

# O YE FROST and COLD

Volume 103

Published bi-monthly Number 4

October-November 2007

... and small white bunnies watch joyfully as Advent and the Apocalypse arrive at the Eastern Edge of town

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

into the Darkness they swept by. Hurrying. Rushing. The Time.

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.

## Inside This Issue:

Coming Events	Pg 2	Sunday School	Pg 12
Seasons of Life	Pg 6	Time, Talent, Treasure	Pg 13
Diocesan Convention	Pg 8	Vestry Meetings	Pg 27

ST MATTHEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA  
THE REVEREND SCOTT FISHER



## 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?  
Ohhhhhhhhhhh. 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.

## A SAMPLING of COMING EVENTS

### Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

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 2<sup>nd</sup>

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent & choosing of Secret Advent Friends at each of the Eucharists; 9:15AM Children's Eucharist

### Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> The Feast of St. Nicholas

### Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

3PM Fourth Annual Music and Magic Concert at St. Matthew's

### Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

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

### Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

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 24<sup>th</sup>

5PM, 8PM, 11PM Christmas Eve Eucharists

### Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

11AM Christmas Day Eucharist

### Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

11PM New Year's Eve Eucharist

### Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Annual New Year's Day Potlatch/Covered Dish

### Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

6PM 12<sup>th</sup> Night Covered Dish, Christmas Covered Dish & Burning of the Christmas Greens

### Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

The Feast of the Epiphany & Children's Epiphany Pageant

### Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

9:15AM The Annual Meeting of St. Matthew's Church

### Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

Shrove Tuesday

### Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

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 to 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.

## 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 . . .

## ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

<b>RECTOR</b>	The Rev. Scott Fisher . . . . 456-5235	<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Hilary Freeman . . . . . 457-4820
<b>PRIESTS</b>	The Rev. Steve Matthew. . 488-9076 The Rev. John Holz . . . . 456-3583 The Rev. Layne Smith . . . 374-5957 The Rev. Lee Davis . . . . . 457-2865	<b>SEXTON</b>	Michael "Tree" Nelson . . . 456-5217
<b>DEACONS</b>	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503 The Rev. Montie Slusher . . 474-4570	<b>ORGANIST</b>	Laura Vines . . . . . 452-4565
<b>SENIOR WARDEN</b>	Bruce Gadwah . . . . . 457-7129	<b>CHOIR DIRECTOR</b>	Barbara Hameister . . . . . 455-7397
<b>JUNIOR WARDEN</b>	Tom Marsh . . . . . 458-0223	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Mary Johnston. . . . . 455-7245
<b>CLERK</b>	Teresa Moore . . . . . 374-8382	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	Cathy Giacomazzi . . . . . 479-7736
<b>VESTRY</b>	Charlene Marth . . . . . Helen Howard . . . . . 488-2314 Hubert Griffin . . . . . 452-4692 Darrel Zuke. . . . . 488-6073 Julia Cockerille . . . . . 474-2105 Linda Demientieff. . . . . 451-6601	<b>HEALTH MINISTRY</b>	Beth Corven . . . . . 456-2966
<b>PARISH TREASURER</b>	Carolyn Nethken . . . . . 457-3304	<b>ENDOWMENT BOARD</b>	Charlotte Perotti . . . . . 457-1332
		<b>WEB GARDENER</b>	Martha Thomas, Chair . . . 455-6612
		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	Darrel Zuke 488-6073
		<b>SPIRITUAL DIRECTION</b>	Maggie Castellini . . . . . 479-5444
		<b>UNITED THANK OFFERING</b>	Mary Margaret Davis . . . 457-2865
		<b>DAUGHTERS OF THE KING</b>	Helen Howard. . . . . 488-2314
		<b>MINISTERS</b>	The Rev. Bella Jean Savino 456-1503
			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

## Winter Voices

... and the bushes around me started movin' around something awful, so I spun around with my rifle and was ready, and these two WHITE GUYS stepped out of the bushes and saw my gun and said "DON'T SHOOT DON'T SHOOT." Their eyes were just BIG. They asked me if I'd seen any white rednecks around there on the Koyukuk. I asked 'em "WHERE are YOU from?" and they said Anchorage. They'd dropped their friend off five hours ago and ...

