700 a month)?
- What concerns does this raise for you?
- Are there ways of offering a room on a trial basis to see if the idea is viable?
- How can we help address potential concerns of having someone live in your home temporarily?

Welcoming newcomers makes sense. Everyone's thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and prayers are urgently requested. We pray that our newcomers find a safe refuge within our community and not face homelessness after working so hard to make Canada their home.

Concert: *Lark Music*

Lark Music, as part of *Music at St. Matthew's* Concert Series, was performed on October 6 at 2:30 p.m. The concert featured Polish composer Henryk Górecki's 45-minute epic, *Lerchenmusik* (Lark Music), which ruminates on the profane and spiritual, humankind, God, and nature. Read "Reflections on *Lerchenmusik*" written by Tyler Versluis, below.

Hye Won Cecilia Lee, piano; Emma Schmiedecke, violoncello; Przemysław Raczyński, clarinet.



Reflections on *Lerchenmusik*

Tyler Versluis

Performed for *Music at St. Matthew's*

As Ludwig von Beethoven grew older and increasingly deaf, he was left more often with his own thoughts — and some say — in dialogue with his Maker. His late music changed as well. Instead of conforming to the forms and styles at the time — sonatas, variations, rondos, dance forms — Beethoven's music began to embody the psychological states and ruminations that endlessly confronted him near the end of his life: Mankind's relationship with God, and nature, the purpose of Art and humanity's work in general.

The same can be said for Henryk Górecki's *Lerchenmusik* — albeit from the perspective of a working-class Pole, his deeply religious sense of purpose crushed under the state authority of communism and atheism. By 1984, when *Lerchenmusik* was composed, Górecki's entire professional career had been reduced to ashes, originally stemming from accepting a commission for a religious choral piece from Cardinal Wojtyła, the future Pope John Paul II. Górecki was forced to resign as Rector of the music conservatory in Katowice, and had his career and life erased from public life in communist Poland.

Lerchenmusik (German for "lark music") was part of a gradual rebirth for Górecki's career. Commissioned by the Danish Countess Lerchenborg (hence the name of the piece, a play on her surname), the trio for piano, clarinet, and cello was part of a series of revivals for the middle-aged composer after years of dried-up creativity.

Conceived as a sort of voiceless opera (subtitled *Recitatives and Ariosos*), *Lerchenmusik* is largely slow, meditative, and lyrical, punctured with explosive, folk music-derived outbursts of rhythmic aggression. Fragments of melodies, obsessive and repetitive, played with maximum expressive intensity, resemble either bird songs or snatches of Polish highlander music. The opening of the third movement seems to quote Beethoven's *Fourth Piano Concerto* — vaguely sounding like psalm chant.

But what does this all mean? At 40 minutes in length, *Lerchenmusik* is almost a world unto itself — vast and complex. I believe the piece is about the beauty of nature and humankind's works — and God's providence above it all, granting us that beauty in full form. This is music that rebels against all materialisms and revels in the voluptuousness of life and spirit.

Resurrection Music at St. Matthew's

On May 26, 2024, *Musical Moments at St. Matthew's* featured *Duo Holz* (Michael Murphy, percussion and shō, and Aysel Taghi-Zada, violin). They performed the following program of music:

- from earth, to seeds - Liam Ritz
- AFTER KUHLAU - Chris Paul Harman
- Resurrection Fragments - Tyler Versluis
- Flowers of Fading - Yu Kuwabara
- Billow III - Shoichi Yabuta
- Every Love That Weeps and Grieves - Michelle Lorimer

Reflection on Composing, by Michelle Lorimer

One thing I love about the Anglican calendar is how long we get to sit in any given season, far beyond the actual “day.” Like Easter, for example, which extends well beyond Easter Sunday into the rest of the year and, hopefully, into the rest of our lives — as it should! So I was thrilled last year when, for our *Musical Moments* series here at St. Matthew's, we were able to have a concert featuring “Resurrection Music” in May — just as spring had arrived in Toronto and all around us signs of new life were finally on display.

