

O Ye Frost and Cold

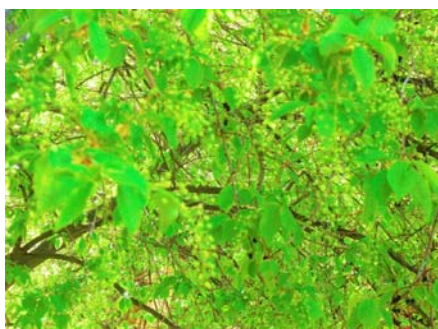
Volume 106, Issue No. 1

Published 3 times a year

January—May 2010

“. . . God be with the Clown – who ponders this tremendous scene-
This whole Experiment of Green –“–Emily Dickinson

“The King said to his servants, "It is time for THE WEDDING
BANQUET. . . “[Matthew 22:8]



Chalice of Grass Paten of Sky

Asparagus; Electric
Lime; Fern; Forest
Green; Granny Smith
Apple; Inchworm; Jungle
Green; Magic Mint;
Mountain Meadow;
Olive Green; Screamin'

Green; Sea Green; Shamrock; Spring Green; Yellow Green;
Polished Pine; Shiny Shamrock; Wintergreen Dream;
Eucalyptus; Lime; Emerald; Jade; Caribbean Green Pearl;
Ocean Green Pearl; Illuminating Emerald; Metallic Seaweed;
Sheen Green; Alien Armpit; Slimy Green; Green Lizard;
Amazon Rain Forest; Spring Frost; Aqua Green; Guppie
Green; Jade Green; Green-Blue; Lime Green; Electric Green;
Dollar Bill; Pine Green; Yellow Green; UFO Green; T shirt
Green; Fairy Tales Forest.

These are the names of the 44 different varieties of Green
in the World of Crayola.

There are at least this many varieties of Green, if not more,
in front of me, as I sit on the backsteps on an early May
weekday morning.

I am no longer looking at white snow lying silent against
cold dark trees.

I am looking at small birds scampering and joggers jogging
and river flowing and the World FILLING with AN INFINITE
CASCADING VARIETY of GREEN.

We are a long ways a-way from November or February and
the Darkness and the Snow. We are a Resurrection past it. The
incessant robin up there is only singing Easter anthems that
began with Barbara Hameister’s “Exsultet” Easter Night; that
flow of Riverwater began with the chorus of Baptismal water

That Night; and all of this Light around us, prayed for with
banged pots and burning Christmas greens, was heralded in
with the Paschal Candle Paul Noecker carried That Night.
This – all of This Color and Movement and Music and Light
and LIFE – is the Season of Easter, breaking open like a
colored egg and spilling the surprise of Spring all around us.

“The Lord will provide” promised Ancient Abraham to his
only son on that distant mountain of Genesis 22. “K'eegwaadhat
diik'eehahtyaa” (“God will take care of us”) is the ancient prayer of
faith in this Land. And so He does, always and always. [So often
the stories, the young men going out to get a moose for the funeral
potlatch. And always they do; always they do.]

Just when the Death of Winter had hung on too long, ohhh
too long, he gives us this Easter Gift Springing into Green
Summer. He lays before us this Banquet of Summer, as varied
as the continual Feast going on in the St. Matthew’s Parish Hall
Sunday mornings – moose soup and caribou soup and spaghetti
and salads and sheep and cakes and French toast.

And more. Wonders upon wonders. A covered dish
parable of the continuous Easter Banquet.

What can we do, except live gratefully? What can we do,
except what our Mothers taught us? What can we do, except
say “Thank You”?

What can we do, except raise chalice and paten (“. . . and
offering to you, from all the gifts you have given us, this bread and
this cup”)?

And in that Chalice swirls all of this Season’s love – singing
robins and boat rides and wedding dresses and shining salmon
and persistent mosquitoes and children bicycling and building
projects and Princess buses and infinitely colored flowers and
the blankets of green grass;

and upon that Paten lies SummerBlueSkies and puffyclouds
and nightsofLight. [“I hope”, said the father this Spring, “I hope
my children realize how much I have loved them.” And I told him,
“They do.”]

'You want to know our Lord's meaning . . . ? Know it well: love was
His meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did He show you?
Love. Why did He show it? For love. . . You will not know or learn
anything else ever!'

[Dame Julian of Norwich, 14th century. Feast Day May 8th]

Inside This Issue:

8th Bishop of Alaska	Pg 4	BOOOYAAA!!!	Pg 12
Seasons of Life	Pg 6	Vestry Retreat	Pg 16
Summer Events	Pg 11	Vestry Minutes	Pg 25

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

THE SOUND
of WINTER
VOICES
SPRINGING



We are sitting outside in the Dark of Winter, bundled against the Cold; and here come the People of God, singing Christmas Carols, into a Night of Light. We are sitting outside in the Darkening Winter, and pots are being banged. We are sitting Outside, wondering if it is EVER going to snow, and the People of God are passing by, telling stories, grieving, laughing, and into the Country of Easter, into a New Bishop, into SPRING.

. . . said to me, "Those are the kind of fat cells I like to see".

My Goodness! You look like a Rie Munoz print!

I just can't get into it this year. I walk into stores and just turn around and walk out. I'm just trying to get to the Midnight Christmas Eve Service; and then I'm done.

I'm ALWAYS cold when I come to Fairbanks. Back home, you dress and you go out. Here, you're in and out, in and out; and I NEVER get warm.

I was at home - Old Minto - when that big earthquake hit. Back in the Sixties. We were all watching a movie and then Berkman Silas came in - he was the projectionist- and stopped the movie and said, "There's been some bad news out of Anchorage. An earthquake. We don't know if anybody's hurt or not yet". So we all left and went home and started foolin' around with our radios - those little transistors, remember them?

Back home, when the wind was blowing right, we'd go out and stand on the edge of the cliff, and puff our jackets out behind, you know, and then . . . jump. That Wind would just blow us right back up on the cliff. Worked . Most of the time.

an apology.

This is the "January- February- March -April -May" issue of the Newsletter. Or, it's the "Epiphany -Lent-Easter- Pentecost" issue of the Newsletter. In any case, this is the FIRST St. Matthew's Newsletter of 2010. For which we apologize.

We didn't mean for this to happen, but it did. For a variety of reasons.

We hope the next Newsletter is not delayed so long. In the meantime, there is a weekly, sometimes almost daily, mailing called "This Week at St. Matthew's", tracking events through the week, at St. Matthew's and throughout the immediate region. It is usually available on the St. Matthew's website (www.stmatthewschurch.org); or can be mailed directly to you. Simply send your email address to the Church Office (sfisher@mosquitonet.com), and we'll add you to the List.

Again, apologies from the Church Office.

ANY MEMORIES & STORIES of
WALTER & LOUISE HANNUM ?

The Rev. Walter Hannum, and his wife Louise served the Church in Alaska for many years - Tanana, Fort Yukon, the Arctic Coast, etc. - from the 1950s through the 1970s. There are **MANY** stories and memories of them. They left Alaska, and went on to the Fuller School of World Mission in California, and eventually to found the New Wineskins Missionary Network (the resurrected ECMC - Episcopal Church Missionary Community). Their lives and ministry have inspired many - both here in Alaska, and around the world.

One of those they inspired was the Rev. Dr. Andrew Swamidoss. He studied with them at Fuller, later founded Yavatmal College for Leadership Training (*to train Indian missionaries*) with Walter and Louise's help and inspiration, and now directs the India Graduate School of Missiology. He is writing a book about the Hannums and would love to use your photos, anecdotes, etc. He writes: "I would like friends and well-wishers of Walter and Louise Hannum to send me anecdotes concerning their interaction with them or contacts with them. I am working on a printed book about them. Please ask them to send photographs taken with Walter and Louise and share their thoughts about them also with me along these lines: 1. Walter and Louise's life; 2. How have they influenced your life (e.g. I was serving the Lord as a professor of New Testament and it is Walter and Louise who influenced me so I left the seminary and have become a missionary trainer. I remember Walter speaking on the importance of specialized training needed for the missionaries and saying in a thundering voice "The 747 Pilot cannot be the captain of a nuclear submarine!"); 3. How their writings changed your thought processes; 4. How ECMC has changed your life during their leadership; 5. Their leadership abilities; vision, commitment; passion for missions, missionary training, influencing church leadership, for India or other countries etc. Actually the list is endless. You can choose your own area! Thank you for your help in completing the book. In Christ's bonds, for the Great Commission, Andrew"

If you have stories to share, contact him at andrewswamidoss@yahoo.com.

Dream a little.

GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE – DEADLINE JUNE 30th



The Saint Matthew’s Endowment Board was established over 25 years ago; and one of its main goals is to distribute grants to individuals and organizations. The grants are distributed for projects that “*enhance the worship, ministry, and historic mission outreach of St. Matthew’s*” and are not otherwise covered by the St. Matthew’s Operating

Budget. This year the Endowment Board has **\$6920.00 to distribute in grants**. Grant application forms are available in the Church Office and Parish Hall; and soon will be on the St. Matthew’s Website (www.stmatthewchurch.org). Grant applications must be received in the Church Office by the close of business **Wednesday, June 30th**. The Grants are announced each year at the September St. Matthew’s Festival.

Last year \$6098.17 was distributed in grants. Recipients included (*from the Endowment Board’s Report for the January 2010 Annual Parish Meeting*) Dora Powell of Stevens Village, to cover the cost of songbooks for the church in Stevens Village and clergy travel there; Kathy Mackey of Fairbanks, to partially fund vestments and educational material in her monastic quest; R.J. Nelson of St. Mark’s/Nenana, to partially fund church furnishings & other material for St. Mark’s; the Rev. Belle Mickelson to help with “Dancing with the Spirit” funding; the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino for 3rd year EFM tuition; and 10% was placed in an account established by Dr. Wood for future St. Matthew’s land acquisitions.

Winter Voices Springing

I’m his GREAT Great Grandmother. Does this mean we’re getting old?

You know how, when you go Outside, you always hear people talk about “*Ancestral Native Burial Grounds*”? Ever notice they never say that HERE? So, where are OURS? Where are they? Where’d they put ‘em? EVERYWHERE! ALL OVER! It’s ALL HOLY GROUND.

They’re ALL Here, aren’t they? On Christmas Eve, they’re ALL HERE!

This is the first Christmas Eve service that I’ve ever been to. I don’t. . . I don’t know how I feel. OVERWHELMED.

This is the first Christmas Eve I’ve been to in 27 years. I feel, I feel *special* for that.

I just wanted to thank you - to thank you and everyone at St. Matthew’s. That was incredible: the Christmas Eve service, the Choir, and EVERYTHING. JUST INCREDIBLE. I’ll never, I’ll never be the same.

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	SEXTON	Michael “Tree” Nelson . . . 456-5217
	The Rev. Lee Davis 457-2865	ORGANIST	Laura Vines 452-4565
DEACONS	The Rev. Shirley Lee 452-3094	CHOIR DIRECTOR	Barbara Hameister 455-7397
	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503	ALTAR GUILD	Mary Johnston. 455-7245
	The Rev. Montie Slusher . . 474-4570	SUNDAY SCHOOL	Cathy Giacomazzi 479-7736
SENIOR WARDEN	Roxy Wright-Freedle.	HEALTH MINISTRY	Patty Meritt
JUNIOR WARDEN	Karen Kiss.	ENDOWMENT BOARD	Charlotte Perotti 457-1332
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	John Parsons.		
	Irene Todd.		
PARISH TREASURER	Carolyn Nethken 457-3304	MINISTERS	YOU US!!!

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 Diocesan Website: episcopalak.org

Winter Voices Springing

They're saying our winter took a vacation on the East Coast this year.

WHERE DO YOU PUT IT? WHERE DO YOU PUT YOUR SNOW, when it snows up there? We've run out of places to put it!

I'm just not in a very flowery mood at all.

I just got back from Missouri, getting medical treatment there. All THIS - from when I was in Iraq. But I'm going Home tomorrow - back up the Koyukuk. Back Home.

Ohhh, everybody knows. This is just the coolest Church in town.

It's a shame, isn't it? Christmas is so *special*, it's a shame that we can't keep that feeling going all year.

. . . walked right into the butt end of a moose last night. Wasn't watching where he was walking and BAM!

Soooo, we're wondering if this is a Quiet, or just the lull before the storm.

. . . I can see Death on people.

. . . and it brings out the color of your cheeks! AND YOU CAN PUT THAT I SAID THAT IN YOUR CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER!

You mean, it's in the PINK AISLES? You mean, I have to go down the PINK AISLES? I NEVER shop in the Pink Aisles. I just shop in the BLUE aisles.

. . . NO. No. I can't say THAT. What does IT mean? What does "Savior" mean?

I was ORDAINED when I was confirmed. I don't need to be ordained again.

There's no sense of sacrifice in what they're saying. No one wants to sacrifice anymore.

. . . and missing the things that I took just for granted for much too long.



THE VERY REV. MARK LATTIME will become the 8th BISHOP of ALASKA

In the early evening of Saturday, April 10th, the results of the 4th ballot were announced to the official delegates, and visitors and watchers and pray-ers of the Episcopal Church in Alaska, gathered at Meier Lake Conference Center outside of Wasilla

for the 35th Annual Convention of the Diocese. With 14 out of 25 clergy delegate votes cast, and 42 out of 75 lay delegate votes cast, the Very Rev. Mark Lattime of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Geneseo, New York became the one the Diocese was calling to be its 8th Bishop. He will succeed Bishop Mark MacDonald, who resigned in 2007.

