



St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Parish Profile

2012

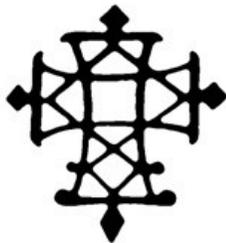


Clermont, Florida

ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

574 WEST MONTROSE STREET • CLERMONT, FLORIDA 34711

352.394.3855



June 2012

From the Senior Warden:

Thank you for your interest in St. Matthias Episcopal Church and for taking the time to read our Parish Profile.

We have a beautiful church facility and a congregation to match. We are a “program sized” parish, and as you read the pages within you will discover the dedication of our members. We are committed to spread God’s kingdom and to grow St. Matthias both in numbers and the love of the Lord and His people.

We seek a shepherd who will guide, empower, and share our journey. We seek a friend and a pastor. We seek a teacher and a visionary. We seek someone to walk with us and, at the same time, to lead us in our walk. We seek someone to enrich our ministry, and we in turn desire to enrich our leader. If this is your desire, you will find loving support here.

We hope that you will prayerfully approach your consideration of St. Matthias as a place of ministry for you. If you are the person God has chosen for us, we have been praying for you.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kay Predmore". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Mary Kay Predmore
Senior Warden

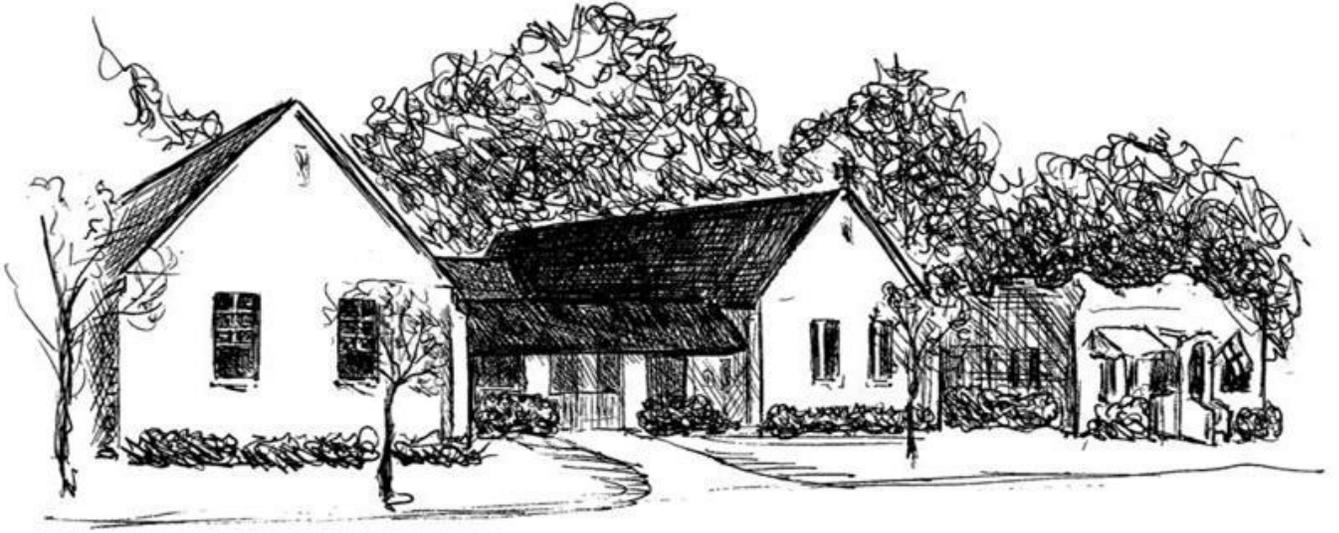


TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
INTRODUCTION	1
STAFF, VESTRY, AND SEARCH COMMITTEE	2
HISTORY OF ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH	3
PARISH LIFE	4
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	6
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	8
OUR COMMUNITY	9
PARISH SURVEY RESULTS	11

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Parish Profile of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Clermont, Florida, is to provide an overview of the parish and the community in which it is located. The mission of St. Matthias adopted by the Vestry is to proclaim, embody, and extend the love of Jesus Christ to the world. The diverse ministries of the parish provide support for parishioners as well as outreach to the local community, Central Florida, and regions beyond our geographical area. The parish and its parishioners offer their time, talents, and treasures to minister to those in financial and spiritual need wherever they may be found. The unifying goal of our ministries is to follow the example provided to us by Jesus Christ.

