



THE **ST. MATTHIAS**

Messenger

February / March 2012

Annual State of the Parish Sermon

By Fr. David Simmons

highlights

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**Mark your Calendars!
St. Matthias Potluck
March 11th
After the Late Service!**

Messenger Change:

The Messenger newsletter is going to change to 6 issues a year instead of 10.

Tentatively the issues will be:
Feb./March,
April/May,
Summer (June, July, August),
September,
Oct./Nov., and
Dec/Jan.

See inside back cover for deadline information.

"If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! "

In his 1959 Book, "The Status Seekers," Social Critic Vance Packard describes the religious culture of the time:

"America, we keep reading, is undergoing a remendous religious renaissance. Membership is growing by a million a year, and is now up to more than 104,000,000. Per member contributions are up. Nearly a billion dollars' worth of new structures are going up in the United States each year." Vance writes that Sunday Morning was not only divided by race, but also by class. You could tell someone's social class by which church they attended. In 1959, there was really no question where the Episcopal Church was in terms of social status.

Vance's chapter on religion and class is tellingly titled, "The Long Road from Pentecostal to Episcopal." Vance wrote:

"The upper class in most United States communities is drawn more powerfully to the Episcopal church than to any other. Consider the evidence: A sociological analysis made of the leading wedding announcements involving socially prominent families in The New York Times revealed that three quarters of the weddings taking place in known Protestant churches occurred in Episcopal churches. E. Digby Baltzell found, in his study of Philadelphia society, that two thirds of the Philadelphians who were in both the Social Register and Who's Who were Episcopalian. Corporate executives are ten times as likely to list 'Episcopal' as their religious preference as are Americans at large. Episcopalian, in fact, is by far the preferred denomination of executives."

This was still detectable as late as the 90s. In my home town, the mayor, the county executive, and many of the doctors and lawyers in the county attended our Episcopal Church. It was daunting for us to pull our little rusty 1980 Honda Civic into the church parking lot every Sunday to wedge it in-between the Lexuses and Jaguars.

But things changed for the Episcopal Church. The first crack was when we took a denominational stand in favor of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, guaranteeing African-Americans the right to vote. Several schisms happened during that time, quite often predicated on the idea that the church should never speak on political matters. Prayer book revision and women's ordination created further schisms, as has the acceptance of divorce and remarriage as well as the debate over the place of

people of same sex affection. On the other hand, many people have been attracted to the Episcopal Church due to the culture that has been created by those decisions. Today's Episcopal Church is much more diverse, both in terms of race and class than it was in 1959.

There are those that note the decline in money and attendance in the Episcopal church over the last several decades, and claim that the decline is due to some sort of loss of faithfulness to the Gospel. But that idea completely ignores what's going on in society around us. Almost all religious organizations are in decline. That 1959 excerpt describes a society in the middle of a huge "Church Bubble," starting with the GI's returning home after WWII and augmented by the new mobility possible in widespread ownership of automobiles. For several decades, church membership became socially expected, and people belonged to churches at a rate that was higher than at any other point in American history. But that bubble has burst - the social advantages of attending a church have disappeared. From the most conservative to the most liberal, denominations are showing flat growth at best, and steep decline at the worst.

But before we start to wonder if God has abandoned the Church, we must look even wider in society. Almost all social organizations, from bowling leagues to fraternal organizations peaked in the late 1950s and are in decline. The Masons had 4 Million members in 1963. They had 1.5 Million in 2011. If you ask a teenager what the Knights of Pythias are, they would probably guess they are some sort of band. That's because they and many other organizations like the Elks, the Oddfellows and even the VFWs and American Legion are facing possible extinction. So what conclusions can we draw from this? First, All organizations that have a mission to create social bonds are in decline. People are finding new, less formal ways to form those bonds. Second, Religious organizations are not exempt from this effect, especially if they act primarily as a group that seeks to reinforce society and status. This is where our challenge is.

