remembering the way the sky turned blue red light exploding as the sun set on the day of Hannah Solomon’s funeral and burial in Fort Yukon; and as she danced off smiling, trailing knitted scarves and beadwork; for we carry away with us only what we have given away.

the Mystery at the Center of St. Matthew’s

Afternoon light through Stained Glass windows, falling quietly on pews — shards of reds, greens, blues. Solitary golden leaves falling softly onto frosted grass. Ducks circling 1st Avenue reststop looking for their friend. Children galloping through the Parish Hall. Weekday sleepers in the corners. Quiet figure at midweek altar rail praying. Names of friends appearing on banners. The smell of bacon soaring through the church during the 9:15 Eucharist. And, more. Always more.

Saint Matthew’s is ............a place of Mystery. What’s behind all of the doors in the upstairs? What do those letters ("A.M.D.G.") mean carved long ago on the lectern?

Step through the front doors and at the Center of the Mystery, at the Center of all the mysteries, is .......... that Cross, high up behind the Great Wooden Altar.

Because

The Mystery of The Cross is always at the Center.

And, on that Cross, engraved on the base, it says

To the Glory of God
in loving memory
Lucy Rice Woods

Altar Guild members have polished the cross and its engraving for decades; clergy and acolytes and sextons have perhaps glanced at it; prayerful people at the altar rail have perhaps looked up and seen it.

In the Age of the Internet and All Things being revealed, I wanted to find out who this lady was, whose memory lingers over the history of all that has happened and does happen at St. Matthew’s.

Enter St. Matthew’s and you see the Altar, and then The Cross. And someone in early Fairbanks’s loving memory of Lucy Rice Woods.

The Cross is there in old photographs, the oldest photographs. So Lucy Woods dates back to the turn of the 20th century. I think maybe it’s this lady that I found, who had a “gallant spirit and cheerful voice” and “a fund of humor and pleasantry”. When she died, they wrote: “Brave, unselfish, true, and good, her’s was a life as pure as it was unassuming, as useful as it was modest, as full of consideration for others as it was empty of claims for itself”.

She was a teacher for over thirty years in the girl’s high school in Boston. She lived on Newbury Street in Boston. She never married. She loved Our Lord and the Church and taught high school students and, as far as I can tell, never left Massachusetts. She was an Associate of the Girls Friendly Society for 20 years. She died on March 24th, 1904 of heart problems, which she had had for several years. She was 57 years old; and was buried in the Walnut Hills Cemetery in Brookline, Massachusetts.

At her funeral, at her Church, at Trinity Church in Boston, over “800 pupils from the girls’ high school and Latin school” came. It feels like this is our Lucy Rice Woods – this laughing true and good woman, “enthusiastic and encouraging”, who served others and the Church all of her life. It’s the right time frame. (Besides, her birthday was either on or near the Winter Solstice.) I don’t know who gave the Cross to St. Matthew’s in her memory, but I’ll bet it was one of her former pupils. Perhaps one of the first nurses who, as St. Matthew’s was beginning, remembered a teacher who had recently died, who had taught and shown her to give to others.

(Continued on page 2)
SPRINGING into SUMMER VOICES

From the February ashes of beginning Lent to the greens of summer, we are sitting and listening as the People of God pass by. As they walk they tell stories and puzzle over the Mysteries of God and Living; and we overhear... . .

...so, I finally caught that wolverine after about 6 weeks. Well, I caught his toe. He just bit it off and then took off.

They’re not going to stay there in that house again, when they come back. They were all sittin’ in there after work, watchin’ TV, when this guy they didn’t know just showed up, walked down the hall, stared at them, and then turned... and walked through the wall.

They’re already calling this The Peter Storm.

...and the wind was blowing so hard that it was blowing snowballs. I saw it and thought “The Heck”. All my years, I never see anything like that.

This is Our Way. It’s like a prayer, a sacrifice. Indian Lore, we think their spirits are all around us. This is to help them, so they don’t get hungry, and let them know we still think of them.

...broke down; and they’re walkin’ home down the trail along the River; and they walk beside that hill there; and hear like voices; and see someone walkin’, like people comin’ down the hill. And they look, but it was... a pack of wolves. She start walking real fast; and he tell her “Slow Down!” She told him, “What you mean ‘Slow Down”? We got not even gun; and that’s A PACK OF WOLVES; and they even KILL MOOSE, and we’re JUST PEOPLE, and not as big as a moose”. She said she was afraid to look back all the time they were on that trail.

apology

Yes, this is the first St. Matthew’s Newsletter since mid-February. That’s when the last one was. We were celebrating Epiphany and knew Lent was coming soon. We’ve tried since then, at least four times, to get one out, but, sighhh, things KEEP happening and The Church Office gets side-tracked. Our apologies. REALLY.

We’re sorry we haven’t had a chance to get these out more. As a result, you’ve missed following, in a timely basis, the Vestry struggling with church cleaning and finances; the celebration of Sunday School; Bella Jean’s garage sales; the rain (and rain and rain and rain) of Eagle Summit and the Summer; the dances of Vacation Bible School; and the comings and goings of new friends and old. Some of that is accounted in this Newsletter. The rest of it lives on in our memories and the Heart of God.

The easiest way to find out what is happening at St. Matthew’s is to.........just come. Things change quickly around here.

In order to keep track of what’s happening When and Where (the rector gets confused easily these days), we started up an email This Week at St. Matthew’s mailing, which comes out at least weekly, if not more often. It tracks St. Matthew’s and community and regional events. Some 300 + folks receive it by email. The St. Matthew’s Website (www.stmatthewschurch.org) posts it when it is received (so the Website is also a source of news and events). If you would like to receive this This Week mailing, simply email the Church Office (sfisher@mosquitonet.com).

What have we been doing since the last Newsletter? Just lighting candles and saying “Thank You” and breaking bread. What will we be doing between now and the next Newsletter? Just lighting candles and saying “Thank You” and breaking bread.

The Center of St. Matthew’s... (Continued from page 1)

Summer and September brides stand waiting in the doorway of the Church, waiting to enter; and I and grooms peer back there as they wait. Wrapped in Beauty, we can see them, and yet not quite see them. They are Mystery.

And Lucy Rice Woods, standing in the doorway of Memory, is finally Mystery too.

Whether our Lucy Woods is this Lucy Woods, we don’t know. Maybe our Lucy is some unmentioned on the Internet relative, spouse, friend of someone else — of the Rev. Charles RICE of Circle; or a lost distant relative of Judy Woods of Manley. We don’t know.

But we do know there was this Lucy Woods of Boston, who taught and gave for all her life; and at whose funeral 800 students came to say “thank you”.

Our lives are shaped by those, like her, who have given and given and given. That sacrifice, that Love, is the Mystery of The Cross, eternally at the Center of St. Matthew, and all of Life.

Page 2
Spring to Summer Voices

Why do you call them ‘Flight Pants’? Nobody else call them that.

BLING! You got BLING? Those glasses are BLING!

The Bishop was here, all dressed up. He saw The Bishop in all that get-up and wanted to know which Princess the Bishop was; and he said he wanted to get a crown like the Bishop was wearing.

Could you explain to my friend what today is, what Hash Wednesday means?

I just heard one little guy ask his mother: How come you told him at the Altar Rail he was Butt Dust?

OH! You’re at St. Matthew’s, and that’s that pretty log building on 1st Avenue? That’s A CHURCH? I drive by that building every day and always wondered what that place was. I didn’t know it was a Church. What’s in there?

### ST. MATTHEW’S CHURCH

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Spring to Summer Voices

Nooooooooooooo, I don’t think St. Matthew’s is a strange church. I think Fairbanks is a strange place; and we’re just part of it.

I don’t think anybodys goin’ beaver trapping this Spring. Nobody’s going to want to dig through ALL THAT SNOW out there just to get to ALL THAT ICE.

All those lakes out there, THEY GOT NAMES!

Sad. I’m sad. I’ve got no one to put green stuff in MY cereal this morning for St. Patrick’s Day.

Have you noticed how, after you’ve lived here awhile – you never want to leave and can’t imagine ever living anyplace else?

This Life means NOTHING if there is no challenge, no trial.

I gave up Facebook for Lent. I wonder if anybody wonders where I’ve been.

Anchorage is SO different. You can’t be wild down there like you can be here.

. . . called to see if you can do our wedding tomorrow. We don’t have a Church, but somebody said “call St. Matthew’s; they help everybody with anything”.

. . . he was the one who, while they were down there goin’ to school, stole that fresh bread from the Bakery. After they’d served it out and eaten it all, this voice came over the P.A. saying “would whoever stole the fresh bread from the Bakery, please bring it back. It had special medicine in it for the sick people”.

Who would think to honeymoon in the little town of Hughes?

. . . said “I just wanted to hear your voice for the last time; and know that I love you.”

Sometimes Good Things fall apart, so that Better Things can . . .

THE NEWLY REVISED & UPDATED ST. MATTHEW’S DIRECTORY

Hello, I am Marlin Collins, one of your vestry members, and would like to update you on St. Matthew’s Directory 2011. At our February Vestry Meeting the topic of updating the St. Matthew’s 2007 Directory came up; and I volunteered to take on this task.

I learned that Karen Parr was the person I should talk with, since she was the one in charge of the 2007 Directory. She has been very helpful and provided me with the AppleWorks files and photos. Hilary was helpful in providing me with a 2007 Directory.

I went to my computer and put together several layouts that I showed vestry members, asking them to tell me what they liked or what should be changed. The comments from both Fr. Scott and Tom Marsh were very helpful. At this time the work began.

Beginning in March, it was announced at all services that Shannon Torrence and I were taking photos for the directory at the end of each service in the Parish Hall. We received over 50 people over the next several weeks, who gave us their updated information as well as having their photo taken.

At our April Vestry meeting I showed the vestry the directory; and they were very patient while we went through over 200 entries. They want to thank both Fr. Scott and Hilary for the time they took in looking over the information - not just once but at least three time to be sure the “i’s” were dotted and “t’s” crossed and the photos were accurate.

At the June Vestry meeting the distribution and cost of the Directory was discussed. After looking at the cost involved we suggest that a donation of $15 for the printed Directory (black and white) and a donation of $6 for the CD (color).

If you are interested in purchasing a Directory, either print or CD, contact either the Church Office or email sfisher@mosquitonet.com

WHY DON’T WE EVER SING................?

The SongBook Committee is working towards revising the SongBook and are looking for your suggestions. What ONE SONG not currently in the Song Book or Hymnal would you like to see included? (If you know where the music can be obtained please include that information as well).

Please forward suggestions to Vestrymember Marlin Collins (mfcollins@gci.net); or use the inserts in the Sunday bulletin and the Songbook Committee Suggestion Box or basket in the Church.
Spring to Summer Voices

‘Be friends with people no matter who they are’. My Old Mother used to tell me that.

The Creator is mad . . . because people don’t pay attention. That’s why all these things are happening.

All this has come to me; and it’s my job to pass it onto YOU. Now that I’ve done that, it’s your job . . .

I think there must be more Thai restaurants per capita in Fairbanks than any other city in Alaska.

. . . and Thank You for coming. Been in here three, four days now and no one to pray for me. Folks that come by, they just want to visit.

If Tree was still here, it wouldn’t look like this. We wouldn’t have this problem.

. . . and Katherine Peter was my 1st Grade teacher then.

