On an end of November night that was maybe no night, within only perhaps a shadowed end of November Heart, when the wind blew cold down the Dark river from the East, and the moon hung like a whisper of a ghost in the dark November clouds, I went for a walk as Midnight neared. I went for a walk into the Darkness past the streetlights, past the cabins and houses, out to the Edge of Light and Darkness, into the Dark woods. And there a star hanging alone in the Dark clouds, shining alone through the dark spruce timber shadows. A solitary Light in that cold wind, in that Dark night, in that Black sky.

And there in the Cold wind still coming through the Dark shadowed trees I stood watching that one Light, that one star, hanging above the Dark trees. Soft starlight on the white snow, on the dark branches. Cold wind blowing. And I heard a sound, sensed a sound that was no sound, sensed a Silence coming and turned. And saw

There.

And the first dog as it ran by, the first dog as it ran by, great sized dog all muscled in white, blue light shining from its eyes, gold harnessed and legs pulling, reaching, moving; the first dog as it ran by, its eyes firm and with Light, its eyes watching. And the Name of that dog was WATCH.

And it swept by, Leading. Pulling.

And line taunt came the second dog, with eyes of blue light shining and looking straight ahead. Its eyes light and fierce and straight ahead and its mouth shining with white teeth. Not a sound did it make as it swept by. Silent and running and determined and focused and . . . . the Silence, the Silence, the Silence as it passed. And its Name was REPENT.

And close behind came a third following, running, galloping, legs grabbing and reaching. And its eyes too shined with that blue light and its fur shined too with white light and its path was close behind and it wavered not an inch with not a sideways look, running, running, running. And its Name was PREPARE.

And I turned into the Darkness to dare see what might be coming and saw Only Light and out of the Light came the Wheel, out of the Light stretched the gold towline and now bells singing and now came the fourth dog running, galloping, muscles moving, legs stretching. And its fur too was all white and its eyes too shined with that Light and there was not a sound except the bells ringing, ringing, not a sound did the dog make as it swept by me and its name was BEHOLD.

And now a great raven even though it was Night swept out of the Light calling BEHOLD BEHOLD BEHOLD, wings swooping; and now from the Light came the sled, wrapped in Light lighting the snow and the trackless snow and the sidewillows disappearing in that Light so that there was only Light and that sled, its runners flying above the snow leaving not a track, but behind fire burning along the trail. Light so bright I couldn't look directly and couldn't make out the driver of the sled but there

in the sled,

there in the sled,
sat a child wrapped in blankets and light, held in a Mother's arm, a Father balanced holding her, one arm holding the sled for balance.

And all children were riding in that sled with that child.

And all of our childhoods were riding in that sled.

And what smiles and joy on faces as the sled flew by, wrapped in Light.

And behind the sled came ten thousand angels singing and behind the angels came old friends long gone and old friends not so long gone, all young, all singing, there a drum beating, there singing, there re-united couples holding hands, there laughing and all sweeping by and all singing and


I watched.

Silence again fell around me, the Dark trees, the snow wrapped willows. Small white rabbits crouched smiling in the willows, eyes singing. The shape of large bears farther back. That one star still shining there.

I watched

And turned and ran too, behind.

Following.

As must we all.

It is The Time.


THE FALLING of EARLY WINTER VOICES

We are sitting outside, under falling Autumn leaves, and listening to the People of God walk by. We are sitting outside, with now the ice running and the snow falling, and listening to the People of God as they walk by. They are carrying memories, of moose hunts and friends; they are carrying caskets and questions and courage and faith. They are saying prayers. Remembering, remembering; always remembering. The People of God pass by, telling stories, asking questions, remembering, struggling, or skipping along; the Unseen Lord in their midst; and we overhear... 

That nice lady is sick? Ohhhhhhhhh. When I was in the Hospital with appendicitis, she brought me flowers. She was like a second mother to me for over thirty years. I can't imagine a world without her.

I dreamed last night Mary Ann was in the altar guild room, kneading dough for communion bread right there on the counter. She was wearing that blue-grayish-colored dress she used to wear.

This is from the spruce tree, and the spruce tree is the King of trees, because he never dies. For Athabascans, all creatures have a king. The Fish, the birds, the animals. And the trees. For Athabascans, the spruce tree is the King of trees.

... wanted to name the dog "Birthday Cake", so if he got loose, we'd stand outside and yell "BIRTHDAY CAKE!", and all the kids would come.

She looked up and there was the Old Man on that crest of that hill clubbing the caribou as they came across. "What the h--- is that Old Man doing?" she said.

I'm so happy I've got a BIG family. I could never get through this without my family.

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A SAMPLING of COMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 1st
9AM Annual St. Matthew’s SEE’s Candy/Baked Goods/Crafts & Beadwork Sale in the Parish Hall;
After sunset: Removal of names from the Memorial & Baptismal Banners
12AM Silence, as the New Church Year Begins

Sunday, December 2nd
The 1st Sunday of Advent & choosing of Secret Advent Friends at each of the Eucharists; 9:15AM Children’s Eucharist

Thursday, December 6th The Feast of St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 9th
3PM Fourth Annual Music and Magic Concert at St. Matthew’s

Wednesday, December 12th The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 15th Christmas Get-Together, Potlatch, Covered Dish, Food, Music, Gift Exchange—Donations welcomed and appreciated

Friday, December 21st
7PM “A Dark Christmas” Service for those grieving; 12AM “Bang-pots-and-yell-to-chase-away-the-Great-Dragon-of-Darkness” Winter Solstice Midnight Compline

Monday, December 24th
5PM, 8PM, 11PM Christmas Eve Eucharists

Tuesday, December 25th
11AM Christmas Day Eucharist

Monday, December 31st
11PM New Year’s Eve Eucharist

Tuesday, January 1st
Annual New Year’s Day Potlatch/Covered Dish

Saturday, January 5th
6PM 12th Night Covered Dish, Christmas Covered Dish & Burning of the Christmas Greens

Sunday, January 6th
The Feast of the Epiphany & Children’s Epiphany Pageant

Sunday, January 27th
9:15AM The Annual Meeting of St. Matthew’s Church

Tuesday, February 5th
Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday, February 6th
ASH WEDNESDAY & the beginning of Lent
A Thank You from the Senior Warden  

**NOT JUST ANOTHER FISH STORY**  

By Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah

“Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Jesus said, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.”

Is it just me or have we not seen examples of this story here at St. Matthew’s over and over since the first week of October? Did we not worry and fret over the deficit as the vestry met month after month?

The vestry expressed its concern and appealed to all, and I believe we did this all with considerable prayer, and the results have been quite astounding to say the least.

In a very short period of time we have fed, housed, and transported the delegates of the 2007 Convention, increased the number of contributors of the Alaska PFD to a new all time high, held two raffle/potlatch/dance fundraisers at The Rev. David Salmon Tribal Hall in October and November and if that is not enough, scheduled a book sale and talent show in the busiest of all seasons of the year. To this date, we have reduced our financial overrun by about half and taken in 15 thousand dollars and had some fun along the way.

On behalf of the vestry, I thank all of you for your endurance and stamina during this marathon, as we strive to remain in the black at the close of the final quarter of the year.

This year has been a learning time for sure. Probably we should expect to be more proactive with these fundraisers next year and begin them earlier.

Whether faced with a fishing or a financial dilemma, we need only ask for His presence to guide us to the solution. My guess is whether He is invited into a boat or into our lives it cannot be too soon and so we could be a bit more proactive there as well.

Peace be with you.

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**ST. MATTHEW’S CHURCH**

| **RECTOR**      | The Rev. Scott Fisher . . . . 456-5235 |
| **PRIESTS**     | The Rev. Steve Matthew . . 488-9076 |
|                 | The Rev. John Holz . . . . 456-3583 |
|                 | The Rev. Layne Smith . . . . 374-5957 |
|                 | The Rev. Lee Davis . . . . 457-2865 |
| **DEACONS**     | The Rev. Bella Jean Savino . . . 456-1503 |
|                 | The Rev. Montie Slusher . . 474-4570 |
| **SENIOR WARDEN** | Bruce Gadwah . . . . 457-7129 |
| **JUNIOR WARDEN** | Tom Marsh . . . . 458-0223 |
| **CLERK**       | Teresa Moore . . . . 374-8382 |
| **VESTRY**      | Charlene Marth . . . . |
|                 | Helen Howard . . . . 488-2314 |
|                 | Hubert Griffin . . . . 452-4692 |
|                 | Darrel Zuke . . . . 488-6073 |
|                 | Julia Cockerille . . . . 474-2105 |
|                 | Linda Demientieff . . . . 451-6601 |
| **PARISH TREASURER** | Carolyn Nethken . . . . 457-3304 |
| **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR** | Hilary Freeman . . . . 457-4820 |
| **SEXTON**      | Michael “Tree” Nelson . . 456-5217 |
| **ORGANIST**    | Laura Vines . . . . 452-4565 |
| **CHOIR DIRECTOR** | Barbara Hameister . . . . 455-7397 |
| **ALTAR GUILD** | Mary Johnston . . . . 457-7245 |
| **SUNDAY SCHOOL** | Beth Corven . . . . 456-2966 |
| **HEALTH MINISTRY** | Charlotte Perotti . . . . 457-1332 |
| **ENDOWMENT BOARD** | Martha Thomas, Chair . . . . 455-6612 |
| **WEB GARDENER** | Darrel Zuke . . . . 488-6073 |
| **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** | Maggie Castellini . . . . 479-5444 |
| **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** | Mary Margaret Davis . . . . 457-2865 |
| **UNITED THANK OFFERING** | Helen Howard . . . . 488-2314 |
| **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING** | The Rev. Bella Jean Savino .456-1503 |
| **MINISTERS**   | YOU . . . . . . . . US!!! |

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Phone# 456-5235  FAX#: 456-2934  
e-mail: sfisher@mosquitonet.com  Website : stmatthewschurch.org  
Diocesan Website: episcopalak.org

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Winter Voices

You gave her to us, Lord; and now we give her back to you.

They’re gathering up now like they always do - and leaving us behind.

Well, I got 35 gallons of blueberries this Season, and . . .

Hard to get ready for moose hunting when the weather’s like this. Last three years it’s been in the 60’s when we went out. Used to go out wearing sweaters and coats. Now I go huntin’ in t-shirts. I like it.

Well, I guess I can’t call it a hunting trip, ’cause we didn’t get anything. I guess we were sight-seeing.

. . . . so we got in the truck to drive back, and we’d been all over that country and hadn’t seen anything, and as I looked in the rear view mirror, there was a BIG bull moose just standing there, behind the truck. Came out of the woods just to look at us drive away. Sayin’ “nyah, nyah, nyah”. I spun the truck around real quick, but . . .
I have NEVER met any EX-tithers. That says something, I think.
I've been as far south as you can go in Alaska, as far east - to the Canadian border, as far north, and as far west. Out to Attu and the Aleuts. I made a point of doing that. Everything about Alaska is beautiful, I can tell you.

When I first moved to Ft Yukon, 1937 or so......

. . . well, it's less work than hanging sheep from canyons.

Do we have a new Bishop yet?

. . . told me once, when I was down there, that a clear day in Petersburg is when you can see the clouds.

