

A Pastoral Letter from Fr. Gary Paul Lambert

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Earlier in the month of September, I wrote a letter to the members of the Vestry, the Transition Team, and the Search Committee. I would like to share the thrust of that letter with you, because its content is important for all of us in these final days of transition. One of the hallmarks of a time of transition is the change being made along the way. Much of our change at St. Matthew's has been in the line of the renewal of ministries and activities. We are not re-inventing the wheel. However, when it seems important to move into some new areas, it is only done after considered deliberation.

I am very delighted at the number of leaders in your parish who have stood up to be involved in the engagement of developing and re-developing. You are very blessed, indeed, with people who are trying to put the nuts and bolts together of a renewed vision for St. Matthew's. At the same time, with so much activity going on things not only appear a bit chaotic; things are chaotic. The chaos you may witness at this moment in time is a sign of the order yet to come. Anglicans pride themselves with doing ministry in good order. However, before order, there is first chaos. So do not worry, things are not falling apart. What you are witnessing are great signs of health and vitality. As a matter of fact, if you would like to know more about some of the things taking place your voluntary participation is invited and welcome.

There are changes in the administration of the parish taking place, too. Since Franklin Gail has retired, we have hired Abigail Wincek to serve as Parish Administrator. Abigail brings many gifts to the table and we are very happy to have her with us. Faced with so much energy and activity I have found it necessary to initiate a protocol of sorts in order to be as organized and focused as possible. The following two paragraphs are the same ones I wrote to some of our parish leaders:

The fundamental exercise of this protocol is to be as communicative as possible with people who need to know about projects, activities, information gathering and decision to be made. If you think someone might have some related interest and/or need to know, then, please inform this person. Since I am the rector, I have the unique advantage to be able to observe the overall parish in ways no one else can. Therefore, I should be on everyone's communication list. There have been times when I have learned of some actions second hand or late in the day and would have given some important input had I known earlier. Secondly, there needs to be one person who can help tie things together, provide resources, and keep a finger on the pulse of the parish in order to supply feedback that might be helpful. Please, keep each other, and me, informed about the process of things with which you are working.

Another responsibility I have is the oversight of the parish staff. Abigail, Mary and Jeff work for the parish, but they are responsible to me. If there is a need to employ one of our staff for a project of some sort there usually is no problem with this kind of request. However, I do want to know about it. Each of our staff members works well on an independent basis and they are here to serve the parish. Having one chain of authority, though, will avoid working at cross purposes and will make things less confusing for staff members.

There is a familiar story that made the rounds a few years back. It seems there was a much beloved elderly woman who had been a member of the parish for many decades. When she died her family and friends began to make arrangements for her funeral. In her personal papers they found what seemed to be a very strange instruction. She had directed that when she was laid in her coffin a fork was to be placed in her hand. "Why would anyone do such a thing like that," people wondered? Reading on in her instructions her sister came across an explanation. This woman had loved the church pot luck dinners and did her best to never miss these events. When the servers would gather the dinner plates and dishes from the table after the main course, they reminded everyone to save their forks for dessert, "For the best is yet to come." Therefore when I die I want to meet my Lord with a fork in my hand, because I know the best is yet to come.

So in these waning days of transition let us pray for patience and kindness towards one another. And, please remember your forks --- because the best is yet to come.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Gary Lambert+



Ice Cream Social Get-Together



Why: To start our Sunday School program

*Who: Children, parents & anyone interested in the kids
of our parish*

*Where: Great Hall in the Guild Hall (building just West of
the Church)*

When: Sunday, October 14, 2012 (National Children's Day)

Time: Following 10:30 AM Service

Please come to discuss plans for Sunday School. We need your input on time that is best for attendance. At this time we are planning monthly classes. Enjoy ice cream and the fellowship of your fellow parishioners. Let's make this a banner year for Sunday School attendance.

RSVP on signup at the back of the church or by calling: Dawn Christiansen or Lynn Heller



Sponsored by the G2G Guild (Generation to Generation Guild)

Ministry of the Month: Soup Kitchen

During the thirty years of our participation in the work of the Soup Kitchen, we have served meals to at least 10,000 guests. In those thirty years, approximately 175 individuals have served as a St. Matthew's team member. We serve on the third Sunday of each month. To fulfill the tasks assigned to volunteers, we need a minimum of nine workers but the preferable number is eleven. Each team of volunteers is tasked to make the soup (and provide the produce, etc. for making the soup), make sandwiches, do the set up for fruit and dessert, and of course, serve the meal. Two team members arrive early (2 PM) in order to prepare the vegetables and get the soup started – sandwich makers/servers arrive at 3:30 PM. The usual departure time for volunteers is 5:30 PM.

