



NEWSLETTER OF
ST MATTHEW'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

1600 NORFOLK ST.
WINDSOR, ONTARIO
N9E 1H5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- Christmas Pageant
December 21, at
10:00 AM Service
- Christmas Eve
Service 7:00 PM
- Christmas Day
Service 10:00AM

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The Journey

At St. Matthew's Church

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2014



"We are called to share God's love as we welcome
and care for our community"

A Message from Our Rector

This edition of 'The Journey' coincides with the beginning of the Advent season. Advent is a time for the church to encounter once again the familiar voices of the Hebrew prophets as they helped people in ancient times prepare for the coming of the Messiah. And Advent is a time for us – as Christians – to enter into that wonderful, familiar, ever-mysterious story which tells of God's glory being revealed for the world in a most unexpected manner: in the life of a fragile and insignificant baby. However you experience the Advent season, my prayer is that God will awaken within you a sense of gratitude for the king that came as a baby, bringing to the world the gift of abundant life.

This past year, we unveiled the new mission statement for St. Matthew's: "We are called to share God's love as we welcome and care for our community." As we look ahead and make our various plans for Christmas Day, it occurs to me that there are some people in our St. Matthew's family who may find themselves alone on that day. If this is true for you or someone you know, Anya and I will be hosting a **Christmas Day Dinner at the Rectory (4 pm)**, and we invite you to join us for the occasion! We are not in a position to promise a particularly elegant or sophisticated menu, but we will promise you a place of warmth and companionship. And we promise that you won't be alone on Christmas Day!

May God's perfect peace be yours today and always. *Andreas*



Gold and white join
blue this season.
Also, a Chrismon
tree and some
St. Matthew's
history...

More on pages 8-9

Ask the Rector

A regular column in which you get to ask whatever is on your mind. (All submissions will be considered anonymous.)

What is the Anglican position on the Rite of Confirmation?

As with other topics, there is no universal Anglican teaching or understanding regarding confirmation. I will do my best to explain how the Anglican Church of Canada approaches the subject of confirmation.

The best place for us to start any discussion about confirmation is actually *baptism*, since it is through baptism that we become fully initiated and integrated into the life of the church. As a result, Anglicans have come to appreciate that all those who have been baptized in water and the Holy Spirit – including infants and young children – are full members and participants in the life of the church, including of course, the eucharist.

Anglicans believe in the importance of reaffirming our baptism. The most obvious way of doing this is through the regular celebration of the eucharist, but there are other opportunities, such as at the baptism of others, or at the Easter Vigil. One could say that each one of us “grows into” our baptismal identity through our regular participation in the liturgical life of the church.

Even so, our Book of Alternative Services allows for occasions in which individuals feel called to affirm their personal faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ through a public act of confirmation. In some cases, this would include young adults who wish to affirm for themselves the vows that were made on their behalf by parents and sponsors; or it might include lifelong Christians who may be marking a significant learning or transformation in their faith journey. Whatever the circumstance, the Rite of Confirmation is always preceded by a period of preparation, during which the candidates are able to fully explore the many dimensions of their faith, and how God may be calling them to deepen their understanding of being called into lives of Christian service through baptism.

I am always available for a conversation, should you wish to speak personally about confirmation.

Andreas

From Our Parish Council

The renovations committee met with Dr. Norm Becker Eng., who inspected our church's physical structure and prepared a detailed report as to necessary repairs and/or improvements. After meeting Dr Becker on November 7, 2014, the committee requested a cost estimate for priority renovations. Dr. Becker provided a verbal report and will submit a revised written cost estimate. In related news, the fundraising committee met with Amanda Gellman and will arrange further meetings to develop a detailed fundraising initiative. We ask for your continued prayers for those involved in these discussions. Quinn Roofing has completed its repairs to the flat roof pursuant to a written quote submitted in September, and approved by Council. Quinn Roofing has also provided a written quote to conduct yearly maintenance inspections. Council will be reviewing that request at its next meeting.

Two new fridges (which can be quickly converted to freezers) were purchased to replace the old fridge that had stopped working. We are purchasing two new water heaters to replace the existing rented heaters.

