



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you!

There really are not words for me to express how overwhelmed I am by the outpouring of love and support you have given me during this first year together. As I look back to last January, I really had no idea what was

in store for us together. I knew it could be good, but I had no idea good was going to turn into great!

It all hit home today during the Annual Meeting as I listened to the reports given by several of our ministry leaders – we have done a lot in a little bit of time. To hear David Mello tell us that over 1550 hours of your time has been donated just to the work on the buildings and grounds was astounding. Can you imagine how many more have been donated through outreach efforts, through parish life events, and through the normal course of church life? And in the process of sharing that time, how many lives have been touched and enriched?

St. Matthew's is an amazing church family!

Because of you, people have been fed and clothed, and housed, and welcomed, and loved. People have experienced healing and community. People have learned, and grown, and been strengthened and encouraged. People have encountered the pure grace of God!

And, because of you, I am at home! There is no doubt in my mind that God has called me here – called me home! Thank you for welcoming me into your fellowship! I simply can NOT imagine being any place else!

And, by the way, the Disney gift basket and gift card are about the best and most generous gift you could have ever chosen for me! Thank you so very, very, very much!!!!

With love in Christ,



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month.

Article or information submissions can be sent to: stmatthews@earthlink.net in Word document form.

Article or information submissions can be placed in the newsletter folder outside the parish administrator's office.

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ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Last January Sonia reached out to all of us to form a committee to oversee the buildings and grounds. A group was formed to evaluate the needs of our two buildings and the surrounding grounds. It was a triage of sorts. We had to prioritize our concerns, present them to the Vestry and complete the projects either through outside contractors or with the help of dedicated volunteers.

The Committee took this task to heart, dug in their heels and with the funds approved by the Vestry we....

- Painted the interior of the Parish Hall
- Painted the exterior of the Parish Hall
- Purchased a new riding lawn mower
- Installed gutters on the hall
- Replaced and painted the steel doors on the hall
- Upgraded the interior lighting in the hall with energy efficient ballast and bulbs
- Improved the lighting on the exterior of the building
- Repaired the damaged ceiling in the meeting room
- Replaced two broken ceiling fans in the hall
- Stripped and re-waxed the floors in the youth room, meeting room and kitchen
- Deep cleaned floor tiles in the hall
- Re-textured and painted the walls in the sanctuary rest room
- Repaired the fence around the playground.
- Re-covered torn seats on folding chairs.
- Repaired and stained the playground equipment
- Hand painted murals are ready to be hung along the playground fence
- Installed laminate in Parish Hall and kitchen to protect the walls
- Installed soap dispensers and hand sanitizers in all restrooms
- And this does not include the holes that were repaired in the parking lot, the sweeping, the cleaning, the raking, the power washing, the steam cleaning, the polishing, and the million other things I will neglect to mention.

Wait....there is more!

With generous donations from members of the parish and a lot of hard work by the committee and the Garden Club we....

- Installed irrigations around the Parish Hall
- Landscaped the front of our sanctuary and hall
- Added pavers to our building entrances creating two gathering areas
- Installed plantation shutters
- Installed laminate flooring in two classrooms
- Installed an awning over the kitchen door
- Replaced, stained and sealed the door leading from the sanctuary to the memorial garden

It would be impossible to list all the chores, cleaning and repairing of items that went on and on and on in 2011. To put all this hard work in perspective we estimate that all of you donated 1,550 hours of labor and love to make our buildings and grounds what you see today.

And, that does not include the many, many hours spent by the Garden Club planning, planting, weeding and feeding in the hot Florida sun.

As we begin 2012 the committee has a new goal. We are committed to being good stewards of our buildings and grounds. We want to protect and preserve these gifts through a robust maintenance program; one that focuses on prevention, preservation and addressing problems while they are small. We can only do this with your help.

We have scheduled four workdays in 2012. The first is scheduled for this Saturday, January 28th.

If you can spend the day or just an hour, we need you.

If you can help with big things or little things, we need you.

Come for the fun, come for the fellowship, come for the donuts.

If Saturday is not good for you, call or email me.

We have an ongoing list of items that you can do on your own schedule.

So, thank you for all you did in 2011. You did a great job. Take the afternoon off. Watch some football and we will see you all back here on Saturday.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Moving into 2012, we are even more excited about the growth and possibilities that this year will bring for the children of St Matthew's!

We continue on with Armored for God, the second Sunday of every month at 4:30, with dinner served at 5:45, pickup time at 6:15. Bring your kids and encourage them to bring a friend. In celebration of the Armored Shoes of Peace, we will be going roller skating on February 12th from 1:30 to 4:30. Snacks will be provided and the cost is \$4 per child. Parents are welcome to join us and if you would like to skate the cost is \$8. Emails will be coming out with all of the details!

We are celebrating Valentine's Day by donating candy bags and cards to the children of the Orlando Rescue Mission. This is a continued ministry for our kids, as we made 54 boxes of cookies and delivered them in celebration of the Christmas holidays! If you are able to bring a bag of candy, please drop the bags off in the back of the church in the wood bin marked Sunday School. Thank you!!

Our summer program is under development and will be packed full of activities! If you are aware of any fun summer activities that are low cost or possibly free, please let us know. We are hoping to fill our calendar! VBS dates are being settled as we work around Boy Scout Camp and vacations for our awesome teachers. VBS would not happen without them!

