



EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*updated 2/2026*

Lord, you bless with words assuring:

"I am with you to the end."

Faith and hope and love restoring,

may we serve as you intend,

and, amid the cares that claim us,

hold in mind eternity:

With the Spirit's gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

*v. 5 of "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" by Jeffery Rowthorn*

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## WORSHIP

*Worship is a response of reverence and awe to God's worthiness, encompassing both specific acts like singing, praying, and giving, and a holistic life of service, obedience, and glorifying God in all actions.*

**Acolytes** dress in robes of red or white, quietly carry torches, crosses, alms basins, and cruets; they are a vital part of worship, blending into the background to help our liturgies flow smoothly. Anyone in Grade 4 and up is welcome to explore this ministry with a commitment to serve once a month if possible.

*Contact:* Sharon [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com) 203-984-1228

John Pearson [jfcpa53@mac.com](mailto:jfcpa53@mac.com) 203-984-2518

*Frequency:* once a month

**Altar Guild** members quietly work behind the scenes, often in small, rotating teams, to ensure the worship space is ready for services and events, such as weekly services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. They prepare and care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and linens used in worship services.

*Contact:* Betsy Pettit [betsypettit14@gmail.com](mailto:betsypettit14@gmail.com) 203-856-1936

Kim Olson [kimberlybolson@icloud.com](mailto:kimberlybolson@icloud.com)

*Frequency:* 1 hour on Saturday and 30 minutes on Sunday after worship; about 4 to 5 two-week rotations a year

### Choir

St. Matthew's Church Choir forms the backbone of our choral music ministry. From September to June, they sing on virtually every Sunday morning as well as on special occasions. No formal audition is required—just a willing heart and a love for singing. The choir's diversity in age, vocal skills, and musical background, and their love for all vocal genres makes them a welcoming and warm community where singers feel safe and appreciated.

*Contact:* Irina Georgieva [irina@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:irina@stmatthewswilton.org) 203-762-7400 ext. 200

*Frequency:* Weekly rehearsals on Thursdays (7:30–9:00 p.m.) and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. for the 10:00 a.m. service, plus holidays like Christmas Eve and Holy Week.

**Eucharistic Ministers** (EMs) are lay persons who assist at the altar at 10:00 a.m. services, plus other special services as needed such as funerals, memorial services, weddings, Evening Prayer, and during Holy Week. Duties include carrying the Gospel Book in procession, assisting during Holy Baptism, and – most noticeably – administering the chalice (wine) during Holy Communion alongside the clergy. Training is provided. For those confirmed, 16 years and older.

*Contact:* Sharon Pearson [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com) 203-984-1228

*Frequency:* twice a month on Sundays (9:45–11:15 a.m.) and other times as needed

The **Flower Guild** purchases and arranges flowers or plants (the funds of which are often given by parishioners in thanksgiving or as memorials) to grace the chancel (area around the altar) for worship services. To make an altar flower memorial donation:

<https://www.stmatthewswilton.org/connect/flowers/>

Contact: Jennifer Angerame [theangerames@gmail.com](mailto:theangerames@gmail.com) 203-253-9813

Frequency: flexible

**Lectors** assist in being the transmitters of God's Word, reading the Old Testament and New Testament lessons and leading the congregation in the Prayers of the People in the context of our liturgy at the 10:00 a.m. service and other special liturgies such as Evensong and Holy Week services. Anyone in 8th grade or up is welcome to participate in this ministry, with training available.

Contact: Sharon Pearson [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com) 203-984-1228

Frequency: every 4 to 6 weeks

**Ushers** welcome and tend to both visitors and members alike, making sure everyone is comfortable and has what they need when coming to worship, such as handing an order of worship (bulletin) or suggesting a pew. They often give directions to newcomers at the door, collect the offerings of the congregation, and at the time of Holy Communion, they "direct traffic" as people come forward to receive the bread and wine. Families are welcome to usher as a team, or individuals may wish to join the rotation of these greeters.

Contact: David Gortz [davidgortz@gmail.com](mailto:davidgortz@gmail.com) 203-829-4687

Frequency: every 4 to 6 weeks

## FORMATION

*St. Matthew's offers many opportunities for us to grow in faith. Spiritual formation is the process by which we are transformed into the image of Christ through God's work in our hearts. This transformation is an ongoing, grace-filled journey involving prayer, Bible reading, meditation, and living out our Baptismal Covenant every day.*

### Adult Formation

From Sunday Bible Study after church, Pub Theology, Adult Forums, and periodic book discussions and other events – there are many ways to deepen your faith and connection to God at St. Matthew's.

