



THE GOOD NEWS

September/October 2009
Issue 14

FROM ST. MATTHEW

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



Fall Festival September 19-20 "Sassy Silver Seniors Invite You!"

Whether you've come to a Fall Festival in recent years or have just thought about it, you won't want to miss this year's event! A mega dose of energy is being infused into it by a group of women who volunteered to be this year's organizers.

Joan Lannon, Jan Steinbrenner ('52), Elaine Goldberg and Angie Pirkl call themselves the "Sassy Silver Seniors" and they're all veteran Fall Festival organizers from 30 + years ago. Elaine says, "We all worked together in the '70's. Now that we're in our 70's, we're back."

And they're resurrecting some of the most popular activities from the old days, too. As Jan declares, "We're bringing back the booths!"

While plans are still taking shape, this year's Fall Festival will have a Jewelry & Vintage Accessory Booth, a Book Booth that also sells used CD's and DVD's, a Root Beer Float Booth, a (Stuffed) Animal Rescue Booth and a Plant Booth for those looking to stock up on house plants as the weather outside gets cold.

Other new activities will include a Jigsaw Puzzle tournament in which teams of four will compete to be the first to assemble the same 500 piece puzzle and win a cash prize. There will also be games of skill for both kids and adults along with a Vintage Car Show on Sunday.

As always, there will be lots of "Grab & Go" food including tacos, brats & burgers and a sit down Chicken Dinner on Sunday.

While much has changed over the 30 years since they last worked on the Festival, the women's goals for the event are the same as



The booths are back! Joan Lannon models some of the items that can be found at the Vintage Accessory booth.

always — to raise a lot of money for St. Matt's and have fun doing it. "The church needs it and this money is staying in the parish," says Jan.

As veteran organizers, they've assembled a team of over 30 people to head up committees for each event (see pg. 3 for the list of names.) And they're looking for volunteers willing to give a couple hours or lend a hand with a specific activity.

Thinking back on the old Fall Festivals, they agree, "We were organized, and we knew how to throw a party!" As they recall the huge meetings they used to have in the Social Hall, one of them reminisces about the Craft Booth that sold beautiful Christmas ornaments and decorations. "We started making them right after Christmas. We'd have the project of the week, and make 40-50 of whatever. All Christmas stuff. All handmade."

The women exude efficiency as they click down their "To Do" list, discarding some ideas and embracing others. It's clear they still know how to throw a party. So, call up an old classmate, invite a friend or your neighbor. Bring them to Fall Festival to enjoy the food, fun and festivities!



Reunion for Coach Krueger's Players

Jerry Krueger's 1976 High School Photo. He began coaching his junior year — 1974-1975.

Story page 4.

MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



Fr. Steve's homilies are available on-line at www.st-matts.org

We don't only need and want highly trained graduates... we also want people who are grounded in a strong ethical understanding of their profession.

Among the principles that underpin the ethical life are:

- the dignity of each human being
- the dignity and value of work and the rights of workers
- the centrality of community and the common good
- the interdependence of human beings that accounts for the rights and responsibilities of the person in community
- stewardship — respect and care for all creation
- priority for the poor and vulnerable — when public policy is made there is a priority given to the plight of those most vulnerable
- participation — all have a right to participate in the economic, cultural and political life of society, and the promotion of peace.

Dear Saint Matthew Alumni and Friends:

St. Matthew's School is one of four Twin Cities inner city Catholic Schools who have been included in a three-year \$766,767 grant by the Louis Calder Foundation of Canaan, Connecticut, to support a plan that moves us from a heavily skill-based curriculum to a strong liberal arts curriculum.

The curricular areas of study will encompass literature, history, ethics, mathematics and science. The curricula are being designed, developed and implemented by a team composed of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Office of Education, the University of St. Thomas and the principals and teacher representatives of each of the four inner city schools.

In addition to Doug Lieser, St. Matthew's Director of Education, our team presently includes Amy Brown (2nd Grade), Jennifer Slaten (Middle School) and Denise (Felitto) Jameson (Assistant Principal and Middle School).

