

ST. MATTHEW'S ONLINE NEWSLETTER



The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew Tucson, Arizona APRIL, 2009



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

By Fr. Rick Wilson

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The reality behind these words is the reason the Christian message of transformation exists.

It is a message of defeat becoming defeated and hope being re-energized. It is an anthem of the belief that no matter what, God is with us. Jesus' fidelity to the message of God's unwavering love for all went through some definite challenges. The ultimate challenge was the experience of a criminal's death – the crucifixion. At any time, Jesus could have said "enough is enough" and moved into another direction but his conviction was so deep that he chose not to quit. His willingness not to give up is an encouragement to us to remain committed to that message of God's compassion, justice, and love. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Imagine how the disciples must have felt when they fled from their friend at the time of his arrest. "It's over." "Could we try again?" "What happened?" Their teacher seemed to be revealing so much to them as they awakened more and more to God's presence but what about this? What message is there in a criminal's death?

It is a message about getting to the lowest point possible in our existence, getting into a world of such darkness that not even a ray of hope can be imagined, and feeling so lost and alone that even our closest family and friends seem like strangers. Yet in spite of this dark

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The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The Online Newsletter is the production of the volunteer staff and the Priest in Charge. Please email all articles before the **1st of the month** to: stmattsnewsletter@hotmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Evening Prayer, Supper, Study —Wednesdays—6pm
The Chosen Few—April 7—7:00 pm
Prayer Circle—April 16—10:00 am
The Chosen Few—April 16—11:00 am
Matty's Men—April 18—8:00 am
Vestry Meeting—April 21—7:00 pm
Stewardship University—April 25
Knitters' Group First Meeting—April 29—11:30

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Discretionary Funds

By Donna Schoening and Julie Neff-Encinas

There are two Discretionary Funds at The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew: The **Rector's** Discretionary Fund and the **Deacon's** Discretionary Fund. Discretionary Funds are not intended to be the personal property of the Rector or the Deacon. These monies, which belong to the Church, are entrusted to the Rector or Priest-In-Charge and the Deacon, for proper use. The funds remain with the church when the Priest or Deacon leaves the employ of the church. The Discretionary Funds are wholly dependent upon contributions from parishioners and other donors. The only exception is, on any 5th Sunday of a month, the "loose plate offering" (undesignated cash and non-pledged checks; also called "Open Plate") are transferred to The Rector's Discretionary Fund.

An interpretation of the Canons suggests that monies expended from the Discretionary Funds should be for "charitable and pious purposes". Hence, gifts to the poor and/or needy of

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LAST WISHES

Burn what is left of me and
scatter the ashes to the winds
to help the flowers grow.
If you must bury something,
let it be my faults, my weakness and
all the prejudices against my fellow man.
Give my sins to the devil. Give my soul to God.
If by chance you wish to remember me,
do it with a kind deed, or a word
to someone who needs you.
If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

Name Badges As Needed!

If you are new to St. Matthews' and need a name badge, or if you've had one in the past but are in need of a replacement, please fill out the Badge Request Form on the clipboard that can be found on the east wall of the Narthex.



Additionally, we encourage everyone who is willing to wear your badge every Sunday so that we can all learn each others' names better. It also helps Fr. Rick get to know us better.



Ministries Need New Volunteers

DID YOU KNOW?

A Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) is a person who offers the chalice at Holy Communion.

A Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) is a person who takes Holy Communion to the shut-ins.

Anyone desiring to participate in these ministries should contact Fr. Rick or Deacon Terry.

ST. MATTHEW'S IS DIOCESAN DISABILITIES LEADER WITH "THE CHOSEN FEW"

By Richard Blackstone

In response to Bishop Smith's call for more concern for those with disabilities, St. Matthew's organized a club to move this initiative forward. The club members picked the name "The Chosen Few," but opened the club to everybody, even to the public at large. The club was formed at the end of January, and has had three meetings so far. The meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM and the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall at 9071 East Old Spanish Trail.

A spokesman for the club outlined the five sources for new members:

- People with disabilities,
- People who care for those with disabilities,
- People who work with those with disabilities, i.e., doctors, therapists, manufacturers, technicians,
- People who fund those with disabilities, i.e. insurance staff, Medicare staff, hospital staff, and
- Everybody else.

The first educational meeting has not yet been scheduled, but will probably involve a lecture by an engineer with Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, a national leader in the design and manufacture of artificial limbs.

