

St Matthew's Anglican Church

September 2011 Newsletter

A Message from the Rector

Meeting together, encouraging one another

Why do we come to church? Because we love to sing God's praises, hear his word taught and enjoy fellowship with his people. We are aware of the blessings that come to us when we attend services. The book of Hebrews, however, mentions the benefit that we are to others when we are at church:

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (*Hebrews 10:25*)

The Christians he was writing to had begun to drift away from church because they were experiencing persecution, but the author of this letter stresses how important it is to gather - he practically equates "meeting together" with "encouraging one another."

So, we meet together to praise God, learn from him, see our friends and encourage one another. Why is it then that we may find it hard, some weeks, to attend church? If all these spiritual benefits occur when we meet together, could it be that Satan would like us to be elsewhere on Sunday morning?

Spiritual attack can be very subtle and mask itself as something plausible. Many Christians find they don't feel 100% well on weekends (it may be that they have worked hard all week and illness catches up with them when they relax). On the other hand, opportunities for family visits, children's activities or important jobs around the home may present themselves in tantalizing ways.

One insidious result of missing a weekly service is that you only have to miss church once and you will go thirteen days without gathering to worship. Miss two weeks in a row and you will go twenty days. After a few weeks, doing something else on Sunday begins to seem normal - and the thought of returning to church fills one with guilt and embarrassment. What a clever way to derail a Christian!

There are, of course, events that keep each of us from attending church from time to time, but frequent roadblocks to regular church attendance can be examples of spiritual warfare. They are not usually very dramatic (and they always seem like a good excuse!) but that is what makes them all the more effective.

I suspect that if you don't really feel like coming to church on Sunday morning, *but you are always glad you did when you are there*, your temptation to stay home may have been an indication that someone was trying to keep you away!

All of us know the joy of an uplifting service with fellow believers. Let's keep that memory in our mind each week as Sunday approaches - and pray that God will make it possible for us to meet together and thereby encourage one another.

David L. Humphrey

Parish visits

I hope to get together 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!

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 (@stmatthews) or "liking" our Facebook page (St. Matthew's Anglican Church). 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. Thanks!

David Humphrey

Review of July and August events

Trout Creek Bible Camp



Twelve kids from St Matthew's went to Trout Creek Bible Camp this summer. We all enjoyed it immensely and would like to thank everyone who contributed to us going. It is one of my favorite parts of the year. It is also a great way to learn about the Bible. I would like to be a counselor there some day.

Johnny Humphrey

School Supplies for Prescott Elementary School

Many, many thanks to everyone who brought school supplies to be donated to Prescott Elementary School in Parkrose. The supplies, and your generosity, are greatly appreciated.

This month...

There will not be a Men's Breakfast in September.

However, there will be a picnic (and an optional hike) at Wahkeena Falls after church on Sunday, September 4 - and everyone is welcome! Please bring your own picnic lunch. We will park in the parking lot below the falls, just off the Historic Columbia River Highway, enjoy lunch together by the creek - and then (those who would like to) can hike up past Wahkeena Falls to Fairy Falls.

There may be people who would like to go who don't have transportation - so, if you can provide a ride, please let Rachel know rachel@humphrey.cc Thank you!

Our annual trip to Mountain View Orchards Fruit Stand <http://www.mtvieworchards.com> in Parkdale is coming in October. We will leave after church on Sunday October 23rd, have a picnic at Starvation Creek (exit 55 I-84) and then continue up to the fruit stand to enjoy the wonderful apples and pears. This is a wonderful trip for all ages and one of the highlights of my year!

Rachel Humphrey

Growth Groups

St. Matthew's is kicking off a small groups program in September. We will have two tracks for small groups (which we are now calling Growth Groups—because our purpose is to grow spiritually through them). The first track is the varied focus groups. These are Growth Groups that serve a particular need within the congregation. They may be focused on prayer, Bible study, fellowship, spiritual formation, service, stage of life related fellowship, etc. These groups do their own thing!

Next, we have the unified focus groups. These are Growth Groups that are all unified in their purpose, approach, and timing. The unified Growth Groups will run ten week spiritual formation studies during three seasons of the year, fall, spring, and summer. This fall, we are kicking off with A Spiritual Formation Workbook, a highly recommended and easily facilitated study which brings people together in mutually discipling relationships.

