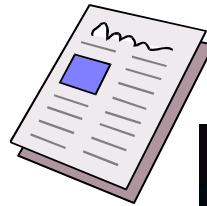


ST. MATTHEW'S ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew



NOVEMBER, 2009

Have you thought of being a Vestry Member?

By Fr. Rick Wilson

One of the strengths of the Episcopal Church is its structure. We are descendants of both the long standing Catholic tradition of the West and the Reformed tradition of the last several centuries. From each of these powerful expressions of Christianity, we continue to develop our own voice as a Christian community. This is certainly evidenced in the polity of our Church.

What is polity? Well, with regard to religion, it is the form of government of a religious denomination. We could spend a considerable amount of time describing just how the National Episcopal Church is structured but that would take more space than we currently have available. But what we do have space for is the polity of the local parish. It is important for us to know this because this is our most immediate experience of Church as Episcopalians.

The local parish has a Rector who is to oversee the spiritual welfare of the parishioners. A parish which is unable to be self-sustaining is a mission and the priest in charge is a Vicar. A regular parish has a Vestry. The mission has a Bishop's

(Continued on page 10)

Why not you?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Education—Sundays—9:20 am
Evening Prayer—Wednesdays—6 pm
Study Group—Wednesdays—7 pm
Adult Education—Thursdays—7 pm
Growth Group—Nov. 10 —3 pm
Finance Cmte—Nov. 12—7 pm
Vestry—Nov. 17 —7 pm
Prayer Circle—Nov. 19 —10 am
Abilities Club—Nov. 19 —11 am
Thanksgiving Morning Prayer—Nov. 26—9:30 am

The Online Newsletter is the production of the volunteer staff and the Recotr. Please email all articles before the

5th of the month to:
stmattsnewsletter@hotmail.com

Inside this issue:

Birthdays/Anniversaries	2
Stroke Prevention Info	3
Newcomers Photos	4-5
Are you registered?	6
Confirmed / Recieved?	7
Youth Group Info	8-9
Vestry Member Cont.	10-11

November Birthdays:

Nov. 5

Kevin Brown

Nov. 12

Marie Snover

Nov. 16

Nancy Hannan

Nov. 17

Mary Helen Douglas

Scott Weiler

Libba Westin

Nov. 21

Lucy Delaney

Nov. 23

Robert Small

Nov. 24

Legh Burke

Nov. 26

Cindy Weiler

Nov. 27

Alicia West

Nov. 29

Robert Rugg

Barb Hempel



November Anniversaries:

Nov. 23

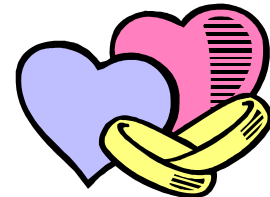
Joseph and Vera Evans

Nov. 26

Steve and Amy Kimme-Hea

Nov. 27

Steven and Tammi West



4 facts YOU need to know

about stroke prevention

- 80% of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs.
- Ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke.
- Stroke is a leading cause of death and permanent disability.
- Screenings are fast, painless, affordable and convenient.

A stroke screening is coming to your neighborhood:

Where: Tucson - St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
When: Tuesday, November 17, 2009
Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-690-6313

Newcomers Join in Evening of Welcome



Jeffrey and Julie Stewart,
Julie is our Youth Minister



Tom and Yvonne Tomlinson



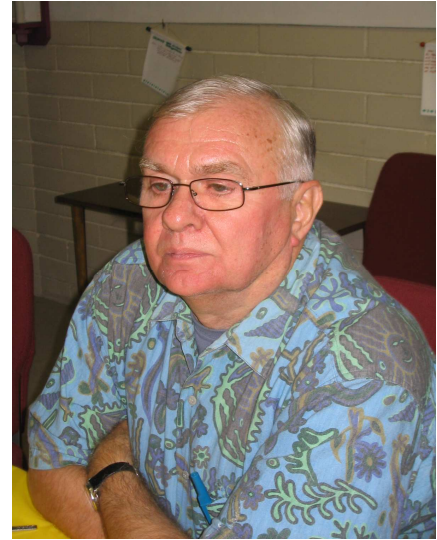
Jason Vogle and Michael O'Toole



Donna Nervik



Betsy Lyons



Brian Selleck



Joy Nelson

St. Matthew's Welcomes All!

If there are any new people moving into the area, please let me know and I will send them an invitation to come visit us at St Matthew's. Please provide any names and addresses to ANN BENTON; my phone # is 731-1503 and email is lbenton4@q.com. Thank you for helping us welcome new neighbors to our church.

Are you registered?

Often people start attending a new church out of curiosity. They want to see what the congregation is like. They want to experience the worship experience and decide whether or not it speaks to them. They want to see what all the Church does for its members and the broader community. Eventually, they choose to move on or to join.



