

O Ye Frost and Cold

Volume 105

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“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)

THE WEEK.

There is Only One Call. . . **THIS** Call. There is Only One Way. . . **THIS** Way. There is Only One Gathering . . . **THIS** Gathering. There is Only One Stress. . . **THIS** Stress. There is Only One Crisis . . . **THIS** Crisis. There is only One Story . . . **THIS** Story. There is Only One Hope . . . **THIS** Hope. There is only One Life . . . **THIS** Life. There is Only One Silence . . . **THIS** Silence. There is Only One Prayer. . . **THIS** Prayer. There is Only One Darkness. . . **THIS** Darkness. There is Only One Service . . . **THIS** Service. There is only One Procession. . . **THIS** Procession. There is only One Meal. . . **THIS** Meal. There is Only One Touch. . . **THIS** Touch. There is Only One Friendship . . . **THIS** Friendship. There is Only One Washing. . . **THIS** Washing. There is Only One Bread . . . **THIS** Bread. There is Only One Sound . . . **THIS** Sound. There is Only One Breaking . . . **THIS** Breaking. There is Only One Cup. . . **THIS** Cup. There is Only One Pain . . . **THIS** Pain. There is Only One Loneliness. . . **THIS** Loneliness. There is Only One Failure . . . **THIS** Failure. There is Only One Heartbreak. . . **THIS** Heartbreak. There is Only One Betrayal. . . **THIS** Betrayal. There is Only One Night . . . **THIS** Night. There is Only One Cross. . . **THIS** Cross. There is Only One Death . . . **THIS** Death. There is Only One Grief. . . **THIS** Grief. There is Only One Grave . . . **THIS** Grave. There is Only One Waiting. . . **THIS** Waiting. There is Only One Candle Burning . . . **THIS** Candle. There is Only One Light . . . **THIS** Light. This is Only One Day. . . **THIS** Day. There is Only One Sunrise . . . **THIS** Sunrise. There is Only One Sunday Morning. . . **THIS** Sunday Morning. There is Only One Song. . . **THIS** Song. There is Only One Joy. . . **THIS** Joy. There is Only One Celebration . . . **THIS** Celebration. There is Only One Feast. . . **THIS** Feast. There is Only One Laughter . . . **THIS** Laughter. There is Only One Love. . . **THIS** Love. There is Only One Week. . . **THIS** Week.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday, April 5th..... Holy Eucharists at 8AM, 9:15AM, and 11:15AM. All services begin in the Parish Hall and continue with a Palm Sunday Procession OUTSIDE.
Monday, April 6th; Tuesday, April 7th..... Holy Eucharists 7PM.
Wednesday, April 8th Holy Eucharist 9:30AM; Tenebrae. 7PM
Maundy Thursday, April 9th 5:30PM Simple Covered Dish Supper. 7PM Holy Eucharist, including Foot washing & Stripping of the Altar.
Good Friday, April 10th..... 12PM. . . . Community Good Friday Service (1st Presbyterian). 7PM St. Matthew's Good Friday Liturgy.
Holy Saturday, April 11th 10AM Holy Saturday Liturgy. 10:30AM Baptism Rehearsal. 8PM Lighting of the Easter Fire, the Easter Baptisms, the First Eucharist of Easter.
Easter Sunday, April 12th..... Holy Eucharists at 8AM, 9:15AM, and 11:15AM. Children's Easter Egg Hunt 2PM

. . . and if you happen to miss The Week,
Do not fret;
This Week will find each of us,
Again and again,
Over and over,
Until . . .

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



SPRINGING of WINTER VOICES

We are sitting outside listening; and the People of God are walking by, singing Christmas carols; and the WHOLE WORLD is coming into the Church Christmas Eve. We are sitting outside listening, wearing 47 coats because it's -50 for weeks; and the bundled up People of God are coming by with stories of heroism and frozen pipes. We are sitting outside listening; and the People of God are coming by, carrying crosses, and tears, and caskets, and courage, and stories. We are sitting outside listening; and the Light is growing; and we overhear. . .

I was at Grant Park that night. It was . . .

. . . told us "I'm not afraid to die. I know I've done some goofy things in my Life, but I'm going to meet my Lord and I'm not afraid."

Are you having church services this Christmas?

11PM????????!! WHY does your MIDNIGHT Service begin at 11PM? No wonder people get confused.

It IS magic here Christmas Eve, isn't it? Do you remember Jesse Keith? When he was retiring and leaving, he said the hardest night was always going to be Christmas Eve. THAT'S when he would remember and miss St. Matthew's the most.

We CAN'T bring any more chairs out for the Service. We've GOT ALL THE CHAIRS we have in the CHURCH out and being used and there's still ALL OF THESE PEOPLE standing!

Ohhh, we were fine back there [*in the back of the Church Christmas Eve*], till that guy's bottle fell out of his jacket and rolled under the pew. Then we all cracked up.

**MERRY MISMISS EV'RONE!
MERRY MISMISS!**

Boy, you guys up here really know how to celebrate Christmas, don't you?

"It was a "heaven-like" moment! . . . I felt a sudden urge to cry. I was surprised by the swell of emotion . . ."

THE HOLINESS of a PEDICURE

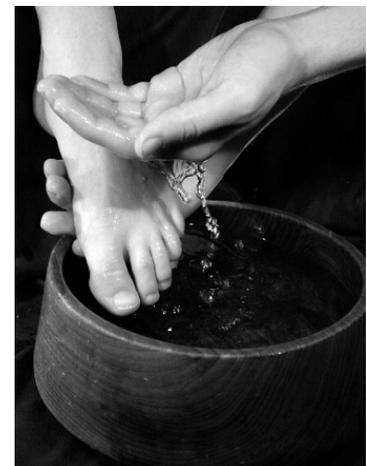
[NOTE: The Question asked was: "Ever had your feet washed? Somebody who served YOU? What was that like? What's more difficult - to serve or be served? How come?" This was anonymously submitted by a member of St. Matthew's, with identifying details changed. Consider this, as we prepare for Maundy Thursday April 9th, and Footwashing]

Okay, here goes, (and I can't believe I am even typing this), but, I think it's more difficult to be served than to serve. It's easy to serve; cook dinners, run errands, check peoples mail, make sure they have all they need, visit parents, care for nieces and nephews, be there for kids (although fully grown), make sure husband is doing good, make sure siblings are going good, be on top of things at work, feed the wild birds, feed the dogs, feed the fish, HA!! Oh yeah, and try to save time for friends. It's a thing I do out of love. It's the same with my sisters who both have [*a lot of*] kids, they are always running around serving others. Serving means to love though, doesn't it? We try to remember, but mostly forget, to treat ourselves.

About two years ago I treated myself to a pedicure. I sat down in the nice pedicure chair which vibrated and heated up at the touch of a button. Becoming totally relaxed, I placed both feet in the hot water and let the Jacuzzi like tub do it's magic. It was a "heaven-like" moment! However, when the attendant started to massage my feet with sweet smelling oils, I felt a sudden urge to cry. I was surprised by the swell of emotion, and tried to hold back the tears. To no avail, a few snuck through. I was suddenly embarrassed a little by the tears in my eyes and had to announce to the attendant that this was exactly what I needed... I've had a rough stressful week and this was so good, I really needed this, thank you so much, etc. In reality, I was thinking that all I came in here for was so someone could paint my toenails and hopefully do a better job than me. Instead, the pedicure made me feel really special. The act of someone tending to my feet!!!

I wonder, how did Jesus feel when the woman washed his feet with her tears and wiped his feet with her hair? People wanted everything of Jesus. They wanted him to teach them, cure them, help them, forgive them, make them new, bring back to life, show them the way, etc. This woman didn't ask anything of him. She just served him with love. What a gift.

So, I think it is more difficult to be served than to serve, difficult but necessary. Thanks for listening,



Only a nice Springtime 6 hour drive away . . .

**EPISCOPAL WOMEN’S RETREAT
in APRIL in WASILLA**

Sponsored by St. David’s in Wasilla, “*Journeys: An Episcopal Women’s Retreat*” for women of any denomination or faith is being held at the Meier Lake Center in Wasilla **April 24th—26th**. The cost is \$70 for lodging and meals. “*The purpose of this retreat is to explore our individual spiritual journeys while coming together with other Christian women to pray, learn, and seek a deeper relationship with God and one another*”.

For further information,
contact Sarah Klitzke at St. David’s,
907-232-4310,
or sarahklitzke@yahoo.com.

Winter/Spring Voices

Is it hard being part of a Church that's having such a Big Fight Outside? Has that affected St. Matthew's?

We'd like to come to Church here. We Love the Episcopal Church. But the National Church . . .

. . . the kind of person that complains about everything. If I say "what a beautiful sunset", she'll say "ohhh, there's not enough purple".

Well, you begin hydroplaning when your speed is equal to nine times the Square Root of your Tire Pressure.

Man up. I've GOT TO MAN UP! Jesus was a MAN and I want to be a MAN LIKE JESUS, so I've got to MAN UP!

I told [my husband] that I was thinking I was depressed; and he said, "Of course you're depressed. We're living in A COLD DARK BLACK FROZEN HELL. Why wouldn't you be depressed?"

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	Roxy Wright-Freedle.	CHOIR DIRECTOR	Barbara Hameister 455-7397
JUNIOR WARDEN	Karen Kiss.	ALTAR GUILD	Mary Johnston. 455-7245
CLERK	Helen Howard.	SUNDAY SCHOOL	Cathy Giacomazzi 479-7736
VESTRY	Charlene Marth Ray Cockerille Marty Thomas Arlie Nethken John Parsons. Irene Todd.	HEALTH MINISTRY	Beth Corven 456-2966
PARISH TREASURER	Carolyn Nethken 457-3304	ENDOWMENT BOARD	Charlotte Perotti 457-1332
		WEB GARDENER	Martha Thomas, Chair . . . 455-6612
		NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Michael “Tree” Nelson. . . 456-5217
		SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	Maggie Castellini 479-5444
		UNITED THANK OFFERING	Mary Margaret Davis 457-2865
		DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	Helen Howard. 488-2314
		MINISTERS	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503
			YOU US!!!

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

Winter/Spring Voices

I think the only time I saw a performance stopped was when the horse fell off the stage.

Oh, I haven't gone back online since I met my husband online. EX- husband.

... threw her out of the Mission because she'd had Nyquil for her cold and couldn't pass the breath test.

Well, I was boiling pig kidneys on the stove and forgot about 'em; and the dog. . .

Guess it means either stairwells or the 12 hour sleepoff for us tonight. The Mission is full; and those are the only choices we got. I won't do that 12 hour. They take all your stuff in there. And beat you. I've seen it.

There's an EPIDEMIC of cabin fever over here! It's been -70 for two weeks. Haven't even gotten out to check my traps since Christmas.

... and the fog was so thick that, when he was walkin' home last night, he t-boned a moose. Walked right into him.

There's a moose in the Church Yard? Ohhhhhh, I wish somebody had a permit. Real hard to get meat this winter.

... those old men, standing around the sawhorses, talkin'. You learn from THEM.

We stood there by the casket and my grandchild was real quiet, and then he said, "There's an angel up there dropping rose petals on him".

... and there was Light coming down from the sky right in front of our cache, and over the whole village. We got scared; and I ran over to -----'s, and she said, "Don't be scared. It might be a Sign from Jesus".

... walked around the corner to the store and asked the man if he had any eggs. "Do you want boat eggs or air eggs?" he asked me. I didn't know what he was talking about. But that was the only way you got eggs in Alaska in those days - boat eggs or air eggs.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

[These reflections are written by a member of St. Matthew's. She is studying to become an Oblate in a Benedictine Order.]

The First Week

We have many seasons in the Church year. Now we have arrived to the time of Lent, when we reflect on the Life of Christ, His death and the meaning this has for us, His creation. We examine ourselves for our faults and give up something, practicing abstinence to help us understand and unite ourselves with Christ.

The past few years I have been a caregiver for my husband through his various and life threatening illnesses. I have observed firsthand the terrible suffering caused by illness and disease. Through these years I have leaned on our Lord and Savior in prayer. I have prayed prayers of a spoiled child, full of selfishness. I have prayed with a dry heart, a heart of anger, a heart of relief-seeking selfishness. There have been prayers of asking for miracles and healing and relief for my husband, finally bringing me to pray with a full heart and with understanding that my husband is not mine but he is God's. *Ah-ha!*

The Lord has brought me to prayer of a full heart: prayer of detachment, letting go and loving Jesus and feeling secure that, whatever happened, He was there with me and in control of all things. Oh yes, as any child does, I will revert to my childish behavior from time to time. The temper tantrums do not last long now and I can move through them to prayer with love and detachment from my self centeredness.

