

# THE TAU CROSS

## Preserving Our Precious Legacy

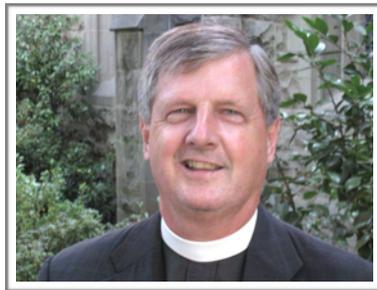
### Launching a Major Gifts Campaign

Our church has a certain feel to it, a dignified edifice steeped in history. The sanctuary is a stunning combination of form and function, invested in long ago, to meet the needs of the congregation. With its lofty ceilings, spacious seating area, stunning stained glass windows, and other physical aspects you have come to love, it is a gem that we collectively cherish. It is one that we fill with beautiful music from our historic organ and corresponding bell tower.

Our sanctuary is a precious legacy that we need to preserve, from time to time, with major investments. As you may recall, there are two types of fundraising activities that go beyond annual stewardship: Capital Campaigns and Major Gifts Campaigns. Typically a Capital Campaign is for large expansion projects or new buildings, like St. Matthew's Hall. Major Gifts Campaigns are used for significant maintenance

and upgrades to the existing physical plant.

We are pleased to announce a Major Gifts Campaign for 2019 to focus on two aspects of our physical plant: our stained glass windows and our musical instruments. We need to protect and restore our beautiful stained glass windows and upgrade and replace some failing systems in our organ and bell tower.



Twenty stained glass windows enhance the gothic interior of our church. From our spectacular nativity window of the western church wall to the seldom visited Alpha & Omega window, which is hidden behind the Howard Memorial, the collective valuation of our stained glass exceeds one million dollars. Studios in London, New York, and Philadelphia supplied the majority of our stained glass with a local firm in San Francisco providing several of the more recent windows.

This past summer, it was shocking to discover that an act of vandalism involving four rocks could cause damage that cost

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over \$50,000 to repair. Given the extraordinary beauty and the value of our windows, we are moving forward with a project to provide protection for all of our stained glass. The cost to protect all of our windows will be slightly more than double the expense of the repair work just completed. Our investment in protection will ensure that the exquisite beauty of our windows will continue to evoke responses of awe and wonder from future generations of St. Matthew's worshippers.

Our parish has been blessed with two remarkable instruments to enhance our services, an Aeolian-Skinner Organ and our Taylor Carillon Bells. The organ was installed in 1937, four years after a similar but larger organ was installed at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Aeolian-Skinner was the preeminent organ builder in the U.S. for much of the 20th century, installing its organs in many major churches and concert halls. The Carillon

Bell Tower was installed in 1963 with bells cast in Loughborough, England by the world-renowned Taylor Bells Foundry.

Until the advent of the electrical telephone switch, organs were considered the paramount engineering feat of humanity because of the intricacy of the design. Part of the complexity came from the ability to map the keyboards (manuals for the hands and pedalboards for the feet) to the variety of instrumental pipes. These pipes are grouped together by stops, named for the instrument most similar to the sound the pipes generate. Over the years, systems were designed to facilitate the rapid transition between combinations of keyboards and stops. Originally these systems were mechanical. Now they are electrical to facilitate transitions between literally thousands of combinations, and are called combination actions. During a given organ piece, whether solo or with a choir, the organist will typically make multiple changes to these combinations to produce the exact sound appropriate to that portion of the music.

While our organ has regular maintenance and tuning serviced by Swain and Kates, a local and very capable organ company, some systems in the organ need replacement to ensure that we can continue to benefit from it

during our services. Our combination action needs replacing, and we will likely gain some functionality as the technology has improved dramatically over the last few decades. Similarly, our English Horn stop needs a major overhaul, and we want to add a Festal Brass stop which will be a very welcome addition, particularly to feast day services. If funds permit, we would also like to replace the ornamental pipes that were damaged over the decades and, while only decorative, are the most visible portion of the organ beyond the console.

