

St. Matt's Chat

Created monthly by the Parish Life Committee



March 2009

to foster communication within the congregation

Clergy Chat:

We might call March 2009 the month of Hope. During the Wednesday evening Lenten series the clergy will be developing our understanding of what it means to be a Community of Hope. We will be looking at the concept of hope, the content of Christian hope, and what living according to that hope might look like. The 5-week series begins at 7 pm, Wednesday March 4 and concludes Wednesday April 1 (no foolin'!). Come join us for Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 5:45, followed by a potluck supper in the Parish Hall at 6:15, before the teaching at 7. Bring the whole family. There will be separate programs for children and youth.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 4** Lenten services & dinners begin
- March 7** W.O.W. gathering 10-12:00
- March 14** Supper Club
- March 17** St. Patrick's Day
- March 20-21** St. Margaret's Women's Retreat
- March 28** St. John's Choir concert**
Monument Avenue 10K*
(* & **See below)

*It is 10K again!!!!

Parish Life recognizes that many in the Metro area are preparing for the Monument 10K on March 28 including members at St. Matthew's. We would like to identify those in our church family who will be participating in the 10K and Kids Mile, and provide a designated area on the race route for our members to gather to cheer on our runners and walkers. Our spectator spot will be at the turn around point of the course (Monument/Chantilly). Access/parking to this point should be relatively simple from the West End. The spot lends itself to other creature comforts for spectators as well. :))

We encourage runners/walkers to post their name and wave or bib number on a list on the bulletin board across from the church bathrooms. We also encourage the congregation to come out to cheer everyone on. The list of runners/walkers will be available so that the cheer team will know who to be looking for and when. Have a great time, EVERYONE!!!!

Did you know that:

- The Alpha program began at St. Matthew's in 1995 with a weekly spaghetti dinner, teaching and small groups. It is a 14 weeks course in basic Christianity. There are still 2 groups that meet on a regular basis. One of the mottos of the program is to always keep an empty chair for a new member.
- St. Matthew's had a Young Adult Group that organized in about 1975. The members did many projects in the church especially in the Sunday School wing such as painting classrooms and hallways and installing carpet in the nursery. They were instrumental in organizing progressive dinners and hosting the annual crab feasts and oyster roasts. Several of the moms from the group began a Mother's Morning Out program that is still an ongoing outreach ministry under the directorship of Spring Kirby. Many of these folks are still here but can no longer be considered the Young Adult Group!!!!
- Nancy Knight was our first woman Senior Warden
- In 1988 a monthly Friday night worship began with a service of music, teaching and prayer.
- Jim Rinehart and Stan Banks once headed our Visitation Committee.
- An Adult Education Committee was first formed in 1988.
- We became a "sender" church when our own Paul and Christie Walker were called to serve in Haiti in 1988.
- The ECW has the St. Matthew's cookbook, More Sainly Season's for sale at a cost of \$10. Proceeds go for the beautification of our church.
- Our former rector, Tad deBordenave published an article titled, "The Call of the Good Shepherd" in the Reader's Viewpoint section of the February 22 issue of the Living Church magazine.



****The Parish Life Committee is selling tickets for a March 28 (Saturday) concert by the outstanding St. John's College choir of Cambridge University, England.** The concert will begin at 8 PM at the Singleton Performing Arts Center, 922 Park Avenue on the VCU campus. A limited number of tickets have been reserved for St. Matthew's and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis beginning on Sunday, March 1, 2009 in our Parish Hall following the 8 AM and 10:30 worship services. The tickets are General Admission and will sell for \$10 each. Parking is limited on the VCU campus and car pools will be arranged from the church parking lot if requested. This is an excellent opportunity to see and hear an outstanding choir and the concert is expected to be "sold out". Tickets may also be purchased from any PLC member or by calling Lee Pemberton at 744-2574.

