

St Matthew's Anglican Church

June 2011 Newsletter

A Message from the Rector

Christianity Explored

All of us who have experienced God's forgiveness of our sins, and have come to new life through faith in Jesus Christ, long to share this good news with others - but we can be hindered by doubts: "What should I say, and how should I say it?" For many Christians, the best approach may be to invite people to an event where they can hear the gospel and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Ten years ago I attended the launch in Britain of a new course called Christianity Explored. This was an attempt to use the Gospel of Mark to explain the gospel of Jesus Christ. I began using this course in the church I was serving and was impressed with its clarity of presentation and faithfulness to the scriptures.

Three years later, after we moved to Portland, a second edition of Christianity Explored was published and the course was launched in the United States. I was delighted when the three creators of Christianity Explored came to St. Matthew's and conducted a two-day conference, which attracted people from seventeen different churches. In the years that followed, we ran the course a number of times.

Now, a third edition of Christianity Explored has just been published. The authors explain: "What makes this course - and the Christian gospel - distinctive is its insistence on God's remarkable grace: the clear teaching that although we have rebelled against God, we are deeply loved by him. Loved with an outrageous, costly and incomprehensible love that was poured out for us on a little hill just outside Jerusalem."

Christianity Explored is a great way to discover who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him. I will conduct an introduction to the course this month during our Adult Education class on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Please come and see what it's all about!

David L. Humphrey

Parish Visits

This summer I will be home alone for five weeks, while Rachel and the children are in the UK. I will have lots of availability to meet up with members of the congregation and I do want to make good use of this time to see and talk with as many of you as possible. Please call (503-505-7052) or email me (humphrey@iinet.com) to arrange a time when we can meet together. I look forward to seeing you!

David Humphrey

Review of May events

The Middle school youth group had a lovely Sunday afternoon together, writing encouraging letters to missionaries that we support and to two Christian leaders in Iran imprisoned for their faith, and watching a movie about Jim Elliot.

Many thanks to the men of St Matthew's for putting on an amazing Mother's Day Brunch!

Diocesan Synod was a joyful and uplifting weekend. Many congratulations to Jeremy Phelps on the occasion of his ordination to the diaconate. Please continue to pray for his ministry.

Many congratulations to Tom and Audrey Warfel on the safe arrival of baby Ryan Zachary - it was a joy to see him dedicated at church this month.

Our first Men's retreat was a wonderful, relaxing and relationship-building event. Looking forward to next year already!

Our annual Memorial Day church outing was a splendid visit to Silver Falls State Park.



Men's Ministry update

This Saturday June 4th at 8:30 is our monthly men's breakfast. We will have a great time of fellowship, feasting and hear from Jeremy Phelps. Jeremy will be sharing his testimony and his view of Biblical manhood. We do hope that you are able to make it. If this is your first time, and you are a little unsure, or if you have not been in a while please contact Jeremy and he will give you further details of what to expect.

Please be on time and bring your Bibles and a little donation money for the breakfast (we are going to try to stay one month ahead so that the cost of men's breakfast does not fall on any one person.)

The location of our breakfast is:

Gateway Church
13300 NE San Rafael Street
Portland OR 97230

It is on the corner of NE 132nd and San Rafael St.

There are two tall buildings. One is the sanctuary, we will be meeting in the building next to it on the top floor. Look for the signs!

*****We are still short cooks!** If you are able and willing to cook or help prepare will you please contact Jeremy? Thank you!

Cooks must be there no later than 7:45am

rev.jeremy.phelps@gmail.com

(503) 913-1975

Attention Men of St. Matthew's... Seattle Mariners vs. Philadelphia Phillies! Saturday June 18th at 7:10 pm. **Full Payment of \$32 due this Sunday June 5th.** Bring a friend! We will leave Portland at 3pm sharp (carpool available) See Jeremy Phelps this Sunday after the service.

