

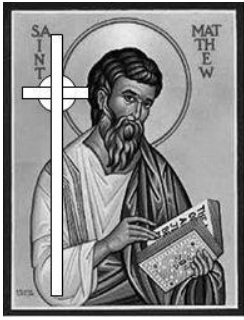
*St. Matthew's Church*  
*Eugene, Oregon*  
*Parish Profile*



*To Know God, and Make Him Known*

July 2010





# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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To the Candidate for Rector:

It has been almost two years since our rector of 23 years left. Two years has given St. Matthew's an opportunity to experience loss, followed by the feeling of "going it alone", along with a sense of independence and the associated responsibilities. We have enjoyed a wonderful assortment of supply priests, and three interim priests. We have made discoveries about ourselves during this time, often through the astute observations of supply and interim priests.

St. Matthew's is a diverse congregation, from retired folks to grade school children, with cradle Episcopalians worshipping next to recent converts. We are conservative and liberal, fond of hymns and fond of praise music. We are charismatic, contemplative, evangelical and reserved. In other words, we are perhaps a "perfect" Episcopal gathering.

One of St. Matthew's finest attributes is the welcome given to anyone walking in our front door. There is a real sense of family among St. Matthew's members and the hugs exchanged at the Passing of the Peace are genuine and readily shared. The "family feeling" carries over into the projects St. Matthew's has been involved in for many years such as the cotton candy booth at the Junction City Scandinavian Festival or recent projects such as Home Starter Kits for persons moving into their first home. Participation is large and congregational time and energy is given with loving hearts.

We have begun to branch out with more community outreach programs and connecting with the other Episcopal churches in the Eugene/Springfield area. Within the past year we have introduced a third Sunday morning worship service that is casual and full of wonderful praise music.

St. Matthew's is blessed with a large facility and we accommodate many community groups as well as congregational activities. We know there is so much more we could be doing with both our indoor and outdoor space.

We are seeking a half time priest to join our family, with confidence that this position will grow in a short time to three-quarter time and then full time. We need a shepherd with the ability to teach, preach and live the Gospel, a priest full of love for God's people and a vision of what a committed group of people can accomplish.

*The Vestry of St. Matthew's*



## History of the Congregation

### Early Years

**T**he history of St. Matthew's has been a combination of relationships with other churches from the very beginning. Both St. Matthew's and St. Thomas were started as missions of St. Mary's

Church by the Rev. Perry Smith in 1956. That original incarnation of St. Matthew's congregation met in the River Road Women's Building, the home of a private social club, and later in the Howard School.

In 1957 and 1958, the congregation of St. Matthew's built their own church which was located close to the planned alignment for Randy Pape Beltline Road. It was a two-story building, with the sanctuary on the ground floor and top floor serving as the parish hall, kitchen, and offices. The structure was located on part of a filbert orchard, and each fall the parishioners gathered for nut-picking days to help pay property taxes.

The congregation experienced the volatility that is common in new congregations. In 1965, the congregation was at its peak for pledges and attendance at Sunday school. However, less than five years later, both statistics had declined to lower levels. Although figures for many of the intervening years are not available, it appears that by 1969, membership had declined to levels that are consistent with today. For instance, the number of pledges had fallen to 61, from a total of 92 families.

Around that time, the plans for Beltline Road were finalized, and, unfortunately, it was necessary to construct a grade separated interchange at River Road. As a result, the County exercised its right of eminent domain to condemn the property on which the church was located. The parish was compensated, but had to rely on temporary locations until the congregation could find a new location for the church.

For three years, St. Matthew's held services at Peace Presbyterian Church on River

Road, but eventually decided to accept an invitation to merge with St. Thomas . On June 18, 1972, combined services began, with Fr. Taiton of St. Thomas' and Fr. McMurren of St Matthew's co-officiating.

### The Present Church

In the late 1970's, longtime members Gene and Mabel Chadwick bequeathed nearly \$200,000 to St. Matthew's, stipulating that a church be built in the River Road area. A corner of the Chadwick farm was purchased for the building site. While the church was being constructed, the congregation met at Our Re-



deemer Lutheran Church on River Road. Around that time, plans to build St. Theresa's Church in Junction City fell through. As a result, the bishop suggested that St. Theresa's consider merging with St. Matthew's .

