



Office: (973) 678-1217

Fax (973) 678-1293

Email: info@stmatthewame.org

Website: www.stmatthewame.org

Streaming at stmatthewame.org/streaming

YouTube - @stmatthew336

Facebook Live - @stmatthewamechurch

Sunday, November 9, 2025 | 22nd Sunday After Pentecost



The Rt. Rev. Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
Presiding Bishop, First Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. C. Carlton Woodward
Presiding Elder, Newark District

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson
Pastor/Teacher

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Donna Ho-Shing, Itinerant Elder

Rev. Dr. Crystal Newby-Reynolds, Itinerant Elder | Minister of Liturgical Arts & Youth

Rev. Tamoya Buckley-David, Itinerant Elder in Local Relations

Rev. Leslie Wilson, Minister to Women

Rev. Marian Sykes Johnson, Local Elder

Rev. Dr. Shirley Roberts, Local Elder

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For Tech/IT Support Before or During Worship, Dial (973) 678-1217, Press Option 8.

We can park at 280 S. Harrison Street with a parking permit from 8:30 am – 11:30 am.

The Nursery for parents and children is located at the rear of the sanctuary. Also, there is a Sensory Room (with a monitor to see worship) for parents and children on the autism spectrum or with special needs. See the Greeters' Ministry located at the front table for directions.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

8:45 am: Pre-Worship Music

Setting the atmosphere for worship. If you need to talk, talk to God.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Order of Worship at 9:00 am

In-person worshipers may wear masks. Please be kind to those who choose to do so.

Members of Class #35 Sitting Together Today

Leader: Sis. Valerie Tummings

The Worship Leader – Bro. Ethan Wyllie

*The Processional St. Matthew Youth Choir

*The Doxology "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*The Call to Worship Bro. Dominic Johnson

Leader: We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,

People: **Looking forward to see our path.**

Leader: We honor those who have gone before us,

People: **Learning from their successes and failures.**

Leader: We celebrate who we are today,

People: **And welcome the possibilities and opportunities before us.**

Leader: We gather to worship God,

People: **the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Amen.**

*The Hymn of Praise AMEC #519 "The Church's One Foundation"
(Worshipers May Enter)

1. The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord, She is His new creation By water and the word, From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride; With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

2. Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth, Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth; One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder Men see her sore oppressed, By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed; Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up, "How
long?" And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
5. Yet she on earth hath union With God, the Three in One, And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, Like
them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.

The Worship Through Prayer

Sis. Aoki Mae

(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Worship Through Music

St. Matthew Youth Choir

The Welcome of Visitors

"13 Air Hugs"

Sis. Dakota Johnson

"We're so glad you came to worship, we're "God's Love for God's people;" we welcome you with open arms
with love that won't go away. Welcome, oh welcome; welcome, oh welcome; welcome, oh welcome, to St.
Matthew, to St. Matthew!

First-Time Visitors: WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW!

Please take a picture of this QR Code and complete the First-Time Visitors
Information Form. Thank you. We are honored that you have joined us
today. If you have a church home, return our greetings to your Pastor. If
not, please consider St. Matthew as **"the end of your search for a
loving church."**



The 83rd Church Anniversary Moment

Sis. Merolyn Kelly

The Pastor's Words

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

- Youth Choir Presentations
- Acknowledgment of Veterans

The Worship Through Giving



You can give all tithes and offerings in all categories by text at (973) 272-
4332, CashApp (\$StMthew), Zelle (973-280-7654), Givelify (Scan QR
Code), mail, or at www.stmatthewame.org.

Please remember gifts to the Restoration Fund, Church Anniversary
Offering (\$83), and Love Offering.

The Worship Through Scripture

Mark 7:1-9 NIV

Bro. Declan Sobers

(Please Read In Unison – No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from
Jerusalem gathered around Jesus 2 and saw some of his disciples eating food
with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. 3 (The Pharisees and all the
Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to
the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace they do
not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the
washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) 5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the
law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the

elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?" 6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' 8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions." 9 And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"

Leader: This is God's Word for God's people. It is already blessed. Amen.

