



THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT May 2011

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 Website: www.stmatthewavon.org
 Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

May finally. Warmth gradually, the memory of lilies and spring, and Earth's new birth in the Resurrection. Easter is a season too...it lasts a good long time...until Pentecost, this year in June!

In searching for an Easter sermon last month, I found three lovely sentences written by a well known preacher and teacher at Harvard, The Rev. Peter Gomes. He entered life eternal in February. I heard him speak a few years ago, and he autographed a book of his for me. The sentences didn't make it into my Easter sermon, but they are worth sharing. These amazing sentences for the extension of Easter beyond one Sunday are from him:

DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 7 - New York City Bus Trip
May 7 - Annual Spring Clean-up
May 15 - First Communion
May 21 - Taste of St. Matthew
May 29 - Holy Communion with Healing Prayers

1. *Easter is not just about Jesus; it is about you. He has already claimed his new life; now is your chance to claim yours.*
2. *Easter is not just about death; it is about life, and not just life after death -- that's the easy part -- but real life before death, right now. You do not have to die to live.*
3. *Easter is not just about the past, way back then and long ago; it is all about the future. Literally, I say to you, your best days are ahead of you. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

LOOKING AHEAD

June 5 - Rite of Confirmation
June 19 - Summer Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m. begins
June 29 - Summer Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. begins
July 11-15 - Vacation Bible School

What you do with this good news is up to you. You can listen to it, you can read about it, you can overhear it or notice it in the life of someone else, or you can claim it and make it your own. It is not only good advice but good news, and that is why they call it the gospel. If you want to make the resurrection yours both now and at the hour of your death, get on with it. Now.

Peace,

Pastor William Carter

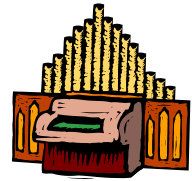
Evening Readers

We will meet on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space to discuss *Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel* by Jeannette Wells. Our selection for June is *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. All are welcome to join us!



St. Matthew Music Notes

by Sarah Hernandez



Many thanks to our volunteer musicians for accompanying the hymns during the Thursday evening Lenten Gatherings. Your talents provided a wonderful variety of music during the services, which was appreciated and enjoyed greatly. Special thanks to Marlys Austin, Rachel Beauregard, Madison Blades, Elliott, Everett, and Michelle Davis and Jean Tuve.

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5, 2011

12:00 Noon, Avon Town Green



A celebration of the National Day of Prayer will be held at 12:00 noon at the Avon Town Green on Thursday, May 5, 2011. This year's theme is "**A Mighty Fortress is our God**" and is based on the verse from Psalm 91:2 which states: "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Pastor Daniel W. Hille, Mr. Ed Gasser, Esq., and clergy and lay people from other churches will lead us in prayer for our towns, state and nation. Michelle Davis and Beth Wilson will help lead us in music.

This is the 60th annual National Day of Prayer and is based upon both an Official Statement from Governor Malloy as well as Presidential Proclamation requesting prayer. Optional, please bring a bag lunch if you would like to join us afterward for lunch. **"I urge you, first to pray for all people....Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we may live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity..." I Timothy 2:1-4**

For additional information, please contact Ed Gasser at 860-673-6403, Steve and Beth Wilson at 860-404-0708, or Michelle Davis at 860-673-2836.

St. Matthew Annual Spring Clean-Up 2011

This year we need help with both interior and exterior projects. There are plenty of activities to keep us all busy: raking, trimming, mulching, washing windows, moving boxes, kitchen organization, painting, socializing and much more. We'll be here from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 7. Come for an hour or two or three and enjoy being together as we give St. Matthew a "sprucing-up". Coffee, juice and donuts will be available for all. For more information please call Jim O'Herron at 860-658-0830. Your Property Committee thanks you in advance.

A Taste of St. Matthew

Saturday, May 21 - 5:00 p.m.

