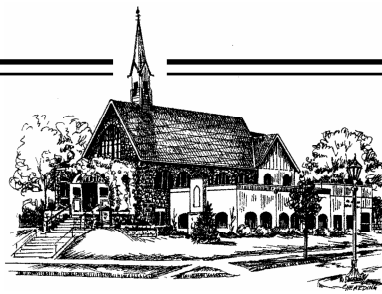

◆ Tidings ◆

from St. Matthew's



Vol. 3, Issue 9

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

March, 2006

From The Rector

I looked at St. Matthew's calendar, trying to find a time for a multi-evening Lenten program. Here's the good news: it's hard to find a night that's free at least three weeks in a row for such a series. At St. Matthew's almost every night of the week is spoken for. The tutoring program runs on Monday and Thursday nights, choir is Wednesday, the Gospel of John Bible study is on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the Month, and so on. Many parishioners are already engaged in the Centering Prayer group, Bible studies, book discussions, and service opportunities. How, I wondered, can St. Matthew's encourage parishioners and all who desire to journey with us to observe "a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word," (Ash Wednesday Service, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 265) and in a way that is helpful and life-giving?

So, here's my solution: I'd like to invite everyone to read Richard Foster's book *Celebration of Discipline* during the five week period between Ash Wednesday (March 1) and Palm/Passion Sunday (April 9), and to join Dwight and me for three separate conversations on different disciplines covered by Foster. Both of the rector's forums during Lent (March 5 and April 2 from 9:15 to 10:15 am in the library) will provide opportunities to discuss specific disciplines in community, as will the April 4 Faith, Books and Culture @ St. Matthew's book discussion (7-8:30 pm in the library). Throughout Lent each Sunday sermon (March 5 – April 2) will focus on one of the spiritual disciplines listed in Foster's book, including the one he interestingly missed: stewardship. As we seek to go deeper together spiritually, it is important to revisit and reflect upon ancient Christian spiritual disciplines which have stood the test of time. The disciplines Foster discusses, including simplicity, solitude, service, and worship, have helped countless men and women across the ages know God more deeply and

practice their faith more authentically.

The self-examination and discipline so characteristic of Lent is not meant to beat ourselves up for what we're not doing in our faith life, or who we're not. Rather the five weeks of Lent offer us a designated opportunity (which I hope will turn into a year-round practice) to do the honest soul searching and reflection necessary so that we might align our life with our soul's deepest desire – union with God. The ultimate goal of our penitence and searching honesty is that we might be able to face and name the things which keep us from God. Throughout Lent we journey with Christ, preparing ourselves for that powerful week between Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter in which we re-remember Christ's final days on this earth, his death, and his resurrection. Ultimately Christ was triumphant over death. He led the way for us so that we too might with his help overcome all that distracts, defeats and destroys us, and live in the fullness of life he intended for us. Let us all, with God's help, move toward that fullness of life this Lent by deepening our daily spiritual practices. By doing so we will make ourselves even more attentive to the presence and vital movement of God in the world and in our daily lives.

With prayers for a Holy Lent,

Blair

Shrove Tuesday

The parish choir will again serve a delicious pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 28. Proceeds from this fabulous dinner, with a toppings buffet and fancy coffee, support the Music Ministry at St. Matthew's.

Ash Wednesday Services

March 1 at 10 am and 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary

The 5:30 pm service will be followed by a light soup supper courtesy of the Brother Lawrence Guild.

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:

Duke Addicks

Senior Warden

Megan Gangl

Senior Warden Elect

Phillip Jenkins

Junior Warden

Nancy Dietman

Youth Representative

Nancy Alholm

Mike Christenson

Ferri Graham

Marilyn Grantham

Linda López

James Myster

Bruce Nerland

Don Nevin

Bert Ranum

Kathryn Grambsch

Clerk of the Vestry

Ray Dietman

Treasurer

Leo Bjorlie

Mark Brown

Kathryn Grambsch

Diocesan Delegates

Ministry Positions:

Katie Lowry

Acolytes, Angel Choir

Marian Stankovich

Adult Education

Sue Nevin

Altar Guild

Richard Stiefel

Art Committee Chair

Karen Pfeifle and Rosa Uy

Br. Lawrence Guild

Marilyn Grantham

Chalice Bearer/LEM

Coordinator

Joan Hershbell

Dinner Group Coordinator

Megan Gangl

Librarian

Ray Dietman

Loaves & Fishes

Abby Marier

Mission Outreach

Kathryn Grambsch

Verger

Staff:

The Rev. Blair Pogue

Rector

The Rev. Dwight Zscheile

Transitional Deacon

J Michael Compton

Dir. Of Music Ministries

Manager of Office Ministries

Lis Christenson

Coordinator of Children's

Ministries

Marissa Calcaterra

Youth Coordinator

Nigel Spottiswoode

Bookkeeper

Ron Houde

Maintenance Service

New Bibles for youth! The youth group needs some up-to-date student Bibles to show students the importance of scripture, and increase their knowledge and comfort level of reading and applying Biblical lessons to their life. Each bible is about \$25, and we'd like to have at least 15 in our youth room. If you are interested in sponsoring a Bible, please contact our Youth Director, Marissa Calcaterra by March 12 (Mcalcaterra001@luthersem.edu). Your help is greatly appreciated!

Pictorial Directory

Pictures will be taken for our parish pictorial directory at St. Matthew's on March 23, 24 and 25. Please sign up in the undercroft or online at www.stmatthewsmn.org. Our goal is to include everyone in the parish. Participants will receive a free directory and a photograph.

Faith Books & Culture at St. Matthew's

Tuesday, March 7, 7-8:30 pm in the church library:

Discussion of Parker Palmer's [A Hidden Wholeness: the Journey Toward an Undivided Life](#)

April 4: Discussion of Richard Foster's book [Celebration of Discipline: the Path to Spiritual Growth](#)

Women's Fellowship: The next gathering of St. Matthew's women will be March 3 at 7 pm in the library. For more information, contact Linda López at 651-482-0356, or lindablopez@gmail.com.

Easter Flowers

By Grace Evans

Easter comes the 16th of April. This announcement seems premature as I experience sub-zero weather. However, the church traditionally decorates the worship space with beautiful lilies and spring flowers. Parishioners generously give a donation for this event to express their gratitude and to designate a memorial. Special Easter envelopes will be placed in the pews or in a basket in the undercroft for these donations. Make checks payable to Saint Matthew's with the note Liturgical Decorations on the memo line. The potted plants may be taken home on April 30 to enjoy and to plant in your garden.

Lenten Worship

Changes at the 10:30 service during Lent:

- Lent I (March 5) opens with the Great Litany, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 148 (there are no prayers of the people and no confession that first Sunday in Lent because the Great Litany contains both)
- Lent II – V (March 12 – April 2) open with the Penitential Order, including the Decalogue, *BCP*, pp. 350-351
- No alleluias and no gloria
- The psalm will be read responsively by whole verse
- We will observe a moment of silence after the sermon
- Prayers of the People, Form I
- We will once again say the confession
- Eucharistic Prayer C
- New sung *Sanctus/Benedictus* ("holy, holy, holy Lord . . .")
- The modern version of the Lord's Prayer

Vestry News

Major decisions and developments from the vestry retreat on February 10 and 11:

The vestry accepted the rector's invitation to join her in serving as St. Matthew's primary spiritual discernment body. They will thus not only fulfill their canonical "temporal" duties overseeing the church property and finances, but will work with the rector to discern God's vision for the congregation including the evaluation of current as well as future ministry priorities.

The vestry will meet on the 4th Thursday of every month from 7-9 pm in the parish library. Parishioners are welcome to attend monthly vestry meetings, but will not have voice at the meetings unless invited to speak by the chair.

The format of vestry meetings will change. After opening with prayer the vestry will spend the first 20 minutes of each meeting meditating on a passage of scripture. Following this meditation they will then have time to respond to or ask questions about the previous month's minutes, budget report, and Ministry Team (see following explanation) reports which will be sent to the vestry one week ahead of time. Vestry members will receive and read reports ahead of time so that they will have time to focus on one "big issue" per meeting. Examples of big issues include discerning a new ministry opportunity, how to help St. Matthew's go deeper spiritually, the future of a specific program area, etc. Discernment that is related to a specific Ministry Team or program area will be conducted in conversation with Ministry Team members and program area ministry leaders.

All "Committees" will be called "Ministry Teams," as in Education Ministry Team, Social Justice Ministry Team, etc. to highlight the fact that each of these ongoing groups with a specific focus are indeed ministries. Each Ministry Team is asked to provide the following to the rector, to be sent to the vestry and be communicated to the congregation: their mission, a roster of current members, a yearly calendar of events, and a list of expected budget expenditures. This information will also be listed on our website to

increase understanding about the Ministry Teams and what they do, and help interested persons learn about ministry opportunities in which they can participate. Ministry Teams are also asked to send their vestry reports (one week before the vestry meeting) and monthly minutes to the rector so that she can get them to the vestry and to the St. Matthew's website.