Financial statements still show we are in a deficit situation. We anticipate traditionally strong revenue in November and December as in past years, and with our successful Christmas Craft and Food market that our deficit will be significantly reduced or eliminated. Thank you to all who have responded to our fall financial appeal. Apportionment payments continue to be up-to-date.

Churchwardens and Treasurer will be meeting in the coming weeks to prepare a 2015 budget for presentation at our **Vestry meeting scheduled for Sunday Feb. 1, 2015, after the 10:00 am service.**



Everybody is welcome to attend our meetings, now usually on the **third** Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:30 PM, in the choir room. Next Meeting: December 17.



Special Services this Season



<i>First Sunday in Advent</i>	- Nov 30	- Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Service of the Word with The Great Litany at the 10:00 am service)
<i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	- Dec 7	- Lighting of the Advent Wreath
<i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	- Dec 14	- Lighting of the Advent Wreath
<i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>	- Dec 21	- Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Children's Pageant at the 10:00 am service)
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	- Dec 24	- 7:00 pm Eucharist service
<i>Christmas Day</i>	- Dec 25	- 10:00 am service only
<i>First Sunday after Christmas</i>	- Dec 28	- 8:30 and 10:00 am services



A ministry of the whole church by the whole church
"Our purpose is to respond to God's call to mission and ministry in the Northern regions of Canada."



From East to West in Northern Canada are nine financially assisted dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada. All their bishops are members of the Council of the North. Grants are awarded to this council from General Synod. The bishops administer the grants and meet twice a year to discuss their work in their various provinces and dioceses. The challenges are great, as one can imagine sparsely populated areas, few jobs, and low wages, with almost non-existent educational and health care opportunities. The

bishops work to procure pastoral and sacramental ministry to the peoples working and living under these conditions, in "the North". We do well here at St. Matthew's when we assist the Ministry of the Council of the North.

Shirley Cante, lay delegate to synod

Advent Soup Luncheons

Every Sunday in Advent, after the 10:00 am service, in the church hall

Free will offering

All proceeds go to the Ministry of the Council of the North

**Come and enjoy delicious donated homemade soups and breads,
and the best fellowship time.**

Candlelight by Shirley Cattle

It has been said that the candle flame is a prime symbol that reaches the soul.

The history of the candle is a long time effort to control fire and light. Its role as we pass through life is legendary, adding passion and romance. Candlelight at baptisms, weddings and funerals adds to the mystery of life and death. It not only softens the features, but also the defenses. Today, we take for granted the flick of a switch... *et voilà*, light! It was not so in the olden times; staggering labour constituted the production of candles in their simplest form. Originally, they were made by soaking peeled 18" rushes in animal fat...cheap and readily available, but they had the disadvantage of burning quickly, requiring tending every 15-20 minutes; also a noxious job for chandlers to produce them. Poor families which had no ready supply of fat turned to those who had access to slaughterhouses. One bull could render enough tallow for three years worth of candles; about 23 lbs. could last a year for a minister who read or wrote sermons late into the evening. An efficient household could produce about 300 candles in a single day of hard work.



For centuries beeswax had a precious significance in Europe. Beeswax candles were used to light the houses of nobility and hundreds of giant candles accompanied church services, especially at Christmas and Eastertide. Beeswax was so precious, it even was a kind of currency. People of wealth exerted their influence by allowing no one else to tame and cultivate bees on their land. Bees were also considered models of monastic life; their nectar, divine; their flight to heaven direct. They were considered so vital to worship and ecclesiastic life that many monasteries had bee masters supervising in dozens of apiaries.

In the 1700s, households relied on candlelight to wash, spin and whittle by. A family would huddle around a candle stand at the centre of the room, spending long evenings doing their work, while being entertained by one person's reading or telling of stories (the forerunner of T.V. family watching!). Since candles were expensive, they were used sparingly; often candlewood - knots of pitch pine - was burned at hearthside for extra heat and light. Once lit, candles needed constant management as they dripped, guttered and smoked. In the darkness, people struggled to get around their homes and it was terrifying without candlelight.