The concert featured *Duo Holz* and a lineup of pieces that were composed around themes of new life. When Tyler asked me in the fall of 2023 if I'd consider preparing a piece for this May 2024 concert, I was happy for the invitation, knowing that it would be a journey of learning and growth to write for the particular combination of violin and the whole array of choices that a percussionist like Mike Murphy brings with him. I also felt that the theme of this concert was fitting for me; I felt like God had been leading me through a personal wrestling with death and trusting for new life in a particular area of my life. So I said yes and hoped that God would direct and inspire. It's been my experience that He always does, whether the outcome is in music or in life — but I hoped for music in this case especially!

I usually compose with some sort of prompt — an idea or seed that helps me build a musical world around it. Lately, I've been revived by the poetry of Malcolm Guite, whose lucid and Spirit-filled writing has helped guide my worship life in quiet moments. I found a poem from his collection called *Sounding the Seasons* — a sonnet called *Easter Dawn*, that focuses on Mary weeping in the garden by Jesus' tomb and then being surprised by the resurrected Lord, whom she mistakes for a gardener. The title of my piece is a reference to the poem's first line, “He blesses every love that weeps and grieves.” The whole poem is worth dwelling on, and I kept its lines by me while I tried to evoke the various stages in Mary's encounter — from profound sadness and unawareness, to the foreshadowing sounds of the garden, the “scatter of bright birdsong,” and finally, the clarity and surprise that comes when Christ calls her name and she recognizes Him for who He is. Naturally, her night turns to day, and her mourning into dancing and delight. I knew this would be a beautiful progression to explore musically, and the next step was to plot out what types of percussion would form the sound palette for these stages, along with violin of course.

This choice wasn't obvious when I started because Mike Murphy had *hundreds* of percussive instruments from which to choose. Although he couldn't play them all simultaneously, of course, he could play many in a single piece, as you saw and heard! I had decided on just a couple, but Tyler encouraged me to make more of my opportunity to have an array of diverse percussion, so I explored further and added the *Persian tombak*. This was fun to incorporate because it brought the

Resurrection Music at St. Matthew's

Michelle Lorimer

“dance” section of this piece to life. It also represented one of the many variations of Middle Eastern hand drum. Part of writing the music is also thinking about what musicians can play well or play at all, and writing the score such that the musicians can read it quickly and easily enough to bring out the “music.” I’m really grateful for Tyler’s helpful and thorough review and edit session, and to Mike and Aysel, who both gave input and suggestions from their crucial perspectives.

During the concert, I was struck by the diversity of moods, colours, gestures, and techniques in the various pieces of this program. A couple of them, Tyler’s included, employed the **Japanese shō**, a fascinating, reed-like mouth organ that produces a drone-like, bird-like sound which I’d describe as delicate and other-worldly. Aysel and Mike performed all of our pieces with care and attention, and it’s always such a privilege to hear good, live musicians like them work their magic and share their remarkable gifts of expression, honed after years of study, skill-building, and performance. As a composer, it’s the biggest privilege to have one’s work brought to life by sensitive musicians, so that it comes out of one’s mind, off the page, and into this world through the hands of others! Thought about this way, the entire act of creating anything is a testament to the living Spirit of God, living and working in each of us, and felt among us. What would a composer be without the performers — and what would either be without an audience? And what would any of us be without a divine Gardener who is in the habit of surprising us with His presence, speaking life where we might least expect to find it, and inviting us to celebrate its reality with Him.

GIFT Groups

Dawn Mercer

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Groups meet regularly to discuss the sermon of the previous Sunday with the scripture text that relates to the sermon. This provides an opportunity to dig into the ideas from the sermon and explore ways to put our faith into practice in daily life. There are weekly and seasonal groups.

We are hoping to begin new groups at different times this Fall.

Please call the office if you are interested. Someone will contact you directly.

