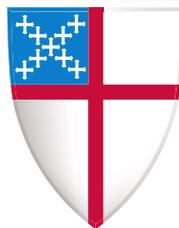


HELP WANTED:
Gardener



*I am the True vine and my Father is the vinegrower.
—JOHN 15:1-17*

St. Matthew's Church
Goffstown, New Hampshire
Profile



This prayer, developed by the Search Team, has been said aloud at each Sunday service.

St. Matthew's Rector Search Team Prayer:

Loving God, giver of all good gifts, guide us throughout our time of transition. Open our hearts and minds as we search for our new rector. Empower each one of us to use our unique gifts in ministry, to share our thoughts openly and honestly, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience and joy. Keep watch over the one you have chosen for us while you instill in us a vision of the Church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Welcome to our Garden.

St. Matthew's is a bountiful faith community of Jesus Christ where we value family, inclusiveness, intellectual curiosity, and outreach. Under these main tenets, St. Matthew's is vibrant and growing. At worship each week, you will hear a talented choir singing joyfully to the Lord, see young children playing in the back of the nave, and watch parishioners, young and old, participating in the service.

To exemplify the love God has for each of us, the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire uses the image of Jesus as the vine and God as tending it. (*See diocese logo at right.*) Throughout this Profile, you will see the branches of the vine, representing God's love for each of us, that are interwoven into who we are at St. Matthew's.



EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF NH

As a Search Team, we were and are continuously amazed by the wonderful things our people do. We sent out a survey and a significant number of parishioners responded with thoughtful, caring, and loving comments. In this profile, you will see their words intermingled with ours. They said many things better than we ever could. We think it will be clear to you that ours is an active faith community.

St. Matthew's was most recently served by the Rev. Bill Exner for thirty-one years. For many parishioners, he was the only rector they ever knew at St. Matthew's. Yet it was clear in our survey responses and conversations with parishioners, St. Matthew's is open and ready for a new Rector. We are excited to welcome someone who is ready to jump in with both feet. There is one thing we never have too little of here at St. Matthew's—*energy*. We hope that our new rector will cultivate our Garden in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. †

In Christ's Name, St. Matthew's Search Team

Our team has 11 members who range in age from 17 to 80:

Karyn Battey, David Betz, Bonnie Calhoun, Barbara Carbonneau, Mike Domingue, Bob Jones, Roger Macon, Laeny McKahan, Kathy McKim, Abby Poisson, and Shea Sennett

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.—JOHN 15:4-5

Deeply Rooted in Faith at St. Matthew's

The first reference to Episcopal services being held in the Goffstown area was around 1758, when it was served by a circuit rider, who traveled from church to church.

According to town records of Goffstown, an

Episcopal Church was in existence as early as 1783 but disappeared before 1820. Then in December of 1866, "Articles of Association" were drawn up by The St. Matthew's Church Society of Goffstown, NH.

We would like to share this story of the Hart Family that helped nurture the vine of St. Matthew's.

Wm. HH Hart was one of the original signers of our Articles of Association. It was his construction talents that built the church, completing it in 1869. It appears that he was our first Senior Warden. The photo (*circa 1904*) shows him standing in the wagon.

As the church neared completion, an organ was built for the new church. The Johnson Co. Opus 308 was installed in 1869. We do love to sing the praises of our Lord and Savior to the Heavens. The photo also shows a young Gordon Hart standing (*last on the right*)

with his blueberry pail ready to join the family outing. For many years, young Master Gordon was very important to the Sunday services of St. Matthew's. It was his job to enter through a small door on the side of the organ and pump the bellows to give rise to its heavenly sounds.

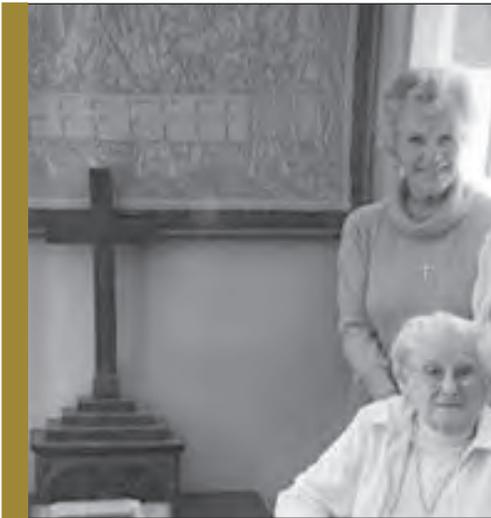
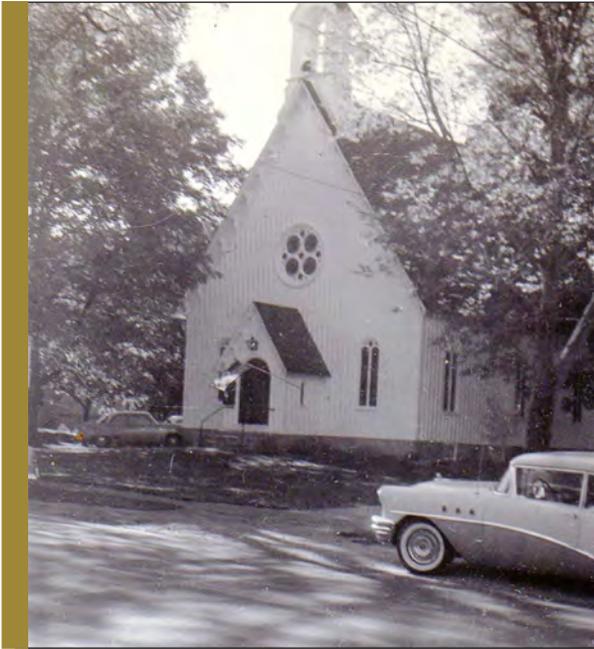
At the turn of the century, the vine continued on through Carrie Hart, the mother of Gordon Hart the organ player. As her obituary states, "She was a member of the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and had served as choir mother and had charge of the altar guild for years." She sewed all of the vestry garments for the Rectors and the choir. She mended, cleaned and kept them all pressed and ready to serve God. As Choir Mom she brought the entire boys choir to a YMCA camp each summer.



