



The New Messenger
February Edition 11FE25



Message From Sharon:

Dear friends,

By now most of you will have heard that our long “interim” is drawing near to a close. As of March 1st, St. Matthew’s will be betting a new priest—someone to walk with you as you explore the wonderful possibilities that await you in the future.

As I look back at the time we have spent together, I am reminded of the Exodus story. Having left their exile in Egypt, the Israelites wandered 40 years in the wilderness before they were able to enter the promised land. They needed time to reflect on their past experience, and to heal in order that they could enter the Promised Land with genuine energy and enthusiasm. They needed to trust, deep in their bones, that in this new place, their hopes and dreams would be fulfilled.

St. Matthew’s, thank God, has never experienced the ravages of living in bondage! And our time of wandering in the wilderness has been a mere 2 ½ years. But we did suffer the ravages of COVID, financial devastation, and the shock of a long-time priest suddenly go on disability leave. So our time together has been a time of reflection, healing, and restoration. We have been determined to not only survive, but to thrive, to serve God in this place.

And today, St. Matthew’s is not only “viable”; it is strong, resilient and growing. It is a close-knit community where everyone has worked together to accomplish God’s purpose.

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It has been a great honour and privilege for me to have walked with you for the past 2 ½ years. I am particularly moved by the care and concern you have shown me following my fall, and I am truly grateful. I will miss you all, and pray for you always. But I pass the torch to your new priest, confident that you are ready to embark on this new stage of your journey. Our God is a God of surprises, and I trust that wonderful things await you in God's future.

Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!

Faithfully,
Sharon+.

Our new Priest In Charge

We would like to welcome Rev. Diane Lee to St. Matthew's as our new Priest in Charge.



Dates to Reserve

Vestry Meeting

The Vestry meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025, following a potluck lunch in the church hall. Please submit reports to the office by Thursday, February 6, 2025.

What is a vestry meeting? This is a meeting that is held once a year. It is usually held on a Sunday after the church service. At this meeting is where Church Business is presented to the parishioners for information and/or to vote on if need. Also at this meeting parishioners are elected to roles in the church such as wardens, treasurer and other roles. These people have been asked to stand or are nominated for a position.

Pancake Supper

Please join us on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 5–6:30 pm in the Sharp Memorial Hall for the Pancake Supper. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Children 1–5 are free. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

St. Matthew's Poinsettia Bazaar/Craft Market 2024

We had a wonderful time at our Bazaar again this year. Many of our parishioners pitched in and worked really hard to make this year's Bazaar another huge success. Financially, we did extremely well. We had our big day on November 2nd and raised \$8,010.05. We had a mini-Bazaar in early December where we partnered with the Rotary Club book sale and raised another \$1,260.00. With other sales during the year and kind donations from our parishioners, the Bazaar raised a total of \$10,590.00. This was amazing and very helpful to the church financially.

Our parishioners came together in so many positive ways and the time of fellowship was priceless. We shared our time, talents and treasures and we had fun doing it! Our local businesses generously gave us donations for our gift baskets (i.e. No Frills at Townline, Golden Gate Eatery & Takeout, Stone Art by Peter, Pizza Hut, Farm Boy, FreshCo at Harmony, FreshCo at Wilson, Clarington Physiotherapy Health and Wellness Centre, and Shoppers Drug Mart on Warden Ave) and silent auction items (another Tom Hodgson original painting, and the Christmas wheelbarrow made by Bill Lamb).

Our amazing team met after the Bazaar to debrief our event and to make recommendations for November 1st, 2025. The planning has already begun. Our work parties started on Monday, January 13th where we reviewed the crafts we made last year and looked at some new ideas. Our work parties will continue on Monday afternoons from 1 to 3 pm except for the 3rd Monday of the month when Circle of Friends meet. Please join us to help create items for the Bazaar but also to enjoy the fellowship with other parishioners. You don't have to come every week and we encourage you to bring new ideas for us to try or bring your own project to work on. Everyone's time, talents and treasures are important. We are a great team who enjoy working together and sharing the positive fellowship!

