

# Smatterings

Saint Matthew's  
Episcopal Church  
February 2023



Fr. Frank

## Food, Rest, and Renewal

On the last Sunday in January, St. Matthew's gathered for its 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting! Day in and day out, week in and week out for 107 years, St. Matthew parishioners have been worshipping and caring for its neighbors! May we continue to give God thanks and praise for all the ways that St. Matthew's is blessed so that we can be a blessing to others!

While there is much to celebrate and much more potential to look forward to, Bishop Jennifer reminded us of the need for balance between using our energy in being active and taking time for rest and renewal. In her Diocesan Convention Address, Bishop Jennifer urged all parishes to *"seize opportunities for rest, to nourish ourselves and to strengthen our understanding of what it means to live guided by the hope to which God has called us."* This call for rest and renewal is not a call to stop praying or stop forming or stop doing activities or stop coming to church, but like Jesus and his disciples, it is a call to be sure to also draw back at times in order to refresh and renew. Doing so enables us to go forward and to meet the opportunities and challenges before us.

And that is what the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program is for. St. Matthew's was awarded this grant for 2023. The Renewal period is for both the congregation and me. We will have the opportunity for a three-month period of renewal from April 17 – July 24, 2023. My hope is that this period and these activities will help us renew our spirit and replenish our energy as Priest and People.

The Lilly Renewal Program asks each parish and pastor to design the structure with certain themes and motifs in mind. The theme running throughout the renewal period is an interplay of food, sharing meals, and sharing stories. I think this image captures the deep-rooted hospitality that flows through every aspect of our community's life together, including worship, education, and opportunities for service. I recall the saying, "Every dish has a story." I believe the food we eat and the stories we tell can be formative to our development and identity, and that they have the power to shape us and provide meaning and purpose for our lives. When "bread is broken" and stories are shared around a table with family, friends, and even strangers, we can recognize and experience the Holy in our midst.

*Food* – This is a source of nourishment that satisfies and strengthens us. But more than providing nutrition, food brings people together. It is typically at the center of family gatherings and has the power to form people into communities. In faith, it is a simple meal of bread and wine where we experience the Real Presence of Jesus in our midst.

Inside...

Page 2 Page 1 continued

Page 3 Welcome

Page 4 Reports: Annual Meeting

Page 6 Reports cont. MMReview, Outreach

Page 7 Spiritual Growth, Announcements, Happenings,  
Coming Events

*Storytelling* – All of us have stories that define and shape our character and who we are to others. Part of expressing hospitality and vitality is recognizing that everyone has a story and that everyone's story matters. Storytelling encourages honest and vulnerable conversations and deepens spiritual bonds between people.

For my portion of the Renewal, I will immerse myself more fully into stories of family origins, of authors who inspire me, of some of my greatest heroes in faith, and the cultures and foods that fueled them. Since a deep sense of food and storytelling hospitality pervades the life and ministry of the congregation, the congregation will also engage in small groups for storytelling, fellowship, and meals.

*Stories of Family Origins:* I will visit parts of Sicily, which is my ancestral home on my father's side of the family. We will have opportunities to learn the stories of my family origin and dive deeper into Sicilian cuisine that was such a part of my growing up. In addition to traveling around the island, I will have the pleasure of attending a cooking class and learn to prepare authentic dishes from that region.

The congregation will begin engaging in a process of collecting oral histories. This will enable different members of the congregation to look through old pictures, tell and hear others share stories about their life, faith, and fun memories at St. Matthew's. Oral histories help trace the impact of the community on a person's life. This project will be led and facilitated by Grace McDowell, who is pursuing her degree in Public History at IUPUI. Small groups will come together to do some of this storytelling over a pizza dinner.