There were four other candidates in the Search Process: The Rev. Canon Virginia "Ginny" Doctor, Alaska; The Rev. Dr. Greg Kimura, Alaska; The Very Rev. Timothy Sexton, Hawaii; and The Rev. Susan Watson, Connecticut.

Bishop-Elect Lattime is 43 years old and enjoys snowmobiling and flying (and the New York Mets). He is married to Lisa, and they have three children: Allison (16), David (15) and Jack (8). He has been rector at St. Michael's since 2000; and a college chaplain since 1997. He graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1988; and Bexley Hall Seminary in 1997. He has been a deputy to the national General Convention three times; and also serves in Genesco on the Library Board, and as an ambulance driver for the Fire Department. In the Summer of 2006, he spent several weeks in the Interior of Alaska – in Beaver, Tanacross, and Allakaket.

In the Bishop Search Process, he wrote that he was called "*to nourish Christ's people from the riches of His grace, and strengthen them to glorify God. As a priest and pilot, I seek to be an ambassador for Christ, supporting and sharing with others in witness and ministry for the Gospel of Christ.*"

A majority of the Standing Committees and a majority of the House of Bishops must give their consent to the Election, but the Consecration is currently scheduled for September 4th in Anchorage.

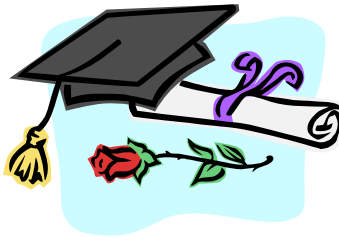
In a letter to the Alaskan clergy, Bishop-Elect Lattime wrote that his "*heart overflows with thanksgiving to God for the extraordinary gift to serve our Lord with you*"; and that he and Lisa were delighted. "*Listening to your voices and discerning with you the Spirit's direction for the Diocese of Alaska will be my first priority*". It's expected that they'll be moving up this Summer, after School ends.

And 101 years old Grandmother Hannah Solomon smiled and said, "*Finally, we have a Bishop.*"

2010 Graduates

Holy and Gracious Lord Jesus, Thou Wisdom from on High, for the Gift of all of those graduating this Season, and especially for those named below; we give You Thanks. Even as you have been with them, through classrooms and papers and early mornings and late nights; even as You have been with them, in the support of others around them; we pray that your Presence continues to abide with them, in new adventures and learnings, unto the End of the Ages. In Thy Name we pray. Amen.

TRENT ADAMS (High School, Cruikshank School, Beaver) . . . BETH ALEXANDER (High School, Minto Lakers, Minto) . . . LAUREN ANSAKNOK (High School) . . . BROOK BENDER (B.A., Western Washington University) . . . KEITH BILLY (High School, Cruikshank School, Beaver) . . . STEPHANIE BLUEKENS (High School, West Valley High School, Fairbanks) . . . JULIA PAGE BRICE . . . BITTNER BROOKS (High School, Hutchinson, Fairbanks) . . . WILLIAM CARNEY (High School, Arctic Village) . . . CHELSEA (A.A.S., UAF) . . . MATTHEW STEVEN JOSEPH CROW (High School, Hutchinson, Fairbanks) . . . SANDY CUMMINGS (graduating/retiring from Teaching!) . . . DENISE (A.A.S., UAF) . . . EMILY FRANK (High School, Minto Lakers, Minto) . . . LaPRENZA LEE FRANK (High School, Minto Lakers, Minto) . . . BRUCE GADWAH (Education for Ministry, St. Matthew's) . . . CAROL HOLZ (M.B.A., UAF) . . . GEORGEJEAN JIMMIE (High School, Minto Lakers, Minto) . . . MINNIENEA JIMMIE (High School, Minto Lakers, Minto) . . . CHRISTIN PAGE LEE (High School, Effie Kokrine Charter School) . . . LISA (B.A., UAF) . . . TYLER LOUD (High School, Lathrop High, Fairbanks) . . . SANDRA MADISON (A.A.S., Tanana Valley Community College/UAF) . . . BONNIE MARSH (Education for Ministry, St. Matthew's) . . . RAYMOND PITKA JR (High School, Hutchinson, Fairbanks) . . . ANTOINETTE "NAZHUU" ROBERTS (UAF) . . . BARUCH SOUPANAVONG (A.A., Anchorage) . . . KYLE STARK (High School, North Pole High School) . . . PAULINE WILSON (Education for Ministry, St. Matthew's) . . . TRISTA SAUNDERS WILSON (B.A., UAF) . . . ELEANOR WIRTZ (M.B.A., UAF) . . . ROBERT WRIGHT JR (High School, Tanana City School, Tanana) . . . and all of the others, near and far.



Winter Voices Springing

I don't think I'm EVER going to be warm.

I haven't watched football since . . . since I've given my heart to Jesus.

Of course we can do it. We're GWITCH'IN, aren't we?

If it wasn't for this place, I never would have gotten the chance to know someone like that.

. . . and he always made the BEST Clam Chowder.

. . . loves St. Matthew's and all that happens here, but ever since that funeral, he can't come in here without remembering; so he hardly ever comes any more.

If they took away our carving knives, our hands would be fists.

It's a SURPRISE and it's a BUMMER, but we have to take what happens.

That passage - Isaiah 6 - happened to me once. I was asleep and there was a knock at the door and there was . . . a seraph there. He came in and touched my mouth and . . .

So many. So many, dying.

. . . couldn't decide who to vote for, so I took their pictures all over to [local bar], and pinned them up by the dartboard, and closed my eyes, and threw a dart. Hit him right in the middle of the nose. So he gets my vote.

I've never been to a service like that. It was kindof like, kindof like a Real Life Veggie Tales movie.

Services here, services here are really CATHOLIC, aren't they? You're more Catholic than the Catholics over there across the River.

OH NO! JESUS DIED! WHAT EVER SHALL WE DO? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW? OHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH NOOOOOOOOOOOO. [wailing, then] I'm going to give Him my blue car so He'll feel better.

SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE

An Anonymous Memory of Past Bishops

March 10th

One Of My Earliest Memories of past bishops was when Bishop Gordon brought his cute son to [our village] and all us teenage girls could do is stare at him. Make this ANONYMOUS!

Winter Voices Springing

You're really Pretty Traditional, aren't you?

Is your Church having Easter services this year?

I don't KNOW who to vote for. I like them ALL. Can't we just vote for ALL of them?

Okay. I've been praying and thinking and studying. And my choice for the next Bishop is . . .

God told me. God told me that the next Bishop is going to be [X].

God told me. God told me that the next Bishop is going to be [Y].

God told me. God told me that the next Bishop is going to be [Z].

God told me. God told me that the next Bishop is going to be [A].

God told me. God told me that the next Bishop is going to be [B].

You have A Bishop.

. . . and I swore I wasn't going to get into another relationship, and yet . . .

. . . left part of my heart and soul up there in Alaska.

Ohhhh, he was always the One that I thought should be Bishop.

God DOES love us - it's SPRING!

. . . getting worried because last year, every place along the Yukon River except US got flooded. So we're wondering if THIS YEAR that means. . .

The one thing I really worry about, all I really worry about is. . . . Do my kids know how much I've loved them? Do they really know that? They're GREAT. GREAT kids.

. . . believed that Birch Trees had Power. They bring Peace and Calmness. So they would go camp in Birch trees when . . .

I'm working for HOMELAND SECURITY? Isn't that just, just STRANGE?

through All The Seasons of Life

From **Tuesday, December 8th** and the Second Week of Advent, with disappearing temperatures and daylight; into **Sunday, May 2nd** and the Season of Easter; through the **145 days** from Darkest Winter to geese flying and the Edge of Summer; through nearly half of the Seasons of the Church Year and yet always ALL the Seasons of Life; we have gathered and prayed together at least **445 times**. An accounting; and *some* of the details.

- 55 Sunday Morning Eucharists
- 90 Private/Home Communion visits by clergy
- 35 Private/Home Communion visits by Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- 5 Sunday afternoon Fairbanks Correctional Center services
- 106 Midnight Compline Sunday through Friday services
- 9 Tuesday Morning Denali Center Eucharists
- 19 Wednesday Morning Eucharists
- 20 Wednesday Evening Eucharists
- 10 Thursday Morning Pioneer Home Eucharists
- 13 Weekday Advent Evening Prayer services
- 1 "Dark Christmas"/Winter Solstice Eucharist
- 1 Midnight "Bang-Pots-To-Scare-Away-The-Great-Dragon-Of-Darkness" Winter Solstice Compline
- 4 Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Eucharists
- 3 Christmas "Parties/Dinners" etc.
- 1 Christmas Pageant
- 1 New Year's Eve Eucharist
- 1 New Year's Day Potlatch
- 1 Epiphany 12th Night Christmas Greens Burning so that Spring will come
- 1 Parish Annual Meeting
- 1 Candlemass Eucharist
- 1 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 3 Ash Wednesday Eucharists
- 5 Lenten Friday "Stations of the Cross" services
- 6 Holy Week Services (Monday – Holy Saturday)
- 4 Easter Eve/Easter Day Eucharists
- 1 Easter Egg Hunt
- 2 Easter Week Eucharists out of Fairbanks (Birch Creek, Stevens Village)
- 6 Celebrations of Holy Baptism, 12 baptized
- 1` Celebration of Holy Matrimony
- 1 Ordination Celebration and Reception
- 8 Commendations of the Dying/Departed
- 1 Private Confession
- 1 Blessing of a casket
- 4 "Memorial Teas" hosted
- 10 Funerals
- 3 Funerals/Burials (outside Fairbanks: Stevens Village, Ft. Yukon, Arctic Village)
- 2 Receptions of remains
- 3 House Blessings
- 1 107th Anniversary Service
- 1 Admission of new Daughters of the King member
- 1 Installation of new members into Diocesan Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna
- 1 Commissioning of 6 new Diocesan E.A.G.L.E (Episcopal Academy for Gospel Leadership and Evangelism) students
- 1 Diocesan Commission on Ministry meeting hosted
- 1 Reception for Bishop Candidates hosted

4 hours, 7 minutes, 31 seconds - Amount of Daylight December 8th, 2009

17 hours, 11 minutes, 2 seconds - Amount of Daylight May 2nd, 2010

-41 Coldest Temperature recorded since December 8th (January 12th)

+68 Warmest Temperature recorded since December 8th (April 28th)

(Continued on page 7)

Seasons of Life . . .

-
- 2 # of Guinea Pigs attending Church
- 1 # of Guinea Pigs that escaped from a Butter Dish in the Back Pew and ran for the Altar
- 2 # of Mallards attending Midnight Compline
- 1# of rectors who did NOT know when the ice would move in Nenana
-

Holy Baptism

Wednesday evening, December 16th, with snow falling outside and three Advent candles lit, 7 months old **Macarius Don Mandregan** was baptized – the first baptism of this new Church Year. Macarius’s Godparents are **Douglas Pitka, Jr.; Dana Andon, Lillian Mandregan, and Richard**



Mandregan. Macarius’s Great Great Grandmother is the late **Sally Hudson** . . . which led the rector and Macarius’s Great Grandmother to wonder if this meant they were getting old.

One week later, Wednesday evening, December 23rd, as the last baptism of 2009, in another special family celebration, the rector’s great nephew - 3 weeks old **Kolton Shawn Adams** - was baptized, though he was asleep for the entire service (*Kolton, not the rector*). Kolton’s Godparents are **Doug Pitka Jr., Darryl Nikolai, and Shawnen Adams.**

Into Epiphany and new beginnings, Wednesday morning, January 13th, in thirty below temperatures, smiling 59 years old **Roger Lee Shoffstall** was baptized. Roger’s Sponsor is his wife **Sally Shoffstall.** 9 hours later, on Wednesday evening, January 13th, with tears and courage, and supporting family and friends, 27 years old **Leah Rose Wilson** was baptized. Her Sponsors are **Tom and Bonnie Marsh.**



And, with Lent beginning, late

Thursday afternoon, February 25th, in special circumstances, one month old **Dax Larue Campbell** was baptized. His Godparents are **Christopher J. Campbell and Amy Secor.**



Saturday evening, April 3rd, with Holy Easter Fire and **Barbara Hameister** singing the “*Exsultet*”, with water and Spirit, we sang into Easter and baptized 7 along the Way. Baptized this Easter, and breaking Trail for the rest of the year then, were 3 months old **Jeremiah Isaac Tritt** (whose Godparents are **Vanessa Jimmie, Lonnie Christian, and Roland Tritt**); 3 months old **Fiona Grace Travis** (whose Godparents are **John and Melissa Odsather**); 8 months old **Deborah Pearl Morrow** (whose Godparents are **Roberta Solari and Peter Riley**); 8 years old

(Continued on page 20)

Winter Voices Springing

eee yaa Haaa Naaa Haaa, eee yaa Haaaa Naaa Haaa, eee yaa Haaa Naaa, eee yaa Haaa Naaa HEY.

. . . went tearing across the floor singin’ “*eee yaa HA Naaa Haaa*”.

He thinks the Lord Jesus has a pet bunny rabbit that He keeps in Heaven with Him, and on Easter He. . .

Have you noticed that, *uhhh*, the Church smells like, *uhhhh*, pancakes on Sunday mornings? ISN’T THAT COOL?

Do ALL families get into fights over STUFF after the funeral? What’s with that? Why is

There’s GREEN THINGS out here! There’s GREEN THINGS coming up!

Did you just announce that you were looking for Duck Fat? As strange as it may seem, I happen to have . . .

We’re trying to raise money for the Church over here. Heating oil for the stove in the Church costs \$7.50 a GALLON. That’s.....A GALLON.