Choir Update

Men's Chorus is forming; there are two opportunities this summer to be in a men's chorus. The adult choir will be on vacation during the months of July and August. For one Sunday of each of the summer months, the new men's chorus will sing an offertory anthem. Rehearsals will be the Sunday prior to the chosen date and the morning of that service, from 9 am to 9:45 am. Sign up forms are available from the ushers; or speak with Melinda or Pam, or email: melindaloomis@q.com. If you can sing a hymn, you can sing an anthem.

Women's Chorus: not to be outdone by the men! If you are 13 years old or older and would like to be part of a chorus for female voices, please see Melinda or Pam or email melindaloomis@q.com. There are five Sundays in July and four in August to schedule offertory anthems for women's (or men's) chorus. Rehearsal scheduling would be similar to that of the Men's Chorus. Sing to the Lord! Make a joyful sound to Him!

Hymns

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

Sunday School Update

Don't forget to sign up for **Trout Creek Bible Camp!** Most of our kids going into fourth, fifth and sixth grade are planning to attend Junior 5 (August 22 - 27). If you have a current first grader (going into second grade in the fall), they are old enough to attend Primary Camp (July 3 - 5) and I hope they will! Information can be found at <http://www.tcbc.com> and once you have booked your child's spot, please contact Dorothy Orrell, our church treasurer, <jdo45@comcast.net>, who will be glad to pay for half of the cost of camp. The Vestry has kindly set aside some money for this purpose.

Sunday, June 5th, is our Youth Service - our annual celebration of our wonderful Sunday School children and their dedicated teachers. Hope you can all be there - the children are singing some terrific songs, each class will be making a presentation and each child will be presented with a small gift. We will also be honoring our graduate, David Robertson.

The following Sunday, June 12th, is Pentecost and we have a great Pentecost skit and a wonderful processional song from the Cameroon that the children have learned. It is awesome! After the service, I am suggesting an end-of-Sunday-School-year bowling trip: I have heard back from one family - is anyone else interested in going? I'd be glad to book the lanes if I know how many people would like to come.

Our Catechism class for current fourth, fifth and sixth graders is going really well. Among other things, these past couple of weeks we have been talking about the connection between the Bible and Science and that to dismiss the Bible as having been disproved by science is simply not accurate.

As you may know, my four kids and I are going to be in the UK for most of the summer (6/20 - 8/18). We have a wonderful team of people who will be continuing to work with our children at St Matthew's. Nursery and Sunday School will be provided for ages 0 to fourth grade. If your child is going into fifth grade or above, we would like to encourage them to remain in the service during the summer. Rachel Murfitt has organized some excellent children's worksheets that will be available from the ushers each week that kids can take if they would like something to do during the service. Having said this, my overriding priority in this ongoing discussion that we have been having about when children are ready to sit through the service, is that children should be where they will get the most benefit, both short term and long term. I think this will be different for each child and I think as a church we can be flexible about this, so, please, parents, feel free to decide if your child will do better in church or in a Sunday School class over the summer. If you can let me know as soon as possible so that I can make sure arrangements are in place, that would be great.

This leads on to the general point that we are always mulling over the best way to provide for the kids of our church. I must apologize that I have not brought the kids up for communion more often recently. After children's chapel, there is usually barely time for a full Sunday School lesson and we are rarely ready to go up when it is time for communion. But I do want the kids to go up more often and I think that one solution might be to alternate the weeks that we do children's chapel and the weeks that the kids come up for communion - that way they would get to experience both on a regular basis - any thoughts on that? As always, I love to hear your comments, suggestions and ideas. We're always looking to improve what we do for kids at St Matthews's!

Rachel Humphrey

Vacation Bible School 2011: A Big Jungle Adventure: A Faith Journey with Jesus

Go wild for Jesus! Grab a vine! Brave the Rapids! And, prepare for a Big Jungle Adventure!!! Kids will learn about Jesus and how he cares for his people in all times and places. Big Jungle Adventure is open to ages 3-11 who will attend June 27th-July 1st from 9:00am-noon.

It will be held at Faithful Savior Ministries on NE 112th Ave and NE Skidmore St. Kids will meet friends, explore Bible stories, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks. Enroll today by getting a registration form from the back of the church. Return it to Stephanie Thornton.