As we have disengaged from the natural rhythm of dawn and dusk, a perpetual electronic hum surrounds us...but the mesmerizing movement of a flame can still be a source of recuperative calm; the ritual of lighting one candle after another can help still the soul, and its antique glow can soothe us into a sanctuary of peace.

Starting with this issue of *The Journey*, we will be presenting a series of short pieces on the presence of candlelight at St. Matthew's. In this edition: All Saints' Day Service and Advent Wreath.

Continue on next page...



All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2014
The Reading of the Names of our Beloved Dead.

"As you are able, please remain standing during the reading of the names. You may come forward to light a taper from the Paschal Candle during the reading of the names, placing your taper in one of the bowls, and then returning to your seat."

This photo and previous page, during the reading of the names of our beloved dead, by Gordon Drake

Advent Season

St. Matthew's Advent wreath consists of a circle of evergreen, representing everlasting life, with 4 candles arranged around it. One candle is lit on the first Sunday in Advent, and another candle is added on each subsequent week. The candle reserved for the third week is pink and represents **JOY**; the other candles represent **HOPE, PEACE** and **LOVE**.



NEWS FROM OUR DEANERY

The 2nd Annual Essex Deanery golf tournament and dinner raised a total of \$6,984.77. All proceeds raised support the Deanery's Children & Youth Ministry. Thank you to our St. Matthew's team — Onorio (sweet-stroke) Felet. John (johnnyboy) Rossi, and "imports" Kenji Kenno and Bob Boucher, and all who attended the dinner at St. Mary's church.

DEANERY HOSTED HOLIDAY BOWLING PARTY ALL WELCOME!

YOUTH HOLIDAY BOWLING PARTY

SUNDAY DEC. 28TH
1:00PM
ROSE BOWL LANES,
2482 DOUGALL AVE.

Pizza, pop, shoes and bowling

RSVP to Cynthia by December 21st

With names, ages and parish at
Youth.committee@essexdeanery.com

Have you joined our e-mail communication list? It is the fastest and most environmentally friendly way to receive communications from our clergy. Enroll by sending a request to:

saintmatthewswindsor@gmail.com

Do you receive "The Journey" by e-mail? You could get it in PDF format in full colour and save some trees by joining the e-mail distribution list. Request your subscription at davidcantle@sympatico.ca or irene.savva@bell.net

Also, check out these websites and stay connected at all levels of Anglicanism:

St. Matthew's Church

Deanery of Essex

Diocese of Huron

Anglican Church of Canada

Primate's World Relief

and Development Fund (PWRDF)

saintmatthewswindsor.ca

essexanglican.awardspace.com/deanery.htm

diohuron.org

Anglican.ca

pwrdf.org

Christmas Craft & Food Market, November 15

On November 16 (the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost), our rector, in his homily, reflected on that day's gospel reading (Matthew 25:14-30: the "parable of the talents"), including how this passage relates to the events of the previous day – the very first St. Matthew's Christmas Craft & Food Market (CC&FM). Here is an excerpt from Rev'd Andreas Thiel's homily:

"...I remember that when I heard "the parable of the talents" for the first time, I had a great deal of compassion for the third slave – the one who buried a portion of his master's financial property for safekeeping ... when the master returns and calls him to account for his actions, he admits that he buried the fortune simply because he was afraid ..."

"I was afraid and I went and hid your talent in the ground."



"...Yesterday's Christmas Craft and Food Market taught us all a valuable lesson in overcoming fear. Earlier this year, Beth and Danielle proposed that our annual bazaar be presented somewhat differently. The focus this year would be on crafts and food, and we wouldn't include the familiar "New to You" or the book room. Some of us might have considered this proposal as heretical: "We've always done it this way. Why change now? This will never work. This will be a failure. People won't come." Sometimes, it's far too tempting to protect what we have... and to want to *bury* what we have, for safekeeping. But thanks to the vision that Danielle and Beth had, we moved forward in a slightly different direction. We moved forward in faith, and we tried this "new thing".

And this new thing WAS GREAT! It was great, and it drew us into the joy of working together for a common cause. Crafters and bakers and helpers of every variety pitched in and did what we could to help in any way. And by doing this, we got a glimpse of what it was like **to move forward in FAITH, instead of fear**. By sharing our gifts and abilities... and yes, our *talents*... we received the satisfaction that comes after a job well done.