We are looking for facilitators and hosts to begin the fall Growth Groups. Maybe you would like to open your home and share your hospitality with others. Maybe you would like to facilitate the discussions. Facilitating will require reading the next week's material ahead of time, posing questions to the group, and making sure that everyone who wants to share has an opportunity. If you would like to host or facilitate (or both for all of you who are good at multi-tasking!), please let me know what your availability is. I will help to match up hosts and facilitators. If you think you might want to host or facilitate, do let me know your availability soon. In order not to bump into Christmas, we should ideally start the study in the week of September 18th.

As soon as we have our Growth Group hosts and facilitators in place, we can begin open enrollment for those groups. I am eager to see how the Holy Spirit wants to form us as a faith family together through this study. May the Holy Spirit direct this process and enliven our Growth Groups for His purposes!

Danika Hill

New Adult Education Class

If I were to have asked you ten years ago if you would be attending St. Matthews Anglican Church, meeting at the building of the Mt. Tabor Seventh Day Adventist Church, I am confident not one of you would have known this is where God was leading you.

Yet, if I asked you today if you are seeking to be obedient to God's will for your life by becoming part of St. Matthew's, I am equally confident you would say "yes".

How is it that as people called and committed to following Jesus Christ we can know with any certainty what the will of God is for our lives?

For St. Matthew's this is no idle, academic question. We are a congregation that exists because of very intentional decisions. We prayerfully, thoughtfully followed a difficult path that we were convinced led us to faithfully follow God's calling. For those of us who have joined St. Matthew's in the past year, we likely have joined because we are convinced that this body of believers can support and encourage us in being faithful to God's will for our lives.

Having made these decisions it is now both appropriate, and even needful, for us to ask: "what is God's will for St. Matthew's? What is God's will for us individually as members of St. Matthew's?"

Starting this month, we will be reflecting together on this critical issue. We will be using the book, "The Will of God as a Way of Life" by Dr. Gerald Sittser as a way to shape our discussions.

Dr. Sittser's contention regarding God's will for his people is twofold:

1) We will never know how things will turn out. (Think again about your being part of St. Matthew's Anglican Church today.)

2) God's will for our lives is no hidden mystery where God gleefully hides from us, making discerning his will difficult. God has made his will for His people abundantly clear.

So, plan to join us at 8:45 AM on September 11th to begin to walk together through this reflection on God's calling for St. Matthew's and for your life. Childcare will be provided during this class.

Eric Gilman

Tabitha Guild Update

We continue to work toward our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 12, at Gateway Church. Thanks to you who have taken dishtowels to embroider and canning jars to fill with summer's belated bounty. We will gladly collect these items as you complete them to speed up the inventory and pricing process.

Thanks also for the paper shopping bags and the plastic disposable bags used to carry home bazaar purchases. We still need many more plastic bags and since they are now contraband in Portland, we are hoping the Washington part of our congregation can collect them for us.

A queen-sized quilt, Monet's Wedding Ring, is nearly finished. Pictures of the quilt and raffle tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) will be available for you and for sharing with coworkers, family and friends.

In October we are packaging the cookie, brownie, and rice mixes. You can help by providing the staple food items we use to assemble them. Watch for the sign-up sheet coming soon!

If you have questions, suggestions or items you would like to donate to the Bazaar, you can contact me at 503-489-0878 or lynneabney@pobox.com

Lynne Johnson

Sunday School Update

A new Sunday School year is about to begin at St Matthew's! We have wonderful children, amazing Sunday School teachers, an awesome God and a glorious Gospel message. PLEASE pray for wisdom, clarity and patience for our teachers and for open ears and responsive hearts in our children, that each one of them would come to know and love the Lord Jesus more this year and be equipped for a lifetime of following him.

Sunday School starts on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11th.

Childcare will be provided from 8:45 am, which is when the new Adult Education class begins.

The Catechism class for 5th - 8th grade begins at 9 am.

The Youth Group for 9th grade and older begins at 9 am.

Nursery for 2 year olds and under begins at 10 am.

All other children stay in the service until the True Story from the Bible. After this, three classes will meet downstairs during the service: a Preschool class, a K-2nd class and a 3rd-5th class. These three classes will start off together with singing, before the preschoolers leave for their classroom. Depending on the week of the month, the other two classes will either have Children's Chapel followed by their class, OR their class followed by joining the rest of the church family upstairs for communion. We are encouraging those 6th grade and up to remain in the service but this is not set in stone - if you feel your child would benefit more from being in Sunday School, please let me know. There are opportunities for sixth graders and above to serve during the service as greeters, ushers and acolytes.

