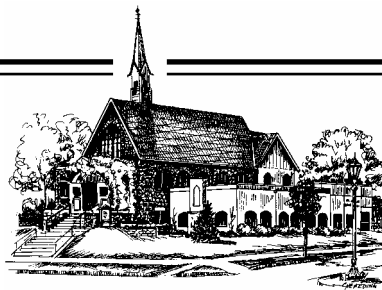

◆ Tidings ◆

from St. Matthew's



Vol. 10, Issue 3

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

March, 2005

“WOW THEM!” AN AFRICAN FASHION SHOW

by Abby Marier

Chase away those muddy spring blues! A feast for the senses awaits us at the “Wow Them!” African Fashion Show and High Tea. Co-sponsored by St. Matthew's and St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Churches, the event is a fundraiser for the Blue House, a shelter for AIDS-orphaned children in Uganda.

WHEN: Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 Kent St., St. Paul (1 block north of Dale and Summit Ave.).

SPONSORS: St. Matthew's and St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Churches.

TICKETS: \$15. Available at the door or in St. Matthew's office.

The show will feature sumptuous fabrics; hand-printed, dyed, beaded and embroidered textiles that are incorporated into elegant fashion designs representing a variety of African nations. Clothes and their accessories for the entire family will be modeled at this special event. The textiles and clothing will be offered for sale by Larai Dahip. Mrs. Dahip (formerly of Nigeria) is a small business woman who imports and sells these unique textiles to the Twin Cities public. Following the fashion show, a traditional British tea will be served, with a few African tea treats as well.

Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit “The Blue House,” a home for over two hundred orphaned children in the countryside of Uganda. The Blue House is a housing program of Hope Multipurpose Inc., a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide food, shelter and medical care to orphans in Uganda and to encourage their basic education and life skills training.



Dr. Fatima Lawson models clothing designed by Larai Dahip. Dr. Lawson is principal of the French Immersion School in St. Paul. Mrs. Dahip is a member of St. Matthew's.

Holy Week Services

March 24, Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II

March 25, Good Friday
12 pm Noon Liturgy
7:00 pm Tenebrae

March 27 Easter
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(note: NO EDUCATION HOUR)

Tidings from St. Matthew's is published monthly by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108. This publication is mailed to parishioners and friends of the parish at no cost to them.

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

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 Duke Addicks
Senior Warden Elect
 John Tillotson
Junior Warden
 Nancy Dietman
Youth Representative
 Nancy Alholm
 Ray Dietman
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 Ron Houde
Maintenance Service

People News

MN Food Share

March is Minnesota Food Share month—an annual campaign to donate either food or cash to our local food shelf. This year's goal of this neighbors-helping-neighbors appeal is 8.5 million pounds of food and dollars. St. Matthew's plans to join in this important effort. Please bring non-perishable items (or make a cash donation) each Sunday during March. Our gifts will be presented at the altar during the 10:30 service.

Church Family Retreat

April 15-16th: Mark your calendars!

Join us at YMCA Camp Ihduhapi for an overnight in April! The meals are provided, the setting is lovely, there are recreational facilities for the young and young at heart. This is indoor camping at its best. There will be a sign up sheet available in the parish hall soon with details, directions and cost.

The Mission Outreach Committee

Dinner Groups

New dinner groups are forming now. Those joining agree to meet 3 times from March to November to share pot luck dinners, and get to know each other better. Newcomers are especially welcomed. Some people have asked about a dinner group for those who want to go out to modest restaurants together. Please sign up in the undercroft for both regular and restaurant groups.

For more information:

Joan Hershbell 651-645-6173

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.

- John Kilimani, stroke, broken arm
- Bob, friend of Abby Marier, legal matter
- Rena, sister of Bob
- Rose D'Acquisto, new member, breast cancer
- Paul Presnal, husband of Rose D'Acquisto
- Dorothy Maxson, sister of Marilyn Grantham, recovering from surgery
- John Smith, friend of John & Marilyn Grantham, recovering from fall
- Jayne Hagar Dee, friend of Marilyn Grantham, colon surgery
- Donna Berry, back injury
- Joe Carter, friend of the parish, leukemia
- Neal Puffer, father of Jan Puffer
- Jon, friend of Jan Puffer, multiple sclerosis
- Richard Dennis, thyroid cancer
- Chloe Forstner, cousin of Jan Puffer
- Mildred Forstner, grandmother of Jan Puffer
- Jean Beschler, aunt of Gail Noble, cancer
- Silja, niece of Julia Earl, serious injury
- Betty Tarone, mother of Elaine Tarone, blood clot, depression
- Cathy Suratt, sister of Donna Berry, breast cancer
- Merabu, mother of Beatrice Garubanda, blocked lymph system
- Dariel Thurston, mother of Susan Myster, cancer of ovaries and liver
- Chuck Land, cancer of the esophagus, depression
- Judy Sherman, sister of Diane Raff, stroke
- Hugh McTavish, cancer
- Linda, sister of Birdie Carter, cancer
- Tom, friend of Michael Compton

