


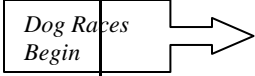

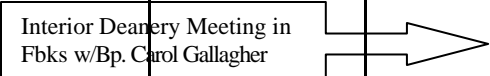
O YE FROST AND COLD

Volume 104

Published bi-monthly Number 1

January – March 2008

MARCH & APRIL ... LENT into the 50 DAYS of EASTER For Liturgical Schedule go to smatthewschurch.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9th LENT 8, 9:15, 11:15am Eucharists 9AM Sunday School 12amCompline 	10 5:30PM VESTRY 6:30PM Lent Study 12amCompline	11 11amDenali Cntr Eucharist 5:30PM Confirmation 5:30PM Endowment Invest.Comm. 12amCompline	12 9:30am Eucharist 6PM Choir 7PM Eucharist 12amCompline	13 10:30am Pioneer Home Euch. <i>1903>Rice, Joseph depart Circle for Fbks;1913> Stuck,Karstens, Harper Depart St.Matt's for Denali</i> 12amCompline	14 5:30PM Stations of the Cross 12amCompline 	15
16 PALMSUNDAY 8,9:15,11:15AM EUCHARISTS W/ PROCESSIONS <i>(all services begin in Parish Hall)</i> 9AM Sunday School 2PM FCC Eucharist 12amCompline	17 7PM Monday in Holy Week Eucharist 12amCompline	18 5:30PMConfirmation 5:30PM Endowment Comm. 7PM Tuesday in Holy Week Eucharist 12amCompline	19 9:30am Eucharist 6PM Choir 7PMTENEBRAE 12amCompline	20MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30PM COVERED DISH 7PM EUCHARIST W/FOOT WASHING	21 GOODFRIDAY 12PM Community TVCC Service 7PM Good Friday Service	22 HOLY SATURDAY 10AM Altar Guild cleaning 10AM HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE 8:15PM EASTER FIRE, BAPTISMS & The 1 st EASTER EUCHARIST
23 EASTER SUNDAE 8,9:15,11:15AM Easter Eucharists 12amCompline	24 12amCompline	25 11amDenali Cntr Euch. 5:30PM Confirmation 12amCompline	26 9:30am Eucharist 7PM Eucharist 12amCompline	27 10:30am Pioneer Home Euch. 12amCompline	28 12amCompline	29 12PM >105 th Anniversary of 1 st Service > 1 st & Cushman 4PM Wedding
30 8,9:15,11:15AM Easter Eucharists 9AM Sunda School 12amCompline	31  12amCompline	1 5:30PM Confirmation 12amCompline	2 9:30am Eucharist 6PM Choir 7PM Eucharist 12amCompline	3 12amCompline	4 12amCompline	5
6 8, 9:15 (Rite 8, Children's Eucharist) 11:15AM Easter Eucharists 9AM Sunda School 2PM FCC Eucharist 12amCompline	7 12amCompline	8 11amDenali Cntr Euch. 5:30PMConfirmation 12amCompline	9 9:30am Eucharist 6PM Choir 7PM Eucharist 12amCompline	10 10:30am Pioneer Home Euch. 12amCompline	11 12amCompline	12
13 8,9:15,11:15AM Easter Eucharists 9AM Sunda School 12am Compline	14 12amCompline	15 5:30PMConfirmation 12amCompline	16 9:30am Eucharist 6PM Choir 7PM Eucharist 12amCompline	17 12amCompline 	18 12am Compline	19

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**THE LIGHT
of WINTER
VOICES**

From darkening daylight into gaining daylight; from unusually warm temperatures to the traditional forty below; from preparing for Christmas to preparing for Valentine's Day; we sit outside covered with snow and listen to the People of God walking by, singing Christmas carols and carrying candles, and overhear. . .

It's finally NOT going to be the Cold Weather that gets me; it'll be this warm weather. I slipped yesterday and...

Boy, I just got out, after doing 40 months in Seward. And it's scary up here. There's wayyyyyy more drinking on the streets then there used to be.

Used to run a Trapline out of Eagle, about 60miles. My brother and I. Hard work.

When Jesus calls us, we can't say anything. They have to go then.

We are always Starting and RE-STARTING. The question is: What do we do then?

I see rabbits dance in the moonlight once. We were coming from Nenana to new Minto, and came over that hill, and there on the top of the hill there was a birch tree that had fallen down. And all around that tree were a WHOLE BUNCH OF RABBITS, ears up and just circling and dancing in the moonlight. I said, "What are they doing?" And he tell me "they dance too, just like us. They're making potlatch."

What an amazing church service that was; what an amazing church this is. I've never been in a church like this. You all are ABSOLUTELY SERIOUS about everything you're doing, but YOU HAVE SUCH FUN.

HOLY WEEK 2008

*"Sit here, while I go over there and pray."
-What else are you doing this week?
Why?*



SUNDAY, March 16th: The Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday

8AM, 9:15AM, 11:15AM Holy Eucharists, with Procession. All services begin in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY, March 17th. Monday in Holy Week.

7PM Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, March 18th. Tuesday in Holy Week.

7PM Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, March 19th. Wednesday in Holy Week.

9:30AM Holy Eucharist
7PM Tenebrae, A service of Darkness & Shadows

THURSDAY, March 20th. Maundy Thursday.

5:30PM Simple Covered Dish Supper
7PM Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist, including Footwashing

FRIDAY, MARCH 21st Good Friday.

12PM Tanana Valley Conference of Churches Community Good Friday Service at St. Matthew's
7PM Good Friday Liturgy

SATURDAY, March 22nd Holy Saturday

10AM Holy Saturday Liturgy
8:15PM The Easter Vigil, including the Lighting of the Easter Fire, the Easter Baptisms, and the First Eucharist of Easter

**SUNDAY, March 23rd
EASTER SUNDAY**

8AM, 9:15AM, 11:15AM
Easter Sunday Morning Eucharists



THINK SUMMER!

**EARLY NOTICE ON
JUNE SUMMER SUMMER CAMP!**

**EARLY WARNING ALERT!!!
CALLING ALL KIDS!!!**

The Diocesan Youth Camp will be at Camp Challenge, just outside Wasilla, 5 PM June 1st - 1 PM June 7th. The camp is for those going into the 4th-8th Grades. Counselor and staff positions are available for those going into the 9th Grade through early college.

Interested persons can check out the Camp at <http://flickr.com/photos/johnhanscom/sets/72157600414135860/>

and get more information from
the Rev. Jim Basinger (jbasinger@chugach.net)
or the Rev. John Hanscom (ihs369@msn.com)

Winter Voices

I've never seen SUCH LOVE as in that Holy Communion service. They all should always be that way.

I don't know why, but I just burst into tears half way through that service, during the Communion. So did the guy next to me. And I still can't quit crying.

I've been in Fairbanks 30 years but I've never been in this church. We're Catholics, but.....

We're visitors this morning. We're LDS and live here in Fairbanks, and we're about to leave on a Mission. Before we left we wanted to come to your service and. . . .

That's the first time we've been to that Children's service and it's JUST GREAT! We should've started doing that ten years ago!

I saw a MOUNTAIN LION THIS WINTER. I was out at the Central airport and

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

RECTOR	The Rev. Scott Fisher 456-5235	PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Hilary Freeman 457-4820
PRIESTS	The Rev. Steve Matthew. . . 488-9076 The Rev. John Holz 456-3583 The Rev. Layne Smith 374-5957 The Rev. Lee Davis 457-2865	SEXTON	Michael "Tree" Nelson . . . 456-5217
DEACONS	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503 The Rev. Montie Slusher . . 474-4570	ORGANIST	Laura Vines 452-4565
SENIOR WARDEN	Bruce Gadwah 457-7129	CHOIR DIRECTOR	Barbara Hameister 455-7397
JUNIOR WARDEN	Ray Cockerille 474-2105	ALTAR GUILD	Mary Johnston. 455-7245 Cathy Giacomazzi 479-7736 Beth Corven 456-2966
CLERK	Teresa Moore 374-8382	SUNDAY SCHOOL	Charlotte Perotti 457-1332
VESTRY	Charlene Marth Helen Howard 488-2314 Hubert Griffin 452-4692 Darrel Zuke. 488-6073 Roxy Wright-Freedle. . . . 455-9300 Marty Thomas 455-6612	HEALTH MINISTRY	Martha Thomas, Chair . . . 455-6612
PARISH TREASURER	Carolyn Nethken 457-3304	ENDOWMENT BOARD	Darrel Zuke 488-6073
		WEB GARDENER	Maggie Castellini 479-5444
		NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Mary Margaret Davis . . . 457-2865
		SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	Helen Howard. 488-2314
		UNITED THANK OFFERING	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503
		DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	
		MINISTERS	YOU US!!!

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Phone# 456-5235 FAX#: 456-2934
e-mail: sfisher@mosquitonet.com Website : stmatthewschurch.org
Diocesan Website: episcopalak.org

Winter Voices

They saw a grizzly bear up at Fort Yukon last weekend. Walked right through the center of town. Up by the school. I don't know what's the bigger surprise - that bear walking around or the fact nobody shot it.

....and they say they saw a polar bear up at Arctic Village.

They saw a flying saucer over at Beaver last week. -----saw it. Said he was so surprised he ran out of his cabin in his underwear to look at it.

It's just too warm. Animals are just movin' around still.

I'm just wrapped in my prayer shawl. That's the best thing Alaska ever gave me.

And you put that in the Religion Page? Do you know how WEIRD the rest of the City thinks we are?

. . . we shook hands and, as I walked away, I thought "Wow, does he have a lot of wounds! But he's okay! How is that?"

I feel like I've been gone a long time and finally have come home. I guess that's what Christmas is, huh?

We don't have a tree or anything up, but our grandkids said they would do it for us. They haven't yet, but I'm sure they will.

What time is your Midnight Christmas service?

No, we don't have any Christmas decorations up at the house. We just don't have the energy for it this year.

Is your Church celebrating Christmas this year?

What TIME is Christmas Eve?

The Search for a New Bishop continues



DIOCESAN PROFILE RELEASED: WHAT are we looking for in a NEW BISHOP?