It took me a year, after I retired, to learn that I didn’t have to feel guilty reading a book in the morning.

. . . told her Mother, while they waited at this corner to cross the street, “We can’t cross until The White Man shows up”. So they waited; and waited; and then – on the Cross the Street Signal - THERE! See! The White Man showed up.

We’re trying to figure out what to call this time of year - is it “Wring” or “Sprinter”?

. . . like a rubber band, we keep stretching and coming back, stretching and coming back.

God must have needed another mechanic, so . . .

. . . found a grenade and it rolled around in the house for awhile, in drawers and closets. Then, one day, we were playing with it . . . and it went off.
Spring to Summer Voices

... dreamed he was carrying THAT baby; and now...

... and The LIGHT shifted and we were...

... told me they’d pay me $14.00/hour to dress up like that - that green Statue of Liberty - and dance all day on that corner. But I told them, “Noooooo thank you. I may be homeless, but I’m not THAT hard up.”

All for Jeeeeeeeeeeesus; ALLLLLLLLLLLLL for JEEEEEE SUSSSSSS.

I DID die. A woman said, “We’re all going; come on”. And I said, “Hey! I’m alive!” And I reached over and found that bedrail and I pulled myself up. And a nurse said, “Hey! He’s ALIVE!” and gave me a shot... and here I am. I’m ready though. I saw it and BOY, it’s beautiful. That Black Door shut behind me and THERE WAS JUST LIGHT - this Beautiful Light. It’s REAL.

Okay. No more laughing. We’re back in the Episcopal service now.

... and I want to say something to Young People, you Grandchildren - YOU COME FROM ROYALTY.

... and we walked into that restaurant and I thought “BOY, it IS Hunting Season”. Just men in that place. And they sat us three women in the very center of that restaurant - our faces ALL BLACK from that campfire wood.

I WAS a dancer then at the Flame Lounge, but...

The sailors used to say, but you know how sailors are...

... and that was okay, I guess. I’ve lived 88 years on a Swedish baptism.

We were the nice, blonde, Norwegians.

6 MONTHS of LIFE in the SEASONS of St. MATTHEW’S

On an average of 3 times a day, 7 days a week, someplace in Fairbanks a service connected to St. Matthew’s is happening. Prayers are being said. It has been 205 days since the accounting in the last Newsletter. In the 6 months since then, from Thursday, February 3rd through Friday, August 26th, there have been at least 630 services recorded. Below are the numbers. Each moment, a prayer said.

79 Sunday Morning Eucharists
169 Private/Home Communion visits, with Clergy present (The Rev’ds Lee Davis, Montie Slusher, Bella Jean Savino, the rector)
3 Private/Home Communion visits by Clergy, outside of Fairbanks (The Rev. Lee Davis)
35 Private/Home Communion visits by Lay Eucharistic Ministers (Bernice Aragon, Mary Margaret Davis, Dawn Jagow, Lynn Slusher)
7 Correctional Center Services and/or visits
112 Sunday – Friday Midnight Compline services
5 Tuesday Morning Denali Center Eucharists
29 Wednesday Morning Eucharists
30 Wednesday Evening Eucharists
12 Thursday Morning Pioneer Home Eucharists
17 Celebrations of Holy Baptism, (32 Baptized, 4 Renewed)
1 Official Visit by the Bishop
1 Celebration of Confirmation (10 Confirmed)
2 Private Confessions
6 Celebrations of Holy Matrimony
17 Commendations of the Dying/Departed
6 Memorial Teas hosted
1 Reception of Body & preFuneral Gathering
25 Funerals
3 Funerals (outside of Fairbanks)
2 Memorial Services
3 Burial Services
1 Blessing of headstones & fences (out of Fairbanks)
3 Receptions into Columbarium
1 Release from Columbarium
1 Sophie Sergie Anniversary Memorial Service
5 Ash Wednesday Services
6 Fridays in Lent Stations of the Cross Services
7 Monday through Holy Saturday Holy Week services
4 Easter Services (Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday morning)
1 Easter Service (out of Fairbanks)
1 108th Anniversary of the 1st Service
1 Closing Education for Ministry Eucharist
1 Eagle Summit Midnight Sun Eucharist
1 Blessing of Grounds & Pipe Ceremony hosted
3 HouseBlessings
7 Blessings (arsenal, water, crosses, linens, shawls, Bible translations, etc)

(Continued on page 7)
Seasons of Life . . .

1 Graduation Invocation & Address (outside of Fairbanks)
1 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
1 Stewardship Committee “Story Night”
3 St. Matthew Garage Sales
5 Friday Family Game Nights
6 Birthday Parties hosted
1 Diocesan Women’s Gathering Hosted
1 Interior Deanery Meeting hosted
1 Farewell Concert
1 Midnight (ish) Formal Blessing of The Booyah
1 Golden Days Booyah & Bake Sale
1 Absolutely Amazing “Dancing w/ The Spirit”/Vacation Bible School

There is too much for a Narrative, but, for the record, here are the Names.

BAPTISMS and CONFIRMATIONS

February – March (Epiphany-Lent)
Wednesday night, February 16th, 3 sisters were baptized - 3 years old
Ava Carleen Fields, 5 years old Chloe Larae Fields, and 8 years old
Savannah Jade Fields. Ava’s Godparents are Dawn Fields, Nicole
Gregory, and Anthony Giovanni; Chloe’s Godparents are Edith
Thomas, Cindy Williams, and Chester Thomas; and Savannah’s
Godparents are Rene Ward and Dorthy Carroll. Saturday evening,
March 5th, the Rev. Deacon Montie Slusher baptized, in an
emergency situation at the Fairbanks Hospital, Dominic Dean James.
Sunday, March 6th, Fr. Layne Smith and the Rev. Deacon Shirley
Lee baptized 6 months old Calli Alena Bundschuh, back home now
visiting, from California. Her Godparents are Christine Richert and
Monica Taylor.

April (Easter)
In the first service of
Easter, Saturday evening,
April 23rd, there were 7
baptisms: 7 years old Dion
Damthian Alexander Jr
(Godparents Mandy and Shaun
Lewis); 10 years old AnaLisa
Marjorie Lee Mayo-
Ramos (Godparents: Jennifer
and Sean Shannon, and
Yvonne and Jason Zottola); 8 months old Eleanor Moon Peter
(Godparents Francis Sweetstir, Sheila Williams, and Marion Peter); 4
months old Collin James Rustad (Godparents Kylee Beetus and
Michael Bergman); 10 months old Havyn Damian Toni Schuyler
(Godparents Jamelia Dean Hickman and Beverly Kokrine); 3 years old
Leandra Aisling Grace Taylor (Godmother Marlene Taylor
Alexander); and Havyn’s father – 24 years old Damian Joseph
Schuyler (Sponsored by Verla Schuyler and Jamelia Dean Hickman).

(Continued on page 23)

Spring to Summer Voices

. . . and postage then was two
cents; and there was a time when
my mother was crying. And I said,
“Mother, why are you crying?”
And she said, “I wish I had two
cents so I could write my sister”. TWO CENTs!

My 4th grade teacher told me NOT
to sing in the Chorus; just to move
my lips.

. . . because my father was an
alcoholic.

. . . were Depression Days; and I
remember hoboes coming to our
back door asking for food.

I was Queen of the Coho Dance.

The ship sailed in darkness, with
blackout curtains.

. . . and I was DELIGHTED to find
that dancing was NOT forbidden
by the Episcopal Church.

As an aside, I believe the marks
are still there in the tundra, from
the high heels that I was wearing
when we landed. It was, after all,
my honeymoon.

I still know the thrill of seeing his
dogteam, still a long ways off, on
his way home.

. . . raised a family on a salary of
$17.00 a week.

. . . an allowance of 5 cents a
week; and I thought I was really
wealthy.

The choices given me were: I could
be a secretary, a nurse, or a
teacher. NOTHING else was even
considered for a woman.

. . . and I believed in the Love of
God because of her, and the
people of that Church.

Looking back, I have felt the Hand
of God in everything that has
happened to me.

He IS here. He IS with us. And He
NEVER lets go of us.
Spring to Summer Voices

Mom cooked; and left it on the stove; and we ate it as long as it lasted.

Our food was provided by the Almighty God; and we ate it; and it never spoiled.

. . . and every little bit counted, those days.

. . . asked me if I wanted to work for her next Summer - $2.00 a day. “Sure”, I said. I was 15 years old; and I’ve worked every day since.

I learned how to cook Spam ALL KINDS of different ways.

We said, “Where’s Pearl Harbor?” We didn’t know.

He’s STILL alive; He STILL saves; He STILL gives quiet strength to your soul.

We won’t charge anything, but we’ll put a “Guilt Can” out.

You meet him and can’t help but get to know him . . . even if you didn’t want to.

. . . and we became not only great friends; we found out WE WERE FAMILY! WE WERE COUSINS!

. . . and YOU can’t change your life, BUT THE WORD CAN!

. . . and I said to him “you want me to teach you how to be an Indian?” And he said “How?” And I told him that it’s already started; that I’ve already taught you how to say “How”.

. . . and then 30 of us huffed a Volkswagen Beetle up the stairs in Lathrop High School. We also put 72, 73 tires over the flagpole.

. . . figured each cow had its egret.

. . . showed them how to kill a mosquito Alaskan style. BAM.

A Word from Deacon BellaJean

LET US GIVE FROM OUR HEART & SEE WHAT HAPPENS!!!!

By The Rev. Deacon BellaJean Savino

It seems like the time is going so fast. It has been awhile since I wrote anything. No matter what, I just wanted to let everyone know I keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. I do help with Sunday services, usually 11:15 AM, and get a chance to visit people; and after that I take the Holy Communion out to the community, especially those who are home-bound, sick and ill; and it is a blessing to do that; and it gives me a chance to visit the people and to let them know that St. Matthew keeps them in prayers. I do want to say that we could always use more help, if anyone felt that she or he is being called to join us in this ministry.

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month we do have Gwich’in Singing in the parish hall starting a 5:30 PM. Those of us who do come, we really do enjoy singing, and asking the Holy Spirit to help us to sing better and enjoy being together and spending time together. Everyone is invited to come and sing with us.

Also 2nd Thursday of each month, we have our DOK (Daughters of the King) MEETING in the Parish Hall starting at 5:30 PM. If anyone is interested or if you want more information, please see me or any of the other members after the church services. Women have always helped in some ways in keeping the church going, but having both men and women would really strengthen, encourage, and hold each other up with blessings and LOVE. Everyone is important and we are each called to carry out our ministry and to do the work GOD wants us to do.

I am sitting here thinking about St. Matthew Church; and I know it could be true in other churches in the village too. I know that everyone is struggling to keep their church going, to pay the bills - like the fuel to heat the church, electricity to keep the lights on, phone bill so people can call in or the church office can call out, especially in case of emergency and in hard times, difficult times. I think everyone needs to really think about the money situation and pray about it. Let us give back to GOD at least 10% of what he already gives us already anyway. That is the total amount of money you and I get each month and take 10% of that and that is what you give to the church.

Let us all stand together and help the church. Let us give from our HEART AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!!! Think about this, PRAY ABOUT IT and LET US HELP PAY THE BILLS AND EXPENSES FOR THE CHURCH.

Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers,

with LOVE,

Rev. Bella Jean Savino.

