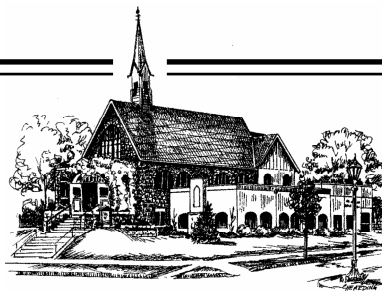


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# ◆ Tidings ◆

## from St. Matthew's



Vol. 12, Issue 8

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St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

December, 2005

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## Christmas Pageant: A Living Creche

Dear Parents,

St. Matthew's Christmas Pageant will be held during the family service at 4:00pm, Saturday, December 24. All are welcome and we hope you will join us!

Our celebration will be slightly different than previous years. The Reverend Blair Pogue will narrate the Christmas story, using a Godly Play style format. We ask that you talk with your children about which roles they might choose. I would appreciate your RSVP to me if your family plans to participate. We would like to have some children in each of these categories:

Animals: cows, cats, mules, mice? (whatever you might find in a stable)

Angels

Shepherds and their sheep

Any visiting cousins or friends are more than welcome to join the fun! We are asking that each family take the responsibility to costume their children in their chosen role. Whatever costume ideas you have are most appreciated. (We will have a basket of sheep costumes available by the door for our youngest parishioners).

Some of the older children will be asked to take the parts of Mary, Joseph, the Star and the three Magi. As the story is narrated, there will be no memorized lines or speaking parts this year. Also, there will be no need for special practices before the pageant.

We hope you will be able to be with us this Christmas Eve for a most joyous and festive celebration! Please let me know if I can answer any questions!

Blessings,  
Lis Christenson  
[lisdc@comcast.net](mailto:lisdc@comcast.net)  
651-646-2969

**The Parish Office will be  
closed Dec. 26 - Dec 30.**

## Dwight Zscheile to be Ordained as Deacon

On Monday, December 5 at 7:30 pm at St. David's Episcopal Church in Ashburn, Virginia, St. Matthew's member Dwight Zscheile will be ordained to the transitional Diaconate. God willing, he will be ordained a priest some time this summer in Minnesota. Please keep Dwight in your prayers. He will begin serving at St. Matthew's as Deacon on Sunday, December 11. As Deacon he will read the Gospel, set the table, and give the dismissal, as well as preach once a month. He will continue to work with stewardship at St. Matthew's, as well as teach and do some pastoral care. Dwight, Blair and Luke will be leaving for Virginia after church on Sunday, December 4. They will return to Minnesota on Tuesday, December 6 in the late evening. The Rev. Gayle Marsh from St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Roseville will be covering any pastoral care emergencies while Blair is away. Gayle can be reached at 651-633-4589, ext. 13, or via the St. Christopher's emergency pager, 651-847-1940.

## Tidings Deadlines

Sunday, December 18  
Sunday, January 22, 2006

Send articles to Katie Lowry:  
[khlowry@juno.com](mailto:khlowry@juno.com)

## People News

The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold  
*Presiding Bishop of the  
 Episcopal Church*  
 The Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek  
*Bishop of Minnesota*

### **Vestry Members:**

Mark Brown  
*Senior Warden*  
 Duke Addicks  
*Senior Warden Elect*  
 John Tillotson  
*Junior Warden*  
 Nancy Dietman  
*Youth Representative*  
 Nancy Alholm  
 Ray Dietman  
 Ferri Graham  
 Mike López  
 James Myster  
 Bert Ranum  
 Marian Stankovich  
 Kathryn Grambsch  
*Clerk of the Vestry*  
 Rosa Uy  
*Treasurer*  
 Don Nevin  
*Diocesan Delegates*

### **Ministry Positions:**

Katie Lowry  
*Acolyte Leader,  
 Angel Choir Leader*  
 Sue Nevin  
*Altar Guild*  
 Karen Pfeifle and Rosa Uy  
*Br. Lawrence Guild*  
 Marilyn Grantham  
*Chalice Bearer/LEM  
 Coordinator*  
 Joan Hershbell  
*Dinner Group Coordinator*  
 Abby Marier  
*Mission Outreach*  
 Kathryn Grambsch  
*Vergers*  
 Lis Christenson  
*Interim Youth Coordinator*