The concern of the Calder Foundation is that over the past generation or so, education in the United States has been driven by a heavily skill-based curriculum. The obvious purpose of this effort is to raise the competencies of our students in reading, math, science, etc. Basic skills testing is currently seen by educators as a measurement to gauge development in these skills. National skills standards (No Child Left Behind) are meant to provide a measurement of skill development.

No one can deny that for our students to compete and lead in a globalized world of the 21st century, they must have honed and perfected skills in math, science and language arts, etc. Nevertheless, education is about the "whole person." It is the thinking, acting, relating person with these perfected skills who will lead in the 21st century.

The center piece of this project is ethics. The education and development of the "ethical person" is the goal.

The Calder Foundation has identified four Catholic Twin Cities schools — St. Matthew, Risen Christ, St. Peter Claver and St. Bernard High School — to develop this curriculum with the assistance of the University of St. Thomas and the Archdiocese.

In colleges and universities, professional schools are seeking to do the same thing — develop a curriculum in which ethical considerations underpin the profession. We don't only need and want highly trained accountants, social workers, business leaders, public administrators — we also want people who are grounded in a strong ethical understanding of their profession.

This is but one more example of how our school continues to offer high quality opportunities for our students and families to succeed and lead.

*Yours truly,
Stephen Adrian, Pastor*



We need to fill these baskets with items for Fall Festival. Can you help?

Fall Festival List

Chairpersons:	<i>Joan Lannon, Angela Pirkl, Elaine Goldberg, Jan Steinbrenner '52</i>	
Books:	Deb Kammerer '65	456-1288
Publicity:	Barb Neff '54	457-7336
Finance:	Lu Finnegan	457-9183
Bakery:	Stella Lundquist '43	552-9448
Posters:	Marion Wolters '51	488-6416
Children's Activities:	<i>Joyce Osborne '77</i>	230-1518
Chicken Dinner:	<i>John '79 & Mary Plante</i>	222-3302
Tacos:	<i>Sue Nowak</i>	222-3928
Brats, Burgers, Homemade Fries & more:	<i>Brian Osborne</i>	230-1518
Security:	<i>Tom Smith '72</i>	227-3050
Bottle Lotto:	<i>Sue Holman</i>	493-9314
Jewelry & Vintage Clothing & Accessories:	<i>Karen Thompson '59</i>	227-2551
Root Beer Floats:	<i>Donna Shepherd '71</i>	457-9288
Money Raffle:	<i>Corrine '47 & Bill Brengman</i>	450-5530
Bingo:	<i>Ken & Pat Kasheimer '58</i>	455-2645
Cribbage & Puzzle Tournaments:	<i>Steve Grundei</i>	297-8328
Texas Hold'Em Tournament:	<i>Wayne Gilbertson</i>	451-9726
Theme Baskets:	<i>Marion Bergstrom & Darlene Borher</i>	453-1779 455-1316
Silent Auction:	<i>Carol Creamer & Anita Hottinger</i>	457-4098 450-6603
Clean-Up:	<i>Bob Bejblik '67</i>	227-5047
Pie & Ice Cream:	<i>Sr. Anne Becker & the SSND</i>	224-9793
Skill Games:	<i>Jerry Smith</i>	455-4367
Vintage Car Show:	<i>Bob Creamer</i>	222-2410
(Stuffed) Animal Rescue:	<i>Annamarie Moseng & Keith Goldberg '75</i>	451-3712 298-0845

Names in italics indicate parents whose children attend or are graduates of St. Matthew's School.

How about Volunteering!

Just one or two hours of your time can make a difference. The sign-up sheet is at the back of church. If you're interested in helping with a particular booth, call the person in charge of that committee.

We especially need help with the set-up on Friday, Sept 18 after 1 p.m. or Saturday, Sept. 19 after 9 a.m.

Let us know if you can help:
Joan Lannon 221-9106, Angela Pirkl 686-4714, Elaine Goldberg 298-0845 or Jan Steinbrenner ('52) 450-7312.

Items Needed for Fall Festival

We're looking for good quality jewelry, antiques, "vintage" clothes & accessories. We also need items for theme baskets, silent auction and bottle lotto items, baked goods, med/large stuffed animals, cherry tree and fish pond prizes.

Drop off your items at church on Sunday or bring them by the Parish Center. For more information, contact the committee heads or one of the four Festival co-chairs.





