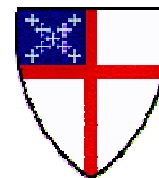


Matt's Missive



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.

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Universal City, Texas

October 2011

Priest's Point of View

By Fr. Tim Vellom

Our St. Matthew's Day Celebration (see the article in the adjacent column) was a delightful day of fellowship, inspiration and challenge.

I am deeply grateful for all those whose labor made this day possible. Jo Ann Quisenberry and Margaret Palmer made arrangements for lunch, as did Melissa Mudge for the St. Matthew's birthday cake. Liz Sampson, Sarah Sine, and Brittney McDermott led an extended Sunday School program and activities for the 17 children in their care. Pat Perry diligently crafted our worship bulletin and attended to countless behind-the-scenes details. The passionate dedication of our Vestry made it possible for Sam Gilliam and Larry Wynn to be with us.

To each of these and the many others whose efforts brought about this extraordinary event—*thank you*. Your part, no matter how small, was vital, and we are grateful.

No less than all these, I am so thankful for the 66 adults and youth who stayed to take part in the discussions about our life together and about God's call to us. That opportunity to listen deeply together, to catch whispers of God's voice through our voices, was made possible because you dared to be a part of it.

The benefits of that listening, that seeking of God's guidance forward and outward, have just begun. Twenty-five people signed up to help facilitate our ongoing discussions, and Larry and I will meet with them **Monday, October 3 at 7:00 pm in the Library** to map out how we will do that work in the coming weeks.

The opportunity to participate is open to **everyone** at St. Matthew's, including those who were not able to take part in those discussions on St. Matthew's Day. Watch "Fertile Soil" at <http://vimeo.com/29353208>, and listen for word on how you can plug in!

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Tim+

St. Matthew's Day Celebration

By Barbara Duffield

It worked! The "8 o'clock'ers" and the "10:30'ers" all came to church at 9:30 a.m. There were no fights over whose pew was whose, and September 18 proved to be a wonderful time of celebration and getting to know our early and late brothers and sisters.

No matter if they came earlier or later than usual, both congregations enjoyed our very special guest named *Mrs. Barrington*. Portrayed by Sam Gilliam, an active parishioner at Reconciliation and Instructor of Human Communication and Theatre at Trinity University, Mrs. Barrington began as that grouchy widow lady at the church who saw everything through the lens of how it used to be. Gradually, throughout the program, she learned to appreciate what she had by allowing the community to embrace her, and the church learned to appreciate her gifts. Through laughter and a few "twinges" of recognition of ourselves on occasion, we let Mrs. Barrington guide us into the afternoon activities, which comprised a guided reflection of our lives together in order to address the needs of our community in a new way.

Enter Larry Wynn, a church consultant who is helping several churches as they seek a more missional focus. Each table became a small group and spent the time discussing specific questions and then sharing their insights and views with the larger group. The intent of the discussions was to find ways of taking the church outside the walls of the church, of sharing our mission with the wider community.

A group will join Fr. Tim and Larry this Monday to discuss ideas of just how to go about this; so keep your ears open—there will be something just waiting to help you get involved in sharing Jesus.



Reminder: Our Traditional Chili Cook-Off will be on Sunday, October 30—Watch for details!

VESTRY & COUNCIL DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being received for three new Vestry members to serve three-year terms beginning January 2012. Those who are just completing a three-year term, or at least 18 months of an unexpired term, are **not** eligible for election to the Vestry for one full year.

Tom Perry, John Blumenthal, and John Sampson, who complete three-year terms this year, are serving as our Nominating Committee. **Please turn in any recommendations to one of these three Vestry members not later than Monday, November 7, 2011.**

Nominations will not be taken from the floor. A list of the nominees will be available in the December *Matt's Missive*. **A meeting of the congregation will be held Sunday, December 4, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in Creasy Hall** to elect three new Vestry members from the names submitted by the Nominating Committee.