We all know that the world we live in can be a fearful place. But we need to remember that this is God's world, and we are given the promise that God's kingdom will one day be a reality for this world. With that promise, you and I are able to live with hope and expectation... right here, and right now!"

Unique crafts and specialty foods

Continue on next page...

CC&F Market cont...



Collectively, the members of the organizing committee might have had a general vision for our Christmas Craft and Food Market (CC&FM), but if you were to ask me to define *my* vision, I would have been hard pressed to articulate an answer. From a planner's perspective, endless lists and flowcharts would have appeared; from an artist's point of view, colours and textures would have layered all around; I could have even tried to see it as a social experiment about relationships and feelings. It really seemed too complex to picture back then; yet now, after our very first CC&FM has come and gone, I can tell you my answer, which has become crystal clear and is basically a description of exactly what happened on November 15 in our parish hall: people coming together, forgetting their differences to work with and listen to each other, assisting when needed, equally offering and taking suggestions and, in essence, giving freely of themselves for a greater cause. **Thank you to everyone, for everything; for that was the perfect incarnation of my vision.**

Danielle Richer.



Photography by Gordon Drake



I would like to thank all the people who helped: setting up, pricing, baking, cleaning, shopping and running errands; those who made donations or invested many hours planning and creating our crafts and treats. On the day of the CC&FM, thank you to all who looked after the booths, cooked, served, and even entertained our customers (Elissa W. did an outstanding job performing some Christmas themed songs with her clarinet). Until the last moment, everybody came forward and gave their best. I can already picture our second event, the spring sale, as a great success.

Thank you all, this was a true team effort.

Beth Felet.



At press time, the earnings of our First Christmas Craft & Food Market were **almost \$7,700.00.**

The St. Matthew's Chrismon Tree

By Irene Savva

Last year, *The Journey* covered a story and book review about the Jesse Tree, one of the earliest Advent symbols, which also served as a tool to represent biblical passages. Another early example of Christian imagery is the use of Chrismons; they are a collection of symbols that represent aspects of our faith, especially the name, life and lessons of Jesus Christ. The name Chrismon comes from the Latin words **Christi monogrammus** (Christ's name or emblem).

The origin of the Chrismon tree, a green tree which displays exclusively Chrismons and white lights as decorations during the Advent and Christmas seasons, is somewhat obscure. Bringing evergreen branches inside homes to represent everlasting life is an ancient tradition and Christmas trees have been around for centuries, originating in Germany and then spreading around the world.

In North America, Christmas trees became popular at the end of the 19th century. However, it is widely accepted that, in the mid 1950s, the Chrismon tree was first introduced by the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia, USA. This congregation decided to give their traditional Christmas tree a deeper connection with our faith. They also saw the evergreen tree as a symbol of eternal life, but as specifically won for us by our Saviour, and used it as a background for bright white lights ("Jesus, the light of the world") and their own handmade collection of Chrismons. The use of particular colours is also intentional: white represents purity and joy, and gold the glory and majesty of God.

In 1979, the chancel guild at St. Matthew's Church decided to create a Chrismon tree for our parish. As pointed out by the people at Ascension, the Chrismons should not be bought, but must be made according to the volunteers' "own abilities and needs", and the only skill required is "the willingness to use one's hands to praise the Christ." The result at St. Matthew's was amazing; a true testimony of the love, devotion and talent of those wonderful parishioners, who collected clear balls, fabric, beads, threads, feathers and other materials in the richest glass, white and gold, and then laboured for hours to design and create our own collection of Chrismons which adorn, up to this date, the evergreen tree set up in the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons.



CROWN-Kingship of our Lord

A short catalogue with descriptions of some of our Chrismons is available in the Sacristy or the church office. An updated edition will be prepared soon. Here is the text intended for the cover page:

Symbols are the sign language of human beings.

When they are understood, they tell a story.

Chrismon means Christ's name. Many of the symbols used are images that Jesus used to describe himself, God, and the Kingdom of God.

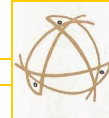
Chrismon Trees are lit with tiny white lights to represent the Light of Christ.