The Worship Through Dance

Adult Dance Ministry

(No Walking, Entry, or Exit At This Time)

The Sermonic Selection

Youth Choir

(Worshippers May Enter)

The Preached Word

Rev. Richard F. Norris, II, Pastor
Bethel-Hosanna AME Church
Pennsauken, NJ

Subject: "Dirty Hands & Bad We'ves"

***The Invitation to Salvation|Church Membership|Recommitment/Rededication**

If you want to be Saved, join St. Matthew, St. Paul, Mt. Zion, or Recommit/Rededicate Your Life to Jesus Christ, you can identify yourself now or text the word JESUS to (973) 840-8874

***The Doxology & Benediction**

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Pentecostal Prayer Power at the Altar After the Benediction

Rev. Dr. Crystal Newby-Reynolds is the Prayer Minister today. If you need personal prayer, please meet her in the Chapel on the second floor.



ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH
Celebrating Discipleship, Ministry and Community
Anniversary Celebration Activities

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
November 9, 2025	November 10, 2025	November 11, 2025	November 12, 2025	November 15, 2025
83rd Church Anniversary Divine Worship Service 9AM	Special Night of Congregational Prayer 6:30 PM	Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 PM	Family Game Night 7 PM - 8PM	Blueprint for Wellness Health Event 9 AM
Guest Preacher Rev. Richard F. Norris II	(Virtual) Zoom ID: 9736781217 Password: 6781293	Zoom ID 9736781219 Password: 6781293 (Virtual) Streaming at stmatthewame.org/streaming	Jeopardy & Board Games	Praise Unleashed Gospel Fest 4 PM - 7 PM
Pastor, Bethel-Hosanna AME Church Pennsauken, NJ		YouTube - @stmatthew336 Facebook Live @stmatthewamechurch	(In Person)	Kick off Reception 3 PM - 4 PM
Youth Choir Anniversary		www.stmatthewame.org		Silent Auction & Vendor Showcase Tasty Treats From Local Restaurants
336 Oakwood Avenue, Orange, NJ		SAINT MATTHEW A Servant Church AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH God's Love for God's People Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore	For Information Call (973) 678-1217	

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson
Pastor/Teacher

Our 83rd Church Anniversary Preacher

Rev. Richard F. Norris II

Rev. Richard F. Norris II, the eldest son of The Late Bishop Richard & The Late Mother Mary Norris, is married to Patricia E. Wilkie Norris, the proud father of 3 children, Jasmine, Richard III & TaNia, and has 2 granddaughters, Alani and Cai. He is an alum of Gettysburg College and Payne Theological Seminary.

In 1994, Rev. Norris founded AME Youth Mass Choir in 1994, which ministered throughout the Northeast for over 7 years. Rev. Norris has also performed with the Grammy-Award Nominated Gabriel Hardeman Delegation and Changed, a contemporary male gospel group, and continues to lead "Rev. R2 & Da' Crew" – a gospel-jazz musical group born out of the music ministry of St. Matthew AME Church, Philadelphia, PA, combined with the Music ministry of Bethel-Hosanna AME Church, Pennsauken, NJ.

Prior to his pastoral career, Rev. Norris served in the music ministries at various AME Churches in the Philadelphia and Harrisburg areas including Mt. Tabor AMEC (Philadelphia), Bethel AMEC (Harrisburg), Ebenezer AMEC (Middletown), AME Union (Philadelphia), Bethel AMEC (Bryn Mawr), and Mother Bethel AMEC (Philadelphia). He also served as Minister of Music at Morris Brown AMEC (Philadelphia) and the 1st Episcopal District for over 10 years. Immediately before beginning his Pastoral Ministry, Rev. Norris served as Minister of Music at St. Matthew AME Church (Philadelphia), his home church and is currently Director of the Philadelphia AME Mass Choir.

Richard was elected and ordained an Itinerant Elder at the Bicentennial Session of the Philadelphia Annual Conference in 2016, and was appointed to his 1st Pastoral Charge, Bethel AME Church, Pennsauken, NJ in June of that same year. One year after his appointment, Rev. Norris led Bethel's merger with Hosanna AME Church in Camden, NJ. At the 146th Session of the NJ Annual Conference, Rev. Norris was appointed the 1st pastor of Bethel-Hosanna AME, Pennsauken, NJ, the newest congregation on the NJ Annual Conference, which resulted from the merging of these two historic congregations in 2017.

Richard is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., serving as Chaplin for the "Mighty" Mu Omega Chapter in Philadelphia, PA., where he co-founded the Mu Omega Chorus and was named 2023 Mu Omega Man of the Year. He is also a member of Bethel Lodge #47. Richard is also looking forward to releasing his 4th Instrumental CD "Hymns, Anthems & Spirituals" in the near future.

