

# O Ye Frost and Cold

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*“Suddenly, in the dark, one touched another  
To move him a bit to the left of the manger,  
And the other turned: from the threshold, like a guest,  
The Christmas star was looking at the Maiden.”  
- from “The Christmas Star”, by Boris Pasternik*

## “pa rum pum pum pum”

he’s over there in the corner, I think, on that Night that is all nights and every night. I think on that Night which is all nights and every night, when Great Light Filled angels are two-stepping across the blue nighted floor - shining Light filled slippers leaving trails of Light across the sky; when stray trappers and woodsfolk have come in all Carharted and bunny booted and stand there watching; when young mothers are there and worried fathers are there and tall teenagers looking young again are there and much too young soldiers all camouflaged are there and lonely people nervous in the crowd are there and holy bluegowned nurses are there and garrulous opinionated cab drivers are there and odd whiskered becareful not too close folks are there and brave teachers are there and my friends passing around a bottle singing are there and camels and sheep and great moose and small bunnies and two sloths slinging slowly together up there singing with heads together “LaLaLa” and one Raven there in the rafters strutting and all those we miss and see only in our hearts are there; and

all of us ABSOLUTELY ALL OF US FOREVER AND FOREVER AND FOREVER AND FOREVER are THERE;

I think on that one Night that is all nights and every night, when WE are ALL there with EVERYTHING we dare Hope or Dream or Believe in. and even All that we wished we believed in but are not sure we do anymore; ALL of US crowded around there in the Doorway – not sure we dare get too close but, OH! the children do, peeking shyly, “hi”, they say – watching the Eternal Scene of Mother, Child, Father-

that  
over There in the corner leaning against that sturdy pole is an Older Guy now, holding a piece of ragged bread and an old cup. Silver tarnished and worn and no telling where that Cup has been, but it’s been USED.

And Dark red wine swirls in that Cup as he looks down into it. As he has before. It is finally all he has, is that ragged piece of bread and that Cup. They are ALL he really knows. They were a Gift long ago. He never asked for them or sought them but, like all gifts, they were given.

And Dark red wine swirls in that Cup as he looks down into it  
And hears

YOUR voice as you sang so clearly that night, unafraid and pure. He looks down into the swirling wine and hears the sound of a springtime River flowing filled with breaking Light; the sound of slippered feet sliding dancing across a planked floor; the sound of red vested choirs singing; the sound of the Arctic singing, the sound of the deep throated Upper Yukon singing; the sound of dogs singing to go, the sound of airplanes humming, the sound of candles burning, the sound of bells ringing, the sound of YOU when you were small and laughing,

the sound of Grandmothers praying in Denali Center, the sound of Coco laughing with glee, the sound of those who slept on the street asking for coffee, the sound of hands reaching to help, the sound of smiles returned, the sound of your hand touching, the sound of quiet breathing, the sound of tired folk resting, the sound of quiet tears falling, the sound of that last breath, the sound of trees singing, the sound of snow falling, the sound of leaves beginning, the sound of sunrise singing, the sound of sunset praying. . . and more.

And he SEES, as he looks into that familiar Cup, as the Dark red wine swirls, THERE.  
a Star.

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St. Matthew's  
Episcopal Church  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
The Reverend Scott Fisher



## FALLING into EARLY WINTER VOICES

It's Falltime now and we're sitting outside watching falling leaves and listening to the People of God as they walk by. It's getting darker and cooler and now snow is falling, but we still sit listening. They speak about blueberries and moosehunting and hard questions and memories and we listen. *(They're arguing and talking a LOT about politics too, but we mostly stopped listening then.)* On they go, into the growing Darkness, the People of God. They're telling stories and praying and falling in love and getting married and having dreams and being in all ways the Holy People of God. And we overhear. . .

This Summer? That rain got so bad I was thinkin' about moving to Ketchikan to find better weather.

. . . stepped out of the house and was cleanin' up the yard, on the first day of hunting season, and he heard a moose call. He called back . . . and that moose came right up into the yard and he shot it. Far as I know, he's the only guy in Minto to ever shoot a moose IN Minto.

What did we use before mosquito dope? We'd use bear fat. Get it in the fall and store in that caribou's, *uhhh*, stomach. Then rub it all over in the next Summer. Even on the dogs. And those dogs we had were so well trained that they wouldn't lick it off. And it worked! Mosquitoes NEVER bother us.

I like comin' here. It feels so peaceful. This Church feels peaceful. It rests my heart. This Place is *REAL*.

## THE REV. DEACON MONTIE SLUSHER REPORTS on HIS "*SPARE TIRE*" MINISTRY

*By The Rev. Deacon Montie Slusher*

### *Some Thoughts and Explanations.....*

As the year ends, it is well that the following report and explanations be made to the church members. The weekly bulletin indicates my assignment to St. Matthew's but my attendance doesn't always indicate that fact. As I look back over the year, it appears that I have been absent at on at least 25 Sundays. I offer the following excuse for your consideration. The other Sundays were spent in leading worship services as follows: 11 Sundays were in Nenana at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 14 Sundays in Lutheran churches in Delta Junction (3), Fairbanks Lutheran (3) and Lord of Life Lutheran in North Pole (8). I was asked to preach at 9 services at St. Matthew's during the past year. It should be noted that St. Matthew's Church is given credit or the blame for my preaching.

The fact that our local church has so many priests and deacons available should be a fact that we rejoice in as it allows this church to provide assistance to others. I see and have described my personal ministry as a "*spare tire ministry*" as each vehicle should have a spare tire, but their use has certain limitations. Like many spare tires, I have bulges where there shouldn't be bulges, am balding, and should only be used in an emergency and never for long periods of time.

Other activities during the year included assisting or leading worship at the Pioneer Home, and representing St. Matthew's at the Tanana Valley Christian Conference and serving as treasurer of that organization. In addition, I taught our Lenten Study, and taught several classes on Church History at the Osher Life Long Learning Program.

Please accept my thanks for the prayers and support from the local church during the past year.

## pa rum pum pum pum . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

A Star shining in that cup, Light shining in the Darkness wine.

He stares.

Startled, he looks up. He looks around at all those crowded together in the Doorway and

Sees in their eyes now that same Star shining. There. In their eyes. That same Star dancing.

Startled, he whirls around; tempted to grab shoulders and peer closer but he can see, there, in all eyes, dark or not, there, light swirling That Star in ALL eyes.

Slowly he looks towards the Child.

Smiling the Child opens Dark Eyes

Filled with the deepest of All StarLight.

And The Child smiles into his heart saying, "Yes. NOW it is Always Yes. They are ALL MINE, this Night and All Nights, Forever and forever".

The sloths begin singing together slow songs of love. Who cannot, this Night and All Nights, forever and ever?

**NEW MINISTRY  
in the  
PIONEER HOME**  
*By Lynn Slusher*



The quiet Pioneer Home service took on a special addition, Thursday, November 20, with Jeep Reid playing favorite hymns for the group sitting around the table. Tears were in the eyes of many residents as they joined in singing songs that were so evidentially memory driven. This new ministry of Marie and Jeep Reid is a welcome addition to our twice a month Episcopal worship service.

Thank you.

**Winter Voices**

I'm extremely error prone; that's why I became an accountant.

Thank you for letting us use the Parish Hall for the Tea. We could use the Tribal Hall, I suppose, but it feels nicer here doing it here; like it's part of the Church. That means a lot.

I don't understand everybody sayin' there's no blueberries. We picked 13 gallons last week, going home.

. . . went all that way but didn't get a moose, after spendin' \$800 on gas.

. . . I mean, how long does it take to put a shell forward? 4 or 5 seconds, right? But in that little time. . .

.... has nominated the Governor of Alaska, the former mayor of WaSILLY, Alaska. WaSILLY is a town of... *what? oh*. ....excuse me . . . WasillIAH Alaska is a town of....

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH**

<b>RECTOR</b>	The Rev. Scott Fisher . . . . 456-5235	<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Hilary Freeman . . . . . 457-4820
<b>PRIESTS</b>	The Rev. Steve Matthew. . . 488-9076 The Rev. John Holz . . . . . 456-3583 The Rev. Layne Smith . . . . 374-5957 The Rev. Lee Davis . . . . . 457-2865	<b>SEXTON</b>	Michael "Tree" Nelson . . . 456-5217
<b>DEACONS</b>	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503 The Rev. Montie Slusher . . 474-4570	<b>ORGANIST</b>	Laura Vines . . . . . 452-4565
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<b>JUNIOR WARDEN</b>	Ray Cockerille . . . . . 474-2105	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Mary Johnston. . . . . 455-7245 Cathy Giacomazzi . . . . . 479-7736 Beth Corven . . . . . 456-2966
<b>CLERK</b>	Teresa Moore . . . . . 374-8382	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	Charlotte Perotti . . . . . 457-1332
<b>VESTRY</b>	Charlene Marth . . . . . Helen Howard . . . . . 488-2314 (Vacant) . . . . . Darrel Zuke. . . . . 488-6073 Roxy Wright-Freedle. . . . 455-9300 Marty Thomas . . . . . 455-6612	<b>HEALTH MINISTRY</b>	Martha Thomas, Chair . . . 455-6612
<b>PARISH TREASURER</b>	Carolyn Nethken . . . . . 457-3304	<b>ENDOWMENT BOARD</b>	Darrel Zuke 488-6073
		<b>WEB GARDENER</b>	Maggie Castellini . . . . . 479-5444
		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	Mary Margaret Davis . . . 457-2865
		<b>SPIRITUAL DIRECTION</b>	Helen Howard. . . . . 488-2314
		<b>UNITED THANK OFFERING</b>	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503
		<b>DAUGHTERS OF THE KING</b>	
		<b>MINISTERS</b>	YOU . . . . . US!!!

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### Winter Voices

YOU live in Alaska....what do you think of . . . ?

. . . visited a Presbyterian church across the street from my new house [*in Virginia*] on Sept 7th, and a church lady in her 70's introduced a notice about a Bible study class she'll be teaching by saying, "Hello, I'm - - - . I don't know how to skin a moose. ...."

Yes we can Yes we can Yes we can.

No, I'm NOT going to the airport to see the Governor. If I liked crowds I wouldn't live in Fairbanks.

The combination of a Full Moon and dividends was NOT a good idea.

. . . a recipe for "Owl Barf Balls".

. . . and GOODNESS the flowers are so beautiful all around this town and, MY GOODNESS, the cabbages! I have NEVER seen cabbages SO HUGE! Well, MY LAND, my whole family could live off one of them for a year!

You all need to know - There's a psychiatric crisis in Fairbanks.

. . . and Bishop Gordon looked at me, after I said that, and I was drinkin' then so I didn't know what I'd been sayin', so The Bishop looked at me after I said that and said, "You can kiss my. . . ". Then he took a deep breath and said, "Let's PRAY".

I've got ALL the BIG questions. That's why I need to talk to you. WHY am I here? What's The Purpose of Anything? What's MY purpose? Is there a God? WHAT happens after we die?

Ohmygosh, ohmygosh, ohmygosh I'M GETTING MARRIED.



### A CALENDAR of SPECIAL COMING EVENTS

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 4PM.....**The St. Matthew's Christmas Party/Covered Dish/Potlatch (*hosted by the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino, etc*).

