

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:

ANNUAL MEETING

January 22, 2012
beginning about 11:45 a.m.

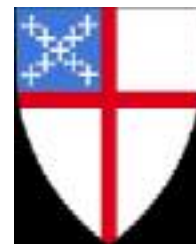
This is a very important meeting that will last about an hour.

Bring a covered dish to share.

The entree will be provided.

Please let us know what you are bringing and
how many are attending by signing the sheet in the foyer.

Please join us for it!



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A VIEW FROM ST. MATTHEW'S

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The turn of another year signals the passage of time and reminds us that we live within time/space limitations. This is the time of year when many people decide they are going to shed old habits and start new ones. It's the time of year we often take stock of how we spend our time --- and we ask, how should we

spend our time??

We all know the answer to that – we should spend our time loving God and loving our neighbor. But what in the world does that look like and how can we do it? Here is a list:

1. Maintain a regular prayer time each day.
2. Read a daily devotion in a book, on a calendar, or at www.d365.org.
3. Make practical plans to show love to your neighbor.
4. Release someone who hurt you from their wrongdoing and tell them.
5. Forgive yourself and don't turn back for another look.
6. Choose to be thankful in every circumstance.
7. Take a risk and learn something new.
8. Trust God for what you cannot see.
9. Keep a journal.
10. Look for possibilities instead of settling with problems.

It's been said that an optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. Join the ranks of forward thinkers who are filled with hope because they know the secret of Romans 8:28: "In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."



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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BISHOP ELECT

The Rev. Greg Brewer elected fourth bishop of Central Florida



The Rev. Gregory O. Brewer, rector of Calvary-St. George's Church in New York City, was elected on Nov. 19 as the fourth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida,

pending the required consents from a majority of bishops with jurisdiction and standing committees of the Episcopal Church.

Fr. Brewer was elected on the 4th ballot out of a field of seven nominees. He received 141 votes of 241 cast in the lay order and 110 of 192 cast in the clergy order. An election on that ballot required 125 in the lay order and 95 in the clergy order.

The election was held during the diocese's special convention at Trinity Preparatory School, Winter Park. Pending a successful consent process, Fr. Brewer will succeed the Rt. Rev. John W. Howe, who is retiring.

Under canons of the Episcopal Church, a majority of bishops exercising jurisdiction and diocesan standing committees must consent to the bishop-elect's ordination as bishop within 120 days of receiving notice of the election.

Calvary-St. George's Church is a 500-member, multi-cultural and multiracial, "program-size" parish with landmarked historic buildings in downtown Manhattan.

Before serving there, Fr. Brewer was rector of Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli, Pa., which had 1,800 members. Good Samaritan is a 150-year-old corporate-size and in an affluent suburban area known as the "Main Line." Because of its commitment to Biblical orthodoxy and discipleship the congregation was drawn from a large geographic area.

Consecration of Fr. Brewer as the fourth bishop of Central Florida is scheduled for March 24 at First Baptist Church of Orlando, followed by the Retirement of Bishop John W. Howe.

Fr. Brewer was not in Winter Park for the Central Florida election because his diocese, New York, also was electing its next bishop.

"I'm just very excited to return to Central Florida and will pray for God's blessings on our work together there," he said by phone after the election.

Fr. Brewer is married to the former Laura Lee Williams of Orlando. Children are Charles, James, Todd, Lee and Mark.

He received his BA from Lynchburg College, where he received the Hugh M. Burleigh Award for Outstanding Ministerial Student, 1973. He received his M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1976. He also is close to completing his doctorate at Fuller Theological Seminary and Trinity School for Ministry.

He was ordained a deacon at St. John's Episcopal Church, Lynchburg VA, with Bishop Henry Marmion presiding. He was ordained priest at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Winter Park, with Bishop William Folwell presiding.

He has published articles in *The Anglican Digest*: articles appearing regularly 1985-2007. *Bible Reading Fellowship: Journey Through the Word Series. The Coming of the Lord, Second Corinthians, the Pastoral Epistles. First Thessalonians.*

Fr. Brewer is an Eagle Scout who also says he loves the beach, sailing, hospitality, friendship, cooking and having people over for dinner.

He enjoys theater, British mystery shows, reading, classical and jazz music, contemporary Christian worship, travel, current events. He considers himself endlessly curious, learning about other cultures, and committed to being a lifelong learner.

YOUTH NEWS

High School (grades 9-12)



January 21 8:30a.m.
A Gift for Teaching Outreach
Looking ahead....
Happening, March 9-11, 2012

YOUTH PARENT MEETING

A meeting for parents of youth in grades 6-12 will be held on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 6p. We'll eat dinner and talk about our Youth Ministry plans for the rest of the school year. This is an important meeting, so please make plans to join us!