Even though the church was not quite finished, by the Grace of God, the first service at St. Matthew's was held on September 7, 1980. The first priest serving as Vicar was Fr. Jon Bruno, who later became Bishop of Los Angeles. He served for three and one half years and was succeeded by Fr. Don Wilson.

Although the size of the congregation remained stable for the next 20 years, other important indicators, such as the numbers of pledges and children in Sunday school, declined even further, suggesting that the parish was somewhat static, growing older, and not rebuilding with younger families. In the early 1980's the entire state of Oregon suffered a profound recession. This was undoubtedly a major factor in the changing demographics of the congregation. Not until 1989 did the local economy demonstrate that recovery was complete. This long period of economic adversity explains why, during this period, although the size of the congregation was stable, pledges fell to much lower levels. For example, in 1989 there were slightly over 200 members, but the church had five fewer pledges than in 1969. Similarly, Sunday school attendance declined from 69 in 1965 to approximately 30 in 1989. In addition, annual congregational reports frequently contained references to problems meeting bills.

Rapid congregational growth occurred in the 1990's. Membership grew by 1999 to almost 400, with Sunday school attendance at 85. Nonetheless, the number of pledges in-

creased only slightly. The younger families that had joined St. Matthew's could not support high levels of giving. Nevertheless, by the end of the 1990's, the increased size had made it possible for the congregation to gain some financial stability.

Fr. Bryce McProud was called as Vicar in 1985. He was assisted by Deacon Donald McKinlay, who died in 1987. A stained glass window in the chapel was given in his honor. His wife, Mabel, remained an active member of the congregation until her death in 2010. Fr. McProud was here for 23 years, and led the church from being a mission in the diocese to being a parish church. Deacon Don Peck, Perpetual Deacon, has served since March, 1996. Fr. McProud retired in 2008, prompting the current search . During his long leadership, Fr. McProud stressed the importance of worship, education and small group experiences as evidenced in his emphasis on adult education through a variety of formats and the growth of small groups. The building additions enhanced worship and community space and contributed to some of our outreach ministries.



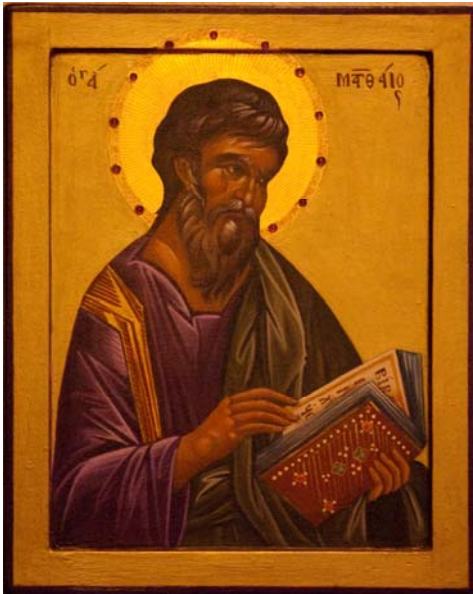
The Church Building

**T**he original building at the current site was small, ending at what is now the rear of the narthex. There have been two major expansions since the original church was built. The first was the construction of the parish hall. Later, the parish hall was expanded, and two Sunday school rooms, a choir room, an executive meeting room, a library, and a youth room were added. At the same time, a new office was built, and the divider between



the narthex-and-nave divider had large panes of glass added to allow overflow attendance (for Easter, Christmas and special services such as weddings and funerals) to be a closer part of the service. In addition, members of St. Matthew's drove to Billings, Montana where the pipe organ was being stored in a barn, and returned it to Eugene.

The stained glass windows in the nave, which were paid for by pledges from the parishioners, were dedicated in 1993. They were designed and crafted by Linda Jones, a local stained glass artisan from Creswell. They are considered a very meaningful addition to the religious artwork of the church. Addi-



tional art includes an icon created by Sherry Lynch, a nationally-known iconographer, displayed in the sanctuary, as well as a modern piece displayed in the chapel.

The chapel, originally a small porch leading to a garden area, was constructed by congregant Ron Apling. He also designed and built the beautiful altar,

which he dedicated to his father. The bench was built by John Forkish, and was dedicated to the memory of the Nygren baby who died shortly after birth. Bev Peck made the needlepoint bench cushion. John Pagter built the classic iron candle holder.

