

ST. MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PARISH MINISTRIES
2026-2027



502-895-3485
www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org

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Adult, Children, and Youth Ministries

Adult Education

The people of St. Matthew's have a long tradition of continuing our theological, biblical, and community formation beyond church on Sundays. We gather for regular small-group meetings to discuss and learn a world of theological and scriptural topics and more.

Virtual Adult Education: We get together via Zoom for Virtual Adult Education every Monday from 6-7p year-round, typically sharing a musical selection to center us spiritually, an introduction opening some aspect of the day's topic, and an engaging video featuring a well-known theologian, scripture expert, or other speaker, after which we debrief with an extended discussion of the points we've just heard. We also plan occasional special Pub Theology gatherings in which we get together in person for discussions over food and drink.

Clingman Forum: Our in-person adult education programming takes place Sundays after the 10a Eucharist in Clingman Chapel. This is an open discussion in which we may incorporate our thoughts about the Lectionary readings for the day, a current news event that may have theological implications, or questions about how our baptismal covenant calls us to respond. We also host guest speakers from time to time, and they, too, are invited to participate in our open discussion.

All interested adults and youth are welcome to take part in our Adult Education programming. You can keep up with the week's activity by following the *eSpirit* and Sunday service bulletin; however, if you register for our Adult Ed email, you can stay informed about all sessions and participate in additional discussion via email or text. Contact Robin Garr (robingarr@gmail.com) to add your name to the list.

Book Club

Book Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1:00p in the lounge at the church. There is no need to purchase books, as we read from local library book kits. Genres run from fiction to non, history, biographies, mystery and local writers. The focus of the group is lively discussion of the books and any other subject that may present itself. Join us! We will resume meeting in September. Watch for notices in the Sunday bulletin and *eSpirit*.

Confirmation and Reception

Our youth confirmation class is composed of parish youth who make a four-month commitment to attend class, guided by adult volunteers. Each confirmand has an adult sponsor who supports the youth candidate on his/her/their journey. The curriculum explores all aspects of Christian faith and involves the *Book of Common Prayer* as well as scripture. We typically have one field trip. For more information, contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow (sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org), Gaylee Gillim (ggillim@gillimlaw.com) or Julie Mushkin (jmushkin@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Our adult confirmation and reception class welcomes those adults who would like to be confirmed in the Episcopal faith and those who have been confirmed but would like to be received into the St. Matthew's congregation. Classes run during March, April, and May and follow the book *Your Faith, Your Life*, by Jennifer Gamber and the *Book of Common Prayer*. For more information contact Julie Mushkin.

Daughters of the King

The Hildegard Visionary Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King was installed at St. Matthew's Episcopal in January 2005. It is a religious order founded in 1885, with chapters all over the world. The Reverend Jan Scholtz is our chaplain, Cynthia Stringfield is our current president, our Vice President is Ann Hines, Connie Savells is our secretary, and our Treasurer is

Bev Weis. This year we have been studying the Women of the Bible using the book *Bible Women and all their Words and why they Matter*, by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. As a Daughter of the King, each Daughter takes a lifetime vow to live by the rules of life: prayer and service. A Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. Each Daughter is given a cross of the order, which she wears proudly.

DOK meets on the first Sunday of the month at 12:15p in Meeting Room A, and all women are welcome to visit or become members of the Daughters of the King. We offer training for women who are interested each year. Please let us know if you feel called to this ministry! For more information, contact president Cynthia Stringfield (cynthiajo842@att.net) or secretary Connie Savells (cmsavells@yahoo.com).

Dimensions of Faith

Dimensions of Faith is an endowed lecture series that brings distinguished speakers to St. Matthew's, usually twice a year. It aims to offer intellectually stimulating and provocative forums on social, ethical, and theological issues. It is intended to reflect the Episcopal tradition of being open to diverse points of view. In Spring 2026, we welcomed Kentucky Documentary Photographic Project photographers Ted Wathen and Bob Hower, who hosted an exhibit and lecture. In October 2026, we will welcome writer and theological teacher Jeff Chu. For further information or to join the Dimensions of Faith committee, please contact Julie Mushkin (jmushkin@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Education for Ministry (EfM)

The EfM program offers students an opportunity for intense study of biblical scripture, spending one academic year studying the Hebrew Scriptures, and a year studying the New Testament. Students read scripture and textbooks that offer an opportunity to learn the context for the scripture they are reading. A third year is spent studying the History of Christianity, that covers more than 3,000 years. The final year of the program is focused on the study of theology, looking at several authors who offer this study from different perspectives. It is a major commitment but offers many Christians their first opportunity to really study the bible and understand how we as a religious community have arrived to where we are today. The SMEC EfM group will continue to meet online in order to meet the geographically spread group's needs. Our online format has allowed the group to be much more accommodating for those who travel frequently for work or pleasure, is less time consuming, and has allowed us to include persons from around the Diocese of Kentucky and others beyond our borders. For more information, contact Harvey Roberts, Deacon of St. Luke's Chapel, at 502-744-6830.

