

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 Jan. 11, 2009

Adjusting to life as a Bolivian missionary



St. Matt's parishioner and missionary, Sarah VanderLinden, with a new "friend" in La Paz, Bolivia.

Sarah shared these pictures during a recent week-long visit with her parents, David and Allison, who traveled to Florida to spend time with her.

Following her college graduation in May 2008, Sarah began teaching seventeen 3rd graders from all over the world at Highlands International School in La Paz. (www.highlandsinternational.org). La Paz is Bolivia's capital and is at 10,000 feet above sea level.

Sarah teaches in English and has made a two year commitment to the teaching position. Her mission sending organization

is called Network of International Christian Schools (www.nics.org). She lives with two teachers in an apartment in downtown La Paz and commutes in a bus and a taxi for about 45 minutes to the school which is in the mountains.

One of the major prayer concerns for the school is that it needs a new director next fall. The present director has a very young daughter who cannot live at the high altitude. He has to commute to and from North Carolina for the next six months. He needs to hire eight teachers for next fall.

The school is hoping to become accredited so the teachers need to do a lot of curriculum prep. Sarah and others need great grace, wisdom, strength and help with this, too.

Please pray for Sarah and if you wish to give financial support to her mission work, see Father Beau.

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Vestry Survival Kit

A stick of gum to remind you to stick with it.

A chocolate kiss to remind you that you are loved.

A match to light a fire when you feel burned out.

A tootsie roll to remind you not to bite off more than you can chew.

Smarties to help you on those days you don't feel so smart.

A starburst to give you a burst of energy on those days you don't have any.

A snickers to remind you to laugh.

A bag to keep it all together and to give you food for thought.

And, most importantly, a candle to remind you that you can brighten someone else's day.

Given by outgoing vestry members Liz Pirog and Jean Lane to the 2009 vestry members at their day-long retreat.

New wardens, clergy, and vestry meet for a day-long retreat

On Sat. Jan. 10 the 2009 St. Matthew's Vestry, Wardens, and Clergy gathered together for a day long retreat in order to begin developing as a new working/praying Vestry committee. The day began with a 30-minute Eucharist service followed by prayer and reflection. The group discussed those things we hold dear about St. Matthew's and what we do well.



A review was done of the goals developed at the 2008 Vestry Retreat to identify objectives that were met and areas that still need work. Numerous ideas were brainstormed in order to establish clear objectives for this year. Further work in these areas will be completed in future Vestry meetings.

Jean Lane and Liz Pirog, retiring members of the 2008 Vestry, prepared a delicious luncheon served on a beautifully decorated table, complete with uplifting Bible quotes and a Vestry Survival Kit for all members.

The day ended in prayer and thanksgiving for the accomplishments of the day and the beginnings of close working relationships within the new Vestry.

St. Matthew's Vestry meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Members of the congregation are always welcome to sit in on the meetings.—*Mary Maloney, Clerk of the Vestry.*



St. Matt's women enjoy delicious soup and a matinee



Betty Bean gets ready to watch *The Perfect Stranger* following a lunch meeting of St. Matt's women following the Sunday, Jan. 11 Service.

Although a snow storm hampered attendance, a dozen women enjoyed Mary Maloney's homemade minestrone soup and the movie.

All women's programs are open to any women attending St. Matthew's and their friends.

Watch for more details on:

Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 6 pm: Dining on German cuisine at Richard's in Brunswick

Saturday, Feb. 14 at 9 am: Making sandwiches for the opening of The Root Cellar in Lewiston

Saturday, March 14 at 9 am: Renee, a volunteer at the

Root Cellar, talks about outreach to the Sudanese community from a woman's perspective.

Friday, April 3-Saturday April 4 (Palm Sunday Weekend): "Nail Your Worries to the Cross" A woman's retreat at Terry Howell's condo and Evergreen Inn in Stoneham <http://www.evergreenevtoa.com/>

St Matthew's women: *Embracing Discipleship, Nurturing Friendships, Helping Others*

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.