**Sunday, December 21. . . 8AM, 9:15AM, 11:15AM** Fourth Sunday of Advent Eucharists (no Sunday School); **7PM** "A "Dark Christmas" Service for those having a difficult time this Season; **12AM:** Traditional "Bang-pots-and-yell-and- scream – to chase –away –Great-Dragon-of-Darkness" Compline Service.

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. . .** Christmas Eve Eucharists at **5PM, 8PM, and 11PM.** The Lights on the spruce tree are turned on when the first star appears in the sky.

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> . . .** Christmas Day Eucharist at **11AM.**

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. . .** First Sunday of Christmas Eucharists with Lessons and Carols at **8AM, 9:15AM, and 11:15AM.** No Sunday School.



**Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. . .** Chronicles of Narnia Christmas Vacation Bible School.

**Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. . . 11PM** Traditional New Year's Eve Eucharist.

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. . .** Traditional New Year's Day Potlatch/Covered Dish

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> . . .** Second Sunday of Christmas Eucharists at **8AM and 11:15AM.** Children's Epiphany Pageant and Eucharist at **9:15AM.**

**Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. . . 5:30PM** 12th Night Christmas Covered Dish/Potluck and Burning of the Christmas Greens

**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> . . .** First Sunday after the Epiphany Eucharists at **8AM, 9:15AM, and 11:15AM.** Sunday School begins again. Holy Baptisms MAY be celebrated this Sunday (*Call Church Office if interested*).

**Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. . .** Candlemass Eucharist and Singing of GroundHog Carols at 7PM.

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> .....**ASH WEDNESDAY, and the Beginning of Lent

## DEACON BELLA JEAN REPORTS IN on LOTS of ACTIVITIES

*By The Rev. Deacon Bella Jean "BJ" Savino*

My love and prayer goes out to each of you, whether I tell you in person or not. I just wanted to let you know.

In my ministry as part of the family of God of St. Matthew's, I have kept busy helping Scott with the services (worship on Sundays); visiting or taking Eucharist to shut-ins or sick at home; and sometimes to Denali Center, which I feel blessed in doing. Sometimes I do house blessings too. Lately I have been busy in getting more active in *the Daughters of the King*, to get more women involved and to become members of this wonderful prayerful Order of the King, which is Jesus Christ, and being able to help and do our part in serving Him, by helping Scott in our parish of St. Matthew. Each of us does our ministry by being involved, not being ashamed to be a Daughter, a Disciple, a Follower, or a Christian. Each of us is given spiritual gifts; let us find out what they are, no matter who you are. The DoK [*Daughters of the King*] have started a study before being admitted in the Order. I should mention that there is Group 1; and Group 2 should begin in January. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the DoK, please let me know by calling me at 456-1503, or see me in Church on Sunday.

We're still having *Cwitch'in Singing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays* of each month. Actually, we're doing the Lord's Prayer too. Sometimes 3 or 4 or more of us get together and sing from our heart to God. Everyone is welcome; I'm willing to teach anyone who wants to learn. I myself am learning from the Elders too.

As you all know, Christmas is approaching pretty fast. Once a year we have a *Christmas Party* at the St. Matthew's Parish Hall. This year it will be *Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-8PM*. There will be food, music, and door prizes. Bring a covered dish, salads (*potato, macaroni, green salad, or fruit salad*), breads (*rolls, fry bread, or biscuits*), or desserts (*cakes, pies, etc*) to share with everyone! Bring food to the Parish Hall before 3PM, or by 3PM, so we can set them up and hopefully be ready by 4PM.

Also, if anyone is interested in donating individually wrapped hard candy, Mandarin oranges, mixed nuts (*without the shells*), or goodies, that would be wonderful and a Blessing!

Also, if you want to donate something for door prizes, that would be great!!!

This is the Time for get-togethers, to visit, to have a Good Time, to enjoy each other and be thankful.

I'm thinking of teaching kids 1<sup>st</sup> grade up through High School to *DANCE* the two-step, jig, duck dance, and Viraandii. . . if anyone is interested. Let me know in person, or call me at home (456-1503). I think it would be fun!!!

## Winter Voices

The first snow. You KNEW it had to come. Don't you wish it was Christmas Eve, so you could start the sermon that way - "*You knew it had to come*"?

We are... from POLAND . . . and stopped because the Church looked so pretty in the snow. We are here filming documentary on Alaska. And SARAH PALIN. She is like ROCK STAR in Warsaw.

I'm going Home tomorrow. And I don't mean Nenana. I've given it all to the Lord Jesus and I'm going HOME.

*Going up to the Spirit in the sky;  
going up to the Spirit in the sky.*

. . .

. . . till death do we part. . . AND YOU BETTER NOT DIE ON ME!

Is it all right if I cry? She's so beautiful, my wife.

Boy! There's a lot of perfume at weddings, huh? But I'm not wearing any, 'cause I'm the Ringbearer. And I'm a boy. When I put perfume on, it makes me eyes hurt. How come girls do that, anyway?

See? Some of us, we have good hearts. This Church and what you're trying to do is important to us. It's important to us that you're trying to be open for us. So we're tryin' to help too, you know.

WOW. That's my bride? My wife?

I'm sorry I'm late, I forgot it's winter now and we have to heat up the car and scrape the ice and all of *THAT* first.

Boy, this tiger has been through more mortar shells and bombings and everything; more than anybody in the church can imagine. I found him in Iraq while I was there. He's my Lucky Tiger.

## Winter Voices

. . . and she sang for about 15 minutes and then gave me that water to drink, and I was never sick again after that.

I just had one of those typical bizarre St. Matthew's moments. A car pulled up and. . . .

. . . it was like a giant wind blew through the house . . . a warm North wind. IT was like "*yah-nuh-tryaa daii...*"

. . . and there was this BEAUTIFUL light, a different kind of Light, and HE was in it. I haven't told many people that. Mostly they don't believe me.

My OLD Friend! We WERE YOUNG ONCE! Annd had GOOD TIMES! REAAAAAAAAAALY good times!

I just can't get going. I don't know what it is this year, but I get out of bed and I drag myself to work here and then drag myself home and just sit in a bathrobe and sleep. I think I just want to hibernate.

. . . . then a bear came out. Big one. All I had was my .30-.30. So I talk to it, in my language. That's what's my Mother always told me to do. "*Go away, "I said to it, "I don't want to shoot you". He huffed and looked at me and walked away.*"

I'm just having a harder time getting into it this year. Winter. I just can't get into it. No wonder people go to Arizona.

. . . get a big envelope and mark on it "*T.F.G.T.C.O.*" - "*Things for God to take care of*". And that's where we put this stuff.

...getting ready for trapping. Still going out. Last year my son and I went out; two Elans. In 2 days we got 23 lynx.

## through All The Seasons of Life

### SEASONS of LIFE FALLING into WINTER

From **Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** and Summer ending and School beginning; through **the fourteen weeks** until Thanksgiving weekend and **Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**; through Falltime and moosehunting and ice running and snowfalling and Darkness growing and WinterLight dazzling; through campaigns and elections and Dividend checks and EVERYTHING; we gathered and prayed together at least **308** times. An accounting; and some of the details since the last Newsletter [*and NOTE: photographs of much of this can be found on the St. Matthew's Website: [www.stmatthewschurch.org](http://www.stmatthewschurch.org)*]:

- 39 Sunday Morning Eucharists
- 3 Sunday Morning Monthly Children Eucharists (*Rite VIII*)
- 1 Sunday Morning Eucharist (*outside of Fairbanks*)
- 5 Sunday afternoon Fairbanks Correctional Center Eucharists
- 55 Private/Home Communion visits by clergy
- 30 Private/Home Communion visits by Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- 81 Sunday through Friday Midnight Compline services
- 25 Weekday Morning Prayer services
- 4 Tuesday Morning Denali Center Eucharists
- 14 Wednesday Morning Eucharists
- 14 Wednesday Evening Eucharists
- 6 Thursday Morning Pioneer Home Eucharists
- 9 Celebrations of Holy Baptism, 17 baptized
- 4 Celebrations of Holy Matrimony
- 2 Commendations of the Dying/Departed
- 1 Reception of the Body
- 10 Funerals or Memorial services
- 1 Funeral/Burial service (*outside of Fairbanks*)
- 1 9-11 Memorial service
- 1 Community Vigil in memory of the Homeless
- 4 St. Francis Animal Blessing services or visits
- 1 Commemorative Eucharist using the 1892 Book of Common Prayer
- 1 Service installing members into the Daughters of the King
- 3 House blessings
- 2 Birthday Party Celebrations
- 1 "Tailgate Party" Thank You to Congregation from Vestry  
[1 # of European Film crews wandering into the Parish Hall during that Party]
- 1 All Saints Day Memorial Bell Tolling
- 1 Diocesan "David Salmon School of Ministry" hosted
- 1 Community Thanksgiving Service hosted
- 1 Thanksgiving Day Potlatch/Covered Dish

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**16 hours, 8 minutes, 42 seconds** – Length of Daylight on August 18<sup>th</sup>  
**4 hours, 48 minutes, 36 seconds** – Length of Daylight on November 29<sup>th</sup>

**Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>** – First Frost on First Avenue (+31 degrees)

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>** – First snow falling on First Avenue

**Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** – Ice running in Chena

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## Seasons of Life . . .

### Holy Baptisms

On Wednesday evening, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 months old **Brooklynn Agnes Jo Druck** and 3 years old **Misty Rose Frank** were baptized. Brooklynn's Godparents are **Charity W. Chase, Rose Lestenkof, Alton Beach, and William Corbett**; Misty's Godparents are **Harry Fields and Shirley Paul**. Thursday evening, August 28<sup>th</sup>, in a special celebration joining with the blessing of a civil marriage earlier in the day [See below], 31 years old **Kevin John Brottem** and his 4 years old daughter **Rena Rain Brottem** were baptized. Kevin's Sponsors were **Josh Terry, Jarred Bush, and Keskue Kruger**. Rena's Godparents are **Yote Roberston, Shawna Kruger, and Vanessa R. Fleagle**.

Wednesday evening, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, nearly 1 year old **Daniel Patrick Bettis II** was baptized, with **Christine Swift and Brian Charlie** his Godparents. Afterwards, prayers were said and the baptismal water shared with Daniel's Great Aunt

**Shirley Demientieff's** Memorial tree in the churchyard. Wednesday evening, September 17<sup>th</sup>, wide-eyed 7 months old **Liam Raymond Marsh** was baptized. His Godparents are **Robert and Sharon Sesser and William Shelland**. During our Feast of St. Matthew celebrations on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, there were 4 Baptisms – 2 years old **Makayla Dawn Schroeder**, nearly 1 year old

**Makenzie Nicole Schroeder**, almost 1 month old **Sky Bella Schut**, and 2 months old **Madison Rose Wiehl** (*of Beaver!*). Makayla's Godparents are **Josephine Gooshaw and Isaiah Weeks**. Makenzie's Godparents are **Veva Schuiteman and Brian Grassman**. Sky's Godparents are **Matthew Torres and Melinda Carlo**. And Madison's Godparents are **Matthew Petruska, Katie Wiehl, Victoria Yaska, and Shay Pitka**.



