

# O Ye Frost and Cold

Volume 110, Issue 2

March—May 2016

## Stories from St. Matthew's:

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- Outdoor Fun!
- Remembrance
- Interior Deanery News
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## Introducing our Interim Rector: The Reverend Liz Simmons

Hi everyone! I will write more to you as we go, but I wanted to get a little information to those of you who are wondering. I have been a priest for 21 years, after attending The General Theological Seminary in New York City (Chelsea Square). After graduating in 1994, I was called to be the curate at Trinity Church in Buffalo, NY for two years.

My next call was to St. Philip's in the Hills, Tucson, Arizona, a huge corporate-sized parish with 3,000 members and four full-time clergy. It was in Tucson that I met my husband, Ernie, and we had a wedding to which all of the parish and our AA friends were invited. It was a fairy tale marriage for the most part until he died of colon cancer 2 ½ years later, a year after I had started serving as rector of St. Stephen's, Phoenix.

St. Stephen's had a lot of similar ministries as St. Matthew's, including being a central place for much of the community to meet, and a place where many unchurched folks came for funerals, weddings and

baptisms (but not in that order).

I served there seven years before being encouraged to apply at Church of the Apostles, a new church that had been started as a progressive, alternative parish in Oro Valley, Arizona.

Unfortunately, the parish wanted more of an administrator than a pastor, so I thought maybe I should look into being an associate rector again, because I had so much fun working as part of a team in my last three parishes. That led me to St. John's, Boulder, where I served a year before the stock market took a hit and I was let go abruptly because of finances.

Two of the last three parishes I have served have been struggling financially, as the Episcopal church and all mainline churches struggle to re-define themselves during a time when financial stewardship is at a low, and people aren't sure about committing

themselves to the institutional church. I decided to attend interim training in 2012, and served at St. Luke's in Jamestown, NY. This was a great experience, and so, when I was leaving St. James the Fisherman in Kodiak, I began looking for interim parishes. The bishop heard this, and said he would like for me to consider serving at St. Matthew's.

Next time I write to you, it may be by email, outlining some of my vision for church in general, but especially what ideas I have for our work together in this transition ministry over the next year. Please call me for coffee or lunch or dinner. My cell phone number is 654-7787 (unfortunately, a long distance call from a land line!). I want to hear your ideas about what is needed during this transition time at St. Matthew's.

God's Peace,  
Liz

## St. Matthew's Hiking Club

By Cindy Stragier



St. Matthew's has started a Hiking Club. We are blessed to live in such beautiful country. Come and enjoy some fresh air and fellowship.

Everyone is welcome!

Most walks are close to town, less than 3 miles long and on fairly level ground.

The schedule through July 11:

Sunday, June 12th – **UAF Trails** from the Musk Ox Farm (Large Animal Research Station) on Yankovich Road to the Smith Lake Wildlife Preserve and then return. Meet at the Musk Ox Farm at 2:00PM.

Wednesday, June 22nd – **Eagle Summit** 2 hour Pinnell Mountain trail hike, the morning after the Eagle Summit Solstice Service. Meet at the Eagle Summit parking lot around 10:00 AM.

Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> – **Chena Lakes Nature Trail**. Meeting time and place to be announced later in the month – there might be carpooling from St. Jude's to reduce the entry fee to Chena Lakes – stay tuned. Some might even consider attending St. Jude's that Sunday, then going out to lunch somewhere (Pagoda, anyone????). Of course, we'll invite our St. Jude's buddies to join us.

Sunday, July 11th – **UAF Trails** starting at the Ski Hut on the UAF West Ridge at 2PM. Exact route to be determined.

Additional walk –

Saturday, June 18th – **Midnight Sun Run/Walk, starting at UAF Patty Center Parking Lot at 10PM**. Lynn Slusher and Cindy Stragier will be doing the entire walk that night. The Slusher's home is on the race course; about half way to Pioneer Park. Lynn has invited those who want to stop half way to end the walk at their house. Lynn can help coordinate where to park and how to get a ride to UAF.

Future walks might include walking and blueberry picking in July, and some hillier trails, including Birch Hill, Wickersham Dome or Angel Rocks (a definite climb).

If you want more information about the trails or the Hiking Club contact Cindy Stragier. Additional schedule details or changes will be announced in Church and on the St. Matthew's website

[www.stmatthewschurch.org](http://www.stmatthewschurch.org)



## Sanctuary Memorials

Over the years people have left small pieces of memories in honor of loved ones in the sanctuary of our church. What began as a few candles has blossomed into an overwhelming sea of stuffed animals, birds, knick knacks, and other tokens too numerous to mention. The number of pieces has turned a peaceful, calming, sanctuary into a disorganized jungle where one piece buries another, losing the uniqueness of the memorial effect. Change is necessary.

