



# THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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

July/August 2007

## MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



### Dear Saint Matt's Alums and Friends:

Welcome to the first issue of "The Good News".

On the day after Labor Day 2007 students will troop into Saint Matt's to begin a new school year. This will be the 120th time this has occurred! Saint Matthew's School is 120 years young – born in 1887.

One year earlier – 1886 – German farmers established the parish and intended from the very beginning to provide a school for their children. The School Sisters of Notre Dame were enticed by the parish and Archbishop Ireland to undertake the teaching responsibilities at Saint Matthew's.

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## Class of '57 Celebrates 50th

*Twenty-six members of the St. Matthew Class of 1957 were asked to stand and be recognized at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 6, 2007. Catherine Lang Fee was their spokesperson and shared the following memories with the congregation. A tour of the school and brunch at Mendakota followed the recognition.*

**F**ifty years ago this May, 105 of us graduated in the Old Church. We weren't even baby boomers; we were born during World War II. We all fit into 2 rooms.

Sister Alma was our Kindergarten teacher. She was a tiny woman, yet she managed to teach over 100 students each day without assistance. Imagine all of the shoelaces, boots, and mittens! How we loved to be treated to time in the little playhouse, the jewel of the kindergarten room. There was even a slide over by the windows. Kindergarten tuition was fifty cents per month!

Tuition in first grade went up to \$1.00 per month. Sister Vianney was one of our first-grade teachers, and we are honored to have her participate in our 50th reunion.

First Confession was in Second Grade, First Communion in Third, on Mother's Day.

Every other year the Archbishop would come to the parish for Confirmation of 6th and 7th graders. Ours was in 6th grade, in May, 1955, with Archbishop John Gregory Murray.

We had Mass every morning at 8am. Everyone who had received First Communion was expected to attend and we filled the church. Confessions were monthly; there were three priests.

Fourth grade was the last year we dipped our fountain pens in the inkbottles that were sunken into those holes in our desks. We switched to ink cartridges, and then ballpoint pens.

We had no lunchroom...our food was brought in bags or buckets, and we ate at our desks. We knew it was lunchtime when we heard the glass milk bottles rattling in the

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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## Message from Father Steve,

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The classrooms for the beginning school were in the lower level of the Church, and the residence for the Sisters was also in the lower level of the Church.

The numbers of students grew each year and soon an independent school building had to be built. This building is still part of Saint Matthew's school and is referred to as the "old school" in contrast to the seventy-year old addition called the "new school".

### Good Samaritan on the West Side

From the earliest days – 1886 – the mission of Saint Matthew's has been to be The Good Samaritan on the banks of the Mississippi. That small triangular spit of land on the west bank of the Mississippi known as "The West Side" has been and is home to many and diverse families. Some of them are new families to our community and nation, others have been here for generations; all of them contribute to this exciting and thriving community called The West Side. From the very beginning Saint Matt's parish and school has been an integral and stabilizing element in this West Side community. Saint Matt's as a Good Samaritan, reaches out to the West Side community not only as a place of worship, but also as an educational center – day school, child care, extended day and release day program, religious education; an opportunity for health care through Saint Mary's Clinic, a daily dining program for individuals and families of the community and in many other ways.

The lion's share of our personal, financial and physical resources is committed to ministry to young people and their families.

On June 15th, 1978 I became pastor of the Church of Saint Matthew. For 29 years it has been my privilege to be part of Saint Matthew's and the West Side community. A significant part of my life as a priest has been the opportunity to participate in the education and formation of young people. As a young priest I thought of myself as their older brother, later I thought of myself as a surrogate parent; now, having turned 65, more often than not I think of myself as a surrogate grandfather.

One of the great satisfactions of life for me is to see those young people of the 70's, 80's and 90's return to this campus and share their stories. Saint Matthew's School has truly been pivotal in the lives of so many. The friendships and learning of those years have continued to enrich many as the years have gone by.