I don't know why I go out hunting every year. Just be cheaper to go to Safeway and buy prime rib.

... turned his back on him FOR JUST A MINUTE and when he turned around, he'd stuck his hand in the moose head and was eating the brains like pudding. YEE-UCK.

... saw 14 moose, but we can't get at 'em.

There were FORTY hunters there, for this big spaghetti feed they were putting on for the guys out moose hunting. Boats tied up all over the place.

I didn't mean to stop, or even come here. I left the house and was drivin' around and saw the light on above the door, and remembered my Dad had always told me there was Church here at Midnight, if I was ever having a hard time. And that's why I was drivin' around. 'Cause I'm havin' a hard time. To be honest, I was at home and havin' those thoughts. You know, about.....

I have a Question. Why do whitepeople ALWAYS talk and worry about money so much?

The QUESTION St. Matthew's NEEDS to ask itself is, after 100 years of being here: WHY ISN'T THERE ANOTHER EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN FAIRBANKS? Where's the MISSIONARY CALL to SPREAD the GOSPEL???????

Gee, every time you think you've heard everything, then. .

I have NEVER met any EX-tithers. That says something, I think.



"GOD, IKAYUFFA!"

## MY FIRST PRAYER

By Nutaaq

I was a little girl in a small village along the northern coast of Alaska in the 50's, a village called *Ukpiabvik*, "Place of Snowy Owls". Every Wednesday after dinner my parents walked to the church next door for evening service. Leona, the oldest sister was gone for the winter to a boarding school in Sitka. Crafty Nellie, the next oldest, always managed to dodge babysitting the six or seven, give or take a few, younger siblings. At nine or ten years of age, watching younger siblings wasn't unusual; everyone who was my age or even younger was babysitting when it was needed.

We were running around the house one such evening, probably playing tag or hide and go seek. Our house was once a garage for the mission tractor, and once it became a dwelling, over the years many additions were made. When you walked through the front door on the south-side of the house, there were stairs inside to the left, leading to the second story, which was used for storage of the mission clothes and for Sunday school. Walking past the stairs in the arctic entryway, which was usually dark, and for a little girl kind a spooky, I would run the four or five steps it took to get to the inside front door. This door led to the living room. Straight ahead was the kitchen, with its northern-most corner boasting an arctic refrigerator located at the end of a long wooden counter. Almost everything was hand made. The refrigerator was a simple shelf with a door where we kept our food cold. I remember when one of my sisters took the food and shelving out and used it for a hiding place. Too successfully, as she tells it; whoever was "it" never found her. When she finally decided to come out, she realized with disappointment that everyone had left to go play outside.

Right smack in the middle of the living room was a home made trapeze, which made for an exciting entrance for us children; we would swing our way into the kitchen. As we went in the kitchen, directly to the right was an oil stove oven and behind it was a sort of hallway. Lined up on the east side of the house were three bedrooms and the last bedroom had a door leading back to the arctic entryway. So there we were, running in circles round and round the house. Except this one evening something made us stop.

I will never forget the whole lot of us standing fearfully near the doorway between the kitchen and the living room, looking at the heating stove in the corner by the front door that was acting very strange. Normally a brown color, it was blotched with angry huge red tones. It was moving, moving so much that it was almost bouncing off the floor. The fire was boiling inside ferociously. It looked as if it would explode any second. My ears ached from the noise that the heater made; it seemed as if the growing fire needed more room and wanted to come out right now. As we stood there watching this growing monster, something inside me said, "You're the oldest. You have to do something."

Fear kept me rooted to the spot. I couldn't move, but I thought of my nukaaluk possibly getting hurt, and I said the first prayer I ever consciously made. "God, ikayuffa! 'God, help me!'" As soon as I said the prayer, my little maklak-clad feet went running towards the stove. I wedged myself between the heater and the wall. The heat burned my face, and I leaned back as far as I could towards the wall. Leaning as far as I could, I reached for the valve that would slow down the oil coming into the heater. My hands turned the valve to the left. The instant I did that, the heater stopped moving. The roaring noise became silent as if the lights had been turned off. I ran back towards the kitchen and my little mob of siblings.

