

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.

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January 2012

From the Rector

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'*

So begins the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins that was a favorite of Queen Elizabeth, the late Queen Mother. Her husband, King George VI, included it in his Christmas broadcast of 1939 during the dark days of the beginning of the Second World War and she had it inscribed on a plaque at the entrance of George VI's memorial chapel in Windsor where she herself is buried.

None of us can know all that lies ahead in this New Year. The world, the nation, our communities and families, each of us individually are sure to face trials and disappointments. What year is ever free of those? Of course, we can enter the year cautiously, trying to anticipate every possibility, worrying about each unseen peril, paralyzed by fear and uncertainty. Or we can take each day as it comes, trusting in God's unfailing presence, making something good of what we are given, finding comfort and courage in the love of others. And when trials and setbacks do come,

we can heed the advice of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers singing "pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again."

And, in 2012, there will certainly be beauty and joy, good fortune and great triumphs too. Of course, we can approach the year with magical thinking and unrealistic expectations, waiting to win the lottery or for God to suddenly step in and make everything perfect; or again, we can open our eyes to the beauty of God that is already there. We can be awake to each day, to our neighbors, to the love of those around us. If we are open to what is true and good in our lives, we ourselves can be part of making good happen for others.

Haskins poem ends:

*So I went forth and finding the Hand of God
Trode gladly into the night
He led me towards the hills
And the breaking of day in the lone east.*

*So heart be still!
What need our human life to know
If God hath comprehension?*

*In all the dizzy strife of things
Both high and low,
God hideth his intention."*

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I particularly love that last triplet: “In all the dizzy strife of things both high and low, God hideth his intention.” God is at work in all things, hidden, unseen, unknowable perhaps, but none the less present and always making all things new. Jesus speaks of the Kingdom as 'seed planted in the ground' as 'yeast hidden in four' as 'treasure buried in a field'. We cannot see fully what will be, but with our hand in God's, we can journey on with courage, hope, and delight.

May God bless you and all those dear to you this New Year.

Fr. Edgar Wallace

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in making this a beautiful and Christ filled Advent and Christmas at St. Matthias': Choir, Altar Guild, Acolytes, Readers, Ushers, Greeters, those who helped with the Greening of the Church, and folding and stuffing bulletins, those who brought food for the Lessons and Carols reception and the Greening Chili supper, all who so generously placed gifts under the giving tree for those at Avanti Care Center and at the Lac du Flambeau Domestic Abuse Shelter, those who very generously gave to our Well project through Episcopal Relief and Development, and all those whose presence made our worship beautiful and uplifting. A very special thanks to Le Ganschow our choir director, and Bob and Marcia Holt our organists for their wonderful leadership. This year's Advent Lessons and Carols on December 11 and the music on Christmas Eve were especially lovely. Many thanks to our Verger/Sexton Bill Kane for organizing the servers and making sure the church and parish hall were set up and all was in place for the numerous events. And a huge thanks to our secretary Michael Tautges for all his work preparing the services bulletins and sign up sheets, making copies of music for the choir, printing off lessons for readers, etc. etc.

Water Project

There is still time to donate toward our project to donate well for a village in need of water. Money has been coming in and we hope to forward it soon to Episcopal Relief and Development. If you have not yet had a chance to give and would still like to, forward your check or gift to St. Matthias' marked “water project”.

Fr. Edgar Wallace

St. Matthias' Presents Gifts To Frederick Place NATH House

A collection of items from the wish list for Frederick Place totally \$1000.00 was presented to Tammy Modic, Executive Director of Frederick Place, by Gordon Hermanson and Barb Guy during the second week in Advent. Included were paper products, coffee, two Taxi cab vouchers for 20 rides, money for the pharmacy account at Stoxen Professional Pharmacy, and gift cards for haircuts, gas cards, and office supplies at Office Max.

This project was recommended to the vestry by The St. Francis Project, and approved by the vestry unanimously, to be drawn from the Thrift Shop Tithe for outreach and education.



St. Francis Project Update

The St. Francis Project met on November 13, 2011. Those present were: Fr. Wallace, Laurie Glowac, Ron Glowac, Bill Dickens, Beth Tornes, Jane Trotter, Barb Kroeger, Ron Kroeger, Susan Brant, Tom Nilsson, Betty Nilsson, Diane Diederich, Barb Guy, and Chris Clark.

The following project proposals were discussed:

1.) Ron Glowac presented a proposal to build a storage shed for the Lac du Flambeau Domestic Abuse Shelter. St. Matthias would pay for the materials to build the shed (\$1800) and the Lions Club would construct it. There is a possibility the LdF Presbyterian Church might help fund this. The group felt it was an excellent proposal but asked Ron to investigate a few things before proceeding. He will report back at the January meeting.

2.) Summer Liturgies - we are looking at 3 special summer liturgies - a Jazz service, a Native American service and a U2 Eucharist - probably to be held in Torpy Park, June, July and August. Laurie will work with Isaiah on these.