INTERIM TIMES

by Father John Cowan

The three listening sessions went well. The happiest results are being able to speak one's mind and being heard, and hearing and being able to adjust a little to the new information. Often, what had appeared devious and unnecessary looked more straightforward and useful when seen from the initiator's point of view. This does not mean everyone agreed, but it helped to see where others were coming from. And there was certainly some new pain in realizing that others had strong feelings one did not share. Those who were not there, but interested in the issues, I suggest talk to someone who was there.

As one direct result of these sessions we have re-named the Executive Committee. It is now called the Steering Committee. The second title fits the committee's actual function and the first title raised suspicion that power was being consolidated in an ever-smaller group.

The call for even more communication was loud and clear and as a direct result the Wardens and I will from time to time take up residence in the library after the main service and respond to questions. All vestry and clergy are always open to your questions. Please, just ask. We are trying to eliminate all but the secrets necessary for pastoral reasons. If you have the patience to attend a vestry meeting, please come.

Mark Brown, the Senior Warden, has described in another place in this issue our chosen scenario for the near future created by the pre-search committee with your input in several surveys. This frees us to begin the actual search and we should be on our way by the time this Tidings is published.

I am pleased with our progress. Congratulations all around!

The question of staff supervision came up in listening sessions and in the last vestry meeting. Although the personnel committee creates processes, formats, files,

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From the Senior Warden

by Mark Brown

It has been two years since my son, Daniel, had his near-fatal accident in Belize. For those of you unfamiliar with the story, I refer you to our family website (woefully out-of-date), www.geocities.com/mlbrown452003. In the days, weeks, months, and now years since that day, we have seen miracle after miracle as Daniel rose out of a coma and returned to a full and productive life, graduated from college and prepares to marry this summer. I fully believe that the prayers of St. Matthew's and others around the world were instrumental in Daniel's miraculous recovery and I am very grateful to you.

A year ago, the pre-search committee was formed to begin the process of seeking a new rector for St. Matthew's. It soon became evident that St. Matthew's was in a bit of a financial tailspin with the loss of 16% of our pledging units from the preceding year. The attempt to close the financial gap by reducing the music budget was, I believe, a near-fatal event in the life of this parish. We slogged through the summer months in coma-like fashion as we sought healing, recovery and return to the full life of a parish. In the days, weeks and months since the events of last summer, the prayers and faith of the people of St. Matthew's have brought healing and resolve. The work of our interim team of John Cowan and Tom Eklo have renewed trust. Just as Daniel's healing has taken years to be complete, so I believe St. Matthew's is not yet completely healed, but the direction is clear, the future bright. By fall we hope to start a long-term relationship with a new rector who will help us to complete our healing, deepen our faith and increase our membership.

The pre-search committee, consisting of John Tilotson, Deanie Gray, Ray Dietman, Tracy Dunnwald, Marion Stankovich, Elizabeth Nerland, Beatrice Garubanda and Mark Brown has successfully completed its work of creating a profile of the parish and determining parish priorities for the type of person we seek as our new rector. A copy of the

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Education

Children's Education

Lis Christenson, Director

Class Schedule

Godly Play:

We will continue to present stories of Jesus during the Lenten season. Art projects during this month will include working with images of the cross, the disciples, the fish (as Jesus was a fisher of men and women) and the palm. Both the preschool/ kindergarten class and the Grade 1 - 2 - 3 class will have the same stories for March:

March 6: Jesus and Bartimaeus

March 13: Jesus the King/Triumphal Entry

March 20: The Last Supper

March 27: Easter: No Godly Play Classes

Faithweavers: Grades 4-5-6

The Faithweavers class will continue to work with poetry and prayer under the guidance of Carol Bjorlie. They will be writing their own prayers as well as memorizing the 23rd Psalm.

