



THE GOOD NEWS

January/February 2009
Issue 10

FROM ST. MATTHEW

The community of St. Matthew exists in the world as a visible expression of God's love

Why They Give – Donors Explain Support for School

We've heard from people who've received tuition assistance talk about what it's meant to them. So we thought it was time to talk to some people who helped make that assistance possible. Out of hundreds of donors, we spoke to four who explain why they think St. Matthew's School deserves their support.

Deciding to Donate and Get Involved

Donna Duffy McCarthy ('64) remembers the exact day she decided she should get involved at St. Matthew's School. It was last summer. She was in the car with her 24 year old son and happened to be near St. Matt's, so she drove by to show him her elementary school. Then she drove him around her old neighborhood, pointing out houses of friends she grew up with. She says, "One of the houses I pointed out was Janice Mosberger's; I hadn't thought of her in years. When we got home, I found a letter from St. Matt's requesting student scholarship assistance. It was signed by none other than Janice Mosberger — and I thought, 'Maybe I'm supposed to get connected.' So I made a donation and wrote a note saying if they needed help, to call."

Donna did get a call and now she volunteers once a week at the school. She works with some 3rd grade students to improve their reading skills and she helps out in the Kindergarten, where the work is more varied. "It's a big class so I do anything the teacher needs — zip jackets, help kids work on assignments, give hugs — whatever. I'm going to start working with a little reading group."



Donna Duffy McCarthy volunteers with Kindergarteners.

Donna is a semi-retired teacher herself but she always taught older students, high school or college, including students at the Carlson School of Management at the U of M, the University of St. Thomas and Augsburg College. "I've never taught little ones, but it's been surprisingly easy."

Donna says she's been impressed with the organization and order of the school as well as the caliber of the students. "The kids seem more quiet and well-behaved than I remember being. They seem to be serious students — especially the middle schoolers. They're helpful, they open doors. They seem really purposeful. I remember we were just goof-off's."

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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LEFT: Mike Adrian and Mary Adrian (siblings of Fr. Steve), Fr. Steve and Fr. Marty Warren.

BELOW: Steve Mike, chef for the dinner, and Fr. Steve.



FATHER STEVE'S ANNIVERSARY

And what a celebration it was!



ABOVE: Fr. Greg Welch, Fr. Steve, and George Schmid.



FAR LEFT: Thomas Smith, Fr. Steve and Jean Smith.

LEFT: Fr. Steve and Tony Moran.



**MIDDLE: School Sisters of Notre Dame
Joanna Illg, Virginia Bieren, Margie Klein,
Stephanie Spanoll.**

**ABOVE: Rita Goggins, Fr. Steve,
Pat Goggins and Bob Goggins.**

Thank you, Fr. Steve...

Father Steve has been a "father" in so many ways to my family and me. He was my 1st "boss" when I was a 15 year old receptionist working at the Rectory. He was a generous guide to my husband and me when we were preparing to be married at St. Matthew's even though we were working and living in Southern California at the time. Over time, he has presided over weddings and baptisms for scores of of my siblings and our babies whether we were registered members to the parish or not. He has been our friend and confidant over these past 30 years. Most importantly, he has prayed for us and with us. He has helped us to feel the presence and protection of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is our priest and friend. Our appreciation for his dedication and sacrifice to the West Side community can not be adequately expressed. We are now, and will be forever, thankful for his unending dedication. Thank you, Father Steve, for making such a wonderful impact on my family and our much-loved Westside community through your vocation!

Anne Cullen Miller ('77)
Mendota Heights, Minnesota

In Honor of Harry Lauen

1916 Baptismal Font Returned and Refurbished

Very few items from St. Matthew's church survived the fire from 1968. What was recovered was mostly fire-damaged odds and ends that were sold in an auction to help raise money for the new church. As a result, St. Matthew's has few artifacts representing its 120 year history.

One very precious item has recently been returned to the church. St. Matthew's original Baptismal Font has been refurbished and restored to the sanctuary as a memorial to Harry Edward Lauen, who died on April 4, 2008. The memorial was established by Harry's wife, Lois Nyman with support from his family and friends.

Harry wasn't born Catholic but he converted in 1932, one year after he married Catherine Hanglberger ('24) whose family belonged to St. Matthew's parish.

