

THE GOOD NEWS



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOL. 18 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2011

Rector's Musings

About a mile from St. Meinrad's Archabbey in southern Indiana, there is a small Marian shrine. I make it a point to visit and pray there whenever I make a retreat at the monastery. The shrine sits at the crest of a hill and is built out of Indiana limestone quarried on site. It is a quite lovely walk when the weather is decent, and to take the time to pray in the quiet space.

When pilgrimage services are held the Liturgy of the Word takes place outside the shrine proper, due to space limitations, and there are benches set in a semi-circle facing a limestone pulpit. The pulpit always catches my eye. Carved upon the massive stone block are the words Mary spoke at the wedding at Cana in Galilee, "Do Whatever He Tells You" (John 2:5). For those who preach that could be quite an attractive statement to have carved on a pulpit.



However, the builders of the shrine at Monte Cassino were wise and they did not

leave the preacher with a potential ego trip. When you climb into the pulpit to deliver a sermon, supposedly believing that the congregation will have to do whatever you say, the first thing to meet your eye is a nine-foot tall crucifix planted squarely in the center of the semi-circle of pews.

"Do Whatever He Tells You." The message is not just for the congregation, the message is also for preachers. On whom should our eyes focus? Jesus. Whom do we proclaim? The same. To quote from John 12.21 (KJV), "Sir, we would see Jesus."



The message carved on the pulpit at a small shrine in Indiana is an excellent one for preachers. Yet, it is also for all of us as Christians. Each of us is called to be heralds of the Gospel of the crucified and risen Jesus in our daily lives. In this new year, let us all resolve to do whatever Jesus tells us. May our eyes be upon Christ, and may our gaze, there transfixed, reflect him to those around us who would see Jesus.

THE RECTOR'S VACATION

The Halt Family will be leaving Bloomington, bound for warmer climate after service on December 26th. Fr. Dave will return on January 3rd. Fr. Dave will also be away from St. Matthew's from January 18 - 15, 2011. If you are in need of pastoral care during his absences, please call the office.

**The Epiphany
of Our Lord Jesus Christ**



Service will be on January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

WORDS FROM THE WARDEN

With the New Year comes new ideas, challenges and solutions. One challenge is finding and electing new Vestry Members, new Deanery and Synod delegates. These elections take place on January 30, 2011. I encourage each and every member of St. Matthew's to consider prayerfully as to whether or not you are called to this ministry.

Another ministry at St. Matthew's is the Music ministry. The Vestry and Fr. Dave are currently in the process of looking for a replacement Organist/Accompanist for the Chancel and Children's Choirs. This process has been delayed by the Holidays but not halted. On behalf of the Vestry, if you know of a person who might meet the needs of St. Matthew's in this capacity, please forward their name and contact information to a Vestry member, Fr. Dave or the Parish Administrator, Laura.

We, the Vestry, are still looking for ideas for the Kitchen renovation. I have received only a few ideas for this upcoming project, and again, I eagerly await your thoughts.

I thank you in advance for your thoughtful prayers and ideas.

God's Peace~

Chuck Palm, Rector's Warden 2010

Crèche



Isn't the Crèche on the altar this Christmas season beautiful?

Fr. Bennett informed us that it was a memorial given in memory of Ann Mariner, by her husband William Mariner.

The memorial was made by Mr. Gary Weitzel and Carol Bennett.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **January 30, 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 10**. We would like to have the report ready one week prior to the meeting for the congregation to review.

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

YEAR-END DETAILS

Your 2011 giving envelopes are on a table in the Narthex. Please pick them up after services.

VESTRY CANDIDATES

No biographies have been submitted at this time.

SYNOD CANDIDATES

John Iliff - Candidate for Synod 2011

He has been involved with VBS, a weekday Morning Prayer Leader, St. Matt's Men's Club, and serves on the Fellowship Committee. John feels honored to have been a part of the process of electing our new Bishop-elect, Dan Martins. He made a Cursillo through the Catholic Diocese of Peoria in 1988, and was received into TEC in 1995. He served as lay missionary and later on the parish council of Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Normal for 11 years before coming to St. Matthew's parish. Raised on a farm near Toluca, Illinois he holds a B.A. degree from the U of I at Springfield. He was employed by DuPont Agricultural Products, where his duties included the orientation and training of full-service and seasonal employees, in El Paso, IL for over 31 years, before taking early retirement.

He has been married for 32 years to Monica Kokosinski Iliff, elementary and Jr. High Art teacher in Heyworth CUSD#4, and has two grown daughters, Hillary and Mary Iliff-Engelbrecht and a son Eric, who is deceased. He is a parent member of the local SNAP chapter, an avid gardener, traveler &

enjoys an occasional fine cigar. His interests also include 12-Step, Franciscan and Benedictine spirituality & hospitality; as well as parish growth and outreach to the unchurched/de-churched in our community. John was elected to serve on the Commission on Ministry at last year's Diocesan Synod. [His family name is pronounced: EYE- luff]

Chuck Palm - Candidate for Synod 2011

Chuck Palm would like to be a delegate for the 2011 Synod.

He has been a member at St. Matthew's since 1998, has served on Vestry twice, sings in the Choir, serves as Eucharistic Minister, has been on Fellowship and Outreach committees.

Chuck has been a delegate for Synod eight times and last October was elected to represent Springfield as a delegate to the Provincial Synod in April 2012.

A self professed "Synod Junkie", he not only enjoys the networking that goes on but is truly interested in seeing that all sides are represented in discussions.