. . . called me and said “*if this is Break-Up, it’s the strangest Break-Up that I’ve ever seen*”.

. . . shot a goose walking to the Post Office from his house.

WHY am I getting so old? I feel like I’ve been here since... THE BEGINNING.

. . . Coast to Coast with a piece of toast. That was ----- ----- . They used to say he could go Coast to Coast with just a piece of toast.

Remember, I come from the Era of Swiftwater Bill and Earthquake. Remember him? He must have weighed 500 pounds. He used to always pass out on the sidewalk in front of . . .

That’s kindof your standard advice for everything, isn’t it: “*Just eat ice cream*”.

Winter Voices Springing

. . . gave me away for 16 caribou.

This is MY CHURCH! I like saying that.

Well, you know what Bill Gordon would say about this.

. . . have to be like Grandma Charlotte: Get the Birch off the Trees; And make Kindlin' for Church every Sunday. And fix the Stove so Someone can just light the match to The Birch. Now *THAT* would be A Good Memory.

Gardening is my Personal Time, my Spiritual Time. It's the Way that I pray.

. . . after you've been there ten thousand years, a million or two - look for me,

Right then she said, "*YOU gotta get right with God*"; and three people . . .

God IS GOOD; and we're just going to keep praying. . .

Look! Look! An RV! It IS SPRING!

You're not Responsibility DRIVEN; you're Responsibility OBSESSED.

. . . keeps pointing out that the mighty oaks must go, so that the young saplings can grow.

. . . told 'em "I'm leaving. I've got ASD - Attention Sermon Deficit."

. . . was 30 yards from 5 rhinoceros. Did we shoot? Noooo. I don't think there's a gun made big enough to shoot one of those things.

I loved it! We've got THE SAME THEOLOGY in VERMONT! Isn't That AMAZING?

You may think all Episcopal churches are friendly but they're not - believe me. *THIS* church is special.

Sooo, how did this SPAM thing get started, anyway?

SUMMARY of the JANUARY 2010 ANNUAL MEETING of ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

As required by Episcopal Tradition and Parish By-Laws, the Annual Meeting of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was held Sunday, January 31st. Following the Proclamation of the Gospel for the 4th Sunday after the Epiphany (Luke 4:21-30), the rector called to order the meeting at 9:15AM. **Joanna Wallis** was elected as Secretary, a quorum was established, and the Agenda approved. The following is then a Summary of the actions of the Meeting. Complete minutes are posted in the Parish Hall.

1. Minutes from the January 2009 Annual Meeting were approved.
2. Reports were received and presented by **Michael "Tree" Nelson**, for the Website Committee; **Mary Johnston**, for the Altar Guild; **Thomas Marsh**, for the Ecumenical Mission for Shelter; **Barbara Hameister**, for the St. Matthew's Choir; **Charlotte Perotti**, for Liturgical Scheduling; **Bonnie Marsh**, for the Prayer Shawl Ministry; **Ann Fleenor**, for the Health Ministry; **Patty Meritt**, for the Sunday School; **Senior Warden Roxy Wright**, for the Task Force for Young Family Involvement, and Education for Ministry; **Marty Thomas**, for the St. Matthew's Endowment Fund; and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, for Daughters of the King, and "Dancing with the Spirit".
3. **Bruce Gadwah**, **Helen Howard**, **Brad Johnston**, and **Charlene Marth**, were appointed Election Judges for the Meeting.
4. **Clarence Bolden**, **Karen Kiss**, and **Nancy Tarnai** were elected to three year terms on the St. Matthew's Vestry.
5. **Shirley Gordon**, **Karen Parr**, **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**, **Linda Demientieff**, and **Becky Snow** were elected as delegates to the April 2010 Diocesan Convention; with **Clarence Bolden**, **the Rev. Steve Matthew**, **Eliza Winfrey**, **Marty Thomas**, and **Nancy Tarnai** as Alternates.
6. **The Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino** and **Irene Todd** were elected as delegates to the June 2010 Interior Deanery meeting; with **Linda Demientieff**, **Bonnie Marsh**, and **Eliza Winfrey** as Alternates.
7. **Lori Gorsline** and **Maggie Castellini** were elected to three year terms on the St. Matthew's Endowment Board.
8. **Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken** presented the 2009 Financial Report; and **Senior Warden Roxy Wright** presented the proposed 2010 Budget. The proposed 2010 Budget of \$309,226 (*2009 Budget was \$303,558*) was moved and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. and the Eucharist continued.

**A SUMMER RECIPE SOMEBODY SHOULD PLEASE TRY
SO WE KNOW IF IT WORKS.....**

[NOTE: I have read about this for years and, with the Internet, it's easy to find recipes. The Alaska Fish & Game even has one. This one is reprinted from www.realsimple.com. We think somebody should try it and report back.][Or . . . the rector will happily receive pieces of salmon so he can try it.]

Bob Blumer's Dishwasher Salmon Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 6-ounce pieces salmon fillet
- ¼ cup fresh lime juice
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges
- heavy-duty foil

1. Grease the shiny side of two 12-inch squares of heavy-duty foil with the oil. Place 2 pieces of fish side by side on each square. Fold up the outer edges of the foil (to contain any liquid) and drizzle the fish with the lime juice. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Fold the foil closed to form 2 airtight packets. *(To test the seal, press down on a packet gently with your hand. If air escapes easily, rewrap.)*
3. Place the packets in the top rack of the dishwasher. Run a normal cycle. Remove the fish from the foil and serve with the lemon wedges. Serves 4

A take-the-risk-out-of-making-dinner-in-the-dishwasher tip: Richard Vergili, a food-safety instructor at the Culinary Institute of America, in New York City, says that as long as a thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the fish reads 145° F, it's safe to eat and probably pretty moist.

Help plant flowers June 7th

THE DOWNTOWN FAIRBANKS FLOWERS

By Michelle Roberts

[NOTE: Every Summer there are lovely flowers along the Chena River Bike Path and across the Downtown bridges. This is a project of Festival Fairbanks. Would you like to help? Below, Michelle Roberts of Festival Fairbanks reports:]

I can report that the flower planting color scheme for this year is yellow, red and purple. We will be planting these color combinations throughout the downtown area. Festival Fairbanks will be working with the returning volunteers from the Alaska Athletic Club - Fairbanks to plant the Flower Beds on First Avenue, but we are always looking for a few good hands, and backs, and knees to help. We can always use someone handy with a camera too. We will be planting on Monday, June 7th, starting at 9:30 AM, weather permitting.



“I felt that I was attending a family reunion.”

CHOOSING A BISHOP

By Mrs. Shirley Gordon

[NOTE: Mrs. Shirley Gordon is the widow of the Rt. Rev. William J. Gordon Jr, the Bishop of Alaska from 1948-1974. They met onboard the SS Yukon, sailing out of Seattle; and were married at St. Peter's/Seward in July 1943. A week later Bishop Bentley ordained him to the priesthood; and confirmed Shirley; at St. Mark's/Nenana. By the end of July they were arriving in Point Hope. Five years later, he was selected to be the 3rd Bishop. St. Matthew's selected Shirley to be one of our Diocesan Convention delegates at the April 8-11 Diocesan Convention; and below she reflects on the experience.]

It seemed like a good idea to let my name be submitted for election to the diocesan convention where the 8th Bishop of Alaska would be elected. After all, I was the third bishop's wife, and we served in that capacity for 26 years. I knew something about being the Bishop of Alaska. BUT that convention didn't elect a bishop, and I didn't attend. Now, there was to be another convention and an election. OK, I would let my name be submitted, and I was elected.

This convention would not be held at St. Mary's where my family worships and the last convention was held, but at Meier Lake. My husband was bishop when Bertha and Eddie Meier gave that beautiful spot to the diocese or was it still a missionary district then? I had worshipped there on the grounds before there was a facility. In fact, that experience stays in my memory because we were seated in a circle and passed the communion bread and wine to the person next to us. The person next to me was my three-year-old granddaughter, Allison Gordon, and in those days in the Episcopal Church you could not receive communion unless you had been confirmed. I could not pass her by, so I risked her and my eternal salvation by giving her the bread and the wine. I am much relieved that now any baptized person may receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

I was amazed at the accommodations and pleased to see electricity and running water, but proud to be billeted in the last building down the trail with a port-a-potty nearby. I had three roommates, but I was always the last one in bed so we didn't fraternize much.

Others will report on the important matters of convention, but I will tell you what impressed me most. I felt that I was attending a family reunion. It was a joy to see many old friends and to meet the children of others. The daily worship stands out for me, and I was happy to be included in the group from the Arctic Coast and the Interior when it came our turn to lead. We lived for five years in Pt. Hope and for 26 in Fairbanks, and I have been back in the Interior since 1994 when my husband died.

My reason for being there was to cast a ballot for the next bishop of Alaska. I am so envious of those Christians who know with a certainty that they are doing the will of God because He tells them so. I am one who steps out in faith not certainty. However, I can usually see in retrospect that God was leading me. That was true in this election. The hard part in any election is that one is chosen and the others are not. My friends will attest that I agonized over this vote, and the fact that I finally voted for one does not mean that I rejected the others. We couldn't help making a good choice, and I trust that we chose a person of God's own choosing.

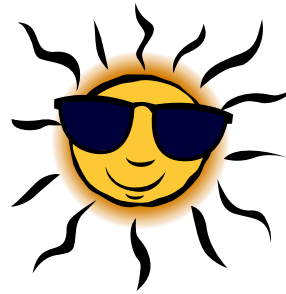
I love this diocese, and I am heavily invested in it. I believe that we will welcome our new bishop and his family and do all in our power to support them in this new ministry.

WHO are these people?

INTRODUCING NEW VESTRY MEMBER DAWN JAGOW

Dawn Jagow was called to serve on the Vestry in February this year, following newly elected Nancy Tarnai's resignation. To introduce herself, Dawn wrote a brief biography: *“I was born and raised in New York, and worked for the New York court system for ten years. I attended Vermillion Community College in Ely, Minnesota; and transferred to UAF as a Biology Major, with hopes of working as a biologist for Fish and Game. Well..... Instead I married Paul, had kids, and have been living on the Porcupine River upriver from Old Rampart. When I'm not there, I'm here in Fairbanks homeschooling Charlie, while Joanna attends Lathrop High School. We started attending St. Matthew's in 1997; and both Joanna and Charlie have been baptized and confirmed here.”*

A SCATTERING of EVENTS TO REMEMBER THIS SUMMER



Thursday, June 3rd - Saturday, June 5th is.....a Memorial Potlatch in Hughes, up the Koyukuk River. And possibly the Interior Deanery will be meeting in Hughes at the same time. The Deanery brings together churches and delegates from throughout the Interior. St. Matthew delegates, elected at the January Annual Meeting, are Vestrymember Irene Todd, and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino.

Sunday, June 6th is... the RIVER BLESSING (*Gesundheit!*) in Nenana. The Rev. Marilyn Duggar of St. Mark's Church in Nenana invites all to come join them Sunday, June 6th for the Annual Blessing of the River. The Blessing is at 10AM (and Nenana is obvious enough that you should be able to find them. We are only aware of one person, a former Senior Warden, who has ever managed to get lost in Nenana); followed by the regular Sunday morning 11AM Eucharist at St. Mark's. A Potluck Barbeque will follow the service.

Monday, June 7th - Friday, June 11th is... the Annual Denakkanaaga Youth and Elders Conference in Tanana. This Interior Conference of Elders and Youth from throughout the Interior meets annually, in various places, and was postponed out of Tanana last year, following the Spring Floods.

Monday June 21st is.....The Summer Solstice! The Midnight Sun! And we will, as we have been doing for years, drive out 100 or so miles on the Steese Highway to the 3600 feet high Eagle Summit. And we'll watch the sun go down and up and wonder about the weather and kill mosquitoes and remember friends, and about Midnight or so celebrate the Eucharist. And then we'll picnic. And friends and family will come out from Circle to join us. St. Matthew's began because of the faith and courage of Circle people. This is a way to say

Thank You and break bread together. We have done this through Sunshine, snowstorms, and giant forest fires. It is, at the least, always an Adventure. Come join us.

Monday, June 21st - Friday, June 25th is . . . the "Dancing with the Spirit" Bluegrass Camps for Kids, here in Fairbanks. This is "an amazing chance for kids to take 3 classes and be in a band with students their own age. Go to the website

www.bluegrasscampsforkids.com to get a registration form. Out-of-town kids need to find places to stay, chaperones--and rides to the camp. Contact Pete Bowers at pbowers@alaska.net or call 907.455.6528 or 907.978.1980 for further information. "

Friday, July 9th - Sunday, July 11th is . . .the 2010 Midnight Sun InterTribal Powwow here in Fairbanks, with dancing and drums along the River. Volunteers are needed to help. If you'd like to, Powwow meetings are May 30th, June 13th and June 27th in the St. Matthew's Parish Hall. Current 1st Council members are Benno Cleveland, Charlotte Price, Cherokee White, Sarah Grover, Lavonna Currey, Mike Green, John Brown and Peggy Sue W. Luis

Sunday, July 18th - Saturday, July 24th the 2010 Biennial International Gwich'in Gathering in Fort Yukon. This week long gathering brings together folks across the Gwich'in Country for meetings, discussions, games, and dances. Wednesday the 21st will be Jonathon Solomon Sr Day at the Gathering, remembering the late Traditional Chief. For further information, contact the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government. (1800-478-6839 or <http://www.fortyukon.org>

Saturday, July 24th is..... The Annual Golden Days Parade coming right down First Avenue. So, this is ALSO the Annual St. Matthew's Bake Sale annnnnnnnd, for the 12th Year in a Row, there will be the Legendary and Indescribable **BOOYAH**.

plus a few dozen weddings and other surprises scheduled here and there.

