

The E-Matt



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

www.stmatthewslisbon.org

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The Rev. W. Beau Wagner, Rector

Week of Mar. 29, 2009

Messianic Jews conduct a "Christ in the Passover Seder" at St. Matthew's

Oded and Bimini Cohen, Jews for
Jesus missionaries, conducted a
Christ in the Passover Seder at
St. Matthew's on March 24 for
48 people which included adults,
children and the Youth Group.



These Messianic Jewish missionaries
explained the Jewish, symbols,
prayers, and ritual and demonstrated
how Old Testament prophecies were
fulfilled by our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

Oded and Bimini used Scripture as
well as the visual items to walk
through a Jewish Passover Seder,
weaving the story of the Exodus
together with the life, death and
resurrection of Christ.

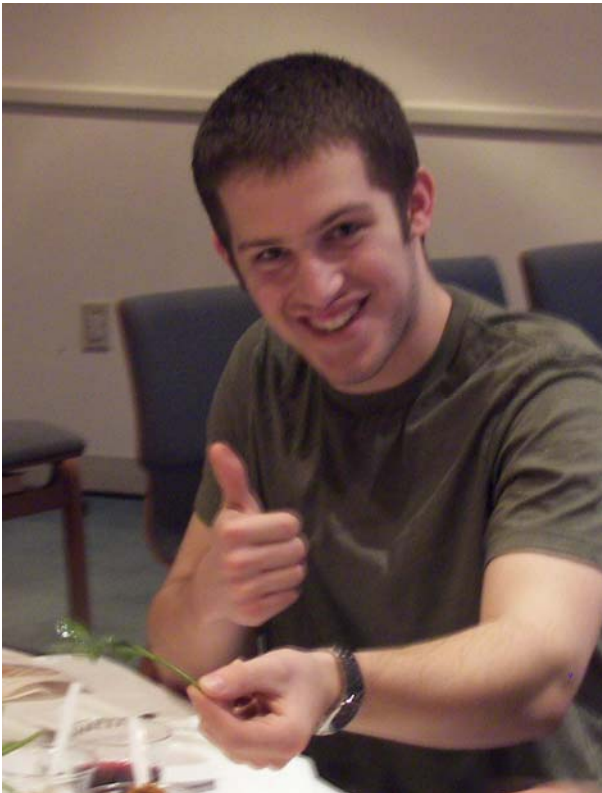
Becca Lane lights the Passover candle to begin the Seder.



Oded wears a kittel, a long white robe-like outer garment, symbol of purity. On his head is the mitre, a white silk crown-shaped headdress.



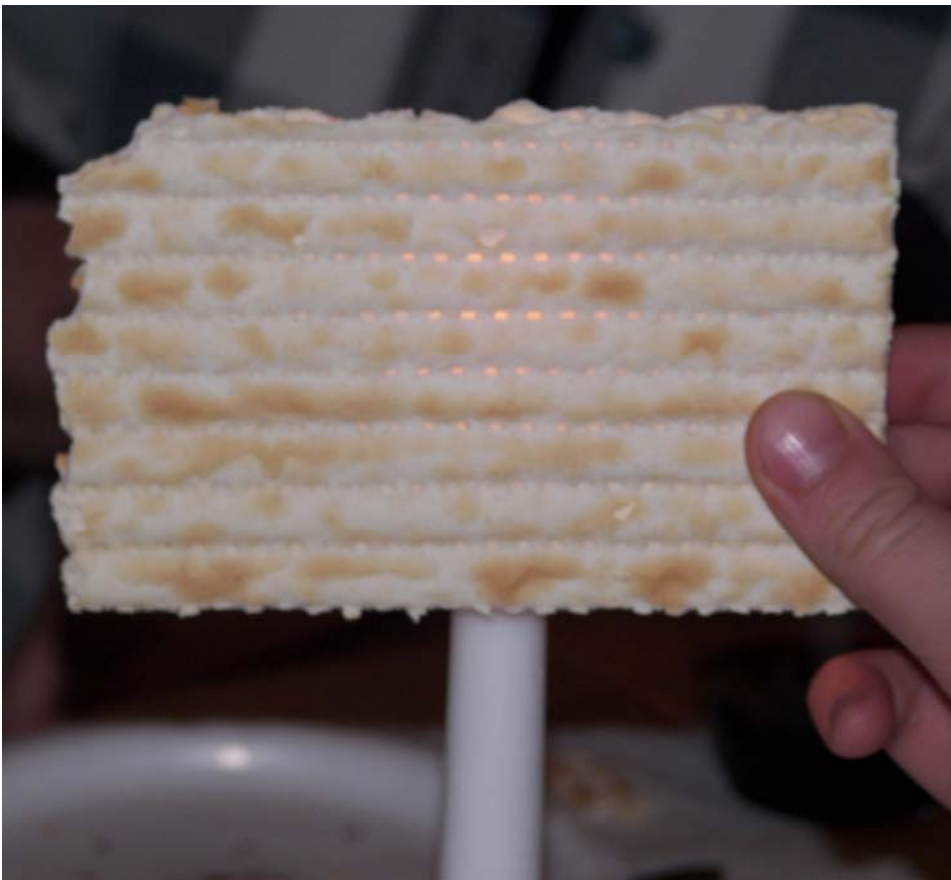
Mary Johnston puts a drop of wine on her plate to symbolize each of the ten plagues God brought upon the Egyptians.