The Hart Family, circa 1904.

*Go and tell my servant David, 'thus says the Lord:
Would you build me a house to dwell in?' —SAMUEL 7:5-7*

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*Top: St. Matthew's Church 1957;
Barbara Mace-Hart and her mother
Geraldine Hart-Moss with crocheted gift
of the Last Supper.*

The original window behind the altar was installed in 1868. It was hand painted, rather than leaded stained glass. In 1923, Gordon Hart, the organ player, saw that the glass was deteriorating and installed clapboards to protect the window from weather elements and provide insulation. The altar window was “rediscovered and restored” during Advent 1987. The stained glass window is again in need of some TLC.

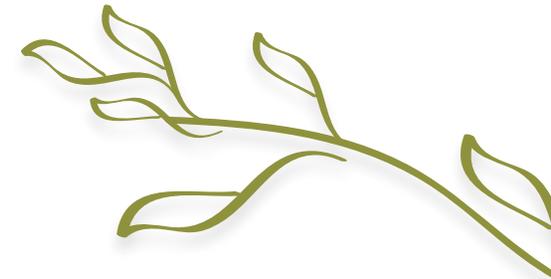
In 1974, an addition was built with a stairwell to the undercroft, two bathrooms and two rooms, one which is now the children’s nursery, the other a small chapel. The addition was called the Gordon P. Hart Memorial Chapel. Within the small chapel is the Credence Table

with a heart in the front handcarved by Dan Mace, grandson of Gordon and Geraldine Hart.

Geraldine lived and loved her Church. “The Last Supper” crocheted wall hanging was handmade and framed by Gerry Hart and donated to the Church for the new Parish House. Pictured at left are Gerry Hart-Moss and her daughter Barbara Mace-Hart.

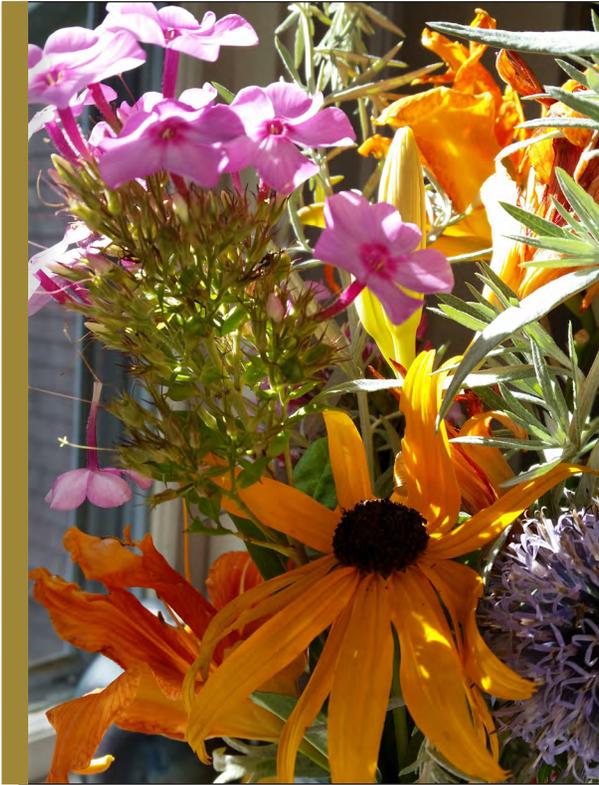
This brings us to today. Bonnie Calhoun is the great, great granddaughter of Wm. HH Hart and the daughter of Barbara Mace. Her piece of the vine has manifested itself in a most interesting way. Bonnie is the co-chair on the Search Team that is calling you to join us as our new Rector of St. Matthews.

This one family’s story demonstrates why we cherish the historic Garden of our people that has given us this wonderful faith community. Many such multigenerational stories continue here today. †



THE RECTOR WE SEEK:

*Do you believe
St. Matthew's
could be
your calling?*



And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

—ISAIAH 30:21

This profile describes the people of the Garden called St. Matthew's—our faith, our attitudes, and the current state of our church.

We have a rich history here at St. Matthew's, and yet we are forward-looking. The Search Team has struggled with a detailed description of the rector we seek, perhaps sensing that such a description might inadvertently exclude the exact person who is being called to us.

There are many wonderful attributes of St. Matt's. Three appeared numerous times throughout the parish surveys and in meetings with parishioners—outreach, family-oriented, and openness.

St. Matthew's is known for its outreach. It is a key reason many parishioners continue to be a part of the parish. We need our new

Rector to have a strong sense of community involvement and a desire to participate with the clergy association.

From a parishioner:
"I hope both the rector and the parish/community will be willing to try new things and some 'outside the box' ideas, whether it be outreach, funding the parish etc. A fresh new spark?"

St. Matt's is also a very family-oriented church. It is not uncommon for children to be active during worship. We have a nursery, but it is optional. We love all voices during our services. When the parish was asked what qualities are desirable in a Rector, youth-focused was listed as a high priority on over 80 percent of responses.

From a parishioner:
"Our young (infant to college), our music, and our outreach bind us. We are highly diverse, and inclusive. We are cautiously outspoken."

St. Matthew's is also known for its openness. We welcome everyone from all walks of life. We mean it when we say—*all are welcome at God's table*. Having a sense of humor and a focus on support and inclusiveness will allow the new Rector to not only thrive, but to grow at St. Matthew's.

From a parishioner:
"We are avidly inclusive and accepting of all people. We have a tradition of working to meet community needs, together with other churches in town. We have a tradition of humor and fun."

From a parishioner:
"We come from varied religious upbringings and were drawn together by the message of inclusiveness and the willingness of the Rector to meet everyone wherever they were in their spiritual journey."