These days Jerry spends most of his free time at his 40 acre farm in Bruno, MN, where he raises fruits & vegetables.

Remembering with Coach Krueger ('72)

A message from David Hottinger ('80): Jerry Krueger was my coach at St Matt's for baseball, basketball and football. We recently had the opportunity to reconnect at a lunch and reminisce about the old times. As we laughed, it was hard to believe almost 30 years had gone by! I had the opportunity to thank Jerry for the tremendous influence he had on me as a coach and mentor during my years playing for him. I coach now, myself, and much of my style and methods are based on how Jerry coached me at St. Matt's. More importantly, teamwork, tenacity, integrity, pride and respect are core values I use daily, and learned from Jerry.

A reunion of former athletes from Jerry's teams is in the works for late 2009 or early 2010. If you would like to help with the event please feel free to contact me at 612-363-7691 or email at dghottinger@stthomas.edu. It will be great for us to visit with Coach Krueger and catch up.

The following is an excerpt of a recent interview with Jerry.

How did you get started coaching?

I actually started coaching in 8th grade. The playground director at Baker asked if I could coach intramural games. I didn't know if I wanted to do it. One day, she basically gave me the equipment bag and said, 'You got to do it.' I was scared but I liked it. I liked showing kids how to do different things.

When did you start coaching at St. Matthew's?

I graduated from St. Matt's in 1972 and started coaching there my junior year in high school. I started out as coach of the B-squad basketball team. I did that and played Brady Varsity Baseball. One day I was coming in for practice with the B-squad and the principal met me and asked, 'Can you cancel practice and take the Varsity team to their game?' Their coach hadn't shown up. So I said 'sure.' It was their 2nd game of the year. It was against St. Joe's and we won — just destroyed them. They were really talented. Their coach resigned and I took over that team. It was always kind of weird — I was a junior and these kids were just a few years younger than me. But I never had a problem with them.

Then in the spring, Greg Silkowski was coaching the baseball team. He asked me to help and I said 'sure.' The next year, the baseball coach went to Arizona so they asked me if I'd take the baseball team too.

You coached both basketball teams and the baseball team?

Yeah, I didn't get a lot of sleep in those days. I was working 30 hours per week and going to college full-time. I didn't get out a lot.

What was your philosophy as a coach?

It had to be fun. But there were certain rules. It couldn't be chaos. The team came first. And I wanted them to learn something. You can learn and have fun.

I see coaches who take it so seriously — they're screaming at the kids. If a coach is screaming at a kid, I always think he's covering up for himself. Kids are kids. Sure, I yelled at them at times, if they were screwing around or whatever. But come on, NBA players miss baskets.

I kept it simple. I bet even now you can go up to one of the kids I coached and ask them what my baseball signs were. Hat to the leg — steal, hat to the arm — bunt, hat to the belt — squeeze play. Very simple. Everybody knew what they were but it didn't matter.

I didn't have a take sign. I thought it was wrong. I say, let the kid decide. You tell him to not swing and he gets a strike — it's not fair to the kids. I'd have people say to me, 'you got the best hitting teams. You must have a lot of batting practice.' I'd say, 'Nope.' To me — those kids go up there and they had three swings. It was their call. That's why we were successful.

How did your teams do?

That first year in baseball that I took over, we only won our last game of the year. The next year we were in a three-way tie for first place. We were always in first after that.

Basketball is harder than baseball because you have to change your plan to match your talent. If you don't have any kids who are fast or who can shoot, you got to figure out something. It's a lot more of a challenge.

I had this drill where I'd throw a ball out on the court and two guys would compete to be the first to get it and score. So when it came to a game, if they'd see a loose ball,



1980 Boy's A Basketball
 Coach Jerry Krueger
 32-Bob Zimmerman 8th
 40-David Hottinger 7th
 14-Ken Goers 8th
 22-Mike Jahnke 8th
 34-Steve Rivera 8th
 10-Tom Bade 8th
 44-Bill Szlaius 7th
 20-Paul Jenniges 7th
 52-John Ohmann 8th
 12-Greg Abbott 7th
 30-Joe Schmidt 8th
 50-Scott Miller 8th
 54-Scott Goldenstein 8th
 42-Greg Yanez 7th
 24-Greg Emerson 7th

they'd jump on it like it was a live grenade and they were saving all their buddies. You don't have to be an NBA superstar to be able to jump on a loose ball. So we did stuff like that.