Caring for my husband in his weak and dependant condition, I am tired and have no time for anything related to self. I began being angry again. I took this anger to the Lord and left it there to rest and be destroyed by His mercy, His love and His healing touch. I can now, through the grace of Jesus, look at my husband and see, *really see*, the suffering Christ weighed down with the cross.

I can give Jesus Christ a gentle and kind word. I give Jesus water as He falls under the weight of the cross and He is thirsty. He must be hungry, and I prepare a meal for Him and feed Him. He is in real and severe pain; how can I ease that pain? What can I do to make the weight of the cross he bears in His suffering lighter for Him?

The Second Week: The Invitation

At the foot of the cross
Kneeling in the moss,
A drop so red
Landing on my head:
For our sin the drop was shed.
I stand and climb up
And touch the Face that is not corrupt.
Do you feel His pain
That has given us much gain?
Look from this great height:
Love given through His great might,
Baptized in His blood
Pouring out in a flood
From His beautiful suffering face,
Shining forth immeasurable grace
Walking with us through mortal life's pace.
Love so deep, great and grand
Through the nail hole in His hand.
Do we understand?
Come and join me:
Do you see?



REPORT on the MONDAY EVENING LENTEN STUDY GROUP

By the Rev. Deacon Montie Slusher

Each Monday evening in March has been dedicated to a study and exploration into the causes, effect, and possible ways to curb antisemitism by asking, "Why do the children of Abraham fight each other?" Each evening begins with a simple meal of soup and finger foods, then viewing of pertinent audio-visuals and a discussion related to the material presented. On the first evening of our study, there were 25 participants from 5 different congregations in Fairbanks.

The areas of study include, 1) the attempt to eliminate all the Jews of Europe during World War II, 2) a study of the question of good and evil (theodicy) or "Why do good people suffer? - Why does evil sometimes win? 3) Overview of the history of antisemitism 4) what steps can be taken to overcome antisemitism? And on the last evening we will look at the story of the Passover from the Jewish point of view. Underlying all of our study, we are seeking guidance as to direction in our personal and congregational lives as we come into contact with those who differ from us in a world of conflict between Jew, Muslim and Christian peoples.

Antisemitism has often labeled those who are different by race and attempts to promote racial discrimination or elimination of the "other". An example of such behavior occurred in the attempt to create a super race by eliminating the Jews. Our study calls each participant to agree or disagree with the following statement made by the Holocaust survivor, Viktor Frankl as he wrote of his experiences in the death camps, "From all this we may learn that there are two races of men in this world, but only two -- the "race" of the decent man and the "race" of the indecent man. Both are found everywhere; they penetrate into all groups of society. No group consists entirely of decent or indecent people. In this sense, no group is of "pure race" -and therefore one occasionally found a decent fellow among the camp guards."



Winter/Spring Voices

Anchorage? Oh Anchorage only had three streets when we moved there in '47. I was pregnant and the doctor admitted me into the Hospital two weeks before I was due. "WHY?" I asked him. "Because I don't want to wade through mud up to my knees to deliver that baby," he said.

I cooked rice and meat. That's what I always cook. I was raised out in Camp, you know, and that's all we ever ate. Rice and meat. Only had two spoons out there, so we had to wait till somebody finished before we could eat.

Ohhhhh, weather forecasts are just horoscopes with numbers.

It better warm up pretty soon. I'm turning into Tom Hanks in "CastAway". And. THIS is WILSON.

YOU'RE HERE? What about that rumor flyin' around back home that you retired?

. . . and if anything goes haywire, just tell Fr. Scott here. He knows how to plant 'em.

I know it's 50 below, but I just HAD to have Church today. So I walked.

I almost froze to death two days ago. Overflow. I never tell anybody where I was goin'. But it came out okay. I pray to God and built a big bonfire and dried off my clothes.

We've been comin' the last several weeks and just wanted to introduce ourselves. We like this Church. I was raised Episcopal, but this Church is so much better. The Church I was raised in was so strict and formal. I like it here. How do we get more involved?

I ALWAYS test lakes before I cross them. I use a stick. Gotta be careful. I'm 73 years old now, you know. I just stick to the bank, if I can.

I send mine to that auction place Outside. Got \$300 a piece for the lynx. Don't get the money till May, but that's okay.

Winter/Spring Voices

17 years. Some lady at this Church, I forget her name, prayed for me 17 years ago to quit drinkin'and I've been sober ever since and had NO problem with it. I thank Jesus for her prayer.

He's stuck in Seattle and says there's a 6 hour line to get to the ticket counter.

He got in yesterday on the last plane out of Seattle. Is it bad down there? Friday he had to walk 6 miles to get home from work.

I know. People are ALWAYS mistaking me for Jack Coghill.

I won't be in to Church this morning. Everything's froze up.

I know. My brother called yesterday. He always calls when there's a 100 degree difference between where he is in Arizona and here. "Thanks a lot" I told him.

OHHHHHHHHHH I like it when it's like this. Just look at the snow on the birch trees in the churchyard. I tell people that it's Beautiful. I told my family outside that "*I live in a Christmas card*". My brother said, "*I NEVER had any ambition to live in a Christmas card*".

. . . so I woke up this morning and looked at the temperature and wondered: why do I live here?

Well, why DO you live there? Don't Complain!

But just think how nice it will be when Spring comes. Nobody in the whole country appreciates Spring the way we do.

They told me, when I was coming up for my visit this time, DON'T talk about politics. If somebody mentions the Governor, just say "*you understand she was a good mayor*"; if somebody mentions Ted Stevens, just say "*you understand that he's done a lot of good for the State*".

through All The Seasons of Life

SEASONS of LIFE in the SEASON of DEEPWINTER

From the light of a single Blue Advent candle on the First Sunday of Advent, into the growing Light of almost-Spring and the veiled Cross of Lent; *from Sunday, November 30th* and that First Week of Advent through *Wednesday, March 18th* in the 3rd week of Lent; from Advent into Christmas Glory and Epiphany Light and then the Desert of Lent; for the *109 days* since the accounting in the last Newsletter, we have gathered together in prayer at least *343 times*. An accounting and some of the details:

- 48 Sunday Morning Eucharists
 - 3 Sunday Morning Rite VIII monthly Children's Eucharists
 - 64 Private/Home Communion visits by Clergy
 - 23 Private/Home Communion visits by Lay Eucharistic Ministers
 - 3 Sunday afternoon Fairbanks Correctional Center Eucharists
 - 85 Midnight Compline Offices
 - 7 Tuesday Morning Denali Center Eucharists
 - 15 Wednesday Morning Eucharists
 - 15 Wednesday Evening Eucharists
 - 7 Thursday Morning Pioneer Home Eucharists
 - 8 Celebrations of Holy Baptism, 12 baptized
 - 1 Private Confession
 - 1 Celebration of Holy Matrimony
 - 1 Blessing of Wedding Rings
 - 2 Renewals of Wedding Vows
 - 7 Commendations of the Dying/Departed
 - 11 Funerals (*within Fairbanks*)
 - 2 Funeral/Burials (*outside of Fairbanks*)
 - 2 Memorial Services
 - 1 Reception into St. Matthew's Columbarium
 - 1 World AIDS Day Vigil and prayers
 - 16 Advent Weekday Evening Prayer services
 - 1 Music and Magic Concert
 - 1 St. Thomas "Dark Christmas" Eucharist
 - 1 Winter Solstice Midnight "*Bang-Pots-To-Chase-Away-The-Great-Dragon-of-Darkness*" Compline
 - 4 Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Eucharists
 - 1 Midnight New Year's Eve Eucharist
 - 1 New Year's Day Potlatch
 - 1 12thNight/Epiphany Christmas Tree Burning
 - 1 Annual Meeting of the Parish
 - 1 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 - 3 Ash Wednesday Eucharists
 - 1 (*At Home*) Ash Wednesday Eucharist
 - 1 Lenten Stations-of-the-Cross walks
-
- 1 Standing Committee Meeting hosted
 - 1 Interior Deanery Meeting hosted
 - 1 St. Patrick's Day Welcoming & Dance & Fundraiser
-

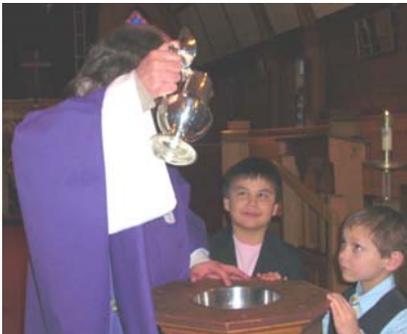
- +52 Warmest Official Temperature recorded since November 30th (*January 16th*)
- 47 Coldest Official Temperature recorded since November 30th (*January 6th, January 8th*)
- 23 # of days Temperature -30 or colder

(Continued on page 7)

Seasons of Life . . .

Holy Baptism

In a special celebration two days before Christmas, in the large TV room at Denali Center, with all of the residents and staff gathered, on Tuesday morning, December 23rd, 4 months old **Cassidy Lynn Martinson** was baptized. Her Godparents are **Elizabeth Coots** and **Rebecca Fisher** (whose son *William* helped with the baptism). Cassidy normally lives in Nome, but had come into town for the holidays; and her Grandmother **Ada Deaton** was temporarily a resident in Denali. And all of the Denali Grandmothers smiled. Again, in a special celebration, on December 25th, Christmas morning, a curious 8 months old **Jayman Carver James** was baptized. Jayman's Godparents are **Teisha Ehrhardt**, **Chad James**, and **Jeremy Fernandez**. On the First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 11th, in -45 weather, **Wesley Ryan Sharp** and **Zachary Thomas Sharp** were baptized. Wesley's Godparents are **Meg** and **Daniel Mohle**. Wesley and Zachary's Great Grandfather is the late **Moses Cruikshank**, who traveled with **Archdeacons Stuck** and **Drane** and whose photograph hangs in the Hallway. Several days later, on Wednesday evening, January 14th, in the middle of a soaring Chinook that had *increased temperatures one hundred degrees*, 6 months old **Alexander Robert Bergman Jr.** and 2 years old **Tia Violet Bergman** were baptized. Alexander's Godparents are **Linda Demientieff**, **Doug Bergman**, and **William Frank**; and Tia's Godparents are **Joy Simon**, **Sharon Williams**, **Edward David**, and **Jeff Simon**. Monday evening, January 26th, in an emergency situation, 64 years old **Brian Rudy Grassman**, the husband of **Betty (Gooshaw) Grassman**, was baptized in his wife's Hospital room in the Fairbanks Hospital. Brian's sister-in-law, **the Rev. Mary Nathaniel**, assisted with the service and also sponsored him. Several nights later (*with the temperature back down to -40*), on Wednesday, January 28th, 4 months old **Maddison Amelia Mae Wright**, lively in her red dress, was baptized. Maddison's Godparents are **Samantha Luke**, **John Shewfelt**, **Freida Frank**, **Stanford Luke**, and **Amanda Alexander**. That next Sunday, February 1st, on the Eve of Candlemass, in a joyous celebration at the last of the morning's Eucharists, 3 months old **Lexine Colette Ann Demientieff** and 7 months old **Walter Edward Smagge** were baptized. Walter's Godparents are **Alan** and **Beccy Monsma**; and Lexine's Godparents are **Frederick Matheson**, **Maggie Mattheson**, and **Aleta Ketzler**. Finally, in the midst of the midMarch week when



everything was happening (*and hence family and Godparents were around*), and squeezed in between St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day, on Wednesday evening, March 18th, 8 years old **Clayton Benjamin Stevens** and 6 years old **Donavan Arthur Paul McTaggart** were baptized. Clayton's Godparents are **Lucille "Bunny" Stevens**, **Malinda Chase**, **Valorie Adams**,

(Continued on page 18)

Winter/Spring Voices

. . . and during the Flood, there was Father Warren standing on his porch smoking his pipe, watching the logs float away from the Church. He finally shrugged and said, "*It's God's House: let Him take care of it.*"

I wasn't cold until somebody told me what the temperature was; THEN I felt cold.

Well you know what they say, nobody EVER moved to Alaska for its nice weather.

It better warm up pretty soon, or we're all going to turn into Jack Nicholson in that movie. Things are getting pretty squirrely.

