

WEPCO Update

Like every part of our lives together here at St. Matt's, we are having to get creative and re-imagine aspects of WEPCO and how we care for our facilities. For instance, there will be no WEPCO clean-up day this year because of the need to social distance. Instead, folks are being asked to come over as families, or small groups, and help clean up the grounds. A spread sheet of projects that need to get done is hanging on a clipboard by the courtyard. If you want to get out of the house and get a little exercise, please consider helping to beautify our property!

As it related to the WEPCO operating budget, so far so good. Year-to-date, WEPCO expenses are under budget, mostly because of lower snow plowing expense. Our two big renters, Abilis and MOTH, are still paying rent. We have remained in touch with them and their plans are to go back to normal, whatever that means, when they can. A couple of our smaller renters have cut back what they have been paying us. Thankfully, we continue to work hard at keeping our costs down to help offset lost revenue, so we hope to remain break even. But the longer social distancing remain in place, the trickier it will be.

WEPCO's and St. Matthew's capital budgets both remain at or under budget. In both cases, we are dragging our feet on additional spending for now, being conservative, waiting for some visibility on covid-19.

Auction update

Like everything else we have been doing together as a parish family, we are going to have to get creative and reimagine life without our annual auction. Because of social distancing and the virus, it will be impossible for us to have this all-important fellowship and fundraising event this year. Unfortunately, as everyone is probably aware, the auction is our single largest revenue contributor to the operating budget, other than stewardship. This year we budgeted the auction to be flat, generating income of \$48,000.

So, your friends, formerly known as "the Auction Committee," are happy to announce some new plans for our life going forward without an auction. Under the banner of "Fellowship and FUNrai\$ing" or #FUNrai\$ing, we will be hosting a number of events this spring and summer that will give us opportunities to connect and have fun, while also giving back to St. Matthew's and funding the day-to-day operations of our church.

The first FUNrai\$ing opportunity kicked off Sunday afternoon, with a Mother's Day gift basket giveaway. Tickets are available for purchase on the website at stmatthewswilton.org/mom (need to include the link) for \$20. The basket will include a bracelet and necklace from A Single Strand, cookies from The Painted Cookie, a scarf from SouthernYankee, flowers from Elizabeth Walsh Floral Design, a gift from Blue Star Bazaar, skin care products from Rodan & Fields, two bottle of wine, a \$100 gift card from Dermage Spa, a \$100 gift card to Parlor, a \$50 gift card to Tusk & Cup,

and a \$50 gift card to Village Market --- an almost-\$600 value! The drawing will be held during our online Mother's Day Brunch, and the basket will be delivered shortly thereafter.

We will also be announcing Bingo Night FUNrai\$ing event on May 16th - same night as the auction was intended. Individuals and families will be asked to register, pay \$20, and will download bingo cards (same price regardless of how many in your family). We have some surprises in store for you as well. Importantly, you will also have the opportunity to give, similarly to the way we did at auctions in the past, though hundred-dollar hollers, etc. Our plan is to do three more FUNrai\$ing events, one each in June, July and August, plus a Father's day basket as well. Details to follow.

Despite not being able to have our auction, we have a great opportunity to get creative, have a lot of fun and give back to St. Matthew's in new and exciting ways. Not every social or fellowship event we do will have a fundraising component to it. FUNrai\$ing events will be distinctively marked and advertised. But during these events, we will ask our parish to give, as they have generously in the past. During times like this, it is safe to assume that some of our parish friends may not be able to. That's how we will love each other through this. The FUNrai\$ing team is excited and open to any and all ideas. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact Brian at bmangerame@clearbridge.com.