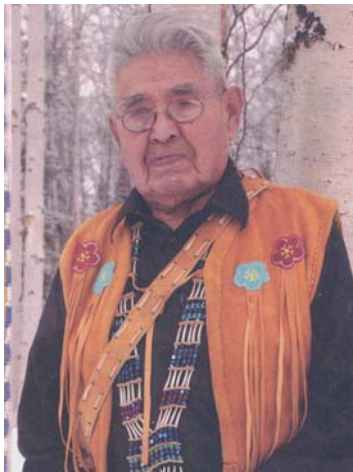
I don't remember if we resumed our playing, but I will never forget the first prayer I ever prayed with such fervor. It was answered so instantly that my stumbling feet fled to the middle of the fire and took care of the situation. I never did tell my folks, bless their souls, they're in heaven, but since then I have said many prayers. Some were answered with a yes, some with a no, but they were all answered according to my needs.

*"... a man so full of his Savior's love and joy and so ready to encourage all of us."*

## A TRIBUTE to DAVID SALMON

*By Peter Newton*

*[NOTE: Peter Newton, called by Bishop MacDonald to be a Diocesan evangelist, travels regularly to Stevens Village for services, when not teaching in the North Pole area.]*



*From funeral program*

I recall it well, although it was twenty-two years ago. Woody Salmon (then a bush pilot) dropped me off in Chalkyitsik in August 1985. I was honored to teach a week-long Vacation Bible School for the kids, and teach in the book of Romans. Chalkyitsik was the second village I had ever been in Alaska; and what a place to begin as a young 'un from California!

St. Timothy's, with David Salmon's guidance, was having a Revival that week. I remember enjoying the strains of Ken Charlie's Country Gospel singing; and being struck by the wonderful acceptance and love I felt from David that week, and the other believers who received me so warmly. David loved the Bible, and through the years would invite many others to come and teach and preach in that wonderful Church. It was my first time eating moose meat and salmon sticks; and soot-faced fire fighters came to the services, arriving home after fighting fires. I remember enjoying the children; and going out on the Black River for a picnic that Sunday afternoon after services. David loved Jesus; and his joy and love was contagious to anyone around him.

The Holy Spirit bridged for me a cultural gap that normally would have taken years and, ever since, I felt a special bond with Chief David and those in Chalkyitsik.

I moved away from Alaska, not to return until 2004, but during that time David's example was very present. I was blessed to get a chance to see him these past several years, when he came to Fairbanks for medical appointments, and we would pray together, and I would listen. I enjoyed reading and giving to others the illustrated book of his early life with his father on the trap line.

David Salmon was a spiritual giant; and it was so good to hear him as Elder, just four days before his Homegoing, sitting in the dining room at St. Matthew's, re-telling stories of his early ministry training. For this naïve Californian, David Salmon was a wonderful window into Gwitch'in culture, teaching me so much these past twenty-two years. I will miss his "Praise the Lord" greeting; a man so full of his Savior's love and joy and so ready to encourage all of us.

## Winter Voices

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 Aleutians. 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 solders, they throw dice. It's just like that for me."

## through All The Seasons of life

### SEASONS of LIFE in the FALL and EARLY WINTER

For the 80 days since the recording in the last Newsletter, from **Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**, 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 18<sup>th</sup>**, 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

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

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** – Date of First snowfall

**Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** - Date Ice begins running in the Chena River

**Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** – Date First Snow Angel appears in the Church Yard

**6:27AM** Sunrise, August 31<sup>st</sup>

**9:36 AM** Sunrise, November 18<sup>th</sup>

**9:13PM** Sunset, August 31<sup>st</sup>

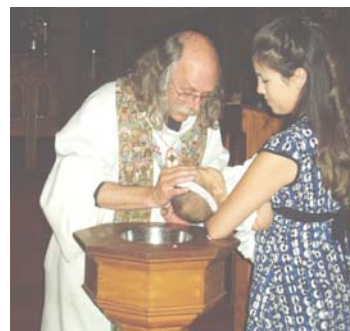
**3:35PM** Sunset, November 18<sup>th</sup>

**70** – Warmest Temperature recorded since August 31<sup>st</sup> (*Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>*)

**-10** – Coldest Temperature recorded since August 31<sup>st</sup> (*Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>*)

### Holy Baptisms

In the middle of September, during the Wednesday evening Eucharist on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, as we celebrated the Feast of St.



