



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

## **News from the Pews**

Special Healing Edition  
**July 2008**

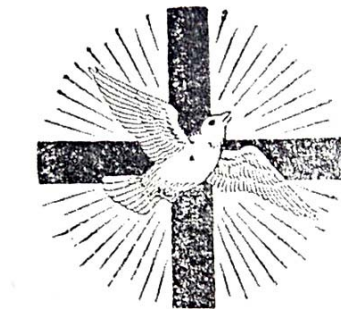
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What is OSL?



# St. Matt's Expands Healing Ministries

*New weekday Healing Service; parish to host OSL Chapter*



St. Matthew's strives to be a community where one can receive prayer, Christian reinforcement, and support in one's daily life. One aspect of this prayer and support is the Healing Ministries at St. Matthew's. This fall, our Healing Ministries will be expanded so that we can reach out to the hungry, the suffering, the naked, the weak and the lost in our parish and our community.

Our new healing ministry pathways will enhance the current healing teams (Sundays at the 10 am during the Eucharist), with the addition of:

- A healing Eucharist open to the public on Wednesday at 10:30 am beginning Oct. 1, and
- Hosting Healing Conferences, beginning with the Rev. Nigel Mumford in Spring 2009.

Our expanded ministry support offers more opportunities to explore Christian healing:

- St. Matt's will host the Mid Coast Chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician beginning Sept. 24 from 6-7 pm in the library and it will be open to the community. (Read more about OSL in this newsletter.)
- Father Beau will raise up and train intercessors specific to the healing ministry. These intercessors will take turns providing covering prayer when healing is asked for at our Sunday Services.
- Healing teams will have the option of gathering in the chapel before the 10 am Sunday service for mutual prayer.

All current members of St. Matthew's healing teams are encouraged to take part in these new resources. The Chair of the Healing Ministries, reporting to the Rector, and charged with enhancing and adding to our current Healing Ministries will be Kim Plourde. She has administrative skills as well as healing gifts.



# Pastor's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God calls. We answer.

God called Abraham out of Ur. He called him still higher onto Mt. Moriah. God called the Hebrews out of Egypt to freedom. He then called them to Mt. Sinai and later still to the Promised Land.

Jesus called us out from under the Law and into grace. Then He called us all to discipleship. The Call of God reaches us and calls us forward in service: a call that will not end this side of the Kingdom.

We know this call at St. Matthew's. Our dedication to hold ourselves radically open to the Call of God through the Holy Spirit continues to lead us further in service.

In particular, our Healing Ministries are being called forward in faith to a new level both inwardly and outwardly.

Inwardly, St. Matthew's will provide for our healing ministers a framework of mutual support, encouragement, prayer and opportunities to deepen their understandings of healing ministries.

We will accomplish this by organizing a chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician to act as a learning center. We will adopt a structure that will surround our healing ministers with covering prayer.

Outwardly, St. Matthew's will begin to offer a Healing Service/Eucharist to the greater Lisbon Community every Wednesday morning at 10:30 am. We also have begun a planning process that will enable us to give healing ministry conferences, with invited speakers on an annual or bi-annual basis.

St. Matthew's has a long history of responding to God's call when it comes to using the gifts of the spirit for the benefit of the Body of Christ. This is visible in the active and well ordered healing ministry now in place.

Now God calls this ministry to a new level and to the greater community. St. Matthew's will become a brighter witness for God in the darkness of this world in order to demonstrate His love for all of us.

---The Rev. W. Beau Wagner

## What is OSL?

The International Order of St. Luke the Physician is an ecumenical organization dedicated to Christian healing ministry. Members meet together in local chapters to study Scripture, especially the biblical stories of the healing miracles, as well as other books on Christian healing. Members also engage in healing prayer, often with the laying-on of hands.

The Mid Coast Maine Chapter is a new chapter that will meet at St. Matthew's. St. Matthew's 7 pm music leader and OSL member, Gail Rogers, is the convener and the Rev. Beau Wagner will serve as chaplain.

The group will meet to study about the healing ministry of Jesus, to pray for people in need, and to work toward bringing the healing love of Jesus to His people.

Join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, September 24 at 6 pm in the library. Everyone is welcome.

For more information about OSL go to [www.orderofstluke.org](http://www.orderofstluke.org) or call Gail Rogers at 207-685-4707.

### **New Order of St. Luke Chapter to meet at St. Matt's**

Mid Coast Maine Chapter  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
496 Lisbon Street  
Lisbon, ME 04250  
207-353-8453

Chaplain: The Rev. W. Beau Wagner  
Convener: Gail Rogers (207) 685-47078  
First meeting: Wed., Sept. 24, 2008 at 6 pm



Gail Rogers, OSL and 7 pm music leader, will convene the new Mid Coast Maine Chapter of the Order of St. Luke.

# **Listen-Love-Pray**

By Kim Plourde

Just as Jesus healed people during his ministry and the first disciples healed during their ministry, we can also access the power of the Holy Spirit to bring healing to people today. Preaching and healing are not options for us. They are essential to building up the Body of Christ.

The Gospels repeatedly talk about healing ministry. Jesus spent much of His ministry in healing people. He did this for humanity with compassion, love, and a passion for healing those who were sick.