Thermometer hadn't moved in a couple of days and she said to me, "*Why don't you go out and tap that thing?*" So I did; and the thing dropped five degrees. "*Leave it alone,*" she said, "*and don't touch it anymore.*"

. . . and he's still out there walkin' the streets. People keep saying, "*Where's Shirley Demientieff? We need her! She'd look into somethin' like this and wouldn't let it happen.*"

. . . didn't know till he was 9 that his name was "-----". He thought his name was "*Shut up*", because that's all anybody ever said to him.

I'm leavin' for Washington the end of the week. I was there 45 years ago for Dr. King; and I'm goin' to be there now. 45 years.

. . . saved my life. I was floatin' by and goin' down for the last count, when he reached in and grabbed me by the hair and pulled me out. Indian way, somebody saves your life you're indebted to him, ya know.

We still react to things, but we HAVE to still have a Quiet Mind.

. . . asked 'em if they needed any help; and they told me they had experienced hunters. Shoot. I've been huntin' moose for over 60 years and might have learned something over those years.

Winter/Spring Voices

... was workin' there, and I'd cut my hand and had a bandage on it, you know. I was greasin' pans and mixing the dough. At the end of the shift, I noticed my bandage was gone. Didn't eat any bread from there for months after that.

Yeah, so like, MAN, I lived on Cheerios for 6 months. Just cheerios.

I just don't think I can go on. It's all too much. I've been thinking of killing myself. My father did.

This is the FIRST TIME I've gone to a Church in 28 years; and the first time I've taken Communion in 28 years. I just . . .

... put your arms behind you stretched out, and waddle over to them and say "Yd!" in a cawing sorta way...

. . . and that whirlwind came down right in the middle of us, while we were praying.

We're here visiting from Hawaii. Yes we are. Yes, I know everyone from Alaska goes there now, but somebody has to fill in the planes coming this way.

That's where those "Voices" come from in your Newsletter, isn't it? You overhear part of something and wonder "WHAT was THAT all about?"

I've got a Pet Elephant, you know. I've been going to Africa on my vacations, and I've got a Pet Elephant there.

Mom always told us that porcupines were what God has given us so nobody would ever starve - because they're so easy to get.

"Don't think", they always tell us, "don't think about what you're going to say before you say it; or you'll forget it."

. . . and then there was time she went up in that Space Needle in Seattle. "Gee," she said, "good place to hunt moose."

THE 2008 "ADOPT a FAMILY" CHRISTMAS TREE

By Christine Upton

[NOTE: Sometime in late November it usually goes up in the Parish Hall, a Christmas tree with handwritten ornaments.

Coordinated through the Church Office with Love INC and a St. Matthew's volunteer, the "Adopt a Family" Christmas tree asks for help for families during the Christmas Season. And people DO help. The ornaments with their requests all disappear; and an amazing assortment of gifts for the families appears in the Church. The Volunteer, through coordinating and wrapping and delivering, is given the Gift of seeing the reactions. Christine Upton coordinated the program this year; and below she describes what happened with your gifts.]



Remember lying awake before Christmas so excited that you couldn't get to sleep? As coordinator of the "Adopt A Family" Christmas Tree, I indulged in that same insomnia because of the St. Matthews members' extreme generosity to our three recipients: a church-family, an outside-of-church family, and the Rescue Mission.

Our in-church-family mom/grandma said that *"without all those grocery gift cards, we wouldn't have had a Christmas dinner!"* When I delivered the gifts for her and her extended family, well, she exclaimed in disbelief, *"Is that all for US?"*

Our outside-of-church family dad said that his 18 year old son, whom he hadn't seen in quite a while, joined dad and the baby for Christmas. He got a haircut with the gift card, and he received the very clothes he asked for. The 10- month-old, now 13 months and walking, plays with the learning toys, hugs the stuffed animals, snuggles in the fringed blankie, sleeps with the "doily" crocheted blankie, and benefits daily from all the practical diapers, baby food, and baby wipes. He and dad arranged and rearranged the Nativity set in the manger we gave them under the little tree. Having just been laid off, dad says, *"The wolves aren't at my door, but the ants are munching."* He continues to be inspired by our kindness as he whips out job applications and explores alternatives.

Folks at the Rescue Mission really appreciated having 2 tall fresh trees gracing their Vet's Hall and Men's Dining Hall. With all the tree stands, garlands, decorations and strings of lights safely tucked away, Office Manager Michelle Harpole says, *"We are ready for next year!"*

Adopt-A-Family is a blessed opportunity for us to share the love of Christ in all its joy and abundance; and we really ran with it!

INTRODUCING the NEW VESTRY. . .

KAREN KISS, the JUNIOR WARDEN

[NOTE: Karen was elected at the January 2009 Annual Meeting to a 1 year term on the Vestry.]

I would like to introduce myself as one of the newest members of the Vestry. My name is Karen Kiss; and I almost always attend the 8AM service. I have been of St. Matthew's since the early '80s; and have lived in Alaska 40 plus years. I have two grown children (*Kelly and Michael*); and 2 grandchildren (*Travis and Rachael*). I have participated on numerous activities, attended adult education classes, served on the Altar Guild and with the Prayer Shawl Ministry, served on a previous Vestry; and was Senior Warden for 2 years. A year ago I finished a 4 year study with EFM (*Education for Ministry*) and, at the February Vestry meeting, was elected Junior Warden. I am also on the boards of FOOD BANK and LOVE INC. It is an honor being able to help others. As Junior Warden, I will need assistance- your help and God's - to keep St. Matthew's in good working order.

FATHER STEVE REMEMBERS A FRIEND. . .

ALLEN JOHN (October 4th 1935 – January 20th 2009)

By The Rev. Stephen Matthew

For most of my life I remember Allen John, as we grew up together in Stevens Village. In later years he discovered that his birth name was "*Joel Nicholia*" and used that name. I hope he won't mind if I still call him "*Allen*".

At this point in time, I believe he at last knows what is behind the "*Green Door*". And at this age, we are really talking about death's door. It is probably not even green. Maybe it is white, with Love shining all around it; but we are always afraid of going through it. Afraid that we will be rejected for not following God's laws.

Allen once told me that he always prayed in his own home, which is as it should be. No matter how strong you are, you can never beat God's laws. The only way to go through that door is to love God and God will let you through into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Allen had many dogs over the years. Some were work dogs, some were house pets, and he loved them all. He was a teacher and keeper of our culture, showing the younger generation the correct way to do things. He was also keenly interested in the future and worked hard during the formation of the Alaska Native Land Claims. In 1963, a federal project planned to dam the Yukon River at Rampart which, while producing power, would also have the effect of flooding numerous UpRiver villages and the great Yukon River Flats. At a meeting Allen explained the concerns of the people and ended with, "*What are we supposed to do, drown or something?*"

Allen was a straight talker, but a kind man. He would do anything for you. He had always been like that, even as a young man. If you asked him for something he didn't have, he would ask somebody for it and let you have it. He was that kind of a man. He was *just* a good man.

Winter/Spring Voices

I always thought of her as like my Elders Bible. I learned from her.

Father Scott, why is everybody dying?

.....ravens down the smokestack, and....

There's blood all over that country out there, Outside.

Ohhhhh, March Madness *IS* beginning, isn't it?

What did we eat during the Depression? I remember eating mush, and my parents turned all the lights off to save on the electricity bill. We ate dinner in the dark.

You know my friends, those that went on to get their MBAs? And they were all earning BIG salaries. They're all unemployed now. It's brutal out there in this economy.

No use to talk about it, because everybody's affected by it, and we can't do anything about it anyway. I've got a little 401K and every time I call them, they tell me . . .

. . . when my grandchild met Fr. Steve [*Matthew*], she got really shy and quiet. After he left, I asked her how come she got so quiet, and she said, "*Because he's the one our Church is named after*".

.... . and right when we got there, the 1st Sergeant and one of his men were killed. IED. So we took the long road in, the other way. And it began - Hell. That's what we called it.

Is it A Full Moon?

. . . told me, "*You're my favorite Comfort Food*".

Well, Keep on rolling, Grampa.

No, you need DISCIPLINE first. You have to have discipline first; then you can play.

Winter/Spring Voices

... had a horse out there on the Homestead. A Welch Shetland pony. It thought it was just one of the dogs. LOVED dogfood. Used to run with the dogs. Even liked to chase cars comin' down the Highway. THAT startled a few drivers. Found it tied up once to a tree with an old fanbelt.

I'm glad I didn't give up playing in the snow for Lent.

... and her and Effie were great friends and used to always drive around. One time they were driving and passed a porcupine and stopped that car quick. And jumped out and danced around that porcupine and Effie - *THWACK* - hit it one hit. Had porcupine in the car then.

She always viewed things in Life as just another Adventure. Whatever it was - flat tire or whatever - it wasn't anything bad . . . it was just another Adventure.

A FAVORITE PRAYER from retired ARCHDEACON MARK BOESSER

[Now retired in Juneau, Archdeacon Mark Boesser has served the Church in Alaska, with his wife Mildred, for decades. Here's a favorite prayer, and worth remembering and using this Easter :)]

(A prayer I tripped to which I like a lot by Bishop John V. Taylor, one of the great missionary leaders of the Anglican Communion)

Lord Jesus Christ,
alive and at large in the world,
help me to follow and find you there today,
in the places where I work,
meet people,
spend money,
and make plans.
Take me as a disciple of your kingdom
to see through your eyes,
and hear the questions you are asking,
to welcome all others with your trust and truth,
and to change the things that contradict God's love,
by the power of the cross
and the freedom of your Spirit.
Amen.

ENDOWMENT BOARD GRANT DEADLINE in JUNE

June 30
Endowment Board Grant
Deadline

For more information about
applying, please contact the
Church Office

456-5235

THURSDAY MORNINGS on EAGAN AVENUE

By Lynn Slusher

[Regular Eucharists are held at the Pioneer Home on Eagan Avenue the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10:30AM. Lynn Slusher notes a recent new development from the services.]

One of the spin-off joys of helping with the Saint Matthew's church service at the Pioneer Home is an opportunity to read "*Oh Ye Frost and Cold*" and visit with **Juanita Nottingham**, **Marge Dirkx** and **Barbara Trigg**. This publication, published in 1980, gives a history of the first seventy five years in the life of Saint Matthews Church; and these gals have been a part of some of that history.

[Copies of "O Ye Frost & Cold" are available from the Church Office for \$5.00]

SUMMARY of the JANUARY 2009 ANNUAL MEETING of ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

On Sunday, January 25th, 2009, being the 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, the Annual Meeting of St. Matthew's Church, as required by the Church By-Laws, was held, within the context of the single Eucharist being celebrated that morning. Following the reading of the Gospel for the morning (*Mark 1: 14-20*), the rector then called the meeting to order at 9:50AM. The following actions (*from the as yet unapproved Minutes*) were then discussed or taken:

1. **Charlene Marth** was nominated and elected to serve as Annual Meeting Secretary; a quorum was established; and the agenda was approved.
2. The 2008 Annual Meeting minutes were approved, as corrected.
3. Parish organization reports were presented; and accepted unanimously.
4. **Sunday School Director Beth Corven** called attention to her concern about the lack of children attending Sunday School. There was wide ranging discussion; and finally it was moved and passed for the Vestry to appoint a Task Force, with at least one Vestry member, by Tuesday, January 27th, to plan for a "Congregational Conversation" on this concern, and the seeming lack of young families at St. Matthew's.
5. The rector appointed retiring Vestry members **Bruce Gadwah, Darrell Zuke, Teresa Moore,** and **Hugh Griffin** to serve as Election Judges. Nominations were received; and **Arlie Nethken, John Parsons,** and **Irene Todd** were called to three-year terms on *the Vestry*; and **Karen Kiss** to a one-year term.
6. Parish Treasurer **Carolyn Nethken's** Report for 2008 was received and accepted, noting that TOTAL Budgeted Operating Income for 2008 was \$297,110 (*2007: \$286,162.*); and TOTAL Budgeted Operating Expenses for the Year were \$\$295,150 (*2007: \$275,991*). This resulted in a **FINAL SURPLUS** for 2008 of +\$1,960.
7. Nominations were received to serve as delegates to the *2009 Interior Deanery* meeting and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino** and **Irene Todd** were called to serve; with **Tom**



Marsh, Roxy Wright, and **Bruce Gadwah** as Alternates.