St. Matthias was part of the religious bubble, riding the success of all groups that reinforced the status seeking society of the late 50s and early 60s. We, like the entire Episcopal Church, remade ourselves on a corporate model that imitated the society at large. Members Joined, Committees multiplied, social opportunities blossomed, complex programs were created and executed. But now we are placed in a society that no longer wants those things. People are working more hours than people have since before WWII, quite often on Sunday mornings. Kids are involved in a multiplicity

of organized activities on all days and at all times. Parents do not look to the church to find a way to take up slack time. We are connected constantly, 24/7 by the Internet which we no longer have to even be sitting down at a computer to access. The church is no longer the communications hub it was decades ago. We are in a completely different world than we were in 1959, but we are slow to adjust. What adjustments are necessary? Let's work with three.

First, St. Matthias must give up the idea that we are a large church temporarily small, and come to grips with the fact that we are a small church growing larger. There is still a lot of grief over the loss of the past, and some still hope for a future that looks like that past. But that past is gone - it no longer exists anywhere. However, there are advantages to being a smaller church, filled with dedicated and talented people with a passion for the place. Due to the rapidly changing nature of the world, ministry is now more like venture capital than traditional investment. We have the ability to experiment, and if we can accept that many programs will fail in order to find others that succeed, it is possible we may thrive in this new world.

Second, We must give up ideas of program that are based in the church as the singular social hub of the 50s, and find ways to tell the story of Jesus that resonate with today's social reality. Already, we have a presence on the Internet that is eye-popping to many traditional churches. We have a dynamic web site, an e-mail list, and twitter and facebook feeds that are updated frequently. On our visitor cards, our guests indicate nearly nine times out of ten that our internet presence was how they found out about us and/or decided to give us a try.

Third, we must rediscover the fact that St. Matthias is part of a greater whole. We are Episcopalians, which literally means "people with a bishop." We are not congregationally oriented, but ordered by our membership in a diocese. Bishop Miller and his staff have been working diligently for greater transparency and accountability in a diocese where such things have not been the norm for decades. As resources become tighter, we need to be unafraid to collaborate with Episcopalians around us. We are not competing for people - as the scripture says, the harvest is great and the laborers are few. We should be concentrating on those outside the church rather than a continuous process of trading Episcopalians.

In addition, we need to be able to work ecumenically

with other churches in Waukesha. With our Epiphany and Taize services, we have made strides in resurrecting worship links in the downtown. The newly-restored downtown ministers association pulled off nothing short of a small miracle by spearheading funding for the operation of the overflow homeless shelter this year. The downtown churches are flexing their atrophied muscles, and finding that we still have strength. Future success lies not in turning inward, but sharing with our fellow Episcopalians and other Christians in the proclamation of the Good News of Christ.

So if we make those adjustments, what then? What is it that God is calling us to be in this age and culture and society? The simple answer is, the same thing that God has always called the Church to do - to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. People are thirsty to find meaning to their increasingly chaotic, scattered and segmented lives. Jesus offers the way, as he always has, to find the true meaning of our lives as beloved creations of a loving God. How do we do this? What do we do to make Christ known? I'll suggest three areas for the coming year.

The first is worship. Worship is the central act by which a church is a church. Worship reminds us that we are not ultimately about a function of "what," but about a relationship with "whom." We do worship well. We provide varied Episcopal worship that is solemn, but not fussy, beautiful, but not precious, familiar, but not sloppy. Our worship reflects both the transcendence and immanence of God. I thank God daily for all the people that make this all possible, and are so flexible with the realities of a small church. The challenge is, how do we get more people to experience it and give them a chance to fall in love with it? People will not simply walk into our doors in large numbers like they did in the 40s and 50s.

The second area is service. Several times in my four years here, we have had twenty-somethings come into our church and remark on the beauty of the service. They then ask what we do for the community and how they can get directly involved. When we have been unable to provide a tie-in for direct service, they eventually go somewhere else. Younger people believe, and rightly so from reading the Bible, that direct service is what the church should be doing.