On Wednesday evening, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 months old **Zaphanea-Paneah Dimitrious David** was baptized. His Godparents are **Liza Beatrice Nollner, Cassandra Delia, Katilen Rese Dayton, Allen Cleveland, and Carl David Jr.** Friday afternoon, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, in a special ceremony, 2 years old **Jamie Lin Sparks**, in a fluffy white dress and with shy giggles, was baptized. Her Godparents are **Derek Crooker and Katie Champagne**. Wednesday evening, October 29<sup>th</sup>, there were four baptisms – 10 years old **Damon Malik Villagecenter**, 8 years old **Alexandra Kasinada Parnell**, 2 years old **Angel Rose Simon**, and 2

(Continued on page 23)

## Winter Voices

*Whooooooooooooa*. Cool shoes. I came back from 'Nam in '67 wearing 501s, gold Converse, and a tie dyed shirt and . . .

. . .lose their retirement? What do you mean? Everybody here at this table has lost their retirement, but what are you going to do? Cant do anything about it.

You're STILL here? WHY haven't you retired yet?

This is the first time I've been in here since my mother's funeral. She used to come every Sunday. We'd drop her off here. Every Sunday since 1926, until she died.

Well, back in the early days, back then, St. Matthew's was THE Church here in this town.

A new teacher came to our village and said he hunted turkeys where he came from and someone told him "*oh good, we have plenty of them here in our village*".

I haven't been here for three weeks and NO ONE checked on me or ANYTHING.

MY FUTURE is in God's hands; but the election is in the hands of the people of Alaska.

I'll just be glad when THIS ELECTION is OVER.

I'm an Older White Conservative Alaskan. Who do you think I voted for?

YOU'RE FROM ALASKA? What is it with your Governor and.....

Sometimes, at Thanksgiving, happiness is just the difference between being someone who takes a turkey to the Food Bank instead of being someone who gets a turkey from the Food Bank.

## Winter Voices

. . . and she said as she brought it in, "*I overcooked the casserole again, in memory of Ted*".

. . . slipped on the Cushman Street Bridge and threw my back out. Now I'm beginning to worry, maybe I'm just getting too old for Alaska.

I just wanted to thank the Church for your prayers. I was here ten years ago and asked you all to pray for me. I was havin' a lot of trouble with drinkin' and drugs. I've been sober and straight ever since.

Does Santa Clause go to your Church? It looks so pretty.

I just wanted to say something. This Church means so much to me. I get so much out of coming here on Sundays when I can. It's how I keep going in the week. St. Matthew's has ALWAYS been there for me and my family in all the important times of our lives. I'm sure it's the same for most of you here. So I just wanted to challenge each of you. That if that is true for you, as it is for me, that each of us work at asking one person to come to Church with us. And if we do that, then we can meet the Senior Warden and Vestry's Challenge for the 2009 Budget.

Don't we have a new Bishop yet?

Relationships are....*sigh*....hard, aren't they?

. . . and we were singin' Christmas carols and heard this noise . . . and a dogteam came in the church. Right in. And the sled was just loaded up with bags. RED bags. And the man on the sled explained that he was comin' up the Yukon River and found this cache, and there were all these bags in there. (And we were thinking, that's OUR cache, 'cause we fished down

## "LOVE REMINDED US"- A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

*(An Anonymous Submission)*

There was a winter years ago, four teenagers in the house. Two parents, tired of bickering kids. Four kids, each determined to be independent, all forgetting our shared interdependence, not having a grasp on compassion and love. Christmas Eve, the fire in the fireplace slowly burning down. Everyone went to bed, no one said, "*Good night!*" "*I love you!*"

One of the children, unable to sleep in the unpeaceful air, crept down to the fire, the embers barely lighting the music as she played "Silent Night" on her guitar, singing as softly as possible while still hearing the notes.

Into the second verse, "*Glories stream from Heaven afar*", her mother came in and sat down. "*Christ, the Savior is born*", a brother. And through the rest of the song, the whole family gathered, listened, remembered.

*Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace*

*Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour is born  
Christ, the Saviour is born*

*Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth*

As the last notes came off the strings, Peace came to the hearts sitting there in the dark, Love reminded us, "*Love one another.*" We returned to our beds, and Christmas morning found us with smiles and rekindled kindness.



**". . . because there was no place for them in the inn." [Luke 2:7]**



*[Editorial Note: The other morning it was thirty below in Fairbanks. It had been twenty-five below and kept dropping through the Night. The rector was standing in the Parish Hall pouring himself a cup of coffee as the Morning began. Sam [a pseudonym] came beside him, bundled up in an unzipped heavy coat & an old blue watchcap on his head. No gloves. Worn plain shoes. Sam poured a cup of coffee too. "Gawwwwwwww, I need that", said Sam. "Been up all night, just walking. Had to keep walking just to stay alive out there." Sam went and sat down and sipped his coffee, sitting finally and warm. He'd stayed up all night walking to stay alive in the cold. He had no place to stay. He could not stay at the Rescue Mission because he'd been drinking the night before, and therefore couldn't pass the Breath Test. He couldn't stay at the Jail because he wasn't intoxicated. So he just walked the streets all night, until the Parish Hall opened. Others soon came into the Parish Hall with similar stories, sipped coffee, and rested before the Night came again. They talked quietly, checking on each other. Bob [another pseudonym] wasn't there. He'd frostbit his hands last week, and now had retreated to a house someplace. A group of St. Matthew folk and others from the Downtown churches have been meeting regularly to address the need for a "Damp Shelter" in Fairbanks. They meet weekly. Here's an Update, as of early December.]*

## DAMP SHELTER UPDATE

*By Tom Marsh, Chair*

The damp shelter committee will shortly incorporate as a non-profit under the name Ecumenical Mission for Shelter. We will then apply for 501 (c.) (3) status with the IRS. We don't have a facility yet. This is as of 12/02/08.

We have been working since July to start a damp shelter, where anybody who needs shelter is welcome sober or otherwise. A damp shelter will provide respite from cold weather, a place to bathe and wash clothes. No alcohol consumption will be allowed on the premises.

We are currently accepting donations through the church. We need to raise money to pay for our facility rent and renovation and for supplies. We need everybody's help to keep folks alive until they're ready to make changes in their lives.

For more information please talk to Tom Marsh, Shirley Lee or Pauline Wilson.

## Winter Voices

below, at 6 mile, you know.) And he pulled out this BIG knife and cut open, open the sacks, and they were FILLED with these bags he began giving to us - they had oranges and apples and candy and nuts. And when he got to the leftover, he just started throwing them out to everybody. That night, Josephine and I lay in bed, eating our candy and talking about how wonderful it was. Christmas.

Havin' a hard time gettin' there this year. I've been here 27 years, but it's gettin to me this year, the Darkness.

Well you know how ----- just likes everything neat and orderly. So she planted her garden. 4 rows of three each - cabbages, carrots, all that stuff. So ----- snuck in one night & stole a cabbage. The next day she was all upset. She saw ---- and said, "HEY! Somebody stole one of my cabbages". He said, "well, i dont know anything about it, but I saw ----- down there eating fresh cole slaw on her porch."But what he did, he stole her cabbage, and planted it in Gramma's garden. At the end of the Summer, he snuck back in and REPLANTED the cabbage back where it had been. She walked around for days scratching her head.

That's why they call it CIRCLE - everything just goes around and around out there.

I learned Christians are really forgiving people. I thought they would hate me, but once I told them how it was for me, they just opened their hearts and arms.

I'm AN ELF! I'm TWO! Elfs HELP people. Do you know any ELFS?

**ALL SAINTS 2008**



From All Saints to All Saints, from the lighting of the Paschal Candle as Midnight arrives November 1<sup>st</sup>, until the tolling of the Church Bell at Midnight the following year, we remember those who have died in the Year. As families remember, we their Family in Christ remember. These are the names that were on the Banner this last year. These are the ones whose prayers as they were dying, or final services were part of our life this year. This Christmas, they are the ones Unseen around the manger.



**November 2007**

GARY "Abel" Lettau  
 TED Harwood  
 RICHARD Pitka  
 DORA Funk  
 MABEL Shanahan  
 GENE Henry  
 ANNE Cohoe

**December 2007**

ZACHARY Cordier  
 JOEL James Roberts-Beetus

**January 2008**

DALE Swenson  
 MARILYN Evans  
 CLAUDE Koyukuk Jr.  
 DUANE Metz  
 CARL David  
 SARAH Simon

**February 2008**

JASON Eli Bainter  
 DAVITA Marlene Bogle-Hetland  
 DOROTHY James Vesper  
 MICHAEL Moe  
 LORAINÉ Nathaniel

**February 2008 . . .**

DAVID Panigeo  
 JULIE Ann Tritt  
 AARON Smoke  
 JOHN Clark Jones

**March 2008**

MARVIN Wolkinga  
 ALICE Cruikshank Jordan  
 THE REV. TITUS Peter  
 JAMES Flaherty  
 CLARA James  
 ROSALIE Joseph  
 HANNAH "Candy" Osteen  
 MARY Sam

**April 2008**

ROSE Lee Walker  
 PATRICK Henry  
 CLARENCE Charlie Jr.  
 GEORGE Harry Thomas  
 ABRAHAM "AJ" Tackett

**May 2008**

RAYMOND W. Blanton  
 SANDRA (Joseph) Scharf  
 REBECCA Haggland

**June 2008**

JEANETTE Maxine (Herbert) Butler  
 LISA D. Frey

**July 2008**

LT Grantham  
 JAMES Winston James  
 SELINA (John) Hardy  
 TERRELL "Terri" Bachmann  
 EVELYN Emery  
 MADELINE Starr  
 ALFRED Frank

**August 2008**

HANNAH Paul  
 CHRISTOPHER Johnson  
 REGINA Marie Stevens Goebel  
 JOYCE Black

**September 2008**

ISAAC Sam  
 STEVEN G. Mohn

**October 2008**

CHRISTINA S. Christian  
 MYSTIC Angel Clewis  
 THOMAS G. Evans III  
 JAMES A. Finch Jr



**2009 TITHING TREE**

*By Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah*

With the changing of church seasons at St. Matthew's, it seemed appropriate to move our focus from the success of the gas pump campaign (PFD) to the new direction of the Tithing Tree. I am very hopeful that if we could stay motivated with this interactive concept that we might use that momentum to drive us into the New Year to begin a positive financial trend.

As your vestry struggles with the 2009 Budget, it occurred to us, in our effort to act more responsibly, that we should like a more accurate estimate of the Income side. Historically, the budget has been derived primarily by projecting from the previous year's Expense side, with little consideration of the Income. Prayerfully raising the Income to cover the Expense could certainly explain the term, "faith budget." Thanks to all of your generosity and the blessings of the Almighty, most times this has worked; however it is a very stressful process indeed.

For this to be successful, it takes none other than the same complete participation that you all have shown during the PFD drive. So, please "green-up" the Tithing Tree by pinning a leaf cluster, filling out the pledge card, and dropping it in the offering plate on Sunday. Our goal is a green tree. A green tree is a healthy tree and a healthy tree is a healthy St. Matthew's.

May God Bless You.

*“Marked as Christ’s Own Forever”*

**BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS,  
RE-AFFIRMATIONS 2008**

Just as the Banner on the Western Wall of the Church records commendations and deaths throughout the Church Year, from All Saints (*November 1<sup>st</sup>*) to All Saints; so the Banner on the Eastern Wall records, throughout the Church Year, from Advent to Advent, the baptisms, confirmations, and re-affirmations of the Year. These are the names that were on the Banner this last Year. These are the ones who, with water and Spirit, help us to be able to pray “OUR Father”.