More than once, we'd walk into a gym for a game and you'd hear people say, 'It's St. Matt's — this is gonna be a football game.' Because we were aggressive. And if you were little guys playing against big guys, you had to be.

I know you had an influence on some of the players, did any of them have an influence on you?

All of them — they were all good kids. With the kids at St. Matt's, there was a mental toughness. I don't know if it was a working class thing, but the players had a certain mental toughness.

What else stands out for you about St. Matthew's?

It's funny, all these kids from diverse backgrounds, ethnicity, different income, they all got along with each other. You didn't think about it. We had everything — Asian, white kids, Mexican American. Nobody thought about it — it didn't matter.

St. Matt's has always been a poor parish. We didn't have the best uniforms. We were lucky to have uniforms that matched. But it didn't matter. We had fun. I got paid \$100 per sport for coaching. I could have made more money doing something else but I liked it. I wanted to stay around sports and I wasn't going to play in college.

When did you stop coaching?

It ended after college — I got a job in Fargo. I met my wife and we wanted to have kids but I was traveling. I knew I didn't want to be traveling if I had kids at home, so I got a job as a mailman. That's just a better job

to be home in the afternoons with my kids. We had a lot of little ones. Now, Jerry Jr. is 22 years old, Charlie is 20 yrs., Rachel is 18, George is 17 and Fred is 16.

Do you ever see any of your former players?

I run into them in the store or wherever. I've kept up with a lot of them. Some of them I went to their weddings. David Hottinger ('80) called me out of the blue and we got together. He remembered things I said to him back then. It's funny — I never knew what an influence you can have on kids that age.

There's a Joe DiMaggio story, when he was dying, how he said he'd give up every prize he ever won for one more chance to play another game. I used to feel that way. I loved to pitch. I loved having the guys behind me in the field. I liked coaching but I thought, I'd give it all up if I could play another game with my guys.

As I talked to David — I never realized how you changed their lives and how you touched the kids. Now, I wouldn't give up the coaching I did for anything.



Jerry with three of his five children. (L-R) Fred, Jerry Sr., Jerry Jr. and Charlie. Not pictured is George and Rachel.



Doug Lieser, Principal and Theresa Mahowald, Kindergarten teacher, visited Mexico as part of a training program to help students who grow up in a house where English is not spoken.



Catholic Educators Experience Mexican Culture

By Doug Lieser, Principal

In June, kindergarten teacher Theresa Mahowald and I were part of a group of 12 teachers and principals in the archdiocese who were able to participate in a trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. The trip was part of a program designed in response to the growing number of students in the archdiocese, particularly in urban schools, who have a language other than English spoken at home.

As part of its ongoing commitment to training Catholic educators, two year ago the Murray Institute at the University of St. Thomas began a five-course graduate certificate program in teaching English Language Learners (ELL). Our kindergarten teacher, Theresa Mahowald, was a part of this program.

The final experience for the teachers in the program was a trip to Mexico. When a member of the group was unable to attend, I was fortunate enough to be invited as a replacement.

The experience helped us gain an appreciation for the culture of these students ...

As part of the 8-day experience, we participated in a variety of seminars and activities to help us better understand Mexican culture. Each day was framed in Catholic social teaching. Events included seminars from economists, education department officials, authors, immigrants to the United States, and visits to three schools. We also had a home-stay with families in an indigenous community and visited the pyramids of Xochicalco. The finale of the trip was a stay in Mexico City at a Benedictine convent and a visit to the Basilica that holds the shawl of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

About 15% of students at St Matthew's are considered English Language Learners because Spanish is the language spoken at home. The experience helped us gain an appreciation for the culture of these students and the challenges our immigrant families face. It emphasized the importance of being welcoming to these families and ultimately, has helped us prepare to give all our students an opportunity for future success.