Harry joined St. Matthew's himself in 1947, when he and Catherine moved into her parents' home on the West Side. Together, their marriage produced four children, 18 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. Catherine died in 1993, after 61 years of marriage.

Two years later, at age 85, Harry married Lois Nyman, age 68 who was also a widow. They enjoyed 13 happy years together building a new life and joining their two families. Harry moved into Lois' home in Roseville after they married, but he kept his membership at St. Matthew's Parish and every Sunday, he made the trip across town for mass.

When Harry died last April, Lois wanted to create a memorial at St. Matthew's on his behalf. Coincidentally, the Baptismal Font had just been returned to St. Matthew's from a family in Forest Lake, who, for years had used the basin as a bird



Harry Lauen married Lois Nyman in 1995.

bath. In fact, the base and basin were all that remained of the original Font. The six marble columns that surrounded the base were lost.

The restoration work on the Font took six months and was performed by Henning Decorating Studio, which specializes in church restoration. Because of its weight, a scaffold with a block and tackle was needed to move the Font into place near the back of the sacristy which is where it will stay.

We invite everyone to stop by the church to see the Baptismal Font for themselves. Whether you were one of the thousands of children baptized at St. Matthew's between 1916-1968, or you simply admire beautiful craftsmanship, the Baptismal Font is a piece of living history that's worth a visit. We're glad to have it back home and offer thanks to all who made that possible. Most particularly, we acknowledge Harry Lauen, for his commitment to St. Matthew's and for the family who chose such a fitting way to memorialize that commitment.

The Baptismal Font was originally purchased in 1916 by family and friends of Gualteri Stahl, 1847-1916 and is dedicated to his memory. Gualteri, who later adopted the American version of his name, Walter, was born in Germany but spent most of his life on the West Side. It's believed he worked as a grocer together with his brother at a store located at 63 W. Winifred. The house he lived in at 579 Ohio still stands today.



Donors, *continued from page 1*

For Donna, the school is a worthwhile investment not only of her money, but also her time, as she says, "I'm just thrilled that these kids have a chance to get a decent, quiet education. It's a real leg up for them."



Joe Nasseff ('60), co-owner of Joseph's Grill.

"He runs the show now. I work for him."

As a successful West Side business owner, Joe thinks St. Matthew's School is an important part of the community and he's happy to support it. "I believe in Catholic education. I was given an opportunity to go to Catholic grade school and high school. I loved it. Now, I have an opportunity to give back. Not as much as I'd like — but something. If you can do something, you should."

The Nasseff Family from Holy Family

Joe Nasseff ('60) is one of the owners of Joseph's Grill and has spent his whole life on the West Side. Joe, along with his four sisters and one brother grew up in a house near George and Robert Street. The Nasseff's went to Holy Family Church, the same church Joe belongs to now, but his parents wanted their children to attend Catholic school and Holy Family didn't have one. They looked into St. Michael's but were turned down, Joe says, because their family wasn't Irish. St. Matthew's School took them in.

He says it was a great experience. "At recess, we played in the quarry. There were very few lay teachers back then — we were taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame. One nun said she wanted to put my head through a wall and I believed her. But the nuns were fantastic." And the classes, he recalls, were big, "Fifty kids in our classroom with one teacher."

He recalls a time when one of the nuns was walking the students past some busy intersections after school and one of the students greeted a policeman by saying "Hi, Copper." The Sister didn't think that was the proper way to address an officer and she let the student know it. Joe says, "Kids were always taught to show respect. That stuck with me for the rest of my life. Nuns were good at that."

Joe, together with his cousins, Ray and Mickey Joseph, got into the restaurant business back in 1987 when they bought George's, a bar that served food down by State and Concord Street. In 2000, his uncle bought the property near Plato and Wabasha and asked them if they wanted to move. They tripled the size of their business and Joe's son, Michael, came on board. Joe says,

Shirley Smith Says She Always Missed St. Matt's

While Shirley and Larry Smith are both West Siders, they aren't the most likely people to support St. Matthew's School. Shirley's family belonged to St. Matthew's Parish and she even attended the school for a few years but when her brother switched schools, she went with him. Because she left the school before graduating, Shirley says she never had the connection with it that an alumni has.