***December 2007***

NEVAEH RAY Moreland  
MASON STEFFON JAMES Sweetsir

***January 2008***

TRINITY JEWELL LEE Vincent  
JAN TRE JUBILEE Williams  
OLIN EAGLE Wilson

***March 2008***

EZIAS Nelson  
ASHLEY KAYE Aragon (*confirmed April 20<sup>th</sup>*)  
GABIRELLE ALEXANDRIA LANHAIM Beene  
CHEYENNE GRACE Garrison  
LEON JOSEPH Beetus  
SAMSON THEODORE Beetus  
EVE CAMRIN GLOSHAY Engles  
MAURICIO EMILIO Ketzler-Lopez  
DARIUS DADDY Morgan  
JULIUS ISAIAH Morgan  
SIMON AUSTIN Ned  
ALISSA SANDRA TUKKUYEETLNO Robb  
ADAM KIA Weeks  
AMARI COURTNEY Weeks  
JORDAN JOHN Woods

***April 2008***

CHARLIE PETER Jagow (*confirmed*)  
JESSE LEE EVANS Peter (*confirmed*)  
The Rev. Canon GINNY Doctor (*re-affirmed*)  
DAWN Jagow (*re-affirmed*)  
MAE Peter (*re-affirmed*)  
Deacon BELLA JEAN Savino (*re-affirmed*)  
BESSIE PETERS Williams (*re-affirmed*)  
RAYMOND WENDEL Blanton

***May 2008***

ROLAND IAN JOAQUIN Alexander  
NICK CHRISTIAN Bessette

***May 2008 . . .***

SHANNON LYNN Carlo  
SKYE ANNALISE Kaquatosh  
KIERRA Kozevnikoff  
NATHAN McCOTTER  
MILO THEODORE TONY Villagecenter  
JOHNNIE LEE SIMON Yatlin II

***June 2008***

JACE DAVIAN MERLE Herbert

***August 2008***

ASHAUNA JENNY ROSE Sanford  
SUDAA JAMIE DRUCK Ewan  
DARIUS RICKY DESHAWN Nikolai  
BROOKLYNN AGNES JO Druck  
MISTY ROSE Frank  
KEVIN JOHN Brottem  
RENE RAIN Brottem

***September 2008***

DANIEL PATRICK Bettis II  
LIAM RAYMOND Marsh  
MAKAYLA DAWN Schroeder  
MAKENZIE NICOLE Schroeder  
SKY BELLA Schut  
MADISON ROSE Wiehl

***October 2008***

ZAPHANEA-PANEAH DIMITRIOUS David  
JAMIE LIN Sparks  
DAMON MALIK Villagecenter  
ALEXANDER KASINADA Parnell  
ANGEL ROSE Simon  
BRITNEY ANN Simon

***November 2008***

NEVAEH JANICE RAMONA Ballard

[NOTE: One of the nicer, quieter places to find on the Internet is "The Episcopal Church & Visual Arts" Website at <http://www.ecva.org>. The rector stumbled into it through "The Episcopal Café", <http://www.episcopalcafe.com> (which is the way these things work on the Internet) and, through that connection, has come to be in contact with C. Robin Janning, a Michigan artist and Director of Communications for ECVA. She's a friend. I asked her to write something about ECVA for the Newsletter and she sent the following:]

## FAITH & ART

*By C. Robin Janning,  
ECVA Director of Communications  
Honorary member of St. Matthews, Fairbanks*

In the last couple of years, The Rev. Scott Fisher's pastoral reach has extended beyond the halls of, and the roads and rivers around, St. Matthews, Fairbanks.

He introduced the world-wide readership of [Episcopal Café](http://www.episcopalcafe.com) (<http://www.episcopalcafe.com>) to The Rev. David Salmon, first traditional chief of the Athabascan people, Episcopal priest, and a widely respected spiritual leader.

His photographs introduced us to a world in which "Landscape is NEVER empty, at least on this continent, and the spirits and voices and songs and prayers of those Before remain." He taught this wider community that "People of the Land fly home across those mountains and meadows and see only Life and Home. If you listen, you can hear the Spirit." Put the words and the photographs together and we learn lessons that we can apply to whatever landscape we inhabit and share with "those Before."

Now, that pastoral reach includes the current ECVA (<http://www.ecva.org>) on-line exhibition of art. A startlingly beautiful "[Early Winter Morning](#)" is part of the celebration of waiting for, and celebrating the arrival of our "[Light of the World](#)." Structured and situated to run through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany the images and statements of a host of ECVA artists and photographers reach out to teach and to share.

Reaching beyond traditional walls with a heart and understanding that connects to the traditional ways of Place and Spirit, Scott's photographs have become a feature of ECVA's [Image & Spirit](#) blog. This photograph is part of Image & Spirit's Advent series.

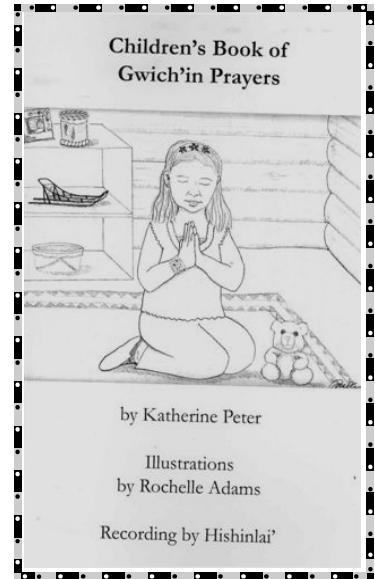


"I turned down a road this morning  
and EVERYTHING was Advent Blue."

Late Christmas Present! Early Valentine's Day Present!

**AVAILABLE from the ST. MATTHEW'S STORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

- *Brand New & Just Available. "A CHILDREN'S BOOK of GWICH'IN PRAYERS", by Katherine Peter.* Illustrations by *Rochelle Adams.* Recording by *Hishinlai*. Funded in part by a St. Matthew's Endowment Board Grant, this 24 page bi-lingual book (Gwich'in & English) of simple children's prayers [*"K'eegwaadhat jii shih eenjit mahsi, Jesus K'iighai. Amen"/"Lord, thank you for this food in the name of Jesus. Amen"*] comes with a CD recording of the prayers in Gwich'in. There is a **LIMITED QUANTITY** of these books. Available for ten dollars, plus shipping.
- Laura Vines's CD "Heaven and Earth" is still available, featuring recordings of her version of the Lord's Prayer; and "Earth, My Home". Available for ten dollars, plus shipping.
- Prints of Ray Sandberg's painting of St. Matthew's - "Winter Light" are still available. Copies are \$100, plus shipping.
- There are STILL St. Matthew Centennial Plates available, for thirty dollars, plus shipping.



IF interested in any of these, contact the Church Office (907-456-5235/1030 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue/Fairbanks 99701). Watch the Website ([www.stmatthewschurch.org](http://www.stmatthewschurch.org)). If we can figure it out, these might be available on line. [*And who knows what else we might find around here?*]

*"Do we have a Bishop yet?" – Grandmothers Hannah Solomon & Katherine Peter, at various times*

**THE DIOCESAN BISHOP SEARCH PROCESS, continued**

It is possible that by the time this is read, the following information will be outdated or changed. This is the status of the Diocesan Bishop Search and Election Process as of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. *The Electing Diocesan Convention, originally scheduled to be held in Anchorage in late January 2009, has been postponed until October 2009.* No names of possible nominees have been released by either the Bishop Search Committee or the Diocesan Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is meeting in Fairbanks December 13-15 with Search Consultant Betsy Greenman; and it is possible further news or information will be released following that meeting.



Here is the sequence of events that has gotten us to this point:

1. Bishop Mark MacDonald announced his resignation, as Bishop of Alaska in **January 2007**, following his election as the Anglican Church of Canada's National Indigenous Bishop. This resignation became effective **mid-September 2007**; and the Standing Committee from then on became the "ecclesiastical authority".
2. A Bishop Search Committee (*and a Transition Committee*), composed of members recommended by each of the Deaneries, is established by the Standing Committee. The Search Committee will be charged to create a Profile of the Diocese ("*who are we and what are we looking for*") and "*prayerfully discern three qualified nominees*" to be recommended to the Standing Committee. The two Committees begin meeting and gathering information.
3. The Diocese meets in Convention in Fairbanks in **October 2007**. At that Convention a number of resolutions are passed. These include a proposed Timeline of an electing Convention in Anchorage in **January 2009**; a Consecration of the new Bishop in **April/May 2009** in Anchorage; and recommending a regular Convention (*to be held in "an Alaskan village"*) in **October 2009**. Additionally, a resolution was passed calling for the election of an "*Indigenous Suffragan Bishop*" within 18 months of the consecration of the new Bishop.
4. **By February 2008**, the Standing Committee had received the "*Profile*" from the Bishop Search Committee and Nominations were open.

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## THE JANUARY 2009 ANNUAL MEETING of ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

On one of the last Sundays in January (possibly either January 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>; the final date will be decided at the December 2008 Vestry meeting), the Family of St. Matthew's, as required by its by-laws, will come together for its Annual Meeting. At that time, we'll hear reports from the various ministries of the Church [*Please submit to Church Office by January 16<sup>th</sup>*], hear from Parish Treasurer **Carolyn Nethken** on how 2008 went financially, hear from the Vestry the proposed 2009 Budget for the Church; and hold various elections calling people to the different ministries within the Church. The proposed 2009 Budget will be available in the Parish Hall for discussion in the weeks prior to the meeting; and proposed nominees will be listed also.

Here is a Summary of the Elections to be held at the Meeting. If you are interested in being considered for Nomination to any of these positions, please contact either the Church Office or any Vestry member.

**VESTRY.** We will be electing four people to serve on our Vestry, three for three year terms and one person for a one year term. Senior Warden **Bruce Gadwah**, Vestry Clerk **Teresa Moore**, and **Darrel Zuke** are going off the Vestry; and they are **NOT eligible** for re-nomination or election. **Hubert Griffin**, whose term on the Vestry would have expired in January 2010, has resigned from the Vestry; and we will be electing one person to serve the remainder of his term. To serve on the Vestry of St. Matthew's, as stated in the By-Laws, a person must be a baptized Lay person, at least 19 years old, have taken communion at least three times in the last year, been a regular worshipper at this Church for at least the last 3 months, and be a regular contributor of their Time, Talent, or Treasure. Continuing members of the Vestry in 2009 are **Helen Howard**, **Charlene Marth**, **Ray Cockerille**, **Roxy Freedle**, and **Marty Thomas**.

**ST. MATTHEW'S ENDOWMENT BOARD.** We will be electing three people to serve on the Endowment Board, two for three year terms and one person for a one year term. **Bruce Gadwah** and **Ray Cockerille** are going off the Endowment Board; and both **ARE eligible** for re-nomination and election. **Carol Holz**, whose term on the Board would have expired in January 2010, has resigned from the Board; and we will be electing one person to serve the remainder of her term. **Maggie Castellini**, **Marty Thomas**, **Laura Bender**, and **Helen Burrell** are continuing members of the Board in 2009.