A special dining experience featuring recipes treasured by St. Matthew families in the categories of bread, salads, vegetables, entrée and dessert. A poster for sign-ups will be on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space on Sunday, May 1. Think about what you would like to share, including a story about the history and special occasions when this food is served in your family. Bring the recipe!

Also, on the same night...

St. Matthew's Got Talent

Plan to sign-up for sharing a special talent, about five minutes in length, after the dinner.

Join us for a lovely evening for the whole St. Matthew family.

Handicrafters

Our group is in need of cotton and flannel sheets for quilts. Please leave your donations in the Cloak Room across from the office door. Thank you so much. - Eleanor Swanson

Go Green and Receive The VOICE by Email Each Month!



Send Diane (dfirn123@sbcglobal.net) your email address and she will add you to the list to receive The VOICE each month in your email box. If you prefer, you can read The VOICE on St. Matthew's web site: www.stmatthewavon.org. Either way, let Diane know and she will remove your name from the paper VOICE mailing to save on postage.

Electronic Giving

To assist everyone in making the consistent offerings that are so important to St. Matthew, we ask you to consider making automatic, electronic donations. Please contact Diane in the church office (860-673-3301 or at dfirn123@sbcglobal.net) or Pat LaPierre (lapierrep@earthlink.net) with any questions or to sign-up.

MOUSE

As the days have been getting warmer and longer it has been a joy to see the plethora of activities spring up at St. Matthew. The rumor is that the High School Youth Group recently had a Lock-In that helped raise over \$900.00 to fight World Hunger...I have to say "rumor" because there were no crumbs of any kind left anywhere in the church.

There might not have been crumbs left in the carpet, but there was recently water in the sanctuary as the promises and waters of Holy Baptism trickled, splashed, and washed over our newest sister in Christ, Olivia Catherine Foy. Congratulations and welcome Olivia! We look forward to being a part of your faith journey. There was much celebration with the recent installation of Pastor Hille...thank you to all who came out and helped make that celebration so special...It was a wonderful time: fellowship was enjoyed, she-bears were discussed, and I even saw a new kind of soda, Cheerwine. Pastor Hille, it's a joy to finally have you here "officially". I've seen a lot of delivery boxes in the halls over the last few weeks and I have to think that some of them may be the VBS curriculum...having peeked through the cracks, it looks like this year's VBS will be of biblical proportions! Tuesday nights are about to become a lot more exciting as Confirmation is reconvening...I always enjoy the kids' company. Days like these are too beautiful to spend merely scribbling notes...I am going to enjoy the sunshine, and hope you all are doing the same!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion	2 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Finance	3 4:15 Grace Notes & Leading Tones "Bring a friend to Choir" 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Church Council	4 10:00 Bible Study 7:30 Sanctus Singers	5 Noon - National Day of Prayer / Avon Town Green	6	7 7:45 NYC Bus Trip 9:00-3:00 Property Spring Clean-up
8 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Worship / Baptism VOICE Deadline	9 9:30 Staff Meeting	10 4:15 Grace Notes & Leading Tones Party 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Evangelism	11 7:30 Sanctus Singers	12 7:00 Stewardship 7:00 Fellowship 7:00 Mutual Ministry Youth to Zion Soup Kitchen	13	14
15 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sun School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion/ First Communion 12:00 Christian Educ.	16 9:30 Staff Meeting	17 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Property 7:00 Evening Readers 7:00 Worship & Music	18 10:00 Bible Study 7:30 Sanctus Singers	19 9:30 Office Helpers 12:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 Mutual Ministry	20	21 5:00 Taste of St. Matthew and Talent Show
22 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Worship	23 9:30 Staff Meeting	24 6:30 Confirmation	25 7:30 Sanctus Singers	26	27	28
29— 8:30 Holy Communion w/ Healing Prayers 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion w/ Healing Prayers	30 Office Closed Memorial Day	31 6:30 Confirmation			29	30 May 2011



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