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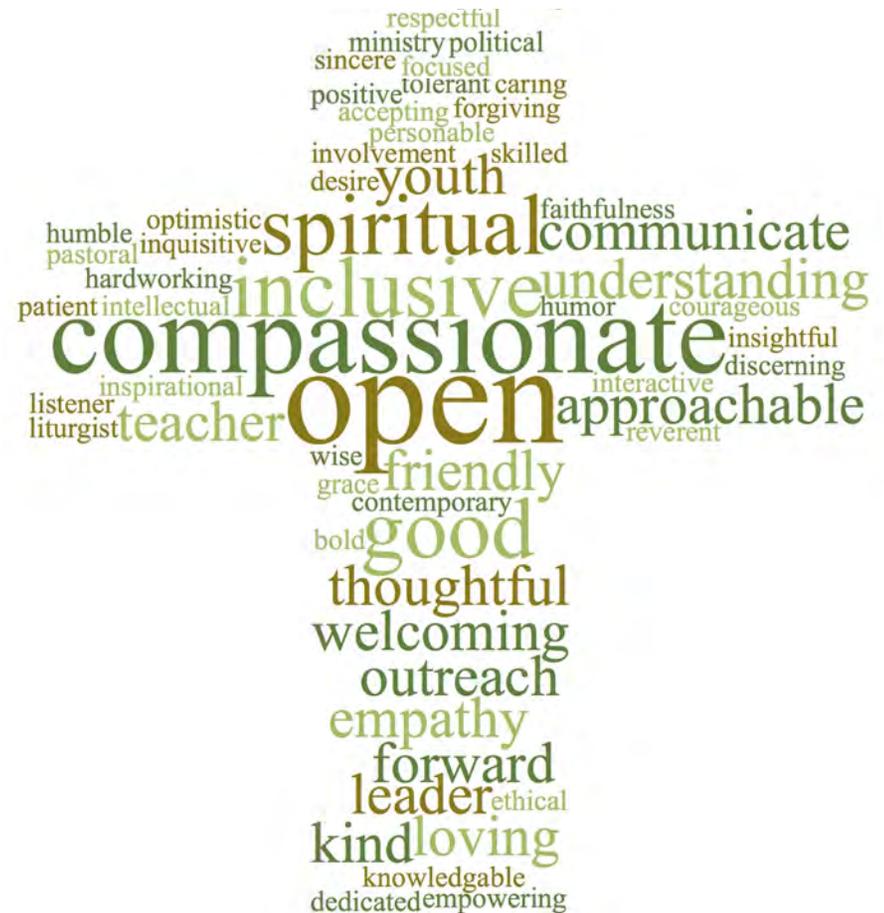
Top: Late spring flower planting by children of St. Matthew's; blessing our Memory Garden.

We continually look for new ways to nurture the needs of the community and our parishioners, all while growing the vine spiritually.

We encourage your support of the privacy and dignity of homeless school children, members from other churches, and that you will strive to be a connection to all for the good things St. Matthew's has to offer.

We look forward to being intellectually challenged, as well as spiritually enriched by our new rector's preaching.

From a parishioner:
 "I have gotten used to top-notch ministry both from our rectors and from our lay ministry."



The words in the cross image above are drawn from responses to our parish-wide survey. The size of the word shows the relative importance of the traits desired in our Rector. We hope you see your own spirituality reflected here and, more importantly, that you will feel called to St. Matthew's. †



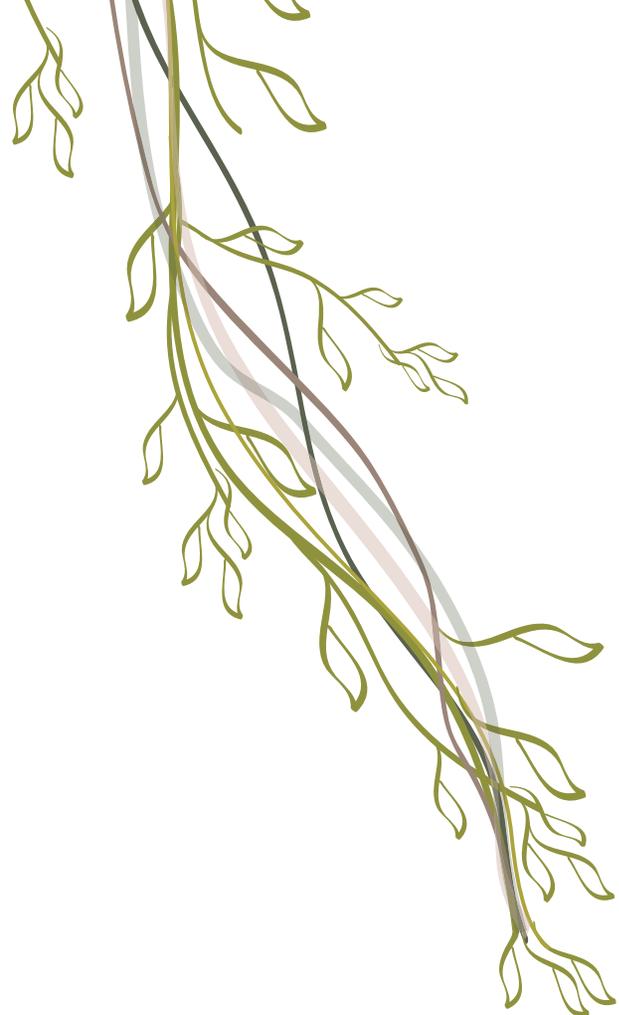


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Visit these links for more information:

<http://www.stmattsepiscopal.org>

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/saintmattsgoffstown>

 <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsgoffstown/>

 Please note: A complete history of St. Matthew's Church is currently being written and will be presented as part of our upcoming 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2017.



Our Mission and Our Vision



Top: Working at the interfaith Thanksgiving Basket-filling gathering.
At right: Outdoor sign for our Food Pantry and Clothing Center.



