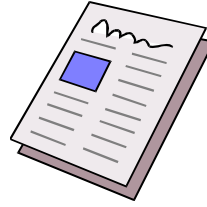


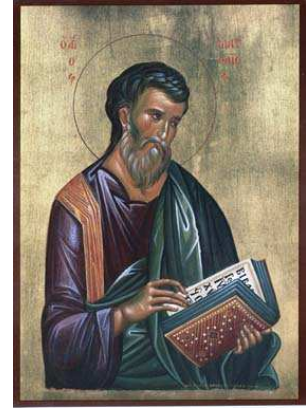
ST. MATTHEW'S ONLINE NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER, 2009

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN



By Fr. Rick Wilson



A popular Christmas holiday song begins with the words: *It is the most wonderful time of the year.* Certainly the Christmas season is a highly favored time of the year. It is so well-liked that retailers are putting out Christmas merchandise right after Halloween if not sooner! The enthusiasm for the season centers on expressing one's love for others through the giving of gifts. Oh sure, there are references to peace to all but it is often subordinated to the encouragement to express one's care through gifts. But is this all the season has to offer us?

In the Western Christian Church, the first Sunday of Advent begins a new liturgical year. The flow of the year is one of reliving the expectation of the Christ (Advent), the coming of the Holy One (Christmas), the manifestation of this child as being for all people (Epiphany), and the beginning of his ministry (his Baptism).

(Continued on page 8)

A new liturgical year

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

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

Adult Education—Sundays—9:20 am

Evening Prayer—Wednesdays—6 pm

Study Group—Wednesdays—7 pm

QiGong Classes—Thursdays—9 am

Adult Education—Thursdays—7 pm

Due to the extensive amount of activity at the Church of St. Matthew, the calendar of events is being reformatted and can be found monthly from now on, on page 3.

Inside this issue:

Birthdays/Anniversaries	2
Calendar of Activities	3
Diocesan Road Show	4+
Vestry Job Descriptions	5-7
Studio Connections Event	9
Yoga Classes Coming!	10
Recipe Sharing	11
Shoebox Ministry Event	12—14

December Birthdays:

December 2—Jennifer Lopez
December 4—Judy Kowalick
December 9—Annette Hayse
December 10—Kristine Stoner
December 15—Mami Carmen Miranda
December 19—Joseph Evans
December 20—Barbara Wilson
December 24—Ellen Kreyns
December 25—Jason West
December 27—Helga Small
December 27—Ellen Starks



December Anniversaries:

December 2—Todd and Cindi Lowe
December 6—Fredrick and the late Betty Smythe
December 20—Lyle and Ann Benton
December 21—Kevin and Michelle Brown
December 29—Scott and Karen Harvey



Dear Parishioners: I know this list is not perfect. I know I've seen people getting Birthday and Anniversary Blessings that are not on the list. So, please, communicate your special dates including your spouse, your children or grandchildren to either of two people,

- 1) Janet McKenzie, our parish secretary or
- 2) Julie Neff-Encinas, newsletter editor (stmattsnewsletter@hotmail.com)

It is certainly not our intent to leave anyone out.

Thank you,
Your editor

December / January

6	7	8 3 pm Growth Group 6 pm Healing Touch Meet- ing	9	10 3 pm Finance	11	12 8:45—12:45 Healing Touch 10:00 am Merry Marthas 7:30 pm Jazz Yule Love Concert
13 Angel Tree Gifts Due! 2 pm Jazz Yule Love Concert 7pm Blue Christ- mas @ Grace St. Paul's	14	15 7 pm Vestry	16	17 10 am Prayer Circle 11 am Abilities Club	18	19 8 am Matty's Men
20 Noon Hanging of the Greens	21	22	23	24 6 pm/11 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 10:30 am Christmas Day Service	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Reports & Nominations 9:20 Inquirer's Class	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:20 Inquirer's Class	11	12 2:15 Yoga Classes Begin	13 10 am Knit/Crochet Group	14	15	16
17 9:20 Inquirer's Class Noon Annual Meeting						

If your ministry, group or class is missing from this calendar, or the page 1 list of weekly activities, please alert your editor, Julie Neff-Encinas at stmattsnewsletter@hotmail.com so she can correct that error.