EDUCATION for MINISTRY at St. MATTHEW'S

By Tom Marsh

Education for Ministry, or EfM for short, is winding down for the year. We have three graduates this year: **Bruce Gadwah, Bonnie Marsh and Pauline Wilson.** Congratulations!

This has been my first year as a mentor for the group, along with Roxy who's been mentoring for five years now. I graduated last year after four years and there is just so much to learn I'm sort of taking it again. But also I get to share my experience with the other students as well as learn from them. One thing I have discovered is that if I pay attention I can learn something from everybody.

For those who don't know, EfM is a course in theology by

extension through the University of the South at Sewanee. It is specifically intended for the laity to help us learn more and at a greater depth about Christianity. We also learn to look at problems and issues theologically and explore what our particular ministries may be. There has been a seminar group at St. Matthew's for at least 25 years.

We are now recruiting for next year and will have at least four openings. It is a commitment for 35 weeks to read and reflect and a weekly seminar to share and explore together. It is a safe place to learn and grow together. There is tuition, but some full or partial scholarships are available as needed.

Please talk to **Roxy Wright**, 455-9300 or **Tom Marsh**, 458-0223 for further information. We will also be making announcements in church and asking those who've participated to stand. Maybe somebody you know would like to join you in class next year.

ST. MATTHEW'S HAS CHEFS, LLOYD & BRUCE

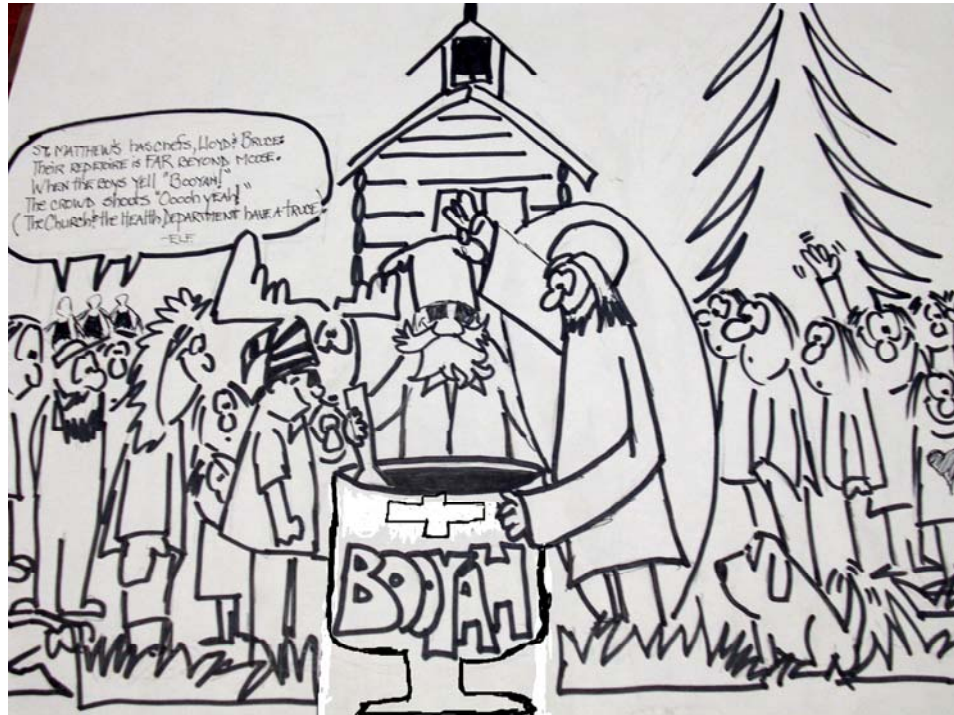
THEIR REPERTOIRE IS FAR BEYOND MOOSE.

WHEN THE BOYS YELL "BOOYAH!"

THE CROWD SHOUTS "OOOHH YEAH!"

(THE CHURCH & THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAVE A TRUCE)

"The love of our church family is poured in every single cup of Booyah and in every single piece of pie."



BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOYAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH !!

By Bruce Gadwah

Just think . . . this all began in a vestry meeting some twelve years previous, with the intent of boosting the operating income for the summer months. Lloyd Schommer was reminiscing about old home day activities in Minnesota that included a huge pot of stew. Our pot, designed from that, has virtually become a permanent fixture in the Golden Days Activity List.

Saturday morning starts early with bystanders lining the parade route from the Carlson Center up the River and through downtown. We are just one of many vendors providing a little sustenance, allowing people to persevere through those long morning hours waiting patiently for the next float to appear. My guess is that most just know us as "The Booyah (stew) Tent" in front of St. Matthew's next to The Bakery Tent." Indeed, from my perspective, that Pot represents so much more.

There is a great deal of effort, in one form or another, put forth by the entire congregation to make this possible year after year. We are a church that likes to gather together. We are at our very best when we join with one another and see a project through to its completion. It symbolizes who we are and what we do in this church. The love of our church family is poured in every single cup of Booyah and in every single piece of pie. We then share that love with the community at large. Our goal is to share God's Love at St. Matthew's with the rest of the community and especially on Parade Day. In accomplishing all that, we set an example and have a great time in doing so.

There is frivolity; but also there are those serious times as well. Each year we begin early Friday morning; and finish up somewhere around 2 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. It is truly a marathon event. Because of that we may try something different this year. We might ask folks to sign up and contribute some recipe items, specifically meat, July 16th, the Friday of the weekend before the Golden Days weekend. We shall announce the changes with sufficient time for all to adjust. If we do this smartly and use the pot as a warming instrument, rather than a cooking tool, we believe it will not only make our job easier but yield a better product.

I like to think of it this way. Where can you go on that Saturday and have so much fun with family and still be doing a ministry? It is nothing short of exactly that my friends. If you need convincing, join us for the Compline Service Friday evening and share in The Blessing of the Booyah Pot. Father Scott is usually accompanied by Father Jim, as they lend their very best prayers to help with our situation. Some years we have had to pray longer and harder than others. There have been a faux pas or two, which only a miracle could possibly have.....well, anyway, we don't believe in wasting miracles, so I guess we'll never know.

We have duly noted, by the way, that even through all of our cooking failures you have always been very kind and understanding. Thank you for supporting this ministry and see you at the Booyah Chopping Block.

May God Bless You All.

The 2010 Golden Days Parade, Bake Sale, & Booyah Gathering will be Saturday, July 24th this year.

**“... A GLORIOUS BRIGHT GREEN FANFARE”:
THE COMING of the FERNS to ST. MATTHEW'S**

By the Rev. James Eichner

[Fr. Jim Eichner is the rector of The Episcopal Church in Redmond, Washington these days, but once upon a time, as he explains below, he was living in the Parish Hall, vacuuming the Church early on Sunday mornings, and working on the flowerbeds on Summer afternoons. I asked him about these wonderful green ferns that will soon show up. Here's the Story.]



Everything around the buildings and grounds of St Matthews tells a story. From 1986-1993 it was my privilege to serve as the sexton, one of the happiest and most challenging seasons of my life. Fr. Scott has asked me to tell you the story of the ferns you can see out of the office window. Ferns are very Alaskan, found all over in the woods and tundra. After the long winter, their cheerful fiddle heads push through the leaf litter telling us spring has sprung. The tightly wound fronds uncoil releasing intricate lace leaves. In a matter of days we go from brown winter leftovers to bright green summer as the fever of life begins again.

So the story of the ferns starts with cold feet in worship. No, by “cold feet,” I don't mean shy people. I mean that the floor of the church in midwinter was too dang cold! I seem to remember Lee Davis suggesting that if we were to dig around the whole foundation of the church, to a depth of three feet, we could add a cozy layer of insulation to the foundation that would fix the problem of the cold floor. Amazingly, a great number of people showed up to excavate one summer Saturday. With many hands we made light work and exposed the whole foundation. The brown foamy spray-on insulation went in, and we closed the gaping trench. A huge task for one day.

In order to do this work, all the plantings along the side of the church had to go. In the back, the space you see from the office window was cluttered with junk, and one giant overgrown Siberian pea. The clutter got cleared, and we had a blank canvas on which to paint the next scene. Here the story gets a little sketchy. I don't know where I got the ferns, but I know I rescued them from some construction site, probably a road cut. I used my bike and panniers to move them to their new home. They looked terrible that first summer. A few people asked me if they were still alive. I wasn't sure. Since ferns grow once in spring, any damage done to them stays that way all the rest of the summer. And so they sat forlorn, ungrowing, undying, fern zombies.

In September I cut their tattered fronds to the ground, and raked the birch leaves over their crowns. In time the long, dark winter fell like a frozen pall over the Interior, earth hard as iron, water like a stone, snow fallen snow on snow . . . In late March the garbage bloomed along the roadsides once again, the snow reluctantly receded. Then a long brown cold May. And as Memorial Day weekend approached the bed of ferns sprang to life in a glorious bright green fanfare. I guess they are there still, twenty years later, waiting to greet you this spring, as I hoped they might those years ago. If you see them through the office window, it's just an extension of me, waving “hi” to you, just as you all continue to live in my heart and mind, fill my sermons with stories, and guide me my life and vocation.

SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE *A Note from Texas*

March 28th

. . . so here is an update on the Smiths of Texas. Layne got pneumonia in January resulting in a collapsed lung, a very sick puppy, we almost lost him)-: He did some PT in the hospital. He has been home for 3 weeks and is doing better mostly every day. He developed horrendous pressure wounds, which the hospital staff basically ignored until he moved to the PT ward. So he has daily wound therapy with some pretty gross stuff coming out. But he has an excellent wound therapist at the same place we go to PT. The Bishop has constrained him to a 3 month “temporary medical leave”... [Edited: This annoys him]. I'm OK, except my fibromyalgia is worse. I'm still planning on looking for a job when Layne is better. We love y'all and miss y'all and you are in our prayers!

Big Love, Casey

[NOTE: “Casey” is Casey Smith. For several years, Fr. Layne and Casey were part of our weekly lives around here, Fr. Smith taught at UAF and helped with services and Casey visited and sewed with the Prayer Shawl group. Last Summer they moved to Odessa, Texas, where Layne became rector of St. John's Church in Odessa. We were sad to see them go. As Casey writes above, Fr. Layne got sick in January.]



HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATES:
January through March 2010
By Pat Sackinger

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM, version 2009, was completed with St Matthews reaching Bethlehem on the Epiphany, with a total of 5,994 miles. Thirty four other churches throughout Alaska, including some in Anchorage, Eagle River-Chugiak, Seward, Ketchikan, North Pole, and Soldotna, along with a senior housing project, and some private schools, tallied an impressive 175, 697.5 miles. That was 2,009 individuals exercising in various ways, praying or meditating, and eating right! It's hoped that many of these participants will continue implementing the principles, even though the formal program has ended. Small, incremental steps can lead to significant improvements in one's health!

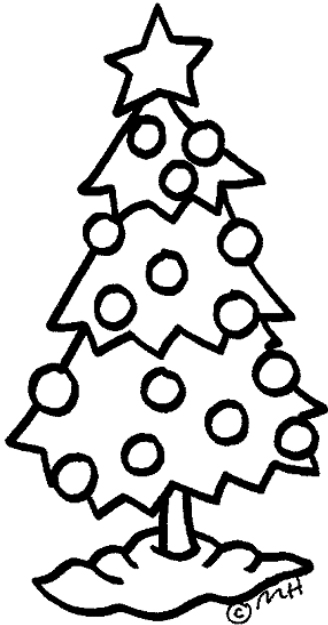
Various members of the Health ministry provided soup and snacks for the coffee hours after services on Sundays

(Continued on page 15)

ADOPT-A-FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE

By Christine Upton

[NOTE: One of the favorite and blessed activities around here in the days before Christmas is the Love INC's "Adopt-a-Family" Christmas Tree. This year Christine Upton coordinated this Program. Below she reports on its success.]



Love Inc's Adopt-A-Family Christmas Tree showed once again the incredible generosity of our St. Matthews Church members. Four families, 2 from LOVE INC and 2 from our Church were inundated with gifts and well wishes on our Lord's birthday. The wrappers (*there were always 4 to 7 of them!*) didn't just roll the items up in gift wrap, they "*foo-fooed*" them with lots of curly ribbons and tags!

Love Inc.'s 87 year old woman who lives alone was so gracious about receiving gifts for herself and her blind son whom she tries to visit weekly. She kept the amaryllis and got 5 stalks to bloom! He got the paper whites bulb. When we delivered her box of gifts, my husband Corbett asked where she wanted her electric snowman plugged in. "*Behind the couch in the big window!*" She enjoys the many DVD's, the CD's of music from the 40's and 50's, and the black cardigan fit her perfectly, I plan to pick her up and take her to plays and concerts, as she is so fun to be with!

Love Inc. also gave us a family of hard-working dad, a recuperating-from-knee-surgery mom, and 3 bouncy kids who could not wait (*didn't WANT to wait*) the several days until Christmas to open their mountains of gifts. Mom writes, "*The kids loved everything they received, and my husband really enjoys the socks. We also are thankful for the gift cards and cash (for groceries and utilities), and the new microwave and coffeepot is great. Again thanks so much.*" This is a family whose reluctant reader received a hardcover of his favorite book, Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs, another son got loads of art materials for his budding interest, and young daughter got the Barbie she wanted. All the clothes, shoes, toys and Christmas décor buried the bottom of their tree!

