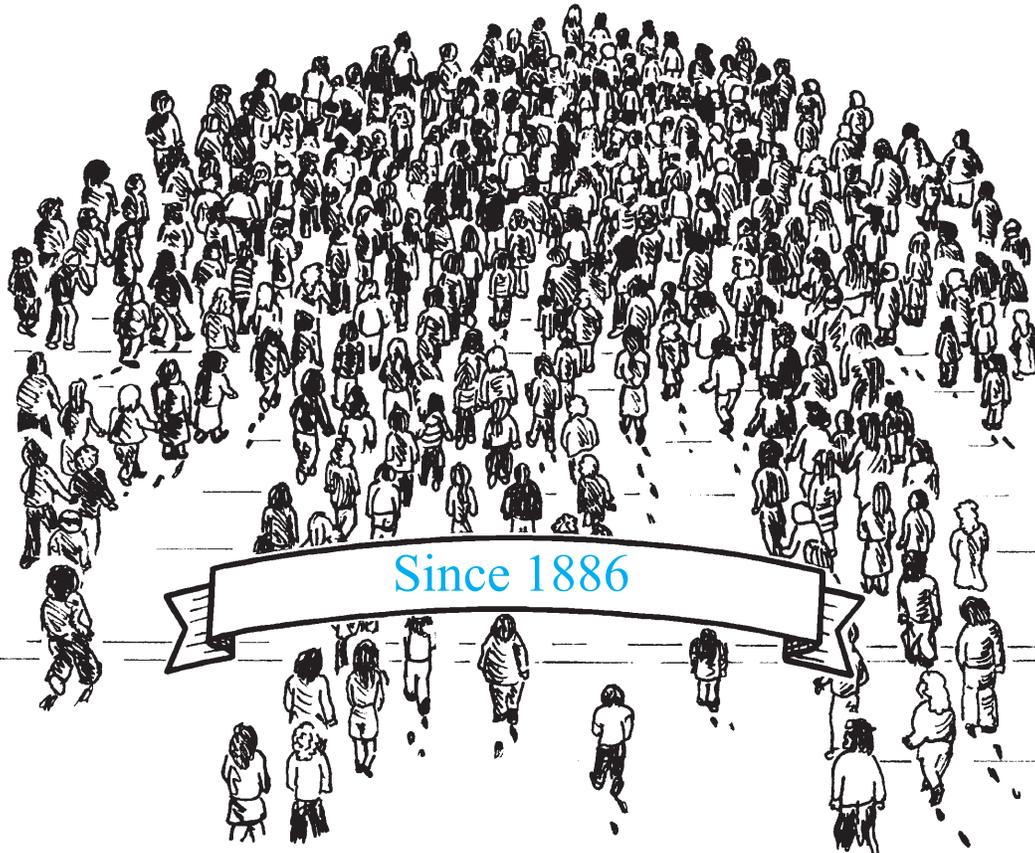


The Community of St. Matthew



*... exists
in the world
as a visible
expression of
God's love.*



Dear Saint Matthew Community and Visitors:

A few days ago Father Greg Welch shared this piece with me. It is an editorial by Jim Wallis, the editor of Sojourners magazine. I offer it to you for reflection.

Stephen Adrian



Pastor

This Election Season, Let's Focus on Truth and Civility by Jim Wallis

Let's try it. For the next six weeks before the election, let's focus on truth and civility.

Why? Because it's getting worse. With the campaign season in full swing, the level of our public discourse has hit new lows. From politicians to commentators, I keep hearing the same thing, "We've never seen it get this bad." And some of them are clearly helping to make things worse. The "birther" movement is alive and well, with its evangelists trying to convince the American public that Obama has stolen his Social Security number. Others are trying to convince voters nationally that the biggest issue on the ballot this year is that Delaware Senate hopeful Christine O'Donnell told Bill Maher that she "dabbled in witchcraft" before she became a Christian in college. Democrats are all described as "radicals" and "socialists," while all Republicans are described as "crazy" and "wingnuts."

Truth and civility have often been casualties of elections; but this election and its aftermath promise to be the worst in a very long time. We saw things get pretty ugly in the last presidential election. After his acceptance speech, I defended Barack Obama against real vitriol by holding up examples of Christians who disagreed with him but did so respectfully. I defended Sarah Palin from what I saw as unfair and unnecessary obsession with her wardrobe and rumors about her family. But as the midterm elections get closer, things seem to be getting worse.