8. **Retiring Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah** presented the 2009 Budget Committee Report, noting that over 100 people had donated from their Permanent Fund Dividends in 2008; and we ended the year with a Surplus of \$1,960. He spoke about the need for constant Giving, pledging, being proactive rather than reactive, and how the Vestry arrives at the Proposed Budget. He then presented the **Proposed 2009 Operating Budget of \$306,617** (*2008 Budget was \$297,799*). With a passed Amendment to include Projected Income, the Budget passed, as presented.
9. Nominations were received to serve as delegates to the *2009 Diocesan Convention*. **Shirley Gordon, Ron Moore,** and **Linda Demientieff** were called to serve; with **Laura Bender, Mary Margaret Davis, Julia Cockerille,** and **Linda Mullen** as Alternates.
10. Nominations were received to serve on *the St. Matthew's Endowment Board*. **Ray Cockerille** and **Allen Todd** were called to serve three-year terms; and **Bruce Gadwah** to a one-year term.
11. In Additional Business, it was moved and passed to clarify a motion from several years ago, allowing the Vestry to tithe Outreach money towards any entity working towards the Millennium Development Goals.

With that final motion, the meeting recessed at 12:07PM; was called back to order at 12:13PM to announce the Final Election results; and adjourned at 12:14PM. The Church then continued on the Eucharist, offering the results of the Meeting in the Offertory.

SUMMARY of the MINUTES of the 2009 ANNUAL MEETING of the INTERIOR DEANERY

Meeting in the Parish Hall of St. Matthew's/ Fairbanks, the Annual Meeting of the Interior Deanery was called to order, following Gospel Based Bible Study on Matthew 5:20-26, at 10:36AM, on Friday, March 6th, 2009, by Dean **Don Stevens**. A quorum was declared, with the following present: **Don Stevens**, Dean, Tanana Valley (Stevens Village); **Mary Starr**, Dean, Yukon-Koyukuk (Tanana); **The Rev. Mardow Solomon** (Fort Yukon); **Sara Knudson**, Dean, Yukon Flats (Fort Yukon); **The Rev. Trimble Gilbert** (Arctic Village); **Irene Todd** (St. Matthew's, Fairbanks); **The Rev. Helen Peters** (Tanana); **The Ven. Anna Frank** (Minto); **The Rev. John Holz** (St. Matthew's, Fairbanks); **Clara Joseph** (Beaver); **The Rev. Scott Fisher** (St. Matthew's, Fairbanks); **Becky Snow** (St. Matthew's, Fairbanks); **The Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, Dean-at-Large (St. Matthew's, Fairbanks); **Stephen Ron Englishshoe** (Chalkyitsik); **Irene Sherry** (Minto); **Annie Christian** (Venetie); **The Rev. Margo Simple** (Venetie) (*arrived midday due to weather and flights*); and the following Visitors: **The Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor** (Bishop's Staff), **The Venerable Anna Frank** (Bishop's Staff), **Suzanne Krull** (Bishop's Staff), **Shirley Lee** (Bishop's Staff), **The Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron** (Standing Committee President).

Following approval of the 2008 Minutes, the following actions were discussed or taken. Complete minutes are available from the Church Office, and posted in the Parish Hall.

1. It was moved and passed to accept the agenda as revised (*adding consideration of a Resolution from the Arctic Coast Deanery; a letter from **Bishop Kimsey**; and Time for other matters*).
2. Considerable time was spent receiving reports from the different churches and communities. In SUMMARY: **Arctic Village** reports they have church services every Sunday and the Church is in good standing, but there is a need for training of young people; **St. Matthew's** reported on their planned March 17th Fundraiser, the Saturday Gwitch'in Dancing classes, and "*trying to get more and more people into the building, and keeping it open for all people*"; **Beaver** reported things are going well and they would like to have Vacation Bible School this Summer; **Ft. Yukon** reported also on the need for training of young people, the difficulties (financially and otherwise) during the Winter's Cold Spell ("*42 homes were frozen, even some with the new*

water and sewer system.") , and other activities ("*It doesn't seem like much, but there is really a lot going on*"); **Minto** reported that services are still being held at St. Barnabas, but there are still feelings and difficulties; **Stevens Village** reported on the lack of jobs, but "*We remember the faith of our elders, and hope for this faith for our children.*"; **Chalkyitsik** reported they are active, with services every Sunday and Wednesday; **Venetie** reported they have services Sunday morning and Sunday evening and they "*are really grateful for how God works, bringing things together, a lot of people are helping*"; **Tanana** reported they have services every Sunday, on a number of activities planned this Summer, and gave thanks for the ministry of now retired friend and LAMP pastor **Dan Treakle**; and **Evansville** reported there had been services in the last year and asked churches "*to keep the villages that do not have a congregation in our prayers. The people there are so thankful for the services, and faithful. Their faith is strong, despite the lack of a regular congregation*".

3. There was discussion about stewardship ideas, the importance of prayer, and the importance of visiting those incarcerated.
4. **Lynette Winfrey** of the Diocesan Office spoke about Parochial Reports. **Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor** spoke on the work of **Shirley Lee**, **Bishop Kimsey**, the Fr. David Salmon School for Ministry ("*The goal this year is to have at least one training event in each deanery*"); and the needs of the Church in the Interior ("*The Interior Deanery has the fewest number of people actively in the process toward ordination. . . When we hear the stories of those before us, and what they did for the Gospel, it inspires us, and makes us want to do it, too! Remembering their stories gives us strength, and helps us go into our future together*").
5. **Shirley Lee** reported on the recent meeting of the Diocesan Youth Commission in Fairbanks; the plans to develop a website for Diocesan youth using MyFamily.com; and the plans for EAGLE (*Episcopal Academy for Gospel Leadership and Evangelism*) – a major ministry outreach that she and **the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor** will be working on. It was moved and passed to retain **the Rev. Bessie Titus** and **Whitney Demientieff** as members of the Youth Commission representing the Interior Deanery.

(Continued on page 13)

Interior Deanery . . .

6. **Diocesan Administrator Suzanne Krull** gave a report on finances; and there was discussion about the Village Clergy Housing Allowance program and the Abundance Clergy Fund. A letter was drafted and signed to **Bishop Kimsey** to encourage him to continue conversations with Church Pension Fund.



7. Chair of the Commission on Ministry **Becky Snow** reported on the work of the Commission, and the Interior Deanery representatives on the Commission- herself and **the Rev. Mardow Solomon**. *"We do not have many people from the Interior who are actively in the process toward ordination. The problem is that the places where we need leaders most are the places where there is also no one helping to raise up new leaders. The challenge before us, and the COM, is to find ways to break that cycle/spiral"*. **Becky** also reported, as one of the deputies to General Convention in July, on some of the issues that the Convention will likely consider. Other Convention deputies from the Diocese will be **Stacy Thorpe, Clarence Bolden, Mary Margaret Davis, the Rev. David Elsensohn, the Rev. Bessie Titus, the Rev. Michael Burke**, and one other clergy deputy.
8. Native Missioner the **Venerable Anna Frank** reported on recent talks with LAMP (*"they will not be able to send people for Vacation Bible School this year, as they have in the past. If villages want VBS, then they will need to raise money and contact the Diocese for help"*); and the importance of Prison Ministry and her trips to those in prison in Arizona.
9. A letter from **Austin Swan** (Arctic Coast Dean) and **Don Stevens** (Interior Dean) to the Standing Committee was read; and Resolution

#09-01 from the Arctic Coast Deanery was read.

10. **The Rev. John Holz and the Rev. Dawn Allen Herron** reported on the work of the Standing Committee and there was much discussion about the Bishop Search Process, communication (*or the lack of it*), and the postponement of the 34th Diocesan Convention. It was reported that the Suffragan Bishop Task Force has not yet met, but there are plans for the near future.
11. The following were nominated to the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna: **Simon Francis, Sr.** (Fort Yukon), **William Salmon, Sr.** (Chalkyitsik), **Mrs. Minnie Salmon** (Chalkyitsik), **Paul Starr** (Tanana), **Exenia Sam** (Venetie).
12. It was moved and passed to elect **Irene Todd** to serve as Dean-at-Large until 2011; and **Don Stevens** to serve as Dean, Tanana Valley until 2011.
13. A Review of proposed changes to Interior Deanery bylaws was referred to **Irene Todd** and others who will work with her. In addition, they will review the Canon VII of the Diocesan Canons, which refers to the Native Advocacy Committee.
14. Dean **Don Stevens** read and distributed a letter from Bishop **Rustin Kimsey** to the Interior Deanery.
15. There was much discussion and gratitude for retiring LAMP pastor and pilot **Dan Treackle's** ministry over the years; and it was moved and passed to present him with a gift during the Tanana Chiefs Conference meeting in Fairbanks this month.
16. Finally, it was moved and passed that the next meeting of the Interior Deanery will be at Tanana, June 4-5, 2010.



*The Deacon Reports***ON GETTING THROUGH HARD TIMES, DAUGHTERS of the KING,
DUCK DANCE CLASSES, & DEANERY MEETINGS***By The Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino*

I am sitting here thinking back the last few months or so, being thankful for the good memories and not-so-good memories. I think of the things I learned from going through the hard times, learning to lean on God, talking to Him or thinking of Him, how He is always there for me; and remind myself of His love for me and everyone else. He is always ready to listen, to forgive me (*us*) when I (*we*) ask Him and He keeps loving me (*us*) for ever. This winter was a difficult one for me in many ways, but one thing I'm thankful for is a chance to get to know my granddaughter who is 13 years old (*and that is a difficult age to be.*) In spite of hardship, she is trying to handle it pretty well; like, for instance, to keep her good grades up, having friends to talk to on the cell phone or by texting her friends. She is realizing that she has to quit talking on the phone or texting at a certain time because she needs to go to bed so she can get her sleep. Being a Grandma, I have to be there to remind her; being firm sometimes but to keep loving her. I think of myself when I was that age. I know that I gave my mother (*not grandmother*) some hard times, but in the back of my mind I knew that she loved me no matter what.

I am working with 6 wonderful women who are doing a study to become Daughters of the King at the end of April and, just before that, 4 women completed the study and admission into the Order on January 26, 2009. Thanks be to the Lord! Each of us, as a Daughter of the King pledged ourselves to a lifelong Program of Prayer, Service and Personal Evangelism - dedicated to the Extension of Christ's Kingdom and strengthening of the spiritual life of the Daughter's parish. Daughters are young and old, rich and poor, beautiful and plain, community leaders and mothers, doctors and teachers, secretaries, executives and housewives, sinful and wavering, generous and strong. We are ordinary human beings enabled by God's grace to do His work. We are women dedicated to serving our Lord and building up His Church. There are more than 18,000 of us in the US and throughout the world. *Here at St. Matthew's we meet once a month, the 2nd Sunday of each month, in the library of the Church.* Anyone interested in becoming a member, please come see before or after church service (*usually 11:15 am service*). Call me at home @ 456-1503; leave a message if I am not home.

If anyone is interested in learning to dance duck dance, two-step, jig and other dances, come and join us on **Saturdays at 3pm** at the St Matthew's Parish hall. **Pete Peter, Bill Stevens**, other fiddle players and I have worked together to keep this going every Saturday. This dance, being part of "Dancing in the Spirit", teaches the Kids and Adults to dance the Athabaskan way of dancing; and we enjoy teaching those that are willing to learn, and have a good time while exercising at the same time! Everyone is welcome, Native and Non-Native.

The Interior Deanery Meeting took place March 6, Friday at the St. Matthew Parish Hall. Thursday, March 5 was travel day. The weather was so bad that some delegates coming in from the villages were unable to make it. The Thursday evening meeting was postponed until the next day, when we established a quorum so we could proceed with the meeting.

We were thankful for safe travel for everyone who attended the meeting. **Mary Starr** did a good job chairing the meeting; and we were done in 1 day. Started the meeting with GBD; village reports done by the delegates; **Ginny Doctor** gave her executive report; **Suzanne Krull** gave Budget report; **Shirley Lee** gave report on Youth Committee; Parochial reports done by **Lynette Winfrey**; **Anna Frank** gave her report; and **Bishop Kimsey's** Letter was read, stating that he and his wife are on a journey this week, planned over a year ago but that he is with us in his head and heart as we come to our Interior Deanery Meeting.