Our Carillon Bell Tower, situated on the Baldwin side of the sanctuary, is also in need of repair. A Carillon Bell Tower usually consists of between two and five chromatic octaves of bells (23-61 actual bells). In contrast to a bell tower that requires the manual ringing of bells, a carillon tower has a collection of electrical connections that allow the bells to be played via a keyboard. In our case, that keyboard is located to the left of the main organ console to aid use during services. This set of electrical connections, similar to the organ combination action, is in need of replacement. Again the technology has improved over the decades and we will likely pick up some new functionality,

including the ability to practice without deafening the neighborhood.

The goal of this Major Gifts Campaign is for our congregation to raise \$300,000 before Easter Sunday. The cost to protect and preserve our Stained Glass windows will amount to almost \$110,000. The total cost for the organ and Carillon Bell work is estimated at \$185,000. If we were to replace the ornamental pipes, that would be an additional \$63,000, taking us to a “reach” target of \$360,000, which is less than our typical annual stewardship and within the bounds of what we can accomplish.

In the weeks ahead, more information about the Major Gifts Campaign will be forthcoming, with details about how you can contribute. Many gifts, large and small, will be required to reach our goal. All contributions will be gratefully received. We know that with your help, we can protect, preserve, and upgrade these key elements of the fabric of our common worship. We look forward to your participation!

Faithfully,

*Fr. Eric+, Tim Catlin, John Stephenson*

*Gifts Campaign Leadership Team*

## Come, Let's Eat Together

One of the ways we experience community is by eating together. Since joining St. Matthew's in September of 2018, I have joined in over a dozen dinners, luncheons, potlucks, and banquets. My family and I have been well nourished with good food and growing connections! Food, and how we get together to share it, is such an integral part of the life-giving culture of faith communities and families that in its absence, our people experience not only a physical hunger but, a genuine spiritual emptiness.

As a youth, when my friends came over, they undoubtedly noticed one thing: the food. Something was always cooking, and plenty of it. Because hospitality was a value that ran deep in my family, if friends visited, they could not leave without being offered something to eat. On the family dinner menu were Filipino-American dishes such as *pancit* (a noodle dish), *adobo* (a chicken or pork dish with vinegar and soy sauce), fried fish, spaghetti with sliced hot dogs, BBQ chicken, short ribs, roast pork with rice, or vegetarian dishes containing bitter melon, eggplant, broccoli,

or mung beans. The taste of savory, sweet, and sour in Filipino-American cooking reflects a mix of indigenous



goodness and global fusion based on history and tradition. It is labor-intensive. But it is also a labor of love that gathered my family to the table. Food has a way of connecting us and inviting a generous spirit. At home there was always that familiar invitation, **“come, let's eat together.”**

There is a saying, “the family that eats together, stays together.” *U.S. News* reported in 2004 that various studies found a correlation among family meals, family connectedness, and the wellness of individuals in that family.<sup>1</sup> When compared to 20 years ago, we find many families spending less time together. In his research for the 1995 book *Bowling Alone*, Robert

Putnam observed a decline in family dinners, despite the fact that most families reported placing a high value on family meals. A more recent study by the University of Minnesota looked at teen behavior and found a strong link between regular family meals and positive outcomes such as academic success, social adjustment, lower rates of drug and alcohol use, and resiliency.<sup>2</sup>

The best study is self-evaluation at home. How many times do your family meals consist of fast food eaten in the car between activities or in front of the TV? Is the computer or the cell phone finding its way to the dinner table at mealtime? If so, you are not alone. I get caught in it too. With our on-the-go lifestyles, it can feel like we are always catching up. In an era of amazing, time-saving devices – smart phones, online social networks, and text messages - we are connected by technology and disconnected in our flesh and blood presence to one another. So why write an article about eating together? Simply put, eating together builds relational equity and connection. It creates

<sup>1</sup> Clara S. L. Brenner. “Family mealtime - The family that eats together stays together.” US News and World Report. October 27, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Marla E. Eisenberg, et al. "Correlations Between Family Meals and Psychosocial Well-being Among Adolescents." Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. August 2004, Vol. 158, pp. 792-796

conduits that makes love possible in a world that needs love.

