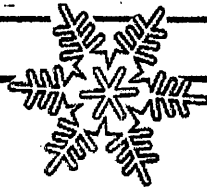


St. Matthews Episcopal Church **the messenger**

February-April 2010

804-790-1211



From the Rector

I really like snow! As one who grew up in an area that seldom saw more than one snow a winter, and a pretty puny one at that, I always feel a certain excitement: school's out- time to play- time for hot chocolate and cookies- everything looks fresh and new. I wonder whether this fresh white stuff that covers everything and does away with the old greynesses of life might not be a good symbol for us as we move along in the Lenten season.

As we move through the Lenten season we know where we're headed- we know we'll come to Holy Week- we know we'll walk the way of the cross with Jesus- and we know that on Easter Sunday morning the tomb will be empty. Jesus will have risen from the dead! New life is the promise for us.

I wonder whether the symbol of snow might be a good one to reflect on during these coming weeks. Just as the newness of snow touches us and brings us childlike joy- reminds us of freedom from burdens and of new beginnings; The opportunities of the Lenten season can touch us and lead us further into life in Christ- a life in which there are new beginnings- and freedom- and joy. God wants that for us!



Thank you

To all in the St. Matthew's community: my heartfelt thanks for the more than generous Christmas check- (the US Treasury thanks you- and my family, when they're lolling around on the beach at our annual beach week, will thank you as well! I am deeply appreciative!

Information, Please

We have recently begun to use a new record keeping system and want to be sure our records are complete. Please take one of the blanks located on the information table in the church, fill it out and return it to Sib- who thanks you!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Plan to come to our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper- Feb 16- 5:30 PM-7 PM. Chefs extraordinaire will be members of our super EYC. Come and celebrate Fat Tuesday!

New on Our Website- Preparing for Sunday

Access Sunday lectionary readings at your convenience, and then reflect and pray over them at any time. You will find an overview, scripture backgrounds, a reflection and prayer to enrich your worship. Click on the Preparing for Sunday icon on our home page.

## **From the Seminarian ~**

*On Ash Wednesday we are invited, in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.*

Those of you with good memories might recall that I began last year's Lenten message with these same words. They are important words and they succinctly express the meaning of Lent in the Episcopal Church, thus they bear repeating. Some of us are diligent about giving up things – this would be self-denial and fasting. Others of us find value in taking on things –this would be self-examination, repentance, or prayer. Self-examination, to be worthwhile, asks that we do something about what we find. This might mean more prayer and study, more outreach, more of whatever we find we are neglecting in our walk with Christ. Any of these efforts are to be commended and there are materials to help you with this on the information table at church. Martha+ and I are also available to you if you have questions about your individual Lenten practices.

It seems to me that we are also called to the observance of a holy Lent as the community of St Matthew's. We are a giving congregation and quick to volunteer to do whatever needs doing both around church and out in the world. As a church we have special services during Lent where we can spend more time in study and prayer. I invite you to consider creating a space in your busy lives to experience as many of these special services as possible. It is in this journey toward the cross with Christ that we most fully come to understand God's work on our behalf.

Scripture is full of journey stories, most of which begin with a call from God. In my time with St Matthew's I have been on a journey with you as I answer my call to ministry. And I have been listening to the stories you tell about your journeys and ministries. They are amazing stories full of laughter and tears that show God's presence among you! Answering God's call, walking with Christ in faith, building a church, deciding to become a member of the St Matthew's community – all of these things are steps on the journey of life.

You are invited to join the journey during Lent by attending our Wednesday Night Lenten program – Journey with God. Each week we will begin with a meal at 6:15 and the program will start at 7pm. Feel free to come at 7 if are not able to have dinner with us. After we share fellowship and soup and salad, we will be looking at some of the journey stories in the Hebrew Bible, sharing our own stories of our journey at St Matthew's, and discussing the ways they are connected. Where have we come from? Where are we now? Where are we headed? How has our journey defined and shaped us?

We will end our time together with quiet worship and thanksgiving for the journey. Life is the journey, don't stay where you are – come and journey with God!

## **Thank You!**

To The People of St Matthew's,

I am so blessed to be a part of this family of faith. You are the most amazing people of God and your generosity toward me this past Christmas was overwhelming!

Thank you so much for your contribution toward my education. I have used the funds to help pay for my spring classes. God has worked through you to supply for me in abundance! I am grateful for this most unexpected gift, and even more thankful for the gift each one of you is to me all year long. You truly have a generous spirit as is evidenced in all that you do for one another and in outreach to others. I am honored to be serving God alongside you!