Our Church family lady loved the smell of a real Christmas tree. She received everything she requested for her family, including a big enamel stockpot heavy with soup makings for herself.

We had so many gifts, that we peeled off a load for a Church mom with 3 daughters. The young gal wrappers ran home to ransack their closet and returned with all kinds of teen and pre-teen girlie stuff they had outgrown and never opened themselves, plus wind-up music boxes, stuffed animals, knitted mitts and scarves. "*We'll have a REAL Christmas!*" said mom, as she explained she had so little money that she had only bought one little cross necklace for the daughters. (*I was humbled by her sharing the real meaning of Christmas with me, as we transferred the crates of gifts from my truck to her car where she works.*)

We wrappers began sorting and bundling up gifts after church around 11AM and didn't finish until 3:30PM, only because there was so much outpouring of gifts and love from all of you, and so many curly ribbons to foo-foo! I'm looking forward to coordinating next Christmas!

Health Ministry . . .

(Continued from page 14)

in January as an example of healthy, nutritious food that tastes good. Recipes were (and are still) available.

Blood pressure checks continue between the services on the last Sunday of the month.

Some of you have commented on the post-card sized photos of St. Matthew's with varied prayer excerpts on the reverse. Thank you to Mary Margaret Davis for the prayers, The Rev. Lee Davis for the photos, and Marlin Collins for the computer work to make them available.

Indeed, thank you and blessings to all for the progress towards the Health Ministry goal...that all may be well with you.



SPRING

*almost spring--owls are hooting
chickadees and red polls flocking
is sunlight far behind?*



**WHERE DOES OUR MONEY COME FROM &
WHERE DOES IT GO?**

Well, it comes from God ("*All things come of Thee, O Lord*") and it goes where we and the Vestry prayerfully discern God wants to go, in our Annual Budgets.

In 2009, for every \$1.00 that came into our Operating Budget, here's where it came from and here's where it went.

OPERATING INCOME for ST. MATTHEW'S in 2009

When \$1.00 came to St. Matthew's in 2009, here's where it came from:

- .85 came from pledged and regular givers to St. Matthew's
- .10 came from offerings in the plate, and donations
- .04 came from the various Fundraisers, etc.
- .01 came as designated for the clergy discretionary accounts

OPERATING EXPENSES for ST. MATTHEW'S in 2009

When you gave \$1.00 to St. Matthew's in 2009, here is how that \$1.00 was spent:

- .37 To Clergy Salaries (*Fr. Scott, Fr. Steve, Deacon Bella Jean*), pensions, insurance, etc.
- .25 To the Episcopal Diocese, for our Tithe
- .15 To Staff (*nursery, sexton, organist, office*) Salaries, Pension, etc
- .07 To Utilities for the Rectory and the Church
- .05 To Various Insurances
- .03 To the Church Office (*Telephone, etc*) & Janitor supplies
- .02 To Altar Guild Expenses, flowers, candles, bulletin inserts, etc
- .02 To Expenses for the Newsletter and the Website
- .01 To Discretionary spending by the Clergy
- .01 To Expenses related to Booyah, See's Candy, PayPal, etc.
- .01 To pay for our Diocesan Convention and Interior Deanery delegates
- .01 Towards Local and Worldwide Outreach
- (*Slightly less than*).01 towards Choir, Education for Ministry, Sunday School Expenses

“ . . . a new Parish Hall, increased youth and new member involvement, more staff, more effective communication, and education in the love of the Gospel and the Life of the Spirit.”

THE SENIOR WARDEN REPORTS on the VESTRY RETREAT

Respectfully submitted by Senior Warden,
Roxy Wright

The Vestry has been trying to schedule a retreat since the elections of January 2009. We finally just set the date for this April the 23rd. We were very fortunate to have **Jeff Merkel**, who attends St. Matthew's 8 and 9:15 Services, to plan and lead our event. Vestry members: **Dawn Jagow, Karen Kiss, Marty Thomas, Arlie Nethken, Irene Todd, and Roxy Wright** attended along with our Rector Scott Fisher. **Ray Cockerille, John Parsons and Clarence Bolden** were not able to attend. We would like to thank St. Jude's in North Pole for the use of their facilities and for providing us with a wonderful lunch and breakfast.

One of the first things that we did was make a list of our "Hopes For the Day" which included: *directions for St. Matthews; strategies for adult education; strategies for encouraging, welcoming and involving people – especially young families with children; focus on stewardship; long view of congregation direction; and St. Matthew's role in welcoming our new bishop.* Of course this is all a very big task, but one of the purposes of the Retreat was to at least start to formulate goals and to implement plans and strategies. Presently the vestry has been dealing with the day to day and month to month, without any longer term outlook in mind.

Jeff guided us through some exercises looking at our past, present and future. The past involved making three timelines, since 1980, for Global Events, St. Matthew's and personal. On the Global Timeline we found that military comings and goings have a huge effect on economy of Fairbanks, deployments result in people seeking council and support at St. Matthews, and that technology has drastically changed the world. The St. Matthew's Timeline during the past 30 years (*in no particular order*) . . . Father Don Hart, Father Fred Smyth, Father Roger Williams, Education for Ministry, "Sweeps", Adult Ed, Endowment Board, Bishop Harris leaves, Steve Charleston arrives, Father Scott Fisher, Fr. Steve Matthew ordained, Bishop Mark McDonald, stained glass windows, Bella Jean ordained deacon, Booyah started, parking lot, Compline and Eagle Summit, open door for flood refugees and for homeless, more ordinations and baptisms. A reflection of St. Matthews's history showed that the vestry is very involved in much of this story, especially during

transitions. Things found on our Personal Timelines: births, marriages, work, deaths, baptisms, confirmations, divorces, funerals . . . and during all of our transitions, joys and sorrows St. Matthews is there – the church is INVOLVED!

Focusing on the present, we brainstormed about items, issues and concerns associated with St. Matthews. *Budget shortfalls along with the related need of additional staff to work with youth ministry and assist the rector*, headed our lists of concerns Things we are proud of: Our church is open and takes in everyone (PROUDEST PROUD), Dancing with the Spirit program, Our mission helps the homeless, others in the Deanery use St Matthews, We're there in Emergencies, The Prayer Chain, 8 to 10 different 12-Step programs at St Matthews and we don't charge rent, Changed Sunday School Program in Response to request, Embrace people of all cultures, Great staff. SORRIES: Don't have deep pockets, sorry that stewardship wasn't as strong as it could be; Sunday School has dropped so dramatically; That we can't crack the volunteer dilemma; That we don't intermingle very much, we talk to people we're already familiar with; That we don't focus on integrating new people (SORRIEST SORRY); that we're overworking Scott and Hillary.

In the exercise involving the future, we visualized "The year 2020 and our dreams for St. Matthew's have come true". From those stories we came up with the following list of things we want enough to work towards: a new Parish Hall, increased youth and new member involvement, more staff, more effective communication, and *education in the love of the Gospel and the Life of the Spirit.* And . . . this list of ways in which to help these dreams come about: vibrant Stewardship, outreach to inactive members, a building campaign, Grant writing for the services which might be housed in the new building, appeal our story to the National church and bishop, become more confident in mission, tell proudly our wonderful story as a community and mission, take ownership, understand church growth trends, outreach visits to listen to our members, and to build *esprit de corps* (build morale).

For short term action plans we are going to work on a communication assessment, an inventory of Youth Programs and outreach in Fairbanks, and work on a Visitor's Brochure along with welcoming follow up to newcomers. Another project identified (of which we had already started work on) was to assemble a policy and procedure manual for St. Matthews. This manual should also include some of our traditions and folklore. Some sad day, Hilary and Scott, will decide on

(Continued on page 17)

"... I'm grateful to be alive."

MAKING the CHOICE to LIVE

By Walter Tommy

[NOTE: Our Friend Walter Tommy of Nenana was diagnosed with throat cancer in midwinter. In his correspondence from March, he writes about their journey. He and his wife Andrea are now between Nenana and Anchorage for his Treatments and, in phone calls, his Spirit is good.]

Hello all,

I know the concerns you all have in how I am doing in my emotional, mental, as well as my physical health, not to mention my spiritual well-being.

One of the things I've thought about, since I finally got and kept my sobriety, has been my physical health. In all of the drinking and drugging I've done in my former life, I've always wondered what is the worst things that I've done to really hurt me bad? Do I have an incurable disease? And how much longer do I have of my life left? There are so many questions that need an answer, and sometimes it can be too scary to think about, now do I really want to know if I'm going to die soon? Of course I'll die, but when, and how?

58 years of....? Hmmm...If I woulda known this body woulda lasted this long, I woulda...? Naw...but these are the things that goes through my mind...in my demise?

This kind of thinking is not good for anybody, let alone one who is diagnosed with throat cancer, because it is a thinking of finality....that there is not a way out of the course of "it is written..." "what will be, will be." Well, of course there will be a time when my life is over, but in the meantime I will be the one who decides if, and when it is over. And how will I live my life until then.

I choose to enjoy each and every day for the rest of my life as an experience that enriches my life.

Just as much as I've chosen to live my life in sobriety, so I choose to live the rest of my life in happiness that I am completing my life as the "Great Spirit" would want me to do, in SOBRIETY!!!!

Having a sober mind is not only one of just being clean of drugs or alcohol, but one of clarity of sound mind and judgment and understanding of my life and

having acceptance of who I am and where I'm at in the acceptance of myself.

First of all, my body is just matter, nothing more nor less, and it has emotions, feelings, ideas, things that are not tangible. But I can control these emotions, feelings and ideas, and give direction to my life in how I wish to exist in this life.

I believe in Great Spirit gives me life. And I love the Great Spirit for my life.

Just as I've done in my sobriety, "one-day-at-a-time", "one-step-at-a-time" so I do in the diagnosis of this throat cancer.

I had a CAT scan, exploratory surgery where there was a two centimeter mass removed and biopsied, and now that I know it's there, I had to choose to have all of my teeth removed.

YEP!!!! NO TEETH!!! ELDER IN TRAINING. So this is what it is like for my elders to have no teeth, iiiiiii eeeee!!!! O.K. Now I can relate.

I have to do this, so I don't have any complications later on when I have radiation treatment, just one step at a time, to getting better in health, just like the A.A. Way.

While I'm down here in Anchorage for follow-up, it's taking a few extra more days to get healed up on my gums, because the dentists didn't follow-up thoroughly the first time, the doctor found I need extra care before I'm sent down to Seattle for more diagnosis on what the best treatment for me is.

Everything is new to me, just as it was in my alcohol and drug addiction treatment, and with each step, I'm learning to take control of the direction of my life, and gaining the confidence in myself that I don't have to be timid or afraid for the decisions I do make in my life. That was the hard part of my sobriety, having the confidence and self-esteem in my life to make good choices. I was always in doubt, and wondering.

Experience is a good teacher, and the more experienced I become and get good, positive results I gain wisdom to make wise choices for my direction in my life.

I'm still an elder-in-training though, and I'm learning to enjoy it, BOY!!!! It sure would be great tho', to have the full status of an elder where I don't have to do anything, but sit back and control with my toothless smile.

(Continued on page 19)

Vestry Retreat . . .

(Continued from page 16)

retiring. A manual of what goes on daily at St. Matthews would be helpful to the Vestry and our church.

An action plan over three years will be an Investigation of Stewardship. During our session, it was brought out the *importance of focusing on Time and Talent*, as well as financial for a vibrant Stewardship Program. The Vestry will begin work on this at their August meeting, and Jeff Merkel has graciously volunteered to help us. These are little steps, but we can only move forward one step, one day at a time. Again the Vestry would like to thank Jeff for his time and talent for leading our retreat.

"It took a trip to the Arctic for me to remember that we are knit together in ways seen and unseen, known and unknown."

SMILING EVER SINCE

.....A sermon delivered Wednesday, February 24th at St. Matthew's

By the Rev. Deacon Shirley Lee

[NOTE: As Shirley explains below, she was ordained a Deacon by Bishop Mark MacDonald, at the Arctic Coast Deanery meeting held at St. Thomas Church in Point Hope, on Saturday, February 13th. Wednesday evening, February 24th, St. Matthew's held a celebration and reception for Shirley. This is the sermon she delivered that night.]

First, let me thank all of you for being here to help me celebrate a new journey, a journey that took me about 7 years to get to this point; and a journey that has not yet ended. I want to especially thank, right here at the beginning, my husband Gary, who supported me all along the way; my children, my Discernment Committee, Father Scott, and all who have helped me along the way.

Eleven days ago I was ordained a Transitional Deacon in the Episcopal Church. The service was held in Point Hope. So many people asked me, "*WHY POINT HOPE?*" Essentially, because that is where the Bishop was. I must admit I was a wee bit sad that I could not be ordained at St. Matthew's with my family present.

We flew out to Point Hope on a clear, bright sunny day. Getting close to the village, I could see the community – which appeared to be located on the ocean. With the frozen water and snow, you could not discern what was land and what was water. In the distance you could see the bluffs on the Coastline. All was shades of blue and white and bright light – it was so beautiful.

God has such a sense of humor. One of my greatest blessings is that I was born a twin. That day I walked to the Church *[in Point Hope]*. Two churches. The old Church is located next to the new Church – TWIN churches! And I'm sure you can probably guess the name of the Church – Yup, "St. Thomas". Thomas the Doubting TWIN! *Ohhh, now I was really missing my family!*

A Gathering of the Episcopal Churches in the Arctic Coast was being held. Folks were there from Point Hope, Kivalina, and Kotzebue. When I walked into the Church, I saw a sea of smiling faces. I introduced myself in the Traditional Respectful Manner: " *My name is -----; My Inupiaq name is Bunnickjoruk, my parents are the late Russell and Helen McConnell; my maternal grandparents were Lucy and Daniel Foster of Noorvik*", and so on.

