

## our mission

Promote goodwill in the community  
Provide quality merchandise  
Assure affordable prices  
Support community outreach activities

Fall 2011

# St Matthias THRIFT SHOP

*treat yourself to a  
pleasant surprise*

outstanding service  
lowest prices  
quality merchandise

715-358-2182

439 E. Front St., Minocqua  
church@stmatthiasminocqua.org

### All are welcome

All are welcome at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church. Services are Sundays at 10:00 a.m. An additional service is at 8:00 a.m. (from June through August). Evensong services are third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and are followed by a potluck supper. Contact the church at 715-356-6758, send an e-mail to church@stmatthiasminocqua.org or visit our website at stmatthiasminocqua.org.

### From the editor

Many shoppers don't realize the number of hours Thrift Shop coordinator Jan Degner and Furniture Annex coordinator Gene Degner donate to keep our shops well-stocked and efficiently organized. Recently they told stories at a church discussion forum. Below are a few of their stories. Our readers may be surprised at the things that go on at the two shops.

### There's something magic about this place! (Jan Degner, Thrift Shop)

- As one of our volunteers set about preparing for the May wedding display in the entrance to the shop, she discovered that there were not enough wedding items for the display. Suddenly, within moments, an enormous bag of wedding clothes and items appeared at the drop-off in back of the shop. In Jan's words: "We turn around and there it is!"
- We recently spent a sunny weekend afternoon looking for pussy willows, found lots of them, tied them in bunches, and sold them at the shop for \$4.00 a bunch.
- A group of high school boys came in one day during lunch and asked for cowboy boots. These boys now talk about the shop as "their store" and are regular shoppers. Their initiation to the thrift shop started with their discovery of tuxedos, all of which they

purchased at the shop.

- The word about bargains has spread through the Lakeland high school population. For example, the high school hockey team arrived one day and bought sport coats. Size wasn't an issue; they just wanted them "big!" Also, a group of high school students who took responsibility for producing, directing, staffing, and publicizing a play at the Campanile purchased their outfits at the thrift shop. We now put aside specially-marked boxes for theater "productions."
- A while back we were invited to the old Catholic Church to select what we wanted from items the church left behind after its move from temporary quarters to their new facility. We got an incredible number of drink glasses, two elaborate seven foot candelabras, and a kneeler and three wrought iron chairs that have been refurbished for use in our church.
- The Saturday before our seasonal turnover of merchandise (occurs in the fall and spring of the year), everything left in the shop after a week of sales is free. This spring Boxes of Love took almost everything, and the shop was practically free of merchandise by closing time.
- Every week we haul an average of 140 bins of clothing and shoes to the Senior Center, where they are sorted for GoodWill. Seniors at the Center raise over \$10,000 yearly for their Center through this recycling initiative.

### *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner*

"Hats Off to our Volunteers"  
(wear the hat of your choice)

When: Monday, Sept. 12,  
5:00 Cocktails; 6:00 Dinner

Where: Reuland's Conference Center

### *We Support Local Charities*

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church donates proceeds from the Thrift Shop to area charities quarterly. The Thrift Shop governing committee recommends charities based on proposals submitted by the volunteers. 2nd Quarter donations for 2011:

*\$1,500 Donation:*

*Lakeland Food Pantry*

*\$1,000 Donations:*

*MTH Foundation, Mary Mile*

*Big Brothers Big Sisters*

*Hospice (in memory of Volunteer*

*LaVergne Joern)*

*Camp Jorn*

*Alzheimers Association*

*\$500 Donations:*

*Campanile Conservatory*

*Compassionate Friends*

*Relay for Life*

The Thrift Shop also makes donations of household goods, books, furniture, and clothing to needy families/nonprofits. This past year an estimated \$1,130 worth of merchandise was donated to individuals and nonprofit organizations.

10% of the net income of the Thrift Shop supports a variety of community outreach activities of St. Matthias' Episcopal Church; the remaining dollars are used for upkeep, renovations, and community outreach.

