



# A VIEW FROM ST. MATTHEW'S

## Rector Message



Charles Fritch, Rector

At our last vestry meeting the dates for our annual meeting and vestry retreat were chosen. Even prior to this, at the November meeting, discussion occurred concerning new vestry members to replace those completing their terms. When I first came to St. Matthew's we were much smaller and nine vestry members were adequate. As we grew and formed new committees the need for twelve members became apparent. With new members being asked to serve for three years, we find ourselves in a position that four new members are needed each year.

I cannot emphasize enough how important the vestry is. In addition to making all official decisions for the parish, they also set priorities and implement suggestions. Most importantly, I have always held that the vestry is to model for the parish the words of Jesus, "See how they love one another." This is not always easy since some of the vestry work involves thinking of the parish as not only a group of people attempting to follow and implement the message of Jesus, but also keep a balance with the reality that the parish is a business that needs to pay bills, hire staff, and contribute to those in need both within and outside the parish. How to best do this is not always clear.

Depending on the committee assignment, the work of a vestry member is often difficult as well as time-consuming and often times thankless. Much work such as education, evangelism, outreach and pastoral care requires finding helpers and holding meetings to be effective. This is just a long way of saying that we need dedicated individuals to consider allowing themselves to be recommended for vestry next year. It would be really good if they could attend the annual meeting on the January 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition to this the vestry retreat has been scheduled for Friday evening Jan. 22 and Saturday morning Jan. 23. Please let me know if you are open to this or would like to discuss it.

I need to also mention that our diocesan convention will be held in Lakeland on the last Saturday of the month, Jan. 30. This year it will be only one day. If anyone would like to serve as a delegate, please let me know. As a parish we are entitled to three members along with myself. Delegates elect members to the standing committee as well as the diocesan board and vote on different resolutions presented.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The newsletter deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.*
- *Article or information submissions can be sent to: [stmatthews@earthlink.net](mailto: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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## TREASURER'S REPORT

FROM: Hugh Fisher  
SUBJECT: November 2009 Financial Report



### Income:

Income for the month of November was over budget by \$6,111. This was primarily due to an insurance reimbursal payment of \$5,211. Year-to-date income is \$261,674 or \$9,231 over budget.

### Expenses:

Total expenses for the month were over budget by \$2,832. This was due primarily to the budgeted outreach disbursements which were flowed to occur in October. Income exceeded expenses by \$10,713.

Year-to-date expenses are \$246,552 or \$2,026 under budget leaving us a net income of \$15,122.

### Fund Balances:

The checking account shows a balance of \$66,253 with \$21,352 in designated funds and \$44,904 in the general fund.

The money market account has a balance of \$70,216. This includes the memorial funds, memorial garden fund and the building fund.

The funded reserve in the credit union has \$15,985.

## VESTRY NEWS

January 10, 2010 has been set as the date of the annual meeting of the parish. Four vestry positions are up for election at the annual meeting. The vestry retreat is scheduled for Friday evening, January 22, and Saturday, January 23.

The 2010 Budget was approved by the vestry and will be presented at the annual meeting.

Carpets in the church and parish hall offices will be cleaned after Christmas for the new year.

Stewardship responses are coming in more slowly than in previous years. There's still time to send yours in or place it in the collection plate at a Sunday service.

Fr. Charlie Fritch expressed gratitude to the hospitality committee and all others who helped provide support for the recent funeral services of Rita Carew and Ron Campbell.

Submitted by Paige Hinton, secretary

## OUTREACH IS CONTAGIOUS

Charlie,

Here is some good news for you and further proof that Saint Matthew's is contagious.

The employees at McCoy bought gifts for 44 kids at Lancaster. It took two vans to deliver all the gifts. We asked our vendors to donate prizes and we used those to sell raffle tickets. With 200 employees the raffle raised nearly \$1,100. And....we had 25 of the kids "adopted." In addition to the gifts we were able to buy winter jackets for all 44 kids and donate 14 extra jackets for emergencies.

Needless to say Connie and her folks were thrilled.

I attached a picture for you.

Keep spreading the word.

Pam Mello



## FEED MY SHEEP

As the holiday season comes to a close and our special outreach project for the Hope Foundation ends, we need to be reminded that the need does not end. The need exists all the time.

The Sonshine Community Thrift and Food Pantry in Oviedo is part of the Hope Foundation. It provides food to at least 80 families three times a week.

In an effort to confront this problem we will be collecting food on an ongoing basis and taking it

to the Hope Foundation food pantry. Any non-perishable food item is greatly appreciated.

Suggested items are: canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, box dinners, cereal and beans.

Food can be left on the hutch in the corner of the parish hall. Make it a habit to bring in food each week as part of your offering.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Richard Wheatley.