The first social gathering has not yet been scheduled either, but will probably involve attending a Studio Connections event.

The inspections of the St. Matthew's campus from the perspective of disabled persons will not involve the club, but any interested club member is welcome to participate. For further information, contact Richard Blackstone at 296-2785.

A short presentation of these events and plans at the recent Diocesan Ministry Fair resulted in the conclusion that these are the most significant steps in these directions so far anywhere in the Diocese.

Discretionary Funds (cont.)

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the congregation or larger community, gifts to any reputable, charitable organization and gifts to our church itself (i.e.; vestments, books) all fall within the general intent for the use of Discretionary Funds. Names of individuals requesting support or receiving funds are kept confidential.



All donations are to be made out to *The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew*. In the Memo portion of the check one can identify whether it is for *The Rector's or Deacon's Discretionary Fund*. Donations should not be made out to the individual cleric. All donations are deposited into the church's Operating Fund and then transferred to the respective Discretionary account. A gift to the church is tax deductible whereas checks given to individuals are considered personal gifts and are not deductible for income tax purposes.

Please consider making a contribution to the Discretionary Funds. By following the directions above, one can make a donation at any time and put it in an offering plate. Our clergy can make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, the community and the Church through your generosity.



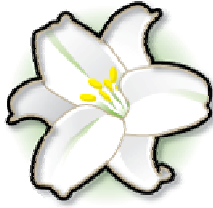
Free Medical Screening for Adults

A free medical screening/testing clinic for adults will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at the Northwest Center, 2106 N. 6th Avenue, Tucson. The clinic will only be available from 8:30 – 12:00 noon. The following services will be available:

For men over 40: blood pressure check, fasting cholesterol test, blood glucose draw, dental screening, prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood draw and prostate exam

For women over 50: osteoporosis screening, blood pressure check, fasting cholesterol test, blood glucose draw, dental screening,

This clinic is organized by Gamma Alpha Boule, a fraternal organization of professional men. Sponsors of the clinic include: Carondelet Health Services, Radiology Ltd., Tucson Medical Center, The Links, Inc. and Advanced Open MRI of Tucson.



Holy Week Service Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service—April 9—7:00 pm
Holy Watch follows Thursday service until midnight
Good Friday Service—April 10—12:00 noon
Stations of the Cross (shorter walk) - April 10—6:00 pm
Easter Vigil—April 11—7:00 pm
Easter Services—April 12—6:00, 8:00 and 10:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt—April 12—9:15 am

Alleluia! (continued)

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night, we remain confident that all is not lost, that there is a Power around us and within us that never deserts us. And then it happens.

A light pierces the darkness and we begin to see again, feel again, and live again! And we are stronger now because the difficult time was merely a cocoon – albeit an uncomfortable cocoon – and now we live again but stronger because of where we have been! Alleluia!

The message of Jesus' resurrection is one of hope and great promise. The hope is that one day we also will experience the magnitude of new life. The great promise is that in the movement to that new life, the Spirit of God remains with us! Alleluia!

As a Christian people, we have the responsibility to continue to live the message of Jesus. God is a God of love but a love which transforms us. Our lives are ongoing journeys to becoming more and more of the reflection of God's presence that we are. The message of Easter is a reminder that no matter what we experience we need not despair. God is with us both now and always. Be alive! Live again! Alleluia!

As members of Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, you are part of a specific Christian family. We get together at least once a week (well, most of us do) and celebrate our belief that God is with us. We rejoice in the message of Jesus' resurrection that we need not be defeated no matter what. We are not alone.

During Lent, we were encouraged to reflect on ourselves and who we are as individuals in relation to our God. Now we are encouraged to live out that relationship in every aspect of our lives. It is at this point that I would like to invite you to consider being even more involved with your Church family here at Saint Matthew's. We have six different Departments of Ministry and each have openings for people willing to respond to any one of these ministries. The six departments are:

1. Extended Ministries (**Community Service Outreach and Community Education Outreach**). The ministries in this department include getting involved with our attempts to

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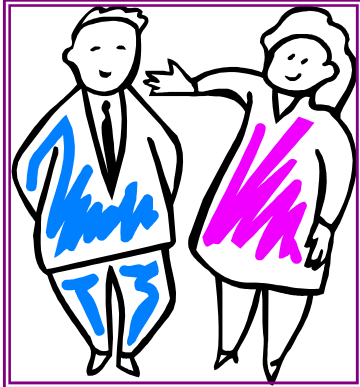


Alleluia! (continued)

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assist people in need through various service organizations. A newer aspect of this department is getting businesses, professionals, and others to provide educational presentations for us and the broader community.

