



*The Mentor*  
*December 2014*

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*St. Matthew's Church Mission Statement*

St. Matthew's, an historic church rooted in the Episcopal tradition, shares the love of Christ, putting faith into action through worship, prayer and outreach in the downtown community and beyond.

*Worship Schedule*

Sunday      7:30 AM    Holy Eucharist  
              10:30 AM    Holy Eucharist

Wednesday    9:00 AM    Holy Eucharist & Holy Unction in the Chapel

*The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller,

Bishop of Milwaukee

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

The Very Rev. Matthew L. Buterbaugh,

Rector & Dean of Racine/Kenosha Convocation

Treasurer

Jon Cushman

Wardens

Debi Rengers, Senior Warden

Jamie Cairo, Junior Warden

Vestry

Linda Bogdala

Guida Brown

Dawn Christiansen

Don Gosse

Jim Kremers

Jennifer McCombe

Cary Pallin

Michelle Plichta

Ken Specht

*Staff*

Kay Sutton, Organist/Choir Director

Abigail Wincek, Office Manager

Mary Weiser, Parish Secretary

Jeff Tyree, Facilities Manager

Lynn Heller, RN, Parish Nurse

Franklin Gail, Verger

Leigh Travanty, Sexton



## ST MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMES YOU

### December Highlights

- Saturday, December 13th: 2nd Annual Christmas Sing-A-Long in the church at 5:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.
- Sunday, December 21st: Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10:30 a.m. service with a Christmas party for all parishioners to follow in the Guild Hall.  
Kenosha Chamber Choir Concert at 3:00 p.m. in the church.
- Wednesday, December 24th: No chapel healing service at 9:00 a.m.  
Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m.  
Festival of Music at 9:30 p.m.  
Midnight Mass at 10:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day service at 10:00 a.m.

### Highlights for the coming months

- Sunday, January 25th: Annual Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the GuildHall
- Saturday, January 31st: Young Couples Event 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 14th: 2nd Saturday serving chili & pizza in Guild Hall
- Wednesday, February 18th: Ash Wednesday services at 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.  
Ashes to Go 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 21st: Saturday Service held at 5:00 p.m. in the church

### A Pastoral Letter from Fr. Matthew

Dear Friends,

We have just crossed the threshold into a new liturgical year, and are approaching the end of the calendar year. This time of year can be so many things. It is joyful with the celebration. It is stressful with planning. It is sad for those who have lost. And, it is uplifting for those who hope.

This is a time of new beginnings. For Christians, there are many new beginnings that happen in this season. As I just mentioned, we began a new church year and are in the midst of Advent. Advent is an often overlooked season. With all the shuffling of Christmas, which begins strangely early, society rarely remembers that we are in a season of waiting. There are a few clues we get that Advent is happening. There are Advent Calendars and Advent Wreaths being sold. However, these clues are only faint and easily missed if we're not looking for them.

There is another clue we can overlook if we're not careful. The word "hope" often gets thrown around as a Christmas word. Hope is really an Advent theme. It is a reminder that something good is coming, but hasn't arrived yet. It is that longing expectation of an end to darkness and strife and that peace is on the horizon. If we have nothing in this time of Advent, we have hope. It is the gift of seeing something ahead, and the gift of remembering that what we currently have is not all that there is.

At the end of this season is the beginning of Christmas. Despite the decorations disappearing from the stores on December 26th, only to be replaced with candy hearts and diaper-clad Cupids. Christmas Day is only beginning. Twelve days of celebration follow in this season of new birth. Christmas Season is the time of the new calendar year when many will take on new resolutions and sometimes turn a new leaf. It is in this season that the shortening of days ends and the light returns. It is a time that looks forward and lets us put aside the past.

But, we have not gotten there yet. We still linger in Advent. This season of new beginnings ushers in Christmas, but it is itself a season of reflection. It is a season that calls us to prepare ourselves, not just for opening presents, but for opening our hearts. It calls us to new beginnings of our own. We have a great opportunity with Advent, Christmas and the New Year. What do you want to begin in this season? Maybe you can begin a new prayer or worship ritual. Maybe you can start a new friendship, or rekindle old ones.

The opportunity of new beginnings are infinite. They allow us to shed things we did not care for and pick up things we long for. New beginnings help us to see what is ahead and remind us that we don't have to turn back. In this time of hope, new light and resolutions, see where you can begin something anew and leave behind what is old. May Christ abundantly bless you in this time of newness, and may you be an abundant blessing.

Pax Domini,

Fr. Matthew+

### **Change in Phone Number**

Please take note that Fr. Matthew has a new local phone number: (262) 515-9883. He can also be reached during office hours at 654-8642, or by calling his cell phone 732-692-3846.



