

THE GRAPEVINE

A letter from The Rev. Rob Brown



Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of what some call “Stewardship Season” in the church. It is that time of year when letters go out and sermons are composed and articles for newsletters are written that focus most often on money.

For some it is a time to make serious decisions about commitments to the church, for others it is an opportunity to avoid opening mail from the parish. Some see it as a necessary burden, others as a joyful commitment. Basically the idea of giving to the church is a reflection how we feel about our faith, but also whatever else is going on in our lives. It is both complex and simple. But truthfully, stewardship is about so much more than our checkbooks.

The root of stewardship is the word steward, and steward has a personal connotation. A steward is someone who acts as the surrogate of another. In contemporary life surrogacy is most often associated with childbirth. A couple that is unable to conceive may choose to use a surrogate, someone who will undergo the rigors of pregnancy and childbirth in order to provide a healthy baby for that couple.

At it's best; surrogacy has a profoundly unselfish character.

I know of a case where a woman bore a baby for her younger sister who was not able to conceive because of a bout with cancer as an adolescent. Her older sister loved her so much; she was willing to do whatever she could to bring about the younger sister's greatest wish. She was literally a steward of her sister's hopes and dreams.

Now, there is a school of thought that says a steward is just a manager of another person's resources. And while there is a dimension of management involved, the Biblical steward is more like the loving sister. She is committed to doing what is good and right as a result of her great love for her younger sister.

This year, and honestly for each year to come, I have a simple suggestion. We should all prayerfully consider what our giving and commitment to the church would look like, if our sole motivation were our great love – for God, for one another, and for the faith community we call Saint Matthew's.

Blessings,

The Reverend Rob Brown
Rector

The Curate's Corner: An Exploration of Our Faith

Be sure to think of your own tough questions and try to stump the Curate. Please submit any and all questions to Fr. Charles at, fathercharles@stmattsepiscopal.com.

"Sister" Nancy VanderBrink of the Society of St. John the Evangelist fame submits the following question. **What is the difference between Choral Evensong and Evening Prayer?**

Choral Evensong and Evening Prayer are essentially the same service with a few differences in the execution of the two. Evening Prayer and Evensong are both services designed to be said, or sung, in the evening and utilize the Daily Office Lectionary found on pages 934, and following, of the Book of Common Prayer. The chief difference being that Choral Evensong is an entirely sung/chanted service.

The other notable difference between the two services is the amount of active participation expected of the congregation. In Evening Prayer the congregation generally joins the Officiant in saying the *Phos Hilaron*, the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*. The appointed Psalm is likewise said together and the congregation generally participates in the prayers offered by adding the appointed responses. In Choral Evensong there is a choir, traditionally this was a choir of men and boys though mixed voice choirs are increasingly common, that will sing all of the portions of the service not chanted by the Officiant.

Check out the new website:

St. Matt's is launching a new and updated website. Please visit our new website at www.stmatthewsepiscopal.org. If you are interested in assisting us with keeping the site updated please contact Fr. Charles, fathercharles@stmatthewsepiscopal.org.

Fall Festival

We are looking for empty wine bottles with their corks for a craft project for the Fall Festival. The darker colored bottles are best for what we will use them for. Please rinse them out and place into the box in the hallway or if you have any questions please call Louise Wickersheim @541-7903.

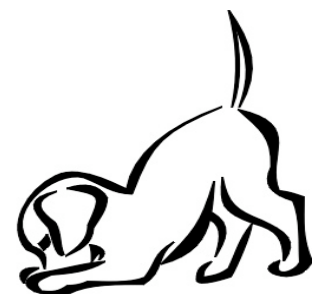
We also need 2 more people to volunteer for the pie in the face contest, and we need more individuals to be in the dunk tank for us. Any age will work for either event- any questions call Louise Wickersheim @541-7903

Blessing of the Animals



Blessing of the Animals will be Sunday, October 2nd, at 4:00 pm on the lawn in front of the church.

Please bring your pets on leashes or in cages.