### What Saint Matt's means to you?

In addition to providing timely information about school and parish events one of the functions of this newsletter is to "showcase" the stories of alums and friends. "What Saint Matt's means to me", "Why I am thankful to Saint Matt's", "The Saint Matt's teacher who inspired me" — please take the time to jot down a paragraph or two that tells part of your story and send it to me. It does encourage present day students and it is a fine tribute to our present and past teachers.

Yours truly,

Stephen Adrian, Pastor

From the beginning, Saint Matthew's parish and school has been an integral and stabilizing element in this West Side community.

FR. STEPHEN ADRIAN



Father Steve with children at this year's Kindergarten celebration at St. Matthew's School.

- For information about school programs visit [www.st-matts.org](http://www.st-matts.org).
- To register a student in St. Matthew's School call 612-224-6912.

## Class of '57 Celebrates,

continued from page 1

Photo by Tom Conlon Photography



metal crates, which were deposited outside each classroom door.

At the end of the day, almost everyone walked home. We left in groups to the music of John Philip Sousa. I was in Group 2, Section 1, walking up Hall Avenue

Our 8th grade field trip was to the new Midway stadium. School police were 8th graders; we wore leather Sam Browne belts, and carried metal stop signs with wooden handles.

Our parish started to build the new convent, now the Parish Center, in 1957. This took much of the playground space, so the 8th graders were sent across Humboldt to the limestone quarry, now the Wilder complex, for recess.

We went on to many high schools...Humboldt, SSP, SJA, Cretin, OLP and others. The historical events of our lives parallel those from the movie "Forrest Gump"...the Cold War, rock 'n' roll, hula hoops, Sputnik, hippies, assassinations, Vietnam, calculators, computers. ...

Somehow, a half-century has slipped away...sadly, at least thirteen of our number have returned to God.

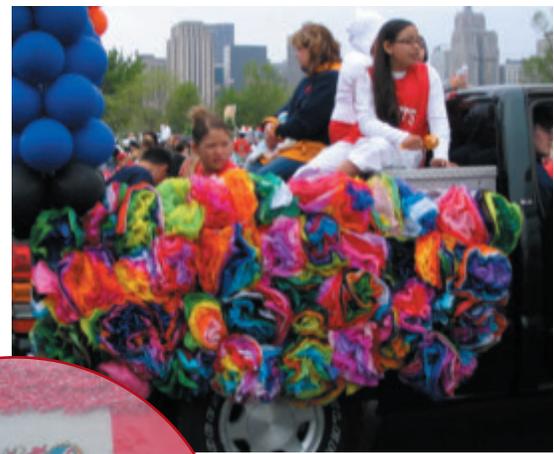
And so, we return today to reconnect, remember, and rejoice in God's blessings on this great St Matthew golden jubilee class of 1957. Peace and blessing to us all.

*Catherine Lang Fee, MD, is one of three generations to attend St. Matthew's School and was the youngest member of the*



**Pictured are: 1. Barb Lauen Wiley 2. Geraldine Stenger 3. Bob Doffing 4. Sue Meisinger Brown 5. Sister Vianney Saumweber, SSND 6. Roxanne Denysiuk 7. Wanda Savery Mahnke 8. Fran Weyer Cook 9. Joe George 10. Betty DuChene Shaughnessy 11. Stephanie Lancette Engstrom 12. Sharon Ferber Koran 13. Joanne Blaeser DuFour 14. Judy Klotz Morhar 15. Rosemary Blissenbach Darrow 16. Marian Wagner Lensgrav 17. Janice McIntosh Hemming 18. John Riehle 19. Patricia Flis Bloomquist 20. Mike Kosel 21. John Ringold 22. Stewart Arth 23. Bobbie Seidl Delmont 24. Mary Deustermann Sellner 25. Catherine Lang Fee 26. David Patnode**