In early February 2008, the Diocesan Bishop Search Committee, chaired by Clarence Bolden and Shirley Lee, released The Profile of the Diocese. This twenty-four page document gives a brief picture of the Diocese in Alaska, its history, its previous Bishops, and its churches. Using the answers from questions discussed over the last year in churches around the State, it summarizes what we see as our hopes, our challenges, and our blessings.

And, from those same meetings, and looked and prayed over by the members of the Bishop Search Committee and Standing Committee, it describes what we are looking for in a new Bishop.

What are we looking for in a new Bishop?

In short, a Bishop "fluent" in all of our cultures; a Bishop who visits more often; a Bishop who understands the "unique ways our cultures come together into communion and conflict". The description highlights 11 main points:

- "Centered in a profound prayer life, formed by Scripture and on fire with the Gospel"
- Keenly aware of our different cultures and ways of life. "If not already an Alaskan, somebody committed to becoming one".
- "willing to work with us to call at least one Suffragan bishop"
- "an adventurous spirit, willing & ready to travel"
- "a creative thinker . . . able to delegate & to work collaboratively"
- an advocate for children and youth
- a spiritual companion to the clergy of the Diocese
- skilled in reconciliation
- prepared to join in fighting racism
- open to developing & using alternative routes to ordained ministry
- supported by members of his/her household

The complete document is available online at www.alaskabishopsearch.org, or through local churches.

Nominations are being accepted through April 30th. For further information, contact the Diocesan Office. And prayers are a good thing to be doing. Who is this a description of?

DREAM A LITTLE DREAM.....

**+\$10,000 in GRANT MONIES
AVAILABLE,
with JUNE DEADLINES**



Grant monies totaling slightly over ten thousand dollars are available in 2008, two programs recently have announced. Both programs have June Deadlines for the applications.

The St. Matthew's Endowment Board announced in their Annual Report during the January 2008 Annual Meeting that they have **\$3,647.73** available for grant distribution this year. "*Projects proposed for grants must enhance the worship, ministry, and/or mission outreach of St. Matthew's, provide benefit to the 'community' more than the individual, and not fall under the general operating budget for St. Matthew's.*" Applications should clearly state a Budget for the project and information on whether matching resources are available elsewhere. Previous grants have been awarded for everything from books for those studying for ministry, to bringing guest speakers to St. Matthew's, to helping start village Sunday Schools. In 2007 Grants were awarded to the local Diigii Naii Community Youth Program and to the St. Matthew's Building and Land Acquisition Fund. Applications must be received in the St. Matthew's Church Office by **Monday, June 30th**. They will be announced at the September St. Matthew's Day Celebration. For further information, contact the St. Matthew's Church Office or any Endowment Board member.

The Diocesan Faith into Tomorrow Endowment Fund (FIT) announces their 2008 grant application program. They have two cases. **\$4,959** is available for Case 5: "*Caring for Victims of Poverty and Abuse*". This would include programs such as food pantries, care for the homeless, soup kitchens, substance abuse, prison ministries, etc. **\$1,657** is available for Case 6: "*Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach*". This would include Retreats, spirituality conferences, media support, etc. Applications are available from the Diocesan Office (1-800-478-3043) and must be postmarked by **June 2nd, 2008**.

Winter Voices

That was incredible. I can't wait to . . . I've never been to an Episcopal church before and that was . . . that was. . . THIS IS *SOME PLACE, THIS CHURCH.*

. . . and when we drove home finally from the Christmas Eve service, about two in the morning, there were --- and ---, you know, who usually hang around our Parish Hall, standing on the grate by the Marriott trying to stay warm for the night.

Oh, we weren't going to get a tree, but now **WE HAVE TO GET ONE! IT'S CHRISTMAS!**

Gaining 23 seconds of Daylight doesn't sound like much, but still I wouldn't want to be in a microwave that long.

I am **NEVER** going to the Post Office the rest of my life.

Peter John would proudly call it *Ch'eghutsen*. YES! That's it! It was A Ch'eghutsen Moment

Boy, you people **REALLY** know how to celebrate Christmas up here.

. . . so How to make friends? : She tried chess, Goth, choir and baking....

Just got in at ten this morning from leave. I was home to Kansas for two weeks. Figure I'm gettin' deployed so I should go check out home. Great trip. I just got trashed for two weeks. Why not? I'm goin' to WAR.

We've been down in Seattle for a month and BOY are we glad to get back. They told us it was thirty-five below here, but we didn't care. We just wanted to see THE SUN. We never saw the Sun the whole time we were out there.

LOW CARBON DIET

By Oliver & Andrea Backlund

Would you like to lose up to 5000 pounds in the next year? 5000 pounds of carbon emissions, that is? We can help. Many folks just like you are considering the costs to our environment and to our grandchildren of continuing to use fossil fuels and other resources as if there were no limit to them. Beginning in March, 2008, there will be an opportunity to work together to help one another to save money, save energy, and maybe even to be part of the global warming solution. Watch for notice of the **Low Carbon Diet Information Meeting** in the service bulletins. The program will involve four meetings, about ten days to two weeks apart and a workbook (that will cost about \$10.00) for each household. The plan is to make it relatively easy to lose those pounds while enjoying the encouragement and support of your friends in the congregation. For more information, call Oliver & Andrea Backlund at 479-2632 or contact us at <kestrels@acsalaska.net>.

Winter Voices

We're doing fine over here in Sixty Below, but going a little stir crazy. I've re-arranged my closet six times.

I'm tryin' to do good. I could make a lot of money, you know, doin' stuff, but I don't want to get caught in that stuff, sellin' drugs. I'm TRYIN' to do good.

. . . I woke up and I was asleep in this abandoned car and it was cold. Stayed awake all night there because I figured that if I went to sleep, I might not wake up this Side of things. So I figured that's enough, and I've been trying to stay sober and at the Mission ever since.

It's soooooo WHITE down here. Where's the Diversity? I never thought of that when I moved down here. Even the criminals are white! When People of Color see each other, we greet each other like long lost friends, even though we don't even know each other.

Well, we shouldn't have made all those jokes about no cold weather. This is STILL Alaska. It's Forty below.

That sun is just kindof just decorative this time of year, isn't it?

. . . what I always point out, as a medical professional, is that women have intuition because men are liars and babies can't talk.

...was very religious. He carried his Bible and Prayer Book all those years out on the trapline, reading morning and evening prayer every day out there.

When he was a young boy, he stayed with an old German up there. And he used to take him up into the hills up there, prospecting. And one time they hit it, panned out a real find. So

through All The Seasons of life

SEASONS of LIFE through the MID-WINTER

For the three months since the accounting in the last Newsletter; from the memories of All Saints, through the Darkness of Advent and into the joy of Christmas, through the starlight of Epiphany and into the desert of Lent; from **Monday, November 19th** through **Saturday, February 23rd**, we have gathered together and prayed for at least **285 services**. An accounting and some of the details:

- 38 Sunday Eucharists
- 2 Sunday Eucharists, with Christmas Pageant
- 1 Sunday Eucharist, with Annual Meeting
- 15 Private/Home Communion visits by Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- 49 Private/Home Communion visits by Clergy
- 3 Sunday Fairbanks Correctional Center Eucharists
- 75 Midnight Compline services
- 1 Midnight Solstice "*Bang Pots to Chase Away the Great Dragon of Darkness*" Compline
- 1 Shirley Demientieff Memorial Compline Service
- 2 Sunday Eucharists (out of Fairbanks- Beaver, Tanacross)
- 1 Tuesday Morning Denali Center Eucharist *
- 14 Wednesday Morning Eucharists
- 14 Wednesday Evening Eucharists
- 4 Thursday Morning Pioneer Home Eucharists
- 1 Winter Solstice "*Dark Christmas*" Eucharist
- 3 Other WeekDay Eucharists
- 5 Celebrations of Holy Baptism, 6 Baptized
- 1 Celebration of Holy Baptism, 1 Baptized (out of Fairbanks- Beaver)
- 2 Celebrations of Holy Matrimony
- 7 Commendations of the Dying/Departed
- 14 Funeral Services
- 1 Funeral/Burial Service (out of Fairbanks- Allakaket)
- 2 House Blessings
- 1 Thanksgiving Day Potlatch
- 14 WeekDay Advent Evening Prayer Services
- 1 Christmas Party
- 4 Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Eucharists
- 1 New Year's Eve Potlatch
- 1 12thNight Absolutely Superb Christmas Tree Burning
- 1 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 3 Ash Wednesday Services
- 3 Lent Stations of the Cross

- +43(F) Warmest Temperature recorded since November 18th (November 22nd)
- 48(F) Coldest Temperature recorded since November 18th (February 10th)
- 13 # of days -40(F) or colder
- 5 Hours, 58 minutes, 43 seconds – Length of Daylight on November 18th
- 3 Hours, 41 minutes, 17 seconds – Length of Daylight on December 21st
- 9 Hours, 24 minutes, 18seconds – Length of Daylight on February 23rd
- 8" Fairbanks snow depth, November 18th
- 16" Fairbanks snow depth, February 23rd

[* regular bi-weekly Tuesday Eucharists began again at Denali Center February 2008]

Holy Baptism

On Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 22nd, in a community celebration, nearly three months old Trevor **Abel Allen Yatlin** was baptized by the rector in St. Matthew's Church, Beaver. Trevor's Godparents are **Colette Wiehl, Clinton Wiehl, Joleon Smoke, Charlie Yatlin, and Colin Debler**. The rector, not complaining about God's planning, but somewhat startled, was

(Continued on page 7)

Seasons of life . . .

there because he had gotten "weathered in" in Beaver.

The following week, on Wednesday evening, November 28th, the last baptism of the Church Year was celebrated, as 5 months old **Chevaya Ava Ward** was baptized. Chevaya's Godparents are **Nadine Carroll, Jessica Eickermann,** and **Curtis Petersen.**

Several weeks later, in dark and forty below weather, on Wednesday evening, December 19th, 9 months old **Nevaeh Ray Moreland** and 4 months old **Mason Steffon James Sweetsir** were baptized. Nevaeh's Godparents are **Clayton Edwin** and **Rosanne Cadzow.** Mason's Godparents are **Janet Bernice Cline, Monica Rose Carlo, Peter Paul Evans,** and **Lance Edward Albert.** A party followed afterwards in the Parish Hall.



