

The Grapevine

August 2008

I am a big fan of a radio show, broadcasted by American Public Media called Speaking of Faith with Krista Tippett. The show doesn't air in the Syracuse area, but you can download episodes from their website, which I do ... religiously (so to speak). The other day, as I treated myself to a long meandering walk, I listened to a show with the contemporary Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh, also known as Brother Thay. He spoke about the Zen practice of "Mindfulness".

Mindfulness is a part of living. When you are mindful, you are fully alive, you are fully present. You can get in touch with the wonders of life that can nourish you and heal you.

-- Thich Nhat Hanh

Mindfulness is a core Buddhist practice, but it has expressions in Christianity as well. Contemplative Christianity, which has been a current in the Church since the birth of the faith, also embraces mindfulness, although we may know it by other names.

Brother Lawrence, a 17th century lay Carmelite brother, is well known for his spiritual practice of "practicing the presence of God." He writes,

"Men invent means and methods of coming at God's love, they learn rules and set up devices to remind them of that love, and it seems like a world of trouble to bring oneself into the consciousness of God's presence. Yet it might be so simple. Is it not quicker and easier just to do our common business wholly for the love of him?"

-- Brother Lawrence

Brother Lawrence is known for making ordinary experiences into experiences with God. He could find God in peeling potatoes, even!

How can we go through our day with a sense of "mindfulness"? We may not be peeling many potatoes this summer (I'm sure many of us will just throw those little guys in some boiling salt water Syracuse style!) But, how can we hold a Christian practice of "Mindfulness" throughout our day?

- We can pay attention to the here and now. (Seems like a "no-brainer" but it's amazing how many of our thoughts tend to dwell in the past and/or the future, at the expense of focusing on and enjoying the present)
- We can be aware of the miracles that happen in order for us to be able to turn on the faucet and enjoy good, clean water.
- We can pay attention to our breath as we move or as we sit still. (We can even do that while we're listening to someone on the phone!)
- At each stoplight, we can take a moment to take in the particularities of our surroundings, instead of wondering when we can start moving again, or how much gas we're burning by idling...
- We can be aware of God's presence with us, no matter where we are or what we're doing during the day.

I hope you enjoy the moments of your summer.

In Peace,

On July 13th, we created a tentative schedule of services and events for the coming 12 months. It is a very full plate and there is something for everyone on it.

Caveat. A bit of “Sunday bulletin” humor prefaces each segment.

“Miss Charlene Mason sang, ‘I will not pass this way again,’ giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.”

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In September, it is “choir time” once again and we will hopefully have a new church musician. I hear some fine voices from the pews. How about becoming one of our choristers?

“Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.”

Lois Fleming is organizing this year's sale to be held in September. I'm certain she would appreciate your help.....even that of the husbands. Also, set aside those “treasures” for this fund-raiser.

“The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.”

There will be many parish “feastings” from Wine & Cheeses, Spaghetti and other dinners, all of which will need volunteers and participants.

“Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.”

Evangelism, Emerging Church, Outreach. This is part of who we are, every one of us, living our faith.

“For those who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery.”

There is always a need for care-givers. Another part of our St. Matthew's ministry.

There are other chuckles however, it's about participation in our community of faith.

Peace, Shalom, God bless,
Gordon

PS Here is one I couldn't resist. *“Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.”*



BACKPACK BLESSING

As the school year begins, students and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks (and/or laptops, assignment notebooks, palm pilots, calculators, grade books etc.) for a special back-to-school blessing **on Sunday, September 7th (both services).**

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Dinner with the Author will be, we hope, one of St. Matthew’s biggest fund raisers of the year. But your help is needed. We are asking parishioners to donate various food items for our summer buffet, which will consist of 5 different salads, deviled eggs, cold meats and cheese, breads, and desserts. We want to give people a really good meal for their \$6.00 Rather than list all the items here - - everything from a dozen eggs, to a jar of mayonnaise, to a can of ripe olives, to a watermelon - - there will be a signup sheet posted with needed items.

Please help by offering to bring one or more; any donations will offset the cost of what we will have to buy. And, of course, monetary donations to help with the purchase of meats, etc. will be much appreciated.

Also we will need help preparing the meal, planning to meet Saturday morning around 10. There will be signup sheets for help preparing, serving, collecting money, and cleanup. (*The Author, her mother, and her daughter will be helping in the kitchen on Saturday morning...*). Thanks to all.



MILDRED HUGHES

A few weeks ago, Mildred Hughes died. Many of you did not know Mildred for she had moved to a neighboring parish nearer her home upon the death of her husband. She was once one of our “regulars” and was a woman of charm, humor and grace.