*8th grade graduating class of 1957. Four years after receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from The College of St. Catherine in 1965, she enrolled at the University of Minnesota where she was awarded her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1974. She was the first female Chief Resident in Internal Medicine at St. Paul Ramsey (now Regions) Hospital. She and her husband, James Fee, a St. Paul District Fire Chief, had three children. She retired in 1999, shortly after her husband's death, and after 20 years as an Emergency Room physician at Regions Hospital.*



## Father Steve Grand Marshal for Cinco de Mayo Parade

This year's Cinco de Mayo Parade was especially festive for St. Matthew's students. Fr. Steve Adrian was chosen to be the Grand Marshal and rode in the lead car. He was followed by the school's colorful float carrying family and friends of St. Matthew's School. Following tradition, Middle School students got to ride on Captain Ken's Fire Engine.

The Cinco de Mayo Parade is another hallmark of the diversity which has always defined the West Side. St. Matthew's is proud to participate in the parade and we welcome every opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our school.

## A Night of Science and Classical Music Held in May

In May, St. Matthew's students helped wrap up the year with the annual Spring Concert, which was accompanied by a student Science Fair.

Visitors were invited into the school an hour before the concert to view a wide range of science exhibits that lined the school halls.

The Science Fair helped celebrate the school's new science curriculum and a school-wide trip this year to the Science Museum of Minnesota. The field trip was funded by the **Robert Street Business Association** and the **West Side Commercial Club**.

The Spring Concert, performed by K-5 grade students, included music composed by Stravinsky, Bach, Beethoven among others. The classical music was paired with contemporary lyrics that made for an alternately reflective and boisterous performance. Students in 2nd and 5th grade also performed Sergei Prokofiev's classic *Peter and the Wolf*.

Learning about classical composers helps the students understand how music has evolved, explains Mr. Osborne, St. Matthew's music teacher. "Kids heard music they recognized that's been around for 200-300 years. It may be on their cell phone ring tone or computer. Now they know where it comes from."

**1. 3rd grade students work on their exploding volcano, which demonstrates how the geologic hot spot we now call Yellowstone National Park was originally formed.**

**2. Two 8th grade student projects: the first demonstrates how pulleys work; the second tests the release of energy by measuring how long it takes different kinds of chocolate to melt. (White chocolate melts the fastest.)**

**3. Another tasty science fair exhibit by 5th grade students who invented a simple machine that uses gears and pulleys to make an ice cream sundae.**

**4. 6th grade students explain the different kinds of stars found in the solar system including Red Dwarfs, White Dwarfs and our own Sun, which is a Yellow Star.**

**5. Visitors check out the Science Fair projects, which lined the halls of school on the night of the Spring Concert.**

**6. 3rd grade students sing a melody composed by Mozart.**



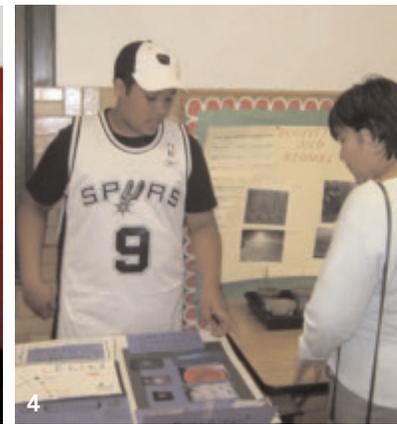
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## St. Matthew's Alumni & Friends

This newsletter is one of the projects initiated by **Alumni & Friends of St. Matthew**, a new and evolving enterprise whose mission is to help support the tradition of Catholic education at St. Matthew's Parish and maintain the high quality programs at St. Matthew's School.

The newsletter is a volunteer effort. All expenses associated with editorial, printing and mailing will be donated.

One of the goals of the new **Alumni & Friends of St. Matthew** group is to provide an opportunity for former students and parishioners to reconnect with their old school and parish. It's a chance to share fond memories of the past and learn about what's happening today.

