

St. Matthews
Episcopal Church
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Kiddie Link

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Stand Firm

On the Bible Gateway search engine, there are over 30 different biblical references to stand firm. Stand firm in faith, stand firm in God's love, God's law stands firm, etc... "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand," Psalm 40:2.

Most of the time, as a parent, I feel like I'm standing on a tilt-a-wheel instead of solid ground. One minute the discussion is about colleges and career choices and student loan debt, the next it's about the best tea mix you can get from Teavana.

When they were younger it was exhausting constantly teaching, reminding, disciplining (when are they EVER going to remember to pick up their socks???). I imagined my life more like running from one muddy foxhole to the next, never gaining much ground, but hopefully battling forward.

Thankfully, we have a loving God who is partnering with us in the raising of our children. Not just that, but he has CALLED us to parent our children. Those sweet stinkers who suck up each paycheck and graced us with stretch marks and grey hair are our blessings.

I want to encourage you to stand firm. Stand firm in the faith that God is with you and will teach you to teach your children. Stand firm in his undying love for your family. In health or sickness, he has not deserted you or abandoned you. Stand firm with your children. God gives us great manual for parenting. Don't compromise God's word with your children, but instruct and hold them accountable to be imitators of Christ. Most of all, know that he has set our feet on a rock and has given us a firm place to stand.

With joy,

Jill, DCE

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Episcopal Church

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Monthly Mentions

Save the date—February 5, 7:00—8:30 pm. The youth of St. Matthew's invites everyone to a night of fun, fellowship, and DESSERT! Free childcare will be provided and the high school and middle school will serve homemade desserts and coffee. Call Gabriel Mayer for more information 288-1911.

Something special for moms! Please join us on March 26th for our annual Women's Retreat here at church. The speaker is Lara Williams, a mother of young children, who will speak on *Renewed Hearts*. Check out her website at www.LaraWilliams.org. Music will be provided by Abby Sutton. The retreat will be from 9:30 to 2:30 and includes lunch. You can download a registration form on the church website or pick one up in the narthex or parish hall. Hope to see you there! Questions: Call Debbye Silva @ 747-0022.

The Gamers—will meet February 6 at 12:30—1:15. Please RSVP to Andrew Thompson at 741-7162.

Nursery Help is still needed. We have some holes this month. If you are willing to pull an extra duty, please call Jill Rich at 288-1911 to volunteer.

Don't forget—the volunteer schedules are now on the website, stmatthewsrichmond.org. The password is rockycat.

Nursery Schedule

Thank you to all from the congregation, as well as all the parents who have selflessly offered their time to care for our younger parishioners.

If you would like to be included on the schedule, call Jill at 288-1911.

Date	Infants	Toddlers	Preschoolers
February 6	Lynda Jenkins	Megan Lloyd	Ann Brown
	Kathryn Bailey	Chris Lloyd	Boyd Brown
13	Svenja Lessman	Kathryn Martin	Kate Garitz
	???	Natalie Axtell	Shawn Garitz
20	Holly Curell	Karine Marshall	Adrian Hudgins
	Ken Curell	Calvin Marshall	Jacob Rich
27	January Britt	Ann Brown	Kaki Vint
	Jeff Britt	Boyd Brown	Jacob Rich