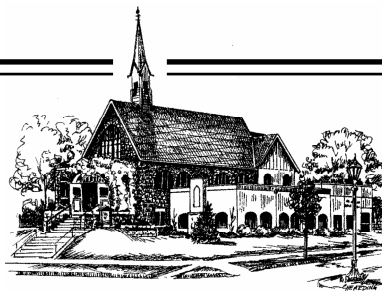

◆ Tidings ◆

from St. Matthew's



Vol. 1, Issue 9

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

January, 2006

From The Rector

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth; Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face.

Collect for the Feast of the Epiphany (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 214)

Beginning on Friday, January 6, we enter the season of Epiphany. In keeping with the Greek meanings for Epiphany, "manifestation, showing forth, revelation," Epiphany is a season celebrating the fact that in Jesus God is revealed to all people, not just to a chosen few. The Gospel stories featured in Epiphany include: the visit of the Magi, who followed a star to Bethlehem only to find the baby Jesus; the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan river; the transformation of water into wine by Jesus at a wedding in Cana of Galilee; and revelation of Jesus' glory to his disciples during his transfiguration on a mountain. They all speak of the revelation of Jesus to men and women from different backgrounds in a variety of settings and contexts.

As in Advent and Christmas, light is a powerful symbol in Epiphany. Whereas in Advent we focus on dispelling darkness with light, in Christmas we celebrate the light of Jesus coming into the world. In Epiphany we not only celebrate the manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, but are reminded that our calling as Christians is to share the light. God's light is intended to grow and to spread.

This Epiphany I invite you to make an "Epiphany resolution," a resolution about your spiritual life. So many of us make New Years resolutions related to our physical bodies or the cultivation of our minds. We vow to lose weight and to exercise. We make a commitment to reading all the work of a single author, or the entire body of Pulitzer prize-winning fiction. But what about our souls? In the long view, taking our spiritual lives seriously, culti-

vating our souls is the most important thing. Do you pray or read the Bible at any time other than Sunday morning? Are service, simplicity, solitude, silence and stewardship your regular spiritual practices?

To help you get excited about your Epiphany resolution, St. Matthew's is offering a number of different opportunities for spiritual formation in January. They include a study of the Gospel of John led by Marilyn Grantham, a study of the relationship between our faith and the environment (For God's Sake! Creation at the Crossroads) facilitated by Carol Bjorlie, and a monthly discussion group in which participants will look at the connections between major books, ideas and cultural issues of the day and their faith. Additionally you are invited to participate in a group focusing on Centering Prayer which meets for the first time on Saturday, January 7 (9:30 am in the library), or to join the preacher of the day the second Sunday of each month at noon in the library for a half hour sermon discussion (for more information about any of these offerings, check St. Matthew's website, www.stmatthewsmn.org). And these offerings are in addition to our regular Sunday morning offerings for adults, children, and youth.

May God manifest Godself to us this Epiphany, and in the process may we be transformed,

Blair

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 22, 2006

Rector's address delivered at 8 and 10:30 am services

Business meeting: 9-10:30 am in the Parish Hall

Potluck lunch in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 service

People News and Announcements

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
Verger

Staff:

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

New Youth Coordinator Hired

St. Matthew's is very excited to have Marissa Calcaterra join us as our new coordinator for junior and senior high school youth. She is a 2005 graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is currently seeking a master's degree in Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. Marissa started in December; please welcome her! If you have any questions about the youth program, she can be reached at: 651-641-3294 or mcalcaterra001@luthersem.edu.

Thank you to the students and parents who put in time and work on the hiring committee, as well as to Lis Christenson, who filled in as interim youth coordinator.

Women's Fellowship: On Friday, January 13, from 7 to 9 pm in the Undercroft, we'd like the women of St. Matthew's to spend time relaxing and enjoying stimulating conversation. The Brother Lawrence Guild has generously offered their support. We hope to meet monthly. If you can't make the first gathering, please consider joining next time. For more info, please call Jan Lageson at (651) 646-8546, lageson-jan@hotmail.com.