Hey, I've got a question. I remember you did my cousin's funeral this Spring, and I appreciate that. But how come, how come God takes some people and doesn't take others? I mean, Gosh, I've lost so many in the last couple of years, but. . .

WHY am I still here?

When I woke after I'd died. . . GOSH. That's a heck of a way to begin a story, isn't it?

. . . and when she went into the Hospital, she insisted on bringing her copy of the St. Matthew's Newsletter.

....so Edmund Lord always told me, “You ever get into any trouble, anything you can't handle, just call the church.” That was about the last thing he said to me, before he died, except tellin' me “the next time I see you, I'll meet you in heaven.'

Oh my son, my son, my firstborn son. I still remember the day you were born and now, oh the pain, now you are leaving me. oh the pain. I thought I'd seen everything, but when I got my paper yesterday morning, and saw your tennis shoes on the front page. . .

. . . asked me if I believed in infant baptism. "Believe in it? “ I said, “I'VE EVEN SEEN IT!”
Winter Voices
We'll just put 'em all in Pete Peters Campground. Write that down.

Somebody hit Pauline's 'Go' button and she can't stop. She's still in there cooking.

This is a Nice place. This is a GOOD place. This is a FUN place. I LIKE this Church.

Well, they say 60 is the new 40. I guess I'll find out.

... spotted a flock of penguins, up north of Point Hope, but they never told anybody.

This is the classiest place in town. The sidewalks are all already shoveled and you have gravel down already.

You know, this week was the richest time I've had in a long time. What a great gathering! Privileged is the word that keeps coming up for me. That's how I feel to have witnessed what I witnessed and been in the company I was in. I am really thanking God for the community of St. Matthew's right now. I'm so glad we're all traveling together. I told someone today I feel almost as comfortable at church as I do in my own home. That's pretty remarkable when I really think about it!

There was a delegate sitting there with a paper plate of the BIGGEST moose bones I've seen; that she'd picked up, up front there at the lunch line. And she sat down and looked at her plate and said, "What IS it?" And I just cracked up.

He say "Don't cry for me, cry for your sins. I'm going to a better place now. No suffer there."

He say to me, he want to go home; shoot caribou; eat good rib soup. But he got sick. Now I'll take him home.

They say to me "Let's go play bingo." I say to them, "No, not me. My Lord Jesus died on the cross for me and the soldiers, they throw dice. It's just like that for me."

SEASONS of LIFE in the FALL and EARLY WINTER

For the 80 days since the recording in the last Newsletter, from Friday, August 31st, just after Mary Ann Gallagher’s funeral and the beginning of Labor Day weekend, through moose hunting and falling leaves and slowly dropping (but not very far) temperatures and the Diocesan Convention, through ice forming and running and finally stopping on the Chena River, through Sunday, November 18th, we stopped and gathered and prayed at least 231 times. An accounting and some of the details:

- 36 Sunday Morning Eucharists
- 6 Sunday Afternoon Fairbanks Correctional Center Services/visits
- 43 Private/Home Communion visits by clergy
- 14 Private/Home Communion visits by Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- 56 Midnight Compline Services
- 1 Midnight All Saints Compline Service w/memorial Bell Tolling
- 11 Wednesday Morning Eucharists
- 11 Wednesday Evening Eucharists
- 4 Thursday Morning Pioneer Home Eucharists
- 3 Celebrations of Holy Baptism, 5 Baptized
- 4 Weddings or Renewals of Wedding Vows
- 9 Commendations of the Dying/Departed
- 1 Reception of the Body
- 21 Funerals and/or Memorials (within Fairbanks)
- 2 Funeral/Burials (out of Fairbanks)
- 1 Diocesan Convention hosted
- 3 Diocesan Convention services
- 1 Public Invocation
- 4 Celebrations of the Blessing of Animals

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- 2 St. Matthew’s Fundraisers
- 3 Birthday Parties celebrated

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Saturday, October 6th – Date of First snowfall
Tuesday, October 9th – Date Ice begins running in the Chena River
Sunday, October 21st – Date First Snow Angel appears in the Church Yard
6:27AM Sunrise, August 31st
9:36 AM Sunrise, November 18th
9:13PM Sunset, August 31st
3:35PM Sunset, November 18th
70 – Warmest Temperature recorded since August 31st (Wednesday, September 12th)
-10 – Coldest Temperature recorded since August 31st (Thursday, November 15th)

Holy Baptisms
In the middle of September, during the Wednesday evening Eucharist on September 12th, 1 year old Esai Elijah Joseph and nearly 6 months old (and really curious) Alyssa Grace Neunsinger were baptized. Esai’s Godparents are Ronald Goessell and Rose Cleaver. Alyssa’s Godparents are Devin Neunsinger, Julie Biddle, and Charmagne Alder. On Sunday, September 23rd, as we celebrated the Feast of St.
Matthew, nearly 5 months old Danny Joe Druck Ewan and 5 months old (and 1 week older than Danny) Izabella Le’one Velez were baptized. Danny’s Godparents are Stan and Aleta Ketzler, and Rose and Lonnie Tyone. Izabella’s Godparents are Shannon Rae Sommer, Chris Warner, and Walter Warner. In an Emergency situation in the Intensive Care Unit of the Fairbanks Hospital, at 10:30PM on Saturday, October 13th, Fr. John Holz baptized 29 years old Sean Paul Hansen of Seward and Fairbanks. Several days later, Sean made a truly remarkable recovery and now has moved south to be closer to his family.

Weddings and Renewals

On Tuesday evening, September 11th, Frank and Gertrude Kriebitzch of Cologne, Germany arrived at the Church to renew their wedding vows. Touring Alaska as part of their 25th Wedding Anniversary, they stopped at the Fairbanks Visitors Center to inquire about renewing their vows at a local church with a local priest. One thing led to another and, accompanied by an interpreter (the local priest at St. Matthew’s speaks no German and they spoke only marginal English), in they came. Faith and Love speak a deeper language, and vows, with deep smiles, were renewed. (Photographs of this and other events are at www.stmatthewschurch.org, the St. Matthew’s website).

On Sunday afternoon, September 23rd, in a small and short private ceremony at the church, Bonnie Dick and Eric Lissy were married. Bonnie is the youngest daughter of Arland Dick and Zelma Axford. Then, nearly 6 weeks later, on late Saturday afternoon, November 3rd, there was the public celebration. St. Matthew’s filled with smiles and hope for the occasion, and the songs of Stevens Village and Tanana lingered under the surface.

And, on Saturday afternoon, November 10th, St. Matthew’s filled with Maine accents as Tom and Tracy Harmon renewed their wedding vows on their 6th anniversary. There were stories of deer hunting and nervousness and smiles . . . And it was wonderful.

Funerals, Burials, and Memorials

On Friday, August 31st, 55 years old Robert Lynn Poe died at home in Fairbanks. Born in Seward, Bob lived and worked throughout the State, until making his home and career here in Fairbanks in 1983. He mastered the painting trade and became a self employed general contractor in 1991. Four children, one grandson, three brothers, and a sister survive him, along with his friends and fellow union members. A Memorial Service and gathering for Bob was held across the River at the Elks Club on Sunday afternoon, September 9th and, at the request of his friend and co-worker Ray Cockerille, the rector led memorial prayers there.

On Monday, September 3rd, as moose hunting was beginning, 81 years old Silas Stevens died here in Fairbanks of Parkinson’s Disease and lung cancer. Born and raised in Eagle, Silas was a wealth of traditional history and knowledge (and it’s been his anonymous voice sometimes quoted in previous Newsletter “Voices” about early traditions). He left Eagle when he was 14 to attend the BIA School in Eklutna and, graduating in 1944, he went into the army and served in the Aleutians. Later he worked for the railroad and in Colorado. Silas was always a gentleman, always smiled, enjoyed Bingo, and was deeply faithful; attending St. Matthew’s regularly as long as health permitted. His four children and their spouses survive him – Walter and Alice Stevens, Sophia and Jim Rustad, William and Ula Stevens, and Regina Stevens and James Hughes; six grandchildren; his brother Fred; nieces including Becky Waggoner and Kathy Mayo; and

Winter Voices

...body STILL warm. That means Somebody gonna follow him. That’s what Old People say. Old fashioned way.

..born in Minneapolis. Used to go watch the planes take off at the airport. Made me restless so I came up here in 1950. But Fairbanks has gotten too d---- big now. Gonna move. Out the Steese I think. Way out.

Father God, I pray for all my children. I pray for all my children in all the villages and all the cities. Father God, I love them. I love them all, because they are all made in your image. Father God, bless them.

...said to me, “I’m going to sleep now”, in our language, and then he took his last breath and he died.

God said to tell you, “This too shall pass.”

There must have been some special angels to come get that Old Man. He was Something.

...told me he had done his part. He had taught us. Now it was going to be up to us.

... and the Baptist minister was giving David a hard time about infant baptism, as opposed to baptism by immersion. And David told him about the woman who touched just the hem of Jesus’ robe. ”Every drop of water contains Jesus”, he said, “and that’s enough”.

... and when I went inside Reverend Albert Tritt was dancing, just dancing. ”The Lord has given me a man,” he said. ”The Lord has given me a man”. And that man was David Salmon.

...and when we brought his body out of the house, to take over to the church, the sun just came out and shined, and there was a big cross on it, and a big rainbow around it. I never saw anything like it.

He was Doyon before there was a Doyon.

(Continued on page 22)
**Winter Voices**

We used to play together, dance together. Now, I’m guarded by Grandchildren, and . . .

**Alleluia. It’s a good day to be indigenous. AMEN.**

. . . and they didn’t know the English word for “eggs”. So they went outside the store and made a little nest out of mud; and rolled up in mud little balls, like eggs. Then they came back into the store and she said, “I want duck ball”, showing him the mud nest.

I oughta just go down and throw rocks at the police station or something. At least that’d get me a warm place to sleep and some hot meals every day. This being homeless is hard work.

I hope NOW YOU ALL will THINK ABOUT quitting DRINKING. THIS DIDN’T HAVE TO HAPPEN. THINK ABOUT IT.

. . . shipping out again to Iraq this week and could sure use some prayers. God got me through it last time; I hope He will this time.

. . . was diagnosed with cancer, but I feel funny about coming back to church because I haven’t been there for so long. It’s like I’m just looking for God now that I need His help. Will He mind that?

His background isn’t our church and he keeps saying he doesn’t get it. “How can you keep saying the same prayers all the time, every week?” he says. I tell him they’re different every time you pray them, but . . .

I did Communion once with root beer. It was all I had, and . . .

I JUST got out of the Hospital and I’m not supposed to get out of bed, but I wanted to come down here to help out our Church.

It certainly kindof monochromatic this time of year, isn’t it?

. . . and there was Don Young, he was our schoolteacher then, coming down the aisle with fresh moosemeat all over his face.

**". . . like a big family reunion"**

**REPORT on the 33rd DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

*By Linda Mullen*

[NOTE: Linda was one of the three official St. Matthew delegates representing us at the Diocesan Convention, held here at St. Matthew’s in early October. Here’s her Report.]

As I sit here writing this, our world has turned white, it is gently snowing, another 2 inches. The fire is burning merrily in the wood stove with a pot of bean soup cooking on it.