We are planning special celebrations this year for both Mothers and Fathers Day. More details to come, but MOMs you need to mark your calendar for Sunday, May 6 at 4:30....you won't want to miss this!

In light of all of our newest additions to St Matthews, we are looking to improve our nursery and quiet room. We are looking for gently used baby items such as exersaucers and bouncy seats. We want our newest generation to be safe and comfy while they are at church as well!

We are considering the option of hosting a multi-age group for summer Sunday School. We have grown so much that we feel it is important to have a place for the kids to go and have fun during the 10:15 service that will continue their growth and education in faith. We are looking for volunteers that would like to help with our latest adventure. So if you have considered the idea of bring a Sunday School teacher, this is a great time to get involved since it is only 2 and a half months long. All of the curriculum and activities will be provided for you! Please let me know if you are interested in leading with us!

We are excited about the upcoming year for our Sunday School children and know that God will continue to bless our program, our teachers, parents and of course our children. Thank you for your help and continued support. We appreciate you!



Armored for God



Turtle Watching





TREASURER'S REPORT

FROM: Hugh Fisher
SUBJECT: December 2011 Financial Report

We ended the year \$16,526 in the red, even with the transfer of \$30,957 from reserves.

Income:

Income for the month of December was \$18,832. This was under budget by \$2,264. Pledge income was under budget by \$2,201 at \$7,476. Non-pledge contributions were down at \$480 over budget. Year-to-date we are \$18,045 under our revenue projections.

Expenses:

Total expenses for the month were \$18,088, under budget by \$3,796. Year-to-date we are showing expenses as \$5,351 under budget.

Fund Balances:

The checking account shows a balance of \$24,443 in designated funds. The Renovation 2011 Designated Fund is down to \$921.

We have \$18,609 in the operating fund. We began the year with \$40,500 in the operating fund. \$6,000 was transferred to the Renovation 2011 fund. I was able to absorb this year's deficit by reducing the General Operating Fund.

The Money Market Account has a balance of \$37,576.

VESTRY NEWS

Highlights from the January Vestry Meeting:

Annual Meeting - there was discussion about having one worship service next year on Annual Meeting Sunday, to help ensure the best attendance possible from parishioners/communicants.

Proposed Budget for 2012 – the Vestry accepted the proposed budget for 2012 presented by Treasurer Hugh Fisher. The budget was presented at the Annual Meeting and will be discussed/ approved by the new Vestry at its February meeting.

Delegates to Diocesan Convention – the Vestry certified Jim Lott and Paige Hinton as convention delegates.

Discernment Committees – three Discernment Committees are being formed, one each for Louise Samuelson, Frank Samuelson and David Somers. Each committee will include 5 or 6 members.

Want to know what's going on?

As a reminder, the minutes of all committee meetings and Vestry meetings, along with the full treasurer's report are available on the bulletin board across from the church offices.

Annual Meeting News

We had the biggest and best Annual Meeting at St. Matthew's. Lots of great food and fellowship was shared, along with hearing reports from many of our active ministry groups. It was a great opportunity to give thanks for all the good things happening at St. Matthew's and to celebrate our first year with Pastor Sonia as our Rector.

We also elected four people to join the Vestry for the 3-year terms: Debbie Brown, Jen Hambly, Pat Shaughnessy, and Louise Samuelson. A list of Vestry members is posted elsewhere in the newsletter. We also heard a summary of 2011 finances and looked at the approved budget for 2012. The Finance Committee will revisit the budget as more pledges have come in. There is a detailed budget available on the bulletin board across from the offices for anyone who would like to look at it.

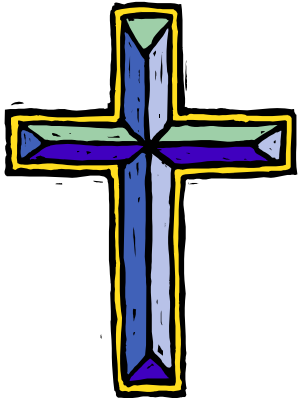
Vestry Members

Class of 2012 (rotate off in 2012)
 Greg Hess (Gregory_hess@ml.com)
 Debbi Dearolph (fldear6@yahoo.com)
 Hazel Forbis (Hazelforbis@yahoo.com)
 Bill Young (walyoung@bellsouth.net)

Class of 2013
 Glen Martin (glenrm@gmail.com)
 Mike DiBlanda (diblanda@yahoo.com)
 Glenn Futrell (glenn.futrell@gmail.com)
 Dan Cook (dlcook@gwmail.gwu.edu)

Class of 2014
 Louise Samuelson (flsamuelson@bellsouth.net)
 Debbie Brown (nonnibrown@gmail.com)
 Jennifer Hambly (jenhambly@gmail.com)
 Pat Shaughnessy (patsandi@embargmail.com)





“God challenges us to dream. To pray is to dream, to hope, to expect, to trust, to imagine. Whether worshipping with a community, reading alone, reflecting on the Bible, considering a personal experience, a story, or a movie, we are at work in an ecosystem of prayer, the research and development aspect of the church.

Only the pray-er knows that the really real is God breaking through human history – breaking through our prejudices and preferred notions with questions about poor and powerless persons, about justice and peace, about personal and systemic transformation so we might break out with new God-given hearts to pursue God's heart's desire.”