### **Staff:**

The Rev. Blair Pogue  
*Rector*  
 J Michael Compton  
*Dir. Of Music Ministries  
 Office Manager*  
 Lis Christenson  
*Coordinator of Children's  
 Ministries*  
  
*Youth Coordinator*  
 Nigel Spottiswoode  
*Bookkeeper*  
 Ron Houde  
*Maintenance Service*

Dear friends at St. Matthew's:  
 Thank you for the incredible outpouring of concern after the theft of my laptop last weekend. I was just floored when Mark Brown told me that several of you stepped forward quietly so that a new laptop could be purchased to replace the stolen one. In the past two and a half months I've seen one act of generosity and compassion after another at St. Matthew's. I feel so very blessed to be a part of this community.  
 With a grateful heart,  
 Blair

Congratulations and best wishes to Courtney Carter and Kevin Mosley, who were married Oct. 30 in Maryland. They live in Wheaton, MD. Courtney is the daughter of Birdie Carter.

Gary Johnson has been elected a Trustee of the Diocese. He will be overseeing the financial assets of the diocese, including real estate, investments, loan funds and planned giving.

### Adopt-A Family Program

St. Matthew's is participating again in Episcopal Community Service's Adopt-a-Family program. The wish lists of families in need are posted on a bulletin board in the undercroft – each family member is listed individually on a mitten. You can select one or more people to buy gifts for. Gifts must be wrapped and dropped off at church by **Dec. 8**. For more information, contact Perri Graham, grahamraff@msn.com.

## Cookie Exchange, Sunday, December 18

After baking your favorite Christmas cookies, please bring some to exchange with others on Dec. 18 at 9 am and 12 pm. We will supply plates in the weeks before Dec. 18 for you to take home and fill with 1/2 dozen cookies to bring to the exchange (label them please). Then you can take home the same number of plates of others' cookies to have a greater variety for your family. This will be easier than the usual cookie exchange because it is not necessary to bake huge batches or multiple batches; just a few dozen will do. Let's also bring one extra plateful so we can deliver some to our shut-ins in the week before Christmas.

If interested please contact Joan Hershbell at 651-645-6173 or joangher-shbell@mac.com

## Christmas Poinsettias and Greenery

By Grace Evans

Traditionally during Advent, St. Matthew's parishioners donate money toward the purchase of poinsettias and greenery to express the joy of the coming of Christ. Memorials and thanksgiving will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Starting November 27, donation envelopes are placed in the pews or in the undercroft. Place your envelopes in the offering plate or in the designated basket in the undercroft. Cash or checks are acceptable. If by check, make it to St. Matthew's with "Liturgical Decorations" on the memo line. On the last Sunday of Christmas you may either take a plant home or have the plant given to a nursing home.

## From The Rector

Dear Friends at St. Matthew's:

I write this note to you not long after finding out that our offices at St. Matthew's were broken into, as was the UCC church across the alley. Events like these make me sad, especially when they happen in and to churches. We are one of God's outposts in the Twin Cities, attempting to share and spread the good news of God's extravagant love for the world. We are trying to share this life-giving message and reality on a limited budget. Why would someone break into and steal things from a church?

The immediate response to sad events like these is to go into lock-down mode. It's true, we at St. Matthew's must be more vigilant about security and especially about locking doors. We *must* do everything possible to protect the people and things placed in our care. And yet I want to make sure that we don't lock our hearts to those in need when we lock our doors -- including the person(s) who broke into our church. As we begin this Advent season and then move into Christmas, I am mindful that there was no room in the inn for the baby who came to transform our lives. That baby was born on the margins of Palestinian society. He was born to a poor, unwed mother living in an occupied land. I love the idea of a church with open doors and at the same time know that such a reality is impractical and dangerous. How then can we keep our hearts open to others while being better about locking the church doors?