3.) Christmas Tree for Lac du Flambeau Domestic Abuse Shelter. Jane will get the tree, Laurie and Ron will obtain a list of Domestic Abuse Shelter people for gifts, and Diane will make the tags. Diane will also contact K-Kare, Avanti, One Penny Place and Seasons of Life to see if they have additional names for tree.

4.) ILI - We will check on available Sunday Forum slots and see if Bob Kovar can make a presentation.

5.) Water - Episcopal Relief & Development has a program that would allow us to buy where we could buy an entire well for \$5000. The group would like to make this our Advent project. Edgar will announce it at church on 11/27, Laurie will do announcement on 12/4 and Susan will do one the 12/11 - still need someone for 12/18. We already have a sizable contribution for this purpose in memory of Roger Ward.

6.) Voter Registration - Barb K spoke about the need to help transport people to register to vote and the ways new laws have made registration more difficult. Laurie will work on a "What you need to know" type flyer and Ron will contact Sen. Holperin about possible voter registration options in Minocqua. The flyer will be made available at the Community Table.

7.) Frederick Place - Barb Guy submitted a proposal that would have us contribute \$1000 for paper products, coffee, taxi, hair cut, and gas vouchers. The group approved the proposal and it will be proposed at the next Vestry meeting.

8.) Chris Clark submitted a proposal to put together baby baskets and bring them to the parents of newborns in our area. The cost would be \$600 for one year; the group also approved this and it will be submitted to Vestry for their approval.

9.) Tom Nilsson would like to plan an ice fishing/chili or spaghetti supper for all veterans. He will talk with area guides to encourage them to donate their time - this will be publicized - target date is February. This was also well received by the group and Tom will continue to work on this.

The Cuba Mission Trip will be further discussed at our next meeting in January.

We now have a project proposal form for presentation of ideas. See Laurie for a copy.

Proposal #3, #5, #7 and #8 were presented to the Vestry for approval and all were approved with funding attached as necessary.

Our next meeting will be January 29th at 11:30 am. All are invited to attend.

Please let Laurie or Ron know if you have any questions, comments or suggested projects.

Submitted by Laurie Glowac

Who's In the Pews?

Betty McCleary



Our much beloved Betty McCleary was born in Baltimore, Maryland, at the end of WWI to Cedric and Una Beebe. Her father was working for the Army as a chemist, having degrees from Oxford and Harvard, and was stationed at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. He was from Reno, NV although his family was originally from Michigan and Vermont. Her mother, Una was an original Bostonian.

The day Betty's mother went into labor, it must have been a rather harrowing trip for Betty's parents to have had to take the train to the Womens' Hospital in Baltimore the day Betty was born. Betty's brother, Cedric Jr., known as "Ced", was born three years later in Baltimore. His parents trip to the hospital for his delivery was a bit easier in their Model T Ford.

When Betty was just 6 years old, her father drowned when he went ice skating on a nearby river and fell through the ice. Betty remembers the time as very confusing after her dad died because no one really talked to her about what had happened to him. She even went out looking for him the day after he died and was missing for awhile and a search party was organized to find her.

Her mother had one week to pack up and move off the base. They moved to Betty's grandmother's house in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Betty's aunt and uncle also lived. Her uncle was an illustrator but lost his job in the depression. Betty's mother got a job teaching in Arlington, MA, and essentially supported the extended family throughout the depression.

During her growing up years, Betty remembers her mother being cheerful, happy - a laughing spirit when she was with her children. They took many excursions together to historical sites around Boston, learning local history, taking the subway into Boston or riding in their Model A car. The family had a farm in NH (which they lost in the depression) where Betty spent many summers. Later, her mother was Head Nature Counselor in summer camps and Betty and Caddy attended them with their mother. When she was a little older, Betty herself worked in the camps during the summers.

Betty attended Cambridge High and Latin (where her grandmother had been valedictorian of her class) for her first two years of high school and then got a scholarship to a private all girls prep school for her last two years. From there she attended Wheelock College in Boston, a teachers' college. Betty majored in education (kindergarten). She also taught Sunday School in the Congregational Church. She told me that she dated quite a bit (not hard to imagine since she is so cute and vivacious today!) but along came Sidney McCleary who also taught Sunday School at the Congregational Church. When Betty saw him, she knew he was the one for her. Sidney had a Masters in Business from Harvard.

This was now the beginning of WWII and they were married in 1941. Sidney took a job with GM in Flint MI. Housing was scarce but one of Sid's co-workers rented the newlyweds three rooms in the second story of his house. The family lived in Flint for 5 years and had two daughters there, Susan and Judith (who died in infancy).

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She and Sid moved around quite a bit after that with various jobs. They lived in Maynard, MA, New York City, Bergenfield, NJ and Grand Island, NY. and Boyd ("Bo" to Betty). While in NYC, they lived in the rectory of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and eventually became Episcopalians. They had little money and Sid traveled a lot but Betty had learned resourcefulness from her own mother and she and Susan did a lot of things in the city that were free. While living in Bergenfield, Boyd ("Bo" to Betty) was welcomed into the family with great joy.