The peaceful and secluded memorial garden, entered from the chapel, continues to be a work in progress, providing solace and comfort to parishioners in time of trouble and sorrow. The centerpiece of the memorial garden is the columbarium, which was designed by architect Maureen Wheeler, Fr. McProud's sister. She also designed all of the additions to the original structure of the church. The garden continues to be expanded as money becomes available.





## Lay Leadership of the Congregation

### Vestry

Brian MacGregor	Senior Warden
Dave Quirk	Junior Warden
Liz Bishop	Parish Life Ministry
Laura Bradley	Evangelism Ministry
Dominic Pallazola	Outreach Ministry
Deacon Don Peck	Pastoral Care Ministry
Rena Robbins	Christian Education Ministry
Vacant	Stewardship Ministry

### Officers and Staff

Bev Peck	Clerk and Secretary to the Vestry
George Goddard	Choir Director
Larry Chase	Organist
Lisa Mischke	Praise Music Director
Mari Berg and Lemia Mahayni	Church Secretaries

### Contacts

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Website	<a href="http://www.stmatthewseugene.com">www.stmatthewseugene.com</a>

## Community Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry of St. Matthew's has traditionally been active in community events, as well as in ministering to the needs of the parish. Locally, the Ministry has had two separate soup kitchen programs under the direction of the Deacon. One was based in the church kitchen and fed anyone in need every Thursday, while another served students at the University of Oregon.

Other local efforts included collaboration with the Lane County Pregnancy Coalition to find alternatives to abortion and to help young mothers and their babies; support for the Eugene-Springfield and Harrisburg Chapters of Habitat for Humanity; and sponsorship of Faith Alive and Alpha programs, as well as the activities of a small group of charismatics. In global terms, there have been Outreach efforts to Haiti following the earthquake there, and to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, as well as other prayer focuses.

Some Outreach activities center around the Easter season: the well-attended Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, an Easter sunrise service at the home of a parishioner, and an Easter brunch in the parish hall. During the summer, the all-parish picnic is held in a local park. To celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School year, a separate picnic to honor the Sunday school children with horsing



riding is held at a parishioner's home. In 2009 the congregation began scheduling an annual summer concert at the church, with local artists and our praise music group. The concert is open to the entire community. The year often closes with parishioners caroling in the neighborhood surrounding the church, in retirement centers, and nursing facilities.

In order to raise funds and to raise awareness in the general community, the parish has for

many years operated a cotton candy booth at Junction City's Scandinavian Festival. Other funds are raised for Outreach services through the annual auction held at the church. A small, yet meaningful fundraiser is the collection of pennies every fifth Sunday during Eucharist. This tradition began when the congregation collected "pennies for pews" to help establish the new church.



St. Matthew's has a tradition of participating in Operation Christmas Child in late fall. Several years ago, the church installed boxes from the Eugene Mission to collect newspapers for recycling, one of their main sources of income. The parish also has a food pantry open to both the congregation and the community.

More recently, the church has become involved in the Egan Warming Center (formerly the Interfaith Homeless Shelter). This support is in conjunction with St. Thomas' Church, as St. Matthew's lacks the capacity to provide this service overnight. For the last two years, the parish has aided Awbrey Park Elementary School, offering Thanksgiving meals, school supplies, and Christmas gifts.

This year, St. Matthew's joined other churches in the area (including other Episcopal parishes) in supporting the Home Starter Kits program that provides supplies for persons with mental or emotional challenges as they transition from institutionalized settings into supported housing in the area. The congregations provide basic household supplies and other necessities that are not available using food stamp benefits, or other government support programs.

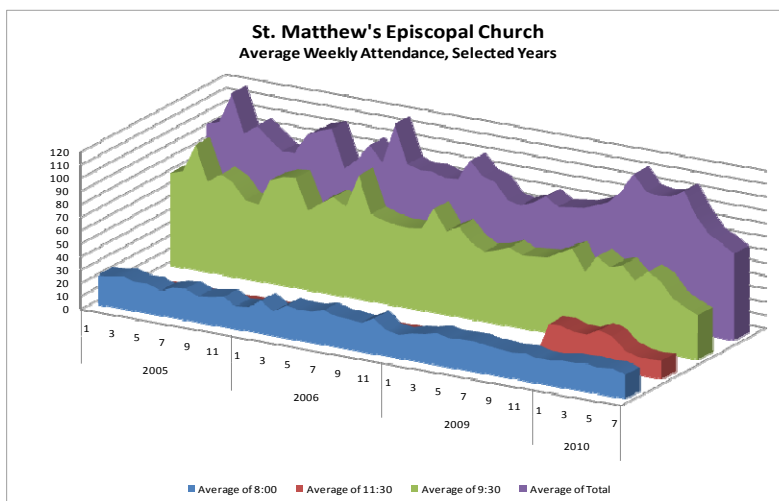
The parish does make its facilities available to community groups who need meeting space. At present an Alcoholics Anonymous program, an Al-Anon program, and Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts all use parish facilities.