Larry's family belonged to St. Michael's parish and after Shirley and Larry got married, the couple joined St. Michael's as a family and eventually sent their three children to school there.

But, Shirley says, "I always missed St. Matt's." So, a few years after their kids had graduated from school, Shirley and Larry joined St. Matthew's Parish.

Now as a parishioner, she feels it's very important to support the school. "We need to keep the kids....we have to hang on to our young people. And I see wonderful kids coming out of St. Matt's."

For Shirley, it's all about laying down a good foundation, "The school instills in them an inner core of love for God and all that's good. They can draw on that for the rest of their lives."



Larry and Shirley Smith

When the kids graduate, she believes that core will always be there, even if they slack off or fall away. "I still have a lot of the things I learned from the nuns way back when. It's something you take with you all of your life. To this day, when I see an ambulance go by, I say a prayer."

Shirley used to be a volunteer reader to first graders, and says that she still gets hugs from the now grown up kids she used to work with. She jokes, "I tell my husband I should go back — I'm running out of hugs."

“We have to hang on to our young people. And I see wonderful kids coming out of St. Matt’s.”

SHIRLEY SMITH

to get together with them.”

The trip not only brought her back together with old friends, it also gave her a look into what St. Matthew's is like today — and she liked it. During mass, in addition to two girls making their First Communion, all the women in the congregation were invited to come forward and offer a blessing for a mother and her recently baptized child. Judy says, "There was such a message of inclusiveness, compassion and kindness — I just thought it was terrific....raising a kid is indeed a village and community effort and commitment. It was touching — I was very moved."

Judy says she supports Alumni & Friends for a few reasons. She appreciates the education she received at the school and says, "I felt very well prepared." But she also supports the school's current mission to reach out and educate children in the community whose families couldn't otherwise afford tuition.

When talking about her reunion, Judy's only regret was not having more time to visit with all of her classmates who came — but she hopes to get together with them again. Until then, she's issued an open invitation to any Class of '57 St. Matt's alumni to come and visit her in California. She'll pour the wine.

And from Napa, California – Judy Klotz Morhar ('57)

Judy Klotz Morhar ('57) may still consider herself a West Sider but she hasn't actually lived in Minnesota since she graduated from Humboldt H.S. in 1961. After high school, she attended the University of Chicago, lived briefly in New York then spent over two years in Venezuela as a Peace Corps volunteer. For the last 35 years, she's lived someplace most people would like to vacation, in the heart of wine country in Napa, California.

Judy reconnected with St. Matthew's when she received an invitation to come to Reunion Sunday in May, 2007, which marked Judy's 50 year anniversary since graduating. It was a long way to travel for classmates she hadn't seen in 50 years, but for Judy, these were the people she grew up with. "I've so often thought, because the population of our class was so stable, those kids were like family. I was glad



Judy Klotz Morhar ('57)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of December 20th, Alumni & Friends has raised \$39,700. Over \$17,000 came from Fr. Steve's dinner. \$1,500 was contributed in Anne Adrian's memory and \$1,500 was contributed in Tony Palmer's memory.

REUNION SUNDAY – MAY 3, 2009

Save the Date. All St. Matthew's alumni are invited with special recognition to those who graduated in a year ending in a '4' or a '9.' Alumni are invited to attend 10:30 a.m. Mass which will be followed by a simple brunch in the Social Hall and a tour of the school. For more information or to RSVP call 651-224-6912 (school office) or email: AlumniNews@st-matts.org.

Thursday, February 19

It's Kindergarten Roundup — Tell a Friend!

It's just another busy day in the life of a St. Matthew's kindergartener. If you or someone you know has a child who will be attending Kindergarten next year, Kindergarten Roundup is a great way to learn more about our academic goals, religious education and tuition assistance. Information sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, call the office at 651-224-6912.



From the Editor

"I Want to Invest in Tomorrow, which is the Children"

The St. Paul Voice interviewed Fr. Steve Adrian for an article that ran in its December issue. In the story, Fr. Steve talks about his 30 years as pastor of St. Matthew's as well as his hopes for the future. The following is a brief excerpt. To get a copy of the full article, you may call or stop in at the parish center.

