

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

2011 Annual Report

November 13, 2011



2011 Annual Meeting
St. Matthew's, Parker

Agenda

1. Rector's Introductory Remarks
2. Senior Warden, Bobbi Scheinin
3. Stewardship
4. Vestry Elections
5. Junior Warden, Jenny Moncier
6. Finance Report, Tom McNish
7. Education Report, Kimberley Hubbs
8. Legacy of Love, Susan Gambrill
9. Other Ministries
10. Closing Remarks

Rector's Report

Fr. Michael Richardson

Our annual report at St. Matthew's gives us an idea of things that have happened over the past year, and perhaps what we are looking for in the years to come. It is a vision of where we have been and where we are going rather than simply a snapshot in time. In the report you will find information from many different sources about the ministries at St. Matthew's over the past year. Some of them will describe particular challenges for us and some will describe what has blessed us as we've worked toward carrying out God's call for us.

We seek to "serve Christ in all persons", as it asks of us in our Baptismal vows, and we do so by the means of the many ministries represented in the report as well as the many ways that each of you carry out that promise in your daily lives; working with your families and friends to carry forth God's love and mercy, showing God's kindness to co-workers and classmates, sharing a helping hand to strangers and friends alike that we find in our path. Our Christian mission as individuals living in Parker and the surrounding communities intersects with the mission God has for St. Matthew's, but St. Matthew's can never be the total of the wonderful ministry carried out by all of the people involved here. There are some things that we can do better as individuals and some that we can only do when we work together.

To help St. Matthew's be the best that we can be, we are seeking to learn better which of those things God calls us to do together, or that are made possible only as we do them in community. We are seeking to learn which ministries and activities are so important that they mean we are willing to share some of ourselves in order to make them happen. There are many wonderful things we can do, however, we have to choose which of those we are really prepared to do and are called to do by the gifts that we are given.

Being a place (church) where many people can come to know God better, and be in relationship with God and with each other is one of our primary reasons for being. Sharing God's love and care with those who desperately need it is another, and though it sounds much like the first it often looks quite different to us. It's the difference between what we call taking care of ourselves with programs and such and "outreach" to those who are not really part of this community in the sense that they don't come here to church or even live nearby sometimes. In a real sense, it's all the same. It's all "outreach" or it's all "taking care of ourselves", depending on how you look at "us"!

As we check in with our "Vision" at St. Matthew's this year and next, we will seek to look at those ministries that **enable** us to "do the work (God has) given us to do", as we say at the end of our Eucharist (BCP 366), like having an office and staff for administrative functions, musicians to lead us and bring us joy in our worship, clergy to sustain our spiritual journeys, youth ministers to work in our Sunday School and with our young people, and people to care for the campus that makes possible some of that work. We will also look at the ministries like the Acolytes and Lay Ministers, Thrift Shop, Hearts and Hands, Journey to Adulthood, Sunday School, Choir, Pastoral Care, Men's and Women's groups, Prayers and Squares, Altar Guild and on and on through all the important ministries that are **doing** the work that God has called us to do. Our work will be to find how we can do any of these things better, or how we can do them in ways that are more effective for our community.

I believe that one of the things we will find is that we need to keep working toward reaching each other and the community around us through electronic tools and social media. We are working on those things, but still have work to do to make them as effective as we want them to be. You will all have an opportunity at the Annual Meeting to give feedback about what you see God doing at St. Matthew's now and what you believe God calls us to do as we move forward. I look forward to reading and studying those ideas, and with the Vestry, to see if we can put together a Vision that has God at its center and a picture of what we would look like when we are doing what God has called us to do in this community.

I suppose any Rector's report should also have some statistics about our congregation! Here are a

few. We have had six Baptisms thus far in 2011 and we had five in 2010. We have had two funerals this year and had six, I believe, in 2010. We have prepared several young people for confirmation and they will be confirmed in 2012 with another group, as this year we only had one adult confirmed. Our average Sunday attendance for the year 2010 was 165, and year to date at this time last year was 163. This year to date our average Sunday attendance is 175. That looks as if we are growing a bit, but we know we have had people transfer or move in to St. Matthew's as well as people move away. The trend, at least for attendance at worship, is positive and we hope to keep it that way!