How did we get to this place? Last year, I interviewed Michael Sandel, a Harvard professor and author of the book *Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do?* He said, "I think the reason for the breakdown of civil discourse is not that we have too much moral argument in politics, but that we have too little. What we really have are ideological food fights. Assertions hurled back and forth on cable news But what we don't have is a serious

engagement with the competing moral and spiritual convictions that citizens bring to public life." We don't need to give up our values, water them down, or throw out our convictions to have civil discourse. It is exactly these beliefs that allow us to engage in real dialogue.

On the blog, through personal commitments, and through online advocacy Sojourners is going to try and lift up positive examples of civil discourse and call out failures in this area. Civil debate and disagreement is possible. A good example was a debate Richard Land and I had at the conservative Family Research Council's "Values Voter Summit" last fall. Another example is when I was joined this spring by Christian leaders across the theological and political spectrum, including Chuck Colson and other political conservatives, in signing a "Civility Covenant," each signer, including thousands of you, committed to civil discourse in his or her life and church.

Between now and the election, I think there are three lessons of particular importance.

First, we Christians are politically different, but unified in Christ. Too often the church has reflected the political divisions of our culture rather than the unity we have in the body of Christ. The church in the United States can offer a message of hope and reconciliation to a nation that is deeply divided by political and cultural differences. We can disagree, but how we disagree with one another is a question of our witness for Christ.

Second, we should speak the truth and seek it. It is morally irresponsible to forward "rumor emails" without first checking the facts. Too often we focus on media caricatures of political figures. It might be the belief that Obama is a "secret Muslim" or that Sarah Palin actually said, "I can see Russia from my house." (That was actually said by Tina Fey during her parody of Palin.)

Third, we must hold to the statement, "out of many, one." "E pluribus Unum" was not an admission of weakness but a proclamation of strength. The health of our democracy depends not only upon the outcomes of elections but also how those elections happen. We should all be able to say, in the words of Jon Stewart, "I disagree with you, but I'm pretty sure you're not Hitler." In *Sojourners* magazine this past December, I wrote about the urgent need for civility. Today, the need is even greater. I hope you will join us over the next six weeks as we model civil discourse, and call our media, politicians, and nation to accountability. Truth and civility are too important to lose.

EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION NEWS

FIRST COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP CLASSES

Parents of students enrolled in sacrament preparation will have a informational meetings on Wednesday, October 27 and Wednesday, November 3rd at 6:30 pm in the chapel. Parents must attend one of these two meetings if their child/ren will be celebrating these sacraments in the spring. The meeting is for parents with students who will be preparing for First Communion(2nd grade and up) or First Reconciliation(4th grade and up). If you have not already registered please do so as soon as possible, so that we have the correct number of materials to distribute at the October 27th meeting. If you have a child who has not been baptized, please attend this meeting as well. Any questions, call Mr. Lieser at the school office (651-224-6912).

COMMUNITY OF SAINT MATTHEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGENDA October 7, 2010

Facilitator: Chris Stevens

7:00 Prayer and reflection

7:15 Business Meeting

- I. Public Comments
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Feedback from Listening Sunday
- IV. Report from Parish Staff (tentative)
- V. 125th Anniversary celebration status
- VI. Parish Festival feedback
- VII. Parish Annual Meeting 10-10
- VIII. Status of Child Care center
- IX. Committee/ Task force Reports
 - a. Outreach
 - b. Education
 - c. Liturgy
- X. Coffee Sunday report
- XI. Preparation for Archdiocesan report
- XII. Other business
- XIII. Adjourn

A TASTE OF ROMANIA FESTIVAL

We invite you to come to A Taste of Romania Festival on Saturday, October 9 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM at St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church, at 854 Woodbridge Street in St. Paul. There will be Romanian sausage, mici (grilled meat roll), cabbage rolls, rice and salads, and traditional desserts. The Izvorasul dancers will be performing. There is fun for the entire family.