(Continued on page 7)

## Seasons of Life . . .

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 13<sup>th</sup>, **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 11<sup>th</sup>, **Frank and Gertrude Kriebitzch** of Cologne, Germany arrived at the Church to renew their wedding vows. Touring Alaska as part of their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, they had 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](http://www.stmatthewschurch.org), the St. Matthew's website*).

On Sunday afternoon, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, St. Matthew's filled with Maine accents as **Tom** and **Tracy Harmon** renewed their wedding vows on their 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There were stories of deer hunting and nervousness and smiles . . . And it was wonderful.

### Funerals, Burials, and Memorials

On Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup> and, at the request of his friend and co-worker **Ray Cockerille**, the rector led memorial prayers there.

On Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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

(Continued on page 22)

## 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.

## 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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 Deaneries 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



## ACTIONS of the 33<sup>rd</sup> DIOCESAN CONVENTION, meeting in Fairbanks October 2007

*(from the unofficial minutes of the Convention)*

1. **The Rev. Teresa Thomas** (Interior) was elected Convention Secretary; **the Rev. George Silides** (Southeast) was elected Parliamentarian; **the Rev. Dave Elsensohn** (Southeast) was elected president of the Convention.
2. The Standing Committee designated the Convention offerings to be deposited into the "*Delegate Fee Assistance Fund*" to help provide scholarships to delegates to the next diocesan convention.
3. The Standing Committee nominations of **the Rev. Marilyn Duggar** (Interior) as Diocesan Treasurer, **Eric Wohlforth** as Diocesan Chancellor (Southcentral), and **Tim Middleton** (Southcentral) as Vice-Chancellor were approved.
4. The recommendation of the Standing Committee that **the Rev. Michael Curran** (Juneau), **Marg Snapp** (Sitka), and **Becky Snow** (Fairbanks) be appointed to continue on the Commission of Mission and Ministry, with **the Rev. Willard Neakok** (Pt. Lay) filling an expired term, was approved.
5. **The Rev. Paul Klitzke** (Wasilla) and **the Rev. Gordon Blue** (Sitka) were appointed co-chairs of the Diocesan Youth Commission.
6. **Christopher Downey** (Arctic Coast youth), **Lillian Johnson** (Arctic Coast adult), **the Rev. Bessie Titus** (Interior adult), **Haley Hanson** (Southcentral youth), **Gail Loken** (Southcentral adult), **Samantha McNeath** (Southeast youth), and **the Rev. George Silides** (Southeast adult) were elected to the Diocesan Youth Commission. *[Note: No Interior youth member was elected, as the nominee was ruled ineligible due to her age]*
7. **The Rev. Enoch Adams** (Kivalina), **Mary Margaret Davis** (Fairbanks), and **the Rev. Robert Thomas** (Seward) were elected to the Standing Committee.
8. **Alice Holinger** (Southcentral) was elected to the Faith into Tomorrow Committee; and Diocesan Staff **the Rev. Dave Blanchett** was appointed to the Committee.
9. **Winona Hawley** (Kivalina) was elected to the Ecclesiastical Court.
10. The following were elected (*in this order*) as Deputies to the 2009 General Convention: **the Rev. Bessie Titus** (Interior), **the Rev. Michael Burke** (Southcentral), **the Rev. Dave Elsensohn**, (Southeast), **the Rev. Robert Thomas** (Southcentral), **Becky Snow** (Interior), **Stacy Thorpe** (Southcentral), **Clarence Bolden** (Interior), and **Lana Palmer** (Southeast). The following were elected (*in this order*) as Alternates to the 2009 General Convention: **The Rev. Dave Blanchett** (Southcentral), **the Rev. Jan Hotze** (Southeast), **the Rev. Katherine Hunt** (Southcentral), **the Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron** (Southeast), **Mary Margaret Davis** (Interior), **Mary Ellen Harris** (Southcentral), **Lena Simmons** (SouthEast), and **Christina Talbott-Clark** (Southcentral).
11. It was passed that the Diocesan Convention to elect the 8<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Alaska will be held in Anchorage, co-hosted by the Anchorage

*(Continued on page 10)*

## 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.

## Winter Voices

We were jiggling 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 . . .

churches, on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. The consecration of the next

Bishop will occur at St. Mary's in Anchorage on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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*



## News from St. Matthew's Health Ministry

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

- \*Reminders appeared in the Sunday Bulletin.