Contact: Tommy Watson [tommy@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:tommy@stmatthewswilton.org) 203-762-7400 ext. 202

Sharon Pearson [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com) 203-984-1228

## **Church School**

For children in Kindergarten through 7th grade, Church School is offered on the second, third, and fourth Sunday from 10:00–10:40 a.m. led by our clergy or volunteer teachers in partnership with Wilton Presbyterian Church. On the first Sunday of each month, children in K– 7th grade remain with their parents in worship. Volunteers to serve as teachers (with materials provided) are always welcome. No experience is necessary – just the enjoyment of sharing the Good News with children. Everyone returns to the sanctuary to join their family for the celebration of the Eucharist. In the Episcopal Church, all baptized are welcome to receive communion – no matter one’s age.

*Contact:* Tommy Watson [tommy@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:tommy@stmatthewswilton.org) 203-762-7400 ext. 202

*Frequency:* volunteer teachers serve once a month; children participate every week

## **EfM**

*Education for Ministry* is an adult formation program where participants study the Bible, learning how to understand Holy Scripture within its historical, literary, and cultural settings. God’s revelation through Christian tradition is taken seriously from the earliest biblical messages, through the development of liturgy and theology, and even to the context of the challenges we face in our own times and daily lives. In the environment of the weekly seminar, this study becomes the fodder for discussion and theological reflection on the Old and New Testaments, Christian History, and Christian Spirituality and Ethics in relationship to our own questions and beliefs.

*Contact:* Sharon Pearson [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com) 203-984-1228

*Frequency:* Mondays (7:00–9:30 p.m.) on Zoom with registration open in September each year.

## **Nursery Care**

Each Sunday children under three are cared for in a warm, safe environment during Sunday services. Help is always needed! Love spending time with little ones? No experience necessary — just a caring heart and willingness to help. You’ll be working alongside our nursery supervisor, so you’ll always have support and guidance. Volunteers must be in high school.

*Contact:* Lucia Sato [lsato89@gmail.com](mailto:lsato89@gmail.com) 203-247-7809

*Frequency:* once a month

## **Social Justice**

This group of adults dreams and works to live out our baptismal promises individually and corporately where all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. As part of this ongoing journey, we participate in several initiatives to educate ourselves, respond to social injustice, and grow as a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers. Ongoing activities include book studies, field trips to exhibits, museums, speakers from the community, prayer, and advocacy work.

*Contact:* Bob Giolitto [bgiolitto@aol.com](mailto:bgiolitto@aol.com) 203-858-3321

Eleanor Arnold [efmarnold6@gmail.com](mailto:efmarnold6@gmail.com) 203-858-7125

*Frequency:* monthly on a Sunday (11:30am-1:00pm)

## **Spirited Sisters**

Spirited Sisters is a community of faith for the women of St. Matthew's that explores and strengthens our Christian ideals and knowledge, fostering friendship, offering prayer and support for each other, and building a deeper relationship with Christ. Topics of faith are explored by listening to podcasts, reading articles, taking field trips, doing hands-on activities, and learning from each other.

*Contact:* Pam Carlson [pamelabcarlson@gmail.com](mailto:pamelabcarlson@gmail.com) 203-979-0047

Stacey Savas [staceysavas70@gmail.com](mailto:staceysavas70@gmail.com) 203-761-1532

*Frequency:* 2nd Wednesday of the month (7:00–8:00 p.m.)

## **Youth Group**

Young people in 8th-12th grade are invited to join their peers on the first and fourth Sundays of the month from 10:00–11:30 am. for fellowship, community, and to discuss topics that resonate with and are generated by the youth in a relaxed, non-spiritual context. An adult volunteer is needed to assist at these meetings. No experience is needed, just a willingness to listen and provide a hospitable space for our youth.

*Contact:* Tommy Watson [tommy@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:tommy@stmatthewswilton.org) 203-762-7400 ext. 202

*Frequency:* youth – twice a month, adult volunteers – once a month or more, if desired

## **MISSION**

*In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), Jesus calls his disciples (us) to proclaim the message of salvation by demonstrating God's love for all through loving service and witness in the world.*

**Mission Committee** members deliberate on budget expenditures to local non-profits and respond to other needs for those who seek assistance while coordinating all the mission projects engaged by St. Matthew's.

*Contact:* Pam Ely [pameladunhamely@gmail.com](mailto:pameladunhamely@gmail.com) 203-216-7503

*Frequency:* as the need arises

## **Circle of Care**

Located in Wilton, *Circle of Care* was founded by parents whose children had been diagnosed with cancer with a mission to provide practical, emotional, and financial assistance to Connecticut families through programs and services that meet the unique and challenging needs of pediatric cancer treatment. Recently, St. Matthew's has created "Blankets of Care," collected holiday gifts, and assembled valentine boxes for children receiving treatment.