The Diocesan Road Show inaugurated its travels in Arizona at St. Matthew's on Sat. November 14. There was quite a crowd, lots to share and learn along with plenty of yummy lunch provided by our St. Matthew's Angels.

More photos on page 6, 10 & 12. (All photos courtesy of Anibal Sanchez.)



DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

Vestry Member Position Description

All vestry members should strive to the best of their abilities to:

- Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Christ;
- Be active in and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs and governance;
- Be fair, interact well with people and strive to earn the respect of the members of the congregation;
- Purposefully strive to “check one’s ego at the door;”
- Purposefully strive to be a servant of the people without the need to be the “most important person” in the congregation or the need to be the one with the right answers to everything;
- Have enthusiasm and vitality for this ministry.

All vestry members should be able to make the following time commitments:

- Vestry meetings, committee work;
- Vestry retreat(s);
- Weekly worship services (rotating occasionally if more than one);
- Congregational events: coffee hours, meals, fundraiser, adult education programs, etc.;
- Diocesan meetings, as necessary;
- Annual meeting.

All vestry members are responsible for:

- Pledging financial support early in the stewardship campaign;
- Offering talents to support the congregation’s ministry;
- Praying daily for the rector, leaders and members of the congregation;
- Being active ministers of the Gospel in daily life and work;
- Bringing one’s whole self to the table; being present – mind, body, and spirit;
- Risking openness with one’s ideas, beliefs and desires.

Senior Warden: A Key Member of Our Community

Specific Job Description for the Senior Warden

Time Commitment:

Weekly meetings with the rector (junior warden and other staff), if required.

Responsibilities:

- Meet regularly with the rector to review the life and work of the congregation, plan ahead, anticipate and resolve problems;
- Provide leadership so that the vestry can identify the vision, mission and goals of the congregation, make and implement plans, assess progress and celebrate achievements;
- Provide leadership in the congregation by demonstrating a consistently positive attitude that seeks to solve problems, recognizes accomplishments and gives thanks for those things that build community and further the mission of the Church;
- Be available to discuss any and all concerns with the rector; maintain confidentiality where appropriate;
- Be available to discuss any and all concerns with members of the congregation; avoid making hasty judgments; avoid triangles by encouraging complainants to speak to those involved;
- Foster understanding, forgiveness, and reconciliation, in cases where the rector, staff or vestry is beleaguered or unfairly criticized;
- Ensure that policies and procedures are in place and enforced regarding employee and volunteer misconduct; take any questions, concerns, and complaints to the rector and/or appropriate authorities immediately;
- Support the rector in taking action when employees or volunteers are charged with misconduct or inappropriate behavior;

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Take action to intervene promptly (with others as appropriate) in the event that the rector is charged with misconduct, has problems with drugs or alcohol or is acting inappropriately; speak with the rector and the bishop;

Petition the bishop in writing on behalf of the vestry to intervene in cases where conflict imperils the pastoral relationship between the rector and congregation;

Encourage the rector to take corrective steps as appropriate in cases where the rector is overworked, disregarding his health and wellbeing, or that of his family;

Assist in identifying persons for leadership roles and participate in inviting them to serve in those roles;

Be prepared to assist the rector or to step in and do what is necessary (make an announcement, turn up the heat, write a letter, etc.);

With the rector, announce the bishop's pending visit and prepare a report on the spiritual and temporal state of the congregation to be discussed with the bishop during the bishop's visit; **(Title III. Canon 9, Section 5(b) (5));**

In absence of the rector:

Notify the bishop promptly and make provisions for worship services **(Title III. Canon 9, Section 6 (d));**

Lead the congregation, by ensuring that:

the worship services, program and pastoral care needs are met;

the selection process for a new rector has begun;

employee relations and communications with the diocese are maintained;

Ensure that the name of the person proposed to be called as rector is submitted to the bishop thirty days before the election is to be held; deliver to the bishop **(Title III. Canon 9, Section 3 (a) (2&3));**

