

- Electric and Heating Savings Ahead Thanks to Parishioner and Staff Efforts
- New Name For Generations of Faith Program focuses on our Gift of Faith
- School Gets Technology Upgrade

Hands on Stewardship — Call to get dirty!

Lighting Changes and Ceiling Insulation Project Will Yield Energy Savings For Years to Come

Over the past 5 years, our parish has celebrated more than its share of successes involving parishioners sharing their time and talent. We have many examples—this is only one.

In early 2007, our Building & Grounds committee reviewed an “Energy Audit” on our main building which we commissioned. We were commended by Jim Maletta of Focus on Energy who wrote: “I am very impressed with the efforts the members of the parish have made in reducing power consumption and in general energy efficiency up to this point. Not only are you exercising the thriftiness my Scoutmaster would be proud of, but you are exercising a great example of stewardship of the earth’s resources.” He further commented: “You have managed to pick all the ‘low hanging fruit’ for energy,” meaning, there’s heavier lifting ahead.

Audit Revealed Potential Heat and Electrical Savings

Of course, our guys (and gals) are always up for a challenge. We reviewed infra-red pictures of our energy “leaking” and reviewed Mr. Maletta’s findings, especially where we could save on heat and electricity. It was substantial! We explored



(Left to right) Sean McQuitty, Tom Schneider, and Tim Dugan work together to prep one of the classrooms for insulation and a new ceiling.

the biggest energy ‘loser:’ the roof. Above the church, there’s no way to get at that and the roof’s predicted ‘life’ will be coming to an end in 3 to 5 years — that’s when we’ll do major insulating.

We replaced the lights in the church with compact fluorescents—we expect to save about \$2,000 a year. We received major rebates for acting now. This project will pay for itself in less than a year.

We explored how to insulate above the upstairs classrooms (library, computer lab, 6th, 7th, 8th grades, and the hallway/coatroom going into the Gathering Space—there is no insulation below the roof. We explored spraying it on; maintaining an “open ceiling” environment, and all were more expensive alternatives (except the “open ceiling” which didn’t look very good).

New Ceilings and Insulation in Upstairs Classrooms

Then we agreed, why don’t we tear down the ceiling, in-



Pat Daily wires a lighting fixture in one of the newly insulated classrooms.

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Energy Savings, continued from previous page.

sulate it ourselves, and install a new dropped ceiling with new lights, speakers, and ceiling fans? “For some time, we’ve wanted to install drop ceilings to allow computer/electrical/plumbing access because the old ceilings can’t be accessed without damage and difficulty,” remarked Alan Bronikowski, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee concluded we could do this, especially because of the energy savings cost year after year.

Project Began Right After School Year Ended

As school ended, our Tuesday evenings began...6:00 to 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. all but the week of July 4th. Staff (Dan Wachs, Maintenance Director, and Tom Schneider, Director of Stewardship and Administration) helped Alan coordinate, purchase, deliver, and install. Major amounts of fiberglass insulation, ceiling tile, ceiling grid, lights, and supplies were required. Parishioner Pat Daily provided “mucho hours” of electrician services.

It was filthy dirty taking the tiles down, requiring masks for safety. During the day, a team of our “retired” parishioners put up the ceiling grids in the rooms. Then in the evenings, the new insulation, electrical work and new tiles were installed. In all, 30 people worked on this major investment of time, talent, and treasure.

Gas Line and Water Heater Replacement

Another crew installed piping for gas to come from the east end of our main building into the kitchen to lower our electrical usage there. In July, our main water heater died. After investigating tank-less systems, we purchased a new, energy-efficient tank type heater. That led to the decision to replace the cafeteria dishwasher with a low-temp machine which will allow us to lower the temperature of the hot water in



(Left to right) Dave Dretzka and Matt Dretzka talk things over with Building and Grounds Chairperson Alan Bronikowski.

the main building 40-50 degrees throughout the building as well year round.

Besides saving the parish money, these parish stewards are helping us “do the right thing” with our environment following church teachings to be good stewards of our environment by saving and consuming less energy and not wasting. This is an excellent example of parish discipleship! God bless and thanks to everyone who had a “dirty hand and sweat” in these projects. Those who contribute financially participated as well. With the value of the massive donation of labor, the costs involved were held to about \$4,000 for gas to the kitchen, \$14,000 for insulation/ceiling/lights, \$6,200 for the water heater, and \$4,000 for the dishwasher. Over time, we will reap the fruits of these energy saving strategies.

*Article by Tom Schneider, Alan Bronikowski, and Dan Wachs
Photos by Mike Kuick*

‘Generations of Faith’ Program Gets New Name

Catholic Faith Tradition is a Gift Passed from one Generation to the Next

I recently had the chance to talk with Pastoral Associate Alice Haztenbeller about the upcoming season of Faith Festivals that parishioners of St. Matthew will get to participate in during 2007 and 2008. The following is what she had to share:

What a GIFT we are given!

The best gift we are given is the gift of FAITH. This gift is passed on from generation to generation — parents, grandparents, catechists, teachers, preachers and the entire faith community all have important roles. Learning

about our faith and what it means to follow Jesus is a life-long commitment not just a subject that we learn about in school or in a religious education class. Recognizing the importance of life-long learning and faith development, last year, our parish along with

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Faith, continued from previous page.

St. Mary by the Lake Parish and many other parishes throughout the archdiocese embarked on a new way to help all parishioners deepen their faith, their understanding of our Catholic tradition, and our commitment to live this faith in our homes, schools, workplaces, communities and world. And so “Generations of Faith” began with four Faith Festivals.