- \*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 life style. 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 Freeman** for assistance in getting notices included in the bulletin and practical advice, and **Charlotte Perotti** for her continuing encouragement and support.

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

Shalom,  
Louise



*"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 Demientieff**, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, with tons of energy and grace. **Helen Howard**, teaching the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Our children. Your children. The children of St. Matthew's.**

Class sizes in most classes this year have dropped considerably from past years. The only class that remains steady in attendance is the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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

Whitney Demientieff  
Trudy Wright  
Marsha Newcombe

Bonnie Hameister  
Lisa Linnell-Olsen  
Helen Howard

Tom Marsh  
Laura Hensley

their generous teaching of faith to our children:

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  
Louise Smith  
Trudy Wright

Maggie Castellini  
Sandy Cummings  
Rosalie Blanton

Candi Hess  
Connie Moore

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.





**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**1030 Second Avenue**  
**Fairbanks, AK 99701**  
**(907) 456-5235**

**Christian Stewardship at St. Matthew's**  
**Time, Talent, Treasure in 2007-2008**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on page 14)

## ***Love In The Name of Christ***

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.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Act as a Church Contact Person                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Housekeeping   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Housing: Long-term or Short-term                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping for shut-ins                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Transportation: Regularly, Occasionally, or As-needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Relationships: Visitor, Friendship, Daycare Provider   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver Food Boxes/Diapers                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Language Translator                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Moving  | <input type="checkbox"/> Record Keeping or Management                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Expertise: Advice or Possible Representation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Providing Temporary Employment                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Services: Medical, Dental or Other                | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Care, Maintenance or Repair                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Cuts   | <input type="checkbox"/> Material Resources – Building supplies, diapers, money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling Services   | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Volunteer at Love, Inc.                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Skills   | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Assistant at Love, Inc.                         |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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...*

(Continued on page 16)

## Homeless Youth in Fairbanks

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](http://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.

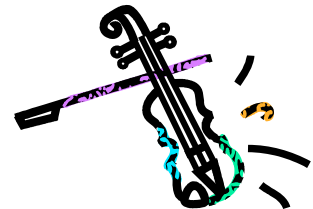
In the next few weeks we should have our web page set up at [www.dancingwiththespirit.org](http://www.dancingwiththespirit.org). Pray for us. Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to the Dancing with the Spirit/ Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, 1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

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 bowled 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  
MIA Michelle Dublin  
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 Neunsinger  
DANNY Joe Druck Ewan  
IZABELLA Le'one Velez  
SEAN Paul Hansen  
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 Britnell**, 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/>) 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, nominations **OPEN** for the 8<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Bishop of Alaska; **February 2008:** Search Committee members attend all four Deanery meetings; **April 2008:** Nominations **CLOSE** for the 8<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Bishop of Alaska on April 30<sup>th</sup>; **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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009:** The electing Convention for the 8<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Alaska. Co-hosted by the Anchorage churches, the Convention will occur at St. Mary's. **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009:** Consecration of the 8<sup>th</sup> 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, Monserrat, 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 24<sup>th</sup>*  
 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 H-O-W 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.

## Seasons of Life . . .

(Continued from page 7)

many others. Thursday afternoon, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements had only now been completed to allow for a service. Burial followed out at Birch Hill.

Sunday afternoon, September 9<sup>th</sup>, as unraked 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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, Mae 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 6<sup>th</sup>.