The parish profile contains an overview of our parish, details about our parish life, information on our community outreach, parish financial information for recent years, a description of our community, and highlights from our parish survey. We hope that readers of this document will gain an appreciation of the ministries of the parishioners of St. Matthias and our commitment to demonstrate our faith through our service to others. We desire specifically that the priest who is being called to serve as the next Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church will be informed and attracted to us by the story of our church's history and current status.



STAFF, VESTRY, and SEARCH COMMITTEE

Priest-in-Charge

Father William J. Boyer was appointed to serve as the Priest-in-Charge at St. Matthias Episcopal Church by the Bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida after the previous Rector announced his resignation to relocate to another Diocese. Father Boyer is retired and had been serving as a non-stipendiary assistant prior to his appointment as Priest-in-Charge at St. Matthias.

Organist/Choirmaster

Hugh Dial, Jr., a very talented organist, has served ably as the Organist and Choirmaster for St. Matthias Episcopal Church for the last several years. He serves as the Organist and Choirmaster for the latter two services of the three services on Sunday mornings as well as special occasions requiring an Organist, such as funerals and weddings. He also works with the Sunday School children to prepare special music presentations.

Parish Administrator

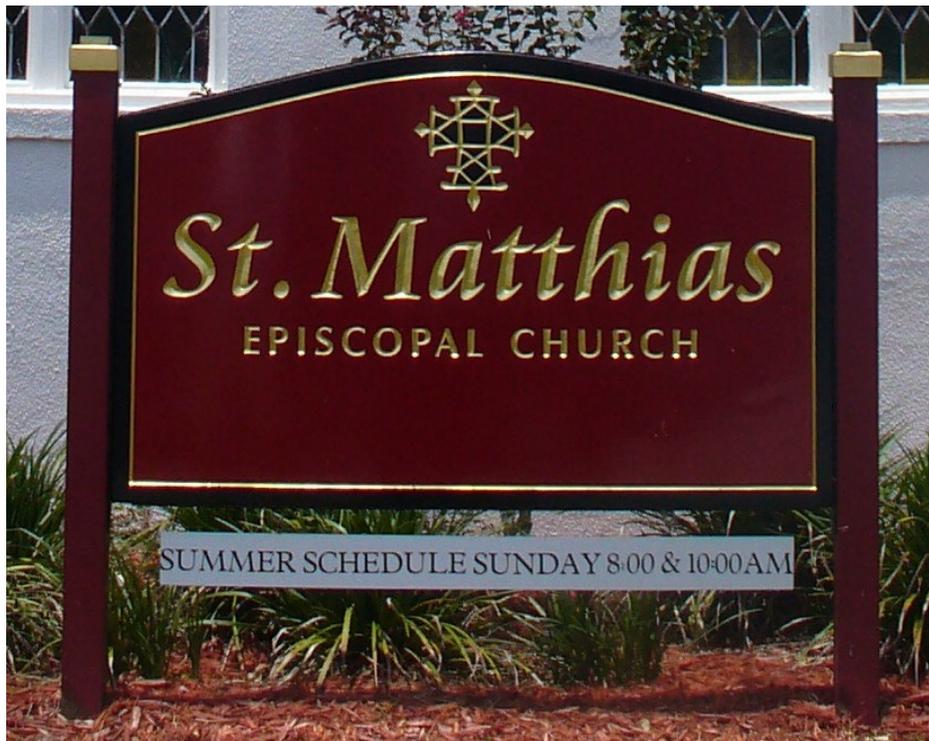
Hope Blume, a parishioner at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, serves as the Parish Administrator for the church. She handles a multitude of duties that include office operations, preparation of service bulletins and monthly Missioner newsletter, maintenance of a schedule of facilities utilization, and support for many ministries of the parish. She is an invaluable staff member who monitors many activities of the parish and responds readily to the needs of the parish's ministry groups as well as individual parishioners.

