

Saint Matthew's News

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jersey City, NJ



June 2002



Dear Members and Friends:

What a joy it is to write to you as the recently installed pastor of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our installation service was wonderful with excellent and dynamic preaching (Pastor Forell received spontaneous applause when she

finished!), majestic music, incredible food and hospitality, and a great attendance, over 140 people on a holiday weekend. Thank you for an amazing beginning to what is already a blessed partnership!

Although we've been together for only two and ½ months, I feel like I've been part of you for a lifetime. Indeed, St. Matthew's has been a part of my life and ministry for the past 20 years. How delightful it is to return to the place and people from whom I truly learned how to be a pastor. I remember preaching my first sermon at St. Matthew's as an intern two decades ago. I was standing at the door with Pastor Mary Forell, greeting people as they departed, when Emma Behrens said to me, "Gee! I hope you didn't shoot your whole wad on the first sermon. That was really good!" How splendid it is that Emma is still among us — to keep me humble in the pulpit and to remind me not to drop my voice when I say, "Let us pray".

And how I treasure those words that the Bishop asked me during the installation service: "Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people? Will you nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, leading them by your own example in the use of the means of grace, in faithful service and holy living? Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?"

It's hard not to love, serve, and pray for the people of St.

Matthew's and the community in which we're planted. That's how I envision our partnership together — an opportunity to continue being a sign of love, healing and hope for one another, for the downtown section of Jersey City, and for the world. We will do this through worship and prayer; through Christian education and faith formation; through getting reacquainted with our community via initial calling and eventual membership in the Jubilee Interfaith Organization, and through a wonderful assortment of community building activities like coffee hours, "Matt's Place" dinners, worship in the park, and rummage sales. Mostly we will have fun together serving the Lord!

I'm looking forward to visiting all of our members (and any friends who'd like a pastoral call) before the end of the summer. I invite your prayers for our life together as we seek to make Christ known in our neighborhood and throughout the world. May God continue to send forth God's gracious Spirit to renew the face of the earth and the mission and ministry of our wonderfully diverse and growing congregation.

Yours in Christ Service,

Pastor Gladys G. Moore

P.S. For years I've resisted being called Pastor Gladys, but it sounds so good at St. Matthew's that I've adjusted to the sound.

Jubilee Interfaith Organization

This is an excerpt of Pastor Moore's address on Interfaith Organization delivered at a recent Jubilee Leadership Council Meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey.

The Jubilee Interfaith Organization is a growing organization comprised of faith-based community and labor leaders. We represent over 40 congregations and labor unions from six counties in northern New Jersey: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, and Union. We are united in seeking a more just and diverse society.

Jubilee is about justice, which doesn't mean "just us"! It doesn't mean that we focus on just our own issues, our own concerns, or even our own town or city or suburb. We care about what's happening at both the local and regional levels.

We're concerned when good teachers feel like they have to work in the suburbs in order to have adequate resources for

their children and themselves because we know that **all children everywhere** should have the right to good quality education. We're concerned about the growing gap between the rich and the poor in this state that has so much money. Where are the affordable houses, the jobs that earn a living wage, not a minimum wage, and the means for people to get to those jobs in northern NJ? We are going to speak the truth about these things and speak with one voice.

Justice doesn't mean struggling alone in our own congregations, labor unions, and communities. It means linking together as urbanites and suburbanites, as Whites, Blacks, Latinos, and Asians; as people of faith and people of good will. It means coming together to be a powerful force within the public arena where decisions are made that affect ALL of our lives. For we know that organized people and organized money is POWER. How will we do that? In these ways:

- 1) **Recruit new congregations, religious communities, and unions** so they might catch the same vision and fire of what Jubilee is all about and join with us.
- 2) **Train and educate ourselves so we can develop leaders** who have the skills and understanding to hold our elected officials accountable for being servants of ALL the people, not just some of the people.
- 3) **Build up our clergy and religious leaders** through the Ministers' Caucus so they have the theological framework to approach the issues on which we intend to work.
- 4) **Build up our congregations**, so that they become viable, vital witnesses to the God who loves all people, and valuable players in the decisions that effect their neighborhoods and parishes.
- 5) **Keep on strengthening our workers** so that they continue to gain a voice at work and a decent standard of living for their families.
- 6) **Have one-on-one meetings with each other and key decision-makers in this region** so we might better understand the political realities we'll face in advocating for our communities.
- 7) **Keep on building momentum for a November 2002 Public Event, a Jubilee Coming Out event**, in which close to 1,000 members of our congregations and unions will join together to meet with public officials capable of responding to our concerns.

The Jubilee Interfaith Organization is about justice and that doesn't mean just us. But working together does mean that little by little, action by action, meeting by meeting we will start to see changes, changes that begin to have the taste and smell and feel of God's justice – justice that flows down like waters and relationships and ways of living that are like an everlasting stream.

For more info: <http://www.jubileeinterfaith.org>

Sounding Loud & Clear

If you hear the bells ringing following Pastor Moore's installation, it wasn't your imagination—work has commenced on cleaning the bell tower, so that we can all once again enjoy hearing St. Matthew's church bells every week.

