

# The Grapevine

September 2011

## Welcoming Newcomers

I've never heard anyone tell me that they started coming to church because they were bored, there is nothing good on TV on Sunday mornings, or because the line was too long at Stella's Diner...

When people enter church doors for the first time, it was usually something significant that brought them. Perhaps they've...

- recently moved to the area
- just been through a divorce or break-up
- just lost a loved one
- had a bad experience at another church
- decided to bring their young family to church
- ... or perhaps some kind of trauma brought them through our doors.

How we greet people and welcome them among us matters a lot.

Often when people walk through our doors, they feel uncomfortable, vulnerable, nervous, and hopeful on top of whatever may have brought them to our church.

It's important to help minimize people's anxiety by:

- Exchanging a warm handshake and a smile (let's hold off on the hugs until we know folks!)
- Gently offering help negotiating our complex prayer book-hymnal-bulletin routine
- Introducing them to yourself and the people around you
- Inviting them – and accompanying them – to coffee hour after the service (if they'd like, a new coffee hour can be daunting even for extroverts!)
- Wearing your nametag, so that they don't have to stress about remembering names in the midst of everything else new about church

St. Matthew's is naturally a warm and welcoming bunch. One of the things that I love about this congregation is that hospitality comes so naturally to us.

It's helpful to be reminded during this time of year. Late summer and early fall is a time when many people "church shop" trying to find a community in which to belong.

Every person that walks through our doors is a brother or sister in Christ and a gift from God. Folks may come through these doors weary and carrying heavy burdens. Let them find here a warm sanctuary and let them see in us the face of Christ welcoming them here.

# RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING...!

On September 10, 2011 St. Matthew's will have a

## SUPER RUMMAGE SALE

But to make it SUPER we need your help and your "stuff"!

So as summer ends and you are thinking of throwing out good usable clothes that no longer fit or furniture that doesn't match anything or kitchen items you no longer use or bedding that the kids hate ... put it aside for the sale. Your items can be brought in from September 4<sup>th</sup> on and left in the adult study room or the classroom on the left side of the parish hall.

*(unfortunately, we can't take any TV's, or computer equipment...)*

Your donations can help others get needed or wanted items at rock-bottom prices; any items not sold are donated to St. Joseph's pantry, refugee resettlement and the Salvation Army.

**Many helpful hands are needed:** Thursday night, September 8<sup>th</sup> for pre-set up; Friday September 9<sup>th</sup> for sorting, arranging and pricing, and Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> for selling and clean-up.

There will be sign-up sheets for each of these days - donating an hour or two of your time will help St. Matthew's have the best sale **ever!**

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

One of the great things about September is the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Most children will tell you that is their favorite part of a new school year.

**Sunday School will begin again on September 11<sup>th</sup>, between the 8:00 and 10:15 services.**

Please complete and return a registration form for any child that may attend.

Forms can be found on the desk in the hall outside the nave.

We, at St. Matthew's, are blessed to have a group of dedicated, faithful teachers and enthusiastic, curious children. Give the opportunity to a child whom you love, the chance to be a part of this community.

We look forward to another Sunday School year with the children at St. Matthew's. Please see or phone Lauri O'Brien (622-3844) with any questions.

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## BACKPACK BLESSING

Teachers and students of all ages: You are invited to bring in your backpacks (or laptops, assignment notebooks, grade books, or other 'tools of the trade') for a special back-to-school "Backpack Blessing" at both services on **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**



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## LONG RANGE PLANNING

If you've been attending church fairly regularly this summer you are aware of the fact that we have created a Long Range Planning team to begin to address growth and space issues at St. Matthew's. As an outgrowth of that team's work, we have entered into a discernment phase, with the Long Range Planning team now becoming the Discernment team. The purpose of a discernment phase is to determine exactly what needs the parish has in terms of physical space, property repairs, etc., if any, prior to committing to any level of a capital campaign. This is meant to be a bottom-up process, with input from each parishioner in terms of what he or she thinks about the needs of the parish.

Our method of sharing information and getting your input and feedback is through a series of "Cottage Meetings" that we are holding at various dates and times throughout the summer and into September. We are asking each church member to attend just one of these meetings so that we may learn directly from you your perceptions of St. Matthew's needs. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside of the office. We hope you will join us if you have not yet had the opportunity to do so.

We want to stress that in no way is it the intention of the Discernment team to run some grandiose capital campaign, rebuilding the church! But we do appear have some real space and building issues that may need to be addressed sooner than later. So please sign up and attend a Cottage Meeting! Let us know what your perceptions and feelings are!