What kind of Person Should We Nominate to Serve on the Vestry?

The Canonical requirements for a person serving on the Vestry are that a person be a communicant in good standing of St. Matthew's. A communicant in good standing is defined as a member of St. Matthew's (either baptized or confirmed) who for the previous year "has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God". (Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church I.17.3)

Summary of Duties: The following are typical of a Vestry member's duties and are not intended to be all-inclusive:

- ◆ Attends all scheduled or called meetings in order to further the mission of St. Matthew's.
- ◆ Supports both the Rector and Senior Warden by frequent communication with Parish members, to ensure that pro-active positions are achieved.
- ◆ Is a visible leader by helping organize needed Church Projects, or is becoming an active participant in them, to help create an attitude of cheerful service for others to follow.
- ◆ Answers questions asked by parishioners, using factual knowledge gained through Vestry activities, to ensure accurate and timely communication to the membership.

Nominations for Delegates to Diocesan Council

Tom Perry, John Blumenthal, and John Sampson are also accepting nominations for **one Delegate and three Alternates to Diocesan Council**. We will continue the pattern established in 2003 of electing our four delegates and three alternates to staggered three-year terms by vote of the congregation at the same time as new Vestry members, that is, on December 4th. Those continuing their terms are: Hope Ince (Delegate, 1 year), Bonnie McKaskle (Delegate, 1 year), and Jo Ann Quisenberry (Delegate, 1 year). Those elected to serve as Alternates will serve as Delegates in the second and third years of their terms.

The Canons provide that a Delegate or an Alternate to Council be 16 years of age or older and a communicant in good standing of St. Matthew's (see above). Our Bishop has further encouraged us to put forward our best leaders to represent us at Council. The Annual Council normally takes place in February and lasts from Thursday through Saturday. Councils are held in different locations across the diocese from year to year; the 2012 Council will be held in McAllen. Thus, those nominated should be able and willing to spend the time and bear the bulk of the financial cost (meals and lodging) of participating.

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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We were saddened to learn of the death of Kay Renfrow, wife of Jim Renfrow, on Monday, September 19, 2011. A funeral service will be held at St. Matthew's at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 22. May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

God at Work in Sunday School!

By Liz Sampson

St. Matthew's has purchased a brand new curriculum, **Weaving God's Promises**, that will be used at all levels (3-year-olds through high school seniors) for the next three years. An Episcopal priest created the Bible-based, easy-to-use program, which includes age-appropriate activities for every lesson. This program goes hand-in-hand with the idea of a missional church, so what we are doing in Sunday School is moving the children toward the same goals as their parents.

This year's theme is **Weaving Our Faith**—a study of lessons for living that the Bible teaches us and of how to apply them to our own lives. Next year will be **Weaving Together the Family of God**—a study of the individuals in the Bible and how we can relate to others in our church, and the third year is **Weaving God's Beloved Community**—a study of groups of people in the Bible and how we can reach out to the community.

In **Weaving Our Faith** this year, we will begin in the Old Testament, (The Fall and Exile from the Garden of Eden to The Passover and Exodus from Egypt). At the end of October, we will study saints, and on Sunday, November 6, the students will put on an All Saints Day display in the Parish Hall during the Sunday School time (9:30-10:15 a.m.) to share what they have learned. The congregation has enjoyed this in the past, so we are bringing it back. Mark your calendars now; you won't want to miss it!

Then we will turn to the New Testament with a timely focus on the Gospel of Matthew during both Advent and Epiphany, and then move on to the Transfiguration the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

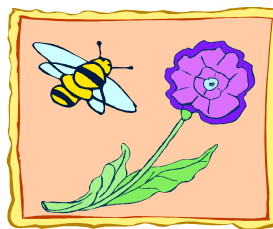
At the beginning of the season of Lent, we will return to the Old Testament to follow the Israelites' journey through the Wilderness to their arrival in the Promised Land. In mid-Lent, we will use the New Testament to prepare for Easter by studying Matthew's account of the Passion of Our Lord, and we will stay with Matthew after Easter to hear the good news of Jesus' Resurrection.