Middle School (grades 6-8)

January 8 – 6p.m.
Three Kings
January 15 —
No Meeting...Holiday Weekend
January 22 – 6p.m.
To be or not to be.....
January 29 – 6p.m.
Cranium Antics
Looking ahead....
New Beginnings, February 17-19, 2012



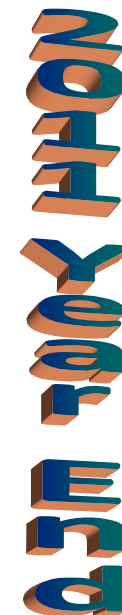
High School Youth at Hubbard House

FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Contribution statements will be mailed as soon as possible in January, 2012. If there are any discrepancies, please contact Sharon in the church office. Please note that there are several ways to contribute to the church and increase your tax benefits for 2011. Check with your financial advisor or accountant for further details.

New 2012 contribution envelopes that were requested are in the church ready for pickup. *You must request 2012 envelopes.* If you would like envelopes, please call or email the church office with the request. If you wish, they can be mailed out to you. Church office, 407-657-9199 or sharonbailey@earthlink.net.

It is not too late to turn in 2012 pledge cards. They can be found in the display case in the church hallway or ask any usher and they will be happy to provide one for you.



National Restaurants	
Applebee's \$10.0 @5.0%	Mim's Cafe \$10.0 @8.0%
Applebee's \$25.0 @8.0%	Mim'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. Chang'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%
Buce 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%	Quiznos \$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 @3.0%	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 @5.0%
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%	Smoky 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 @9.0%	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%
Boals \$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%
Claire's \$10.0 @9.0%	Sam's Club \$25.0 @2.0%
Crate 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%	Telbots \$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%
Halfmark \$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	
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:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DIOCESAN NEWS



Diocesan Convention Delegates Needed

Jan. 21, 2012

Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, Melbourne

Diocesan Convention is a gathering of representatives from each church in the diocese which happens once a year. It is an amazing gathering of Episcopalians from across Central Florida which always provides opportunities for sharing ideas, gaining inspiration, and sharing stories.

The Convention begins with worship and continues following the agenda set before it which includes: electing people to serve on diocesan boards and committees, hearing reports from a variety of ministry groups in the diocese, welcoming new congregations, listening to the Bishop's address, and taking care of other business that comes before it.

We need three (3) delegates and two (2) alternates to represent St. Matthew's. Please speak to Pastor Sonia if you are interested!

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY



In western Christian tradition, January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day.

The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." The Season

of Epiphany (Jan. 6 until Ash Wednesday) remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

Some of the principal themes of the season include: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, Christ as the light of the world, the public ministry of Jesus Christ, including Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana, and growth in a Christian's baptized identity.

WELCOME TO:



Nathan Kent Holiday



Elsa Hernandez

FAREWELL TO:



Richard Mangiagli



Steve and Judy Hrycaj



TREASURER'S REPORT

FROM: Hugh Fisher

SUBJECT: November 2011 Financial Report

Income:

Income for the month of November was \$18,820. This was under budget by \$4,030. Pledge income was under budget by \$1,630 at \$8,970. Non-pledge contributions were down at \$3,788 under budget. Rummage sale income was booked in November for \$1,479. Year-to-date we are \$14,161 under our revenue projections.

Rummage sale income cannot be booked as miscellaneous income since we use a designated fund to account for income and expenses. The spring rummage sale therefore did not show up in the income statements prior to this month when I made the correction. I have backed out the income from miscellaneous Income.

Expenses:

Total expenses for the month were \$18,210, under budget by \$5,966. Year-to-date we are showing expenses as \$1,558 over budget.

Fund Balances:

The checking account shows a balance of \$24,212 in designated funds. The renovation 2011 designated fund is down to \$1,192.

We have \$25,972 in the operating fund.

The Money Market Account has a balance of \$38,004.

VESTRY NOMINEES FOR 2012

Nominations for St. Matthew's Vestry 2012

Louise Samuelson has been a member of St. Matthew's for 8 ½ years. She is very involved in parish life and serves as a lay Eucharist minister. She belongs to the altar guild, breakfast teams, and leads a spiritual formation group. Louise also develops and facilitates adult education.

She is married to Frank Samuelson and they have three children: Peter 23, Eric 19 and Martha 16. Louise's hobbies include reading, playing tennis and walking.