I was a delegate to the Convention for St Matthews. I think this is the third time that I have been given this privilege by the congregation.

Convention is like a big family reunion, lots of familiar faces, some new faces, hugs everywhere. This convention was filled with music from start to finish, from organ to fiddle and guitar. When things got tense, music changed the mood. It was pure praise.

There was prayer, and sharing. I think the most valuable event was when the Deanelies got together, each in a separate corner, and talked about what they wanted in a Bishop, what our strengths and weakness are. Then came the sharing with the whole assembly.

The most special time during the convention was when David Salmon arrived. He came on Friday as a delegate. He told us that he had a touch of pneumonia and needed to get medical attention. He came so he could vote on the new Bishop. He ended up talking to all of us in the Interior Deanery meeting and other folks who came by in the Parish Hall. We had a large group. Gary Simple video recorded his talk. It was the last time that David would be able to do that but none of us knew it at the time.

The food was awesome and plentiful, provided by the folks in the Interior Deanery and across the Diocese. Pauline Wilson did an incredible job of managing all the meals and had a lot of volunteers preparing foods, setting tables, cooking, cleanup. No one went away hungry.

It will be interesting as we continue to go thru the process of finding our new Bishop and I ask each of you to keep this whole process in prayer, especially the person that the Lord has chosen to take on this task.

*"ohHO! Here we go. We're going HOME!"*

- Traditional Chief the Rev. David Salmon
Winter Voices

This time, could you please maybe speak about the Incarnation, and our Lord Jesus Christ’s unconditional love for us all?

It’s pretty bad when my son thinks your parish hall is called “Night-Night” because you’ve got so many people sleeping in there.

Old. We’re all just getting old now.

You aren’t very old are you? How old are you? I think you’re about 20.

Are you familiar with the chapter in the Book of Revelation that explains that if a cell phone rings while in church, it will ALWAYS, ALWAYS ring twice; and the second time it will ring, it will be from LUCIFER, who NOW has a direct line to you and will . . .

Isn’t it great when your grandchildren call you? There’s nothing like that “Hello Grampa”

I don’t know this new Country I’m in - this Country of Grief I’m in.

Tell Scott I’ve got cigars for him.

We wrapped him in his prayer shawl from St. Matthew’s, because he loved it. He slept with it every night.

The first fish I ever caught in my life I caught with my Dad. The last fish that I’ve caught, I caught with my Dad. My Dad was . . .

I’m losing all my gaana’s.

OMG, OMG! We’re like TOTALLY BFF and . . .

At the workshop, they asked me what was the one thing I wanted to hear said over my casket at my own funeral; and I said “LOOK! He’s moving!”

And so goes away one of the sweetest smiles ever to grace Denali Center.

That’s the way I want to go - jitterbugging with Donny Moses. OH NO! DON’T PUT THAT IN THE NEWSLETTER! I DIDN’T SAY THAT. Well, at least no one will know who said it.

Page 9
Winter Voices

We were jigging till three in the morning and I’m still raring to go.

He used to make me coffee in the morning, quietly. It’s those little things you miss, when you notice they’re not there anymore.

We didn’t have many amenities in that little cabin, so I used to tear photographs out of magazines of the food I missed, and hang them up on the wall. Like BANANA SPLITS. They came over and laughed and laughed when they saw that. But the next week, when their plane flew up with their supplies, they got all the fixings for banana splits - ice cream and bananas and whipped cream and strawberries and cherries and chocolate syrup and everything. And they brought it all over to our cabin. And we all sat there that night eating banana splits in the middle of the Brooks Range. That’s the kind of friends they were; that’s the kind of neighbors they were.

I don’t want to, but I think I’m going to pull a “Scott Fisher” and get married; just so you and Steve can do a service other than a funeral.

We grew up in that little house just down from St. Matthew’s, on First Avenue. I remember climbing on the ridge pole when they were building the new church, after the fire. One time there was a grouse in the yard I was chasing, and it flew up the street, up First Avenue, and landed in a tree in the yard of that white house on the corner, where the priest lives. I was standing there lookin’ at it in the tree, when the front door opened and the priest came out and asked what I was doing. I told him I was chasing that grouse up in the tree, but I couldn’t hit it with the rocks. The priest stepped inside the house, reached for a gun, shot it, and the grouse dropped to my feet. I don’t know who the priest was here then. That was in the late 40s or early 50s.

Oh, I’m afraid Christmas is going straight in the fuel tank this year.

33rd Diocesan Convention . . .

Bishop will occur at St. Mary’s in Anchorage on Saturday, May 2nd, 2009, co-hosted by the Anchorage churches. Additionally, it was passed that the first Convention of the new Bishop, to be held in October 2009, will be held in an Alaskan village.

12. The proposed Diocesan Transition Budget of $895,634 was passed.

13. A Resolution from the Interior Deanery, “calling for the next Bishop of Alaska to call for the election of an Indigenous Suffragan Bishop to serve the Native people of Alaska within 18 months of consecration”, and further stating that “the Indigenous Suffragan Bishop will provide pastoral and spiritual care for our Indigenous Congregations”, passed.

14. A Resolution calling for the immediate establishment of a Suffragan Bishop’s Task Force to develop a plan of implementation, to be acted upon within 12 months of the next Bishop’s consecration, passed.

15. A Resolution on the Bishop’s Major Gifts Campaign passed. Among other things, this Resolution renames the Campaign “The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald Major Gifts Campaign”; launches a Phase II of the Campaign, focusing on collecting outstanding pledges (and especially thanking Bishop Bruno of Los Angeles and his diocese for their commitment); invites congregations to partner with the Diocese and the Episcopal Church Foundation in planned giving and pledge activities; and calls for the establishment of a Diocesan Legacy Society.

16. A number of people from throughout the Diocese were either inducted into the Diocesan Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna, or introduced as 2007 inductees into the Society. These included Interior 2007 inductees Bertha Ulvi of St. John’s/Eagle, Ernie Evan of St. Mark’s/Nenana, and Mary E. Starr of St. James/Tanana.

17. The Bishop’s Address Committee, charged with circulating and hearing the whispers of the Spirit during the Convention, reported the “following aspirations: improve communication, take leadership in environmental issues/concerns and solutions, increase commitment to Millennium Development Goals, create a visible prayer center in the diocese, explore ways to celebrate our close relationship within the diocese, implement our commitment to children and youth”.

18. The Convention Courtesy Committee thanked many people for many things, including the rector, staff, and congregation of St. Matthew’s, and many individual members of St. Matthew’s.

“The question you always have to ask yourself is: ‘What’s behind the things we see happen?’”

- Traditional Chief Peter John
"St. Matthew’s has blessed [my own kids], and I wish that for every child."

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?
By Sunday School Coordinator Beth Corven

Sunday school at St. Matthew’s has gotten off to a great start this fall. We have a wonderful group of talented, dedicated teachers for all grades preschool through eighth. Whitney Dementieff, who attends UAF and works at TCC still manages to find time to lead our littlest Sunday-schoolers (preschool through kindergarten). Marsha Newcombe, Bonnie Hameister and Lisa Linnell-Olsen conduct our largest class, 1st through 3rd grade, with tons of energy and grace. Helen Howard, teaching the 4th and 5th graders, brings years of experience and learning to the class (and Helen was just reminded again how important her role is when she ran into a 20ish young man who enthusiastically greeted her as his Sunday school teacher from way back when). Tom Marsh and Laura Hensley have been working with the 6th through 8th graders (with some high schoolers thrown in) and have been enjoying the diversity of discussion and activity.

And yet, despite excellent teaching, preparation and enthusiasm, something is missing.

Something critical.


Class sizes in most classes this year have dropped considerably from past years. The only class that remains steady in attendance is the 1st-3rd grade class. The others have all had Sundays where there were no children, or just one child.

Where are the children? Do you know of any Sunday-school aged kids who might want to join in the St. Matthew’s family? I look at my own kids, and I know that they see St. Matthew’s as an extension of their family. They trust their teachers. They pray with kids their age. And they share the Holy Communion with the entire congregation each Sunday. St. Matthew’s has blessed them, and I wish that for every child. There is no power stronger than that of God’s love, and I would like to see more children reveling in the love offered by St. Matthew’s.

If you know of any children who can join us next Sunday, invite them to sit for a while with kids their age and teachers who are waiting to serve them. It is a blessing that shouldn’t be missed.

News from St. Matthew’s Health Ministry

In October our Health Ministry took part in the national observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

*The Health Ministry Library was available in the parish hall the last Sunday of the month. Another Sunday we announced that the library would be out, but we couldn’t find the key to the cabinet! Well, we’re human, and laughter is definitely good for both body and spirit. We hope to have the library out more often in the future.
*On October 28 we had handouts and materials for all to look at and take whatever they wished. We focused on early detection of breast cancer, local resources and tips for a healthy lifestyle. The display remained out for a few days for anyone who came by the church.

Please remember: If you have any questions, suggestions or needs where the Health Ministry can help, contact the Church office (456-5235), or you can speak with any HM members.

Special thanks are extended to the health care professionals and organizations in the community who cheerfully gave us materials for distribution and made helpful suggestions:

*Carolyn and Christina at FMH Imaging Center
*Roxie and Joanne at the Breast Cancer Detection Center
*Debbie from Dr. Carroll’s office
*Dr. Shihdeh and Laurie in Radiation Oncology, Fairbanks Cancer Treatment Center

We’d also like to thank Pat Sackinger and Louise Smith for organizing the display and materials, Hilary Perotti for her continuing encouragement and support.

And of course we Thank and Praise our Lord for leading us along this path.

Shalom,
Louise

Page 11
SEEKING: Youth Participation! Seeking: Folks with Theater Experience!

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS: WHAT ARE YOURS?
By Sunday School Coordinator Beth Corven

All of us have time, talents and treasures that we offer to God through our participation in the life of St. Matthew's. Some have a talent for teaching; others have a talent for music. Many offer a part of their income to help keep St. Matthew's going.

I am looking for two specific types of offering for our Sunday school this winter. One is easy, and one is short. First, the easy one. Rebecca Henderson and I will be planning a high school youth group this spring that will begin meeting regularly next fall. I am looking for two things:

1) Feedback by anyone who has any ideas about the timing and content of the youth group (days, times, where to meet, what to do, etc), including feedback from high school or post-high school youth. While we have lots of spirit, we do not have high schoolers ourselves, and we need to hear from some!

2) Participation by anyone interested in joining us. Adults, youth, clergy...all are welcome, and we are flexible on when and where we meet. Usually, however, our meetings involve food and coffee....

Next the short offering. The Sunday school classes will be having an Epiphany pageant this year rather than a Christmas pageant. Due to all of our crazy holiday schedules (especially at St. Matthew's), we decided to have the pageant on January 6 after the Christmas rush. While we do have a script and costumes, we don't have a director. I am asking those of you with any thespian experience to search your hearts to see if you can offer yourself to God for this task. It is fun, chaotic and spiritually moving for all involved. And you will not be alone with a cast of children. You will be supported in your efforts by those of us experienced in corralling herds of children and guiding them into the right paths.