I am blessed to serve here as your Rector and my family is blessed to be among you and to be part of this delightful community. Thank you for working to make St. Matthew's a spiritual home where God's love is shared with great joy and energy. Your talent, energy, love and many various gifts help to make St. Matthew's the place that it is today and will guide us into the future.

In Christ's love,

Fr. «GreetingLine»

Senior Warden's Report Bobbi Scheinin

Coming into this first year serving as your Senior Warden, I thought I knew something about the impact that St. Matthew's has in our community. I quickly realized that there was a lot I didn't know – I had no idea about all of the quiet, subtle ways that St. Matthew's members respond to God's call in ourselves, to each other, and to the larger community. I am amazed by what I learned.

In this annual report, you will see the marvelous works that our parish community brings to each other and to those in our local and global communities. Please take the time to explore all the ministries that happen here at St. Matthew's – big and small, external or internal, each makes a difference in our lives – from the Youth Group going on mission trips to the small band of folks that ensure the security of our campus, each is important and born from a calling from God to be Christ to our neighbors. If you find a ministry calling to you or you feel a tug at your heart or at the side of your brain, talk with the leaders of that ministry and find out how to become involved, as it is in giving our gifts together that we can keep St. Matthew's strong and sustainable.

This is the first year that I was introduced to the ministry of the Vestry. The Vestry of St. Matthew's has gone through a lot of change this year – three new members, a new Junior Warden, a new Senior Warden and two replacement assignments – and that was within the first few months! As a Vestry, we have had to work hard to learn what our corporate responsibilities are and how we build a sustainable future for St. Matthew's. The Vestry takes their leadership role seriously and is committed to ensuring our corporate work relates to God's mission for us. Also, the Vestry provides solid oversight and financial leadership on behalf of the congregation.

As individuals and as a parish, your Vestry is committed to finding new ways to fund our ministries and diocesan work. The Vestry and Finance Committee are to be recognized for diligently monitoring and proactively managing the *2011 Ministry Plan*. Plans made and actions taken were all taken with an eye to balancing incoming gifts with required parish financial obligations and our outreach support. See the Finance section of this report for more about what's planned for 2012. Serving on St. Matthew's Vestry is a process that evolves constantly. To help prepare Vestry members to provide the best leadership possible, we once again attended the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado convention and will participate in stewardship and visioning workshops sponsored by the diocese and the Colorado Episcopal Foundation. It has been a year of change for the Vestry, a good year of change.

As part of the Vestry, our corporate responsibility is to ensure that St. Matthew's is sustainable in the future to be able to provide our community with over forty different ministries. Obviously, this takes people, time and planning to ensure a sustainable future. One of the easiest ways to support St. Matthew's is through a financial contribution. Planned contributions allow the Vestry to anticipate funds to meet the required expenses of the parish. There are many ways to support St. Matthew's financially:

- eGiving – starting in 2010, this program allows you to giving in a new-age way through the use of electronic banking. Financial rewards for Compass Bank customers can benefit the church.
- Legacy of Love: provides an opportunity for members to prepare for “living and dying with sacred purpose”. A related report in this document provides more information about this ministry.
- Sunday contributions: dropping cash in the plate, or as my brother refers to “George Washington, the patron saint of unplanned giving”.
- The Giving Together Campaign - fill out a pledge card! This provides the Vestry with the tools needed to ensure St. Matthew's sustainability.

Any and all contributions mean thoughtfully considering about financial matters as well as what time or talent you have to share with St. Matthew's. Maybe that is teaching Sunday School, bringing communion to members of our community that can't get to church, or sweeping up leaves in the courtyard – all of these things, big and small, make a difference to our parish life.