EXTRA---EXTRA Be sure to pick up your copy of the new Parish Directory that can be found on tables in the Narthex

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, used the shamrock, which was revered by the druids, to explain the Trinity. The shamrock has three leaflets that signify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
(Taken from www.dltk-holidays.com/patrick/about.htm)



Book News:

Title: Light to the Nations: God's Covenant with the Unreached Peoples
Author: Tad de Bordenave
Cost: \$15.00 includes shipping
Published: Dec. 2008
To order: contact Tad at tadpole@mac.com
 "A Light to the Nations is an inspiring collection of commentaries for each Sunday of the Christian liturgical year. It contains commentaries on mission related passages of scripture and insights into the challenges of taking the gospel to the world's unreached peoples."

St. Matthew's Book Group:

Like to read books that help you grow spiritually? Join in the rich and insightful discussions of St. Matthew's Book Group!
 The group will meet next on Wednesday, April 15, to discuss Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt by Anne Rice. This novel is a fictional account of Jesus' early life in Nazareth, based on Rice's exhaustive study of the culture of the times and the latest Biblical scholarship. (It is the first book in a trilogy she has written on Jesus' life.) The story of the author's conversion in the afterword is well worth reading.
 The group's May book, which will be discussed on Wednesday, May 20, will be Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God by David McCasland. This biography explores the life of one of the most inspirational speakers and writers, from his early life in Scotland to serving as chaplain to British troops during WWI to his untimely death at the age of 43 and the lifework of his wife in preserving his words. It also explores why his incredible words of faith are still read today.
 The Book Group's most recent read (February) was March by Geraldine Brooks. This novel describes the experiences of Reverend March, the absent father from Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, during the Civil War. March's transcendental idealism stands in sharp contrast to the horrors of a brutally violent war.

Facts About Lent:

- ❖ The word "Lent" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word "lengten" which means "springtime" named so for the time of the year in which it occurs.
- ❖ What we now call Lent was originally a period of fasting and study for those who were to be baptized on the Saturday before Easter. The 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness was responsible for the number 40 being chosen.
- ❖ Lent is an opportunity not an obligation. It is not commanded by our Lord, nor is it even mentioned in the Bible. Those Christians who observe it do so because they find it a helpful opportunity for repentance and renewal and for the strengthening of their faith.
- ❖ www.orldutheran.com.
- ❖ The first Sunday in Lent collect: "O Lord, which for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy Godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honor and glory, which liveth and reignth." Thomas Cranmer
- ❖ This is an original prayer by Cranmer for the 1549 Prayer Book. It is addressed to our Lord Jesus Christ. The reason is clear: Hebrews 4:15. The Collects of Thomas Cranmer.

Flower Guild News:

This Easter when making our flower donations for memorials or thank offerings, we will also be ordering some azaleas and small boxwoods in addition to our lilies and other flowering plants. Our plan is to still distribute some of the flowers to our shut-ins but also to use some of these plants for beautifying our own grounds here at St. Matthew's. We hope that everyone will appreciate this stewardship and offering and will donate generously as you have in the past.



Outreach News:

Mission Sunday was held at St. Matthew's on Sunday, February 22. Speakers were from the Boys Home in Covington, VA, Interfaith Services of Henrico (ISH) and Cross Over Ministries. Each told of their services and how St. Matthew's has supported their work over the years. Each group had some tangible needs that can be met—possibly by some of our small groups or by the youth group. If any groups or individuals are interested in helping, please contact Ken Mills at 288-2870 or Boyd Brown at 327-0257.

<i>March Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>	
2 nd	Harry Berwick	19 th	Grace Lesniak
	Liz Foreman	20 th	Mack Rich
	Clint Ray	21 st	Kim Lesniak
9 th	Eugenia Carpenter		Kaki Singelton
10 th	Isabelle Hillestad	26 th	Felix Farley
16 th	Sarah Pemberton		James Lesniak
			17 th Joe & Alice Viverette ('51)
			22 nd Bruce & Helen Langhorne ('74)