Our Mission

Seeking to nurture the power of Christ in and through its members, to encourage the recognition of the loving service of God in and through our homes, community, diocese, nation and world.

Our Vision

We see the future of St. Matthew’s Church as a welcoming, accepting, diverse, multi-community and spiritual congregation of The Episcopal Church. It will encourage people of all ages in the loving service of God as we provide for the needs of our families, community, diocese, nation and world through:

- Prayer
- Commitment
- Leadership Energy
- Compassion Love
- Acts of Grace

This congregation that you may be called to shepherd has been guided to this point by the spirit and love of the Rev. Bill Exner.

‘At St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church we discover ourselves to be part of a growing parish which cherishes the traditions of liturgy, biblical understanding, friendship and outreach to neighbor.’
—exerpt from letter by the Rev. Bill Exner

If you are called to St. Matthew’s we simply hope you will be yourself in Christ, as we welcome you with open hearts and continue on our spiritual journey together. †

Diocese of New Hampshire

St. Matthew’s is one of 47 parishes in the Diocese of New Hampshire. Bishop Rob Hirschfeld under his theme for the diocese, “Tending the Vine,” has set forth Four Mission Priorities to guide decisions in working toward God’s call. They are:

- Developing and enhancing the ability of congregations to meet challenges, grow, prosper, and extend their ministries.
- Investing in the development of lay and ordained leadership.
- Supporting the children of our parishes, communities and state.
- Advocating to uphold the dignity of every human being and care for the Creation.

God will not forget your work and the love you have shown...’
—HEBREWS 6:10



Worship MINISTRY



Top: Our church on a beautiful summer morning;
At right: Epiphany Play 2014

During the church year, we offer Sunday morning services at 8:00 and 10:00. The 8:00 AM service is a simple spoken Rite I worship. The 10:00 AM service is Rite II worship with choirs, music, Sunday School, Nursery Care and Coffee Hour. Significantly, the tone of both services is warm, welcoming, and relaxed.

Although worship is always faithful to the Book of Common Prayer, the congregation at both services appreciates spontaneity. We are blessed with a good compliment of lectors, ushers, and Eucharistic Ministers at both services.

From parishioners: “About the very wide range of backgrounds and views among members; the unity in diversity; not all liberals, for example! St. Matthew’s provides a place for seekers, doubters, even agnostics,



to grow and have a spiritual life, in community, with support.”

“This congregation has a tremendous amount of lay leadership; a successful rector will need to know how to work cooperatively with the many people who engage in ministry here, to provide guidance and direction and encouragement, not micromanage or dictate. The rector will also need to have a good sense of liturgy but not be locked into one single style of worship; St. Matt’s appreciates breadth and variety.”

Most members who joined St. Matthew’s over the past 30 years comment that they chose us because the 10:00 AM service was so comfortable for families with children. Small, active children are especially welcome. One Sunday each month is Family Sunday, in which children attend the entire 10:00 AM service and participate in the liturgy as able. The Junior Choir sings on Family Sunday, and music features familiar hymns accompanied by folk instruments, such as guitar, bass, trombone, drums, and hand bells. The service is a little

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me,
I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. —MATTHEW 25:35-36*

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shorter, and the sermon designed to engage young people.

From a parishioner:
 “We are small, but not meek! Each parishioner is valuable, our kids are sometimes noisy, we love fellowship, and we like to think.”

In July and August, we have one Rite II service at 9:00 AM. Licensed Worship Leaders officiate at Morning Prayer on some Sundays when the Rector is on vacation.

In addition to worship services at church on Sunday or during the week, an abbreviated service of morning prayer, Rite II, is offered once a month at both Bel-Air Nursing Home and Hillsborough County Nursing Home (HCNH), led by a licensed lay reader.

These began in 1993, first at Bel-Air, then HCNH was added. Attendance varies from 5 to 15 people filled with love, prayer, and the joy of singing the old favorites.

From a parishioner:
 “outreach, inclusiveness, openness, accommodating both high and low church and drop-ins from other faiths.”

On Christmas Eve there are three services. The first is a late afternoon service for young families. The second, at 7:00 PM, features the Junior Choir. The third begins at 10:30 PM with a choral and instrumental Prelude followed by the 11:00 PM Christmas Mass. The annual Epiphany Play features the youth of the church in a contemporary rendition of the nativity.

Lenten Services include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, an Easter Vigil, and conclude with three Easter Services. The formal year ends with our traditional outdoor service, Mass on the Grass.

St. Matthew’s welcomes all people on their faith journey and does not discriminate because of age, national origin, marital status, economic class, or sexual orientation.

Holy Communion at the Lord’s Table is available to all people who approach the altar of God in faith and hope intending to lead a new life with God’s continued help. ✝



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Top: Annual Mass on the Grass at a parishioner’s farm; Christmas Mass; a beautiful wedding day.



Youth & Music

MINISTRIES

Youth Ministry

Our interim rector paid us the compliment of telling us that St. Matt's is one of two parishes out of the seven she has served with an ongoing active Youth Group and Sunday School.



combating bullying, how Christ influences teen lives, how to manage stress, figuring out ways they can make a difference in our world, and sometimes just providing a forum to talk about the issues our teens face daily.

The Youth Group also participates in seasonal activities such as Advent wreath-making, live nativity, the talent show and spring retreat. We are struggling to create a new model that will engage and support our youth. We look forward to a new rector who can help us in this important endeavor.

Youth Group

St. Matthew's has had a tradition of a very active youth group. It has typically been comprised of teens in grades 6 through 12 and led by one or two youth advisors. Currently our youth group is in transition, with the loss of a very enthusiastic leader, changing group demographics, and the loss of the rector, this group has been steadily losing youth and energy. The focus has been to have an open and safe space where our youth can be themselves and develop their relationship with Christ. Monthly meeting topics have included

Sunday School

The Sunday School program at St. Matthew's has four classrooms, Pre K/K, Primary (1-2nd grade), Intermediate (3-5th grade), and Young Teens (6-9th grade). The program year runs from September through May. Sunday School is taught by a dedicated,



Top: Youth Group apple-picking outing; canoeing at retreat; Right: live Nativity and choir

Parent quoting their child:
"Where every adult is a parent, and every child a sibling."