Other business included considering a resolution in support of a letter to the Standing Committee and the 2009 Convention from **Austin Swan Sr.** (*dean of the Arctic Coast*) and **Don Stevens**, (*dean of the Interior Deanery*). The resolution stated that Arctic Coast Deanery and the Interior do not want to be excluded in any decisions made by the Standing Committee in regards to the selection for a new Bishop of Alaska; and that the Standing Committee should include 3 or more Indigenous people of Alaska to participate in the decision making that may occur in the future, for the betterment of all people who believe in Christianity; and by the decisions by any committee who serve under the Diocese of Alaska. [Note: The resolution was discussed and considered, but never moved to a vote. See "Summary of Minutes" elsewhere in this Newsletter]. Names were accepted for St. Simeon and St. Anna Society and elections for Dean: **Don Stevens** was re-elected for Tanana Valley and **Irene Todd** was elected as Member at Large. Each Meeting I attend, I learn a lot about what is happening in the villages, in the Diocesan Office, the Standing Committee, other committees; and all of us working together to serve God in different ways, doing His work by what we do, think and say through Prayer and Love for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ!

Mahsi' choh for allowing me to represent you at the Interior Deanery Meeting. It is a blessing indeed. I want to thank St. Matthew for hosting the meeting; and thank all the cooks; and everyone who helped in anyway possible.

Love in Christ, *The Rev. Bella Jean Savino*

bits and pieces from around the parish . . .

AN EASY & FAST RECIPE for COOKIES

By Edna Riley

(I would like to share a recipe in the newsletter... Easy and fast...)

- 1 regular box of cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup of oil

Mix together in a bowl. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls on a non-greased cookie sheet.

Bake at 350 for 8 minutes for a soft cookie and 10 minutes for a crisper cookie.

Makes 2 dozen cookies.

Ideas: For oatmeal raisin cookies use a spice or carrot cake mix & add 1 cup quick oatmeal, 1/2 cup raisins and 1 extra tablespoon of oil.

Add nuts to chocolate cake mix and M&M's to white cake mix or top with frosting and sprinkles or colored sugar.

To make brownies just bake in a 9x13 pan for 15 to 20 minutes.

SPIRIT BASKET, A NOVEL

Over 200 Years of Adventure in Alaska

Marie Osburn Reid

This novel portrays historical events experienced by an Alaska Native family over more than two centuries.

Generations of teenagers adjust from subsistence living to invasion by Russian fur traders, the purchase by America, gold fever, WWII detention, huge earthquake, disastrous oil spill, and much more. Each chapter is a new adventure of a new generation.



Available online at

- Authorhouse.com
- Barnesandnoble.com
- Amazon.com



You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!

Looking for an inexpensive night of entertainment? Come enjoy the Lathrop High School production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!*

April 23—25, 7pm

Hering Auditorium

Tickets \$10 for adults, \$7 for students

- Charlie Brown—Joe Russo
- Snoopy—Marc Castellini
- Lucy—Sydney Stone
- Linus—Nathan Johnson
- Schroeder—Greg Handy
- Sally—Samantha Hernandez

- Franklin—Demetrius Lucas
- Peppermint Patty—Kasey Robinson
- Violet—Julie Seniva
- Little Red-Headed Girl—Lacy Griffith
- Frieda—Alyssa Nash
- Marcy—Alyssa Dunehew

With orchestra, including—Renee Langworthy, Luke Castellini, Amy Seniva, Kris Larson and other local youth musicians

March 17th Welcome & Fundraiser bring in +\$4000.

THE ST. MATTHEW'S "ST. PATRICK'S DAY" SOCIAL

A Report from Senior Warden Roxy Wright



A big Thank you to all the saints (*the children of God*) that helped to make our "Welcome to Fairbanks" a great success. We brought in \$4290, which will help with our deficit. (The Deficit was about \$11,000 at the end of February.) Everyone pitched in, in both small and big ways; volunteering with time, food, music, auction items and baskets. Attendance was probably 500 plus, and we had people from all over the Tanana Chiefs and Doyon Region. I saw friends from Arctic Village, Venetie, Nikolai, Tanana, Minto, Kaltag – just to name a few! And we had plenty of food; and a good time was had by all.

We are sincerely thankful to the **Tanana Chiefs Conference** for waiving the

(Continued on page 17)

NEWS from the ARCTIC COAST: "Traditional Dancing Returns to Kivalina"

QINUGAN DANCERS of KIVALINA at "KIVGAQ" in BARROW

By Janet Mitchell



The Qinugan Dancers made their official debut as an Inupiaq dance group at the Kivgiq [*Note: This traditional celebration occurs in mid-February*] in Barrow, Alaska, although their first performance was in November at Kivalina. We are a whaling community, but I have never seen Kivalina Eskimo dance before, and I am 48 years old. Last whale we caught, we had to send for the dance group from Pt. Hope to do the traditional whaling dancing.

Christina Swan, better known as **Tina**, who is 25 years old, decided she would start a dance group in memory of her Great Uncle **Oscar Qinugan Swan**, who passed away in January of 2008. He was the last active artist from Kivalina when it came to Eskimo dancing. She put together a group who was interested in performing which consists of young people. She needed drummers and mentioned it to the **Rev. Wilfred Lane** of Kotzebue, who recommended his grandson **Lennie Lane**. **Lennie Lane** and **Richard Atoruk** from Kotzebue volunteered to teach the new group songs and dance. **Leslie Stalker** from Pt. Lay also volunteered his services to help teach the group dance and song.



For the Kivgiq, they enlisted their great aunt **Lucy Adams**, who was **Oscar Swan's** sister, to serve as the elder who would represent Kivalina in the lighting of the messenger's light. **Aaron Mitchell** was selected as the runner that would represent Kivalina in the competition to earn the privilege of lighting the messenger's fire. (*See photo titled 'after performance'*). Unfortunately, the temperature was too severe for running; so they declared all racers to be winners and selected the oldest elder to light the ceremonial fire.

Colleen Swan was responsible for arranging the group to make their debut in Barrow. She pushed the group to fund raise, and also sought donations. She was one of the chaperones for the group because the group had underage dancers. After the group's performance, Colleen did the introductions of the group and tearfully thanked them for returning what was taken from our parents and grandparents; the tradition of Inupiaq dancing. She got a standing ovation from the audience. **Colleen** is **Tina's** aunt but she had a hand in raising **Tina** also, so **Tina** calls her mom.

Tina is the daughter of **Regina Swan-Ramoth** who passed away in May of 2005. **Tina** has lived with her grandparents **Joseph Sr.** and **Lona Swan** since she was a toddler. She has a daughter named **Joslyn** who is 5 years old, whose father also passed away in 2006. **Tina** is a dynamic girl who has an interest in keeping the young people busy with things that will have a positive effect on them. **Tina** lives a very traditional lifestyle. She helps her grandparents gather foods from the land and helps with preparations for storage for the winter. She has been taught to show respect for others, land and resources that we live on. She's passing on the tradition to her daughter **Joslyn**, who can understand our Inupiaq language, which is rare in a young child like that. Her great-grandparents speak the language to her. Her **Papa Joseph** is a whaling captain so if the community catches a whale, we have a dance group to do the honors of celebrating through dance.



Fundraiser . . .

(Continued from page 16)

Tribal Hall rental fee. St. Matthew's would like to thank the following businesses for donating prizes and other help: **Co-op Diner, Arctic Travelers Gift, Beads 'N Things, Cliff Adams and Beaver Lodge Tours of Beaver; Pikes Landing, Wright's Air Service, Turtle Club, Bruegger's, Creative Cutz, Gulliver's Bookstore, Hair'EM Beauty Salon, Kurt & Kim's Coffee, Frank Evans Carving, and James Grant Artwork.**

There was a jig contest, with lots of very good dancers, both young and old. **Connie Henry** and her son **Kyle; Leslie Jones and Jonas Henry;** and **Natalie Savage** and **Jeremiah Hardesty** won prizes for their jigging. The **St. Matthews Youth Group** was a giant help; they enthusiastically helped to set up, man a snack table, and pitched in with clean-up.

Pete Peter, Assistant Director of **Dancing with the Spirit**, coordinated and provided music. Musicians from all over took turns on the stage. The following is an email from Pete, explaining what the Dancing with the Spirit program is about. *If you have any instruments that you would like to donate to a wonderful purpose, contact Pete.*

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SARAH JAMES INDUCTED into ALASKA WOMEN'S HALL of FAME



In early March, in a ceremony at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame honored 50 women who have made, or are making, "*significant contributions to the shaping of Alaska*". This inaugural class of women, ranging across Alaskan history as far back as the 1700s, included.....our friend Sarah James of Arctic Village. Sarah was sitting quietly and shyly, smiling as she always does, in the pew during the 11AM service here at St. Matthew's the following Sunday. Here's the biographical description on her induction:

Sarah James 1944—Achievement In: Environmental Activism

Sarah James, as board chair and a spokesperson for the Gwich'in Steering Committee, has educated Alaskans, other Americans, Congress and peoples from around the world about the Gwich'in Nation, the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the importance of protecting "the Sacred Place where Life Begins" from oil exploration and drilling. The goal of the Gwich'in is to permanently protect the coastal plain caving and nursing grounds of the caribou in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness. Raised in Alaska's far north in a traditional lifestyle, she did not begin speaking English until she was about 13 years old. Living in the small community of Arctic Village, she has traveled widely, from Washington, D.C. to foreign countries, speaking out for the rights of indigenous peoples through grassroots activism.

In recognition of her leadership, she has received many awards. In 1993, Sarah received the Alston Bannerman Fellowship award. In 2001, she received a Ford Foundation "Leadership for a Changing World" grant given to "outstanding but little known leaders". She, along with the late Jonathon Solomon, Sr. and Norma Kassi, received the Goldman Environmental Prize for "grassroots environmentalists" in 2002. She also received the 2002 National Conservation Land Trust award. In 2004, she was the recipient of the 2004 "Ecotrust Award for Indigenous Leadership" and she received the 2006 Alaska Conservation Foundation Celia Hunter Award. Sarah is very thankful for the support of the Gwich'in National, her community, her son and her family. She credits the hard work of the Gwich'in and other people throughout the United States and the world as having contributed greatly to her successful efforts.

She was taught by her mother that there has to be a mutual respect between men and women for a healthy life. The impetus for her activism and the strength of her convictions may be best summarized in her own words, spoken in 2006: "*This is my way of life. We are born with this way of life and we will die with it. It never occurred to me that something had to wake me up to do this. Nothing magic happened to me. Our life depends on it. It's about survival; it's something that we have to protect in order to survive. It's our responsibility. It's the environment we live in. We believe everything is related*".

<http://www.gwichinsteeringcommittee.org>

http://www.ecotrust.org/indigenousleaders/2004/sarah_james.html

<http://www.grist.org/comments/interactivist/2006/12/11/james/>

http://gildartphoto.com/story/sarah_james.htm

Fundraiser . . .

(Continued from page 17)

About “Dancing With the Spirit”:

Currently the dancingwiththespirit.org has touched many tiny hearts in our remote villages with fiddling, guitar lessons, traditional dance instructions and skin drumming and physical games.

This program has proven to be effective in the areas of building family and individual self-esteem, Suicide preventions, and Alcohol and Drug awareness.

We are so happy to have the Episcopal churches to sponsor our efforts for His services for our children.

We appreciate all who support our goals for healthy communities in the future through His services. Any gifts could be written as tax contribution donations.

Thank you and *Mahsi' choh*

Pete J. Peter

DWTS-Assistant director



Seasons of Life . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Al Stevens, and Don Stevens. Donavan’s Godparents are **Dawn Fagenstrom, Steve Hjelm, Clay Nelson, and Lynnette Winfrey.** The laughter and joy of the Night gave a preview, in the midst of this wintry Lenten Desert, of the coming Easter.

Holy Matrimony, Renewals, and Blessings

On Monday evening, December 8th, on what would have been her late Grandfather (**the Rev. Titus Peter**)’s birthday, **Shannon Marie James**, dressed all in white, walked down the aisle here at St. Matthew’s and married **Oliver Moss II.** The rector celebrated the wedding, which filled the Church with gathered friends and laughing joy. Friday evening, December 26th, **Zach Hernandez** and **Taylor Lycon** stopped by St. Matthew’s, with faith and hope, to have their wedding rings privately blessed before their wedding the following day. Saturday afternoon, January 17th, on their 29th Wedding anniversary, **Garnett** and **James Ahkiviana** gathered with friends and family and memories in the Church to renew their vows; and a potlatch (*with muktuk!*) celebration followed in the Parish Hall. And Friday evening, February 20th, **SSG Jeff** and **Tara Hartman** gathered with friends to renew their vows, and have their marriage blessed. Jeff was home in Fairbanks on his two week R & R; and Tara, who once ran the St. Matthew’s Nursery, is the daughter of former Vestrymembers **Steve** and **Teresa Moore.**

Commendations, Funerals, Burials, Memorials

On Wednesday, December 10th, just days after her 89th Birthday, **Verla Ruth Evans Stallings** peacefully passed away at home here in Fairbanks. Born in Nebraska and educated in Montana, Verla enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and became a control tower operator. At an airfield in California she met pilot **Hawley Evans** and together they “*experienced some of life’s greatest adventures*”. She was one of the first female pilots in Alaska; and she and Hawley owned and operated Fairbanks Air Service for 30 years. In 1972 she and **Jack Stallings** married, and the travels and adventures continued. She and Jack developed the first 9 holes of the North Star Golf Club. Verla is survived by her four children – **Hawley Roger, Bari Hite, Joy Miller, Star Evans;** and their families. St. Matthew’s filled for her funeral service Thursday afternoon, December 18th, led by the rector and the Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #8. A Flag presentation, in honor of her service, concluded the service (“*Once a marine, always a marine. There ARE NO retired marines*”, remarked her grandson); and a reception followed in the Parish Hall.