THANK YOU to all those who have volunteered to teach, help or sub. Please make sure that you have your background check forms completed and returned to me as soon as possible. If you have not yet taken the Child Safety training (which is a requirement to work with children at our church), a session will take place

after church on Sunday September 18th at Faithful Savior Lutheran Church (11100 NE Skidmore). Please notify Stephanie Thornton <sthornton@fsmpdx.com> if you plan to attend.

We are putting together a Sunday School calendar so that events can be easily seen, planned and shared. I will also be sending out a Doodle poll shortly so that we can pick the best time for our Christmas Pageant this year. Please look out for both of these.

Rachel Humphrey

St. Patrick Anglican Mission Update - September 2011

St. Patrick Anglican Mission 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.



The St. Patrick's Bible study group has begun a new study. We finished up a fascinating, in-depth study of Ephesians in August. Now, we are exploring the lights and darks in 1 John. We are very pleased that one of the members of St. Patrick's is taking the lead on facilitating the 1 John portion of the Bible study. Every Monday night at 7:00pm we steep ourselves in Scripture for about an hour and then worship the Lord, meditatively, through the service of Compline. If you would like to join us, contact the Hills for directions.

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

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.

Clarity of God's vision and purpose for ministry in Kelso and Longview

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

Becoming a prayer partner

Joining the Monday night Bible study

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

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience..." -1 Peter 3:15-16a

Jason and Danika Hill

Women's Retreat, October 14th - 15th

This October, we are returning to Camp Arrah Wanna in Welches, OR (on Mt Hood) for our fourth annual St Matthew's Women's Retreat. We are looking forward to another wonderful 24 hours of fellowship and learning together from God's Word. It is a great joy and privilege to set aside this time to encourage one another and enjoy each other's company in a beautiful setting.

I am delighted that Wanda Sanseri, a member of St Matthew's, has agreed to be our speaker for the retreat. She authored God's Priceless Woman, a Bible study for women based on Titus 2:3-5. She has been the guest speaker for women's retreats in a variety of locations in North America such as New Orleans, Claremont, CA, Jacksonville, NC, and Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Wanda's theme will be "God's Bouquet of Women" and she will be using materials from a new book in progress based on character studies of women ministering to women in the Bible.

Wanda writes, "As women, we often foolishly compare ourselves with others, but we are unique by design. Even though we come from varying circumstances, face different challenges, and have diversified missions, we share a common goal. We are all created to GLORIFY THE LORD. We know that God did not fill the world with a single type of flower. The rose is fragrant and beautiful. The marigold helps deter pests. The apple blossom produces fruit that nourishes. Likewise, He creatively assigned each Christian woman a variety of strengths and weaknesses, blessings and challenges. He equipped us to fill certain needs in the world around us and in our ministry to one another. Last year we studied about our different spiritual gifts. At this retreat we will follow up with character studies of three diverse women from the New Testament. Each woman will be linked to a specific flower that symbolizes her life. What can we learn from their stories that will help us serve our Lord? Think of this as a "getting to know you" event enriched by also getting to know three special women from the Bible."

In addition to Bible teaching, small group discussion and prayer, there will be plenty of free time to relax, go for walks, work on a craft project, play board games, work puzzles, or sit and chat. The food is all prepared for us and is very good - we have small groups volunteer to set up and clean up after each meal. The aim of the retreat is to have time away from our busy lives and enjoy friendship and fellowship with other women from church, as well as some great teaching. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better!

Please let Margie Enriques margie7175@comcast.net know if you would like to attend! Many thanks to those of you who have already let her know that you are coming. We have a terrific group but there is still plenty of space for more people. The retreat takes place from 7 pm on Friday October 14th until 7 pm on Saturday October 15th. You are encouraged to come for the whole time, but as in previous years, you can come just for the Friday evening, or for any part of Saturday. The cost of the retreat is as follows:

Judson lodge accommodation: \$65

Bluff units - double occupancy: \$75

Bluff units - single occupancy: \$85

(There are only six Bluff rooms!)