October EYC Calendar

October 2 5-7 EYC at St. Matt's

October 9 5-7 EYC at St. Matt's

October 16 5-7 EYC at St. Matt's

October 23 1-5 EYC going to Frankie's Fun Place, Greenville (Lunch will be at St. Chris'. We will leave after the 11:15 service)

October 30 5-7 EYC at St. Matt's

Community Closet

PUMPKIN PATCH



PUMPKIN PATCH IS NOW OPEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Saturday Nov. 12th, St. Matthew's will be hosting a Community Closet from 9am-11am in the gym. We will be giving away coats the month of November and we need your help. If you have any gently used coats you are not using, would you consider donating to those in need. We are also asking those people who work at Schools or businesses to see if their work place would consider holding a coat drive for us. The last 2 years we have given away at least 500 coats so we know that the need is there. Due to space constraints we are asking you not to bring the coats to the Church til one week prior to the event. For those interested in volunteering for set-up Friday evening Nov.11th from 5-7pm or those working the coat give-away please contact Louise Wickersheim @541-7903.

The pumpkin patch is open and we still have many slots to be filled. Please check your calendars and see what times you have available to help sell pumpkins.

Sat. Oct. 15th from 8am-4pm St. Matthew's Fall Festival is open. This year we are offering an Arts & Craft Sale, bake sale, plant sale, concessions for breakfast and lunch will be sold and we will be holding a 50/50 drawing with winning numbers being pulled every 2 hours. Our entertainment this year includes, Spartanburg Martial Arts, Steve Holt, the Magician, Hollywild petting zoo, a Christian Clown Ministry, games for the children, dunk tank, pie in the face contest, and a bounce house. If you would like to help work any of these activities please give me a call (Louise Wickersheim @ 541-7903). We're hoping for a large crowd so we need lots of hands to help out.

Sunday Oct. 30th we take down the pumpkin patch in the afternoon and at 5pm-7pm that evening we will hold our 2nd annual Trunk or treating. If you are interested please let me know, all you need is a car, treats for the kids, and come in costume if you can. A great time was had by all last year and we would like to make the event even larger this year. October is a very busy month at St. Matthew's but if we all pitch in we only have to volunteer for a few days. Thank you for your support and let's have a fantastic year at the Pumpkin Patch.

Ponderings

Louise Tower

But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. John 4:14

It's all too true – I'm hung up on fountains! There is just something about those "showers" or "streaming" waters, those musical, soothing sounds as the droplets splash and dance that refreshes my soul. I quote from daily devotional booklet "Living the Gospel Life":

"Fountain or a Drain?"

Have you heard of the proverb, *Be a fountain, not a drain*? From a biblical perspective, we know that Jesus is the source of living water, the fountain of eternal life. Because you already have faith, it springs up in you, overflowing to everyone around.

Only the Holy Spirit can give faith, but he uses people like you to influence others. The Spirit uses you to grow a fountain in others.

When we let sin hide our fountain of living water, we act as a drain, demanding things from others. We drain them of energy and hope.

God created us to be his vessels. Let us share our faith in an overflowing fashion.

Holy Spirit help me reflect the Living Water of Jesus, to be a fountain and not a drain.

– Stephenie Hovland, Green Bay, WI

So my beloved St. Matthew's Family this is your challenge – (also a quote) "Every time you use a faucet today, ask yourself if you are being a fountain or a drain... THEN GO SHOWER SOMEONE!"



Merry Widows

Louise Tower

It won't be "Trick or Treat" on Sat., Oct. 8th, but (always pray it will be a "Treat"). Or rather "Guess Who?" ...We all love a mystery – our favorite detective, spy or mystery! Our usual place – that special space at The City Range at noon.

We will continue our Food Pantry project of creating small gift or candy boxes from recycled Christmas Cards – Tuesday – Oct. 11th at 10:30 in the Library/Conference room. It's easy, fun and very rewarding. Remember we gave \$600.00 to the Food Pantry in 2010. Let's aim for that again. Many hands will "turn out" that many more boxes. If you donate Christmas Cards please leave the backs on them. Thanks. Louise 595-3525