So consider the gifts that God has given you and challenge yourself to offer them to St. Matthew's and the children of St. Matthew's. You can contact me at 456-2406 or 378-5537. I would love to hear from you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THANK YOUS
By Sunday School Coordinator Beth Corven

As the Sunday school director, it is my pleasure to witness the tremendous love that St. Matthew's has for its children. From teaching to playing music to bringing snacks for after class, St. Matthew's has an abundance of talent and love to share with our youth. I would like to thank the following individuals for their generous teaching of faith to our children:

Whitney Demientieff    Bonnie Hameister    Tom Marsh
Trudy Wright           Lisa Linnell-Olsen   Laura Hensley
Marsha Newcombe        Helen Howard

I would like to thank Linda Mullen for her musical talent and for leading our kids in song every Sunday morning.

Thank you to those who have brought Sunday school snacks since classes began last September:

Valorie Adams          Maggie Castellini    Candi Hess
Louise Smith           Sandy Cummings       Connie Moore
Trudy Wright           Rosalie Blanton

And finally, I would like to thank Father Scott for his willingness to try a new children's service, and to the nine o'clock congregation for their patience as he does so.
As we come upon the beginning of winter, and as the days begin to darken, we are thankful for the light that is St. Matthew’s. Through Christ, we, the people of St. Matthew’s are the light in the darkness. Our faith and our love of God and each other create the light that makes this church a beacon in the Interior.

Each year we ask the members of our congregation, as faithful stewards of Christ, to offer their service and support to St. Matthew’s.

Our service is recognized by the time and talents that we commit to the concrete tasks involved in creating, maintaining and growing a vibrant, healthy community of Christ.

Our support lies in our God-given material treasures, our financial gifts that ensure that St. Matthew’s lights stay on and that our church continues to fulfill its mission of sharing God’s love with all of God’s children.

Please think of these commitments of service and support as we move into this season of darkness and as you search your heart for the time, talent and treasure that you can offer to St. Matthews.

Use this form to offer your service and support, and return it to the church office or place it in the collection plate during any service.

TIME and TALENT

The Church

☐ Acolyte/crucifer/torchbearer

☐ Leading Psalms

☐ Reading Bible Lessons

☐ Reading Prayers

☐ Chalice Bearer/LEM

☐ Usher

☐ Coffee Hour/Kitchen cleaning

☐ Altar Guild

☐ Singing in Choir

☐ Play an Instrument

☐ Acolyte Trainer

☐ Youth Ministry/LOGOS

☐ Nursery Caregiver/Committee

☐ Sunday School Teacher

☐ Bible Study

☐ Health Ministry

☐ Daughters of the King

☐ Prayer Chain

☐ Hospitality – Potlucks, Receptions, Decorating

☐ Providing Transportation to/from church

☐ Outreach Activities

☐ Church Building/Grounds Maintenance or Repair

☐ Newsletter Assistant

☐ Website Maintenance

☐ Lay Reader: Denali Center/Pioneer Home/Prison/Mid-Week Services/Other

☐ Interested in Meditation/ Spirituality/ Charismatic/

Name:____________________________________________________________

Mailing address:____________________________________________________

City:__________________________________________ State:_______ Zip Code:_________

Phone:__________________________________________ Email:_____________________
Love In The Name of Christ (Love, Inc.) is an outreach ministry of our church that connects people in need with members of our church who want to help in a variety of ways.

- Act as a Church Contact Person
- Provide Housing: Long-term or Short-term
- Provide Transportation: Regularly, Occasionally, or As-needed
- Deliver Food Boxes/Diapers
- Assist with Moving
- Legal Expertise: Advice or Possible Representation
- Health Care Services: Medical, Dental or Other
- Hair Cuts
- Counseling Services
- Teaching Skills
- Housekeeping
- Shopping for shut-ins
- Relationships: Visitor, Friendship, Daycare Provider
- Language Translator
- Record Keeping or Management
- Providing Temporary Employment
- Home Care, Maintenance or Repair
- Material Resources – Building supplies, diapers, money
- Phone Volunteer at Love, Inc.
- Office Assistant at Love, Inc.
- Prayer – Uphold someone in prayer

TREASURE

Pledge for 2008

For 2007-2008, in faith, I/we pledge the following amount towards the operation of St. Matthew’s:

$___________ (weekly) (monthly) (quarterly) (yearly)

$___________ of my/our Permanent Fund/other Dividend gift(s)

$___________ for the church Building Fund

$___________ for the St. Matthew’s Endowment Fund

I/we would like offering envelopes: Yes________ No________

_____Yes, I/we enjoy and appreciate receiving the newsletter

_____Yes, I/we prefer to receive the newsletter electronically (address below)

Name:_____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address:_____________________________________________________

City:_________________________ State:_________ Zip Code:____________

Phone:________________________ Email:______________________________
"What do you wish for?  
Better days...a better tomorrow"

THE OTHER SOUND of CHRISTMAS COMING: Homeless Youth in the Fairbanks Area

[At the Heart of the Story of Christmas Coming, with shepherds and wisemen and angels and Wonder and Light and Hope, there is this one uncomfortable fact... that Our Lord is homeless that Night. Just as the Divine Reality of angels and Wonder and the Incarnation continue past that One Holy Night, so does the Social Reality of Homelessness. Real Angels, Real Wonder, Real Love... REAL folks homeless throughout the Nights 365 days a year. And some of them are very young.]

There are an estimated 500 to 800 homeless youth in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough*, depending on friends, non-immediate family, or only themselves and the streets to survive. Agencies and organizations that work with these youth have not received federal grants this Winter, and are enlisting community support. A candlelight Vigil is scheduled Wednesday, November 14th at 6PM at Pioneer Park to call attention to this situation.

The figures estimating the number of homeless youth are REAL people, not just numbers. Here are the voices of children that live here in Fairbanks, as homeless as Christ on Christmas. From Sarah ("Raz") Finnell, Street Outreach Coordinator for Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption, a poem from an anonymous 19 years old out there; and a real conversation, an anonymous interview with one sixteen years old, interviewed near the end of October:

---

Me and You

Out of places, Out of time,  
Out of sight, Out of mind.  
No where to go; No where to be;  
No one to help; No one to care  
For me and you, except our mothers two,  
Who can't help me and you,  
But still care deeply for me and you.  
The world spins on as our life flies by;  
No where to go except to the streets for me and you.  
No money, No nothing  
except for me and you.  
Friends who talk and say we'll fail  
No care for us, No time for us.  
So few true friends to watch our backs  
No place to go, No turning back...  
But watch us now; you'll never get us.  
We'll prove you wrong; we'll show you our power;  
We'll get jobs and make some money.  

We'll make a place of our own.  
We're never helpless.  
You say we'll fail, we'll fall apart;  
But our love will never fall apart.  
So quit being jealous and trying to beat us down  
Your words mean nothing; You have no power.  
We may have only the streets that we love,  
Two bags and a few somethings;  
But as long as we have each other that's all we'll need.  
Just a me and a you, The streets, Two bags,  
and a few somethings,  
With loving mothers two, and a couple true friends too;  
But mostly all I need is  
A me and a you,  
forever us two.  
My love, this is all for you  
This poem, This life  
Called me and you.  

---

How old are you?  
Sixteen

Where do you live right now?  
Different places

Do you ever live with your parents?  
Sometimes

What's it like when you're staying with your mom?  
Uh...never peaceful. There's always too much people coming in and out

Who are those people?  
I don't know. Whoever my mom sees.

You were telling me earlier about a problem that your mom has that makes it hard for you to live with her.  
Could you tell me more about that?  
Uh. My mom, she...my grandma, she needed drugs because she has a lot of back problems and she had my mom look for her and my mom ended up running into people that do those drugs and she started hanging out with them and she started doing those drugs and...yeah...I don't really go home much any more cause she's on them and...yeah...
How old were you when that started happening?

I was little, it was a long time ago, but she was clean for 10 years. And now she’s doing them again.

When did she start doing them again?

Like, two months ago. She went through two dividends in two days.

So what do you think you need?

A place of my own, so I know that I won’t lose everything.

Has that happened before?

Yeah. A couple of times.

With your mom?

Yeah. And with my dad

So what’s up with your dad, is he still living with your mom?

No.

How long ago did they split up?

When I was 5.

Do you still keep in touch with him?

No.

Did you live with him at all after that?

Yeah, but he was abusing us, so we had to go live with our mom again. And we had a child protection order or something so he couldn’t visit us for a while. That was just for 6 months, and we haven’t seen him in eight years.

Have you heard at all about what he’s doing?

Last thing I heard about him is that he was in Anchorage with a broken back because he was drinking and trying to help his friend fix his tin roof while it was raining. [laughs]

How does that make you feel?

Like I’m smarter than him.

What do you wish for?

Better days…a better tomorrow.

What do you think that would look like?

I don’t know

If you were to give advice to someone living on their own what would it be?

If you’re gonna be on your own, be smart about it. You can’t spend all your money the first week you get it. You have to save it. And you have to think about where you’re gonna stay. There’s a lot of responsibilities when you’re on your own.

Do you think you’re ready for those responsibilities?

Yeah. With a better job…or a job.

Do you have a job right now?

Not yet. I get SSI money right now, but if I got a job I’d probably get a little more than SSI.

So when you’re not staying with your mom, where do you stay, where have you stayed at before?

I stayed at friends’ houses, I stayed in a tunnel, in parks, mostly. I’m usually just walking around all day and I find a place to sleep for a while.

You don’t go to school?

I dropped out.

Do you have any plans to finish up ever?

I’m getting my GED, I’m working on it.

Do you have any more stories you want to tell about what your life is like, lessons you’ve learned being on your own?

Umm…no not really.

*The figures come from the Homeless Youth Liaison for the FNSB School District Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption Youth Street Outreach Program, and Joel’s Place putting all their numbers together of the youth they have served this year, which is over 500. FCA alone reports over 200. They are still working on this information-gathering aspect, so they can produce hard numbers, but this is an educated guess. And since not all homeless youth have contacted/will contact any of these entities for help, they are estimating another 300 are out there that have not made contact*
A Letter from the Rev. Belle Mickelson

DANCING with THE SPIRIT & FIDDLE MUSIC to VILLAGES THIS CHRISTMAS
October 25, 2007

Hi everyone!

We're hoping to bring Christmas music to the villages this December. The village teachers want us to come then—and my son Mike has that time off from his band "Bearfoot"—so we plan to go along with Native staff to Tanana, Arctic Village, Beaver and Stevens Village—plus maybe Minto and a few more places without priests that are looking forward to Christmas church services with communion. It sounds so exciting—and we have twin fiddle, mandolin and guitar Christmas carols to bring with us! We want to take a few instruments to new villages—and repair the guitars that are already there.

.... [This Summer] We also did a camp in Arctic Village and three weeks of school programs in Tanana and Arctic Village, plus brought village students to the Fairbanks Bearfoot Bluegrass Camp for Kids. More camp pictures are available at www.thomasbdunklin.com/gallery/musiccamp2007

I'm busy writing grants and helping teach guitar to 5th and 6th graders in the Cordova Schools thanks to funding from the Elihu Foundation. The Rasmussen Foundation contributed guitars, basses, fiddles and mandolins for the Cordova 4H Camp and school program.

The Cordova 4H Music Camp went really well this summer—and many of the staff members would also like to take their music to villages. There is a lot of enthusiasm among village musicians, too.