Vestry

Mary Kay Predmore, Senior Warden
Jeff Engel, Junior Warden
Sylvia Sinns, Secretary
Harry Bowman, Treasurer
Steve Coole
Buddy Forehand
Sandi Henck
Theresa Knight
Larry Lock
Vera Wilson

Search Committee

Harry Bowman, Chair
Steve Coole
Veronica Evans
Peggy Hope
Theresa Knight
Mike Meeker
Gene Ruryk

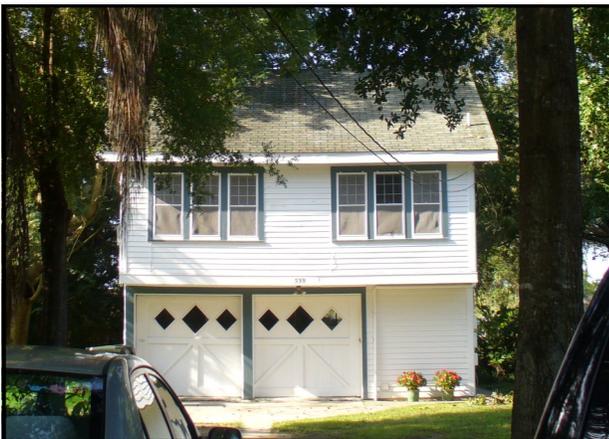


HISTORY OF ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Significant milestones in the history of St. Matthias Episcopal Church are the following:

- 1943 - Services first held in Clermont, conducted by a priest from a nearby town
- 1944 - Congregation designated as a mission
- 1947 - Sanctuary and sacristy built on Montrose Street - the current location
- 1949 - Congregation incorporated as St. Matthias Church
- 1961 - Mission became a parish
- 1986 - Five acres of land on south side of the city purchased for a possible future church site
- 1998 - St. Matthias secured a residence, “the Little House”, to the east of the church
- 2000 - Church enlarged by adding east transept, nearly doubling seating capacity
- 2001 - House east of the Little House purchased and demolished to provide a parking lot
- 2004 - House on Minneola Avenue purchased and used as a rental property

Since 2004, St. Matthias has worked on improving existing facilities to include buildings and grounds. Both the rental house and garage apartment have been renovated. The garage apartment which was formerly a rental property has been recently designated to serve as the youth group’s meeting place. Much of the progress that we have experienced under our recent Rector, Father James Lively, has occurred as a result of the empowerment of the laity. Under the leadership of the Vestry and Father Lively, we have created several new ministries and expanded others. In October 2011, St. Matthias hosted a Faith Alive Weekend. A renewed excitement was kindled in our hearts regarding God’s plans for us. This new direction is making itself known through our worship and a deeper relationship with God. We are looking for someone who can help us continue on this journey and expand our ministries at St. Matthias.



PARISH LIFE

Our parish life is vibrant and alive, offering many avenues for service, growth, and participation.



- Three Sunday morning services are offered: 7:45 a.m. (Rite I without choir) followed by an adult forum, 9:30 a.m. (Rite II with choir) followed by brunch, and 11:15 a.m. (contemporary with praise music).
- Acolytes, Lectors, Lay Eucharist Ministers, the Choir, and the Altar Guild enhance and enrich our worship services.
- The music ministry and choir have been led ably for several years by Hugh Dial, Jr. Hugh also works with our children by teaching them to praise God and to make a joyful noise when they occasionally sing at the 9:30 a.m. service.



- Greeters and Ushers help make all feel welcome and assist in various ways during the services.
- The Daughters of the King members are dedicated to prayer for special needs of parishioners, their family members, their friends, and the church.
- Sunday School is held in the Little House led by dedicated teachers with a nursery provided for infants during the 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services.
- Faith Weavers, our Youth Group, meets in a church-owned garage apartment adjacent to the church site with a focus on faith, fellowship, fun, and community service.



- The Reception Guild, with the help of many parishioners, organizes receptions for special events and funerals.
- The buildings and grounds, including the Memorial Garden, are kept beautiful by many dedicated volunteers.
- The Men's Prayer Breakfast offers the men of the parish an opportunity for fellowship and prayer each month.



- The Mary Jane Sales Fellowship Group offers the women of the church fun and informative events to enjoy several times a year.
- The Women's Bible Study meetings on Wednesday mornings provide an encouraging and supportive environment for Bible study by women at St. Matthias.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study is led by the Rector during the school year.
- The Pastoral Care Team keeps in touch with the homebound, helps coordinate visits, and determines how we can best serve parishioners with special needs.



- The Feed My Sheep group coordinates meals to parishioners in time of crisis.
- The Thursday Book Club offers an opportunity to read and discuss several books during the year and enjoy the insights of others as well as fellowship through their meetings.
- First Friday Fun Night is an adult group meeting that is held each month to enjoy various board or card games and is totally dedicated to fun.