Serving this month at 9:00 am

	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
Vested Eucharistic Minister	K. C. Price	Kathy Amick	Melinda McDonald	Melinda McDonald	Kathy Amick
Eucharistic Minister	Ray Cannon	Ray Cannon	Kathy Amick	K. C. Price	Ray Cannon
Lessons	Susan Pretulak	Angie Painter	K. C. Price	Marie Tewkesbury	Hazel Cannon
Prayers	Hazel Cannon	John Richardson	Carol Wishard	John Richardson	Susan Pretulak
Crucifer	Erler Meyer	Brittany Moore	Erler Meyer	Dana Cumbee	Brittany Moore
Torch Bearers Gospel Bearer	Lynda Amick Will Amick Rini or Zani Ewing	Harrison Moore Dana Cumbee Will Amick	Zani Ewing Rini Ewing Lynda Amick	Harrison Moore Maria File Brittany Moore	Harrison Moore Dana Cumbee Will Amick
Eucharistic Visitor	Carol Wishard Chuck Frank	Debbie Rutledge David Rutledge	Mike Georgion Chuck Frank	Debbie Rutledge David Rutledge	Carol Wishard Mike Georgion
Greeters	Mike & Kathy Wood	Clark & Ann Moore	Tom & Ena Stapleton	Don Davis Norman Tyler	Joyce Moesley
Ushers	Shep Miller Zach Pretulak	Will Boyd Robin File	Dewey Halford Eric McDonald	Ron Coleman Jeff Jennings	Dewey Halford Eric McDonald
Altar Flowers	Ed & Sarita Shipman in honor of Jacob H. Woodward, III	In honor of our anniversary – Jerry & Susan Casey	Open	Open	Open
Nursery Vol.	Open	Nichols	Open	Price	White
Coffee Hour	Food Pantry	Open	Open	Ray Cannon Michelle Pierce	Open
Wed. Evening Prayer Officiates	October 5 Debbie Rutledge	October 12 Rob Brown	October 19 Chris Wilkerson	October 26 Rob Brown	
Network of Care	Open				
Vestry of the Month	Kay Henderson				

REMINDER: A second load of pumpkins has been ordered and will arrive on **Sat. Oct.8th at 9am**. This load is a 1/3 of a truck but we still need lots of hands to unload. Remember the more pumpkins we sell the more money we can donate to local and global non-profit and charitable organizations. Thank you for all your help and support of the important Ministry.

Serving this month at 11:15 am

	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
Vested Eucharistic Minister	Lynn Kerfoot	Chris Wilkerson	Lori Winkles	Debbie Rutledge	Carol Wishard
Eucharistic Minister	Lori Winkles	Carol Wishard	Louise Rambo	Chris Wilkerson	Louise Rambo
Lessons	Louise Rambo	Sally Galbraith	Michelle Pierce	Anne Wilkerson	M M Richards
Prayers	Chris Wilkerson	Jean Wales	Sally Galbraith	David Rutledge	Michelle Pierce
Crucifer	Luke Turner	Allison Fowler	Luke Turner	Alex Pinto	Allison Fowler
Torch Bearer Torch Bearer Alternate Special Duty	Josh Whitworth Olivia Whitworth Elias or Sami Ewing Open	Hank Lovelace Nikki Upton Joshua Whitworth Will Lovelace	Elias Ewing Sami Ewing Madison Shelton Jocie Ewing	Chris Price Madison Shelton Hank Lovelace Will Lovelace	Nikki Upton Sami Ewing Olivia Whitworth Joci Ewing
Greeters	Lewis & Rosemary Moore	Mike Georgion Glyn Shackelford	Bill & Suzanne Searson Joe & Kathy Ellis	Danny & Madison Shelton	Doug & Wendy Clark
Nursery Volunteers	Ford	Open	Ewing	Peahuff	Griswold
Ushers	Dave Pretulak John Kimball	Brandon Turner Dennis Brannon	Hugh Rambo Daniel Cude	Larry Dodd Danny Shelton	Dave Pretulak Brandon Turner
Vestry of the Month	Doug Hubbell				

Prime Timers

AN EVENT - all Prime Timers are invited!!

To: Sam & David Elliott's lovely place on the lake for a covered dish luncheon -

When: Noon on Thursday, Oct. 20th.

Meet at the church by 11:30 am for a ride or map.

It's a celebration but my lips are sealed as to whose birthday it is. (ssh!)

