

M *Saint*
Matthew's
Episcopal Church

Newsletter

June 2007

201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling VA 20164

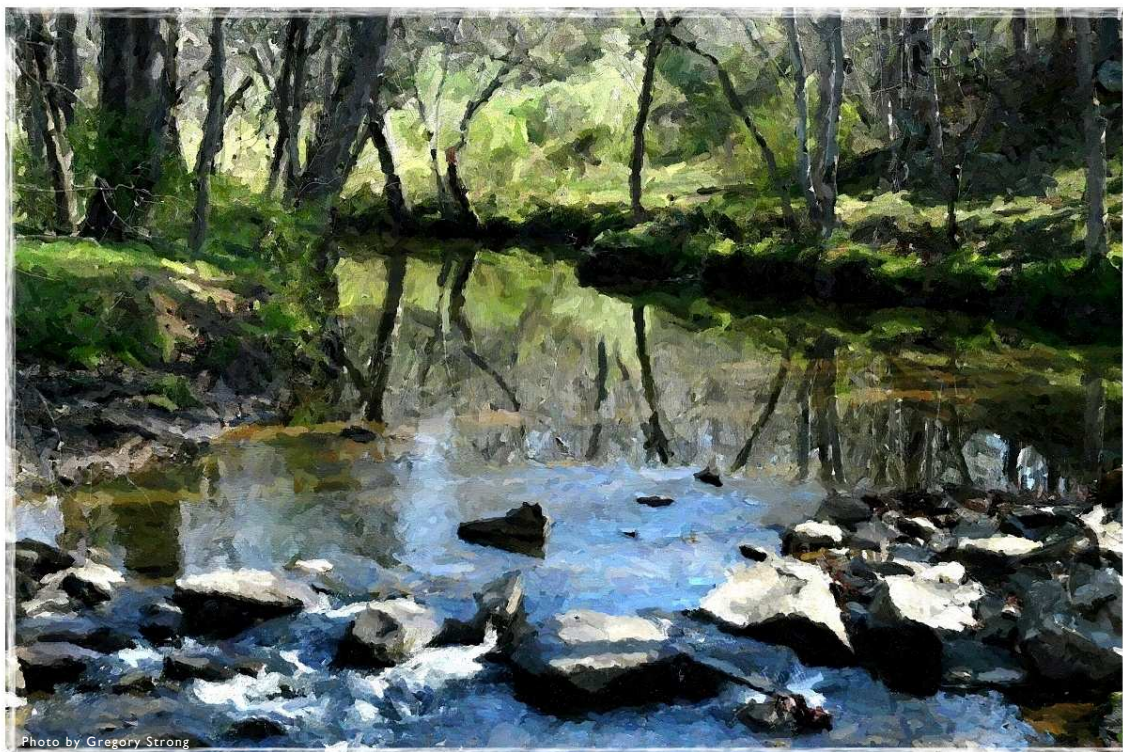


Photo by Gregory Strong

*You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.*

Psalm 65:9 (Today's New International Version)

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

We all play a variety of roles in our lives. I, for instance, am a Christian, husband, father, priest, friend, brother, uncle, son, and so on. And then within each of those roles we play different roles as well. As a priest, for instance, I am required to wear a great many different "hats," often in the same day.

Giving all these roles the attention they deserve is one of the great challenges in life. For most of us, one or two of these roles get the vast majority of our attention, and quite frankly, the others suffer for it. So, for example, a person devotes themselves to their career while their family and faith roles suffer, and deep meaningful friendships are virtually nonexistent.

But there are more subtle ways we

fail to manage our roles as well as we might. A mother, perhaps, devotes herself to her children and neglects her role as a wife. Sometimes people even devote so much time to their roles at church that their roles in other areas of their life are poorer for it.

So how do we manage our roles? I think the answer to that question is far too big to address adequately here. One piece of it all, however, is learning to go with the ebb and flow of life. In other words, there may be times when work is quite demanding and requires a far greater amount of our time. But then a project ends or a trip is over or a deadline is met. Now, perhaps, we can ease off on the amount of time spent on work and spend more time with family and friends.

Another way to make sure we give our roles the attention they deserve is to put them on our calendar. So maybe

we designate every other Friday night for the entire year as family time; maybe we schedule a weekly date with our spouse; and maybe we write in one day (or night) every month for special time alone with our kids. Then, when other obligations come up, we simply say, "I'm sorry, I can't do that then; I already have an appointment." This is how some of the highest level and most successful executives I have known have continued to make time for their families.

Summer also generally brings a little more flexibility to our time, so it's a good time to assess what roles we have been neglecting and shore them up with increased time and attention. It's a great time to be deliberate in spending time with family and friends, creating the kind of memories together that bind people to-

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FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

VICKI NELSON

I am writing this month's article for those folks who attend church alone. This can happen for a variety of reasons. Some are the sole survivors of a wonderful family legacy. (I get so much joy from seeing the ladies from Falcon's Landing. You go, girls!) And some are the only believers in a family. Some still are alone in life – either a single person on the edge of discovery or alone for reasons only the Lord understands. But, for whatever reason, we come to church alone.