Spring to Summer Voices

. . . and when I woke up, they were all laughin’ at me. And I said “what?” And they said “while you were passed out, we blew crack up your nose”. MAAAAAN, no wonder I’m messed up. I haven’t done drugs in over 30 years; and I hadn’t drunk in over 2 months. Ohhhhhhhhh Man, one night. Just one night.

Ohhh, the best thing to do with old people is just give ‘em a little toke now and then. That’s what I do with my parents and . . .

He tell me he been straight now one year. I tell him you Good Boy now. I’m not going to worry about you no more. You’re on the Good Road – stay on it now. Your Grandmother, she pray for you every night.

. . . and Shane was wearing that white jacket he had, you know, and standin’ up on that ice shooting away. Ice was running, you know, but we couldn’t wait.

. . . and muskrats are high too, this year. I hear $15 for trapped rats.

Gets harder and harder to leave The Village and go back to Fairbanks, doesn’t it?

. . . and he’d go off in the woods, and always come back with a mason jar full of gold. And ---- never did find out where he went, when he went out there like that. Gold must still be out there, wherever it was, I guess, ‘cause nobody’s been up that way FOR YEARS.

. . . and when I went to pick it up, I got JUST BLESSED because it’s THE HOLY WORD of GOD.

I just hitchhiked up from Anchorage. This is the second time I’ve done it in less than 18 hours. Pretty good. If you ever want to do it, watch it at Cantwell. After that is that loooong stretch; and you don’t want to get left out there. That’s Bear Country.

. . . was just appalled at the informality.
Spring to Summer Voices

You’re still doin’ it, huh? I just wanna say— even though I’m a friggin’ atheist. Well, I guess now I’m a friggin’ Orthodox Agnostic. BUT! I just gotta say, I’ve got a lot of respect for that church down there and what you all friggin’ do. Somebody in this friggin’ town has got to give the friggin’ drunks a place to be, and you all are the only ones that do. I don’t think --- ----- about churches, but St. Matthew’s I respect.

…. looking for gold? I had a friend who would drive out the Steese every year this time of the year, when the creeks are running; and what he did was, he looked in the culverts. You know the water runs through them; and the culverts sift it, like a gold pan; and the ground belongs to nobody because it’s under the road. He found a few good size nuggets doin’ that; and had a mason jar full. . .

I can’t IMAGINE bein’ a part of any church but this one. St. Matthew’s just accepts everyone for where they are. Not all churches do that.

. . . caught a caribou in a martin set once. It was the lead caribou, you know, going along sniffing . . . and SNAP! Going along checking his trapline and there was a caribou, stuck.

Careful of that knife. It’s had Al-Queda blood on it.

I don’t feel bad about the ones I shot - “terminated with EXTREME prejudice”. But I still think about -- -----, who was lying there gut shot beside me.

. . . asked him how he was; and he said he didn’t think he could have any more tears left in him.

That’s what I like about Skype. You can see your kids’ faces when they’re lying to you.

Tell me about Forgiveness. How does it work? How do I know God forgives me? How do I forgive myself?

. . . a cake a month. . .

A REPORT from the STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
By Clarence Bolden, chair

The Stewardship Committee has been busy over the summer with meetings, activities, and making plans for the upcoming months. Pat Sackinger and Marlin Collins from the Vestry joined our August meeting and were helpful in getting great ideas on the table. There are five projects that the Committee is involved in, and is looking for others to help. Everyone is welcome to volunteer and, as you know, we all have different ministries and gifts. There should be something for all of us in the following activities:

The “I Have A Story To Tell. . . “series will continue with persons born between 1940-1949 highlighted with their stories. Mary Ellen Koeller and Marlin Collins are the contacts for this activity and will be developing dates, and a process for the story telling. There are many persons born during this time period, so the interest in participating will be high.

Margarette Bolden and Cindy Straiger have volunteered to begin the MONTHLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. They are getting the details together and will be announcing them in the near future. It sounds like a cake a month for the birthday members.

The Committee will be receiving and training persons who want to serve as GREETERS for the second two services. Rich Cummings has volunteered to be the contact for this activity. We will need several persons to get this rich tradition started. These important persons will also develop a way to recognize and follow up with visitors to St. Matthew’s.

A RECYCLE GROUP is forming with Shirley Gordon and Louise Smith serving as the contacts. They are looking for people to help map out how this should work and when to begin. I know there is a desire to drink from regular cups and not Styrofoam. I am looking forward to that change as well.

Finally, Deacon Bella Jean Savino and I are working with Hilary Freeman (The Parish Administrator) to put together a LISTING of all the ministries members of St. Matthew’s are involved in. I believe we will be surprised both at the number of these ministries and the variety.

The Committee is also planning on what activities we should begin as we begin to look forward to the January Annual Meeting. Stay Tuned!
By Pat Sackinger

The Health Ministry at St. Matthew’s is continuing several of its programs this year; and we’re very grateful for the support we have received from this parish, The National Episcopal Health Ministry, and Providence Health Systems Alaska.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to knit and crochet beautiful shawls to share with others who appreciate their thoughtfulness and support in times of difficulty. We're all one family.

Blood Pressure checks continue on the last Sunday of the month between services, except during the summer months. The goal is to detect consistent, elevated blood pressure which, if present, can lead to serious medical conditions. People who know their numbers can get medical treatment through their clinic, M.D. or medical provider, and most likely prevent medical complications.

The Health Ministry Cabinet in the Parish Hall features health related information based on reliable sources such as National Episcopal Health Ministry, National Institutes of Health, trustworthy media data, and many other sources. Except in the summer this is changed according to a rotating schedule based on national suggestions.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM will happen again this year beginning the end of October, with an emphasis on prayer and meditation, eating right, and a reasonable level of activity. This is quite a practical method for being good stewards, and being able to “do all such good works as Thou has prepared for us to walk in”.

In January the Healthy Foods Program with good tasting and healthy foods will be available after the Sunday services.

The post card sized photographs of St. Matthew’s with an accompanying prayer, have been very popular, both with parishioners and tourists. And, of course, it will continue.

Should you have any suggestions, ideas, or concerns or wish to join us, please contact any Health Ministry person, the Church Office, or read the Sunday Bulletin and show up. We'd welcome you.

Spring to Summer Voices

. . . and after they did that, their house caught fire. When they ran down there, there was an Old Lady in front, laughing and laughing. “Should never have bothered our graves” she told them. Then she disappeared.

. . . was at last year’s service, with people throwing footballs and blowing bubbles at the end. That was their first service here; and they thought it was pretty weird.

Saw a Big City in the sky, when we came across the road. Just shining. “Illusion” they call it. I don’t think so.

I know what you mean. Now that I’m retired, I’m makin’ half what I was makin’, and things cost twice as much as they did. Look at GAS!

Do you believe in a LITERAL Rapture?

. . . and after he said that to me, it was probably 30 or more years before I went in a Church again. He didn’t know. What gave him the right to say things like that to me, or anyone? What gave him the right to judge things he didn’t know about?

Gwampa. When you’re 80 years old, will you have to walk with one of those things too, those walkers? Does everybody have to walk with those when they turn 80? Are you almost 80?

. . . for pointing me towards the poultry and away from the paltry.

. . . and they’ve been seeing mountain lions down there, in those hills behind town. ------- even saw one in her yard. Her neighbor called her and said, “What’s that in your yard out front?” and she looked out her window and said “THAT’S A MOUNTAIN LION!” Next time you see -------, ask him! He saw them.

. . . was driving up from Anchorage and called me after she got to town. Said she stopped to sleep in the car, before Cantwell, and pulled off the road. Got up in the
Spring to Summer Voices

night to stretch. She said, “You’ll never guess what I saw! I swear. It was like those things on TV. A BIG CAT! Not a wolf. Or a lynx. I KNOW what wolves and lynx look like. This thing was big. And it was BLACK. It was like... it looked just like...I SWEAR I SAW THIS AND I WASN’T DREAMING... a panther.”

Those days they just drove downtown and would pick boys up to go fire-fighting. I woke up one time, I’d been dead drunk, you know, in a Black-out, I woke up one time from a Black-out and I was in an airplane with a bunch of other guys. Flying someplace. I remembered NOTHING.

How do I.....how do I forgive my children for the things they’ve done, that they probably don’t even remember doing?

FORTY MINUTES! Forty minutes once a day to teach OUR LANGUAGE and PRESERVE OUR CULTURE is NOT enough. It’s NOT cutting it. It’s OUR Language.

I know you’ll find this hard to believe, but I’m staying home and workin’ on my boat.

Ohhh, they don’t know Liturgy. That wasn’t Liturgy. That was like doing an autopsy on Vegetable Soup.

Look out! I’m a FRESHMAN!

... and Fr. Salmon just kept walking around and around in the Circle, praying; and that Light in the sky just kept growing and growing.

... and his eyes are blue and they crinkle.

... and we know where, up that way, there are fields that are JUST BLUE with blueberries. JUST BLUE. Gotta take your own firewood though.

He wants to know when you’re going to give him Jesuscookies and Jesuswine.

(Continued on page 13)
Diocesan Convention . . .

WHEREAS the Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime stated at the Interior Deanery meeting that neither of these is his priority; now THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention reaffirm the Bishop’s campaign and the Suffragen Bishop for Indigenous Ministry; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bishop’s Campaign and the Suffragen Bishop for Indigenous ministry be a priority of the office of the Bishop.

Aside from “church business”, the Convention is finally and deeply a family gathering and celebration. We come from widely different places and cultures, but the Kingdom is as present in Ketchikan, as Kotzebue; in Homer, as Fairbanks; on Tudor Road in Anchorage, as Front Street in Beaver. We come together to hear those stories; celebrate them; and discern “as in a mirror darkly” the Future to which the Spirit is leading.

Let us pray.

Spring to Summer Voices

. . . and they flew in to check on us. And I thought, “Gee, why do you keep checking on us? We’re out here on our land at our FishCamp; and we’re only maybe catching one or two fish IF WE’RE LUCKY a day; and you keep checking on us!”

OH! You’re THE PRIEST HERE? I’ve really wanted to know! How Calvinistic is your Church? Or is it more Wesleyan? I’ve been reading and wondered . . .

Ohhh, it’s just another hole that Bob Maguire left in our Life.

. . . and we believe we’ve found a home here at St. Matthew’s.

I had a lynx on my porch this morning. On my ENCLOSED porch. Clowns ALWAYS live a long life.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Patty Meritt, Director of Christian Education

Vacation Bible School: With the guidance of Belle Mickelson, a Dancing with the Spirit VBS was held at St. Matthew’s August 4th - 7th. Pete Peter, Bill Stevens, Al Grunin, Fred Weiss and Jeff Merkel instructed the campers in guitar, fiddle, mandolin and electric bass. At one point there were eighteen kids, ages 5 - 14. There were several performances held; two at the Tanana Valley Fair and one during the 11:15 service

Start up: September 25, the Feast of St. Matthew’s, will be the first day of Sunday School this year. We are hoping to play carnival type games to welcome students back. Hopefully the weather will be warm enough and the children dressed appropriately so we can play outside with the parachute and hula hoops, bean bags, relay races etc.