In the New Year and on the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 6th, two weeks old **Trinity Jewell Lee Vincent**, very gently and quietly, was baptized. Her Godparents are **Crystal** and **Andy Fabian, Linda Demientieff,** and **Whitney Demientieff.**



One week later, on the First Sunday after the Epiphany, on Sunday, January 13th, 14 months old **Jan Tre Jubilee Williams** was baptized. His Godparents are **Calvin Simon** and **Julia Sweetsir.**

And finally, on Wednesday Evening, January 23rd, with the Choir and Education for Ministry class in attendance to join in the celebration, 3 years old **Olin Eagle Wilson** was baptized. His Godparents are his Grandparents **Pauline Gunter** and

Robin Ward Wilson. Following the baptism, a party followed in the Parish Hall, and Olin played with trucks and smiled.

Holy Matrimony

Saturday afternoon, January 5th, marking the New Year and the End of the Christmas Season, the rector celebrated, at the Westmark Hotel, the wedding of **Shirley Ann Pitka** (*the rector's niece*) and **Skylar Clark Royce Bazemore.** Memories and smiles and joy filled the air.

And then, on Saturday afternoon, January 26th, in forty below temperatures again, St. Matthew's filled for the wedding, celebrated by the rector and **the Rev. Lee Davis,** of **Vernon Terry Roberts** and **Lysandra Lee Silas.** Vernon ("Boo") is the son of the late **Vernon Joseph;** and Lysandra is the daughter of the late **Linda (Francis) Silas.** Two memorial candles burned on the altar to represent their parents' presence at this occasion.



(Continued on page 20)

Winter Voices

the German put the gold into his poke, and was gonna make his way into Fairbanks to stake his claim. But the mail came in, and he had a letter from his family back home in Germany that he had to come home. There was gonna be a war and his country needed him. So he left the country and never staked that claim. And he never came back. Killed in World War One I guess. And ---- never could find that creek again. He'd been just a young kid then, up past Wiseman, and didn't know where he'd been when him and that German struck it.

"SpiderPig, SpiderPig". Why does every man I know just LOVE that song?

I don't think there's a connection between Love and microwave ovens.

Ohhhhhhhhhhh, she talks. That woman was vaccinated with a phonograph needle.

YOU were in the Hospital?

It's too much. It's all just too much.

Well, they did have BIG snakes there. You'd pass an intersection like University and Geist; and there'd be a snake crossing the road. And it was long enough that its head was on one side of the road, and its tale on the other.

We had snake sometimes. Tasted sortof like pork. Big snakes were rubbery. I always wondered what they did with all those rib bones.

Do we have a new Bishop yet?

Wait. There's something different. I always used to smell smoke around you, but now. . .

Never mind you. How is Elisabeth doing? I can get her a tranquilizer guns with darts, if she needs one.

2007 – The Year in Prayer

In the Official Service Record Book for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Fairbanks, Alaska, it is recorded that there were 1,037 services (or other events) occurring at St. Matthew's during the Year of Our Lord 2007 (and 19 of those services occurred outside of Fairbanks). Throughout the year, approximately every 8.5 hours a service is beginning every day at St. Matthew's.

153 Sunday Morning Eucharists
 20 Sunday Afternoon Fairbanks Correctional Center Eucharists
 197 Clergy Private/Home Communion visits
 40 Lay Eucharistic Ministers Private/Home Communion visits
 279 Midnight Compline Services
 10 Eucharists, *out of Fairbanks*
 50 Wednesday Morning Eucharists
 47 Wednesday Evening Eucharists
 21 Thursday Morning Pioneer Home Eucharists
 6 Other Weekday Eucharists
 23 Baptism Services, 43 Baptized
 2 Baptism Services (*out of Fairbanks*), 4 Baptized
 17 Celebrations or Renewals of Holy Matrimony
 1 Ordination to the Priesthood
 26 Commendations of the Dying/Departed
 62 Funeral/Memorial Services
 12 Memorial "Teas", Walks, etc
 5 Funeral/Memorial Services, *out of Fairbanks*
 2 Releases from the Columbarium
 3 Burial Services
 5 Public Invocations
 3 House Blessings
 21 Lent/Holy Week/Easter Services
 2 Easter Services, *out of Fairbanks*
 20 Advent/Christmas/New Year's Eve Services
 1 Diocesan Convention hosted
 39 other Events (*including Animal Blessings, Fundraisers, Birthday Parties, Eagle Summit trips, Golden Days Booyah parties, Bishop MacDonald Farewell parties, August Camp Retreats, Christmas parties, Prayer Shawl Blessings, etc*).

Edited Correspondence.....

Anybody Remember the DogTeam Mail Carriers?

January 2008

[Dr. Schneider is an old friend and adopted Family Uncle, who once became legend in a Small Village Farther North for his bannock making ability]

Hi Scott, I am doing research on dogteam mail carriers in the Interior and trying to pick everybody's brains about who they were to reconstruct that part of the history. In your travels if you come into contact with anyone who remembers them and if they are willing to talk about the mail carriers, I sure would like to talk with them. All best wishes to you as our days get longer and brighter! Bill

William Schneider

Curator of Oral History

University of Alaska Fairbanks

907-474-5355

"... not a charity, but a Thank You to God"

UNITED THANK OFFERING

By Helen Howard

At the beginning of February, as the temperature drops into the minus forties, I am thankful that we are beginning to see a watery sun at our house. Jesus told us always to be thankful for everything, and in our services we often say *"All things come of Thee, of Thine own have we given Thee."*

There is another way to be thankful and to share that big thank-you with others, and that is to drop a coin into your UTO blue box. That is the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church, which was started by grateful women in 1889 for the mission of the whole Episcopal Church.

If you have not got a Blue Box, they are available at St Matthew's, and there will be a spring ingathering in April or May. Every penny that is collected goes with all the other pennies and dollars collected in Alaska to Winnie Nowak in Anchorage. She has faithfully been conducting this ministry for several decades, and she forwards the gifts to the UTO office at the Episcopal Church's headquarters, 815 2nd Ave. New York, NY.

After the late fall of 2006 and spring 2007 Ingatherings, Winnie mailed in to headquarters a check in the amount of \$8,093.13 from all of the Alaskan congregations. St. Matthew's Fall 2007 ingathering was \$362.99, which brought our St. Matthew's total for the year to \$811.75. The fall Ingathering, from all the churches that Winnie sent in, in December was low! \$1,821.23 (but \$502.52 came in January so that portion will not be available for this year's grants.)

The grants that are allocated among about 200 requests a year are listed in a booklet that is available for anyone to see through Helen Howard, who is our St. Matthew's coordinator. In 2007 St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Homer received \$68,000 to help build a new church building, because it was currently worshipping in a Methodist church. The funds are not only allocated among churches in this country but around the world. As you probably know, St. Matthew's itself has received funds from UTO in the past.

This is not a charity, but a Thank You to God, so pick up your little blue box from the table in the corridor between the church and the parish hall. Or use a UTO envelope instead, and be ready to turn it in later this Spring.

'... He is the Prince of Peace, and I'm no longer led by pressure or impulse!'

A DELIBERATE CHRISTMAS

By Ginger Placeres

[NOTE: Ginger, of Beaver and Tanana, is also the esteemed editor of "The Council" - the Newsletter for the Tanana Chiefs Conference.]

As my children get bigger, I have slowly learned the hard way about the true meaning of Christmas. I have been a believer all my life and a dedicated believer for a handful of years. Despite this, each Thanksgiving would propel me into warp speed and I would shop until Christmas Eve.

Total chaos ensued a couple of years ago when I had to drag a gaming table in at 3 am Christmas morning because my oldest wouldn't go to sleep. It was a mammoth to drag indoors and it was also -30 outdoors so as the box tore on the door hardware, I reached my peak of frustration while the apartment quickly cooled and pieces of the table made a trail from door to tree.

I determined to never experience that again and as a result, the true meaning of Christmas is reflecting more and more each year--I'm getting there, it is a process. I reminded myself to be deliberate this Christmas, to embrace peace and to set limits both emotionally and financially. This year has been a stress-free and relaxed Christmas and the rewards are priceless. I am learning to keep perspective about the birth of Jesus Christ, as He is the Prince of Peace, and I'm no longer led by pressure or impulse! I do what I can, when I can; no more, no less!

My thanks goes out to all those calm, peaceful parents out there who are great role models.





REFLECTIONS on THREE YEARS on the VESTRY of ST. MATTHEW'S

By Julia Cockerille

[NOTE: Julia Cockerille retired from three years on the Vestry at this year's Annual Meeting and, below, she reflects on this service]

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." Romans 12: 4

When I first started to reflect on my three year term on the Vestry, I had a terrible time! I looked at the important accomplishments of those years and tried to focus on what the Vestry had done to bring these about. Lo and behold -- I found out that it was just impossible to separate the Vestry from the rest of the members of St. Matthew's. And not only that, but it was impossible to separate what the Vestry, the rest of us and God all accomplished together!

Here is one example of what I'm talking about. We started 2007 with a huge deficit and the outlook was really grim. I recalled the long, hard discussions the Vestry had about this. I remembered how our Treasurer, Carolyn Nethken, patiently helped us sort through the finances and set up a new accounting program that was much clearer and way less painful to work with. I remembered Vestry member Teresa Moore asking very good questions in her quiet, insightful way; how Marjorie Grunin, Bruce Gadwah, Tom, Darrel, Charlene... each and every member of the Vestry helped in some meaningful way to improve our situation.

I recalled the valuable support we got from members of the congregation who met with us and used their knowledge and experience to help all of us really understand the financial picture and what we needed to do. And then I thought about all the garage sales, book sales, spaghetti feeds, really great parties and other adventures where everyone worked so hard and had so much fun helping to bring in the money we needed.

But, in the end, it was the grace of God, working in totally unexpected ways, which brought us through those rough times. God didn't help us simply to survive; God loves us so much and He gave to us abundantly, until our cup was running over. And so, we entered 2008 in a completely different place from the previous year -- and all of us were deeply grateful for God's gifts and the gifts of our brothers and sisters.

I could give a hundred instances of how the Vestry, the congregation and God all worked together during the past three years. If you came to the Diocesan Convention last October you would surely have seen this in the warmth and hospitality shown to the people of God's church in Alaska. Or if you are familiar with our Sexton, Tree Nelson (a man of many gifts), you could say how the Vestry certainly did the right thing in hiring him; but part of that whole package is the fact that God called Tree to us and Tree himself said "yes" and is still, generously, saying "yes" to God and to us.