Thank you all for the support that you provided to make this fundraiser such a wonderful experience. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. Thank you to Rev. Sharon Melvin for all her support. A very special thank you to Lynne Denniston, my Co-Convenor, who did so much to make the event a success. We look forward to another great Bazaar again this year.

Natalie Hempstead,
The Bazaar Lady!



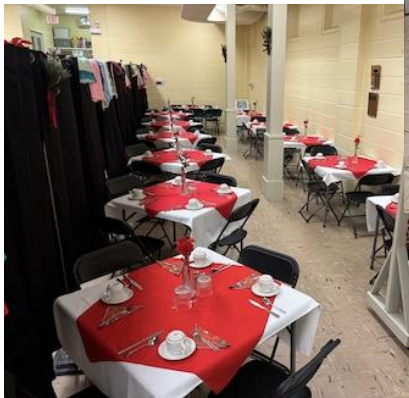
Work party discussion of what items to work on for the 2025 Bazaar.



The St. Matthew's sweat shop. HaHaHa.



Pics from the Nov. Bazaar and Craft Market.





The bobbsey twins, and yes two great Co- Coordinators.



Is it the four musketeers or the four amigos or just four misfits.

Sunday School

On Sundays there is Sunday School for all ages of children to attend.

There is a quote that says:

“Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.” Bob Talbert.

At St Matthew’s we have a small Sunday School. The children range in ages from Toddlers to Teens.

We take inspiration from Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Our aim is to help nurture children’s faith by teaching them about Jesus and God through Bible stories, art projects and songs. We want to encourage children from a young age to begin developing a strong meaningful Christian faith that will help guide them along the various stages of the journey to adulthood and beyond.

We are looking for volunteers that could help out once a month with the Sunday School when we need someone's help, please. It would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming your children to St Matthew’s Sunday School.

The Sunday School Teachers are Tricia Zoet, Allyson Lemire, and Andrea Williams.

A note from our Administrator

Welcome to St. Matthew's my name is Tricia Zoet, and I am your office administrator. If you have any questions or concerns, you may come to me at any time, email me or call at the office. Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 1pm. I am usually at the office longer than the office hours if you really need to talk to me about things, you can

Yours Truly
Tricia Zoet
Office Administrator at St. Matthew's
Blessings to all!



St. Peter's Food Bank Update

Please remember FOOD BANK SUNDAY IS BACK!



Remember, the 1st Sunday of each month is designated as FOOD BANK SUNDAY. Please, if you can, remember to donate often to the Food Bank. Your contributions are always appreciated and can be placed in the wooden chest at the back of our Church. With the high cost of groceries this ministry is so important.

St. Peter's Food Bank continues to be a source for those in need of basic food and supplies. Our donations are taken by a group of our volunteers to St. Peter's Anglican Church on Cedar Street, Oshawa. Their doors are open each Tuesday evening (except the 5th Tuesday of the month) to people who are in need.

Most requested food donations are pasta, peanut butter, tea, instant coffee, cereal, pasta, canned goods (soups, fruit, meat, beans etc.), crackers, pasta sauce. On the personal hygiene side of things donations of body wash, toothpaste or toothbrushes, diapers (sizes 5 & 6 or pull-ups) are always appreciated.

Thank you all for your support to this much needed ministry.

Faithfully, Lynne Denniston

If you know anyone in our congregation that is dealing with food insecurities, please contact either Rev. Sharon or Lynne Denniston. This will be confidential and handled discreetly.

1 Which nursery song would Jesus have heard the most?

Answers to the jokes are on page 15.

News From The Altar



I think you will all agree that the Church looked very festive and inviting for the Christmas season. A big thank you to the Altar Guild who continues to work faithfully and diligently.

The Altar Guild manages the requests for flowers. Flowers are a gift to the glory of God. They speak to life and beauty. St. Matthew's has two built in flower stands behind the altar. It is only possible to have fresh flowers on Sunday when we have donations from parishioners. Anyone can request flowers for just about any reason, such as a celebration of an anniversary or a milestone, in memory of someone who has passed on, or in general thanks for the love of God. Information on how to request Altar flowers is on the bulletin board in the narthex.



This is the team that works so hard behind the scenes to make our church so beautiful.