Prayerfully yours,  
Amy Good, Warden

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## ST. MATTHEW'S DAY BREAKFAST



We'll celebrate our Patronal Feast, **St. Matthew's Sunday on September 18<sup>th</sup>**. On that day, we will have a special celebratory service at both 8:00 and 10:15am, with a **parish breakfast in between at 9:15am** so that we can all celebrate together. Watch for the sign-up sheet.

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## ATTENTION WINE LOVERS

On **Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**, all of you are invited to join other St. Matthew's wine lovers for a wine tour of one of the Finger Lakes Wine Trails. Plans are to leave St. Matt's in the morning and return by early evening; we will likely visit 4-6 wineries depending on the tour. Cost per person is yet to be determined, though we hope to hire a bus to keep costs as low as possible. It will be fun, relaxing and a good time get together.

Please advise your interest and number planning to attend by contacting me at [dave.holloway1@verizon.net](mailto:dave.holloway1@verizon.net) or call or text at 315-383-2314. This is just to get a head count to determine appropriate transportation and costs. You are not obligated at this time. Cheers!



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I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who sent cards or attended my father's wake or funeral. Your kind words and condolences meant a lot during that sad and difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Amy Good

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### ADULT FORUM

Would you like to engage in the challenge of applying your Christian principles to everyday life?  
Would you like to participate in lively discussion about current events and the application of Christian values to those events?  
Then come join Adult Forum and experience:

#### *The Wired Word!*

*The Wired Word* is an adult study curriculum that takes current events, "ripped from the headlines" and poses thought provoking questions as to how we as Christians might respond to the issues at hand. Bible references are also provided as they apply. It is called *The Wired Word*, due to the fact that the weekly message is e-mailed directly to you a few days in advance, so that you may read it and prepare for discussion on Sunday. **Adult Forum is held on Sundays between services, 9:30-10:10am, in the Adult Forum room** across from the St. Thomas' Conference Room. If you would like to join us and receive *The Wired Word* by e-mail, please see Amy Good or email your address to her at [alrgood@aol.com](mailto:alrgood@aol.com) or Matt Stace at [mstace@a-znet.com](mailto:mstace@a-znet.com)

We would like to begin our classes in September when the Sunday School classes begin again. If you have interest in this program, please see or contact Amy Good at [alrgood@aol.com](mailto:alrgood@aol.com) or Matt Stace at [mstace@a-znet.com](mailto:mstace@a-znet.com). Have another idea for the Adult Forum class? We welcome your suggestions. Thank you!

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### THE ART NOOK

Do you like to draw, sketch, photograph, write, sculpt, build, or create art of any variety? If you do, we'd like you to consider creating something for the Art Nook in the St. Matthew' Parish Hall. Each season we'll post a biblical passage that we hope will inspire our artists to create something really special for our art display. The art, along with the passage which inspired it, will be displayed in the Art Nook throughout the season until the next collection is ready for display. We hope to have many pieces of art to display when we update the Nook next month. You can bring in your creations between services any Sunday and leave it with Mother Carrie or with Tom Catera. We look forward to sharing your creations with the St. Matthews community! The passage which we hope will inspire our local artists this summer is from Psalm 90:1-2,16-17 is below.

*Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. Show your servants your works and your splendor to their children. May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands.*

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## ST. FRANCIS' DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



St. Francis was known as a lover of all of God's creation, especially of animals. It's become a beloved tradition in the Church to celebrate St. Francis' Day (October 4th) by blessing animals. At **4:00pm on Sunday afternoon, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** St. Matthew's will hold a Blessing of the Animals – outside (or in the parish hall if the weather's lousy). All are welcome, even people and pets from other parishes.

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## BLOOD DRIVE

We have reached "warp" speed in the passage of the year 2011. Starting very slowly (in my opinion), every day now rushes to become history. And so it is with our blood drives. From a schedule of six drives at years start, there is only one drive remaining.

My purpose is to inform you that our last blood drive of 2011 is scheduled for **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** and to urge your participation by registering to donate when the sign-up sheets are posted in early October.

Yes, we have scheduled six blood drives for 2012.

Thank You



Bill Boylan  
Milt Oatman

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**CONTACT COMMUNITY SERVICES** needs adult volunteers to staff its telephone counseling line. Free Training will provide the skills needed to respond to callers facing a wide range of problems. Many of our volunteers share that they feel as if they are doing "God's work" when listening compassionately to our struggling callers. Training begins September 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, call Mary Mol at 251-1400 ext. 104 or send an e-mail to [mmol@contactsyracuse.org](mailto:mmol@contactsyracuse.org). Visit our website at [www.contactsyracuse.org](http://www.contactsyracuse.org).

