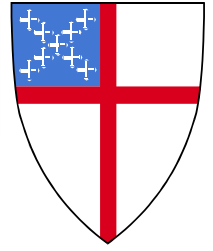


*Saint*  
**Matthew's**  
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

## January 2016

### FROM THE MUSIC MINISTER KEVIN FLETCHER



“Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.” Psalms 98:1

If I've been blessed to have an extended conversation with you, I've probably asked if you sing. You might be surprised to know that I always expect everyone to say yes. Unfortunately, that is not the response I receive. More times than not, people list all the reasons they can't sing. If we've talked, you know that I believe anyone can sing unless a horse has stepped on his throat. It's true!

Granted, everyone doesn't sound like an opera, Broadway, or pop star, but reality is anyone can sustain a pitch, which is all it takes to sing. So, again, I ask the question, “Do you sing?” Now that we agree that you are a singer, I'd like to talk about the importance of singing in church.

From beginning to end, the Bible is full of music and song. The first musician, Jubal, appears as early as Genesis 4:21 where he is called “the father of all [musicians].” Further reading finds others who follow in Jubal's musical footsteps. Moses sang a song of praise after the Exodus; Deborah sang after the victory of Sisera; King David wrote Psalms; Jesus sang to his disciples; Paul sang a hymn of praise to God when he was in jail; and the book of Revelations tell us that there is lots of singing in heaven as the choirs praise God. In Ephesians 5 we are told that one of the fruits of being filled with the Spirit is singing, and in Zephaniah we realize that even God sings. So, we come together to worship a God who sings and this same God wants us to be like him; therefore, we should sing.

My prayer for Saint Matthews is that we become a singing community. As we work together to achieve this goal, you may notice a few changes. We have been blessed to have wonderful singers in our midst. The choir is filled with the voices of angels, and so is the congregation. Maintaining the high quality and intimacy that exists in the choir, we are striving to grow to, at least, five voices on each part. For those who may not want to commit to weekly rehearsals, there will be an opportunity to participate in a volunteer choir that will sing throughout the year. Additionally, Tracy and I will be working together to develop a children's/youth choir in the new year. For those of you who wish to sing in the congregation, I have heard your requests; therefore, you can expect to hear many familiar hymns during the 11:00 a.m. service.

As we move forward in our music ministry, may we recall the 3 P's achieved by our singing in church: Praise, Prayer, Proclaim!

Blessings,  
Kevin

### Celtic Winter Concert

Join us for the first of our 2016 concert series on January 31st at 3:30pm

A Celtic Winter will feature "Children of the Rainbow," a group of young violinists from the Sterling area. They will be accompanied by various adults on other wind instruments. Come enjoy an afternoon of Celtic music in the midst of our very own Saint Matthew's. The concert is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Kevin Fletcher at [kevin@stmtts.org](mailto:kevin@stmtts.org)

# Children's Ministry Update

Tracey Kelly



When I joined the St. Matthew's staff as the Children's Minister in June, 2014, it was a totally new experience for me. I was, however, very excited for the opportunity. We've done amazing things here over the past year and a half. I'm especially proud of how Faith Factory has developed and grown into such a wonderful place for our kids to learn and pray. Thank you to everyone for your support and enthusiasm.

Due to my husband's work, my family has never had the luxury of staying in one place for too long. So after 16 years together and seven moves, this summer will bring yet another transition for my family. We'll be moving to Nassau, The Bahamas for my husband's new position. Pete, Sofia, Elle and I are looking forward to another adventure, but are sad to leave home behind.

Saying goodbye is never an easy thing. That's why I don't do it. "See you later" works much better, especially when roots are so firmly planted. In the four years we've lived here, we've sent our children to school, made wonderful friends, found a church home, and I've found a great job here at St. Matt's.

My hope for Saint Matthew's Faith Factory is that it continues to thrive and that all of the wonderful children here continue to grow in God's Love. I plan to spend my remaining months here at Saint Matthew's helping to ensure this happens. We don't have an official move date, but it will likely be mid-summer.

Becoming part of the St. Matt's community has been a life changing experience for me; I've learned and grown so much more than I ever imagined. Thank you for letting me be a part of this beautiful family and for welcoming me into your church home.

My hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts was also Jack Kerouac's old stomping ground. So as we move on to our next adventure I thought I'd share some of his words with you. Simply, "Live, travel, adventure, bless, and don't be sorry."

## Episcobowl—January 10, 2016

Join us for the next installment of St. Matthew's ongoing Kids vs. Adults sporting extravaganza: **The Episcobowl!** Mark your calendars, our fourth rematch will be on the 10th of January. Competition will be lively, and as always, the loser will suffer some detrimental consequences. Will Rob have to wear another wig? Will Trevor's beard end up another crazy color? Join us on the 10th to find out!



## Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 24th at 12:15pm

Mark your calendar for the Saint Matthew's Annual Business Meeting. We will discuss our successes from 2015 and talk about our plans for 2016. We will also vote for new Vestry members. A light lunch will be served. All are welcome.