

## THE GOOD NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOL. 18 ISSUE 12  
DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

### *Rector's Musings*

Benedictus Qui Venit

“Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord”

Advent is quickly passing, Christmas will soon be here, and Epiphany is around the corner. As the hymn says, “Time like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away”, or for Steve Miller fans “Time keeps on slipping into the future.” As we celebrate these seasons, we are reminded of the full mystery of the Incarnation. The infant Jesus does not stay in Bethlehem, he does not remain in Egypt, the “sweet baby Christmas Jesus” of our devotion grows up, endures the cross and rises victoriously. The shadow of Holy Week, the hope of Easter, the promise of the Second Advent, is never far from the Nativity celebrations.

We re-member this on a weekly basis in the Eucharist, and one of those re-remembering elements is what we call the *Sanctus*. The *Sanctus* properly is the Angelic Hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy”, of Isaiah’s vision (Isaiah 6:1-3) and the Revelation to John (Rev. 4:8). The second part is traditionally called the *Benedictus qui venit*, translated above, and is first used in Psalm 118:26. Psalm 118 is a Psalm of thanksgiving for God’s deliverance and the phrase follows a cry for mercy, “Hoshianna” or “Save us”.

This is the cry, “Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” that echoed off the eastern walls of Jerusalem during Jesus’ Triumphal Entry inaugurating the events of Holy Week. Later in Matthew 23:39 Jesus laments for the city, and says “you will not see me again until you say “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” Interestingly, he is not seen teaching in

public again, among the leaders of Judah, nor in the vicinity of the Temple, until the trial before Pilate. Jesus spends the next several days in essentially private company, and spends the Passover with his disciples. Now following the meal, and after singing the hymn, Jesus and his disciples go to Gethsemane where he is arrested. The hymn sung after the Passover meal in Matthew 26:30 is an oblique reference to Psalm 118, and follows directly the institution of the Eucharist. These references are all intertwined to make the connection that Jesus is “he who comes in the name of the Lord”, and is the one who will fulfill the cry “Hosanna”, “Save us”.

The placement of the *Benedictus qui venit* in the Eucharist serves to recall these events and to give thanks for the work of Jesus the Christ in a form of liturgical shorthand.

At the same time, it is an invitation for us, all of us, to be blessed by giving ourselves to God, in coming to the Sacrament in the name of the Lord. May these seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany be ones where we embrace the full mystery of the Incarnation and cry out with joy and thanksgiving, “Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

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### **Come Celebrate the Birth of Christ!**

Three services will be offered this year.  
An early service will be offered at 5:00 PM  
on Christmas Eve.

The Choral Candlelight Christmas Eve  
service will be held at 10:30 PM on

Christmas Eve. The service will be preceded by a carol sing starting at 10 PM. Parents, since this service is held quite late, please feel free to bring the kids dressed comfortably in their PJs.

Eucharist will be celebrated on Christmas Day at 10 AM. Children of all ages are invited to bring their favorite gifts to be blessed at the Christmas Day service.

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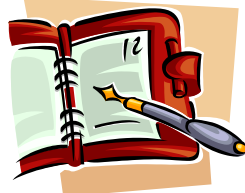
### The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Service will be on January 6 at 7:30 a.m..

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### 2012 DIRECTORY



Please make any corrections to your family's information (address, phone numbers, email addresses) in the binder on the glass case outside of the parish office. The 2012 Parish Directory will be distributed in early 2012. Thank you!

### SAY "CHEESE"!

Our 2012 Parish Directory will feature photographs. If you haven't done so yet, see Susan Mohr to have your photo taken. Susan will be available in the parish hall after both services on Jan 8th and after the 10am service on Jan 15. The Annual Meeting (Jan 22) will be your last chance to be photographed before the directory goes to press.

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### 2012 SYNOD

St. Matthew's has been asked to host the Diocesan Synod for 2012. We are looking for a volunteer to lead the coordination of this event. Please see Fr. Dave or one of the wardens if you are interested.

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### VESTRY/SYNOD CANDIDATES Are you interested in serving on the vestry or synod?

Please submit the following information in your biography:

Name—Church Experience—Ministry Experience—Why do you want to be a part of the ministry of the vestry?

The deadline for submission is December 14.

We would like to publish all candidate biographies in December /January bulletins.

### Candidates:

**Andrea Ingersoll** was very attracted to the sense of community and service this congregation has, and started attending St. Matthew's in November 2010. Since then, she has been able to help out with Vacation Bible School and Youth Group and to teach Sunday School for those in our congregation who are in early elementary school. Recently, Andrea has joined the choir, and has become increasingly involved with the Outreach committee.

Born and raised in Bloomington-Normal, in the United Methodist church, she joined the Catholic communion during her time studying architecture at the University of Illinois, and was received into TEC in September. Currently, Andrea does design software support for the locally-based Farnsworth Group, Incorporated, where her duties include leading discussions on the development and implementation of drawing standards and procedures, assisting with software issues and training users on the utilization of various features of the design software in offices across the country.

