



The Quarterly Link

The newsletter of

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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www.stmatthewsrichmond.org

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(Many of these articles are also available on our website, stmatthewsrichmond.org)

THINKING MISSIONALLY

By Rev. Chuck Alley

“It is not *they* (the missionaries) are working for the truth, while *we* (the supporters) pay the bills. It is that *all of us*, the sent and the senders, are working together for the truth. That is the responsibility and privilege of Christian mission.”
(Christopher J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God's People*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2010. P.220)

This quote reminds us that we are the Body of Christ and that in order for the body to function properly a myriad of different parts need to function together. It just takes a muscle strain in your neck to be reminded that the simple task of sitting down or lifting a glass of water to your lips requires the stabilization of the head and neck by the contraction of the strained muscle.

Likewise, the Church as a missionary community needs *all* its parts to function in an integrated manner in order to perform the task for which it was created. And what is that task? It is to participate in the mission of God, which is to

“demonstrate the character of God and attract others to come to faith in him” (C.J.H. Wright, p.164). In other words, we are to be God's witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Although we have individual responsibility for this work as Christians, we are to function within the community of believers in order to maximize our fruitfulness. With apologies to St. Paul and the Holy Spirit, when it comes to mission...”to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it...some to be apostles, some

-more-

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to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers...” some to travel near and others to travel far, some to be skilled in languages, some to be craftpersons, some to have wealth and resources to share and some to intercede (quote from Ephesians 4:7 & 11).

There is no one in the Church who does not have something to contribute to the mission of God through his Church. As we plan and perform the specific missions God has made available to us this year, pray that he will reveal to you how you can participate using the gifts and circumstances of your present life. God is not looking for a specific gift or skill set, but for a willing heart.

Yours in Christ,

Chuck+



Music for Ministry Concert May 2011

Karin Eva Marshall and John Alley brought us a delightful evening of classical music solos and duets as part of the Music for Ministry series. A DVD of the performance is available for a donation of only \$5 to support the missions of The Center for the Christian Understanding of Islam and CJ's Thumbs-up Foundation.

SUMMERTIME WITH “CHAT”

Members of St. Matthew's parish are invited to join the Church Hill Activities and Tutoring program this summer as part of their own local mission outreach. The **tutoring program** runs May 30

through July 26, with classes set aside for pre-K to 8th grade.

Contact Mackenzie Mumey @ (804) 236-4964 or (407) 496-1527 Mackenzie.mumey@chatrichmond.org for more information.

Meanwhile, **Nehemiah's Workshop** at 2708 E. Marshall Street will be involved with CHAT's entrepreneur program, working with a team to build a variety of projects to sell, including picnic tables, children's picnic tables, garden benches, and corn hole games. A team made up of two high school students and one college intern will be building and selling the projects from mid June through the end of July.

Adult volunteers are needed to supervise and give instruction to the kids as they build. Some woodworking skills are needed since you'll be supervising the kids-- but they're very independent. Work days will generally be Tuesday through Friday from 10-4, although Saturdays may be possible. We'll take one day or ten- whatever you can spare! If you are unable to commit to the schedule but would still like to volunteer, we'll make things work. Or, pass this on to a friend who might be interested.

Saturday Builds are set for Sat. 9:00am – 1:00pm (May 14th – June 18th), and the Apprenticeship Program runs Tuesday – Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm (June 23rd – July 29th) Contact Tom Widmer @ (804) 441-3679 Tgwidmer@gmail.com

Summer Day Camp will be at the Leigh Street Baptist Church: 517 N. 25th Street from Tues. to Fri. June 22nd – July 29th. Volunteer Opportunities include -Kitchen Duty for lunches, facilities cleaning, activity station supervisor or assistant and field trip chaperone. Note: We ask that these volunteers either commit to coming for one week (Tues-

day – Thursday) or one day every week for the duration of the camp (ie: every Tuesday)

Contact Mackenzie Mumey @ (804) 236-4964 or (407) 496-1527

Mackenzie.mumey@chatrichmond.org

FAMILY MATTERS

By Rev. Mario Gonzalez del Solar

The title of my column is a pun: “matters” can be a plural noun or a present tense verb. When we speak of “family matters” as a noun, we usually mean the private business of someone’s family that we’d rather not discuss: “It’s a family matter—you understand.” Every family has things that are uniquely private, shared among the members of the family and no one else.