St. Paul calls the church "the body of Christ". I think I have finally really grasped what he means - I can see it in the faces and deeds of all who were involved in growing our church during the past three years, and I am so grateful that I was part of it. Thanks to all of you. Thanks to God.

SUMMARY of the JANUARY 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

*[On Sunday, January 27th, 2008, the 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, the congregation of St. Matthew's, despite forty below temperatures, gathered to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and hold the canonically required Annual Meeting. As has become custom, the usual three Sunday Eucharists were compounded into one Eucharist (John 17:21) beginning at 9:15AM, with the Meeting replacing the Sermon. **Mary Ellen Koeller** provided breakfast for those who arrived early and then, following a guitar prelude by 8AM musicians **Dick** and **Charlotte House**, the Eucharist began. Following the reading of the day's Gospel (The call of the Apostles in Matthew 4:12-23), and an opening invocation by the rector, the Meeting was called to order at 10:06AM. A Summary of actions follows. Complete minutes are posted in the Parish Hall.]*

- **Charlene Marth** was nominated and elected Meeting Secretary. A quorum was established; and the proposed Agenda and 2007 Minutes approved.
- Parish organization reports presented in the meeting packet, including Memorial Funds, 2007 Total Services, Senior Warden's Report, Organist's Report, **Shirley Lee's** Report, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Health Ministry, Deacon's Activities, Education for Ministry, and Endowment Board, were received. Verbal reports were given by: Alaska Interfaith Power and Light by **Andrea** and **Oliver**; Parish Directory by **Karen Parr**; St. Matthew's Website by **Darrel Zuke**. Fr. Scott introduced parish members (*lay and ordained*) by name and asked them to speak to the ministry that they are involved in.
- Fr. Scott appointed as election judges **Gary Bender**, **Julia Cockerille**, and **Tom Marsh**.
- **Ray Cockerille**, **Marty Thomas**, and **Roxy Wright** were nominated and elected to the Vestry.
- **Bruce Gadwah**, **Linda Mullen**, the Rev. **Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, and **Becky Snow** were nominated as delegates to the Spring 2008 Interior Deanery Meeting. The Rev. **Deacon Bella Jean Savino** and **Becky Snow** were elected as delegates; with **Bruce Gadwah** and **Linda Mullen** to serve as alternates.
- Parish Treasurer **Carolyn Nethken** presented the 2007 YearEnd Financial Report, and spoke about the updating of the Church Mouse Program, and the implementation of the Quick Books Program. There was discussion about the value of listed assets, and fundraising.
- The Proposed 2008 Budget was presented by Vestry Senior Warden **Bruce Gadwah**. The budget is increased to \$297,799, an approximate \$18,000 increase over 2007. It was noted that fundraising will be crucial to make up the gap in the budget. There was discussion about various line items, the way we approach our Budget, the lack of nourishing our ministries, the need for tithing, and that there are a lot of activities and contributions that do not get recognized. The 2008 Budget then was passed unanimously.
- It was moved and passed unanimously that election for January 2009 Diocesan Convention delegates would be decided by a majority and not a plurality, dropping the one receiving the lowest number of votes after each ballot.
- The Rev. **Lee Davis** and **Karen Kiss** and were selected as Election Judges, replacing **Julia Cockerille** and **Gary Bender**.
- **Julia Cockerille**, **Mary Margaret Davis**, **Linda Demientieff**, **Shirley Gordon**, **Shirley Lee**, **Ron Moore**, **Linda Mullen**, and **Becky Snow** were nominated as delegates to the January 2009 "Electing" Diocesan Convention. **Shirley Gordon**, **Becky Snow**, and **Shirley Lee** were elected as delegates; with **Mary Margaret Davis**, **Julie Cockerille**, **Ron Moore**, **Linda Demientieff**, and **Linda Mullen** to serve as alternates.
- **Oliver** and **Andrea Backlund** and **Bruce Gadwah** were appointed as Election judges for the Endowment Board Election. **Laura Bender**, **Helen Burrell**, **Julia Cockerille**, and **Marty Thomas** were nominated for election to the St. Matthew's Endowment Board. **Laura Bender**, **Helen Burrell**, and **Marty Thomas** were elected to the Board.
- The Meeting then recessed at 12:48PM to await election results and continue with the Eucharist. Those final results arrived as the recess was beginning; were announced; and it was moved and passed to adjourn at 12:54PM.

We continued then with the Eucharist; the Offering including the cast ballots, the approved 2008 Budget, the received Reports, and the 2007 Financial Report.

"... this is my home and you are all my family"

GROWTH by VESTRY

By Tom Marsh

[NOTE: Tom Marsh, who retired from the St. Matthew's Vestry at this January's Annual Meeting, reflects on his three years serving on the Vestry.]

The last three years of my life have been marked by growth and change. In 2005 I was elected to the vestry and that fall started EfM - Education for Ministry; both big commitments.

Even though I have been a member of St. Matthew's Church in Fairbanks since 1980, it had been a while since I had done much more than participate in the services as lay reader, chalice bearer and acolyte. I felt I needed to step that up a notch and agreed to be nominated for the vestry.

Upon joining the vestry I realized that, even though I had donated to the church, I had not made a financial commitment to the church. I decided to start making regular financial contribution to the work of St. Matthew's. I immediately felt more like a real member of the congregation, like I had grown up. And I also felt a greater sense of ownership in the parish.

I learned through EfM that serving on the vestry is a ministry, another way of sharing God's love with my family here at St. Matthew's and beyond. That was a very important realization for me because this is my home and you are all my family. New responsibility brought new maturity; growth and change. I am very excited with who I am still becoming as I continue to grow in knowledge and in spirit in the Lord. I believe I am becoming who God intended me to be. Commitment is good.

"... being on the Vestry has taught me that we are a close knit family. We love each other, warts and all"

SERVING on the VESTRY of ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

By Linda W. Demientieff

[NOTE: Linda Demientieff retired from the Vestry this January. Below she reflects on her three year term.]

My journey with the Episcopal Church began on the Koyukuk River in North Western Alaska. My family lived out in the wilderness and lived off the land year round. My father taught us about God and how he works in our life. How He provides for us and takes care of us. My father taught us by showing us the plants and animals in the wilderness and by telling us stories of our ancestors. He was always amazed at how the stories stayed so true to the original story.

We went to town (*Allakaket*) maybe twice a year and picked up a few things from the store at that time. While we were in town we would also go to church. Everyone in the whole village went to church. One of my uncles volunteered as a regular maintenance man for the mission and church. Another uncle was a lay reader in the church. After we moved to Allakaket, my mother began volunteering at the church and other community activities. She was on the altar guild, taught Sunday School, and helped clean up the church when needed. She was also on the Church Committee. So we had very good examples of being involved and taking care of our church.

When I was asked to serve on the Vestry of St. Matthews in January of 2005 I was both honored and scared, but willing to serve. I was scared because to a lady from Allakaket, St. Matthew's seems like a huge church. I felt intimidated by the folks who come from wealthy families, families who can afford to donate more money than I could ever dream of.

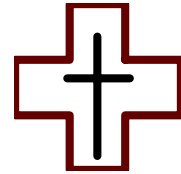
During the first few meetings, I learned that the folks on the Vestry and the rest of the congregation are just people. They are loving, caring, humble people who care so much about St. Matthews and the Episcopal Church throughout the state. They are people who really appreciate any help that they receive from the congregation. They are people who care so much about the homeless and the destitute. They are people who even love me.

I have learned to love these people too. I found that they have the same family values as I do. They respect my culture. They respect me and value my opinion. They supported me when I wanted to go to the villages to hold services. I would like to continue with the trips to the villages. They supported me when I wanted to be on the Interior Deanery. They showed me that I am a real person who has something to contribute.

Being on the Vestry has taught me how to resolve difficult situations by using prayer and religious tools.

(Continued on page 13)

INTRODUCING the NEW ST. MATTHEW'S VESTRY MEMBERS



The January 2008 Annual Meeting of St. Matthew's saw Julia Cockerille, Linda Demientieff, and Tom Marsh leaving the Vestry after three years; and Ray Cockerille, Roxy Wright-Freedle, and Marty Thomas called to serve now. The three new members of the Vestry were asked to write brief introductions, and here they are:

RAY COCKERILLE

I moved to Haines, Alaska, from Northern Virginia, in 1977. I worked on various projects in Southeast Alaska as a drywall finisher and painter which has been my trade since 1965. From 1989 through 1995 I attended classes full time during the winter months at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to study biological science with a botany option, combined with a minor degree in philosophy. In 1995 my wife and I moved permanently to Fairbanks and became members of St. Matthew's. I was Junior Warden from 2000 until 2003. In 2004 I retired from the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, where I was president of the local union. I continue to work as an estimator and project manager for a local paint contractor. My hobbies include gardening with my wife, Julia, reloading and target shooting, and hunting. I have three children and three grandchildren.

ROXY WRIGHT-FREEDLE

Roxy Wright-Freedle has been a member of St. Matthews since 1998. Roxy was active in the Sunday School program as a helper, teacher and as Director until the spring of 2007. Having completed the four year Education for Ministry program, Roxy has remained involved with EFM as a mentor. In 2006, Roxy was a delegate from St. Matthews at the Diocesan convention at Meiers Lake. She looks forward to serving on the Vestry.

MARTY THOMAS

Marty Thomas was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and began attending St. Paul's Anglican Church, Lachine, Quebec, when she was 8 years old. While at St. Paul's, she taught Sunday School and was a senior choir member. She was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Paul's. Marty moved to Fairbanks in 1971 with her husband, Myles Thomas, after a month-long honeymoon culminating with a trip up the Alcan Highway. She immediately began attending St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and has attended steadily for over 36 years. The Thomas's raised three daughters who attended Sunday School, participated in youth groups, and babysat for the youngsters of the Church. During her time at St. Matthew's, Marty was Altar Guild Chair for 20 years, is still part of the Altar Guild, and continues to Chair the Endowment Board. She looks forward to her new challenge as Vestry member.

Serving on the Vestry . . .

(Continued from page 12)

Disagreements don't always have to end with anger.
Disagreements can inspire people to have loooooonnggg

discussions and end with kind words to each other.

