

# The Grapevine

August 2009

## “UBUNTU”: I IN YOU AND YOU IN ME

*“A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1998)*

“Ubuntu” was the theme of the Episcopal Church’s General Convention this summer. I admit to being a little baffled at first by the fact that our General Convention, held in California, would sport a word of African origin that most people here wouldn’t understand. I hadn’t heard the word “Ubuntu” before our General Convention, but as I heard the concept explained, I felt a strong connection with what the word meant – and I’m not sure that any English word we have can quite as artfully capture the true spirit of Christianity as well.

“Ubuntu” (pronounced oo-boon-too) is a Zulu or Xhosa word that describes **humanness encompassing a sense of caring, sharing and being in harmony with all of creation**. Finding an exact translation for this word and concept in western thought is difficult, but many other cultures have similar words for describing this way of being.

For even though I hadn’t known the word, “Ubuntu” until recently, once I heard the concept behind the word, I realized that this was the Christian Way I’d been formed in from a young age in the church.

*“One of the sayings in our country is Ubuntu - the essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks particularly about the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks about our interconnectedness. You can't be human all by yourself, and when you have this quality - Ubuntu - you are known for your generosity. We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity.”*

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu (2008)

My best experiences in the Church have been when I’ve felt this connection with others. In my early years in our church youth group I learned that being part of a Christian group was different than being part of other groups. In school, people used insults and competition to “get ahead”, in youth group and at diocesan youth activities, we learned that all people should be included in the circle; we were encouraged and expected to welcome all – and to honor and respect one another.

I’ve especially experienced this sense of “Ubuntu” in small groups in the church – this sense of interconnectedness – in youth group, choir, prayer groups, etc. In seminary, we met for worship every Friday with the same small group for a year. We prayed together, supported one another and shared our journeys. It served as kind of a “spiritual home base” for us.

In our American society, there is a high value placed on individualism and self-sufficiency. That's one way Christianity is very counter-cultural. Some of the world works within the framework of competition and scarcity. Jesus asks us to follow him in his way of cooperation and abundance.

*A traveler through a country would stop at a village and he didn't have to ask for food or for water. Once he stops, the people give him food, entertain him. That is one aspect of Ubuntu but it will have various aspects. Ubuntu does not mean that people should not address themselves. The question therefore is: Are you going to do so in order to enable the community around you to be able to improve?*  
– Nelson Mandela

We are intentionally creating small group opportunities at St. Matthew's so that we can more fully live into the spirit of Ubuntu. Small groups can be a "spiritual home base" for us – a place of real, deep relationships, a place of accountability and support, a group of people who will miss you when you're not there. Many of us are already involved in some sort of small group: whether it's an informal group of close friends; the outreach commission, the people who sit right next to you in your pew, the choir, the tellers, etc.

For the young people in our parish, Sunday school classes are a spiritual home base. The older youth of our parish also have youth group for support, nature, and faith formation. This fall, we'll also launch a new youth group for younger kids (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade).

For grown-ups, our small groups of ministries and committees are still in pace, but there's also the opportunity to get involved in one of our "hearth groups".

"Ubuntu" has much to do with our understanding of the Body of Christ. We all have different gifts, different roles, different places in the Body – and together we can do so much more than individually. The Kingdom of God won't be built by one individual, or even many individuals, but rather by the Body of Christ working together as one.

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## **LOVE IS MY NAME**

Thomas Merton

The root of Christian love is not the will to love, but the faith that one is loved. The faith that one is loved by God. The faith that one is loved by God although unworthy--or, rather, irrespective of one's worth! In the true Christian vision of God's love, the idea of worthiness loses its significance....

To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name.

Source: *New Seeds of Contemplation*

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Liverpool NY**  
904 Vine Street + 457-4633

**Presents our next Community Eucharist:**

# **Mass on the Grass**



**Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00 pm**

**\*Picnic dinner to follow\***

**Please bring:**

- **Dish or beverage to share, some thing to grill & place settings**
- **Lawn chairs, sunscreen, lawn games**
- **Friends!**

**See sign-up sheet by the kitchen for more details.**

**St. Matthew's Hearth Groups**



The hearth is a place of warmth; the heart of a home. It's a place where people gather for comfort, nourishment and connection.