Using “matters” as a verb says that “family matters;” that is, it’s important. This is of course true, but in two senses. In a general sense, we all agree that our families are important to us. We love them and seek to rear our children to be godly and responsible, and to love one another as well as people outside the family. But family also “matters” when it comes to the kind of adults we become. We are all products of the families we grew up in, our “families of origin”.

Family Matters in Discipleship

When it comes to Christian faith and discipleship, guess whom young people in grades 7-12 consistently rate as among the top five religious influences in their lives? Sunday School teacher? Pastor? Youth Minister? No. The table below shows how they responded. 81% of boys and 74% of girls chose their mother. 61 percent of boys and 50 percent of girls chose their father. 30% of boys and 29% of girls chose a grandparent.

Significant Religious Influences	Percent Choosing as One of Top 5	
	Boys	Girls
Mother	81	74
Father	61	50
Grandparent	30	29
Pastor	57	44
Sunday School Teacher	26	21
Youth Group Leader	15	16

Taken from *Church+Home*, Mark Holmen, Regal Publishing 2010, p. 31

Pastor (57% of boys and 44% of girls), Sunday School teacher (26% of boys and 21% of girls) and Youth Group leader (15% of boys and 16% of girls) all rated far below family members.

I have two graduate degrees and a doctorate, as well as extensive training in ministry, but the data make it clear that my influence in your children’s lives is puny compared to Mom and Dad!

The reality is that families, primarily parents, have more influence for Christ on their children than any one else. This is true in all areas of life. Parents have more influence on how their children respond to stress, about how they talk about other people, about their attitudes towards work and responsibility, and about how they interact with others. “Family Matters” in every way!

In the coming months in Homebuilders we’ll be exploring ways to equip parents and families to be more effective Christian leaders in their own homes. Our job as parents is to lead our children to Christ, not only in word, but in the way we ourselves live out our Christian discipleship. Barbara and I look forward to sharing what we’ve been learning in this area.

I write this not only as a pastor, but as a Christian family member. I am currently completing an application for a grant for a sabbatical in 2012 from the Lilly Foundation's National Clergy Renewal Program. Should I be approved for the grant, I will travel to Argentina and around the U.S. looking up family members I have either never met or have not seen for years. My purpose is to more completely understand the family I grew up in, which was neither Christian nor close. By spending time with people from my parents' families I hope to gain both family history and emotional awareness of the families that uniquely produced my mother and my father.

Barbara and I will also take part in two conferences focused on faith in families in order to bring back practical discipleship and devotional approaches to help our ministry with the families of Homebuilders here at St. Matthew's. I'll submit my application for the grant in mid-May, and will find out if it has been awarded in September. Please pray that God's will be done!

Blessings in Christ,
Mario

SUMMER MISSION TRIPS!

By Treva Houser & Tom Allin

Project HELP -We as children of Christ have learned many things from the Perspectives Course taught by Hank Micks this past winter. One of the many "take-aways" is that we receive many blessings from God. With those blessings comes a responsibility, a responsibility to bless others. "May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations." Psalm 67:1-2.

The way I see it, we have homework to do! Actually, this is the homework assigned by St. Matthew's Vestry for 2011. This is where PROJECT HELP comes in to play. We'll be sending a team to Project Help on Aug. 7 to the 13th. It is a program designed to help low income citizens of Dungannon, Va. in Scott County with their home repairs. There are other areas of need if you are unable to use a hammer or a saw, such as work in the volunteer office or in the thrift store. You can even help without leaving Richmond! You can do this by helping with the possible Advertising Ministry, fund raising, and collection for the Dungannon Wish List and Food Bank. There are endless possibilities so please join us! Let's look beside ourselves in the pew on Sunday, grab a hand, and we can bring God's Kingdom to Dungannon, VA and share our many blessings. Please contact Treva Houser at 288-8397 or trevahouse@comcast.net

Belize mission trip ready to go-On July 16th, eight members from St. Matthew's will begin their journey to Belize for this year's summer mission project. Our team consists of four high school students and four adults. As we have on five previous trips, we are going under the auspices of Mission to the World, (MTW). MTW is the international mission agency of the Presbyterian Church in America. We will be partnering with All Saints' Presbyterian Church in Richmond. A total of 17 people from the two churches will be making the trip.