### Help the Homeless by Donating Toiletries

WOW! - WithOut Words, the St. Matthew's youth group will be collecting toiletries throughout the year to pass out to the homeless during our monthly food serve. Please donate any travel sized toiletries, including those from any hotel you stay at, by dropping them off in the youth room at any time. Items needed are shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, q-tips, hand sanitizer, deodorant and feminine products. Please keep the donations coming in as the need becomes greater. Thank you for your help with this project!

## KAIROS UPDATE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Another year has passed and St. Matthew's never ceases to amaze me. Through this last year with the financial problems of the world, we have continued serving God in so many ways. I have been involved in Kairos prison ministry for 14 years and am so thankful to this parish for supporting me in this ministry. This is one of the givingest parishes in the diocese and I am always

proud to say, "I'm from St. Matthew's." Thank you again for all the prayers, cookies, and love you share with me and the inmates and Lake Correctional Institution.

Let's start off 2010 and be sure that everyone in Orlando knows that St. Matthew's stands for serving God in whatever He asks of us.

With love,  
Pat Shaughnessy

## THE SHARING CENTER



the  
**Sharing**  
center

Because  
We CARE,  
We SHARE

### Resolve to Know The Christian Sharing Center Better This Year

Did you know The Sharing Center operates the largest food pantry in Seminole County? And is the only agency in Seminole County with staff available to help people in need of life-saving medications or a physician's care? If you haven't been to visit The Sharing Center lately, you really should get acquainted! You are invited to take a tour, individually or with a group, and see where your food and other donations end up when you give them to The Sharing Center. Please visit [www.thesharingcenter.org](http://www.thesharingcenter.org)

and click on "Schedule Tour" at top right or call 407.691.3113.

### Volunteer Workdays Needed

Individuals and groups of volunteers are always welcome and greatly needed around The Sharing Center. Groups from churches and businesses especially needed for workdays (or half-days) Monday – Saturday. To volunteer yourself or arrange for a group team-building event, please call Michael, 407.691.3114, or email- [michael.kenyon@thesharingcenter.org](mailto:michael.kenyon@thesharingcenter.org).

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING AND FLOWERS THANK YOU

Once again the Advent greens and Christmas flowers for our church were absolutely beautiful and it could not have been achieved without the help of so many of the parishioners at St. Matthew's. The beautiful arrangements dramatically enhance the magnificence of the holiday and its spiritual meaning.

Thank you all so very much for your help. I am

always overwhelmed by the pride we share when we step back and look at the finished product. May you and your families be blessed with the most wonderful Christmas ever.

Peace and happiness to you all,  
Debby Wunderly



## ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING

The Companions in Christ spiritual formation group meets on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 in the parish hall. On January 12th we will begin a new contemplative study of the book, **Why the Mystics Matter Now** by Frederick Bauerschmidt. The class will last eight weeks. We welcome new participants to join us. The book is available online with various sellers. Check it out and see if it peaks your interest. There are seven chapters, every one focusing on the individual and unique path each Mystic traveled with God.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The young adult group meets Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. For more information about this group or any events listed below, please contact Frank Samuelson, 407-247-3487.

- |         |                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/4/10  | Planning meeting at the church.      |
| 1/11/10 | Group time at the church.            |
| 1/18/10 | Lutheran Haven outreach.             |
| 1/25/10 | Group time and social at the church. |

## PASTORAL CARE

**PASTORAL CARE** is one of the ways we minister to those in need. We provide meals for people who have had recent surgeries or given birth. 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.

But we can't do any of this without **your** help. PLEASE, if someone you know needs help, contact the church office (407-657-9199), Charlie at [cfritch@earthlink.net](mailto:cfritch@earthlink.net), or Bill Young (407-282-0436) at [walyoung@bellsouth.net](mailto:walyoung@bellsouth.net).

Please use the same contacts if you would like to publish good news, a new baby, a wedding, or the return of a loved one from hazardous military service.

**GOOD NEWS – Angela Wheeler** is home again. She and her new son, **Benjamin M. Wheeler** are doing very well. We are thankful for your prayers.

**We are praying for:** Margaret Collison, Henry & Mary Alice Kephart, Ellen Marshall, Ann McCaulley, Audrey Crowe, Martha Ellis, Carmen Davis, Bill Baumcum, June and Ken Davis, Melissa and Stephanie Davis, Cristina Torres. Mona Cotton, James Likavec, Jonathan Davis, Glee Finegan, Patricia Pendergrass, Joshua Williamson, Yvonne Tyler, James Blanton, Susan Young, Bill Haycock, Ellen Radak, Emily Butler Ball, Karen and Rodica Sears, Eleanor Rozzo, Lucius Dean, and Bill Petty.



