



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 July 4, 2010

Sunday Services honor Independence Day with prayer, a baptism and festivities



I'm in.
Are You In?
Join believers
across our nation
seeking God's healing
for our land.

Sunday, July 4 worship included:

- participation in the ecumenical nationwide Call2Fall prayers of repentance;
- the baptism of Father Joe Carr's second grandson, Quintin, and
- a festive Independence Day First Sunday lunch and
- an after-lunch intergenerational wiffle ball game.



(from left) Deacon Gail, Father Beau, Father Joe Carr, Kerryn Weed (holding Quintin) and Marine Sargeant Tyler Weed.



The Independence Day wiffle ball game

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Call2Fall 2010 Prayer

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Lisbon ME

Adapted and expanded for Call2Fall 2010 by the Rev. W. Beau Wagner based on a prayer given by Pastor Joe Wright

Lord God, Holy Father our ancestors came to this land to found a just society based upon your values and as was recorded in the Mayflower Compact for your glory.

We have failed to live up to the ideals of our forefathers and have wandered far from your word and your will.

And so we find our land beset with unrest, injustice, trapped in two wars, dealing with an unprecedented environmental disaster, our culture and our values under attack, our government seemingly incapable of making even the most simple of decisions, our educational institutions once the envy of the world falling behind, our economy disappearing and our jobs gone and yet you are the God who said in 2Chr 7:13-14

“If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

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And so Lord God we along with our brothers and sisters in faith across this once great land fall on our knees and humbly seek your face.

- ✠ We have over and over again voted for politicians knowing that they stood for evil. We have excused our actions saying we were voting for the lesser of two evils when in truth we like Peter were simply afraid to stand up for the true and demand the good.
- ✠ We have allowed our leaders, culturally politically and in religion to rationalize away the hard truths of your word and called it scholarship.
- ✠ We have allowed society to raise up idols and false Gods to be on equal footing with you the one true God and called it tolerance.
- ✠ We have strayed from your call to live holy lives, embracing sexual immorality, calling selfishness individual freedom.
- ✠ We have exploited the poor and called it economics.



⚔ We have bought off our hard responsibility to love our neighbors by funding welfare with other people's money and called it social justice.

⚔ We have allowed our unborn to be sacrificed on the altar of choice and called it a right.

⚔ We have allowed our hearts to judge sinners harshly and called it justifiable.

⚔ We have rejected our responsibility to raise up our children in your ways and dared to called it parenting skills.

⚔ We have failed in our stewardship of the earth and called it progress.

⚔ We have enshrined lust and greed calling them self actualization and ambition.

⚔ We have polluted the air with profanity and denigrated women everywhere with pornography and called it freedom of speech.

⚔ We have turned our eyes away from the widows and orphans, oppressed around the world allowing evil people to continue to exploit torture and enslave them and called it realism.

⚔ We have placed our ways above your ways, our thoughts above your thoughts and have called the wisdom of men greater than the revelation of God.

⚔ We have allowed ourselves to be silenced in the public square and in doing so abandoned our role as your royal priesthood to serve you as ambassadors of your good news proclaiming to all your love and grace.

As Daniel said in Chapter 9:18,19 after confessing the iniquity of the people and their failure to follow God's ways.

"O my God, incline Thine ear and hear! Open Thine eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Thy name; for we are not presenting our supplications before Thee on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Thy great compassion.

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Thine own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy name."



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