Each November 1<sup>st</sup> pew leaflets are placed on a table in front of the Altar to celebrate All Saint's Day, and remain there until Advent. This year all of the stuffed animals, birds, knick knacks, and other tokens will be placed on the table as well. At the end of the celebration of saints, families who wish to retrieve their mementoes may do so. Those remaining will be stored in a respectful and appropriate manner but not in the sanctuary.

We welcome all suggestions for storage with the hope that we can still bring comfort while returning the sanctuary of the church to its original use.

St. Matthew's Vestry

## ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

INTERIM RECTOR	The Rev. Liz Simmons	PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Jessica Ives	456-5235
PRIESTS	The Rev. John Holtz	TREASURER	Brad Johnston	
	The Rev. Lee Davis	SEXTON	Robin Harlow	
	The Rev. Shirley Lee	ORGANIST	Mary Ellen Koeller	
	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino	CHOIR DIRECTOR	Barbara Hameister	455-7397
	The Rev. Steve Reed		Jim Hameister	
	The Rev. John David	SUNDAY SCHOOL	Cindy Stragier	
	The Rev. Bob Swope	ALTAR GUILD	Martha Thomas	455-6612
DEACON	The Rev. Montie Slusher		Ann Fleanor	458-8143
SENIOR WARDEN	Karen Kiss	HEALTH MINISTRY	Ann Fleanor	458-8143
JUNIOR WARDEN	Tom Marsh	ENDOWMENT BOARD	Allen Todd, Chair	455-8982
CLERK	Michael Castellini	WEB GARDENER	Gary Bender	
VESTRY	Marlene Desrochers	NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Maggie Castellini	479-5444
	Linda Evans	UNITED THANK OFFERING	Helen Howard	488-2314
	Linda Demientieff			
	Jim Hameister	DAUGHTERS of the KING	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino	456-1503
	Charlene Marth			
	Martha Thomas			

**Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10AM — 3PM**

**Phone# 456-5235**

**Email: Website: [stmatthewschurch.org](http://stmatthewschurch.org)**



## What's been Happening around St. Matthew's?

By Maggie Castellini — Newsletter Editor

March 20 Palm Sunday  
Training of new Lay Eucharistic Ministers  
by Bishop Lattime

March 20-26 Holy Week; Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday

March 26 Easter Vigil

March 27 **Easter!!!**

March 29 113 year anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> religious service in Fairbanks (The Rev. Charles Rice with Esias Joseph of Circle at the Saloon)

April 13-17 Interior Deanery Meeting at St. Barnabas, Minto  
Confirmation classes begin

April 26 Gathering of Remembrance for victims of unsolved murders

April 30 Spring Cleaning Party

May 2 Father Steve teaches the Sunday School about the Eucharist

May 5 Feast of the Ascension

May 8 Welcome to St. Matthew's new Interim Rector, the Rev. Liz Simmons

May 15 Pentecost, covered dish and the announcement of Endowment Board Grants

And the birthday of our faithful organist, Mary Ellen Koeller!

May 22 Trinity Sunday: Confirmation





## Remember

- 1972 Alice Baldwin  
 1974 Delores Kemper  
 1975 William Day  
     Ida Jacomet  
 1976 Melvin Hatcher  
 1978 Glen Milo  
     Doreen Titus  
 1983 Kathy Morris  
     Jerry Elrod  
 1985 Albert Russell  
 1986 Carl Arndt  
 1987 Robert Jewett  
 1991 Barbara Cagley  
 1992 Gene Graham  
     Jerry Baker  
 1993 Sophie Sergie  
 1994 Barry McNulty  
 1996 Monte Brown  
 1998 Andrea Beth Barrett  
     Curtis Oman  
     Mary Covington  
 1999 Louis Perez  
     Durga Owens  
 2002 Mahogany Davis  
     Robert Frank Jr.  
     Fela Avery  
 2004 Edward Sikvayugak  
     Marshall Padgett  
     Robert Kelly Sr.  
     Robert Kelly Jr.  
 2005 Eric Trinidad Jr.  
 2006 Brad Hurd  
     Quincy Hutchens  
     Shannon Kisgen  
 2007 Leland Driggs  
 2010 Johnny Rogers
- Others Remembered:  
     Johnny Wallis  
     Scott Reese  
     Sherry White  
     Percy Herbert  
     John Hartman

## Gathering of Remembrance April 26

By the Rev. Shirley Lee

[The Gathering of Remembrance is held annually on April 26 to honor and remember victims of unsolved homicide in Interior Alaska. Begun by Shirley Demientieff and inspired by the memory of Sophie Sergie, the Gathering is now continued by the Rev. Shirley Lee. She was joined this year by Bishop Lattime, Fr. Scott Fisher, the Rev. Bella Jean Savino, family members, and members of the community. This is the text of her remarks at this year's Gathering. ]

On April 26, 1993, a young girl was murdered and a mother's heart was broken. Today is the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the death of Sophie Sergie. Today we come together to remember Sophie and all the victims of unsolved homicide.

