

St Matthew's Anglican Church

January 2012 Newsletter

A Message from the Rector

Received into our new Diocese and Province

There will be a series of special services in the coming weeks, initiating members of St. Matthew's Anglican Church into new stages of their Christian faith. On Sunday, January 22, people will be baptized by immersion during our 10:00 am service. This will be a first, thanks to the kind permission of the SDA congregation for us to use their new baptistry.

On Saturday, February 4, at 5:00 pm, Danika Hill will be ordained a deacon by our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Bond Allen (please see my article in our November 2011 Newsletter: tinyurl.com/nov11nl). Everyone is welcome to attend, and a reception will follow the service.

The next day, Sunday, February 5, Bishop Kevin will conduct a Confirmation service at which several people - young people and adults - will be Confirmed (please see my article in last month's Newsletter: tinyurl.com/dec11nl). This is open to baptized Christians of at least twelve years of age. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are considering being Confirmed.

At the same service there will be an opportunity to be Received into the Diocese of Cascadia and the Province of the Anglican Church in North America. This may be especially desired by those members of our church who have been Confirmed in an Anglican or Episcopal church, but would now like to signal their allegiance to our new Diocese and Province. Please let me know if this is something you would like to do.

Thank you for your prayers for the members of our congregation who will be baptized, confirmed or received at these upcoming services - and let me know if you would like to be one of them!

Announcements on Sunday morning

To make our announcement time as efficient as possible, please let me know by Saturday if you would like to make an announcement during the service. Just call 503-505-7052 or email me at: humphrey@iinet.com. If you would like to put an item in the Sunday bulletin, please send it to me by Wednesday. Thank you!

Selling things during coffee hour

Some of our young people are raising money for charitable organizations, other than the church, and many of our members would like to support them in this. If you would like to sell anything at church, please let me know and we will be sure you have a table to sit at in the Parish Hall to display your wares. Thanks.

Parish visits

I would like to get together with as many members of our church as possible! Please call 503-505-7052 or email me at: humphrey@iinet.com to arrange a time when we can meet. I look forward to seeing you!

The latest news

In addition to the emails I send to the congregation, it is possible to see short messages about future events at church by following us on Twitter (twitter.com/stmatthews) or "liking" our Facebook page (facebook.com/stmatthewsportland). If you would appreciate getting these short messages by text message, just email me your cell phone number or send a text to 972-628-0595. Thank you.

David L. Humphrey

Review of December events



Christmas Celebrations

What a wonderful Christmas season! We had a number of marvelous opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior: a joint Carol Service with our friends at the SDA; carol singing with our friends at Faithful Savior Lutheran and the SDA; our annual Christmas pageant; and meaningful Christmas services.



Christmas Giving Tree 2011

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our project this year. From hanging tags on the tree to providing boxes, wrap and tape and everything in between it was a group effort that was very much appreciated. A special thanks to those who donated funds. We were able to provide paper products, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other essentials that we sometimes take for granted. The wrapping party went well and we had all the food and gifts delivered to the two families by mid-afternoon. It is a blessing to be part of such a wonderful, giving church family.

Outreach Commission



Sunday School Outreach

The Middle School youth group's December service project was to make up "friendship bags" for the homeless. This was a meaningful experience and beneficial both to the young people and, we hope and pray, to the needy people who received the bags. Each bag



contained gloves, socks, hand and toe warmers, vitamin C, chapstick, kleenex, hand sanitizer, soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste and a granola bar.



Barb and Colin's Wedding, Saturday December 31st

It was a joy to witness the beautiful and moving wedding of Barb Liggett and Colin Skinner on New Year's Eve.

This month...

Men's Breakfast

There is no Men's Breakfast this month.

Bible Study Opportunities

If one of your New Year's Resolutions is to study the Bible more, there are a number of groups that would love to encourage and support you in that goal. In addition to ongoing groups, which welcome new members, a new weekly women's Bible study group is starting on Monday January 23 at 7:00 pm at the home of Sarah Williamson in Vancouver. The group will be led by Jaime Phelps and will begin with a book study, reading and discussing together the book "One Thousand Gifts: a dare to live fully right where you are" by Ann Voskamp, and will move into Bible study in future weeks. The book is

available from Amazon.com for \$10. Please contact Jaime at 541-602-6811 for more information.

In addition to weekly Bible study groups, we are planning a short marriage course for married couples at all stages of life, using as a basis for discussion the remarkable book "Sacred Marriage: What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy" by Gary Thomas; and a quarterly parenting discussion group, the first of which will discuss the book "Six ways to keep the "little" in your girl: guiding your daughter from her tweens to her teens." by Dannah Gresh. Please let David or Rachel Humphrey know if you are interested in either of these groups so that we can find a mutually convenient time to meet!