Prepare a Letter of Agreement with the proposed new rector, which outlines mutual responsibilities and is subject to the bishop's approval **(Title III. Canon 9, Section 3 (a) (4)).**

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

(Continued from page 1)

Following the intensities of these sacred moments comes the season after Epiphany which allows us to catch our breath as we have remembered the anticipation and beginnings of the Anointed One. Then another season begins which allows us to look at ourselves in regard to how we have lived our response to Jesus, being one of his disciples. It is the Season of Lent which allows us to ask how we have lived our baptismal commitment and to ask the Spirit of God to enliven us even further.

The answer is the Easter celebration at which time we celebrate the triumph of Jesus' life and death through his resurrection. We are alive with the Holy One as we break from our self-reflection to reflect to others a renewal of our baptismal promises. Alleluia, we live again in the freshness of our baptism united to the Holy One who calls us to continuing discipleship.

The Season of Easter gives way to the Great Outpouring, Pentecost. It is now that what we have become through our baptism is enlivened by the Spirit of God so that we extend to others what we have received, the Spirit of Christ – compassion, justice, and love. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Season after Pentecost is the remaining time until the New Year begins again. It is a time that we live our Pentecost identities. Each day offers us an opportunity to reflect more and more of what we have received through the entire liturgical year – the fact that God is with us.

The birth of a new liturgical year offers us opportunity to deepen in this awareness or if we have lost our way, to find it again. The lyricist who penned the words about Christmas, "It's the most wonderful time of the year" was probably unaware of how on target were his words because it reminds us about the holy child whose presence can grow within us throughout the year! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

More Diocesan Road Show Pictures





Join Studio Connections for their first annual



JAZZ YULE LOVE: A HOLIDAY CONCERT

featuring
Marilyn Harris and Robert Encila
with their friends

Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 PM
and
Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 PM

You'll get to hear some of the best singers and musicians at Studio Connections, plus you may get to sing along on a song or two.

Cost is \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door.

Tickets may be reserved at www.brownpapertickets.com or
by calling the office at 520-731-1559.

All proceeds benefit the youth programs at Studio Connections.



About the featured performers:

After 30+ years as a professional musician/composer/arranger in NYC, Chicago and Los Angeles, **Marilyn Harris** has been playing around Tucson for the past 5 years, currently subbing at the Gaslight Theater. A veteran composer for TV shows, film score, and national ads, Marilyn boasts an enviable jazz pedigree, appearing and recording with some of the world's renowned musicians--Mark Walker, Steve Rodby, Steve Eisen, and Ron Kolber, to name a few. Enjoy her class act and read more at www.marilynharris.com.

Robert Encila is a prominent fixture in the Tucson theatre scene. He toured as a dancer in his native Philippines before moving to Arizona where he trained and worked as a singer, actor, and director of nearly seventy productions. Member of Actor's Equity Association, his recent credits include appearances with Borderlands Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, and The Players Club in New York City. Also in the Big Apple is a regular singing engagement at The Birdland, the "jazz corner of the world," where he shares the stage annually with legendary musicians Hank Jones, Benny Powell, Anne Phillips, Candido, Paquito D'Rivera, Hilary Kole, and many others.

Yoga is coming to St. Matthews

Starting Tuesday, January 12, 2010 I will be teaching a beginning, gentle yoga class once a week. I have scheduled the class for Tuesdays at 2:15 for 1 hour but, the time and day can be changed depending upon interest and schedules.

My yoga teaching involves gentle stretching with a focus on breathing, beginning yoga poses or postures and time for meditative relaxation. Yoga helps us to connect mind and body through our breath and movements. Yoga can be beneficial to our body, mind and spirit. Yoga can help to calm and quiet the mind, promote more strength and flexibility of body and soothe our spirit. Practicing yoga as a group offers a sense of community and joy --- a “trademark” of St. Matthews!



All you need is a yoga mat which can be purchased very inexpensively at Target or Walmart. I will have a few extra ones you can use for class time if you do not have one. Comfortable, loose clothing will make your yoga practice more enjoyable. I will have chairs available for those of you who are more comfortable practicing your yoga seated in a chair instead of down on your mat.