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## WOMEN'S DAY AWAY

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am - 4:00pm.**

The Liverpool First United Methodist Church, 604 Oswego Street, Liverpool invites all women to give themselves a day away. Nationally known keynote speaker Yvonne Conte will give an uplifting presentation on the "Joy of Jesus." Cost is \$15.00 to enjoy a day of nurturing for your mind, your body and your soul. Explore topics such as women of the Bible, women's health issues and spirituality. Lunch will be provided. To register call Donna Auyer at 451-7359 or the Liverpool First UMC at 457-5180.

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## MISSION OF MIRACLES MEDICAL MISSION

The Mission of Miracles Program announces the **2012 Medical Mission to El Salvador January 28 – February 5**. Applications are being accepted through September 30<sup>th</sup> for health professionals and lay assistants. For more information and to download and print applications go to [www.missionofmiracles.org](http://www.missionofmiracles.org) and follow Resource tab. For questions, contact team leader Debbie Bowman at [DebbieHBowman@gmail.com](mailto:DebbieHBowman@gmail.com) or committee chairperson Bonnie Adams at [adamsbonnie56@gmail.com](mailto:adamsbonnie56@gmail.com)

**ALSO, SAVE THIS DATE!** There will be a Mission of Miracles **Fundraiser on October 29, 2011, 7:00pm at Christ Church, 407 East Seneca Street, Manlius**. Please join us for a Cocktail Party and Silent Auction. As in previous years, we welcome gift baskets or antique furniture for the silent auction from parishes and individuals. To donate, please contact Maria Dawson at [madawson@twcny.rr.com](mailto:madawson@twcny.rr.com).

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### **As quoted in a recent sermon at St. Matthew's...**

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me .

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,

and the fact that I think I am following your will

does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope I never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this,

you will lead me by the right road,

though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always,

though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

-Thomas Merton, from "Thoughts in Solitude"





In traditional Japanese theatre, persons dressed all in black come onto the stage, move scenery and props, and withdraw—without being “seen” by the audience. While these stage hands are visible in the physical sense, they are invisible by convention. The role of such people is similar to that of the ministry of members of an altar guild.

The early Christians probably celebrated their Holy Eucharists in the homes of members. After the establishment of the Christian Church by Constantine, the Eucharist was moved into large buildings where the preparations were more elaborate.

Throughout most of Christian history, the care and preparation of things to be used in worship was the duty of a sacristan who was always male and sometimes in minor orders. The modern altar guild did not evolve until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The duties of the altar guild vary from place to place, based on what has been done there in the past. Some are in charge of the vestments to be used by the clergy (or by all the ministers who vest for worship). Others are responsible for cleaning the church. Some specialize in arranging flowers for the sanctuary while other see to it that this is professionally done. Setting up the vessels with which to celebrate the Holy Eucharist is done by members of an altar guild in many churches; a deacon performs this task in a few. Needlework done by altar guilds has produced everything from whole set of vestments and hangings to the lavabo and baptismal towels.

In those parishes with a worship committee, a representative of the altar guild should always be a member. This representative will link liturgical planning with the nuts-and-bolts of preparing the worship space and equipment.

Every Episcopal diocese in the United States has a diocesan altar guild which provides both educational and service ministries. These are represented in a national altar guild which assists the Presiding Bishop in similar ministries.

The ministry of the altar guild is recognized as an important ministry of the church by a service of commissioning in the Book of Occasional Services.

Another recognition of the particular ministry of altar guilds occurs in those parishes where a corporate communion of the members of the guild occurs every year on Maundy Thursday, which celebrates the institution of the Lord’s Supper.

Reprinted from *Church Words*, by Stephen E. Moore  
Published by Forward Movement Publications  
412 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 USA



**SEPTEMBER**

Adamowsky, Cindy	15	Mathews, Christine	07
Balduf, Bill	12	Moreland, Jacob	04
Blattner, John	09	Muller, Madeline	29
Booth, Ellen	03	McCloskey, James	05
Bradshaw, Aidan	18	McMaster, Madge	18
Capeling, Clint	02	Piraino, Pamela	24
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Kondrk, Tyler	05	Widrick, Jonathan	18
Kovac, Donna	02	Widrick, Scott	18
Lashomb, Brayden	01		

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

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*In Our Thoughts and Prayers...*

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|--------------------|------------------------|
| 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**

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**THANK YOU!**



**October Grapevine Deadline**

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**