Being on the Vestry has taught me how HUGE St. Matthews really is. St. Matthews is a small building in Fairbanks with links to all of the Interior of Alaska and the Arctic Coast. I think our clergy at St. Matthew's did about 75 to 80 funerals in 2007 alone. The funeral services are for people who passed away in the hospital here or in Anchorage but are sent to a village for burial. Our clergy are always called on to pray at the hospital for people who are near death. Having been at a few of the hospital situations, I know how grateful the families are to have someone come into the hospital to say prayers. I am eternally grateful for St. Matthew's and the support they give to people in need. St. Matthews is the only building that allows the homeless a warm place to sit during the day. St. Matthew's is involved in many religious functions around Fairbanks. I also learned that holding fundraisers in Fairbanks for St. Matthews can be really fun. Sometimes St. Matthew's budget looks like my personal budget and things look pretty grim, but with faithful souls working behind the scenes we always came up smelling like roses.

Most of all being on the Vestry has taught me that we are a close knit family. We love each other, warts and all. May the love and peace of the Lord be always with you.

[NOTE: One of the quieter and yet most active ministries going on around here is the Prayer Shawl ministry. Stories come in every week about the Prayer Shawls. Here's one of them.]

 "To the unknown knitter: know that our Lord truly guided your hands in making this shawl for an unknown someone now revealed."



A PRAYER SHAWL STORY

By Louise Smith

Today I delivered a prayer shawl to Colleen Schramm, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at the Samaritan Counseling Center. Colleen has been helping me since March of 2005, when I was referred to her by my family practice physician for help managing the medication prescribed for me to treat the clinical depression I've lived with since 1994.

In 2005, going to Samaritan was a somewhat "*last ditch effort*," for we had nearly exhausted the resources available in Fairbanks. Seattle would be the next step, a step I was completely willing to take regardless of the expense and inconvenience. Why? I felt that I needed my life and identity back after years of dealing with the aftermath of my husband's suicide in 1994, raising two teens as a single mother, coping with other major family upheavals and crises, and losing the hopes and dreams that occurred when my fiancé and I reached the end of our relationship as a couple in 2004.

There were many ups and downs as medication was prescribed, then dosages altered and additions made to the mix of neurotransmitters needed to stabilize my health and well-being. This area of medicine still remains an inexact science with much reliance on trying, then seeing what happens.

Colleen has also been an important rock on earth in helping with problems that have cropped up and ambushed me, most significantly the diagnosis of breast cancer in November of 2005. These inevitable bumps in the road of life have produced stress that in turn has negatively affected my health and mental and emotional well-being.

It seems like a miracle that Colleen has shepherded me along this journey from the blackest of pits, swirling human storms and family crises and a life-threatening illness to emerge whole with my identity restored. Today I feel like myself for the first time in thirteen long and frustrating years, and I can only begin to articulate the profound relief and sheer joy that allows me to say and write this.

A year or so ago Colleen told me "*God has been very good to you.*" Now it certainly feels that way, though the knowledge has always been present at the core of my being. I can't even begin to acknowledge my gratitude for the loving involvement of this amazing woman in my life. And all this has happened within the comfortable and nurturing, spiritual and Christian, Grace-based context that is Samaritan Counseling. How lucky we are in Fairbanks to have such a haven! In my prayers I thank God without ceasing for Colleen and her God-given gifts of healing.

So, back to the shawl. I don't know who made it, but it's absolutely perfect. It's made in gentle shades of green, brown and other earth tones, contoured to Colleen's petite form with the collar part framing her lovely features and blond hair. It even harmonizes with her wardrobe. To the unknown knitter: know that our Lord truly guided your hands in making this shawl for an unknown someone now revealed.

After the presentation and short prayers together, she put the shawl on and said "*I'll wear it here. This place is always so cold!*" She did, and I believe that she will continue to do so. Best of all there's plenty of room to cuddle her first grandchild.

WinterTalk XX and Allakaket

DEACON BELLA JEAN REPORTS IN on her RECENT TRAVELS

By the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino

I just got back from attending the WinterTalk, which is a Traditional Talking Circle Gathering, which meets annually to discuss issues that concern indigenous communities across the nation and around the Anglican Communion. This gathering meets at various locations across the country, with host dioceses or parishes teaching about their unique territory. This year it was held in Buffalo, Minnesota on January 20-22, at Christ the King Retreat Center. All those who put together this gathering did a wonderful job. We ate really good, plus snacks all day - especially cookies! - And we slept in comfortable beds.

There must have been about 27 different tribes, representing about 39 communities across the nation, including Alaska and Hawaii. **Bishop James Jelinek**, the Bishop of Minnesota, welcomed everyone, to open the WinterTalk XX Gathering on Sunday evening. The Gathering lasted through Tuesday, January 22nd evening presentations; and teachings lasted all day, which involved GBD, small group discussions, open forum (open discussions), worship, storytelling, and sharing of traditions.

The Theme of the Gathering is "Goals & Objectives (Matthew 10:5-15)", "Empower (Luke 10:1-9)"; "Communication (Luke 24:13-32)"; and "Action (Matthew 28:16-20)". What I learned is for me to think and pray about my Goal. WHAT is my Goal? HOW do I get there? WHAT has to empower me to go ahead and reach my goals? HOW do I communicate to others in order to reach my goals? 1) Informing might be filling out applications, faxing letters, email, tacking flyers on bulletin boards, etc. 2) Education 3) Storytelling.

Bishop Mark [MacDonald] did the teaching on "Action", reminding us we have to remember that God is real; His Word is the Truth and living among us. Sometimes God works in strange ways and He is among us. Each of us has to grasp the Word of God and, through love, we can change the world.

As I think about the teachings and storytelling, I think of how Jesus always told stories in the Bible to teach all of us. What is God's purpose for creating you and me? What work do we need to do? What kind of spiritual gifts has He given us? God loves us so much, no matter what we have done or what we have been through, especially in the hurts and pains of life, the hardships. Sometimes we find God in the darkest point of our lives and realize that we need Him always. God needs all of us to do His work here on earth, no matter who we are. We are all worthy of His Love.

Bishop Mark was at the Gathering, as I mentioned before. It was so good to see him and he was happy to see all of us from Alaska, and he sends his greetings with love to everyone, through his action and words.

There were 6 of us from Alaska attending the WinterTalk, two being teenagers, and we all enjoyed our trip there. There were other youths there, even one 1 year old girl. This one woman, her daughter (the mother to the 1 year old girl), and her son all looked at me, and her kids said I *looked just like their Grandma!* I was so touched, and I felt so special to them. There was a young couple who are both ordained from Minnesota; and that was so special. It was so good to see old friends and meet new ones. I thank God we were all able to attend, and all made it home safely.

Friday, February 1st I made a trip to Allakaket to do a funeral for an elder - **Sarah Simon** - and I returned on Saturday after I did the service. This was my first trip to Allakaket and, actually, to a village by myself to do a funeral. I prayed about it. God was with me because I wasn't afraid at all about doing the service by myself. Everything went fairly good. I got to visit friends. Everyone was so friendly and considerate and thankful that I came to do the funeral. I feel so blessed just doing it. All I did was eat, and then snack at the Tribal Hall like everyone else! I'm thankful for good food, lodging, and even the rides in the truck and on a snowmachine.

The Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor, Sue Englebrecht, and I will be doing a confirmation class starting February 19th, Tuesday, through April 1st. Kids 12 and older are invited to attend. Call the Church Office 456-5235 if interested.

Keeping everyone in my prayers.

Love in Christ.

The Rev. Bella Jean Savino

NOTE: Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah, and the rest of the 2007 St. Matthew's Vestry, spent a lot of time studying the Table that follows. This charts the monthly Operating Income and Expenses through 2007. Notice December 2007. We all did. Here's the 2007 Operating Income & Expenses Table:

2007 OPERATING INCOME & EXPENSE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	
Operating Income	\$ 15,018	\$ 14,600	\$ 18,453	\$ 27,161	\$ 18,967	\$ 17,380	
Operating Expenses	\$ 22,202	\$ 25,966	\$ 17,078	\$ 16,307	\$ 33,520	\$ 16,955	
Difference	\$ (7,184)	\$ (11,366)	\$ 1,377	\$ 10,854	\$ (14,553)	\$ 425	
Accumulated Difference	\$ (7,184)	\$ (18,549)	\$ (17,172)	\$ (6,319)	\$ (20,872)	\$ (20,447)	
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Operating Income	\$ 25,032	\$ 19,616	\$ 24,679	\$ 32,845	\$ 24,050	\$ 48,360	\$ 286,162
Operating Expenses	\$ 23,350	\$ 15,973	\$ 27,699	\$ 23,752	\$ 29,888	\$ 23,305	\$ 275,991
Difference	\$ 1,682	\$ 3,643	\$ (3,020)	\$ 9,094	\$ (5,838)	\$ 25,055	\$ 10,170
Accumulated Difference	\$ (18,764)	\$ (15,121)	\$ (18,141)	\$ (9,048)	\$ (14,886)	\$ 10,170	

Bruce wrote what follows for the January 2008 Annual Meeting; and he refers to this table. He asked that it be reprinted in this Newsletter

A WORD from the CONTINUING SENIOR WARDEN

By Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah

"We probably all know deep down that, whereas we can give without loving, it is not possible to love without giving."
 - "Listening With The Heart", by David Forrester

I have been studying the miracles of Jesus and how certain scholars perceived them; and my EFM family will tell you that I have not been very impressed with their interpretations. It only tends to confuse my simple mind. But I am sharing a quote or two that seem most appropriate to us as we reflect on the past year.

I should begin my short synopsis by stating that though we can only read of the miracles of Jesus Christ because we were not a witness to those times, it is clear to me that if you are not always with open heart and mind you will be oblivious to those miracles that happen each and every day since His coming. Having said that, it is also clear to me that He and The Holy Spirit are actively supporting us at St. Matthew's; or how else how could you explain the income for the month of December - **which was to the tune of 48,000 dollars, some 20,000 dollars over the average for that month in the last few years.** The fact that our budget was met for 2007 and that we had money to actually reimburse the budget reserve account is, in my mind, nothing short of a miracle.

If you examine the 2007 summary sheet, which depicts the year at a glance with regard to income and expenses, and compare it to previous years, you would probably be as perplexed as was this Vestry as to how to interpret the numbers from January to December. There were many opinions and from those the only common denominator from all members was that the situation was absolutely perilous.