Friday evening only: \$5

Saturday only (arriving after breakfast): \$30

Please give your check, made out to St. Matthew's Anglican Church, to Margie. As always, we don't want the cost to prevent anyone from coming who would like to attend. If you need financial assistance, please let David know. If you are able to contribute a little more to help those who need financial assistance, your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

Rachel Humphrey

Bread for the World

In Matthew 25, the parable of the sheep and goats, Jesus proclaims that those who feed the hungry are ministering to those for whom he had a special concern, the “least of these” (see also Isaiah 58. 6 - 9). As individual Christians we may feel overwhelmed by the vast needs in the world and powerless to make a meaningful difference. Yet there is a way we can make a significant impact and feed the hungry.

Begun about 30 years ago by a Lutheran pastor, “Bread for the World” is a Christian advocacy group focusing on eradicating hunger in the US and abroad through education and lobbying. Each month, members receive a brief (8 page) newsletter with background information on hunger issues and on hunger-related issues currently pending in Congress. Members are then encouraged to phone, email or write letters to members of Congress to advocate in favor of laws benefiting the poor and hungry. (It is interesting to note that, in this electronic age, “Bread for the World” has discovered that handwritten letters appear to make the most impact on congressmen and women.)

This is a nonpartisan group with board members and group members from many denominations and both political parties. If you have a concern for the poor and would like to get involved with “Bread for the World”, please call me, Suzanne Gilman, at 360-694-7013. You can also receive more detailed information by calling their Portland office, 1-888-75-BREAD, or by checking their website, www.bread.org.

Suzanne Gilman

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/disciplined one-to-one, or you are interested in mentoring/disciplining a younger Christian one-to-one, again, please get in touch with me. 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!

David Humphrey

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

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,

Greetings finally from the newest resident of Rankovce. An entire month has gone by since my last update- a month cram-packed with activity and stress. I moved to my 'farm' at the end of July, and the renovation continues.

I confess that this house project has been much more difficult than I expected. But by God's grace I am at the 'beginning of the end'. The

house is mostly put together and looks lovely inside. It awaits gutters and a porch and stairs outside. The workshop still needs some inside work; the outside work is mostly done though gutters would be nice.

In the midst of all this I've managed to take on another project of trying to help my favorite woman of the group here, Ivana. She is 32 and is married with five children. She is the most gifted of the ladies and also the best-groomed. Her children are also well-groomed, cheerful and polite. So it came as a shock to me to discover that they live in a tiny room, about the size of my kitchen. How on earth can they manage there? I decided that, as I am getting a new home this year, I wanted to pass on the blessing and help her get another room on her tiny house. Ivana is working for me daily- she is very strong- and her husband helps when he is free from his temporary very-low-paying job. They work and I pay with materials, but it is costing a lot more than I expected. Ivana tells me I am like a second mother to her (her own mother died some years ago).

I confess to still needing funds for the renovation and for Ivana. I am basically out of funds- sliding into using a Master Card and my IRS (US tax) return. This whole dream is shaping up wonderfully well (see photos below) but I still need funding. If you would like to help with this, monies can be sent to International Messengers, PO Box 618, Clear Lake, Iowa, 50428. Checks should be made out to International Messengers but designated to Hope for Roma. Thank you so very much.

I hope to be able to start into the program with the women and girls in another month. Ivana has three girls who will be in my girls' groups. I especially look forward to mentoring the girls - something very close to my heart.

On the farmy side of things, I have new family members. Harry and Hazel, the goats, arrived and more recently Flora, Dora and Moe, the ducks. (Other animals will be joining the scene...) I especially enjoy the routine of tucking the animals into the barn at night. I went out last evening and encountered open rebellion. What?!!! Rebellion in my own barnyard?! The goats cavorted and kicked, mocking me as I chased them around the barnyard. The ducks ran in three directions and refused to be directed barn-ward. Two ducks kept hiding in tall weeds behind the outhouse. I finally got the goats and one duck into the barn and gave up. Wow, I need to rethink my governing style. I noticed this morning that the two wayward ducks are still there, so I guess all is well. I am sure there will be more tales to tell.

In the midst of all the stress I am trying to hear God's voice more. My verse from Psalm 5 has been, 'In the morning O Lord I will order my prayer to you and eagerly watch.' I find that when I 'eagerly watch' I hear his voice a lot more. And it helps me wade through the stress. His goodness is abundant as well.

All for now. Much love, Kristen



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.

September birthdays

4 Frankie Everett
8 James Everett
13 Richard Brown
Anne Marie Gurney
Danika Hill
Will Wright
21 Stephanie Thornton
24 Audrey Arnst
27 Bob Parker
28 Noah Humphrey
Eric Murfitt
29 Natalia Sandrin

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)