An elderly man from Kivalina approached me, and introduced himself: "*I am Joe Swan of Kivalina. My Dad was First Cousin with your Grandmother Lucy. Call me Uncle*". Then I met his elderly sister, Lucy Adams, who was named after my Grandmother. "*Call me Auntie*", she said. Then the Rev. Wilfred Lane of Kotzebue came up and said, "*Hey! I have the same Inupiaq name as your Grandfather. Call me Grandfather!*" So much Family! In the end, I learned that I was related to almost everyone there in some form or another.

I also learned that I was related to the first Inupiaq ever ordained into the Episcopal Church – the Rev. Milton Swan. And guess who Milton Swan trained for ordination? David Salmon. . . Chief David Salmon, who would always ask me when he saw me, "*So, when are you getting ordained?*" and who always quietly encouraged me.

It took a trip to the Arctic for me to remember that we are knit together in ways seen and unseen, known and unknown. Look around this room – we are ALL connected; and it's a WONDERFUL thing.

Together with my sister in Christ – Carrie Oktollik- I was ordained on February 13th. The service was wonderful and Spirit filled. After the service, a Reception was held; and then a Singspiration was started. At a Singspiration, different villages or groups of people sing Gospel Songs, and some give Testimony. Oh, how we sang that night! We sang until 2:30AM – somehow I ended walking back to the Bed and Breakfast alone. It was a warm, quiet early morning. I looked up at the sky and the Northern Lights came out and danced across the full length of the sky. It was a wonderful ending to a wonderful day.

The next day Church was held. After the Service, a group of us went to visit Bishop Gordon's grave. The cemetery in Point Hope is fenced by whale bones, which act as a snow barrier. We were able to walk over the hard packed snow, and say a Prayer of Thanksgiving for Bishop Gordon. Again, the day was sunny and warm. We then went to a Lookout Point – a hill that overlooked the Sea. With binoculars, we saw a large polar bear frolicking on the ice. He was loping about; and every once in a while he would put his head down to rub his face on the ice. His joyful presence matched our joyful spirits.

I have been smiling ever since.

As a Deacon, I am called to a ministry of Servanthood – to serve all people, especially the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. I am to make Christ and His redemptive Love known by my word and example. And such is the dictate of an Ordination. The Ordination really wasn't about me or Carrie – it is about reminding people that in all they do – all that YOU DO – WE are a reflection of Our Lord. Indeed, we are all servants.

How are we living our lives? Are we the ones at the table? Or, are we the one serving? The Gospel comes during a conversation had at the Last Supper. Jesus is urging and showing Servant Leadership. We should strive to do the same in all that we do – no matter how insignificant we think it is.

One of my ministries is working with prisoners. Most are young men who are serving long terms outside of Alaska. My ministry is primarily about accepting their phone calls; and hopefully showing them Faith, Hope, and Love.

The words that Paul wrote to the Corinthians – words you usually hear during weddings – in 1st Corinthians 13 about Love, end with "*and now these three remain – Faith, Hope, and Love. But the greatest of these is Love*". God is Love. Love is the greatest of the three because it outlasts them all. As my Study Bible says, "*Love will still be the governing principle that controls all that God and His redeemed people are and do.*"

I pray then, for all of our work to be done; that Love is reflected in all that we do.

Amen.

the Choice to Live. . .

(Continued from page 17)

PS. I wish to share

encouragement and inspiration to whomever might need it, and I know that is what the Great Spirit intended for me to do.

I think that one of the biggest and scariest health concerns for people is to NOT get a check-up to find out what "that little twinge of pain" is; that "something's not right, there" and pass it off as, "oh, it'll get better, it's just a little thing right now."

Also, to get a second, third, or more opinion, and be persistent if you feel there's something not right with your bodily health.

Native/tribal people tend to feel and think that since it's someone in an office, they know better than I do in what's good for me. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED by what they've gone through (schooling).

I think that one of the misconceptions of Native people today, is that we have survived through all the disease's "Whiteman" has passed on to us, we can survive anything.

Well, that's one more warrior down who can make a stand for all of tribal people and make a difference.

I'd rather know where I stand, that way I can make better decisions for health and well-being of myself and those connected to me.

PS. There are so many strong prayer warriors at this time, and I'm grateful to have some of that good energy come my way.

I have received so many forwarded emails of prayer requests, and my name is mentioned in these requests.

When I was diagnosed with throat cancer, I shed a few tears. But I couldn't dwell on it and let the message get me "down".

I always wondered how I would react to this,

in my time of reality, and I always thought and felt that, in the end, I would be tough.

Yeah, I have to be strong in heart, mind, and spirit, but also to have compassion and understanding and love of the Creator. And above all, COURAGE!!!

When I was up there in Anchorage, and talked with [the doctor], I knew there was only one way that I would go in my choice for myself and that I had to have no reservations or hesitations in it. I knew that it would be a radical choice that meant I would have to give consent to go to any lengths to get the best out of it for myself.

"Go to ANY lengths, to live!" And that meant to have the most radical operation performed on myself.

I wonder if any of you realize what a "radical operation" is?

It's NOT just a little cut, that I'm going to get; but a cut right down inside of my throat to the esophagus. A cut that goes from the back of my left ear to the middle of my throat and down to the collar-bone. Oh yeah, when I saw what they did to me after the operation...I would've probably have had to ask for the time to think about it.

I'll tell ya what tho', when it comes to making the choice to live, there will not be anything I wouldn't do.

Of all the times I've been down to the depths of my alcoholism and wished that I would just die and get it over with, I'm grateful to be alive.

I didn't think too highly of myself because of my drinking, and it took very little to come to this point in my life to really enjoy what I do have, and in my short 4 1/2 years of sobriety, how much more to living this good life is really all about.

God Bless,
Walter.

**ST. MATTHEW'S PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY KEEPS US
STITCHING!**

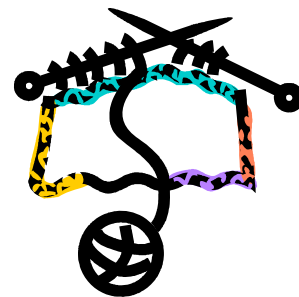
HELLO! God's Blessings to All and Happy Spring!

We stitch whenever our hands are free; at home, while traveling, or during meetings. Our shawls are given, when requested, to anyone who needs extra prayers of comfort, compassion, support, healing, friendship, or celebration. No strings attached!

The outreach of our ministry is astonishing. Just this week we have received requests for six shawls. If you're interested in joining us we have crochet hooks, knitting needles, patterns, shelves full of lovely yarn and encouraging teachers available.

Ann Fleenor and Bonnie Marsh are Co-coordinators. We can be reached at:

Bonnie – 458-0223 or bjmarsh@acsalaska.net;
Ann- 458- 8143 or ann.fleenor@bannerhealth.com



Seasons of Life . . .

(Continued from page 7)

Shannon Renee Guthrie (whose Godparents are also **Roberta Solari** and **Peter Riley**); nearly 6 years old **Jennifer Alexis Guthrie** (whose Godmother is **Barbara Anne-Marie Solari-Saurders**); 9 years old **Jasmine Marie Guthrie**, (whose Godmother is **Nellie Sue Winer**); and 10 years old **Izaiah James Guthrie** (whose Godmother is **Sharon Sykes**). Following the service, and courtesy of newly baptized Jeremiah's family, we all enjoyed moose stew and fry bread. And thus the door was opened for Easter this year on First Avenue.

Holy Matrimony

In the Season of Epiphany, with Light slowly growing, at the beginning of the New Year, on Saturday afternoon, January 9th, we celebrated the wedding of **Rose Anna Curtin** and **Michael Edward Grimes**. Outside it may have been cold and dark, but the inside of the Church was filled with joy and Light and Beauty and Hope. Ohh, *and smiles*.

Ordination Celebrations

Saturday, February 13th, at the meeting of the Arctic Coast Deanery at St. Thomas's Church in Point Hope, **National Indigenous Anglican Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada Mark MacDonald** ordained **Shirley Lee** (*of us!*) and **Carrie Oktollik** of Point Hope as Deacons. Because of the distance and costs involved, no one from St. Matthew's or Shirley's family was able to attend. Consequently then, Wednesday evening, February 24th, a celebrational Eucharist was held here, in which Shirley preached (*Note: see Shirley's sermon elsewhere, this Newsletter*); and a cake-filled reception followed.

Funerals, Memorials, etc

Friday, December 18th, in a private ceremony, **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino** said prayers over the remains of **John Peter Ch'igiionta'**, as they were received into the community. John, who died October 31st in Las Vegas [*see last Newsletter*], was the nephew of the late **Stephen Peter** of Arctic Village. His remains will be scattered in the future along Old John Lake near Arctic Village.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, December 22nd, Minto Elder 87 years old **Ellen Frank** died peacefully here in Fairbanks. Born to the late **John** and **Susie Reese** at Gather Up Camp on the Minto Flats; Ellen grew up traditionally in the Flats, moving with the seasons. A cultural and bilingual teacher, she and her husband, the late **Arthur Frank**, together had 17 children. 13 of their children survive; along with numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, her uncle **Howard Luke**, her nieces **Vernell Titus** and **Winnie Atwood**, and many more family and friends. Memorial teas were held at St. Matthew's, following her death, until her services and burial Monday, December 28th at home in Minto.

On Monday, December 28th, 51 years old **George Gilbert Tritt, Jr.** died at the Fairbanks Hospital. Born in Ft. Yukon to the late **George** and **Helen Tritt**, he was raised in the Yukon Flats and served for many years in the Venetie Tribal Government. A faithful member of the Church, he is survived by his uncle **William Tritt**; and his brothers and sisters. These include **Bev Peter**, **Lois Law**, **Elizabeth Metcalfe**, **Nena Wilson**, **Bertha Tritt**, **Mary Schneider**, **Chris Christian**, **Albert Tritt**, **Josephine Peter**, **Josie John**, **Sarah John**, **Vera Englishoe**, **Mary Simple**, and **Roy Henry**. St. Matthew's filled for his service Monday, January 4th, led by the rector and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**. His final services and

(Continued on page 21)



SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE

*Easter Memories of Beaver in the 1950s*March 10th

I wonder how many of those who lived in Beaver in the late 1950's, remember the Easter Sunday special event. The Easter service was lead by George Glander. The members enjoyed singing the joyous Easter hymns. There was a new layer of snow on the ground. While the members of the village were in church, the wife of the school teacher, Connie Sampsell and one of the Wiehl girls walked along the edge of the airfield tossing into the undisturbed snow, individually wrapped candy Easter eggs which Jack VanHatten, the trader had purchased. When the Service ended the youngest group of children were taken out to the airfield and told to find the eggs. When these little ones came back to church, the next age group went out to see what they could find. Last of all, the oldest children went out. At the end of the hunt every single egg had been found!

Peace, Arlene

[NOTE: "Arlene" is Arlene Glander, wife of George Glander. During the 1950s, while George was with the Church Army and Arlene was a Mission Nurse, they lived and worked in Beaver and other communities in the Interior. Now they've retired to Minnesota; and send fond greetings to all.]

Seasons of Life ...

(Continued from page 20)

burial were held at home in Arctic Village Tuesday, January 5th.

Sunday evening, January 10th, 73 years old **Glenn S. "Speed" Butler** of Tanana, surrounded by family and prayer, peacefully died at Denali Center, where he had been for the last weeks. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in November. Born and raised in Tanana, and a much loved community figure, he was a US Army Vietnam Veteran who was honorably discharged in 1967. Exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam left him physically challenged, but never slowed his heart or spirit. He's survived by his sister **Bernice Aragon**; his 17 nieces and nephews, and many more family and lifelong friends. St. Matthew's, in thirty below temperatures, filled for his funeral Thursday, January 14th, led by the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Steve Matthew, and Shirley Lee**. The service concluded with full military honors. His final service and burial was held at home in Tanana Saturday, January 16th.

Wednesday morning, January 20th, **Assisting Bishop Rustin Kimsey**, flew to visit Fort Yukon, in at least forty below temperatures. He went uptown to visit **the Rev. Mardow Solomon**, who had recently resigned as Priest in Charge due to his terminal cancer. Family and friends from throughout the State had been

visiting Mardow in these last weeks. Bishop Kimsey whispered to Mardow his assurance that it was okay to "go" and said a prayer. Sacramentally obedient to Bishops since his ordination in 2000, Mardow left, dying surrounded by family and friends. 83 years old, Mardow was the oldest of the 14 children of **Hannah** and *(the late)* **Paul Solomon** of Fort Yukon. He attended high school in Eklutna and he loved to dance and he loved boat travel on the Porcupine and Upper Yukon. The rector remembers many times standing on the river bank in Beaver, watching him and a boatload of friends heading back upriver, Mardow smiling and driving. *At home*. The rector remembers many things....Mardow's eyes twinkling behind those glasses; that sense of humor quietly coming out; his faith; his watching that the Little Things were done correctly; his walking into very hard places and times with people because that is what one does as a Follower of The Christ. He is survived by his mother – 101 years old **(Gran'ma) Hannah Solomon**; his first wife **Margaret Roberts**; their 7 children – **Bentley, Grafton, Mardow Jr, Veronica, Phillip, Kevin, and Georgianna**; 9 grandchildren; stepdaughter **Mary**; his 9 surviving brothers and sisters – **Paul Jr, Hannah, Vern, Regina, Franklin, Ronnie, Belva, Daisy, and Peter**; many more family and friends; and a Diocese that had come to love and respect him. In -30 temperatures, St Matthew's filled past overflowing Saturday afternoon, January 23rd for his funeral, led by

(Continued on page 22)

Seasons of Life . . .