How it works: Each Sunday classes will again meet both the 9:15 and 11:15 services. Children ages 3-13 are welcome to attend. Parents of all children, especially those who are shy or young, are encouraged to stay until the children are comfortable. We start in the church, leave after the collect and usually return them to church in time for the communion. IT IS VERY HELPFUL if families keep the children with them after the communion, as Sunday School teachers use this time to set up the next session or to clean up.

Help NEEDED: For the past two years we have been trying to build up attendance and our prayers have been answered! Last year we touched the lives of over 60 children! However, this requires a large group of dedicated volunteers. We basically do all the same things as are done in church, and we need a large core of people to help. I am pleased we have had a few people come forward after I made my recent pleas in church. We still need people to do the following:

- Coordinate the Christmas pageant (we have costumes, scenery and scripts to choose from)
- Develop and coordinate an Easter pageant (requested by the children)
- Come and get us each week in time for communion (we cannot hear when to come down)

(Continued on page 14)
Godly Play Training: The Vestry charged us with getting training in the Godly Play curriculum last fall, but through a series of scheduling difficulties and in anticipation of a new youth pastor it has been delayed until this year. The training is now scheduled for Saturday October 8, from 9:30–11.

Shoebox project: We are again planning to participate in the Operation Christmas Child project. We will NEED SHOEBOXES. These should be standard size. We also need small items to go inside. It cannot be war related (no cowboys and Indian figures, for example or weapons of any kind) nor can it be liquid (no bubbles) or anything that would melt (no chocolate candy). Good ideas include: soap, washcloths, hair clips, combs, toothbrushes & toothpaste, small toys, small stuffed animals, crayons, writing tablets, pencils, water color paints, small books. I have been finding a lot of things on sale with back to school specials. Also, I am always on the lookout for toys in the clearance bins with “an additional 40-60% off”. Feel free to donate as many of these items as you would like. Also, they always ask for the shipping cost if possible; last year it was $7 per box. Several people in Sunday School wrote pretty sizable checks for this last year, so cash donations are appreciated too.

Thanks for all your prayers and help!

UNITED THANK OFFERING

By Helen Howard

Thanks to all who turned in their Blue Boxes with their UTO gifts. In Spring 2010, St. Matthew’s sent to Winnie Nowak, the State UTO representative, $509.43; and in Fall 2010 we sent $500.62. So, $1,010.05 for last year. This Spring’s offering was $528.13, a little more than last year.
Winnie was able to send a check from the Diocese for $6,398.89. St. Stephen’s Church in Fort Yukon received a $15,000 Grant, which went towards providing safe and decent housing for the Rev. Mary Nathaniel.

If you don’t know how to pray as you drop a coin in your box, here is a suggestion from Charlotte Cox, ECW President, Province VI:

Come Holy Spirit. Accept my thanksgivings for your many blessings. Open my heart and help me be still and listen to you; Be with me as I go about my daily work – give me joy in my dealings with others – in my home, work, places, churches. Guide me in love and peace as I meet all persons – on the streets, stores, offices. Eliminate the fear of the unknown. Let me grow where you plant me – your Grace provides all I need to do the work you have given me. AMEN.
Applications sought

ST. MATTHEW’S YOUTH MINISTRY POSITION

During the January 2011 Parish Annual Meeting, after much discussion and prayer (and preparation by the 2010 Vestry), St. Matthew’s passed a resolution to use $25,000 from a Reserved account as “startup funds to budget to support the hire a part-time Youth Minister for one-year.” And “… to establish a committee of volunteers to develop a job description and provide continued support to the Youth Minister fund raise for additional money to keep the position.” Deacon Shirley Lee became chair of the Committee and, after many meetings; the following job description was approved by the Vestry at their April 2011 meeting.

Position Title: Youth Minister

Main functions: Part-time minister working with children and youth

Reports to: Rector

Duties: Responsible for planning facilitating programming and implementing a youth ministry program that primarily targets the youth of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, and also reaches into the broader community; Schedule and staff vacation Bible school each summer; Work with Rector to prepare youth for confirmation each year; Plan and organize youth activities including activity nights, retreats, parties, etc.; Work with Youth Ministry Committee to develop appropriate curriculum for Sunday school; Work with and participate in coordination with the Sunday school program; Develop youth volunteer program to encourage youth participation in church events and the community; Work with Youth Ministry Committee to develop fundraising for youth activities

Working conditions: Flexible schedule depending on planned activities; Exempt part-time position without benefits [benefits required for 1,000 hours per year or more]; Approximately 20 hours per week [see note above]; Work location: church facilities, parish hall, classrooms, summer camp location or in the community, depending on activity; At-will employment working under the direction of the Rector; Work in non-supervisory coordination with the Youth Ministry Committee

Employment Requirements: Prefer university graduate with formal training and at least two years experience in youth ministry, or other comparable experience, with opportunity for candidate pursuing further education in youth ministry; Passionate and informed Christian faith; Proven leadership; Enthusiasm for working with young people; Excellent team-building skills; Work within the liturgical congregational life of St. Matthew’s Church, the diocese of Alaska and the world-wide Anglican Communion; Literate with social media, youth culture and Alaska Native culture; Team player able to work with youth, St. Matthew’s clergy, parishioners and staff; Satisfactory completion of criminal background check; Must complete Safe Church Training and Antiracism Training within reasonable time after hire.

Interested applicants should contact The Church Office.

Tracking the Unseen Breath of The Spirit...  

A CHILDHOOD MEMORY

By Helen Burrell

A memory from Helen.

Some things are meant to be.

When I was a child in England, Uncle Fred and I would walk the dog and Uncle would sing songs from his youth and, as he was born in 1903, we are talking way back into the 1920’s or before. We loved to sing “Blackbird has Spoken”; we only knew the words to the first two lines but “la-la-la’ the rest. As far as I knew from my world view this song didn’t exist anywhere else, not on the radio or at home or church. Flash forward to my return to St. Matthews in 1981. Yes, at that service we sang “Blackbird has Spoken”; and not only that we prayed the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for the Diocese of Chichester, my "home" Diocese. Some things are meant to be!
A JULY PASTORAL LETTER from
BISHOP LATTIME
July 26, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It has been an extraordinary year, and it is difficult to believe that a year has elapsed since becoming your bishop. If challenged to summarize my experience over this year, I would use the word adventure. However, if allowed a few modifiers, I would add that it has been a holy, spiritual, joyful and blessing-filled adventure.

Of the many blessings I have experienced everywhere I have been in this diocese, none is more abundant than the outpouring of love and concern you have expressed for the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of your bishop and his family. We are grateful for this care and concern. Our boys, David and Jack, have adjusted very well to their new life in Fairbanks. They have integrated comfortably into school and both are developing a growing circle of friends. It is a delight to see them doing so well. Allison graduated from High School in Geneseo, NY at the end of June. The boys and I were able to participate with Lisa and Allison in celebrating this wonderful event and life transition. Allison has decided to attend LeMoyne University in Syracuse and will begin her studies in late August. Times of significant transitions in life present opportunities to give thanks. Our time in Western New York was filled with thanksgivings.

Over this past year Lisa and I have remained in a continuing process of discernment. Together, we have affirmed and celebrated my call to be your bishop. We see clearly that God has called me to this place and ministry. However, for reasons that were not clear before, but have been revealed over the past year, we have come to recognize that Lisa is not prepared to move to Alaska. Therefore, we have made arrangements for a legal separation.

Lisa and I fully support one another in our discernment and these decisions, and I am grateful that Lisa shares my hope for a long and effective episcopate here in the Diocese of Alaska. While the reality of my decision to separate does present some challenges to the logistics of my travel and work schedule, I am confident that it will not impair the effectiveness of my ministry to this Diocese. And, while it is certain that this decision presents additional challenges to our children, Lisa and I are equally confident that we can remain effective loving partners in their care.

Recognizing a history of anxiety for the health and care of your bishop and his family, I assure you that I have the support and have been in on-going dialogue with the Presiding Bishop, and Bishop Clay Matthews, the Chaplain to the College for Bishops. Furthermore, I am grateful for the on-going support of my staff and my Bishop Coach James Waggoner. These people, along with the generous expressions of concern and care from every corner of this diocese, provide me a witness of strength and health. The Spirit of Christ is ultimately my source of strength, courage, and healing, and I have nowhere sensed the Spirit’s presence in my life as abundantly and powerfully as I have in the midst of the people of Alaska. I know that while I journey this land, I never journey alone.

Let us, therefore, with joy and courage, continue to walk together facing the challenges and changes ahead with confidence in the Spirit’s power and guidance.

In the Joy of Christ,
Mark A. Lattime
8th Bishop of Alaska
LEAVING ST. MATTHEW’S

[NOTE: Organist Laura Vines wrote this Letter in mid-May; kept playing music for us every Sunday until early July, left driving down the Road, had some interesting adventures, came back, and then left again, for more adventures and finally arrival home in Alabama. Laura was and is much more than our organist for 5 years... she was Laura, laughing and helping and taking photographs and dreaming dreams and being her. Her HomeGround of Birmingham is blessed to have her, as we were.]

May 15th
Dearest St. Matthew’s Friends,

It is a difficult thing to share some news with you, the news that I will be moving back to Birmingham, Alabama in July. I have been feeling the pull and call of family and roots for about a year now. The decision took a long time and much prayer and thought before it was finally made. But I think the time has come in this old southern girl’s life to go home and be with family. I have been a wanderer my entire life and I wouldn't trade my adventures for anything. But I seem to be passing into another season of my life now, when maybe I will have other adventures, and perhaps discover something essential about who I am in exploring what and where I came from.

I first came to Alaska a very young 22 years old, and had many amazing adventures by the ocean, and by the great Yukon. I came back again and again over the years, and moved back to Ruby in 2002. I stayed there until fall of 2004 and then moved to Fairbanks. I first visited St. Matthew’s the Sunday before Palm Sunday in 2005. When I walked in the door, I was greeted enthusiastically by Helen Peters, who I knew from the village. She seized me and took me around to introduce me to everyone. I remember thinking, “This has to be the friendliest church I’ve ever been to!” I felt so at home almost immediately. And the sense of being so comfortable just grew over time. I remember telling Scott that I felt like I blended in with the molecules of the walls and furniture! I so loved and still love playing music for the church. It is simply fun! When I look out on the faces in the congregation, I feel myself in the presence of God so much. Feeling and thought and spirit pass over like a wind, changing how people look from moment to moment. Tears, laughter, astonishment, amazing joy, profound sorrow—all flowing and flowing with the music and the words and the acts.

I have learned so much from being here and being in relationship with each and every one of you. I owe a debt of gratitude for what I have been given, and for what you received from me so joyfully. Because we each have a need to share what blesses us, and if there’s no one on the receiving end, how can we give that? You have been wonderful, open receivers of what blesses me and that I cannot keep to myself. If people didn't receive it, I'd have to give it to the rocks and trees or something! It can't stay inside. And you in turn have taught me so much about generosity and love and friendship. Nowhere else other than with my birth family could I have been so loved and so cared for. So, a big thank you from my heart!

(Continued on page 18)
I truly believe St. Matthew’s will be my church forever. I just can’t imagine any other place being so perfect for me. When I think of church, I will see St. Matthew’s in my mind, and hear the wind in the birches outside. I will return, God-willing, and visit when I can. Mom is talking of all of us, my brother and family included, coming up together next year.