From the Editor

Why They Volunteer

I recently met with four of the women who are organizing this year's Fall Festival. I talked to **Jan Steinbrenner ('52)**, **Elaine Goldberg**, **Angela Pirkl** and **Barbara Neff ('54)** about their plans for the event but I was also curious about something else. Fall Festival is one of those big, difficult and often thankless volunteer jobs that most people run from as fast as they can. Here was a group of women who had arguably put in their time in the 1970's, and now they'd agreed to shoulder the responsibility again.

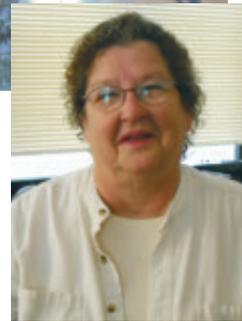
When I asked them 'Why?' their first answer was, "Joan Lannon asked us to." (Joan was on a trip to Alaska when we met.) But all four women agreed, as one of them said, "You don't say 'no' to Joan." "I tell her she's our fearless leader," said another. "Joan's like a Mack Truck," said a third.

I also learned about their strong connections to the parish. Among the four women I spoke to plus Joan, they collectively have 17 children, of which all but two attended St. Matt's School. Two of the women grew up in the parish, one had a mother who is an alumna, while three of the women married husbands who grew up in the parish.

Angela Pirkl lived outside the parish for 25 years, but she and her husband have always maintained their St. Matt's membership, "My husband's grandfather was the first baby baptized at St. Matt's," she says.



Fall Festival Co-chairs are (above, l-r) Jan Steinbrenner, Elaine Goldberg, Angela Pirkl and (at right) Joan Lannon.



"We were going to move to White Bear Lake but we didn't because we thought it'd be too hard to get to St. Matt's." Jan Steinbrenner adds her own benchmark, "Mine was the first marriage Msgr. Cecka ever did."

Back in the 1970's when these women were working on the Festival, they had school age children and jobs. Now, most of them still work or are helping to care for grandchildren.

The bottom line is that these are strong-minded, hard-working women who are deeply committed to supporting the work of the Parish. They're throwing a party on September 19-20 and everyone's invited. Why don't you bring a friend and come.

— Maggie Lee, Editor

ALUMNI & FRIENDS FUNDRAISING UPDATE

**We're Getting Close —
Help Us Reach Our Goal!**

Everyone who makes a contribution of any size **by September 30** will be recognized and acknowledged in A & F's Annual Financial Statement which will appear in the Nov./Dec. issue.

Alumni & Friends
Reach 86%
of Goal

Amount Raised:
\$129,000

Goal:
\$150,000



Anna Watt celebrated her First Communion with her family at her side at St. Matthew's annual Mass in the Park celebrating the Feast of the Assumption on August 14. The service took place at Cherokee Park on a beautiful summer evening and was followed by a cook out and potluck supper.



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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

SCHOOL PRAYER MASS – September 16, 9:15 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to join the students for the first mass of the school year.

FALL FESTIVAL – September 19 & 20

Great stuff to buy, games to play and food to eat for all ages! See pages 1 & 3 for more details.

CULVERS NIGHT – September 22, 4 – 8 p.m.

Culvers on Marie & Robert St. will donate a portion of all their sales (including drive-thru) during this time to St. Matthew's School. So bring your kids or grandkids for a burger and a shake.

COFFEE FOR A CAUSE – September – May

Beginning this Sunday, dates are open for any parish organization or individual to host the Sunday Coffee Hours. Bring and serve the food (coffee and juice is provided) and you can promote your cause — all donations that day can be used to support it. For more information call John Del Vecchio at 651-221-0871.

MARATHON FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – October 2

This is a chance for students to raise funds for the school themselves. Students will collect pledges to raise money. Individuals and grades compete to see who will raise the most. Fr. Steve will also seek pledges — for information on how to sponsor him or a student, call the school office at 651-224-6912.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – October 3, 6:15 p.m.

In recognition of the Feast of St. Francis, animal lovers are invited to bring their pets to this outdoor service conducted by the Hall Avenue entrance.

VIKINGS VS. PACKERS – Monday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.

The Men's Club hosts a party to watch the game on a big screen TV. Admission is \$5.00 and includes snacks, hot dogs and two beverages. Join the fun.

PARISH MINISTRY FAIR – October 10-11 (after Masses)

Come, discover the many ministries of St. Matthew's. Ask questions and sign up for one — or more.