

St. Matt's Chat

Created monthly by the Parish Life Committee



December 2008

to foster communication within the congregation

Clergy Chat

A Prayer in a Troubled Economy

O Father, in all the pressures of today, help me to keep my priorities straight. Help me to share what I have with those in need, knowing that will help other things fall into place. Help me to know your blessedness. In Jesus' name. Amen

Chuck +

Special Dates

- Dec. 6 Women of the W.E.L.L. (WOW)
- Dec. 12 Supper Club Christmas Party
- Dec. 13 Angel Tree gift delivery
- Dec. 21 Children's Christmas Pageant
- Dec. 21 Lessons & Carols
- Dec. 22 Family Gathering & "greening" of the church

Did you know that:

- Our rose garden was given by Rex Jones.
- Sue Rickman, Pre-school director and Spring Kirby, MMO have been operating their programs for over 20 years.
- There are 2 small Bible study groups that have been meeting together on a regular basis for more than 25 years.
- Our courtyard garden and the azaleas have been maintained for many years by Pat Moore, Becky Mayfield, Susan Rawlings and David Kelley.
- The "greening" of the church is an old Anglican tradition of placing holly, pine and other greens in the church in preparation for the Christmas season.
- BJ Barlow has been invited to be a member of the Richmond Symphony Chorus in the upcoming Christmas concert of "Let it Snow" at the Landmark Theatre.
- Forty + St. Matthew's members journeyed to Falls Church recently to attend the ordination of Johnny Kurcina.



***The word Advent** is derived from a Latin root which means "coming" or "arrival," and the season developed in the western church as a preparation for the Nativity. Purple and blue are the colors used to welcome "kings" and are the colors of Advent.*



***An Advent prayer:** Dear God, thank you for the beauty of this Advent season. Bless us as we gather together in your name to share, to grow and to love. Help us to make this Advent a time to prepare more than we ever have before for the coming of Emmanuel. Amen*

***Look for the wise men** as they travel through the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season.*

***Apologies** to Virginia Watkins whose birthday was on the same day as Andy Harris' who is her great-grandson, and to Paula Butz whose name was spelled incorrectly in the November issue.*

At our 60th anniversary celebration, Chuck suggested that we talk with each other about what brought us to St. Matthew's. Here are some of the responses:

- Friends told us the church was warm & friendly (80's)
- I was baptized here (50's)
- Find the church where Chuck Alley is (00's)
- Came to St. Matthew's, tried out other churches and came back because David Lewis remembered our names (70's)
- On our first Sunday we were recognized by Tad as newcomers and we felt that was very welcoming (80's)
- I was invited to a Bible study (liked that), then I came to a service (liked that), then I came to Sunday school (really liked that) and I found the people warm and friendly and liked how the clergy explained things well with a touch of humor. (00's)
- We were looking for a church whose format was scripturally based, and we were inspired by the service and the many small groups (00's)

- We heard that St. Matthew's had a very strong youth group program(80's)

WHERE CAN YOU GO . . . ?

- To put your decorating skills to use
- To have your children shop for inexpensive Christmas gifts
- To have a meal that you didn't have to cook
- To hear the sounds of fun & merriment
- To serve others
- To test out your singing voices
- To stand by the fire and warm your hands and your tummies
- To have fellowship with a bunch of nice folks

ANSWER: Come to the annual "Family Gathering" and the "greening" of the church.



WHEN? Monday, December 22 from 4:00-7:30 PM

- ❖ We will adorn the church with greens; there will be activities for the children; babysitting for those under 18 months; the Fawn Shop for shoppers from 3 years to 5th graders; dinner; caroling and cider by an open fire. Sign-up sheets will soon be found in the PH, the Sunday school wing and across from the library. Please take time out from your very hectic holiday schedule and have fellowship with your St. Matthew's family. Your admission to this event is one can of food for the Central Virginia Food Bank.

Congratulations :

- ❖ to Sandra Holland who has received the "ABCD Award" from the Henrico County School System. She is a librarian at Gayton Elementary and is one of five people to receive the award that stands for "Above and beyond the call of duty."
- ❖ to our newly baptized members: Benjamin Michael Britt and Jude Williamson Burr
- ❖ to our newly confirmed members: Leigh Allin, Heidi Baird, Wynn Burr, Evan Custer, Ellen Harmer, Laura Mertz and Trent Singleton
- ❖ to everyone who ran Nov. 15 in the 8k, the Richmond Marathon and the Half-Marathon

The mission of the Parish Life Committee is to identify and provide activities, programs and traditions that help parishioners grow spiritually and in fellowship with others at St. Matthew's and in the community. The hope is that by establishing ways our parishioners and their families can participate and become more involved, the families of St. Matthew's will become closer and stronger in their faith and this will promote church growth. Our mission with God's help is that our church will be an active, vibrant, loving congregation that radiates warmth and touches many lives for the better. PL 2005

<i>December Birthdays</i>			<i>Anniversaries</i>	
Dec. 3 Nancy Lentz	Dec. 17 Alex Schreck		Dec. 28 Mary Campbell & Husband (1984)	
Dec. 5 Jim Cocke & Warren Malone	Dec. 20 Eva Brown		Dec. 30 Ned & Pam Roach (1972)	
Dec. 6 Alice Viverette	Dec. 22 Kaki Vint		Dec. 30 Deane & Susan Wettstone (1995)	
Dec. 7 Southall Stone	Dec. 25 Don Hartford			
Dec. 12 John Hillestad	Dec. 29 Harry Wilkins			
	Dec. 31 Susan Wettstone			

Don't forget to fill out a Birthday/Anniversary slip if you wish that information to be included in a future issue of the St. Matt's Chat. Please place the slips in the "cake boxes" in the narthex or Parish Hall.

Feel free to contact any member of the Parish Life Committee with any fun or interesting tidbits to include in future issues.