Blessing of the Animals



Camp Matt: Growing Together

Lauren Kujlis



Camp Matt 2024 was a week filled with joy, excitement, friendship, and valuable lessons. This Day Camp, organized by St. Matthew's staff, Leaders in Training (LITs), and volunteers, was a blast. Camp Matt's theme this year of *Growing Together in Faith* taught everyone what it means to plant good roots, stay grounded in ourselves, and grow in God's love for us through faith.

Each day began with worship and a talk from Rev. Philip, including things like shaking hands with one another and learning to spread God's peace. We sang songs that went with the camp's theme, *Growing Together*, some that I'm sure are still stuck in our heads! We went off for games, and later for music with Tyler Versluis. There the kids learned songs and made music in creative ways, using vegetables and fruit, for instance, to create percussion instruments. It was so nice to observe everyone's singing get louder and energy go up as the week went on and everyone got comfortable. Excitement is needed to keep camp fun; we definitely learned that the more excited the leaders were, the more enthusiasm the kids met them with. Each aspect of the day changed often; while the structure stayed the same there were special trips, such as the splash pad and the swimming pool, along with lots of activities throughout the day to keep things enjoyable.

The camp also brought great opportunities for all who offered their service: LIT's, volunteers, and staff. They were all responsible for making camp a great success. For instance, I as an LIT this year am grateful that volunteering allowed me to bond with so many kids that I wouldn't have gotten to know otherwise. This was a beautiful experience. Further, when there were minor issues, they were always worked out and the kids learned from struggles. It was a blessing to have people of faith watching over the kids and practice solving problems with good intention. I learned a lot about giving attention to younger children and getting to know them properly; I am sure the other leaders would agree. We leaders had some great fun together as we became co-counsellors for the week.

It can be rare for a camp's feedback to report that all ages had a great time, and this just so happened to be the case! Everyone I spoke to had great things to say about camp, and we are happy to say the kids had great adults and older influences all around them. A week at Camp Matt this summer made it possible for all ages to absorb important, in-depth messages about faith with a creative twist, all while keeping an incredibly fun, light-hearted side to the experience.

Thank you to all those who made camp possible (Rev. Philip, Vanessa James-Locke, Tyler Versluis, Linda Dickson, Dawn Mercer, Emily Crump, and many more) and made it the positive, memorable and most of all special time that it was.



Book Review: *Every Moment Holy, Volume 1*

Jane Learn

It's always a delight to open a brand-new book and begin the journey into fresh, untouched pages. *Every Moment Holy* (Douglas C McKelvey, author and Ned Bustard, illustrator) is no exception. Every page holds new treasure.

This book offers a collection of simple liturgies for a Christian's daily life which remind us that God is with us always and by His very nature is concerned with the minutiae of our days. A brief flip through the index reveals an impressive body of poetic creations about many life events. From sunsets, the death of a dream, the ritual of morning coffee, snow, moving to a new home, liturgy of "The Hours," sorrow and lament, McKelvey considers the full gamut of our human experience. This book speaks to every person regardless of their situation. It is a blessing to rediscover that indeed, every moment is holy. This volume's universal appeal is sure to interest the individual, a spouse or friend, or groups whose format allows for active participation.

I find myself particularly drawn to liturgies about the everyday, the ordinary stuff of life. But I also find comfort in those directed at the unexpected and the unplanned. The best feature of this collection lies in the beauty of its words and concepts. McKelvey's descriptions speak to our souls and touch our hearts as he considers all manner of life passages, sometimes painful, but always relevant.

A favourite liturgy entitled *Lament upon the finishing of a book* includes an apropos illustration that can only be of C. S. Lewis, expressed in simplistic sketch by Bustard. Here McKelvey pays homage to Lewis, and we see parallels existing in both this liturgy and Lewis' essay, *The Weight of Glory*. Therein, Lewis writes of "this desire of our own far-off country" and treats us to glorious imagery expressed in perfect prose. The similarity in prose should be no surprise, because both men wax poetic when describing that homesickness which cannot be requited this side of glory. They both express a longing for our heavenly home, almost describing the indescribable. The reader revels in the beauty of this poetic language referencing otherworld longings, often unbearable, that point us to our future hope. It is a treat for a time, to live amongst these words that feed us so well.