(Continued from page 21)

the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. John Holz, the Rev. Steve Matthew, Deacon Bella Jean Savino, Deacon Montie Slusher, and Shirley Lee.** His final services and burial were held at home in Fort Yukon Monday, January 25th. **Canadian Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald** flew back to officiate at the service for his old friend, assisted by 9 other clergy gathered for their friend. And Mardow's mother, unable to attend the final service in Fort Yukon, visioned and sang, sitting in Fairbanks, as we buried his body.

Tuesday evening, February 2nd, on the Feast of Candlemass, 73 years old **Patricia M. Alexander** of Minto died peacefully in the Fairbanks Hospital, surrounded by family. And prayers were said. Born to the late **Edward Keogh** and **Margaret Henry**, and raised on the Minto Flats by the late **Arthur** and **Ellen Frank**, Patsy was once-upon-a-time captain of the Mount Edgumbe cheerleading squad; and was an accomplished seamstress. She's survived by her brother **Geno Fields**; children **Greg** and **Laverne Alexander** and **Clifford Alexander III**; adopted daughter **Tawna Woods**, 13 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren; and son-in-law **Jimmy**. Her funeral and burial services were held at home in Minto Saturday, February 6th.

Monday, February 8th, 79 years old **Gilbert Stephens** passed away peacefully in the Tanana Elders Home. Born in Stevens Village to the late **Linus** and **Minnie Stephens**, and the oldest of four brothers, Gilbert served honorably in the US Army and had attended Bible School in Texas. An accomplished and well known musician, he knew every bend of the Yukon River in his part of the world. He had a sense of humor and, always, finally, a deep faith in God. He's survived by his brothers **Paul** and **Wilfred**; his nephew **Don Stevens**; and further family and friends throughout the Interior. His funeral and burial service was held in Stevens Village Saturday, February 13th, **the Rev. Steve Matthew** officiating at the funeral of his old friend.

On Monday, February 22nd, hospitalized in Seattle but surrounded by family, 62 years old **Ella "Iglirguk" Thompson** passed away, after a long and brave struggle with leukemia. Born in Alatna to the late **Frank** and **Dora Tobuk**, Ella was raised in Alatna and upriver, graduated from Mount Edgumbe, married and lived Outside for years, before returning to Alaska. She worked as a cook for the Alaska Fire Service. With a smile and sense of humor, she took great joy in her

family, her children and grandchildren. She's survived by her longtime partner **CR Holder**, her daughter **Leah**, her sons **Frank** and **Christopher**, her two grandsons, her sisters **Florence Nictune, Pauline Demientieff, Sonya Knight**, and **Millie Evans**; her brothers **Bill** and **Homer Tobuk**; and many more family and friends. Nearly a month later, on Friday, March 19th, St. Matthew's overflowed for her funeral, led by her cousin **Deacon Shirley Lee**, and assisted by **Deacon Bella Jean Savino** and the rector. Her final services and burial will be at home this Summer.

Wednesday, February 24th, quietly and peacefully, 92 years old **Katherine Joseph William Divaadido' Peter Ch'igiioonta'** left. And what can one say? Anything is woefully inadequate. She sat for years in those pews there at St. Matthew's and, as long as her eyesight allowed, would proclaim the Gospel for us in Gwitch'in on the holiest days of the year. She won an American Book Award in 1993 for her autobiography "*Living in the Chandalar Country*". In 1999 the University of Alaska-Fairbanks awarded her an honorary doctor of laws degree for her lifetime of work studying and teaching Gwitch'in. She was the reason people use the title "*Culture Bearer*". Born in Stevens Village to the late **Joseph William Divaadido (of Allakaket)** and **Ann William Vilyil'yo' (of Stevens Village)**, she was orphaned at a young age and raised in the household of **Chief Ezias Loola Gwats'oo** and his wife **Katherine** in Ft. Yukon. She finished 8th grade in Ft. Yukon, later took classes at the Seward Sanatorium, but was always learning, always teaching, always exploring. Married to **Stephen Peter** in 1936, they moved to Arctic Village and there she taught English and math to the Neets'aai Gwich'in during the 1940s and 50s, before there was a regular teacher in Arctic Village. She also taught at the Alaska Native Language Center at UAF from 1973-1980. Katherine was fluent in three different languages and wrote books in two of them. None of that describes her deep deep faith, her strength, her lively eyes, her laughter. The love and deep wisdom and deep stories when you looked into her eyes. She's survived by her children **Bessie, Hannah, Paul, Jean, Adeline, Walter, Steven, Kathy**, and **Webster**; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, etc. Family and friends overflowed St. Matthew's Saturday afternoon, February 27th for her service. The service was led by the rector, **Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Steve Matthew**, and **Deacons Bella Jean Savino** and **Shirley Lee**. Her final services were held at home in Arctic Village Monday, March 1st; the service being led by **the Rev. Trimble Gilbert, the Rev. Margo Simple**, and the rector. Her body was laid to rest

(Continued on page 23)

Seasons of Life . . .

(Continued from page 22)

facing North, into the Distant Mountains wreathed in sunshine as we finished. **Neenahaal 'yaa.**

Late Wednesday evening, March 17th, 59 years old **Charles Clayton Baker** passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital, after a long struggle with cancer. Prayers were said. Born in Tanana to the late **Walter Baker** and **Marian Nollner**, Charles worked in the oil fields and enjoyed playing pool. He's survived by his mother, 5 brothers, his sister **Dolly**, and his significant other "**Byrd**" **E.R. Qualle**. A service was held at the Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home Saturday, March 20th.

Quietly with God, on Holy Saturday, April 3rd, 71 years old **Arthur Hunter** slipped into Easter, after a long struggle with cancer. The nephew of the late **Dorothy Pitka**, Art re-committed his life to Christ a number of years ago and was confirmed as an adult at St. Matthew's. Quietly and faithfully he attended the Sunday 8AM Eucharists, sitting in the back of the Church and praying. On Easter Thursday, April 8th, family and friends gathered at St. Matthew's for his service, led by the rector and **the Rev. Steve Matthew**. His body was laid to rest following, atop Birch Hill Cemetery.

Sunday, April 11th, 63 years old **James Lacey Grant Sr**, surrounded by family and friends, rested, after a long brave struggle with cancer and other illnesses. It was Time. It was Spring and it was Easter. Born in Tanana to the late **Florence Grant**, James and his brother **Jay** were adopted by **Grace** and **Joe Schrock**, when their mother became ill, and were raised in Southern California. Finally in 1971 they hitchhiked home to Alaska, and never left. A gifted artist with a statewide and national reputation, James's creations grace public buildings throughout the State. The Stained Glass window in St. Matthew's commemorating the first Tanana Chiefs meeting was created by him. He smiled, when it was completed, and pointed to the central figure — "*That was my Uncle*". Deeply caring and deeply committed, again and again he made caskets and crosses for people throughout the Interior. Each one a work of art; each one made with love. He is survived by his brother **Jay Schrock**, his sons **James Grant-Holmberg**, **George Rojas**, and adopted sons **Brian Cruger** and **Gino Bigjoe**, his stepdaughter **Tsi-yaa Cuny**, his grandson **Connor**, his ex-partner/good friend **Shirley Holmberg**, numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members. Wednesday, April 14th, the David Salmon Tribal Hall overflowed for his funeral, officiated by **the Rev. David Joseph** of the Fairbanks Native Bible Chapel.

His body was laid to rest in the spring sunshine atop Birch Hill Cemetery, the rector officiating, the echo of the Midnight Sun Drum Honor Songs for him echoing.

Wednesday evening, April 14th, the second pew from the front, on the left, was strangely empty during the evening Eucharist at St. Matthew's. **Ed** and **Sandy Soren** usually sit there; Sandy bubbling with ideas from her classes at the University and Ed waiting to ask a question about the Biblical texts. "*Have you noticed....*," he would begin. They weren't in the pew that night because they were in Seattle. Ed had been hospitalized since April 1st with a brain aneurysm. He would have been amused this began on April Fools Day.

Wednesday, April 14th, 63 years old **Edgar Filson Soren** slipped away. Born in Rio de Janeiro to the late **Dyra** and **Edgar Soren**, who were Baptist missionaries there, Ed was fluent in four languages — English, Portuguese, French and Spanish. Raised in Brazil, and then Washington DC and California, Ed taught in the Monterey area, worked at the Defense Language Institute, and entertained as a gifted guitarist and folksinger in the area. In 1988, he moved to Alaska, married **Sandy Sparks** of Tanacross/Tok, and worked as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation counselor. He was enchanted and intrigued by the Bible. He was enchanted and intrigued by everything. He's survived by his wife **Sandy**, and stepsons **William** and **Philip**. Thursday afternoon, April 22nd, friends gathered at St. Matthew's for his Memorial service, led by the rector and assisted by **Beverly Joseph** and **Bruce Gadwah**. A bowl of shining green glass rocks now rests in the Church, in memory of Ed, as a prayer to remember to take one and remember him and remember to be Grateful.

Thursday evening, April 15th, quietly, quietly, our backdoor neighbor, 75 years old **David Alan Shewfelt** died at Denali Center of kidney failure. He was smiling, at peace. Born in Chicago, David arrived in Alaska with the Air Force, was stationed in Fort Yukon, and there met and married the late **Addie Peter**. There in Ft. Yukon he became involved in many community activities, including defeating now **US Congressman Don Young** in a race for the Ft. Yukon City Council. There in Ft. Yukon he also joined the Episcopal Church. Subsequently, following Addie's death, he arrived in Fairbanks and married, in 1989, **Cheryl Russell**. They lived right behind the Church, at the corner of 3rd and Kellum. It's the house with a railroad train mailbox and, until recently, had a GIANT model train layout in the basement, for David was a proud member of the Tanana Valley Model Railroad Club. When the rector left Denali Center that night, and drove home, and walked over to the Church to say Midnight Prayers, a distant train whistle blew "*Farewell*"; the sound fading into the Spring night.

Seasons of Life . . .

(Continued from page 23)

Underneath everything, David always had a deeply kind and sentimental heart, loving his family and friends more than he worried they knew. He's survived by our neighbor/his wife **Cheryl**; children **Billy, Paul, Nancy, Roberta, Jack, Carol, and Steven**; stepchildren **Charlotte, Bryan, and Holly**; adopted **Grandmother Hannah Solomon**; and more. St. Matthew's filled to overflowing Monday afternoon, April 19th for his funeral, led by the rector and **Deacons Bella Jean Savino and Shirley Lee**. Final services followed back in Fort Yukon. "You know Scott, there are no finer people in the world than the people of Fort Yukon", he had often told the rector.

Unexpectedly, Sunday morning, April 18th, 55 years old **Gloria Carrizales** died in Anchorage, nearly two months after her Grandmother **Katherine Peter's** death. Born in Fort Yukon, Gloria was raised in Fort Yukon and California, and returned to live and work in Anchorage, where she married and raised her family. She's survived by her husband **Rolando Sr**; her son **Rolando Jr**; her mother **Bessie P. Williams**; her brothers **Peter and Richard**; her sister **Angela**; and many more. Her body was brought up from Anchorage and rested in St. Matthew's Saturday night, April 24th; before being flown home to Fort Yukon; and her final services there Monday, April 26th. A memorial service was held at St. Mary's Church in Anchorage.

Tuesday evening, April 27th, 89 years old **Elva "Eddy" McKeown**, in a Fairbanks Hospital room filled with Family and God, quietly breathed his last. He'd been medivaced in from his home in Chalkyitsik Sunday; and continuously surrounded by family, friends, and prayer since then. Born in Tupelo, Mississippi and raised in that area (*where he knew the legendary Carter family, and the young Elvis Presley*); Ed had worked and traveled around the world when he arrived in Alaska in 1968 to weld on the pipeline. He never left; and we were better for that. Married to **Martha McKeown** for 38 years, Ed was a friendly, smiling, story-telling good natured soul who loved to attend Church (*where he would let out his Baptist heritage, punctuating sermons with "Amen!"*). He's survived by his wife and friend **Martha**; son **Randy** and his family; two sons and a daughter in Pasco, Washington; brothers and sister still in Tupelo; sister-in-law **Minnie Salmon** and her family; and many more family; and all of us who loved him. St. Matthew's filled Saturday afternoon, May 1st, for his funeral, led by the rector, **the Rev. Steve Matthew, and Deacon Bella Jean Savino**. Final services followed back home on the Black River,

in Chalkyitsik, Monday, May 2nd.

Other deaths during these 5 months necessarily affected us, and should be noted. During this time we remembered in our prayers, among others: 74 years old **Mona Smith** of Jackson, Alabama, **Nancy Tarnai's** mother, who died December 19th; 61 years old **Marian Crow Wilson**, of Circle and Norfolk, Virginia, **Ruth Crow's** sister, who died December 22nd; 85 years old **Clarence Sparks** of Tok/Tanacross, **Sandy (Denny) Soren's** father [*See Above*], who died January 2nd; 68 years old **Bentley Mark Sr** of Tetlin, who died January 5th; 88 years old **Elwin Dean Wilcox** of Rochester, Minnesota, **the Rev. Glen Wilcox's** brother, who died January 5th; 67 years old **Ambrose Leavitt Sr** of Barrow and Beaver, who died in Barrow January 12th; 85 years old **Lillian Olin** of Galena, who died January 13th; and 79 years old **Allen Nelson** of Sitka, husband of **Hannah Albert** of Tanana, who died January 20th.