Serving at the Soup Kitchen is one of the few outreach activities that offers direct contact with those being assisted. Serving food to those in need can be seen as a response to Our Lord's call to "feed His sheep" – a ministry that witnesses to Christ's presence in the life of our parish.

There is always a sign up sheet at the back of the church on the second Sunday of the month for those who wish to join this ministry. If you have any questions please see Franklin Gail, our coordinator for the Soup Kitchen.

The Episcopal Church 101 - a.k.a. Inquirer's Class

If you are ready to explore The Episcopal Church in general and St. Matthew's in particular, you are invited to come to an Inquirer's Class taught by Fr. Gary. A sign up sheet is at the back of the church. You can list the day and time most convenient for you to meet. Fr. Gary will coordinate the responses and let all know the starting time and date for the class.

Welcome

Next Sunday, October 7th, at both the 7:30 AM and 10:30 AM services we welcome The Rev. Carla McCook, Bishop's Assistant for Christian Formation. A former teacher, Mother McCook has a focused mission to provide leadership for the strengthening and growing of Christian Formation in our diocese. Our parish leaders for Christian Formation have consulted with Mother McCook in the redevelopment of our program, and she has been very helpful. We look forward to having her with us on October 7th.



St. Matthew's Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, November 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at Cary Pallin's home to discuss Home by Toni Morrison.

"Frank Money was damaged emotionally as well as physically while fighting in Korea, then returns home to an America as racist as ever. What saves him from utter despair is the need to rescue his equally damaged sister and bring her back to their small Georgia town, a place he has always despised. But thinking over the past both near (the war) and far (his childhood) allows him to rediscover his sense of purpose. At 160 pages, this is not a big brass band of a novel but a chamber work, effectively telescoping Morrison's passion and lush language."

Please read the book and join the discussion on November 4th.

New Adult Class Coming Soon

The Christian Formation committee invites you to join an adult study class beginning mid October. The class will run from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings and it will meet in the lower level of the Guild Hall with Don Michie as the leader. The book for discussion is The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg.

The Heart of Christianity is a bellwether volume that sets out in cogent, compassionate, and imaginative terms the direction of the faith in difficult times. Marcus Borg, Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University, delineates some of the challenges of being Christian in an age of pluralism. Readers will find a meeting point between all the world's religions within the heart and the spiritual practices of love, compassion, kindness, and hospitality. If you have not yet signed up for the class, please call the office, 654-8642, before October 9th to order a book. Watch our Sunday Bulletins for the start date!



Blessing of Pets

On Sunday, October 7th, we will celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi with a blessing of pets in the east yard of the church at 4:00 PM. In remembrance of St. Francis and his love for all creatures bring your pets, large or small, to receive this special blessing from Fr. Gary. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

St. Matthew's Cookbook

It has been many years since the parish has published a cookbook. Now is your opportunity to have a favorite recipe included in the new addition. We are still in need of recipes, as a total of 100 are needed in order to publish the cookbook. Please keep sending them to Dawn at dmcamc03@gmail.com, mail them to the church office, or leave them in the basket on G2G Table at the back of church. Children are also welcome to submit a favorite recipe(s).



Piano News

Plans are underway to move the beautiful grand piano, that currently resides in the Great Hall, to the church. This is a beautiful instrument that will greatly enhance musical worship and performances in the sanctuary. However, in order to fit the piano into the church it was necessary to reconfigure the first two rows of pews and refinish the flooring. The Vestry has been working to find the most cost effective way to move the grand piano and place the smaller spinet in the Guild Hall. This should take place in the next few weeks. If you have questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to talk to Fr. Gary, the wardens or a vestry member.

The Shalom Center of the Interfaith Network

“Satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”

Isaiah 58:10

September 20, 2012

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your \$75 gift. As you know, the needs are many and resources few. Your donation has brightened our day and will strengthen our mission of giving help and hope to those experiencing homelessness and hunger.

Your support helps us provide more than 40,000 Soup Kitchen and Family Shelter meals, 16,000 Shelter nights, 270 tons of Pantry groceries and sundry items and after-school tutoring for 150 Shelter children annually. As we strive to meet the needs that many face, we greatly appreciate your gift.

The total of the monetary gifts you have contributed to date for this calendar year is \$325.

Gratefully,

The Shalom Center Board and Staff