Well, I think we're already doing this in some wonderful ways. On Thanksgiving, St. Matthew's will have opened its doors and hearts to the community with a Thanksgiving Eucharist as well as a communal meal afterwards. The Spirit moved through many of you to make this dinner and time of inclusive and welcoming fellowship a reality.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27. Please join me in sharing the jewel that is St. Matthew's with others in the community, and especially those who are alone or in need this Advent and Christmas. Not only will our worship be life-giving and hopeful, but we will be offering a number of opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship and service: a half day Godly Play-themed Advent silent retreat for adults on December 3, Advent Lessons and Carols on December 18 (10:30 am service only), a Blue House African crafts sale and dinner on December 3, the opportunity

## Library Corner

New books and CDs for the library include:

Children's:

Easter Story (Wildsmith)

Sadako & the 1000 Paper Cranes (Coerr)

4 Miles to Pinecone (Hassler)

Children's audio book:

The Children of the King (Lucado)

Fiction:

Blue Like Jazz (Miller)

Christ the Lord - Out of Egypt (Rice)

Death comes for the Archbishop (Cather)

My Antonia (Cather)

Jesus (Wangerin)

Memory of Old Jack (Berry)

Father Melancholy's Daughter (Godwin)

Non-Fiction:

Art, Kids and Christian Education (Sabin)

Hallelujah - The Poetry of Classic Hymns (Burgard)

That reminds me - Family Story Starters for Passing on the Faith (Eittrheim)

Journeying Through Lent with Mark (Weyrauch)

Imaging the Word (various)

The Four Seasons of Marriage (Chapman)

Where God Was Born (Feiler)

Will in the World (Greenblatt)

CDs:

Cross Culture

Even the Stones Cry Out

When the Saints go Marching

Remember to return your books and other items to the library mailbox in the office or the table in the library.

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to purchase Christmas gifts for those in need courtesy of the Mission Outreach Committee, a Christmas Eve "living creche" in which all children present can participate (4 pm, including a celebration of Holy Eucharist), a traditional Christmas Eve liturgy with Holy Eucharist Rite II and carol singing beforehand (10 pm), and a Christmas Day Rite I Eucharistic (10 am). Please help us get out the word that ALL ARE WELCOME AT ST. MATTHEW'S!

May God give us wisdom, courage, and discernment this Advent, and may God birth God's dreams for St. Matthew's in our hearts this coming Christmas,

Blair

# Guilds, Groups & Committees

## Kitchen Transformation

By Karen Pfeifle and Rosa Uy

When Karen suggested that the kitchen walls could be painted in bright citrus or other food-type colors, I heard myself saying in protest “But... Karen, we need lights to work in the kitchen; these rich colors will dim our working space.” Working most of my life in the chemistry lab, submarine gray and white are the only two primary colors I know. On second thought, I realized that I know nothing about colors and should not make any decision about paint colors. Besides, the kitchen did need a makeover. I should fully support this endeavor and if it does not work out, we can always paint it over. Well, all we have heard since the completion of the paint job is “ooh” and “ahh” comments. It is gorgeous and unique. A big thank you goes to Richard Stiefel. Richard spent many, many hours alone cleaning the walls and painting the place. Special thanks to the committee of people who suggested colors: Phil Jenkins, Lisa Van Valkenburg, Richard Stiefel, Linda López and Alex Alexander.

I was so impressed with the colors, I ended up being inspired to buy red bed sheets and green pillow cases.

A memorial given to the Brother Lawrence Guild in remembrance of Jenny Blume was used to purchase IKEA shelving for the kitchen. We also bought many useful gadgets such as cutting boards, tongs, strainers, and hooks to hold the coffee mugs.

Please help keep the kitchen organized and clean. Always wash and air-dry any dish or mug that you use. Do not expect dish-cleaning miracles to happen. Please return cleaned dry articles to where they belong. We have tried to add labels to the various drawers. If anyone has suggestions for better-organized spaces, please leave a note in the Brother Lawrence box in the office. Extra kitchen supplies such as paper plates, coffee, coffee cups, paper napkins, and Chinese take-away boxes are stored in the kitchen closet located in the hallway. Please come in and enjoy the kitchen!