Foyer Groups

Foyer--a French word meaning 'hearthside'--implies the warmth of a close group of friends sharing a common love and concern for each other. There is something about gathering around a table. We relax, enjoy a meal, get to know each other, and strengthen the bonds of community. Groups are diverse, and we welcome new members. Foyers is open to all.

Restaurant (dinner and brunch): Louisville has great restaurants, and folks from St. Matthew's are huge supporters. We love good food, making new friends, and are eager to explore. Each year, a growing number of parishioners join this foyer concept. Restaurant foyers, both dinner and weekend brunch, are open to all. Sign-ups begin at the Ministry Fair, continue through September, and we begin dining in October.

Home: We invite individuals or couples of all ages to participate and then divide into groups of 7 to 10 people, who meet in the home of one of the members of the group each month. Generally, the host provides the main course while the other members fill in the rest of the meal such as appetizers, bread, salad, veggies, dessert, etc. A simple soup and bread or an evening of wine and cheese works, too!

Godly Play

Christian formation for our children in kindergarten through 6th grade is provided using Godly Play. Through this program, we share stories of our faith from the Bible, church history, and our liturgy. We use simple materials in a Montessori-style, allowing all present to be one with the story. Godly Play seeks to give each child the vocabulary to express their inherent relationship with God and encourage their faith journey in our community. Two adults are needed for each class. The “Door Person” welcomes the children into the Godly Play space (room), helps with craft materials, preparing feast (snack & drink), and supporting any other needs. The “Storyteller” leads the class by memorizing and presenting the story using provided materials, wondering about the story with the children, praying with the children before the feast, and blessing each child before leaving the space.

Since 2023, the Godly Play program has been part of the 10a Eucharist. Children begin worship with their families, leave during the Alleluia, and return in time for Communion. For more information or to volunteer, please email Julie (jmushkin@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Going Deeper Spiritually

Going Deeper is a group who meet for fellowship and support as we participate in various studies that lead us deeper spiritually. Going Deeper meets from 10a – 11:30a on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, except during Advent and Lent, when the group meets weekly. We meet either on Zoom or in person in the library. Our meeting location will be announced in the weekly *eSpirit*. Depending on the study, we may have one leader for the study or several leaders who use a Leaders Guide in a shared leadership. Anyone is welcome to join us anytime. The beginning of a study is an especially good time to start. We value different perspectives, and we look forward to seeing new members. For more information, to be added to our group email list, or to join a Zoom meeting, contact Denee Bannister (dancedenee@bellsouth.net) or Ellie Britt (ellie451@yahoo.com).

Intergenerational Programming Committee

The Intergenerational Programming Committee works with Julie Mushkin, the Ministry Coordinator, to plan intergenerational events that occur during the programming year, especially those in the 11a hour after the Sunday Eucharist. As we go forward, we will continue to grow our intergenerational programming to strengthen relationships between members of all ages in the church. For more information or to help plan and execute intergenerational activities, contact Julie Mushkin (jmushkin@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch is open to all women in the parish and meets every month on the third Thursday at 11:30. We gather at The Irish Rover on Frankfort Ave to enjoy each other, good conversation, and a tasty lunch at this local restaurant. It is not unusual when life-long friendships are formed. Keep your eyes open for news of our next outing. Information appears monthly in the Sunday bulletin and *eSpirit*. Join us when you can! Reservations are, of course, necessary and can be made with Peggy Enriquez (peggy_enriquez@twc.com).

LGBTQIA+ Group

The LGBTQIA+ group is a monthly meeting for adults to come together, talk, learn, have fellowship, and experience God's affirming love within each other. There are no requirements to join, and we welcome all who identify within lgbtqia+, including but not limited to, bisexuals in heterosexual relationships, asexuals, and anyone who is questioning their sexuality or gender. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 6p in the downstairs Youth Room. If you have any questions, please email Ren (rengloryia@gmail.com).

Louisville Showing Up For Racial Justice (LSURJ)

In order for deep change to occur in our racially divided culture, it is essential that white people recognize the depth of their continued complicity in creating and supporting unjust systems, even when unaware and unintentional. Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice is part of a national organization working through community organizing and education to mobilize white people to work for racial justice. That work cannot be done in isolation or

disconnected from the powerful leadership of communities of color. It is one part of a multi-racial, cross-class movement centering people of color leadership. LSURJ works with accountability partners of color to help recognize and end systems created through a culture built on white supremacy.