I am looking forward to sharing yoga with you, GENTLEMEN as well as the ladies, beginning Tuesday, January 12 at 2:15. Call me at 733-3247, if you have questions.

Peace,
Libba Westin



The Parish Hall was full of attentive listeners.

Fr. Rick and John Rees enjoyed themselves.

The Diocesan Road Show—Nov. 14 (cont.)



We have a new continuing feature in our newsletter, Recipe Sharing. We'll begin with recipes that are perfect for holiday entertaining that come from the 1967 "From Martha's Hands" cookbook compiled by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Matthew's, edited by Mary Cluett Belden. We'll invite submissions by you, our present day parishioners who enjoy cooking and sharing your secrets. This is certainly not limited by gender! We'll keep to two recipes per month. Those months that have only one or no submissions, I'll use the 1967 cookbook as a source. If any of you have more recent versions of a St. Matthew's cookbook you are willing to share excerpts from, please do share those also! This should be a fun venture in sharing!

Bachelor Buttons

From Mrs. Elden R. Jones

Ingredients:

3/4 c. butter or margarine
1 egg, unbeaten
1 t. baking soda
1/4 t. cinnamon
1 t. vanilla

1 c. brown sugar
2 c. sifted flour
1/4 t. ginger
1/4 t. salt
1 c. chopped nuts (your choice)



Cream butter, add sugar, beat well. Add egg. Sift dry ingredients and stir into butter mixture. Fold in vanilla and nuts. Chill for several hours. Make small balls and dip each in granulated sugar. Place 2 in. apart on lightly greased cookie sheet. Press down with a fork. Bake in 375 degree oven until brown—about 8—10 min.

Old Fashioned Tarrackin Egnog

From Mrs. Thomas Waller (and her great-grandfather, James Stewart of Kentucky)

12 eggs, separated
1 qt. 100 proof bourbon whiskey
1 pint vanilla ice cream

11 T. powdered sugar
1 pint cream
Nutmeg

Separate eggs, whip the yolks and add them to the powdered sugar. Mix thoroughly and add the bourbon. Whip the cream until stiff and add to the yolk mixture beating until smooth. Whipped the egg whites and beat into mixture until smooth. Before serving add the ice cream to keep it cold. Sprinkle nutmeg on top. Don't skimp on quality ingredients! Even better made a day ahead. It also makes a great frozen treat!





Parishioners and visitors alike enjoyed a sumptuous luncheon prepared by our St. Matthew's Angels.

The Shoe Box Ministry Event

One week after the Road Show, many of the same dedicated souls returned to wrap and fill 120 shoeboxes for children in Mexico. It began with bags and bags filled with shoe boxes, toys, school supplies, personal hygiene items, clothing, and containers overflowing with hand-made knit, crochet and fleece hats and scarves made lovingly all year long by our Knit and Crochet Group.



What child wouldn't be thrilled to receive one of those lovely sets?



The Shoe Box Ministry Event (cont.)

Page 13 - DECEMBER, 2009

Then came the separate wrapping of the bottom and top of each box so they can be reviewed by border officials when the time comes. While wrappers wrapped, others marked out indicators of materials coming from China, a non-favored trade partner, on which Mexico demands higher tariffs. Everyone was busy for hours!



Then the real fun began, stuffing the boxes! We thought about a child as we each took one box at a time and filled it with a hat/scarf set, school supplies, candies, and other items that fit the age / gender of the child we were thinking of. It was such a joyous time!



Continued on
next page

The Shoe Box Ministry Event (cont.)

Then we loaded up Santa's sleigh... (Anibal's car) and basked in the glow of a day of hard work, fun and that indescribable feeling that fills you when you know you just did something wonderful for someone else!



To those who have yet to participate in this joyous ministry, don't despair, there is always next year! The Knit and Crochet Group will be starting up again in January. Next fall we'd love to have twice as many people come to donate more materials, wrap and fill more boxes and send more joy and support to children who have little else to look forward to at Christmas.