We will increasingly be making use of short-term task forces with a specific ministry focus and timeline so as to involve more parishioners and friends of St. Matthew's in ministry.

We will work toward being a church that helps everyone interested discern their spiritual gifts and then equips them to act on those gifts in their daily lives and at church.

Please join Blair Pogue at the beginning of the next rector's forum (Sunday, March 5 at 9:15 am in the library) for a discussion of these important changes at St. Matthew's.



Tidings Deadlines

Sunday, March 19, 2006

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Send articles to Katie Lowry:
khlowry@comcast.net

Education

Children's Education

By Lis Christenson, Director

The first Sunday of March is the beginning of Lent. In the next six weeks, the children will hear stories of healing, prayer, helping others and the mystery of life and death. As we enter this time of learning about Jesus' life, we will also change our altar colors and candles to purple. Response activities will include images of the cross, the fish, and learning the Lord's Prayer.

Preschool/Kindergarten

- Mar. 5 Lent 1: Mystery of the Lenten Puzzle
- Mar. 12 Lent 2: Mystery of Life and Death
- Mar. 19 Lent 3: Jesus and the Children
- Mar. 26 Lent 4: Jesus and Bartimaeus

Grades 1-2-3

- Mar. 5 Lent 1: Jesus in the Wilderness
- Mar. 12 Lent 2: Jesus Calls His First Disciples
- Mar. 19 Lent 3: Jesus Heals: Bartimaeus
- Mar. 26 Lent 4: Jesus Teaches: The Lord's Prayer

Faithweavers Grades 4-5-6

- Mar. 5 The Prophet Jeremiah
- Mar. 12 Jesus in the Temple
- Mar. 19 The Widow's Gift
- Mar. 26 Jesus and His Friends: Preparations

Thank you to all who helped with our first Children's Festival! The Narnia festival would not be possible without Pat Owen, Peter Thomson, Katie Lowry, Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, Diana Eicher, Sam Hardman, Susan Hardman, Carol Bjorlie, Joan Hershbell, Amy Tillotson, Aria Christenson, and many others.

Plans are underway for a Spring Children's festival on Saturday, April 22!

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:

Adult Forum meets in the library each Sunday morning from 9:15 to 10:15. Everyone is welcome.

- Mar. 5 - Rector's Forum - Summary of Vestry Retreat
- Mar. 12 - Social Justice Ministry, Project Home presented by Grant Abbott
- Mar. 19 - Social Justice Ministry, Minnesota Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing presentation by John Buzza
- Mar. 26 - Discovery Channel: Jesus: The Complete Story, the Early Years

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

Adult Forums on Housing

By Susan Hardman & Margy Mattlin

Because we believe that it is our responsibility as Christians to incorporate both acts of mercy (outreach) and acts of justice (advocacy) into our spiritual faith, we have planned two adult forums on homelessness that highlight both these aspects of our faith journey.

March 12 - Project Home (outreach) Join Grant Abbot, Executive Director of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches (SPACC), to learn about this special ministry to families who are temporarily living without housing. This program of the SPACC serves the homeless by housing them in church basements. Because many St. Paul area churches are involved, we can do what no church can do alone. St. Matthew's has participated in this ministry for several years.

March 19 - MICAH (advocacy) In this second session on homelessness, learn how people of faith can serve as leaders in the public arena to create long term policy solutions to the vivid human problem of homelessness. Join John Buzza, a congregational organizer with the Minnesota Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH), an organization of more than 150 congregations from Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith traditions, to learn about the important advocacy work of this organization.

Youth Group

Wild and Crazy Game Night : March 17

Jr. High 6-8 pm - pizza

Sr. High 8:30-10:30 - snacks

Hold this date: **Lock-in**, April 28-29

For the month of March we will be focusing on what it means to love your neighbor. We will be exploring this idea through music, movies, and service opportunities. As Christians we are called to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. I think this is a very hard concept to put into practice, especially during the crazy times of junior and senior high school. During these times of life, it seems that everyone is out for themselves. Then how in the world are you supposed to love those around you as much as yourself and what exactly does that look like? I look forward to hanging out with the youth and will continue to encourage their relationships with Christ.

Peace and Blessings,

Marissa Calcaterra, Director of Youth Ministries,

Mcalcaterra001@luthersem.edu

Youth group:

Open to all of those in grades 7-12

We meet in the Senior high youth room from 9:15-10:15. Here we talk about faith issues that affect our lives. Bring your Bible if you have one. Come for the breakfast treats, stay for the fun!