SURJ Values:

We call people in, not out

We build accountability through collective action

We take risks, make mistakes, learn, and keep going

We organize out of mutual interest

We believe there is enough for all

We trust that growing is good

We center class

There are many ways to be involved through the work of this group. Their website is www.louisvillesurj.org. Their Facebook page has information about activities (www.facebook.com/SURJLouisville/). Volunteers are currently needed to help Highland Baptist Church provide community defense for KRM refugees attending English classes at the church. Contact Peggy Woolley (candpwoolley@gmail.com) about joining a regular monthly hybrid meeting to listen and learn about this essential work.

Men in Conversation Breakfast

Men in Conversation Breakfast is a group of men of St. Matthew's that meet to enjoy a good breakfast and an inspirational time of sharing. The focus is on caring for one another as well as discussing topics of interest and concern. Please watch the *eSpirit* for meeting times and contact John Shelby (j.shelby@icloud.com) if you wish to be included in the email notices.

Monday Morning Bible Study

This Bible study takes place on Monday mornings in the library during the program year. We gather at 10a to visit with one another and ask questions about what is going on in our parish and in the larger church. At 10:15a, we begin the study with a prayer. We take turns reading through the text and then ask questions together. Examples include the following:

- When was it written?
- What is happening in the text?
- What did it mean for the original audience?
- What kind of literature is it?
- How does this passage connect with other passages in the Bible?
- What does it mean for us?
- Where was it written?
- What does it tell us about God?

Most of the time, the study is spent asking questions of the text and searching for answers. Bible Study is beginner-friendly, for we rely on the wisdom of the group to increase our biblical knowledge and understanding. We end at 11:00 by praying the Lord's Prayer together. We usually have a Christmas party, and, in February, we take a field trip to the Temple. Contact the Rev. Kelly Kirby (kkirby@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org) for more information.

Sacred Ground

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice in our personal lives, our ministries and our society. The series is open to all and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day, all while grounded in faith, hope, and love.

Sacred Ground is an 11-part series built around a powerful on-line curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. Participants envision a labyrinth walk as a way of learning to live out our baptismal vows. The Summer 2026 St. Matthew's Sacred Ground

Circle participated as a beta group when the curriculum was updated. The revised study will be coming out in August 2026, and the participants feel that the new material is very impactful. For more information, please contact Peggy Woolley (candpwoolley@gmail.com).

Seasonal Bible Study

For those interested, there will be a seasonal Bible Study on Zoom led by John Manzo for the four Tuesdays of Advent and the six Tuesdays of Lent. For Advent, the plan is to do a deep dive into the origin stories of Jesus. Most specifically, a study of The Protoevangelium of James, which is not a Bible story, but the narrative where most of the things at least Roman Catholics believe about Mary come from. The class will evaluate Matthew, Luke, and why John is so unique and important. For Lent, the class will be composed of a series on Monk Habits for Everyday People. For more information, please watch for notices in the *eSpirit* or email the leader John Manzo (jemanzo324@gmail.com).

Singles Group

Singles of all ages meet for dinner once per month at local restaurants. The group is a wonderful community, and we welcome newcomers. Contact Jan Scholtz (jan.scholtz@janscholtz.com) for more information or watch the *eSpirit* for monthly gathering information.

St. Matthew's Health Ministry

In 2025, St. Matthew's developed a health ministry to better serve the physical, emotional & spiritual needs of the congregation. The leader of this ministry, with the support of the Health Ministry Advisory Group, will inform and invite the congregation to participate and learn about the Health Ministry as it unfolds. Currently, we have four thriving components to this ministry: Medical professionals (MD, DO, PA, PA-C, RN, NP) help individuals interpret after-visit summaries; St. Matthew's offers a vaccine clinic each fall; We have established the Grief Support Group, which meets twice per month; and we are hosting a monthly Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group. For more information about the Health Ministry, contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow (sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org) or the group contact below.

Grief Support Group

St. Matthew's offers a drop-in Grief Support Group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 10:30a in the lounge just inside the glass front doors. Some of us also attend the Healing Eucharist in the Chapel at 10a before the group. Contacts are Janet Dougherty (516jhd@gmail.com) and Penny Shaw (pennyshaw454@gmail.com). Our time is spent in quiet prayer and sharing. We also have access to other resources, including other groups, books, programs, and articles.

St. Matthew's Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group

The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11a in Meeting Room A. In September, we will add a second meeting at 7p in Meeting Room A. This group is open to all parishioners as well as to the general public. For more information, contact The Rev. Georgine Buckwalter (plmrcfl@gmail.com).