The cleaning began on May 11. **James Splond** and his friend Mark cleared the remains of six pigeons and two bats from the two floors directly beneath the chamber, where the bells are housed. Protected by gloves and masks, they spent four hours sweeping and scrubbing away four years worth of dirt and pigeon waste from the wooden floors and stairs.

On May 25, **Peter Jensen** joined the effort and got to the belfry through the trap door that had been blocked by debris. A hatch in the roof had come open, allowing in pigeons and the elements. Peter moved over 14 eggs and 3 hatchlings to the roof where adult pigeons could locate them and closed the hatch. James and Mark focused on cleaning the banister and balusters of the long, narrow staircase that winds behind the organ leading into the tower itself.

The three bells appear to be in good shape, even though one has a cracked wheel. Thanks to these guys, we can now get in the rooms to ring the bells. Still the belfry and the two rooms below need additional scrubbing and cleaning, leftover materials from past construction projects need to

be removed, and the hatch needs further securing. Volunteers should contact either Peter or James.

(James Splond became a St. Matt's member this spring. Besides cleaning the bats from the belfry, he has regularly contributed his freshly-baked cinnamon rolls to coffee hour and his lovely voice to the service.)



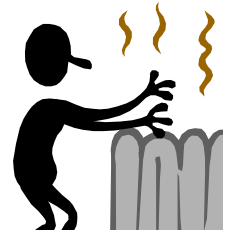
Seasonal Efforts

Not only is St. Matt's sounding better, but it's looking better too thanks to the new terracotta **planters**, that **Diane Kaese, Reed Bakirtjy-Kaese, and John Seppananen** filled with Alberta Spruce, pansies, impatiens, hostas, and eyonomus. While they were at it, our favorite greenthumbs decked out the Barrow Mansion with limestone planters.

John, Diane, and Peter Jensen also put their architectural skills to work on the **new bluestone patio** between the church and mansion. Peter bought the supplies, and Carlo, of Jim Luty Contracting, actually laid the stone.

(Now if we could only get Diane's fan off the patio and onto the roof....)

Last winter a crack in the **boiler** developed which allowed most of the steam to leak out of the system before it got a chance to heat the building. Most of the steam ended up in the basement and back halls of the church, which caused doors to swell shut and the air to be heavy with moisture.



Thanks to **Peter Jensen**, a new boiler was installed in time for autumn 2002. Like the old boiler, the new one uses oil fuel. All of the steam valves on the radiators were replaced this winter. We are currently working on having all of the old insulation removed from the distribution pipes that are located within the cellar. Once this work completed new pipe insulation will be installed.

The next project is to replace the **copier**, which is 5 to 7 years old. Donations are welcome.

The Installation

On May 26 **Pastor Gladys Moore's** installation brought in 25 white-vested clergy from all over Hudson County, in addition to the friends and family of both Pastor Moore and St. Matthew's.

Roger Hostetler led the procession of clergy to the altar. The **Rev. Connie Bonner** said the liturgy, which was coordinated by the **Rev. Triffel L. Felske**. **Rev. Mary Forell's** sermon encouraged us to all "open up in a way we've never been open before." Then **Bishop E. Roy Riley** performed the actual installation.

The offering went to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund and the Stand With Africa Campaign.

Afterwards everyone gathered downstairs for dinner hosted by the stalwart cooks of St. Matthew's.

Side Notes

Rummage Sales are one of the fundraisers that St. Matthew's depends on to meet our daily expenses. The May 4 & 11 sale brought in \$1,400.

They have also brought in people from the community, people who have become friends over the delicious food prepared and served by **Andy Rhode Jr.** at the lunch counter he runs.

Emma Behrens and **Carrie Haverlock** welcome donations of both articles for sale and your participation for the next Rummage Sale, scheduled for September 7 and 14.

Where would St. Matt's **International Luncheon** be without Indra Janglee, Rannie Morali, and Rufina Primalal's famous chickpeas, roti, and sweet and sour chicken, or Lydia Brown's lasgna, Nancy Thomas's beans and rice, or Lara Hanson's Tempeh?

The luncheon, which happened on Brought in donations of \$150 for St. Matt's.

Walking the WALK!!!

Lydia Brown participated in the annual **AIDS WALK New York** on Sunday, May 19, as part of the God's Love We Deliver (GLWD) team. It was a beautiful day and over 40,000 people "walked the walk." Lydia doesn't know the total raised for the whole WALK but the GLWD team raised over \$20,000 which will be given to God's Love, an organization that prepares and delivers meals (5 days a week) to homebound persons with AIDS in NYC and Hudson County, NJ. Lydia says thanks to the folks at St. Matthews who supported her. With those contributions, more from her co-workers and matching funds from her employer, she raised over \$1100. Lydia volunteers on Friday mornings at God's Love to pack out that day's meals for delivery. If it the walk was not on a Sunday morning, she'd recruit more of you to walk next year as part of the GLWD team.

A NOTE: **Let's Celebrate** which supports the St. Matthew's food pantry has its annual Race to Deliver in the fall in Liberty State Park. Let's have a St. Matthew's team to run/walk.