By February we were some 18,000 dollars behind our projected numbers and we slid still further by summer to an all time low of 20,600 dollars. It was not until our annual Booyah fundraiser that we began the uphill battle; and at least noticed a change in the trend. The PFD drive was very successful thanks to all; and it was followed by several fundraisers at both The David Salmon Tribal Hall and at St. Matthew's. All of which buoyed up the coffers until we could reach December.

December told the story, with an outpouring of generosity which no one could possibly forecast. The lessons learned from last year are the same in principle as in past years. What was different and most alarming was the magnitude of the numbers. We are consistently challenged with being proactive with regard to income and more specifically, tithed income. We are masters at being reactive and bolstering the coffers with last minute fundraising. Our current mode is a very stressful way to manage the operations. Once again I should like to encourage all of us to try to pledge with more consistency in 2008 and to become involved with the fundraisers which are already underway for the month of February.

[Note: The planned February Fundraiser had to be postponed due to funerals and potlatches]. I should also remind you that "Pay Pal" is now available as a channel for contributing to the church [Note: On the St. Matthew's website: www.stmatthewschurch.org], and of course using your Alaska Airline Credit Card will allow for mileage accumulation.

The definition of a miracle as taken from my EFM textbook is "an event that finds no reasonable explanation in human abilities or in other known forces that operate in our world of time and space." The final number for 2007 on the summary sheet will always be considered a miracle that I witnessed in my time and the only explanation that I shall ever accept.

And they think I am just another pretty face (may be a bad choice there) at my EFM meetings as I sit glibly in the corner, but I tell you I am paying attention. I am just not into theory, rather the application. God Bless All Who Support The Mission Of This Church.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who will seek and find how to serve."Albert Schweitzer

LENT THOUGHTS from AN ANONYMOUS FRIEND NOW in NEW MEXICO

Lent 2 (John 3: 4)

“Nicodemus said, How can anyone be born
After having grown old? Can
One enter a second time
Into the mother’s womb and
Be born?”

Jesus says

*We must be born again,
Nicodemus in disbelief
Stutters, “How can this be....”*

You know that wind

That ruffled

Your hair

Yesterday---

Hummmmm

Can you

Tell me where

It came

From?

No.

Or where it’s

Going?

No.

Ah...

The Spirit of God

Is like that;

Coming hither

And lighting

Where it will;

Going thither

And leaving a

Turned upside

Down

World

Behind!

I’ve talked about

Fruits before too—

Spirit-born

Fruits

Are unmistakable.

They look common

Communion

Community

They look like a

Whirling, twirling

Dervish,

Pure ecstasy,

Even though our

Hands are dirty

And our faces are

Dirty

From working side by side

With those

God puts in

Our path.

They taste like

Tortillas

And beans

With maybe

A little picante sauce.

They sound like

“good morning

And

Buenos dias

And

Como esta,

How are you?”

How are you

And

How and I

And where do

Your concerns

begin

And where do

Mine

End?

And just like Spirit,

We don’t know,

We only know,

Like too much picante

Sauce,

We can get burned

If we don’t

Watch out!

All our old constructs

And beliefs

About

Flesh

And

Womb-births

And birthrights

Can turn to cinder

In a flash

With

Wind-birth.

Suddenly

The color of your eyes

And the color of your

Flesh won’t

Matter a hill of

Beans.

Even the rhythm

Of your prayers

And the direction

You kneel

Won’t much matter,

Because I

Don’t love you because

Of what you believe

Or who you are—

I love you because of what I believe

And who I am.

Spirit-birth

Tears me free

From meat

Compartments.

Spirit-birth

Rips me from

My blood family

And flings me into

The ether of

The human family—

Human

Hummus

Earth

Fertile

Humble

Rich

Dirt

And Suddenly my

Hands are dirty

And I rejoice.

Suddenly my hands are

Sweeping and

Hammering and

Cooking and

Writing and reaching out

And touching—

Reaching out

And comforting—

Reaching out—

Blowing where He wills

Going where He wills...

Right smack

Into the

Kingdom come near.

I’d like to think

Nicodemus

Remembered this

Conversation

After the storm passed

And friends

Scrambled to lift

His body from the cross before

Sundown.

I’d like to think

Nicodemus, discovering

His hands dirty

And his face tear streaked

And his fine robes

Blood soaked from

Carrying Our Lord

To the tomb,

Remembered,

And then,

Sighing, understood

This Spirit-birthing

Business,

Once for all.

AN EDITED SAMPLING of CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.....***A "Thank You"****November 2007*

*Our beloved uncle, brother, son, nephew, and cousin **Richard Pitka** passed away on November 7, 2007. Our family would like to thank everyone who cooked, cleaned, hunted, shopped, contributed, and stayed by our side during this heart breaking time. We would like to thank the following organizations: **Beaver Kwichin Corporation, Beaver Village Council, IRFA, ICC, and Doyon, the people of Beaver, Stevens Village, Fort Yukon, Holy Cross, Fairbanks Funeral Home, and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.** We would like to thank the men who dug his grave in Stevens Village. **AJ Felix** of **IRFA** made his coffin and cross and helped us load everything. We would also like to thank the communities of **Beaver and Stevens Village** for helping us with the memorial services, potlatches, and final burial. There are far too many relatives and friends to specifically thank, but we offer our heartfelt thanks to all who helped. We feel blessed to have so many caring and generous people in our lives. We would have never been able to get through this trying time without all of the help, donations, and prayers we received.*

*Thank you,**The Pitka, Henry, Petruska, Deaton, Kozloff, Bush, Juneby, and Yatlin Family****"A Dog team trip on the Koyukuk"****January 2008*

[NOTE: The general question asked was soliciting dogteam stories . . . and this came in from Albert "Kip" Weeks. Kip, as he indicates, was a church volunteer on the Koyukuk in the early '70s. These days he lives in Keene, New Hampshire, the same town as retired St. Matthew's rector Bishop Donald and Elizabeth Hart.]

I have a dog-team story which goes as follows: I was a church volunteer in Hughes from 1970-72 and I had six-dog team. In March, 1971, I drove the dog team from Hughes to Allakaket, 70 or 80 miles, mostly along the Koyukuk River, for a memorial potlatch and back again. This was at a time when snow machines had almost completely replaced dog teams, and no one had driven dog teams between the villages in a number of years. It was a two-day trip, and a crowd of people were waiting for me when I finally pulled into Allakaket. I rested my dogs for a day or two and then entered an "old man's race" which was a part of the potlatch festivities, where I recall placing second and winning some cash. I remember some people grumbling because, even though I was clearly a novice musher, I was 22 years old and didn't exactly qualify as "old" at that point. The two-day trip back to Hughes was in the middle of beautiful spring weather, which made for excellent traveling along a well-broken trail, even though the temperature dropped precipitously at night, and longer days. It was a wonderful experience that I remember vividly to this day

-Albert H. Weeks, Esq.

MORE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**“Thank you”**

January 2008

[NOTE: The general Question asked was: ‘Where have you found Hope over the holidays?’ “C” is Candi Hess. Her brother, Ted Harwood, died November 7th, 2007]

Hi Father Scott,

I think that I found hope in all the love that was poured on our family when our brother died. We all miss him terribly but find strength from our family, friends and our church family. Thank you all for being there for us. C

DeAnne says ‘Hello’

[NOTE: DeAnne is DeAnne Stokes, who left us this last year for Denver. We miss her.]

February 2008

... And then there is the newsletter and the website. Wow! Technology is doing what it is meant to do.

Colorado is a great place to be. It is good to be near family, the weather is great, there is plenty of glorious outdoors and the city offers up all the good stuff that cities can provide. I have found a wonderful church community at St. John's Cathedral, joined an EFM class, found a good place to swim, good place to knit and good trails for walking the dogs.

When I made the decision to move to Denver after thirty years in Alaska, I knew it wouldn't be easy, (even though it was the right things to do), and I was right. I believe Alaska wraps itself around your heart and I am very grateful for that huge gift in my life. So I have those wonderful memories of place and people; and I kinda, sorta miss them all -- especially the people.

So, greetings to you and friends at St. Matthews and please note that Denver is on the way to most places and I welcome visitors.

-DeAnne

Deaconess Harriet Bedell

January 2008

[NOTE: Deaconess Bedell, whose Feast Day on the Church calendar is January 8th, served the Church in Tanana and Stevens Village, before working in Florida for many years. “Al and Carol” are Al and Carol Brice, of course, who very well may have their own day sometime.]

I was interested in your announcement of Feast Day of Deaconess Harriett Bedell. I never knew her first name. But when Al and I were considering the sponsorship of a stained glass window aye many years ago, one of the considerations included what we knew of Deaconess Bedell, having heard Grandmother|Mother Helenka Brice talk of her work in Florida with the Seminole Indians. The Brice boys were all raised in Florida, born in Gainesville, worked in the logging woods with their dad. Helenka used to tell of having Deaconess Bedell to dinner, around their table..Interesting how worlds meet over time, eh?!

Carol

Seasons of Life . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Commendations, Funerals, Memorials

As noted in the last Newsletter, our neighbor 94 years old **Anne Rose Cohoe** passed away on Tuesday, November 13th, and St. Matthew's filled for her funeral, led by the rector, Monday afternoon, November 19th. She and her husband **Charles** arrived in Fairbanks in 1938, settling into a small white house the next block down from St. Matthew's, and raising their family. She's survived by her children, including **Jackie Bloom** of Fairbanks, and their families. Among her survivors is also her Godson **Michael Carey**, who was baptized here at the neighborhood church Easter (April 5th), 1958. (*Michael wrote movingly about his Godmother and the Fairbanks of his memories in the January 9th 2008 Anchorage Daily News*).

Monday, December 3rd, 41 years old **Zachary Lane (Sharples) Cordier** passed away. Born in Pennsylvania, but back and forth to Alaska, and Yukon River Fish camps, he gathered family and friends wherever he was. Among those who survive him are his sons **Joshua Cordier** of North Carolina and **Tyler Cordier** of Fairbanks, his stepdaughter **Daniele Robertson** of North Carolina, his mother **Mavis Foyle** in Washington, his companion **Sharonna Argend** of Fairbanks, **Linda Mohn** of Nenana, **Jimmie Ollice** of Fairbanks, and many others. St. Matthew's filled for his funeral, led by the rector, Thursday, December 13th, with stories and memories. Because of weather and darkness and the difficulties of holiday travel, some family couldn't arrive for the December service; so a later memorial service was held Saturday afternoon, January 12th, again led by the rector.