I remember Mildred along with all who have worshiped with us at other times, for they are part of the fabric of who we are at St. Matthew’s. Perhaps you have been with us for a short time or qualify as an

“elder.” Time makes little difference; it is your being part of our faith community that counts. That is why I remember Mildred, part of the fabric of St. Matthew’s.

May God bless you Mildred.

Gordon



SAVE THAT STUFF!

A reminder that St. Matthew’s annual RUMMAGE SALE will be the first week in September. If you are doing some cleaning out this summer, hold on to your used “treasures” to donate to our sale. Furniture, books, toys, clothes, linens, etc. etc. - - all can be useful to those in need while helping our church, too! No TV’s, VCR’s, DVD players or computer equipment of any kind. Thank you!



Family Room Eucharists



FAMILY ROOM EUCHARISTS RETURN!

By Mother Carrie

When I first got to St. Matthew's, we hosted a series of Family Room Eucharists so that I could get to know the parish better. They were so much fun; we thought we'd do it again! One of the challenges of parish ministry is that we only get to see each other (usually) once a week. So, Family Room Eucharists are a way for us to:

- Build Community by getting to know one another better
- Practice the Christian virtue of hospitality
- And share in Eucharistic fellowship in our homes

Family Room Eucharists are usually held in the evening at a parishioner's home. About 8-10 people gather for a little light refreshment and conversation and then I set up the Eucharist on a coffee table, or at the dining table. We follow an abbreviated liturgy, pray together, have conversation and share Communion together. They are supposed to last about an hour and a half – but sometimes when we get talking we can be there for a little longer! Folks can sign up for any group they'd like to. Often date and location are a factor. It's nice when the groups are made of a mix of people who know one another well and people whom they're getting to know better.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend a Family Room Eucharist. Please sign-up on the posters at church, or call the office. (*Finally, it's OK to invite yourself over to someone else's house. In fact, it's encouraged!*)

Tuesday, August 12th 7:00pm

Host: Vivian Silliman
8228 Longworth Court
Baldwinsville

Friday, August 22nd, 7:00pm

Host: Matt Schiller and Beth Dubeck
8612 Lydia Lane
Cicero

Sunday, September 7th 5:30pm

Host: Ed & Stephanie Piston
5018 Bear Road
North Syracuse

Dear Friends in Christ,

I send greetings from the Pine Tree State as the summer quickly passes by. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the reception and lovely gifts you gave me on my last Sunday as music director at St. Matthew's. In addition, I wish to express my gratitude for the support you gave me as your Music Director over the years, with special appreciation to the choir members. I've been away from my job just long enough now to the point of really starting to miss it. I was sitting in church this past Sunday, and while listening to the Epistle about hope, I thought to myself, "Now I would choose *Lord of all hopefulness* as a hymn for today to go with that reading." Sure enough, the organist had chosen that hymn at the offertory, but I had trouble understanding her other hymn selections of the day. This morning my brochure advertising the fall choral workshop in Rochester arrived. My favorite choral composer, Joseph Martin, is going to be guest clinician! How I regret missing out on spending time with him and learning more about directing and hearing his new compositions.

The picture of St. Matthew's sanctuary by Amy Good will be hung in our dining room with the picture of St. Matthew's exterior. I haven't been able to set up my own personal space here as renovations continue, but when they are finished, I will hang the beautiful collage by Pat Boylan in my space. The cake furnished by Gordon and Sandy at the reception was delicious, and the punch and reception were skillfully coordinated by Kate and Mike Croyle. Mother Carrie gave me a book on Celtic prayer, which I cherish in remembrance of the Celtic Community Eucharist we put together. The monetary gift from the congregation is being used wisely, and I appreciate it very much. I would like to thank everyone as well for their good wishes, cards, and remembrances of my years with you.

May the Lord continue to bless St. Matthew's. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Fondly,
Sue Parsons

S.M.I.L.E.S EVERYONE!!!!

Happy Summer! In the Good Ole Summer Time! In the Good Ole Summer Time! How about having a senior get-together on **Friday Night, August 22nd**? How about a Friday night game and/or chat night (some like the games – some like to visit) at church? How about doing some "State Fair Like" cuisine? It's a State Fair Food Fest.

Suggestions – hot dogs, sausage sandwich with peppers and onions, salt potatoes, Lemonade, cotton candy, popcorn, fudge, etc. What do you like to eat at the fair? We will have a sign-up sheet posted with the date, time, and a place to list what you are bringing.

NOW HERE IS AN UP AND COMING EVENT WE ARE TRYING THIS YEAR!

NOVEMBER CRAFT SHOW PARTICIPATION

Get those Crafts ready! We are having a St. Matthew's senior craft table on November 8th. Where is it you ask? Right down the street at St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 10:00am to 4:00pm. They loved the idea when we asked if we could do this. We will do some planning and crafting soon. We will need sellers, makers, bakers, all kinds of activities we can do also. Anyone who is or is not over 55 who may be interested in holding a craft making activity for our group? We would love your help and you can share your talent with us. Thanks and have a good ole summertime!