PASTORAL CARE AND PRAYER CHAIN

Pastoral care, prayer chain and prayer list ministries are continuing to provide prayers and/or services to those from the parish who are in need. We can only provide if we are made aware of needs. If you know of someone who needs prayers or visits from the pastoral care team, please call or e-mail the office, 407-657-9199, stmatthews@earthlink.net; or Ann Groenendaal at 407-365-8751, (groenena@bellsouth.net), or Bill Young at 407-282-0436, (walyoung@bellsouth.net).

There are also cards provided in the pews for prayer requests. Fill them out and place in the collection plates.

We also provide meals for people who have had recent surgeries or births. We help those who need a ride to church or to medical appoint-

ments. We take communion to the homebound. We are available for home or hospital visits to those who need someone to talk with, pray with, or just sit with.

We also like to hear and give thanks for good news, so pass that along as well.

We are Praying for:

Heather Ruppel, Rachael Patterson, Margaret Collison, Karen & Rodica Sears, Sgt. J. Morgan Klingshin, Major Robbie Johnson, Gordon Bentley, Penny Morales, Delmer Morgan, Bruce Layman, Tyler Ferguson, Eric Martin, Penny Miller, Chris Lloyd, Honey Poti, Heather Johnson, Sherry Culp, Steve and Sue Jones, Emma, Diana, Charlotte, Schisa Reddish, Millicent Charan, Elise, Jack and Gerry, Penny, Zeus, Annie and Dave Mackey.

Individual Healing Prayers are available following each service. Please approach the altar rail where Deacon Dave will be glad to pray with you.



Ella's Baptism



Gloria Lindsey's 90th Birthday

Shrove Tuesday

Our famous Pancake Supper

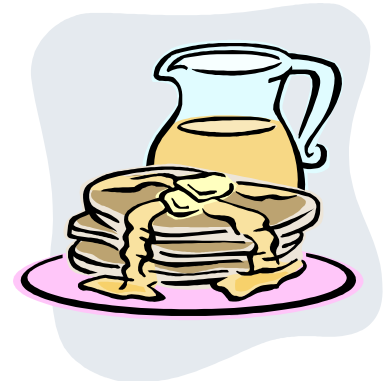
which will get you ready to kick off a Holy Lent!

Tuesday, Feb. 21; 5:30p – 7:30p

\$3/person, \$5/couple; \$10/family

Yummy Food and Fun activities for all ages!

Drop in or stay awhile!



SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday Worship at 12 noon and 6:30p

Just a few ashes are all that are needed to begin the season of Lent.

Ashes are the product of burning something away. They are what is left over after fire passes over or through something. For many, our first association with ashes comes from childhood where we watched fires burn in our fireplaces, or we gathered around a campfire. The ashes for Lent are made from the palm fronds from the previous Palm Sunday.

So exactly why do we put ashes on our foreheads to start the season of Lent?

One reason is because the ashes are symbols to remind us of who we are. The Bible tells us that we came from the dust and to the dust we shall return. Humankind was formed out of the dust of the earth by God and then God breathed life into that dust (Genesis 2:7).

The Season of Lent (Feb. 22 – April 7)

Lent offers us an opportunity to create space for grace. It is a season of the Church that spans forty days (excluding Sundays) beginning on Ash Wednesday and culminating on Palm Sunday as Holy Week begins. For early Christians, Lent was a time to prepare for baptism which only happened on Easter Sunday morning. It was marked by a time of prayer, self-reflection, and preparation for Easter. The number forty is connected with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry. Today, Lent is a time for repentance. It is “housekeeping for the soul” where we clear out the clutter in our lives to receive God’s gift. The traditional practices of Lent, which include fasting and giving up something that hinders us from connecting with God, are not meant to give us “spiritual brownie points” to earn God’s grace. Rather these activities are meant to help us to clear out the clutter in our lives to see, hear and receive God’s grace.

While the word Lent is never mentioned in the Bible, its practices are a vital part of what the Old Testament calls *teshuva* or “turning” to God. When translated as

Ashes are also a sign of repentance. Receiving ashes during Ash Wednesday prepares us for Lent, the time when we are called to repent and change our ways. In biblical times, it was common for people who were mourning to dress in sackcloth and put ashes on their heads. There are several stories in the Bible where the people come to God and sit before him “in sackcloth and ashes” to show their repentance and to seek God’s forgiveness.

So the ashes are meant to be symbols of our mortality and signs of repentance showing that we are truly seeking to follow in God’s path.

They may be small and not so noticeable, but they sure do mean a lot. They signify our need for God. They are also a way of showing on the outside what is happening on the inside. So as you have the sign of the cross placed on your foreheads, repent of your self-reliance and self-seeking. Start off your Lent as a redeemed child of God seeking to be filled with grace.

“repentance,” as it usually is, this word suggests that we turn away from our own faults, inadequacies, sins, and failings (see 2 Chronicles 7:14). Quite simply, Lent is an invitation to turn away from self-preoccupation toward available grace. The same can be said for the New Testament word *metanoia*, the Greek word that is translated as “repentance.” It literally means “going beyond your present state of mind.” It implies a turning of our whole selves, including our faults, strengths, and everything else inbetween, toward God’s grace.

Contrary to popular belief, this “turning” is neither a once-in-a-lifetime event nor a life-long preoccupation with sin. But it is “creating space for grace” by turning toward God. This involves a continual, habitual recurring shift from an ego-driven agenda to a receptive openness to grace.