As Easter approaches we will provide envelopes in the Narthex for anyone wishing to donate towards Easter flowers/decorations. For further information on flowers please contact Natalie Hempstead - 905-579-1729 or lenchemp@sympatico.ca.

The Guild is having its' next meeting Tuesday, March 18th at 1:00 p.m. in the Church. All are welcome. It is a planning meeting for April through July, which includes Easter. Come on out and see what we are up to! No commitment required.

If you would like any information on St. Matthew's Altar Guild feel free to contact me, Lynne Denniston - 905-723-6494 or notsinned@rogers.com

News From The Men's Coffee Group

A small group of men continue to meet weekly to share stories and have a few laughs. We meet in the church hall most weeks except the last Thursday of the month when we visit a local restaurant for breakfast, here is a list of a few of the places we have visited: Molly's, Coco Frutti, Bridgette's, Quick Flame, Halibut House, Sunset Grill, Eggsmart, East Grille and Sherry's Diner.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hempstead (905) 579-1729. If you wish to receive a reminder for coffee, please give Gord Rogers your cell number and he will text you Thurs. morning. If you are interested, please join us.



Circle Of Friends



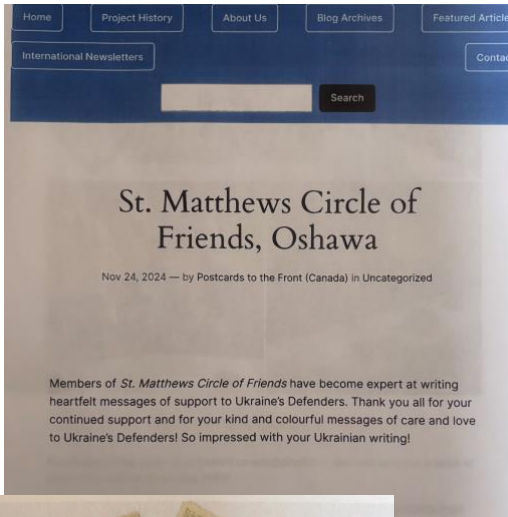
I wish to extend my sincere thank you to Sandra Hennigar and Eileen Mainwaring for Co-Hosting our Christmas luncheon at Quick Flame Restaurant. We had 28 in attendance which was wonderful. It was lovely to hear and see all of the interaction that occurred before, during and after our meal. It was a lovely way to start our Christmas festivities.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 17 | Downsizing Divas |
| March 17 | Hygiene Bags for St. Peters start collecting your donations |
| April 21 | Chris Hempstead Crime Stoppers presentation |
| May 19 | A TRIP TO AFRICA Marjorie Sorrell presenter |
| June 16 | Peony Garden Visit |



For the second year the COF's have writing and attached Canadian stickers on postcard which were sent to the Ukraine's for distribution to the front-line soldier at Christmas. There were featured in an article in the newsletter (postcards to the Front (Canada / **Канада**)). Here are a few pics from that letter. Sorry for the poor picture quality as it was copied from the paper copy.



The murder mystery the COF held takes place at a BBQ. Tom was murdered. There were several characters at the house for the BBQ including Tom's fiancé, his business partner, the Rock Star, his half-sister, the divorcee from next door, the Russian, the mechanic and a couple of others. We had to figure out who murdered Tom. It turned out to be his fiancée who was really the twin sister in disguise! It was fun.



Thanksgiving



Christmas



Rotary Club Book Sale and Mini Bazaar





The book sale was a success. You can see from the pictures above the chaos in setting it up and then how it looked after it was organised. This organization was great to work with and suggested that in the future we could work on another project.

At the same time the church also held a mini bazaar which too was a success.

Thanks to the Rotary group and the bazaar ladies.

Also, a big shout to Marie Hodgson as the go between the for Rotary and the church.



3 What did Adam say to Eve when handing her something to wear?

Libraries

You all know we have little libraries in and around the church but did know we have three! Yes, we have the one in the basement, the one on the tree on the south lawn and now we have a new one in the Narthex. Yes, it is a theological library thanks to Rev. Sharon. It is in the glass case on the wall.