March 6: The Prophet Isaiah

March 13: Poetry and Prayer with Carol Bjorlie

March 20: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

March 27: Easter: No Faithweavers class

Tidings Deadline

Sunday, March 20

Sunday, April 17

Send articles to Katie Lowry:
khlwry@juno.com

Adult Education

March 6: Tammy Wolhoff, Bread for the World (See Margy Mattlin's article on page 5)

March 13: Perri Graham presents the third part of the series on "Hunger" (See Margy Mattlin's article on page 5)

March 20: MacKenzie Glander will speak on "Women's Role in Christianity"

March 27: Easter Sunday, NO EDUCATION HOUR

For more information:

Marian Stankovich: stankovi@chem.umn.edu

Education Work Days: April 1 & 2

Please help us organize and clean up our education resource room! We offer two opportunities: Friday, April 1, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and Saturday, April 2, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

All of the Godly Play story materials have been boxed and labeled. They are now nicely organized due to the efforts of John Tillotson in creating a great set of shelves. Our work on April 1 and 2 will be concentrated on cleaning out old art and resource materials, organizing existing supplies and labeling and placing them in an easy-to-find system.

The education resource room is located right next to the Pre-school/Kindergarten class and serves both Godly Play/Faithweavers AND the youth group.

Hope to see you on April 1st or 2nd!

Lis Christenson

Guilds and Committees

Library Corner

by Megan Gangl

Continue to save your books, videos, DVDs, and computer software for the book sale in April. No textbooks, please. You can bring the books to the library beginning Sunday, April 3rd. The book sale will be on April 9, 10 and 17.

The following books featured in the library are related to prayer and meditation. Check out one of the books, or check the shelves for others related to this topic during this time of Lent and Easter.

Doorway to Meditation - Brooke

15 Minutes alone with God - Barnes

Celebrating the Disciplines - Foster & Yanni

The Anglican Family Prayer Book - Kitch

Did You Get What You Prayed For? - Sullivan & Kise

Learn to Pray - Braybrooke

My First Easter

Make Hunger History: Lenten Series Continues

by Margy Mattlin

There are 2 adult forums in March that deal with the hunger issue.

March 6. Learn how to be an advocate with our legislative leaders in an "Offering of Letters." Tammy Wolhoff, Regional Organizer, Bread for the World, a national Christian citizens' movement seeking justice for the world's hungry people, will lead this session.

March 13. Join Perri Graham, Regional Director, Church World Service, to learn about the complexities of "fixing" the problem as well as the good news of what has been accomplished.

The Liturgical Season of Lent

by Grace Evans

As the season of spring approaches, the days lengthen and darkness is replaced by light. Our liturgical season of Lent reflects this transition. The decorations at Saint Matthew's during Lent reflect the events of Christian belief from the starkness of the desert to the joy of the Resurrection. Lent is a time in our Christian communal life when we reflect upon our personal relationship with God and the meaning of Jesus' last days on earth.

During Lent the decoration of our church's worship space is generally minimal. Flowers representing festivity are not present. Symbolically we are in the desert, as was Jesus. The twigs at the entrance to the chancel represent this period of the desert just as abundant white lilies will represent the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I was asked to write about Palm Sunday at Saint Matthew's. On this day we observe two events in a deliberate sequence. The triumphal ride into Jerusalem is commemorated by a procession of all of us outdoors. When we re-enter the church we start the liturgy of the Passion. The liturgical color for this occasion is blood red; black crosses reflect the somberness of the event. In 2004 Michael Compton composed an appropriate musical rendition of the Passion. We made a red silk parament for the altar and a stole of the same material for the priest. These objects help to set a liturgical tone for the week to come.

During Holy Week the Triduum is celebrated starting on Holy Thursday and continues through Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This is a special time for prayer, fasting, and expectancy. In some Episcopal churches there is a watch during Saturday evening and early Sunday. There is no fanfare in the church during Holy Thursday and Good Friday. On Easter the trumpets sound, alleluias are shouted, flowers

(Continued on page 7)

Interim Times *(Continued from page 3)*

and contracts that govern staff relationships, the staff report to the priest-in-charge. So all complaints about staff are also complaints about my supervision. I can do nothing about past undocumented complaints, and there are no documented complaints from the past. A complaint from the past is not only a complaint about the staff member, but also a complaint about his or her supervisor, who is not present to take responsibility for his or her role.

I will provide feedback, discipline, or even termination as a result of just complaints about present behavior, or as a result of my observation of inadequate performance. None of my staff have given me reason for more than an occasional comment. I am pleased with their performance.

The national canons were changed the convention before last to prevent wholesale removal of staff at the arrival of a new rector. The new person will be expected to buttress his or her case for removal of staff with examples of poor performance. Although the new rector's standards are given precedence over staff approaches, the staff member must be given the opportunity to perform to the new rector's standards if he or she chooses to continue in employment.