— Maggie Lee, Editor

Looking back, (Adrian) believes he entered the priesthood at an opportune time. He was ordained in 1968, which was a time of great change in the Catholic Church... "In the 60's there was a huge amount of hope present in the Catholic community. Social movements, civil rights movements and the values of Dr. King dovetailed nicely with the image of the church and flowed out of the (Second Vatican) Council."

Adrian admires the "fierce loyalty" of West Siders and enjoys hearing their stories. "Once they move, there is still a part of them that never lets go of the West Side," he said. "It reflects the strength of a very powerful neighborhood. The West Side has always been a welcoming first stop for immigrants, which still continues today."

Looking Forward

"I am 66 years-old and on the downside," said Adrian. "With my time and energy that I have left I

St. Matthew's students helped serve Fr. Steve's Dinner.

need to devote to children. Our generation had its chance. They (the children) are the hopes and dreams. They will make the difference in the world. I want to invest in tomorrow, which is them."

In spite of the tough times the country is facing today, Adrian still sees a silver lining.

"Whenever there are large dramatic changes, it generates greater activity in the community process and public life," he said. "It challenges every single one of us to examine our lives. Young people want to get involved in the process. It's a reawakening of energy. From that standpoint it is a day of hope and enthusiasm, of change and opportunity."

— Excerpt from the St. Paul Voice, written by Mary Diedrick Hansen



Remembering Loved Ones with Gifts to A&F Scholarship Funds

In our last issue, we thanked everyone who contributed to Alumni & Friend's Scholarship Fund. Many gifts were given specifically in memory or honor of a loved one. We'd like to acknowledge those remembrances.

Given in memory of:

Roman Adam
Mrs. Lilian Bates
Sister Beatrice SSND
Gloria Brunzel
Henrietta Burton
Lucille Daugherty
John DelVecchio
Fischer-Bastien-Palonschmitt-Monzel-Hall Families

Fischer-Schmitt Families
William & Viola Fischer
Herman & Pearl Hager
Pearl & Herman Hager
John & Elvira Hanson
Charles E Kopp Family
Mary Meyer Korman
Joe Marthaler
Alums of the family
Meisinger
Paul Miller, 1944
Raymond R. Mosberger

Raymond R Mosberger
Joseph J. Mueller, 1903
Eugene P. Olsen
Charles Poechmann
Charles G. Poechmann
Lillian Posavad
William Rindfleisch
William Rindfleisch, 1911
Robert E. Rongitsch
Mrs John Schmid
Nell Schmid
Nellie & John Schmid

Emauel & Emma Shimota
M. J. Snyder
Mark & Margaret Snyder
Mr & Mrs Mark L. Snyder
Helen Stevens
Hank & Pat Votel
Wesley and Marie Wiler
Peter & Lucy Yanish

Given in honor of:

Bro Brad Jenniges, OSB
Father Steve Adrian



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www.st-matts.org

The Community of St. Matthew

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St. Paul, MN 55107

Pastor: Fr. Steve Adrian

Parish Office: 651-224-9793

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday - 5 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

www.st-matts.org

EVENTS calendar

**ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – January 25,
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – February 1 at 3 p.m.
Join us for a FREE Family Concert in the church! After the concert, children are welcome to meet the musicians and try out some of the percussion instruments.

SUPERBOWL PARTY – February 1 at 5 p.m.

The Men's Club invites everyone to watch the big game in the Social Hall on a BIG screen. There's lot of games and food for kids so bring the whole family. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per kid ages 13-18 and free for kids under 13. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

SCOUT SUNDAY – February 1, 10:30 a.m. Mass

St. Matthew's Boy Scout troop will participate in the 10:30 a.m. service and host the coffee hour afterwards. Please come and meet these fine young men and future leaders.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP – February 19 at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

See page 6 for more information.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – February 25

Masses with ash distribution at 6:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. Prayer services with ashes at 9:15 a.m.(with the school), 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (with Religious Education students.)

LENTEN FISH FRY – Fridays, February 27 – April 3

Regular serving time is from 5 – 7:30 p.m. with a Senior Citizen Special from 4 – 5 p.m. The Fish Fries will be co-sponsored by the Rosary Society, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Home and School. We also dedicate a portion of our profits to the Street Children of Bucharest.