Peace,  
Robin

## All About Us.....



Allie Stough

Allie Stough, a 2007 graduate of Lloyd C. Bird High School, has completed her A.S. with an Emphasis in Visual Arts at Richard Bland College. For the fall semester she placed on the President's List and the Dean's List with a 4.0 GPA. She will receive her degree Cum Laude at the spring commencement ceremony. Allie has exhibited her art work at the Chester Library, Avenue 805, the Petersburg Sheriff's Office during Friday for the Arts, and at the Petersburg Regional Art Center. While at Richard Bland, under the direction of her professor, Michelle Delano, she helped paint a mural for the college in the Administration Building, Maze Hall. This past summer she completed a Summer Internship at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts assisting with the children's art classes. One of her hooked rug pieces, *The Healing Sun*, was published in the November/December 2009 issue of *Rug Hooking Magazine*. As a 14 year brain tumor survivor, she is a member of the task force that plans the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for kids held in Richmond each June. She is an active member of St. Matthew's and helps teach the children's classes. Allie is transferring to Christopher Newport University where she will be working on a B.A. in Studio Art. She plans to major in art education and hopes to open her own studio after graduation.

Lana Petfield did a taping for the WTVR channel 6 program "Virginia This Morning". The program was supposed to be live on Wednesday, Feb. 10th but because of the weather the program was cancelled. It will air at a later date. She demonstrated a Valentine's Day dessert using whipped cream cheese with strawberries drizzled with a balsamic vinegar reduction and garnished with basil. Lana teaches Pastry Arts at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and the Chesterfield Tech Center. She also has a pastry booth at the South of the James Market and the Innsbrook Market.



### Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### **February**

- 1 Lana Petfield
- 2 Abby Parkison
- 5 Tom & Beck Carr
- 6 Becky Carr
- 13 Daniel Parkison
- 14 Don Burke
- 26 Dianne Lewis
- 27 Spencer Koch
- 28 Ryan Gibson

#### **March**

- 6 Kelly Bennett
- 7 Anna Hudgins
- 18 Cathy Hudgins
- 19 John Gibson
- 23 Martha Jenkins
- 24 Lin Corbin-Howrton
- 26 Marcy Thomas
- 31 Lud & Cathy Hudgins

#### **April**

- 4 Lisa Kelly
- 6 Elyse Goss
- 11 Sandy & Mike Crusco
- 12 Ray Lewis
- 13 Lauri Savage
- 17 Lisa Gibson
- 24 Denny Petfield
- 25 Lauri & Chuck Savage
- 26 Lana & Kevin DeLeon
- 30 Paige Gibson



## Food Pantry Gifts From Chasm

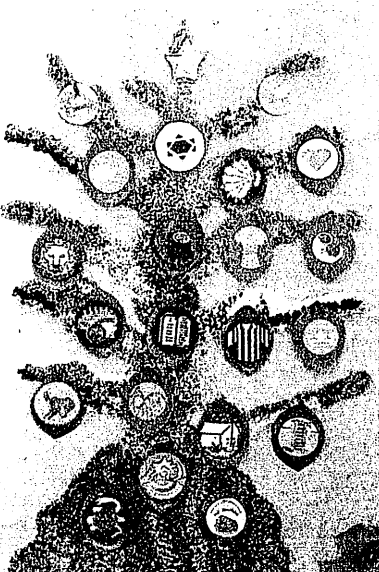
Darlene Lathrop, Rev. Martha Jenkins, Robin Teasley,  
Tammi Piguet and John Goss

### St. Matthews Food Pantry

As most of you are aware, St. Matthew's began operating a food pantry on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. To date, our food pantry has distributed 103 bags of food, and \$465 in gift cards to 13 families. WOW – what a fantastic start!!

We also had our first committee meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. I hope as the food pantry continues to operate, more folks will become interested in participating. We need your help!! We are now distributing to families on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm, and we need volunteers to arrive by 6:00pm to help bag and distribute the food items. Our policy is to have at least one adult male church member present during times of distribution. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table outside of the nursery. If you are unable to help on Tuesday evenings, there are other ways you can help with this ministry!! Since we are unable to store large quantities of perishable items, we issue gift cards to local grocery stores so that the families may purchase items such as milk, eggs, meat and bread. We are having difficulty maintaining an inventory of gift cards, and I often have to purchase cards the day of distribution so that we will have something to give to our families. Think about purchasing a \$5 dollar gift card once a week and putting it in the donation plate on Sunday - or perhaps you could purchase a gift card one week, and the next week bring in a food item from the "items needed this week" list that is distributed via email. Any level of participation would help tremendously.