**INTERIOR DEANERY DELEGATES.** We will be electing two persons to represent us at any meetings of the Interior Deanery in 2009. In 2008, we elected **Becky Snow** and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**; with **Bruce Gadwah** and **Linda Mullen** as Alternates. They are **ALL eligible** for re-nomination and election.

**2009 DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES.** The 2009 Diocesan Convention is currently scheduled (*this could change – see "Bishop Search" article elsewhere in this Newsletter*) for October 2009. This Convention will elect the next Bishop of Alaska. By Diocesan Canon, the rector must attend. (*Any other clergy associated with St. Matthew's must be elected as a delegate to vote at the Convention*). We will be electing at least three (exact number to be determined by the Vestry at their December 2008 meeting) delegates to represent St. Matthew's at this Convention. There was NOT a Convention in 2008. At the January 2008 Annual Meeting, we called the following to be our delegates: **Shirley Gordon**, **Becky Snow**, and **Shirley Lee** (with **Mary Margaret Davis**, **Julia Cockerille**, **Ron Moore**, **Linda Demientieff**, and **Linda Mullen** as Alternates). They are **ALL eligible** for re-nomination and election (*and in fact, presumably the Annual Meeting could simply move and vote to continue their election*).

### Bishop search . . .

(Continued from page 13)

5. **By April 30 2008** nominations were closed and the Bishop Search Committee begins discerning through the Nominations. They are to submit Nominations to the Standing Committee by November.
6. **On October 22nd, 2008**, the Standing Committee announced that they had received the Bishop Search Committee Report, recommending that two names be nominated as candidates for election as Bishop. The Search Committee expected to bring forward three names but "*the unexpected and difficult result of their discernment*" was that only two names were submitted to the Standing Committee. Pending required background checks, the Standing Committee expects to release the two names on or near **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**.
7. **On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**, a letter from the Standing Committee explains that the Background Checks are taking longer than expected, and their "*best guess*" is that they should be able to release the names by

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## 2008 INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S GATHERING

*By Bernice Aragon*

I departed for Washington DC Thursday, November 13th. The Indigenous Women, representing 16 tribes from the United States and Australia, came together November 14-17 for the 2008 Indigenous Women's Gathering; held at the Cathedral College in Washington, D.C. The focus was on domestic violence advocacy, training, and healing. The gathering was intended to begin grassroots movements through education, training and networking. The focus of domestic violence was chosen because it is one of the prevailing issues in Indigenous communities. According to the National Women's Organization, Native American women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States.

The Rev. Bradley Hauff, a member of the Oglala Sioux tribe, also known as Oglala Lakota, delivered the keynote address: "*Domestic Violence in Native Communities.*" He is rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Palm Coast, Florida. The Rev. Debbie Royals, a member of the Pascua Yaqui tribe, and Missioner for Native Ministry Development of the Diocese of Northern California, did a workshop called "*Nine Steps of Forgiveness through the Beatitudes.*" We also had other speakers from The Episcopal Church in New York.

Sunday November 16th (*Happy birthday Fr. Scott*) we attended the Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost Eucharist at the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter & Saint Paul in the City & Episcopal Diocese of Washington. The Cathedral was just beautiful. After communion I went to the high altar for healing prayer; and then we immediately left for our one time tour to take pictures of the White House, Statues, Monuments, and tour the Native American Museum. We passed a flea market but the driver wouldn't stop! (We all uttered mournfully, "*OH, NO!!*" but got over it quickly.)

We stayed at the Cathedral College of Preachers adjacent to the Cathedral- pretty awesome! You can go on line and read more about the event of the Gathering on Episcopal Life online (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org>)

Many thanks to Sarah Eagle Heart, conference coordinator for inviting me; for Ginny Doctor, who asked if I wanted to go two years ago; and to the Native Ministries, Diocese of New York, who paid my way. Most of all to our Creator God.

## A THANK YOU from the MACKEYS

*By Jim & Kathy Mackey*

St. Matthews is a big family of wonderful caring people. The past couple of years have been very difficult for Jim and me with his serious illness. This past summer the good people of St. Matthews, those known and unknown, reached out in love and helped us with housing, food and building a ramp for Jim's wheelchair. LEM's have faithfully brought communion for one or both of us when I was unable to come to church. Some LEM's who were in Anchorage also brought communion to us all the way down there!

I would like to give a big hug and thank you to Tom Marsh, Bonnie Hameister, Hilary Freeman, Pauline Wilson, Mary Margaret and Lee Davis, Fr. Scott (*for his great patience*), Bruce Gadwah and others who are unknown by name to us. Your help and support are above and beyond anything I could have imagined.

Thank you to Tom and Bonnie for the continued help with shoveling and doing small things such as changing light bulbs! You have kept Christmas all year. Peace and Blessings to all.

## GRAN'MA HANNAH SOLOMON'S 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

Friday evening, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Chena River Convention Center filled past overflowing with smiles and good cheer and memories and violin sounds and balloons and flowers and prayers and birthday cake. It all was a sign of our Love. It all surrounded one smiling lady in the center of the room, eyes twinkling and voice strong as she greeted people. We all had gathered, from throughout Fairbanks, the Interior, the State, and beyond, to celebrate Hannah Solomon's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Born October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1908 in Old Rampart, up the Porcupine River, and raised there in the Upper Yukon, Gran'ma Hannah, in her smile and faith, carries into our days the Living History of her People, this Church, and this Land. She can tell you how Archdeacon Hudson Stuck's voice sounded as he sang Chilig #110.



Birthday cards and wishes poured into the house on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in the days before the Birthday, including one from President George and Laura Bush. By early December cards were still arriving, and numbered well over three hundred. Most were on display at the Center that night. Numerous resolutions from nearly every organization around (including St. Matthew's) were read.

One of the highlights was a special book prepared by the First Grade Class in Fort Yukon, Linda Gies's class. They sent their birthday greetings and wrote and drew what they thought Life was like 100 years ago in Fort Yukon. Here's what they wrote (*verbatim*):

- **Tylar Fields** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah didn't have a truck, or a motor bike. People shot moose for food, and they cut off skin for their clothes.
- **Patrick Alexander** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah used a dog team for a sno-go. She hauled wood with it.
- **Jasmine Dayton** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah used candles because it was dark. It was pitch black.
- **K'Meesha Carroll-Druck** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah played with her cane. She lived in a tree house, and used blankets made from rabbit fur.
- **Jayleen Thomas** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah slept by her husband and she is cute. Her house is a log cabin.
- **Dillon Carroll** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah didn't have lights, but she used a lamp. There were no cars and no 4-wheelers, but they used a dog sled to get around.
- **Madeline Hardy** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah didn't eat chicken nuggets. She ate moose meat.
- **Savannah Fields** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah ate apples and read books. She lived in a little wood house. She worked hard.
- **Jamela Anderson** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah washed her hair in the lake. She brushed her hair with a brush she made out of sticks and branches. She is my favorite Grandma.
- **Camry Solomon** thinks that 100 years ago Grandma Hannah stayed home looking at the stars and read books. She also babysat her grandkids.



100 years ago  
Grandma Hannah  
Soloman ate  
moosemeat and not  
chicken nuggets

It was those apples and moosemeat, and no chicken nuggets, which did the trick. Remember that, if you want to live 100 years.

### Bishop search . . .

(Continued from page 14)

mid-November.

8. On **November 15<sup>th</sup>**, a letter from the Standing Committee is released explaining that one of the two proposed candidates has withdrawn. "*It is important to say that the reasons for this withdrawal have nothing to do with the Diocese of Alaska, nor with information in the candidate's background check. Unexpected life circumstances made the decision clear, if painful, for the candidate.*" Given this withdrawal, the Letter announces that the Standing Committee, meeting by teleconference, has "*suspended progress towards presenting nominees to the Diocese*" and "*will postpone the Convention scheduled for January 22-25, 2009 until October 8-11, 2009*"

(Continued on page 17)



## MEMORIES of ST. MATTHEW'S

"Christmas Eve 1973 I was new to Alaska and had not yet been to St. Matthew's and wanted to attend but it was so far from North Pole and I was too shy to call and ask for a ride. My earliest memories come from the Wednesday services and Shirley Gordon. Also in Lent 1974 Father Don Hart asked each of us to select someone from the Bible and try to see life through that person's eyes. Don chose Peter's mother-in-law and I chose Andrew. One Wednesday Timothy Sam told me there was someone I had to meet and walked me over to the Diocesan Office to meet Mark and Mildred Boesser. The Fairfields, Dorothy Hall, Allen Richmond, Gene Wilcox, and so many more at St. Mathew's and traveling through influenced my life. Then there was the ordination in Minto of Anna Frank and Kenny Charlie to the diaconate....."

*[-The Rev. Deacon Ann Whitney serves the church now in Wasilla]*

"I've been thinking about St. Matthew's a lot lately, not just the building, but all the people in it! I've been trying to explain my spiritual upbringing to my Mormon in-laws. . . I've talked about how I remember Christmas Eve services, how much of a community spirit they brought our family. (Scant attendance throughout the year always

seemed forgiven that night! 😊 ) I remember all the services you would mention a funny memory you'd had, and what a great storyteller you are.

Even now as I question faith, I am reminded how St. Matthew's was always where my family was. It seems strange now that both my grandparents are no longer with us to be so strongly pulled to a series of memories...though this is always the time of year (Thanksgiving) I am reminded how wonderful my childhood was and with it is my fondness for Christmas Eve with you and the rest of the congregation of St. Matthew's. Think of me when you sing "Silent Night" this year. "

*[-Victoria Billings] [Victoria – "TORY!" – is the granddaughter of the late Bishop David and Mary Cochran; the daughter of Joe & Gail Cochran. Tory now lives in Utah.]*

## A Personal Thanksgiving for St. Matthew's

"The year is 1976. A small group of Episcopalians (and two Disciple of Christ Denomination members and their children attracted by weekly Eucharist) is meeting in the Chapel of Eielson Air Force Base. As happens, "our" chaplain, Fr. Bill Lipscomb, is transferred, and a new chaplain comes - a really nice guy, and Southern Baptist. The "Eielson Episcopalians" [*the unflattering name given by the AF*] is in crisis. We have three choices:

1. To disband;
2. To travel to St. Matthew's [*almost impossible in the winter, as most had very young children and didn't believe we could drive into FBK weekly in the severe cold, especially as many of the men were TDY to Shemya two weeks out of four*]; or,
3. Strike out on our own.

The last is scary for several reasons, not the least as we are good Episcopalians and don't want to appear to be "sheep stealing" from St. Matthew's. We certainly speak to the Diocese, but also with Fr. Don Hart, then Rector. He and St. Matthew's couldn't be more supportive, and often help us in many, many ways. Though a different story, the end result, absolutely unexpected by any of us, is St. Jude's, North Pole.

Berta and I left St. Jude's for Anchorage in 1978, as I transferred to the Alaska Air Guard. We look back in thanksgiving for Grace, both of God and St. Matthew's."