She is currently employed at Campus Crusade for Christ where she is Spiritual Director and Spiritual Formation leader.



Steve Jones has been an active member of St. Matthew's for over 20 years. He is currently involved extensively with Cursillo, and has been an usher, weekly counter, as well as a member of the lawn team.

He is married to Sue Jones. They have grown children and spouses: Michael Jones 38, Lilly Jones 38, Scott Jones 37, Melanie Oliver 34 and Stephen Oliver 39; and four grandchildren, Dylan 4, Allison 7, Emily 6, and Tyler 2.

Steve is self-employed and is a general agent for Life Insurance and Investments.



His hobbies are camping, travel, and a 12 hours at Sebring race fan. His major distractions are his grandchildren and golf.

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 Depots\$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%					

**High School
Mission Trip
July 1 – 7
New York City**



We will join other teen volunteers to prepare and serve meals at soup kitchens; provide recreational activities and companionship to young, formerly homeless children; distribute food and supplies at food pantries; socialize and bring snacks to people in drop-in centers.

Our teams will go to a different service site each day so that, by the end of the week, the team has seen a variety of different services provided in the city and different neighborhoods in that city. On one evening, we prepare a meal for homeless people who sleep in a shelter nearby. The shelter guests and our team come together for a relaxing dinner and social time. This relatively brief service project gives us a common experience and begins to break down stereotypes about homeless people.

One afternoon we will meet with a resource person, someone involved in direct service to homeless and hungry people or advocacy. In sharing frontline experiences and reflections, the speaker draws the students into a discussion on the causes of homelessness and hunger, society's response to homelessness, and the students own feelings about these issues. After our work is done each day, we will take much needed showers, power naps, and then explore and enjoy the city.

The total cost of the trip is \$500 and **NO** additional money will be needed by the students unless they choose to purchase souvenirs. Deposits of \$125 are due Nov. 30, Jan. 30, March 30, and May 30.

In order to participate in the trip, students must attend at least half of our Youth Group Outreach events and a retreat weekend such as Happening or the Spring Retreat. The student and family must participate in fund raising activities.

While Savannah is a lovely Southern city with much to brag about, its rapidly growing population has contributed to city struggles such as poverty and homelessness. Our group will reach out to this community through partnering with local ministries to serve the homeless, the elderly and children and assist the city with house painting and repair projects. We will join with youth from all over the southeast to carry out our work, to worship, and to play. It will be an amazing week of self discovery and faith building!

On our way home, we'll stop to play at Summer Waves and celebrate a job well done!

The total cost for the trip is \$325. This covers **everything** – no additional money (even spending money) will be needed. Deposits of \$82 are due on Nov. 30, Jan. 30, March 30, and May 30.

In order to participate in the Mission Trip, a student must attend at least half of our normal youth group meetings and a retreat weekend such as New Beginnings or Spring Retreat. The student and family must participate in fund raising activities.

**For High School and Middle School
Mission Trips**

**Deadline for registration is January 29th,
2012. Make sure to have the first 2
deposits paid by January 29th, 2012.**

**Middle School
Mission Trip
July 29 – Aug 3
To Savannah GA**

Frank Samuelson has been a member of St. Matthew's since 2003. He is an active member of St. Matthew's and serves as a lay Eucharist minister and lay reader. He is also a member of the breakfast teams. Frank helps develop and facilitate adult education programs through the year.

He is married to Louise Samuelson and they have three children: Peter 23, Eric 19, and Martha 16. Frank's hobbies include biking and hiking.

Frank is currently employed at Campus Crusade for Christ where he is the Prayer Center director.



Janet Balistieri has been a member at St. Matthew's for 6 years and has been an active member belonging to the kitchen and breakfast teams.

She is engaged to James Taylor and has two children, Kayla Sinjakovic and Zachary Grabbe.

Janet is currently employed by Audina Hearing Institute where she is an account representative.

Peter Larson is a newcomer to St. Matthew's and has attended for the last 1 ½ years. He has settled in and is now deciding where his gifts lie, whether lay reading, adult education or campus ministry. He would also like to work with local food pantries.

He is married to Stacie Larson. His hobbies include camping and hiking. He was very involved in the Boy Scouts where he achieved the award of Eagle Scout.

He is currently an Associate Professor, History at the University of Central Florida.



Jennifer (Santilli) Hambly has been a member of St. Matthew's since 1992. She has been a busy member of St Matthew's past and present serving on the flower guild and ushering as well as serving as a lay reader.

