

September 8, 2024

Dear Friends and Families of St. Matthew,

Last year we started this letter with “All Hands On Deck” and you responded by helping our church survive and start to recover. We had just lost our priest after Covid because we could not afford to pay his salary. We started to look for supply priests and found there were almost none. Thanks to having Father Hillary willing to fill in as our supply priest week after week, we have stabilized our church and are starting to grow. We had 33 pledges of \$116,000 this past year which paid our costs of having a supply priest and the expenses of running the church. We are still reaping the benefits of our past capital campaign which paid off our mortgage.

Thanks to all the hardworking people who have stepped up, our church is functioning without a fulltime priest for now. The altar guild makes the church beautiful for Sunday services. We get our bulletin printed thanks to volunteers. Building and grounds works to keep the outside of the church mowed and weeded. We continue to have programs to involve our parishioners and the community. We had the Sacred Ground program developed by the Episcopal Church last spring and fall. We are starting Sunday School with three curriculums dealing with Parables, the Gospel, and Bible stories. We have had memorial services with the church packed. St. Matthew has found that by trusting God’s guidance and living in the Holy Spirit, miracles do happen.

Our goal is to continue growing the church so we can once again ask a priest to join us some day. In the mean time we continue “To be a church that passionately embraces and values all people, growing in the love of Christ through word and action”.

As we prepare for 2025, please consider making a pledge. Members of the Vestry and the Canvass Team are always available for questions and comments. We look forward to receiving your pledge card by Sunday October 20th. This allows the Vestry to plan for operating expenses and obligations for the coming year. With your help, we will continue to spread the Light of Christ in our community.

Sincerely,

Rich Gould