Thank you so much for embracing and supporting this ministry. If you have other ideas, please feel free to contact me or Tammi Piguet, or stop by on a Tuesday evening to see how things operate – we'd love to see you!! -Darlene Lathrop



### The Jesse Tree

The St. Matthew's 2009 Jesse Tree was designed and created by Allie Stough. The ornaments were created by members of the Banner and Fine Arts Committee. The members are Nancy Alpine, Elsa Bennett, Carol Baker, Christy and Katherine Crusco, "Doc" Fischer, Laura Hopkins, Dianne Lewis, Natalie Lewis,

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The word "Lent" comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word, *lencten*, which means springtime. As the earth begins to prepare for the growth and new life of spring, we can use this season of the church year to examine how we can grow closer to God. This is the focus of our Sunday school classes during Lent.

The **Adult Class** will be studying Gospel Portraits of Jesus. We will explore a number of the names and titles for him that appear in the Gospels. The course begins with the most familiar name, Jesus, moves to His activities as teacher, then to common metaphors such as bread, to more abstract names like Messiah and Son of God, and concludes with a focus on resurrection and life- an interesting and challenging course of study.

The **High School Class** has requested a study of prayer. They begin with *Why Pray*, a session to broaden understanding of prayer and the practice of praying. Following sessions focus on different types of prayer, attitudes toward prayer, what happens when we pray, and whether prayer changes anything. The goal of the sessions is a deeper understanding of prayer and experience of conversation with God.

The **Middle School class** continues in the *Faith in Motion* series with the Lenten module, *Choosing Jesus*. The purpose of these sessions is to help our young people make informed decisions about their faith and to deepen their understanding.

The **Elementary Class** will continue the lectionary program, *Living the Good News*. They will be introduced to the season of Lent and as they explore this church season they will learn about making difficult choices for God, Jesus' love for us, using some the familiar faith stories. The series concludes with reflection on stories of Holy Week and Easter.

**Children's Chapel**, during the Lenten season, will focus on the Lord's compassion and mercy. They also will hear familiar faith stories.

Please join us for our studies during Lent. Use this season of the church year to grow closer to God.  
-Sandy Speer

## Lawn Maintenance – Helping Hands Needed

We are quickly approaching the beginning of the lawn mowing season for Saint Matthew's. The more teams we have involved in the lawn care of our property the better. We are in search of 12 more volunteers, which will allow each team to consist of three individuals (2 riding mowers and 1 push mower). This will cut down on the time involved in finishing the yard. We are also looking to add two more complete teams to get our count up to 7 teams. With the addition of two more teams most will only have to cut the grass 2 times over the entire season. Please thoughtfully consider volunteering a small amount of your time to help lessen the burden those that have been helping over the last two seasons.

I would be remiss to not thank those that have and will continue to support the lawn mowing at Saint Matthews!

THANK YOU.....

Lynn Hillman

Ray Lewis

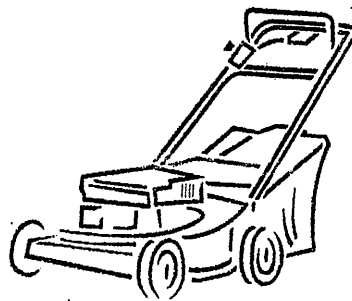
Logan Goss & Shelley Goss

Denny Petfield

Don Burke

Sandra, Spencer, Sarah and Jonathan Koch

Kay & Matthew Padgett



If you feel the calling to help us out please either sign up on the bulletin board in the reception area or contact me at [mark-koch@comcast.net](mailto:mark-koch@comcast.net) or 804-519-5729.

"Many Hands, Make Light Work" Thank you,  
Mark Koch                      Sean Kelly

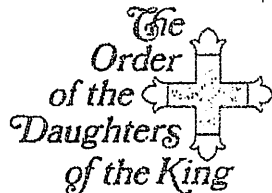
## The Order of the Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King is a National Lay Order for Women in the Episcopal church which is the fastest growing organization within the church today. We are proud to be a part of this important ministry as we are called to serve the Lord in our congregation through prayer and service. What a privilege we have to pray for all of the needs of St. Matthews on a daily basis. Isn't that what being a Christian is all about?

Our chapter of Daughter, the Sojourners, will meet on Sunday, February 21 after the 10:30 service. We invite all women to join us at this quarterly meeting . . . and see what a vital part we play at St. Matthews. We have a treat for you also at this next meeting and look forward to seeing both daughters and interested women.