Early in the morning of Friday, December 12th, longtime Denali Center resident 79 years old **Frances John** peacefully passed away. Born and raised in Circle, Francis is survived by her sisters **Irene Roberts** and **Margaret Bessette;** her sons **Charles E. John** and **Andrew Peabody;** her grandson **Cameron John;** and all of their families. Francis had a faith as deep and

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“. . . we are still traveling with the Magi, still following our dreams, still kneeling to worship the Christ child. . .

“TRAVELING with the MAGI”: An Epiphany Sermon by the Rev. Belle Mickelson

[As Project Director of “Dancing with the Spirit” (<http://www.dancingwiththespirit.org>), the Rev. Belle Mickelson, with her son and others, travels the Interior villages, teaching music to the children and celebrating the Lord Christ’s Presence. When not traveling, she serves as a priest at St. George’s Church in Cordova. Here’s her sermon she gave in Cordova January 4th, recounting her travels in Tanana, Allakaket, and Beaver.]

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, “Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet; ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.” (Matthew 2:1-12)

Can you hear the bells and see the fancy red, blue, and gold trappings on the camels? Camels in those days were like Rolls Royce’s today... I can only imagine the adventures of the Magi as they sat on those amazing beasts, ambling through the desert, living in their tents, eating around campfires, and sleeping in their bedrolls.... Their gifts were gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were following a star, a sign of our Savior’s birth, a star that we are still following today—each of us in our own ways, in our own time.

Just a little over a week ago, my son **Mike** and I were flying back to Fairbanks from Beaver on Warbelow’s Airline. Their little Navaho Piper plane was stuffed with six of us and all our gear including sleeping bags, guitars, a fiddle, and a mandolin. The send-off party was a crowd of people on snowmachines bundled up with beaver hats, mukluks, and warm beaded leather gloves for the 20 below weather. Those few folks with jeans and yellow work gloves were jumping and running around to try to stay warm while they waited for the plane to arrive. The gray afternoon winter light became tinged with pink as we got up in the air and could see some of the setting sun’s rays. We offered to our fellow passengers the smoked salmon strips and pilot bread that we had been given by Beaver friends. Mike fell asleep as we warmed up in the plane. But I looked out the window at the snow-covered rivers, lakes and mountains. Soon as if by magic, a Christmas star appeared over Fairbanks.

I thought about how we are still traveling with the Magi, still following our dreams, still kneeling to worship the Christ child as we gather together in prayer and song, seeing Christ in others and celebrating the joy in our relationships. Each of us has our own special mission in this world—gifts that we give every day—loving and helping others, smiling and sharing—knitting and sewing, cooking, gardening, fishing, fixing engines, hauling wood, playing sports, and doing photography, art, music. We need all those gifts—we need each one of us! It is by giving and sharing that we are blessed.

I have no doubt that the Magi learned much in their travels and received many gifts—as I have in mine. One gift has been that of faith. In the villages there is no last minute shopping. Without stores, Christmas Eve is a time for church and family. I treasure our Christmas Eve church service in Hughes last year with faces reflected in candlelight as we sang Silent Night. And this year in Beaver we had young musicians playing at church for Christmas Eve. Everyone was so proud of them—and took lots of pictures of the youth with their guitars and mandolin. “*We had our own orchestra!*” **Jenny Pitka** told me. After the church service, presents under the tree that everyone had brought were passed out along with treats. Whoever made cookies took them around on a tray and passed them out individually, wishing each person Merry Christmas...

My favorite story comes from **the Rev. Helen Peters**. She grew up in Tanana at the Old Mission. Her mother died when she was two. All the kids went up to the Mission for school. There was a tree with real candles on it that they lighted. For the Christmas program, all the kids except Helen had moccasins their mothers had made... It was the night of the program and for some reason; six-year old Helen kept looking at thee clock. It was 5:30 pm, and then it was 6 pm and then 6:30 pm. Finally at 6:45 pm there was a knock on the door. One of her mother’s friends **Virginia Joseph** was there with a brown paper bag. Inside were moccasins that she had made! Helen put on those moccasins and skipped over to the Christmas program and sang “Twinkle, Twinkle

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Traveling with the Magi . . .

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Star". She has always been grateful to Virginia who was so thoughtful and generous. "*She became my friend,*" Helen said. The love that we pass on to others—keeps going on and on...

Another gift from the villages is their respect for elders. We had dinner with one family and an elder began talking to Mike. He told him that he had been thinking about him a lot. He was proud of Mike for honoring his mother by traveling with her. He thought teaching music was very important. Mike began to try to insert a comment of his own. The elder quickly reminded him, "*No one speaks when an elder is talking.*" He then went on. "*Now let's see, where was I?*"

When an elder is honored, the whole village is honored.... **Moses Henzie** is a fiddle player in Allakaket... Last year Mike played a dance for the kids with him--and spent several hours fixing his green painted fiddle with a carved moose bone bridge. We told him we would look for a better fiddle for him—but nothing had turned up. This time, Moses asked if we could fix both the green one--and another one that looked like Fiberglas resin was all over it, plus it had a broken tailpiece, and was missing some strings and pegs... Later, Mike decided the best option was to give his fiddle to Moses. Mike had a lot of fun sticking his fiddle in Moses' case. You should have seen Moses' eyes when he opened that case and there was a fine new-looking fiddle! He couldn't believe it... The next day Moses gave Mike a pair of fancy beaded gauntlet gloves trimmed with beaver fur that his wife Marie had made. It was Mike's turn to be surprised! One of the beaded starflowers was red, blue, and gold... "*That's Marie's signature,*" someone said as younger family members stopped by to pass their thanks on to Mike.

In giving from the heart, we are always blessed with more than we give. Maybe it's just in the prayers that those who are gifted say as they are reminded of the giver... Lately, I've been thinking that just thinking of someone—or saying their name is a prayer. God loves not only you and me—but our friends and family, too! Even those hard-to-get-along-with folks that stumble into our lives—are loved by God...

Just like the traveling Magi, my son Mike and I feel privileged in our visits the villages. In giving music, we have received gifts of faith, respect, and the joy in giving. Follow your star. Follow your dreams. Give abundantly. Give from the heart and you will continue to be totally blessed. Amen!

A Testimony

WHAT is a CHRISTIAN?

By Linda Mullen

Are you a Christian because you come to church? Are you a Christian because your parents are Christian? Do you really know what it takes to be a Christian? Do you know what the Scripture says about it?

It starts in the beginning. Before there was a creation, there was God. He wanted to have fellowship so He designed a creation complete with beings that He could have a relationship with, a people He could love and would love Him in return. He is absolutely HOLY, Absolute Truth and He can abide NO sin.

He knew from the start that His frail creation would fail and commit sin.

He gave us free will. What good would it do to create beings if they were forced to love Him? He wants us to love Him because we want to Love Him, because it is our choice to Love Him. (*Deut 10:19 Joshua 24:15.*) We are sovereign in our choices, we choose each day, each hour, each minute whom we will follow. We can choose to follow the Lord or by default Satan, but know this..... "*The wages of sin is death*" (*Romans 6:23.*) Be sure you know the results of what your choices are.

That brought up the problem of sin and how to deal with it. It required a blood sacrifice. He planned from the beginning before there was a creation to sacrifice His Son to cover our sin so He could be in relationship with us. This incredible love, this unfathomable love, a love to beyond anything we can understand, loves us so much that He knew that we would fail and He provided a way thru our sin to Him. *And so He planned the redemption of the beings that He was planning to create. (Matthew 21: 33-46) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life "(John 3:16.)*

And so we were created, along with this planet to live on, all our needs were provided for. And all He asked of us was to love Him.

And yes, we failed. From the get-go we failed. At one point He almost gave up on us. (*Genesis 6:6-7*) But there were a few who loved and trusted Him. He chose Abram to reveal Himself to. He called Abram out and started revealing Himself, teaching him His laws. From Abram came the Hebrew nation. Chosen not because they were special or better than the rest, chosen to be a people that He could teach, could reveal Himself to and thru

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NOTHING is WASTED

By Maggie Ross

[NOTE: Author and Anglican Solitary and Friend and long distance St. Matthew's member Maggie Ross travels between England and Alaska and can be found on her blog: <http://ravenwilderness.blogspot.com>]

From a letter:

Actually I don't like using the word "self" at all. Merton put too much faith in psychoanalysis and categorization. *Pseudo* is not really a good word because of the pejorative connotations you note but your "would be" [would-be self] is rather good.

What God gives us is a share in the divine nature, which is not a self (since the notion of self is implicitly reflexive) but what I usually call an unfolding truth. In effect, we, who are usually in reflexive mode cannot ever know this truth and it unfolds and sometimes reveals itself to others when our attention is elsewhere.

Another way to put this is to cite Cusa, who came right out and said that the image of God in us, our shared nature, is the mind's ability to transcend itself, to outpour as God outpours (God cannot be reflexive and we cannot think of God as having a "self" as we think of it since he is pure outpouring and nonreflexive; see the *Omnia and Nihil* sermon on my blog). The more deeply we are in silence and stillness, the more we are outpoured (usually without being aware of it even in retrospect), and our truth has a chance to unfold. This is rather clumsily stated, I fear, but it is a step beyond what your fictional monk says, which is a very beginning, early step in this process. After years of fidelity to silence, silence becomes the 'default' of whatever part of us is not occupied with our daily

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What is a Christian . . .

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them all of His creation. Because of that special relationship, other nations and peoples have hated them all thru the generations. All through history, people have hated the truth, have tried to destroy the truth and they are still doing that.

Thus began the story. The whole of the First Testament is His growing relationship with the people He loves. To get the people used to the idea of His wishes, He taught them, He started the Temple and all the sacrifices for sin so the people would understand.

The people continued to sin. The Lord sent them prophets to show them the error of their ways but they refused to listen. Time and time again He told them what He was going to do and yet they refused to listen.

He sent His Son, born of a virgin. Jesus came to show the people the Father, to teach them His ways, show them His love for them. They refused to see the truth, so locked in their sin, they didn't understand. He died on a cross for all of us, the one true sacrifice for our Sin. In that one act He redeemed all of mankind. Now when the Father looks at us He sees His Holy Son and we are restored to Him. It is not a blanket approval. It requires something of us.

The only way to the Father is thru the Son. The only way to the Father is to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Scripture is very clear about this. (*John 14:6*) "Jesus said to him [Thomas] I am the way the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me."

So now I ask again, what is a Christian? Do you know that you are a Christian? Have you repented of your sin and asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? Until you do, you are not a Christian and you will not spend Eternity in Heaven. Even the most exemplary of humans who do not accept Jesus as Lord, will spend eternity in unending agony.

This decision must be made on this side of the grave; there will be no second chance, no other way to come to Him. This life here is the kindergarten of Eternity, the preparation time, the time to come to Him, accept Him, learn of Him. Before you there are only two choices. Accept Him or by default you deny Him and suffer the consequences. Do you understand what Jesus did for you, that when the Father looks at your blackened soul what He sees is His Beloved Son and that makes it possible for you to come to the Father.

It is impossible for any of us to save ourselves, redeem ourselves. Only Jesus can do that. We will always win when we do things God's way; we will always lose if we do things our own way.

There is no middle ground. You either serve our Lord or you serve Satan.

Are there any of you who are not sure that you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and would like to do that now?

Dear Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner and I need a Savior. I ask your Forgiveness for my Sin and I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

Nothing is wasted . . .

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business.