## YOUTH GROUP—JANUARY 2010 CALENDAR

### WOW! – WithOut Words

#### Sunday, January 3

Youthquake deposits dues.

10:15 am—Youth Sunday school.

11:30-2:45—*Mending Hearts* outreach (Team 2)—a two hour camp run by the St. Matthews youth group as a service to the children of a disadvantaged neighborhood. It is done the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. There are two teams. If interested, please contact Ellen to sign up. This week, team 2 departs after the 10:15 service and returns to St. Matthew's at 3 pm. Service hours.

6:00-8:00 pm—Evening meeting.

#### Sunday, January 10

10:15 am—Youth Sunday school.

6:00-8:00 pm—Evening meeting.

#### Friday, January 15 to Monday, January 18-

Youthquake. Drop-off at St. Michael's at 5 am. Pick-up at same place tentatively at 7:30 am.

#### Sunday, January 17

10:15 am—No Youth Sunday school.

11:30-2:45—No *Mending Hearts*.

6:00-8:00pm—No evening meeting.

#### Sunday, January 24

10:15 am—Youth Sunday school.

6:00-8:00- Evening meeting.

#### Wednesday, January 27

5 pm-- *Feed the Homeless* at Lake Eola. Meet on the corner of Osceola and Central. We will help serve dinner and give toiletries and snacks to the homeless.

#### Sunday, January 31

10:15 am—Family Sunday, no youth Sunday school.

6:00-8:00—Evening meeting.

#### Future Dates to Remember:

*Mending Hearts* outreach—1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

*Feed the Homeless* outreach—Last Wednesday of each month.

BCAD—March 12-14, 2010. Camp Wingmann.

Emerge—April 23-25, 2010. Camp Wingmann.

### GAME SYSTEMS

Are you buying or getting a new video game system this Christmas? The youth group would love to get game system donations for the youth room and events. Please bring them to the church or contact Ellen at (407) 756-8486 or eshepstone@gmail.com.

*Preach the Gospel to all the world, and, if necessary, use words.* —St. Francis of Assisi

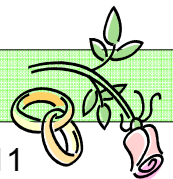
**CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY 2010  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**



Emma Davies January 2  
 Melissa Duran January 2  
 Brooke Sincebaugh January 2  
 Isabella Otero January 3  
 Norma Williamson January 3  
 Hila Velez January 4  
 Tia Bass January 5  
 Gregory Hess January 5  
 Richard Perry January 6  
 Maya Surrency January 6  
 Debbie Cross January 8  
 Nicole Phanstiel January 8  
 Doslyn Palmer January 9  
 Jean Kastrinos January 10  
 Kaitlyn Ashley Ambrose January 11  
 Tracy Hinkle January 14  
 Kiele Mohre January 14

Ellen Foust January 15  
 Tim Golden January 15  
 Gloria Lindsey January 15  
 Alexis DiBlanda January 17  
 Gianna Fernandez January 17  
 Lukas Golden January 19  
 Lois Mitchell January 19  
 Rebecca Newman January 20  
 Emily Williams January 20  
 Eddie Radziski January 21  
 Evan Valdyke January 22  
 Holly Anderson January 25  
 Anne Campbell January 27  
 John Gay January 28  
 Paul Olsen-Neal January 29  
 Chloe Jenkins January 30

**HAPPY ANIVERSARY!!**



Mr. & Mrs. Matt Aliberti January 2  
 Mr. & Mrs. Al Young January 2  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Mello January 5  
 Rev. & Mrs. Charlie Fritch January 8  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bedford January 11  
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Futrell January 18  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bramley January 26  
 Mr. & Mrs. Woody Everett January 29

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
<b>Breakfast Team</b>	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Deb and Lori	Susan	Judy	Sue	Jen
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1
<b>Sunday School Teachers</b>	Martha Mannarino Caroline Byrnes Laurie Hernandez Diane Martin	Sue Spradlin Vicki Brown Jen Downs Beth Young	Julie Alvarez Laurie Hernandez Margaret Young Christina Davis	Melissa Hogan Jennifer Latterell	Jen Latterell Family Service

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

5873 N. Dean Road  
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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[WWW.STMATTHEWSORLANDO.ORG](http://WWW.STMATTHEWSORLANDO.ORG)**

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HEATHER SURRENCY

**PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR:**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 10, 2010**

**FOLLOWING THE 10:15 A.M. SERVICE**

Covered Dish Lunch

(Sign up sheets can be found in the foyer)

Vestry elections and presentation of the 2010 budget

**Baptisms**

The next scheduled opportunity for baptism is Sunday, January 10th,  
the Baptism of our Lord.

If you or a member of your family wishes to be baptized,  
please contact Fr. Charlie, 407-657-9199.