Several hours later, near the end of Tuesday afternoon, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 1943-1946 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 6<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 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- Yakutsk Sister City Exchange programs, leading to her and Ed staying with a Russian family in their Yakutsk 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 for her funeral Saturday afternoon, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The service was led by the rector, with **Laura Vines** providing special music on the guitar. Two

(Continued on page 23)

## Seasons of Life . . .

and a half weeks later, at Midnight, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

Later that same Thursday afternoon, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup> century; and his pre-contact tools and canoes are on display in museums throughout the State. He had been in Fairbanks attending the Episcopal Convention at St. Matthew's, when he got sick and was hospitalized. Those at the Convention who heard him speak about ministry will not forget the experience. His hospital room soon attracted everyone, family, friends, leaders, and folks just coming to pay their respects. On Tuesday, when he and his family faced the news that his cancer was terminal and inoperable, he proclaimed that he was going home. He was excited. On Wednesday afternoon he prayed a long prayer for everyone, an Old Testament Patriarchal Blessing upon everyone, and then, accompanied by his granddaughter **Isabelle**, they flew home. Back to Chalkyitsik and the Black River. Chalkyitsik filled past overflowing for David's funeral service Monday

afternoon, October 15<sup>th</sup>; and his body was laid to rest in the Cemetery atop the hill, there amongst the spruce trees. Similarly, the Chena River Convention Center filled on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for a Memorial service here in Fairbanks. A potlatch followed at the neighboring Tribal Hall that bears his name. David was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years **Sarah**; and is survived by their one son **William Salmon**, their adopted daughter **Sarah Henry**, 5 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren. To his Grandchildren, he was always "DaDa"; throughout the Interior and the State he was always "Ginkhii" [**THE** Priest]; since his elevation to Traditional First Chief several years ago, and in the eloquent eulogies delivered by leadership during his services, he was "**THE** Chief".

Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 40 years old **Salina Arlene Sam Perkins** passed away in Nenana. It was one week since her uncle Timothy Sam had died. Born to **Exenia** and the late **Neil Sam**, Salina was remembered for her smiles and her caring attitude towards others. She's survived by her mother, her brother **Danny Sam**, her sisters **Pamela** and **Tanya**, her children; and many other relatives. On Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, St. Matthew's filled for her funeral, led by the rector and **the Rev. Deacon Bella Jean Savino**. Final services and burial followed at home in Venetie the next day.

Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 55 years old **Roger Dale Taylor** passed away at home here in Fairbanks, with family beside him. Born in Illinois, Roger moved to Fairbanks in 1956 with his family. He attended Lathrop High School, where he met **Debra Parker**, marrying her in 1972. He and Debra had three children; and later divorced. In 1980 he started A-1 Automotive, and worked there until his retirement due to his health. Folks still speak about the weekly Friday barbecues there at the shop. He's survived by his wife **Phyllis Taylor**, his mother **Millie Taylor**, his two daughters **Roxanne Pipkin** and **Michelle Taylor**; his son **Roger P**; and all of their families. (*He had been here at St. Matthew's in August at his son Roger's wedding to Lacey, sitting smiling and proud in the front pew*). St. Matthew's filled to overflowing for his funeral service Friday evening, October 26<sup>th</sup>, in a service led by the rector that concluded with the playing of "Hotel California". And into the night folks gathered in the Parish Hall remembering and telling stories.

Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 84 years old **June Eliason Thayer** quietly passed away here in Fairbanks. Born and educated in Washington, she arrived in Juneau, following her graduation with a teaching degree, and Alaska became her permanent home. Following a trip in 1949 to Europe, she relocated to Anchorage, met and married **Averill Thayer**, and began raising a family. They lived and worked in Anchorage, McGrath, Kenai, Fort Yukon, and finally arrived in Fairbanks in 1968. Here she taught English at Lathrop and West Valley High Schools until her retirement in 1984. She's survived by her husband for nearly 55 years **Averill**; her daughters **Jill Holmgren**, **Kate Slotnick**, and **Mary Short**; 5 grandchildren; 1 great grandson; and her brother and sister. St. Matthew's filled for her Memorial Service

(Continued on page 24)

## Seasons of Life . . .

Saturday morning, November 17<sup>th</sup>, in a service led by the rector; with a reception following in the Parish Hall.