Information about Daughters of the King is available in the church office and also from Martha and myself. Should you have questions or concerns please contact Martha at 426-4658 or Carrie at 748-7525.

For His Sake,  
Carrie Hillman



### Joyful Noise

Recently, a 92 year old retired pastor was asked to share with a congregation what the greatest lesson he ever learned as he served the Lord for 50 years. He boiled it down to one thing that not only made the most difference in his life but also sustained him through all of his trials. It was the one thing that he could rely on when tears, heartbreak, pain, fear and sorrow paralyzed him - the only comfort he had. He then proceeded to share the following:

"Jesus loves me, this I know.  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
We are weak, but He is strong.....  
Yes, Jesus loves me .....

This SONG had helped him to remember the Lord's presence in his life through thick and thin. Not a specific prayer or Bible verse - a song. Obviously I was blown away by this as it helped me to realize the power of music/songs in our lives. As Paul Westermeyer said, "The song of the church is for the long haul, not the short run". I pray that the thoughtful music selections made to go along with the week's lessons will help to sustain you throughout your weeks ....and obviously... years!

Carrie Hillman  
Humble Musician



## February Calendar

<b>Last Sunday After The Epiphany</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 All gen. Sun. School 10:30 Holy Euch Ritell	15	16	17	18	19	20
		<b>5:30PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</b> EYC sponsored	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 3:30 H.E. The Crossings <b>7:00 Holy Eucharist</b> Imposition of Ashes	4:40 EFM St. John's 7PM Vestry 7PM Al-Anon		
<b>1st Sun. in Lent</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch Ritell DOK after Church	22	23	24	25	26	27
			<b>6:15 Soup &amp; Salad Supper</b> Lenten Program <i>Telling Stories</i>	4:30 EFM St. John's Al-Anon 7PM Annex		
<b>2nd Sun. in Lent</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch Ritell						

### Don't Forget....

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 2/16 5:30PM  
Ash Wednesday Service 2/17 7:00PM  
Lenten Soup & Salad Suppers Wednesday evenings



## March Calendar

	1	2	3	4	5	6
			<b>6:15 Soup &amp; Salad Supper</b> Lenten Program <i>Telling Stories</i>	4:40 EFM St. Matthew's 7PM Al-Anon Annex		<b>Bishop's Day With Vestries And Leaders</b>  Powhatan High School
<b>3rd Sun. in Lent</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch. Ritell Book Group	8	9	10	11	12	13
			<b>6:15 Soup &amp; Salad Supper</b> Lenten Program <i>Telling Stories</i>	4:30 EFM St. Matthew's 7PM Al-Anon Annex		
<b>4th Sunday In Lent</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch. Ritell	15	16	17	18	19	20
			3:30 H.E. The Crossings <b>6:15 Soup/Salad</b> Lenten Program <i>Telling Stories</i>	4:30 EFM St. Matthew's 7PM Vestry-Church 7PM Al-Anon-Annex		
<b>5th Sunday In Lent</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch. Ritell	22	23	24	25	26	27
			<b>6:15 Soup &amp; Salad Supper</b> Lenten Program <i>Telling Stories</i>	4:30 EFM St. Matthew's 7PM Al-Anon Annex		
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Processional Holy Eucharist Ritell	29	30	31			
	<b>Monday In Holy Week</b> 6:15 Holy Eucharist	<b>Tuesday In Holy Week</b> 6:15 Holy Eucharist	<b>Wed. In Holy Week</b> 6:15 Soup Supper Foot Washing <i>The Tridium</i>			

# April Calendar

				Sunday Thursday 15 Wine & Cheese representative Seder Holy Euch., Stripping of Altar, Tenebrae	2 <b>Good Friday</b> 7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy	3
<b>Easter Day</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 10:30 Holy Euch Ritell Reception to Follow Easter Egg Hunt-EYC	5	6	7 Holy Eucharist Cancelled	8 4:30PM EFM St. John's 7:00PM AI-Anon Annex	9	10
<b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch Ritell	12	13	14 6:15 Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing LRH	15 4:30 PM EFM St. John's 7PM Vestry 7PM AI-Anon	16	17
<b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch Ritell	19	20 6:00 PM Newcomer's Committee LRH	21 3:30 H.E. The Crossings 6:15 Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing LRH	22 4:30 PM EFM St. John's 7PM AI-Anon Annex	23	24
<b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> 8:30 Holy Euch. Ritell 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Euch Ritell	26	27	28 6:15 Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing LRH	29 4:30 PM EFM St. Matthew's 7:00PM AI-Anon Annex	30	30