



The Mentor

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January 2013

Staff

Kay Sutton,

Organist/Choir Director

Abigail Wincek, Office Manager

Mary Weiser, Parish Secretary

Jeff Tyree, Facilities Manager

Lynn Heller, RN, Parish Nurse

Carly Jepson, Nursery

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Rt. Rev. Steven A Miller,

Bishop of Milwaukee

St. Matthew's Church

Worship Schedule

Sunday	7:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM	Nursery Care to 1:00 PM
	10:00 AM	Sunday School to 11:15 AM
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	10:00 AM	Bible Study in The Guild Hall

Wardens

Karen Dubiel, Senior Warden

Jamie Cairo, Junior Warden

Vestry

Walter Breach

Michael Brooker

Guida Brown

Eve Hoey

Casey Kalicki

Steve Krzyzanowski

Jan Merkt

Cary Pallin

Elisabeth Westphal

Treasurer

Jon Cushman

Letter from The Rev. Gary P. Lambert

December 20, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

There is an adage which says, "If you want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans." These words seem very appropriate as I move through my recovery and plan for the future. I had thought I would at least be able to return to St. Matthew's part time until a new priest is called. However, the question then became, "What happens next? How am I with a new prosthetic limb?"

Bishop Steven Miller recommended the solution for me. I am very grateful to him, Fr. David Pfaff, and the Church Pension Group, who collaborated to create some very workable options. As it turns out, the best option is to apply for a disability retirement, and I am in the process of doing so. Therefore, as of December 31, 2012, I will no longer be serving St. Matthew's in the capacity of Interim Rector and priest.

The prospect of retirement is one I have anticipated, since I turn 65 in July of this coming year. So, this turn of events takes me quite by surprise and is not the way I planned things. However, it is the best of all possible scenarios for the future stability and financial well-being of my family. I believe it is also the best scenario for the parish family of St. Matthew's. Your focus and attention needs to be centered on the calling and welcoming of a new full time rector. The only drawback to this plan is missing you all. I have become quite attached to you and have grown a great fondness for you during these past 15 months. I am reluctant to leave your midst and I would rather finish what we had begun.

On another note, after meeting with the vestry this past Tuesday, Bishop Miller has informed me there will be efforts made by the vestry to plan a Sunday morning where we might worship together and have a chance to say farewell. I am eager to have this opportunity, and I look forward to being with you one more time.

May you and your family have a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Gary Paul Lambert
Interim Rector

Report from our Senior Warden, Karen Dubiel

I would like to update the parish on two topics that we have been discussing quite a bit in recent months: the 2012 Stewardship Drive and the status of Father Gary's relationship with St. Matthew's. First, the results of the Canvass. There will be a complete reporting available at the Annual Meeting, but basically the amount of monies pledged for 2013 is essentially the same as that which was pledged for 2012. There were several pledges that were the same or increased from 2012, but these gains were offset by an almost equivalent amount in reduction in pledges. Also, we did have several new pledges, but also lost about the same number due to death or other losses. The Vestry has, however, determined to move forward with hiring a full-time Priest, in the hopes that once a Priest is vested that the financial situation will stabilize.

With regard to Father Gary, he has decided to retire from active ministry effective December 31, 2012. His letter to the parish is included in this month's Mentor. As we are in the final stages of our search process, the Vestry, along with the Bishop, has decided that the best course of action will be to utilize Supply Clergy until our new Priest is hired. Please rest assured that the Vestry worked very closely with Bishop Miller and Father Gary regarding his decision to retire, and we support Father Gary completely in his decision. It is our intention to invite Father Gary for a "farewell service" in the near future.

I am very aware that this past year has been a difficult one for our parish. On behalf of the Vestry, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support, and encourage you all to continue to pray for our parish and for the Priest that we are searching for.

As always, if you should have any questions regarding the leadership or operation of the parish, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jamie Cairo, Junior Warden.

Karen Dubiel,
Senior Warden

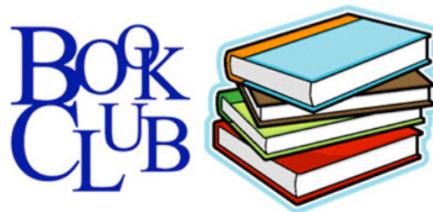
Thank You to all Who Participated in Christmas Activities!

The Annual Christmas Pageant: "The Christmas Story" was presented on December 23rd by a cast of twenty-five of our children and adults with readings from the Gospels of Luke and John. Rachel Lochtefeld, who was assisted by Dawn Christiansen, Lynn Heller, and Elisabeth Westphal, directed the annual pageant. Kay Sutton and Karen Dubiel provided music.