I will always pray for you each and every day of my life. Not long ago I dreamed of trying to tell someone why I loved our Lord Christ, and I remembered how He had saved my life when I was a girl. I started to cry because I could not find the words to explain to the person what that meant to me, and why I belonged to Christ forever. Don’t ever forget that, my Friends. No matter what. You will be tried and tested. All of us will. But don’t ever lose that image, that deep knowledge of Him inside. We have all sat at the feet of the Master, and we can’t ever truly forget what that was like, no matter all the time and tides and changes in between.

May God bless you, and let us treasure the time we still have together here in this beautiful place.

—Laura Vines

“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit” (1st Corinthians 12:4)

THERE THEY GO; HERE THEY COME, etc............

St. Matthew’s lives amongst the swirl of the Spirit and, despite these sturdy log walls, is a fluid place. There are always comings and goings. Some changes since the last Newsletter though need to be noted.

Tree Michael Nelson was, among other things, our resident sexton..........and the Webgardener............and the computer technology “now what do we do” person . . . and more for over 4 years. He resigned in January 2011 and left for Mystery and Prayer and Adventure. His departure forced the Vestry into searching for a new sexton, and keeping the church clean until that happened. Former Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah became the resident sexton in July, after cooking Booyah for Golden Days. Beverly Schommer, still exiled in Arkansas, still faithfully maintains the St. Matthew’s Website (www.stmatthewschurch.org). [BUT . . . one of the gaps Tree left still needs to be filled. He often recorded the services for posting on the Website; and that has not been done since his departure. If YOU are professionally familiar with sound equipment and systems and interested in helping with this, contact the Church Office. There are people who cannot make it to the services, who were dependent upon this ministry; and they miss it.]

Laura Vines was our Sunday organist for almost 5 years . . . and also our banjo player . . . and folksinger . . . and often our photographer. She left (and there’s a story for another time) after the July Golden Days to return home to Alabama. Since her departure, Ruth Storvick has returned to the organ and, when Ruth and her Beloved leave for the Winter in mid October (their last Sunday will be October 16th) , ever faithful and neighbor Mary Ellen Koeller will be returning to the organist bench.

Finally, after three years in the Diocesan Office, as of mid September, the Rev. Deacon Shirley Lee has assumed the position of Housing First Program Director with the Tanana Chiefs Conference. This Program, working with the homeless chronic inebriates, stems from her ecumenical work with the homeless here at St. Matthew’s. She, of course, continues to function liturgically here at St. Matthew’s.
The Fill-In Station has once again been hauled out of the prop room in the basement (where it hibernates until the leaves start dropping)... and we know what season is upon us. Its appearance in the Parish Hall signifies that we are fast approaching PFD time. For the new arrivals at the church a bit of history might be helpful.

A few years back we were all fortunate to receive the PFD and an energy incentive simultaneously. This caused the checks to be about twice the normal average amount. During that same time frame the church was unusually in arrears, with respect to the planned budget for that year. Go figure! The Vestry was desperate; and called on the congregation to share the fruits of their bounty. The response was overwhelmingly very generous. Since that point in time, due to continually rising expenses that we are all experiencing, we have had to rely on the PFD Drive to reduce our negative balance, to have any hope of ending in the black at the end of the last fiscal quarter.

The Vestry has been as proactive as it can possibly be in managing expenses; and they feel tremendous pressure with respect to their responsibility to do what is best for St. Matthew's. I am quite certain I have experienced that stress myself. However, when the sole function of the Vestry becomes financial by nature; then the focus on the mission of the church becomes compromised. Furthermore, we are hampering clergy and staff in fulfilling their very crucial roles within the parish. So what then is the answer?

As in the past, we the congregation, must share in this burden. And rightly so, since we ARE St. Matthew's. One and the same. I believe it is up to all of us to share with our church. If you have not participated, please do so. Please involve others around you and share the importance of this fundraiser with the new members attending your service.

We have always sought 100% participation. Historically 50 to 100 individuals have responded. I am appealing to each and every one of you to surpass previous years' participation and pledges. We absolutely need over 100 people to respond to this for it to be a success - simply because the deficit is so much greater than the same timeframe in previous years. Of course (as always) we appreciate whatever you give. That amount remains between you and God. However all calculations are based on a 10% pledge. Simply put, at a minimum, to halve the deficit to $12,000 we need 100 contributors @ $120 each, or some combination thereof, which will produce the same amount.

In closing, I must state that I come to church to shed my problems whatever they might be and I assume most of you do the same. I am quite certain I do not enjoy being the messenger in these situations; however it would be irresponsible to ignore our situation. Most of us do not consider the church as a business because it is non-profit. Make no mistake about it though, even a non-profit business needs to break even to be around for long. May God bless each and every one of us for our generosity.
JUST THOUGHTS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN  
By Senior Warden Karen Kiss

In June, she wrote…

The Vestry has been a very working Vestry, not just attending the monthly meetings or worrying about finances, but keeping the church clean. Every week a Vestry member takes on the job of co-ordinating and getting a crew to do the vacuuming, mopping, trash removal, etc. Cleaning is a task which works around the meetings, garage sales, services. We have gained a few volunteers over this period that also come at the odd hours to clean. Many, many thanks to those continue to help out. We still have a couple of months before a new Sexton will be available so you to can still volunteer. Roslyn Allen has taken over the job of "Kitchen Mom" and is doing a great job organizing and cleaning out the kitchen. If you are missing a dish or pot maybe its in the kitchen. Now that it is summer maybe you might want to help in the yard. There is always plenty to do. When we had the official visit of Bishop Mark, confirmation and a Baptism happened at the 11:15 service. As I looked out onto the pews, it was nice to see everyone welcoming our new members into the family. St Matthews is a very large family and with God's help we will continue to grow. Blessings to all of you….enjoy the summer.

And now, as August ends, she writes…

As summer slowly comes to an end we are finally blessed to having an Acting Sexton who is Bruce Gadwah. Even though we have this wonderful person, we also have to remember that Bruce, like everyone else, enjoys a weekend or so off. There will be times when volunteering to help keep St. Matthew's tidy and neat will be needed. Now you’re thinking “that is not for me”, but really it is a wonderful feeling when the job is done and you know the church is ready for services. We have had wonderful volunteers since January and so again I say THANK YOU.

There are now berries to pick, the colors of fall to enjoy, and of course the much loved sunshine!
NOTE: The end of Summer and Fall Time is often the time for Memorial Potlatches. Early this September, Memorial potlatches were held in Tanana (remembering the Rev. John Starr) and Beaver (remembering Richard Pitka). Bishop Mark MacDonald, who ordained John, was able to travel to Tanana for the potlatch. Bishop MacDonald served as 7th Episcopal Bishop of Alaska and is now the Anglican Church of Canada’s first National Indigenous Bishop. This article is reprinted, with permission, from The Anglican Journal

JOHN STARR’S POTLATCH
By The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

I thought of these verses while attending a potlatch in Tanana, Alaska – a memorial for the Rev. John Starr. I heard John quote these verses – from memory, in the King James Version - at a similar gathering many years earlier. He quoted this passage to describe the spirit of potlatch and the life of faith and salvation in Christ. Sitting at his potlatch, I realized that his life was an embodiment of these verses.

A potlatch is an amazing event. It includes days of non-stop Native food and dance, reaching its climax with a massive give away. It makes “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” look like a game of chess. This event was so frightening to the Europeans that they made it illegal. Its message and method was considered a direct insult to the project of making Native Peoples a part of Western civilization. In the end, potlatch was not conquered. Today, many who visit a potlatch, Native and non-Native, express the hope that the spirit of the gathering will conquer Western society.

I met John in 1989, long before I was his bishop. He was clearly a spiritual leader, clearly a person who should be ordained in this small fly-in community without a priest. I said to him and myself that I would pray for his ordination (he listened without comment or emotion). If there was ever anything I could do to help that happen, I would give my best efforts to it. His ordination to the priesthood in February of 2000 remains one of the high points of my ministry.

When John died, the testimonies of his influence were overwhelming. He had helped so many, silently, behind the scenes, and dramatically influencing so many people. John’s life was, like Jesus, like the potlatch, countercultural. Looking back now, I recognize these things as a part of John’s potlatch theology:

1. The true greatness is hidden in humility.
2. You can accomplish great things, if you don’t need to be recognized for what you do.
3. Strength and power are measured by what you give away, not by what you have.
4. Humility, generosity, and gratitude are born in each other. They are a part of one spiritual movement in our lives.
5. Christian faith intensifies and anoints our life in the larger community, making it possible to serve the well-being of all and bring glory to God.

It was hard to get John ordained. He didn’t strike people as a typical priest, though all acknowledged his spiritual and intellectual gifts. I now believe he is the type of leader we are looking for in today’s church.
REMEMBERING STAN

(Rev. J. Stanley Sullivan, former Champion BeltBuckle Winning Rodeo Cowboy, something like 5th generation Texan, medaled and decorated Special Forces combat VietNam veteran, and schoolteacher and Episcopal priest, pulled his own oxygen mask off and left in March. He was living back home in Texas. Before he went back home to Texas, he was here in the Interior. He served schools and the Church in Beaver, Fort Yukon, Nenana, and Fairbanks. He was a friend. Before he came to Alaska, he was in Wyoming, where he was ordained. Below, a friend from Wyoming remembers:

For those of you who never knew him, Stan was a real treasure. Though he rubbed some people wrong, he told it straight. He lived his life in the rough and tumble and dealt with his Christian faith from the midst of the fray. He ran a miner’s union in Hanna, got down with the people on the Wind River Reservation, and assisted at the cathedral in Laramie. He was tattooed from head to toe and rode his Harley across the Wyoming plains. In short, Stan couldn’t be missed. I always enjoyed his company and appreciated his natural ability to break the “holy” stereotype of a sanctimonious preacher. I only ran across him a couple of times after he left Wyoming. I heard about his adventures in Alaska. I last spoke with him at Bishop Caldwell’s consecration. It was a great reunion. I can just see him ripping off that oxygen mask and moving on. He is indeed on the other shore in a new campground.

“Being lulled to sleep with sounds of the river’s life just a hundred feet from our canvas wall-tent…”

FISHCAMP MEMORIES & WISDOM

By Walter Tommy

Learning to make a fishnet from the beginning is a skill that is not being taught to the younger generation. Even the skill of repairing a fishnet is rarely taught.

The interest in wanting to learn this survival skill is not really a necessity anymore. The families that used to have smoke-house’s going all summer long, do not have that going on as much as they used to. AND THAT was just less then 20 years ago.

I grew up having to help my mom hang fishnet up to do repairs from last year’s use, and look for holes in it that needed repairing. We’d hang it up on our clothes-line bar; and had a pole to lift it up in the center, where we could have a good look at the whole thing, before we’d take it down and wrap it up good; to take down to grandma’s fishcamp in the summer.

Grandmas’ fishcamp was the best place for me to have been raised in. Being lulled to sleep with sounds of the river’s life just a hundred feet from our canvas wall-tent, felt so comforting and safe.

My grandmas’ fishcamp, is my mom’s aunt. And she and her two sons, my uncles David Esau and Frank Jacob, stayed there also. Uncle David had his own little wall tent with a small Yukon stove in it, right behind the bigger tent where my two grandmas (sisters), my uncle Frank, mom, me and my brother slept. (Ya gotta realize that me and my bro were little guys then, so we took up less room then the grown-up’s).