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 ••••• The St. Matthew’s Christmas cards are available again this year. Please contact Mary Griffin ([mggriffin@visi.com](mailto:mggriffin@visi.com), 651-642-9944) for more information.  
 •••••

## Mission & Outreach News

We have received many letters of thanks for ALL of our work in the community:

### **From the Partnership for Education of Children of Afghanistan:**

Dear Members of St. Matthew's church,

You really have a wholesome Christian heart for making a difference in our world community. The community events you have held for Partnership for Education of Children of Afghanistan helped the organization get off the ground. I can't imagine what stage we would be in today if you had not invested your time, energy and money into this new project.

In October we raised \$5,040 at the Tribal Rug Sale held at St. Matthew's. This location and your facility were so well suited for the event, and you were great hosts. A huge THANK YOU for sharing your space with us for a day.

The girls who attend Da Dornnamio school will be the beneficiaries of the dollars raised.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Gerten, Volunteer Executive Director

### **From Episcopal Relief and Development:**

Thank you and the parishioners of St. Matthew's for their generous response to our appeal for funds to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The storm uprooted hundreds of thousands of people and left them with an uncertain future. ER&D is working to give them hope, and will be working with them to rebuild their lives for a long time to come.

Sincerely,  
John Hagermans, ER&D Diocese Coordinator

## Holiday Craft Bazaar

By Tracy Dunnwald

We are having a Holiday Craft Bazaar at St. Matthew’s on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 am til 3:00 pm and again from 5:30 til 7:30 (during the African Dinner). There will be many hand-made craft items and food items perfect for holiday gift giving.

## Education

### Children's Education

Lis Christenson, Director

December brings our advent stories to life in our Godly Play classrooms. The color blue and the advent wreath are the focal point of the altars in each room. Response activities will center on images of the star, the light and angels!

Our Christmas Pageant will take place during the family service at 4:00 pm on December 24th, Christmas Eve. See the special article on page 1 for more information.

#### Preschool/Kindergarten

Dec. 4 Advent 2: Mary and Joseph  
 Dec. 11 Advent 3: The Shepherds  
 Dec. 18 Advent 4: The Magi  
 Dec. 25 Christmas, NO GODLY PLAY

#### Grades 1-2-3

Dec. 4 Advent 2: Mary and Elizabeth  
 Dec. 11 Advent 3: The Shepherds  
 Dec. 18 Advent 4: The Magi  
 Dec. 25 Christmas, NO GODLY PLAY

#### Faithweavers Grades 4-5-6

Dec. 4 Advent 2  
 Dec. 11 Advent 3  
 Dec. 18 Advent 4  
 Dec. 25 Christmas, NO FAITHWEAVERS

If you have any questions or concerns about the Children's Education program, you can contact Lis at (651) 646-2969 or e-mail: [lisc@comcast.net](mailto:lisc@comcast.net)

### Adult Forum Calendar:

#### The Episcopal (Christian) Church in a changing Society.

December 4<sup>th</sup> – Rector's Forum – The Gospel of St. Mark.  
 December 11<sup>th</sup> – Traditions of Advent and Christmas, Their Source and Relevance, Dwight Zscheile  
 December 18<sup>th</sup> – Traditions of Advent and Christmas, Their Source and Relevance  
 December 25<sup>th</sup> – No Adult Forum  
 January 1<sup>st</sup> – No Adult Forum

The web site ([www.stmatthewsmn.org](http://www.stmatthewsmn.org)) will contain the most up to date information on the Adult Forum.

### New Adult Ed Offerings

#### For God's Sake! Creation at the Crossroads

Year 2005 spins away, 2006 approaches on the horizon. There are ecological challenges ahead: clear cutting, global warming, vanishing wetlands, water scarcity, unsafe air! Nature is "the new poor." Yet, poet Mary Oliver writes: "There is only one question: how to love this world." **For God's Sake!** is an opportunity to learn about the state of creation, to wonder over the mystery and beauty of our natural world, and to place ourselves in our God-given role to honor, protect, and love our earth.

