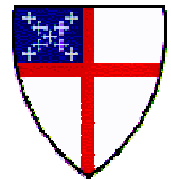


Matt's Missive



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Our Mission:

To be a strong community of faith rich in the Episcopal tradition *servicing* Jesus Christ;
welcoming the seeker; *providing* a caring church family; *effecting* spiritual change;
reaching into the world with the love of Jesus.

www.stmattuc.org

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Universal City, Texas

January 2012

Priest's Point of View

By Fr. Tim Vellom



Gratitude upon gratitude—I am filled with gratitude for God's many blessings bestowed among us this Christmas:

First, for the beauty, joy and creative generosity exhibited in our worship on Christmas Eve. We were blessed by the delightful carols and songs sung by our children and youth, and lovingly directed by Cynde Mauceri and Patrick Duffield. The behind-the-scenes efforts of so many in preparing for and presenting the service enabled those gathered to focus on the wondrous gift of God in our midst.

Second, I am so grateful for all your faithful tithes and offerings and the generous special gifts made by several of you in response to my appeal on behalf of those in need. These gifts enabled the Discretionary Fund to provide 13 individuals and families in need (both in our parish and in the community) with a total of \$2,799 in assistance during December.

Finally, Ann and I are deeply grateful for the love and fellowship of this parish and were so moved by the very generous gift you gave us at Christmas, as well as the many individual cards and expressions of friendship. All these reinforced to us how truly blessed we are to be a part of this family of faith . . . Tim +

From the Senior Warden . . .

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas with time for family and friends. An exciting year is upon us. With the recent election of three new Vestry members (Tish Barnhart, Vince Michel, and Wayne Mudge); a solid 2012 Every Member Canvass (budget setting); Mrs. Barrington and the Missional Church dialogue (outreach); and the continuing development of our grounds and facilities, this year will bring about changes and improvements to St. Matthew's. Our Vestry plans to keep you informed of the happenings and to ask for your input as we assess our vision and mission along with meeting the needs of our church family.

Our Vestry will begin the year with a retreat aimed at moving along a journey defined as one of a missional church; we will become more familiar with the program as we learn from the coaching of Larry Wynn. Many of the congregation participated in Mrs. Barrington's presentation last fall, which was the first step in our journey. As we continue on, we are reminded of the ongoing and much needed projects that have already begun. One goal is to complete the Tower of Power (TOP) Capital Campaign to fund the tower repair and new roofing. The TOP campaign status can be seen in Creasy Hall. Another goal is to move forward on the grounds improvement program as presented in the architectural sketch also on display in Creasy Hall. These projects need support and commitment from all of us.

There are many challenges ahead, but none too difficult for us to accomplish. God will provide us with what is needed to do His work. We will focus our attention on St. Matthew's Mission: A strong community of faith rich in the Episcopal tradition, Serving Jesus Christ . . . Welcoming the seeker . . . Providing a caring Church family . . . Effecting spiritual change . . . Reaching into the world with the love of Jesus. Continue to pray for our mission. (See **Senior Warden**, p. 3)



“Feed my sheep”

RACAP News

By Kathy Ercoline

Upcoming Celebrations!

Kathy and Greg Coolidge would like to invite their St. Matthew's family to attend the renewal of their wedding vows to be held on **Saturday, January 28, 2012**. The ceremony will be in the church at 2:00 p.m. There will be a reception held in Creasy Hall following the service.

90th Birthday Celebration for **Lee Johnson** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 4, 2012**, from 2:00-4:00 PM in Creasy Hall. Mark your calendars now. No gifts, please. Just bring your best wishes!



For all who use hearing aids or think they might need one sometime in the future, we have scheduled a hearing enhancement demonstration to be held in St. Matthew's Nave on Tuesday, January 24, at 6:30 PM.

The presentation will demonstrate a system known as an audio induction loop. This actually transmits the audio from our sound system directly into the ear canal. [See links on our website for detailed information.](#) We would like as many people as possible to be part of the experience so we can evaluate the system. Please be there if you possibly can.

Our prayers have been answered! Audrey Blumenthal has graciously agreed to serve as St. Matthew's third board member for RACAP. Thank you, Audrey, for accepting this position.

Also, there is always a need for volunteers to work in the pantry. The pantry hours are from 1:00 to 3:00, Monday through Friday: volunteers usually work one or two afternoons a month. If you would like to become a food pantry volunteer, or have questions, please see one of our three RACAP board members, (Audrey Blumenthal, Mary Dunham, or Kathy Ercoline).