EXPERIENCE the POWER of PRAYER!
Resources for Your Spirit and Soul
Rev. Leslie Wilson, Spiritual Advisor
Sis. Karen Deas, President, Prayer Ministry
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Daily Prayer Call Line - (206) 806-9984

Join us at 6 AM and 9:30 PM Sunday through Saturday- 7 Days a week. Our prayer call line is open to everyone. Invite your friends, family members, and colleagues from anywhere in the United States or internationally. All are welcome!

Altar Prayer @ St. Matthew AME Church, 336 Oakwood Ave, Orange , NJ 07050

The Sanctuary and 2nd floor Chapel altar are open for prayer, Monday through Friday when the church office is open.

St. Matthew Prayer Wall - <https://bit.ly/3b4V4U5>

Request Prayer for an individual by placing their name on the Prayer Wall. Our Prayer Ministry partners pray over these requests daily. The wall is open to the public.

How to Request Individual Prayer

- **Dial** Church office – (973) 678-1217; choose option 7 to leave a confidential prayer request.
- **Easy Tithe** – Click on the Request Prayer button and leave a confidential message.
- **Church Website** – <https://stmatthewame.org/> - Click on the Request Prayer button and leave a confidential message.

A prayer partner will return your call or email when you leave your contact information and pray with you directly regarding your confidential request. If no contact information is left, the prayer partner will pray as you requested.

Monthly Congregational Prayer Service – WE ARE A PRAYING CHURCH!

Prayer service is held every month on the **4th Monday** at 6:30 PM on the general Zoom connection and in the sanctuary (when scheduled). The service is on the church's General Zoom and on FaceBook and YouTube every month.

Want to Grow in Prayer?

We encourage everyone to participate in all prayer opportunities. You are invited to pray on the prayer call and the congregational Prayer services. Let anyone from the Prayer Ministry know that you are interested or call the church office, choose option 7, and leave a message. Additionally, our Ministry is open to all St. Matthew members. Join our ministry, learn about prayer and intercession, and become a prayer partner. All are welcome!

Do you have the St. Matthew Daily Devotional App?

Download "The Word for You Today" app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. After you have downloaded the app, click here to register: <https://app.wordforyou.com/churches/access-code/MVP/register>.

You can also share this link with anyone. The link is available on our website.

The Sanctuary & 2nd Floor Chapel are open for Prayer whenever the church is open.
The Chapel is open on Sundays from 8:15 am – 8:45 am and after
9 am worship for personal prayer.

November Is National Diabetes Awareness, Alzheimer's Awareness, & Military Family Appreciation Month

November Birthdays: 11/1 Shuwanna Sapp-Greene 11/2: Ruth Deas, Angela McGinnis, Carol Johnson 11/3: Leon Morton, Daisy Terry 11/4: Sheila Myricks 11/6: Nicole Neal, Joe Sorbino 11/7: Jacquelyn Henry, Desmond Thorne, 11/9: Dorothy Wilson 11/10: Heather A. Solomon, Durwin Coppock 11/12: Rev. Dr. Crystal Newby-Reynolds 11/13: Lavern Palmer 11/16: Ruth Fleming 11/18: H. Daryl Jones 11/19: John Clark, Sr., Sincere Tilus, Darnell Mason 11/20: Jerry Roberts 11/22: Emily Grimball 11/23: Deborah Woody 11/24: Sharon Collier 11/25: Kristian Reynolds, Terrisine Spicer 11/27: Nathalia Boncamper 11/28: Genia Philip 11/29: Dr. Lisa LaCon

November Anniversaries: 11/15: Joseph & Leslie Allen – 27 Years; Yoa & Cassandra Sheffield-Kassegnin – 14 Years; 11/26: Herman and Andrea Williams – 27 Years

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### **THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH**

Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm. Friday, 9 am – 12 Noon.

Today – No Church School today. All are invited downstairs for a lite fellowship meal. You can sign up for the Blueprint for Wellness in the narthex. Drop off any food you brought to the food pantry office. All are invited to join Pastor Wilson at 3 pm around the corner at United Missionary Baptist Church, 228 S. Harrison St., to worship with New Vision Tabernacle CME Church. Youth Choir and Youth Dancers to serve.

**Monday 11/10** – Food pantry at 11 am. **Last week: 105 people were served; 1,930 pounds of food distributed. YTD: 3,792 people served; 122,638 pounds of food distributed.**

**Tuesday 11/11** – Veteran's Day. Special Church Anniversary Bible Study at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday 11/12** – Lay Organization at 6:30 pm. Family Game Night, Inspirational Choir, Combined Dance Ministry, & Spiritual Movement Exercise at 7 pm.