I encourage you to take time to create space for grace by creating prayer time and meditation. If you are not sure where to start, consider visiting www.d365.org. It is a great website that is quite simple and yet quite profound. It is a great way to hear calming music, read scripture and devotion, and focus to pray.

DIOCESAN NEWS

You are cordially invited to a gala retirement party for

*The Rt. Rev. John W. Howe
Third Bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida*

The party is to be held at

*Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center
1601 Alafaya Trail, Oviedo, Florida, 32765*

Saturday, March 17, 2012 , 4:30-8 p.m.

Reservation \$40 per person

Payment options: Credit Card: Call Sue (Monday- Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.) at Canterbury, 407-365-5571 with your credit card information. Or mail a check to: Canterbury, 1601 Alafaya Trail, Oviedo, FL 32765. Make checks payable to Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center. On the memo line please note "Bishop's retirement party."

Bach's Lunch, is now in its 34rd year, presents Central Florida's finest talent.

Programs range from jazz to classical music, opera, organ, and ensembles.

Beginning at 12:00 noon on Thursdays, this season's concerts will be 45 minutes.

No longer serving catered box lunches, we encourage you to bring your own bag lunch to eat in our Great Hall or courtyard after the concert.. Beverages will be provided free of charge.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2012 Thursdays 12:00 Noon

- February 2**
Mati Braun, violin and Dr. Gary Wolf, piano open our
Bach's Lunch season
- February 9**
Orlando Brass Quintet
- February 16**
Matitiahua Braun, violin and organist Ben Lane
play some of Franz Biber's Mystery Sonatas
- February 23**
UCF Flute Ensemble
Directed by Dr. Nora Lee Garcia
- March 1**
Dr. Eladio Scharrón
guitar professor from UCF

- March 8**
Matthew Gender
Organist from University of Florida
- March 15**
Robert Kerr, violin and pianist Ben Lane
- March 22**
UCF Chamber Singers
Directed by Dr. David L. Brunner
- March 29**
Matitiahua Braun, violin and organist Ben Lane
Play some of Franz Biber's Mystery Sonatas

For more information regarding BachLunch concert series:
[http://stlukesacathedral.org/Bach%](http://stlukesacathedral.org/Bach%20Lunch)

**Consecration the Rev. Gregory Brewer
as the 4th Bishop of Central Florida
at First Baptist Church of Orlando
on Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m.**



THE CONTEMPLATIVE CORNER

At our Wednesday night contemplative service, we are invited to spend time praying with icons. Here is a short explanation of how and why we do this that you might find helpful.

“Many of us were taught to close our eyes when we pray. Praying with icons is an ancient prayer practice that involves keeping our eyes wide open, taking into our heart what the image visually communicates. We focus not on what is seen in the icon, but rather on what is seen through it - the love of God expressed through God's creatures.

This is prayer without words, with a focus on being in God's presence rather than performing in God's presence. It is a right-brain experience of touching and feeling what is holy -- a divine mystery. Icons are not simply art; they are a way into contemplative prayer, and are therefore one way to let God speak to us. They are doorways into stillness, into closeness with God. If we sit with them long enough, we too can enter into the stillness, into the communion. And if we listen to them closely enough, with our hearts, we just may discern the voice of God.”

Holy Trinity Icon

“Though the word Trinity is not found in the scriptures, it is the teaching of Jesus and implicit in New Testament theology that within the unity of God there is a distinction of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All are one, yet are three.

This icon is based upon the ancient story of Abraham and Sarah who encountered three visitors (Genesis 18). In traditional Christian thought, these three visitors, or angels, are believed to foreshadow contemplation of the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Often the angel at center is associated with Christ, while the angel on the left is God the Father and the angel on the right is God the Holy Spirit. The posture and placement of the three form a circle symbolic of eternal unity in the Holy Trinity.”



Taken from:
http://upperroom.org/methodx/thelife/prayermethods/icons.asp?act=deeper&iStep=1&item_id=56279

For further reading and reflection with icons check out this book from the church library:

Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons by Henri J. M. Nouwen, copyright © 1987 Ave Marie Press. Bottom of Form



Counsel for Caregivers

Spring 2012 Seminar Series

West Oaks Library
1821 E. Silver Star Rd.
Dixie, FL 34761
2nd Tuesday
Time: 10:30 am

Orlando Public Library
101 E. Central Blvd.
3rd Fl. - Albertson Rm
Orlando, FL 32801
3rd Thursday
Time: 12:10 pm

"Sleep problems and solutions" — Dr. Philip Retik, Sleep & Wellness of Florida	February 14, 2012	
"Caregiving: getting organized and asking for help" — Kathleen Flornia, PA, Flornia Law & David Blount, Investment & Insurance Planning Service		February 16, 2012
"Questions to ask when selecting a long term care facility" — Edith Gendron, Assisted Living Administrator, Bishop's Glen Retirement Community	March 13, 2012	March 15, 2012
"Estate planning" — Sarah Aufäller, PA - West Oaks and Peggy Hoyt, PA - Orlando, The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan	April 10, 2012	April 19, 2012
"Tips on being a savvy health advocate" — Betsy McKinley, RN, Parish Nurse at First United Methodist Church - Winter Park	May 8, 2012	May 17, 2012
"When mama ain't happy..." — Alison Issen, Patient & Family Counseling, M/D Anderson Center - Orlando	June 12, 2012	June 21, 2012
	FREE Light Refreshments (for the first 50 to register)	FREE Lunch (for the first 50 to register)

Register at: officeonaging@ocfl.net or call 407-836-7446

"Caregiving: Getting organized and asking for help" Seminar
Serena Fisher attended the seminar, here are her thoughts

To my delight, the free handout was a fantastic organizer that's appropriate for anyone over 18 -- caregiver or not! For those who live alone, even in excellent health, this would be a valuable resource. It contains forms to record one's personal health and medical history as well as being a guide for a care giver. To get an idea about the notebook check the web site www.healthhistory.com. The notebook can be purchased through them and I believe some of the forms can be downloaded from the site.