Building Security: Thanks to Chuck Land, we now have a doorbell at the Chelmsford entrance. For safety reasons, the door will be kept locked more often than in the past, though people may be in the building. If you find the door locked, please ring the doorbell and someone will come to let you in. If you are the leader of a group meeting in the church, please take care to lock the door when you believe all the members of your group have arrived.

Art News: notes and comments

By Ruth Donhowe

Purpose of Art - "to make visible that which is invisible".

The St. Matthew's Art Committee has been in existence for about 9 years. It grew out of the committee which oversaw the interior planning for the new addition to the church in 1995 - 96. It became apparent then that we would have wonderful interior spaces for art showings. With the expert advice and help of Phil Hewett, we installed a hanging system. We then began with some "in house" shows featuring the many talents of our congregation, and have gradually branched out to include neighborhood artists and beyond. Each year we have 5 or 6 shows featuring diverse cultures and art mediums. A new show by artist Patrick Connelly will open on Sunday, January 8. Also in 2006, we will be hosting our 8th Annual Community Art Show, which has steadily increased in numbers of applications and in the quality of art shown. These shows have been self supporting. The committee operates with a budget consistently in the black through a combination of entrance fees, percentage of sales and contributions.

The committee feels that our work is an important outreach in the community and in fact that our identity as an art friendly church has increased. We are always in need of additional help and welcome new members. Present members include Richard Stiefel, chairman, Don Marier, Amy Tillotson, Peg Houck, Marge and Alex Alexander and Ruth Donhowe. So, let us know if you have an interest!

Mission & Outreach News

By Abby Marier

Adopt-a-Family results:

Thanks to all of you who participated, and especially Perri Graham for coordinating the Adopt-A-Family program at St. Matthew's. We provided gifts for 45 people, in 10 families this Christmas season. The program is coordinated by Episcopal Community Services.

Coming: a peace and justice network

In response to requests from some members of our congregation, a peace and justice network is being formed, and our first meeting is Monday, Jan. 23, at 7 pm. If you can't make the meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet in the undercroft. The purpose is to study and act on issues of a political nature in society, within a theological context.

When you sign up to be part of the network, you will receive e-mail notices from the Episcopal public policy network regarding national and international legislative issues of concern to us as Christians. If you are interested in local and state issues, there is a city-wide (faith-based) information network in place, and we can plug you in to that, as well.

A good compliment to this is Blair's class, "God's Politics", beginning Jan.10. See you there!

Wanted!

Linda Mainquist needs a **laptop** just for word processing. If you have an unneeded one, please contact her:

lindammain@juno.com

All Wanted! Or Giving Away! ads are free of charge. There is a \$1.00 fee for all For Sale! ads and if you are happy with the final sale of your item, please consider a small donation for the continuing publication of Tidings.

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
- 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
- Gloria, friend of Rosa Uy, 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.

Tidings Deadlines

Sunday, January 22, 2006

Sunday, February 19, 2006

Send articles to Katie Lowry:

khlowry@comcast.net

NOTE CHANGE OF EMAIL

Education

Children's Education

By Lis Christenson, Director

Thank you to all participants in the Christmas Pageant! The Living Crèche was a new way to celebrate the nativity and we appreciate all the animals, shepherds, sheep and angels. Thanks also to Mary and Joseph (Christina and John Abbas), the Star (Katie Mercer-Taylor) and the Three Magi.

Just a reminder that there will be no Godly Play or Faithweavers classes on Sunday, Jan.1. Classes will also be cancelled on January 22nd due to the Annual Meeting. A movie will be offered during the meeting for Godly Play children.

Preschool/Kindergarten

- Jan. 1 NO GODLY PLAY
- Jan. 8 Jesus the Boy in the Temple
- Jan. 15 Receiving Communion
- Jan. 22 Annual Meeting - NO GODLY PLAY
- Jan. 29 Parable of the Mustard Seed

Grades 1-2-3

- Jan. 1 NO GODLY PLAY
- Jan. 8 Anna and Simeon
- Jan. 15 Sacrament of Baptism
- Jan. 22 Annual Meeting - NO GODLY PLAY
- Jan. 29 Parable of the Sower

Faithweavers Grades 4-5-6

During the Christmas break, the Faithweavers class saw the movie, "Narnia," after reading The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

After much discussion, the students decided to create a video of a parable. They will write their own script, develop a storyboard, create costumes and film their production. Watch for more information on this exciting new development!