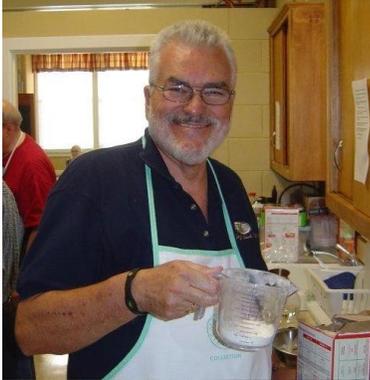
Parishioners host several special events each year. They include the following:



- Once a year we enjoy a Parish Picnic. In 2011, we held the Sunday Service in a pavilion overlooking Lake Minneola. A pot luck picnic followed with many wonderful dishes to sample.
- The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is always enjoyed and well attended.
- The Chili Cook-Off challenges those who enter to prepare chili for the competition using their favorite chili recipes. All enjoy the various chili dishes while honoring the competitors.



- The St. Nicholas Festival takes place on our church property during the Clermont Christmas Parade. Opportunities offered to visitors include informational tours of the church, pictures taken with St. Nicholas, arts and crafts activities, and free refreshments
- The International Pot Luck Dinner follows the Feast of the Epiphany Service.
- The Classy Closet and Attic Treasures Sale (a.k.a. rummage sale) helps raise money for various church-sponsored events and outreach.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The mission of St. Matthias Episcopal Church's outreach is to make Christ's presence known in the community and, in a broader sense, the world. Time, material, and financial and human resources are offered to minister to people outside our parish who are in need, both financially and spiritually. The unifying commitment is to follow Christ's example. Visible, vibrant outreach programs fulfill the mission and provide parishioners the opportunity to contribute time, talent, and resources to the greater Clermont community.

- **Community Outreach Committee**
The Outreach Committee identifies and coordinates programs and activities within the community.
- **FAITH Neighborhood Center**
Volunteers from St. Matthias work in all areas of the Center assisting those who need help with food, clothing, and miscellaneous household items. They also facilitate financial help with rent and utility payments as well as medical treatments. Under the direction of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), volunteers also aid applicants with online registration for food stamps, Medicaid, and other programs.
- **Brown Bag Sunday**
Brown Bag Sunday sponsors the collection of food on the first Sunday of each month to assist the neediest of our neighbors with their food requirements. Volunteer parish members deliver the collected items to the FAITH Neighborhood Center.
- **Thanksgiving Project**
Baskets containing a turkey and all the ingredients needed to cook a traditional Thanksgiving meal are provided to needy families in the community. Additionally, each family is offered an opportunity for comfort through prayer. Through the blessings of God, the work of the Community Outreach Committee, and the generosity of parishioners, the numbers of families fed has increased each year since this project was initiated a few years ago.
- **Christmas Giving**
New toys for needy children are collected at Christmas and distributed by the FAITH Neighborhood Center.
- **Mike Conley Hospice House**
Trained church members volunteer weekly for a variety of assignments at the Mike Conley Hospice House.
- **Outreach Strawberry Shortcake Fundraiser**
This event is a fundraiser to provide scholarships for youth to attend the summer camp hosted by the Boys and Girls Club of Clermont.



- **Orlando Work Release Center**

An annual fundraiser event is held to provide bus passes for women in the Orlando women's prison rehabilitation center. The women use the passes for travel to seek employment opportunities. Spiritual counseling and materials are also provided by a retired missionary who served in Africa many years and is a member of our congregation.

- **Stress Management**

Periodically, a series of classes are offered that focus on assisting participants to develop a stress management plan. Topics covered include stress education combined with stress management and relaxation techniques that enhance the quality of life.

- **Community Group Meetings**

Meeting space is made available for community groups and other organizations. Some of the groups meeting at St. Matthias include: Cornerstone Hospice, Toastmasters, Girl Scout Troop #9755, FAITH Neighborhood Center, and Christian Listeners - USA.

- **Military Care Package**

Care packages are provided to military personnel stationed overseas.

- **African Team Ministry**

St. Matthias supports this ministry by displaying and selling their crafts and jewelry. Through the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida, this multi-denominational ministry aids refugees by providing medical care and clean water through churches in East Africa.