The advantage of this informal seminar (one hour!) is that a financial planner and elder law attorney, went through the notebook commenting and answering questions. There was **no sales pitch** -- just information. The seminar will be offered again, **February 16, 2012, at 12:10 pm at the Orlando Public Library.**

February Birthdays



Isabella Pierce	February 1	Wynema Laabs	February 12	Jayson Latterell	February 22
Terri Buchanan	February 3	Keith Latterell	February 15	Charles Davis	February 24
Yvonne Lashley	February 3	Mary Alice Kephart	February 17	Nicholas DiBlanda	February 24
Jeffrey Stuart	February 4	Patty Fritch	February 18	Joan Galfo	February 24
Matthew Fair	February 7	Morgan Davis	February 19	Jim Johnston	February 24
Lauren Downs	February 10	Michael Downs	February 20	Judy Wheeler	February 26
Laurie Hernandez	February 10	Rachel Patterson	February 20	David Mello	February 27
Bill Young	February 10	Hazel Forbis	February 21	Joy Newman	February 27
Laverne Bowers	February 12	Maria Salerno	February 21	Parker Latterell	February 28

February Anniversaries



Mr. & Mrs. Tim Norberg	February 6	Dr. & Mrs. Will Rogers	February 17
Mr. & Mrs. George Cheryan	February 8	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Dearolph	February 20
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Higgs	February 10	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Lott	February 24

PARISH LIFE

Morning Prayer

Dave Somers and Frank Samuelson invite you to join them for Morning Prayer the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7am in the Sanctuary. All you need to bring is yourself. Prayer time lasts about 30 minutes. See you there.

“First” Communion Classes – geared toward children, but suitable for adults, who want to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion – the whats, whys, and hows! March 4, 18, 25, and April 1; 4:30p – 5:45p



Spring Yard Sale - April 20th and 21st

I am sure you have noticed the POD is in place and we are accepting all donated items except clothing. If you have large

pieces of furniture to donate, please contact us as to whether it is something we can handle and make sure all electrical items donated are in working order. Due to the potential of moisture buildup inside the POD, please refrain from bringing in clothing until the 8th of April.

If you have any spare time during the week of April 16th, we can use all the volunteers we can get to help with the set up and pricing of the donated items. We can always use extra helpers during the yard sale hours as well, which is from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., both Friday and Saturday.

If you have any questions, or are unsure about items you wish to donate, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your ongoing support. With your help, we are confident we will have another successful sale.

Blessings,
Debby Wunderly (407/920-7827)
Patti Somers (407/592-9473)

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR PICTURES?

Do You have hundreds of pictures in boxes or on your computer? Would you like to get them organized and in albums? Do you already scrapbook but never find the time to work on your albums. Would you like to scrapbook with friends? Then join us at St. Matthew's. Please fill out the survey so that I can plan workshops that meet your needs. If you have any questions please call or e-mail me at 407-341-2691, fldear6@yahoo.com. I look forward to scrapbooking with you soon, Debbi Dearolph

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Please list your 4 best days and times.

Weekday mornings, weekday evenings, Saturdays or Sunday afternoon/evening.

- 1. 2. 3. 4.

SOME ST. MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Pageant

We have many Christmas traditions at St. Matthew's. Most of our traditions are centered around families and children. I love that we show our children "The Reason for the Season." We had 46 kids participate in the Christmas Pageant. This year they learned about Jesus through the story of the Christmas tree and the some ornaments that we put on it. The children sang many songs that also told them about the birth of Jesus. We had lots of fun during the practices as Ms. Jennifer explained why each ornament was important in telling the Christmas story. Most of the children look forward to being in the pageant and know what part they want to play. I don't know why but the donkey and camel seem to be very popular these past few years as well as the other animals and angels.

Chili Cook-off & Famous Johnson Hayride

The highlight each year is our annual Hayride and Chili cook-off hosted by Al and Jan Johnson. The adults love the food and conversation. While the kids love to run around playing with each other, meeting the animals, roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over the bonfire. They especially enjoyed playing tag with their friend "Ms. Sonia" Their highlight was locking her in the outhouse. We had 70 plus people this year, our biggest crowd ever. Even some our college members made it home for the festivities. So, if you're a newcomer or St. Matthew's has been your church home for many years, I hope you'll join us next Christmas for any and all of our Christmas traditions. Thank you Al and Jan for giving us this very special St. Matthew's tradition.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Happy Valentines Day!

The Sunday School classes will be celebrating this year by making candy bags and valentines for the children at the Orlando Rescue Mission. We would appreciate your help by bringing in a bag or two or three of candy for the Valentine bags. All donations can be placed in the back of the church in the Sunday School collection bin. We truly are grateful for your help!