Altar Guild: Members of St. Mary's Altar Guild decorated the church the Saturday before Christmas with poinsettias, wreaths, and evergreen branches. All the candles added to the atmosphere on Christmas Eve.

Music: Organist and Choir Director, Kay Sutton organized a "Festival of Music" that was presented at 8:30 PM before the Holy Eucharist began at 9:00 PM on Christmas Eve. The participants from the parish gave an outstanding performance.

The Rev. Canon David Pfaff: The Wardens, Vestry, and congregation of St. Matthew's extend a heartfelt thanks to Canon Pfaff for joining us on Christmas Eve for two services. His assistance in this time of transition is greatly appreciated by our church community.



St. Matthew's Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 27th, (**note new date for meeting**) at 7:00 p.m. at Sarah Rangel's home to discuss *In the Garden of the Beasts* by Erik Larson.

"The rise of Nazi Germany is a well-chronicled time in history, which makes *In the Garden of Beasts* all the more remarkable. Erik Larson has crafted a gripping, deeply-intimate narrative with a climax that reads like the best political thriller, where we are stunned with each turn of the page, even though we already know the outcome." (Shane Hansanuwat, Amazon Book Review)

Please read the book and join the discussion on January 27th.



Stewardship

If you have not picked up your 2013 giving envelopes contact the parish office at 654-8642 and arrangements can be made. Your 2013 giving begins January 6th and should include the Initial Offering envelope.

Statements for 2012 giving will be mailed out the middle part of January. Please be patient with the office staff.

Attached is a draft of the 2013 budget and a summary of the 2012 Canvass. Both of these were prepared by Treasurer, Jon Cushman.

Parish By-laws

You will find, **as an attachment**, a copy of the Parish By-laws for your review. They have not been updated since about 1979. This draft has been updated to reflect what's been important to us at St. Matthew's as well as to incorporate the suggested template from the diocese. Please review them and be prepared to vote upon the by-laws at the Annual Meeting. This is a necessary step by the congregation to make them go into effect.



Nursery Care on Sundays

Little Lamb Nursery provides childcare for children up to age 6 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Guild Hall. Carly Jepson is our childcare provider and each Sunday a member of the parish assists her in the nursery. Nursery volunteers are still needed so if you can help out one Sunday a month contact Dawn Christiansen or call the parish office. A three-hour class is required for all who participate in this ministry.

St. Matthew's will host a *Safeguarding God's Children* training on Saturday, January 19th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This training is FREE and is REQUIRED for anyone who will be working with the children of the parish. Light refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in working with our children should plan to attend the training (even if you don't currently work with them) so that there will be a record on file of those who have received the required training. Attendees should register by calling the office at 654-8642 with your name, address, email address, and phone number.



Update from the Search Committee

The search committee concluded their initial interviews with the candidates on January 3rd. The next phase of our discernment process will involve checking references and narrowing our field of 4 candidates to 2. Once this is done we will travel in small groups of 2-3 to visit the churches of the selected candidates to gather more data and information. This will help us make our final selection, which will be presented to the vestry. We have been very impressed with our candidates and are excited about the next phase of this journey. Please know that your prayers for the search committee are important.

"Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for St. Matthew's parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Members of the Search committee are Guida Brown, Dawn Christiansen, Jim Lochtefeld, Jennifer McCombe, Cary Pallin, Ken Specht, and Frank Summers. Feel free to contact them with any questions you may have.

Submitted by,
Jamie Cairo
Jr. Warden
Search Committee Chair

Women of St. Matthew's - Mark Your Calendars!

Pre-Lenten Women's Day
Saturday, February 2, 2013
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
in The Guild Hall

Take this opportunity to spend a day in quiet reflection, discussion and fellowship. More information will be available soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars and invite a friend!!

Any questions can be directed to Linda Bogdala.



172nd Annual Parish Meeting

St. Matthew's will hold its 172nd annual meeting for members of the parish. The meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2013, in the Guild Hall between the 7:30 and 10:30 AM Sunday services. A breakfast will be served and there will be activities for children of all ages.

All vestry committee chairs, outreach chairs, and organization chairs, should submit their written reports to the office no later than January 14, 2013.

Health News – from Parish Nurse, Lynn Heller, RN

This month Lynn has given us a comprehensive overview of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, commonly known as COPD. Please find the informative article as an **attachment** to this Mentor.

Look for the following attachments in this January 2013 issue of The Mentor

- Draft of proposed By-laws
- Health News – COPD
- Treasurers report by Jon Cushman
- January 2013 Calendar