Tool Library

The Tool Library is a ministry designed to serve parishioners and non-parishioners by providing them access to tools for basic home and yard maintenance, automotive upkeep and repair, and other home projects. We have hundreds of tools available for checkout at no cost. Our goals are to share with our neighbors, save patrons from the costs associated with purchasing tools, and reduce the waste associated with tools that will be rarely used. The Tool Library helps St. Matthew's fulfill its mission of community outreach and environmental stewardship. To learn more, contact Catherine Banks (cbanks@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Women in Conversation

Women in Conversation is a lay-led conversation group that discusses topics of interest. We meet on most Tuesdays from 12-1:30p in the lounge. We usually discuss a source, such as a book or podcast, which may or may not cover a religious topic. When we read a book, we usually cover a chapter a week. Our conversations often branch out into discussions about our daily

lives or topics in the news. Currently, we are reading *The Future Is Peace: A Shared Journey Across the Holy Land*, by Aziz Abu Sarah and Maoz Inon. For more information, contact Judy Fischer (judith.fischer@louisville.edu).

Youth Group

The Youth Group is for youth in grades 6-12. It meets regularly 1-2 times a month for service, social and spiritual engagement. Youth enjoy serving the community at the Food Pantry, performing in the Christmas Pageant, and leading the Youth Sunday Service. In addition to service projects, the youth enjoy creating programming that will foster community at the church and just get together for fun and activities such as the Road Rally, pool parties, and games. The Youth program is a chance for youth to connect with and support each other. For information, contact Julie Mushkin (jmushkin@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Building & Grounds

Buildings and Grounds Ministry

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is fortunate to enjoy beautiful facilities within a park-like setting. As such, it is part of our responsibility as a congregation to maintain our buildings and grounds, not only for ourselves, but for future generations. Do you have a passion for gardening? We hope you will consider getting involved with our community garden. Do you have professional experience in the building trades? We would be happy to consider your expertise as we make important decisions regarding the care of our buildings and grounds. Maybe you just like rolling up your sleeves and getting involved with various chores that need to be done during the course of the year and, if so, we would love to have your help. Contact Catherine Banks (cbanks@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org) for more information.

Church Garden Ministry

Our church garden has continued to host 10 plots that parishioners and neighbors "own" for a year. Gardeners have found special enjoyment in the flowers and vegetables produced as well as a community built around a passion for gardening. For \$25, you can take advantage of a sunny plot in a fenced area with access to water, tools, and great soil. If you want to garden with us, please contact Chris Newton (christinenewton127@gmail.com).

Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden is a peaceful garden space located between Massie Ave. and the sanctuary that houses the remains of former parishioners and friends. Church members are invited to visit any time to remember the promise of Heaven and our resurrection. People who like landscaping work are always needed to maintain this sacred space. Tasks include weeding, mulching, trimming, and planting. Please email Catherine Banks (cbanks@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org) or LaVonne Fingerson (lfingerson@att.net) for more information.

Care Team

Care Team Ministry

The Care Team Ministry continues as a volunteer team of 33 parishioners. Teams are composed of one (1) Team Leader and five (5) or more team members. Each team is in rotation for one week, once every five (5) weeks. This is about ten times a year. We make connections with our parish family through cards, emails, visits, phone calls, and meal deliveries. Working closely with our clergy, the Care Team provides support to parish members in need and enables our clergy to focus on areas of ministry beyond the Care Team mission. We welcome new volunteers to provide care and, if you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact the Rev. Suzanne Barrow (sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Flower Delivery Ministry

Would you love to deliver a little joy to people? Are you willing to drive on a delivery once a month? Then give the Flower Delivery Team a try! Each week, the Sunday altar flowers are

divided and sent out to let people know we are thinking of them and care for them. The arrangements are made by the Flower Guild and are ready for pick up in the narthex on Tuesdays, so you just pick up the flowers during office hours. You will find the name of the recipient on a Google Map already printed along with the vase. The Delivery team is scheduled through Ministry Pro, so you set your own availability. Deliver a little joy to parishioners by joining the Flower Delivery Team today! Please contact Catherine Banks to be added to the schedule (cbanks@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Hospitality and Fundraising Events

Kitchen Ministry

The Kitchen Committee strives to keep the Saints Hall kitchen clean and orderly and well stocked with the necessary cooking supplies and equipment. Members of the committee clean and establish order in the kitchen on a regular basis, particularly following an event that uses the Saints Hall kitchen. The Committee meets as a group several times through the year for major cleaning and organizing. Members of the committee are:

Ann Hendren	Faith Huff
Marilyn Keith	Sharon Nesmith
Diane Perry	Barbara Uligian

We welcome anyone interested in joining our kitchen volunteers, and we appreciate suggestions for improving the kitchen. Address questions to any committee member or to Sharon Nesmith (snesmith@mindspring.com).