**Thursday 11/13** – 1<sup>st</sup> District Holy Convocation Revival at Greater Allen Cathedral in Queens. Bus leaves at 4 pm. Donation is \$20. All ministers, Stewards, Trustees, and anyone who wants to go should attend. Please call the office to reserve a seat. Spiritual Movement Exercise at 7 pm.

**Friday 11/14** – 1<sup>st</sup> District Holy Convocation continues. Bus leaves at 4 pm. All ministers, Lay Organization, Sons of Allen, WMS, YPD, & Class Leaders should attend. Donation is \$20. Please call the office to reserve a seat.

**Saturday 11/15** – Men's Bible Study at 8 am. Blueprint for Wellness & health information at 9 am. Nutrition Class at 10 am. Praise Unleashed GospelFest at 4 pm.

**Sunday 11/16** – Divine Worship at 9 am. Church School at 11 am. We go to Bethel AME Church, Ardmore, PA at 12 pm. Ushers, Inspirational Choir, anyone asked to travel.



*A Servant Church*  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*God's Love for God's People*  
*Recover ~ Refresh ~ Renew ~ Restore*

## MONTHLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

### General Zoom Information

Zoom Meeting ID 9736781217  
Password- 6781293

### Pastor's Bible Study

Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting ID 9736781217  
Password- 6781293

### Men's Bible Study

Every Saturday at 8 am for adult and young men  
Zoom Meeting ID: 875 0243 0162  
Passcode - 497743

### Women's Bible Study

Every second Saturday at 9 am  
Zoom Meeting ID: 786 035 380  
Passcode - 6781293  
Phone Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 786 035 380

### Nutrition Class

Every third Saturday at 10 am  
Zoom Meeting ID: 866 862 387  
Passcode - 6781293  
Phone Dial-In Number: (929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 866 862 387

### Exercise and Spiritual Movement Class

Thursday at 7 pm.  
Zoom Meeting ID: 860 4686 5587  
Passcode - 6781293  
Video class. No dial-in option.

### ASK Women's Ministry

Every fourth Saturday at 9 am  
Zoom Meeting ID: 716 275 876  
Passcode - 6781293  
(929) 205-6099, Meeting ID 716275876

If you are not on the church's email list or text messaging list, please forward your name, cell number, and email address to Pastor Wilson at [sstukes@stmatthewame.org](mailto:ssstukes@stmatthewame.org). You are also invited to join the church's WhatsApp group



## **We Are Bringing Food for the Food Pantry Every Sunday for the Rest of This Year!**

**Weds. 11/19** – Wednesday in the Word at 12 pm. Generation One Senior Ministry at 1:15 pm.

**Fri. 11/21** – Trip to Sight & Sound at 9 am.

**Sat. 11/22** – ASK Women in the Bible Monthly Study at 9 am. Pastor Wilson preaching for Upper Room Ministries at 11 am.

**Sun. 11/23** – Divine Worship & G4C Youth Church at 9 am. **Thanksgiving meal packing after worship.**

**Mon. 11/24** – Monthly Congregational Prayer Meeting online at 6:30 pm.

**Tues. 11/25** – Thanksgiving meal distribution at 11 am.

**Thurs. 11/27** – **Thanksgiving Day.** Online worship at 10 am.

**Fri. 11/28** – Church closed. Youth roller skating at 1 pm.

**Sun. 11/30** – **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent.** Divine Worship, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Scholarship Ministry Offering at 9 am.

**Mon. 12/1** – **World AIDS Day.** Mental Health Support Group at 6:30 pm. World AIDS Day Prayer Vigil at 7 pm.

**Sat. 12/6** – We go to St. Thomas AME Church, Jackson, NJ at 8 am.

**Sun. 12/7** – **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent.** Love Feast at 8:30 am. Divine Worship & Holy Communion at 9 am. Special birthday celebration following worship.

**Sun. 12/14** – **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent.** Divine Worship & Youth Sunday at 9 am. Bro. Hashim Garrett, Speaker. Book Signing Sunday with several authors from 12 pm – 2 pm.

**Weds. 12/17** – Pastor Wilson preaches for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church's Advent Service (Rev. Martin Odom) online at 7 pm.



## **YOUTH CHOIR HISTORY**

The St. Matthew A.M.E. Church Youth Choir was started in 1985 by Sister Sandra Singleton-Harris and Sister DeWanna Cedarblade. The choir has grown tremendously over the years with children ranging in ages from five to eighteen (but we do welcome back all former members). The Youth Choir has been blessed with many directors and musicians who thought it not robbery to give of their time and talents. Brother Brian Patrick served as the choir's first percussionist. In the spring of 1993, Brother Russell C. Walker I became the Musical Director of the Youth Choir and remains to this day.