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these. —MATTHEW 19:14



Top: New Acolytes celebrate!; Live Nativity presented by Youth Group.

rotating group of parishioners who range from high schoolers to seasoned veterans. Average Sunday School attendance is between 11 and 20. Sunday School follows the curriculum from *The Whole People of God*.

In talking with our Sunday School children, they had many ideas on how they would like to see the Sunday School ministry continue to grow. They wanted to be involved in baptisms, confirmations, and events with the Bishop. Sunday School teachers indicated they hoped more people would take part in Safe Church training allowing more people to teach. They would also like more flexibility with the curriculum and Sunday School in general.

Music Ministry

St. Matthew's has a strong tradition of music as a ministry. We recently consolidated the ministry under a Minister of Music, Josh Desrochers, who also serves as organist and senior choir director. As a teacher at Goffstown High School, he was recognized as New Hampshire Music Educator of The Year.

From a choir member:
"Great music, great people, great seats!"

The Junior Choir

The Junior Choir is open to singers in grades 1 to 8. The composition of the choir varies each year and each sports season. They perform once a month on Family Sunday with the Family Folk Band. This year the singing was supplemented with hand chimes.

The Family Folk Band

This group of musicians provides the music one Sunday each month during the church year. Instruments include guitar, bass and keyboard, and the repertoire includes more contemporary versions of the liturgical music as well as songs such as 'If I Were a Moose and You Were a Cow', 'Morning Has Broken', 'Go Tell It on the Mountain', and 'Let Us Break Bread Together.'

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him,
and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him. —PSALM 28:7*





- "Glory of the Father" Egil Hoyland
- "Ave Verum Corpus" William Byrd
- "Out from the Deep" Thomas Tallis
- "Morning Trumpet" Sacred Harp
- "Keep Your Lamps" arr. Thomas
- "E'en So, Lord Jesus" Paul Manz
- "Rejoice in the Lord Always" attr. Redmond
- "Cholchester" William Tans'ur
- "Is Any Afflicted?" William Billings
- "Sicut Cervus" Alestrina
- "O, Taste and See" R. Vaughan Williams
- "O Nata Lux" Morten Lauridsen
- "Magnificat" Thomas Tallis
- "Adam lay Ybounden" Boris Ord
- "The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy" arr. Collins
- "Gaudete" Piae Cantiones
- "Mary's Magnificat" Andrew Carter
- "Nativity Carol" John Rutter
- "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" Stanford Scriven
- "O Magnum Mysterium" Morten Lauridsen

Top: Retirement celebration; sample of music performed at St. Matt's

The Senior Choir

The Senior Choir totals 10 to 18 singers with each choral section represented and is completely voluntary. Everyone is invited to join for the love of singing and worship. It is a diverse group, ranging in age from 18 to 80, four of whom have been in the choir since the 1960's, and some of whom joined just last month! Senior choir sings at Sunday 10AM Rite II services.

From a parishioner: "...an unusually accomplished choir but by no means stuffy or pretentious; real friendship and good fun abound when we get together, and the group is remarkably free from egos."

The choir has an extensive and diverse repertoire of music, as shown in handwritten list at left.

Special Music Services

The Senior Choir also sings at special worship services throughout the year.

From a parishioner: "Singing has always helped me find roots in any new place, whether it be school, church or new community. Once I joined the St. Matthew's choir, I quickly realized I had joined a family..." †

Click to see a  video of senior choir special performance.





Lifelong Spiritual Formation

MINISTRY

St. Matthew's focuses on Lifelong Spiritual Formation through Prayer. Current examples include a **Book Club**—selections included 'Crazy Christians'; 'A Call to Follow Jesus' as well as **films** and **discussions**. The Lenten program this year was led by our Interim Rector using the '**5 Marks of Love**' developed by The Society of St. John the Evangelist in Boston, an Episcopal monastic community.

Other programs include weekly **Bible Chats**, **Meditation in Motion**—meditation followed by Tai Chi in the garden, **Listening Sessions**, **Granite State Organizing Project** (GSOP) which cover many social issues in our state. We are currently creating a **Social Justice** component of our Outreach Program at St. Matthew's.

Many of our parishioners have made a transition to the Episcopal Church from other faiths including Catholics, Lutherans and others. We welcome them with open hearts and minds as they continue on their faith journey. We believe that Christ calls people at different moments in their lives and we are happy to be there for everyone when the time is right.

This past year adults wishing to be confirmed or received into The Episcopal Church prepared by attending a five session course titled '**Putting English on It**' about the origins of the Episcopal Church, beginning with the English Reformation. †

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? —MATTHEW 16:26

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*Top: Procession of a service;
Bible Chat gathering*



Fellowship MINISTRY

At St. Matthew's, we love Fellowship! We offer members and potential members a variety of opportunities to meet, socialize, feel welcome and included to enhance spiritual growth. From our casual, buffet-style Coffee Hour following the 10:00AM

service where many a child has been urged to choose a vegetable, to Monthly Parish Breakfasts, to our Get Acquainted Groups (GAG), to our bi-annual New/Oldcomers Brunch. It's no wonder visitors speak of feeling welcomed and well fed!

A vestry member once noted in a presentation that thoughts of St. Matt's bring two words to mind, "Free Food," both edible and spiritual.

It is our goal that everyone at St. Matt's feels confident in their relationships with other Mattheans. We like to have fun together! The Peace during services is one of those extended wandering affairs. Our Annual Christmas Progressive Dinner and Yankee Swap is almost a rite of passage for new parishioners, and in celebration of the seasons and natural beauty that surrounds us, we relish our Annual Sledding Day (*sledding optional*) and Mass on the Grass (*cows optional*). †



Bowling outing; Annual Sledding Day in full swing; members of the cooking crew for monthly parish breakfasts with incense of bacon wafting through the church; specialty—pancakes!