Three main points of focus: Global Warming, Food Webs, and Water. Sources include the poetry of Wendell Berry, Mary Oliver, and Pablo Neruda, the music of Haydn and Peter Mayer, and *The Body of God*, by Sallie McFague, *The Sacred Balance* by David Suzuki, and *It's God's World: Christians, Care for Creation and Global Warming*.

This course will begin at St. Matthew's on January 15, 3-4:30 pm, and continue each first, third and fifth Sunday for ten sessions in the Senior High Classroom. The class will move to outdoor venues as weather permits.

Carol Bjorlie will facilitate with support and encouragement from St. Matthew's resource of scientific/ecologically educated members. If you are interested please contact Carol at [LBjorlie@aol.com](mailto:LBjorlie@aol.com) or 651-488-7594.

#### The Gospel of John: A Bible Study

The Gospel of John is the most mystical, poetic Gospel in the New Testament. It is full of rich images for Jesus and the Eucharist. Beginning in mid-January Marilyn Grantham will facilitate a study and discussion of this Gospel using the *Interpretation/Bible Studies: John* study guide by Mark Matson, published by Westminster John Knox Press.

The study guide has 10 units, each discussing a select passage and set of issues from John's Gospel. In addition to providing the necessary historical, cultural and literary background for the featured passage, each unit provides several questions to help study groups frame their discussion. Group participants are

(Continued on page 6)

## Adult Formations *(Continued from page 5)*

expected to read the study guide units and appointed scripture readings, as well as to participate actively in the discussion.

To organize this study of the Gospel of John, Marilyn needs to know who is interested and their preferences for frequency of meeting, day, and time. The group will meet twice a month, either on Sunday afternoon or evening, or Saturday morning or afternoon. Please contact Marilyn at [grant005@umn.edu](mailto:grant005@umn.edu) or call 651-644-5422 if you are interested. Study guides will cost approximately \$10 and must be ordered ahead of time.

### Faith, Ideas & Culture at St. Matthew's

A monthly discussion group where participants will look at the connections between major books, ideas and cultural issues of the day and their faith. We will be reading everything from books on politics and faith to books on postmodernism and the church. This group will meet the second Tuesday of each month from 7 – 8:30 pm in the parish library. All are welcome, and encouraged to invite friends and neighbors interested in the books under discussion. Book selections will be listed in *Tidings* and on St. Matthew's website [www.stmatthewsmn.org](http://www.stmatthewsmn.org) at least one month in advance. All participants are asked to read the selected book before the discussion. Our first meeting will take place on January 10. We will be discussing Jim Wallis' book *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*.

For more information please contact Blair Pogue at [rector@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:rector@stmatthewsmn.org) or 651-645-3058.

### Sermon Discussion

Beginning December 11 and continuing on every second Sunday of the month at 12 pm, the preacher of the day will facilitate a half hour discussion of that day's sermon. This is a chance to discuss the sermon topic and scripture readings of the day in greater detail, and in community. It is offered in the hope that the sermon will become a dialogue rather than a monologue, and that parishioners will make connections between the sermon, scripture readings and their daily lives.

For more information please contact Blair Pogue at [rector@stmatthewsmn.org](mailto:rector@stmatthewsmn.org) or 651-645-3058.

