

The Grapevine

August 2011

OPEN FOR THE SUMMER

One thing that I enjoy over the summer is the different pace of life that summer brings for many of us. I love the long hours of daylight, lingering over a dinner that has been prepared outside on the grill, impromptu gatherings with friends and summer festivals and concerts.

In a conversation with a friend the other day about the season, he lamented, “it seems like no one comes to church in the summer!” He added, “it’s like they don’t they realize that we’re open in the summer?!?”

While that’s true in many places, I’m thankful that, even in the different pace of summer, St. Matthew’s parishioners still attend church over the summer. Since summer does have a different pace, church feels different too. We sing a little bit less, announcements take less time, we linger over coffee a little bit longer. Also, I notice many of our parishioners “service swapping”. Many 10:15ers join us at 8:00 to give themselves more time to play during the day. And some 8:00ers who just don’t feel like setting an alarm join us at 10:15. It’s fun to see old friends at different services!

During the summer, not only do we continue our Wednesday noon services, but we have also added this summer, “Wednesday Church” at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. We gather for a brief evening Eucharist and then those who can stay, pull out their picnic dinners and we eat together in the St. Thomas’ conference room. Another fun summer tradition!

St. Matthew’s is open for the summer How are we, as individuals open this summer?

Here are some suggestions for ways we can stay open to God this summer:

- **Practice Mindfulness:** While taking a walk, sitting on the deck, or working the garden, try to be aware of the present moment. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you notice? Try putting aside for a time concerns, judgment, worry, planning, stress and just focus on the present.
- **Daily Prayer:** Pick a time each day that you will devote to prayer. Formal prayer, informal prayer, it doesn’t matter. You can pray while you’re making coffee, walking the dog, driving in the car, preparing a meal, brushing your teeth, laying down in bed– whenever. Pick a time of day this summer and devote that to God.
- **Plan Ahead:** Your summer schedule may be filling up, but take this opportunity to look to the coming year and search out a retreat, a class or a service project that would feed your spirit. I can help you find something if you’d like!
- **Play:** Remember when summers were all about playing and having fun? Find something you like to do that helps you connect to the child-like joy within you (that’s a place inside us where I think God loves to dwell!). Ride a bike, blow bubbles, color, buy yourself a pinwheel, swing on a swing, eat a Popsicle and rediscover child-like joy.

I wish you all a beautiful and joy-filled summer,



Summertime at St. Matthew's, Liverpool:

Wednesday Church

We'll pray together and eat together

Every Wednesday night in August



6:30pm "Come As You Are" Worship Service

The Eucharist will be abbreviated (about ½ hr.). Following the service, every one is welcome to gather in the Parish Hall for dinner together! Bring your place settings & dinner. (We just gather for a B.Y.O. picnic dinner – and we usually end up sharing!) It's a great time for fun, worship, and fellowship in the middle of the week. And it's certainly a "plus" on those warm summer evenings that both the sanctuary and the Parish Hall are air-conditioned!

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

Presents our next Community Eucharist:

Mass on the Grass



Wednesday, August 10th
6:30pm

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.

THANK YOU!!

The Author Event of July 15th was a great success, thanks to many wonderful parishioners. Biggest thanks goes to Penny Dugas who did the lion's share of organizing, setting up, serving, and cleaning. Special thanks to all the Heavenly Bakers who came through with the most amazing, delicious variety of goodies (cake

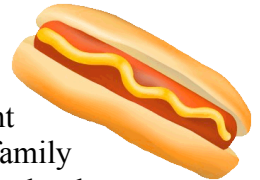
balls??? - yum!). And having some extra baked goods worked out wonderfully because the next day was the Samaritan Center dinner with a shortage of desserts. Thanks to Clinnie Poole, Pat Martin, Cathy Labucki, Gail Jones, and Kate Croyle who did all the work and money collecting on Friday night. And thanks to all who came, listened, and bought. Julia wanted me to convey her thanks, too, for the gracious hospitality and friendship.

Lois Fleming

SUMMER FUN: CORN ROAST!!



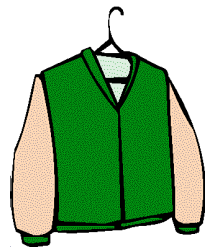
Please join us for our 2nd Annual Corn Roast on August 20th. The roast will begin at 5:30pm, rain or shine. The menu consists of roasted corn, hot dogs, coneys, sloppy joes, chips, watermelon and drinks. The cost of this event is \$5.00 per person (children under 12 are free) and maximum family cost is \$20.00. We will have a volleyball net set up and various other lawn games. We hope, weather permitting, to have a campfire and Mother Carrie to lead a sing-along. So bring your lawn chairs and join us for this shared event. I'm sure it will be a fun time. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the kitchen for this event. Please see Mike and Kate Croyle for details.