*Stories of Heroes in Faith:* We will travel to the regions around Tuscany, including the town of Assisi. Here, we will learn about the stories of Francis and Clare, both my namesake and of my daughter's. As the **birthplace of Sts. Francis and Clare** and the center of much of their life's work, we will tour and learn stories of their impact on the Church. Assisi also inspired great artists like, Giotto, Cimabue, Andrea da Bologna, and Simone Martini. We will see their works in various basilicas in the area including the Basilica di San

San Francesco (St. Francis Basilica) and Santa Chiara (St. Clare). I will register for a cooking class in the Chianti region!

The congregation will continue the process of storytelling using sample questions and templates to capture the information. Grace McDowell will also facilitate matching interviewers with interviewees. Everyone will have an opportunity to share stories around a choice of various themes. Small groups will gather again to enjoy a pasta dinner.

*Stories of Faith:* We will make our way to Aix-en-Provence and take time to enjoy the sites and culture of southern France. Since many cultures show hospitality through food, we will not only sample French country cooking, I will also take my final cooking class learning the art of French cooking! We will then embark on a river cruise from Arles to Chalon-sur-Saone. This river cruise also makes its way to several of the places that St. Augustine of Canterbury and his companions traveled while enroute from Rome to Canterbury including, Arles, Vienne, Lyon, Macon, Tournus, and Chalon-sur-Saone. This journey transformed Augustine's life and the ways he would eventually shape the church throughout England. The cruise will also take us to several historic cities and towns that have played significant roles in the history of Christianity such as, Avignon and Cluny.

The congregation will have opportunities to hear segments of the recorded stories and have a discussion on relevant themes:

- \*How have your journeys in life shaped and transformed you?
- \*In what ways do these stories contribute to the overall sense of community?
- \*What elements of our shared, and individual histories, should we feature more prominently to new members as we welcome them to the parish?
- \*Identify ways to archive and preserve these stories so that new and future members can engage in them and add their own story/impact to the community

Small groups will gather for these discussions and enjoy pastries together.

In the final weeks of the Renewal, we will make a pilgrimage to Canterbury. The Cathedral has a long tradition of welcome and hospitality dating back to medieval times. We will partake in several Cathedral tours including the history of Canterbury, a stained-glass tour, enjoying the Cathedral gardens, hiking the Cathedral grounds, and visiting some of the historic ruins in the area. The town of Canterbury also offers opportunities for fine dining and site seeing. I will also do some studying to learn more about St. Augustine of Canterbury and his commission to bring Christianity to England.

Upon my return, we will have opportunities for large group and small group gatherings to talk about the ways we were renewed in this period. I look forward to cooking authentic Sicilian, Tuscan, and southern French meals for small groups and hearing your stories and

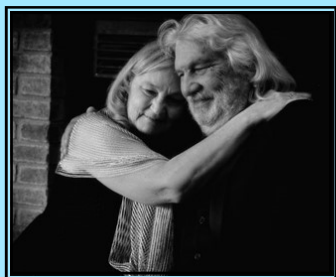
sharing many of my own with you.

The benefit this renewal period will not only enlarge and transform my perspectives but will give me ample space and time to unplug from every day duties and responsibilities to plunge more deeply into the very things that fill me with joy and gladness.

I believe this program will also benefit the congregation at St. Matthew's. My hope is that this renewal period will provide the opportunity for all of us to capture and preserve these kinds of formative stories from the entire spectrum of the membership in a more formal and intentional manner. It would also provide fun opportunities to gather in fellowship around a table with good food from around the world.

So let's make the most of this time and *"seize opportunities to nourish ourselves and to strengthen our understanding of what it means to live guided by the hope to which God has called us."*

## Welcome Paul!



Hello St. Matthew's! I am quite excited to begin musical collaborations with you as your new Organist/Choirmaster. My professional background has been

as a producer and composer along with longtime work across the country as a theatrical Music Director. My concert catalogue gets a good round of international broadcasting with some beautiful CD recordings by such ensembles as the Prague Symphony Orchestra, Warsaw National Philharmonic, and Slovak Radio Orchestra. My love of sacred music began at Brebeuf Prep School here in Indy, where I would play for student services. After nearly 40 years of freelancing and running a production company in Florida, I returned to

Indianapolis (my home town) to semi-retire; well musicians never really retire. So, here I am again working with a talented choir and playing beautiful hymns.