*Is not the cup of blessing which we bless
a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread
which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?*

—1 CORINTHIANS 10:16



Pastoral Care

MINISTRY

Two of our St. Matthew's ministries, Pastoral Care and Outreach, form a yin and yang that's all about caring for people. Pastoral Care focuses inwardly to care for and support the St. Matthew's community. Outreach focuses outwardly to Goffstown, the nation and the world.

When there is trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, the Pastoral Care Ministry is available to assist and support our parishioners. This support may be offered by the rector/priest in charge

or it may come from one of our many parish volunteers. In all cases, this support is offered with discretion.

Pastoral Care includes visiting people in the hospital, nursing home, or prison, providing meals when needed, giving somebody a ride to a medical appointment or to church, running or assisting with errands, knitting comfort shawls, praying for those in need and just being available whenever there is a personal or family need.

Currently, St. Matthew's has a team of three Lay Eucharistic Ministers plus The Rev. Celeste Hemington, our interim priest, who bring communion monthly to parishioners who reside at home or in a nursing facility. This is a significant service because it brings the blessed sacrament and the joy of celebrating the Eucharist to these members of our parish family. †



St. Matthew's lay minister providing communion to parishioner at Hillsborough County Nursing Home; St. Francis in the church garden



*This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me. —LUKE 22:19*



Outreach MINISTRY

St. Matthew's has been synonymous with Outreach for over thirty years.

The purpose of our Outreach is to help our neighbors in need locally, nationally and internationally. On the local level we help with fuel oil, utilities, mortgages, child care, gas and furniture needs.

Also, although independent, the **Goffstown Food Pantry** is housed in the basement of the parish house. On the state level we donate to **The Way Home**, the **Episcopal Church Bishop's Youth Effort** and **CHIPS-Children of Incarcerated Prisoners** a group that donates Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated parents. On the national level we donate to **Feeding America**. On the international level we donate to **Episcopal Relief and Development**, **Save the Children**, **Doctors Without Borders** and the **Red Cross Nepal Aid**.

Each winter Goffstown area churches sponsor the **Super Roll-a-Thon** to raise money for the **Goffstown Clergy Association Crisis Fund**. People from the churches meet to bowl and socialize at King's Bowling Alley. The Clergy Association and the Outreach committee

work together to help those in need.

For the past 13 years, St. Matt's has organized softball games at the **New Hampshire State Prison for Women** located in Goffstown. Men and women, ages 18 and over are welcome to play. There are usually two or three games per season taking place at the prison.

Another important part of our outreach ministry is the **Parish Nurse Program**. On Wednesday mornings for the last 19 years, a registered nurse is in the parish house to check blood pressure, heart rate and other non-critical medical issues. The majority of people using this service are seniors who live in the Goffstown area.

In 2007 a program designed for seniors was introduced. It is held when the parish nurse is present and is known as



Goffstown High School Student Council members packing boxes for Food Pantry, 2014.

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' —MATTHEW 25:40

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Top: Community Clothing Center (CCC) is located next to the Parish House, offering clothing year-round; CCC entryway; Semi-annual Yard Sale for Outreach.



Senior Health Inventory Network Endeavor or SHINE.

The idea is to provide a place where seniors can gather each week for sociability, healthy food, exercise and mental stimulation. A variety of activities, including monthly speakers, is offered. Current membership includes seniors from within our parish and beyond. It is open to all.

The **Community Clothing Center**, referred to as the CCC, is a volunteer run clothing thrift shop which began operating in 2009. It is housed in the parish-owned building next to the Parish House. In addition to being open to the public, we donate clothing to **New Horizons Shelter, Hope for NH Recovery, Our Place Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, St. Joseph's Closet, 1269 Cafe, and Manchester Mental**

Health Center. Some of the winter coats in 2017 made it all the way to the Dakota Pipeline. It is our goal to ensure that anyone who is in need will be helped. It is with open hearts and minds that we look forward to having a new rector help us continue this outreach.

St. Matthew's exists by the grace of God to seek and serve the sacred in all people, loving our neighbor as ourselves. In keeping with this promise, our parish has been a supporter of the **Granite State Organizing Project** since its inception in 2002 with parish members serving on the executive board and taking part in various grass roots programs. Visit www.granitestateorganizing.org to learn more about this group and all they have achieved to help citizens

of Goffstown, Manchester, and across New Hampshire.

In addition, our parish has sponsored pot-luck suppers under the heading of Peace Meals which were open to the community and offered discussions concerning peace and justice issues that affect the well-being of our country and the world. **New Hampshire Voices of Faith** offers opportunities to witness at the State House on various bills that affect the quality of life for all citizens of New Hampshire and is supported by our diocese.

The Outreach Ministry has recently formed a social justice sub-group to share our understanding of what social justice is, educate the parish, and identify new opportunities to take action. †

And if you give yourself to the hungry, And satisfy the desire of the afflicted, Then your light will rise in darkness, And your gloom will become like midday. And the LORD will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. —ISAIAH 58:10-11

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift
each of you has received.*

—PETER 4:10



Stewardship MINISTRY

Stewardship is charged with providing adequate funding to enable the parish to achieve its mission and to serve as stewards of God’s green earth. Our vision is to equip young and old to identify and share the gifts and resources God has given

St. Matthew’s has been fortunate to continue to have strong pledge income and generous donations of Time and Talents from members.

We are a cohesive group of worshipers doing God’s work together. However, pledges for 2017 have come in more slowly than usual and less than we need to meet our budgeted expenses, so we may have to make budget adjustments or find additional funding to meet the Church’s needs for 2017.

We pay our full diocesan assessment.