We need volunteers, sponsorships of \$10 each, and donations of supplies. Grab a banana off the tree on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Thank you for supporting this joint effort between St. Matthew's Anglican and Faithful Savior Ministries. For more information or if you have questions contact Stephanie Thornton at 503-490-1461 or sthornton@fsmvpx.com.

Missions Update

Jim Elliot, a native of Portland, Oregon, missionary and martyr to the notoriously violent Auca Indians of Ecuador said "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

Every day men and women are giving their lives--sacrificially--to preach the gospel message all around the world. See how you can be involved on June 12th after the service in the fellowship hall.

ICF dinner on June 17th at 6:00 pm

It is St Matthew's turn once more to provide dinner for the international students who gather for Bible Study as part of the ICF program. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in missions on our door step! If you would like to contribute a dish (for example stirfried meat and vegetables, or curry, fruit, salad, dessert), please let Rachel Humphrey know.

Summer Prayer Diary

Rachel Humphrey will be putting together our annual summer prayer diary in the next few weeks. Prayer is the foundation of everything we do and fundamental to our ability to glorify God in our church life. The prayer diary enables us to pray in a united way, even while people are traveling throughout the summer. It will run from Sunday June 19th until Saturday September 3rd. If you have any prayer requests that you would like included, please send them to me (rachel@humphrey.cc) by Friday June 10th.

New ideas...

At St Matthew's, we are always seeking to find effective ways of meeting the needs of our members. A couple of ideas that have been recently suggested are a group for people in their 20s and 30s and a mentoring/discipleship program. If you are in your 20s or 30s and would be interested in getting together with others, perhaps once a month, for fellowship, please let me know. If you are interested in being mentored/discipled one-to-one, or you are interested in mentoring/discipling a younger Christian one-to-one, please get in touch with David. We have several people who have already expressed an interest in mentoring others, so if you would like to be mentored, there may already be a mentor ready for you!

St. Patrick Anglican Mission Update

St. Patrick Anglican is an incarnational fellowship of Anglican Christians meeting to worship God and study his Word. We are reaching out to our neighbors in Kelso, Longview, and the surrounding areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we seek to Know Christ, Grow in Christ, and Show Christ to Others. Our vision at St. Patrick's is to create a contemporary and contextualized version of the Celtic Abbey that St. Patrick, the Church's first missionary bishop, innovated in fifth century Ireland. The hallmarks of the Celtic Abbey were creative personal evangelism, radical hospitality, comprehensive discipleship, and every-member ministry. These are the very same hallmarks we would like to be known for at St. Patrick Anglican Mission.



At our first strategy meeting, the core team at St. Patrick's decided to hold a Pentecost service (June 12th) in Lake Sacagawea Park in Longview. We will worship our Lord together and enjoy a time of fellowship with a potluck meal together. We are still working out the details, but that is the basic idea. We hope to bring enough food that we can invite any passers-by in the park to join us. Anyone from St. Matthew's would be very welcome to join us for this service. We will begin at 4:00pm. So, bring your camping chairs, coolers, Bibles, and sunglasses, and we'll have a great time together! If you would like to celebrate with us on the 12th, talk to the Hills for directions.

We have finally settled on our complete name. We had been tossing around such identifiers as "church", "abbey", "mission", "community", etc. We are now St. Patrick Anglican Mission. We chose the word "mission" because we want to remind ourselves what we are here for, that we are missionaries. Mission is the ethic we are trying to write into the DNA of St. Patrick's. "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost," (Luke 19:10). May we be faithful with what our Lord has entrusted to us.

You may partner with us in this work by praying for:

The teens of Kelso and Longview

The retired vets of Kelso and Longview

The struggling families of Kelso and Longview

"Divine appointments"

God to give us his heart for the people of Kelso and Longview

People to be drawn to and spiritually formed by the Holy Spirit at our Monday night Bible studies

The details of the Pentecost service to be worked out so that our presence in the park will edify one another and glorify God

More cleaning clients for Danika so that she may be more available in Kelso-Longview on a daily basis

Safe travel for two people who drive several hours to be with us every other Monday night.