This last year, the vestry has been challenged by deacon Kevin Stewart on how to restart this part of our Christian vocation. Unsurprisingly, homelessness was a natural

focus for us, as it has been since the establishment of Hebron House. Over the next few months, our focus will be one of hospitality - getting our physical plant ready for Hebron House to move their corporate offices to our church. This will require a lot of work and some sacrifice on our part as we fit a lot of people into the space. But I believe their presence among us will be a daily reminder that Christ calls us to serve those who need us.

Beyond that, the Vestry has identified education for the homeless as an area we can help in. Some ideas include a parents night off for residents at Hebron House as well as a tutoring program, but those ideas are still a while away and will probably wait until Hebron House is settled down. In order to serve Christ, we must orient ourselves towards service of those he particularly is concerned about - the poor and oppressed.

The third area is education. Education is the key to so many things in life. It is the key to growth in Christian Faith and life. Already, we have a truly excellent Children's Education program for a church our size. Our Education For Ministry program has eleven adults doing some very intense work around scripture, history and theology. This year, we hope to re-tool much of our more "casual" adult education, starting with a new program called "Living Compass" that we will be rolling out in Lent that looks at our lives from a holistic perspective. It is my belief that if we pay attention to these three areas, we will find ourselves a church very much more alive, very much more faithful, and very much more attractive to those who are seeking something deeper in their lives.

This parish was established in 1844 under some very trying circumstances. It has survived multiple ups and downs, some much more severe than anything we have experienced in the last decade. If we put Christ at the center and order our church accordingly, I believe God will continue to bless us, and we will see our ministry to downtown Waukesha thrive and prosper. Being people of faith, we cannot put our fundamental trust in any sociological theory, or any organization model, but only in the person we follow - our Lord Jesus Christ. May Christ continue to bless us in our ministry.

Fr. David+

February 17

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Corner of Main St. and East Ave.

Waukesha, WI, 53186



7:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING MEDIEVAL CREATIVITY

The Dawn of Joy

This imaginative concert by Shira Kammen and Margriet Tindemans (vielle, harp, and voice) and percussionist Peter Maund takes its title from an instrumental dance found in a collection of music by composers of the Italian Trecento (14th century), demonstrating the tinker's bagful of talents from the minstrels and jongleurs who improvised the original performances.



*This concert is a fund raising event for the music department of St. Matthias
Presented in collaboration with Early Music Now.*

A post concert reception will be included with your admission.

To purchase tickets contact the church office at 262-547-4838

<http://stmatthiasonline.org/> for online ticket sales

Advance tickets:	\$15 adults
(purchased by one week prior to the concert)	\$10 seniors
	\$5 students
At the door:	\$20 adults
	\$15 seniors
	\$10 students

This concert is sponsored in part by:



Brian Prom

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Mail the bottom portion of this form

Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:

Number of tickets: _____ Adult _____ Seniors
 _____ Students Total _____

Please make the check payable to St. Matthias Episcopal Church Mail this to St. Matthias at P.O. Box 824, Waukesha, WI 53187-0824

Lenten Study

Living Compass for Whole Person Wellness: Heart, Soul, Strength, Mind

This Program will be offered on
Wednesday Nights starting 12/29
and Sunday Morning Starting 12/26

It is a six-week program led by Jonie Varner and Susan Kerr on Sundays during Adult Forum and by Rev. Carla McCook and Father David on Wednesday evenings.

The word wholeness comes from the same root as holy and holiness. As Christians, whole-person wellness means that we are called to seek wholeness in all aspects of our lives. We do this by allowing God and our faith to be our compass in all dimensions of our well-being.

Based on the following verse that appears in both the Old and New Testaments, we know that we need to seek wholeness in heart, soul, body, and mind: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind.”** Luke 10:27, Deuteronomy 6:5.

Using the Living Compass, we will explore ways to more deeply connect faith and wellness.



Children's Christian Formation News

Con these two pages are some photos of the Children's Program from the Christmas Eve Family Service. Thanks to Dave McKenzie for his photography.