- 1: We invite all parishioners to check out the Library in the Sharpe Hall (basement level) of St. Matthew's Church. We have two bookcases full of books! There is a very good variety of authors and genre. Our library is based on the honour system so take a book or leave a book; it all works out.



- 2: This is our community outdoor library which is located on the south lawn under the big tree. Harry Hester's son David built it, and it was installed in 2022. Harry continues to put a variety of books, including some for children, in this library together with small hygiene items. The community seems to be enjoying it. If you have items to donate that would work for the library, please put them in the donation box marked "Library".



- 3: Yes, it is our new theological library thanks to Rev. Sharon. It is in the glass case on the wall in the Narthex. Like the other libraries is based on the honour system so take a book or leave a book, it all works out.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

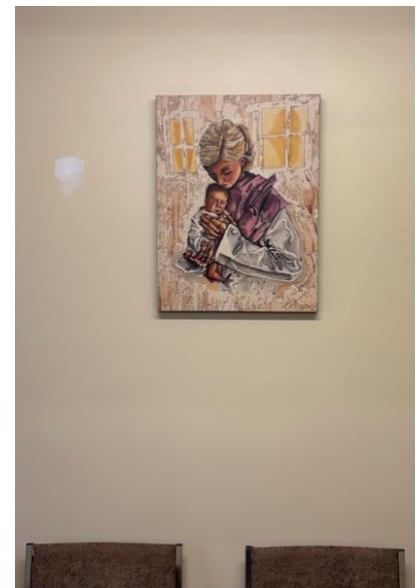
At the back of the Church you will find a wooden chest that has several shawls and small blankets inside. These items have been handmade by people of our parish to be given to anyone who is needing comfort. If you know someone who would enjoy one of these handmade items please share the warmth. Tell them that it comes from St. Matthew's a Church with Heart.



Painting of Mother and Child for the Nursery

Very kindly donated by Cheryl Wilson. Rev Sharon blessed and dedicated the painting to all mothers and children. It was hung in the nursery room.

The actual title of the picture is "A Simple Touch"
(2009 the year it was painted, CB is the artiste initials)



4 What did the lawyer ask when someone started talking about God's will?

The Funnies and interesting

AN OLD NUN, WHO WAS LIVING IN A CONVENT NEXT TO A CONSTRUCTION SITE, NOTICED THE COARSE LANGUAGE OF THE WORKERS AND DECIDED TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH THEM TO CORRECT THEIR WAYS. AND SO, SHE DECIDED SHE WOULD TAKE HER LUNCH AND SIT WITH THE WORKERS. SHE PUT HER SANDWICH IN A BROWN BAG AND WALKED TO THE SPOT WHERE THE MEN WERE EATING. SPORTING A BIG SMILE, SHE WALKED UP TO THE GROUP AND ASKED: "AND, DO YOU MEN KNOW JESUS CHRIST?" THEY SHOOK THEIR HEADS AND LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, VERY CONFUSED. ONE OF THE WORKERS LOOKED UP INTO THE STEELWORKS AND YELLED OUT, "ANYBODY UP THERE KNOW JESUS CHRIST?" ONE OF THE STEELWORKERS YELLED DOWN. "WHY?" THE WORKER YELLED BACK, "CAUSE HIS MOM'S HERE WITH HIS LUNCH."

Debra Fitzgerald Kaigle

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase... 'Goodnight , sleep tight'

The main function of your big toe is to make sure all the furniture in the house is in the right place.



Listed for \$689,000



Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

- Spades - King David
- Hearts - Charlemagne
- Clubs - Alexander The Great
- Diamonds - Julius Caesar



What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?

All were invented by women.

Answers to the jokes.

Way to go Ladies

- 1 "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
- 2 "Samson—he brought the house down."
- 3 "Take it or leaf it."
- 4 "Was it notarized?"