This church community has many people who live out their God-given gifts. These gifts can be utilized to help people into a deeper understanding of who God is through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the one healing whether it is physical, emotional, and spiritual or deliverance from evil spirits. We are the vessels God uses to complete the work He has begun in the lives of His children. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to the Body of Christ (that is all of us) so we can be of service to others.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit, important to a healing ministry are:

- wisdom,
- knowledge,
- faith,
- miraculous powers,
- prophecy,
- the ability to distinguish between spirits (discernment),
- speaking in tongues,
- interpreting tongues and
- healing.

We have all developed our God-given gifts at different rates. We are all at different places (spiritually), but God, can and will, use all of us to bring about the required changes He has already determined necessary for this community.

Healing ministry involves awareness and practice. Awareness involves understanding that healing does take place today, just as it did during Jesus ministry. Everyone can pray for healing.

The next piece is the method or the practice of praying and healing. There is a method that God has delivered to us through Scripture. As one Body in Christ, we must work together in order to live out God's victory over Satan.

God does know what He is doing. We need to listen-love-and pray.

## A Testimony to Love, Listen, Pray

By Kim Plourde

My parents dedicated me to Christ as an infant. At age 8, I accepted Christ into my life, and three years later was baptized with water immersion.

After struggling and wrestling with God for many nights, I closed the door for 19 years. After the birth of my first child, God's voice came to me again. He was there all along. I opened the door a crack, and began to LISTEN.

I needed to learn of His LOVE for me---love despite all the mistakes I had made while on my own. After attending a spiritual retreat in 2004, God clearly gave me the message to pick up my gifts and follow His lead. I ran to God and received His loving embrace.

In obedience to His call on my life I began to PRAY, as I had never done before. Life began to change for me and my family. God opened many doors for us. We have walked through them as we live out God's plan for our lives. By God's grace we will continue to walk through the doors that God opens.



Kim Plourde will direct the new Healing Ministries. Kim, a St. Matt's parishioner for over 4 years, co-directs the Family Movie Night and Coffee Houses and is a licensed clinical social worker.

## **Christ the King Center Training Manual**

*Presented by the Rev. Nigel Mumford and completed by St. Matthew's parishioner Kim Plourde in June 2008*

The Healing Center of the Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, part of the Diocese of Albany, is well known for training for lay and ordained people called to healing ministries. Last year, the Healing Center has graduated over 300 individuals as trained prayer leaders with 72 completing the full course which consists of three levels. Each level can be completed as a 4-day residency program or a 6-week commuter programs.

**Introduction to Healing** as a gift of God. Examines the way Jesus healed and how He passed along His healing power to His disciples.

**Four Types of Healing:** Physical Healing, Inner Healing, Salvation or Spiritual Healing, and Deliverance from Evil Spirits.

**Physical Healing:** How to pray for physical healing and important points relating to physical healing.

**Inner Healing:** How as prayer ministries we can help others through prayer to receive healing of memories and emotions that hold them in bondage.

**Inner Healing and Forgiveness Prayers:** Practical considerations and guidelines for praying for inner healing and forgiveness.

**Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit:** Practical guidelines for discussing salvation with those to whom we minister and discusses Baptism in the Holy Spirit--what it is and how it differs from salvation. It explains the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how these gifts can impact prayer for healing.

**Introduction to Prayer Ministry:** Requirements for those who serve as prayer ministers and the different types of prayer ministry. Guidelines are given for performing prayer ministry.

**Conducting the Initial Interview:** This lesson gives practical procedures, applications and guidelines to follow, when ministering with a client. It emphasizes the importance of listening, loving, and praying, as Jesus would do.

**Conception to Birth Prayer:** Explains why praying for healing of anything that occurred from conception to birth is an important aspect of inner healing.

**Renouncing Occult Involvement:** The spiritual dangers of occult involvement and the need for healing of individuals who participate in occult activities.

**Generational Healing:** The Biblical basis for generational bondage and how to pray for generational healing.

**Developing Prayer Teams & Intercessory Prayer:** Guidelines for organizing your prayer ministry and discusses the importance of intercessory prayer. Helpful tools for intercessors are highlighted.

*In the fall, Kim will attend the second level of training to learn the specifics of healing such as healing marriages, healing wounds of divorce, healing abortion, conception to birth and more. Her third level training in 2009 will consist of advanced training in healing of addictions, healing of emotions, and ministry to the seriously ill, ministry of God's Holy Angels and more.*

## St. Matthew's Weekly Services & Programs

<b>Sunday</b>	Service at 8 am Bible Study between services at 9:15 am Family Service (Praise Music & Sunday School) 10 am Evening Worship Service at 7 pm
<b>Monday</b>	TOPS meeting at 5:30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jr/Sr High Youth Group at 6 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	AA meeting at 7 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Women's Bible Study at 12 noon
<b>Wednesday</b>	Men's Bible Study at 7 pm (except second Wednesday of each month)
<b>Thursday</b>	Intersection Book Club at 7 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	First Saturday Prayer & Praise at 7 Last Saturday Kids Fun Night at 5 pm Free Family Movie Night Coffee House

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Route 196, P.O. Box 879 Lisbon, ME 04250  
207-353-8453, stmatthews@gwi.net**