Grandma had a fishwheel just in front of her fishcamp. This was the one sound that I just loved to hear, amongst the other sounds, but the creaking of the wet axle, and the splashing of the basket in the water, with the dripping of water off of the catch basket, with an occasional flipping and thumping of a caught fish in the wooden catch-box, was so peaceful and pure. An innocent time of trusting and caring for one another. In the welfare of each and everyone in the community, there was askance of their well-being.

In asking of how their fishing was going, there was no competiton of “getting more than you” towards each other. Everyone had plenty of fish then. There was no market for fish eggs, and I watched as my mom, grandma, and uncles throw back into the river whole skein’s of fish-egg’s. I would ask mom to save me some, and I would get all I wanted, everyday, along with the fish-heart’s, um, uhhmm, goot. And of course, the fish-heads!!!

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[Both Damian and Jamelia were deploying within the week for Afghanistan. Saturday evening, April 23rd, a number of people also formally renewed their baptismal vows. These included Tessa Peter, and Mandy and Shaun Lewis. Wednesday evening, April 27th, Fr. John Holz baptized 7 weeks old Neviya Lynn Joe. Her Godparents are April Adams, Lee Joe, and Juanita Wilson.

Savino baptized 1 week old Jayne Ann Carroll of Chalkyitsik. Her Godparents are Gordon Druck, Shawn Peter, and Misty Thomas. On the 5th Sunday of Easter, May 23rd, Bishop Mark Lattime came to visit. The following were presented by either the rector or Dawn Jagow and confirmed in their Baptismal Vows: Victor Joe Apodaca III, Car’mel Lavery Loud (who received her great grandmother’s confirmation cross from the Bishop), Andrew Levi Mitchell, Darcy Larae Peter, Tessa Lily Peter (who had renewed her vows above, Easter night); Sarah Elizabeth Reed, Athena Kristine Sweetser, Marci Ann Walsh, and Harold Andrew Woods. Additionally, Robert Melvin Parsons, sponsored by Bruce Gadwah and the rector, was baptized and sealed by the Bishop, and hence confirmed.

June-August (Pentecost)

Wednesday evening, June 22nd, the rector baptized 7 months old Rena Starr Zottola. Her Godparents are her Grandparents, Susan and Ronald Zottola of Connecticut. Wednesday evening, June 29th, the rector baptized 10 months old Abigail Grace Candelaria and 8 years old Dylan Theodore Candelaria. Abigail’s Godparents are Gwendolyn Gruenig and Randyl Hendrickson; Dylan’s Godparents are Cervantes Candelaria-Sosa and Johanna Feliz Urena. Wednesday evening, July 6th, the rector baptized another great great niece – 4 months old Dyani Rae Adams. Her Godfather is Kyle Jack Adams Wiehl. Dyani’s big brother Jagger assisted with the service. Sunday afternoon, July 10th, the rector baptized 3 months old Nathan Lee Joseph. Nathan’s Godparents are Sonya Villagecenter and David Evans. Saturday morning, July 16th, the rector baptized 10 years old Aurora Breeze Phlegar, 8 years old Aidan Fabian Phlegar, and 4 years old Jaden Hunter Phlegar, all of Delta Junction. Their Godmother is their Grandmother – Joyce Phlegar of West Virginia. Wednesday evening, July 27th, the rector baptized 23 years old Kelly O’dell Olney and his 2 months old son Mesiah O’dell Olney. Their Godparents and Sponsors are Travis Britain and Verlana Britain. Sunday morning, July 31st, the rector baptized almost 1 year old Roman Alphonse Bettis and 2 years old Daniel Isaiah Warren Taylor. Roman’s Godparents are Russell Silas and Sherlyn Dawn Titus. Daniel’s Godparents are Marlene Taylor and Denise Hardesty. Wednesday evening, August 10th, the rector baptized nearly 1 year old Alexandria Vale Olsen. Her Godparents are her Grandparents – Doug and Cheryl Olsen of Texas. Wednesday evening, August 17th, the rector, in a “Beaver celebration”, baptized 1 year old Brenna Rose Bante and 4 years old Travis Blaine Pitka. Brenna’s Godparents are Tyrone Ryder Sr, Barbara Solaris-Saunders, and Roberta Solaris. Travis’s Godparents are Flynt Reynolds and Jayme Reynolds.

WEDDINGS

Saturday afternoon, May 21st, the rector celebrated the wedding of Carey Rose Erhart and Dwayne Lee Roberts. Saturday afternoon, June 4th, the rector celebrated the wedding of Laura Margaret Minerva and David Aaron Fields. Saturday afternoon, June 25th, he celebrated the wedding of Misty Rose Riley and Francisco Philippe Beetus. Thursday afternoon, June 30th, he celebrated the wedding of Harriet

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O Ye Frost and Cold

March—September 2011

Fishcamp Memories . . .

It was also the sounds of the creaking, cottonwood tree-roots, and the smell of fresh cut spruce-tree boughs for our bed cushion and flooring, that I enjoyed.

I would awaken in the morning next to my older brother's warm body, and snuggle up to him, thinking of how many fish that were caught that night before; and I would have a bet with my brother to see who would be the closest to guessing it.

After having a breakfast of bacon and pancakes with log cabin syrup, we’d run down to the fishcutting area by the river bank; and watch as my uncle would take fish out of the boat in a wash-tub, and carry it up to the big barrels, with water in it for cutting and making dry fish, or smoked salmon strips.

Uncle Frank, David and my mom would then go down to my mom’s fishnet to get fish out of it, and that would be hers exclusively. All the other fish that came out of the fishwheel that she cut-up for smoking and drying, she would get half of that, which was a lot.

The work at getting salmon out of a fishnet is not easy.

Setting it out in the river is not easy work, either.

A person who uses a fishnet to catch any kind of salmon out of the Tanana River has to know the river area where the fishnet will be set out. A place where there’s a big eddy in the river current, is a good place to set out a net. You would also have to look to see if there might be under-brush or drift in the muddy, silty river where you want to stretch out your 50 ft. or 100 ft. king salmon fishnet.

Tying securely the anchor rope to a tree on the bank, and having the net neatly coiled so you can watch it and feed it through your hands, thereby guiding it as it is being pulled into the river by it’s own lead weight, until you get to the heavy anchor weight at the end, and drop the weight, watching so that you don’t get hooked up somehow in the fast moving rope.

You as the fishnet setter, also have to watch the angle of the boat and tell the captain which way to steer back with the boat as you let out the net.

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Madonna David and Dana James Nollner. Friday afternoon, July 9th, Fr. Steve Matthew, in the family backyard, celebrated the wedding of his Granddaughter Aleisha Singh and David Fuller. And finally, at 2:30 in the morning, Wednesday, July 27th, in the Fairbanks Hospital, the rector celebrated the re-marriage of Harry Fields Jr and Thelma Lewis.

FUNERALS, MEMORIALS, BURIALS, etc.

February (Epiphany)

Thursday, February 3rd, 56 years old Aurelie Brown died, possibly of exposure, at her camp on the edge of Fairbanks. Her funeral services were held elsewhere in the State, but Wednesday, February 9th, the rector led a private mourning memorial service for her and her friends, here at St. Matthew's. Thursday afternoon, February 17th, 59 years old Peter Solomon, youngest son of 102 years old Hannah Solomon, died completely unexpectedly at home here in Fairbanks. [Peter’s older brother Paul Jr just had died the previous month (January 10th) at Denali Center.] Wednesday afternoon, February 23rd, St. Matthew’s filled and overflowed in every direction possible for his funeral, led by the rector, Bishop Mark Lattime, The Rev. Steve Matthew, the Rev. Helen Peters, the Rev. Deacons Bella Jean Savino and Shirley Lee. Ravens sang outdoors and moose walked around in the churchyard and across the street. In keeping with his request to be buried next to his late wife Geraldine Esmailka (She died suddenly and tragically in 1994, 11 months after their wedding here), his casket was flown to Galena, and then traveled overnight down the trails, through a GIANT STORM, to Nulato. The rector accompanied Peter’s brother Franklin, and Darlene Herbert, by plane to Nulato and, Saturday afternoon, February 26th, all gathered in the Community Hall for his funeral, led by the rector and assisted by Br. Robert Ruzicka, OFM of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Nulato. His body was laid to rest next to his Geraldine’s, high within the timber atop the bluff overlooking the Yukon. Nulato Tradition and Potlatch and overwhelming hospitality followed.

Saturday, February 19th, 68 years old Lena Pauline Hayton passed away unexpectedly in Eagle. Saturday,
**Fishcamp Memories . . .**

Then when you come back to check it out and see that the floats are low in the water, letting you know that there’s fish in the net, that’s where the real work comes in.

Starting at the river bank end, you start to lift up on the net out of the water and gripping the whole net section, work your way towards the end that’s out in the river, pulling in the fish.

Sometimes there might be up to half a dozen or more fish in just one short section of the net, squirming and thrashing, flipping, and thumping in the bottom of the boat.

That’s when you have to use a club on the back of their heads to kill’em. If you don’t have fish gloves for protection from the teeth as you work the fish mouth out of the net, your hands and fingers will be cut and torn from trying to get the fish out.

When you catch a big king salmon in your net, they thrash around a lot, sometimes tearing up your net in little places, so when you don’t attend to these tears, you lose fish!!!

SO! It’s important to learn how to repair and maintain your fish-nets.

Thanks to my wonderful wife, we will be setting out our fish-net this summer.

I hope all have a great summer.

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**Seasons of Life . . .**

February 26th St. Matthew’s filled for her funeral, led by Archdeacon Anna Frank and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino. Her burial was held in the days following, at home in Fort Yukon.

March –April (Lent, Holy Week)

Monday morning, March 14th, 47 years old Stephanie Slocum Hall of North Pole passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. St. Matthew’s filled for her funeral Tuesday afternoon, March 22nd, in a service led by the rector. Monday afternoon, March 14th, 66 years old Robert “Bob” Patrick Maguire died suddenly at his cabin on the Chatanika, where he was visiting with his granddaughters. Saturday afternoon, March 19th, the David Salmon Tribal Hall filled to overflowing for his funeral. The service was led by the Soaring Eagle Drum Group (he was the Drum keeper), Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Steve Matthew, the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino, and the rector. Sunday afternoon, March 20th, in sunshine and surrounded by family and friends, 68 years old John Alfred Jr of Minto passed away in Denali Center. Tuesday morning, March 22nd, St. Matthew’s filled for his funeral, led by the rector and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino. Final services and burial followed on Friday, March 25th, at home again in Minto. Later on Sunday, March 20th, 92 years old Ruth Ardis (Hawkins) Gudschinsky passed away at Denali Center. Friday afternoon, April 8th, the rector led her funeral service at the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home. Friday, March 25th, 55 years old Tim Alan Lund died unexpectedly, murdered in the parking lot of his brother’s store, in Fairbanks.

Saturday, April 2nd, the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home overflowed for his service, led by the rector.

Tim Cline assisted with music. Wednesday, March 30th, several weeks short of her birthday, 88 years old Agnes Matthew Mayo Moore died in the Fairbanks Hospital. Tuesday afternoon, April 5th, the Tribal Hall filled for her funeral. The service, led by her son Will Mayo, included Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Deacons Bella Jean Savino and Shirley Lee, the Rev. Helen Peters, the Rev. Steve Matthew, Pastor Marvin Carroll, and the rector. Burial followed at Birch Hill Cemetery.