She is married to Brent Hambly and they have a daughter Emma who is 15 mos. Her hobbies include anything involving family and friends, being outdoors, especially the beach and watching movies.

Jennifer is currently employed by Orlando Health where she is an internal auditor.



Deborah Brown has been a member of St. Matthew's for 10 years. She is an active member of St. Matthew's serving as an usher and lay reader and is also a past member of the breakfast teams.

She is married to Charles and has three children Monica Moss (married), Travis Brown (married) and Jeffrey Brown. Debbie's hobbies include reading, traveling and dancing.

She is currently employed by Orange County Public Schools and is an Executive Area Director.



WELCOME TO LIBBY SELLER

Season's Greetings to everyone at St. Matthews Parish! My name is Libby Sellers and I am going to be the Parish Musician here, beginning in the new year. I am looking forward to serving with you and for you in the music ministry.

I come from a musical family. My sister, brother, and I all play instruments, and have served in church music ministry during our adult lives. My mother, a very talented musician, all taught us to play the piano, because this was her way of sharing herself with us. She also did many things to encourage our spiritual growth. My sister and I decided to major in music. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education at East Carolina University, in Greenville, North Carolina. Did I mention that I was a Tarheel from many generations back? My family has lived in North Carolina since before the Revolutionary War, so I am a PROUD Tarheel. I met my husband, Dan, at school. He is a fine organist, and has been a church musician for several years. He is also a nurse. We have a college-age son, Paul, who is our pride and joy.

I am a career music teacher; I have taught school for over twenty-five years. I am currently teaching at St. Andrew Catholic School in Orlando. I have also taught English, Social Studies, and Theater Arts part of the time, because those are three subjects that I am also passionate about! I have participated in community theater here for several years. My dream is to FINALLY play the Mother Abbess role in a production of *The Sound of Music*. I have played two of the other "big nun" roles, but I have never landed that one yet. Someday... I am also part of a five lady singing group, *The St. Andrew Sisters* (Yes, we are on youtube). We have a lot of fun, and are available for club meetings, rehearsal dinner parties, etc.

My prayer for you all in the new year is that God will continue to bless St. Matthew's and the music ministry. I wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

NEW WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

**St. Matthew's
Contemplative Prayer Service
Second and Fourth Wednesdays each month.**

Please join us for a contemplatively styled worship and prayer service, with Eucharist:

*Wednesday, January 11th
6:15 pm to 7:00 pm
In the Sanctuary of the Church.*

BIBLE STUDIES TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

EVENING STUDY

On 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights (starting Jan. 18th), we'll have a Brown Bag Bible Study beginning at 6:30p.m. Bring your dinner or snack and come ready for a great discussion based on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. We'll look at it in context of when it was written and how it might impact our world today. No preparation for this Study is necessary!

MORNING STUDY

Beginning January 5th, Thursday mornings at 9a.m., join us for an hour of exploration of the Bible. We'll conquer a book at a time starting with Paul's letters -- putting the writing in context, discussing what the impact of such writings were for the people who received them, and seeking ways which they impact our lives today.



Bishop Nicholas visits



Baptism of Maia



Youth learning to knit



Baking cookies for the Orlando Resue Mission



Family Sunday Ushers



Christ the King Children's sermon



Diaconate ordination of Michelle Ortiz

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The Webster dictionary defines "homecoming" as "the return of a group of people, usually on a special occasion, to a place formerly frequented or regarded as home."



On Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 Saint Matthew's Church held, what we hope will be, its first annual Holiday Homecoming Celebration.



The event offered activities for children of all ages, family photo opportunities, a great meal, cookie door prizes, and a mini silent auction and raffle. But most of all it offered all of us the chance to get to know the people we see every week. It offered us a chance to sit and chat with folks we haven't seen in a while. It gave us a chance to share the fellowship that is Saint Matthew's Church.



So if you are one of the more than 125 people who joined us for this event, we hope you enjoyed it. If you did not attend we hope you will join us for the 2nd Annual Holiday Homecoming.



The committee wants to thank everyone who helped out. As usual there were a lot of you and we are grateful. We want to thank the Campbell family for donating the food for our Italian Feast. You all made this possible.



THE CONTEMPLATIVE CORNER

Brought to you each month by your spiritual directors, Jan Rogers & Louise Samuelson

Life in the 21st century moves at lightning speed. Sometimes, trying to be present with what is going on in my life is like trying to stop the sands in an hourglass. I can turn it upside down but the sand simply keeps running in the other direction. That sounds like me chasing my tail! To quiet the movement of the sand of time, I must intentionally lay the hourglass on its side. And so it is within my own life: I must be intentional about finding a speed break in the midst of my fast-paced days.