The traditional Christmas story was told through the narrative and songs of the pageant. Thank you to Steve Pellechia for his piano accompaniment and for teaching the children a couple of new songs this year. New headpieces were donated for Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Also, we thank our talented Micky Simmons who designed and created beautiful new angel wings. Enjoy the pictures!

Nursery Available

The nursery will be open from 9:00 am for the

Christian Education hour, all the way through the 10:15 service. Parents, make sure to sign your children in so that we know their names and where you are in the event that we need to find you.

Children's Worship Bulletins

There are Children's Worship Bulletins for two different age groups and a jar with pencils on a table in the back of the church to help youngsters through the service.

Nancy Peterson





OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Help with the Hope Center Meal Program

Volunteers are needed to help serve. Call Megan Koch, Outreach, at 547-9381 to volunteer or for more



information about our next dates. The time to report is 5:00 pm at Hope Center, 502 N. East Ave. To **serve & clean up** 6-8 people are needed (children age 14 and up welcome). Donation of dessert for 70-80 people or 6 milks if you can't come.

Caring Thru Meals Sign up for a month or be on call. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Prepare a casserole or soup for a church member! Be a blessing in times of need.

Food Items Put the items you bring into the basket at the front of the church. Food donations will be taken to the food pantry.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors visit ill and infirm members regularly. If you would like to participate in this ministry of worship and visitation, please contact the Rector. If you know of someone who would like to receive Sunday communion, contact the church office.

Knitting Ministry Knitters, we are now knitting hats. Talk to Marge Konetzki 547-1379 about a pattern to use or if you have questions about this important ministry.

Donate Flowers for weekly services Flowers can have a "memorial" or "in honor of" placed in the bulletin. Sign up on the Flower Chart in the Tardiff Room. Talk to Liz Craney if you have questions.

Jail Ministry Since the 1980's, the St. Dismas Jail Ministry has been meeting the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of inmates at the Waukesha County Jail and Huber Facilities. They are always in need of volunteers and financial support. If you feel called to this ministry, contact Virginia Hoefl at 262-549-0669.

FOOD FOR FAITH



Our giving for the Food Pantry is going to start having a monthly theme. Please place food and other items in the basket next to the pulpit.

February - Something that is **red** for Valentine s Day

Apples, jello, tomato products



March - Start the day with breakfast

Cereals, pancake mix, syrup

April - Paper products

Plates, cups , napkins

This is just an example of products for the specific month. Donations will be made to the Food Pantry and the Salvation Army.

Marge Konetzki, Jackie Johnson, Marilyn Sherer

Snow Angels Needed for 10 Waukesha Seniors

Ten seniors and adults with disabilities in Waukesha need volunteers to help with snow removal this winter. Help neighbors who live on the following streets: Jefferson Avenue, Green Road, Columbia Avenue, Wabash Avenue, Meadowood Court, Glenwall Drive, Brian Hedge Circle, Center Road and Glengarry Road. Interfaith Senior Programs will match you with neighbors who won't be safe this winter without caring volunteers to remove snow from driveways and walkways. Volunteer as a family, congregation, business or individual. Contact Marcia Rupp at Interfaith at: (262) 549-3348, extension 2409 or MarciaR@interfaithwaukesha.org



Help adorn His altar

The beauty of flowers are a gift from God.

Let us gather them to adorn His altar with thanksgiving, celebration, or remembrance.

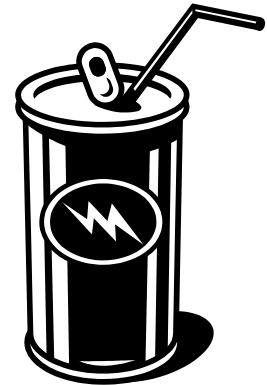
Sign ups are available on the flower chart.

An easy way to help Ronald McDonald House

Save the pull tabs from the top of your soda cans. Ronald McDonald house can use them for their fund raising efforts. Craig is willing to collect them and deliver the tabs to the Ronald McDonald house as he drives by the place several times a week.

So collect your pull tabs and give them to Craig or leave them outside the music office.