- **Episcopal Relief and Development**

Funds are raised to support various projects and meet special needs identified by Episcopal Relief and Development.

- **Clermont Downtown Partnership**

The partnership supports activities and businesses in the downtown Clermont area where our church is located.

- **Missionary Work**

The parish provides some financial support for a parishioner who is a retired missionary and remains involved in missionary projects throughout various African nations.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

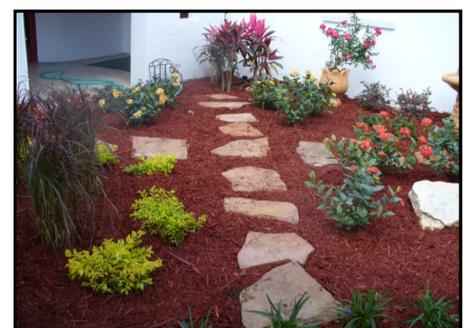
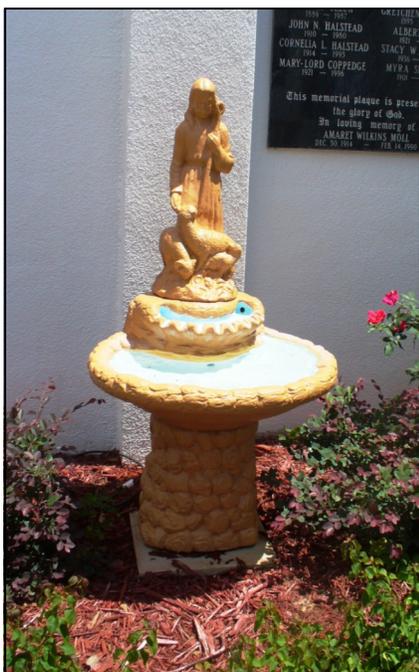
The 2012 budget for St. Matthias Episcopal Church is based on an expected total income of \$251,500 and total expenses of \$251,162. Approximately 85% of the income for 2012 is projected to come from pledges, plate offerings, and offerings for special church seasons (e.g. Easter and Christmas). Rental property, endowments, and other sources will account for the balance of the income. Pledges to underwrite the 2012 budget were made by about 100 parishioners and parish families.

Income and expenses for the previous five years were as follows:

Year	Income	Expenses	Surplus/(Deficit)
2011	\$ 239,502	\$ 234,876	\$ 4,626
2010	235,533	236,221	(688)
2009	204,892	218,612	(13,720)
2008	177,181	199,972	(22,791)
2007	212,915	205,955	6,960

The St. Matthias church site is comprised of the sanctuary with adjoining offices and parish hall, a former residence next door now used for Sunday School, and an adjacent empty lot used for parking. The church owns a house at the back of church site that generates rental income, owns about five acres of land on the south side of Clermont, and is the beneficiary of two endowments which generate about \$20,000 of income annually. The church also has about \$70,000 in three certificates of deposit designated for building, reserve, and memorial funds. All church property is owned outright with no mortgages or loans against the property.

Historically, the stewardship program at St. Matthias has utilized a relatively low key approach. In preparation for the 2011 budget year, a campaign was conducted to increase the total pledges to underwrite the budget. The stewardship program related to the budget could benefit from more emphasis and visibility in the years ahead.



OUR COMMUNITY



Clermont, founded in 1884 and incorporated in 1916, is the largest city in Lake County, Florida. South Lake County also includes the growing communities of Minneola, Groveland, Mascotte, Montverde, and the Four Corners area. Thirty years ago this was an agricultural community consisting primarily of citrus groves. One could drive for miles through the "hills" of South Lake County and see nothing but groves with Clermont's Citrus Tower rising above them. The Citrus Tower was a popular attraction with a breathtaking view of the many lakes and expanse of groves. It is one of the first constructed Florida landmarks and celebrated its 50th anniversary in December, 2006. After two devastating freezes in the early 1980s, Lake County with the second largest citrus acreage in the state at the beginning of 1983 is estimated to have lost approximately 90% of its commercial citrus trees. Following the expansion of the Turnpike/Expressway system, the community grew rapidly with a demographic shift from primarily retirees to a diverse population of young and old. The growth that everyone had been expecting since Walt Disney World first opened in 1971 finally gained momentum and orange groves were converted to subdivisions. The city is essentially residential in character; and its economy is now centered in retail trade, lodging, and food and beverage establishments with a tourism orientation. While the historic downtown district remains much as it was around 1960, the explosive growth from 2000-2010 attracted major retail stores and businesses to the area east of downtown.