If they join, they register in the parish. This means they complete a registration form which asks about one's baptism, confirmation, and the name of one's former church. Our Registrar, Bob Henley, takes this information and requests a letter of transfer from the person's former church. This is how one becomes a member of an Episcopal Church. Members vote at the Annual Meeting in January for new Vestry Members. The Vestry represents the entire parish and the budget defines the use of the revenues for the parish's mission.

Have you registered? If you have not, come join us. If you think you have but are not sure, check with the office. Call us at 298-9782 and our Registrar will let you know. Whatever you decide, know that the Episcopal Church of Saint Matthew values your presence here.

Pledging News

Beginning in 2010, all who pledge will receive pledge envelopes, unless they choose to have their pledge automatically deducted from their bank account. If you have any questions about your pledge and our accounting of it, please contact Donna Schoening, our parish treasurer.

What does it mean to be received into the Episcopal Church?

When the Bishop makes a pastoral visit to a parish, it is quite common for new adult members to the National Episcopal Church through membership in the local parish to be confirmed or received by the laying on of hands by the Bishop. But what is the difference between being confirmed and received?

To help understand the distinction, we need only turn to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church regarding confirmation and reception. In Canon 1.17.c and d, we have our questions answered.



Canon 1.17.c.

It is expected that all adult members [defined as sixteen years of age and older], after appropriate instruction, will have made a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and will have been confirmed or received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church or by a Bishop in communion with this Church. Those who have previously made a mature public commitment in another Church may be received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church, rather than confirmed.

Canon 1.17.d addresses various situations such as:

When one is baptized as an adult by a Bishop and receives laying on of hands by the Bishop at Baptism, one is considered baptized and confirmed.

When one is baptized in this Church and at some time later receives the laying on of hands by the Bishop in Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, one is considered baptized and confirmed.

When any baptized person received the laying on of hands at Confirmation by any Bishop in Apostolic Succession and is to be received into the Episcopal Church by a Bishop of this Church is considered baptized and confirmed.

Last but not least, any baptized person who received the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church at Confirmation or Reception is considered baptized and confirmed.

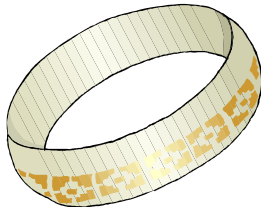
Tired of the same old fundraising events?

We have a few volunteers, but we need sellers to make this event a success. You can sign up online with Gloria Smith at Trailstone@aol.com or in church on Sunday.

Help St. Matthews Episcopal Church's Youth Group and have fun doing it!!

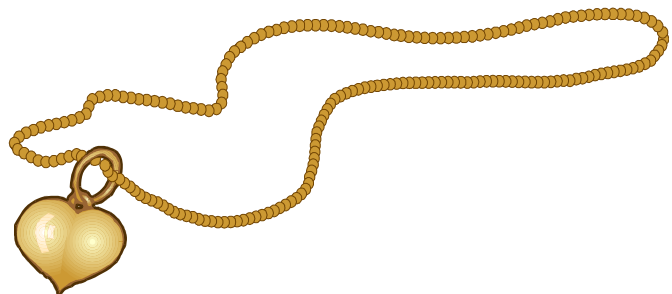
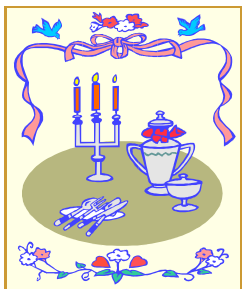
Come join Gold Buyers of America at St. Matthews Episcopal Church 9071 Old Spanish Trail on Sunday, December 6 at 7:30-10:00 A.M.

HOW IT WORKS: Bring anything that's gold, silver or platinum in any condition. We buy dental gold, gold coins, US coins 1964 and earlier, tea sets, trays, flatware, etc. All of the larger silver items will be STAMPED STERLING. We do not purchase silverplated items. Bring your old, broken, unwanted, unused gold, silver and platinum items, and our professionals will evaluate each piece for karat purity. The value of your item is determined by overall metal content and weight. There is no pressure and no obligation and you will be paid on the spot!



A generous percentage of the total gold bought during this special event will be paid to the Youth Group. You get your full appraised value as your group's payment does not come off your amount. So start checking your drawers for hidden treasure you can turn into fundraising dollars for our group, and put money in your pockets at the same time. "A different kind of fundraiser. Instead of writing a check, you get a check."

Gold Buyers of America | 639 E Ocean Ave | Suite 305
| Boynton Beach | FL | 33435



YOUTH CORNER

Meditation Garden

The youth have started working in the meditation garden. We have trimmed branches and gathered brush. There is still trimming and clearing to do, but we are very close to the next phase. Next, we will be placing items already collected. Anyone giving donations of items and/or funds will have their name carved into a stone displayed in the garden upon completion. Thank you Mother Terry Burke, Beryl Lebo, and Bob Delaney for donations we have already received.