We have seen many changes inside and outside of St. Matthew's. From the number of families that we see each weekend as well as the passing of long-time members, our parish is changing. Some ministries have changed too. The Thrift Shop has concentrated their hours to better serve the people in the Parker community who rely on us for support. The Journey to Adulthood program for our young teens has brought a new structure and curriculum for middle and high school students. The outside of our church has been renewed with a new paint job – it is a shining white beacon now. Changes to the entry of the Balcomb House have made that entrance safer, more solid which should ensure that we will be able to use it for many, many years. As Henry Ward Beecher once said:

“Every instant a change takes place...New harmonies, new contrasts, new combinations of every sort...The most familiar people stand each moment in new relation to each other, to their work, to surrounding objects.”

As we stand together as St. Matthew's parish, we will continue to see new harmonies and contrasts brought by the ever changing moment. Thank you, members of St. Matthew's for an eye-opening year. I am privileged to serve this incredible community. You've opened my eyes to the big things and all of the little things that happen in this God-centered community. And I am grateful to have you and this community.

Stewardship Report

Sharon Dewey-Zavacki, Jerry Grabowski, Kandy Halstead, Bobbi Scheinin

“That is the essence of life, and that is the essence of what makes you alive, when you not only receive the graces of God but you also give the graces of God away very liberally, very generously.”

from *Tithing – Test Me In This* – Douglas LeBlanc

Stewardship is harnessing the generosity cycle and putting gifts transformed by grace to work where God's mission can best be served. The St. Matthew's Stewardship Program continually works with parish leadership and ministries to explore ways to live into serving God in everything we do, all the time and everywhere. And this wonderful shared mission is celebrated in the 2012 Giving Together

Campaign.

Our individual gifts, when combined with those of others, not only support St. Matthew's vision and mission, but they multiply the effect and impact of the ministry work we are able to do. Your Stewardship Committee leads St. Matthew's Annual Giving Campaign, which is but one piece of a thriving, multi-faceted ministry that supports our parish mission work in many ways.

Our Christian community here at St. Matthew's is experiencing the same ongoing financial pressures that we feel in our personal lives. Without question, our *2012 Ministry Plan* will require your financial support, diligence, and stewardship to execute. But at the same time it is so easy to feel our pocketbooks are half full; there are also gleaming beacons of abundance. You have soundly affirmed your faith in Christ and your confidence in the stewardship of St. Matthew's, by finding the money in your pockets to get a fresh coat of paint on all of our buildings and rebuild the Balcomb House entry!

The effects of our nation's economy coupled with the seasonal lower giving mid-year make it challenging to maintain St. Matthew's ministry focus and meet required expenses. In concert with your generosity, Fr. Michael, the staff, Vestry and ministry leads are to be recognized for their stewardship of our resources. Giving of our time, talents, and treasure, together, we have maximized the mission work done this year, as you can see related reports in this document!

Pledging is a very practical way we can ensure sustainability of St. Matthew's for our families and futures. Giving back a portion of what we have is part of a very ancient sacred practice acknowledging that all we have is of God. Grace abounds when we convert our time and talent in the form of our money, into financial giving that can go where we can't to do God's work out in the world!

So what's next for St. Matthew's Stewardship Program? The possibilities to deepen our stewardship walk are endless, but here are a few areas being explored and/or are in the works:

- Partner with our Christian education ministries to provide learning opportunities related to stewardship
- Work with all our ministries to highlight stewardship-specific principles at work in ministry activities

The St. Matthew's Stewardship Committee would like to expressly thank Jerry Grabowski for his exemplary commitment and support of our Stewardship Program. Jerry has served the Stewardship Program for four years and his commitment and energy will be missed. If you are interested in chairing or serving this key ministry as we move into the future, please let Fr. Michael or one of us know!

Whether we are new to St. Matthew's, attend only occasionally, have been coming for years, or are an original founding member, there is a message here for you. Giving back a portion of what we have is a Biblical principle acknowledging that all we have is of God. Our giving is a tangible, outward sign of our stewardship, an expression of grace, gratitude, and generosity of spirit. Is it coincidence that during the Eucharist, the Offertory comes *after* we offer our praise and thanksgiving to God?