This morning I spoke with Sophie's mother, Elena, and she will be joining us in prayer at noon. She is not able to be here today. She is home at Pitka's Point, preparing for the Russian Orthodox Easter by preparing a memorial feast for Sophie. She asked that I thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Her days are filled with grandchildren now, but she hasn't forgotten her daughter. And neither have we.

Today is an emotional day – so many members of the community are affected by the deaths recalled today. There are 36 victims on the official lists compiled by the Fairbanks Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers. But there are others who are classified as missing or cases



undetermined, so my own list is at 40.

Last year at this gathering, we knew that the State of Alaska was closing the cold case unit due to budget cuts. And that has happened. Ironically, just the opposite has occurred with the City of Fairbanks, which recently budgeted for one cold case investigator. We will hear from Mayor Eberhart shortly about what the city is doing.

While I applaud the ongoing efforts of the FPD and the Troopers, it is sad to think that many of the cases we recall today are relegated to files held in suspense due to money matters. The reality is that family grief cannot be held in suspense. Confusion and unanswered questions do not dissipate because a case has been filed away.

It would be too easy to give in to the frustration many feel about these cold cases. But as I said several years ago at this gathering: our beloved Shirley Demientieff did not ask me to lead a march of hate, but one of love. She did not seek vengeance but peace and resolution for the families,

justice for the victims. It is that desire that binds us together here today – by the families, by the members of law enforcement working the cases, by the community – we all want the same thing. We must work together, whether there is a budget in place or not for cold cases.

I will now read the list of unsolved cases. As I read the names I would invite family members to come up and light a candle in their memory. This year I have asked family members to share remembrances of their loved ones, after they light a candle. To eulogize them. This is after all a memorial service and the victims are not just names on a list. They lived lives here in our community.

After you have lit a candle please take a flower to bring with you to the Centennial Bridge, where we will walk to say prayers and the Immaculate Conception Church bell will ring once for each victim. We will then return to the church for a reception. At the reception feel free to speak with members of the law enforcement here.

See video of the Gathering of Remembrance at  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ\\_3w9Jq7hU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ_3w9Jq7hU)



“I was very interested in the training because there was so much I didn’t realize that there was so much I didn’t know”

“The training brought to light all this important information.”

## Interior Deanery Meeting

By Bernice Aragon

I was one of two delegates elected to the Interior Deanery at the 2016 Annual Meeting held at St. Matthew's Church. The Annual Meeting of the Interior Deanery was held April 13-17, 2016 by St. Barnabas, Minto. Our host was The Rev. Bessie Titus, and our wonderful meals were prepared at the Minto Lodge.

### *The Deanery meeting schedule*

- 4/13 began with an Opening Service followed by Village Reports
- 4/14 Opening Prayer followed by more Village Reports, the Bishop's Report, Training Session
- 4/15 Training continued, Deanery Business Session, Executive Committee Report, Standing Committee Report, Commission on Ministry Report, Indigenous Ministry Reports-Bishop Mark Lattime & Rev. Bessie Titus. Also the Budget Report and Elections/Nominations

- 4/16 Training wrap up, Visioning/Planning, Set date for Next Annual Meeting
- 4/17 Closing Service. And music by Rev. Belle Mickelson and her musicians, from the Minto School.

### *Elections/Nominations*

- Election of the Executive Committee for 2016/17
- Nominated candidates for the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna
- Elections/nominations for the 41st Diocesan Convention October 6-9, 2016 at St. Peter's by the Sea, Sitka
- Election/nomination for General Convention in 2018

Our focus and training was on "**Lay Leadership in Public Worship**"

- Unit 1: The Church Year; Seasons, Calendar, Colors, Dates
- Unit 2: Lectionary and the Bible; Finding Readings,

Old Testament, New Testament, Bible Familiarity, Pronunciation Guide

- Unit 3: Book of Common Prayer; Familiarity with the Prayers and Psalms, Rubrics, Music
- Unit 4: Practice for Services; Morning Prayer and variations, Evening Prayer, Noonday Prayers and Compline, Burial of the Dead, Special Days-Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil, Lessons and Carols etc.
- Unit Five: Mission Administration; Collection, Books-Parish / Register, Parish Records, Forms, Preparing for Visiting Priest and the Bishop.