She enjoys travel, food, and all forms of art. Her passions include design, social justice and community service.

Andrea looks forward to assisting with the development of spiritual and congregational growth and outreach.

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**2011 Record of Giving**

Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> will be the last day to have donations credited to your 2011 Record of Giving.

Spence Strickley, Parish Treasurer

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**ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORTS**

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **January 22, 2011**. There will be one service at 9:00 o'clock followed by a potluck luncheon and then the meeting. Elections will be held for new Vestry members: we need three, and Synod delegates: we need three and two or three alternates. If you feel called to do either of these please contact a current Vestry member or notify the office. We would also like to have a brief biography to place in the Sunday bulletins between New Year's Day and the annual meeting date.

Articles for the annual meeting report are due to Laura by **January 9**. We would like to have the report ready for publication on January 15 for the congregation to review.

Please email your report to:  
**info@stmatthewsbloomington.org**  
*Thank you from the Wardens.*

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**YEAR-END DETAILS**

Your 2012 giving envelopes will be in the Narthex after Christmas. Please pick them up after services.

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**MUSIC NOTES**



Happy New Year! November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent, and the beginning of a new liturgical year. During Advent, the liturgy includes themes of reflection, preparation and anticipation. The liturgical music will include the Trisagion (S102) – “Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.” The Trisagion is repeated so that the text is sung three times. The Trisagion takes the place of the Gloria or Kyrie, following the first Collect.

By the time this December newsletter is distributed, the children will have shared an upbeat anthem “King of Kings” during the November 20 service celebrating the feast of Christ the King. Preparations are underway for the children’s Nativity offering, which will be shared at the 10 a.m. service December 18. The Nativity offering will share the story of Jesus’ birth with a different look this year.

Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24, the liturgical music will switch to the St. James Christmas Mass settings. We’ve used these settings for several years at St. Matthew’s. They are based on familiar Christmas hymn tunes.

Christmas Eve will include time to sing some of the well-loved Christmas hymns before the late service. Since Christmas Day is a Sunday this year, we have just one additional Sunday during the Christmas season. I encourage you to join in the beautiful music of this joyous season.

*~Melody Palm, Choirmaster*

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**Calling All 20/30 Somethings!!**  
*Upcoming events for the 20/30's Club:*  
Dec. 17: Holiday Party

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## ***YOUTH NOTES***

As we move into Christmas and the New Year I want to say thanks to everyone who gave their time, resources, prayers and love to our children and youth this past year. It's been an eventful and exciting year. We've had many new events and changes and I think this year as a whole has been a success.

### **Here are some upcoming events and announcements for the last few weeks of 2011.**

Sunday school will still be at 9:00am on Sundays but we will be going to Christmas pageant practice at 9:40. It is very important that everyone who will participate in the pageant attend the practices because we are doing something different this year and we need to know how many costumes to make and where everyone will be.

Youth group is going to meet both High School and Middle School together for the remainder of the year as we are going to be getting ready for Christmas and having a great time. So we'll all meet from 5:00-7:00 together from Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**12/4/2011**—Youth group will have pizza and help make costumes and props for the Christmas pageant

**12/11/2011**—The Sunday school kids will make cards for shut-ins. Youth group will make gifts to go with the cards.

**12/18/2011**—Christmas Pageant practice starting at 9:00 AM!! The pageant will be during the 10:00 service. Youth group will deliver cards to shut-ins. Please be on time as we will be leaving the church and will not be able to come back until we are finished.

**12/25/2011**—NO Sunday school or Youth group.

**1/1/2012**—NO Sunday school or Youth group.

**1/6/2012**—YAY! Back to Sunday school and Youth Group!

***~Terra***

tswisher@stmatthewsbloomington.org

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## **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. During December, 2011, St Matthew's will pray for the staff and patients of the **Operating Rooms**.

There are two operating rooms at Eureka Community Hospital in which a variety of surgeries are performed.

Please pray for patients, their families and the staff in the **(OR)** Eureka Community Hospital **Operating Rooms**.

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### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**December 17 - 8:00 AM**

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.

*The Men's Club will not meet in January due to the Annual Meeting.*

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### **COFFEE HOUR**

January 2012 will be here all too soon, and that means a new Coffee Hour schedule. Many, many thanks to all of you who keep this important ministry going. We assume that if your name is on the schedule for 2011, you will continue to serve in 2012. If you need to resign as a Coffee Hour host, please let us know. And if you wish to join this ministry, we will be delighted to add you to the schedule.

We will give you some training and even try to pair you with an experienced host. Our schedule applies to the 10 a.m. service only. Keep in mind that Coffee Hour is not lunch, but a time to relax and refresh, to meet visitors and possible new members, and to connect with each other.

Thank you again! Ann Sokan, 664-1639; and Donna Mann, 829-3184 or 531-2043.