Sunday, April 10th, 49 years old Rodney “Sugu” Dean Jones passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. Thursday afternoon, April 14th, Archdeacon Anna Frank led his funeral at the Tribal Hall. In the days following, his final service and burial followed in Kotzebue. Wednesday evening, April 20th, after the starkness, yet finally hope, of the Holy Week Tenebrae service, we received into the St. Matthew’s Columbarium the mortal remains of Edgar Filson Soren (who left us in April 2010), and his parents:

Dyrajaia D. Soren (July 7, 1914-January 10th, 1997) and Edgar G. Soren (December 18th, 1913-December 30th, 1995). On Good Friday, April 22nd, 43 years old Lora Lee Harding died suddenly and tragically here in Fairbanks. On Easter Friday, April 29th, the Tribal Hall filled to overflowing for her funeral. The service was led by Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Helen Peters, the Rev. Deacon Shirley Lee, and the rector.

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April–June (Easter)

On Easter Tuesday, April 26th, the Rev. Deacon Shirley Lee, and Bishop Mark Lattime, led the annual Remembrance Service at St. Matthew’s. The service, remembering the still unsolved murder 18 years ago of UAF student Sophie Sergie, and other victims of unsolved homicides here in Fairbanks, was begun by the late Shirley Demientieff.

Friday evening, May 6th, prayers were said in the Fairbanks Hospital Emergency Room as 78 years old Chalkyitsik elder Joe L. Herbert slipped away. His funeral service and burial were held Wednesday, May 11th back home in Chalkyitsik. Saturday, May 7th, 22 years old Shane Thomas Charlie died tragically and unexpectedly at home in Minto. Archdeacon Anna Frank led prayers at the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home Wednesday, May 11th, before the caravan home. Final services at home in Minto followed Saturday, May 14th. Friday, May 13th, 67 years old Pedro “Peter” Lugo died in Seattle, where he had been hospitalized since a fire under mysterious circumstances at his camp in Fairbanks. The Ecumenical Mission for Shelter, including the Rev. Deacon Shirley Lee and Thomas Marsh, held a Memorial Service for Peter Sunday afternoon, May 22nd, at 1st Presbyterian Church downtown. Saturday, May 14th, 81 years old Tanacross Matriarch Ellen J. Thomas unexpectedly passed away at her home in Tanacross. Wednesday afternoon, May 18th, Archdeacon Anna Frank led prayers at the Fairbanks Funeral Home before the caravan Home. Ellen’s final service and burial were held at home in Tanacross Saturday, May 21st. Tuesday, May 17th, 72 years old William Langdon Radcliffe passed away in Roslyn, Washington, where he had lived the last several years. Trinity Sunday afternoon, June 19th, the rector and Don Standing Bear Forrest led a Memorial Service for Bill, at the Dog Musher’s Hall. Friday evening, May 20th, at home in Beaver, which she never really wanted to leave, 81 years old Nora Billy smiled and finished her work here. Tuesday May 24th, St. Matthew’s Church in Beaver filled with flowers and tears and memories; and overflowed into the yard for her funeral, led the Rev. Mary Nathaniel and the rector. Burial and potlatch and dancing into the early morning followed. A rainbow arched over her grave that morning. Saturday, May 21st, 47 years old Luke Wynn Heagy passed away here in Fairbanks. Wednesday, May 25th, family and friends gathered at St. Matthew’s for his Memorial Service, led by the Rev.

Deacons Shirley Lee and Bella Jean Savino. Thursday morning, May 26th, prayers were said at the Fairbanks Hospital as 73 years old Oscar (Adok) Nighte Jr. finished his Time here. His funeral service was held Monday, May 30th, in the Allakaket Community Hall, with burial across the River in the Alatna Cemetery. Hospital Chaplain Fr. Steve Reed flew to Allakaket/Alatna to conduct the services. Saturday morning, May 28th, continuing an idea and hope begun by the late Bob Maguire, friends and the Drum Group gathered on the grounds at the University for a Blessing Ceremony, calling to rest, and finally restoration of the human remains still housed at the University. Later that afternoon, St. Matthew’s hosted the praying of a Pipe Ceremony, to mark the solemnity of the Time and Prayers.

Sunday, June 5th, at the Fairbanks Hospital, 57 years old J. Steven Sherwood passed away. Saturday afternoon, June 11th, on the Eve of Pentecost, family and friends gathered for his funeral, led by the rector.

June – August (Pentecost)

Tuesday, June 14th, 54 years old Harry J. Semaken of Nulato died; and Monday, evening, June 20th, through the efforts of Peter Captain Jr, St. Matthew’s received his body. Harry rested here for the night, before transportation the next morning home to Nulato and his final service and burial. Monday afternoon, June 20th, the remains of Carl “Brad” Bradford Brooks (who died last November 27th) were released from the St. Matthew’s Columbarium to his family. They would be scattered the next evening, June 21st, at Lost Lake. Tuesday evening, June 21st, with military honors and the Alaska Goldpanners in respectful attendance (before their traditional Midnight Sun game), the rector officiated at the burial of Fairbanks icon William “Bill” George Stroecker at Birch Hill Cemetery. Mr. Stroecker had died last November 8th. Thursday afternoon, June 23rd, again at Birch Hill Cemetery, the rector officiated at the burial of Elsie Purdy Simpson. Elsie had died last December 11th. Very early Monday morning June 27th, 57 years old Debra Ann Brouillet of Stevens Village and Circle died in Denali Center. Friday afternoon, July 1st, family and friends gathered in (and around) the pretty Holy Trinity Church in Circle for her final service and burial, led by the rector. Fresh bread baked by Margaret Bessette was used for the Eucharist.

Saturday, July 2nd, 56 years old Rita Rose Roberts of Venetie died in the Anchorage Hospital. Wednesday afternoon, July 6th, her funeral was held at St. Matthew’s, led by the rector, Archdeacon Anna

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Frank, the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor, Deacon Shirley Lee, and the Rev. Steve Matthew. Final services and burial followed at home in Venetie. Friday evening, July 8th, 79 years old Rosaline Ann Blanton peacefully slipped away in the Fairbanks Hospital. There had been a final Communion and prayers the night before. Her final services were scheduled for August in Elma, Washington. Saturday, July 16th, through the graciousness of the Solomon family, the rector accompanied family members to Fort Yukon, for a service blessing new headstones (For Kathy, Paul, and a Memorial headstone – see before, February – for Peter) and fences in the Ft. Yukon Cemetery. Saturday, July 16th, 45 years old Timothy “Punguk” Wheeler passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. Tuesday morning, July 19th, the rector and Pastor Alan Corrick of Door of Hope Church led prayers at the Fairbanks Funeral Home, before Timothy’s final service Thursday, July 21st at Door of Hope. Friday afternoon, July 29th, in softly falling summerrain, family gathered at Northern Lights Cemetery for the burial service, led by the rector, of former St. Matthew’s Choir Director Elaine Jacobson, who had died last November 29th. Saturday, July 30th, 82 years old William Alexander Suiter passed away in Fairbanks. Saturday afternoon, August 13th, the rector led his funeral service, at the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home, before Timothy’s final service Thursday, July 21st at Door of Hope. Friday afternoon, July 29th, in softly falling summerrain, family gathered at Northern Lights Cemetery for the burial service, led by the rector, of former St. Matthew’s Choir Director Elaine Jacobson, who had died last November 29th. Saturday, July 30th, 82 years old William Alexander Suiter passed away in Fairbanks. Saturday afternoon, August 13th, the rector led his funeral service, at the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home, before Timothy’s final service Thursday, July 21st at Door of Hope. Friday afternoon, July 29th, in softly falling summerrain, family gathered at Northern Lights Cemetery for the burial service, led by the rector, of former St. Matthew’s Choir Director Elaine Jacobson, who had died last November 29th. Saturday, July 30th, 82 years old William Alexander Suiter passed away in Fairbanks. Saturday afternoon, August 13th, the rector led his funeral service, at the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home, before Timothy’s final service Thursday, July 21st at Door of Hope. Family and friends gathered at St. Matthew’s for his funeral, led by the rector. Family honors preceded the service. Saturday afternoon, August 20th, gentle Dorothy Lyons of Dot Lake and Fairbanks passed away in Denali Center. Thursday afternoon, August 25th family gathered at the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home for prayers, led by the rector, before the drive now Home to Dot Lake; and the burial service there. Monday, August 22nd 89 years old William H. Schmieder peacefully passed away in Fairbanks. 40+ years earlier, Bill and his wife Mary had met in the produce section of Foodland. Friday afternoon, August 26th, family and friends gathered at St. Matthew’s for his funeral, led by the rector, the Rev. Mary Nathaniel, and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino.

There were departures, across that time, which necessarily affected us, which are not noted because their services weren’t here. But for the record, we list some of their names: Jennie B. Henry of Nenana and Ft. Yukon, March 1st . . . Rolf Ljungkull of Minnesota (the rector’s father-in-law), March 13th . . . Dr. William Sackinger (Vestrymember Pat Sackinger’s husband), March 18th . . . The Rev. J. Stanley Sullivan of Texas (and once of Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Nenana), March 28th . . . Dr. J. Michael Carroll, April 1st . . . Carolyn Wohlforth of St. Mary’s Anchorage, April 18th (Monday in Holy Week) . . . “Angayuq” Oscar Kawagle, Easter Sunday April 24th . . . Gregory Riley of Minto, May 5th . . . Bertha “Aqquaq” Jennings of Noatak, May 9th . . . Esias Henry of South Dakota (Elsie Pitka of Beaver’s brother), June 13th . . . The Rev. Charles Adams of Juneau, July 16th . . . The Rev. Bob Stevens of Juneau, August 11th . . . Freddie Paul of Nenana, August 12th . . . Julie Walker and Ernie Chase of Anvik, August 13th . . .

There are more, of course. They all light the Wintersky of our hearts with the memory, with their Light.
SUMMARIES of the MARCH - AUGUST VESTRY MEETINGS

[NOTE: Complete minutes and Financial Reports are posted in the Parish Hall and available in the Church Office.]

March 2011

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, March 7th with the following present: Senior Warden Karen Kiss, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Vestry Clerk Shannon Torrence, Vestry members Roslyn Allen, Clarence Bolden, Marlin Collins, Arlie Nethken, Pat Sackinger, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken, and Visitor Margarette Bolden, representing the Youth Ministry Committee. In the rector’s absence, the meeting began under the chair of Senior Warden Karen Kiss following an Opening Prayer by Junior Warden Tom Marsh; February minutes were approved and the following actions taken:

1. The Treasurer’s Report was presented, noting that February Operating Budget Income was $15,724 (Year to Date Total Income $37,717) and February Operating Budget Expenses were $26,594 (Year to Date Total Expenses $53,404). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/Deficit of -$10,870; and the Year to Date Surplus/Deficit increased to -$15,687.

2. Discussion following the Treasurer’s Presentation included noting the decline of income, speaking to the congregation, the work of the Stewardship Committee, the increase in the Rectory heating bill, and the possibilities of printing the Newsletter ourselves to reduce costs.

3. There were discussions during the meeting about the following topics: The open Sexton position, with the suggestion of advertising

... in the Episcopal seminaries; the Millennium Development Goals; planning for the following day’s Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Fundraiser; and planning for the May Fundraiser.