Brother Jonathan Ridley served diligently and faithfully as the first Director of the Youth Choir. He was succeeded by our current Director, Sister S. Princess Warren, who has served with excellence since 1995. Her singing, directing, organizational skills and talents continue to play a key role in the success of this choir. During the same year, Michael Brown Jr. continued the percussion responsibilities and remained faithfully in this role until entering college. Russell C. Walker II was appointed percussionist in 1997 at the age of 7 years old. Brother Walker II shared his musical gifts, talents, extreme dedication and commitment to the St. Matthew Youth Choir faithfully for over 16 years. Jordon Owens was appointed as our new percussionist in 2014 and served faithfully through 2015. Kevin Bowden Sr was appointed and served as percussionist 2015 through 2017. He was succeeded by Elonza (Zo) Stokes in 2017. Former Choir Members, Sisters Danielle Hunter and Shanika Peterson, took on the role of Director in 1999. Sister Hunter returned as Director in 2003. In 2004, Thaddeus Hammond joined the Youth Choir displaying a wide range of bassist skills. Along with other youth choirs, the St. Matthew Youth Choir participated in the *"Back to School Youth Explosion Live Recording"* at Cicely Tyson School. Two of the songs sung by the Youth Choir at the Youth Explosion were written by our very own Russell C. Walker I. S. Princess Warren returned as Directress in 2005, after being a fashion designer contestant on the Tommy Hilfiger TV reality show "The Cut." She finished runner-up in the nail-biting season-ending finale!

The Music Ministry of the Youth Choir has been a blessing in praising God's word in song and has ministered at various concerts throughout New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and Georgia. To name a few, the Youth Choir has rendered their voices in a concert at the New Jersey State Convention of The Citizen's Action Committee in New Brunswick, N.J.; provided musical selections at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Holiday Celebration Series at Penn Station in Newark, N.J.; represented all of New Jersey's Children's Choirs at the State of New Jersey's Observation of the Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark, N.J.; was featured with Ben E. King at Neil's New Yorker in Mountain Lakes, N.J. for a benefit to support the United Negro College Fund; sung at the Holiday Program in Livingston Mall on several occasions; participated in the St. Paul A.M.E. Joy Night; and has traveled to Marietta, Georgia and performed in concert at Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church. The Youth Choir has traveled to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida where they provided the Music Ministry at a local church and enjoyed all that Walt Disney World had to offer. The Youth Choir has also ministered to community-service based organizations, including patients of Kessler Institute in West Orange, N.J. and the White House Rehabilitation Center in Orange, N.J.

The Youth Choir performed as the Spotlight Opening Act during the UniverSoul Circus in Newark, NJ. Also, members of the St. Matthew Youth Choir organized, participated and raised \$500 for the "Step Out" Walk For Diabetes in Branchbrook Park. The Youth Choir has provided lively music at the Newark Liberty Airport to soothe the minds and hearts of busy travelers. Our former and current Parent Organization Leaders include Raynette Gardner, Robin McCoy, Edie Way, Rhonda Glover, Cathy Ingram, and many other parents who stepped in as needed.

The Youth Choir rehearses twice per month on Wednesdays, from 5:45pm-7pm. The choir sings for Sunday Morning 9am Worship Services on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, as well as special events as requested and scheduled. We invite you to join this wonderful ministry. It is not only a ministry to God and His people, but a great opportunity to make friends, establish lifelong bonds, and have fun!

To God be the Glory!



## **Celebrating Her 50th Anniversary as a Member of St. Matthew Gives Her Joy**

From the moment she joined St. Matthew AME during the 33rd anniversary of the church's founding, Sis. Merolyn Kelly has continually been active in the church and supporting the work of the church. And today she celebrates not only her 50th anniversary as a member of St. Matthew but also the 83rd anniversary of the church. "It has all been a blessing," Sis. Kelly said. "The joy is that the church is all family to me."

At the time she joined, Sis. Kelly was raising a young family. Her mother's words telling her she needed to be a part of a church resonated in her head. And she was influenced by her cousin, Rev. Dr. James Deas, who was already a member in 1975 but not yet ordained.

Rev. Leroy Attles, who led the congregation from 1972 to 1977, was the pastor of the small but growing church. "It was very family-oriented," Sis. Kelly said of the church which was still in the original building at that time. "I was part of the hospitality group. We served tea and coffee after church on one Sunday each month."