### **Food Pantry**

During the month of December we are accepting donations of canned items for green bean casserole (green beans, French fried onion rings, mushroom soup). Bring your items on Sundays and place them in the *big blue baskets* at the back of the church. All donations go to the Shalom Center Food Pantry.



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Stewardship campaign "Walking the Way" and the Ingathering on November 9th. Whether you helped set up or clean up, prayed for the welfare of our parish, brought a dish to pass (everything was delicious), turned in your pledge card(s), ushered, sang, served at the Lord's altar or gathered with your fellow parishioners to offer your thanks for all that St. Matthew's means to you, THANK YOU! Everyone has been given various gifts and talents and those in the leadership of St. Matthew's appreciate all who have come forward this year to share them. We are thankful for so many who continue to serve and to those new to St. Matthew's this year, we look forward to working with you in the coming year. Our parish is truly blessed!

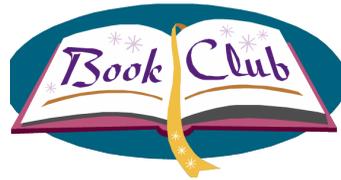
If you have not returned your pledge cards for the Operating and Heritage Funds, please do so as soon as possible. And, if you have changed your phone number (as we have found is the case with some of our parishioners), please call the church office at 262-654-8642 and update your contact information. We greatly appreciate your assistance here.

God bless you all as we continue to "Walk the Way".

Your Stewardship Committee

### **2014 Pledges**

St. Matthew's fiscal year ends on December 31st. To receive full credit for your 2014 pledge, all final payments are due in the office by December 31st.



St. Matthew's Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Judy Ashley's home, 4906 68th Street, Kenosha to discuss *Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert. Judy's phone is 262-652-0844 to let her know if you will be attending.

**Book Summary:** This richly imagined novel, set in Hawai'i more than a century ago, is an extraordinary epic of a little-known time and place - and a deeply moving testament to the resiliency of the human spirit.

Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end - but instead she discovers it is only just beginning.

With a vibrant cast of vividly realized characters, *Moloka'i* is the true-to-life chronicle of a people who embraced life in the face of death. Such is the warmth, humor and compassion of this novel that "few readers will

remain unchanged by Rachel's story."



This winter, with all the elements of ice and snow, members of our parish who feel they cannot venture out can stay connected by calling the office (654-8642) and requesting a eucharistic visitor bring them communion. Those who have access to the internet can also hear Fr. Matthew's sermons. Each week the sermon is posted on our website ([stmatthewskenosha.net](http://stmatthewskenosha.net)).



## Giving Wreaths

This year, St. Matthew's is continuing the tradition of the Giving Wreath, but we're asking the congregation to remember "the least of these" – those with mental illness and addiction – in our community. We are asking you to give to those residing in Oxford Houses in Kenosha who are living in recovery from addiction, those served by the KARE Center who are living with chronic and persistent mental illness, and those living at Columbus House who are transitioning from prison back to society.

Donations must be new. You can wrap the gift and put the tag from the wreath on it. A box will be located in the back of church for gifts. An envelope will be taped on the inside of the box for gift cards. In addition to most of the tags on the Giving Wreath, gift cards to Subway restaurants are needed for the KARE Center, so you can place those in the envelope in the box, as well.

The box will be out the Sundays, December 17th and 21st. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Roeder at 262-657-9608.

In the past our congregation has generously supported children at Christmas time, and so have many other people, churches, agencies, and groups. While understanding how adults ended up in the situations they have may be difficult, we ask that, this Christmas, through our Giving Wreath, you consider Jesus' call to take care of the sick and visit those in prison, and give generously to them, as well.

## ~~ New Parish Directory in 2015 ~~

As part of the celebration of St. Matthew's 175th anniversary, we are hoping to put together a new church directory. It will be done a little differently than it has been done in the past - families will be able to submit their favorite family picture or arrangements can be made to have one taken. The directory will probably not be completed until next summer, but keep the family picture idea in mind as we all celebrate the upcoming holidays.



THE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

*welcomes you*

*to something new!*

### *A Saturday Evening Service*

A few months ago a task force began to explore the possibility of a Saturday Service at St. Matthew's. In that time, the task force of six people has done a lot of work of discernment, visioning, and planning. Here is what has come of that work:

On **Saturday, February 21 at 5:00pm**, we will launch our Saturday evening service. It will continue every following Saturday at 5:00pm. This service will be a little different than what happens on Sunday morning. It will still follow the rhythms and patterns of the *Book of Common Prayer* but will also draw from some other traditions of the Church. The service will have elements of Evensong or Evening Prayer, but most weeks will also have a Eucharist. The music will be simple and singable while maintaining the dignity of Anglican worship. The Saturday Service will be at the same time both intimate and celebratory. Our Saturday Service will not only provide a worship alternative for those whose schedule makes Sunday morning difficult but also will be ideal for those who are looking for something a little different in their worship experience.