At the end of April, we return to the Old Testament to study the stories about Elijah and Ezekiel and the building of Israel. We will complete our year on May 20, in the New Testament, learning about the Holy Spirit's arrival at Pentecost.

Interspersed throughout the year, we will include lessons about our Episcopal traditions, including the books we use in church and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist. Through this year, we will discover what our place is in God's church. It's all very exciting!

News Notes . . .


The "1-2-3 For Life" Class previously scheduled for this fall has had to be canceled because of unforeseen circumstances. Watch the bulletins and newsletters for further information about the rescheduling of the class.



Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show Saturday, October 15, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$10.00

Our afternoon tea and style show will follow the theme "One Clover and a Bee" and will feature St. Matthew's models showing the latest fall styles. Come hungry! There will be delicious treats served with tea—or with coffee, if you insist. We are also looking for items for a small silent auction to be held at the event. All funds raised through the tea and auction will go to support the Tower of Power campaign.

For more information, or to donate an item, contact Wilma Heberling at 651-0359, Nina Thomas at 658-3911, or Jan Bonner at 945-9196. 

PLEASE KEEP RACAP in mind while shopping for your own families and pick up a few items for the food pantry. There is a collection box in Creasy Hall.

Urgent Pantry Needs:

- Jell-O / canned fruits / dried beans, juice / soups
 - Diabetic or sugar free items
 - Bags or boxes of a variety of pastas
 - Spaghetti sauce
 - Canned pasta w/meat; (ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.)
 - Toilet paper and personal hygiene products
- (cash donations, non-perishable food, and paper products are also needed and appreciated)

Harvest Sunday, November 6, starts our Holiday food drive.

"Thank you for helping us help others."



Chili Cook-Off!

October Calendar

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, October 2: | Potluck Luncheon, 12:15 p.m., RACAP Ingathering, Creasy Hall. |
| Thursday, October 6: | Lunch Bunch, 12:15 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Saturday, October 15: | Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show, 2-4:30 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Tuesday, October 18: | Vestry Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Friday, October 21: | Game Night for Adults, 6:30 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Thursday, October 27: | Dining Out, 6:30 p.m., Tomatillos at 3210 Broadway; Contact: JoAnn & Jesse Quisenberry, (210) 481-6382. |
| Sunday, October 30: | Chili Cook-Off, 4:30 p.m. Creasy Hall. |

A Pictorial Review of St. Matthew's September 2011



The potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 4, had a record crowd and food to spare.



Game night on the 16th, brought out the dominoes and cards for some friendly competition.



St. Matthew's Day on the 18th started early for the committee organizing the Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show to be held in October . . .



. . . then we gathered in the sanctuary as Pat Wilson began her final day as our organist—we wish her a fond farewell.



. . . We watched with pride as Fr. Tim dedicated our new St. Matthew's Day banner . . .



(our thanks go to Wilma Heberling, who designed and handcrafted this lovely banner) . . .



... and we chuckled at Mrs. Barrington and cringed with self-recognition now and then ...



... before moving to Creasy Hall for a quick snack & break before the next session with Larry Wynn.



Liz, Sarah, and Brittney kept the children fed and busy with activities in the CEB ...



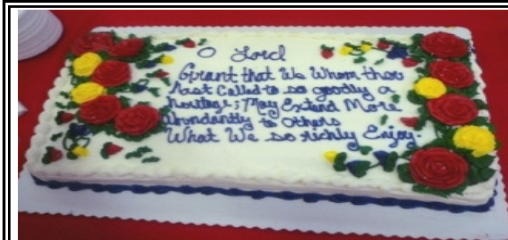
... while we started our first session, working in groups & learning about being a Missional Church.



We took time for lunch and some cake ...



... and continued sharing and learning together.