Worship, relationships, and hospitality are the heart of our community. We worship God together in our liturgies and individually in our prayers and devotions. We find ourselves strengthened, renewed, challenged and enlightened by being in relationship with other Christians in this community, and we are called to extend the hospitality that we've been shown by God to others that come into our midst – called to welcome others with generosity and humility.

As a way of living more deeply in our community of faith, St. Matthew's is forming **Hearth Groups**. Hearth groups meet monthly over the course of a year for conversations, worship, and a meal in parishioners' homes. There will be kid-friendly and adult-only groups, and groups will meet at times that are agreeable to everyone.

**It's our hope that every one at St. Matthew's will be in a hearth group!**

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

- **“WHAT IF I HAVE A SMALL HOUSE/ APARTMENT?”**

Don't worry about the size of your home. People with small homes may opt to host a dinner of “heavy hors d'oeuvres” so that people can mill about as they eat. If you can't host a gathering in your home, you can use the parish hall of the church and host a pot-luck dinner there!

- **WHEN WILL THE GROUPS MEET?**

The groups will begin meeting in the fall and meet once a month (as best you can) until June. It'll be up to each group to decide the best dates and times to meet (weekends, weekdays, brunch, dinner, etc...). Each group will also decide for themselves whether or not to continue meeting through the summer. New groups will be formed the following fall.

- **“WHICH TYPE OF GROUP SHOULD I SIGN UP FOR?”**

Anyone can sign up for either the “adults only” group or the “kid-friendly” group. Regardless of whether you have kids around or not, if you like the idea of getting together with children and families, and you don't mind macaroni and cheese and a movie playing in the other room – sign up for the “kid-friendly” group. Even if you have young children, and you crave adult-only time – sign up for the “adult-only” group and just get a babysitter for the night. Or, you can check “either one” and we'll surprise you!

- **“I DON'T THINK I COULD MAKE A WHOLE DINNER BY MYSELF!”**

At these gatherings, every one is asked to contribute something, so that all of the work doesn't fall on one person.

- **“WHAT WILL THE WORSHIP BE LIKE?”**

Mother Carrie will put together several short forms of worship that the group can choose from. Some forms will be traditional; others may come from other traditions like Celtic, Contemplative, or Contemporary. Worship leading can be shared among the group. (It's not mandatory that everyone lead – so if that's not your thing, don't worry!)

- **“WILL THERE BE EUCHARIST?”**

During the year, the group can pick a gathering date to invite Mother Carrie to – and she'll offer a small Eucharist for the group, much like the “Family Room Eucharists.”

- **“WHAT IF I CAN'T DRIVE?”**

Just let us know and we'll put you in a group that will help you get where you need to go.

#### **“WHO SHOULD SIGN-UP?”**

It's our hope that every St. Matthew's parishioner will be involved in a hearth group!

# St. Matthew's Hearth Groups

## Sign-Up Sheet



*Please use one sheet per family*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

<p><i>Please circle your preference:</i></p> <p><b>ADULT-ONLY GROUP</b></p> <p><b>KID-FRIENDLY GROUP</b></p> <p><b>SURPRISE ME!</b></p>	<p><i>Anyone can sign up for either group.</i></p>
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If more than one person from your household will attend, please list their names:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any special needs or concerns? (mobility issues, allergies, etc...)

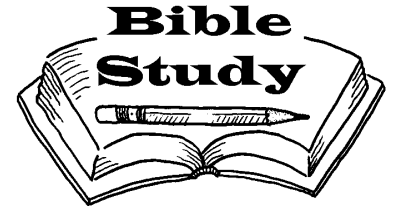
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO ST. MATTHEW'S OFFICE BY AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>.**

## “REAL LIFE BIBLE STUDY”

If you're interested in engaging the stories of the Scriptures with a group of other Christians on the journey, join us for a "Real Life Bible Study." We'll gather to read scripture, ask questions, listen to each other and wrestle with what this means in our lives. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:30pm in the conference room.** (Upcoming dates for "Real Life Bible Study are September 16<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> for all you type "A" folks). All are welcome. Please contact Courtney McKeon at [cyncourtney@yahoo.com](mailto:cyncourtney@yahoo.com) or Mother Carrie if you have any questions.