2. **Pastoral Care** is another ministerial department. This is a ministry of care for our members who are no longer able to join us at our Sunday worship celebrations. Lay Eucharistic Visitors are parishioners who take Communion to shut-ins, the hospitalized, and others who cannot come on Sundays. Home visitors are people who visit with parishioners in their homes offering them someone from the church as presence with whom to visit. There are other Pastoral Care services also.



3. Department of **Hospitality and Fellowship**. Welcoming others into our family is important. If you would like to be involved here, you can be part of the hospitality team serving suppers, brunches, and coffee hours. If you are a woman, you can

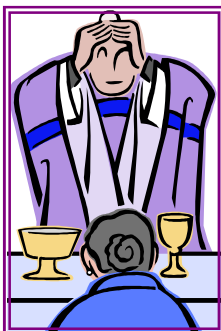
join our women's club – the Merry Martha's who meet monthly. And if you are a man, you can be a part of Matty's Men – our men's group.

This is your church home. Allow yourself the opportunity to know others! Both groups are service groups as well, doing things for our community but also having fun.

4. The Department of **Christian Formation** is a ministry about continuing to feed ourselves spiritually as Christians. Study classes that you can present. Book discussions that you can facilitate. Being part of the Wednesday night discussion group may be an interest of yours. Being a youth group leader or involved with the nursery.



Your gifts are needed here at Saint Matthew's.



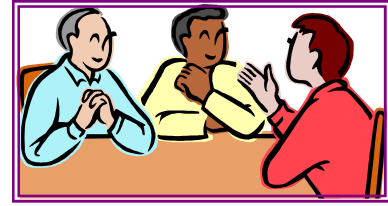
5. **Worship and Liturgy** is another one of our Departments of Ministry. Would you like to proclaim the scripture at our Sunday Holy Communion? Have you thought of being a Lay Eucharistic Minister – extending the chalice to others at Communion? Have you been blessed with a singing voice? We could use you in the choir. Do you play a musical instrument? Your talents could be put to valuable use as a soloist during the offertory or communion. Are you interested in help setting up the altar for our worship? Members of the Altar Guild are crucially important to our communal worship.

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Alleluia! (continued)

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6. The last of our Departments of Ministry is **Administration**. Your calling may be to help us as an office volunteer, a stewardship committee member, a building and grounds volunteer (our Junior Warden would certainly value the help!), a tech support helper, or a finance committee member. Have you considered being a Vestry member?



My dear friend, whatever talent, ability, and skill you have, there is a ministry here for you if you would like to respond to it. Just contact the office and we will get you aligned with the area with which you would like to be involved. We need you.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Celebrate this fact that no matter what: we are not alone – God is with us ALL – and you have a family here at Saint Matthew’s Episcopal Church!

Little Shop of Horrors at Studio Connections

Join director Debbie Runge and the da Vinci players in a delightful rendition of the Off-Broadway hit, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Music Director David Craig states, “The score is incredibly fun! It’s chock full of good times...you’ll have a hard time sitting still as we roll through one R&B classic after another!”

Running April 17–26, the affectionate sci-fi spoof tells the story of love sick floral assistant Seymour Krelborn and Audrey II, the mysterious plant he acquires during a solar eclipse. Laced with dark humor and irresistibly funny, *Little Shop of Horrors* never fails to entertain.

Show Dates and Times

Preview: Thursday, April 16 @ 7:30 pm
 Evenings: Fridays & Saturdays April 17, 18, 24, & 25 @ 7:30 pm
 Matinees: Sundays April 19 & 26 @ 2 pm



Tickets available through www.brownpapertickets.com or by phone at 520-455-7878.
 \$25 adults / \$20 students, seniors and military.

Coffee Hour Volunteer Schedule



<u>April</u>	<u>8 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
12	Evelyn Lyng	Margaret Smith
19	Tami West	Sandy Rees
26	Sally Goodrich	Judie Bass

If you would like to volunteer to help with Coffee Hours, please contact Judie Bass at 790-6581. She’ll be glad to have your help.