In the aforementioned liturgy, McKelvey echoes the prose of Lewis at the end of his book, drawing from the depths of his faith, expressing what many of us at one time or another, have difficulty expressing. He writes, "...to return from my sojourn in that storied place where longings for something more than the life I lead were awakened...a longing for the places depicted...profound and holy wounds, yearning for a lost garden...where harms are healed and losses redeemed, love proved true and earth and heaven reconciled". He continues, "What I most desire is to open my eyes and find that for the first time I am home and breathing the wild winds of my native land...so of course my heart aches each time I receive those beautiful, distant rumours of that far country...I do not want the story to end for I've glimpsed a vision of things more as they will one day be than as they now are in these hard and sorrowing lands of our exile". Is not every reader's heart moved at the enormity of these thoughts, this vision? How fortunate we are to be privy to such writing from both men.

One final liturgy to leave you with, *For the enjoyment of a bonfire* where the author treats us to the beauty of veiled lights, holy mysteries and holy flame.

... continued

Book Review: *Every Moment Holy, Volume 1* (continued)

Jane Learn

“In the brilliant designs of all created things, O God...you have embedded the poetry of your own thoughts so that all things on heaven and earth are rightly seen, are alive and simmering with the veiled light of your presence and power and beauty.

“Open our eyes then to holy mysteries fixed in spark and flame and coal and burning ember....and finally...Burn bright your mercies, O God. Flame high your love, O Lord. Illumine our shadows, warm our cold hearts. Let love alight with holy flame.”

I hope one day you'll find your way to this little volume of treasured thought. Your hearts will surely be touched by the messages tucked into every page. If you're interested in purchasing this book, I recommend checking online at The Rabbit Room.

Chancel Guild

Pat Currie

Thank you to all the Chancel Guild members who diligently attended their duties over the busy summer months.

Being a member of the Chancel Guild involves serving and is very rewarding but not too demanding. The commitment is approximately two hours per month. This involves setting up on Saturday morning and cleaning up after the Sunday service. Training is provided! This also provides an opportunity to really get to know church members who serve on the Chancel Guild. We are a very friendly group and we all welcome new members. You can have a trial set-up and/or clean-up with no commitment. I can arrange a weekend for you to come and experience what the Guild is all about. If this service appeals to you or if you would like more information, please contact me, Pat Currie, at 647-998-7607.

Food Cupboard

Noel Martin

Our food cupboard is still in use, albeit in a limited way, and we need help keeping it stocked. Right now, we need canned vegetables, fruit, peanut butter, soups, and stews. Any help for those receiving a bag of food will be appreciated. Cash gifts are always useful too.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this vital mission.



BIBLE STUDY

Join us in a bible study of
Season 2 of *The Chosen*

NOVEMBER 12 TO DECEMBER 3

.....

7 PM

.....

Why is Contemporary Christian Art So Bad?

Tyler Versluis

The streaming series *The Chosen* has received a lot of positive attention since it launched in 2017. The product of international, ecumenical Christian cooperation, and possessing a hefty budget, *The Chosen* is a gold star in recent Christian-oriented media. Like many Christians, I breathed a sigh of relief at both the artistic quality and success of this series. “Finally, good Christian media,” I said. *The Chosen*’s greatest success is that it modestly and tastefully tells the Gospel to people living today. But the question remains: why is good Christian art and media so rare and far between?

As I survey Christian art from the last 800 years, it is difficult to deny that things are not really what they used to be: the artworks of Da Vinci, Michelangelo, the verses of Donne and Milton, the mighty oratorios of Bach and Mendelssohn... It feels like these works represent a peak, and what comes after is a mere degenerative echo of this great and mighty era. In fact, we frequently use these historical works as a measure for contemporary attempts of sacred art, an obvious sign that we have not, as a Christian society, created anything that measures up. Even commentators passionate about a Christian art revival tend to appeal to retrograded styles rather than inspiring the contemporary imagination, demanding that religious art return to an ideal that resembles something like the academicist works of W-A Bougereau. In the opinion of these commentators, spiritual shallowness and godlessness went hand-in-hand with the artistic and musical degenerations of the 20th century, and that we now stand on the edge of a massive historical void separating us from the former “correct” path of being creative in a way that is God-pleasing.