Located just 22 miles west of Orlando, Clermont is attractive but not an attraction. It is nestled between Lake Minneola and Lake Minnehaha at the juncture of two major highways, US 27 and SR50. Its proximity to the Florida Turnpike System allows access in less than forty minutes to Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, Orlando sports venues, performing arts and cultural activities, and the Orlando International Airport.

The City of Clermont is located on a chain of 15 lakes connected by the Palatlahaha River. The Ocala National Forest is located to the north, the Green Swamp to the south, and the Withlacoochee Park system to the west border of Lake County. Hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and canoeing are readily accessible. Old railway right-of-ways are being converted to walking and riding trails with plans to eventually connect to the Florida Trail System. The South Lake-Lake Minneola Scenic Hiking and Bike Trail takes in some of central Florida's most spectacular views. Nowhere in this region will you find more hills, lakes, and wide-open vistas than along this seven mile paved trail. The Atlantic Ocean to Clermont's east and the Gulf of Mexico to its west can be reached in less than two hours.

Although Clermont has experienced rapid growth, it still has that "home town" feel. The Clermont Downtown Partnership, a group of business and property owners, encourages downtown activities and events. Each Sunday a Farmer's Market transforms downtown Clermont into the place to be while affording the opportunity to check out the shopping and dining opportunities.

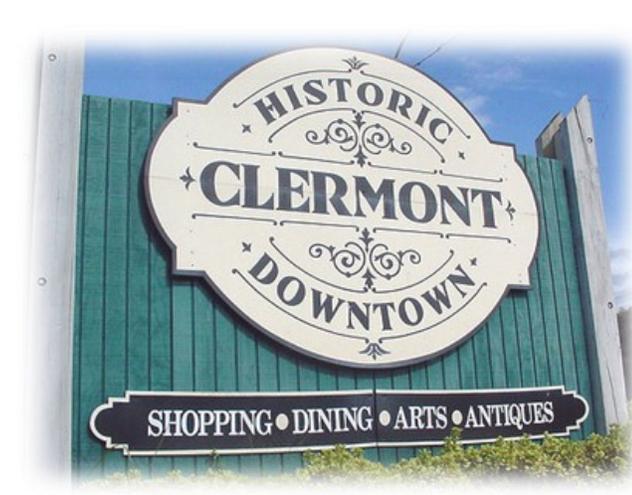


A Historic Village constructed through the cooperative efforts of the South Lake County Historical Society and the City of Clermont is nearby. The City of Clermont's Waterfront Park includes a new Waterfront Pavilion with meeting space and a stage. The Great Florida Triathlon is held here along with the annual "Pig-on-the-Pond" event, an official barbeque cooking competition. This three-day event features amusement rides, crafts, entertainment, and food vendors which include varieties of barbeque dishes. All these activities are within a short walking distance of St. Matthias.

Our school system, ranging from elementary through secondary and higher education is progressive and offers students comprehensive, high quality educational opportunities and resources. Lake County is home to Lake-Sumter State College which hosts satellite campuses for itself and the University of Central Florida in Clermont.

Healthcare is at its finest in our community and conveniently accessible. South Lake Hospital has served our healthcare needs since 1947. It is part of a multi-use campus with a strong emphasis on sports medicine, wellness, and education. The new hospital campus that opened in 2000 includes the National Training Center (NTC), a comprehensive community and elite athlete training facility. Over 25 athletes from 11 different countries are currently training at the NTC in preparation for the 2012 Olympics in London, England. Athletes training at the NTC already hold 14 gold medals. In partnership with Orlando Regional Healthcare System, this facility offers a multitude of services. Cornerstone Hospice, a non-profit organization, serves the South Lake area with a Hospice House on the hospital campus.

You cannot mention Central Florida without thinking of our largest employer - tourism. The theme park vacation capital of the world is located in Central Florida, and we are literally located in the middle of it. We have a wealth of opportunities available to us, and we are very pleased to call South Lake County our home.