RUMMAGE SALE – SAVE YOUR DONATIONS!

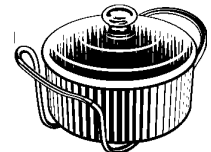
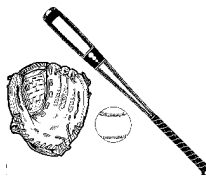
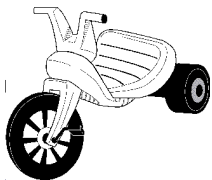


Our annual Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, September 10th from 9:00am to 2:00pm.** We are looking for donations of your usable items: “stuff” you no longer need or use or want - - “stuff” that others may need or use or want that they can have for very reasonable prices. Unfortunately, **we cannot take any TV's, DVD/VHS players or any computer equipment.**



Your donations can be left off at the church anytime from Sunday, September 4th on. We hope to be using the adult study room and the classroom on the left in the Parish Hall to store the items.

A sale of this size needs lots of help to be successful. An hour or more of your time would be MUCH appreciated; watch for the sign-up sheet to be posted by the kitchen. We will be looking for your name on the list! Huge thanks in advance to all for your donations, time and prayers.



WE NEED YOUR

HELP



On Saturday, August 27th, from 8:00am until 1:00pm, St. Matthew's will be holding its fifth sponsored Red Cross blood drive of 2011. We are asking for your help, if you are physically able, by registering to donate a unit of your blood for the need of your fellow men. And the need is great.

Summer is in full swing. To many, the most wonderful time of the year. Mother Nature provides the playgrounds for all the activities that give so much pleasure to many. Yes, and also all the mishaps that come with the pleasures and create a substantial increase in the need for blood at this time. The shortage of available blood becomes so acute that a board of physicians decides who will get the blood on hand at the time of need.

We ask that you carefully think about the above paragraph and consider the following:

Would I want one of my precious treasures to be in jeopardy because of lack of blood on hand?
Remembering that so many of us have treasures as precious to us as yours are to you.

Am I physically able to donate blood? Do I have members of my family, and acquaintances able to give blood?

Hopefully, after careful consideration, you will take the time from your enjoyment of the summer season and its pleasures to register and become a donor at our blood drive scheduled for Saturday, August 27th, from 8:00am until 1:00pm in our Parish Hall

Remember, God loves a volunteer,

Bill and Milt

LIKE A THOUSAND RED BIRDS

Phil Porter

We clutch our tiny bits of faith in tight fists,
shoved firmly into our pockets.
We clutch it suspiciously, so unwilling to let it go -
we don't want to lose it.
We clutch it fearing that once it is spent,
we will be without hope,
cast adrift, out of luck.
Help us loosen our grip.
Help us to pull our hands out of our pockets.
Help us to uncurl fingers stiffened over time,
to grow,
to shimmer,
to pulse,
to explode into the air
like a thousand red birds.

Source: *Unknown*



Family Camping Week

August 14th–18th

Vanderkamp is offering an intergenerational experience that can be enjoyed by kids, parents, grandparents, neighbors – anyone! All meals are provided, and we are opening up our full array of activities, and offering a few extra as well:

- Swimming/Boating
- Nature Hikes
- Beaver Habitat Study
- Adult and Youth Life/Bible Discussions
- Campfires
- Archery
- Challenge Course Activities
- Worship

And more! We have pricing options available for those who want to spend a day, all 4 nights, or anything in between. Want to pitch a tent? Rather spend a night in a beautiful lodge on our 45 acre lake? Rent a rustic cabin? The choice is yours!

Those interested can check out our website at www.vk.org to see what our site has to offer, or call the office for reservations or more details at 315-675-3651! We look forward to seeing you then!

Registration Forms are available in the church office.



RAINBOW: A rainbow may be no more than an arc of prismatic colors in sequence caused to appear in the sky by the refraction, reflection and dispersion of sunlight in falling rain or mist. There is no pot of gold at its end, nor is one likely to find the Land of Oz by studying meteorology.

As a Christian symbol, the rainbow depicts the union between God and humankind (because its apex is in heaven while its ends touch the earth), and is a symbol of reconciliation (after the story of the Flood in Genesis).