Time and Talent

In addition to asking our members to make financial contributions, we also encourage participation. We send a Time and Talent Form with every pledge letter. This includes the ministries of Worship, Outreach, Youth, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, Lifelong Spiritual Formation, Buildings and Grounds, and Administration. Members can offer to be an usher, choir member, acolyte, coffee hour host, participate in the parish health ministry, run errands, help with painting or lawn mowing, and many other areas. St. Matt’s strives to be a church of the people where all members tend the vine.



Pledge Kickoff 2013

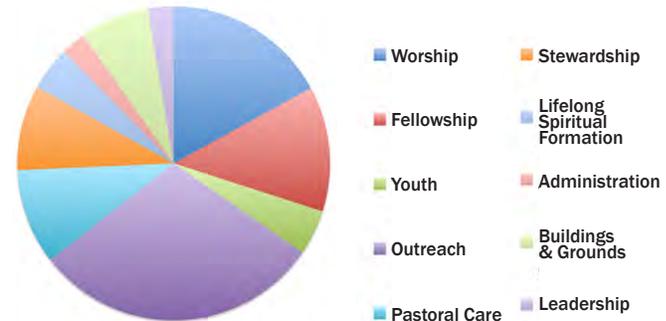
From 2016 Parochial Report:

Baptised Members.....	623
Adult communicants.....	247
Youth communicants	51
Total communicants.....	298
Average Sunday attendance.....	105
Easter Sunday attendance.....	284
Baptisms.....	9
Confirmations.....	6
Received by a Bishop.....	8
Total Church School students.....	20
Adults in religious education	20

them for the good of the Parish, its members, and the community. St. Matthew’s approach to stewardship reflects the model adopted for Stewardship by The Episcopal Church.

Churches who lose a rector of long standing often suffer a loss of parishioners as well as a drop in Time, Talent, and Treasure pledges.

*Time and Talent
Participation Chart*





St. Matthew's Church rose window

Budget History from 2014-2017

	2014	2015	2016	2017 (projected)
Income				
Pledge	163,441	161,418	164,806	170,000
Loose Plate, Easter, Christmas	20,692	24,449	21,445	23,188
Community Clothing Center	21,155	23,037	20,756	20,000
Other Income	5,965	7,219	5,107	7,600
Interest & Dividends	4,242	1,609	3,912	1,900
Total	215,495	217,732	216,026	222,688
Expenses				
Salaries and Related Expenses	129,703	127,865	112,896	129,226
Insurance	3,538	4,605	5,629	4,727
Property	30,306	29,753	25,491	29,910
Administration	3,826	4,733	4,118	12,550
Outreach	4,010	2,593	1,300	2,550
Worship	2,584	2,986	2,728	3,000
Diocese	33,704	33,532	36,303	34,475
Lifelong Spiritual Formation	3,241	2,392	3,390	3,375
Fellowship	104	-177	137	2,100
Other	1,005	725	547	775
Total	212,021	209,007	192,539	222,688
Net Profit	3,474	8,725	23,487	0
Pledges	101	96	87	79

Current Assets

Assets as of the end of 2016	
Cash	120,997
Invested Funds	88,084
Total	209,081

Note: Much of the cash will be moved to investments shortly. †



*How good and pleasant it is when
God's people live together in unity!*

—PSALM 133:1

Our Community



Top: St. Matthew's Church, Parish House and Community Clothing Center behind the Parish House. Below: streetscape of downtown in the village, Uncanoonuc Mountains in the background. At right: Annual Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Regatta.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is seated in the quaint town of Goffstown, New Hampshire, which was incorporated in 1761. The Piscataquog River runs through the center of town and is the site of a Giant Pumpkin Regatta each year, when town citizens hop into hollowed out, decorated, 600-pound pumpkins and hold a race on the river.



From a parishioner:
"The strength of Goffstown is its sense of community... that is what attracted us to this town many years ago."

Goffstown includes the Village, and villages of Grasmere and Pinardville. It has a total population of 17,500. North Mast Road, where the church's three buildings are located, is a classic New England small village center.

Our church is housed in an historic, late 19th century building that holds the history and religious

spirit of its early years of construction. A few members of the church have ancestors who built and attended St. Matthew's years ago while a majority of parishioners are newer to the area and many live in

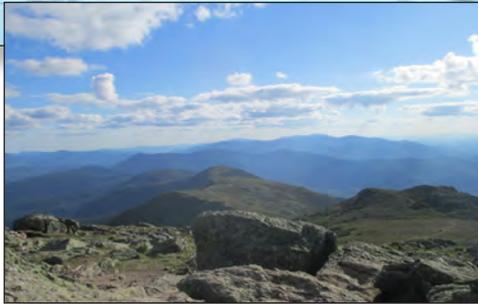
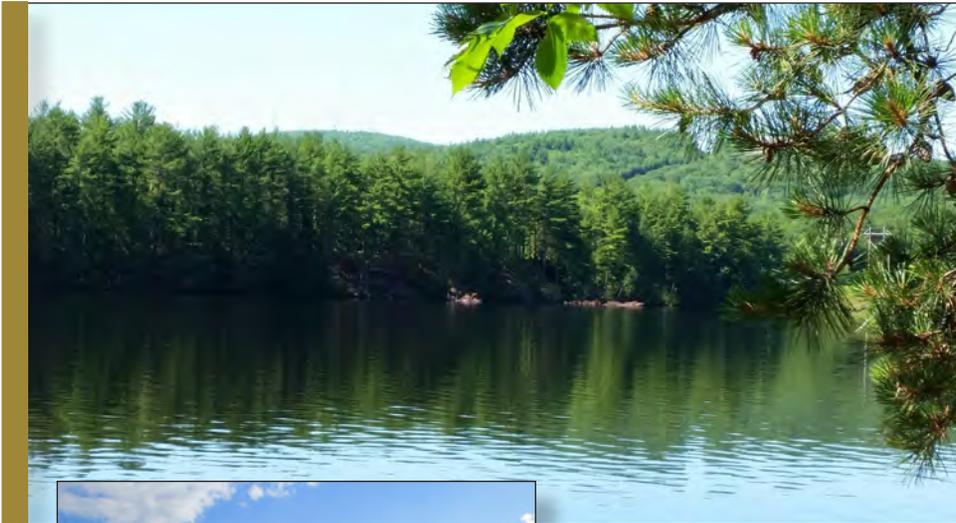


surrounding towns. The connection from that past to the present can be felt in the congregation.