Inside you will find descriptions of the Chrismons on our tree. All Chrismons have been created in white, crystal, and gold. White represents light, peace, joy, purity and heaven. Gold represents the majesty and glory of the Son of God. Crystal represents the clarity of the Holy Spirit.



BUTTERFLY-Resurrection

A framed collection of pictures of our Chrismons will be displayed in the hall during the Advent and Christmas seasons.



**FISH-the Christ
3 FISH-Trinity**

And of course, the best way to enjoy and fully appreciate the St. Matthew's Chrismon tree is to stop by the Sanctuary and take the time to observe these wonderful symbols of our faith.

Continue on next page...

The St. Matthew's Chrismon Tree cont...

St. Matthew's Chrismon Tree Trivia Contest:

The photo on our front page was taken in 1979, when members of the chancel guild, assisted by other parishioners, completed the St. Matthew's Chrismon Tree. The lady in the front is Dorothy Garswood (RIP), then sacristan. What are the names of the other seven ladies? Do your best, even if you can't name them all!

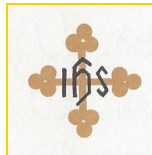
Deposit your entries in the box provided in the narthex by Sunday December 14 for a chance to win a special surprise from our Craft Guild. The prize will be presented on Sunday December 21 at the 10:00 am service.



CROSS IN CIRCLE—
Cross in eternity



ALPHA and OMEGA—
first and last letters of
the Greek alphabet. The
beginning and the end.



IOTA ETA SIGMA—
The first three letters
of JESus, in Greek



**EIGHT POINTED
STAR**—
Baptism

REFERENCES AND NOTES:

- <http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas-trees>
 - <http://www.christmasarchives.com/trees.html>
 - "Chrismons – An Explanation of the Symbols on the Chrismon Tree at The Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia"; Kipps Spencer, Frances; Womack Press, Danville, Virginia, 1970, 5th edition.
- NOTE:** "Chrismon" has been registered as a trademark, and the copyright belongs to this church.
- "Chrismons – Symbols of Christian History" St. Matthew's Church pamphlet 1979
 - Text to be used in the updated St. Matthew's "Chrismons and Chrismon Tree" pamphlet; from Rev'd Cathy MacKendrick, to be printed.

From Our Chancel Guild:

The Christmas flower envelopes are now in the pews. Please fill out the front exactly as you would like the message to appear in the bulletin, including your full name(s). Also, please specify if the dedication is a thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones. Submit your envelopes to Gwen Allsop no later than December 14. CASH ONLY PLEASE. Thank you.



Anglican Prayer Beads Part I

by Shirley Cattle, Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Representative

As you might know, Roman Catholic Christians pray the Rosary –a series of prayers, using a circular string of beads to help the worshiper keep count of the prayers- but... are you aware that Anglicans have a similar “tool”, designed for individual prayer? We call them Anglican prayer beads or Christian prayer beads.

Prayer is made so easy for us in church services, with the Liturgy and our ministers, clergy or lay, leading us. A comfortable time in an ancient familiar pattern that suits us well; we are directed when we pray together, and a feeling of unity surrounds us. In a group, hearing the words of Jesus, we feel “that when we pray together, He is amongst us”. His promise makes it easy for us but, how do we do when we are alone? How do we formulate our prayers and thanks to the Almighty? And to Jesus, who we know is our intercessor? Well, with the help of a circular string of beads, our “tool”, we can more easily direct our prayers. How often do we finish praying and suddenly think - “Oh, I should have prayed for this or been thankful for that”; prayer beads can help greatly, as physical “markers” or reminders, when we pray alone.

Anglican prayer beads may be purchased, but to give them a personal meaning, it is possible to string them yourself. Look for more on prayer beads in our next issue and how you can make your own personalized bead circle for prayer, praise and thanksgiving.



Photo from
Google search

If Confused: In prayer God will take you through a way that will show you His will for you. By the shrouding of His friendship - things not going your way- you will receive a clear understanding of His will for you. That it why you should give thanks for all things...good and bad.

Rev'd Cathy's Corner

The breakfast programme at Marlborough School is going very well. There are 25 members of St. Matthew's either cooking the breakfast or the muffins, or both. What a joy it is to serve 45+ students every morning.

