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ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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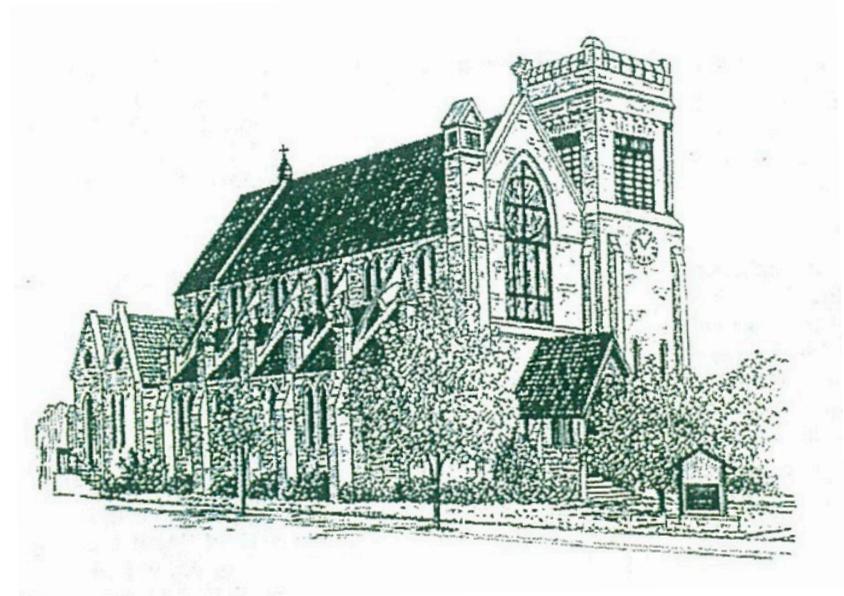
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Newsletter of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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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 & Healing Service 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

The Rev. Robert Bagley, Deacon

Treasurer

Rick Stoddard

Wardens

Debi Rengers, Senior Warden

Ken Specht, Junior Warden

Vestry

Jennifer Cobb

Kirsten McVey

Don Gosse

Amy Parrish

Geoffrey Greeley

Jim Singer

Gavin Lochtefeld

B. J. VanKammen

Jennifer McCombe

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

A Pastoral Letter from Fr. Matthew

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:1-2, NRSV)

Holy Week and Easter are right around the corner. This is a special time for the Church. It is a time of mystery and tradition. This is the time that we remember our salvation story in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time that we walk with Christ in this journey through the hearing of scripture and worship.

Every year, I find Holy Week to be a powerful part of my Christian journey. I am not just reminded of Christ's suffering, death and conquest of evil, but I am reminded of how we share this journey as a Church. Some of the most powerful moments in my memory are carrying palm branches into the church while singing; Christians showing humility and washing one another's feet; approaching the Cross on Good Friday; and lighting the new fire at Easter Vigil. These are powerful moments, not just because of what they commemorate, but because these are symbols of how our common life as Christians has power too.

This year Holy Week at St. Matthew's will not only be a time of remembering Jesus' story at the foot of the cross, but it will be a time for us to live out our common life together. As many of you know, we will be joined by our fellow Episcopalians from St. Andrew's this Holy Week. Unlike in past years when they have come to worship with us and then gone back to their own worship space, this year our worshipping together will be the beginning of a long journey of our two churches together.

As they did on Ash Wednesday, the people of St. Andrew's will worship with us on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. They will worship one last time - at least for a while - in their own building, and then join us on a regular basis for our weekend services. During this time, they will shutter their building on 26th Avenue. They won't have to worry about finding supply clergy or keeping the heat on. They will be focusing their energy on discerning their future as a congregation.

I can only imagine that this will be a time of great anxiety for members of our sister parish in town. The future of their church is uncertain, and the task ahead of them is daunting. This is a time when they need to know they are loved and supported. As the quote from the *Letter to the*

Hebrews suggests, we need to show love and hospitality as if we were doing so to divine beings.

This directive is not just for those who are worshipping with us from St. Andrew's, but really for anyone who walks through our doors. Hospitality is not just about being polite and shaking someone's hand at the Passing of the Peace. It is about making our home someone else's home. I am struck that in Matthew 10:11, when Jesus sends his disciples out to minister, he tells them: "Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave." It sounds like Jesus is commanding his followers to impose upon people. I think the important part of this verse is remembering that the "worthy" house is one that welcomes God's people unconditionally.

With this in mind, I am issuing a challenge to the members of St. Matthew's. Let's be that worthy house. When you see people you don't know in church, get to know them. Find out their names. Invite them out for a meal or coffee. Exchange numbers. Find out what's happening in their lives. Let whoever you don't know by name know that you actually care about them. Many people walk through our doors. Don't let them walk back out without them feeling like they were noticed and valued.

This Holy Week and Easter is a time to remember what Jesus has done for us. It is also a time to remember that there is an "us". Let us welcome the stranger in our midst, and let them know that this is their church home too.

Blessings and Peace, Fr. Matthew+



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).



This volunteer ministry of St. Matthew's has been continuous since 2005. It is staffed by the Parish Parish Nurse, Lynn Heller, with the help of additional volunteers as needed. Each client is seen as often as

necessary—from several times a week to once a month. The nurse has provided services that include: pouring meds, supportive end of life care, care after discharge from the hospital or nursing home, transfer from home or nursing home to the hospital, symptom management and referrals for additional care or financial support. The other volunteers have helped with appropriate community support referrals, moving a client to a facility and staying with a client for short periods in an emergency.

Another function of this ministry is bereavement follow-up. After a death the family receives contact as needed before and at the funeral, then mailings and other contact 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year after the death of a loved one.