*Contact:* Pam Ely [pameladunhamely@gmail.com](mailto:pameladunhamely@gmail.com) 203-216-7503

*Frequency:* as the need arises

## **Manna House**

Located at *Open Doors* in Norwalk, *Manna House* serves food daily to those in need in the Norwalk area. St. Matthew's provides a meal every two months to help with this mission with a

team currently providing all the ingredients for a meal on a bi-monthly basis. Food contributors welcome!

Contact: Linda Gortz [lindagortz@gmail.com](mailto:lindagortz@gmail.com) 203-829-4685

Dodo Roberts [dodo.roberts1@gmail.com](mailto:dodo.roberts1@gmail.com) 203-912-3694

Frequency: once every two months

**Open Doors** strives to make a direct impact in the greater Norwalk area by guiding every person in the cycle of homelessness towards housing stability by providing resources for individuals and families. St. Matthew's regularly holds donation drives to serve the needs of this community for such items as toiletries, winter apparel, diapers, new Halloween costumes, and holiday gifts.

Contact: Char Griffin [chargriffin3@gmail.com](mailto:chargriffin3@gmail.com) 203-400-0074

George Fuller [gfuller@gmail.com](mailto:gfuller@gmail.com) 203-249-7452

Frequency: seasonally and as the need arises

### **St. Matthew's Cemetery**

Owned and maintained by St. Matthew's and located at 242 Danbury Road, the cemetery was founded in the early 19th century, and the oldest grave is that of Sarah Williams, buried in 1802. There are currently over 900 individuals interred in the cemetery and grave sites are still available. There is also a memorial garden where cremations may be buried; a plaque listing names of those interred in the memorial garden is in the Narthex at St. Matthew's church.

Contact: Paul Reis [preis1@yahoo.com](mailto:preis1@yahoo.com) 203-210-5613

Dodo Roberts [dodo.roberts1@gmail.com](mailto:dodo.roberts1@gmail.com) 203-912-3694

Frequency: as the need arises

## **LEADERSHIP & FINANCE**

*Leadership is a position of humble, loving service. Church leadership is ministry, not management. 1 Peter 4:10 encourages Christians to use their God-given spiritual gifts to serve one another as faithful stewards of God's varied grace. A steward is a caretaker, and church leaders serve the community for the good of the whole.*

### **Annual Auction**

Annually, St. Matthew's holds an event to raise funds for our operating expenses to supplement the annual stewardship campaign. An evening of fun and fellowship, together we share a festive meal and participate in a silent auction as well as live auction for a variety of goods and services donated by parishioners as well as local businesses. There are a variety of skills and talents needed to accomplish such a wonderful evening: food, decorations, hospitality, set up / clean up, accounting, and (sometimes) entertainment!

Contact: Brian Angerame [bmangerame@clearbridge.com](mailto:bmangerame@clearbridge.com) 203-912-5428

Frequency: Spring and/or Fall annually

The **Finance Committee** provides oversight for the church's financial health by reviewing financial reports, assisting with budget creation and monitoring, advising on financial policies, and coordinating annual audits. They help ensure responsible and transparent stewardship of church funds, making recommendations to the Vestry and managing investment to support the church's mission and ministries.

*Contact:* Brian Angerame [bmangerame@clearbridge.com](mailto:bmangerame@clearbridge.com) 203-912-5428

Rob Kyle, Treasurer [rkyle1@gmail.com](mailto:rkyle1@gmail.com) 203-912-7770

*Frequency:* monthly, 3rd Tuesday (7:00 p.m.)

### **Financial Stewards** (Offering Counters)

Every Sunday we are invited to financially give in thanksgiving for all that we have given during the "offertory" when the ushers pass through the congregation with the alms basins (collection plates). After worship, a team of two adults spends a brief amount of time counting these offerings and preparing them for deposit.

*Contact:* Brian Angerame [bmangerame@clearbridge.com](mailto:bmangerame@clearbridge.com) 203-912-5428

*Frequency:* once a month

### **Planned Giving and Endowment Fund**

Healthy and vibrant future ministries at St. Matthew's are also built upon the legacies we leave today. Planned giving is a ministry that is vital because it can help ensure the future of our church, but also because it offers you the opportunity to make a final testament about the importance of your Christian faith.

*Contact:* Chris Perry [chrisperry06897@gmail.com](mailto:chrisperry06897@gmail.com) 203-595-1214

**Stewardship** is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of "tithing," which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26). The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission. It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity. The best thing we can do is prayerfully consider what God gives to us and how much we can give back. A financial pledge is a faithful promise, a sacrificial gift. God hopes and expects for us to give back from what we've been given. And your pledge makes our life together, all that we do, and all that we share possible.