Trivia Night and Home & Garden Sale

All are welcome to join us for a fun night of trivia on Sat., November 7th from 6:30-8:30. Doors open at 5:30, giving you time to decorate your table, socialize and check out the great things that can be won with raffles and silent auctions. Trivia questions are on a variety of subjects, and the idea is to have fun, not necessarily to know the answers! Registration is \$25 per person, \$150 for a table of 6, or \$175 for a table of 8. Admission includes tickets for adult beverages, and there will be soft drinks for purchase throughout the event. The decorative theme this year is "Sports Mania", so feel free to decorate your table, dress up, bring snacks, and choose a team name! There are prizes for the top team as well as best decorated table! Reach out to Joanne Coleman (jcoleman@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org) with any questions. Space is limited.

St. Matthew's will host our second Home and Garden Sale in 2027. This is an upscale sale of housewares, goods, and collectibles, with proceeds to benefit the church. This sale will include furniture, housewares, books, collectibles, artwork, kitchen items, dishes, seasonal décor, and more. The Home and Garden Sale committee will meet quarterly during 2027 to prepare for this biennial event. For more information or to join the committee, please contact Julie Mushkin (jmushkin@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Library and Archives

St. Matthew's Episcopal Library

The library, with its organized collection of materials, provides an accessible, inviting space for study and research for individuals and groups. It circulates over 3,000 books and media to parishioners of all ages. In addition to its Sunday morning hours between and after services, the library is available by appointment. The library's OPAC (online public access catalog) is available 24/7 on the church's website (www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/library).

The library committee is led by librarian Lee Fletcher. Many parishioners assist with the library's operation. Newcomers to St. Matthew's are welcomed to the library as both patrons and prospective volunteers. Volunteers assist parishioners and check out items after each Sunday morning service. A wonderful way to support the library is to take a peek before or after church and check out a book! Contact library@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org for more information about volunteering and our services.

St. Matthew's Archives

The Archives of St. Matthew's were developed over 40 years ago to collect and organize materials that are part of our church history. The Archives include documents, photographs, oral histories, scrapbooks, reports, minutes, pictorial and other directories. It also includes items in print, media, and ephemera. Some of the material is in digital format, and some historical information can be accessed online.

The Archives, while part of the Church Library, is housed in Meeting Room B, located above the library. For information and volunteer possibilities, contact Lee Fletcher (lee.fletcher@twc.com) or 693-4145. Interest in areas such as topical church histories, photography, and computers is helpful when volunteering.

Music

The music ministry of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church undergirds the parish's worship and encourages the spiritual and musical growth of its members. We gather on Wednesday evenings for rehearsal and occasional social events. The adult choir consists of 25 singers, including three paid section leaders. The adult handbell choir performs regularly in the 10a worship service. A basic knowledge of music is required for both groups.

Weekly rehearsals are as follows: Bell choir, Wednesdays 6:30-7:25p in the Nave; Adult choir, Wednesdays 7:30p in the choir room.

We invite you to continue this tradition of musical prayer by joining any of our choirs. For more info contact Mark Kaczmarczyk, Minister of Music, markk@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org.

Outreach

Outreach Committee

St. Matthew's is active in a variety of outreach opportunities that honor our commitment to being Christ's hands in our world. Some ministries receive funding through our budget to operate as sponsored outreach ministries of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, including the St. George's Scholar Institute and St. George's Episcopal Church Relief Fund (Christmas food boxes). We also support Habitat for Humanity (partnering in new home construction), we co-sponsored a Syrian family through Kentucky Refugee Ministries in the spring, and Kenya Kids @ Rongo (orphanage and school). We also support the clergy discretionary funds. In addition to these good works, St. Matthew's sponsors collection ministries, including quarterly canned food for St. George's and Calvary's food pantries, warm coats for refugees through KRM in the fall, and the Advent tree Christmas gifts. Our parishioners are exceedingly generous, and these ministries are much appreciated throughout the communities we touch. If any of these ministries interest you, don't hesitate to contact Kelly Kirby for more information. All are welcome!

Backside Ministry

The Backside Ministry provides dinners for backside workers at Churchill Downs. They often serve up to 100 individuals in one night. There is often a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board for all these activities as well as requests for food donations. For questions or to sign up, contact Penny Shaw (pennyshaw454@gmail.com).

Calvary and St. George's Food Collection Ministry

The St. Matthew's Food Collection ministry is an ongoing effort to support the food pantries of our friends at Calvary and St. George's Episcopal churches. These pantries help provide relief to those in need in the local downtown communities. Each pantry serves over 1,200 people per month. Food collection and deliveries are made quarterly (January, April, August, and October). Here's how to participate: donate shelf-stable, non-perishable food items by leaving them in the shopping cart located in the Narthex during the months announced in the *eSpirit*. The food will be picked up at the end of these months and delivered to the churches by a team of volunteers.