The number of clients served in 2011 reached record proportions, and there is every indication that the needs will be just as great, or greater, in 2012. The holiday food drive was very successful, but we must remember that there is a need for food items and cash donations all year long. St. Matthew's congregation has supported RACAP in the past years, and hopefully that support will continue as we start a new year.

As we meet to eat in fellowship with one another at our monthly potluck luncheons, we are reminded that there are many people who have a difficult time feeding their families. This is the perfect time to make a food or monetary donation to help them.

At the **January 8th potluck luncheon**, we will be observing “**Souper**” **Sunday**. Please bring cans of soup to stock RACAP's shelves. We will be collecting soup throughout January. Other needed pantry items are listed below.



Other Pantry Needs

- Canned pasta with meat (ravioli, lasagna etc.)
- Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce
- Dried beans / Rice / Ramen noodles / Pasta
- Canned chili, fruits,
- Cereal, both hot and cold / Jell-O
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Bath soap / Dish soap / Detergent

“Thank you for helping us help others.”

Matt's Missive

The Rev. Tim Vellom Rector
The Rev. Rick Moore Assisting Priest
Margaret Palmer. Co-editor
Hope Ince Co-editor

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Visit our website www.stmattuc.org to hear sermons you may have missed or to get the online versions of *Matt's Missive*. Online & email issues are in color and contain several additional pictures, thanks to our resident *paparazzi*—Tom Palmer & Terry May.

Ministry Focus

By Diane Woods & Terry May

Exciting things are happening in our Nursery. The nursery staff members are working hard to provide a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for our children. The staff consists of Meredith Ince, Nursery Coordinator; Victoria Mantor, Nursery Caregiver; Lauren Clamurro, Nursery Caregiver; and Cody Jones, Volunteer (receiving community service credits for school).

Under Meredith's direction, broken and non-working toys and equipment were removed to make the nursery safer. A television and DVD player were donated, so new DVDs are being purchased along with new books. Plans are underway to partner with an Eagle Scout to build toy boxes and cubbies so each child will have a place to put personal items.

Training for the staff has included "Infant & Child CPR" and "Safeguarding God's Children." A CPR "baby doll" was recently purchased so that the staff could practice regularly.

The Nursery gives parents the ability to participate in our Sunday worship without distraction. They know their children are in a safe environment. The children are happy because they have time to play and do not have to sit and be quiet for a long time. If the children are old enough, they are given the opportunity to participate in Children's Church in the same building, so they get the Gospel message in a manner that is easier to understand.

The Nursery is available every Sunday from 7:45 a.m. through 12:15 p.m. for children from 3 months up to 5 years of age. Victoria is in the Nursery for the entire time while Lauren comes after attending the 8:00 service. The Nursery is open at other times as needed for special functions such as our recent St. Matthew's Day. It was also available during our *Alpha* and *Bible in 90 Days* courses. If you want additional information or want to help, please contact Meredith Ince, 573-1982.



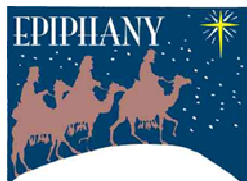
We give thanks for the many Blessings of 2011 and wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Senior Warden (Continued from page 1)

I am honored and excited to be your Senior Warden for the coming year. Our St. Matthew's family has much to do, and we have been blessed with both the funds and the commitment from many. The task now is to do the work as we continue our journey. Please join us on this trip and seek out ways to offer your time and talents as we reach out to help others. We all have opportunities to "make a difference." May God bless you as you pray and seek out ways to serve Him.

Yours in Christ,
Bill Ercoline, Senior Warden, 2012

NEWS NOTE . . . We are having an Events Planning meeting **Wednesday, January 11**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. We will be planning events for 2012, such as the 4th of July celebration and Chili Cook-off. If you would like to help plan our 2012 calendar or have ideas for other events, please come to this meeting. For more information just contact Diane Woods, 479-7534.



January Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Monday, January 2: | Office Closed for Holiday. |
| Thursday, January 5: | Lunch Bunch, 12:15 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Sunday, January 8: | Potluck Luncheon & RACAP Ingathering (cans of soup), 12:15 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Wednesday, January 11: | Events Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Creasy Hall Library. |
| Monday, January 16: | Office Closed for Holiday. |
| Tuesday, January 17: | Vestry Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Creasy Hall Library. |
| Friday, January 20: | Game night, 6:30 p.m. Creasy Hall. |
| Fri.-Sat, January 20-21: | Vestry Retreat, at the Bishop Jones Center. |
| Tuesday, January 24: | Audio Induction Loop Demo, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary. |
| Thursday, January 26: | Dining Out, 6:30 p.m., Houlihan's at 1604 & I35. Contact: Barbara & John Means (830-358-7525). |

A Pictorial Review of St. Matthew's December 2011



On December 4, we were greeted by the lovely tree Karen Moore and her "elves" had decorated . . .



. . . and then we gathered to enjoy our traditional "tamale & trimmings" luncheon.



After lunch Mendell, Mary, and Jayne started sorting the decorations for Creasy Hall . . .



. . . Melissa found a place for the angel . . .



. . . and Fr. Tim put the final touch on the tree while Jason gave pointers.



Our newly formed Greeting Card Ministry met on December 12 and started preparing cards.



We had a “Sing Along” Game Night on Friday, December 16th ...



... were delighted to listen to our two very talented musicians, Joe and Ben ...



... and then join them singing Christmas Carols.



The children and youth’s music was a special highlight on Christmas Eve ...



... and Christmas Day we gathered to worship and celebrate the birth of Christ.



We ended the month and 2011 with snacks, games, and fellowship as we ushered in the New Year together!

Postmaster: Send address changes to

MATT'S MISSIVE

P.O. Box 2337 Universal City, Texas 78148

SECOND CLASS PERIODICAL

Ministry Schedule January 2012

Duty	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Altar Guild	Bonnie Bell Olive Salyards	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Mulligan Pat Perry	Audrey & John Blumenthal
Cooks	Wayne & Melissa Mudge Jackie Schafer	Ince Family Linda McClellan	Greg & Kathy Coolidge, Mendell Morgan, Barbara Means, Don Carey	Gudrun Gustin
8 a.m. Servers & Readers	Wilma Heberling (S) Jan Bonner (R)	Nina Thomas (S) Suzi Hopkins (R)	Kathleen Gamble (S) Nina Thomas (R)	Wilma Heberling (S) Barbara Duffield (R)
10:30 a.m. Servers	Vince Michel Barbara Duffield	Wayne Mudge Kathy Mulligan	Hope Ince David Ince	Tom Perry Olive Salyards
10:30 a.m. Readers	Wayne Mudge Melissa Mudge	Mendell Morgan Olive Salyards	Diane Woods Bonnie Bell	Kathleen Gamble Vince Michel
Acolytes	Tom Barnhart Kathleen Gamble Samantha Steverson Amber Gaston	Vince Michel Billy Baskin Bonnie Bell Madelaine Borrego	Christopher Carter Ellen Barnhart Pam Patten Rebecca Francis	Billy Baskin Devin Bradlaw Fred McClellan Aaron Steverson
8 a.m. Hosts	Ron & Jayne Dunlap	John & Mary Hamilton	Don Carey	Ron & Jayne Dunlap
10:30 a.m. Hosts	Tom Barnhart (A) Kathleen Gamble(B) Tish Barnhart (D)	Terri Egbert (A) Howard Egbert (B) Diane Woods (D)	John Blumenthal (A) Audrey Blumenthal (B) Kathy Ercoline (D)	Margaret Palmer (A) Tom Palmer (B) Margaret Palmer (D)
Prayers of The People	Jacob Mauceri	Jennifer Taylor	Sean Keane-Dawes	Hope Ince
9 Bean Soup	Linda McClellan	Ann Vellom	Bonnie Bell	John & Barbara Means
Home Communion	Mendell Morgan Sean Keane-Dawes	Tom & Pat Perry	Tish Barnhart (8:00) Pam Calvert	Kerry & Bonnie McKaskle
8 a.m. Prayer Ministry	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield
10:30 a.m. Prayer Ministry	Kerry McKaskle	Bob Jones	Bonnie Bell	Fred McClellan
Children's Church	Mary Bartholomew Sarah Sine	Liz Sampson Ellen Barnhart	Ann Vellom Sarah Sine	Liz Sampson Sarah Sine
AudioVisual	Molly Baskin	Christopher Carter	Jacob Mauceri	Samantha Steverson
Lockup/Security	Jayne Dunlap	Bill Ercoline	Hope Ince	Kerry McKaskle