*Contact:* Brian Angerame [bmangerame@clearbridge.com](mailto:bmangerame@clearbridge.com) 203-912-5428

*Frequency:* year-round (October–November stewardship campaign)

## **Vestry**

The Vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. Vestry members are called to lead, to support the life of the parish, and to participate in caring for and building up the congregation. Some of the responsibilities of the Vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation, to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the Rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.

*Contact:* Pam Ely (current warden) [pameladunhamely@gmail.com](mailto:pameladunhamely@gmail.com) 203-216-7503

Anne Newton (current warden) [amnewton82@gmail.com](mailto:amnewton82@gmail.com) 203-966-8268

*Frequency:* Vestry members are elected at the Annual Meeting (typically in February), each for a 3-year-term. The Vestry meets monthly throughout the year.

## **“What’s Next” Group (aka Visioning)**

Church visioning is the process of defining a church's future direction, purpose, and impact, resulting in a clear, inspiring statement that guides its activities and decisions. This involves aligning God's will with the church's gifts and resources through prayer, conversation, and a deep understanding of its context and community, ultimately unifying the congregation toward common goals and fostering growth and engagement.

*Contact:* John Pearson [jfpcpa53@mac.com](mailto:jfpcpa53@mac.com) 203-984-2518

*Frequency:* monthly and as needed

## **WEPCO Board**

WEPCO (*Wilton Episcopal Presbyterian Corporation*) is a unique, non-profit corporation, operating in partnership with St Matthew's Episcopal Church and Wilton Presbyterian Church. This campus of beautiful spaces is not only enjoyed by our two congregations, but it can be rented by families, community groups, and performing groups for meetings, collaborations, celebrations, and performances. Members of both congregations serve on its board. <https://www.wepco.net/>

*Contact:* Chris Perry [chrisperry06897@gmail.com](mailto:chrisperry06897@gmail.com) 203-595-1214

*Frequency:* monthly

## HOSPITALITY & COMMUNICATIONS

*Hospitality in the Bible is not merely about entertaining guests; it is a deeply rooted expression of unconditional love, kindness, and generosity toward others, especially strangers and those in need. We are called to welcome and care for others because it reflects God's love and care for us. "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." –Romans 12:13*

**The Arts at St. Matthew's** provides artistic enrichment to the local community, both those who regularly worship at St. Matthew's and those who don't. It offers entertaining, educational, and inspiring events by diverse artists a handful of times throughout the year. The Arts at St. Matthew's is a non-profit organization whose funding comes from ticket sales and from the generous support of patrons. All proceeds from the series go directly into the advancement and enhancement of subsequent seasons.

Contact: Irina Georgieva [irina@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:irina@stmatthewswilton.org) 203-762-7400 ext. 200

### Coffee Hour

One of the most regular times we have for fellowship is on Sunday mornings directly after our worship service. Individuals, pairs, or families take turns hosting refreshments (equipment and supplies are provided for coffee and tea) each week. All that is needed are some light snacks of your choice (fruit, coffee cake, muffins, etc.), juice, and time to set up and clean up, pre-worship and afterwards. Instructions provided.

Contact: Nancy Johnson [office@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:office@stmatthewswilton.org) 203-762-7400 ext. 200

Frequency: once every 3 months

### Life Together

At St. Matthew's, we have a very fun and active parish life! Throughout the year, various events are offered for the whole parish: a parish picnic (September & June), Pledges & Pancakes breakfast, annual auction, Easter egg hunt, Blessing of Animals, Trunk or Treat, and more. Help and ideas are always welcome and many hands make light work!

Contact: Becca LaMantia [becca@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:becca@stmatthewswilton.org)

Beth Baker [drbbaker02@gmail.com](mailto:drbbaker02@gmail.com) 917-751-4983

Frequency: as the need arises

### Social Media Team

St. Matthew's is active on Facebook and Instagram and we also have a YouTube Channel. The social media team work consists of creating graphics on Canva, publicizing upcoming events and who we are as a parish, as well as capturing content. Join this creative team! Follow us @stmatthewswilton (FB & Instagram) @StMatthewOnline (FB parishioner private group)

Contact: Kate DeAngelis [kdeangelis44@gmail.com](mailto:kdeangelis44@gmail.com) 203-970-0099

Jennifer Angerame [theangerames@gmail.com](mailto:theangerames@gmail.com) 203-253-9813

Frequency: flexible

## **Technology Team**

Our worship services are live-streamed on Facebook and our website. Sermons are recorded and added to our website. Would you like to help monitor and help with the live-streaming on Sundays or other events that may arise? Are you experienced in with website curation? Those gifts are needed too!

*Contact:* Matt Henshaw [mhenshaw0@gmail.com](mailto:mhenshaw0@gmail.com)

Nancy Johnson [office@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:office@stmatthewswilton.org) 203-762-7400 ext. 200

*Frequency:* flexible