Sometimes I think that this opinion has some veracity. It is extremely difficult to see and listen to contemporary art, with its abstraction, chaos, and ugliness, and think of God speaking through these works. As religiosity declines in the West, should we not naturally deduce that art is becoming increasingly godless, since art ultimately reflects the soul of those who create it?

On the other hand, I still have trouble shaking off the feeling that much of the Christian art and music I listen to is sterile and unmoving. Why? Most likely because it feels too much like propaganda, possessing an almost pathological fear of being “messy” or challenging in any sort of way. Let’s face it: artists are “messy” people. They tend to be at odds with the world around them, and as freethinkers they often conflict with the orthodoxies of religion. This has been true since the dawn of time, and the works we hold on pedestals have messy creators and messy histories. Take a look at the lives of Da Vinci or Beethoven, for example. I also invite you to read about John Everett Millais’ 1850 painting, “*Christ in the House of His Parents*,” for another great example of this.

I like to write and talk enthusiastically about art and music that is on the fringes of our belief system, messy work that plunges us into unknown places, and not works that pontificate what we already know about God and Christianity: Judee Sill and her messy work that bounces between cowboy folk, Gnosticism and the female Christian mystic tradition; Hermann Nitsch and his horrendous bloody rituals of sacrifice and retribution; Galina Ustvolskaya and her screams to an absent God, annihilated under the auspices of Stalinism.

Christian art is not dead, or dying. There is somewhat of a revival happening, which merges two main principles. Firstly, a deep respect for the craft, symbolism and virtues of past Christian art. Secondly, an acceptance that good art is often messy, subjective and confrontational, a testament of one artistic voice against the tempestuous throes of spiritual living, rather than bland swaths of propagandic Christian fundamentalism and orthodoxy. However, Christian art will continue to be bad unless Christian artists and funders are willing to dwell in the murky relationship between human desire and spiritual aspiration, a relationship rife with subjectivity, ambiguity, doubt, and the eternal battle between God and the devil for the human soul.

Going to Lebanon? For Real? (written Sept. 10, 2024)

Tatiana Saliba

Many of you have heard of the continuous economic and political distress in Lebanon. And so when I shared that I got my ticket to go and spend the month of September with my family there and celebrate my youngest brother's wedding, I got some concerned reactions. "Why not reschedule?" "This is a serious thing!" My father-in-law even laughed in genuine disbelief and said "No, you're not going!"

So I thought I would share with you what it means for me and many Lebanese to say *Yes* to celebration and family even amidst the chaos of the unknown and security threats.

As a Lebanese child, you are taught the pride of being part of this rich country. From thousands of years of history and ancient heritage to its natural beauty — the mountains with their curves, caves, and rivers, the sea with its many beaches and ancient ports, the majestic Cedar trees that inspire a faithful prayer. To its colourful culture — an exceptional hospitality, moving and formative art, and a rich value system of human dignity, honour, loyalty, deep faith, family, and community.

And yet, alongside this pride, as long as I lived, I've known the country to be a troubled place, that you might die just as family members whose portraits still hang around many homes died before. You learn that life goes on, and if you wait for world peace, you will never really live. That defeat is not in dying, but in the fear that keeps you crippled in hiding.

Lebanese are often praised (and sometimes blamed) for living every day as if it's their last. If you just learned this might be your last day, you might be in shock the first day, and perhaps afraid the second day, maybe even the 30th day, but at some point you accept the reality that life is in this moment, and that there might be no tomorrow, and so you do what you love: you see your loved ones, you celebrate, you marry, you dance... you live! And perhaps, you will find that life is great after all! Probably greater than when you had taken "tomorrow" for granted.

