



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
496 Lisbon Street / P.O. Box 879
Lisbon, Maine 04250

News from the Pews
Saint Matthew's Newsletter
April 2008

Pastor's Letter

Indonesia Mission Trip

Insert: Women's Group 2008

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors.

He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful.

But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand."

It is simple," said the Lord.

"It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

Remember that I will always share my spoon with you

Women's Group 2008

*Journey through a woman's heart and soul
Embracing Discipleship, Nurturing Friendships, Helping Others*

As of April 27, 2008

Activities open to all women attending St. Matthew's and their friends and family.

Passover Meal led by Grace Anderson (limit of 28 women)

Wednesday May 21, 5:30 pm

Followed by a healthy dinner

What did Jesus do at that "last supper?" Have you ever wondered what actually happens at a Passover meal? Why do Christians still recreate a Passover? Well, wonder no more.

Tentative for Saturday June 14 Armed Forces Welcome Home Dinner & Coffee House

6 pm dinner; 7 pm dessert/entertainment

St. Matthew's women's group takes the lead and organizes a dinner, entertainment and child care for armed service members returning from a deployment. Dinner, entertainment and child care for 50 people—service members, their spouses, and children.

Summer Retreat Opportunity Infinite Grace

Women of Faith Conference

July 25-26 Boston, MA

Ever been to a Women of Faith Conference? The Infinite Grace Conference will be in Boston, July 25th – July 26th! Several women from St. Matthew's have attended in the past and enthusiastically endorse the experience—talk to Teri, Chris or Mary. We can get discounts for a group.

Ladies International Sunday Supper Sept. 21 or 28

**Leaving St. Matt's parking lot at noon
Japanese Restaurant, Portland**

Have you ever been to a Japanese restaurant where food is cooked at your table? Why not join us for a specially priced Sunday Supper for approx. 30 women. Organized by Deb Calhoun, this will be another opportunity to spend quality time and maybe a new dining experience with St. Matthew's women and their friends.

Instructed Eucharist

**A Saturday morning in October
At St. Matthew's Church**

Nancy Violette and Father Beau invite you to an instructed Eucharist. Every service of Christian worship is a drama - a drama in which we enact, proclaim, and, as well, *participate* in the mighty acts of God. Our drama today will be a little different, for we shall stop the action at certain points to explain its significance. We are doing this so that all of us may come to a deeper understanding of our worship and its meaning and, thereby, may participate with more enthusiasm, understanding, and joy—and ultimately with greater spiritual benefit.

Christmas Shoe Box Community Gathering Saturday, Nov. 22 at 9 am

At St. Matthew's Church

Leah Gelhar takes the lead in coordinating our annual Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box outreach project. The Women's Group will help coordinate with local girls' groups like the Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Rainbow Girls and provide fresh fruit and cookies for those who come to wrap on Saturday morning.

**WHO TO CALL AT
ST. MATTHEW'S**

Pastoral Care: If you wish pastoral care please contact **Pastor Beau Wagner**. The parish phone number is 353-8453 and email is stmatthews@zwi.net.

Also, Pastor Beau's email is Pastorbeau@zwi.net.

Other Useful Names and Numbers:

Sr. Warden: Teresa Bernier, 784-5014

Jr. Warden: Roger Levesque, 353-8973

Christian Ed: Teresa Bernier, 784-5014
Jean Lane, 353-5643

Youth Ministry: Kelly Bisson, 212-6546

Prayer Chain: Teresa Bernier, 784-5014
Mary Johnston, 353-8497

Secretary: Mary Maloney, 353-5406

Newsletter: Leah Gelhar, 353-5565

Office Hours: Mon through Thurs
1-4PM or by appointment

Parish Phone: 353-8453

Email: stmatthews@zwi.net

Web Site: <http://home.zwi.net/~stmattlib/>

We would like to express our appreciation to GWI for their donation of an inexpensive broadband internet access.

St. Matthew's Weekly Services & Programs

Sunday	Service at 8AM
Sunday	Revelation Bible Study between services 9:15AM
Sunday	Family Service (Praise Music & Sunday School) at 10AM
Sunday	Evening Worship Service 7PM
Monday	TOPS meeting at 5:30PM
Tuesday	AA Meeting at 7PM
Wednesday	Women's Bible Study at 12 Noon
Wednesday	Jr/Sr High Youth Group
Thursday	Intersection Book Club at 7PM

FYI: ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ

MAY 2 & 3, 2008 China Lake Conference Center (Sukeforth New Life Center, Neck Road, China, Maine)
Friday, May 2 doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Program begins 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 3 doors open at 8:00 a.m.
Program begins 9:00 a.m.
Saturday workshop: "How to Read God's Word to Hear God Speak"
Music: Military Street Baptist Church Music Team
Cost: \$25.00 per session.

To register by phone, using credit card, please call Myrna at ABCOM Tel: 207-622-6291 *See Allison for more info.

Pastor's Letter

The Holy Spirit fills St. Matthew's with many gifts.

You can feel the Holy Spirit move among us when we raise our hands and sing with joyful praise. You can see the gift of healing when our prayer warriors lay their hands on people every week. I've even asked you to invoke the Holy Spirit to come with more power before I preach.

The gifts are all around us—a vibrant Sunday School for children, weekday Bible Studies, healing ministries, faith lived out in outreach programs, to name just a few.

As we name the gifts you can see that the Holy Spirit is never an end but a means. The Holy Spirit is just one person of the Trinity. The Spirit's purpose is to put us in personal and corporate contact with Christ and therefore the Father.

The relationship with Jesus that we all treasure is made possible by the Holy Spirit. And when we are in a living relationship with Jesus we are in a living relationship with the Father.