Mommies Group:

As our parish continues to grow with the birth of so many babies, we are ready to begin a group for mommies of young children. If you are interested in getting together with your little ones and having fun and fellowship with other mommies, this is for YOU! Please contact Jen Latterell by email at jenalatterell@aol.com to get signed up. Once we know how many people are interested, we will set up our first meeting! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Eve 5:00p.m. DVD's

We have DVDs from the Christmas Eve 5:00p.m. service available. We are asking for a donation to cover the cost of the videographer and duplication fees. Email Jen to reserve your copy at jenalatterell@aol.com.



Armored For God

is scheduled for February 12th!! As we continue to "build" our Armor for God, we are designing the shoes of peace this week. What better way to celebrate shoes than to put them on wheels....We are going roller skating!!! We will meet at Semoran Skateway (off 436, north of Lake Howell and south of Red Bug Lake) from 1:15-4:00 p.m. The cost is \$4 per child and money will be collected beginning February 5th. We hope you can join us for FUN!!

**UnitedScrip Gift Cards -
How does this work??**

Pick up an order form at church. Take a look at this form and think about your week or the month ahead. Where will you shop this week? Where will you eat out? What essentials will you need? Does the car need gas? Who has a birthday party coming up? Who needs shoes? What groceries do you need?

Fill out the form and return it with a check to cover the items to the offering plate or to the church office or even Pastor Sonia. The orders taken on Sunday will be filled by the next Sunday. Most often, the cards will be available in the office on Thursday in case you need them for the upcoming weekend.
How do the Youth Groups benefit?

UnitedScrip purchases millions of dollars worth of gift cards (SCRIP) yearly from national vendors. Our church purchases these same cards from UnitedScrip at a discount. We in turn offer this scrip to our members and friends at face value. You receive dollar for dollar the value of cash for these items. Example: \$50 of a gas debit card will purchase \$50 of gas at any of its pumps, nationwide.

IT'S THAT SIMPLE!

Thank you for all your purchases! You have helped our teens raise over \$500.00.

ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church					
In Partnership with www.unitedscrip.com					
Family Name		Payment:	Check:	Cash:	
UnitedScrip Certificate Form by Category 2011					
Certificate	Qty	Total	Certificate	Qty	Total
Automobile Care/Gas Cards					
Advance Auto Parts \$25.0 @7.0%			Marathon \$100.0 @3.0%		
AutoZone \$25.0 @9.0%			Shell Gas\$25.0 @2.5%		
BP Gas Stations \$50.0 @1.5%			Shell Gas\$50.0 @2.5%		
Chevron Gas \$50.0 @1.5%			Speedway Gas \$50.0 @4.0%		
Marathon \$25.0 @3.0%			Sunoco \$50.0 @1.5%		
Jiffy Lube \$25.0 @12.0%			Walmart Gas Card \$50.0 @2.0%		
Book Stores					
Barnes & Noble Bookstores \$5.0 @9.0%			Books-A-Million \$15.0 @8.0%		
Barnes & Noble Bookstores \$10.0 @9.0%			Family Christian Stores \$25.0 @9.0%		
Barnes & Noble Bookstores \$25.0 @9.0%					
Catalog/On-line Stores					
Amazon.com \$25.0 @5.0%			Omaha Steaks \$25.0 @10.0%		
Amazon.com \$50.0 @5.0%			Omaha Steaks \$50.0 @10.0%		
Amazon.com \$100.0 @5.0%			Overstock.com \$25.0 @9.0%		
Eddie Bauer \$25.0 @7.0%			Shutterfly \$25.0 @14.0%		
L.L. Bean \$25.0 @18.0%			Walmart.com \$25.0 @2.0%		
Lands' End \$25.0 @14.0%			Walmart.com \$100.0 @2.0%		
Lands' End \$100.0 @14.0%					
Children/Teen Specialty Stores					
Babies-R-Us \$10.0 @1.5%			Kids-R-Us \$10.0 @1.5%		
Babies-R-Us \$25.0 @1.5%			Kids-R-Us \$25.0 @1.5%		
Build-A-Bear Workshop \$25.0 @8.0%			Toys-R-Us \$10.0 @1.5%		
Children's Place, The \$25.0 @14.0%			Toys-R-Us \$25.0 @1.5%		
Gymboree \$25.0 @13.0%					
Electronic/Technology					
Best Buy \$25.0 @3.0%			iTunes \$15.0 @5.0%		
Best Buy \$100.0 @3.0%			iTunes \$25.0 @5.0%		
Dell \$100.0 @4.0%					
Home Improvement					
Home Depot\$10.0 @4.0%			Lowe's Home Improvement\$25.0 @4.0%		
Home Depot\$25.0 @4.0%			Lowe's Home Improvement\$50.0 @4.0%		
Home Depots\$50.0 @4.0%			Lowe's Home Improvement\$100.0 @4.0%		
Home Depots\$100.0 @4.0%					
Hotels/Travel					
Disney Cruise Lines \$25.0 @2.0%			Walt Disney World Resort - Florida \$25.0 @2.0%		
Disney Cruise Lines \$100.0 @2.0%			Walt Disney World Resort - Florida \$100.0 @2.0%		
Movie/Entertainment					
AMC Theatres/Loew's \$9.5 @15.0%			Regal Entertainment \$10.0 @8.0%		
AMC Theatres/Loew's \$25.0 @7.0%			Regal/United Artist Single Use Ticket \$8.5 @11.0%		
GameStop \$25.0 @3.0%					

