

# The E-Matt



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

[www.stmatthewslisbon.org](http://www.stmatthewslisbon.org)

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The Rev. W. Beau Wagner, Rector

Week of November 8, 2009

## Deacon Gail discerns call to Belize mission

*Deacon Gail White made a week-long mission discernment trip to Belize at the end of October accompanied by her prayer partner, Mary Maloney. This is Deacon Gail's report.*



*Deacon Gail with Children at Holy Cross School in San Pedro, Belize.*

Belize is a country with many needs. They need more clergy, schools, job opportunities for adults and educated young people. To help meet the educational needs of the children of Belize, The Anglican Diocese there has



made education of the children a priority of the Diocese. There are now 24 Anglican Schools in Belize. The teachers work very hard to give the children the best education they can with limited resources.

Many children come from homes where they have little to eat. Some cannot even afford second hand uniforms.

The diocesan and school leadership are in agreement that the schools' most pressing need is a Chaplain who will make Church more part of the school.

The leaders told me over and over: "These are Anglican schools and the

*Mary took the last picture now everyone wants to see how they looked in it!*

children need to learn more about Jesus." Mary and I visited six schools. Many of the teachers are not discipled so they cannot disciple the students. Because I am a Deacon and former teacher, the Bishop and the General Manager of the Anglican Schools asked me to be the very first Chaplain of the Anglican Schools in Belize.

The specifics of this position will work themselves out, but the main goal is to bring the school children to a place where they can make a commitment to serve Christ in their lives and in turn be witnesses in their families and future work places.

Belize is a small country in Central America that is South of Mexico and East of Guatemala with a long shore line and many islands in the Caribbean Sea. It is about the size of Massachusetts, exports bananas, coconut, sugar cane, and rice.

Tourism is the biggest industry in the country. It has the second biggest coral reef in the world, beautiful beaches and several sites with Mayan ruins.



*E-Matt Nov 8, 2009 Page 2 of 2*

*Deacon Gail and Mary take a few minutes to buy souvenirs after visiting Holy Cross School.*