*[-The Rev. [Major] John Hanscom (USAF, ret.). Fr. John serves at Christ Church, Anchorage now.]*

## Bishop search . . .

*(Continued from page 16)*

9. This November 15<sup>th</sup> letter produces some amount of discussion within the Diocese. A **December 4<sup>th</sup>** letter from the Standing Committee acknowledges receiving numerous responses to the November 15<sup>th</sup> decision, but reaffirms that decision to postpone the Convention until October. The December 4<sup>th</sup> letter, promises that the Standing Committee "*will communicate with the Diocese as quickly as possible following [the December 13-15] meeting, especially with information about the way forward, as we see it.*"

In the meantime, while we wait for further news, we continue to remember the Standing Committee in our prayers. One is sure that they have found themselves, like the Diocese and most of us at different times in our lives, in a place that they never expected to be. Recognized or not, accepted or not, the Name of That Place is always "Grace". The current members of the Standing Committee are: **The Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron** (*SouthEast Deanery*), President; **Ms. Mary Margaret Davis** (*Interior Deanery*), Vice President; **Mr. John Crittenden** (*SouthCentral Deanery*), Secretary; **Mr. Martin Oktollik** (*Arctic Coast Deanery*); **the Rev. Jerry Norton** (*Arctic Coast Deanery*); **the Rev. John Holz** (*Interior Deanery*); **the Rev. Connie Jones** (*SouthCentral Deanery*); **Ms. Barbara Learmonth** (*SouthEast Deanery*); **the Rev. Bob Stevens** (*At Large*).

**AN EDITED SAMPLING of CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.....**

*Birth Announcement (from Charles & Terri Smoke):*

*Caleb Xavier Abraham Smoke was born to Charles and Terri Smoke of Fairbanks on September 8, 2008; weighing 8 lbs and 3 ounces and was 22 ½ inches long. We are very happy to have Baby Caleb because of the long wait and all the heartaches we went through to have a family of our own. But, with prayers we are blessed with a healthy, handsome, strong baby boy whom we adore and cherish. We call him our "Miracle Baby". He is a very blessed baby and his family loves him dearly. We thank all our family and friends who prayed for us for this blessing.*

**Remembering Isaac Sam**

[NOTE: Isaac Sam died in Anchorage September 12th; his funeral was held here and finally at home in Arctic Village. Below, his friend Walter Tommy writes about the funeral, the gift of friendship, and grief. An edited version of Walter's letter:]

September 19, 2008.

I went to my friend's funeral yesterday in Fairbanks. I cooked moose head soup and took it there. There was all native foods there that other people had brought, and that made me feel good.

When they brought his casket in and opened it up, I felt good to see him dressed up with a nice suit and tie on with moose skin moccasins on. He looked peaceful, no more suffering from his cancer. I caressed him on his chest and hands and face and head, remembering the times we were together. And I kissed him on his forehead. I started to cry, and didn't hold back my emotions I felt.

I didn't think that that would happen to me, because I had never ever cried at an open casket to anyone in my life before, not even for my mother or grandmother or dad, NEVER!

I took the moose bone feather necklace I carved, and put it on him. My wife Andrea was with me the whole time and witnessed all this, and I told her that her work she did on the necklace will be with him forever now.

The eulogy part of the service, there was a young man, his nephew I think, talked about his time with him in jail and how Isaac told other prisoners not to mess with him, because that was his relative.

Then Patrick Druck got up and said a few words, that he will miss him now, and took off a bead necklace and placed it on his casket and said that will go with him.

There was a sadness I felt at this time, and I knew that what I had to say about him would either be a sadness, or I could make it a remembrance of the goodness of this man. I stood up and introduced myself to everyone there and said,

*"Isaac was a very good friend of mine, and brother in spirit. I feel honored to have had this man in my life. He was one to never say no...that was not in his vocabulary. And when he was with you, he was one hundred percent with you. He always knew and felt that when you were down in spirit, he had some funny story or something to say that would get you to smile or laugh, and would uplift your spirit. When we were together, there was a camaraderie with us that no one else understood. . . "*

With my telling of how we knew each other and called each other, the whole congregation burst out into laughter. As I'm writing this, I'm feeling so much better in my spirit that I was able to do this for my brother Isaac Sam.

And I give Thanks to the Great Spirit for my sobriety today so that I can be happy for tomorrow. One-day-at-a-time. - Walter Tommy

## **MORE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**



### ***From Rich & Cathy Davis***

*[Note: Rich & Cathy Davis were a part of St. Matthew's since the mid 1960s and, while here, were part of everything – from singing in the choir to being Senior Warden. They moved in Washington early this Summer. ]  
Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>*

*We are enjoying living in Snohomish and spending time with family. We are just fifteen minutes from my parents'. We spend many evenings together, usually over dinner and a baseball game (our upbringing as Cubs' fans served us well last season with the Mariners) or a DVD.*

*We are singing in the choir at St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Snohomish, a short walk from our apartment. Cathy has joined a home Bible Study group on Tuesday evenings and we are looking forward to a spring production with the St. John's Players. We also participate in the Community Kitchen which serves dinner on Monday and Thursday evenings. Various churches take turns preparing and serving the meals at St. John's (the only downtown location with a kitchen) so our turn to prepare only comes up once every two months.*

*Mostly we are relaxing, walking and getting caught up on all that reading that we put off for so many years. We're constantly surprised that it's not below zero and white everywhere down here. There's still a lot of green!*

*Thanks for the prayer requests and 'This week at St. Matthew's'. We hold you all up in our prayers. We're looking forward to the next newsletter :)*

### ***Thank You from Kivalina***

*[NOTE: Winona is a gracious friend and member of Epiphany Church, Kivalina; which is wayyyyyyy over there to the West of us. They have wonderful snowdrifts and sing there.]*

*Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Please extend our sincere thanks to your congregation...*

*Just a minute left until midnight, but I just want to thank your congregation for all their prayers for the safety of our village. Last year I had asked for help in prayers for the safety of our village, especially for the people. How much the Lord God Almighty does care for His people who believe in Him. Our little village is safe and in good 'HANDS', haven't had a big storm for a while now. Thank God, really I thank my God from the bottom of my heart for your prayers that 'go up like incense' to heaven, and God heard our prayers. He did as He promised in His word that He will take care of His people and this day I give Him thanks, honor and praise...- Winona Hawley*

**EVEN MORE CORRESPONDENCE . . .**

*Thanksgiving from South Carolina*

*[NOTE: Walter Tommy, originally from Nenana and a longtime friend, was here for a time this Summer- see earlier letter-, with his wife Andrea; but now has returned to her home in Upper South Carolina.]*

*Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Hello Father Scott and all who read this, from way down here in South Carolina.*

*Today is Thanksgiving Day and this is my second one here in South Carolina.*

*My wife Andrea and I got back down here two days ago after six months of being up there.*

*Don't be alarmed about us being back down here to stay, we'll be back on the 8th of December.*

*Surprisingly, we had a good trip down here during the holiday season. All of our flights were on schedule and the airports were not really that crowded.*

*Things to be Thankful for?*

*Being well in health; mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.*

*We knew that we would eventually come back down here and we thought that we would live here, but after being back home all this past summer and all the experience's my wife Andrea had, she fell in love with all the people there, not to mention the beauty of the land. When I came down here to South Carolina last year, she asked me what is the single most striking thing about here that I liked.*

*And you know?...I've heard that question posed many time's to me, and to other people as well.*

*There are some place's that this question is easy to answer to for a villager of Alaska,...such as the high desert country of Santa Fe, NM, or Washington, DC, but this country has so many beautiful trees that are huge in width and height like the oak, black walnut, and the dog wood, and so much kudzu...kudzu is a vine imported from Japan to stop the erosion of soil here, but it got out of hand and just started going wild.*

*It's clingy and chokes the life out of other trees here.*

*There's a tree in our back yard that fell, thanks to the Creator not on the house or the electric wire, but the kudzu killed this tree.*

*So now, I have to cut up this fallen tree, and I'm thankful for the fire wood we have for our fire place in the back yard.*

*I'm thankful for my health and strength to cut up this tree with my little bow saw.*

*I'm thankful for the exercise I'll be getting in raking up all the leaves here in yard.*

*Physical labor makes for a healthy body, and with that my mind is set on the results I see in a clean and orderly yard which makes me smile.*

*Physical, mental, and emotional well-being.*

*As I'm working, I'm also giving prayers of thanksgiving to Grandfather Spirit for everything in my life.*

*Spiritual well-being.*

*I'm grateful for the pleasant 60 degree weather here compared to the 20 degree below zero when we left.*

*It's a respite I'm taking advantage of by wearing tee-shirt and cut-offs as I'm raking up leaves.*

*But I know there is still a long winter ahead of us up there when we get back home.*

*And it's always good to get back home to ALASKA! God Bless to all. -Walter & Andrea Tommy*

*[ This is the link to Walter & Andrea's art studio; Try It Ag'n Studios*

*<http://www.myspace.com/tryitagnstudios/>]*

## HOW I SPENT MY THANKSGIVING VACATION

*By Becky Snow*

*{NOTE: This is an excerpt from a letter that Becky, Lay Eucharistic Minister, friend, and wise person, submitted to the Vestry for an outreach Millennium Development Goals budget request. She suggested excerpting it for the Newsletter; and we learned a loooooooooooooooooooooo time ago to listen to Becky's suggestions. The Vestry will consider Becky's request at their December meeting}*

*Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>*

... I am writing from San Salvador, the capital of the smallest country in Central American and the most densely populated, to suggest that St. Matthew's make its donation this year to "Teacher-to-Teacher, Alaska-El Salvador", the project I am working with from November 22 to December 12.

This project puts on a 3 week workshop each year for Salvadoran public school English teachers during their end-of-the school-year break, in 2 different sites with up to 20 teachers participating at each site. The volunteers who come from the U.S. (*9 this year*) get help from Peace Corps Volunteers in the area as their schedules permit (*we have 3 with the 4 of us from Alaska in San Salvador this year*).

The teachers come each week day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to our classes which take place in space donated by a private university. In the morning, they have a seminar led by a Salvadoran educator who discusses with them methodology and how to apply in their classrooms the activities we have involved them in the afternoon before. Each afternoon we try to have them do some speaking, reading, listening and writing with us - all in English of course. The afternoon activities are all tried and true language skill development activities planned by the retired teachers who have been running the program from its beginning 6 years ago. The activities are designed to show the Salvadoran teachers ways to put learning English into contexts their students can enjoy and remember.

The teachers who come to the course pay their own way. Many of them live outside the city, so they get up at 5 or earlier to catch a bus to San Salvador that might take 3 hours each way. By giving up half of their "summer" break they are giving up the chance to have another job to supplement the \$400-600/month they earn teaching (*a teacher who works the morning shift, from 7 to 12, might make \$400; for working the afternoon shift as well, they would only get \$200 more*). They are also giving up time with their children and have the added burdens of having to find childcare plus pay their way to the classes. Yet they are eager to participate because they do not have regular in-service opportunities. Most of them have large classes, maybe as many as 50 per period. They usually do not have books for the students; if they have to photocopy something like a test, they end up paying for it out of their own pockets because the school expects the students to pay and not all can.

About 700 Salvadoreños leave the country every day looking for work and a better life. The government expects all students to be learning to speak English as a way to improve employability and economic opportunity for the country. Yet, it does not provide adequate teachers of English or resources for them to use; at the local level, many school administrations do not support the English teachers. So this program gives each teacher a dictionary, a verb conjugation book and a basic English usage book, as well as basic supplies, a share of the materials brought down to use in activities and the experience of and directions for many activities which can be done inexpensively with whatever materials are available. Perhaps most helpful is the opportunity for the Salvadorans to hear and practice listening to and learning pronunciation from native English speakers. The volunteers who come from the U.S. pay their own way and support while in country; the program has no paid employees, so all donations go to materials that directly benefit the teachers and through them, their students. Teacher-to-Teacher has recently established non-profit status.