THANKS!



The Wisdom of Children

Untimely Answered Prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Gary's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Gary, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Gary answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle ... and He just then did!"

Beware of Trash

One particular four-year old prayed, "And forgive us our "trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

All Men /All Girls?

When my daughter was 3, she and my son would say their nightly prayers together. As most children do, we have to bless every family member, every friend and every pet (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "**And all girls.**" As this soon became part of her nightly routine, my curiosity got the best of me and I asked, "Why do you always add the part about all girls?"

Her response was, "Because we always finish our prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

A reminder about our general weather policy

Since I live close to the church, services will continue unless the roads are absolutely impassable. However, I do not expect anyone, member or staff, to risk themselves if they feel the roads are too dangerous. No matter what you are signed up for that Sunday, you are excused.

In the case of truly inclement weather, I will not be able to put a message on the phone system, as that can only be done at the church. A cancellation of services will be advertised two ways:

1. A notice on the front page of the web site <http://www.stmatthiasonline.org>
2. Through Channel 12, WISN, including their FM radio affiliates 96.5, 102.9, 98.3 and 106.9.

You are also welcome to call me on my cell phone. 262-373-9349

Be safe! Pray at home if you are concerned about your safety.

David+

Pastoral Care

Hospital Calls

Clergy are available for hospital visitation when the church is notified. State and Federal confidentiality laws make it impossible for clergy to know whether one has been hospitalized. Please call the office to let us know the name of the hospital at which you are staying, and room number, in order to receive this healing ministry of prayer, anointing with holy oil and pastoral care.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Lay Eucharistic Visitors visit shut-ins regularly. If you know of someone who would like to receive Sunday communion, please contact the church office at (262)547-4838.

Emergencies

In the event of a pastoral care emergency you may reach the Rector most directly by calling his cell phone at (262)347-7446.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request for yourself or on the behalf of others, please fill out the prayer request form in the back of the church and place it in the alms basin at the time of the offering, place it in the hands of an usher, or submit it to the church office.

Blood Pressure Checks

Parish Nurse, Kathy Mallory, will be doing Blood Pressure Checks on Sunday, February 19 and Sunday, March 18 in her office.

Card Sharks of St. Matthias!

The Men of Matthias will be playing Sheepshead on Friday, February 17 and Friday, March 16 beginning at 7PM. A Nickel a point and maximum of \$2. If you don't know how to play, you can sit in on a round or two before you get fleeced...



Join our text-messaging group!

Receive important messages from the church, including weather cancellations, on your cell phone. Text "stmatthias" to (760)670-3130 to join!

January / February / March Birthdays

January

- 3 James Hunkins
- 6 Dexter Schassberger, Steve Yunker
- 7 Tommy Braaten
- 8 Peg Nugent
- 23 Ethan Dornbach, Tina Holst
- 29 Catherine Clark, Marlys Huisman, Betsy Lohr

February

- 4 Virginia Wallace
- 5 Elizabeth Craney
- 6 Gwen Braaten
- 7 Nancy Peterson
- 16 John Trotter
- 18 Christopher Cole
- 19 Robin Thomas
- 20 Emily Thomas
- 21 William Harland, John Jawson
- 22 Nathan Peterson
- 25 Lee Dreyfus, Jr.
- 26 Sheri Pellechia, Sami Salem
- 28 Bob Heide

March

- 1 Robert Szczepanski
- 4 Robbi Heighway
- 6 Victoria Wallace
- 20 John Crosswaite, Susan Martzahl
- 23 Katherine Wilkiewicz
- 24 Christine Jorin
- 25 Sister Mary Grace Rom, Thomas Giles
- 28 Connor McKenzie



Note that the birthday list is based on what we currently have as information for the directory. If you know of additions or corrections to be made please email the parish office. Thank you!

Messenger Deadline

The Messenger newsletter is going to change to 6 issues a year instead of 10. The next one will be an April/May issue which should come at the beginning of April. Following issues will be Summer (June, July, Aug.), September, Oct./Nov., and Dec/Jan.