Veterans News



We will meet for our monthly luncheon on Friday, 7th of October, at 1130 hours at The Pig Out on the corner of New Cut Road & John Dodd Road.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Emily Anne Wilkerson	15	Lisa Carroll
2	David & Sam Elliott (A)	17	Denise Watson
3	Sarah Lassiter		Devon Whitt
4	Ron Sprouse		Zach Brown
6	George Shiflet		Lewis Moore
7	Michelle Walker	18	Ron & Barbara Coleman (A)
8	Christy DePaol		Elias Ewing
9	Christin Martin	20	Francis (Choc) File
	Vanessa Ponder		June Smith
	Jason & Stephanie Ponce (A)	22	Gary & Fergie Horvath (A)
	Jerry & Susan Casey (A)	25	David Rutledge
11	Atha McBride	26	Matt & Jennifer Foley (A)
	Robin Go	28	Doug Wishard
12	Bill Griswold		Rob Brown
	Alex Siegel	29	Suzie Thomas
13	Stephanie Dodd		Katie Ponder
14	Mike Barnett	30	Whitner Griffin
	Neil & Suzie Thomas (A)		Hudson Tyler
	Cotton & Frances Richardson (A)		



A Prayer for Those Celebrating Birthdays

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please call the church office at 576-0424 with additions or corrections to the birthday/anniversary list.

The 2011 Vestry

Father Rob Brown, Rector	583-8112	Louise Wickersheim	541-7903
Jeff Jennings, Treasurer	587-7237	Kay Henderson	574-4462
Helen Cook, Clerk	587-6770	Doug Hubbell	463-4756
Ann Moore, Sr. Warden	574-7822	John Price	574-3599
Jay Hope, Jr. Warden	809-9796	David Rutledge	595-0401
Kathy Miller	583-0706	Donna Hicks-Wood	804-2474

September Worship Service Attendance

	9/4	9/11	9/18	9/25		9/7	9/14	9/21	9/28
<u>9:00 am</u>	85	112	97	N/A	<u>Wednesday 6:30</u>	31	27	27	N/A
<u>11:15 am</u>	81	95	93	N/A					

I'm happy to announce that our average Sunday attendance for all Christian Formation classes has been at an all time high...over 50 people from ages 3 to adult are taking advantage of our offerings!! Many thanks to ALL of our teachers who dedicate their time and service to our ministry!

Our first "CELEBRATION EVENT" of the year will be held Sunday, October 2nd in the gym at 10:15! The theme will be God's wonders in nature. We'll come together as a parish family for food, fun, and a craft project to remind us of the importance of daily prayers. High attendance awards from the children's classes will be announced too!

If you're looking for an opportunity to serve? Our 'little angels' in the nursery would LOVE to see your smiling face and helping hands! They enjoy having Bible stories read to them and being around role models for how to get along with others. Please sign up in the nursery for either service on Sunday mornings!

And finally for your "funny bone"....A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it-what he saw was an old leaf that someone has pressed between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there?" she replied. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

If you have comments, questions, or concerns about Christian Formation, please don't hesitate to give me a call!

In Christ's Love and Service,
Debbie Richardson

ECW is currently using our 'blue boxes' to collect our fall UNITED THANK OFFERINGS. UTO funds are used to sponsor many worthwhile projects in our diocese and across the world. All women and their families are invited to participate so please visit our display in the foyer during the month of October! Please contact Debbie Richardson, 5959466 or the parish office if you have any questions.



October 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>2</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am - Intergenerational Event in Gym Blessing of the Animals 4:00pm EYC 5-7</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry 6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>EFM - 6:30-9:00</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:30 am Veterans lunch at The Clock</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p> <p>Merry Widows lunch at City Range at noon</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am Christian Formation EYC 5-7</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p> <p>10:30 am Merry Widows Library/Conf.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry 6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>13 6:00 pm - Choir Practice EFM - 6:30-9:00</p> <p>Prime Timers meet @ 12 :00 noon for lunch at Apollo's.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Fall Festival</p> <p>Leap of Faith Concert</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am- Christian Formation EYC- Hiking 1-5:30</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p>	<p>19</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry 6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>EFM - 6:30-9:00 Prime Timers meet @ 11:30 at church.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Diocesan Convention</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am- Christian Formation EYC - Frankie's</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Deadline for November Newsletter!!</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 am- Food Pantry set-up</p> <p>6:30 pm Spinal Cord Injury Support Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3:00-5:00 Food Pantry 6:30 pm Night Prayer & Healing</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>EFM - 6:30-9:00</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30-7:30 pm - NA's</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9 & 11:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15am- Christian Formation EYC 5-7</p> <p>8:00 pm-NA'S</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p>					<p>October 1</p> <p>Sit-n-Stitch 9:30-11:30</p>