*[For further information, or to donate to support the program, contact Becky.]*

*[NOTE: Mary Margaret, and her husband the Rev. Lee Davis, are among those who spend some of the Winter in Arizona. They, as Mary Margaret reflects, are not idle. We on thirty below First Avenue are sympathetic to their struggle to minister down there.]*

## SWIMMING POOL MINISTRY

*By Mary Margaret Davis*

*“And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do ....”*

*[Book of Common Prayer, page 366]*

Do you always know what that work is and where you are to be doing it? I don't and the last couple of years I have often wondered if I were doing what God wanted me to be doing, especially when we are in Arizona for those few months. Often my prayer is that I am willing and waiting to know what the work will be and how God wants me to be a witness and servant.



Well, recently it has become apparent that the swimming pool is the place and the people that also come to this very nice RV park are the people that I am supposed to be with. In the afternoons, the pool here is the place where people gather and socialize rather than swim. I have taught people to knit prayer shawls, answered questions about that ministry and questions about how to minister in a prison.

One day at water aerobics, I was invited to a prayer breakfast for the nation, just before the election. It seems that I am not as conservative and exclusive as the person who was hosting this affair and before the conversation ended I was uninvited to the event. As she was leaving me she said, *“It is O.K., I still love you and will pray for you.”* She hasn't spoken to me since. I don't take offense at this because I believe that I was being called upon to speak up for the marginalized, the poor and the different and I did so with confidence.

Heath Ministry is another topic that often comes up, especially on my early morning walks, but also in social gatherings and around the pool. People know that I am a nurse and want to pick my brain, what is left of it, for free advice. Since I believe in the ethics of good parish nursing, I don't give advice, but it is an opportunity to offer ideas and suggestions for seeking good medical care and exploring holistic alternatives. When people are encouraged to look at their resources and own good common sense, they amaze themselves with solutions. At times it is even appropriate to offer prayer and talk about God's grace.

I continue to wait for God's direction and some days it takes more than a nudge to move me or get me to turn in a direction in which I didn't think I was headed. Seems appropriate during Advent to renew my commitment to waiting and watching.

May your Advent be a quiet and restful waiting time with fruitful blessings in your relationships. This can be possible if you allow the quiet moments to creep in among the hectic times.

## Seasons of Life . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

years old **Britney Ann Simon**. Damon's Godparents are **Alberta John, Paul John, Bambi Kidd, and Ambrose Tritt**. Alexandra's Godparents are **Alberta John, Bambi Kidd, and Cordell Tritt**. Angel and Britney's Godparents are **Gary Smoke, Sonya VillageCenter, Bambi Kidd, and Courtney Tritt**. And finally, to end the Church Year, on Wednesday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup>, **Fr. John Holz** baptized 7 months old **Nevaeh Janice Ramona Ballard**. Her Godparents are **Billie Jo Couch, Eric Nicholi, and Martha Maillelle**.

### *Weddings, etc.*

As indicated above, Thursday evening August 28<sup>th</sup>, the marriage of **Stacy L. Kruger** and **Kevin John Brottem** was blessed. They had been married civilly at 9:30 that morning and, before the Blessing, Kevin and their 4 years old daughter **Rena** were baptized. One month later, on Saturday afternoon, September 27<sup>th</sup>, St. Matthew's filled with joy and affectionate loving laughter as **Judy Edwin** and **Aaron Stearman** were married. In a Litany of "ohmygoshohmygoshohmygosh", they found themselves wrapped in the Mystery of Love. One week later, on Saturday afternoon, October 4<sup>th</sup>, again St. Matthew's was filled with smiles and quiet joy as **Jason Cevasco** and **Ashley Eidenmiller** were married. And finally, as the last celebration of the Church Year, on Saturday afternoon, November 29<sup>th</sup>, **Heather Fidel** and **Travis Slovernick** were married. That's the way the Church Year ended, with each of these couples (*as Heather and Fidel at the End*) in stunned wonderment of the Gift of Love in their life; and **Riley** the 4 years old Flowergirl very carefully laying each petal down on the aisle in EXACTLY the right place. Even so finally each of our lives.

### *Funerals, Memorials, etc*

On Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, while hospitalized in Anchorage and surrounded by family and prayer, 54 years old **Regina Marie (Stevens) Goebel** died peacefully. Born to the late **Silas and Mary Ann Stevens** of Eagle, Regina died almost on the anniversary of her father's death. She's survived by her children and their families - **Shyanne Beatty** and

**Jason Christman** of Anchorage, **Conan** and **Rachel Goebel** of Seattle, and **Shawna Goebel** of Anchorage; her companion, **James Galbreath** of Anchorage; her surviving sister, brothers and their spouses - **Sophia Stevens** and **Jim Rustad** of Fairbanks, **Walter and Alice Stevens** of Fairbanks, and **Bill and Ula Stevens** of Eugene, Ore.; her precious grandchildren, **Sean and Devon** of Seattle and **Nahzraye and Nataya Goebel** of Anchorage; and all of us who remember her smile. St. Matthew's filled for her funeral Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, led by the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank, The Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino, and LayReader Shirley Lee**. Her final services and burial were at home again in Eagle Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday morning, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 63 years old **Joyce Black** of Fairbanks died unexpectedly in the Fairbanks Hospital; her husband for 30 years **Robert** weeping beside her. Their friend **Kathy Mackey**, and the rector, were there to say prayers. Born in California and raised in Louisiana, Joyce had worked as a nurse before becoming disabled. Private services will be held next Summer.

Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, in Anchorage, 64 years old **Isaac Sam** died unexpectedly. A faithful friend [*See WalterTommy's memories elsewhere in this Newsletter*], Isaac had battled cancer for several years. Born in Venetie to the late **Jennie and Moses Sam Sr** of Arctic Village, Isaac was raised in the Upper Yukon and was proud of his service with the National Guard. Isaac is survived by his brother, Edward; his sisters and their families, **Margaret and Allen; Lilly; and Elizabeth and Bill;** sisters-in-law, **Exina Sam** and her kids and grandchildren; and **Hanna** and her kids and grandchildren; and his best friend **Paul Tritt Jr.** of Venetie. St. Matthew's filled for his funeral Thursday afternoon, September 18<sup>th</sup>, led by the rector, **the Rev. Steve Matthew, and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino;** with **Peter Solomon** assisting with music. His final service and burial was held at home in Arctic Village the next day.

Thursday morning, September 25<sup>th</sup>, in the Fairbanks Hospital, with his wife Linda and family beside him and not a worry or regret about this world or the next (*he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and given a short time to live in the early 1990s*), 53 years old **Steven George Mohn** quietly left. Born in Austin, Minnesota, Steve arrived in Fairbanks in 1975 and never left. He and **Linda Ollice** were together since

*(Continued on page 24)*



## Seasons of Life . . .

1976. They had adventures (*he worked as a time as Sean Penn's driver during the filming of "Into the Wild"*) and laughter from fish camps to helping others. His wife Linda, children, grandchildren, sisters and brothers, inlaws, and all of us who will smile the next time we hear "*Spirit in the Sky*" all survive him. St. Matthew's filled for his funeral Saturday morning, September 27<sup>th</sup>, led by the rector, and assisted by Steve's sister-in-law **Zelma Axford**. **Sam Pitka**, **Ken Charlie**, **Don Stevens**, and **Laura Vines** all provided music. Final services and burial were at home in Stevens Village Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday night, October 8<sup>th</sup>, a private memorial service was held for **Shane Fisher**. Shane died September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001 and October 8<sup>th</sup> was his 34<sup>th</sup> birthday. His friend **Jack** and 75 ducks, who appeared out of nowhere, attended the service.

Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, in the Anchorage Hospital, 25 years old **Christina Starr Christian** died, surrounded by her family and with prayer. She had been hospitalized there for several weeks. It was tragically too soon. Born and raised in Arctic Village, Christina was a familiar friend around St. Matthew's. Her Uncle had told her to always go to Church, because it was safe there and people would help. She did. She's survived by her Grandmothers **Dorothy John** of Arctic Village and **Annie Christian** of Venetie; her sisters **Corinna**, **Mabeleen**, and **Samanthia** and their families; her brother **James**; and many other family members. Friday morning, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the rector led prayers out at Wright's Air, before all flew back home to Arctic Village, for her final service and burial Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 15 years old **Mystic Angel "Baby Girl" Clewis** died tragically in Anchorage. Born to **Francine Henry** of Beaver and **Anthony Clewis Jr**, Mystic was a tall smiling girl just beginning, who dreamed of being a doctor. Her younger sister **Jasmine** died in December 2004. She's survived by her mother **Francine Henry**; stepfather **Michael Potter**; stepsisters, **Mina** and **Mercedes** of Anchorage; grandfather **William T. Henry Sr.** of Beaver; grandmother **Laura Sabatis**; father **Anthony Clewis Jr.**; grandmother **Nellie**; grandmother **Edna Silva** of Kenai; and many others. A caravan of 9 cars brought her back up to the Interior from Anchorage Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>; and she was brought into the Church to rest overnight. Tuesday afternoon, October 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Matthew's filled for her funeral, led by the

rector, and assisted by his niece **Bonnie Adams**. In disintegrating weather (*snow etc*), her final services were led by the rector back home in Beaver Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Paul Williams Jr** assisted. She was laid to rest in the snow, back in the cemetery with its birch trees. Her friends and fellow students cried quietly.

Also on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, in distant Reno, Nevada, 72 years old **Thomas George Evans III** passed away. Born to the late **Thomas Evans Jr** and **Sally Woods Evans Hudson** in Rampart, he spent all his life working with organized labor, and served as Deputy Commissioner of Labor for the State. He's survived by his wife **Susan**; seven children and their families; his sisters **Alice Phillips**, **Mary Jane Fate**, and **Lily Evans**, and their families; and many others. St. Matthew's filled for his Memorial Service Wednesday afternoon, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The service was led by the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**.

Unexpectedly and tragically, on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 33 years old **James Arthur Finch Jr** died at his home here in Fairbanks. Born and raised and educated here in Fairbanks, James was employed by Golden Valley Electric and enjoyed skateboarding, pool, roller coasters, and once bowled a 300 game at the Arctic Bowl. He's survived by his mother **Dottie Finch**; his brother **Michael** of Wasilla and his sister **Marlene Bridge** of Seattle; and numerous other family members and friends. Saturday afternoon, November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home filled for his service, which was led by the rector. He remembered James as a red-haired 9 years old boy in the neighborhood, in love with his skateboard.

On Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 70 years old **William Lester Pair** died suddenly here in Fairbanks, with his wife **Janet**, as she always was, beside him. Born in Toledo, Ohio, he went to work for a SOHIO gas station as an attendant and, by 1977, when he and Janet moved to Fairbanks, he was running the Fairbanks operations of British Petroleum. After retiring from BP in 1995, he and Janet became Red Cross volunteers, helping in disasters throughout the country. They spent eight weeks in New York City following September 11<sup>th</sup>, for example. He was honored with the Red Cross "Clara Barton Outstanding Volunteer Award"; the Martin Luther King Jr Community Service Award; and many others. His wife Janet survives him; his sister and brother-in-law **Arliss** and **Jeff Warthman**; daughter and son-in-law **Monica** and **Jimmy Booth** of Arizona; sons and daughters-in-law **Frank** and **Cindy Cevasco** and **Eugene** and **Natalie Cevasco** of Fairbanks; ten grandchildren (*including grandson Jason*,

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**Seasons of Life . . .**

who was married here October 4 – see above) ; and four great-grandchildren. St. Matthew’s filled for his funeral Tuesday afternoon, November 25<sup>th</sup>, in a service led by the rector, and assisted by Chalicebearer **Bessie Williams**. (The service will be remembered also for a waterpipe that broke in the narthex, exploding just near the end of the service).

And finally, on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 83 years old **Joyce Erdie Milton** passed away peacefully in the Fairbanks Hospital. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Joyce and her husband **Lawrence** arrived in Alaska in 1959 on a vacation . . . and decided to stay. She worked for 20 years at the Gilmore Creek Satellite Tracking Station and was active in Lady Shrine and Eastern Star organizations. She’s survived by her sons **Larry, Royce, and Les**, their families, 5 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held Friday afternoon, November 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Masonic Lodge; with **Fr. Layne Smith** leading the service.

There were other deaths in this time period that should be briefly noted, that certainly affected the St. Matthew’s family. Local television and radio personality and former Borough Mayor **Henry “Hank” Hove** died Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> in Yakima, Washington; 72 years old **Oliver “Oly” Ben** of Stevens Village died suddenly Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>; 71 years old **Kenneth Doane Bell**, the late **Helen Wilbur Bell’s** son, died in Washington September 7<sup>th</sup>; and 51 years old **William “Billy” Captain Jr** of Ruby, who bravely struggled with cancer, died Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. 54 years old **Dianne Rose John** died in her sleep at home in Circle Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>; 38 years old **Arthur Clinto Teel**, the son of **Donna Horace** of Fort Yukon, died Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> in Juneau; 60 years old **Lois Williams** of Beaver, the gentle wife for 44 years of **Paul Sr**, died quietly in Beaver Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>; and 20 years old **James Burk** died tragically in a snowmachine accident in Nenana Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Blessed creatures and Daughters and Fuelpumps and Year ends**

More happened, of course during this Time. The Health Ministry provided a community wide SAD presentation Thursday evening, September 11<sup>th</sup>; and Sunday School began September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Vestry

and other volunteers led an allday “Winterize the Church” Project Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, we remembered St. Francis and blessed our friends: **Daisy and Miss Sketter Bug and Walnut and Freckles and Oscar and Snowball and POMPOM!** and **Molly and GuyMoose and Seamus** and and hamsters and puppies and airdales and kittycats and Something in a pink cage. And later **Taj and Captain Jack Sparrow** were blessed in a House Call. Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, **Julia Cockerille, Helen Howard, Audrey Jones, and Lisa Olsen** were inducted into beginning study to become Daughters of the King. As Permanent Fund Dividend checks arrived, the Vestry, under the leadership of **Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah**, led a Fund Raising Drive that included a fuel pump in the Parish Hall. Over 100 families and individuals had donated over \$30,000 by midNovember; and donations were still arriving.

Saturday evening, November 29<sup>th</sup>, the sun long set and Night out there, a quiet group moved through the Church. The LAST service of the Church Year, **Heather and Travis’s** wedding, had ended and now the Altar Guild - **Mary Johnston, Marie (Ward) Reid and Marci Ward** - had arrived. Quietly and thoroughly behind the scenes doing everything. Down came the wedding white and up came the Advent Blue. Away the Year Ending; Hello the Year Beginning. There was thought of leaving **Riley’s** carefully placed flowerpetals, but one sensed the spirit of **Mary Ann Gallagher** mumbling, so we picked them up. The rector quietly removed names from the banners – leaving only **Bill Pair and Joyce Milton** (whose deaths were after All Saints and so their names remain until next All Saints). Outside, a quiet Advent snow fell in the Darkness. A new fresh beginning. Towards Bethlehem.



## SUMMARY of the MONTHLY VESTRY MEETINGS



The Vestry of St. Matthew's met Monday, September 15, 2008, with the following present: **Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah, Vestry Clerk Teresa Moore, Darrel Zuke, Marty Thomas, Charlene Marth, Helen Howard, Treasurer Carolyn Nethken**, and the rector. Following an Opening Prayer, and approval and correction of the August minutes, the following actions were discussed or taken:

1. The Treasurer's Report was received, noting that August BUDGETED OPERATING INCOME was \$24,927 (Year-to-Date January through August \$170,452); and August BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENSES were \$25,875 (Year-to-Date January through August \$188,455). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/Deficit of -\$948; and the **Year to Date Deficit increased to -\$18,004.**
2. There was discussion about the success of the Senior Warden's PFD Fund Drive; recent donations received; and maintenance charges being charged for some accounts.
3. In discussion about possible Village Trips, **Helen Howard** reported on her contacts with Tanacross; and **Bruce Gadwah** commented on Circle possibilities.
4. The St. Matthew Endowment Board Grant requests were presented and approved, for announcement at the September 21<sup>st</sup> Harvest Dinner.
5. **Sexton Tree Nelson's** request for Time Off September 18-25<sup>th</sup> was approved; and plans were made for church cleaning in his absence.
6. The Senior Warden reported on options for heat in the rectory garage; and plans for "winterizing the Church" were set for October 11<sup>th</sup>.
7. The activity and work of the Homeless Committee was noted and appreciated.

A Closing Prayer was said by **Charlene Marth** and the meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

The Vestry of St. Matthew's met October 13<sup>th</sup> 2008, with the following present: **Senior Warden**

**Bruce Gadwah, Junior Warden Ray Cockerille, Marty Thomas, Helen Howard, Hubert Griffin, Roxy Wright** and the rector. Following an Opening Prayer, the election of **Marty Thomas** as Temporary Clerk, and approval of the September

minutes, the following actions were discussed or taken:

1. The Vestry considered the received September Financial Report, noting that September BUDGETED OPERATING INCOME was \$40,457 (Year-to-Date January through September \$210,909.); and September BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENSES were \$27,184 (Year-to-Date January through September \$215,639). This resulted in a Monthly Surplus/Deficit of + \$13,274; and the **Year to Date Deficit reduced to -\$4,730.** A number of reporting questions were noted, to be asked of the Treasurer before the next meeting.
2. The Vestry approved a resolution, in accordance with Section 107 of the IRS Code, to allow **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino** to receive compensation of \$5,700 for expenses related to housing.
3. Noting the success of the Permanent Fund Dividend Fund Drive (**\$27,200 to date**), a wide variety of ways to thank the congregation and all who participated were discussed. It was decided to hold a "Thank You" Tailgate Party Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, after the last service, with prizes to be awarded. Additionally, The Vestry will meet between services October 19<sup>th</sup> to finalize ideas and plans.
4. The rector listed the series of activities that would be occurring over the next 12 weeks. These include hosting the Thanksgiving Service and a Community Dinner, the preparation of the 2009 budget, the January Annual Meeting, the January Electing Diocesan Convention, the announcement of the Bishop Candidates (**November 1, 2008**) and subsequent reception to be held at St. Matthew's, the election of new Vestry members, Endowment Board members and representatives for the various convention/

(Continued on page 27)

## Vestry Minutes . . .

*(Continued from page 26)*

meetings for 2009, and throughout this time, regularly scheduled services, Christmas services, funerals, weddings, etc. It was noted that **Darrel Zuke, Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah** and **Vestry Clerk Teresa Moore** will be leaving the Vestry at this next Annual Meeting. **Shirley Gordon, Becky Snow** and **Shirley Lee** were elected to attend the Diocesan Convention, to be held January 22-25, 2009 in Anchorage, with **Mary Margaret Davis, Julia Cockerille, Ron Moore, Linda Demientieff** and **Linda Mullen** as alternates. The Rector will also represent us at the Convention. At this Convention the vote for the new Bishop will take place. Vestry agreed that the Annual Meeting for 2009 would be held January 18. Formal announcement, in accordance with the Bylaws will be made January 4, 2009. Nominating committees should have their nominees to the rector by December 28, 2008. The completed budget for 2009 should be ready on December 28, 2008.

**[NOTE: SEE RELATED ARTICLES pages 13, 14 in this NEWSLETTER. DIOCESAN**

### **CONVENTION HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED & ANNUAL MEETING DATE MAY HAVE SHIFTED.]**

5. The Vestry divided into two groups to begin considering the 2009 Budget - the Income Group to meet Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and the Expense Group to meet Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.
6. **Junior Warden Ray Cockerille** reported on the leaking Sacristy roof and that an estimate of \$14,000 to repair it had been received. This has NOT been scheduled or budgeted, it was noted. The use of heat tape was discussed. **Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah** reported lights had been replaced on the outdoor cross and discussed other projects.
7. The rector requested two weeks off in November to visit his wife; and this was approved.
8. With the decision to hold the next meeting Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Meeting closed with a Prayer by **Helen Howard**.

*[The Vestry was unable to meet in November, due to the rector and Senior Warden traveling; and both the Junior Warden and Clerk being ill. The next meeting is scheduled for December 22<sup>nd</sup>. ]*

*A Report on the Fall class*

## PROFOUND TRUTH; SIMPLE TOOLS; HEALED FOLK

*By Linda Mullen*

This fall we had a class on the Journey to Freedom. Those who came experienced miracles in their lives and received the tools to continue on. This class brings healing and freedom from physical, emotional, and spiritual pain. That Freedom brings JOY.

It isn't about religion or a denomination - it is about a relationship with God the Father who created us and loves us above all else, and Jesus His only Son who died on a cross for us, and the Holy Spirit who brings us to Jesus. A way to stop looking at the problem and focusing on the solution! All of this comes from the scriptures.

Students learned about the relationship between sin and sickness, sin and emotional pain, sin and unrelenting fear. The Father wants us to be FREE; satan wants us to be bound up in our sin, pain, sickness, fear, anger and so on. There is a real truth here.....YOU CAN BE FREE and You can be JOYFUL with the JOY from the Father.

The truths are profound, the tools are simple, and folks are healed.

If you are interested in being Free, if you are experiencing emotional pain, if you are hungry for the JOY that has been promised to you, we can always do another class.....let me know. *[Contact Linda singing in the Choir at any 11:15 service]*

You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you FREE.....John 8:32.

THE PEOPLE OF FAIRBANKS

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Are Invited to the  
Opening of  
St. Matthew's Church  
NEXT THE HOSPITAL  
ON

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SUNDAY, 16TH. OCTOBER, 1904

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OPENING SERVICES: 11 A.M. AND 8 P.M.  
Celebration of the Holy Communion: 8 A. M.

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Come to Church When the Bell Rings!



***To all who are joyful and thankful, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are weary and need rest, to all who are friendless and wish friendship, to all who pray and to all who do not, but ought, to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will, this Church opens wide the door and in the name of Christ the Lord says WELCOME***

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

# O Ye Frost and Cold

Address Service Requested\*

December 22, 2008

**\*Please Note:** Returned copies of **O YE FROST AND COLD** cost the church \$2.90 each, forwarded copies cost \$0.75 each.

### 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.