Continue to send your article/photos to Nancy Peterson via e-mail: peterson400@sbcglobal.net
The deadline will be the continue to be the third Wed of the month before. Be sure to save the enclosed Ministry Schedule.

March 21: Article deadline. (3rd Wed. of month)
Due to the Easter holiday, we will try to have your newsletter arrive as April begins.

How to reach us

Church Mailing Address: P.O. Box 824
Waukesha, WI 53187-0824

Church office E-mail: stmatthiaswk@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: www.stmatthiasonline.org

Church Fax Number: 262-547-4659

Visiting us in Waukesha
111 E. Main St. (East Ave. & Main St.)

Phone: 262-547-4838

Voice mailboxes:

Father David Simmons, Rector.....100
Craig Bodoh, Music Director103
Ginny Mack, Sexton104
Kathy Mallory, Parish Nurse106

Emergencies

In the event of a pastoral care emergency you may reach the Rector most directly by calling his cell phone at: (262)347-7446

Deadline for Service Bulletin

Please submit all items for the weekly service bulletin to the parish office at stmatthiaswk@sbcglobal.net or by calling 547-4838. **The deadline is Tuesday at 4 pm.** Copy may be edited to permit publication of maximum number of items.

Wardens and Vestry Members

Lee Dreyfus Jr.	Senior Warden (<i>term ends Jan. 2012</i>) 262-544-1104
Brian Prom	Junior Warden (<i>end Jan. 2014</i>) 262-782-4714 brianprom1@yahoo.com
Jeff Blodgett	Treasurer (<i>Ex-Officio, vestry appointed</i>) 262-408-8114
Harriet Schassberger	Fellowship (<i>end Jan. 2013</i>) 262-549-5179 harriet731@msn.com
Vicki Kutz	At Large (<i>end 2013</i>) 414-425-3553 vlkutz@wi.rr.com
Barb Heighway	Pastoral Care (<i>Jan. 2013</i>) 262-549-1722
Mary Bird	Worship (<i>end Jan. 2012</i>) 262-538-1906
Betsy Forrest	Youth Formation (<i>end Jan. 2012</i>) 262-617-5840 bforrest50@wi.rr.com
Robbi Heighway	Incorporation (<i>end Jan. 2012</i>) 262-549-3118
Catherine Clark	Outreach (<i>end Jan. 2014</i>)
Susan Kerr	Adult Formation (<i>end Jan. 2014</i>)
Betty Adams	At Large (<i>end Jan 2014</i>) 262-896-0491
Jeanne Kronebusch	Children's Formation (<i>end Jan 2014</i>)

How can I do my part?

If you're interested in serving the parish and sharing your time and talent to do God's work, contact Lee Dreyfus Jr., senior warden. Lee can be reached at 262-544-1104

St. Matthias Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 824
Waukesha, WI 53187-0824

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**DATED MATERIAL
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February/March 2012

Youth Group Schedule!

All young people of St. Matthias in 6th grade - seniors in HS are invited to participate in **Youth Group**. We have a combined group with the youth of St. Mary's in Dousman. It is a time for some spiritual reflection, sometimes service, but the focus is on fun and fellowship. St. Matthias Youth are encouraged to bring friends to the meetings. Youth Group will be meeting the following days from 12:30 - 3 pm, unless noted otherwise.

Feb 4 (9am - 1pm) Repairs of the Breach

Feb 19 Fun Day!

March 4

March 18

April 1

April 22

May 6

May 20 END OF THE YEAR PARTY

We have some activities planned for the next few meetings. If anyone needs a ride for the upcoming events or has any questions, please contact Betsy Forrest bforrest50@wi.rr.com or Jeanne (Wagner) Kronebusch 414-218-4039 orjwagner1118@wi.rr.com. We look forward to seeing you.

HOURS

Church Office Hours

9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Tuesday through Thursday

SERVICES

Saturday

5 p.m. Eucharist

Sunday Morning Hours

8 a.m. Eucharist

10:15 a.m. Eucharist