Our gifts are holy. God receives them, blesses them, and returns them to us. We have strength in numbers and the power of our combined giving increases exponentially over what we contribute as individuals. And... if we pray just a little bit more... and dig a little deeper, think of all we can do... giving together!

Vestry Elections

Vestry Candidates 2012

Beverly Weathers

Upon moving to Parker in May of 1996, I continued to commute and attend Christ Episcopal Church in Denver Colorado for several years. Sometime in 1999 I began visiting St. Matthew's in Parker. Since I grew up in a small town in Texas, I was attracted to the small community atmosphere here. Also, I felt very comfortable due to the warm welcome and friendliness of members of this parish.

During the past twelve years that I have attended St. Matthew's, my experience includes: 1) member of the vestry from January 2002 thru December 2004; 2) have taught and assisted and currently teaching Children's Sunday School classes; 3) member of ECW and on the ECW Board several different times, including this past year and 4) Scripture Reader for the past few years. My work experience consists of being an accountant for over thirty years and the past 29 years has been in the Commercial Real Estate Accounting Industry.

I feel that my participation in several of the ministries at St. Matthew's, along with my exposure to the business world, would be beneficial to the decision making processes necessary to maintain quality standards in the spiritual, business and financial aspects of our church. At this time, should you choose to elect me as a member of the Vestry of St. Matthew's, I promise to serve by addressing the needs and concerns of our wonderful Parish to the best of my ability. Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Keup

This is the third year my wife Bobbi and I have been members of St. Matthew's. Both cradle Episcopalians, we chose St. Matthew's as our church home because we love the family feel that the congregation exudes. I am a teacher in an alternative high school, and see first hand the effect a lack of family, faith, and commitment has on our youth, so the involvement of youth in church life is very important to me.

I grew up as a member of St. Stephen's in Billings, Montana. In addition to having been a youth group leader off and on since my freshman year in college, I have been involved in many aspects of the church over the years, from acolyte to sexton (my first job in high school). I have served on a vestry 4 times, the first as youth representative when I was a senior in high school.

Currently at St. Matthew's I am a chalice minister/lay reader and I work with the senior high youth. I look forward to serving the congregation as a vestry member.

Robert C. Williams, III

I have been a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church, and served as a youth acolyte for a number of years while growing up in Florida. Prior to joining St. Matthew's, my wife Tina and I were members of St John's Episcopal Church in Breckenridge. I was introduced to St. Matthew's by my parents, Rob and Joy Williams who had been referred to St. Matthew's by a close friend of Father Vern. Tina and I have come to appreciate characteristics of St. Matthew's that it shares with St. John's – a friendly, welcoming congregation with close ties to the local community.

As a youth I was an Eagle Scout and currently volunteer as a Den Leader in the Cubs Scouts and have served as president for nearly ten years of a condominium homeowners association in Summit County.

Junior Warden's Report

Jenny Moncier

- 1) What's been accomplished this year.
 - a. Completion of the repainting all buildings on St. Matthew's Campus.
 - b. Removed sinking concrete patio, repaired portion of Balcomb House from water damage and built new deck.
 - c. On-going communication with Town of Parker to maintain lighting in the parking lot.
- 2) Thank you

- a. Thanks given to all who help with Buildings and Grounds.
- b. Thanks to the Vestry who supported decisions to take care of our church.
- c. Thank you to Whit Greene for helping me get the things done around the church that I can't.

Treasurer's Report
Tom McNish

Historically, during the months of November and December an increase in parish giving occurs when compared to the previous 10 months. With our current expenditures exceeding revenues (deficit) by \$42,751, as the chart below illustrates, the timing for the expected increase could not come soon enough. The deficit will improve to (23,700) after the net proceeds from our fall fundraiser of approximately \$19,000 are recorded in November.