Religious Word Search

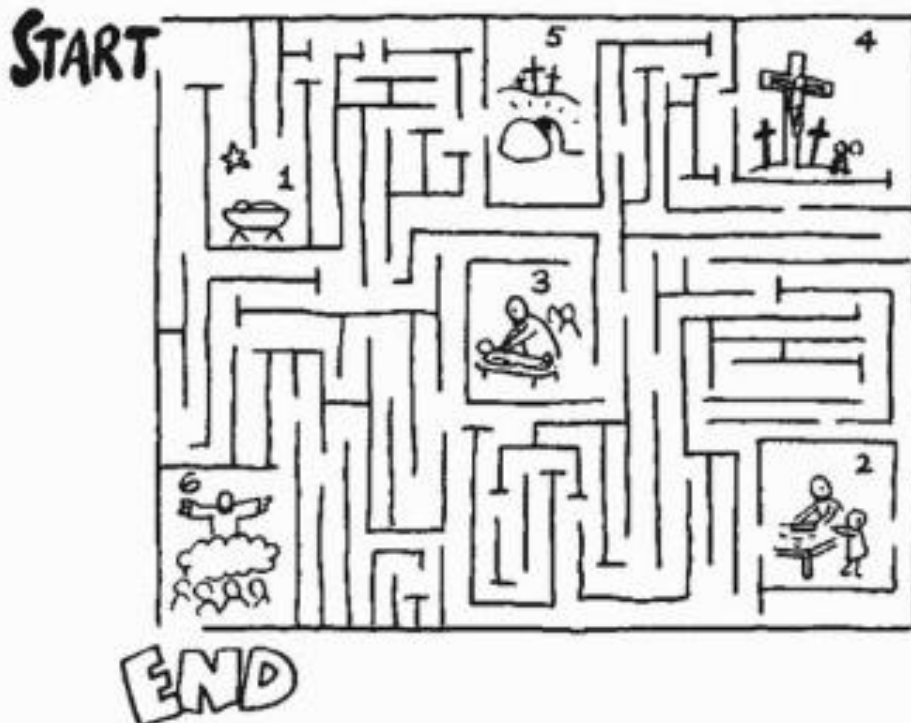
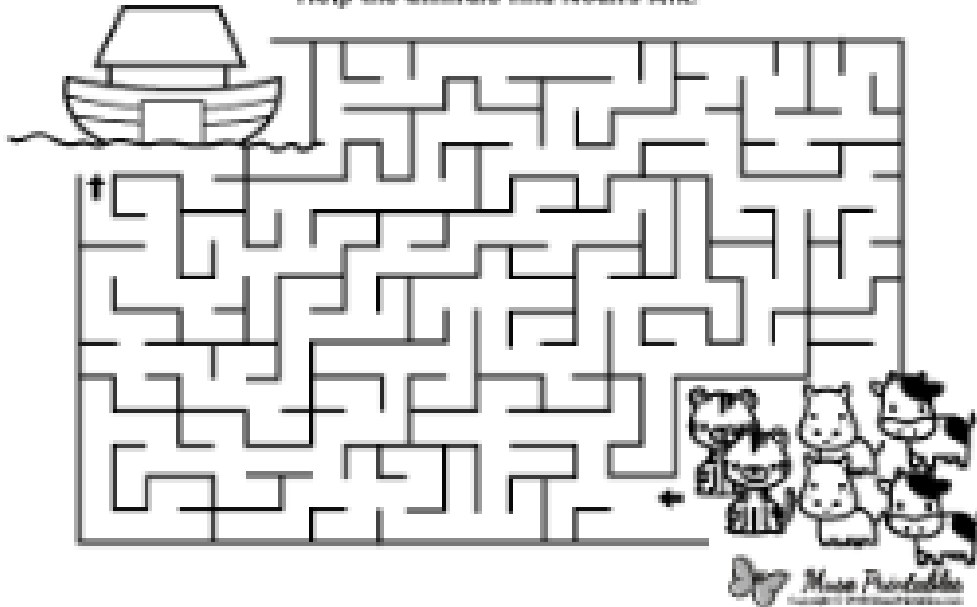


Abigail, Abishag, Ahinoam, Bernice,
Candace, Chloe, Damaris, Deborah,
Dorcas, Drusilla, Esther, Eunice, Hagar,
Huldah, Jael, Jerusha, Joanna,
Jochebed, Judith, Julia, Keturah, Lois,
Lot's Wife, Lydia, Martha, Michal, Milcah,
Naomi, Orpah, Rachel, Rebekah, Rhoda,
Ruth, Sapphira, Sarah, Sarai, Shelomith,
Susanna, Tabitha, Tirzah, Zeruah,
Zipporah

For The Kids Or The Young At Heart

Noah's Ark Maze

Help the animals find Noah's Ark.