Quietly and peacefully, in the early morning of Saturday, December 29th, in the Season of Christmas and Hope, **Joe James Robert Beetus** died in the Fairbanks Hospital. He had been born 6 days earlier, December 23rd; the son of **Robert** and **Michelle Beetus**. And prayers were said, by parents, brothers, sisters, and nurses. And quiet tears fell. Joe is survived by his parents, brothers **Robert** and **Eric**, sister **Aurora**, grandparents **Laurence Roberts Sr** and **Joe** and **Celia Beetus**, and many others. We gathered at St. Matthew's Thursday, January 3rd for his funeral, led by the rector and **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, with music provided by **the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor**. And there was a moving eulogy by his sister **Aurora** - a letter she wrote to him.

Wednesday Midnight, January 2nd, the entire Demientieff family showed up for Compline, filling the usual choir stalls, front pews, etc. We sat there in the Midnight Silence and remembered . . . and then said the familiar Compline prayers. That night marked the year since we had sat in **Shirley Demientieff's** Hospital room, said the prayers, and she had died. A framed photograph of Shirley, a gift from her family, currently hangs in the Church, over the place where she sat nearly every Midnight, praying. She's watching.

Thursday afternoon, January 3rd, surrounded by family

and prayers, 52 years old **Dale Leonard Swenson** of Tanana passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital Intensive Care Unit. Born and raised in Tanana, to the late **Robert** and **Pauline Swenson**, and the grandson of the late **Rev. George Edwin**, Dale, who ran heavy equipment and went fire-fighting and played bass guitar in the Tanana band, had many friends. He's survived by his brothers **Herb** and **Bob Albert**, his sisters **June Huffman** and **Freda Van Patten**, and all of those friends. "Ted" was put up at St. Matthew's in the days following Dale's death. A brief funeral, led by the rector and **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, was held at the Fairbanks Funeral Home, Saturday afternoon, January 5th. His final services and burial followed at home in Tanana in the following days.

Monday evening, January 14th, 54 years old **Marilyn Elizabeth Evans**, surrounded by prayer and the love of grieving family and community members in her room in the Fairbanks Hospital, finished her long and brave struggle with cancer. Born in Hughes to **William** and **Rita Koyukuk**, Marilyn pursued her education and became a registered nurse in 1982. For over twenty years, as a nurse at the Fairbanks Hospital or, since 2001, with the Chief Andrew Isaac Medical Center, Marilyn walked those halls of that Hospital, caring for others at all hours of the day or night. She made a difference in many lives, by just who she was. She's survived by her husband for 34 years **Donald Evans**; her sons **Greg** and **Todd**; her daughter **Marina**; her granddaughter **Liyana Newman-Woods**; her parents, her sisters **Dolly Solomon** and **Agnes Dayton**; her 7 brothers; many other family members; all of us who were touched by her smile and care; and all of those continuing saints dressed in blue in that Hospital, walking into a room late at night to help. Thursday afternoon, January 17th, the David Salmon Tribal Hall filled past overflowing, out into the parking lot, for her funeral, led by the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, **the Rev. Bessie Titus**, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**. Blue sky on ten inches of fresh snow shined that afternoon. New beginnings. Her final services and burial followed at home up the Koyukuk River in Hughes.

Tragically, Sunday evening, January 20th, suddenly and unexpectedly, 4 months old **Claude Andrew Koyukuk Jr**, the son of **Claude Koyukuk Sr** and **Lou-Jean Annie Beetus**, died here at home in Fairbanks, just as his father was returning from his sister Marilyn's funeral service in Hughes. "CJ" is survived by his parents, his brother **Deston Bifelt**, his maternal grandparents **Lyndra Jimmie** and **Sam Beetus**; his paternal grandparents **Rita** and **William Koyukuk**, **Margaret Williams** and **Wilmer Beetus**, **Ronnie Evans** and **Thelma Starr**; and his great great grandparents **Joe** and **Cecilia Beetus**, **Edith Bifelt**, **Cue** and **Madeline Bifelt**, and **Elizabeth Newman**; and many many others. Thursday, January 24th, St. Matthew's filled past overflowing for his funeral, led by the rector and **the Rev. Steve Matthew**. His final service and burial followed back home in that hilltop cemetery in Hughes.

Thursday evening, January 24th, in the Fairbanks Hospital, 20 years old **Carl David** passed away quietly, while folks gathered and prayed. He's survived by his guardians

(Continued on page 21)

Seasons of Life . . .

Marianne Young and Marcella David, his father **Gary David Sr**; his mother **Geraldine Malcolm**; and many other family members. His funeral was held Saturday February 2nd in Tetlin.

Also Thursday, January 24th, just as he was preparing to return home to Fairbanks from the Anchorage Hospital, 64 years old **Duane John Metz** passed away. Born in North Dakota, Duane had served in the US Air Force, and also attended the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. He was married to the late **Alice Cadzow Metz** (*who died in May 2003*) for 31 years, and he had missed her greatly these last four years. Duane is survived by a brother and sister Outside; his sons **William Tritt Sr, Dale LeGrand, Don Chalmers, Mark Ryder, Tyrone Ryder Sr**; his daughter **Connie Pigeon** and his adopted daughter **Dee Rice**; his brother-in-law **Horace Cadzow**; his sisters-in-law **Maggie Beach, Myra Heaps, and Josephine Peter**; all of their families; numerous grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren; and many others. "Tea" was put up in the Parish Hall in the days before his funeral; and, on Wednesday afternoon, January 30th, in thirty below temperatures, St. Matthew's filled for his funeral, led by the rector, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**. Duane's neighbor, **Pastor Ramon DeLeon** of the Friendship Baptist Church, spoke about Duane's life changing conversion several years ago in the Fairbanks Intensive Care Unit. Burial will follow in the Spring atop Birch Hill.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, January 29th, 95 years old **Sarah Simon** passed away at home in Allakaket. She had returned home several days earlier, after staying here in Fairbanks at an assisted living home. While in Fairbanks, she had regularly received Communion from visiting Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Sarah is survived by her stepdaughter **Emily Sam**; her sons **Andy and Pollack Simon**; her adopted daughters **Eliza Ned and Peggy Patterson**; her adopted son **Vincent "Ben" Simon**; her sister **Celia Beetus**; all of their families; 52 great-grandchildren; 19 great-great grandchildren; and many others. **The Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino** flew to Allakaket, in forty below weather, and officiated at her funeral and burial service there Saturday afternoon, February 2nd.

Unexpectedly, on Monday, February 4th, 35 years old **Jason Eli Bainter** died here in Fairbanks, leaving family and friends stunned. Born in Illinois to **Russell and Dorothy (Dahl) Bainter**, Jason was a true individual, with a reported sense of the ridiculous and a caring gentle heart. He's survived by his father **Russell** of Illinois; his mother **Dorothy Ross** of Santa Fe; his sister **Kisha**; his brothers **Justin and Jordan**; his nephews **Michael and Daniel**; his uncle **Robert**; his aunts **Janet, Norma, Catherine, and Bernice**; "Pockets", a small dog; and other family and friends. St. Matthew's filled for his funeral Saturday afternoon, February 9th, in a service led by **Archdeacon Anna Frank**.

Tuesday, February 5th, 66 years old **Davita Marlene Bogle-Hetland** passed away. Born in Washington, she moved to Alaska and it became home. She did it all, from cab driving to bartending to picking up herself and strays; to helping others, especially those that no one else was. Her son **David Pierson** survives her, as do many friends. They gathered at St. Matthew's Saturday afternoon, February 16th for her funeral service, led by **the Rev. Layne Smith**.

Sunday, February 10th, 71 years old **Dorothy Ann Vesper** died suddenly at home here in Fairbanks, in the arms of her granddaughter. Born in Fort Yukon to the late **Arthur and Annie James**, Dorothy was a 1954 graduate of Mount Edgecumbe High School She worked for Wien Airlines for 23 years; and retired from the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Clinic. She had a kind and gentle smile for everyone. Always. In recent years, when she and Bill couldn't make it to Church, they would at least ride by in their pickup truck and stop and visit. She's survived by her beloved **Bill**, her husband for 39 years; her son **Jim Fickus** and her daughter **Sharon Fifer**; four grandchildren; four stepchildren; her brothers and sisters **Skully, Hannah, Nancy, Artha, Art, Davey, Terrie, and Rocky**, and their families; and numerous other family and friends. St. Matthew's filled for her funeral Saturday, February 15th, led by **Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Steve Matthew, the Rev. Bella Jean Savino**, and the rector. Her burial services will follow in the Spring on top of Birch Hill.

Quietly in the morning of Friday, February 15th, in the Fairbanks Hospital, surrounded by love and prayers, 48 years old **Michael Anthony Moe** finished his struggle with cancer. When first diagnosed, they had originally given him 5 or 6 months. His faith and courage kept the battle going for 7 years. Born in North Dakota to the late **Florida Malcolm and Kenneth Moe Sr**, he lived in Beaver and Minto before settling in Fairbanks. He was a 1st degree black belt, a marathon runner, and a gentleman of faith and courage. He's survived by his loving and equally courageous wife **Effie (Titus)**; children **Sherine, Jayton, and DeAnn**; grandchildren **Kobe and Purstyn Milk**; brothers and sister including **Kenneth Moe Jr, Kim Flaherty, and Mark Malcolm**, mother-in-law **Annie Titus**, grandmother **Mary Sam**; and many others. Wednesday afternoon, February 20th, the Tribal Hall filled for his funeral, led by **Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Steve Matthew, the Rev. Bessie Titus, the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, and the rector. Mike's childhood friend and Denali Center Saint Pastor **Don Thibedeau** (*of 1st United Pentecostal Church*) spoke movingly of Mike's faith as, later in the service, did his brother-in-law **Charlie Titus Jr**, and his wife **Effie**. Final services and burial will be in the Spring.