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## SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION



If you know of a child (ages 3 through High School) who would like to participate in our Sunday School Program, there are registration forms on the desk outside the nave. **Please return the completed forms to the "Drop Off" folder on the desk at your earliest convenience. This program begins September 27<sup>th</sup> and runs through May 16<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions or wish any further information, please contact Stacey Balduf at 254-9825.

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## BACKPACK BLESSING

Students and teachers of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks (and laptops, grade books or other "tools of the trade" to either service on **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** for a back to school blessing.

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## RUMMAGE SALE: TRIPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARISHIONERS!

This is an advance notice for a great upcoming event on **Saturday, October 3, 2009** there will be another **Super Rummage Sale** at St. Matthew's.

Your opportunities?



1. You can clear out your basements, closets, cupboards, etc. to donate "stuff" to our church and have a neater home.
2. Your donations can help others get needed or wanted items at rock-bottom prices - especially helpful in time of financial stress.
3. Your donations help raise money for our church's many needs.

More information will follow in next month's *Grapevine*.



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On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, we'll welcome into Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church

Jacob Stephen Moreland & Emma Rose Bearup

as we celebrate their baptisms.

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"OPEN FOR PRAYER" will begin again on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

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**SAFE CHURCH TRAINING**

The Safe Church Training Course is required of all people who work in the church and who serve in leadership positions (e.g. staff, vestry, Sunday school teachers and nursery workers). The certification is good for 5 years. Safe Church Training Courses will be offered at St. Matthew's in the fall at 3:00pm on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and again next year on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Please contact me of your intention to attend (254-9825) or staceybalduf@gmail.com, so that we will be sure to prepare enough workbooks. If you are not sure of the date of your last certification, I have that information. Thank you.

Stacey Balduf

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**EARLY CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS**

Please join us this fall for a book study on Early Christian Traditions. We will be reading *Early Christian Traditions* by Rebecca Lyman (the *New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. Six*). Books in this series attempt to encourage and respond to the times and to the challenges that will usher out the old century and bring in the new. Whether a "Cradle Anglican," from another religious tradition, or from no tradition at all: come join us and discover what Anglicanism has to offer. This exciting volume will include topics like Anglican Identity and Christian Traditions, The Early Church, Apostolic Christianity, Christianity and Social Crisis, Who is Jesus? and Who is God? A sign-up will be posted for all who may wish to join us. Please contact Stacey Balduf at staceybaduf@gmail.com or 254-9825 if you have any questions or wish further information.

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**IN OUR COMMUNITY**



**CAREER COUNSELOR:** Each Tuesday through August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, Mr. Edward Pulaski, a Career Counselor in the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, will provide a free counseling program for individuals and their family members who are dealing with the loss of a job. The program will offer personal counseling as well as practical advice on finding new employment. It will take place in one of the classrooms on the second floor of the St. Joseph's school building.

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## WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED AT ST. MATTHEW'S?

There are many ministries for people of all ages & gifts to be involved at St. Matthew's. Here are a few opportunities:

- **Acolytes** – acolytes are the people who serve during our worship by carrying the cross and candles during the processions and helping out with the Offertory and Communion. The role of acolyte is open to anyone old enough to sit still through an entire service and follow along in the prayer book. We have youth acolytes as well as adults. See John Vigliotti (8:00 service) or Joe Piraino (10:15 service) if you're interested.
- **Lectors** – lectors serve as readers of Holy Scripture for our worship. If you don't mind being in front of people and have a strong, expressive reading voice – this ministry may be for you! Contact Dale Vigliotti (8:00 service) or Mother Carrie if you're interested.
- **Altar Guild** – the altar guild prepares the altar area for worship by working behind the scenes to make things nice and keep our worship running smoothly. Thanks to a number of wonderful volunteers, altar guild members only serve about 6 times a year. If you enjoy hospitality, pretty things, paying attention to detail and working behind the scene – this may be your calling. Many altar guild members find it extraordinarily meaningful to care for the sacraments in this way. See Jackie Gates (8:00 service) if you're interested in learning more about this ministry.
- **Sunday School** – Although we have a wonderful Sunday School “staff”, we're always looking for people who would like to assist with our classes, serve as “subs”, or offer special lessons to the children of our parish. If you enjoy working with children, please contact Stacey or Bill Balduf, who can find a place for you, no matter what your time commitment can be!
- **Choir** – They take a break during the summer, but come fall – they'll be back in full swing! If God has blessed you with the gift of song, please consider sharing that gift with the choir. It's an incredible, spiritual experience to sing with a group and worship in that special way. The entire congregation is blessed by our choir! Please see our church musician, Tim Laughlin, if you're interested.
- **In-Reach** – If hospitality is your gift and you love to serve others, consider helping out with the In-reach commission. We're looking for people to coordinate and/or help with parish receptions, parties, and other events. Please see Peg Coleman (10:15 service) if you're interested.
- **Property** – The property needs of the parish are many and varied. If you have a special interest or gift in the areas of: carpentry, lawn care, gardening, snow shoveling, electrical or plumbing work, painting, or just if you're just a general fixer – please introduce yourself to Jim Sullivan (our property commissioner) who I'm sure can find a project to plug you into!

All of these folks are listed in our parish directory, or see Mother Carrie or a member of the vestry to arrange an introduction!

**A MEMORIAL GARDEN AT ST. MATTHEW’S?**

(Columbarium)



After our perennial sale in early May, the “leftovers” were planted along the front of the parish offices. This new parish garden caused us to wonder whether St. Matthew’s would like to have a small, peaceful place to meditate elsewhere on the church property. At the May vestry meeting, we briefly discussed the idea of a mediation garden, memorial garden, and/or columbarium.

The word "columbarium" comes from two Latin words, "columb" and "arium," which mean dove and space, or dovecote. A columbarium is a permanent structure composed of a collection of niches designed to house cremated human remains. A columbarium at St Matthew’s would provide a burial at the church rather than from the church.”

What would the columbarium garden look like? Where would it go? How much would it cost? So, we began to research columbarium companies online. I called all of the local cemeteries to determine what the cost of a niche in a columbarium cost. Milt Oatman and I went to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church on South Main Street in North Syracuse to talk to them about their memorial garden and columbarium. If you would like to take a look their garden, it is to the right of the church's main entrance. I was surprised at how compact the garden was, as well as the simple beauty of the spot. However, was this something that our parish wanted to consider?

We will be asking shortly for your comments on the above.

Blessings,  
Penny Dugas

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of the following committee members:

- Carrie Schofield-Broadbent
- Jill Stocking
- Lois Fleming
- Milt Oatman
- Penny Dugas

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**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH** is seeking a part time Administrative Assistant. We are seeking an organized and personable individual to maintain parish records and provide administrative support. The position requires strong written and verbal communications, and proficiency in Microsoft Office applications. 15 hours per week. All denominations are welcome.

Send resume with salary requirements by August 15, 2009 to:

Human Resources Committee  
Grace Episcopal Church  
PO Box 6  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

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## **SOUND BITES**

**SANCTUARY:** In churches built on the western pattern, the sanctuary is at the head or east end of the structure. In the Old Testament the holy place where God was present was called the sanctuary. While the Hebrews were in the desert, this meant the Tent of the Presence (Exodus 35-40); in the time of King Solomon, this meant the Temple in Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6-7). There are a great many parallels which can be drawn between catholic Christian sanctuaries and their Hebrew counterparts.

The more Eucharist-centered the denomination, the greater the importance of the sanctuary. Most sanctuaries are located several steps above the main floor level of the nave. This increases their visual prominence and affords a better view of what occurs there.


The altar is the focal point of the sanctuary and usually nothing is located therein which detracts from its centrality. While there was a time when sanctuaries were crowded with object of veneration (statues, paintings), the modern trend is away from this practice. A properly designed sanctuary affords room for an ambry, a credence table and seating for the ministers of the table.

The presence of God in the Jewish sanctuary was symbolized by a fire kept burning at all times. A candle or lamp burns over or near the altar in those churches where the sacrament is reserved in the sanctuary signaling a holy Presence.