Check the *eSpirit* for specific requests. Densely caloric foods such as canned meats (with flip-top cans), peanut butter, and side-dish-mixes are always needed, but variety is also welcomed! Household and personal care essentials like toiletries and laundry and paper products will be allocated to St. George's low-income seniors' program. If you want to volunteer or have questions, please email Bill Weinberg (weinberg9@twc.com) or David Lee (vdlee78@gmail.com).

Food Pantry

The St. Matthew's Food Pantry operates on the third Saturday of each month from around 8a to 11:00a. We receive our food from Louisville's Dare To Care Food Bank. Adults, youth, and families, even those that include little ones, volunteer side-by-side with volunteers from the community, other churches, and service organizations. Cars line up and drive through the parking lot loading line behind Saint's Hall to receive food.

There is something for everyone to do—greet our guests in their cars, set up tables, unload food onto the tables, load food into boxes and bags in shopping carts, return shopping carts to storage, clean up after, and many other tasks. Very importantly, we take care to represent St. Matthew's with smiles and welcoming conversation.

If you're interested in receiving more information or in joining the pantry's email information list, contact Lynn Miller (millris426@gmail.com), Barbara Lee (blee@bellarmine.edu), David Lee (vdlee78@gmail.com), or Robin Garr (robingarr@gmail.com).

Habitat for Humanity

St. Matthew's Episcopal has supported Louisville Habitat home construction financially since 1987, typically in the range of \$5,000-\$10,000 each year. We have co-sponsored homes in the past with Holy Trinity Catholic church; an interfaith build with Jewish, Muslim, and Christian congregations; and other partners. The 2026 build is financially sponsored by St. Matthew's and other area Episcopal churches. Volunteers from each church assist in the build as well. Louisville Habitat truly makes a difference in our community by carrying zero-interest loans on homes for qualified buyers. Close to 600 homes have been constructed in Louisville since Habitat's formation in 1985, and over 120 families have paid off their mortgages. Volunteers find joy in this work by being part of the solution for our city's housing crisis, developing friendships with partner families and other volunteers, and sharing or learning construction skills. Church members have dedicated many hours volunteering in construction, serving as Advocates for homebuyers, and providing lunches for volunteer workers. Financial gifts or donations of household items to the Habitat ReStore also support this organization. For more information, please visit www.Louisvillehabitat.org or contact Habitat Volunteer Coordinator Sunny Smith ssmith@louisvillehabitat.org, 502-805-1415.

Kentucky Refugees Ministry

Kentucky Refugee Ministries is a non-profit that welcomes and helps resettle refugees from all over the world. They also work with a large group of Cuban arrivals seeking asylum in Louisville. St. Matthew's has had a long-time relationship working with KRM. We have also partnered with KRM to co-sponsor refugee arrivals.

As an Outreach ministry, the KRM committee annually collects new and gently used winter apparel for children and adults, including the following: coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets and baby clothes. KRM is in constant need of household goods donations. Furniture such as dining room tables, chairs, and coffee tables are needed, and KRM has a truck to pick up large items. Other than the winter items that we collect in the fall, clothing donations are *not* accepted now. If you wish to donate, please complete the donations form on the website (KRM.org) to notify KRM of your donation. You will receive a confirmation email with the details of your form, and a KRM representative will be in touch with you if you are scheduling a pickup. Those interested in finding new ways to help KRM, in volunteering with this ministry, or in helping with a donation may contact Denee Bannister (dancedenee@bellsouth.net or text 502-593-1228).

Kenya Kids at Rongo

Kenya Kids at Rongo, Inc. is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit corporation operating in Louisville, KY, since May 2017. The focus of Kenya Kids at Rongo is providing financial support for the operation of Ebenezer Children's Center outside of Rongo, Kenya. Ebenezer Children's Center is a product of the faith, vision, and long-term commitment of Kenyan Daniel Ochieng and his wife Damaris who have had strong ties with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Louisville, KY, for many years. Daniel and Damaris live on-site with their family and are responsible for the management and supervision of Ebenezer operations. Ebenezer provides for the basic human needs of 60-75 vulnerable Kenyan orphans. Young children attend an onsite primary school. In addition, we support tuition-based secondary school and university educational opportunities for older Ebenezer orphan scholars. Vocational training (tailoring and welding) is available for orphans that do not pursue further educational opportunities. Life in Kenya is hard, and Ebenezer Children's Center gives these vulnerable children hope for building a future.