Each year the Outreach Committee looks for new needs and seeks input from members for new ideas or causes with which we could involve ourselves.

## Demographics

### The Congregation

St. Matthew's, socio-economically, probably fits somewhere in the definition of middle class. Most members are in technical, paraprofessional, or skilled labor occupations, although there are a small number of professionals. There are slightly fewer than 400 persons currently on the membership rolls representing about 120 families from whom we have 53 pledges. A representation of weekly Eucharist attendance for selected past years is shown in the chart below.



The majority of the congregation lives in the Santa Clara/River Road community that surrounds the church. This neighborhood is a patchwork of incorporated Eugene and unincorporated Lane County which has a long and complicated political history that creates, in some ways, a stronger sense of local community. A significant minority of the population comes from some distance, living in

the surrounding communities of Junction City, Cheshire, Elmira, and Veneta. Although there is a broad mix of ages, older persons comprise the majority of the parish. However, younger families have been among the most recent additions to the congregation. The church historically has been non-alcoholic.

### The Community

St. Matthew's is located at the north edge of Eugene, the largest city in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area. Eugene's population is about 150,000, while the neighboring city, Springfield, is about 58,000. Including the surrounding nearby communities are added, the population of the metropolitan area is about 270,000, making it the second largest metropolitan area in the state, behind Portland and its neighboring communities. There are seven

Episcopal churches in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area. This region is also home to the largest campus in the Oregon university system, the University of Oregon, and to Lane Community College. Moreover, this area also contains the largest regional medical facility between Portland and Sacramento, the recently constructed Sacred Heart Medical Center on the River Bend campus. Peace Health also operates a hospital in downtown Eugene. McKenzie-Willamette Hospital is located in central Springfield.

### **Liturgy and Practice**



We have three services every Sunday. At 8 AM is a Rite I Eucharist, without music. The 9:30 AM is Rite II Eucharist with traditional music, i.e., a choir with hymns played on organ, and features the Sunday school. The third service, at 11:30 AM, was instituted in 2009 to meet the preferences of members who prefer a less formal praise service. The music at this Eucharist, provided by St. Matthew's Praise Band, is contemporary and played on guitar and piano.

An active group of youngsters serve as acolytes and crucifer. There are also Lay Eucharistic Ministers, who assist in the service, and also take Eucharist to shut-ins. Adult Education occurs between the second and third Eucharists. The Peace has traditionally been passed with great enthusiasm at each service.

As mentioned previously, the congregation has a very strong emphasis on small group study and prayer due to its many Grace Groups, many of which meet weekly at homes of members. These groups combine social interaction with scripture study and prayer. Some focus on a specific activity, such as walking or meditation, while others are less structured and involve sharing of personal experiences.

Theologically, we are extremely diverse. Fr. Bryce, the retired rector, described himself as theologically conservative but liturgically liberal: his views may well represent the majority of the congregation. Nevertheless, the range includes virtually the full spectrum of Anglican thought. Regardless of our diversity, we strive to be a very friendly and welcoming church. Our Mission Statement is "to know God, and to make Him known." In that sense, there is an evangelical component to the congregation, expressed within the bounds of Anglican practice.