And she enrolled her children, Derek and Nicole, in Sunday school. They also participated in the youth choir which was started under Rev. Attles, she said.

And after the shepherd's role was turned over to then Rev. Reginald T. Jackson, now Bishop Jackson, she continued her work and activism in the church. Under his leadership, the Inspirational choir was created. "One Sunday, Rev. Jackson asked everyone aged 15 to 30 to stand and he told them they were now all members of the choir." She didn't think she should have been in it because she felt she couldn't sing but she learned.

Sis. Kelly became involved with the Young People's Division and even drove the church van. Rev. Jackson appointed her YPD director and she stayed in that role for about six years "even after her daughter left for college," she said. "I was making sure they were participating. I could see how they grew and made friendships," she said. Sis. Kelly then became a trustee for about eight years. "And we started the Commission on African American History and Culture. And we named it after Rev. John Wesley Jackson after he passed away. He was a former assistant pastor.

Because she worked in education, she was also involved with the summer camp program and eventually became its director. "Because of summer camp, I did get to meet other members in the church. "We had a field trip every Friday. And the older teens became the aides."

Sis. Kelly also taught Sunday School for about 10 years. "I learned so much preparing lessons," Sis. Kelly said. "Just working in the church and being active is what helps you connect with other church members."

Her involvement in the church didn't stop when Rev. Melvin Wilson became pastor of the church. She continues her missionary work and staying active with other committees.

I am at home when I come to St. Matthew," she said. "It is an awesome feeling." Sis. Kelly noted. "Your commitment and involvement will help you grow. And young people can be a mentor to you, especially working with the YPD." Sis. Kelly said she owes part of her success outside of the church to Bro. Michael Brown, who pointed her in the direction of financial aid when she was in college and then also told her about the availability of money for graduate school. She retired as a school counselor from the East Orange school district about 10 years ago. She is also the chair of the John Wesley Jackson Commission on Black History and Culture that each third Sunday of month presents a Black History Moment.

Her joy in celebrating her 50th anniversary comes from being a part of the St. Matthew family. "I am still active in the church and I have support from current members. God has spared me. I am still a missionary," she said. "I've watched the young people grow up and become adults and now they are leading me in the organizations," she added. "There's never been a point in my life where I felt displaced. St. Matthew is home."

**By Sandra Long Weaver**



# WE ARE *Praying* FOR YOU

| Member                     | Class Number | Class Leader              |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Bro. Thomas Thornton       | 4            | Bro. Durwin Coppock       |
| Sis. Emma Rhymes           | 5            | Sis. Karen Taylor         |
| Sis. Carol Goodson         | 8            | Bro. Jonathan Ridley      |
| Sis. Laura Taylor          | 9            | Sis. Veronica Morton      |
| Sis. Dorothy Dix           | 10           | Sis. Sherrill Austin      |
| Bro. Chris Thorne          | 11           | Bro. Terry Spicer         |
| Bro. Euistace Pryor        | 15           | Sis. Verna Leath-Young    |
| Sis. Mary Green            | 17           | Sis. Shanda Johnson Toler |
| Sis. Karen Newkirk         | 19           | Sis. Tamika Robinson      |
| Evang. Eva Douglas         | 20           | Sis. Marcie Johnson       |
| Sis. Mary Gibson           | 24           | Sis. Veronica Deveau      |
| Sis. Laurie Crowley-Martin | 25           | Sis. Robyn Sorbino        |
| Sis. Joyce Wooden          | 33           | Sis. Mattie Crowley       |
| Sis. Roxanne Blair         | 35           | Sis. Valerie Tummings     |
| Sis. Theresa Pryor         | 38           | Sis. Michele Murchison    |
| Sis. Arise Brown           |              |                           |