St. Matthew's Day for 2011 was indeed the highlight of the month—a wonderful celebration where we joined with our youth and embarked on a new way of looking at our lives, our church, and our community. Dining Out will wrap up the month on the 29th (too late for this issue) at Formosa Garden. We hope to see you there.

Postmaster: Send address changes to

MATT'S MISSIVE

P.O. Box 2337 Universal City, Texas 78148

SECOND CLASS PERIODICAL

Duty	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
Altar Guild	Kathy Mulligan Pat Perry	Audrey & John Blumenthal	Hope & David Ince	Bonnie Bell Olive Salyards	Diane Woods Terry May
Cooks	Diane Woods Terry May	John & Wilma Heberling	Cat & Sean Francis Don & Cindy Hite	Bud & Kimberley Erwin Tom & Lenore Mihara	David Ince Linda McClellan
8 a.m. Servers & Readers	Barbara Duffield (S) Suzi Hopkins (R)	Memo Bjoring (S) Doreen Armogida (R)	Wilma Heberling (S) Jan Bonner (R)	Nina Thomas (S) John Heberling (R)	Suzi Hopkins (S) Memo Bjoring (R)
10:30 a.m. Servers	Kerry McKaskle Olive Salyards	Barbara Duffield Mendell Morgan	David Ince Tom Perry	Wayne Mudge Jo Ann Quisenberry	Mendell Morgan Hope Ince
10:30 a.m. Readers	Gary Howard Cynde Mauceri	Diane Woods Jesse Quisenberry	Lisa Merrifield Vince Michel	Olive Salyards Mendell Morgan	Barbara Duffield Gary Howard
Acolytes	Christopher Carter Kathleen Gamble Samantha Steverson Amber Gaston	Vince Michel Ellen Barnhart Bonnie Bell Myia Mauceri	Tom Barnhart Billy Baskin Fred McClellan Madelaine Borrego	Christopher Carter Devin Bradlaw Pam Patten Aaron Steverson	Billy Baskin Hope Ince Bud Erwin Paul Borrego
8 a.m. Hosts	Don Carey	Pat & Frank DePasquale	Ron & Jayne Dunlap	John & Mary Hamilton	Don Carey
10:30 a.m. Hosts	Mary Dunham (A) Sean Keane-Dawes (B) Tom Palmer (C)	Francine Baskin (A) Billy Baskin (B) Tish Barnhart (C) Tish Barnhart (D)	Jo Ann Quisenberry (A) Jesse Quisenberry (B) Alethia Dooling (C) Alethia Dooling (D)	Tom Palmer (A) Margaret Palmer (B) Jo Ann Quisenberry (C) Jo Ann Quisenberry (D)	John Means (A) Sarah Sine (B) Kathy Ercoline (C) Kathy Ercoline (D)
Prayers of The People	John Means	Bonnie Bell	Bill Ercoline	Gary Howard	Wilma Heberling
9 Bean Soup Ministry	John & Barbara Means	Diane Woods & Terry May	Linda McClellan	Jesse Quisenberry	Ann Vellom
Home Communion	Barbara Duffield Cynde Mauceri	Tom & Pat Perry	Mendell Morgan Sean Keane-Dawes	Tish Barnhart (8:00) Pam Calvert	Kerry & Bonnie McKaskle
8 a.m. Prayer Ministry	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield	Don Carey
10:30 a.m. Prayer Ministry	Bob Jones	Bonnie Bell	Fred McClellan	Barbara Duffield	Kerry McKaskle
Children's Church	Liz Sampson Ellen Barnhart	Mary Bartholomew Sarah Sine	Liz Sampson Ellen Barnhart	Ann Vellom Sarah Sine	Liz Sampson Sarah Sine
AudioVisual	Devin Bradlaw	Molly Baskin	Christopher Carter	Jacob Mauceri	Devin Bradlaw
Lockup/Security	Kerry McKaskle	Terry May	Mendell Morgan	Tom Perry	John Sampson