My life partner Cheryl is a singer, currently in the Indianapolis Women's Chorus, and will be adding her voice at St. Matt's on most Sundays. I am a doting doggie daddy and my min-pin, Maya, may be along on occasion during the week. I love to play mahjong and chess; so, let me know, too, if we should get a game time up some weekdays. I compose constantly and just received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to compose a new String Quartet #5, which will be an homage to the tunes of fellow Hoosier composer Red Skelton with variations and impressions of some of his melodies. Yes, in addition to the clown paintings and his wonderful film and television comedy, Red was a composer. Great Fun! 'A. Paul' Johnson

## 107th Annual Meeting Recap January 29, 2023

The meeting was held on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Missy Ellis was elected Clerk of the Meeting.

The vestry election process began with a recognition of the 2022 vestry members: Marla Davenport, Terry Kee, Joan Porter, Kevin Sterrett, Josephine Whitaker, and Andy Wilkinson. Heidi Kauffman and Tom Ranstrom were elected to fill two openings on the 2023 vestry.

Father Frank announced his choice of Rector's (Senior) Warden for 2023, Joan Porter. Joan spoke to the congregation, noting she was "honored and blessed" to have been selected for this leadership position. After the Annual Meeting, the Vestry convened to elect the Junior Warden. Andy Wilkinson was elected!

Delegates to the 2022 annual diocesan convention were Jared Hancock and Steve Albrecht, both of whom had been official alternates. Jared volunteered to stay on as a delegate for 2023; Melissa Kleine, who was elected last year to attend the 2023 convention, will be the second delegate.

Jody Breakell and Wendy Blumenthal were slated to serve as alternates to the 2023 convention and delegates to the 2024 convention. With no nominations from the floor, a motion to close the nominations was seconded and approved, and Jody and Wendy were elected by acclamation.

A group of parishioners were recognized for exceptional service in 2023:

Outgoing people's warden Terry Kee

Outgoing vestry member Marla Davenport (who was vestry clerk for two years)

Andy Wilkinson for his help during his two years as Rector's Warden, particularly in addressing a number of previously deferred maintenance issues.

Jared Hancock and Crystal Black were honored for their musical leadership in the interim between organ/choir masters.

Jon Robbins was also thanked for his devoted work of all kinds "quietly behind the scenes."

Parish Administrator, Brianna Owens, for her steady

work and many contributions.

Rector's (Senior) Warden's report: Andy Wilkinson expressed many thanks to Fr Frank and addressed several highlights of his report: HVAC replacement, other budget issues, and the new Realm church management software currently being launched. He offered thanks to treasurer Greg Staab, financial secretary Jennifer Albrecht, parish administrator Brianna Owens, and all who pitch in on many church projects. He closed with a quote from the hymn "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place," and his challenge to the congregation to spread that spirit outside the doors of St. Matthew's.

People's (Junior) Warden: Terry Kee reported on buildings and grounds issues, including HVAC units, concrete replacement, lighting replacement, and successful work days held during the year. He complimented Boy Scout Troop 161 for its work rehabbing downstairs bathrooms, and thanked Jon Robbins and Randy Davenport for their contributions to building projects.

Kevin Sterrett reported on St. Matthew's work with the diocesan Church Building for Collaborative Partnerships. This initiative helps churches to leverage their properties to connect with the larger community. The parish will receive a total of \$5800—part grant, part grant match from a generous parishioner—to improve tech and communications systems within the building. A better quality of Wifi will be purchased, a Smart TV will take up residence in the parish hall, and new speakers will be connected, all to provide a more useful and welcoming space for community partners. He thanked Marla's work on writing the grant narrative!