Ebenezer Children's Center, while still operating a traditional orphanage, is in the process of implementing a transformative strategy prioritizing a focus on family-based care. When reunification with biological or extended family is not feasible, efforts to recruit, assess, train, support and monitor foster families within the community will kick in. These reforms are based on the premise that childhood development thrives best in a family environment. These reforms imply new functions and responsibilities for Ebenezer Children's Center, including professional case management and foster care family supervision. To date, 10 children have been successfully placed in foster care arrangements. The annual target is 20 child placements, guided strictly by individual and child and family assessments to ensure that transitions are safe, appropriate and in the best interest of the child. If you have a calling to help the efforts of this worthy cause, please contact Speed Stodghill (WmSpeed2@aol.com).

Scarf Ministry

On a Sunday in November, you may have been in church when baskets of colorful scarves were blessed at the altar. You, too, can be a part of this rewarding ministry if you enjoy knitting or crocheting. Hats and cowls may also be created, and all these beautiful handmade items are gifts for our community. Easy-to-follow patterns are located on the bulletin board at the top of the staircase. Please contact Sarah Weston (srweston@bellsouth.net) for more information.

St. George's Christmas Boxes

Each year, our generous members of St. Matthew's support St. George's Community Center by donating money for their neighborhood Christmas boxes. Our funds allow members of St. George's parish to purchase food for Christmas dinner and household items that are distributed to neighbors in need who live near St. George's Episcopal Church. For more information, contact Lynn Miller (millris426@gmail.com).

St. George's Scholar Institute

St. George's Scholar Institute is a youth development agency that provides quality, out-of-school time programming for social, emotional, and academic learning for vulnerable youth in the California, Parkhill, and Parkland neighborhoods. Our mission is to embrace, educate and empower youth in Louisville.

SGSI has been serving families for over 60 years. Its primary participants are middle and high school students. Over 91% of the young people we serve are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Significantly, much of SGSI's programming is offered free of charge. 98% of SGSI's participants are black, and almost all live in Southwest Louisville. The majority reside in zip codes 40210, 40211 and 40212. Residents living in these zip codes are documented to be both the unhealthiest and have the lowest life expectancy in all of Metro Louisville. Further complicating these statistical facts, it also has the highest unemployment, poverty, and violence rates. For example, the homicide rate continues to escalate in the West End, which is the most violent area in Metro Louisville.

SGSI's out-of-school programming includes academic enrichment, artistic expression opportunities, and social and emotional learning, through activities like the following:

- Providing a low tuition, six-week, Reading Rocket's summer academic enrichment camp to 60+ youth ages K-8th that limits summer learning loss among its students.
- So far in 2025, our youth have participated in 1:1 and group tutoring for reading and math and visited many locations around Louisville and southern Indiana, such as: The Roots 101 African American Museum, The Muhammad Ali Center, The Louisville Science Center, Huber's Orchard, the Jeffersonville Aquatics Center and more. They've also been greeted by many guests and groups on site such as WAGS Pet Therapy of Louisville, STEAM studies, hair & nail care classes, and step dance classes.
- Each morning our youth are visited by a volunteer adult who comes and reads a picture book to kick off their morning pep-rally. We are often told that this is incredibly meaningful to our guests. They love the excitement, songs and dancing the kids do each morning, and they love it even more because they're asked to dance with the youth as they prepare for their day.

Through our after-school college and career readiness program, we expose middle and high school youth to college or career opportunities. This includes learning how to write essays, research a college, research/apply for scholarships, complete the admissions process to a college and/or trade school, seek college tours, obtain tutoring, and receive referral support towards alternative career goals after high school. This past 24-25 school year, we were able to take 20+ youth on multiple college tours where they visited many local and out of state colleges, universities and HBCUs. We were also able to partner with Central High School and Western Middle School to provide free on-site ACT prep on two separate occasions. We are continuing our partnerships with local JCPS schools and principals to continue these on-site classes and expand the opportunity of our program to more local students. SGSI has always provided tutoring opportunities to our youth. Most often we dealt with on an individual need basis and used our partnerships with local teachers, principals, and local education majors from Bellarmine University to fill these needs. We are also able to offer exposure to entrepreneurship opportunities through arts-related programming with our Urban Arts program. This Program includes photography, podcasting and radio broadcasting, audio engineering and production, DJ-ing, graphics arts and shoe and apparel design.

How can you become involved or support SGSI? There always is room for volunteers to assist in the Summer with the Reading Rockets program, tutoring, or simply giving of your time to help us organize and update our space. Due to the sudden cut of federal grants, responses to those cuts to provide emergency funding to those that depend solely on that funding, and apprehension about the current funding environment, SGSI has been hit hard this with a lack and drying up of funding from the federal AND state departments. We have a small but devoted base of donors and local businesses who see the deep value or programming provides for our West End youth. If you feel so led, we would love to have you as part of our Monthly Donor group. You can set your monthly donation up through our website, and donation portal, where even \$20 a month (\$5 a week), helps us keep our budget tight and money well spent to support our youth. THANK you for being part of team SGSI! Additionally, there are activities that are open to volunteers, who should contact Executive Director, Arthur Cox (acox@stgeorgesky.org) or our Administrative Assistant, Tara Durnil (tdurnil@stgeorgesky.org).