The problem is that most people who write about this stuff today are still stuck in making categories and analyses, when what we need to do is to get people to stop categorizing and analyzing. Ultimately, silence is not about the presence or absence of noise but a receding of boundaries.

I can give you an example from everyday life of how this unfolding truth notion works (remembering, of course, that everything we say about God is metaphorical if not a lie!). Because of a number of external pressures, I have had a very difficult winter with a lot of internal negativity, fairly continual, even losing the will to live; I knew the only thing that would save me was the discipline of being in the library when it opened at 9 AM and staying until 2 every single day—my digs are not conducive to work. Even if I just sat there taking abuse from the demons, as the late antique monks would put it, I still came in everyday, although I was able to work through all the static to a certain extent, and actually made quite a bit of progress.

Shortly after term started, a lovely man began to come in most mornings at 10. He was in his 50s, not tall, slightly rotund, small trimmed beard, beautiful expression, very focused. I was amazed at the sureness with which he went to the shelves and pulled down what he needed (Duke Humfeys is a very confusing part of the library and after years I am still learning where things are). After he left (which he normally did at lunchtime for an hour or so) I would sometimes go to the shelves to see what he was reading, because it was clear that he was a medievalist.

Most everyone who comes into this most ancient part of the library is very contained, and there is an etiquette that unless you are greeting a long-lost friend or working with a student, there is no eye-contact. But one morning after about six weeks I happened to look up as he came in and he nodded good morning.

There was no further exchange until one morning just before Christmas. The demons were worse than usual, and I was feeling very noisy indeed. Suddenly he was at my elbow, smiling down at me, and saying, "I just want to tell you that you have been the still point of my sabbatical, and I hope very much that you will be here when I come back." He went on a bit about how my presence had facilitated his work. Turns out he is the head of a world-class library.

As far as I was concerned, he might as well have been an angel of God, and who knows, maybe he was. I nearly fell out of my chair from shock, and after thanking him and, laughing, telling him that he couldn't have said anything nicer as I am a professed solitary, we parted. But I continued to chuckle to myself in a rather rueful way, because all term I had felt anything but still and silent, much less giving out vibes that might help someone else!

This is a small example what I mean by the unfolding truth of the self that we can never know. If I'd been self-consciously trying to be a still point for someone ("ministry", a word and concept we need to get rid of for precisely the reasons I'm describing here) the vibes would have been dreadful. But God, if you will, preoccupied me with all this darkness, and the struggle to work in spite of it, so that the silence of accumulated years could emerge without any interference from "me" and help this other scholar with his work.

It's also an example of why it is so dangerous to talk about true and false selves or even "good" and "bad"—these judgements are not for us to make. Who knows why I have these attacks; and how can I call them "good" or "evil" when something far beyond my knowledge was going on to benefit someone else? I know better than to say they are part of my self or my truth; this is not my business. Perhaps God knew on this occasion that just this once I needed a reminder; otherwise our self-consciousness would ruin God's work if we knew what was being done through us. The importance of refraining from judgement is also applicable to the tragedies in our lives, which are often woven (but not always) into a creative and blessed pattern we can only realize in retrospect.

And further, I think that trying to nail our selves to any mast, true, false, enneagram, Myers-Briggs, just makes the spiritual task harder and, worse, grooves more deeply and in the wrong way the very problems and wounds that we are trying to allow God to heal or work on. Listening to the Lenten liturgy, one can hear the 11th century pasted awkwardly over the early liturgies to forge an inherent contradiction: "Repent" means turn around and look at God, not pick narcissistically at your scabs. Only the face of God can heal us, and if it were our "default", the transfiguration of ourselves and one another would happen without any "programme" or imposed exercises. Julian of Norwich understands this supremely. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God [the face of God] and the rest will be added unto you." If we really understood how to do this, we would instinctively understand how to relate to each other, read the bible, make liturgies.

More and more I come back to just two phrases: "Sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything" and "Seek into the beholding." There is only a certain amount of thinking about the spiritual life that is useful; we have to commit to unknowing without in any way being anti-intellectual.

Seasons of Life . . .

wide as her smile; always attended the services at Denali Center (“*I need to take my Communion*” was the line); and left this World not afraid at all. St. Matthew’s filled to overflowing Monday, December 15th for her funeral, led by the rector, **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, and assisted by **Shirley Lee**. Her final service and burial followed the next day at home again in Circle.

Thursday morning, December 18th, 89 years old **Effie Ned Williams** (“*Yets’enolo-eeino*”) passed away here in Fairbanks. Born and raised in Allakaket, and a lifelong resident there and in the surrounding area, Effie married her husband of 73 years – **William Williams**, who survives her - in 1935. During the course of her life she served on the St. John’s Church committee, Altar Guild, and taught Sunday School. She went fire-fighting; and raced dogs; and quietly sewed and raised their children and taught them what is True and Right. She is survived, along with her husband William, by sons **Edison** and **Daniel Glenn**; daughters **Velma Schaefer**, **Julia Simon**, **Linda Demientieff**, and **Sharon Williams**; their families; and many many more. Saturday, December 20th St. Matthew’s filled for her funeral, led by the rector. In quiet solemn tribute, a moose walked through the Churchyard. Her final service and burial followed at home in Allakaket the following Monday (*which was also her granddaughter Whitney’s 21st birthday*).

Tragically on Christmas morning, Thursday, December 25th, 23 years old **Vaughn Kozevnikoff** died here in Fairbanks. The son of **Cheryl** and **Cliff Lewis**, Vaughn attended schools in Fairbanks, Nenana, and Galena; and had attended Sheldon Jackson College. He loved playing basketball, played in all of the tournaments, and was on the winning team during the Thanksgiving Tournament. During the Summer, there was firefighting. He’s survived by his parents, his sister **Tatiana** and his brother **Bryon**; his grandparents **Lou Ann Stickman**, **Amy Blakely**, and **Tod** and **Eileen Kozevnikoff**; and many other family members and friends. With ravens flying overhead and ice fog rising in -40 temperatures, St. Matthew’s filled past overflowing for his funeral Friday, January 2nd; with the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, and the **Rev. Bella Jean Savino** leading the service. Burial, which included a basketball in tribute to friendship, followed atop Birch Hill Cemetery.

Thursday, January 8th, 70 years old **Edward Warner Smagge II** passed away at home here in

Fairbanks, with his wife for 44 years Bonnie beside him. Born in Koyukuk, and adopted by **the Rev. Edmond** and **Lyllis Smagge**, who were missionaries in the area, he graduated from Palmer High School, served in the Army in Germany and, met and married **Bonnie Smallcanyon** while attending School in Dallas. He brought her back to Alaska in -50 weather. In Fairbanks he worked for Santa’s Bakery, Star Sanitation, and Fountainhead Development. A dedicated husband and father, he’s survived by Bonnie, their daughters **Beccy** and **Colleen**, their son **Edward III**; and their families (*his young grandson Walter Edward was baptized here February 1st*); his siblings **Angie Galbraith**, **Johnny Evans**, **James Honea**, **Annie Honea**, and **Mary Jane Schultz**; and many friends. The David Salmon Tribal Hall filled to capacity Wednesday, January 14th for his funeral, led by the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, and **Shirley Lee**.

Quietly on Sunday morning (*of course, what more natural time to meet God*), January 18th, 92 years old **Evelyn Alexander** of Minto died in Denali Center. Born in Old Minto to **Little Charlie** and **Agnes Charlie** on Christmas Day, she was raised traditionally, and lived all of her life passing those traditions on to others. Married in 1935 by **Bishop Bentley** to **Jim Alexander** of Nenana, they raised their family in Old Minto. Always active and deeply faithful (“*Alleluia*”, *she would pray at Denali, when receiving Communion*), she was known Statewide for her skills, and knowledge, and singing, and composing; and was honored by both Doyon and AFN as “Elder of the Year”. She was the health aide in Minto before there were Health aides and, as a midwife, delivered over 67 babies in Minto and the surrounding camps (*Instinctively, when Cassidy cried at her baptism at Denali on December 23rd – see above; Gran’ma Evelyn reached for her*). She’s survived by her daughter **Florine** and son **Glenn**, her daughter-in-law **Martha**, and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, many others; and all of us who ever heard her sitting there on the floor at a Potlatch singing. St. Matthew’s overflowed for her funeral service Wednesday, January 21st, led by **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, **the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor**, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, **the Rev. Bella Jean Savino**, and the rector. Her final service and burial followed at Home in Minto Saturday, January 24th.

Tuesday morning, January 20th, 73 years old **Allen John (Joel Nicholi)** passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. He had quietly walked over there Monday, without telling anyone, not wanting to bother anyone. That’s the way he was – walking (*more than once he WALKED from Fairbanks home to Stevens Village when he got tired of waiting for the planes or weather*) and not bothering

Seasons of Life . . .

anyone or wanting a fuss. Born in Tanana, but adopted into the John family of Stevens Village at a young age (and he would not find out he was a Nicholi until he checked his birth records in later years, hence the two names). Allen attended Mt. Edgecumbe, served with the National Guard, lived a traditional life in Stevens Village . . . and made (in the rector's opinion) the best Moosehead Soup in the Interior. He was a friend [See Fr. Steve's remarks elsewhere in this Newsletter] and deeply faithful, deeper than many might have thought. When in Fairbanks, he always attended Church, sitting quietly in the back, unable to hear audibly a thing. He's survived by his siblings **Harry** and **Agnes Nicholi**; and numerous nieces and nephews; and all of us he was a friend to. Friday, January 23rd, St. Matthew's overflowed for his funeral, led by the rector, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, and **the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor**. His childhood friend, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, flew over to Stevens Village the following day for his final service and burial.

Quietly late Friday morning, January 30th, longtime Denali Center resident, 78 years old **Jeffrey Adams** passed away, with his family beside him. Born in Stevens Village to the late David and Ellen Adams, and raised there; Jeffrey (known as "Stumpy") lived a traditional lifestyle; and became a master carpenter and woodworker. There was a time when he was one of the few people in the Interior still making snowshoes and canoes in the traditional way. He was a good friend, and a loving and caring Father and Grandfather. He's survived by his son **Thomas**; his Grandchildren **Jeffrey**, **Ben**, **Frank**, **Katheryn**, and **Chelsea**; and all of us who enjoyed his company and friendship. In -40 temperatures, St. Matthew's filled for his funeral Tuesday, February 3rd. The service was led by the rector and **the Rev. Helen Peters**. His final service and burial, led by the rector (who watched bunny rabbits scampering all over the country), was held at home in Stevens Village Thursday, February 5th.

Early that Thursday morning, February 5th, as the sun was rising, 80 years old **Caroline Sarah Fee** peacefully passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. Born in Moosehide, Canada, and raised in Eagle Village and the mining camp at Cold Creek, Caroline was educated at a boarding school Outside and lived for many years here in Fairbanks. A beloved Aunt to many, she was deeply faithful, attending St. Matthew's for years when able; and that faith, underneath her quiet voice, gave her a sense of determination and strength in the last months of her illness. Caroline is survived by her

daughter **Gloria Richards** of Arizona (who lovingly cared for her mother these last months); two granddaughters, 5 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews (including **Isaac Juneby**, whom she waited to see before leaving), and many more. St. Matthew's filled for her funeral Saturday morning, February 7th; the service being led by the rector, with assistance from **Shirley Holmberg**. Her burial service (as she directed) will be this Spring on Birch Hill.

Sunday morning then, February 8th, 69 years old **John Mark George** passed away in Denali Center, where he had been resident the last several months. Born and raised in Stevens Village, John graduated from Mt. Edgecombe, received training in both Chicago and Seward; and also attended flight school for two years. He always advised youth "Stay in school and get your education". He served over ten years with the Alaska National Guard. John's passion was his bass guitar; and he played music with friends around the State, from Anchorage to Anaktuvak Pass. Once John moved into Denali, musicians and family regularly came by to visit. John always had a smile of friendship for everyone. He's survived by his children **Vincent** and **Darwin George**; numerous brothers and sisters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and more. Thursday, February 12th, the David Salmon Tribal Hall filled for his funeral service, led by **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, **the Rev. Bessie Titus**, and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**. His final service, led by **Archdeacon Anna Frank**, and burial was held at home in Stevens Village the following day. (And John's service at home was the 3rd burial service in Stevens Village in 3 weeks).