You may also partner with us in feet-on-the-ground ways by:

Joining the Monday night Bible study

Joining in for summer worship services and service projects (as we plan them)

Join us for a strategy meeting to help with brainstorming

Join the core team contributing your presence, your skills, your spiritual gifts, and your hands and feet

We would like to thank everyone for their words of encouragement and prayers. These strengthen us for the work ahead.

Jason and Danika Hill

True Story from the Mission Field

From Slovakia

Kristen Wollam is a friend of St Matthew's Anglican Church who is living in Slovakia and is working as a missionary to the Roma people. Here is her most recent update:

Dear Friends,

Hey, it's a jungle out there! The last time I was at my house it was bleak winter with snow all around. And now I am suddenly a homeowner and I've inherited a jungle!

Yes, the house is mine. I got the keys last night. Only one day later than my last projection. And yes I am excited.

The ladies and I came together today for the first time at the house and worked, painting and cleaning, while one man worked on mowing my jungle. He got a start. Good thing I plan to have goats. I am also thinking about sheep.

I've watched the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun" numerous times in recent years as I hoped it would be reflecting my life. The main character, Frances, buys a house in a foreign country..... Last night as I got the keys for the first time and wandered through the house - and again today - lines from the movie kept coming to me. When Frances was asked what her new (300 year old) house was like she said, "Well it needs a little work." When asked if she was going to live there alone she said, "I'm not alone. I'm there with bugs." So, yes my life is paralleling the movie really well.

Today I have been seeing all the warts in the house not previously noticed and yes it really needs "a little work". I will send a few photo shots from today and then keep you posted.

Continually going through my mind this week is a verse from Psalm 126 (from a REALLY old Scripture song)- "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad". And so we are, and so I am.

Much love because of our amazing God, Kristen



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

Dates for your Diary:

Consecration of the Bishop of Cascadia

Please mark your calendars for the Consecration of the Bishop of Cascadia on the evening of Friday September 30th. More details will be coming soon.

Rescheduled Women's Retreat

We are very excited to be planning our fourth annual Women's Retreat at Camp Arrah Wanna, in Welches, OR. Because of the recently announced consecration of the Bishop of Cascadia, we are rescheduling the retreat and it will now take place from 7 pm Friday October 14th until 7 pm Saturday October 15th. Please mark your calendars - all St Matthew's ladies are very welcome!

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 David Humphrey, humphrey@iinet.com 503-505-7052. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please also contact David.

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.

Someone Else

With painful grin the answer comes
The Light has bade me see
That only one is rightly blamed
“ ‘tis me! ‘tis me! ‘tis me!”

True, many candidates have vied
To wear this shameful crown
But I at last confess ‘tis me
That’s torn and soiled my gown.

It’s not some other separate self
Corrupted seed in holy hue
As though I answered to two names
“Won’t do”, says I, “Won’t do.”

And, no, ‘tis not life’s cruel deal
Of hands unfit to play
That I can charge and fast convict
And so my guilt allay.

Not even he my subtle foe
Nor all of his dark demon host
Can close my opened heart and mouth
To silence this great cleansing boast.

“ ‘tis mine! ‘tis mine! ‘tis wholly mine!”
This bitter-sweet and true responsibility
For all the sin I’ve done and do
The only one to blame is me!

Then why so free this dark and damning claim to lay
At my own feet am I? You see...
‘I need no other argument, I need no other plea’
‘twas just for such as me He died
“For me! Praise God, for me!”

“Amazing Grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
Though once imprisoned, in Him unbound
Condemned, now in Him free.”

Rolland Withrow

June birthdays

- 1 Paw Say Nwee
- 2 Kim Hutchinson
Mary Madlem
- 3 Chrissy Bottiglia
Joe Heidegger
- 7 Mark Heidegger
- 8 Willy Williamson
- 9 Annetta Scalberg
- 10 Bill Bown
- 11 Lynne Johnson
- 13 Monica DePiero
Greg Warfel
- 14 Bob Stai
- 26 Bonnie Grazier
- 29 Sandi Jo Goddard

(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: <http://www.stmatthewsportland.org>

Calendar: <http://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)