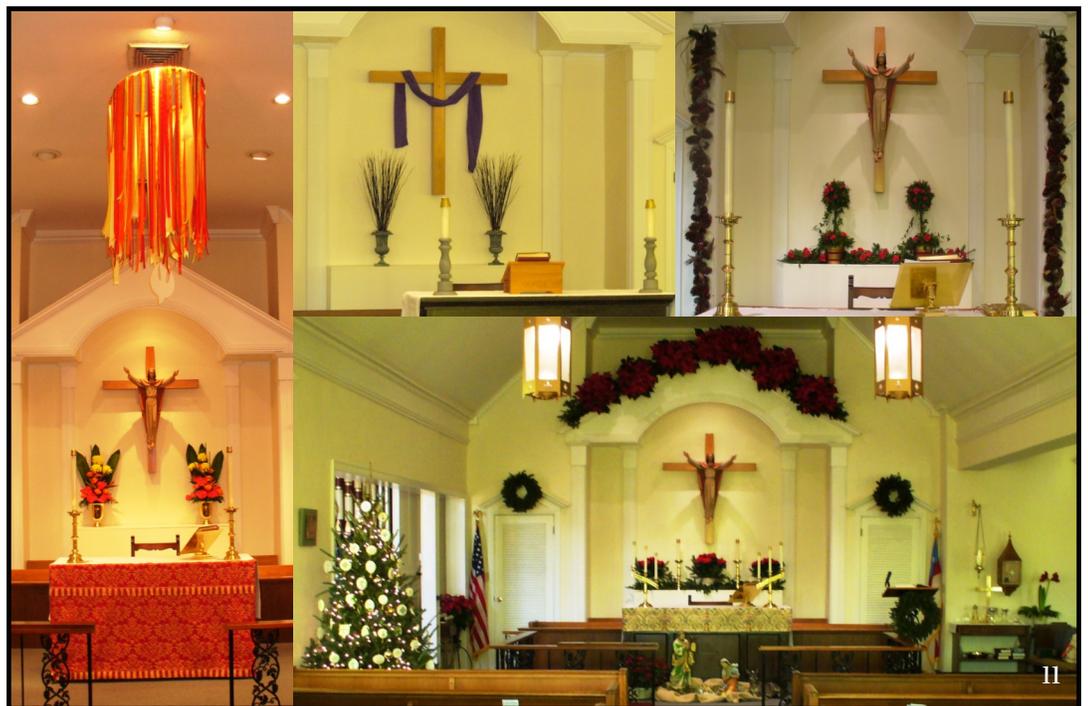


PARISH SURVEY RESULTS

We are grateful that Father Lively encouraged the laity to seek out new ways to serve God and our parish through lay ministries. We owe Father Jim many thanks for fostering this freedom to grow in our own directions. We are a predominately older congregation interested in following Episcopalian traditions. We are concerned about growth in membership, expansion of our youth program, and involvement of new members in the life of the parish. Though we have some members who have attended St. Matthias 10 years or more, most have attended for a shorter period of time. We like both Rite I and Rite II services and services with both traditional hymns and contemporary music. All of us are interested in the well-being of St. Matthias as our church home.

Based on the findings of our parish survey, the parishioners of St. Matthias expressed the following desires regarding the new Rector:

- **Spiritual Leader/Preacher/Teacher:** A Rector who is a spiritual guide with understanding of the biblical and historical revelations of God to the world as well as a commitment to follow Episcopalian traditions. We seek a Rector who nurtures spiritual growth and leadership among parishioners. We also seek a Rector who is both a preacher and spiritual guide to lead us to more joy in worship and Christian life.
- **Pastoral Ministry and Leadership:** A Rector who is available for home and hospital visitation. We seek a Rector who can counsel and help us to become more sensitive to the needs of the parishioners through lay pastoral care. We also seek a Rector who values visitation and availability of prayers for healing and special needs.
- **Administrator:** A Rector who is able to work harmoniously with the Vestry, the parish administrator, committee chairs, and the laity of the congregation. We seek a Rector who has administrative ability to manage the temporal affairs of the parish, to lead in developing resources for growth, and to facilitate long-range planning with support from lay members of the church.
- **Ecumenical Outreach:** A Rector who will, through God's help, create an atmosphere of love and caring that will draw anyone seeking God to worship with us. We seek a Rector who will be visible in our community and lead us in growth of membership through outreach in the community.







St. Matthias Episcopal Church

574 West Montrose Street
Clermont , Florida 34711
352.394.3855

saintmatthiasfl@gmail.com
www.stmatthiasfl.com