Proposals for 3rd Quarter donations due Sept. 1, 2011.

calendar of events 

Visit our church website to find out the latest information about our thrift shop and furniture annex: stmatthiasminocqua.org

winter hours 11 - 3 Tuesday – Saturday

summer hours before Labor Day, 10 - 3

evening hours: 5 - 8 Wednesdays

FURNITURE ANNEX

located on Milwaukee St.

across from Fire Station

Saturdays 11 - 3 winter, 10 - 3 summer

Our Furniture Annex is a “work in progress!” (Gene Degner, Furniture Annex)

• (a typical week in Gene’s life at the Furniture Annex) Several of us pick up furniture on Tuesday and make price estimates. On Wednesday I repair donated furniture. We arrange the store on Thursday, and on Friday we mark the items and do a final walk-through.

• Several months ago when the Campanile sold all its pews in order to purchase cushioned seats, I purchased four pews for \$50 apiece. First I made shelves for the craft area of the Thrift Shop and then constructed benches out of the leftover pieces and sold them at the Furniture Annex for a nice profit.

• A man told his wife he was tired of hauling around a love seat in his car so he gave it to the Furniture Annex.

• Virtually all of the furniture stores in town provide a trade-in option where customers can bring in their good used furniture; the store then donates this furniture to our Furniture Annex.

• We are often called upon to clean out entire cottages and to pick up furniture items. Last fall we averaged one to two

### volunteer opportunities

Interested in volunteering at the Thrift Shop? Contact Jan Degner at 356-3447 or [jdegner42@charter.net](mailto:jdegner42@charter.net) or ask at the front desk

## we accept items in good condition

Please do not give us anything you would not give to a friend. We may refuse items that are not saleable. Call 358-2182 for questions.

## mark your calendar

Aug 30, 31	Half-Price Sale
Sept 1, 2	Dollar-a-Bag Sale
Sept 3	Free Day open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sept 4-19	Closed for cleaning & restocking
Sept 12	Fall Appreciation Dinner at Reuland’s Conference Center
Sept 20	Reopening with fall & winter merchandise
Sept 24	Beef-a-Rama

pick-ups a week. If the owner says, “Take all or nothing,” we say, “Nothing.” Most people want to donate, so they ask us to come out anyway. We sometimes charge a small fee for long-distance pick-ups.

## Introducing Volunteer Bev Coller

*Unless Bev Coller is cashiering as a substitute for our regular cashiers, on Tuesdays and some Fridays and Saturdays she is in the back sorting and pricing voluminous boxes of incoming books, tapes, CDs, and records. Bev said she used to shop at the old shop, and when the new shop opened, she decided it would be a “fun place to work....And it is!” To keep herself busy, she also shelves books at the public library and occasionally serves as a Docent at the museum in Minocqua. Bev’s hobbies (when she isn’t volunteering) include knitting, crocheting, aerobic swimming, and walking her grandkids’ dog.*

## customer tales

*A woman came into the shop with her three daughters carrying a bunch of flowers and presented them to Coordinator Jan Degner. The girls all donned skirts and accessories sewed together with ties (even a tie waistband) their mother had purchased at the thrift store. Talk about the latest in fashions!*

*A local man caught sight of a pretty white dress in our workroom and asked if he could look at it. A volunteer showed it to him and he told me he wanted to get it for his longtime girlfriend. He said she had indicated she would marry him, if only she had the right dress. He didn’t purchase it just then, but came back the next week and asked for the dress again. A volunteer located it and this time he made up his mind to “put her on the spot” and see if she would come through on his “proposal” dress.*

## emergency situations

Our merchandise is free to those in need, whether from fire losses or other disasters. If you are in the shop, let our cashier know and we’ll do our best to accommodate your needs. You can also call Jan Degner at 356-3447.

### **Governing Committee:**

*Coordinator: Jan Degner  
Treasurer: Karin Randolph  
Betsy Butler Rita Green  
Susie Mueller Ruth Wagner  
Barb Kwiatkowski*

*Daily floor managers are encouraged to attend the meetings. All Thrift Shop business must be approved by the governing committee.*

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