## Our Prayer List

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr & Supervisor Phyllis Green, Rev Dr C Carlton & Rev Blanche Woodward, Rev Melvin E & Rev Leslie Wilson & Family, Sis Linda Callahan, All Persons on Sick & Shut-In List, All Bereaved Families, All Elected Officials, All Persons & Situations On Our Prayer Wall, The Unjustly Imprisoned, Domestic Violence Survivors, Sexual Assault & Abuse Survivors, Cancer Patients & Survivors, All Pastors & Churches of the First Episcopal District AME Church, Churches & Houses of Faith of All Denominations, All Veterans, Gov Phil & Tammy Murphy, Gov-Elect Mikie Sherrill & Jason Hedberg, All Candidates In Public Office, Rev Dr Ronald Slaughter & his Episcopal Campaign, Sis Theresa Pryor, Rev Dr Shirley Roberts, Sis Sarah Williams, Sis Shirley Suddoth-Lewis, Bro Fred Ludd, Bro Emile Arsenec, Bro Christopher Massop, Sis Valcy Brown, Sis Tamika Robinson, Bro Christopher Glenn, Sis Alzada Gatling, Sis Laura Taylor, Bro Ronald Royal, Bro Stanley V Wade, Bro Calvin & Sis Geri Ficklin, Sis Barbara Meraz, Rev Larry Smith, Sis Karen Cooper, Sis Pamela Brooks, Sis Lucinda Bullock, Sis Kathleen Turpin Merritt, Sis Lavern Palmer, Sis Drewsilla Thorne, Sis Rose Tilus, Bro James Johnson, Sis Barbara Copeland, Sis Andrea & Bro Herman Williams, Bro Anthony Williams, Bro Leon Morton

## Recently Bereaved Families

Sis Dawn Nelson & Family; The Family of Sis Paulette Jennings; Sis Beulah Sapp, Sis Yasmine Johnson, Sis Shuwanna Sapp-Greene & Family; The Family of Sis Tracee Baker; Sis Donna Hunter & Family; Bro David Armstrong, Sis Shanda Toler & Family; Bro Elonza & Sis Tracy Stokes & Family; Sis Dorothy Wilson, Sis Tamia & Dalya Wilson & Family; Sis Veronica Morton & Family



**Want to know more about the ministry of St. Matthew? Scan this QR code.**



**CHOOSE  
HEALTHY LIFE**

**AND**

*A Servant Church*

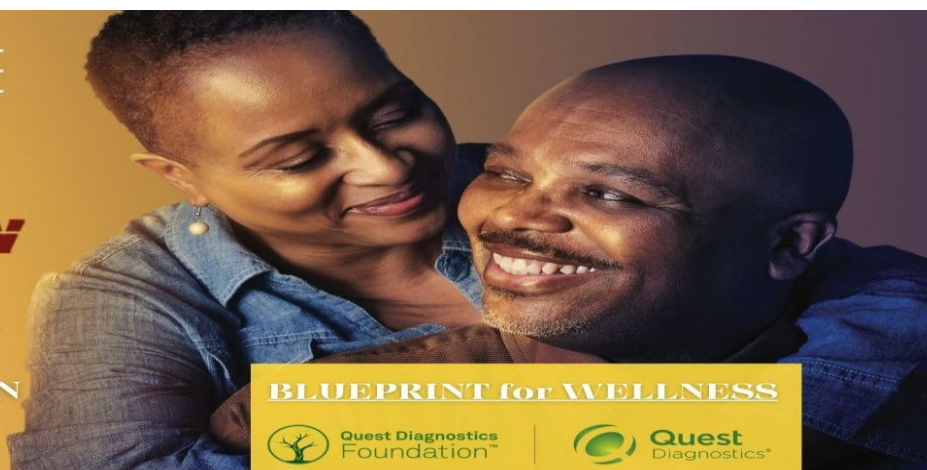
**SAINT MATTHEW**

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Orange, New Jersey

*God's Love for God's People*

*Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore*

**REV. MELVINE E. WILSON**  
PASTOR • TEACHER



**BLUEPRINT for WELLNESS**



Quest Diagnostics  
Foundation™



Quest  
Diagnostics®

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER, 15TH  
-9 AM-**



**St. Matthew AME Church**  
336 Oakwood Ave  
Orange, New Jersey  
07050

**YOUR  
GOLDEN  
OPPORTUNITY**

MOVE BY FAITH. • LIVE IN WELLNESS

**SCAN TO PREREGISTER:**



**Website:** [my.questforhealth.com](http://my.questforhealth.com)

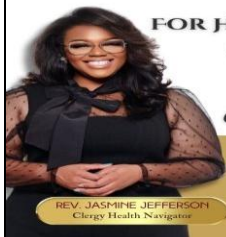
**New Account Registration Key:**  
choosehealthylife

**No Insurance? No Problem!**  
**This Screening is FREE!**

**FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION & QUESTIONS:**

Contact: Rev. Jasmine Jefferson  
-Clergy Health Navigator-

Cell: 908-583-3798 Email: [chlwhccc@gmail.com](mailto:chlwhccc@gmail.com)



REV. JASMINE JEFFERSON  
Clergy Health Navigator

**HEALTH SCREENINGS**

**Early Detection & Informed Health**

- Risk of Diabetes
- Heart Health
- Liver & Kidney Health
- Bone Health
- Thyroid Health
- Prostate-Specific Antigen Test
- Many other health factors!

