

THE GOOD NEWS



**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOL. 19 ISSUE 2
FEBRUARY 2012**

Rector's Musings

I write this after a forced 6 hour layover in Chicago. It never a good thing to hear, "we are deplaning for mechanical issues". Although, it is better to hear that while on the ground.

It seems that the window defroster was on the fritz and spare parts and spare planes were not available. Predictably, i did not make my first connection in JFK to Brussels. Instead i will go through London and hopefully make all connections to Bujumbura as that flight only goes twice a week.

For someone who dislikes air travel in general, and not being in control of my surroundings in particular, this is a great exercise. My plans, my schedule, has been left to the mercy of American Airlines. Sometimes it is just difficult to let go. Yet, that is part of the life of faith and the call of Jesus upon our lives. Are you (am I) willing to give up control, be moved from being the center of the universe and become a partner with God. Or not. A simple dictum, but a difficult decision.

As we approach Lent this year, may our thoughts turn to discovering where in our lives we need to surrender a bit of control to the life of faith as a disciple of Christ.

Blessings,
Dave
From flight 86 to London Heathrow 1/23/12

ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you for attending the 2012 Annual Meeting and luncheon. You have elected the following parishioners to the vestry:

- Rector's Warden**—Tyson Mohr
 - Parish Warden**—Diana Holderby
 - Elected to the Vestry:** Andrea Ingersoll, Chuck Palm, Linda Thomas
 - Synod Delegates:** John Iliff, Chuck Palm, Kim Bray
 - Deanery Representative:** John Iliff
- Congratulations to our new vestry members and delegates.

We would like to recognize Julie Bennett, this past year's Rector's Warden, and Debbie Leighton and Gary McGinnis, vestry members, for their fine work serving St. Matthew's parish.

A special thanks to all who help set up, clean up, or provided food. We appreciate your time and talents in serving our parish.

Blessings,
Fr. Dave Halt+



**MEN'S BREAKFAST
February 18 - 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.

MUSIC NOTES



Do you have a favorite hymn? With over 700 in our hymnal, there are plenty to choose from! When selecting hymns for services, I begin with the Episcopal Musician's Handbook to locate hymn texts related to the lessons for the day. The music often determines where in the service the hymn is appropriate; for example, hymns during Communion are generally meditative. I try to blend and balance a variety of musical time periods, styles and composers.

January 29, Hymn 566 may be new to many members. The tune is a traditional one, and the short text is full of meaning:

“From thee all skill and science flow, all pity, care, and love,

All calm and courage, faith and hope: O pour them from above!

Impart them, Lord, to each and all, as each and all shall need,

To rise, like incense, each to thee, in noble thought and deed.

And hasten, Lord, that perfect day when pain and death shall cease,

And thy just rule shall fill the earth with health and light and peace;

When ever-blue the sky shall gleam, and ever-green the sod,

And our rude work deface no more the handiwork of God.”

On February 19, the last Sunday before Lent begins, we'll sing Hymn 123 *Alleluia! Song of gladness*. This is one of the hymns with handbell parts included in the hymnal, and the handbells will join to ring out the Alleluia.

I invite you to share your favorite hymn(s) with me, and to explore others that may become new favorites.

~*Melody Palm, Choirmaster*

YOUTH NOTES

Hello Newsletter readers! It's time yet again for a youth and children's update.

We're doing all kinds of fun things with the older kids and planning some for the younger ones.

This month on **February 24th-25th** there will be the Diocesan- wide **Lenten Lock-in** here at St. Matthews. Kids from all over the diocese will be here to learn about lent and have a fun time. This is open to kids in 8th through 12th grades and is an overnight event. There are handouts in the fellowship hall. As with all our events, please feel free to invite your friends from outside the church, they're always welcome!

Youth group has changed times. The youth have decided that it's more fun to meet all together so all youth from 7th to 12th grades are invited to join us from 6:00 to 8:00 on Sunday evenings.

We will be providing supper every week to make it easier for people to attend. We're currently studying the heroes of the Old Testament, so please join us, it's a fun time!

If you want to volunteer for **Vacation Bible School** this summer please contact me and I'll put you on the list. The dates will soon be posted. I have to work with some other churches to organize dates but they'll be out soon.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with Sunday School, Pageants, Youth Group and all the other things we've done this past year. Your support of our young people is instrumental in teaching them how to be Christ's hands and feet to those around them.

~*Terra*

tswisher@stmatthewsbloomington.org

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 February 2012 we will pray for the patients and staff of the **Inpatient Unit (IU)** at Advocate Eureka Hospital.

The 25-bed inpatient unit at Eureka Community Hospital carries an average census of 10 patients. The unit services all kinds of patients, including surgical, cardiac and general medical patients.