## St. Matthew's Prayer List

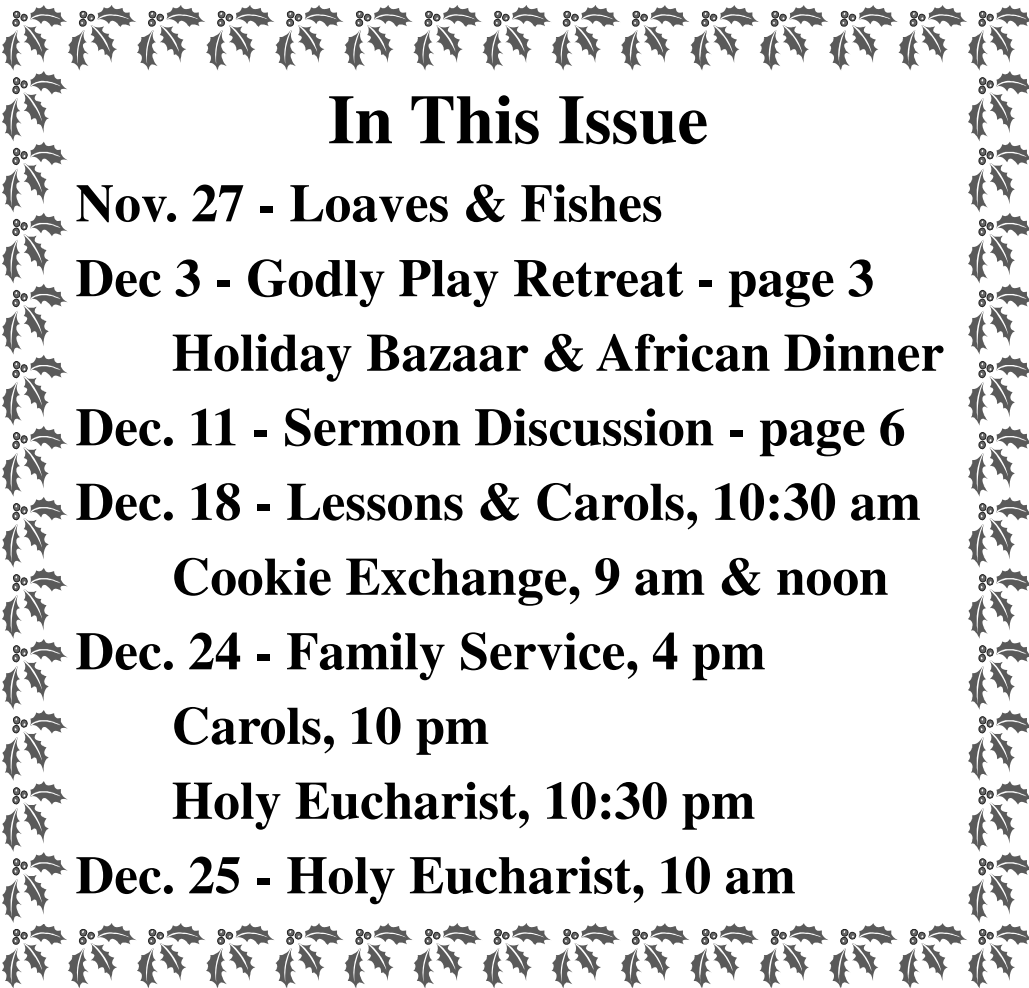
Please keep the following people in your prayers. We hope the brief descriptions will help bring each person closer to your hearts. To add a person to the prayer list, please contact Michael Compton.

- Dennis Hallen, brother of Cindy Land, spinal disc
- Donna Cardamone Jackson, wife of David Jackson, undiagnosed pain
- Jim Ketcham, friend of Perri Graham, depression
- Bill, friend of Mary Kelleher, eye surgery
- Jerry Christenson, father of Mike Christenson, brain tumor
- Denis Dailey, recovering from surgery
- Rheatha Hix, sister-in-law of Birdie Carter, pancreatic cancer
- Jane Bose, sister of Grace Evans, stroke
- Dorothy Nevin, mother of Don Nevin, kidney cancer
- Paul Nerland, diabetes
- Gloria, friend of Rosa Uy, cancer
- David Brown, brother of Mark Brown, prostate cancer
- Irv Carr, father of Holley Kramer, seizure
- Sharon Quast, sister-in-law of Jet Paulu, multiple myeloma
- Jim, friend of Kathy Szczech, multiple myeloma
- Emily, friend of Noemí López, depression
- Dorothy Maxson, sister of Marilyn Grantham, partially paralyzed following surgery
- Neal Puffer, father of Jan Puffer, emphysema
- Richard Dennis, thyroid cancer
- Merabu, mother of Beatrice Garubanda, blocked lymph system
- Betty Tarone, mother of Elaine Tarone, blood clot, depression
- Chuck Land, cancer of the esophagus
- Judy Sherman, sister of Diane Raff, stroke
- Linda, sister of Birdie Carter, cancer
- Tom, friend of Michael Compton

To keep our prayer list accurate, please inform the office of changes or corrections as soon as possible.

