



LIVING FAITH

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.stmatthews.us

email: stmatthews@stmatthews.us

JANUARY 2009

**CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING,
PART II
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

9:45 A.M.

ALL CONFIRMED MEMBERS

**NEW CHURCH OFFICERS FOR
2009**

The following people will steer our congregation this year.

President – Keith Cotner
Vice-President – Gretchen Wilcox
Secretary – Lana Capps
Treasurer – Hugh Miller
Financial Secretary – Pat Hartline

Committee Chairpersons:

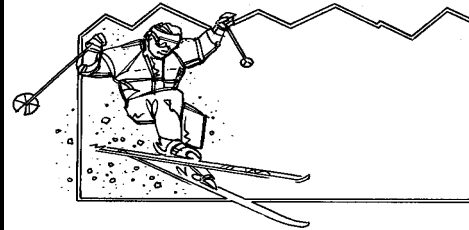
Worship & Music – Lana Capps
Christian Education – Eileen Goldschmidt
Evangelism – Brad Miller
Social Ministry – Gretchen Wilcox
Property – Mike Mazzucchi
Finance & Stewardship- Jerry Mays
Day School – Christine Bohannon
Fellowship – Steve Zimmerman

Meeting Nights & Times:

Day School – 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Social Ministry – 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Finance & Stewardship - 1st Thursday, 8 p.m.
Property – 2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.
Evangelism – 3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Fellowship – 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.
Worship & Music – 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Christian Education – 4th Thursday, 8 p.m.

**SR. HIGH YOUTH SEE THE SIGN-UP
POSTER FOR THE SKI TRIP ON**

Jan. 23 & Jan. 24



**7th & 8th Grade Youth Ski Trip Sat.,
Jan 24**

See poster to sign up!

GIFTS OF HOPE

Our congregation supplied \$2,704 for gifts through the Christmas Market in 2008. These gifts went to provide: meals for Fellowship Square residents, books for children in Southeast Ministry, food for needy families through Community Family Life Services, services for residents of the National Lutheran Home, camps and trips for children through various organizations and support for daily operations at the Drop in Center, just to name a few. Thanks be to God!

Gifts of Hope are available year round through the web site: www.giftsofhopemetrodc.org.

**HOMELESS PREVENTION
SHELTER SUPPORT**

St. Matthew's will be providing food and serving the evening meals at the Homeless Prevention Shelter the week of **January 18-24**. Please see the poster on the bulletin board to sign up to support this ministry.

“Family Matters”

Sunday, February 22, the Christian Education Committee will present “Family Matters”, the 2009 Fastnacht fun. Come celebrate all things FAMILY – nuclear, extended, congregational, international, and interplanetary. Plan to dress in a style representing the era of your favorite TV family, and help us recall “The Flintstones”, “The Coneheads”, “Ozzie & Harriet”, “The Brady Bunch”, “The Simpsons”, “Tool Time”, and other TV personalities. Perhaps a movie family would be your inspiration. Consider “Little Women”, “The Incredibles”, or “Shrek”. For musical suggestions hum “Sisters” or “It’s a Small World”. Check out nursery rhymes or fables highlighting families like “The Three Bears” or “The Little Red Hen”. In the next few weeks, the committee will be collecting information for a Fastnacht Family Feud Game. You can help by promptly responding to family survey questions. See the church bulletin board, sign-up sheet for more information about talent show rehearsal times, food, and other particulars.

BOOK GROUP

Have you been contemplating participating in this group? Book Group welcomes all readers, and now would be a good time to sit in on one of these sessions. We’ll be selecting new books and meeting times/ places at this next gathering.

On Sunday, January 25, 2:30 p.m. Linda Mazzucchi will facilitate discussion of Bel Canto by Ann Patchett. We will meet for refreshments at Jane Gullickson’s home (16003 Dancing Leaf Place 22025 703-670-0454.)

Here is the product description from Amazon: *Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country's vice president, a lavish birthday party is being held in honor of the powerful businessman Mr. Hosokawa. Roxane Coss, opera's most revered soprano, has mesmerized the international guests with her singing. It is a perfect evening—until a band of gun-wielding terrorists takes the entire party hostage. But what begins as a panicked, life-threatening scenario slowly evolves into something quite different, a moment of great beauty, as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds, and people from different continents become compatriots.*

NEWSLETTER

Friendship, compassion, and the chance for great love lead the characters to forget the real danger that has been set in motion . . . and cannot be stopped.

Is Winter getting you down? Mark your calendar for the Fellowship committee’s *WINTER CELEBRATION*, Wine & Cheese Party, Sat. Feb. 7th, 7:30 p.m. See the poster to sign up!



ONGOING MINISTRIES

COLLATING: 10:00 a.m., Fridays - January 23 [+ Annual Reports], February 20 [+ Day School Booklet], March 20.