As the new Day began, and Midnight turned into Friday, March 6th, 88 years old **Thelma Margaret Kahl**, with family beside her, quietly passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. Born in Arizona, and raised in California, Thelma had worked at everything from waitressing to welding by the time she arrived in Alaska in 1956. She and her husband **Howard "Swede" Kahl** arrived in Fairbanks in 1958; and never left. They homesteaded 33 miles on the Nenana Highway, raising children, grandchildren, a pony that liked to chase cars, and running a gas station and quick stop store. Following her husband's death in 1978, she moved into town, worked for a number of years at the Hospital, and later moved out to Badger Road, raising more grandchildren. She had lived at the Pioneers Home since 2003. She's survived by her three children — **Marjorie Murphy**, **Phillip Kahl**, and **Judy Bowman**; 7 Grandchildren (including once-upon-a-time St. Matthew's Vestrymember and Sunday School Director **Kathleen Blades**, whose arrival from Washington Thelma waited for);

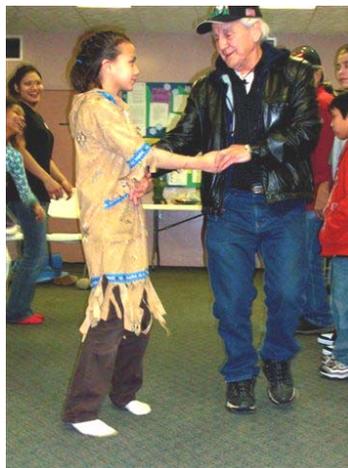
Seasons of Life . . .

10 great grandchildren; and **Konner** the great great grandson. Monday afternoon, March 9th the gathering room at the Pioneer Home filled for her service, led by the rector. The service began with grandchildren reciting the prayer they'd learned from their Grandmother – “*Now I lay me down to sleep*” in Swedish. When the service concluded, Granddaughter Kathleen quietly placed a lounging teddy bear on the lectern and pressed its paw . . . and a voice began singing “*Don't worry; be happy*”. And the singing wrapped a smile around all of the Good memories and stories filling the room.

Tuesday, March 10th, 76 years old **Pamela Ann Huraux-Peterson** passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. Born and raised in Washington, Pam arrived in Alaska with her husband **Charles Huraux** and their 4 children. Following his death, she married **Rand Peterson** in 1983 and they worked together helping others – from the Special Olympics Equestrian Team to starting what is now known as the Tanana Valley Farmers Market. Her husband Rand survives her, as does her son **Michael**, and daughters **Deirdre** and **Yvonne “Cheri”**. Family and friends gathered in the St. Matthew's Parish Hall Saturday, March 14th for a “*Memorial Wake*”; and the rector led prayers and a Blessing beforehand. Shortly before Pamela's “*Wake*”, the rector had met with **Howard Luke** in the Sanctuary, to record prayers for the death of his great niece, who had died that week Outside. Recovering from recent surgery, Howard would be unable to attend her funeral and hoped, through the taped prayers, to signify his love for the family.

Throughout this time, there were other deaths that necessarily affected the family of St. Matthew's. To mention only a few: 82 years old

Madeline Bergman Bifelt (“*Heghon'ghedaatino Yeega*”) of Huslia died January 13th, and her funeral was held there January 15th; our 79 years old friend **Arthur “Bill” Clark** died in Portland, Oregon January 17th, and there will be a service here in Fairbanks this Spring; 59 years old **Walter James Wilcox** of Galena died January 21st, and his funeral was held at All Saints Church in Anchorage January 24th; 37 years old **Michael Kurtis Tanner** died in Anchorage January 23rd, and his funeral was held at the David Salmon Tribal Hall January 28th; 61 years old **Jock “Blue”**



Chute died in Rampart January 22nd, and his funeral was held there January 27th; and finally 105 years old **Benny Albert** died at home in Nenana January 30th. His funeral was held there February 5th, with burial atop Toghotthele.

And then there was 70 years old **Florence Belle Johnson** of Tok and Eagle, who died February 10th; and 63 years old VietNam veteran **Harry Silas Alexander**, who died February 13th and was buried February 17th in Chitina; and 48 years old **Johnny G. Madros** of Kaltag, who died February 17th and whose funeral was there February 25th. And **the Rev. Robert Young**, rector of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Eagle River, died Thursday, March 6th. His funeral service will be March 28th at All Saints Episcopal Church in Anchorage.

There were others, of course – pets and friends and family members. Each of whom touched our lives in their own way; each of whom we will carry until we meet on that Easter shore.

Pot-Bangings, Burning Trees, Dropping Temperatures, etc.

And through it all, snow fell and fell (*including one day in early March that set records for the heaviest snowfall since 1970*); and through it all temperatures dropped and dropped; but we persevered with God's Grace – banging pots on December 21st to chase away the Darkness (*which worked; we've been gaining Daylight ever since*) and burning Christmas trees January 5th in -50 weather to bring Spring (*hmmmmmm, to date a less successful venture*). At least three new Adventures began this Winter. On Saturday afternoons **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino** and **Pete Peters** of Dancing with the Spirit lead classes for youth (*and anybody else interested*) in the Duck Dance and other Traditional Gwitch'in Dances. This Program has drawn local and national attention in newspapers. Thursday evenings, to help get through the Darkest part of the Winter, organist **Laura Vines** suggested a Cabin Fever University – and that brought folks together singing and watching movies and sewing. And Friday nights a St. Matthew's Youth Group meets, with **Gregg Eschright** and **Sue Englebrecht's** help, to eat popcorn and watch movies too.

And someplace someone is wrapping themselves in a St. Matthew's Prayer Shawl, to be reminded that they are loved. And ever so slowly the Light grows. Irrevocably.

**SUMMARY of the
JANUARY - MARCH
2009 VESTRY
MEETINGS**



Howard, Ray Cockerille, Karen Kiss, Charlene Marth, Arlie Nethken, Marty Thomas; Irene Todd; John Parsons, and the rector. Following an Opening Prayer at 5:10PM, and some juggling of agenda because of John Parsons's class schedule, the

JANUARY

The first meeting of the new Vestry for 2009 was held Sunday, January 25th, immediately following, as required by the Parish By-Laws, the Annual Meeting for the Parish. Present for the meeting were: the rector, **Roxy Wright, Charlene Marth, Marty Thomas,** and **Helen Howard** (as *continuing* vestry members); and **Karen Kiss, John A. Parsons, Arlie Nethken,** and **Irene Todd** (as *new* vestry members).

The rector opened the meeting with prayer, and passing out copies of the Church By-Laws and the Griese/Bigelow history of St. Matthew's. The following actions were then taken:

1. In keeping with the Church Bylaws, the rector announced his appointment of **Roxy Wright** as Senior Warden. The Vestry then selected **Helen Howard** as Vestry Clerk. The selection of Junior Warden was then tabled until the next meeting.
2. The just-finished Annual Meeting directed the Vestry to form a Task Force to focus on young families and draw in more children to the Sunday School. **Irene Todd** will be the Vestry representative on the Task Force and those who spoke at the Annual Meeting, will be asked to serve. There will be announcements soliciting further volunteers; and the Vestry will provide a TimeLine and direction.
3. The rector will be gone February 8th through 23rd, to see his wife for Valentine's Day.
4. **Carolyn Nethken** will be asked to continue serving as Parish Treasurer.
5. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Monday, February 2nd at 4:45PM. At that meeting the Junior Warden and Endowment Board representative will be chosen; and the Parish Nursery will be discussed.

FEBRUARY

The Vestry of St. Matthew's met Monday, February 2nd for the regular monthly meeting. Present were **Senior Warden Roxy Wright, Vestry Clerk Helen**

following actions were discussed or taken:

1. To accommodate John's schedule, the next meeting will be scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 5:30PM.
2. The Minutes of meetings on January 19th and 25th were accepted.
3. **Karen Kiss** accepted a nomination to be the Vestry representative on the St. Matthew's Endowment Board; and to serve as Junior Warden this year.
4. In **Treasurer Carolyn Nethken's** absence, the rector introduced and explained the Financial Reports for the Church, noting that January 2009 Budgeted Operating Income totaled \$24,630 and January 2009 Budgeted Operating Expenses totaled \$24,659. This resulted in a Budgeted Operating Surplus/Deficit of -\$29. The much higher than usual income for January was noted. The imagination and hard work of **former Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah** towards this Goal was noted. In further discussion, the rector noted that St. Matthew's has no Memorial Gift Policy, though previous vestries had worked on one.
5. As a further introduction to Vestry Life, the rector explained the 80-20 Congregational Church Laws ("The Pareto Principle"); and gave a Summary of Church Events and Dynamics as he understands them. The need for Long Range Planning was discussed; and possible facilitators for a Vestry Planning Weekend in May will be explored.
6. **Irene Todd** and **Senior Warden Roxy Wright** will begin planning a possible FundRaiser in mid March.
7. There was discussion about the Clergy Tax situation and the Housing Allowance; and it was voted to donate to St. Jude's/North Pole from our Operations Reserve Account \$1000 to help with their Emergency Heating and Plumbing situation.

(Continued on page 27)

Summary of Vestry Minutes . . .

8. There was discussion about the Parish Nursery; and **Irene Todd** will begin contacting members for the Task Force on Young Families. The faithful ministry of Nursery Care Attendant **Millie Ambrose** was noted and appreciated.
9. There was discussion about the Damp Shelter needs, planning for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and **Assisting Bishop Rustin Kimsey's** visit to St. Matthew's February 8th.
10. The meeting then adjourned at 7:35PM

March

The Vestry of St. Matthew's met Monday, March 9th for their regular meeting, with the following present: **Senior Warden Roxy Wright; Junior Warden Karen Kiss; Charlene Marth; John Parsons; Arlie Nethken; Irene Todd; Martha Thomas; Vestry Clerk Helen Howard; Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken;** and the rector. After an Opening Prayer by the Senior Warden, the following actions were discussed or taken:

1. February minutes were accepted, as presented.
2. **Treasurer Carolyn Nethken** presented the Financial Reports, noting that February 2009 Budgeted Operating Income totaled \$14,242 (*Year to Date \$38,872*) and February 2009 Budgeted Operating Expenses totaled \$25,294 (*Year to Date \$49,953*). This resulted in a Budgeted Operating Surplus/Deficit for February of - \$11,052; and a **Year to Date Deficit of - \$11,081**. The monthly expenses involved some quarterly insurance payments; hence the increase. The Reports were accepted.
3. There was discussion about the March 17th Fundraiser @ the Tribal Hall; and another planning meeting is scheduled for March 11th.
4. Further plans were made for a possible Planning weekend in May; and there was discussion about the donation to St. Jude's; and the success of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
5. There was a wide ranging discussion on the Annual Meeting Call for a Task Force, the Nursery and Sunday School programs, young

6. **Karen Kiss** reported on the recent Endowment Board meeting; and there was discussion about some minor church repairs.
7. **Irene Todd** gave an excellent and comprehensive report on the recently concluded Interior Deanery meeting; and there was discussion about the Bishop Search process.
8. The rector reported on his recent adventures; the announced Closing of the Stone Soup Café at the end of March; and various other needs - Vacation Bible School teachers, visiting Lay Eucharistic Ministers; those interested in Prison ministry.
9. Official correspondence from the Diocese was read and discussed, including the call for a Parish Disaster Relief plan.
10. There was a closing discussion summarizing "definable goals" from the meeting and, with the decision to hold the next meeting Tuesday, April 7th at 5PM (*with Karen Kiss and Charlene Marth leading the opening and closing prayers*), the meeting ended with a Closing Prayer led by **Helen Howard** from the Gregorian Missal.



IT'S SPRING.....and there are CARNIVALS

When the excitement of Winter Carnival ends in Fairbanks, after meetings and dances and finally the North American Dog-races, all of the excitement shifts to our neighboring communities. Nearly every village holds a Spring Carnival in the following weeks . . . and YOU are invited. Here are details on three of them.



The BEAVER SPRING CARNIVAL will be Friday, March 27th into Sunday, March 29th; and is "dedicated to our musicians - Past, Present Future, with a special mention to the Rev. Belle Mickelson (of "Dancing with the Spirit") and her son Mike". There will be everything from Bubble Gum contests to wood sawing and chopping; from tea making to snow shoe races, from target shooting to basketball.... and MORE. And a Potlatch and a Dance (or two or three).

The MINTO SPRING CARNIVAL and **MINTO FLATS SHOOTOUT XIII** will be Thursday, April 9th into Saturday, April 11th. "Come on over to Minto and enjoy the activities and then join us Sunday morning for Easter Service at the Worship center. Annual village Picnic out the road afterwards weather permitting."

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

O Ye Frost and Cold

Address Service Requested*

April 3, 2009

***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.