This year, we continue but using a new name, Generations In Faith Together (GIFT). This slight name change will help all of us be visually reminded about the wonderful GIFT of faith that we have received and that we are asked to share. This year’s festivals will help us explore our Profession of Faith — the Creed.

Families with Children Focused...

We will offer five festivals which is one more than we had last year. At St. Matthew’s, we will offer each festival three times -- Friday evening, Sunday morning and Monday evening. St. Mary’s will have two offerings, one on Wednesday evening and one on Sunday. Families in our Child Formation, Youth Ministry and School told us that these days worked best in their busy schedules.

...and Adult Focused, Too

We also had a number of adults who do not have children in our programs who came to the festivals last year. We hope this year even more adults (young, old, single, widowed, married, etc.) will see these faith festivals as opportunities to deepen and expand their understanding of our Catholic faith.

GIFT is for every parish member and guests you might want to bring along — some of our families invited grand-



parents, grandchildren, neighbors and friends to join them in the fun. Families with children in our child formation or youth ministry are automatically registered into GIFT. All others who want to take part, please call the Religious Formation Office — 762-4200, ext 14.

One of the things we learned from our experience last year is that everyone really enjoyed our gathering for a simple meal to begin our festival. We also heard that having a 2 ½ -3 hour festival was too long so we shortened the time frame to about 2 hours. People enjoyed the variety of fun and informative formats used — whole group experiences, placemat activities, plays, rallies, prayer experiences, singing, small groups, reflection tools like the labyrinth, speakers, projects, and the “Take Home” packets which helped everyone continue to learn more about the topic of the festival.

Perhaps You Could Lend a Hand

Offering Faith Festivals takes lots of planning and many hands behind the scenes as well as at the time of the festival. Parishioners can help by getting involved with the meal aspect of the festival

— buying supplies, table set up, cooking, serving and clean up. We also need people willing to make phone calls, put together the “Take Home” packets, welcome and register people at the door and seat them for our meal, take photographs, offer child care, or work with groups of children, youth or adults. For those who are creative, we need help with prayer, drama and music, lesson planning and crafts.

Since here at St. Matt’s we do each Festival three times it would be wonderful if we could form “teams” of people who could commit to help with Friday night, Sunday morning or Monday evening. Sign up on the Time and Talent forms that will be part of your 2007-08 Stewardship packet that you will receive, or call the Religious Formation Office at 762-4200, ext 14 to see how you can get involved.

Please accept this invitation from the pastoral staffs of St. Matthew’s and St. Mary’s to explore, celebrate and share the gift of faith you have received. Join us for fun, building community and growing in faith together! Become part of GIFT!”

Article by Robert Tabern



Not Whistles & Bells...Learning Resources!

Successful School Auction Allows Technology Committee to Upgrade Technology

How do we prepare our day school children in the areas of technology? We provide updated hardware and software that increases their learning and ability to grow. Our parish and school leaders worked very hard at our successful school auction this past February 24th and the result was \$46,000 able to be invested in technology for the school.

Parishioners Share Technology Expertise

The Parish's Technology Committee supports a network of 70+ computers primarily through sharing members' time and talent. Hundreds upon hundreds of hours have been spent this summer supporting our network systems, software, webpage, email, and furniture. The committee prepared a proposed plan, with input from our principal and teachers for software solutions, and the plan was reviewed, changed, and approved by the Board of Education. Many of the committee members are either former or current school parents. Tom Schneider, Director of Stewardship and Administration, who staffs the committee said, "there is absolutely no way our parish could afford the expertise the school and parish is receiving from this dedicated group of 'stewards.' This project alone would never have been possible without these selfless givers!"

As school ended for the summer, Dave Johnson led the purchasing decisions of \$46,000 worth of resources. Now, the challenges of implementation by Principal Julianna Barber and our teachers have begun.

Hardware and Software Upgrades

Most classroom PC's are new and all have either been upgraded to Windows XP with 19" wide LCD monitors in

classrooms and the computer lab along with DVD burners. A new color laser jet printer in the lab will eliminate printing bottlenecks at the end of classes.

The "meat" of the improvements is software for our students. Students have new:

- "Type to learn" keyboarding software that's age appropriate (4 levels)
- New version of Jumpstart Series for K4-2nd grade
- New version of MathBlaster for K4-2nd grade
- Inspiration software for 6th-8th grades for diagramming and outlining
- United Streaming subscription is a library of educational videos K4-8th;
- School Office business software that will integrate with the parish's database;
- New software from recent curriculum upgrades;
- Web filtering and controlling software to protect the children from internet abuse.

Tech Committee members Dave Johnson, Gary Hay, Brian Kucharski, Greg Wheatley, Roger Janquart, Aaron Hay, Gary Marifke, Will Karpinski, and Steve Kidder with Tom Schneider helping to coordinate loose ends, provided "mega-hours" over the summer and early fall.

While servers and email systems were upgraded and changed, the computer lab received a "makeover" of its ceiling, lights, and insulation which was carefully coordinated with our Building and Grounds workers. Older equipment that still had life was donated to Prince of Peace central city parish in Milwaukee and the rest recycled properly.

While headaches persist with any technology, our parish can take great pride in being up to date knowing that our students, teachers, and parents can take full advantage of this significant investment in our future: our children!

P.S. We need additional committee members/workers. For more information, contact Tom Schneider at tshneider@stmattoc.org or by phone at 762-4200, ext. 21.

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