National Restaurants	
Applebee's \$10.0 @8.0%	Mimi's Cafe \$10.0 @8.0%
Applebee's \$25.0 @8.0%	Mimi's Cafe \$25.0 @8.0%
Arby's National \$10.0 @8.0%	O'Charley's \$10.0 @13.0%
Arby's National \$50.0 @8.0%	O'Charley's \$25.0 @13.0%
Bahama Breeze \$10.0 @9.0%	Olive Garden \$10.0 @9.0%
Bahama Breeze \$25.0 @9.0%	Olive Garden \$25.0 @9.0%
Baskin Robbins \$2.0 @9.0%	Outback Steakhouse \$25.0 @9.0%
Bonefish Grill \$25.0 @9.0%	P.F. Cheng's China Bistro \$25.0 @7.0%
Boston Market \$10.0 @12.0%	Panera Bread \$10.0 @9.0%
Bruster's Ice Cream \$5.0 @8.0%	Papa John's \$10.0 @8.0%
Buco di Beppo \$25.0 @8.0%	Papa John's \$50.0 @8.0%
Burger King \$10.0 @4.0%	Pizza Hut \$10.0 @8.0%
Burger King \$50.0 @4.0%	Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.0 @7.0%
California Pizza Kitchen \$10.0 @6.0%	Quilnos \$10.0 @10.5%
Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.0 @9.0%	Rainforest Cafe \$25.0 @10.0%
Chart House \$25.0 @10.0%	Rainforest Cafe \$50.0 @10.0%
Chart House \$50.0 @10.0%	Red Lobster \$10.0 @9.0%
Cheesecake Factory \$25.0 @5.0%	Red Lobster \$10.0 @9.0%
Chili's \$10.0 @11.0%	Red Lobster \$25.0 @9.0%
Chili's \$25.0 @11.0%	Red Lobster \$25.0 @9.0%
Chipotle \$10.0 @10.0%	Red Lobster \$50.0 @9.0%
Cold Stone Creamery \$10.0 @8.0%	Ruby Tuesday's \$10.0 @8.0%
Copper River Grill \$25.0 @8.0%	Ruby Tuesday's \$25.0 @8.0%
Cracker Barrel \$10.0 @9.0%	Seasons 52 \$10.0 @9.0%
Cracker Barrel \$25.0 @9.0%	Seasons 52 \$25.0 @9.0%
Dave & Buster's \$25.0 @14.0%	Seasons 52 \$50.0 @9.0%
Denny's \$10.0 @7.0%	Smokey Bones 9.0% @ \$25.0
Domino's \$10.0 @8.0%	Starbucks \$5.0 @7.0%
Domino's \$50.0 @8.0%	Starbucks \$10.0 @7.0%
Dunkin Donuts \$10.0 @4.0%	Starbucks \$25.0 @7.0%
Hard Rock Cafe \$25.0 @8.0%	Steak 'n' Shake \$10.0 @8.0%
Honey Baked Ham \$25.0 @15.0%	Subway \$10.0 @3.0%
IHOP \$25.0 @8.0%	Subway \$50.0 @3.0%
KFC \$5.0 @9.0%	Sweet Tomatoes/Soupplantation \$25.0 @9.0%
Landry's Gift Card \$25.0 @10.0%	Texas Roadhouse \$10.0 @8.0%
Landry's Gift Card \$50.0 @10.0%	The Capital Grille \$10.0 @9.0%
LongHorn Steakhouse \$10.0 @9.0%	The Capital Grille \$25.0 @9.0%
LongHorn Steakhouse \$25.0 @9.0%	The Capital Grille \$50.0 @9.0%
LongHorn Steakhouse \$50.0 @9.0%	T-Rex \$25.0 @10.0%
Macaroni Grill \$10.0 @11.0%	T-Rex \$50.0 @10.0%
Macaroni Grill \$25.0 @11.0%	Wendy's \$10.0 @4.0%
Maggiano's Little Italy \$10.0 @11.0%	Wendy's \$25.0 @4.0%
Maggiano's Little Italy \$25.0 @11.0%	
National Retailers	
Aeropostale \$25.0 @8.0%	Marshalls \$25.0 @7.0%
American Eagle Outfitters \$25.0 @8.0%	Men's Wearhouse \$25.0 @7.0%
Banana Republic \$25.0 @14.0%	Michael's \$25.0 @4.0%
Best Pro Shops \$25.0 @6.0%	Motherhood Maternity Outlet \$25.0 @9.0%
Bath & Body Works \$10.0 @18.0%	Nike Gift Card \$25.0 @13.0%
Bath & Body Works \$25.0 @18.0%	Old Navy \$25.0 @14.0%
Bealls \$25.0 @8.0%	Payless Shoes \$10.0 @13.0%
Bed, Bath & Beyond \$25.0 @6.0%	PetSmart \$25.0 @4.0%
Brooks Brothers \$25.0 @14.0%	Pier 1 Imports \$25.0 @9.0%
Cabela's \$25.0 @11.0%	Pottery Barn \$25.0 @8.0%
Catherine's \$25.0 @7.0%	REI Stores \$25.0 @8.0%
Champs Sports Store \$25.0 @9.0%	ROSS Dress For Less \$25.0 @9.0%
Clothes \$10.0 @9.0%	Sam's Club \$25.0 @2.0%
Crete and Barrel \$25.0 @4.0%	Sam's Club \$100.0 @2.0%
Dillard's \$25.0 @9.0%	Sears \$25.0 @7.0%
Disney Stores \$25.0 @2.0%	Sears \$100.0 @7.0%
Disney Stores \$100.0 @2.0%	Sears \$250.0 @7.0%
Disney Stores \$500.0 @2.0%	Sports Authority \$25.0 @8.0%
Disney Stores \$1000.0 @2.0%	T.J. Maxx \$25.0 @7.0%
Express \$25.0 @11.0%	Talbots \$25.0 @9.0%
Finishline \$25.0 @11.0%	Tanger Outlet Stores \$25.0 @9.0%
Foot Locker \$25.0 @9.0%	Target \$25.0 @2.0%
Gap Tri-Card \$25.0 @14.0%	Target \$100.0 @2.0%
Hallmark \$25.0 @5.0%	Target \$250.0 @2.0%
HomeGoods \$25.0 @7.0%	Ultra Cosmetics and Salons \$25.0 @4.0%
JCPenney \$25.0 @7.0%	Visa \$25.0 @2.0%
JCPenney \$100.0 @7.0%	Visa \$50.0 @2.0%
Jo Ann Fabrics \$20.0 @6.0%	Walmart \$10.0 @2.0%
Jos A Bank \$50.0 @6.0%	Walmart \$25.0 @2.0%
Kohl's \$25.0 @4.0%	Walmart \$50.0 @2.0%
Kohl's \$100.0 @4.0%	Walmart \$100.0 @2.0%
Lane Bryant \$25.0 @7.0%	Walmart \$250.0 @2.0%
Macy's \$25.0 @10.0%	Williams-Sonoma \$25.0 @8.0%
Macy's \$100.0 @10.0%	
Office Supplies	
Office Depot \$25.0 @3.0%	Staples \$25.0 @5.0%
Office Max \$25.0 @4.0%	Staples \$100.0 @5.0%
Pharmacy/Drug Stores	
CVS \$25.0 @4.0%	Walgreen's \$25.0 @2.0%
CVS \$100.0 @4.0%	Walgreen's \$100.0 @2.0%

