

THE GOOD NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOL. 18 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2011

Rector's Musings

In the words of General Douglas MacArthur as he stepped upon the beach in the Philippines on October 20, 1944, "I have water in my shoes." Alright, he did not say that, he actually said, "I have returned." It has been a long hot summer, and I have missed being in Bloomington/Normal for the month of July. My thanks to Deacon Bruce and the Wardens (Julie Bennett and Diana Holderby) for all their work in my absence.

The time at Nashotah House was wonderful. The course work was enlivening, enlightening, and exhausting, but so worth the time and effort. Each day was framed by participation in the Daily Office and the Eucharist with excellent preaching and music throughout. And though the work load was significant (I'm still working on a couple of papers), there was still plenty of time to catch up with old friends and make new friends from across the Anglican Communion. I had a tremendous time sharing quarters, and meals, with a friend from the Bahamas, a deacon from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and a priest from Barbados.

While the educational experience was great, it pales in comparison with the first ever youth mission trip. On July 17, 9 youth and 6 adults left St. Matthew's for the Big Easy. We were hosted the first night by St. James' Church in Jackson, Mississippi, and spent the remainder of the week with the Free Church of the Annunciation (Episcopal) in the Broadmoor area of New Orleans.

Over the week we worked on three different homes, scraping, priming, and painting. We toured the 1814 Chalmette Battlefield, the

French Quarter, and various sites associated with hurricane Katrina, including the Lower 9th Ward (sight of the most significant flooding). There is still much work to do. We tasted the best of the local cuisine, and enjoyed a special treat each evening (ask our youth about Snoballs in July).



It was a great trip, and all came home healthy and happy. I will say that, having taken numerous trips like this in the past, our youth were the best group with which I have ever traveled. They were courteous, good listeners, great workers, and never complained. I would take this group anywhere. They each represented St. Matthew's quite well, and you should be proud. That is all I'm going to say about that, except please join us on the 11th of September to hear them tell of the trip in their own words.

Again, it is great to be back.

YOUTH NOTES

The youth had an exciting July this year. St. Matthew's first-ever mission trip was a huge success. We had a fantastic time and were able to help some great people.

Here's a synopsis of our trip: Sunday morning we left the church excited to be on our way. After months of fundraising and planning, we were finally headed to New Orleans. After much singing and chatting and game playing, we stopped in Jackson, Mississippi for the night at St. James' church. We were provided breakfast and a cool place to spend the night. The next day it was off to our destination. We spent most of Monday touring the city and settling in to what would be our home for the next week. We stayed at the Annunciation Mission. They provided us with meals, beds and most of all, air conditioning to come back to after a hard day's work. The wonderful people who work there shared not only their time and resources with us but also their stories and lives.



We worked all week long on three different houses: priming, painting and trim work. The kids worked hard in the heat. In fact, Randy, our contact at St. Paul's Homecoming Center (our work base), was surprised at how much we accomplished.

Our youth group kids are great, not only are they hard workers but they were polite and genuinely interested in the people we were helping.

By Saturday we were ready for some fun on the town. We spent the morning and early afternoon shopping and strolling through the French Quarter.



Sunday morning we were packed up and ready to go by 6:00 a.m. The trip home was once again filled with fun and laughter. After a week of working hard together, eating together and basically spending every waking moment together, the youth of St. Matthews were still pleasant to be around and even a lot of fun. Thank you for lending us your kids and sending them to help New Orleans.

We look forward to the upcoming Sunday School year and all the new things it will bring.

~Terra

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Mid-Year Giving Statements

Please pick up your statement
in the Narthex.

Thank you!

PARTNERS IN HEALING



Every month churches throughout our area pray for the patients and staff of Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Community Hospital. In August 2011, St. Matthew's will pray for the staff and patients of the **Surgical Unit**.

The Surgical Unit (**SUR**) is a 35- bed unit on 6 West and cares for orthopedics and general surgery patients.

Please pray for the patients, their families and the staff in the (**SUR**) Surgical Unit.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

August 20 - 8:00 a.m.

The Men's Club typically meets every month on the third Saturday - watch the bulletin for the location. All men are invited to join us for food, fellowship, and prayer.

ITEMS OF THE MONTH
School Supplies for Children's Foundation

For the last few years, our parishioners have generously provided school supplies for the children and youth who are served through the Mid-Central Regional office of The Children's Foundation of Children's Home and Aid (CHA) in Bloomington. CHA has helped the most disadvantaged low-income families of McLean County and the surrounding area for almost 120 years, which annually figures more than 3,000 children and families. Our parish donations have helped one of its most vulnerable population: children and youth recently placed in foster care situations who do not have access to shopping resources. During July and August, the Outreach Committee will again collect school supplies and deliver to the Foundation starting in August through mid-September. Several organizations collect in our community but tend to focus on elementary aged children; however, Junior High and High School youth have as great a need for supplies.