This chart also completes the 12 months ending 2010 financial report where revenues did exceed expenditures by \$15,896. Due to the current deficit, the 2012 Ministry Plan will remain the same as it did in 2011.

	St Matthew's Statement of Activities		Ministry Plan
	Year Ended December 31, 2010	Year to Date October 31, 2011	Year Ending December 31, 2012
Revenues			
Parish giving	251,145	179,969	249,600
Other revenues	39,839	16,463	36,750
Total revenues	290,984	196,432	286,350
Expenditures			
Personnel	165,444	142,945	172,700
Outreach	39,422	25,013	37,900
Building & Grounds	20,823	29,693	25,000
Administrative	9,896	8,446	11,050
Debt Service	39,703	33,086	39,700
Total expenditures	275,288	239,183	286,350
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	15,696	(42,751)	-

The contributing factors for the current year deficit include (a) planned revenues are down by \$22,000 when compared to a like period last year but should improve over the next two months and (b) building and grounds expenditures are up by \$11,000 mostly due to badly needed deck / drainage repairs and painting expenditures.

With your continuing financial support there is a sense of optimism that parish giving will increase like it has in the past. Combined this with any special contribution to cover the deck repair and paint expenditures that we are fortunate enough to receive will certainly help St Matthew's continue it's ministry without utilizing our savings.

Legacy of Love Ministry – Living and Dying with Sacred Purpose

Susan Gambrell, Kandy Halstead, Chuck Shoemaker, Stacey Zeray

In the first full year of this new ministry, much groundwork has been completed to facilitate our mission

- To raise awareness of end-of-life issues by providing educational opportunities and access to appropriate resources,
- To encourage members of our parish to establish practical and financial plans for the eventuality of death and to consider leaving a final gift to the church, and
- To acknowledge those who have designated a final gift to St. Matthew's and to celebrate their generosity of spirit.

Legacy of Love has been involved in many activities to introduce this ministry to the parish. We sponsored a presentation on the benefits of hospice care, co-hosted one of the monthly parish breakfasts, provided an adult Sunday school session on how our church can assist in carrying out your final wishes, and recently sent out a mailing to get a better idea of the number of parishioners who have already arranged for a final gift to St. Matthew's.

At our ministry dedication in September, Legacy of Love presented the parish with a beautiful, bound book detailing the wonderful legacies of St. Matthew's over the years. Susie Chapin spent countless hours sifting through photographs, interviewing parishioners, researching church history, and capturing the heart and soul of our church life in words. Thanks also to the technical know-how of Chuck Shoemaker in making this project become a tangible reality. I hope you all have the opportunity to look through the book and see the spirit of St. Matthew's, past and present, come to life on its pages.

With St. Matthew's Legacy of Love, we have a powerful opportunity to ensure that our most sacred values are part of the legacy of the future. Planned gifts help provide the resources our church will need to continue to shine God's light in the world for many years to come. They can be made at any time and do not require great wealth. It can be as simple as adding St. Matthew's as a beneficiary on a Certificate of Deposit or life insurance policy, or making a bequest in your will. The Colorado Episcopal Foundation at www.coef.org provides additional information about the nature and benefits of different methods of planned giving.

If you have any questions, want to know more about planned giving, or are interested in serving on this ministry committee, please let us know.

Susan Gambrell	(303) 355-6917	susangambrell@comcast.net
Kandy Halstead	(303) 919-0818	kjhalstead@comcast.net
Chuck Shoemaker	(720) 519-1266	shoec1@gmail.com

Altar Guild: Report

Barb McNish

Do you ever wonder who takes care of the altar and makes sure is set up for the services each Sunday? Well that is the work of my committee of Altar Guild members. A great way to get involved with St. Matthew's and be a part of the stewardship at church. We are always looking for new members so if you would like more information, we would love to answer your questions.