Grand Total: \$

Comments/Notes/Special Instructions:

We can not be responsible for lost or stolen certificates. Please sign below in the appropriate box to indicate your preference for delivery.

Send Home with Child:

Pick Up in Office:

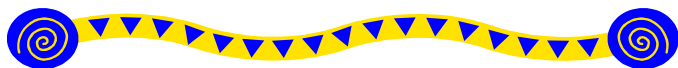
YOUTH NEWS



High School Outreach Gathering

**Sunday, Feb. 26;
Compassion Corner**

(meet at church at 5a; or spend the night at Pastor Sonia's; prepare and serve breakfast to the large homeless population in partnership with the downtown churches; will arrive back at St. Matthew's by 8 a.m.)



Happening –

**a retreat for those in grades 9-12 March 10-12;
deadline to sign up is Feb. 12;**

Cost is \$50

**Held at DaySpring Conference Center in
Ellenton, FL (near Bradenton)**

This is, by far, the best retreat that Pastor Sonia has ever experienced – and she has experienced a ton of retreats!

Happening is a unique experience that helps foster a personal more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. During the Happening weekend, participants will experience the love of Christ through music, talks, prayer, worship and a community led by fellow students, which is supported by clergy and lay adults. It is filled with small group conversations, challenging talks, and unique experiences planned by other high school students so they are relevant and engaging.



**High School Mission Trip is July 1 – 7;
deadline to sign up is Feb. 19**



Middle School Youth Meetings

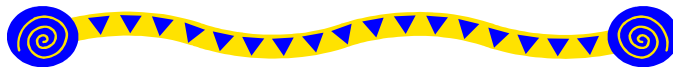
Sunday, Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. – “Souper” Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. – “evOL”

New Beginnings – Feb. 17-19;
no Sunday meeting

**Tuesday, Feb. 21 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Supper**

Sunday, Feb. 26 – “Quash”



New Beginnings –

a retreat for those in 6th – 8th grades

Feb. 17-19;

deadline to sign up is Sun., Feb. 5th;

Cost is \$50

**Held at DaySpring Conference Center in
Ellenton, FL (near Bradenton)**

At New Beginnings, you can expect to make new friends and to share with old ones through singing, skits, talks, videos, games, worship, and conversation. Led by a team of teenagers, adults, and spiritual directors, New Beginnings helps us discover things about ourselves, our friends, and our families. We also learn ways to live out our faith in our daily lives.



**Middle School Mission Trip is July 29- Aug 3;
deadline to sign up is Feb. 12**

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

5873 N. Dean Road
Orlando, FL 32817

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STMATTHEWSORLANDO.ORG

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR:



Youth Fund Raiser

\$1 per card
\$5 for 7 cards
\$10 for 15 cards

Play a new card
every game!

Prizes awarded for every game!



Please join us!!!!!!



Friday, Feb. 3rd, 7p-9p

*Please join us for a great evening of
Bingo & Fellowship!*

Appetizers, Desserts, Sangria, Sodas

To be held at

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
5873 N. Dean Road

407-657-8198 - stmatthews@earthlink.net