



Letter from the Rector

As we approach summertime (yes, even with recent snow on the surrounding peaks), I eagerly anticipate glimpsing your vacation and mountain weekend adventures through your Facebook and Instagram posts. I also hope to see you in worship, and I look forward to hearing of your adventures in person.



With this email update, we're streamlining our parish communications, transitioning from seasonal newsletters and weekly blasts to a consolidated *Weekly Evangel* via email and posted on the website. While St. Matt's will still issue special newsletters periodically, my hope is that you'll rely on the weekly Evangel as your primary source for updates on events, meetings, and special projects at our parish. If you prefer to receive updates by mail, please reach out to our parish administrator Desiree, and she'll ensure you receive regular copies of the weekly Evangel. We will also post event reminders on Facebook and Instagram, so please acknowledge our events with the appropriate ❤️ or 👍 so others you know will see our events (especially the summer concert series).

As we enter June and July, I encourage you to prioritize worship amidst the flurry of summer activities. These upcoming months will be bustling with various Christian formation opportunities on Sunday mornings including clergy coffee hour and inquirer classes, along with Vacation Bible/Church School for the kids during the last week of June (volunteers needed!). Additionally, don't forget about our Wednesday services at 12:15 pm, offering a brief, tranquil worship experience midweek for those in need.

Our diocesan summer camp at Cathedral Ridge will see a significant turnout from youth from St. Matt's. Additionally, Becky Vroman, Deacon Jamie, and I are all contributing to the camp staff throughout the summer season. Plus, we're proud to have Johna Galbasini joining Cathedral Ridge as a Counselor in Training (CIT).

Mark your calendars for the Summer Concert Series on Sunday evenings in July. We're finalizing the schedule, with several fantastic bands and food trucks lined up, including our very own music director's band, Katie and the Players, and the Wren's food truck Sitto's. It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends and extend invitations to those who haven't visited in a while. Consider carpooling with neighbors or lending a hand to those who may need assistance getting here. Bring along snacks, drinks, pets, children, grandparents, and anyone else for an enjoyable evening of music and fellowship.

Wishing you a great summer and Christ's peace,

Fr. Steve+

Congratulations St. Matthew's Graduates!



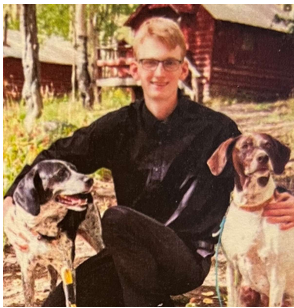
On June 1, **Anna Claire Hood** will be donning her cap and gown to graduate from GOAL High School. This summer, she's set to embark on a journey as summer staff at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Looking ahead, she has her sights set on attending Colorado Mesa Tech in the fall, with aspirations to enroll at Fort Lewis College or another state college or university the subsequent year. Her ultimate goal? To pursue a career as an archivist.



Cade Bickham will be graduating from Texas A&M University with a sport management degree on May 11th. He will continue his studies at Texas A&M this fall in a sport management master's degree program.



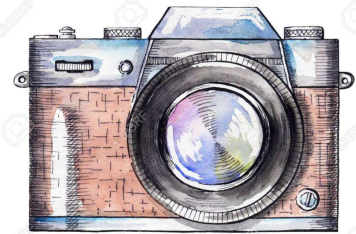
Owen Bickham will be graduating from Palisade High School on May 13th. He will be attending The University of California, Davis this fall, majoring in environmental science.



Oliver Plank will be graduating from Fruita High School. He will be attending CMU with the ASCENT program for 1 year and transferring to the School of Mines the year after.

Church Directory Photos

New directory photos will be taken **May 12th & May 19th after the 8:00 am service and again after the 10:00 am service.** If you would like to update, or to include your photo in the church directory, please see Carl Koizumi.



Clergy Coffee Hour Series

Prayer: A Personal Sharing

“Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). This request came from one of Jesus’ disciples. Over the years we who have been ordained have been asked a similar question in a more indirect way, but with an added assumption: “How do you pray? As clergy it must come easier to you, right? A part of the job description.” Join members of St. Matt's clergy as we take turns sharing the joys, struggles, challenges and insights of our personal prayer journeys at Clergy Coffee Hour. Grab a cup of coffee and join us. Everyone is welcome!

Clergy Coffee Hour will take a break on May 26th but will return on June 2nd. Watch for details!