Growth Groups Update

This month, the Unified Growth Groups are on hiatus. The Varied Growth Groups continue to meet as planned. On January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th after the service in the Glass Chapel, Dr. Terry Burns will be presenting a *Small Groups Facilitator Training* class. If you have ever wanted to facilitate a small group or would like to brush up on your skills, this is a great opportunity. While this class is not required for Growth Group facilitators, it will no doubt be very informative and formative. If you are an experienced small group facilitator consider attending to share your experience with those who are just learning. The class will be taught in a small group format in order to demonstrate the skills being taught. In February, we will begin organizing the next ten week session of Unified Growth Groups. Please contact me if you are interested in either attending a spiritual formation centered Growth Group or if you are interested in facilitating a Growth Group.

We are always open to new ideas for Growth Groups. So, if you see a need within the church let me know. One of the needs that has been brought up in the past is a monthly group for older teens and young adults. Also, if you are new to St. Matthew's joining a Growth Group is a great way to become a part of the life of the church. Most groups are open to newcomers at any time, while a few are open periodically. Our congregation hails from all over the Portland metro and southwest Washington, so chances are good that there is a Growth Group for you. I can put you in touch with the facilitator of a Growth Group that would fit your schedule, location, and interest. If not, perhaps you have discovered a new need to be addressed.

Meeting together in small groups is one of the most effective ways in which the body of Christ grows together. Let's make 2012 the year of connectivity. I'm not talking about wireless connectivity, but life to life connection.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." ~ Acts 2:42-47

Danika Hill

Women's Retreat 2012

Ladies of St Matthew's, please save the date of our 2012 Women's Retreat at Camp Arrah Wanna in Welches, OR: Friday September 28th at 7 pm until Saturday September 29th at 7 pm.

St. Patrick Anglican Mission Update

There is more exciting news at St. Patrick's. We have recently changed venues. We had been meeting in a local coffee shop. While it was a very comfortable place with friendly people, it had some serious drawbacks. Even though we had the use of the back room the noise from the television in the other room made it very difficult to concentrate on the study and to worship. With people coming and going to the restroom and through the back door this venue would be better suited to a social gathering rather than worship. The group is getting to the point where bonds between us are being strengthened and we are studying the Word in greater depth. It is time for a dedicated space. We had hoped that meeting in a very visible place would draw people to the group. That has not been the case either in the park or in the coffee shop. So, since our location has not proven to be evangelistic we turn to the concern of facilitating more meaningful study and worship.

Toward that end, I made a couple of inquiries in Kelso about borrowing space from local churches. The pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Kelso (the church home of one of the SPAM bunch) has agreed to let us use the church library. The pastor is very approachable, and I think we will have a good relationship. We met in the library for the first time on January 2nd. It was quiet, warm, and we had a great discussion on 1 Timothy Chapter Two. The invitation for St. Matthew's people to come visit or to join us in Kelso always stands. We will be at 215 Academy Street at 7:00 pm. Use the parking lot on Academy Street, to the left of the church, and enter through the big metal doors that face the parking lot.

Please continue to pray for St. Patrick's and how God may be calling you to support us in this ministry. Kelso-Longview is only an hour away from Portland. Between Seattle and Portland, Kelso and Longview tend to get overlooked. But there are deep needs here, beautiful souls here, and many who are thirsty for an authentically presented gospel. This ministry requires presence, genuineness, and commitment to Christ. Speak with the Hills if you are considering partnering with us in this church plant. Whether you can give a little or a lot, your prayers and your presence are what make the difference!

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time."

~ 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Jason and Danika Hill

Bazaar Update

All women are welcome to come on Friday, January 27th, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, to the Scalberg home in Vancouver. This is a great way for the women of SMA to get to know one another in an informal setting. You can always bring a friend who likes to do crafts. Whether you are the "Martha Stewart" of your neighborhood, or have never entered a Michael's store, we would love to have you. We can always find something for you to do if you are willing. Please remember that the Bazaar cannot be done by a handful of people. Any and all help is welcome.

A special request for quilters: we will be having a quilting bee on Jan 14th at Sally Stai's home in Gresham. Please contact Kim Scalberg or Sally Stai for more information.

Kim Scalberg

Sunday School Update

It is a new year and many exciting opportunities, adventures and activities lie ahead for the children and young people at St Matthew's. This month, our high school youth group is going to Seaside for their annual beach retreat, leaving after church on Sunday January 15th and returning after dinner on Monday January 16th. Please pray for a wonderful, meaningful, relationship-building trip and that these young people would come to know the Lord Jesus better and love him more. Our middle school group continues to work through a catechism course, discussing the basics and essentials of the Christian faith. Our Junior group (3rd - 5th grades) are continuing to familiarize themselves with the Bible, learning the books of the Bible and how to be confident in finding their way around Scripture. Our Primary group (K - 2nd grade) will be piloting the Godly Play curriculum this spring and the preschool group enjoys crafts and activities connected with the weekly True Story from the Bible. And our Nursery group continues to be delightful!