In our Prayers...

Nancy Roberts, Lydia Brown's mother, has been experiencing heart troubles. Lydia's brother, **Carl Roberts**, is having cancer surgery.

Frieda Faltings had another stroke around the beginning of May. After a few days in the hospital, she returned to the Lakeview Sub-Acute Care Center, 130 Terhune Rd. Rm. 60; Wayne, NJ 07470. Pastor Moore visited her on Mother's Day and reports that "She's not as lucid as she was, but still knows when she gets mail and responds well to visits."

Andy Rhode Jr. had hip replacement surgery on April 11, by April 15 he was in rehab, and by April 18 he was told he could go home. Now his doctor, who teaches other docs, says that Andy is "Done and Good." Andy's advice is, "Go to the doctor before it gets bad." (Ask him to show you his Joint Replacement card – to get him through metal detectors.)

Please also remember:

Gladys Greenwald, Ruth Weismann, Jeremy Brown, Chuck Winch, Frank Schwalenberg, Jackie, Dorothy, Marie Kulat, Semaj and Chalonne McLeod.

Being a Lutheran

By Mark Blickley

I'm a Lutheran. It feels good to say it, but what does that mean? As an adolescent, it meant getting out of school early on Tuesday afternoons for Religious Instruction. It meant walking the half block to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church for confirmation classes, where I confirmed that my German half had conquered my Italian half in the battle for my soul.

Then for decades I shrugged off my earlier Lutheran values and replaced them with a zealous devotion to Art as religion, which was ultimately unsatisfying.

A friend introduced me to St. Matthew's and its band of disappointed yet determined parishioners. Disappointed after years without a pastor, but determined to keep the church going. Despite the sparse Sunday attendance, the enthusiastic flesh-pressing during the Passing of the Peace reminded me of the early Christians, underdogs in catacombs, who would not let oppression destroy their faith or suppress their joy in fellowship. And then there's coffee hour....

Calendar of Events

Rummage Sale September 7th and 14th

It's time to clear out your clutter before all those fall activities hit full-force. Bring those fabulous but not-as-necessary-as-you-once-thought items to St. Matthew's so that others may have the opportunity to purchase them.

Book Group June 20th

The Book Group will meet at Karen Cantrell's, 158 Franklin Street Floor 5, NYC; to discuss *A Gesture Life* by Chang-rae Lee. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* has been selected for our summer reading. Discussion in September to be announced. Anyone interested should speak with Karen Cantrell or Lydia Brown.

First Communion Starting in September

First Communion Class and Acolyte Club will begin. Please speak with Pastor Moore to get your child enrolled.

New Faces...

Nathan and Lara Hanson found St. Matt's after Nathan's brother, a Lutheran pastor and currently a missionary in Senegal, heard Pastor Moore speak. Having just moved to Jersey City from Brooklyn, the Hansons were looking for a "lively, friendly, diverse congregation with good music and a reconciling in Christ."

A phone call with Pastor Moore – even before she had decided to join us – convinced them to visit. They first appeared soon after September 11, and they became

members on April 28.



Nathan, whose father and grandfathers were all Lutheran ministers, has a background in jazz music. He has been playing his soprano saxophone alongside Tim Andrews's organ during services. He

has also helped John Seppanen on the St. Matt's website.

Lara is currently pursuing an MFA in Interdisciplinary art at Goddard College in Plainfield, VT. Her interests include visual, dance, and performance art. She teaches at the Churchill School in Manhattan.



Claudia Perry found her way to St. Matt's after Pastor Moore knocked on her door and invited her over. While she hasn't yet officially become a member, we all have hopes that this Jeopardy star will join us.

In early May, Claudia got as far as the Jeopardy Million Dollar Master semi-finals, excelling in categories like religion. She was a four-time winner in 1997 and called back for the 1998 Tour of Champions.

In addition, Claudia is an American Diabetes Association volunteer and the head of the American Baseball Research Writers. She was the first and only black woman sports writer in Virginia. Now she works for the *Star Ledger*.

On the Internet...

It seems everyone's got one these days and St. Matthew's now is no exception. If you have not already heard about and seen the new website its worth a visit.

Go to: www.stmatthewsjc.org

The website is currently designed to providing those in the community (and beyond) who don't already know about St. Matthew's and who we are. The potential for enhancing communication and strengthen connections within St Matthew's is also part of this development and as members become more familiar with the website it will under go further evolution.



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
13 th Sunday after Pentecost	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8 Rummage Sale
14 th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Grandparents' Day</i>	10	11	12	13	14 Holy Cross Day	15 Rummage Sale
15 th Sunday after Pentecost	17 7:30 Karen Cantrell 212.334.0457 Book Group	18	19	20	21	22 10 - 3:30 Lydia Brown 212.673.1105 RETREAT
Sunday School 11:00	24	25	26	27	28	29 12:00 - 4:00 Health Fair
Sunday School 11:00 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	23 11:00 16 th Sunday after Pentecost					
Sunday School 11:00 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	30					

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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