DAYTIME DRIVERS: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. – noon. Call 703/491-2898 if you are interested in participating in this activity.

ACTS THRIFT STORE: Noon to 2:00 p.m., Tuesdays, February 3 and March 3. Call 703/491-2898 for more information.

Bible Studies

Women’s Bible Study
Weds., 9:30-11 a.m.
Childcare provided
Pr. Tarja Stevenson

Weekday Bible Study
Thurs., 10-11:30 a.m.
Pr. David Bohannon

Women’s Evening Study
3rd Mon. of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Led by study group members

Men’s Bible Study
Sun., 7 p.m.
Pr. David Bohannon

7th & 8th Grade Youth

**Saturday, January 24 -
- SKI TRIP TO
BRYCE SKI RE-
SORT. SEE SIGN-UP
SHEET.** Meet in the
church parking lot at
5:30 a.m. Bring \$?.00
for breakfast along the
way, lunch, snacks, and

fast food dinner on the way home. Ski rental and lessons are extra. Check the sign up sheet for prices. Snow tubing is also available. Sign up on the poster and put SNOW TUBING as the requested package. Dress warmly, in removable layers, if possible. Parents, we need a permission slip for your child if you do not have one on file.

Questions? Call Susan Kuhn at 703/491-2898.

March 20, 21, 22 – SHEKINAH! SYNOD-WIDE YOUTH EVENT AT THE 4H CENTER AT FRONT ROYAL, VA. MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAJOR FUN AHEAD. WATCH FOR REGISTRATION FORMS.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Sunday, January 18 – Serve Meal at Homeless Prevention Shelter, 5 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, Jan. 23 & 24 - Ski Trip to Bryce Ski Resort. See Poster to Sign Up.

Sunday, Feb. 1 – 6:30-8:30 p.m.

REMEMBER: When schools are closed there is NO Confirmation and NO Bible Study. Choirs will be notified through their calling chains.

CHURCH WOMEN'S NEWS

There will be a special **Women's Retreat Planning Meeting** at church, at 10:00 AM, on **Saturday, January 17, 2009.**

Tuesday, January 13, at church, at 7:30 PM, guest presenter Sally Galloway, a holistic health counselor, will offer a fun and light-hearted approach to a new year of good nutrition. Learn how to have a healthier relationship between the

NEWSLETTER

foods you eat and the nutrition your body needs. Light refreshments and chocolate will be served. All women are welcome.

Women's Evening Study Group will meet 7:30 PM, Monday, January 19, at Pat Moler's (13014 Sturbridge Rd; 22192, 703/494-2373). The group will continue its study of The Screwtape Letters with Chapters 13-16. You're invited to begin a new year sharing discussion with this small group. If you have questions or need study information please speak to Susan Kuhn or Sue Orndorff.

Women's Steering Committee meeting will be at church, on Monday, January 26, at 7 PM. Bring ideas for spring. We'll work on the **March 13th - 15th Retreat to Signal Knob** and on the **April 24th Mother-Daughter Tea**. All are invited to join this group to plan Church Women activities.

Tuesday, February 10, Cookie Bake, at church, at 7:30 PM. Please call the church office at 703/494-3090 to update student addresses. Addresses are not kept from one year to the next. Care Boxes are sent via USPS.

Save the Date: March 13-15 retreat to Signal Knob. Join us for a weekend of get acquainted games, large and small group discussions, a craft, and music. Saturday evening we'll enjoy a restaurant dinner followed by popcorn and a movie at the retreat center. Then, on Sunday morning, we will celebrate Holy Communion and enjoy brunch at Signal Knob. More information will be in the next newsletter.

Look for a sign up poster on the church bulletin board. Call Sally Cotner (703/878-4716) if you have any questions. We leave St. Matthew's parking lot at 6:00 PM on Friday night, and we return at 12:45 PM on Sunday afternoon.

**DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS
TO THE CONGREGATION
Tuesday, February 24, 10 a.m.**

Registration is for the 2009-2010 school year. Classes are available for 3, 4 and 5 year olds; MWF a.m., MWF p.m., T/TH a.m., MTWTh a.m. or MTWTh p.m.

If you have any questions please call Mary-Catherine Deadman, 703-494-3090.

**Registration opens to the public
Monday, March 2, 10 a.m.**

**St. Matthew's Honored for Support of
the Center for Immigration Law and
Practice**

On December 2, Dr. Shelley Broderick, Dean of the David A. Clarke School of Law, University of the District of Columbia (UDC), presented the Dean's cup to Pr. Bohannon in recognition of St. Matthew's long-term support for the Center for Immigration Law and Practice (CILP).