In the next few weeks we should have our web page set up at www.dancingwiththespirit.org

Pray for us. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to the Dancing with the Spirit/Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, 1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Love and blessings,
The Rev. Belle Mickelson,
Box 1362, Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907) 424-5143

P.S. Bearfoot, the band that came out of our Cordova 4H Music Camp, [played](Oct. 26) at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. at 6 pm Eastern Standard Time. The performance [was] webcast (and archived so you can see it later). Go to the Kennedy Center website and type in "Bearfoot" in their search box. This band has done 65 camps for kids—and that’s what we hope will happen in the villages with the older kids teaching the younger ones... Thanks for all your prayers and blessings...

News from a Village Farther North, borrowed from the school Newsletter

BEAVER SCHOOL PLANS JAPANESE TRIP & AUGUST MEMORIAL POTLATCH

In 1890, on the edge of the Gold Rush about to begin, a young Japanese man, working as a cabin boy on a US Coast Guard patrol boat, got off the boat in Barrow... and stayed, for awhile at least. And therein begins a Story. Within another twenty years, he and Nevelo, his Inupiaq wife, and members of her family, were settling on the Yukon River, downriver from Fort Yukon, and the community of Beaver was beginning. His name was Frank Yasuda; and he is neither an insignificant figure in Japan, nor in the village of Beaver, nor in Alaskan history. Modern day residents of Beaver, descended either from those first Inupiaq settlers, or Gwitch’in and Koyukon folk who had been in the area for a millennia, know the story of Frank Yasuda and that 1910 overland trek from Barrow to the Yukon, but not many others do.

Cruikshank School (named after the late Moses Cruikshank, who was also not an insignificant figure) in Beaver is planning "The Frank Yasuda Memorial Potlatch" to be held in Beaver August 23-24 2008. Under the leadership of Cruikshank Principal/Teacher Charleen Fisher (the great niece of Moses Cruikshank), the school is planning an April 2008 trip to Japan, to visit Yasuda's ancestral home and raise awareness of the coming potlatch. The school hosted Hideki Fujisawa San as a 6 months Japanese intern, teaching Japanese Language and culture and, through the efforts of Dr. Hiroko Karaoke of UCLA/Aurora Foundation, has continued to learn Japanese from Yoko Collier San via long distance. In the meantime, Ryo Satomi is coordinating efforts in Ishinomaki, Japan. They hope to connect with Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan, while there. Initial grants have been received from Doyon Limited, and the Aurora Foundation of California.
ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS 2007

St. Matthew’s is a rich Community, a rich part of the Body of Christ. Rich not because of the Budget, and rich not because of the offering plates on Sunday morning, but rich because of the gifts that we are given by God. And the greatest gift we are given is the Gift of Each Other. And one of the deepest and truest gifts that we receive is that we get to be the ones there when people return to Our Father.

Here are the ones since last All Saints, whose deaths, one way or the other, were connected with St. Matthew’s. Either the final prayers were said by St. Matthew’s clergy, and/or their final services were here. Read their names now, and YOU be the priest. Stand with your spirit before the altar of your heart and say their name aloud and, remembering, make Eucharist – give thanks.

### The Season of Late Pentecost
(November 2006)
- ARLENE Demit Isaac
- JORDAN Bos
- NELLIE Cadzow Carroll

(December 2006)
- GABRIEL Nollner

The Season of Advent
- ALFREDA E. Erick
- CHESTER J. Druck
- CHARLES Nickoli Jr.
- HARMIE L. “Bub” Deaton

### The Season of Christmas
- DELORES Linzner
- RALPH W. James
- LONNIE “Skip” Secson
- MARY Crow-John

(January 2007)
- RHODA Tobuk Musser
- SHIRLEY A. Demientieff

The Season of Epiphany
- NORMA Richards
- JOSHUA Hjelm
- MARTIN “Tzuge” Charlie
- KEVIN L. Vent

(February)
- CATHERINE Ahsoak
- TIMOTHY Luke
- MARY Ann Nikolai
- MICHELLE McCraven

### The Season of Lent & Holy Week
- JOHN Meinhart
- WILLIAM Taylor
- ALFRED Grant
- VERNON Joseph

(March)
- AARON Ambrose
- LEO Peterson
- BEULAH Moses
- MARIE Roberts
- ANJANETTE Taylor

- (April)
  - DEBORAH Purdy
  - JOSEPHINE Herbert Lowe
  - HENRY Yaska

### The Season of Easter
- BELLA Francis
- SHARON David
- HAROLD Henry
- ARTHUR Purdy Jr.
- BILLY Sam

(May)
- DONN Hopkins

### The Season of Pentecost
- TRAVIS Alexander
- KATHY Garrigan
- LIZA Lomondo

(June)
- CHRISTINE Joseph
- MOSES Sam Jr.
- JAMES Clinton Jones

(July)
- BARRY Shockley
- MARY Ann Curtiss

(August)
- JAMES Oly Nollner
- ANGELEE Yoder-Ely
- MARY Ann Gallagher
- ROBERT L. Poe

(September)
- SILAS Stevens
- MARA Anne Edwin
- SAM Pitka Sr.

(October)
- RICHARD Grant
- TOMMY Carroll
- ALTA Clarke
- TIMOTHY Sam

TRADITIONAL CHIEF THE REV. DAVID Salmon
- SELINA Sam
- ROGER Taylor
- JUNE Thayer
- VIRGINIA Sparks
THE KINGDOM of the BAPTIZED 2007

Water singing silently in the silver bowed font, tall brave Paschal candle burning, oiled cross on forehead. As the Church Year comes to an End, we remember and give thanks for all of those baptized this Church Year – “marked as Christ’s Own forever”.

**The Season of Epiphany**
- CHARLIE Nations Jordan Jr
- ANTHONY Charles Mayo
- ANGELINA Maia Shannon
- ISABELLE Sienna Shannon

**The Feast of the Annunciation**
- RIVER Elizabeth Frank

**Holy Week**
- LUCY Ann Millington

**The Season of Easter**
- THOMAS Jay Demientieff
- ANGELINE Hope Lichelle Derendoff
- AVAIYA Danielle Burgess Mendez
- BRIELLE Katherine Maggie Peter
- JERMAINE Lewis Plummer
- TAJHANA Jaydeen Monique Burgess Stine
- DEZMOND Carl Eagleshield (*in Circle*)
- ELAINA Deborah Carroll (*in Circle*)
- CHARLES Angelo Darby Jr (*in Circle*)
- EVAN Titan Stevens Kozevnikoff

KATELYN Ashlyn Kozevnikoff
STEVEN Anthony Rosa
CHANTZ Quinn Chandler
AYSHA Louise Peter
TERRELL Jevon Peter

**The Season of Pentecost**
- LUCAS Dale Biddle
- TREVON Tyler Huntington
- KAYDENCE Ann Malemute
- DANIEL Evan Parsons
- ZOEY Sunshine Carpenter Hensley
- TARYN Rhiannon Philpot
- AURORA Jolee Bauer
- TONY Guerra
- ESSIE Frank
- CHRISTIAN Charles Silas- Attla
- ESAI Elijah Joseph
- ALYSSA Grace Neusinger
- DANNY Joe Druck Ewan
- IZABELLA Le’one Velez
- TREVOR Abel Allen Yatlin (*in Beaver*)
- CHEVAYA Ava Ward

**http://www.alaskabishopsearch.org/**

THE SEARCH for the NEXT EPISCOPAL BISHOP of ALASKA, continued

Much of the time during the October Diocesan Convention was devoted to discussions and information regarding the Bishop’s Search Process. Under the leadership of the Bishop Search Committee (*Co-Chair: Clarence Bolden*, Interior; *Co-Chair: Shirley Lee*, Interior; *Linda Demientieff*, Interior; *The Rev. Margo Simple*, Interior; *The Rev. Elijah Attungana*, Arctic Coast; *Joanne Neakok*, Arctic Coast; *Andrew Tooyak*, Arctic Coast; *The Rev. Wayne Brittell*, South Central; *Sarah Stanley*, South Central; *Stacy Thorpe*, South Central; *Daniel Hall*, Southeast; *Deatrea Marciel*, Southeast; *The Rev. Hunter Silides*, Southeast; Consultant: *Betsy Greenman*, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia; Chaplain for the Search: *The Rev. Martin Eldred*, Joy Lutheran Church) information was gathered during the Clergy Retreat and during the Convention. The new Bishop Search Website ([http://www.alaskabishopsearch.org/](http://www.alaskabishopsearch.org/)) is now on the Internet, providing under current information, and a place to ask questions.

Here’s a Summary of the Timeline for this Search:

**November 2007**: By November 26th the Search Committee’s draft of the Bishop’s Profile is completed; **December 2007**: The Profile is submitted to the Standing Committee for their approval; by mid December the Search Committee has drafted the Bishop Nomination form and Nominee Questions. **January 2008**: On January 15th, 2008, nominations OPEN for the 8th Episcopal Bishop of Alaska; **February 2008**: Search Committee members attend all four Deanery meetings; **April 2008**: Nominations CLOSE for the 8th Episcopal Bishop of Alaska on April 30th; **May through August 2008**: screening of all applicants; **September 2008**: Onsite Outside visits of candidates; **October 2008**: Background checks of nominees; **November 2008**: Nominees for the 8th Bishop of Alaska announced; **December 2008**: Petition process opens for first two weeks of December; **December 2008-January 2009**: Background checks for Petitioners. **THURSDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 2009**: The electing Convention for the 8th Bishop of Alaska. Co-hosted by the Anchorage churches, the Convention will occur at St. Mary’s. **Saturday, May 2nd, 2009**: Consecration of the 8th Episcopal Bishop of Alaska; in Anchorage.
AN EDITED SAMPLING of CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED........

The Minto Delegation in the Philippines
[Once upon a time Vera Weiser, daughter of the Rev. Berkman and Sarah Silas of Minto, was one of several students that the late Bishop Gordon sent off to Cook Theological School in Arizona. Years later, she’s still traveling and learning. Now she and her family have gone off to the Philippines, to learn how to be missionaries. Here’s an edited sampling from their first letters home.]