4. The Youth Committee presented for discussion their draft pamphlet for the 1st monthly Family Night, scheduled for April 6th. There was also discussion about the proposed Youth Minister position – initially a cell phone and computer will NOT be provided in the salary, but there will be further discussion. Additionally, it was stressed the importance of keeping the position part-time (1039 hours or less) -otherwise St. Matthew’s will have to provide benefits.

5. Junior Warden Tom Marsh reported on various repairs in the last month; and on the need for shoveling the rectory roof; Marlin Collins reported on her work updating the Parish Directory, with assistance by Shannon Torrence, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken, and Visitor Margarette Bolden, representing the Youth Ministry Committee. In the rector’s absence, the meeting began under the chair of Senior Warden Karen Kiss following an Opening Prayer by Junior Warden Tom Marsh; February minutes were approved and the following actions taken:

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... in the Episcopal seminaries; the Millennium Development Goals; planning for the following day’s Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Fundraiser; and planning for the May Fundraiser.

April 2011

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, April 11th with the following members present: Senior Warden Karen Kiss, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Vestry Clerk Shannon Torrence, Marlin Collins, Arlie Nethken, Pat Sackinger, Irene Todd, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken, and the rector. Following an Opening Spiritual Exercise (Randomly name good things happening at St. Matthew’s: activity, lots of Sunday School & kids around, youth group, the new Directory. Now randomly name areas needing work: (cleaning & the sexton issue) that concluded with prayer, the following actions were discussed or taken, after approving the March minutes:

(Continued on page 29)
Summary of Vestry Minutes...

(Continued from page 28)

1. The Treasurer’s Report was presented, noting that March Operating Budget Income was $17,601 (January-March Total Operating Income $55,318) and March Operating Budget Expenses were $22,612 (January-March Total Operating Expenses $79,015). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/Deficit of -$5,011 and the TOTAL Year to Date Surplus/Deficit increased to -$20,698.

2. A wide-ranging discussion followed the Treasurer’s Report, noting the deficit had increased another $5,000. Planning for fundraisers next year and the viability of other fundraisers were noted. The role of Cold Weather in church attendance was wondered about. The possibilities of a St. Matthew’s Cookbook was highlighted, along with scheduled Fundraisers April 30th and May 13th. The Treasurer reported that she might have to contact some utilities about delaying payment.

3. There was discussion during the meeting about the following topics: the St. Matthew’s webpage, and finding local help for WebGardener Bev Schommer (who is in Arkansas); the still open sexton position; the importance of Church cleaning with Holy Week approaching; Bishop Lattime’s visit in May; the possibilities of a May Interior Deanery meeting; the work on the new Parish Directory; and possible summer church activities.

4. The Youth Minister Position Description was approved as presented. The purchase of a new industrial level vacuum cleaner, and repair of the others, was approved, with funds to come from the Building Fund.

5. Various members volunteered for cleaning throughout Holy Week; and until the end of May and, with the rector noting upcoming Calendar events in May and June, the meeting closed with prayer.

May 2011

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, May 9th with the following present: Senior Warden

Karen Kiss, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Vestry Clerk Shannon Torrence, Roslyn Allen, Marlin Collins, Pat Sackinger, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken, and the rector. Following an Opening Prayer by Shannon Torrence, the following actions were discussed or taken, after approving the April minutes:

1. The Treasurer’s Report was presented, noting that April Operating Budget Income increased to $25,978 (January-April Total Operating Income $81,296) and April Operating Budget Expenses were $24,338 (January-April Total Operating Expenses $100,348). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/Deficit of $1,640 and the TOTAL Year to Date Surplus/Deficit decreased to -$19,053.

2. In discussion of the Treasurer’s Report, it was noted that we covered all the expenses of the month, and that the “ChurchMouse” accounting system still is not fixed so the budget income sheets may not be completely accurate. The 25% tithe to the Diocese was discussed, and Suzanne Krull of the Diocesan Office will be invited to meet with the Vestry to explain the history and role of the tithe. The possibility of Rent and/or a Cleaning Deposit for Parish Hall activity was explored. It was moved and passed to transfer $1,108.58 in a long held and inactive Reserve account to the General Building Fund.

3. Plans were made for the upcoming Garage Sale and Ice Cream Social.

4. The Youth Ministry reported they are beginning their Search Process for the position; and will report to the Vestry with their final recommendations.

5. It was reported that there is now an application for the sexton position. This application was joyfully received. The Applicant will be available to begin perhaps the end of June/early July. It was noted there is a need to clean and paint the apartment; and the sexton should have one designated 24 hour period a week off.

6. The Yard Clean Up Saturday was discussed, along with Summer plans – Lawn repair is needed, etc. There was discussion about composting. A schedule for lawnmowing will be worked out at the June meeting. The (Continued on page 30)
Memorial Sidewalk plaque will soon be placed; there is a need for chinking repair of the logs. The Parish Hall kitchen was discussed, and Roslyn Allen will oversee a committee to clean and unclutter. The need to repair the kitchen ventilation system was noted.

7. Marlin Collins presented her work on the Parish Directory. The question of distribution of the Directory (CDs, flashdrives, paper) was tabled until the next meeting.

8. Following a range of miscellaneous items—from working on a St. Matthew’s Facebook page to a possible goldmine, from scheduling weekly cleanups to noting June calendar events, the meeting adjourned with a Closing Prayer by Tom Marsh.

June 2011

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, June 13th with the following present: Senior Warden Karen Kiss, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Vestry Clerk Shannon Torrence, Roslyn Allen, Marlin Collins, Arlie Nethken, Pat Sackinger, Irene Todd, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken. Following an Opening Prayer by Senior Warden Karen Kiss, the following actions were discussed or taken, after approving the May minutes:

1. The Treasurer’s Report was presented, noting that May Operating Budget Income decreased to $20,502 (January-May Total Operating Income $101,798) and May Operating Budget Expenses were $25,728 (January-May Total Operating Expenses $126,076). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/ Deficit of -$5,226 and the TOTAL Year to Date Surplus/Deficit increased to -$24,278.

2. In discussion of the Treasurer’s Report and the Financial Situation of the Church, it was noted: Salary-related expenses are 65% of income and we almost didn’t make payroll; PayPal donations seem to be ‘drying up’; the possibility of reducing the Diocesan tithe from 25% to 10% was raised; benefits are paid on the organist’s salary, but not the independent contracting of playing at funerals and weddings; there is under-spending in many budgeted funds; and the possibility of having people with financial/ accounting skills to look at the budget was raised. The Question was raised: If we can’t pay everything, what doesn’t get paid?

3. After discussion, it was moved and passed that Vestry members would pay for the new Books of Common Prayer to be awarded to the new confirmands.

4. During the course of the meeting there were discussions about the music on Sunday morning (perhaps only an organist at 11:15 to cut costs); the dates of Sunday School; the planning of the Summer Vacation Bible School; the coming Garage Sale; the upcoming Golden Days Booyah and Bake sales; and the funding of the new Parish Directory.

5. A variety of Property issues were discussed, including: Summer lawn care; the Memorial Plaque for the new sidewalk; the new front doors for the Church; and kitchen vents. The possibilities and costs of Lawn improvements were discussed.

6. With members volunteering for the cleaning of the Church through the next 7 weeks, the meeting closed in prayer by Junior Warden Tom Marsh.

July 2010

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, July 11th with the following present: Senior Warden Karen Kiss, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Roslyn Allen, Marlin Collins, Arlie Nethken, Pat Sackinger, Irene Todd, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken and the rector. After an opening Gospel based Discipleship Bible Study, the following actions were discussed or taken, after approving the June minutes:

1. The Treasurer’s Report was presented, noting that June Operating Budget Income increased to $22,347 (January-June Total Operating Income $124,335) and June Operating Budget Expenses decreased to $21,232 (January-June Total Operating Expenses $126,076)
Summary of Vestry Minutes . . .

(Continued from page 30)

Expenses $146,813). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/Deficit of +$1,085 and the TOTAL Year to Date Surplus/Deficit decreased to -$22,477.

2. Diocesan Administrator Suzanne Krull was present, at the Vestry’s invitation, and explained the history, role, and importance of the 25% tithe to the Diocese.

3. Following, there was a wide-ranging discussion of the Financial Situation, noting: St. Matthew’s has NOT paid the Diocese the 25% tithe for 4 months (March-June) in order to meet its other bills; the difference in heating costs between the Church (steam) and the Rectory (oil); and the need to inform the congregation about the Financial Situation of the Church. A subcommittee will meet; and the possibility of a congregational parish meeting on August 28th was tentatively scheduled.

4. A number of property issues were reported, including Mr. Gadwah’s time frame for beginning as Sexton; mysterious flooding in the church basement; and the Memorial sidewalk plaque has now been placed.

5. Noting the community’s 9-11 Anniversary service, the October Diocesan Convention; and that the new Parish Directory was now ready to be printed; the meeting adjourned with a Closing Prayer by the rector.

August 2011

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, August 15th with the following present: Senior Warden Karen Kiss, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Roslyn Allen, Clarence Bolden Marlin Collins, Arlie Nethken, Pat Sackinger, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken, and the rector. After an opening prayer by Junior Warden Tom Marsh, the following actions were discussed or taken, after approving the July minutes:

1. The Treasurer’s Report was presented, noting that July Operating Budget Income increased to $28,994 (January-July Total Operating Income $153,329) and July Operating Budget Expenses increased to $23,606 (January-July Total Operating Expenses $170,419). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/Deficit of +$5,387 and the TOTAL Year to Date Surplus/Deficit decreased to -$17,090.

2. Noting that the March 25% tithe to the Diocese has now been paid, it was moved and passed to pay the April tithe, and delay paying May through August amounts until the September Financial Report.

3. During the course of the meeting the following items were discussed: one last “Clean out the Church” September Garage Sale; the October PFD Drive; the September 25th Fall Start UP-Feast of St Matthews covered dish; the Endowment Grant Awards; and the starting dates for the Choir.

4. The Youth Ministry Committee reported on the 2nd Friday Family & Game nights and the need for more applicants for Youth Ministry position. The Stewardship Committee reported on their wide range of plans.

5. In discussing Property issues, the Sexton’s absence at the end of August was noted, and members volunteered for cleaning those weekends. Dates for Fall Clean Up and Winterization were set; and it was moved and passed that the scheduled Lawn work, which got lost this Summer, will be re-scheduled for April 2012.

6. The rector reported on his Newsletter efforts, the possibility of Village Ministry developing, and plans for a Fall trip to Arizona.

Closing Prayers were then said by Senior Warden (and Acting Clerk) Karen Kiss.
Can’t come to Church? Church will come to You!!
As the monthly listing of services shows, there are a number of Lay Eucharistic Ministers trained and willing to bring the Eucharist to those who are sick, shut in, or unable to come to the Church. If you would like someone to bring you the Communion, or know of someone who would like that, please contact the Church Office at 456-5235 or slip a note in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

BELONGING TO CHRIST: A JOURNEY INTO CELTIC AND NATIVE CULTURES
Bishop Rustin and Gretchen Kimsey
Will lead a retreat on Celtic Spirituality in

Anchorage, April 27-30, 2012
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
Fairbanks, May 4-6, 2012
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church

Plan ahead and save these dates!
For more information contact:
Mary Margaret Davis
mmdavis@acsalaska.net