St. Matthew's has been a regular financial contributor through benevolence offerings and Gifts of Hope. Hugh Miller and Pat Victorson served on the non-profit board, assuming the roles of treasurer and volunteer executive director. They spent countless hours organizing the financial books, preparing budgets and tax reports, and writing grant requests.

CILP originated as a pilot program of the ELCA to provide immigration legal services to newcomers through Lutheran congregations. Grace Lutheran Church, DC, was one of four sites selected nationally in 2001. Understanding that lawyers need to be involved if legal services are to be provided, Grace entered a partnership with UDC. From the beginning, the goal was to incorporate the program into the law school curriculum when the school was in a position to expand its clinical offerings. In the meantime, both the school and local churches agreed to raise money to support the program.

CILP moved to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 2003. In addition to providing legal services to newcomers, the CILP attorney devised a curriculum to expose students to immigration law. In the 2008-2009 academic year, the program will relocate to the UDC campus, where it will realize the long-term goal of becoming a full clinic in Fall 2009.

During its eight years of operation, CILP assisted more than 600 clients in obtaining asylum and green cards, reuniting with family members, or achieving citizenship through naturalization. Initially, many clients were African refugees, particularly ethnic Oromo Ethiopians of the Mekane Yesus Church, founded by Lutheran missionaries.

More recently, victims of human trafficking and women and children suffering domestic abuse have come to CILP for assistance. For instance, a young Pakistani mother was threatened with deportation when her husband withdrew his application for a green card, on which her own application depended, in order to force her to return to Pakistan. The woman was afraid, because her husband had abused her and threatened to take away her two-year-old son. CILP applied for asylum on her behalf, based on her opinions regarding women's rights and her experiences when she tried to oppose her husband's abuse. Three UDC students worked tirelessly over the summer researching legal issues and country conditions for the court brief. The U.S. government attorney offered her relief in October 2008, and she is now living safely in Maryland with her son, waiting for her divorce to be finalized so she can begin her new life.

In awarding the Dean's cup to St. Matthew's, Dean Broderick commented that the church can take satisfaction in knowing that so many CILP clients have been assisted through the time, talent, and benevolence of its members.

Prayer Chain



Would you like to be a part of St. Matthew's Prayer Chain? This is a group of people who commit to pray daily for individuals in special need.

The Prayer starts with a request and is passed through the chain "Word for Word" so we all pray the same prayer. This is kept confidential on the chain.

If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain or if you have a prayer concern please call Pam Orr at 703-590-7568.



GIRL SCOUTING

Founded in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, by visionary Juliette Gordon Low, Girl Scouts started with a membership of only 18 girls and a dream. Juliette, referred to as "Daisy," dreamed of giving the United States "something for all the girls." She envisioned an organization that would bring girls out of their cloistered home environments to serve in their communities and experience the open air. Within a few years, her dream for a girl-centered organization, somewhat similar to Boy Scouts for boys, began to provide an educational program for girls and young adults to build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with trained and dedicated leaders, girls develop qualities that will serve them all of their lives — such as strong values, a social conscience, and the conviction of their own potential and self-worth. [Note: In 1874, when she was 13, Daisy and her sister Eleanor attended boarding school at Virginia Female Institute in Staunton, VA, (renamed Stuart Hall School in 1907 to honor Mrs. {General} J.E.B. Stuart, who was principal 1880 -1899.)]

Girl Scouts of the United States of America is the world's largest organization dedicated solely to girls. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop leadership skills, strong values, and a social conscience which

NEWSLETTER

will serve them throughout their lives. Scouting for girls includes Daisy, Brownie, Cadet, Junior and Senior Scouts. This year on the second Sunday in March, the Girl Scouts recognize Girl Scouting's birthday, officially March 12, 1912, the day Juliette Gordon Low and her cousin registered the first Girl Scout troop. Sunday, March 8, 2009, the first day of Girl Scout Week, starts seven days of celebrations, activities and service. If your daughter is active in Scouting, we'd like to include her in the Girl Scout Sunday activities at Saint Matthew's. Please call Tom Bortner at 703-497-1280.

Response to Newsletter Request

In a recent newsletter, the Day School requested used towels. As the article said, towels play an important role in the daily operations of the Day School. Wendy DeLong saw the request and sent us a box of towels along with this note:

To my St. Matthew's Family,

This isn't much, but I'm very happy to have discovered a useful home for these vintage towels. Some of these were wedding shower gifts – 35 years ago!

All is well on the west coast. Busy as usual. I hope everyone there is doing well and wish you all a blessed Christmas.

Wendy

Thanks for the towels, Wendy and God's peace to you and your family!

Library Notes

The Library, located on the second floor of the Education Wing, has a number of children's books and parenting books available for check-out. The Library is open every day during office hours and Sunday mornings during the SCS hour. Please feel free to drop in, look around, and take advantage of the resources available. If you have any questions, please speak to our librarian, Lyn Gates.