Piecemakers

Piecemakers has been cancelled this month.

See you next month!



Aging with Grace

Join Lyn Fraser and Reenie Neal as they help us continue the conversation about aging issues and questions. These sessions will offer a supportive environment for sharing personal experiences and addressing significant challenges.

Whether you're seeking camaraderie or simply a listening ear, this group will provide a spiritual space for exploration and mutual support. No registration necessary, **Thursdays from May 30 through June 20, 9:30 am to 11:00 am**, at the church. For questions: Lynfraser7@gmail.com.

Confirmation Class AKA What it means to be an Episcopalian

These classes are for all who are interested in refreshing their memories or creating new ones of Episcopal history, practices, beliefs, and traditions. It is designed for those wishing to be confirmed, but appropriate for all who are interested in learning more about who we are, what we believe, and how we express our beliefs in the liturgy and sacraments. **The bishop will be at St. Matt's on August 3, 2024.** If you are interested in adult Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, or Reception into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Steve. **Classes begin on Sunday June 2nd and will meet from 11:30-1:00 on the following Sundays.** Confirmands are requested to attend the entire series, but others may choose to join in for any or all of the topics.

June 2 - Introduction: History

June 16 - How we approach God: Scripture, Tradition, and Reason
June 30 - Life in Community: Sacraments and Liturgy
July 14 - Christian Formation: Prayer, Study, and Service
July 28 - Organization, Orders of Ministry, and the Bishop's visit.

Outreach News

The Outreach Team is conducting a drive until June 2nd for the Laurel House, which is a trauma-informed supportive housing apartment for youth ages 18 - 24 who have experienced homelessness. Each of the 34 apartments is furnished and has a small kitchen and single bathroom. The residents need help stocking their apartments with household items. You will find requested items below. New or used (in good condition and working order) items will be accepted, so if during your spring cleaning, you run across things you no longer need and would like to donate, please place them in the bins in the gathering space. If you need help transporting donations to the church, call Gretchen Davis at 970-773-3017 for pick up. Thank you!



List of apartment needs:

The beds are doubles: sheets, blankets, throws, comforters
Towels: bath, kitchen, hot pads, dish cloths
Cooking needs:
Bowls, pans, spatulas, spoons, knives, etc.
Cookie sheets, muffin and pie pans
Blender
Toaster
Coffee maker
Humidifier
Crockpot
Dishes, any pieces
Silverware, any number
Broom, mop, waste basket

These items do not need to be new, but useable.

List of personal items for residents:

Dish and laundry soap, hand soap

Cleaning supplies: disinfectant, toilet bowl cleaner, floor cleaner, window cleaner, powdered cleanser.

Shampoo, any items for hair or beauty (saved lotions from hotels etc., or gifts from makeup purchases)

Personal hygiene

Paper towels

Tissue

Toilet paper



Mark your calendars!

Time to register for VBS! June 24-28. [Register here](#) or on our website under the Connect tab.

We are looking for volunteers to lead, feed, and share the love of God with our VBS kids. Please see Becky if you are interested in helping kids discover that they're made by God and built for a purpose.

Items needed for VBS:

Large empty metal food cans (gallon or bigger)

Extra house paint- brown, blue, yellow, green, purple

Old box fan

Coming this fall: Youth Group Yard Sale! See Becky for details.

Altar Flowers - If you would like to donate altar flowers in honor of someone or a special occasion, please call the church office at (970) 242-3293 or email stmattsgj@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet at the back of the gathering space. The cost is \$55.





Prayer Chain Support is Available - If you find yourself struggling, facing difficult challenges, or know of someone in need, St. Matt's prayer chain members want to help. Contact Margaret Palo at margpalo31@gmail.com or (970) 243-2467, Deb McLaughlin at bildeb@bresnan.net or (970) 243-7265 or Merrilyn Simpkins at merrilyn41@gmail.com or (970) 464-5446.

Electronic Offering: Please consider supporting the work of the church. You may make an online gift, or learn about the other ways to give, by visiting the St. Matthew's website at stmatthewsgj.org and choosing "Giving" on the toolbar menu. Gifts to St. Matthew's can also be made by scanning the QR Code. Thank you for your generous support of our collective work!



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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(970) 242-3293

stmattsgj@gmail.com

stmatthewsgj.org

Front Desk Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - noon

Finance Office

by appointment only
stmattsfinance@gmail.com