Father Frank detailing his upcoming spiritual renewal period. Indianapolis' Lilly Endowment offers grants for clergy in hopes of decreasing burnout; Father Frank applied for and received a Lilly grant. The congregation will also be involved in the renewal with events happening at church that overlap with Father Frank's experience on an overseas pilgrimage.

His chosen topics of focus are the fellowship of food and storytelling. He will journey to a number of places

in Europe where he can explore those concepts. Some of the highlights include a religious retreat in Lindisfarne, England; a visit to Sicily to research his family roots and attend cooking school; a visit to Tuscany to see Assisi, home of his namesake St. Francis, and to attend another cooking school; following the path of Augustine from Rome to Canterbury, and attending a third cooking school in France. Other visits, including ones to London and the Cotswolds, will fill out the journey.

Back in Indiana, the parish will work on an oral history project during the renewal period as well as have times for small group fellowship and food. After Father Frank has returned, he will meet with parishioners in small groups to discuss his renewal and share his cooking skills.

Supply priests have been arranged, and systems will be in place to ensure the needs of the congregation are met. Three priests will help cover Sunday mornings: Mother Mary Taflinger, Fr. Steve Giovangelo, and Fr Sam Vaught. Fr Steve will also cover the Wednesday morning services.

Treasurer Greg Staab began by thanking financial secretary Jennifer Albrecht and parish administrator Brianna Owens for their help with money management in 2022. The parish had some high ticket financial demands in 2022. Damage was done to the rectory by a tenant, and the costs to replace the HVAC

HVAC units was significant. 8 of the 9 units have been replaced in recent years. Pledge payments were down by \$12,000, due both to death and to changed circumstances for pledging units. Despite that, amounts in the restricted and unrestricted funds are healthy. Greg described budget planning for 2023 as “more art than science” as the vestry will be challenged with a budget deficit of \$20,000 and must consider how to use reserve funds. The budget reports look different from past versions, as Greg has “unbundled” various categories and added more specific line items.

Currently, the rectory has a good tenant, and there are opportunities to bring new vendors into the commercial kitchen.

As the Annual Meeting wrapped up, Paul Johnson, the new Organist/Choirmaster was introduced as well as the following upcoming events:

Boy Scout Sunday and Crystal Black’s birthday will be celebrated February 12;

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner from 5 - 7 p.m. on

Tuesday, February 21 hosted by the Scouts

Ash Wednesday services for February 22

10 a.m. liturgy

12 noon Stations of the Cross

7 p.m. liturgy)

The vocal group, VOCE, will perform a Lenten recital on March 5 at 4 p.m.

## January Vestry Recap

### Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 11 6:45pm

Special Meeting to HVAC Repairs. The vestry approved the expenditure of \$16,400 to replace two HVAC units with Thiele Heating and Cooling. One unit serves the sanctuary, and the other unit serves the lower level underneath the sanctuary. This was necessary because both had critical cracks in the furnace and the units were 25 years old. In the last five years we have replaced 8 of the 9 units.

### Regular Meeting on Monday, January 16

The Vestry toured the fair housing display in the parish hall.

The **2023 Budget** was presented for approval. There was discussion and some presentation adjustments. The vestry approved unanimously. The budget will be presented at the annual meeting.

**Rector’s Report** – Father Frank gave an update and there was a good discussion about the Clergy Renewal Grant beginning to roll the program out to the congregation.

**Junior Warden:** Terry Key reported that the new HVAC units will be installed on Wednesday, January 18.

### Special Meeting on Sunday, January 29

After the Annual Meeting, the Vestry convened and welcomed two new members – Heidi Kauffman and Tom Ramstrom who were elected to three year terms at the annual meeting. Father Frank appointed Joan Porter as Senior Warden. The vestry then elected Andy Wilkinson as Junior Warden.

