

VESTRY VIBES  
January/February 2010

- St. Matthew's web-site is up and running. Check it out: [www.stmattshouma.org](http://www.stmattshouma.org)
- The "Kneeler" work has been completed. This is the culmination of an 11 year project of dedication and hard work under the direction of Beulah Rodrigue and involving many in our church family and the wider community.
- Oak tree on the Scurto property, "Prodigal Son," is being registered by Betty Lyons.
- Vestry approved a balanced budget for 2010, with a surplus of \$7266.
- Plans are in progress for "socials" to introduce new church members to our church family. Stay tuned for more info in the coming weeks to learn how you can participate. Let a vestry member know if you'd like to host a dinner for eight in your home.
- St. Matthew's Church sent over \$1300.00 to Episcopal Relief and Development for the relief effort in Haiti.
- Newly elected officers of the Vestry: Robert Alexander, Senior Warden; Mike Niette, Junior Warden; Karen Chauvin, Secretary; Lee Stiel, Treasurer.
- When renovation of the lower portion of the bell tower is finally completed, the ECW will hire professional cleaners to clean the inside of the church top to bottom, including the crossbeams.
- Final plans have been approved for our prayer garden. The cost is approximately 35,000. The funds are already in hand for the entire approved project. Donations from Martha Collins and family in memory of Dr. & Mrs. R.W. Collins, Dr. & Mrs. S. Clark Collins, and Anne Collins Mackey. Construction should begin soon.
- Sterling Ostheimer resigned from the Vestry with one year remaining on his tenure. The vestry will appoint his replacement.
- This past Sunday, a number of parishioners got together to "brainstorm" how to enhance our ministry of Children's Christian education, and youth activities. They will next meet on Sunday, Feb. 21<sup>th</sup> after the 10 AM service to continue the conversation. All ideas are welcome so feel free to join in. Fr. Craig will be hiring one or more persons to coordinate the ministry to our youth sometime in the near future.
- Delegates to Diocesan Convention will be elected at the next Vestry meeting on February 24. Anyone interested in serving, please contact a vestry member of Fr. Craig. You can learn more about the upcoming March convention at [www.edola.org](http://www.edola.org).
- We will have a Lenten Series on Wednesdays in March. The theme is, "How can faith help me with my fears?"; The course will last four weeks and class will be held on March 3, 10, 17, & 24 at 6 p.m. following healing service. We will have a soup supper followed by discussion. The reference book (not required for course) is Fearless by Max Lucado (prolific church writer).
- The ECW are sponsoring a United Thank Offering (UTO) fundraising drive during Lent. Last year we doubled our giving from \$500 to over \$1,000 total. Beginning Feb. 17 (Ash Wednesday) through Easter (April 4) we will have opportunity to donate coins in thanksgiving for our blessings. The boxes will be collected Easter Sunday.

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**Robert M. Alexander, M.D.**  
RMA/CHN