It is only January but not too soon to be thinking about Trout Creek Bible Camp, an annual highlight for many of our children and young people. All St Matthew's children, from current 1st graders and up, have the opportunity to attend this wonderful, fun and Christ-centered camp, which is generously subsidized by the church. You can find the summer schedule at <http://www.tcbc.com>

Rachel Humphrey

Transition - Phase 2

(from St John's, Vancouver, BC, after their transition to the ACNA and departure from their building)

If you've scanned many church web sites recently, you might be struck by the amount of effort and resources being put into answering the question "How can we make the church relevant to the culture in which we live?". That culture, of course, includes many variations but the successful church, it seems, will adapt and fit them all in somehow.

The obvious question arises, has the church constantly scrambled to keep up with changing culture over the last 2000 years, or is this something new? Surely the church's main concern has been to "keep the faith", not to make it relevant or subsume it to cultural concerns? In fact, the church of Christ has constantly had to resist revision, corruption, persecution, and a whole host of culturally driven attacks. This is entirely to be expected when we profess a belief that threatens mankind's desire to go its own way.

Rather than chase after cultural relevance, we should seek to inform and reform the culture in which we live. Quite clearly, we live today in a culture that needs to hear the Gospel. And this Gospel has not changed and neither has our need to heed it, for 2000 years. Our job, in whatever culture we find ourselves, is simply to witness to the risen, healing power of Jesus Christ and his love for us. God will work to reform lives and further his kingdom, regardless of culture.

Our own transition to a different location changes none of these facts. What it may change is our relationship with God by increasing our reliance on him and our desire to do his will - a far more important transition. He has clearly demonstrated to us his faithfulness by bringing us to this point. How we respond is the second phase of this process of transition. So the question for us is: "How can we use the many capabilities, gifts and resources God has given us to bless, serve and witness to those around us, show the surpassing worth of Jesus Christ, and further his kingdom?"

Shared by Eric and Suzanne Gilman

Shrove Tuesday

All members of our church family are invited to join with our friends at Faithful Savior Lutheran Church (11100 NE Skidmore Street) for a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday February 21st from 5pm until 7pm. This is always a wonderful occasion!

Hymns

In our congregation, we have people from many different denominations and traditions. If there is a hymn that you would like us to sing, which is not in our repertoire, please let David know.

Meal Ministry

There are often opportunities for us to show our love and care for each other in our church family by providing meals for church members who are sick, bereaved or who have just had a baby. Many, many thanks to those of you who faithfully volunteer for this ministry - it is hugely appreciated. Some people tell me that they don't volunteer because they are not good cooks - please don't let that stop you! In many cases, a store-bought rotisserie chicken and a salad, or some sub sandwiches, or a pizza, is an invaluable help to people. Thank you again meal volunteers!

Rachel Humphrey

Prayer Chain

Please feel free to share your prayer requests with the Prayer Chain, a group of people committed to praying for the needs of St Matthew's every day. You can send your prayer requests to me at humphrey@iinet.com or 503-505-7052. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please let me know.

David Humphrey

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are provided for each Sunday service, except during Lent. If you are interested in providing flowers for a Memorial or Thanksgiving offering, please obtain a donation card and envelope, available each week on the counter near the church entrance. A completed card, along with a check or cash should be inserted into the envelope. You can put it in the offering plate or give it to Altar Guild members Jacki Potter or Melinda Loomis. Your memorial or thank-offering will be printed in the appropriate Sunday Bulletin.

January birthdays

6	Jacki Potter	22	Anne Brown
9	Jeremy Phelps		Tim Krupicka
14	Gary Sanseri	23	Kimberly Scalberg
15	Anna Humphrey	24	Mary Bown
16	Fred McGarry	28	Daniel Humphrey
17	Brent Boger		Dorothy Orrell
18	Sarah Williamson	31	Kanahat Htoo
21	Erin Krupicka		

If you are new to St Matthew's and would like your birthday added to the newsletter in the appropriate month, please contact Rachel Humphrey, 503-254-6742, rachel@humphrey.cc

Calendar and links

St. Matthew's Anglican Church
PO Box 20206
Portland, OR 97294
503-505-7052

Meeting on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am at
1001 SE 60th Avenue, Portland, OR 97215
(Mt. Tabor SDA Church)

Website: www.stmatthewsportland.org

Calendar: www.prem.calendars.net/stmatthews

St. Matthew's Anglican Church is a member of the Diocese of Cascadia
and the Anglican Church in North America.

St. Matthew's: Anglican. Biblical. Orthodox.

“We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.”
(2 Corinthians 4:5)