ROSARY MEETING

The Rosary Society Dinner Meeting will be Tuesday, October 12, 2010. Mass is at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel, Social Time at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall, dinner at 6:30 p.m., and our meeting at 7:15 p.m.. Rosary members and funeral servers are invited. If you need help getting to a meeting, your helper is invited to join us. Please call Eileen Norton (651-455-5965) or Doris Bisciglia (651-452-4946) to make a dinner reservation.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MATTHEW

Sunday	October 3
Monday	October 4
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
6:45 PM, XC	Boy Scout Meeting
Tuesday	October 5
2:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Wednesday	October 6
1:00-6:00 PM, PC	St. Mary's Clinic
2:45 PM, MC	Children's Choir
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
7:00 PM, MC	Adult Choir
Thursday	October 7
3:00 PM, SH	Loaves and Fishes
Friday	October 8
Saturday	October 9
Sunday	October 10

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please plan to attend a 15 minute meeting after the masses on Oct. 2 or Oct. 3 (Whichever mass you attend.) We will meet at the piano (choir area). This is very important. Thank you.

Abbreviations:

MC – Main Church
CH – Chapel
PC – Parish Center
SH – Social Hall
SC – School
CC – Child Care
XC – Extended Day

STEWARDSHIP

When will I have given enough—of my income, of my time, of my talents? Today's Gospel suggests that only total stewardship will do: "When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say 'We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty.'"

Sharing \$8,211 given this past weekend [electronic, surface mail, envelopes in church and plate]. Thank you. An amount significantly higher than previous weeks [but, so too, the budget has increased].

Additional stewardship: \$37.00 in school envelopes; \$140 for the food shelf. Thanks.

Service: Helped a lady with her shopping... helped clean up after parish festival... choir practice.

Prayer: daily prayer, rosary, mass spiritual reading.

Youth: \$5.00, Thank you! They wrote: Helped fold clothes... did dishes, laundry, cut grass.

Annual report: this is available at the doors of the church today. You are invited to take one. Members of the pastoral council invite everyone to come to the social hall between Masses [9:00 to 10:15AM] on Oct 10 for discussion about what is contained therein.

Archdiocesan restructuring and Saint Matthew's. Primarily because the number of priest personnel and the financial picture in the archdiocese and individual parishes, there will be many changes made to parishes [probably some closings, mergings, pairings, etc.] These changes will be told to the priests on Friday, October 15. Pastors have been urged to have a meeting with leadership before the changes are made public at the weekend Masses [October 16-17]. That meeting, here at Saint Matthew's will be at 6:00PM on Friday, October 15 in the social hall. It will start with pizza. If you'd like to hear about the changes before coming to Mass, please RSVP [for food purposes] to the parish office, and then come.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the Week of October 3, 2010

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10
 Monday: Gal 1:6-12/Lk 10:25-37
 Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24/Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Lk 11:1-4
 Thursday: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 11:5-13
 Friday: Gal 3:7-14/Lk 11:15-26
 Saturday: Gal 3:22-29/Lk 11:27-28
 Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19

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PARISH DIRECTORY

Saint Matthew Church Office..... 651-224-9793
 Fax.....651-228-9448
 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-12 NN; 1-4 PM
 Web site: st-matts.org
 Bulletin Email: bulletin.editor@st-matts.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor..... *Father Stephen Adrian*
 Deacon..... *Rev. John Murphy*
 Parish Pastoral Administrator..... *John Riehle*
 Dir. Education & Formation..... *Doug Lieser*
 Dir. Music & Liturgy..... *Bonnie Faber*
 Dir. Child Care and KLT..... *Shar Lavelle*
 Bookkeeper..... *Cindy Hoffman*
 Administrative Assistant..... *Nicole Johnson*
 Dir. Food Service..... *Donna Jenniges*
 Parish Engineer..... *David Rosas*

Phone Numbers

Parish School.....651-224-6912
 KLT Kids..... 651-665-0786
 Child Care Center..... 651-224-1459
 Prayer line..... 651-686-5463 or 651-455-6886

Schedule of Services

Weekend Liturgies Saturday: 5:00 PM
 Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 AM
 Weekday Liturgies Monday-Friday: 6:45 AM
 1st Friday: 6:45 AM & 5:15 PM

Reconciliation

Tuesday..... 7:15 AM
 Saturday..... 4:00 PM

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents who are parishioners make arrangements with the Pastor or the Deacon one month prior to baptism.

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples make arrangements with the Pastor or the Deacon six months prior to wedding. Must be a member of the parish

Parish Council Members

Parish Council email: parishcouncil@st-matts.org

Karen Thompson	Georgann Henjum
Mark Thomford	Joyce Osborne
Jason Delmont	Anthony Minus
Dean Steinbrenner	Chris Stevens
Stephen Adrian	Becky Montgomery