During the night of Friday, February 15th, 60 years old **Loraine Elizabeth Nathaniel** died unexpectedly here in Fairbanks. She had been by the Parish Hall that day, helping **Hilary** in the kitchen. It was not untypical for Loraine to be offering to help. Born in Circle to the late **Steven and Mary Nathaniel**, and raised there, Loraine is survived by her daughter **Laura Nathaniel-Crow**; her son **Raymond**

(Continued on page 22)

Seasons of Life . . .

Nathaniel; four grandchildren; brothers and sisters **John, Edna, Larry, Mildred, Stevens Jr, Paul, and Sam**; and many other family members and friends. St. Matthew's filled to capacity for her funeral Friday morning, February 22nd, led by the rector and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**. Her daughter Laura's reminiscences caught all of us. Her final services and burial were conducted at home in Circle Sunday, February 24th, by her sister-in-law **the Rev. Mary Nathaniel** of Chalkyitsik.

Tuesday, February 19th, 52 years old **David Barry Panigeo** died in Denali Center, after a brief struggle with cancer. Born and raised in Barrow, and a member of the Patkotak whaling crew, David moved across cultures when he moved to Arctic Village in 1989 with **Deena Tritt**. His smiling good nature spoke of the friendliness of his heart and spirit. He is survived by his companion **Deena Tritt**; daughters **Tiffany Yatlin** and **Allison Panigeo** and their families; his adopted mother **Mae Panigeo**; his biological father **Simeon Patkotak Sr**; a number of siblings and their families; and many other family members and friends. St. Matthew's filled for his funeral service Friday afternoon, February 22nd, led by the rector, **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, and **the Rev. Steve Matthew**. His final services and burial were held the next day, as he requested, at home again in Arctic Village.

And finally, word was received Saturday morning, February 23rd that 48 years old **Julie Ann Tritt** had died during the night here in Fairbanks. The second youngest of the 14 children raised in Venetie by **the late Rev. Paul and Julia Tritt**, Julie was a familiar friend here during the week in the St. Matthew's Parish Hall. Smiling and helpful, she was always here. St. Matthew's was her home. Her funeral services are scheduled here for Thursday, February 28th (*her birthday*); with final services and burial at home again in Venetie the following day. Julie was perhaps the 5th person to die of exposure in the streets of Fairbanks this winter.

There were other deaths in the last three months that, though their funerals were not conducted here, or by St. Matthew's clergy, necessarily affected us and need to be noted. 60 years old **Jerry "Jerry Man" Peter** of Fort Yukon, the nephew of, among others, **Katherine Peter** and **the Rev. Titus Peter**, died at home in Fort Yukon Friday, December 14th. His services were held there December 19th. 45 years old **Carleen Mae Peter** of Nulato died on Christmas, December 25th; and her funeral was held there January 2nd. 80 years old **Daniel Wiehl** of Rampart, a familiar figure in an old truck at the Rampart Airport, and the brother of **Henry Wiehl, Liz Newman, and Kenneth Mayo**, died at home in Rampart January 2nd; and was buried there January 5th. In the Anchorage area, 71 years old **Allan Chase** of Anvik, his wife **Sophie Chase**, and **Melissa Pike**, their 16 years old granddaughter, died in a car accident on the Glenn Highway Saturday, January 12th. 97 years old **Dorothy Titus** of Minto, the widow of the late

Matthew Titus, died at home Sunday (*of course*) January 13th. Her smile and eyes said everything one needed to know about faith and Life. Her funeral and burial services were held in Minto Saturday, January 19th. On Valentine's Day, February 14th, 86 years old **Hazel Pilkinton** died at home in Burlington, Washington. Born in Rampart to **Charles and Florence Knox**, she lived in Rampart, Ruby and Galena, and Anchorage, before moving to Washington in 1974. Her services were held February 22nd at St. Paul's Church in Mount Vernon, Washington. And also in Washington, on Monday, February 18th, 90 years old **Daniel Crevensten Sr** passed away in Bellevue, Washington. Until their move to Washington 1995, he and his beloved **Catherine "Kitty"** were part of the life of this Church. If you flip through the Articles of Incorporation for St. Matthew's, you'll see that Dan was one of the signers. Since 2005, our exiled member **Paul Haggland** has visited Dan every Sunday, bringing him Holy Communion. Now Dan joins Kitty, who died a number of years ago. His funeral is scheduled for February 29th in Kent, Washington.

And then there are others. Those sitting beside our chairs, wagging their tails, for example. Here are three that left in these last months. In November there was **Pepper, Gary and Shirley Lee's** border collie-husky mix of a puppy. In early February **Rosie, Dr. Jerry and Jane Jensen's** Skye Terrier, that once upon a time wagged her tale under our pews and has lived since then in Texas and finally Calgary, left. And shortly after Valentine's Day **Maggie, Greg and Jane Sandstrom's** bouncing bearded collie, also left. There were no doubt others.

None of them ever *really* leave, of course. Through the richness of God's grace, they have all lived in our Life, and Love, as St. Paul reminds wedding couples and all of us, never ever ends. The growing Springtime sunlight - echoing All Saints lit Paschal candle, drumming Winter Solstice Midnight Compline pots, joyful Christmas lights, Epiphany Star, and flaming 12th night Christmas tree bonfire - sings of the Eternal Triumph of that Love.



Thanksgiving Baptism in Beaver

**SUMMARY of the
JANUARY 2008
ANNUAL MEETING
of the VESTRY of
ST. MATTHEW'S**



The By-Laws of St. Matthew's require that an "Annual Meeting of the Vestry" be held immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Church; and that a certain number of canonically required actions occur at that meeting. Therefore, on Sunday afternoon, January 27th, following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and Eucharist, the new Vestry met in the Parish Library for its Annual Meeting. Called to order by the rector at 1:30PM, the following were present: **Bruce Gadwah, Ray Cockerille, Charlene Marth, Hubert Griffin, Helen Howard, Darrel Zuke, Marty Thomas and Teresa Moore.** (*Newly elected Vestry member Roxy Wright was out of town and unable to be present*). At that meeting, the following actions were taken.

1. The rector read from the ByLaws, explaining the purpose of the Meeting, and announced his appointment of **Bruce Gadwah** to continue as

Senior Warden for the year.

2. The following other officers were nominated and elected: **Ray Cockerille**, Junior Warden; **Teresa Moore**, Vestry Clerk; **Helen Howard**, Vestry Liaison to the Endowment Board; and **Carolyn Nethken**, Parish Treasurer.

3. There was discussion about the time of Vestry meetings and it was decided to start the meetings at 5:30PM for fellowship, with business beginning at 6PM; and all meeting concluding by 9PM.

4. The rector discussed the role and importance of the monthly Financial Reports.
5. There was discussion and planning for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, with **Darrel Zuke** and **Helen Howard** co-coordinating.
6. There was brief discussion about the issues raised during the Annual Meeting - the need to further nourish ministries and the need for increased stewardship.
7. There was discussion about possible committees and areas of interest; and the meeting then adjourned at 2PM.

MORE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED. . .

A Dangling Episcopalian from YK reports in on her Exile in Oregon

January 2008

[NOTE: Joan Hamilton is a friend from the YK Delta, now exiled in Oregon. She used to stop in at St. Matthew's on her once a year trips to Fairbanks from Bethel. Fr. Jim Kolb is a legendary Fairbanksan ALSO exiled in Oregon. He stops in for Booyah in the Summer, and to pose with the rector for Seminary Recruiting photos taken by Evolyn Melville. When Joan ended up in medical crisis, it seemed natural to connect them]

For over 2 weeks, I've been in mind-numbing pain on my lower right lung that no pain killers could ease. I twisted my body into itself trying to find some relief, without success. Two days ago, the raging pain area erupted into huge pustules. The doctors learned the cause, they said, "aha, it's Herpes Zoster, shingles."

When the doctor saw the pustules, she almost cried with her 'aha'. She called an ER doctor to wait for me. They beamed my gurney into ER. The medical staff was prepared with needles to get blood for tests then immediately started pumping morphine and steroids directly into my veins. It was the first time in over two weeks I could breathe without the horrendous pain that I begged would be my last.

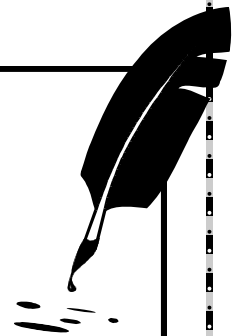
Good Samaritan is a wonderful teaching school. With my permission, I became a circus show of Herpes Zoster; none of them ever seen a case as bad as mine, a 'Classic case'.

I always wanted to be classy. I quickly learned I don't want to be classy in shingles. Be careful what you ask for...

It took the doctors two hospital days to reduce the pain to at home manageable level. My primary doctor monitors and controls the pain medication treatment that I use at home. They suspect it will take 17 days to six weeks of reducing pain control regiment to get me back to close to 'normal'. The doctors now know what we thought was lung-related pain was actually nerve-based pain. None of the multiple tests showed anything different, until the pustules. Then everyone realized how horrendous the pain must have been. A couple doctors had to control their sympathy tears.

Father Scott has a good friend living in Portland, Oregon, **Father Jim Kolb**. Father Kolb has blessed me with sacraments that especially comfort me. When I was seriously tempted by assisted suicide, he asked what my culture would do. The unexpected question completely threw me off guard. My culture values elders who teach by word and action. I do not want to leave this world with a lesson of giving into an act I am totally opposed to, suicide. Father Kolb's challenge redirected my narrow focus on how I was going to manipulate my beloved church's teachings. Yes, a calm, wise teacher is priceless. He placed all of my options before me. I carefully examined my religious, core and cultural values and expectations. The question opened my field of vision to see how my values work in concert and complement each other.

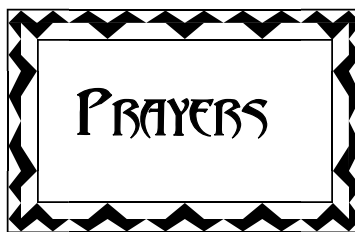
-Joan Hamilton, Member of Dangling Episcopalians of YK Delta, Scappoose, OR 97056



Come Visit the ST. MATTHEW'S Website!

<http://stmatthewschurch.org>

All this and so much more!



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

O Ye Frost and Cold

Address Service Requested*

March 10, 2008

***Please Note:** Returned copies of **O Ye Frost and Cold** cost the church \$2.16 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.