The Windsor Jail (now The South West Detention Centre) is very grateful for our contributions. Several backpacks have been given out to the inmates being released “to the street” i.e. homeless. We are adding hats, mitts, scarves, and a roll of toilet paper to the backpacks in this next delivery at the end of the month. More stamps for the inmates to use on Christmas cards will also be included in the delivery of items for their use while incarcerated. A chaplain has not yet been hired but the chaplain from Sarnia is here two days a week.

It is very gratifying to know that **the banner** is so appreciated by so many. Thanks to Andreas and Jennifer McAlpine for working on the team to create it.

I really feel that St. Matthew's has allowed me to bloom where God has planted me. I know God does it for you all as well.

Outreach News

Maryvale's Children Centre

Help our Young People Support other Young People

Over the years, the St. Matthew's Sunday School has been privileged to establish a relationship with Maryvale's Children Centre. We have supported their music therapy program, their art therapy program and currently, their library. The programs at Maryvale provide vitally important services to adolescents in our community who are struggling to deal with life's challenges and find their way. Our fundraising projects allow our children to help their own peers in their own community.

On Sunday, November 23, we built delicious Gingerbread structures and, **during Advent Soup Luncheons, we will be selling raffle tickets for these edible works of art** and using the money to buy more reading materials for the Maryvale library. A new wish list of books will also be posted, in case some of you may be able to contribute with gently used copies.

Gail and I would like to thank you all for your generous support in the past and hope that it can continue.

From: Louise Davis

St. Matthew's Huron Lodge Communion Ministry

I wanted to share with everyone a wonderful heart warming experience I had recently when a few of us went to Huron Lodge to experience Christ and Communion together. We had approximately 12 folks attending our service. All you had to do was look around and see the joy on people's faces to know you were in the right place. Everyone enjoyed the singing which was led by Anya at the beautiful grand piano. I met a wonderful man with a great sense of humour and a bit of a flirt. I met a young man with a debilitating disease which required use of a motorized wheelchair. I sat beside a beautiful lady who followed along in her booklet; I could tell she was enjoying herself being in Church again. There were folks that napped a bit and folks that just sat and looked around. I am certain that what ever the stance, each one of us took something from that time together into the world.

As I was sitting there participating in the service, I was reminded that these folks had a different life than the one they were leading today but they still have a life worth living and are making a difference with each other and with us. There are so many different stages in our lives. How precious each one of these stages is and just how much our God loves and cares for us wherever we are. We are always His children. Come out with us next time. The service during the week is the fourth Tuesday of the month. You will find something amazing waiting for you there.

Jen McAlpine

Please remember Hiatus House this season

In addition to toiletries, diapers and non-perishable food, donations of hats, socks, mitts, and books (including colouring books) for the children would be greatly appreciated for our next visit to Hiatus House.

Thank you for your support, Don and Pauline Patterson

Celebrating this season:

Birthdays

December

12 – Ed Carey
14 – Carol Bulley
14 – Patti Paraschak
16 – Andy Hahn
21 – Linda Boyd
22 – Sarah Henderson
27 – Helen Cahill
28 – Cory Yednoroz

January

3 – Miranda Canty
10 – Linda McDonald
13 – Sabrina Weir
15 – Jessica Hitchcock
18 – Mary Davis
18 – Jennifer Hitchcock
27 – Max Hahn
28 – Sophia Savva
29 – Nicole McCabe
30 – Ella Hahn
31 – Erica Rossi

February

1 – Ann Hucal
1 – Kim MacKendrick
6 – Isabella Chantler
6 – Jennifer Goldspink
8 – Darren Bernard
12 – Mark Bernard
13 – Alan Dalley
14 – Anya Laurence-Thiel
18 – Nadia Taqtaq
22 – Elissa Weir
25 – Edwin Levergood
26 – Neil Cowley
27 – Stephania Allsop
28 – Dorothy Knappett

Anniversaries

December

21 – Scott & Laurie Ritchie

February

15 – Dianna & John Iannicello

UPCOMING EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Wednesday December 3, 2014.– Bishop's Friends Dinner at the Macedonian Centre, 5225 Howard Ave. (see Wardens or Rev'd Andreas for details and tickets).

