

The E-Matt



A weekly glimpse of God's People, God's Work
at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Lisbon Maine

www.stmatthewslisbon.org

207-353-8453

The Rev. W. Beau Wagner, Rector

Week of Dec. 21, 2008

St. Matt's men gather for third Saturday breakfast



Every third Saturday of the month at 7:30 am, every man who attends St. Matthew's is invited to breakfast. On Dec. 20, nine men met for mutual support, encouragement, fellowship, a spiritual check-in, and to enjoy eggs and

Roland's red flannel hash, baked beans, and biscuits. They also planned a men's a retreat on Jan. 16 & 17 at James Howell's condo in Stoneham. The condo borders 2200 picturesque acres of White Mountain National Forest in the heart of Maine's wilderness. All St. Matt's men are invited. Come for all or part—see James Howell or Father Beau for details. There is no charge, but we appreciate donations for the food. *Special thanks to Tom Lord who faithfully calls every man in the parish directory to extend an invitation to the monthly breakfast.*



Children's Christmas pageant is woven into the Lessons & Carols Service

The Dec. 21 Lessons and Carols Service at 10 am also included a children's Christmas pageant organized by Sunday School Director Jean Lane, teacher Leah Gelhar, and Director of Music Carol Levesque.



The church looked “crowded” as 106 people gathered for the annual service that intersperses readings with a carol or hymn of praise. The seven readings tell the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to our Redemption brought to us by the birth of Christ.

As the Nativity story from the Gospel of Luke was read, the children silently acted out the actions.





As the readings ended and the children were assembled near the altar in a Nativity Tableau of the Holy Family, angels, shepherds, Wise Men, and assorted beasts, a birthday cake for Jesus was lit and brought to the altar.



The Birthday Cake for Jesus is chocolate to symbolize our sin and round to symbolize having been born into our world. It is covered with white frosting to symbolize His purity and righteousness that covers our sins. It is decorated with a star in the center to symbolize the bearer of the first glad tidings. The star has a yellow border to symbolize God's grace which encircles us. There are 12 red candles on the cake to symbolize Christ is our light through the 12 months and the color symbolizes his blood which was shed for us. The cake is encircled with green to symbolize the everlasting life in Christ.

The presentation of the cake concluded with a Happy Birthday to Jesus.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, founded in 1906, is a vibrant growing congregation that brings together the four main threads of Anglican tradition: Anglo Catholic worship, evangelical preaching, charismatic expression and caring in action.