He would be honored to represent St. Matthew's at the 2011 Synod.

~Youth Notes~

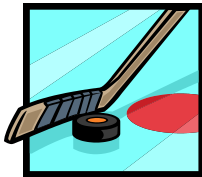
The New Year is upon us and we're excited for what it will bring. Sunday school will start up again on the 9th and Youth Group on the 12th. I'll be eager to hear all about the Christmas break.

In January I will announce the dates for our Youth Mission Trip in the summer. We will be going to New Orleans to work with a ministry that is helping to rebuild and revitalize communities in the city. The youth will soon start raising funds for their trip. This trip is an excellent chance for our youth

to do God's work in the world and have a blast at the same time. This trip is for kids who will be going into 7th grade next fall through seniors graduating this spring. I'm looking forward to a great time!

Thank you to all those who helped make our Christmas Pageant a success. The kids were wonderful.

~Terra



Hockey Night in Bloomington January 16th!

St. Matthew's and Christ the King have rented a party box for the Prairie Thunder Game on Sunday January, 16. A sign-up sheet is located in the parish hall. Tickets are \$20 per person. The party box is also handicapped accessible. Please join us for a night of fun and fellowship, and get ready to **Make Some Thunder!**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started at St. Matthew's in the spring of 2008. The shawls are all delivered to the Rev. Mollie Ward for the Hospice patients at Advocate BroMenn Hospital.

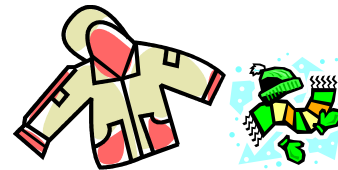
We've recently learned that the supply of prayer shawls is running low so hopefully those who knit and/or crochet will take some time to make prayer shawls.

You may use your own pattern or get a copy of directions for the Trinity pattern from Barbara Dennis. Call 829-0402 or email: dennisbarb@yahoo.com

Healing Service

In continuing with our wellness theme, St. Matthew's will be offering a monthly service of anointing and healing on the fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayers and anointing for healing of any type, please plan on attending.

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**

ITEMS OF THE MONTH

In January & February the Outreach Committee is asking for donated items for The Salvation Army, which operates a church, a shelter for the homeless, and a headquarters where people in need can go

for assistance. Please be generous to this historic, worthy organization in these hard times and this cold weather. Here are some suggestions for giving:

For general operation of the shelter: coffee, toilet paper, napkins, laundry detergent, bathroom cleanser, bleach, 40-45-gallon garbage bags, latex gloves, dish liquid, dish towels, face towels, gift cards from Sam's Club.

Personal hygiene products for individuals: razors, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, foot powder, lotion. All these items must be unused and unopened. Please place them in one of two baskets: one in the narthex, one in the hall near the fireplace. The Outreach Committee will deliver the items to Salvation Army headquarters. Many, many thanks to all who donate so generously!

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:

Andy Grant, Runyon Henderson,
Shane Kupferschmidt,
Jason Lynch, Jeff Riggs,
Jared Spaid, Paul Ward



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **January 15** at 8:00 AM. in the Fellowship Hall. The Men's Club typically meets every month on the third Saturday - watch the bulletin for the location.



*** JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Julia Crawford	3
Debra Leighton	3
Jo Rayfield	3
Mona Johnstone	7
Linda Waldron	7
Stephen Kohlhase	7
Jordan Thomas	10
Russell Waring	11
Melinda Laken	12
Paul De Meritt	13
Ikechi Nnamani	14
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
Rachael Kimmerling	28
Jennifer Montague- Butterfield	31



MUSIC NOTES

. During Advent, we introduced a sung opening and response to the Prayers of the People at the 10 a.m. services. *Lord, Hear My Prayer* is a selection from the hymnal supplement *Wonder, Love and Praise*. The quiet,

haunting tune and text—"When I call, answer me... Come, and listen to me—beautifully framed the penitential Advent prayers.

We'll be singing Hymn #712, *Dona nobis pacem*, at the Prayers during Christmas. As we sing this simple Latin text for *Grant us peace*, I hope that the lovely melody will fill you with God's peace. During the short liturgical season of Christmas, the Offertory response will be one verse of Hymn #82. This hymn, commonly known as *Of the Father's love begotten*, was altered between the 1940 and 1982 editions of the Hymnal. We'll return to the Plainsong version used in the earlier hymnal.

An evening Epiphany service is planned January 6th. There won't be a monthly Evensong service in January, due in part to the family hockey game event. Evensong will return in February.

Our church has a strong musical heritage, locally, nationally and globally. Changes in the music during services provide opportunities to embrace, explore and expand that heritage, while intentionally connecting musical elements to other facets of liturgy and worship. It is wonderful to hear so many voices lifted in song during hymns and psalms!

~Melody Palm, Choirmaster

**MID-WEEK COMMUNITY
GATHERING**

5:30 Dinner / Potluck*
or Healing Service on 4th Wednesdays
*Dinners follow healing services on 4th Wednesdays

6:00 Adult Forum / "The Life You've Always Wanted" Series
or Bible Study
Children's Choir Practice

7:00 Youth Group
Compline

7:15 Kitchen Clean-up
Adult Choir

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 February edition of *The Good News* monthly newsletter is Wednesday, January 19 at noon. Articles are now being accepted for the February issue of *The Good News*.

Please submit to the Parish Office
662-4646 or:
info@stmatthewsbloomington.org

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



