

The Ambassador

The Newsletter of St. Matthias' Episcopal Church
Minocqua, Wisconsin

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, we welcome you.

403 Chicago Ave. - P.O. Box 936 - Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 356-6758 www.stmatthiasminocqua.org

September 2011

From the Rector

August 21 was a two cake Sunday at St. Matthias. Not one, but two brightly decorated sheets adored the coffee hour table. One for Theo and one for Betty.

At the Eucharist we had just baptized three month old Theodore Matias Herriot. His parents Claire and Brian brought him all the way from Bay Area of California, to be baptized in the church where his mother was baptized and in which his parents were married ten years ago. Several rows of the Coleman family (a founding St. Matthias' family) filled the right side of the nave to welcome and see their newest member initiated into Christ's Church.

We were also celebrating the 92nd birthday of Betty McCleary a long time parish member, who drives each week from Rhinelander, frequently serves as a lector, and is still more vivacious than most of us who are many years her junior.

The church was full, more so than usual even for a summer Sunday. It was filled with year round regulars-- some who have been coming to St. Matthias for many years and others who have only recently started attending. It was filled with summer residents who are here for the season, and other vacationers who come once or a few times a year. There were some also who had never been here before. There were many children, most of them here to spend time with grandparents. And people were here from all manner of places: A family from Abu Dhabi, another family from Luxembourg, a nine week old girl from the state of Washington with her parents, grandparents and great grandmother, others from California, Florida, Massachusetts, Virginia, Missouri, Texas, Illinois, Iowa. (I'm sure I missed some.)

At the coffee hour, people seemed hesitant to leave. Conversation and laughter filled the room. Smiles, hugs, eager handshakes were exchanged and repeated again and again. Someone remarked it seemed like a big family reunion.

This past Sunday was somewhat unusual, but not really. There is always to celebrate at St. Matthias', and we are one big family.

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We are all from different places, geographically and spiritually. And all of us find ourselves at different points on our journey, both of life and faith. We may be here in the northwoods because it's home, or a summer cottage, or a vacation spot, or our grandparents' place. We may be in church for many different reasons too. We may be long time members or newcomers, we may be very active or not sure we want to get too involved. Perhaps we are knowledgeable and confident in our faith, or we may be seekers with more questions than answers. Maybe we come for the music, or for the community. Maybe we come just to say our own prayers and go home quietly. Maybe we come to learn, or to serve. Maybe we come for comfort, or for inspiration, or to have our batteries recharged for the week ahead. It's all O.K.

Whoever we are, wherever we've come from, whatever our age, however we happen to be here, and no matter how long we been coming or how frequently we get here, we are welcome in this place. As we share the bread and cup, as we join our voices together in prayers and songs, we are indeed one family and God is in our midst.

The coffee hour was finally beginning to wind down, when one of the visiting grandchildren pulled the fire alarm, sending the remaining folks out the door and the Warden, Treasurer, and Verger scrambling in various directions to turn it off. That too was a good reminder that as the Church we are not just meant to be hanging around the building enjoying our own fellowship. We are sent on our way to meet all those beyond the doors, and let them know, in whatever way we can, that whoever and wherever they are, they are part of our family too and God is with us all.

God bless you all,
Fr. Edgar Wallace

Women of Mathias' (WOM)

Women of Mathias will have their first meeting Thursday September 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the library. The discussion this year will be based on the Beatitudes with Le Ganschow leading the first discussion. We begin with coffee at 8:15 and start our meeting at 8:30. Our closing prayer begins about 9:45. After the meeting, there is a 2 or 3 mile walk on the Bearskin Trail for the hardy folks. Do come to join us.

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will begin Oct. 2 at 8:15 Sunday morning. Fr. Ed and Barbara Hook are the opening presenters on the subject of immigration. We meet each Sunday until Mother's Day, excluding all Holidays. The subjects include issues of the day, church history, morals and ethics, music, physical well being, art, financial planning, service, missions, and other timely topics. Each Sunday provides excellent information presented by members of St. Mathias. Join in on this exceptional program.

Marcia Wisner-Holt
wisnerm3@frontier.net

Website Update

Check out our web site! We have been working on getting information, news, and events on the web site more current. We are also in the process of creating a new website -- more info to come! Be sure to check the Home Page News and the Calendar for timely information on all the events at St. Matthias. (If you have any changes to the calendar or any updates for the web site, please contact Beth Jacobson at bjgraphic@frontier.com or Bob Holt at robertholt3700@gmail.com)

From your Ambassador Newsletter Editor....

If you would like something included in an upcoming newsletter, please submit it by the 15th of the month prior to your listing to: Randy Bates at hodagharley@gmail.com.

Pictures are always welcome and appreciated. Any ideas or feedback on the newsletter are always welcome. Starting with the October issue, subtle changes to the format will be made to make the Ambassador easier to read and download from the Internet.