### Building on the Past – St. Matthew's Alumni Association Committee

The new Alumni & Friends group has benefited from an effort that began in 2000, when **Rich Schletty** began to build a database of St. Matthew's alumni. This information was then turned over to **Michele and John Edwards** who helped organize a committee of volunteers who stepped forward after receiving the first newsletter produced by the Edwards.

Committee members included: **Marian Wolters, Joan Guertin, Kathy Schowalter, Michele Edwards, Lorraine Cook** and **Carol Casey**.

One of the most time-consuming projects the Committee took on was to reprogram, update and maintain the Alumni database. The Edwards started the project with just a little over 300 names and at the mailing of their most recent newsletter in March, had accumulated 1600 names.

The Committee worked to provide many opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their school. They staged Alumni events, helped organize reunions, produced newsletters and awarded high school scholarships.

Thanks to the hard work of these people, St. Matthew's has

reconnected with some former students who have contributed resources to help make significant improvements at the school.

Now **Alumni & Friends of St. Matthew** will build on these efforts. If you would like to know more about the Alumni & Friends group, you can contact Joe Cullen '78, Roy Ferber '59, John Riehle '57, or Jerry Sexton '44 by calling the parish office at 651-224-9793.

### Class of '44 Gathers for Bimonthly Breakfast

It's 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of every even-numbered month — February, April, June, August, October and December. You can find ten to 15 members of the Class of '44 having breakfast together at Joseph's Restaurant on the West Side.

According to **Dick Littfin** the class breakfasts started about 15 years ago. They love it when out-of-towners or other first-timers show up. It's very informal with lots of laughs, memories and news of former classmates. Sometimes class members will bring along a wife or husband who was not a member of the class. There are now several widows and widowers who attend regularly.

Award for best memories goes to **Gerald and Lucille Gouette**. Both Jerry and Lucille Lewis (now married over 50 years), were St Matt's classmates from 1944. Other classmates who married are **Phil Peltier** and **Audrey Staudocker** and **Charles Wagner** to **Lorraine Hofschulte**. The Peltiers have attended many Wednesday breakfasts. **Charlie Wagner** died while still in his twenties leaving Lorraine a young widow with three small daughters.

Most of the time at the recent April 4th breakfast was spent trying to remember and identify classmates from 63 years ago. The Class of '44 now has names and addresses of 50 classmates; a list of 22 deceased and another 21 names still unaccounted for.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please let us know about get-togethers for your class.)*

WANT TO FIND OUT  
WHAT YOUR CLASSMATES  
HAVE BEEN UP TO?

St. Matthew's will be working  
with Alumni to plan Class Reunions.  
Interested? Let us know. For more  
information contact John Riehle  
at 651-224-9793.

**From the Editor**

# Why You Should Read This

**Y**ou're a busy person. Why should you take the time to read this newsletter? For graduates of St. Matthew's School, the answer is because it's about you. Where you came from. What helped make you the person you are today. If you're a past or current friend of the parish, this newsletter is about where we've been as a community, and what we hope to accomplish over the next 100 years.

This newsletter is about the community of St. Matthew's. For some people it's an opportunity to reconnect. For others, it's a chance to hear about old friends. Still others may learn about activities at the school or parish they hadn't heard about before.

The newsletter, a project of **Alumni & Friends of St. Matthew**, is a volunteer effort and will be published bimonthly. It will include a column from our pastor, Fr. Steve Adrian, as well as stories about alumni, parish ministries, the school and the neighborhood at large. We want to reach past and present friends

of the parish as well as all of our graduates, whether you live nearby or have moved out of state.

I've heard the expression, you can take the kid out of the West Side, but you can't take the West Side out of the kid. This newsletter is a chance for some of you to connect to your West Side roots and to an institution that for 120 years now, has played a role in the lives of thousands of children who grew up here.