There is a biblical principal that we often overlook. Take a look at the Gospels; when Jesus was not praying, healing, or teaching, he was eating with people – friends, family, and enemies, too. Jesus cultivated relational equity and connection because he took time to share a meal with someone hungry for nourishment. Food has a way of communicating goodness to us in body, mind, and spirit that goes beyond words. It is the very reason we celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist, Holy Communion. This soul food was given to nourish and connect us to what matters most and to be in relationship with God, our neighbors, all creation, and ourselves. The same principle goes for any time we gather around a table to share a meal. Food tastes better when it is shared.

Come, let's eat together.

-Fr. Jay+

## Hospitality Committee News

This year's hospitality committee co-chairs are Darlia Clerico and Jeri Blatt. Many thanks to Ildiko Gabor and Darlia for their service as chairs in 2018. We are looking forward to great fun and new ideas in 2019.



Photo by Mike McCall

## St. Catherine's News

A loving thank you to Elizabeth Weatherby, outgoing president of St. Catherine's, for a year of dedication, creative ideas, and tons of fun. We welcome our incoming president, Cathy Johnson. We wish you a year of success and joy.

With love,  
The Ladies of St. Catherine



Photo by Darlin Clerico

## Sunday Coffee Hour

The rotation for bringing treats to coffee hour after the Sunday service is as follows:

February 3:	A-D
February 10:	E-J
February 17:	K-P
February 24:	Q-S

We ask you to please place the food you are bringing on the table in Julia Beylard Hall. Thank you!

## Women's Spirituality Group

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a women's spirituality group. We meet every week throughout the year at Charles House on Mondays at 9:15 am. This is a small group opportunity to reflect on scripture, God's presence in our lives and the challenges of discipleship, and engage in prayer. For more information, please contact Victoria Wolcott or Ginger Fortmiller via the church office.

## Milestones

### In Memoriam

#### Tom Churchill, October 29, 2018

Tom began attending church at St. Matthew's as a boy with his parents Patricia and Eugene. He was an active parishioner for many decades. Tom was a talented musician; on a regular basis he had his keyboard brought in and graced First Friday dinner guests at St. Matthew's with his beautiful music. He passed away at age 71 and is survived by his sister and niece.

#### Jane Edsell, December 26, 2018

Jane was an active and supportive parishioner at St. Matthew's for many decades. She passed away peacefully at age 89. Jane is predeceased by her husband George and daughter Camilla. She is survived by her daughter Lindsay and many nieces and nephews. Her memorial service took place at St. Matthew's on January 19, 2019.

### Taizé Candlelight Service

*Tuesday, February 5th at 7:00 pm*



Everyone is invited to attend this ecumenical service characterized by meditative silence, repetitive songs, scripture and prayer. Taizé is the first Tuesday of every month (year around) in the side chapel. Please mark your calendar for your next Taizé service on March 5th.



### Second Harvest Food Bank

When you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few extra canned goods or other non-perishable items. You can leave your food donations either in the basket at the back of the church or at the church office. These donations will be placed in a Second Harvest collection barrel for pick-up.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness, and thank you for your donations.

### Want to Receive the St. Matthew's Newsletter by Email?

The Tau Cross is the church's monthly newsletter. Get the latest news on upcoming events, feature articles about ministries, parishioner profiles, and important messages from our clergy. Paper copies are available in the back of the church. To receive it hot off the virtual presses, sign up to receive yours by email by emailing editor Beth von Emster at [beth.vonemster@gmail.com](mailto:beth.vonemster@gmail.com).

## Angelic Faces: Claire Fry

Claire was born on Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. Her father's occupation as a Foreign Service Officer gave Claire the opportunity to live in exciting places such as Belgrade, London, Ottawa, and the Washington D.C. area. She learned quickly to make new friends everywhere she went. Claire graduated from Wellesley College and worked in the Boston area as an actor.