This is perhaps at the heart of it all, so ingrained that it's seldom spoken of, it's the Lebanese spirit — a remarkable resilience in the face of adversity, this capacity to stand up again and again, not only to survive, but determined to thrive and celebrate life.

I am often reminded of this spirit when I see a plant growing from a small crack on the side of the road. It's almost as if the continuous challenges not only fail to shut the desire to live, but fuel it with determination to rise and lift up the world with it.

And so, I'm glad my brother did not cancel the wedding. I'm glad that I did not let fear stop me from joining my family. And I'm glad Bryan will be joining me in this experience.

I'm also very grateful that so many of you are praying for us to be back safely.

"Have Faith that God is holding you all along, and fear nothing!" My Dad.

Kim Kehoe - Sales Representative

C: 416-788-1823 | O: 416-530-1100

W: www.kimkehoe.com

BOSLEY REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

1108 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON, M6J 1H9

The logo features a large, stylized, light-colored letter 'K' in the background. Overlaid on the right side of the 'K' is the name 'KIM KEHOE' in a bold, red, serif font. Below the name, the tagline 'EFFECTIVE RESULTS. LASTING RELATIONSHIPS.' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

KIM KEHOE
EFFECTIVE RESULTS. LASTING RELATIONSHIPS.

A Letter of Thanks

Rockefarmer (Rocky) Wu

Dear Reverend Philip and the St. Matthew's Families,

I hope this message finds you all well. I am writing to express my family's heartfelt thanks for the kindness and support you've shown us, and to share an update on our recent move to Thunder Bay.

Over the past year, St. Matthew's has become a true source of peace and comfort for me. It's where I have found rest for both my body and spirit, easing the burdens I carried. The worship services, especially the all-ages worship, have made me feel at home, with so many in the church family welcoming me as a friend and offering their support. Thank you, Reverend Philip, James, and Layla, Simon, Paul, Wendy and other church family.

On August 13, we flew to Thunder Bay to begin a new chapter in our lives. The housing market here is quite competitive, and it took us two weeks to rent a suitable home. Thankfully, we now rent a beautiful house with three bedrooms and a large basement. The house also has a wonderful yard, much of which is set aside for vegetable gardening – something I have always cherished, as I believe that the land rewards those who work diligently.

I have now enrolled as a graduate student at Lakehead University. My elder son has registered as a Grade 11 student at St. Ignatius High School, and my younger son has started at St. Pius X Elementary School. My wife will be working hard to support all three of us as we pursue our educations. I hope that being part of the Catholic school system will help my children grow in faith and gratitude. Once we are fully settled, we plan to find a local church where can attend Sunday worship and continue to strengthen our spiritual life.

We are grateful for this new beginning in Thunder Bay and continue to thank God for the blessing HE provides.

With sincere thanks and gratitude,

Qiping Rockefarmer Wu

(Sent to Rev. Philip: "I truly appreciated your kindness, inspiration, support and assistance. I believe that all the positive changes in our lives have been guided by God's grace. Thanks to God for everything.")

Church Records

Deaths

Jean Campbell
June 10, 2024

Jeff Wright
June 20, 2024

Enid Kemp-Jackson
August 14, 2024



Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered over the phone, by email or via Zoom. Due to current pandemic restrictions, we cannot offer visits. 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 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 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.

Join Us

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. BCP Service

Upcoming Messy Church

October 26

November 30

GIFT Groups

Contact the office for information



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

10:30 a.m. Unity Worship replaces
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship
(generally first Sunday of each month)
Please check saintmatts.ca

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
Bryan Tran, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Travaglini, Sexton
Grant Dunbar, Verger
Lisa Tait, Administrator

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

Email: office@saintmatts.ca ♦ Tel: 416-231-4014 ♦ Website: www.saintmatts.ca



[StMatthewsAnglicanChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsAnglicanChurch)



[saintmatts_islington](https://www.instagram.com/saintmatts_islington)



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

Privacy Policy: St. Matthew's will not sell or distribute in any way the email address of any Parishioner.
To be removed from the distribution list, please contact the Church at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.