I come to church most of the time alone; and some Sundays, it's like a knife sinking into my heart. I think, how can I walk the Christian walk if I can't even convince my own family of the need to go

to church? How can I say to my neighbor, "You really need to come to church and bring your children," if I can't even convince my own kids? I must admit that sometimes I feel like a hypocrite and that I have failed.

It was certainly easier when my kids were little to say, "We are going to church." But we as parents (as to older children), spouses, significant others, or whatever, cannot be responsible for the choices made by others. We must continue to lead our lives as Christ requires us to lead them – to love our neighbor as ourselves. I guess what I am saying is that we must live by example. It may take years, even decades, for those around us to become con-

vinced that the Christian way is the only way. It is a hard road for the believer to stay faithful. But imagine what Christ felt as he was crucified. He must have thought he had explained everything so clearly to the multitudes. What about God's free and awesome love did they not understand? How can we possibly believe that we have explained things as well to those we are trying to convince to come to church? That's where actions speak louder than words.

So, keep coming to church. Even if you are alone. I have no doubt that, some day, you will be amazed at how your faithfulness will be rewarded. We have a loving family at

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OUTREACH

Outreach Opportunities

The goal of outreach at Saint Matthew's is genuinely to improve the quality of life for those in need in Sterling, the broader community, and the world. Outreach helps us accomplish the mission of Saint Matthew's in knowing and sharing God's love. Outreach can be done by accomplishing small things with the love of God to quietly change our community and the world for the better. Two passages from the gospels come to mind. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and every one who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). "Go into all the world and teach the gospel to everyone" (Luke 16:15).

Saint Matthew's is striving to accomplish these tasks, and there are many opportunities for parishioners to participate, whether you've recently joined us at a service or been a long time member of the church. Outreach Committee meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., are open to anyone who would like to help. Specific outreach opportunities include helping feed the hungry in our community through LINK and reaching out to children in need at the Mountain Mission School. We have a group teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Also, we are forming a team to support a Habitat for Humanity project in Loudoun County. Look for announcements in the coming weeks of how you can help.

If you would like to help – or if you have ideas on how Saint Matthew's can serve our community – please visit our web site at <http://stmatthewssterling.org>, contact one of the committee members below, or come to our Outreach Committee meetings. We welcome your time and talents. And if you have a story of how we've helped improve the quality of life for someone in our community, please let us know!

John Martin: john.martin@kimley-horn.com, 703-855-3611
Kenny Thayer (LINK), kcthayer@verizon.net, 703-796-9054
Leanna Wilson (ESL), mdwilson61@msn.com, 703-421-7086

COMMUNITY

Trips to See Two Musicals

The Community Committee is sponsoring trips to see two musicals this summer. The first is "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Wolf Trap. The performance is at 8:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 8**, and each ticket is \$50. The second musical is "Phantom of the Opera" at the Kennedy Center. This performance is at 1:30 p.m. on **Sunday, July 8**, and each ticket is \$85. The seats for both performances are in the rear orchestra section.

We have a limited number of tickets for each performance. If you would like to go, please add your name and details to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Checks should be made payable to Richard Leach and given to Richard or Jodie Leach. For additional information, please contact Jodie at jodieleach2@aol.com or Richard at rpleach1226@aol.com.



Baccalaureate Eucharist and Dinner

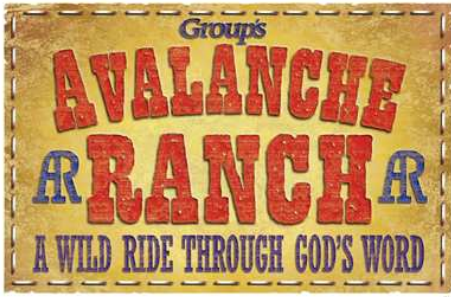
We'd like to honor our high school and college graduates on June 10 with a special baccalaureate service and dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. This celebration is for graduates and their families. Please let us know who is graduating by signing up in the parish hall on the community bulletin board. Congratulations to all our graduates! Call (703-948-7341) to make a donation.



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

(Continued from page 1)

Saint Matthew's which provides a spiritual home for each of us. Lean on them for strength and fellowship.



Vacation Bible School

August 6-10, 2007

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. ~ Dinner Included

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
201 E. Frederick Drive, Sterling, VA 20164
703-430-2121 ~ www.stmatthewssterling.org

CHILD REGISTRATION FORM

**For age 4 and rising grades K-5!
Age 3 if accompanied by a parent or volunteer.**

Register before July 15! \$25 one child, \$35 for two siblings, no more than \$40 per family. Checks made payable to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Memo: VBS. Cost covers dinner and crafts for five nights, a Bible book, a set of Bible buddies, and a t-shirt. Scholarships are available. Mail this form to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Attn: Jodie Leach, 201 E. Frederick Dr., Sterling, VA 20164. For more information, contact Jodie Leach at 703-421-6310, email: jodieleach2@aol.com