Thanksgiving Community Outreach

St. Matthews Youth is collaborating with Christ the King's Youth in November collecting gifts from the community to give to the Apache in Safford. Items the youth are collecting are listed below. Anyone interested in donating let us know. The deadline for items gathered is Thursday November 19th. We will go as one large group and deliver the gifts on Saturday November 21st. I have been told that the residents are not expecting us since many do without phone and electricity and cry tears of joy when the youth show Christ's work in action.

- Rice
- Pinto beans
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit .(Juice Packed)
- Applesauce
- Macaroni
- Ramen Noodles
- Canned Meat (Spam, Vienna Sausage, Tuna)
- Bisquick
- Peanut Butter
- Flour
- Cooking Oil
- Cereal/Oatmeal (non-sugared)
- Stuffing Mix

- Baking Powder
 - Instant Potatoes
 - Potatoes in 10 lb. sacks
 - Canned Cranberry Sauce
 - Soups (avoid Clam Chowder or fish-based soups)
 - Turkeys of any size (frozen)
 - Cardboard boxes for food transport
- Larger sizes of peanut butter, beans and rice are appreciated, as the goal is to provide some food to last after the holiday. Of course, any size donated is appreciated. Also, there are many people with diabetes in the community, so *no-sugar-added* items are important.

Advent Project

Look for the Angel Tree coming up Thanksgiving weekend. Christ the King is working with St. Matthews for this project. The Christmas tree will be adorned with Angels that will have information on a student from a local elementary school. Information will include a child's wish list for Christmas. The youth at both churches will be collecting items until Friday December 11th. We will then meet up and wrap gifts to be delivered before the school break.

***Father, you created us in your own image:
teach us to honor you in all your children.***

We Are Your Children Prayer from an African Prayer Book.

Have **you** thought of being a Vestry Member?

(Continued from page 1)

Committee. The Vestry members are voted on by the members of a parish at the Annual Meeting, generally for a three year term. The terms are staggered so that one-third of the Vestry is new every year. This allows the continuation of experience and institutional memory to be present on the Vestry.

Among the Vestry members, there are the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden. The Senior Warden in our diocese is selected by the Rector. The Junior Warden like the other Vestry members is elected at the Annual Meeting. The Senior Warden is often referred to as the Rector's Warden and the Junior Warden as the People's Warden. Each of the other Vestry members are also involved on a Commission, such as Outreach, Hospitality, Christian Education, etc. Each Commission is chaired by a Vestry Member.

What is the purpose of the Vestry? Christopher Webber in his book, *The Vestry Handbook*, identifies three primary responsibilities of the Vestry. They are 1) to take care of the Parish Finances, 2) to take care of the parish buildings, and 3) to choose individuals to fill various positions of parish leadership and representation: the election of a Rector, the choice of delegates to the Diocesan Convention (this can be done by members at a parish meeting however), and the selection of other individuals as the diocesan and parish bylaws may stipulate.

The Rector and the Vestry work together for the good of the faith community addressing respectively the spiritual needs and the temporal needs of the Church.

What are the qualifications necessary to be a Vestry Member? The first qualification is that one must be a member of the Church which is defined in the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church as:

Canon 17, Section 1

(a) All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are members thereof.

(b) Members sixteen years of age and over are to be considered adult members.

Also one must be a communicant which again according to the Constitution and Canons is defined by:

Canon 17, Section 2

(a) All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year are to be considered communicants of this Church.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

The third qualification is set out in the following canon:

Canon 17, Section 3

All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.

Why would someone want to be a Vestry Member? A Vestry Member is in a position of public trust. One is elected by the Church members to offer leadership for the community of faith. It is a service role requiring someone to value one's Church enough to give time and energy to strengthen it. Vestry Members represent the entire membership of the Church and vote on the members' behalf. Our polity is not a Congregationalist's polity where the membership votes directly on issues. Nor do we have a polity that reduces the Vestry to an advisory council with the Pastor having all the authority. It is a shared leadership responsibility of Vestry and Rector both making decisions for the good of the Church.

So why don't you consider running for a Vestry position? The Episcopal Church of Saint Matthew is your Church. You no doubt care for the Church. The gifts, talents and insights you have could be utilized in strengthening our community of faith. Consider running for Vestry. Pray about it and if you want to discuss the possibility with me or any of the Vestry Members, please do so. The Vestry Members are Anibal Sanchez, Senior Warden; Lyle Benton, Junior Warden; Dick Blackstone, Carol Brend; Bob Delaney; Ellen Kreyns; Joan Longhurst; Evelyn Lyng; David Owen; Dawn Stoner; and Carol Walker.

In 2010, we have three Vestry positions to fill. Think about being a candidate. Let me or one of the Vestry Members know as soon as possible. It will cost you some time but the impact you will make on Saint Matthew's will be significant. Saint Matthew's after all is all of us!