Thursday October 4th
Hello! . . . for those of you who don’t know us: We are a family of three, myself (Vera), my husband Joshua, and our 13 year old son Julian. We have applied to a Crossroads’ YWAM [“Youth with a Mission”] in Davao City, Philippines and have been accepted. . . . Prayer request: Pray for our transition will be smooth. No lost luggage, jet lag will fade fast, adjustment to time difference and to a new place, new people and new foods. . . . Thank you to those who have lifted us up in prayer from the first. We feel your prayers even now and your prayers will see us through. For we know WHO has begun a good work in us and will see it to the end/season! . . . will let you know of our adventures in the Philippines. Again, thank you for your prayers! You are all a part of our endeavors in expanding the Gospel! May the LORD richly bless you all, Vera, Joshua and Julian Weiser, from Minto, Alaska

Tuesday October 30th
In the Philippines . . . we’ve been in country for over a week now and already we are developing a family. Julian loves it! He wants to move here and not go back to Alaska. . . . The people here are so gracious! We are the only American students. The majority are from the Philippines, a few are from Germany, a lady from Amsterdam. . . . Lots of young people. We are the oldest and the youngest in DTS is 16. We have not heard where we will be doing our outreach, but I think it will be out of country. Staff people come from Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Monserratt, Germany, Oklahoma, Philippines, Switzerland. It really is a learning experience for all of us. . . . We’ve been getting up at 6, even Julian! . . . Rice at almost every meal! Oh, and he tried Balute, a cooked duck egg with the embryo at 21 days still inside! They eat it with vinegar and salt. . . . Last week end we spent a night on an island just a hour’s boat ride from here. We stayed in a cottage which cost about $2.00. On the way over the local staff bought some fresh fish and we had a feast. It was delicious! I think we all are getting used to the humidity. If I don’t move around too much or too fast, I don’t perspire as much! We take only cold showers and sleep with a fan on with only a sheet. . . . Security here in Davao is high. Reminds me of when we were in Israel. They check you as you enter the malls or any place where there is a large number of people. Clearing customs was very easy. We even got to bring in our dried meat and fish strips. Mek, the Cambodian told me his testimony and how he got to be here in Davao. It was a miracle! He is only 23 and he wants to go back to his country to be the leader for YWAM there. Also Gary, a local told me his story of how his father beat him as a child, and how he lived on the streets. And now how he saw his parents came to the LORD and his reconciliation with his father. So many testimonies. I want to bring them all to Alaska! Today we completed our first week of lectures and it sounds like the next three months will be pretty exciting and I’m looking forward to that time. Lots of praying people and lots of support. I love it here! Do continue to pray for us that we totally immerse ourselves into this Discipleship school. Thank you all for praying for us, I can feel your prayers. . . .

Friday, November 2nd
Hello, I’m sending you a letter Joshua wrote to his friends and wanted to share with you. . . . “THIS PLACE IS AMAZING! We are living at a YWAM [Youth with a Mission] base. There are over 700 such bases worldwide with the mandate of training missionaries to spread the gospel. The training program is called DTS; discipleship training school for students younger than 25. My program is CDTS; Crossroads for students 25 yrs and up. Vera and I are the grandpa, grandma’s of the program. There are seven in our program and 28 in the other. Most of the students are from the Philippines. A few come from Burma, Cambodia, Germany and Switzerland. All are incredibly gracious and friendly. Very easy to know. All speak English with different levels of proficiency. The days are filled with Bible study on different levels. This entire week, we have been learning about the “Character and Nature of God”. Our teacher flew in from New Zealand . . . I was blow away by this man’s ability to bring the lessons of the bible in to everyday terms. . . . Our last class with him was today, so I’ll spend all weekend digesting his teachings. Monday, it’s another teacher for a week speaking on the “Father Heart of God.” What brings tears to my eyes is that there are 28 young people in this program that are totally committed to transforming their minds and their life. You would have tears in your eyes during worship time to see them sing with unabated love for the Lord; jumping up and down or collapsing to the floor in tears. This is a scene that we must create in Alaska; our youth need this desperately . . . Part of our time here will be putting our teachings into action, called Outreach. This will be in schools, orphanages, community feeding programs, youth programs; doing everything from witnessing, telling stories, leading youth games,
MORE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

feeding babies at orphanages, fixing roofs; anything to serve and share love. We will be here for 3 months after which it will be another country; possibly Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand or even China for Outreach work. Seven months ago, I never dreamed I would be doing this. I would have said, “You’re out of your mind!” But the old ways of thinking, my old mind just did not bring me happiness. Now I’m finding what I’ve been searching for; AND IT FEELS FANTASTIC! . . . The story of some of the youths that are here would break your heart. Some have come from the streets, from broken families, from refugee camps. Some have risked their lives to come here like the boy from Burma... It is rich and I want you . . . to be a part of it. . . .

Blessings, Your brother Joshua"

From Walter Tommy, NOW in South Carolina

Wednesday October 24th

Hello All-

I’ve been watching the AFN convention on the internet these past few days, and posted comments there for encouragement to follow your dreams and desires to better yourself through education, no matter where your learning institution might take you. Learning was a mental block for me, because I didn’t want to break out of the mold I set up for myself. I wanted the easy way of life, never challenging myself to do better in my life.

Today in my life, I’m learning the AA way, “Let Go, and Let God”, “Thy will be done...not mine”. When I change my attitude and thinking about my life in the direction I’m going, I change my behavioral patterns to be positive for me in my mental, and emotional life. It’s not easy, but the rewards are God’s grace to me. And I give Thanks daily for His grace.

I enjoy being creative, and that’s what “God”, or the “Great Spirit” did when He “created” the universe. Being artistically inclined and wanting to learn different ways of expressing my talents is a tribute to this “gift from the Creator”. So I chose to go to school for studio arts, and it has brought me here to Rock Hill, South Carolina to be wedded to an artist that went to school in Florida.

Her name is Andrea Scarlett Tommy!

Yep folks...I’m happily married... What a blessing it is to have her in my life. Someone who is just as creative and willing to learn more, and enjoy our experiences of our life together.

Communication is HOW to have a healthy, growing life together.

Never underestimate what will happen when you get into sobriety. I never thought that I would go to Washington, DC, but I was invited to be a part of encouragement for other people in recovery, and brought my sponsor along with me, this past July 13th. The DVD will be distributed nation wide to treatment centers within another month or so. The year 2007 is not over yet, and I’ve been to the Institute of American Indians Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, back home for the summer, then to Washington, DC, and back home for the rest of the summer, and now I’m here in Rock Hill, S. Carolina, happily married and applying for York Technological University for my humanities. Once I get that out of the way, I want to go back to IAIA in Santa Fe, NM.

I don’t miss the C-O-L-D weather; I’m enjoying the 75 degree weather here, now. No more bundling up and making sure there’s enough wood, or fuel in the tanks, no more slipping and sliding on the icy roads, and I got enough dry meat and dry fish for this winter. Thank you.
many others. Thursday afternoon, September 6th, the Tribal Hall filled for his funeral, led by the rector, Archdeacon Anna Frank, the Rev. Mardow Solomon, and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino.

Saturday, September 8th, 24 years old Mara Anne Edwin died here in Fairbanks. Raised in Montana and Tanana, Mara was part of a wide immediate and extended family. She’s survived by her parents Herbert and Randi Edwin; her birth parents Judy Edwin and Charles Okokak; her daughters MaKao Faye Edwin-Perdue and Jaydeen Devin Ducharme-Morigeau; and aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers across the State. Monday evening, September 10th, a large crowd of her family and friends brought her casket to the church and she rested here overnight, accompanied by deep prayers and love. Then Tuesday afternoon, September 11th St. Matthew’s filled to overflowing for her funeral service, led by the rector, the Rev. Mardow Solomon, the Rev. Steve Matthew, with Fr. Robert Fath, Jr. of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cathedral assisting. These were days of much grief and faith. Her final services and burial were held at home in Tanana in the days following.

Saturday afternoon, September 8th, St. Matthew’s gathered for the heart rendering funeral, led by the rector, of James Oly Nollner. James, the son of Debbie Juneby and Chris Nollner, died at birth here in Fairbanks on Wednesday, August 8th. Arrangements had only now been completed to allow for a service. Burial followed out at Birch Hill.

Sunday afternoon, September 9th, as unrukied leaves were beginning to fall on church lawns, 78 years old Sam Pitka Sr. quietly passed away at home here in Fairbanks. Born and raised in Stevens Village, Sam lived there and Beaver, before moving to Fairbanks, and had worked on the river steamboats, served in the Army (where he was a member of the US Army Cross Country ski team), and worked many construction projects throughout the State. He was a self taught fiddler and an expert trapper and hunter. He and the late Eliza Pitka married in 1955, and her grave atop Birch Hill, was one of the most immaculate graves up there. That’s because of Sam, who lovingly cared for it. Sam always worked hard and showed others the correct way of doing things (The rector watched Sam dig a grave once in Stevens Village in sixty below weather, when no one else could figure out how to do it). For years Sam was the one that raked the leaves here in the Fall and shoveled the snow off the church sidewalks, making snow shoveling an art and a prayer and a work of Beauty (so much so that he was once pictured on the front of the Fairbanks newspaper). If you’ve been by St. Matthew’s at all in the winter over the last twenty years, the cleared sidewalks were due to Sam, quietly raking and shoveling for you, so that you could come into the Church. Nine children survive Sam – Brenda Phillips, Emily Stark, Carol Thomas, Katherine Nunan, Fred Pitka, Wayne Pitka, Sam Pitka Jr, Ray Pitka Sr, and Earl Adams; and their families; his sister Kitty Allen; numerous other family members; and the next person who drives by St. Matthew’s and thinks “Hey, I could help and shovel that snow”. Early Thursday afternoon, September 13th, St. Matthew’s filled way past overflowing for his service, led by the rector and the Rev. Mary Nathaniel of Chalkyitsik, assisted by the Rev. Steve Matthew, the Rev. Mardow Solomon, the Rev. Lee Davis, and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino. Burial followed atop Birch Hill, with a potlatch following at the Tribal Hall.

Tuesday morning, October 2nd, surrounded by family and prayer, 50 years old Richard A. Grant Jr quietly died in Denali Center. Born and raised in Tanana to Regina (McCarty) and the late Richard Grant Sr, Richard lived in Tanana all of his life. He had been hospitalized here in Fairbanks since the late Summer. He’s survived by his mother Regina, and his brothers and sisters – Eileen and Jay, Adele and Gary, Chris J., Gerald, Mac and Pete, Stuart, Louis and Cecelia, Josephine, and Marie and Henry. Plus other family throughout the region. His services were held in Tanana Saturday, October 6th.

Several hours later, near the end of Tuesday afternoon, October 2nd, across the parking lot from Denali Center, 82 years old Thomas Carroll of Fort Yukon passed away in the Intensive Care Unit of the Fairbanks Hospital. He too was surrounded by family and love and prayer. Born and raised in Fort Yukon, to the late James and Fannie Carroll, Tommy lived there all of his life, trapping, hunting and fishing. He also served with the Army from 1943-146 and, on a 1946 trip to Old Crow, met Nellie Carroll. They were married for 60 years (she died in November 2006) and raised 12 children. He’s survived by his children Dale, Ronnie, Bertha, Darryl, Raymond, Warren, Robert, Janet Cadzow, Cynthia Shewfelt, and Rachel Solomon; numerous grandchildren and others; and his Brothers and sisters Calvin Carroll, Richard Carroll Sr, Richard Strom, Ann Moran, Fannie Booth, and Delores Sloan. And many others. Funeral services followed at home in Fort Yukon on Saturday, October 6th.

Saturday, October 6th, surrounded by friends and family, 69 years old Alta Clarke passed away at the Fairbanks Hospital. Born in Bakersfield California, and educated there and San Jose State College, she moved to Anchorage in 1963 to teach at Government Hill School. Two years later, she married Ed Clarke there in Anchorage, and they were married for over forty years. Soon after marriage they moved to Fairbanks, where she taught for 30 years at the Fort Wainwright Elementary Schools. In 1990 she participated in one of the early Fairbanks- Yakutat Sister City Exchange programs, leading to her and Ed staying with a Russian family in their Yakutat apartment, and becoming fast friends. She’s survived by her husband Ed, who has faithfully attended the 8AM Eucharist for years at St. Matthew’s; her mother Wilda Mundell of California; two brothers in California; numerous other family and friends; and the over 900 students she taught over the years. St. Matthew’s filled her funeral Saturday afternoon, October 13th. The service was led by the rector, with Laura Vines providing special music on the guitar. Two (Continued on page 23)
and a half weeks later, at Midnight, October 31st, Ed was here to toll the bell at Midnight and call out her name; as the church bell tolled out for all of the departed since last All Saints.