If anyone you know may be interested in this service, we will have a test run of the service and a meeting about it on **Thursday, February 5 at 7:00pm**. We are hoping to gather a core group of those who would be interested in this service and invite all who want to be part of this new endeavor to attend. You don't have to already be a member of St. Matthew's to be a part of this core group. So, spread the word about the February 5 event and the new Saturday Evening Service.

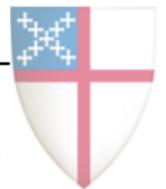


St. Mary's Altar Guild welcomes your memorial donations for the Christmas flowers used to decorate the church at Christmas. The white envelopes at the back of the church can be used for your Christmas Flower donations. Fill out the front of the envelope with your name and dedication and enclose your donation. The envelopes can be placed in the offering plates on Sundays or returned to the parish office. The dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletins.

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### **Inquirers Classes**

*Interested in learning more about the Christian faith  
from the perspective of the Episcopal Church tradition?*



Fr. Matthew will begin an Inquirers Class the week of January 11th. This class is for those seeking confirmation, reception, wanting to officially join the Episcopal Church, or wanting to renew their baptismal vows or just learn more about the Episcopal Church. The class will meet for several months on either Sunday at 3:00 p.m. or Wednesday or Thursday at 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of the church. Please indicate the day you are available.



We're doing some great things here at St. Matthew's that we want to be sure you know about!

We are asking that you help us make Christmas a happy time for those in our community suffering from mental illness and addiction; the Giving Wreath will benefit those at the KARE Center, Columbus House and Oxford Houses in Kenosha, so please help us spread Jesus' love to "the least of these."

As you probably know, our congregation serves the evening meal at the Shalom Center Soup Kitchen on the third Sunday of every month, and volunteers are always welcome, but we especially need able-bodied volunteers who can help with heavier jobs. If you're interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Franklin Gail. He can be reached in the church office.

Thanks to everyone for your interest in the African Team Ministries! Thanks to you, we raised \$862 to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms for orphans and refugees in East Africa. This support ensures that the children receive an education and a measure of stability.

Don't forget to order your St. Matthew's t-shirts...they're gonna be pretty cool, with a sketch of the church on the front, and "GOT FAITH" on the back. You can see the design on the back table behind the order sheet. They make great Christmas gifts!

And don't forget to buy Singing Rooster Haitian Coffee! It's only \$10, it makes great Christmas gifts, and you're helping farmer cooperatives in Haiti build and reserve their own capital! If you want to purchase Singing Rooster regularly – on a monthly or bi-monthly basis – just let me know! Otherwise, the coffee is available for purchase during coffee hour.

Finally, as a service to the elderly population, we are working on providing rides at least monthly to downtown places of worship. We plan to start this on Easter Sunday, which is the first Sunday in April. We will then add a community meal and fellowship in the Guild Hall, starting on May 3.

If you want more information or have suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me, Guida Brown, Chair of the Service & Outreach Committee.



### **St. Matthew's Monthly Tithe**

Throughout Scripture God has called is people to be generous. This generosity is shown in the use of our gifts, our time and our financial resources. As you may know, each month St. Matthew's generously gives a tithe of the pledge donations to a nonprofit agency. This totals \$1,235 each month for 2014. The recipients in 2014 were:

- January - First Step Services
- February - Genesis House
- March - Hope Council
- April - Kenosha Dream Playground Project

May - Shalom Center  
June - Women & Children's Horizons  
July - Hospice Alliance  
August - Episcopal Relief & Development  
September - Autism Solution Pieces  
October - Frank Neighborhood Project  
November - KAFASI  
December - ELCA Outreach Center

These donations are making a huge impact in our community so you should be really proud of what we're doing as a congregation! Watch for more information in 2015 from the Outreach Committee.



### Children's Christmas Pageant

The Children of St. Matthew's will present a Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21st, at the 10:30 a.m. service. Children should come on the 21st dressed in a white shirt and black pants or skirts. This will help when they are wearing their costumes and choir gowns.



### *Christmas Party*

All parish members are invited to a Christmas Party in the Guild Hall at 12 Noon on December 21st. Come and celebrate with the children who participated in the pageant and choir this day. Snacks and beverages will be provided by the G2G Group.

## December Notes

**Attached is the December 2015 Calendar**

**2014 pledges need to be paid by December 31st to receive credit for the current year.**

**The 2015 pledge envelopes will be at the back of the church on Sunday, December 28th.**

**Merry Christmas to all from:**

**Fr. Matthew  
Mary  
Abigail  
Franklin  
Leigh**