In its wisdom our Christian tradition makes provision for this laying down of time. Meditation and Contemplation are tried and true friends of those who seek to stop the blur of time and be present in the moment. Our faith tells us that what we are seeking in these moments of being present is the very presence of God. We are seeking Emmanuel: God-with-us. When we choose to still ourselves in the practice

of Meditation we are choosing to open ourselves to a space in time where we simply wait on God and God's gift of Contemplation. So, how do we do this??

Gathering with others in a contemplative prayer service is helpful way to intentionally carve out time, share a moment with God. Our first contemplative service on January 11th will be modeled on the Taize Prayer form. You will be invited into "Silence, Simplicity and Singing". A leisurely rhythm in a gently lit space will provide time to reflect on ancient icons, short meditative offerings and brief bible readings, and to participate in Taize songs and Eucharist. There will be no sermon, no announcements, and no distractions. In fact there will be as few words as possible. Join us in this chance to stop and dwell in the presence of Christ, with our St. Matthew's family.

Some Definitions
Meditation - is where we, in our deep attentiveness to whatever is present, open our whole being to the presence of God. In this space, Contemplation is God's gift to us.
Contemplation - draws us into the experience God's divine love. This experience is sometimes likened to "Resting in the arms of God." It is here, in the experience of God-with-us, that our hearts are expanded and that we come closer to seeing the world through God's eyes. It is here that we learn to love what God loves.

Your "Pew" Neighborhood

Do You Know Your Neighborhood?

Because of the layout of our sanctuary, it is difficult to know all the people who join you for worship on Sunday mornings....but you can get to know those who sit around you in your "pew" neighborhood.

If you don't know someone's name, introduce yourself. It is the responsibility of each of us to reach out to another! Don't be afraid to engage in conversation! Ask the obvious questions like do they have children, where do they work, what do they like to do, what do they do at St. Matthew's, etc.



January Birthdays

Norma Williamson	January 3	Nolan Wood	January 13
Gregory Hess	January 5	Gloria Lindsey	January 15
Holly Hultgren	January 6	Alexis DiBlanda	January 17
Richard Perry	January 6	Paul Dorr	January 18
Heather Ruppel	January 6	Lois Mitchell	January 19
Jennifer Dorr	January 7	Joanne Behers	January 27
James Gibbs	January 7	Anne Campbell	January 27
Debbie Cross	January 8	John Gay	January 28
Nicole Phanstiel	January 8	Chloe Jenkins	January 30
Doslyn Palmer	January 9		

January Anniversaries

Young, Al & Susan	January 2
Mello, David & Pam	January 5
Fritch, Charlie & Patty	January 8
Jones, Christiana & Beresford	January 8



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 appointments.

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: Rachael Patterson, Margaret Collison, Karen & Rodica Sears, Sgt. J. Morgan Klingshin, D.C. Poplin, Gordon Bentley, Penny Morales, Delmer Morgan, Bruce Layman, Tyler Ferguson, Eric Martin, Penny Miller, Chris Lloyd, Honey Poti, Heather Johnson, Bill Young, Sherry Culp and Cody.

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

PARISH LIFE

SAINTS AND SINNERS SUPPER CLUB

Please consider joining us for this seasons SAINTS AND SINNERS SUPPER CLUB.

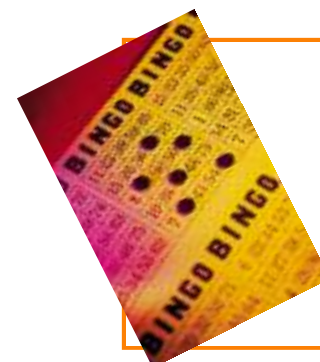
For those of you who may not be familiar with SAINTS AND SINNERS, it is a small group gathering intended to help us all get to know our fellow parishioners better. We split into groups of eight people and take turns meeting in each others homes on a monthly basis for food, fun, and fellowship.

We will have a group gathering in January at which time we will split into groups and start our monthly meetings in February.

I really hope you will join us.

There is a sign-up sheet on the parish life table.

Watch the bulletin for more details or contact Hazel at 407 463 8466, hazelforbis@yahoo.com



BINGO NIGHT

February 3
7:00 p.m.

Bingo for ALL ages...bring a friend!
Munchies, Sangria, Prizes, lots of fun!
(This is a fundraiser for our Youth)

We are happy to accept Christmas gifts that have not found a happy home to be used as prizes for our games.



CHILI COOK-OFF AND HAYRIDE 2011