Child's Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email Address _____

Age of Child: _____ Date of Birth _____

Last school grade completed by July 2007 _____

Allergies/medical conditions _____

Parents/ Legal Guardian _____

Name of Adult picking up child _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Home Church _____

Would you like information about St. Mathew's? _____



T-SHIRT SIZE (HANES 50/50): CIRCLE ONE

Child XSmall (2-4) Child Small (6-8)

Child Medium (10-12) Child Large (14-15)

Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large Adult XLarge

I give my permission for my child to be photographed during VBS with the knowledge that such photos may appear on the Saint Matthew's website, www.stmatthewssterling.org

Signature _____ Date _____

Vacation Bible School

August 6-10, 2007

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. ~ Dinner Included

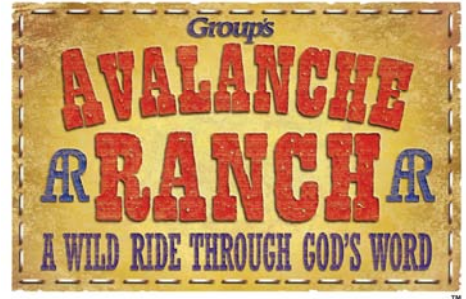
We need preteen, teen and adult leaders!

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Mail this form **BY JUNE 17** to:
Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
Attn: Jodie Leach
201 E. Frederick Dr.
Sterling, VA 20164

For more information, contact:

Jodie Leach at 703-421-6310, email: jodieleach2@aol.com



Volunteer's Name _____

___ Adult or ___ Student, Grade: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email Address _____

Please indicate the area you would like to help with:

- Registrations and/or Sign out children
- Move the children to different stations
- Prairie Dog Preschool – Leading a team of crew leaders for preschoolers / supervising and leading preschoolers with storytelling, songs and games
- Preparation prior to the start of VBS (making decorations, helping with set-up)

~ OR ~

Station Leader (descriptions below):

- Chuck Wagon Chow - Responsible for helping prepare the evening dinner and serving the congregation
- Sing and Play Stampede (Opening) – Responsible for teaching the children words and motions to songs and leading singing
- Wild Bible Adventures – Responsible for acting out each days Bible Stories
- Chadder's Wild West Theater- Responsible for showing a video segment and facilitating discussion
- Cowpoke Crafts – Responsible for helping children create one-of-a-kind crafts
- Horseplay Games - Responsible for leading games
- Showtime Roundup (Closing) – Responsible for leading ending segment that ties it all together each day.

T-SHIRT SIZE (HANES 50/50): CIRCLE ONE

Adult XL

Adult Large

Adult Medium

Adult Small

Child Large (14-16)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

College Life

Will you be heading to college this fall? Whether you are in college or about to make the plunge, life is going to change drastically over the next six months. This summer we'll have a chance to talk about life in college. Join us each week as we grill for dinner and talk about life for a while. We'll have a relaxed evening focused on talking together and trying to understand how we can stay in a healthy community with each other and God. Friends are all definitely invited. For more information, please contact Tom Leary at 703-544-5641.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL 2007

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with prayer focused on those affected by the violence at Virginia Tech on Monday, April 16. After approving the previous meeting's minutes, the vestry turned to the church finances as of March 31. Revenue was under budget year to date, and expenses were slightly over budget year to date. ~ The vestry then adopted a proposal to address challenging issues before the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. The proposal had three elements: dissemination of information about the issues and Saint Matthew's stance; establishment of a points of contact for the congregation with the vestry; and identification of possible outcomes and decisions by the vestry as developments warrant. Additionally, the vestry approved a post on the church's web site of a document summarizing the issues and providing links for further research for interested persons. ~ An update on the North Argonne property adjacent to the church indicated there has been no response to the church's bid. The vestry consensus was to put an expiration date on the bid to get the bank holding the property to make a decision. As to funding the purchase if the church bid is successful, the diocese approved our taking on additional debt, and Middleburg Bank gave preliminary approval for a loan. ~ The vestry considered and approved a proposal, by Ann Ritonia, for a new worship

service on Saturdays beginning this September. ~ The vestry heard a report on certain current and potential Outreach Committee efforts – including LINK, ESL, Mountain Mission School, and Habitat for Humanity – as well as ways to increase Outreach activities and to incorporate other church activities into Outreach and vice versa. ~ Next came discussion of delegates to the annual diocesan council (January of each year). The vestry decided to elect two delegates to council. There was discussion about soliciting candidates for the delegate positions and about enabling the congregation to express its perspectives to delegates in preparation for council. ~ A parishioner has observed that the handicapped ramp at the end of the parking lot near the front of the church is not adequate. There was discussion about the condition of the whole parking lot, sidewalks, and handicapped access. The junior wardens will explore bids for a comprehensive repair (not replacement) of the parking lot, as well as undertake a first step by getting the ramp repaired. ~ The meeting adjourned just before 9:00 p.m., with the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.

FROM THE RECTOR

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gether in deep and loving relationships.

Finally, but by no means least important, if one of the roles you also play in your life is the role of Christian (as I expect it is!), that is arguably the most important role of all. What kind of time and attention are you giving it?

Faithfully,
Fr. Rob+