Yes, the gifts of the Holy Spirit fill St. Matthew's with a palpable energy. We are filled with the gifts we need to know Jesus and walk in His way. By walking the 'way which is Jesus' we can more fully seek to live into the Father's will for our lives and our ministries.

You see, St. Matthew's is living into its destiny as a

Father directed
Christ centered
Spirit filled

community of believers.

As we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to be in intimate contact with Jesus we can live according to the Father's light. And in that light witness, by word and deed, to the world around us.

We need to embrace the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we live into this Trinitarian life with God, He will work wonders in, for and through St. Matthew's.

Your Servant in Christ
Beau +

Allison's Mission Trip to Indonesia February 7 – 26, 2008

In October of 2007 a pastor friend of mine, named Frank Drake, invited me to go with him to Tomohon, Indonesia, and teach on the person and work of the Holy Spirit to a group of pastors. Needless to say, I was blown away by the invitation since I knew Indonesia was half way around the world and didn't feel qualified to teach a group of pastors. After pulling out an atlas, learning where Tomohon was and lots of prayer, I accepted his invitation. After months of preparation, on February 7th at 6am I boarded a plane to Detroit. There I met Mary Ellen Connors, the prayer coordinator for the sending agency known as PRMI (Presbyterian Renewal Ministries International). She and I flew together to

Tokyo where we met another member of the team, Martin Boardman. Martin is a seminary student from Canada with an unusual gift of discernment. The three of us then flew to Singapore and spent a night at a hostel there. We had fun touring Singapore for 1 day, visiting the Orchid Garden and Art museum.

On Saturday, February 9th, we met two more members of the intercession team, Edna and Tom Menetsch, at the airport where we caught a Silk Air plane to Manado, Indonesia, (a three hour flight back east). When we arrived at the gate and did not see Frank, we panicked a little. Frank was to be our leader and speaks Indonesian. Martin, Mary Ellen and I didn't know what had happened to Frank. Apparently, his flight from Virginia to New York was cancelled so he missed his overseas flight. All we could do was trust that God was in control and knew what was going to happen.

When the five of us arrived in Manado, Indonesia, we were met by two people from the GMIM denomination. GMIM = Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa. It is one of many reformed denominations in Northern Sulawesi with 853 congregations and about 750,000 members. Fortunately, these two people were there because I was taken into security for the pills in my overnight bag. (mostly vitamins!) They thought I was bringing drugs into the country! After an hour of their manhandling my pills and confiscating some sleep aids I had brought, they let me go because the lady of the group who picked us up at the airport and was waiting outside of the

entrance, came in and vouched for me! What a way to be welcomed into a city!

From the airport we were taken to a church where they had a big spread of food for us...much too spicy hot for most of us to eat, which we had to negotiate politely the whole time we were there! Saturday night we met with the GMIM team and discussed the week even without Frank there to lead us. Fortunately, Frank arrived Sunday at midnight – just nine hours before we were to start our conference on the Holy Spirit. The week proved to be an incredible blessing for all involved. It stretched us teachers and intercessors alike. In five days Frank, Martin and I taught on nine topics: Worldview, Streams of Renewal, The Holy Spirit and the Trinity, The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, The Four Basic Works of the Holy Spirit, The Infilling with the Holy Spirit, The Nature and Experience of the Holy Spirit's Power, and Receiving and Growing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our sessions would begin with worship and often end with prayer in small groups.

One Sunday night, February 17th, the pastor opened up a time of prayer ministry during the 6pm English speaking service. When he invited people to come forward for prayer, 200 people came forward. We started praying for the people one by one, but after 2 ½ hours, the pastor closed the service so those who wanted to leave could and we continued to pray for people until eleven o'clock that night! I just wish I had a video recorder of all the prayers that were prayed throughout the weeks we were

there and watch how God is answering those prayers.

In the evenings there seemed to be a lot of opportunity for prayer ministry with the pastors, team and leadership of the church. On the weekends we would sightsee and attend different church services. We all had opportunities to preach and share our testimonies at the various churches in the area. Two highlights for me were snorkeling and being served lobster on my birthday! The pastor learned it was my birthday somehow and ordered lobster for our team. Martin and I were the only two who enjoyed it. I wish I could have brought home what we weren't able to eat! The pastor also had dancers from the school of her church dance for us. They were so cute and talented. The other highlight was snorkeling. Martin and I were able to go out in a boat right along a reef and snorkel. It was truly an amazing experience.

When Frank invited the team initially to go, he was hoping we would be able to do two of these conferences on the Holy Spirit, but only one materialized. So we went trusting that God was going to open up other opportunities for us for our second week there and He certainly did that. We were able to minister at a drug rehabilitation center. Several prayer committees and pastor groups met. To these groups we would teach a shorten version of our seminars and added two on listening prayer and praying the scriptures. We would then end with prayer ministry. The people were so receptive to having people pray for them and so open to the Holy Spirit's power. It

was truly amazing to watch God at work so powerfully in people's lives.

Thank you, St. Matthews, for your support and continued intercession for the team, my family and me during the time. Frank is asking the team to pray about returning with him in the fall for the next seminar on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are six seminars in all which GMIM is hoping we will bring to them and even teach to the wider reformed church in the area. This is an awesome ministry opportunity because the Church is up against three big enemies: Islam, Animism and traditionalism. Indonesia is 80% Muslim. So in your prayers for missionaries, consider adding the churches of North Sulawesi. God bless you tons! Allison VanderLinden

PS: I hope in the near future I will be able to share my pictures with you, dear folk. Stay tuned for the date!

CHURCH SMILES

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.