Claire and her husband Tom first visited St. Matthews in 2012. Together they are raising three delightful children: Tommy, Amelia, and Joshua. You cannot miss them on Sunday; just look for a happy mom and her three jubilant children skipping through the parking lot to get to Sunday School on time. Claire says, "St. Matthew's is the church where I first began to truly identify as a Christian, not just because it is the faith in which I was raised but because I choose it as the way in which I try to live my life."



Claire continually strives to make things better through her numerous church commitments. She uses her many talents to take on projects with gusto, enthusiasm, and an end goal in sight. Claire serves on the vestry as Junior Warden. She has served on the hospitality committee, plays in the bell choir, is founder of the Fellowship Parents Group, and created the Easter basket fundraiser. She also is a lay reader, and parishioners enjoy listening to her melodic voice on any given Sunday that she does the readings. Last year Claire organized our very first Family Fun Fest that coincided nicely with the Feast of St. Matthew, an event that attracted over a dozen new families to visit our church for the first time. When Claire puts her mind to anything, she gets it done, with a smile on her face and a loving heart. She deeply cares about her church family.

*With gratitude and God's blessings,  
Darlia Clerico*

*If you have an idea for a parishioner to be profiled in this*

### FELLOWSHIP PARENTS GROUP

Our group has a mission to support and grow in faith the families of the church and Day School communities. We will get together on **Friday, February 8th** for an informal **Family Potluck** at Julia Beylard Hall from 6:00-7:30 pm. All are welcome! Our next discussion group meeting will be in the church library from **9:00 - 10:00 am on Sunday, February 10th**, childcare provided. If you are not on the mailing list and want to get in on the fellowship fun, please contact Claire Fry at [claire@loudandclaire.com](mailto:claire@loudandclaire.com) or 617-416-2641.

**See You Soon!**

## Christmas at St. Matthew's

The Altar Guild demonstrated their phenomenal talents as they adorned the church with lovely decorations for Christmas. Many thanks to the Altar Guild members who lent their time and skill to making our church even more beautiful. Photos by Darlia Clerico



*Hinds Family*



*High altar*



*Window box*



*Side altar*



*Pulpit*

# amazon smile

A simple way to help bridge our church budget is by making the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew your donation recipient through AmazonSmile. A way to make sure your intended donation goes to our church is with Smilematic. Smilematic is a free Safari extension that will automatically turn your everyday Amazon purchases into AmazonSmile donations. You'll never again miss an opportunity to raise money for our church. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

- Ildiko Gabor, 650-678-9143



*(L-R) Music Director/  
Organist Philip Keil and  
Children's/Youth Choir  
Director Hyun Suk (Suki)  
Jang*

# THE TAU CROSS

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew is  
a family called by Christ . . .

to Live God's Love,

to Share the Gospel,

to Grow Spiritually.

**Come Celebrate with Us!**

Sunday Services at 8:00 am & 10:15 am

The Tau Cross is the monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew. We welcome submissions that have a connection to the parish. Inclusion is at the discretion of the staff and may be edited for space or clarity. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month and may be sent by email to Beth von Emster at [beth.vonemster@gmail.com](mailto:beth.vonemster@gmail.com). Entries should follow these guidelines: Include title of event or article; 200 word maximum description including when, where, cost and contact information as applicable. Avoid abbreviations and other "insider" lingo. Further guidelines and tips available upon request. Tau Cross Staff: Editor, Beth von Emster; Associate Editor, Cherie Hammer; Layout & Design, Ming Lacey

## Upcoming Events

February 5	Taizé Service
February 8	Family Potluck
February 10	Fellowship Parents Group Celebrate Sunday
February 12	Laundry Love

*Or Current Resident*

*The Rev. Dr. Eric Kimball Hinds, Rector  
The Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Amber Stancliffe Evans, School Chaplain*

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