# Mutual Ministry Review 2023 Results

## The Chapel of Good Shepherd+ The Episcopal Church at Purdue University

A ministry of the Episcopal diocese of Indianapolis

Dear Vestry of St. Matthew's:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you last night; I thoroughly enjoyed our time together.

I felt warmly received by you and fully understood the sentiment that permeated our conversation. St. Matthew's is a welcoming community that seeks to connect deeply with each other. It is clear to me that the Vestry listens well to each other and lives out the commitment to assume positive intent in conversations.

You all worked well to identify things you do well as Vestry, Wardens, and Rector. In particular, you noted your focus on growing roots, discovering your call, and stewarding your building. You have been investing time in caring for the building, noting that caring for the building helps to deepen your connection to the others who use the building. The wardens have been leaders in these efforts, providing an example for others. Likewise, Fr. Frank is intentional about his pastoral reach: greeting new folks, helping them connect with others in the community, and also making regular visits to all members of the parish, not only the homebound.

The primary challenge you identified is an opportunity to bring more people into the work of the church. The Vestry and Rector work hard and, as the Bishop's comment, want to be cautious about spreading everyone's energy too thin.

With all this in mind, the two things the Vestry wants to work on in coming months are following up on the CBCP work and creating a long-range plan for building maintenance. This work would involve identifying a group of people who would be available to help with building concerns during regular business hours. It would also entail ensuring that more people know the nuts and bolts of the routine workings of the church (details about microphones, lights, and the like). In all this work, the intent is to continue to deepen the roots of the community and to continue to welcome new people to put down their roots at St. Matthew's as well.

Grace and peace,  
Hilary Cooke



## OUTREACH

One of the ways we at St. Matthew's respond to Jesus' charge to feed and serve those around us is by collecting each week canned goods for the ICAN Food Pantry (in Irvington) and paper products/toiletries for the COME Food Pantry (in Cumberland). These items are blessed at the end of the 10:00am service each Sunday. Thank you all for your generous support each week!



**Food Pantry & Clothing Closet Update**

**ICAN FOOD PANTRY**

**Winter items needed for all ages**  
Hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, socks



**Yes, we'll take toiletries!**  
Full-size soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant  
**Plus plastic grocery bags**



Contact: 317-936-9639 or [foodpantry@downeyavenue.com](mailto:foodpantry@downeyavenue.com) for item or monetary donation drop-off

**Introducing..... our Amazon Wish List!**  
Go to: [icanfoodpantry.com](https://www.amazon.com/icanfoodpantry) for a direct link to the ICAN Food Pantry Wish List  
Click on the items to purchase and they will be shipped to the Pantry!



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

No Spiritual Growth programs on Sundays at 9:00am have been scheduled for the month of February.

## Announcements

### February Birthdays

February 5	Delores Arbuckle
February 10	Steve Albrecht
February 11	Danny Arbuckle
February 11	Troy Arbuckle
February 12	Crystal Black
February 14	Marla Davenport
February 18	Doni Lee



### February Anniversaries



## Coming Events

### February Calendar

**February 12 Boy Scout Sunday** 10:00 service  
Followed by Coffee Hour, the Scouts will have some baked goods for sale and Crystal's husband, Gregory Harris, will provide a special Coffee Hour to celebrate Crystal's birthday.

**February 21 Shrove Tuesday** Pancake Supper

will be served from 5-7pm. It will be hosted by the Scouts in the Parish Hall. A goodwill Offering will be taken.



**February 22 Ash Wednesday services:**

10am - Holy Eucharist  
12 noon - Stations of the Cross  
7pm - Ash Wednesday Service

**March 1 Irvington Area Lenten Soup Supper and Prayer Service**

At St. Matthew's  
6:00pm Soup Supper  
In the Parish Hall  
7:00pm Prayer Service  
In the Sanctuary  
Pastor Lee Welker from Gethsemane Lutheran will be preaching.

