



*The Mentor*

*December 2013*

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### *Staff*

*Kay Sutton, Organist/Choir Director  
Abigail Wincek, Office Abigail Abigail  
Wincek, Office Manager  
Mary Weiser, Parish Secretary  
Jeff Tyree, Facilities Manager  
Lynn Heller, RN, Parish Nurse  
Carly Jepson, Nursery  
Franklin Gail, Verger*

*The Episcopal Diocese of  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

*The Rt. Rev. Steven A Miller,  
Bishop of Milwaukee*

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
The Rev. Matthew L. Buterbaugh, Rector*

### *Worship Schedule*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>7:30 AM</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>
	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Adult Study Class</i>
	<i>10:00 AM</i>	<i>Nursery Care</i>
	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Sunday School (1st, 3rd, &amp; 5th Sundays)</i>
<i>10:30 AM</i>		<i>Holy Eucharist</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist and Holy Unction in the Chapel</i>
	<i>10:00 AM</i>	<i>Bible Study in the Guild Hall</i>

### Wardens

*Karen Dubiel, Senior Warden  
Jamie Cairo, Junior Warden*

### Vestry

*Linda Bogdala  
Walter Breach  
Guida Brown  
Dawn Christiansen  
Cary Pallin  
Michelle Plichta  
Ken Specht  
Frank Summers  
Elisabeth Westphal*

### Treasurer

*Jon Cushman*

## Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

This morning as I was walking to the office, I passed by a gentleman with whom I always exchange pleasantries. We said, "hi" and he wished me "Happy Holidays." It occurred to me how early this is (as I am writing this before Thanksgiving), but it also occurred to me that the season is creeping up on us.

Another thought that I had was how we greet one another this time of year. The word "holiday" comes from "Holy Day." Considering its origin, it is quite appropriate for use to remember any day that is of special religious observance, as the day is "holy." In the last few centuries, it is a word that has come to include not just days that are on the Church calendar, but secular days as well.

I know some get upset when a person they are speaking with doesn't address their specific holiday of preference, but the term holiday is actually quite inclusive, even when dealing with Christian observances. Most of December, for Christians, is the season of Advent - a time that is set aside for anticipation and hope. This is certainly a holy time, when each day can be given special attention to our hope we set on Christ. The last seven days of December and the first five days of January is when we remember the season of Christmas - a time when we remember the God who came into our world to be incarnated as one of us. This is certainly a series of very holy days. Within this time, there are special Saints' days as well. St. Nicolas of Myra, St. Lucia, St. Stephen, and the Holy Innocents are all December Saints' days that the Church has decided to keep as special observances. These too are very holy days.

Outside of the Christian tradition, there are even more holy days celebrated by many. Hanukkah, which is the Jewish festival remembering the Maccabean Wars, always happens around this time of year. This day should be holy for Christians, as well, because it commemorates Jewish religious autonomy in Judea, setting the stage for the birth of Christ. This is indeed a holy day. It also happens that Hanukkah begins this year on Thanksgiving Day. This is the first time this has happened since the two days have both existed and it will not happen for another 80,000 years. Other religious traditions have festivals to remember this time of year as well. There is the pagan festival of Yule, for which our date of Christmas was set on December 25th. Although, it was earlier this year, frequently the Hindu festival of Diwali falls about now, too. For someone out there, each of these days is a holy day.

As I mentioned before, secular days have taken on the term holiday. While they themselves are not intentionally holy, we can still see holiness in them. The origin story of Thanksgiving has a lot of myth to it. While some of the Pilgrims' story is true, the real start of it as a national day came about as a

way to give thanks for the end of the Civil War. We now remember it as a day to remember all the things for which we give thanks. Gratitude is a spiritual practice, and so there is certainly something holy about a day in which we give thanks. Lastly, there is New Year's Day, in which we remember another year that God has given us. While they are not intentionally religious, we can certainly see what is holy in them and call them holidays.

At times, I have been greeted with a "Happy Hanukkah" and a "Happy Diwali". This has given me great joy, having been included in someone's holy day. I have also noticed that people insist on saying "Merry Christmas" while we are still in Advent and I am still in my anticipation mode, not yet celebrating. While including someone in our celebration is appropriate, some may not appreciate it either. At the same time, we remember that there is so much that is holy this time of year. For so many people in so many walks of life, there is so much holiness that to call any day of the year, and particularly this time of year, a holiday speaks deep truth. These days are holy days, they are holidays. We should not be ashamed or begrudged to refer to them as such. Any day that God has made and any day that people acknowledge God is holy. So, for the many days that God has given us and the many days that we remember God's great works, I wish you Happy Holidays.

Blessings and Peace,

Fr. Matthew+



## Christmas Flowers

Memorials are now being accepted for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas. St. Mary's Altar Guild will be grateful for all your generous donations at this time of the year. They will be decorating the church on Saturday, December 21st. at 9:00 AM.

The white envelopes at the back of the church can be used for your Christmas flower donations. Fill out the front of the envelope with your name and dedication and enclose your donation. The envelopes can be placed in the offering plates on Sundays, returned to the parish office, or call the office with your request at 654-8642. The dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletins.