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

BOOK/DVD/BAKE SALE!

sponsored by the Outreach Committee on Saturday, February 11, from 8 AM—noon.



Please bring your gently used or new books and DVDs to the church by Friday, Feb. 10. Baked goods would be appreciated on Friday or early Saturday morning.

Any questions or help in getting your items to the church, call Debbie Leighton (H—662-7478 or W—828-7600) or email Bill Johns at wjgj1289@netzero.net.

ITEMS OF THE MONTH

Many thanks to all who decorated our two Christmas trees with scarves, mittens and hats. These items go to Children's Home and Aid, formerly The Children's Foundation.

In **February 2012**, we will collect and deliver items for the Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter, operated by The Salvation Army for men and women who need a safe place to spend the night. Some items suggested by The Salvation Army:

Coffee and other canned food for the Food Pantry; toilet paper, laundry detergent, bathroom cleanser, bleach, 40-45-gallon garbage bags, napkins, latex gloves, dish liquid, bath towels, bus tokens, gift cards from Sam's Club; personal hygiene products (razors, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, deodorant, etc.). We still welcome your gently worn coats, jackets, mittens, etc., for the Salvation Army.

Thank you so very much for remembering with a donation those in need this winter.

~ **The Outreach Committee**

FAITH IN ACTION

Our congregation through Outreach is a proud supporter of Faith in Action (FIA), a local non-profit agency which supports seniors in Bloomington-Normal with transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, friendly visits, caring casseroles and light home maintenance. In 2011 St. Matthew's gave \$665 and 241 hours of volunteer service to FIA. Currently four members and one associate volunteer regularly.

Note - FIA is *entirely* community supported through churches, individual donations and fund raisers. And, its biggest annual fund raiser is just around the corner. This is to urge you to join us for –

“MUSIC OF THE HEART” FAITH IN ACTION'S ANNUAL 'HEART OF FAITH GALA'

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
beginning at 6:00 pm
Parke Hotel & Conference Center
1413 Leslie Drive, Bloomington**

**\$50 per person
Includes cash bar & hor d'oeuvres,
dinner, live and silent auction,
entertainment**

The highlight of this year's auction includes two special golf packages to the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, along with numerous other special and unique offerings.

Our goal is to fill two tables of eight with St. Matthew's members and friends. For reservations call 309.827.7780 or reserve online to bnfia.org

using a credit card. Or, return this flyer with a check payable to Faith in Action, 410 North Prairie St., Bloomington, IL 61701. Be sure to let FIA know you represent St. Matthew's and request to be seated at one of our tables.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Maureen Angell	3
Donna Dyson	10
June Gault	10
Matthew Owens	10
Peyton Owens	10
Beverley Forde	12
Kelsey Warnement	13
Douglas Veal	16
Donna Griffin Balfour	16
Marisa Owens	18
Kenneth Barling	19
Mathew Nadakavukaren	20
Laura Clark	20
Bruce Chandler	21
Ronald Gordon	21
Carlos Levine	24
Madison Williams	24
Elliott Genge	26
James Holderby	27
Bob Cooper	27
Dexter Hebert	28



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Charles and Charlotte	1
Casperson	
Rutger and Ora Bachman	9
Loren and Kathie Dyson	9
James and Kathy LeBreton	18
William and Tami Rolley	27

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, David Gault,
 Mark D. Hill,
 Shane Kupferschmidt,
 Trevor Read, Jeff Riggs,
 Anthony Ryan, Aaron Trimble

THE GOOD NEWS

The deadline for submitting articles for the
March edition of The Good News monthly
newsletter is
Wednesday, February 15 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

The submission deadline for the weekly
bulletin is Tuesdays at noon.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Office: 309-662-4646

Website: <http://www.stmatthewsbloomington.org>

E-Mail address: info@stmatthewsbloomington.org

Prayer Chain: stmattprayer@aol.com

The Reverend David J. Halt, Rector - 660-8515

The Reverend Richard Bennett, Rector Emeritus –
451-1952

The Reverend Bruce U. DeGooyer, Deacon –
530-1255

The Wardens and Vestry

Tyson Mohr - Rector's Warden 530-7629

Diana Holderby – Parish Warden 862-1769

Elizabeth Clark - 310-1151

Chante Forde - 452-9395

Annie Ingersoll - 530-9571

Roy Laws - 663-9415

Robin Levine - 532-3677

Chuck Palm - 454-4056

Linda Thomas - 242-7160

Clerk of the Vestry - Cindy Strickley - 530-1777

St. Matthew's Staff

Mrs. Melody Palm – Choirmaster, Interim Organist

Mr. Spence Strickley – Treasurer

Mrs. Terra Swisher - Director of Religious
Education & Youth

Mrs. Laura McNeil – Parish Secretary - 662-4646