Skill Sharing Classes

We are continuing our skill sharing classes that began as part of our Communities of Calling Initiative. These classes give parishioners and community members a chance to teach about one of their callings and give our whole congregation a chance to learn a new skill. Tuition for the classes raises money to support worthy nonprofit organizations in our city. Classes are posted in the *eSpirit* and on the church website. Interested in teaching a class or learning more? Contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow (sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org).

Planned Giving

Planned Giving

Many people like to leave a gift to charity in their wills. The Planned Giving Committee was established in 2010 to encourage parishioners to include St. Matthew's in their will or estate plans. In 2014, the Planned Giving Committee created a legacy society known as the Stewards of St. Matthew's. Individuals are part of the Stewards of St. Matthew's when they share with the rector or a member of the Planned Giving Committee that they have included a gift to St. Matthew's in their will or trust or if they have named St. Matthew's to receive a future gift as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, tax-deferred retirement plan, charitable gift annuity, or other type of planned gift. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a Steward of St. Matthew's, please contact Kelly Kirby.

Worship

Eucharistic Visitors

Our Eucharistic Visitors take communion to parishioners who cannot come to church. We have a group of dedicated volunteers who are trained and licensed to perform this ministry. They receive a communion kit at one of our Sunday services and are sent out with words that remind us that even though we cannot all be together all the time, we are one body of Christ. Please contact the Rev. Suzanne Barrow for more information.

Ways to Help with the Liturgy

We have a variety of ways for parishioners to participate in our communal worship each Sunday. Deeply rooted in our theology is the belief that the liturgy is the work of the people, not something that only clergy deliver. Below are some ways that you can get involved:

Greeters

Greeters are the first way that we welcome people into our church building. These volunteers are friendly people who are interested in welcoming newcomers to the church. They help orient new visitors to where they can find the restrooms, childcare, and the Nave. They are an essential part of our welcoming community. If you are interested in volunteering, contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow.

Ushers

At all our services on Sundays, ushers serve by welcoming parishioners, helping them to their seats, distributing bulletins, collecting the offering, and directing people during the Eucharist. If you would like to serve, please contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow.

Acolytes

Acolytes assist the clergy in religious services and lead processions. At St. Matthew's, youth in grades 4-12 serve as acolytes at the 10a service (1 adult at the 8a service). Any interested youth can be trained and added to the rotating schedule. Please contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow for more information.

Lectors & Intercessors

Parishioners can take part in the Sunday services by volunteering to read the Hebrew Bible and New Testament passages as well as the weekly prayers of the people. New lectors and intercessors go through a brief training session before serving to acquaint new participants with the reading locations and service flow. If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer, please contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow.

Eucharistic Ministers

Also called Chalice Bearers, these volunteers help distribute communion. If you are interested in helping the clergy during communion, contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow.

Altar Guild Ministry

St. Matthew's Altar Guild is a group of loyal women and men who serve the church by meeting every Saturday morning to prepare for three Sunday services. The Altar Guild service includes preparing the altar for worship, cleaning up between services, and caring for all the silver and linens. The Altar Guild is also responsible for other special services such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms. Qualifications include the following: being faithful and on time, having attention to detail, asking questions, valuing neatness, being a good team player, and enjoying the pleasure of working with and serving others. For more information, contact the church office or The Rev. Suzanne Barrow.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild members arrange flowers for the altar every Sunday, for the Easter and Christmas season, for the annual lunch meeting, for guest speakers, and for receptions for special occasions. We always have fun with any project, and it's always a learning experience. We would love to have anyone who just loves flowers, and our schedule is flexible because everyone is willing to switch dates. If you are interested, contact Heather Duffy (duffyheather3@gmail.com or 270-227-9672).

Clergy and Staff Information

The Rev. Kelly Kirby	Rector	kkirby@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org
The Rev. Suzanne Barrow	Director of Congregational Life	sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org
The Rev. Deacon Jan Scholtz	Deacon	jscholtz@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org
Joanne Coleman	Accountant	jcoleman@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org
Julie Mushkin	Ministry Coordinator	jmushkin@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org
Catherine Banks	Parish Secretary	cbanks@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org
Mark Kaczmarczyk	Minister of Music	markk@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org
Charles Frank	Social Media and Publicity Volunteer	cfrank@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org

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