Early on Thursday morning, October 11th, 67 years old Timothy Sam of Arctic Village passed away in Denali Center, after a brief struggle with cancer. He had told his sister (Margaret Tritt) earlier, “Tell people ‘Don’t cry for me. I’m going to a better place. Cry for our sins”’. Born and raised in the Upper Yukon all of his life, Timothy spent a year working for the Episcopal Church on the Koyukuk River in the 1970s. Saturday morning, October 13th St. Matthew’s filled for his funeral, led by the rector and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino, with Shirley Lee assisting. Final services and burial followed at home in Arctic Village Monday, October 15th.

Later that same Thursday afternoon, October 11th, sitting and teaching with family and friends in his house overlooking the slough off the Black River, the house surrounded by hand painted signs calling for people to Love God and each other, beside the St. Timothy’s Church he had built himself, and opened to all, the Rev. Dr. David Salmon, Traditional First Chief of the Interior, said in Gwitch’in, “I’m going to sleep now”, and took a last breath there in Chalkyitsik. The traditional language is that he gave up his spirit, returning to the One who had given His Spirit to him; whom he had followed since his birth in 1912; whom he had served as a priest since his ordination in 1962. (The efforts of then Bishop Gordon and Archdeacon Walter Hannum to get David ordained led to a major change in the canons of the national Episcopal Church. In a sense, anyone ordained in the Episcopal Church since the early 1960s, who did not follow the traditional route to ordination by attending Seminary, owe their thanks to David and his remarkableness). His death, as his life, drew statewide and national attention. Born in Salmon Village and raised deep in the high Interior by his father for 18 years, David was the One who kept the Traditions and Stories and Wisdom from the Old Times, and passed them on. He could remember stories of the first missionaries arriving in Fort Yukon in the mid 19th century; and his pre-contact tools and canoes are on display in museums throughout the State. He canoes are on display in museums throughout the State. He
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canoe...
Saturday morning, November 17th, in a service led by the rector; with a reception following in the Parish Hall.

Thursday morning, October 25th, 85 years old Virginia Sparks quietly passed away in Denali Center, where she had lived since 2004. Born and educated in Kansas and Oklahoma, she met and married Howard Sparks there in 1958. She soon followed him to Alaska, where they made Fairbanks their home. They lived across the street from the Episcopal Bishop’s Office on Denali Way, where they raised three boys and Virginia raised the flowers she loved in the Summer. Virginia worked as an accountant, and operated Sparks Bookkeeping. Her husband Howard preceded her in death several years ago; and she’s survived by her children Clifford Steele of Oklahoma, Jamelia Saied of Anchorage, H. Charles, Robert, and James all of Fairbanks; and their families, including numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. St. Matthew’s filled her Memorial Service Friday afternoon, November 9th, bringing together again Denali Way neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends. The service was led by the rector, her once-upon-a-time neighbor. Big Band era Swing music closed the service, as with Alta Clarke’s earlier; and stories continued in the Parish Hall.

Thursday, November 1st, the Feast of All Saints, 56 years old Gary “Abel” Lettau unexpectedly died here in Fairbanks. Born in Michigan, Gary enlisted in the Army on his 17th birthday, and served two tours in Korea and one in Vietnam. A disabled veteran, he wore his familiar Vietnam veteran’s hat with pride. A Fairbanks resident for 25 years, in 1997 he received his Associates Degree in Culinary Arts from UAF. His favorite and most passionate occupation was being a Grandfather. He was devoted to them, and spent, in the traditional manner by his parents, Richie ran his father’s firefighting crew. He was friendly and smiling to everyone he met, sought to help those he could, and his eyes twinkled in amusement like his father’s had. His mother Elsie survives him; his sisters and brothers-in-law;

had a sense of humor. He retired from the Alaska DOT with 30+ years, and then did everything from deal blackjack to voluntarily become a Play ‘n Learn bus driver and handyman. What he did full time was be a good friend to all he met. What he did full time was help anyone who needed help – from dropping into the church office to visit with Hilary and rector (and leave for the rector help to get through the day’s crises); to working with Harry Fields barbecuing out on the church lawn for the Diocesan Convention several years ago; to organizing and running with Harry these last several years a community Christmas Eve Potlatch and Party at the Tribal Hall. Ted is survived by his six sisters, his brothers-in-law Rich Cummings and Tom Lincoln; his six children – Christopher, Matthew, Thomas, Evanka (husband Reggie), Brandi, and Larry; numerous nephews and nieces and friends; and several boxes of cigars in the rector’s office. Monday afternoon, November 12th the David Salmon Tribal Hall filled to overflowing for his funeral, led by the rector, Archdeacon Anna Frank, and the Rev. Steve Matthew; with “Click” Bishop assisting with the Eucharist and Allen Grunin assisting with the music. A Potlatch followed that evening.

Later that same day, Wednesday, November 7th, word came that 42 years old Richard Kenneth Pitka had unexpectedly died here in Fairbanks. An again sisters were missing their only brother. Born in Tanana to Elsie and the late Elman Pitka of Beaver, Richie was the youngest of their 13 children, and their only surviving son. Raised in a traditional manner by his parents, Richie ran his father’s traline, helped his mother with wood and water, and came to be the Beaver/Stevens Village firefighting crew boss. He was friendly and smiling to everyone he met, sought to help those he could, and his eyes twinkled in amusement like his father’s had. His mother Elsie survives him; his sisters Ada Deaton, Eliza Bush, Antoinette Pitka, Debbie Kozloff, Selina Petruska, Arlene Pitka, Wilma Pitka, Jenny Alexander; numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives; and all of us who will keep expecting to run into him, a broad smile on his face. Sunday afternoon, November 11th, St. Matthew’s filled past overflowing – sidewalks, Parish Hall, hallways – for a Memorial Service, led by the rector, the Rev. Steve Matthew, Archdeacon Anna Frank, and the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino. Monday, November 12th, a Memorial Service was held in Beaver, led by Lay Readers Paul Williams Jr and Dorothea Billy. And finally, on Tuesday, November 13th, his final services, as he requested, were held at Stevens Village. The Rev. Steve Matthew, the Rev. Mardow Solomon, and the rector (who had last been to the Village 12 years ago to the day, for a Memorial service for Gerald Silver) led the service, with Clara Journey assisting with the Eucharist and Kitty Allen leading the Lord’s Prayer in her language. In the fading daylight and snow, his body was laid to rest in the cemetery.

Monday morning, November 12th, seeking the light and the Dawn, 86 years old Dora Funk quietly passed away in Denali Center. Born in Mansfield, Dora grew up in
Tanacross and later Nenana, before moving to Fairbanks and, eventually these last years, Denali Center. Her true home was always Mentasta Lake, where she would make yearly trips. Dora loved hats, which she always had on; picking berries, which she always talked about; and everyone she met. Her smile brightened the halls and rooms of Denali Center. Deeply faithful, she always attended the services at Denali. She’s survived by her daughter Libby Chavez of Fairbanks; her son Benny of Mentasta Lake; her daughter Maxine Caywood of Arizona; her brothers Gaither, Herbert, and Eldred Paul; her sister Kathleen McLellan; two granddaughters; and all of us who will remember her kind and smiling face there in Denali.

Thursday afternoon, November 15th, St. Matthew’s filled for remember her kind and smiling face there in Denali. Herbert Maxine for his funeral Friday morning, November 16th, led by grandchildren and great grandchildren. St. Matthew’s filled Archdeacon Anna Frank Birch Hill. the Parish Hall; and her final services will be this Spring at Beyer her funeral, led by the rector, and the Rev. Steve Matthew, and the Rev. Deacon Montie Slusher; with Lottie Beyer assisting with the Eucharist. A reception followed in the Parish Hall; and her final services will be this Spring at Birch Hill.

Later that same evening, Monday, November 12th, surrounded by family watching and praying, 58 years old Mabel Shanahan of Evansville passed away in the Intensive Care Unit of the Fairbanks Hospital, after a brave struggle with cancer. Her husband Paul (a noted Bush pilot highlighted in the book: "Wings over Wilderness: Adventures of Alaska Bush Pilot Paul Shanahan" by Charles Thomas Jr) and son had flown in from their solitary cabin on Iniakuk Lake, north of Bettles/Evansville earlier. Born on the Koyukuk River, she and Paul were married for 39, 40 years; living up there in the heart of the Brooks Range. At her request, no services were held, but the St. Matthew’s Parish Hall filled Tuesday evening, November 13th and Wednesday evening, November 14th for a Memorial Dinner and Gathering, filling the hall with stories and memories. Tuesday evening, Archdeacon Anna Frank led short Memorial prayers for her in the midst of the Dinner.

And slightly later that same evening, Monday, November 12th, 95 years old Gene Henry passed away in the Fairbanks Hospital. Born in a caribou skin tent to the late Batzulnetus Billy and Jessie Henry, Gene grew up in a traditional manner, living off the land. By the time he was 14, he was running his own dogteam; and his first paying job was delivering the mail from Nebesna to Chistochina by dogteam. He married the late Susie Isaac in 1937 and together they raised three children in Tanacross. After she died in 1942, he moved to Dot Lake and raised his grandsons Karl and Cecil Martin. He was known for his woodcarving and loved berry picking (overheard comment: "I took him berry picking this Summer. He couldn’t stand up good after he’d been bending over picking berries, so he would just roll over to the next bush. He loved it."). He’s survived by his son Brady Henry; his daughters Marie Dennis and Mary Sanford; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. St. Matthew’s filled for his funeral Friday morning, November 16th, led by Archdeacon Anna Frank and assisted by the rector. His final services were held the next afternoon at home in Tanacross.

Tuesday, November 13th, 94 years old Anne Rose Cohoe passed away at home here in Fairbanks. Born in Iowa and raised in Montana, she met and married Charles Cohoe there and, in 1938, with small children in tow, traveled by steamship to meet him in Anchorage. In 1938 they arrived in Fairbanks, settling into a cabin in the neighboring block down from St. Matthew’s. After Charles’s death in 1975, she managed the Dixon apartments until her retirement in 1982. She’s survived by her daughter Beverly Ray of Arizona; son Charles Cohoe of California; daughter Helen Fuller of Colorado; daughter Jackie Bloom of Fairbanks; their families and children; and twenty grandchildren. Her Memorial service is scheduled for Monday afternoon, November 19th at St. Matthew’s.