**We'd like to hear from you.**

What do you think about what you've read? What would you like to read about? What memories do you have that you'd like to share? Do you know someone who'd like to receive the newsletter? Let us know by e-mail or telephone at: **Alumninews@st-matts.org, 651-224-6912 x47.**

*Thanks for your time. I hope you find it well spent.*

*Maggie Lee*

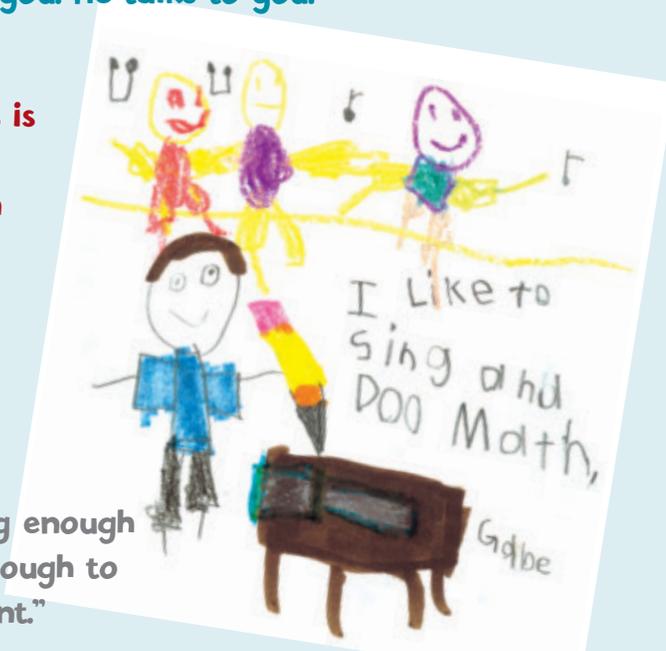
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**WHY I LIKE  
ST. MATTHEW'S**  
BY STUDENTS  
”

**“The principal is nice and when you do something wrong he doesn't yell at you. He talks to you.”**  
Anna, 2nd grade

**“The number one reason St. Matt's is special to me is because my mom went here and I hope my kids can come here too.”**  
Leia, 4th grade

**“...I also like that we learn about what it means to be Catholic. It helps me feel closer to God.”**  
Jack, 5th grade

**“St. Matthew's is a great community. It's big enough to provide a variety of things but small enough to make you feel like what you do is important.”**  
Anne, Middle School



*Drawing by Gabe, a Kindergartner at St. Matthew's*



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are donated.*

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Director of Education &

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School Office: 651-224-6912

#### **The Community of St. Matthew**

Hall Ave. and Robie St.

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](http://www.st-matts.org)

## EVENTS calendar

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — JULY 16TH – 20TH**

St. Matthew's parish members will be helping to build a house in Ramsey, MN. There is a need for on-site volunteers, food servers, nurses and site hosts. For those unable to travel or pound a nail, you can still get involved. To find out more, contact: Ginny Roethler 651-222-2867

### **ANNUAL MASS PICNIC — AUGUST 15TH**

This annual celebration will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Cherokee Park. Hot dogs & hamburgers will be provided by the men's club. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the evening.

### **LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD**

Mass at 9:00 a.m.

### **ST. MATTHEW'S ESTATE SALE — SEPTEMBER 8TH**

St. Matthew's is clearing out the rectory and will hold an estate sale to sell several valuable pieces of furniture as well as other items. If you would like to contribute items for sale that would benefit St. Matthew's or would like more information contact Larry Smith @ 651-457-0097.

### **FALL FESTIVAL — SEPTEMBER 15TH -16TH**

The Fall Festival, held on the weekend we honor our patron, St. Matthew, will celebrate a mix of old and new with the theme of Past, Present & Future.

Festival activities will include a Saturday night Polka Mass along with live music and dancing Saturday evening, a professionally prepared Sunday dinner with a 50's theme, along with lots of great food and fun activities for kids and adults alike. For more information or to get involved, contact Lucas Ecker at 651-224-9793.