Rules in ancient Judaism permitted only the priests to enter the tent or the inner Temple; only the High Priest could approach the Holy of Holies at its center. In the Eastern Church, that part of the church located inside and behind the screen called the iconostasis is called the sanctuary. Many Eastern Church prohibit women from going into this area. The Western Church has treated the sanctuary as “holy ground” in its tradition and ordinarily only the ordained (and those almost as “holy,” e.g. acolytes and altar guild) have entered. These rules are slowly fading as social barriers to women and ecclesiastical barriers to lay people fall.

The writer of Hebrews compared the work of the High Priest in the sanctuary to the work of Jesus Christ (chapters 8-9). Holy Scripture has also presented the individual Christian as a sort of sanctuary made holy by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The sanctuary in Christian churches remains a lively symbol of the presence of god in our midst, particularly in the Holy Eucharist.

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**AUGUST**

Balduf, Stacey	23	O'Brien, Mallorie	07
Currie, Michael	29	Parks-Quin, Zoe	03
Gates, Mike	30	Piston, Kaitlin	26
Holloway, Dave	30	Stearns, Christina	01
Miller, Sarah	28		

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

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***In Our Thoughts and Prayers...***

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Isabel Alamond        | Bob McClellan     |
| Wes Anderson          | Jared Miller      |
| Angela                | Kathy Myers       |
| Dawn Arnold           | Nancy             |
| Melanie Clay          | Gus Palmer        |
| Robert Coulter        | Blaine Pelkey     |
| Eleanor Duke          | Ellen Pugsley     |
| Michelle Fox          | Rahel Elmer Reger |
| Julie Good            | Paul Rill         |
| Carol Greis           | Charles Roach     |
| Charles Grover        | Victoria Roach    |
| Jodi and Amelia       | Shelly            |
| Charles & Rose Katura | Herb Smith        |
| Bobby Kayne           | Jean Stearns      |
| Samuel Kovac          | Edwin Thayer      |
| Virginia Marks        | George Waelde     |



**SHOPPING CART SUNDAY**

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**THANK YOU**



**September Grapevine Deadline**

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**

# AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>8:00am</b> Kitchen Cleaning, Sorting & Shower
2 <b>8:00am-HE+</b> <b>9:15am-Adult</b> <b>Forum</b> <b>10:15am- HE+</b>	3 *6:45am-AA  <b>Rector's Day Off</b>  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	4	5  <b>12:00 Noon-HE+</b>	6  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	7  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	8 Samhammer-Straub Wedding in Dewitt
9 <b>8:00am-HE+</b> <b>9:15am-Adult</b> <b>Forum</b> <b>10:15am-HE+</b>	10 *6:45am-AA  <b>Rector's Day Off</b>  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	11  <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Vestry Meeting</b>	12  <b>12:00 Noon-HE</b>	13  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	14  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	15
16 <b>8:00am-HE+</b> <b>9:15am-Adult</b> <b>Forum</b> <b>10:15am-HE+</b> <b>Shopping Cart</b> <b>Sunday</b> <i>Grapevine Deadline</i>	17 *6:45am-AA  <b>Rector's Day Off</b>  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	18	19 <b>12:00 Noon-HE+</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> <b>"Mass On The</b> <b>Grass" Community</b> <b>Eucharist</b>	20  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	21  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	22
23 <b>8:00am-HE+</b> <b>9:15am-Adult</b> <b>Forum</b> <b>10:15am-HB° &amp; HE</b> <b>+</b>	24 *6:45am-AA  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	25	26 <b>12:00 Noon-HE+</b>  <b>7:00-8:30pm</b> <b>"Real Life Bible</b> <b>Study"</b>	27  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	28  <b>Parish Office Closed</b>	29
30 <b>8:00am-HE+</b> <b>9:15am-Adult</b> <b>Forum</b> <b>10:15am-HE+</b>	31 *6:45am-AA  5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers					

\*A.A. Meets Monday – Friday – 6:45 – 7:45am in the  
Conference Room

+HE: Holy Eucharist

°HB: Holy Baptism

^MP: Morning Prayer