UPDATES ON OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN

We are very excited that we have recently received letters from the children that the youth are sponsoring through the Christian Children's Fund.

Letter from Emilie's family in Senegal:

Dear Sponsor,

Greetings. First, I am Marie, your Godchild's aunt. She is doing well and we pray this letter finds you and your people well. We keep you in your thoughts.

Emilie belongs to a family of peasants. They live on the crops which they grow in the rainy season (July to September). Her village name is Fandene; its population is about 5,500 inhabitants. 99% of them are Christian. The village is 7 kilometers from the city. Our landscape is dominated by trees such as baobabs, palm trees and mango trees. It's very beautiful!

I am signing off.

Hugs from Emilie,

Marie

Letter from Saffa in Sierra Leone:

Dear Sponsor,

I want to thank you and welcome you into my family, and the joy and happiness you have brought into my life and the life of my family. I hope and pray that this friendship will last forever.

I live with my parents in a house made of mud bricks and thatch roof in a small village called Kambama in the Kialahun District, Eastern Sierra Leone. I am a Mende by tribe and a Muslim faith group. My parents are poor subsistence farmers growing rice and millet and earn about \$180 yearly from some of the farm produce sold, as most is consumed by my family. I and my junior sister sleep on a mat on the floor. I am very hard working. I at times accompany my father to the farm and help my mother with domestic work. I am presently attending school and my best subject is physical education. Do you love playing football?

In my country, Sierra Leone, we have two main seasons, the rainy season and the dry season. How many seasons do you have in your country? You are highly welcome again. Hope to hear from you soon.

Your Sponsored Child,

Saffa Gbao

Please check out the pictures of Saffa and Emilie (and the picture we received of Emilie with her mom) in the Parish Hall!

THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE HAS BEGUN

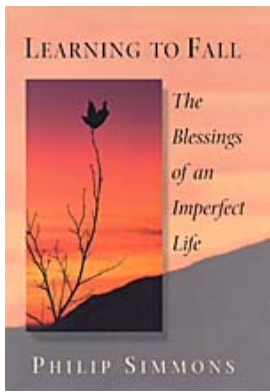
One of the "Instruments of Unity" that unites the global Anglican Church, the historic Lambeth conference, a gathering of all (or almost all) of the Bishops in the Anglican Communion began July 16th at Lambeth Palace in England. (Our own Bishop Adams is there!) Convened by Archbishop Rowan Williams, the conference runs until August 3rd. The Bishops will spend time in worship, Bible study and in discussions about issues facing our Church today. It's the Archbishop's hope that it will be, as it has been traditionally, a non-legislative session. Here's a link for the official website: <http://www.lambethconference.org>

Stay tuned for the outcomes of the conference and please hold this important, historic gathering in your prayers.

HISTORY NOTE

The organization of St. Matthew's history is coming along, but we have found that there is nothing about Fr. Bill Turner, Fr. Tim Parsons, or even Mother Carrie. We are looking for any news clippings, photos, etc. for any of these priests or activities during their tenure. If you have any you would like to donate or have copied, please let Lois Fleming, Penny Dugas, Bill Jones, or the church office know.

ST. MATTHEW'S BOOK CLUB



The next selection for the St. Matthew's Book Club is: *Learning To Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life* by Philip Simmons. Living fully in the face of a debilitating fatal illness is the challenge Simmons, then an associate professor of English at Lake Forest College in Illinois, faced when he was told in 1993 he had ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and had less than five years to live. As his illness progressed, a wheelchair-bound Simmons moved with his wife and two children to southern New Hampshire, near the rugged mountains he once had climbed. Writing in his cabin in view of an old dump, Simmons describes the wonders of nature remembered and still visible from his abode. He tells of his search for life's meaning in a variety of religious and secular texts, among them the story of Jesus, the philosophy of Zen, Sufi and Buddhist masters, medieval Christian mystics, Emerson's essays and the poetry of Yeats.

In a wry disclaimer, Simmons notes that learning to live richly in the face of loss is a highly individual undertaking, and adds, "I'm not in the business of issuing directives, offering tips, imposing lists of spiritual dos and don'ts, or providing neat, comforting formulas." Indeed, his little book of thoughtful essays offers no easy solutions to dealing with suffering and sorrow, but it does chronicle how the experience of living at the edge can become an extraordinary connection to the eternal. We'll meet to discuss this book on **Thursday, November 20th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.**

THROWN BACK ONTO GOD

Evelyn Underhill

Joy and peace come into our lives then, when we mind more about God than we do about ourselves, when we realize what the things that matter really are. The Spirit clears up our problems about what we want or ought to be at, simplifies us and throw us back again and again on the deep and peaceful action of God.