In the midst of all of this, there were other deaths, other funerals, which necessarily affected the St. Matthew’s Family, though the funerals were not held here. There were actually too many to name, but here are a few to note and remember: 28 years old Marvin Captain died in Ruby September 11th, and his funeral was held there September 14th; 51 years old Vivian Charlie, the daughter of Neal and Geraldine Charlie, died September 15th here in Fairbanks, and her funeral was held in the days following, at home in Minto; pioneer Alaskan June MacDonald Hallman, 83 years old, whose first husband Colin helped rescue things from St. Matthew’s during the 1947 fire, died September 19th; and her funeral was held at the First Baptist Church; 62 years old Leonard Young of Palmer and Anvik died in Anchorage September 27th, and Archdeacon Anna Frank held his funeral at home in Anvik October 4th; and 57 years old Vickie Ann Fischer, the daughter of Winnie and Gary Atwood, died September 30th. Vickie was admitted to the Hospital clutching her St. Matthew’s Newsletter to read. Her service was held October 6th at the Steese Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and St. Matthew’s lent the beaded moosehide pall to cover her casket, for she was part of us. 22 years old Spc. Vincent Madero died in Iraq October 17th. A native of California, he was married to Ellen Housley, with roots to Stevens Village; and Stevens Village held a Funeral Potlatch for him at the Tribal Hall, following his funeral services Outside. 78 years old Alaskan Pioneer and Bush Pilot William Fickus died October 17th, and his funeral was held at Door of Hope October 23rd; two months old Ashley Frenchi Effie Weter died October 25th, and her funeral was held at home in Huslia November 2nd; and 94 years old Elizabeth “K’a dza lo” Bergman died peacefully at home in Allakaket November 6th. Archdeacon Anna Frank held the service there November 8th.

Beginnings & Blessed Animals & Diocesan Conventions & Fundraisers & Birthdays & more. . .

Other moments DO happen besides funerals. Sunday School began again for the year on September 16th and the (Continued on page 26)
following Sunday, September 23rd, we celebrated the Feast of St. Matthew. A Harvest Dinner afterwards included the announcement from the Endowment Board that Nicholas Matthew Stevens, on behalf of Digii Naii ("All Our Children"), was receiving an Endowment Board grant of $1500 to help with youth work. Animals were blessed throughout the services on Sunday, September 30th (videotapes of this are available on the St. Matthew’s website: www.stmatthewschurch.org) and then, on Thursday, October 4th, the entire Episcopal Diocese arrived to celebrate the 33rd Diocesan Convention. St. Matthew Fundraisers were held at the Tribal Hall on October 20th and November 17th, resulting in smiles and fun and a "jigged out" rector. And we celebrated three birthdays significantly across the weeks . . . on October 10th Grandma Hannah Solomon celebrated her 99th birthday; we celebrated Maggie Beach’s 80th birthday following the services on October 28th; and, on November 4th, we celebrated with Bill Stevens his 40th Sobriety Birthday. Ammmmmmmmmmmnd, there was the Alaska Federation of Natives. Ammmmmmmmmmmnd again and again, candles were lit, prayers were said, bread was broken, wine was shared, and we heard the Lord Jesus say He was with us, in our midst.

"... a beautiful eagle circled, swooping down then soaring high, not resting until..."

A WARRIOR’S JOURNEY

By Rhonda B. Joseph

[NOTE and CORRECTION: Back an issue or two ago in the Newsletter, we erred by recording Vernon Joseph’s burial as being near Tetlin. It wasn’t. It was on the Family Ground in Northway. Vernon widow Rhonda graciously corrected the mention; and sent this account of his burial. It’s a fitting tribute to a good friend and a good man this All Saints.]

A woman and her children were taking their beloved warrior on his final journey. As the caravan drove along the highway, a huge eagle followed overhead, gracefully swooping and circling as if to say, "Don’t hurry, take your time and let me enjoy the beautiful scenery."

As the family reached their destination, all present witnessed the eagle as it circled several times just above the tree line near the church, before flying off towards the mountains, as the warrior’s body was being laid in state.

The ground, not wanting to yield, ever so slowly gave way to the constant barrage of the pick-axes and shovels, as the young men worked diligently around the clock taking turns digging. It was their desire to honor their father and uncle, the man that had given so much of himself to them. They all agreed that this would be done the right way, the way they were taught.

(Continued on page 27)

MORE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED. . .

St. Matthew’s in Exile in Wyoming

[The Mulkeys were very much a part of St. Matthew’s for a number of years, and then left earlier this year for Wyoming. "Bruce Caldwell", the Bishop of Wyoming, was once upon a time the priest in Fort Yukon.]

Monday, November 12th

Dear Father Scott,

I thought I was past the tears, but when I read "O Ye Frost and Cold" and saw that we were mentioned in the Seasons of Life... I had another good cry. It was SO very hard for me to leave Fairbanks and my St. Matthew’s Family that I went through a pretty severe, but thankfully short lived depression. Luckily things have improved dramatically and I am (sort-of) getting used to Wyoming.

The people at St. John’s are very friendly, but it’s such a small parish that we only have a Eucharist service twice a month. Bruce Caldwell was here on the 11th and he said to say "hello" to you.

My son, Dan said, "I miss Father Scott. He’ll be talking about something serious and then say something real funny."

We all miss you, and the rest of St. Matthew’s. Please give everyone our best.

Love and Prayers,
Kathie, Darren, Dan, and Kimi Mulkey
A Warrior’s Journey . . .

On Sunday as the vehicle backed up to the church ramp, there again above his family and friends a beautiful eagle circled, swooping down then soaring high, not resting until the warrior’s casket was firmly set into the truck safe and secure for his final journey home.

As he was being laid to rest, the ministers’ words seemed to sound off in the distance, his wife, with their children beside her, felt as if her heart was being placed in the ground with her beloved husband. And as the burial service came to an end the warrior’s eldest son began to sing a beautiful song in honor of his father, a man who meant so much to so many people, a man that will always be loved and missed. May his memory live long in the hearts of Alaskans of every persuasion...

On May 14th, 2007 the Twenty Fifth Alaska State Legislature honored the life and accomplishments of Vernon Lee Joseph. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, friend and mentor. This honoring was also for his extraordinary sense of humanity, which showed convincingly through his smile, humor, selflessness and dedication to those in recovery.

Vernon was born July 20, 1950 and passed away on February 24, 2007; His final resting place is on family land in the village of Northway, on a hillside overlooking the mountains, streams and rivers where he loved hunting & fishing.

On behalf of our children and grandchildren, I would like to honor the following men who tirelessly dug his grave: his sons Vernon Roberts & Sean Baker; Friends & Relatives Roy, Howard & Stephan Sam, Nathan & Daniel Stevens, Norman Gallen Jr., Kevin Maher, Owen Solomon, Nick Cook, William & Chaaiy Albert and Mike Lysot. I would also like to thank all the women that worked just as hard to keep the men and many visitors who traveled fed. The graveside work was overseen by Vernon’s father-in-law Ken Baker Sr., and some of his friends: Harry Fields, Nick Hubalik and Hugh Walker. His fence was built by his brother-in-law Tom Ervin; and painted by his wife Rhonda, daughter V, and family friends Joanna Peppinger & Skyler Solomon.

May God bless each and every one of you for your support during these past six months, as this has been a difficult transition in our lives, We will remember you always.

With Love and Prayers, Rhonda Joseph & family

God bless you, and all the folks that prayed for us during his hospital stay and over the past few months.

SUMMARIES of the SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER VESTRY MEETINGS

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, September 17th, with the following present: Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Vestry Clerk Teresa Moore, Julia Cockerille, Hubert Griffin, Helen Howard, Darrel Zuke, Linda Demientieff, Treasurer Carolyn Nethken, and the rector.

Following an Opening Spiritual Exercise reflecting on Psalm 65, the following actions were discussed or taken:

- Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken presented the Treasurer’s Report, showing that August Budgeted Operating Income totaled $19,616 (January through August Total $155,979) and August Budgeted Operating Expenses totaled $12,952 (January through August Total $169,232). The monthly surplus/deficit for August was +$6,664, reducing the Year to Date Surplus/Deficit to -$13,253. She also introduced the Vestry to the new Financial Reports, generated by the new QuickBooks program.
- Vestrymembers Linda Demientieff and Tom Marsh reported on the congregational meetings. Recommendations for improving the financial state of St. Matthew’s ranged from reducing church hours to having semi-annual meetings on the financial situation.
- The Vestry endorsed the Endowment Board’s recommendation to award a $1500 Endowment Grant to Nicholas Matthew Stevens for Diigii Naii, a community youth program.
- Diocesan Convention Chair Bruce Gadwah reported on plans for the upcoming October Diocesan Convention. It was approved to purchase new chairs for the Parish Hall from the Building Fund.
- There was discussion about the September 23rd Feast of St. Matthew Celebration.
- Tom Marsh reported on the first day of Sunday School, which had begun the previous week.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on October 15th, and the Closing Prayer was said by the person present who had most recently visited the local Internal Revenue Service office. The meeting adjourned at 9:45PM.

The Vestry of St. Matthew’s met Monday, October 15th, with the following present: Senior Warden Bruce Gadwah, Junior Warden Tom Marsh, Vestry Clerk Teresa Moore, Julia Cockerille, Hubert Griffin, Helen Howard, Darrel Zuke, Linda Demientieff, and Treasurer Carolyn Nethken. The rector was absent, due to the funeral service in Chalkyitsik. Following an Opening Spiritual Exercise reflecting on Matthew 5:13-16, the following actions were discussed or taken:

- The September minutes were approved, as corrected.
- Parish Treasurer Carolyn Nethken presented the Treasurer’s Report, showing that September Budgeted Operating Income totaled $24,679 (January through September Total $180,377) and September Budgeted Operating Expenses totaled $27,699 (January through September Total $199,030). The monthly surplus/deficit for September was -$3,020; increasing the Year to Date Surplus/Deficit to -$18,653.
- There was discussion about the Diocesan Convention, and much gratitude for the work of St. Matthew’s members.
- Recent security issues involving the church were discussed.
- Various scheduled fund raising events were discussed: the two events at the Tribal Hall, a Chinese Auction, a Book Sale, etc.
- The first of the month 9AM Children’s Eucharists were discussed as a great success.
- There was discussion about computer issues; and initial plans were made for the January 2008 Annual Meeting. Linda Demientieff, Tom Marsh, and Julia Cockerille will be retiring from the Vestry.
- With the decision that the nest meeting would be November 12th, the meeting adjourned at 8:15PM with a Closing Prayer by the Senior Warden.
CHRISTMAS AT ST. MATTHEW’S

Saturday, December 15th
Christmas Get-Together, Potlatch, Covered Dish, Food, Music, Gift Exchange

Monday, December 24th
5PM, 8PM, 11PM Christmas Eve Eucharists

Tuesday, December 25th
11AM Christmas Day Eucharist

Monday, December 31st
11PM New Year’s Eve Eucharist

Tuesday, January 1st
Annual New Year’s Day Potlatch/Covered Dish

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church
1030 Second Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4355

Address Service Requested* December 7, 2007

*Please Note: Returned copies of O Ye Frost and Cold cost the church $2.16 each, forwarded copies cost $0.75 each.

Can’t come to Church? Church will come to You!!
As the monthly listing of services shows, there are a number of Lay Eucharistic Ministers trained and willing to bring the Eucharist to those who are sick, shut in, or unable to come to the Church. If you would like someone to bring you the Communion, or know of someone who would like that, please contact the Church Office at 456-5235 or slip a note in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.