Education materials can be provided when requested by anyone in the congregation. Every adult, no matter what their age, should have a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare. Forms can be provided as well as assistance with completing them.

If you have a talent you would like to share with this team (special knowledge, cooking a meal, providing a ride on occasion, sitting with someone on occasion, or any other talent you may want to share) please contact Lynn Heller through the office or call her directly at 697-0970.

Eucharistic Ministers

This volunteer team takes communion to our shut-ins on a monthly basis or as they desire it. If we do not see a client regularly, a note is sent to keep communication current. Parishioners who find themselves in need of this ministry can contact the church office.

If you are interested in joining this team, please contact Fr. Matthew or Lynn Heller and we can set up a time for the short instruction needed. This ministry is not very time consuming but very much appreciated by all of those served.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

This volunteer ministry relies on anyone who can make a shawl or a lap blanket. They are blessed and then ready for any member of the congregation to take to someone they know who is ill, for a special occasion, or just needs to feel loved. Shawls and lap blankets are in the cabinet in the back of the church. In addition, every baby baptized receives a blessed baby blanket. This welcome and supportive ministry will continue so long as we have shawls to distribute. Thank you for your donations.

Cards for Shut-Ins

Lynn Heller, Parish Nurse, has an assortment of cards on the table at the back of the church. All are welcome to make contact with those parish members who can no longer attend services. If you send a card from the church, or use one of your own, remember to use the church mailing address as a return address.

Parish Goals

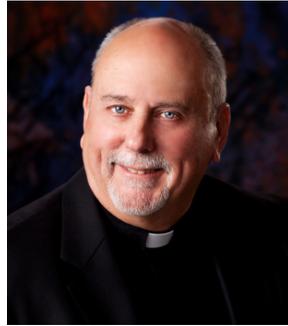
Future parish goals were discussed at the March vestry meeting. It was determined that one goal would be to increase our average Sunday attendance (ASA) from 100 to 110. One other goal was that we increase total participation in ministry by 10%. This increase would be accomplished by getting more people involved in our programs and ministries.

Food Pantry

The Shalom Center food pantry has requested cereal for the month of March. This can be instant oatmeal, family size bags of cheerios, or any other hot or cold cereal.

Our Prayers of Thankfulness

Included in the intersessions each week are prayers of thanksgiving. These are our intentions for things in our lives for which we are thankful. On the table at the back of the church is a silver box and paper. You can write out your intentions and place the paper in the box. They will be published in the bulletin at a later date.



The Rev. Robert Bagley

Hi St. Matthew's;

I've been assigned to St. Matthew's by Bishop Miller as your new deacon and have been serving for the past three Sundays. Let me tell you a little more about myself.

I was ordained on June 5, 2010 and have been serving liturgically at St. Michael's-Racine since then. My wife, Judy, and I have been associated with St. Michael's for about 25 years. In a previous life, I was the Laboratory Director for the Racine Health Department and began the journey toward ordination after I retired from that position.

I was ordained as a community based deacon with a liturgical presence in a diocesan parish. For the past 5 years, I've spent one or two days a week visiting with and getting to know the participants at the Hospitality Center, a "drop-in center" for the homeless and the near-homeless located in Simpson Hall at St. Luke's-Racine. The Hospitality Center is now the largest meal site in Racine.

I've also been active in the Racine Interfaith Coalition. I've co-chaired the criminal justice reform ministry for the past 3 years-working on expanding access to the Racine County Drug court and (most recently) advocating for the establishment of a comparable Mental Health court. I currently serve on the Commission on Ministry for the diocese.

Judy and I have been married for 23 years and have 6 children and 5 grandchildren between us. Please introduce yourself-I'm looking forward to learning about St. Matthew's.

- Deacon Bob Bagley

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

In the late spring of 1968, The Rev. Peter Stone, Rector of St. Matthew's, put out a call to the men of the parish to be trained to serve at the altar for Sunday worship services. At that point in time, the only persons serving at the altar other than the ordained ministers (priests and deacons), were altar boys. And although it would be just a year or two later when the Episcopal church would open the door to girls (to join boys at the altar) and women to serve as priests, in 1968, it was males only at the altar.

Six men came forward to be trained, two of whom were Don Michie and myself. With the tragic loss of Don early this year, I am the last of the six still serving at the St. Matthew's altar. During the forty-eight years of serving at the altar as an eucharistic minister, I estimate that I have lifted the cup of the blessed sacrament to the lips of at least 35,000 worshippers.

Holding the cup containing the sacramental blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has always been an awesome experience. However, the time has come for me to limit my eucharistic ministry at the altar. I have asked that my name be removed from the Sunday morning rotation schedule. I will remain available to assist at the altar for special occasions and I will continue to bring communion to shut-ins.

I consider it a blessing from the Lord to have been permitted to serve Him in a very special way these many years.

- Franklin Gail



Acolyte Event

All current acolytes mark your calendars for the next great acolyte event on Friday, April 22nd at 5:00 p.m. Training, fun, games, and food are offered. This event is also open to adults and any youth over age seven who would like to become acolytes.



ST MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMES YOU

A Little History from our Archives

(see attachment)

Holy Week Highlights

Maundy Thursday, March 24th, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25th, 12 p.m.

Holy Saturday 5:00 p.m. service will be delayed until
7:00 p.m. when all are invited to the Easter Vigil.

Easter Vigil, March 26th, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Day Services

March 27th: 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

with Flowering of the Cross

To view our parish calendar go to:

<http://stmatthewskenosha.net/events/calendar/>