Thursday morning, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 for her Memorial Service Friday afternoon, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 words of the obituary, *"countless hours supporting them through births, first steps, loose teeth, hurts, growing pains, first days of school, birthdays, and more."* He's survived by his wife **Veka Ann Jamason**; his two brothers and four sisters and their families; his son **Shawn**; his stepdaughters **Sue Larson, Marie Niese, and Christy Herman**, and their families; and the grandchildren. They and friends gathered at St. Matthew's Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> for his Memorial Service, led by the rector and **the Rev. Steve Matthew**. His Veteran's hat and a flag rested on the table in the front, and stories were told of friendship and Grandfatherhood. The gathering continued in the Parish Hall afterwards. [*And this good friend and loving Grandfather now becomes "the Point Man", the one to break the Trail for all those who will follow; the first name on the Memorial Banner for the new Church Year.*]

In the early morning of Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 61 years old **Theodore "Ted" Clarence Harwood Jr** passed away in the Emergency Room of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. He was smiling. Born in Tanana to the late **Rex and Kitty Harwood** of Rampart and Fairbanks, Ted was the only brother to six sisters – **Marilyn, Anita, Georgianna, Sandy, Candi, and Kathy** - and necessarily

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, word came that 42 years old **Richard Kenneth Pitka** had unexpectedly died here in Fairbanks. And 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 trapline, 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, a Memorial Service was held in Beaver, led by Lay Readers **Paul Williams Jr** and **Dorothea Billy**. And finally, on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, seeking the light and the Dawn, 86 years old **Dora Funk** quietly passed away in Denali Center. Born in Mansfield, Dora grew up in

(Continued on page 25)

## Seasons of Life . . .

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 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Matthew's filled for her funeral, led by the rector, **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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday evening, November 14<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, led by **Archdeacon Anna Frank** and assisted by the rector. His

final services were held the next afternoon at home in Tanacross.

Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>, and his funeral was held there September 14<sup>th</sup>; 51 years old **Vivian Charlie**, the daughter of **Neal** and **Geraldine Charlie**, died September 15<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>; and her funeral was held at the First Baptist Church; 62 years old **Leonard Young** of Palmer and Anvik died in Anchorage September 27<sup>th</sup>, and **Archdeacon Anna Frank** held his funeral at home in Anvik October 4<sup>th</sup>; and 57 years old **Vickie Ann Fischer**, the daughter of **Winnie** and **Gary Atwood**, died September 30<sup>th</sup>. Vickie was admitted to the Hospital clutching her St. Matthew's Newsletter to read. Her service was held October 6<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>, and his funeral was held at Door of Hope October 23<sup>rd</sup>; two months old **Ashley Frenchi Effie Weter** died October 25<sup>th</sup>, and her funeral was held at home in Huslia November 2<sup>nd</sup>; and 94 years old **Elizabeth "K'a dza lo" Bergman** died peacefully at home in Allakaket November 6<sup>th</sup>. **Archdeacon Anna Frank** held the service there November 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

Other moments DO happen besides funerals. Sunday School began again for the year on September 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Diigii Naii (“*All Our*

[www.stmatthewschurch.org](http://www.stmatthewschurch.org)) and then, on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the entire Episcopal Diocese arrived to celebrate the 33<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention. St. Matthew Fundraisers were held at the Tribal Hall on October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>, resulting in smiles and fun and a “jiggled out” rector. And we celebrated three birthdays significantly across the weeks . . . on October 10<sup>th</sup> **Grandma Hannah Solomon** celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday; we celebrated **Maggie Beach’s** 80<sup>th</sup> birthday following the services on October 28<sup>th</sup>; and, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated with **Bill Stevens** his 40<sup>th</sup> Sobriety Birthday.

## A WARRIOR'S JOURNEY

*[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.]*

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.

(Continued on page 27)

Love and Prayers,  
Kathie, Darren, Dan, and Kimi Mulkey



## A Warrior's Journey . . .

(Continued from page 26)

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 Lynot**. 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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:

- August minutes were approved as amended.
- 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>; 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 next meeting would be November 12<sup>th</sup>, the meeting adjourned at 8:15PM with a Closing Prayer by the Senior Warden.



## *CHRISTMAS AT ST. MATTHEW'S*

*Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>*

Christmas Get-Together, Potlatch, Covered Dish, Food, Music, Gift Exchange

*Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>*

5PM, 8PM, 11PM Christmas Eve Eucharists

*Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>*

11AM Christmas Day Eucharist

*Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>*

11PM New Year's Eve Eucharist

*Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>*

Annual New Year's Day Potlatch/Covered Dish

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

O Ye Frost and Cold

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.