Our plans for this trip are to minister in Cristo Rey this year at the local church, and if the Presbyterian Commission grants us that request we will work on the church house and offer Vacation Bible School to children in the village of Cristo Rey in the afternoons.

The estimated financial obligation for this mission project is \$1,800 per person. Team members have sent letters to friends and family asking for spiritual support in prayer, as well as for financial support. Youth group team members have raised some funds through such events as pecan pie sales, leaf raffle, and the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

Editor's note: parishioners for these mission trips and one to upstate New York for an unwed mother's summer camp were commissioned on Pentecost Sunday, June 12. They could still use your prayers and support!

QUILTING FOR MISSIONS!

A Confetti Quilt was revealed on Pentecost Sun., June 12th, in the Parish Hall as part of the Mission Event following the 10:30 a.m. service. The quilt has been lovingly crafted by church members with all proceeds from ticket donations benefiting mission ministry opportunities.

The quilt measures 70" by 83" and is a celebration of many colors and patterns that will delight the winner. The drawing will take place on St. Matthews Day, Sun., Sept. 18th in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 a.m. service. Tickets will be available on select Sundays in the Parish Hall as well as in the church office and from various church members.

Please don't miss this opportunity to support our missions by getting tickets to be placed in the drawing. This lovely quilt will be a reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together as the body of Christ.

Contact Sue Rickman (741-6887) or Debbye Silva (747-0022) for more information.



Confetti Quilt revealed! The eight quilters who made this beautiful product are Augusta Cole, Ann Shibut, Ann Thomson, Nancy Kaufman, Georgia Sehlhorst, Lynda Jenkins, Mary-Meade Lee, and Debbye Silva.

MUSIC NOTES

By Susan Wilson, Director of Music Ministries

Thank you to all of our singers, ringers, and instrumentalists for such a wonderful choir season. It's been a busy time of music making and all of our volunteers have spent many hours rehearsing and learning music for worship. Their dedication and commitment has been inspiring. Thank you!

During the summer months choirs traditionally take time off from the regular rehearsal schedule. The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Aug. 4 at 7:00 p.m. That is a great time to join choir if you have been thinking about getting involved in music at St. Matthew's. Childcare is provided for the 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. rehearsal. If you have questions contact Susan Wilson at the church office (804-288-1911, ext. 16).

The fall season will bring the return of the Children's Choirs, for children 4 years old – 5th grade. Choir rehearsals are held on Sunday afternoons from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Jimmy Pennington will also resume the Instrumental Ensemble in the fall. This group will continue to meet on Sunday afternoons from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Handbell Choir meets on Sunday's at 1:00 p.m. and we are always ready to welcome new ringers. No experience is necessary. We'll be glad to teach you how to ring.

Feel free to contact Susan Wilson for information regarding any of the music ministry ensembles at St. Matthew's. susanwilson.stmatts1@verizon.net

Save the Date

You'll want to save the date now for two music events coming this fall. On Sept. 11 at 5:00 p.m. the Chancel Choir of St. Matthew's along with the Third Presbyterian Church Adult Choir and the VCU Symphonic Band will present a "Service of Remembrance for 9/11". The service will feature music sung by the choirs as well as music played by the band. This service will take place here at St. Matthew's.

The following weekend, Sept. 16 – 18 is St. Matthew's Weekend. On Sat. night, Sept. 17 we'll have the "Grand Night for Singing". This event was well attended last year and is sure to be popular again this year. At 6:30 p.m. the Ice Cream Social will take place. At 7:00 p.m. the music will begin. There will be a Sound of Music sing-a-long, along with other favorite Broadway show tunes. Save the date now because this is one night you don't want to miss.

WARDEN'S COLUMN – VESTRY MATTERS

By Patrick deFur, Senior Warden

Being on the Vestry is more than just going to meetings.

To some members of the parish, it seems like the Vestry just meets over coffee and dinner to enjoy each other's company and get to know each other a little better. But in addition to being a leader, part of being on the Vestry is to get to know more about what is going on

around St Matthews and get to know our church family better. And to work through relationships to get more members involved in the mission work of our church.

Why is it important to be involved? Being involved is how we get to know what is important to people and their ministries. I have made connections with friends at St Matthews that link to friends outside of St Matthews. Those connections give me a chance to share the Gospel and minister to other folks that I would not have before.