Saturday December 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm.– Our **St. Matthew's Christmas Social** will be held at the home of Doug Warford and Janet Williams, 3821 Richardie Blvd. Please come and join in the Christmas festivities. Bring your choice of a nibbly or a dessert.

Thursday December 25, 2014 4:00 pm.– Christmas Day Dinner, at the Rectory, for those who would otherwise be alone on this day.

Thursday January 1, 2015 from 3:00-5:00 pm. – Anya and Andreas Thiel will be hosting the 2nd Annual New Year's Day Open House, at the Rectory.

Saturday January 17, 2015 at 5:00 PM.– Our 5th Annual Potluck and Talent Show. Come on out if you have a talent you would like to share, or if you like eating and good entertainment. More information: John Rossi or Jen McAlpine.

Tuesday February 17, 2015.– Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Mark your calendar to volunteer, invite friends to a delicious meal at St. Matthew's. More details to come.

Saturday February 21, 2015 at 5:00 PM.– Our Family Potluck and Games Night. Bring your family's favourite dish or dessert and a couple of board games. This is a fun night, maybe we will have a game of Hide & Seek again! More information: Jen McAlpine.

Saturday March 7, 2015 at 5:00 PM.– Potluck and Mad Science Demonstration (starts @ 6:30pm). Great food and interactive fun! Let your friends know and bring them along, there's always lots of room! More information: Jen McAlpine (519- 948-1457).

News from the Pews:

We hope to hear
from you soon!

The whole congregation is invited to contribute to this section with their feedback, announcements and suggestions.

A Letter of Thanks

I would like to thank the people of St. Matthew's for all their cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and especially prayers during my recent unexpected illness. Visits from Reverend Andreas were much appreciated and, while being a "shut-in", a picnic by the river with Pauline and Don Patterson was wonderful.

Again, thanks to everyone, Mary Davis

Auto-deduction giving – Many of our parishioners have signed up for the auto-deduction giving program. Please consider this option, which helps us to meet our monthly financial obligations. If anyone wishes to learn more about switching from envelope donations to automatic deductions by either credit card or directly from your bank account, please see Beth Felet or call 519-969-3035 to arrange a meeting. It is important to remember that any arrangements can be changed or cancelled, should circumstances require this.



We celebrated Lauren's birthday in September...



and Patti's in November...



And speaking of November, is Ron taking part of "Movember"? Ask Marie!

Photography on this page and St. Matthew's banner on front page by Gordon Drake

Please send your articles, feedback and other contributions to Shirley (davidcandle@sympatico.ca) or Irene (irene.savva@bell.net) or deposit in the box provided in the Narthex. NOTE: Also let us know of any updates needed in the birthday and anniversary announcements; we apologize for any mistakes or omissions.

T.N.T. Reserve the first Friday of the month for our TNT ("Theology 'n Tap") meetings, starting at 6:00 pm, at Cramdon's Restaurant. Some come with their children, some with a partner and some by themselves. Come for dinner or just drinks or just good conversation and friendship!!

Our next T.N.T. night will be December 5, 2014

Richard Hucal

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger"

Luke 2:12



Nativity figures lovingly hand knitted by Margaret Snelling and her daughter Linda Hitchcock

Photography by Gordon Drake

Everybody is Welcome!

Services:

All year long

8:30 am & 10:00 am

Scripture Conversations:

"Looking ahead to Sunday's readings"

Every Wednesday

10:00 am

Services at Huron Lodge:

Holy Eucharist,

4th Tuesday of the month

11:00 am

Praise & Prayer:

3rd Sunday of the month

2:15 pm

St. Matthew's Church

1600 Norfolk St.

Windsor, ON N9E 1H5

Phone: (519)969-1510

E-mail address:

saintmatthewswindsor@gmail.com

Rector:

The Reverend Andreas Thiel
cellphone(226)345-5085

Deacon:

The Reverend Cathy MacKendrick

We are on the Web!

<http://www.saintmatthewswindsor.ca>

And check out "The Journey" in full colour (PDF file ready for download)