# December 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C = Chapel CR = Choir Room K = Kitchen L = Library RO = Rector's Office U = Undercroft				1  6 pm Tutoring (U)	2	3 9 am - 12 pm Advent Retreat 10 - 3 pm Gifts Bazaar  5:30 pm - 7:30 Gifts Bazaar 6 African Dinner
4 8 am Holy Euch., Rite 1 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Holy Euch, Rite 2 4 Angel Choir 4 Friends Meeting (L)	5  6 pm Tutoring (U)	6	7 10 am Holy Euch, Rite 1 (C)  7 pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	8  6 pm Tutoring (U)	9	10 9:30 am Liturgical Decorations Committee (L) 10 Hope Meeting
<b>Rev. Blair Pogue away Dec 4 afternoon through Dec 6 Evening</b>						
11 8 am Holy Euch., Rite 1 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Holy Euch, Rite 2  4 Friends Meeting (L)	12  6 pm Tutoring (U)	13  7:15 pm Art Committee (L)	14 10 am Holy Euch, Rite 1 (C)  12 pm Staff Meeting (RO)  7 pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	15  6 pm Tutoring (U)	16	17
18 8 am Holy Euch., Rite 1 9 & 12 Cookie Exchange 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Service of Lessons & Carols 4 pm Angel Choir 4 Friends Meeting (L)	19	20  7 pm Vestry (L)	21 10 am Holy Euch, Rite 1 (C)  7 pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	22	23	24 Christmas Eve  4 pm Pageant & Euch, Rite 2  10 Carols & Eucharist
25 Christmas Day 10 am Holy Euch., Rite 1   4 Friends Meeting (L)	26	27	28 NO EUCHARIST	29	30	31
<b>St. Matthew's Parish Office Closed December 26 - December 30</b>						



## In This Issue

**Nov. 27 - Loaves & Fishes**

**Dec 3 - Godly Play Retreat - page 3**

**Holiday Bazaar & African Dinner**

**Dec. 11 - Sermon Discussion - page 6**

**Dec. 18 - Lessons & Carols, 10:30 am**

**Cookie Exchange, 9 am & noon**

**Dec. 24 - Family Service, 4 pm**

**Carols, 10 pm**

**Holy Eucharist, 10:30 pm**

**Dec. 25 - Holy Eucharist, 10 am**

Tidings from St. Matthew's is published monthly by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. This publication is mailed to parishioners and friends of the parish at no cost to them. It is also available on the St. Matthew's web site, [www.stmatthewsmn.org](http://www.stmatthewsmn.org), under "publications." If you would like to receive notification when each publication is available or if you would like to receive it as pdf file via e-mail, please send an e-mail to [khlowry@juno.com](mailto:khlowry@juno.com).

### St. Matthew's Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 2:00pm

Phone: (651) 645-3058  
Fax: (651) 645-0531  
[www.stmatthewsmn.org](http://www.stmatthewsmn.org)

The Office Manager is off on Mondays

The Rector is off on Fridays  
Pastoral Care Emergency phone:  
651-357-0945

## Tidings from St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
2136 Carter Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108

Please notify us if you wish to be removed from the mailing list. Thank you.

*Tidings is published 12 times a year for members and friends of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, "A NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH WITH AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY."*

*Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m  
Education hour 9:15 a. m.*

Phone: (651) 645-3058  
Fax: (651) 645-0531  
[www.stmatthewsmn.org](http://www.stmatthewsmn.org)