(The old rules created unfair financial risk for the staff. Also, note in the hiring process that you are hiring not only the charm but also the methods and standards of the new rector. The expectation is that the parish by doing this is open to these methods and standards unless it has been made clear to the rector that he or she must accept certain past practices.)

For some of you, who are dear to me, this will mean that your anger at past events is not actionable. At the same time, may I point out that 80% to 90% of our people have no interest in the governance of the church. They come to listen, to pray, to sing, to be educated, to find a home for their children. Anger turns them off, and too much anger drives them away. They do not care who is "right." They did not come to fight, do not want their ear bent, do not want to be whipsawed between parties they simply hoped would be their friends.

(Continued on page 7)

Senior Warden *(Continued from page 3)*

parish profile is available in the undercroft or in the office. Please thank the members of the committee for a difficult job well done.

The vestry received the report of the pre-search committee on Feb. 15, and voted to proceed with the selection of a new full time rector. A search committee will be formed by the time you read this. Last summer parishioners were nominated to serve on this committee and the vestry selected among them to form a committee that is a balanced representation of the parish.

The decision to seek a full time rector was not taken lightly, given the financial circumstances of the parish. In fact, the search has been delayed several months to allow us to better determine the will of the parish and the state of our finances. At the scenario sessions held in December, there was a clear desire by the parish to seek a full time rector. The very successful stewardship drive in December makes it possible for us to support our current ¾ time clergy team for half the year and a full time rector for the second half while maintaining our current staff and program levels. However, it is clear that in 2006 and beyond we would be unable to meet these obligations if other expenses and income remain unchanged. We would, in fact, project about an \$18,000 shortfall. So how can we proceed with a search for a full time rector?

In 2005, St. Matthew's will be paying our mortgage from our operating expenses for the first time. In the past, the mortgage payment was paid from our building fund. By making the payments from our operating funds, we preserve the building funds for emergency use or other building-related expenses. If necessary, the building fund could be used to pay our mortgage for another 2-3 years, reducing our operating expenses by \$10-11,000 in 2006 and 2007. In addition, an anonymous donor has pledged to fund the remaining shortfall between pledges and operating expenses for two years. Thus, we believe we can assure a new rector that we will be able to support a full time rector, current staff and program levels until at least 2008. In addition, we will commit to a new rector that if there is a financial shortfall in 2008 and

(Continued on page 7)

Interim Times (Continued from page 6)

Frustrated anger is not fun to live with. I assure you I have had more than my share of it and am slower than many to find peace with it. (One of my friends during one of my diatribes on one of my issues, suggested that I get a life. And that in a clergy support group. How is that for annoying people?) It is easy for me to counsel you to grant one another fresh starts while I nurse a couple of long-term angers of my own. I am sympathetic. I will try to be a better person. And invite you to surpass me.

Liturgical Season (Continued from page 5)

abound, candles are lit and we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

Liturgy is the work of the people—a work of worship. These last three days are especially significant for me as I ponder the mysteries of the Christian faith. May you find significance as you participate in the events of Holy Week at Saint Matthew’s.

Senior Warden (Continued from page 6)

beyond that we will reduce staff and programs to a minimum before we would consider reducing rector support. We do not expect this provision to be necessary, but we wish to make clear in a call to a new rector that we are committed to full time.

One additional reminder regarding finances: we will need to hold another building fund drive in the next 2 years to pay off our loan from the diocese. We hope that by the time we need to hold the building campaign, the new rector will be well-established and we will be ready to move on with our physical and spiritual growth as a parish.

St. Matthew’s Office Hours:

The Rector & the Office Manager are not in on Mondays

Tuesday thru Friday
9:30am - 3:00pm

Phone: (651) 645-3058
Fax: (651) 645-0531
www.stmatthewsmn.org

About Tidings

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Also, we would like to know if you would prefer to receive Tidings via e-mail or not at all. If you like your paper copy of Tidings we’ll keep mailing it unless you tell us otherwise. If you would like to receive Tidings via e-mail in a Publisher file, let us know (khlowry@juno.com) and we will move you from the paper mailing list. You must have Microsoft Publisher 2002 installed on your computer to open this. If you do not want to receive Tidings at all, let us know by e-mail or mail the form below to:

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2135 Carter Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

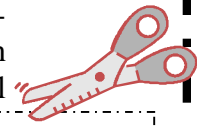
Thank you for your help.
Mary Griffin and Katie Lowry

Please remove me from the Tidings list:

Name

Address

Address





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March 25 - Good Friday - Noon Liturgy - 12 pm
Tenebrae Service - 7 pm

March 27 - Easter Sunday!

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Tidings from St. Matthew's

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

Address service requested

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