St. Matthew's Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers. To add a person to the prayer list, please contact Michael Compton.

- Bethany, student of Linda López, recovering from auto accident
- Bev Dailey, head injury
- Robert Harrison, brother of Marilyn Grantham, plugged arteries
- Duke Addicks
- James Carpenter, cancer of the hip
- 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
- Jane Bose, sister of Grace Evans, stroke
- Dorothy Nevin, mother of Don Nevin, cancer

The Social Justice Ministry

By Susan Hardman

The Mission Outreach Committee has been renamed the Social Justice Ministry (SJM) to better reflect our work. You can see current projects that SJM is considering at www.St.Matthewsmn.org/socialjustice. March 6 at 7 pm is the next Social Justice Meeting. All are welcome.

Pre-Lenten and Lenten activities:

St. Matthew's will host Loaves and Fishes on February 26. Something new: The Brother Lawrence Guild will serve a simple supper at 6:30 pm after Loaves and Fishes with Carol Bjorlie leading a time to reflect on the experience.

March is Minnesota Food Share month. March is when SJM makes a special appeal for the food shelf through Minnesota Food Share (MFS), the largest drive for funds and food in the State of Minnesota. MFS provides half of all groceries distributed at food shelves through out the year. A large drive in March ensures hungry families have the nutrition they need during the leaner summer months.

The March Adult Forums will focus on housing issues – see article on page 4.

Our gratitude goes to Abby Marier for leading the Mission Outreach Committee for the past four years. A job well done!

- 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

In This Issue

Feb. 28 - Shrove Tues. Pancake Supper

Services at 10 am & 5:30 pm

Mar. 1 - Ash Wednesday

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Mar. 23-25 - Photos for Directory - p. 2

Please Note New Office Hours

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 - 2:30pm

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

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, 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.

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

March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C = Chapel CR = Choir Room K = Kitchen L = Library RO = Rector's Office U = Undercroft			1 Ash Wednesday 10 am Holy Euch, Rite 1, with ashes 5:30 pm Holy Euch, Rite 2, with ashes 6 Soup Supper (U) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)	2 6 pm Tutoring Program (U)	3 6 pm Central High Ski Team Banquet 7 pm Women's Fellowship	4 9:30 am Centering Prayer (L)
5 8 am Holy Euch., Rite 1 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Holy Euch, Rite 2 4 pm Angel Choir 4 Prospect Hill Friends (L) 7 Artists Reception (U)	6 6 pm Tutoring Program (U) 7 Social Justice Ministry (L)	7 7 pm Book Discussion (L)	8 7 am Men's Bible Study (L) 10 Holy Euch, Rite 1 (C) 7 Choir Rehearsal (CR)	9 6 pm Tutoring Program (U)	10 (L) 10 Blue House Board (U) 1 pm Liturgical Decorations (L)	11 9:30 am Worship Ministry (L) 10 Blue House Board (U) 1 pm Liturgical Decorations (L)
12 8 am Holy Euch., Rite 1 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Holy Euch, Rite 2 12 pm Sermon Disc. (L) 3 pm "For God's Sake!" 4 Prospect Hill Friends (L)	13 6 pm Tutoring Program (U)	14 8:30 am MN Food Assoc. 7 pm Gospel of John 7:15 Art Ministry Team (L)	15 10 am Holy Euch, Rite 1 (C) 7 Choir Rehearsal (CR)	16 6 pm Tutoring Program (U)	17 6 pm Youth Activity Night	18 9:45 am Photography
19 8 am Holy Euch., Rite 1 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Holy Euch, Rite 2 4 pm Angel Choir 4 Prospect Hill Friends (L)	20 6 pm Tutoring Program (U) 7:15 Art Committee (L)	21 7 pm Gospel of John 7:15 Art Ministry Team (L)	22 7 am Men's Bible Study (L) 10 am Holy Euch, Rite 1 (C) 7 pm Confirmation Class (L) 7 Choir Rehearsal (CR)	23 2:45 pm Photography 6 Tutoring Program (U) 7 Vestry (L)	24 3:45 pm Photography 6:15 Family Concert 7:30 Family Concert	25 9:45 am Photography
26 8 am Holy Euch., Rite 1 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Holy Euch, Rite 2 4 Prospect Hill Friends (L)	27 6 pm Tutoring Program (U)	28 7 Gospel of John (L)	29 10 am Holy Euch, Rite 1 (C) 7 pm Confirmation Class (L) 7 Choir Rehearsal (CR)	30 6 pm Tutoring Program (U)	31 (L)	