- Jan. 1 NO FAITHWEAVERS
- Jan. 8 Baptism and Temptation
- Jan. 15 The First Disciples
- Jan. 22 Annual Meeting - NO FAITHWEAVERS
- Jan. 29 Jesus Walks on Water

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

Adult Forum Calendar:

Christianity and Issues

- January 1st – No Adult Forum
- January 8th – Rector's Forum
- January 15th – Affordable Housing, a speaker from Central Community Housing Trust
- January 22nd – MacKenzie Glander speaks on the Emerging Church
- January 29th – Video, Benedictine Journey and discussion

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

Newcomer/New Member Classes

Sundays, 9:10-10:10 in the Rector's Office

- Jan. 15: Welcome to St. Matthew's**
The history of St. Matthew's
What we value
How we operate/church governance
- Jan. 29: What We Believe**
The Anglican approach to the Christian faith
- Feb. 5: How We Worship**
The Book of Common Prayer
The shape of the liturgy
- Feb. 12: Spiritual Formation and Service**
Classic spiritual practices
Spiritual formation opportunities at St. Matthew's
Mission and outreach, local and global
- Feb. 19: Spiritual Gifts and Stewardship**
Identifying your spiritual gifts/passions
Giving of our time, talent and treasure as an act of thanksgiving

To register, contact Blair Pogue at 651-645-3058 or rector@stmatthewsmn.org

The Reading Group invites you to join them when they begin a new book on January 22 by Karen Armstrong entitled *Islam: A Short History*. For information contact Vickie Woodcock at: woodcock@chem.umn.edu.

Adult Formation Offerings at Saint Matthew's

Beginning in January

For God's Sake! Creation at the Crossroad

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.

The three main points of focus are global warming, food webs, and water. Readings 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 from 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 Minnesota's 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.

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 group will meet twice a month, on a day to be determined. Please contact Marilyn at grant005@umn.edu. Study guides will cost approximately \$10 and will need to be ordered in advance.

Faith Ideas & Culture @ St. Matthew's

A monthly discussion group examining the connections between major books, ideas and cultural issues of the day and the Christian faith. Discussion group will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30 in the Library.

January 10 Discussion of Jim Wallis' book *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*

February 14 Discussion of *The Windsor Report 2004*

In October 2003 the Lambeth Commission was established by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the request of the Anglican Primates. In the aftermath of bitter divisions within the Anglican Communion over issues related to human sexuality, the Commission was tasked with considering "ways in which communion and understanding could be enhanced where serious differences threatened the life of a diverse worldwide Church (Foreword by the Most Rev. Dr. Robin Eames, Archbishop of Armagh and Chairman of the Lambeth Commission)." The Windsor Report 2004 is the result of their long, difficult, and prayerful deliberations. To download this document go to www.anglicancommunion.org/windsor2004

Copies of both *God's Politics* and *The Windsor Report 2004* can be ordered from the St. Matthew's website (www.stmatthewsmn.org). We recently partnered with amazon.com, and if you order these books through the amazon link on our website, St. Matthew's will receive a small portion of the purchase price.

For more information please contact Blair Pogue at rector@stmatthewsmn.org or 651-645-3058.

Narnia Festival for Children!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 11, for a Narnia Festival geared especially for children. As many of you know, C.S. Lewis (an Episcopalian and theologian) authored several children's books, including *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This was recently made into a Disney movie titled "Narnia." We are planning a special morning centered around this theme, with crafts, games, storytelling and more. If you are interested in serving on a small planning committee for the festival, please contact me. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Anglican tradition, our children and a great deal of fun!

Lis Christenson: liscd@comcast.net

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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, 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@comcast.net

St. Matthew's Office Hours:

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

Phone: (651) 645-3058
Fax: (651) 645-0531
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

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Please notify us if you wish to be removed from the mailing list, or prefer to receive e-Tidings instead of paper Tidings. 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.

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