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## ITEMS OF THE MONTH

### Mitten Tree

For several years the Outreach Committee has helped the children and youth served through the Children's Home and Aid (The Children's Foundation) keep warm with new mittens, scarves and caps donated by the congregation. Forecasters have called for a snowy and cold winter so your generosity in providing these items is appreciated by the Outreach Committee.

New mittens, scarves and caps in all children's' and youth sizes are appreciated. Hand knitted or store bought, bright or muted colors, patterned or solid designs are all welcome.

Please bring your items to the Parish starting Sunday, November 27 and hang them on the trees that will be set outside the parish hall. Thank you for your continued generosity toward our most vulnerable children and youth.

*~ The Outreach Committee*

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## COATS---COATS---COATS



Is your coat closet bulging with coats and jackets you never wear? Have your kids outgrown their coats, hats, and mittens? Give these garments a new home with someone in need. Bring them to St. Matthew's and place them in the big white box in the upstairs hallway opposite the sacristy. Do make sure that they are clean and in reasonably good shape, and don't bring other types of clothing. The Outreach Committee will deliver them to The Salvation Army for distribution, starting in October and continuing through January 2011. Thanks so much for helping needy children and adults stay warm this winter!

Thank you for your generosity,  
*~Outreach Committee*

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## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

David Douglass	1
Dorothy Ford	1
Chanté Forde	1
Laura McNeil	2
Lauren Montague	2
Brent Swisher	2
Joel Gordon	3
Sarah DeMeritt	4
Collin Bennett	10
Mary Hunt	10
Carol Stawick	14
Eric Holderby	15
Anne Krippenstapel	16
Eric Owens	19
Ann Hammond	20
Adam Gordon	21
Samuel Clark	22
Holly Dyson	23
Nick Hebert	23
Robert Luke	23
Hally Brenneman	25
Janet Chandler	26
Woody Shadid	27
Christiane Stoffer	29
Max Douglass	31



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Ted and Carole Cox	13
Tyson & Susan Mohr	19
Elvis and Beverly Forde	26
Robin Levine and Karyn Smith	27
Chuck and Melody Palm	28
William and Grace Johns	30



## January Birthdays

Debra Leighton	3
Mona Johnstone	7
Linda Waldron	7
Stephen Kohlhase	7
Jordan Thomas	10
Melinda Laken	12
Paul De Meritt	13
Brent Baughan	14
Harry Bray	14
Charles Palm	16
Bradley Dyson	17
Paul Schmidt	18
Bruce DeGooyer	20
Joy Luke	20
Ken Woith	23
Alicia Perry	24
Megan Holderby	25
Doug Cutter	25
Wayne Dean	27
Jennifer Montague- Butterfield	31

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**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:**  
 Aaron Bivins,  
 T.J. Correll, Mark D. Hill,  
 Shane Kupferschmidt,  
 Jason Lynch, Trevor Read,  
 Jeff Riggs, Anthony Ryan

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**VOLUNTEER AT MIDWEST FOOD BANK**  
 The Outreach Committee wants to make everyone aware of a fun volunteer opportunity at Midwest Food Bank on Tuesday, December 13th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Midwest Food Bank is a food warehouse and distribution facility located at 1703 S. Veteran's Parkway (across from Famous Dave's). Midwest Food Bank donates around \$3 million of food per month to over 600 organizations locally, nationally and internationally. It also provides disaster relief assistance for The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.  
 With only three paid employees, Midwest Food Bank relies heavily on volunteer groups to help fulfill its mission. The primary task performed by volunteers is repackaging bulk food items. Volunteers come from Churches, civic organizations, corporations, college fraternities and sororities, scouting, youth sports teams and the like. Volunteering as a group is a great way to build new relationships or to strengthen existing ones. We hope you'll consider this as an opportunity to join together as a Church community in support of a worthy cause. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Chrissy Stoffer at 663-6450 (home) or 735-2161 (work). We hope to see you there. Thanks.  
**Directions to Midwest Food Bank:** Go South on Veteran's Parkway. Take a right at Morrissey Boulevard (Dennison Ford is on the right) and then take the first left onto Gilmore Drive. The driveway to Midwest Food Bank is immediately on the left. Although Midwest Food Bank has a Veteran's Parkway address, there is no direct access from Veteran's Parkway.

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**BULLETIN GOES ELECTRONIC!**  
 Our weekly bulletin is now uploaded to the St. Matthew's website in PDF format. You may access St. Matthew's weekly bulletin lessons, schedules, announcements and more from your home computer, laptop, smart phone, iPad, etc.  
 Before you know it, there'll be an app for that!

**[www.stmatthewsbloomington.org](http://www.stmatthewsbloomington.org)**

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**THE GOOD NEWS**

**The deadline for submitting articles for the February edition of The Good News monthly newsletter is**

**Wednesday, January 18 at noon.**

**Articles are now being accepted for the November issue of The Good News. Please submit to the Parish Office: 662-4646 or [info@stmatthewsbloomington.org](mailto:info@stmatthewsbloomington.org)**

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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to you and yours -  
may the joy of the season and good health  
be with you  
from St. Matthew's!*

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