**March 5** The vocal group, **VOCE**, will perform a Lenten recital at 4pm.

## Happenings



*Sunday, January 22, 2023, Fr. Sam Vaught, Chaplain for Campus Ministries at Butler was with us for both worship services.*

## Schedule for Irvington Churches Soup Supper and Prayer Services in Lent

6:00pm Soup Supper

7:00pm Prayer Service

**March 1** at St. Matthew's with Pastor Lee Welker from Gethsemane Lutheran Preaching

**March 8** at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church with the Rev. Denise Robinson preaching

**March 15** at Irvington United Methodist Church with Fr. Rick Ginther preaching

**March 22** at Irvington United Presbyterian Church with Fr. Frank Impicciche preaching

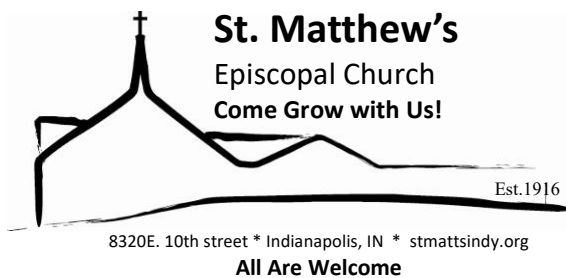
**March 29** at Downey Ave. Christian Church with Rev. Maureen Wilson preaching.

## Sunday Ministry February 2023

Ministry Schedule	February	February	February	February
	5	12	19	26
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Crucifer/ Server</b>	Jon Robbins	Andy Wilkinson	Devon Teague	Joe Weaver
<b>Chalice</b>	Bonnie Godfrey	Lee Ann Kee	Andy Wilkinson	Terry Kee
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Suzanne Kissling	Ellie Mattson	Kevin Sterrett	Andy Wilkinson
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Melissa Kleine	Missy Ellis	Joe Weaver	Michal Nugent
<b>Intercessor</b>	Vicki Mansfield	Linda Sykes	Catherine Davis	Jared Hancock
<b>Ushers/ Greeters</b>	Angie Wilkinson	Greg Staab	Natali Palmer	Jody Breakell
	Andy Wilkinson	Missy Ellis	Melissa Klein	Wendy Blumenthal
<b>Counters</b>	Jennifer Albrecht	Dave Belisle	Kevin Sterrett	Natalie Palmer
	Missy Ellis	Jon Robbins	Terry Kee	Andy Wilkinson
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>	Missy Ellis	Sylvia Robles	Dennis Teague	Natalie Palmer
	Greg Staab	Bonnie Godfrey	Susan Teague	Suzanne Kissling
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and advise the Parish Office. Thank you.





**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**8320 East 10th Street**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46219-5399**

Phone (317) 898-7807

FAX: (317) 898-1443

<http://www.stmattsindy.org>

Parish E-mail [office@stmattsindy.org](mailto:office@stmattsindy.org)

Rector's E-mail [frfrank@stmattsindy.org](mailto:frfrank@stmattsindy.org)

*Smatterings*

**Formatting and editing:** Esther Weaver

**Photos by:** Kaye Palmer, Fr. Frank & others

**St. Matthew's clergy and staff:**

The Revd. Frank Impicciche, *Rector*

Brianna Owens, *Parish Administrator*

Crystal Black, *Hand Bell Choir Director*

A. Paul Johnson, *Organist/Choir Director*

**Services**

- Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite II  
8:00am and 10:00am
- Wednesdays : Holy Eucharist 10:00am

Nursery available on Sundays starting at 9:45

Parish Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8am-2pm, Fri. 9am-1pm

*February 2023*

**St. Matthew's Mission Statement**

The mission of St. Matthew's is

"to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

We do this through worship of God,  
education of ourselves and our children,  
care for each other and outreach to others,  
sharing faith stores with others,  
and caring for all our resources (our time, treasure,  
and talents).

*Smatterings* is published monthly except in the summer.

The deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's publication.

*Smatterings*