## 2009 Financial Report

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>		<b>General Operating fund only</b>	
	DECEMBER 2009	YTD 2009	TOTAL 2009
		ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>CASH INCOME</b>			
Plate Offerings	\$ 503.31	\$ 3,929.14	\$ 5,000.00
Pledge Payments	\$ 8,517.00	\$ 97,402.27	\$ 81,524.00
Anticipated Pledge Growth		\$ -	\$ 32,245.00
Other Regular Income	\$ 140.00	\$ 575.00	\$ 6,000.00
Contributions from Parish Orgs.		\$ -	\$ 5,500.00
Contributions Designated	\$ 600.60	\$ 16,006.87	\$ 8,000.00
Auction Income	\$ 2.00	\$ 4,639.00	\$ -
Draw from Mutual Fund		\$ -	\$ -
Disn. Cell Tower Income	\$ 546.36	\$ 6,434.69	\$ 6,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 10,309.27</b>	<b>\$ 128,986.97</b>	<b>\$ 144,269.00</b>
<b>CASH EXPENSES</b>			
DPA	\$ 2,339.52	\$ 19,863.01	\$ 17,000.00
Salary Clergy	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 33,750.00	\$ 45,000.00
Housing	\$ 650.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00
Utilities		\$ -	\$ -
Salaries - Music	\$ 940.34	\$ 9,443.74	\$ 10,684.00
Salary - Office	\$ 924.00	\$ 11,004.00	\$ 12,000.00
Payroll taxes	\$ 539.21	\$ 2,458.68	\$ 1,800.00
Employee Liability Ins.		\$ 161.60	
Workman Comp. Ins.	\$ 539.32	\$ 544.71	
Pension		\$ -	\$ -
Insurance Property/Umbrella		\$ 4,636.00	\$ 5,000.00
Insurance Income Replacement		\$ -	\$ -
Health Insurance	\$ 600.71	\$ 7,733.37	\$ 7,207.00
Life Insurance	\$ 6.70	\$ 80.40	\$ 81.00
Mileage	\$ 325.00	\$ 4,054.60	\$ 3,900.00
Supply Clergy	\$ 125.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
Utilities	\$ 877.36	\$ 6,013.19	\$ 6,500.00
Office Expense (postage/lease)	\$ 665.00	\$ 3,843.40	\$ 2,400.00
Office Supplies	\$ 404.60	\$ 2,842.25	\$ 2,100.00
Phone	\$ 164.90	\$ 2,088.77	\$ 1,800.00
Altar/Worship		\$ 352.68	\$ 600.00
Other Music Expense	\$ 303.00	\$ 581.00	\$ 550.00
Parish Life		\$ 476.23	\$ 500.00
Convention Expense		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Bldg. Repairs & Maintence	\$ 1,166.52	\$ 3,592.46	\$ 1,900.00
Cleaning Expense	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,600.00
Christian Ed./Nursery Supplies	\$ 150.00	\$ 840.51	\$ 600.00
Interium Clergy			\$ -
Search Fund			\$ 12,647.00
Auction Expense		\$ 1,543.64	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 14,021.18</b>	<b>\$ 127,954.24</b>	<b>\$ 144,269.00</b>
<b>EXCESS: INCOME/ EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ (3,711.91)</b>	<b>\$ 1,032.73</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

# 2010 Budget

Revenue Centers	Plate	\$	2,800	
	Pledge	\$	115,665	(Pledge & Disn
	Designated Pledge	\$	10,000	based on 53 pledges)
	Other: Speical Projects	\$	5,500	
	Other: Misc.	\$	-	

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$ 133,965**

## Cost Centers

### Staff

	Clergy	\$	47,700	
	Clergy (to Search)	\$	6,045	
	Office	\$	11,050	
	Music			
	Choir Director	\$	3,600	
	Organist	\$	3,750	
	Praise Musician	\$	3,600	
	Payroll Taxes			
	Federal	\$	1,938	
	State	\$	222	
	Benefits			
	Health	\$	7,107	
	Life	\$	71	

**Sub-Total: Staff** **\$ 85,083**

### Administration

	Insurance Property	\$	6,167	
	DPA	\$	21,000	
	Office Expense	\$	3,156	
	Office Supplies	\$	2,500	
	Phone	\$	1,910	
	Other	\$	-	

**Sub-Total: Administration** **\$ 34,733**

### Utilities

	Water/Electric/Sewer	\$	6,500	
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**Sub-Total: Utilities** **\$ 6,500**

### Repair & Maintenance

	Bldg Repair & Maint	\$	2,362	
	Cleaning Contract	\$	3,600	

**Sub-Total: Repair & Maint** **\$ 5,962**

### Program

	Altar/Worship	\$	500	
	Parish Life	\$	448	
	Christian Ed	\$	600	
	Music Supplies	\$	139	

**Sub-Total: Program** **\$ 1,687**

**TOTAL COSTS** **\$ 133,965**

**NET INCOME** **\$ -**