**GOSPEL FEST TO FOLLOW!**

**From the St. Matthew Health & Wellness Ministry**



SAINT MATTHEW AME CHURCH  
Presents



# Praise Unleashed Gospel Fest

A Community Celebration of  
Faith, Music & Dance

Saturday, November 15, 2025  
4 PM - 7 PM

Kickoff Reception  
3 PM - 4 PM

Silent Auction & Vendor Showcase

"Tasty Treats by Local Restaurants"

Free Admission - All Are Welcome

336 Oakwood Ave. Orange, NJ

A Servant Church  
SAINT MATTHEW  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Orange, New Jersey  
God's Love for God's People  
Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore

njpac  
community  
engagement

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
Pastor/Teacher



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Orange, New Jersey  
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Generation - 4 - Christ  
Youth Ministry Fellowship

## Fall Skating Party

Come Roll With Us

Florham Park Roller Ring  
192 Ridgedale Ave. Florham Park, NJ

FRI



NOV 28TH

1 PM - 3 PM

All Are Welcome

\$20 Per Skater - \$10 Per non Skater

Price for Skater Includes: Skates, Food, & a Fountain Drink

Register @ <https://bit.ly/G4Cskating2025>

For Information Contact Youth Ministry @ (973) 678-1217

Rev. Melvin E. Wilson  
Pastor/Teacher





*A Servant Church*  
**SAINT MATTHEW**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Orange, New Jersey  
*God's Love for God's People*  
*Recover • Refresh • Renew • Restore*

*Travel With Us to...*  
**FIRST DISTRICT HOLY CONVOCATION**



**Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral**  
Jamaica, New York

**Thursday, November 13  
&  
Friday, November 14**

Leaving St. Matthew A.M.E. Church at 4 PM  
336 Oakwood Ave. Orange, NJ

Bus will return at the close of evening worship

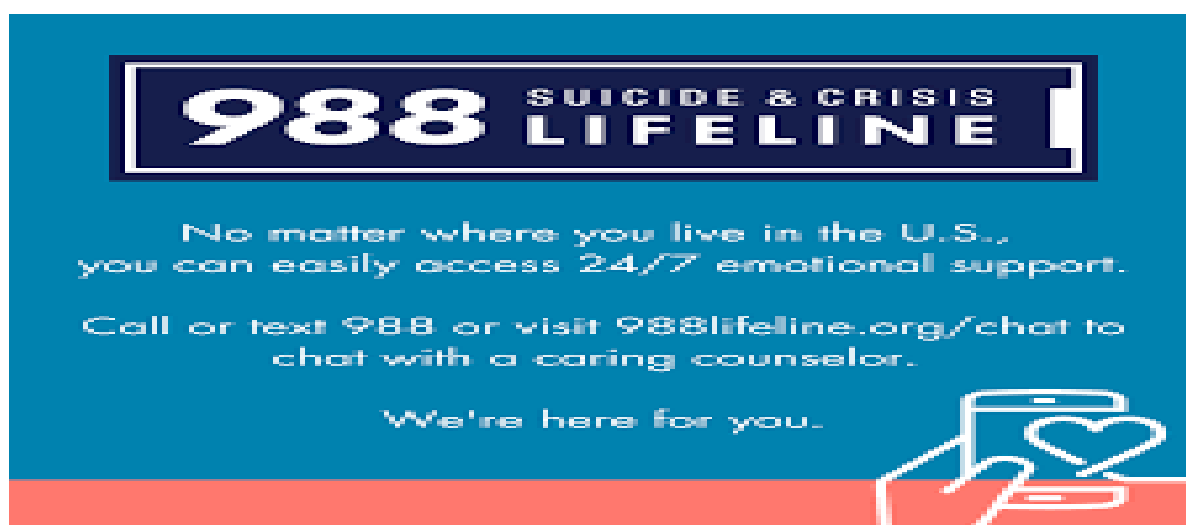
Donation: \$20 Each Day

Call the Office to Reserve a Seat & Pay  
(973) 678-1217



**Rev. Melvin E. Wilson**  
Pastor/Teacher

## Main Core Value Of Our Congregation: Radical Hospitality!



\*\*\*\*\*



**LIKE US** on social media! The more Likes we have, the more exposure the Church has to the world!