SOUND BITES

SACRISTY: A sacristy is a most prosaic place. It exists as a place (or places) where sacred vessels are maintained and stored, where the vestments and hangings are kept, and from which the housekeeping of the worship areas of the church is conducted. It is often a room near the sanctuary; some churches have only one; others as many as three or four.


To serve the church well as a place of storage, the sacristy must be cleverly designed to accommodate the size and shape of many odd items which must be kept and protected. In addition to normal vessels, such as chalice and paten, vases and altar linens, there are many items which are used only occasionally — figures for the Christmas crèche, Advent wreath, funeral palls — which must be kept as well. In addition to the many shelves, drawers and cupboards in a typical sacristy, some are equipped with a safe or locked cupboard in which the most valuable items are kept.

As the center of church housekeeping, some sacristies contain broom closets, ironing boards, utility sinks and storage space for cleaning agents. The ideal sacristy has two sinks: a utility sink and a piscine. The utility sink must be large enough to wash the large objects. Another sink, called a piscine, drains directly onto the earth and is used exclusively to rinse the vessels which have contained consecrated wine or the water of baptism.

In some smaller churches, vestments are kept in the sacristy and the ministers dress there. Where a separate room is provided for storing and donning vestments, it is properly called a vestry. Very large churches may have multiple vestries for clergy, choir, and acolytes. A vestry properly contains closets and drawers in which the vestments (and sometimes the hangings) are kept, a small table on which the celebrant's vestments are laid out by a member of the altar guild, a full-length mirror and a shelf for books to be used in the service. A small sink is sometimes provided where the ministers may wash their hands before vesting. Various short forms of prayer are sometimes posted in the vestry — prayers to be said while putting on vestments, a form for blessing holy water, a thanksgiving after the Holy Eucharist.

Ancient sacristies have been found in the ruins of 5th century churches in Syria. Medieval cathedrals provided sacristies behind the apse and on either side of the sanctuary. The ideal situation of a modern sacristy is the same: adjacent to the sanctuary, with access to the sanctuary by one door and to the outside or the rest of the church building through another.

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AUGUST

Balduf, Stacey	23	Holloway, Dave	30
Carlson, Donald	10	Miller, Sarah	28
Currie, Michael	29	O'Brien, Mallorie	07
Gates, Mike	30	Parks-Quin, Zoe	03
Greco, Kyle	20	Piston, Kaitlin	26

(If anyone has been omitted from this list, please call the office)

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Isabel Alamond | Virginia Marks |
| Dawn Arnold | Joan Oksa |
| Tony Balestra | Charles Roach |
| Melanie Clay | Victoria Roach |
| Eleanor Duke | Shelly |
| Jennifer | Herb Smith |
| Jodi and Amelia | Jennifer Sullivan |
| Bobby Kayne | Angelo Taglioni |
| Samuel Kovac | Don Zemenz |
| Karen Kreis | |



SHOPPING CART SUNDAY
August 17th

THANK YOU!



September Grapevine
Deadline

August 17th

AUGUST 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*A.A. Meets Monday – Friday – 6:45 – 7:45am in the Conference Room °HB: Holy Baptism +HE: Holy Eucharist ^MP: Morning Prayer					1 Parish Office Closed	2
3 8:00am-HE+ 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:15am-HE+	4 *6:45am-AA Mother Carrie At Conference 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	5	6 12:00 Noon HE+ →	7 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	8 Parish Office Closed	9
10 8:00am-HE+ 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:15am-HE+	11 *6:45am-AA Mother Carrie's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	12 7:00pm Family Room Eucharist hosted by Vivian Silliman	13 12:00 Noon HE+	14 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	15 Parish Office Closed	16 4:00pm Sees Wedding Rehearsal 6:00pm "Meet The Author" Dinner and Fundraiser
17 8:00am-HE+ 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:15am-HE+ 2:00pm- Sees Wedding Shopping Cart Sunday <i>Grapevine Deadline</i>	18 *6:45am-AA Mother Carrie's Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	19 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	20 12:00 Noon HE+ 6:00pm Community Eucharist "Mass on the Grass"	21 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	22 Parish Office Closed 7:00pm Family Room Eucharist hosted by Matt Schiller & Beth Dubeck	23
24 8:00am-HE+ 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:15am- HE+	25 *6:45am-AA Mother Carrie On Vacation 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	26	27 12:00 Noon HE+	28 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	29	30 →
31 Mother Carrie On Vacation through 9-2-08 8:00am-HE+ 9:30am-Adult Forum 10:15am- HE+						