Jackson Lane gets ready to taste parsley that is dipped in salt water. The green symbol of life and springtime dipped in the salt water is a reminder of the tears shed by the oppressed house of Israel in Egypt.



Each of the seven tables had matzah (unleavened bread), charoset (a mixture of apples, cinnamon and nuts made to look like mortar), salt water (tears), parsley (bitter green), egg (reminder of the temple sacrifice and the temple's destruction) and horseradish (ground bitter herb).



Oded explained: The Bread itself reminds us of Him. The Rabbis have rigid codes as to the appearance of the matzah. It must have stripes, be pierced and without leaven. Y'shua (Jesus) was afflicted, striped, pierced and without sin.

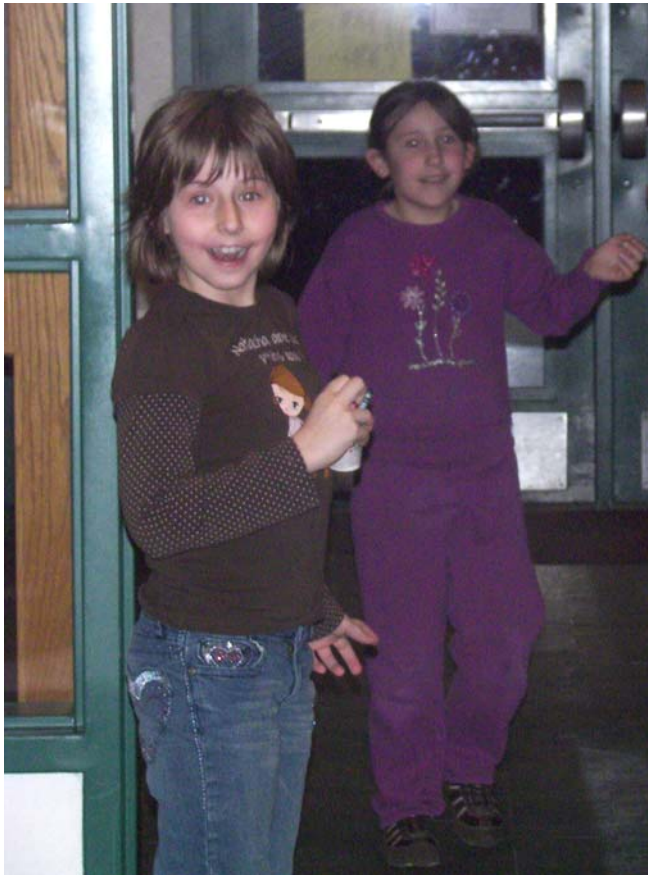


Oded explained the significance of the three matzot wrapped together: At the Seder we single out the middle matza because it represents the Messiah (the three matzot together representing the Trinity), we break the middle matza because it signifies his death, and we then hide the part of the middle matza (called the afikomen) to signify his burial. Finally we "resurrect" the middle matza, just as Jesus rose from the grave.





Tom Adcock found the afikomen that was hidden at the beginning of the Seder. The afikomen is the substitute for the Passover Lamb, which in days of old, was the final food of the Seder feast. The afikomen is blessed, broken, and given to everyone to eat. It is followed by the blessing and drinking of the Cup of Redemption.



Mackenzie Nugent and Belle Michaud look for Elijah.



Special thanks to Sherrie Dentico for organizing the Seder soup and sandwich supper and desserts following the presentation. Kudos also to the Seder Committee members: Judi Dickson, Pat Hammond, Ed Langen, Tom Lord, Mary Maloney, Susan Peck, and the Rev. Gail White.

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.