Children's Choir

Emily Kiebel

Children's Choir meets at 9:15 for 20 minutes at the beginning of Sunday School sessions every Sunday (except Breakfast Sunday). The children start by singing and dancing along to various worship songs that they have learned. We then work on a song that will be performed at the 10:30 service on Youth Sundays, the first Sunday of each month. It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce some of our church hymnal and worship music to the children in a format that seems to be fun and rewarding for them. Music is selected for the current season of the church year. We work with the children to talk about the meaning behind the words that they're singing, so that they sing with understanding and they can relate the songs to their Sunday School lessons. The younger children especially love singing songs that incorporate motions. As the year ends, we will work on Christmas Pageant songs during Children's choir. It is especially fun teaching the younger children the Christmas carols that the older children know so well. We love singing with the children!

Choir

Emily Kiebel

The St. Matthew's choir has enjoyed a great year singing a variety of spiritual music for weekly services as well as special additional holiday services. The choir works hard to prepare beautiful music that will be both uplifting and will enhance the worship service for the congregation. In addition to preparing music and singing for services, the choir enjoys fellowship time spent with one another.

The choir has grown in membership this year and we are delighted to have so many new singers join us! We have been "bursting at the seams" some Sundays, which is a wonderful problem to have! The choir room has been moved to the former Sunday School classroom across from the children's chapel that was being used for storage. The additional space and the attached closet room have made rehearsal much less crowded.

The choir will be offering a special Lessons and Carols for Advent on December 11 at 7:00 p.m. and will be inviting the congregation to join us to hear a variety of music in anticipation of Christmas as well as a fellowship reception. We are looking forward to the holiday season and the beautiful music that comes with it.

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary and before the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings upstairs in the Education building. Additional practices are scheduled as necessary during the Christmas and Easter seasons. If you are interested in becoming a part of the choir, please feel free to talk to either Emily Kiebel or Betty Sue Hugo.

Episcopal Church Women

Barbara McNish

To all women of our parish, please come and participate in our women's group at St. Matthew's, all women are invited and a great way to meet other women of our parish. Events coming up are our bunko nights, just a fun dice game held at church every other month, our cookie and ornament exchange and potluck held in December and our tea party at Nan's tea house in Elizabeth also in December. Other events are held throughout the year, always open to ideas and please look in the bulletin for notification of

events. We also have an annual retreat in September each year. Any questions please ask Barb McNish 303-910-9362 or by email mcnishcolo@aol.com. Always look forward to seeing new faces at our events.

Newcomers & Greeters

Susie Chapin

The newcomers and greeters ministries mission is to greet and welcome guests and new parishioners to the St. Matthew's parish family.

This past February found the Newcomers and Fellowship ministries co-hosting the "Temptation of the Tapas" evening event, inviting newcomers as well as established parishioners to dine on "tapas" and drink while giving everyone in attendance the opportunity to get to know one another. The next annual event is tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2012.

The newly established greeter's ministry was formed in early spring, when it was decided we needed to recognize and welcome our guests as well as new parishioners to our Christian community. The greeter's ministry is made up of fourteen committed individuals who greet our guests and parishioners before Sunday Eucharists and answer any questions guests or new parishioners may have following the services.

Both Newcomers and Greeter ministries are open to all parishioners who are interested in welcoming all who seek Christ at St. Matthew's. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding either ministry.

Respectively submitted,

Susie Chapin

Dwsjchapin@msn.com

Open Gate Thrift Shop Report

Patty Fanning and Doris Elliott

St. Matthew's Open Gate Thrift Shop has served the Parker area for over 13 years. In March 2010 Goodwill opened up a store in "our backyard." In June the Salvation Army opened a store on Lincoln Ave. Our sales have gone down but are slowly coming back up. We offer quality clothing and house wares for a good price. We are open Friday and Saturday from 10-3. We accept vouchers from the Parker Task Force for people going through tough times. We send surplus donations to the St. Francis Center in Denver, and to the Abused Children's Organization. It is a fun place to work and our customers become our friends.