## Giving Wreaths for 2013

The Giving Wreaths will be at the back of the church. This outreach activity is to collect gifts for Women and Children's Horizons again this year. Pick any tag on the *Giving Wreath* to see age and gender of recipient. Below is a Christmas Wish List. Do not wrap the gifts. A bin will be located in back of the church for gifts on Sunday, December 15th and 22nd. If you have any questions call Nancy Roeder at 262-657-9608.

### Women and Children's Horizons Christmas Wish List

Baby toys	Socks (children/adults)
Board games (all ages)	Dolls
Fisher Price toys	Trucks
Slippers (children/adults)	Nail care kits
Hot wheels/Matchbox sets	Art sets
Pajamas (children/adults)	Wii games
Barbie dolls and accessories	Lego kits
Bath/body products	Model sports car
Makeup kits	Children's DVDs
Books for all ages	Wii remote control
Puzzles	Gift cards (older children)
Any nonviolent toy for any age child	

## Christmas Carol Sing-Along

Please join in the Kenosha 2nd Saturday sing-along on December 14th at 4:00 PM in the church. It will be an afternoon of singing Christmas carols, drinking hot cider, and celebrating the Christmas season.



## Book Club

St. Matthew's Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m. at Rachel Lochtefeld's home to discuss *Does This Church Make Me Look Fat?* by Rhoda Janzen.

At the end of her first bestselling memoir, Rhoda Janzen had reconnected with her family and her roots, though her future felt uncertain. But when she starts dating a churchgoer, this skeptic begins a surprising journey to faith and love.

She finds herself hanging with the Pentecostals [...] and amid the hand-waving and hallelujahs she finds

a faith richly practical for life – just in time for some impressive lady problems, an unexpected romance, and a quirky new family.

*Does This Church Make Me Look Fat?* is for people who have a problem with organized religion, but can't quite dismiss the notion of God, and for those who secretly sing hymns in their cars, but prefer a nice mimosa brunch to church. This is the story of what it means to find joy in love, comfort in prayer, and – incredibly, surprisingly – faith in a big-hearted God. Please read the book and join the discussion on January.



Our parishioners have the option to give their weekly pledge donations online through our website:

[www.stmatthewskenosha.net](http://www.stmatthewskenosha.net)

Online giving is a convenient and secure way to stay up-to-date on your pledge whether you're away for the weekend or just want to give in the comfort of your own home. You can make your pledges through the secure service of PayPal, and the church will never have your account information. There is no charge to you for this service, and you don't need to have a PayPal account to give online. If you have any questions or concerns about online giving please contact the church office at 654-8642.

## Ask A Theologian

"Ask A Theologian" is back! The Rev. Wayne Fehr has published a new book answering questions about the Christian faith.

Tracing the Contours of Faith is a collection of brief essays written in response to specific questions about the Christian faith-vision of reality. Dr. Fehr wrote between 1999 and 2006 a monthly column called "Ask A Theologian" for the newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. Readers were invited to send in specific questions about the beliefs, doctrines and practices of the Church, and he would attempt to answer them.

Wayne Fehr has served as a supply priest on many Sundays at St. Matthew's. He is an academic theologian with a doctoral degree in systematic theology from Yale University. These two vocational commitments-as priest and as theologian-have come together for him in a life-long involvement with the interpretation of Christian faith for the benefit of his fellow believers. At present he serves as Priest Associate at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wauwatosa.



The office received the following note from Fr. Braun after he received the painting of the church done by John Burhani:

Dear St. Matthew's Family,

Thank you for the beautiful painting of St. Matthew's. John truly captured the beauty & magnificence of the building. Karen and I will find a special place for it in our home.

St. Matthew's is a sacred space where generations have known the presence of the living God. As a community we shared many memorable moments together in this space.

In the years to come your gift will remind me of the many fine years I spent at St. Matthew's and of the many saints who have passed through its doors.

God Bless You,  
Father Braun



The festival of **Lessons and Carols** is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir music.

Please join our adult choir and lay readers on Sunday, December 8th, at 3:00 PM in the church for a service of Lesson and Carols.

## Confirmation Class

A confirmation class will begin on Wednesday, January 8th, at 7:00 PM in Fr. Matthew's office. This is a class designed for adults and teens wishing to be confirmed or anyone wishing to take a refresher course in the Episcopal faith. Contact Fr. Matthew or the church office at 654-8642 if you wish to attend. This is a class that will meet each consecutive Wednesday for several weeks.

## Christmas Ornaments for 2013

At the back of the church you will find Christmas ornaments for sale. They have a picture of the church on one side and a celtic cross on the other. These ornaments make great holiday gifts or can be purchased as a keepsake. The cost is \$15.00 each.

## December Highlights

Sunday, December 8th: Service of Lessons & Carols at 3:00pm

Saturday, December 14th: Carol Sing-Along at 4:00pm in the church, public invited in celebration of Kenosha Second Saturday event

Sunday, December 15th: Soup Kitchen 3:30-5:50pm at the Shalom Center

Saturday, December 21st: Altar Guild decorating church for Christmas at 9:00am

Sunday, December 22nd: Annual Christmas Pageant at 10:30am in the church  
Christmas party in Guild Hall at 11:30am  
Christmas Eve rehearsal at 1:00pm in the church

Tuesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 5:30pm  
Festival of Music 9:30pm  
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 10:00pm

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10:00am

link to calendar

<http://stmatthewskenosha.net/events/calendar/>