In Goffstown we look out for each other with uninsured medical or property situations often covered by citizen drives. School children, alone on the local ski mountain, are known by name and watched over by other parents there. And don't speed in town—we're also known for our attentive police.

The town supports many regionally ranked youth sports teams. Goffstown Junior Baseball, during its annual parade, shuts down the main road through town. Stranded truckers love the prospect. 😊

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Top: View across Glen Lake; A spectacular view of the White Mountain range; historic popcorn stand managed by Lions Club offers fresh popped corn; teams hollowing out 600 lb. pumpkins readying for the Pumpkin Regatta.

Special note to called rector: We could reserve a pumpkin for you to ride in—just ask!

As a practical and appealing fact, New Hampshire has no sales tax or income tax.

Goffstown has five public schools: Glen Lake Kindergarten, Maple Avenue Elementary School, Bartlett Elementary School, Mountain View Middle School, and Goffstown High School, which is highly rated nationally by *U.S. News and World Report*. It is also home to St. Anslem College and Monastery.

Goffstown is a one-hour drive to the beautiful White Mountains, the Lakes Region, coastal beaches, the city of Boston, and points in each New England state. It is a convenient 20 minute drive to Manchester/Boston Regional Airport (MHT) served by American, Delta, Southwest, and United Airlines.

There are lakes, ponds, state parks, and smaller mountains scattered across the state. Hiking and skiing are very popular. It is a com-

mon serious hiker's goal to summit all 48 '4,000 footers' in the state.

A rich, 18th century history calls out from all around the state. Manchester, NH, the state's largest city, with a population of 110,000, is less than 20 minutes away, with colleges, entertainment venues, restaurants, art and historical museums.

The area offers a full spectrum of available housing, but the home-buyers' market is shifting to a sellers' market. Average house price in early 2017 is \$236,700; median rental about \$1,600.

The seacoast city of Portsmouth, is located near the campus of the University of New Hampshire and is steeped in arts, entertainment, and delectable restaurants. Historic sites include The John Paul Jones House and Strawberry Banke living history museum, known for its Christmastime Candlelight Stroll.

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Top: Hauling away last of the successful Outreach Yard Sale; members sharing friendships at Yard Sale; aprons are a must at the grill on a spectacular fall day.

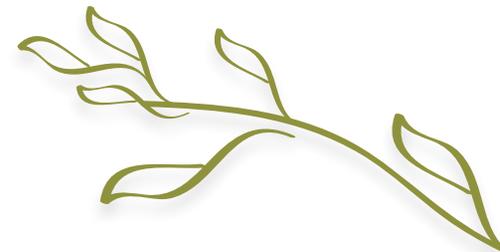


The capitol city of Concord, just 20 minutes to the north, houses our state government buildings, the Diocese of New Hampshire, cultural venues, and historical sites. It is also home to St. Paul's School, a prestigious classic prep school, offering special scholarships to children of Episcopal clergy. Many church families have benefitted from its summer Advanced Studies Program for students across the state.

Being the 'First in the Nation' Primary state, New Hampshire citizens are known for being active in local and national politics. We are able to meet candidates and ask questions to get a feel for their qualities. Occasionally a major candidate will appear in our small state with more media in attendance than voters. St. Anselm College, the largest employer in Goffstown, hosts nationally televised pre-nomination presidential debates.

Now let's shift the tone of our discussion to some social challenges that will impact the work of our new rector.

New Hampshire is greatly affected by the opioid epidemic with many deaths from heroin and fentanyl. Almost everyone has some connection to the story of one or more of these deaths. New Hampshire has used its status as an early primary state to help focus national political attention on this problem. We will welcome your counsel. †



Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over them which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. —ACTS:20-28

Vision of Our Vestry



Historic stained glass window.

The primary goal of the Vestry of St. Matthew's is to support the church in its mission— "Seeking to nurture the power of Christ in and through its members, to encourage the recognition of the loving service of God in and through our homes, our community, the diocese, the nation, and the world." While we have endeavored to reach out to those in need in our parish, and our community, we may not have been as attentive with the stewardship of our buildings and grounds. The long-term dream is that St. Matthew's will be bursting at the seams and will have sacred spaces inside and out with many opportunities for people to experience God's presence.

If we are to realize this dream, we must begin to preserve and protect our 150-year-old worship space, maintain our parish house, and take an honest look at the physical building needs of our Community Clothing Center. Not only are we

looking for a rector with a strong sense of community involvement, we seek one who will love our historical building and the challenges that exist.

Currently, we have applied for the Sacred Spaces Grant to renovate and repair our stained-glass windows. We are hopeful that by God's Grace we will be selected to receive this grant. With or without the grant funding, we will have a major building project to complete. This is one example of the challenges, with respect to our facilities, that have been deferred and now need to be addressed.

In addition to providing financial support for this mission, the Vestry also provides spiritual leadership. Each Vestry member takes oversight of one or more of the areas of ministry. This doesn't necessarily mean that the Vestry members are in charge of these ministries. St. Matthew's encourages lay leadership supported by a strong and involved Vestry.

Our wish is to continue doing this with a rector that can help us balance our spiritual needs, the needs of our community, and the needs of our existing and future sacred spaces. †

Our vision is that you will join us, adding the vines of your life's work to the garden of our spiritual life at St. Matthew's – helping us grow stronger with the Holy Spirit that has woven itself through our congregation, around every heart that is open and welcoming to Jesus Christ our Lord. †