I was very interested in the training because I didn't realize that there was so much I didn't really know and the training brought to light all of this important information.

Bernice J. Aragon  
St. Matthew's Representative

Getting ready to leave for the Interior Deanery Meeting in Minto



## Minto in April: Interior Deanery 2016

By Cindy Stragier



The Village of Minto hosted the 2016 Interior Deanery by providing housing, abundant delicious food, music and dancing during the five days of meetings.

Bernice Aragon, Cindy Stragier and Irene Roberts (officially representing Circle) represented St. Matthew's. Other villages represented were Tanana, Huslia, Minto, Ft. Yukon and Arctic Village.

Belle Mickelson and "Dancing with the Spirit" instructors were working with Minto school children during the week, so Thursday evening we were treated to dinner and a concert given by the children. Saturday evening dinner at the Minto Tribal Hall, including a dance and raffle, gave us a chance to try out our dance moves (or lack thereof) and provided many of us with raffle gifts. Music at St. Barnabas' Sunday morning service was also provided by Belle's kids and Paul Sherry.

The meetings themselves were filled with prayer, worship, singing, training and business. Participants from previous deaneries had voiced concern regarding lack of clergy in Interior Alaska villages, so

much of the time was spent on training participants to become lay catechists and worship leaders. Participants became licensed worship leaders following the training which was developed by the Bishops of Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Navajo Land.

We were also given many ideas on how to begin Sunday school education within our congregations and how to use The Book of Common Prayer's "An Outline of the Faith" (the catechism) in teaching those preparing for confirmation. Participants came away from the training enthusiastic to start these programs in their individual congregations.

Official business included village reports, and St. Matthew's mainly reported on activities since Father Scott Fisher's departure, in particular the "SWEEPS" process being used in the search for a new Rector. The Reverend Luke Titus expressed concern regarding St. Matthew's future interactions with villages and those from villages who move to Fairbanks, especially the elders who move due to health care needs. He expressed hope that St. Matthew's will remain a voice for Native social justice issues, such as the "Fairbanks Four" case, and requested that the search committee keep these things in mind.

Friday afternoon and Saturday sessions included committee reports and elections. Bishop

Lattime and the Reverend Bessie Titus reported on Indigenous Ministry and it was announced that a nationwide committee is being formed to search for a new director of national Indigenous Ministries, and anyone wishing to be on this search committee should apply. Bernice Aragon was elected as the Tanana Valley *Executive Committee* member. The Reverend Marilyn Duggar was elected to be on the *Diocesan Committee on Ministry*. Mabel Vent of Huslia was elected as the *Standing Committee* member. Nomination of the *Disciplinary Board* clergy representative was deferred to be selected before and nominated at the Diocesan Convention in October. Gladys Derendoff of Huslia was elected to be the *FIT Endowment Board* representative. Judy Gau of Tanana and Cindy Stragier were chosen as the 2018 *General Convention Deputy Lay Nominees* to be voted on at the Diocesan Convention. The two clergy General Convention nominee selections were deferred to the *Executive Committee* for future selection. St. Matthew's recommendations of Marie Reid, Mary Ellen Koeller and Alice Carroll (Circle) to receive entry into the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna were accepted as nominees to be voted on at the Diocesan Convention. The meeting ended with the decision that next year's meeting will be held May 4 – 7, 2017 in Nenana.



St. Matthew's is looking for someone to organize our historical documents and artifacts. If you have a talent for organization and would like to help preserve St. Matthew's history, please contact Jessica or Rev. Liz at the Church office.

St. Matthew's is also looking for someone to reorganize the library.

### DONATIONS

There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall listing needed janitorial and kitchen supplies.

Remember to check out the St. Matthew's Webpage at [www.stmatthewschurch.org](http://www.stmatthewschurch.org) and our [Facebook Page \(St. Matthew's Episcopal Church\)](#)



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
1030 Second Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4355

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June 10, 2016

Change Service Requested\*

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## 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 Church. If you would like someone to bring you the Communion, or know someone who would like that, please contact the Church Office at 456-5235 or slip a note in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

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The memorial service for D.A. Bartlett  
will be Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 11AM,  
here at St. Matthew's.

A reception will be held at  
Raven's Landing, beginning at 1:30pm.

D.A.'s family would like the St.  
Matthew's Congregation to know that  
all are welcome to the memorial  
service and reception.