Meanwhile, as a member of the Vestry, I get the opportunity to talk with other folks about how to improve things around St Matthews. Do you know how many groups meet at St Matthews during the week? Do you know when Pre-school meets and how many families are involved? Do you know when TGIF meets? Do you know what TGIF is? You don't need to be on the Vestry to find out, but you will learn more if you join us. This fall when someone asks you to consider running for the Vestry, please pray on it and join us.

The Vestry is also working to improve communication with the congregation. We are including notes from the Vestry meetings and financial updates in the weekly bulletin after the monthly Vestry meetings. As members of the Vestry, we try to attend as many of the events around the church as we can. This gives us each a chance to see who is involved in what ministries and talk with them about it. We want to know what you think. We invite you to talk to a member of the Vestry and let them know your thoughts.

Are you involved in the missions of St Matthews? There are many chances to be involved and they don't all require a passport or airplanes. There are oppor-

tunities around the church and around Richmond. Not sure what they are? If you join us at adult Sunday school, you will hear about some of them; if you ask the Missions Committee, you will learn about others. Ask your St Matthew's friends and find out what they are doing. Doing mission work with friends adds a chance to be together as you share God's Blessings and do His work

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The St Matthews Golf Tournament will be held this year on Fri. Sept. 16 at the Hollows Golf Course in Montpelier, Va. The format will again be captain's choice with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. BBQ dinner and awards ceremony will follow play. Watch for flyer's and dust off those sticks! For more info contact Jim O'Brien or Clint Ray.

Plans are in the works to schedule a **Welcome Reception** in the fall for the new Station 8 Fire Company which has recently re-opened. More news about this event will be forthcoming.

An Ice Cream Social is planned for the evening of Sept. 17th as part of St. Matthew's Weekend Sept. 17th-18th. **A Grand Night for Singing** will immediately follow.

Supper Club sign-ups begin in late May and early June. Our season kicks off in October. Please see Jean Ray or Margaret Vachet for more details.

WOMEN'S RETREAT RECAP

By Debbye Silva

Sat., March 26th was a day of worship, growth and fellowship for the 54 women attending this year's retreat. Lara Williams, our speaker, spoke on the theme "Renewed Hearts." Her very talented friend Abby Sutton led us in worship with both familiar songs and

some original compositions. While most of those attending were from St. Matthews, several women joined us from outside our church as well. Good food, sound teaching and uplifting worship among sisters in Christ made for a very special day. Be on the lookout later in the year for the date of next year's retreat!

CHILDREN'S ED PLANS

By Jill Rich, Director of Christian Education

This year's Lenten Series allowed the children to read through C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia Series, Prince Caspian and the Return to Narnia. There were about 15 students on average in attendance, ages toddler through 5th grade. River City Sitters provided child-care for the younger children.

During Lent, the congregation was encouraged to make an offering in their Mite boxes. Through everyone's generosity, about \$400 had been collected, totally over six months of support for the two children CCE supports, Parimila in India and Charles in Uganda.

Children's Church continues to meet on Holy Eucharist Sundays during the service. Megan Lloyd and January Britt are leading the children through the different parts of the service and the church calendar.

Due to the success of the Children's Church curriculum, Summer Sunday school will utilize an amended curriculum to educate the older children. Adults interested in learning are welcome too.

The Gamers, our 3rd through 5th grade group, will begin having quarterly events instead of monthly meetings. In June, the children will be playing Putt Putt. Future activities will include pool parties and bowling. Andrew Thompson

will post more details as the dates approach.

Mark your calendars for June 27th through July 1st for our annual Vacation Bible School. This year we will all become Jesus Truth Seekers. As we hunt down God's truth in the Bible, we will discover that with God, all things are possible. Stay tuned for more information about Mission Possible! Also, it's not too early to sign up to help out!

That takes through the summer. As always, I am deeply grateful for everyone lending a hand to love, teach, and provide for our littlest parishioners. Please join me in praying that they will hunger for God, know Jesus for their savior and for protection over their families.

FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH MAY 2011

	Through May 2011	Budgeted for 2011	\$Fav./(Unfav.)
Total Support	\$285,802	\$283,822	\$1,980
Total Expense	\$285,802	\$298,561	\$2,240
<i>Excess/(Deficit)</i>	<i>\$(10,319)</i>	<i>\$(14,739)</i>	<i>\$4,420</i>