We have been pleased that our parish has recognized this oversight and helped to fill that gap. Backpacks (without comic characters), calculators, pens, filler paper, expandable binders, organizers, thumb drives and blank cds are just some of the welcome items for the youth. Of course, items for children are always welcome: we simply wanted you to know the critical needs of this organization.

To learn more about the Children's Home & Aid, see [http:// www.childrenshomeandaid.org/](http://www.childrenshomeandaid.org/)

Thank you for your generosity.
 ~ **The Outreach Committee**

Take Me Out to the Ballgame
 August 24th and Support *Faith in Action*

Support *Faith in Action* (FIA) while enjoying a night at the *CornBelts* on Wednesday, August 24th at 7:00PM. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy a game and raise a little money for one of St. Matthew's recipient organizations. Contact

FIA, 827-7780 / director@bnfia.org, to reserve your seat. Cost - \$10 per person, checks payable to *Faith in Action*. Checks will be collected at church or mail to FIA office at 410 N. Prairie St., Blm. 61701.

A big thanks to St. Matt's members who attended the Monical's Restaurant fund raiser in July.

Next volunteer orientation - August 11 at 5:30PM.
Linda Thomas, FIA Liaison



*** AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Allan Horsman	1
Donna Mann	2
Kiri Palm	2
Matthew Freedman	3
Zachary Davingman	5
Greg Shaw	5
Pauline Williams	8
Marilyn Snook	10
Margaret Griffin	11
Brent Davingman	12
Kathryn Kerr	15
William Jones	16
Susan Long	17
Laura Gordon	17
Hannah Lucey	20
Emily Jones	22
Peggy Blackley	23
John Stoffer	23
Madalyn Beasley	24
Michael Hebert	24
Fr. Richard Bennett	26
James Gardner	26
Loren Dyson	27
Diana Holderby	27
Charlotte Casperson	28
Janet Hoffman	28
Drexel Douglass	28



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Julie and Jim Cooper	3
Roger and Debbie Thomas	6
Russell and Susan Waring	11

Ken and Wendy Woith	12
Tom and Merrill Lucey	20
Brent and Terra Swisher	22
William and Martha Pitts	26
Robert and Sandy Kohlase	28

MID-WEEK COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Wednesday night community will not meet regularly during the summer, but will meet for special events. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

Donation of Projector

An Epson EX3200 Multimedia Projector has been donated to the church for program use by all church groups. The donor requests that it also be made available for members' home use for a \$10 per 2-day use fee for maintenance and bulb replacement.

Contact office for more information or to reserve dates.

PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

**Lord, hold our troops in your hands.
Protect them as they protect us.**

Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. And give us peace. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



Our troops:

T.J. Correll, Mark D. Hill,
Shane Kupferschmidt,
Jason Lynch, Jeff Riggs,
Jared Spaid, Paul Ward

MUSIC NOTES



During July, several of St. Matthew's talented musicians have shared musical offerings during Sunday services. Thank you to Nancy Roberts, Chuck Stuckey, Justin Palm, Caroline Leighton, and Jim and Julie Cooper for sharing their musical gifts in offertory and communion anthems.

The music groups at St. Matthew's will return to regular rehearsals and anthems in September. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays (beginning September 4) at 7:15 p.m. and Sundays at 9:15 a.m. Singers prepare two anthems for most 10 a.m. Sunday services, and provide leadership in singing hymns and liturgy. The Bell Choir will return to rehearsals after the 10 am service beginning September 11. The Bells prepare a monthly prelude or anthem, as well as accompanying selected hymns. While music reading skills are useful for both singers and ringers, they aren't a requirement to participate. New members are welcome! Please contact me if you have any questions.

In conjunction with changes in the Sunday school schedule, in September the children will begin meeting at 9 a.m. on Sundays to sing together. The children will prepare one anthem a month to share during a 10 a.m. service.

~Melody Palm, Choirmaster

**OPENING THE SCHOOL YEAR
IN PRAYER**

AUGUST 16 - 7:00 PM

EASTVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This community-wide event is a non-denominational service organized by educators, which provides the body of Christ an opportunity to come together in prayer, seeking God's guidance and protection for the new school year.



WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Life Together, the St. Matthew’s weekly bulletin, has its deadline on Tuesdays, to allow time for layout, editing and printing. If you have any information for the bulletin, be sure to turn it in to the Parish Office by noon on Tuesdays. 662-4646 or e-mail: info@stmatthewsbloomington.org

THE GOOD NEWS

The deadline for submitting articles for the September edition of *The Good News* monthly newsletter is Wednesday, August 17 at noon. Articles are now being accepted for the September issue of *The Good News*. Please submit to the Parish Office: 662-4646 or info@stmatthewsbloomington.org

We are unable to publish articles or information received after the set deadlines.