In Renaissance art, the rainbow is sometimes employed as the throne of God. For example, some paintings of the Last Judgment show Christ seated on a rainbow. This imagery follows Revelation 4:2-3 in which the Lord's throne is described as surrounded by a rainbow.

A 9th century BC relief of the Assyrian god Ashur shows him drawing back the rainbow to launch an arrow. A similar use occurs twice in the Old Testament. There is a wordplay in Hebrew because the word "geshet" means both "bow" and "rainbow." Thus, in Lamentations 2:4 and Habakkuk 3:9-11 the writers depict the rainbow as a weapon for launching the Lord's wrath in the form of lightning and thunder.

Rainbows appear in several visions recorded in Holy Scripture. Ezekiel's vision of God compared the radiance surrounding God to that of a rainbow in the clouds (1:28). St. John's vision of an angel descending from heaven through the clouds says that the angel had a rainbow wrapped around its head (Rev. 10:1).

The figure of the rainbow appears only twice in the Apocrypha, both times in Ecclesiasticus. Verse 43:11 calls it a bow bent by the hands of God and a cause to praise its Maker.

The most popular meaning of the rainbow is as a symbol of the everlasting promises of God. The Lord chose the rainbow as a sign of his assurance never again to destroy the world by a flood (Gen. 9:11-17). Christian interpretation of this symbol turns it around from a promise not to harm the earth to a promise of God's present upholding and nurture of his creation.

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AUGUST

Balduf, Stacey	23	O'Brien, Mallorie	07
Bearup, Jennifer	27	Palmer, Morgan	08
Currie, Michael	29	Parsons, Carole	30
Frey, Rachel	02	Piston, Kaitlin	26
Gates, Mike	30	Reynolds, Paul	26
Holloway, Dave	30	Sager, Lisa	14
Magee, Marion	15	Sager, Tim	14
McKeon, Aaron	07	Sam, Dawn	23
Michnowicz, Tony	20	Schettine, Anthony	18
Miller, Sarah	28	Shepard, Shirley	31
Miner, Nancy	22	Titus, Matthew	02
Newlon, Annette	29		

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Chris Allen | Donald Rancier |
| Joan Amerman | Shirley Shepard |
| April | Richard Slade |
| June Balduf | Sally Smith |
| Brenda | Louise Staring |
| Shari Drace | Kelly Starliper-Morris |
| Eleanor Duke | Jean Stearns |
| Jason Garafalo | Fred Steul |
| Kiley Grace | Jane Stevens |
| Bruce Haney | Edwin Thayer |
| Jake LaPlatney | Mary Vaughn |
| Em Michnowicz | Clemente Vigliotti |
| Avery Grace Morris | Kenya Younger |
| Jeanne Ney | Thomas Zino |

SHOPPING CART SUNDAY

August 21st

THANK YOU!



September Grapevine Deadline

August 21st

AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers Mother Carrie Off	2 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	3 12:00 Noon+HE 6:30pm+HE	4 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	5 Parish Office Closed	6
7 8:00am+HE 9:15am – Long Range Planning “Cottage Meeting” 10:15am+HE	8 Rector’s Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	9 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	10 12:00 Noon+HE 5:30pm Long Range Planning “Cottage Meeting” 6:30pm “Mass on the Grass”	11 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers Mother Carrie Off (8-11 through 8-14)	12 Parish Office Closed	13
14 Mother Carrie Off 8:00am+HE 10:15am+HE	15 Rector’s Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	16 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	17 12:00 Noon+HE 6:30pm+HE	18 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00pm Outreach Commission Meeting	19 Parish Office Closed	20 5:30pm Corn Roast
21 8:00am+HE 10:15am+HE 12:00 Noon Long Range Planning “Cottage Meeting” 2:00pm Renewal of Vows followed by Reception Shopping Cart Sunday <i>Grapevine Deadline</i>	22 Rector’s Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	23 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 7:00pm Vestry Meeting 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	24 12:00 Noon+HE 6:30pm+HE	25 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	26 Parish Office Closed	27 8:00-1:00pm Blood Drive
28 8:00am+HE 10:15am+HE 12:00 Noon Worship Commission Meeting Mother Carrie Off (8-28 through 9-4)	29 Rector’s Day Off 5:00-7:00pm Weight Watchers	30 11:00-1:00pm Weight Watchers 6:00-7:30pm Yoga 8:00-9:15pm Yoga	31 12:00 Noon+HE 6:30pm+HE			

+HE: Holy Eucharist
 °HB: Holy Baptism
 ^WS: Worship Service