And there was 45 years old **Paul Douglas Erhart** of Tanana, who died there near the end of January; noted Gwitch'in author and Elder 88years old **Edith Josie** of Old Crow, Yukon Territory, who died January 31st; 77 years old **Dr. Frank Vines** of Birmingham, Alabama, organist **Laura Vines's** father, who died February 18th; and **Paul "Jerry" Williams** of Fairbanks, **PJ and Freida Williams's** son, who died February 26th. 11 years old **Peter Joseph "Curtis" Wayne Demoski IV** died tragically here in Fairbanks March 2nd; 76 years old **Noma Laverne Evans** of Portland, Oregon, **Connie Moore's** mother, died April 7th; 81 years old Grandmother **Nancy Paul** of Tanacross died April 8th; 63 years old **Robert Pierce** died here of exposure April 8th; and 55 years old **Jean Flanagan-Carlo** of Fairbanks, wife of **Manny Carlo**, died April 8th. Following the Diocesan Convention, **Vera Frankson** of Point Hope, sister of the **Rev. Elijah Attungana**, died at home in Point Hope; and **Sharon Tritt** of Arctic Village and California died in California April 29th.

And thus we are *always surrounded* by the Communion of Saints.

Comings & Goings & New Beginnings

In the midst of all of this, there are ALWAYS other things going on. Folks began new ministries, for example. On Sunday, December 13th, during the 9:15 Eucharist, 6 young adults from throughout the Diocese were commissioned as the Diocesan "E.A.G.L.E." (*The Episcopal Academy for Global Leadership and Evangelism*) Program began. Having finished a time of study of Church History led by **the Rev. Deacon Montie Slusher; Whitney Demientieff, Amanda Frank,**

(Continued on page 27)

SUMMARY of the JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL VESTRY MINUTES



Sunday, January 31st

In accordance with the by-laws of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, the newly formed Vestry for 2010 met immediately after the Annual Meeting, January 31, 2010. Present were **Karen Kiss, Roxy Wright-Freedle, Marty Thomas, Arlie Nethken, John Parsons**, and the rector. The following actions (either required by the bylaws or otherwise) were discussed or taken:

1. **Karen Kiss** was elected as Junior Warden
2. **Marty Thomas** was elected as Vestry Clerk.
3. It was agreed to ask **Carolyn Nethken** to serve as Parish Treasurer for the year.
4. The Rector announced that he had chosen **Roxy Wright-Freedle** to continue as Senior Warden for the year.
5. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed for February 16th was planned.
6. It was decided that the next Vestry meeting would be Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 5:30 p.m. If complications arise, the meeting would be Tuesday, March 2.
7. The rector outlined his trip to Phoenix for family medical reasons February 6 through 16th.
8. There was lengthy discussion about the expected visit by the Bishop candidates sometime in early March. It was noted information is available on the Bishop Search website: www.alaskabishopsearch.org.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by the rector.

Tuesday, February 23rd

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry was held Tuesday, February 23rd, beginning at 5:45PM. Present were: **Arlie Nethken, John Parsons, Irene Todd, Vestry Clerk Marty Thomas, Senior Warden Roxy Wright-Freedle, Treasurer Carolyn Nethken**, and the rector. Following an Opening Spiritual Exercise led by the rector, the following actions were discussed or taken:

1. January minutes were approved, as amended.
2. Treasurer **Carolyn Nethken** presented the Financial Reports, noting Budgeted Operating Income for January was \$31,667 and Budgeted Operating Expenses were \$26,834. This resulted in a monthly surplus of +\$4,833; the first January Surplus in a number of years. Among other financial subjects discussed: the remaining reserved Flood Relief money for villages was noted; it was moved to enlarge and post the approved 2010 Parish Budget in the library; various investments accounts were discussed; the church's safety deposit box existence was noted; a policy for retention of paperwork was passed; there was discussion about developing a book of accumulated church

policies; and the Treasurer was authorized to begin exploring the purchase of a new computer.

3. **Karen Kiss** was selected to continue as the Vestry's liaison to the St. Matthew's Endowment Board.

4. **Nancy Tarnai**, elected to the Vestry by the congregation at the January Annual Meeting, regretfully

has had to resign, due to unforeseeable circumstances. After lengthy prayerful discussion, it was agreed to ask **Dawn Jagow** if she would serve (as stipulated by the Parish Bylaws, this is a one year term). The Vestry Clerk agreed to write Nancy a note, on behalf of the Vestry.

5. There was discussion about the success of the Annual Meeting; about a possible Vestry Planning Retreat Saturday, April 24th; and a St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser Tuesday, March 16th [Note: Fundraiser subsequently postponed, due to unavailability of the Tribal Hall].
6. It was decided to hold another Family Covered Dish Breakfast Sunday, March 7th, replacing the 9AM Eucharist.
7. In discussion, the Senior Warden underlined the importance of tithing; and the rector spoke about the need to look outside of ourselves. **Shirley Lee's** ordination to the diaconate in Point Hope was noted; and the scheduled reception here February 24th. There was discussion about the Bishop Candidates, the up-coming reception March 4th here; and the coming Diocesan Convention beginning April 8th
8. It was decided that that the next meeting would be held Tuesday, March 23rd; and the meeting closed with prayer.

March 2010

The March meeting of the Vestry of St. Matthew's was held on Tuesday, March 23rd. The following were present: **Ray Cockerille, Dawn Jagow, Junior Warden Karen Kiss, Arlie Nethken, John Parsons, Clerk Marty Thomas, Irene Todd, Senior Warden Roxy Wright-Freedle, Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken**, and the rector. After an Opening Prayer by **Marty Thomas**, at 5:35PM, the following actions were discussed, or taken:

1. February minutes were approved, as corrected.
2. The February Financial Reports were distributed, noting that February Operating Income totaled \$17,618 (Year-to-Date \$49,285) and February Operating Expenses totaled \$22,147 (Year-to-Date \$49,041). This resulted in a monthly deficit of -\$4,528; and a Year-to-Date Surplus of +\$244. There was discussion; and it was noted that the cost of utilities was increasing in the rectory and the Church.
3. After much discussion, it was moved and passed

(Continued on page 26)

Summary of Vestry Minutes . . .

- to liquidate one investment account, and roll the funds into a Money Market Account.
- 4. **Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken** presented her research information for a new computer; and it was moved and passed to allow her to spend up to \$700 for a new computer, and the appropriate programs.
- 5. There was discussion about the postponed March fundraiser; and the possibilities of a May Fundraiser. **Roxy Wright** and **Dawn Jagow** offered to work with **Pete Peters** on the May Fundraiser, funds raised to be split 50-50 with "Dancing with the Spirit".
- 6. There was discussion about the April Diocesan Convention. St. Matthew's will serve as a Hospitality Center for delegates passing through Fairbanks; the Vestry agreed to the possibility of St. Matthew's hosting the next Diocesan Convention; and there was brief discussion about the Bishop Candidates. It was noted that **Bernice Aragon, Oliver and Andrea Backlund, Fr. Steve Matthew,** and **Bill Stevens** will be admitted to the Diocesan Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna at this Convention.
- 7. There was discussion about the April Vestry Retreat and its possible location and date. It was agreed that April 24th remains the only possibility; and St. Jude's/North Pole will be approached as a possible location.
- 8. The Wardens reported that all seemed to be going well; and there was discussion about an Ordination Gift for **Deacon Shirley Lee.**
- 9. **Ray Cockerille** reported on the recent actions of the St. Matthew's Endowment Board; and especially the work of Board members **Helen Burrell** and **Allen Todd.**
- 10. The rector discussed the upcoming Holy Week schedule; his recent meetings with the Borough Historic Commission; and the wonderful emerging trend of cooking and eating after the 11:15 service.
- 11. **Marty Thomas,** who is also Chair of the Diocesan Bishop's Search Transition Committee reported on the work of her Committee.
- 12. With the decision to hold the next meeting Tuesday, April 20th; and **Irene Todd** and **Marty Thomas** volunteering to lead the Opening and Closing Prayers; the meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.



April 2010

The April meeting of the Vestry of St. Matthew's was held on Tuesday, April 20th, with the following present: **Senior Warden Roxy Wright-Freedle, Dawn Jagow, Arlie**

Nethken, Irene Todd, Clarence Bolden, Junior Warden Karen Kiss, and the rector.

Following an Opening Prayer at 5:40PM by the Senior Warden, the following actions were discussed or taken:

- 1. The March Minutes were approved.
- 2. The March Financial Reports were presented, noting that March Operating Income totaled \$17,015 (Year-to-Date \$66,301) and March Operating Expenses totaled \$33,347 (Year-to-Date \$82,388). This resulted in a Monthly Deficit of -\$16,331; and now a **Year-to-Date Deficit of -\$16,087.** **Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken**, currently out of State, participated in the presentation and discussion by cell phone. It was noted the discussed Investment Account transfer has occurred; and the new computer has not yet been purchased.
- 3. There was detailed discussion and planning for the May 8th Fundraiser at the Tribal Hall, with members volunteering to accept various responsibilities.
- 4. There was detailed discussion about the April 24th Vestry Retreat at St. Jude's Church in North Pole. **Jeff Merkle** has agreed to facilitate the Retreat.
- 5. The Sexton's request for a week off in May was received and accepted; and a sign will be posted seeking volunteers to help during his absence.
- 6. The rector reported on his continuing negotiations with the Diocese and the Borough's Historic Commission on the erection of a sign on the property noting the Church's historic significance.
- 7. Members present reported on the recently concluded Diocesan Convention, the Bishop Election, and the elections of others to Diocesan responsibilities.
- 8. The Junior Warden reported on the recent leak in the Narthex. There was discussion about the May 15th Spring CleanUp.
- 9. The Senior Warden reported on the EFM Graduates that will be honored on Pentecost. The rector reported on the new Hospital Chaplain;

and his lack of progress on the Newsletter.
 10. There was discussion and smiles on the WONDERFUL job **Patty Meritt, Lisa Olsen,** and **Dawn Jagow** were doing with Sunday School; the possibilities of Summer Vacation Bible School; and the Garage Sale scheduled for May 1st. With the decision to hold the next meeting Tuesday, May 11th; and **Karen Kiss** and **Dawn Jagow** volunteering to lead the Opening and Closing Prayers; the meeting adjourned at 8:20PM with a Closing Prayer by **Irene Todd.**

Seasons of Life . . .



(Continued from page 24)

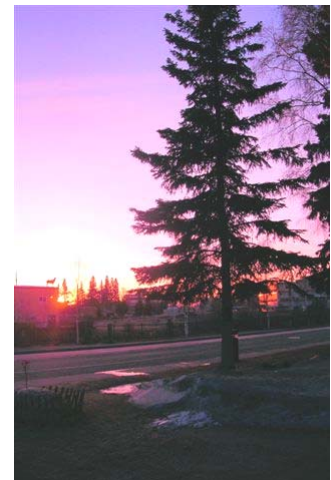
Angela Hughes, Nichole Kruger, Joseph Mighell, and Ira Snelling committed themselves to a year of further study. The Program is coordinated by **Shirley Lee**. Sunday, December 27th, we said “Farewell” to **Diana Chase**, who had been singing with the Choir throughout the Winter, as she left

to return Outside; but we welcomed new Choir members **Maggie Castellini** and **Shannon Torrence** as the Spring began. During the January 31st Parish Annual Meeting, **Becky Snow** and **Gladys Terry** were admitted into the Diocesan Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna (and **Bernice Aragon, Oliver and Andrea Backlund, Fr. Steve Matthew, and Bill Stevens** are scheduled to be admitted into the Society during Sunday services in May). Vestrymembers **Karen Kiss, Marty Thomas, and Roxy Wright** began new ministries, in February and March, as Lay Eucharistic Ministers at the 8AM Eucharists; and Vestrymember **Dawn Jagow** was admitted as a new member of the Daughters of the King during the 11:15 Eucharist March 21st.

And finally, speaking of new ministries, there was this Bishop quest. Thursday evening, March 4th, the St. Matthew’s Parish Hall filled for a covered dish and then a discussion with the 5 Bishop nominees – **the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor** of Fairbanks/Tanana; **the Rev. Dr. Gregory Kimura** of Anchorage; **the Very Rev. Mark Lattime** of New York; **the Very Rev. Timothy Sexton** of Hawaii; and **the Rev. Suzanne Watson** of Connecticut. They had met with gathered clergy the night before, and would soon depart to travel through the rest of the Diocese. (The rector took them to meet **Gran’ma Hannah Solomon** when they passed back through Fairbanks later. She prayed for them). Subsequently, **the Very Rev. Mark Lattime** would be called to be the next Bishop of Alaska, on the 4th ballot at the Diocesan Convention at Meier Lake outside of Wasilla. [See related story, this Newsletter]. But for the HOLY GIFT of offering themselves to us and God for this, for their courage and

humor and thoughts and prayers, we must be grateful to each. Each of them, by offering themselves, showed us each that we need not be afraid, that we too can be open to new possibilities.

And now across the street from the wooden church doors, the River flows, SummerSpirit calling us into new possibilities. Always and always; World without End. Amen.



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

O Ye Frost and Cold

Change Service Requested*

June 4, 2010

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.

DANCING WITH THE SPIRIT BLUEGRASS CAMPS FOR KIDS

***MONDAY, JUNE 21ST – FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH
FAIRBANKS, AK***



***This is an amazing chance for kids
to take 3 classes and be in a band
with students their own age.***

Check out details inside the newsletter