You must travel right through each event in Jesus' life in the right order!

1. Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
2. Joseph teaches Jesus to work as a carpenter.
3. Jesus heals a little girl.
4. Jesus is crucified.
5. Jesus is alive again.
6. Jesus ascends to heaven.

A Note From The Editor:

At any time, you can submit an article for the newsletter, and it will be put in the next issue. As always you can do that at the following e-mail address or put it in the office. hester633@gmail.com

Many Thanks. H

Phone numbers you may need.

Wardens:

Carolyn Willoughby 905-435-5255
Cheryl Gargal 905-723-0599
May Ho 905-668-5009

Sexton/Maintenance

Harry Hester 905-242-0621

Parish Administrator/Secretary

Tricia Zoet 905-725-9841
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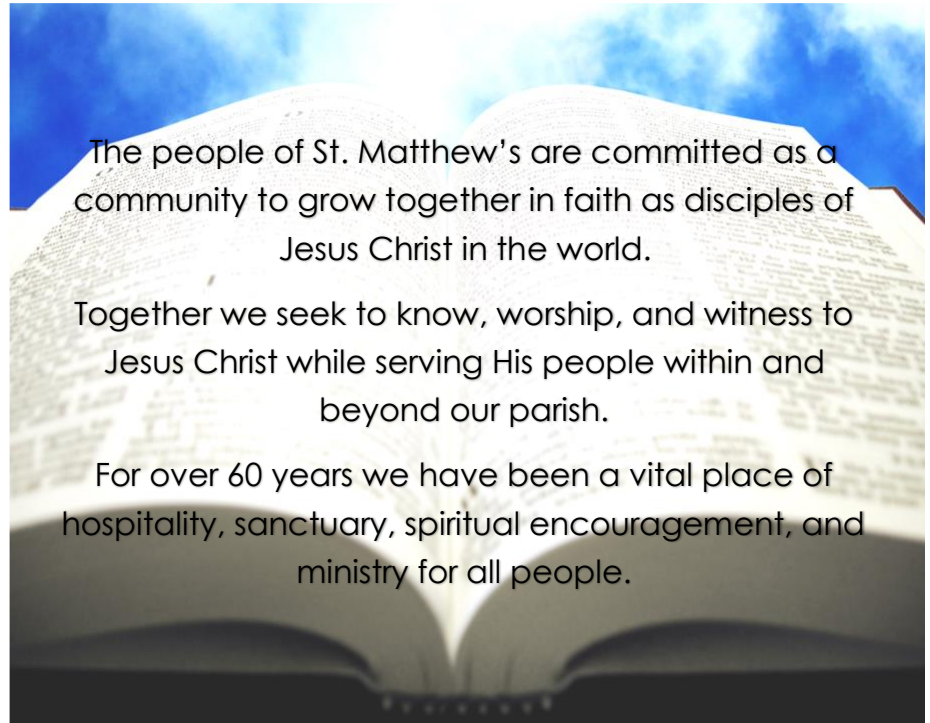
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**A Warm and Welcoming
Church with Heart**



The St. Matthew's Messenger is a quarterly newsletter pertaining to the parish of St. Matthew's Anglican Church Oshawa. It is our hope that this publication be informative to the members of St. Matthew's and inviting to anyone who would like to participate in any social event, study, or service described in these pages.

As this publication is a reflection of the community of our parishioners, we invite any person or group at St. Matthew's to submit articles, stories, poetry or any other items of interest for future publications.

***Please have your submissions for the next edition of the St. Matthew's Messenger submitted by
To be announced***

***Submissions may be made in writing to Harry Hester, or by email to: hester633@gmail.com
or put it in the office. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed this publication and will want to share it
with your friends.***

Thanks H



**May God bless you, and keep you
aways.
Amen.**