While living in Grand Island, NY, which is an island in the Niagra River near Buffalo, Betty went back to school in childhood education at night and on weekends and finished her degree in Early Childhood Education. Sid took care of Susan and Boyd - a modern man! After three years, they moved back to Michigan and General Motors. Betty taught in the Detroit school system during the time that the city was experiencing radical change in its population. Three years later, they moved to Grosse Pointe, a suburb of Detroit. Sid continued to travel and Betty substitute taught there. She remembers these as very happy years for their family.

In 1976, Sid retired and they moved to Rhinelander, where daughter, Susan, was living. They lived on Lake Mildred in Newbold for 18 years. They joined St. Matthias' right away upon moving to the area - it was smaller than the church in Rhinelander and they liked the smaller size and the young priest, Roger Wharton. Later, Barry Whenal married their daughter Susan to John Brant at St. Matthias. Unfortunately, Sid passed away 17 years ago after 53 wonderful years of marriage. Betty is so proud and grateful for her two children, Susan Brant and Boyd McCleary, her four wonderful grandchildren (Ellie and Benjamin Heath and Jessica Bracamonte and Dan McCleary) and four precious great grandchildren (Madeline and Sean Heath) and Logan and Elizabeth Bracamonte).

Betty is a true lifelong learner. She is active in Learning in Retirement and the American Association of University Women. She belongs to the YMCA for exercise, and

spends a good amount of time visiting and taking care of friends, sometimes pampering them with her special custard creations. She describes herself as a naturalist and is passionate about the environment - a gift she clearly received from her mother. She is an expert wildflower identifier and has turned her entire backyard into a prairie garden. I am told that she is renowned among her many friends for her very special custards.

Betty has contributed countless hours in service to St. Matthias', primarily through her time as a vestry member and as a volunteer at the Thrift Shop. We are so blessed to have Betty in our St. Matthias' family and we wish her a very special Christmas season this year.

Submitted by Laurie Glowac

Flower Brigade

Flower Brigade Schedule - If you would care to help deliver altar flowers one or two Sundays between January and the end of June, please stop by the Sunday School room after the service on January 22 to meet with Barb Roxworthy and schedule a couple of Sundays that work into your time frame. Everyone enjoys receiving flowers ... and you will love delivering them!

Save the Date ...

Feb. 12 - Baby shower during coffee hour for Emily and Michael Tautges.

Feb. 18 - Annual Winter Survivors Party

Book Group Update

Thurs. Jan 26, 5:00 pm - St. Matthias Book Group - in the Parish Hall. Book is: The Naked Now by Richard Rohr

Please bring your ideas for new books to share and discuss.

Submitted by Jane Trotter

Thrift Shop News

Le Ganschow

Holiday Tales from the Past that “Warm the Heart”

A gentleman from the food pantry came with a voucher and picked out a worn flannel lined shirt and warm jeans. “This is so wonderful,!” he said. Then he said he had just had dinner at the Community Table. “It was so wonderful,” he said. “They had left-over ham and I got to take a plate home!

A volunteer recently collected goods for a family who was left homeless and living in a motel after both spouses lost their jobs. Because of our vast inventory and efficient storage system, we were able to fulfill their need for coats and other clothing items, a cooking pot, boots in three different sizes, and extra bed linens.

Miracles never cease! A volunteer requested twin beds for a family in need, but there were no twin beds at our furniture annex. As she was leaving the shop, however, a donation of twin beds arrived!

A woman purchased enough ornaments to decorate a full tree. The floor manager suggested that her tree would really “look lovely.” “Oh, no!” said the woman. “These are for a Christmas fund-raiser. I’m filling an antique bathtub with these ornaments.”

Holiday Items Popular at the Thrift Shop

Many weeks before the holidays, thrift shop coordinator Jan Degner began spending much of her time pricing Christmas items. She estimates that over the past year we collected over 200 storage boxes of just Christmas items. If you haven’t seen our recently-renovated storage area and storage system, take a peak inside the back door!

Thanks to Our Volunteers

For the entire week before Christmas, daily volunteers were treated to pizza luncheons as a token of appreciation for their hard work. And our volunteers have been busy!

4th Quarter Donations

\$2000

Food Pantry (plus Thanksgiving turkeys, totaling around \$6500)

\$1000

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Habitat for Humanity
Pastime Club
The Fix Is In

\$500

Campanile Conservatory
Minocqua Fire Department
Northwoods Wildlife Center
Campanile Conservatory
Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers

For a complete list of 2011 quarterly donation recipients, as well as all of the charities we have sponsored since the new shop opened, go to the church

website: church@st.matthiasminocqua.org.

Thank You from the Pastoral Care Team!

The Pastoral Care Team would like to thank all of you who made cookies for our elderly and home-bound friends. Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver or mail poinsettias and Christmas goodie boxes to 12 individuals or families. The giving spirit is certainly alive and well at St. Matthias!

Submitted by Chris Clark