Prayers and Squares Report

Patty Fanning and Hazel McColley

St. Matthew's Prayers and Squares Chapter 10, meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall. The response we most often hear when people find out about us is "what a nice idea." Well, yes, we think it is a nice idea, but this ministry is far more powerful than that. Those of us who have been sewing for years for Prayers and Squares are overwhelmed by the responses we get from

those who have been touched by a prayer quilt. In 2011 we filled requests for 27 quilts as well as donating 1 quilt to the fall auction. We can use more sewers. If you can sew a straight line, you can sew a quilt. If you have any questions call Patty or Hazel.

Safeguarding God's Children

Laurie Landry/Jo Ellen Richardson

Safeguarding God's Children provides participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and the ministries in which they serve. The program is based on the philosophy that if every adult can protect just one child, they will forever change one life. If we can all change one life, together we will make a difference in this generation of children. Currently trained facilitators for SGC at St. Matthew's are Jo Ellen Richardson and Laurie Landry.

Ushers

Steve Smith

Ushering is an essential ingredient for a smoothly run church service, and this ministry provides a means for becoming involved and making a contribution in an activity that consumes virtually no additional time. The responsibilities of an usher are quite straightforward, and basically consist of the following:

Before the Service

- Make sure the chapel is in order
- Greet people and hand out the bulletins

During the Service

- Seat late-comers quietly
- Count the number of people in attendance
- Present the communion bread and wine
- Take the collection
- Regulate traffic flow during communion

After the Service

- Tidy up the chapel

When someone becomes an usher, there is no fixed period of time they are expected to serve. We have some ushers who have served for many years, while others serve for shorter terms. We view this turnover as healthy, as it allows us to bring in new people to serve in this ministry. More than half of our ushering teams consist of a parent and child, and we encourage this participation of our youth.

Our ushering teams are: Doug Chapin & Jerry Grabowski, John Gile & Kevin Parker, Marv Brasch & Steve Smith, Clay & Hayden Hubbs, Tom McNish & Kim DeJong, Mike Shoemaker & Ray Trueblood, Bruce & Nate Siekierski, Eric & Jake Larson, Todd & Tanner Thompson, Whit & Jenna Greene, Bob & Aaneer Rae, and last but not least, our floating sub, Chuck Latham.

In summary, ushering provides an excellent way to involve people in the church infrastructure. It gives them the opportunity to participate in an activity that is quite visible, but places virtually no extra demands on their time. We welcome anyone who would like to serve in this ministry. If interested, please contact me at 303-841-4491, or e-mail steve11244@comcast.net.

Youth Ministry
Jody Shoemaker

Youth Group started the 2010-2011 year with a Kick Off event going to Jump Street and the youth jumped until they couldn't jump any more.

The youth of St. Matthew's met on Sunday's from 4 to 6 pm to develop a strong bond with each other and to live a Christian life. To help put Christ in everyday life, it is important that the youth do service projects to learn the joy of giving. Service projects that were done for the community and for St. Matthew's included community supper served for 60 people, First Sunday Breakfast, pancake supper to raise money for the mission trips to New Orleans and Leadville, caroling at Christmas for the residents of Victorian House and Spring flowers for the female residents May.

The youth sold Christmas wreaths to the parish and used the profits of over \$300 to buy gifts for the Parker Task Force family that we adopted. On the first December Sunday, the youth split up into groups and bought and wrapped gifts for each family member. After this event, everyone couldn't wait to do it again. This puts into practice of putting Christ in their life. And, thank you to the parish for your support purchasing the wreaths.

We have events just to have fun to help us come together as a group. We had game nights, movie and pizza, laser tag, junk food progressive dinner, the annual Chapin pool party, over night ski trip to Sol Vista, 30hr Famine and the family BBQ at Castlewood Canyon.

Genesis and Quest were two more highlights for the youth this past year. We sent 13 to 15 youth to each event. This is a very high total of youth for this size parish. It was also wonderful to see the mission trips this year so well attended. St. Matthew's sent 7 youth with the High School Mission Trip to New Orleans and 6 went to Leadville for the Middle School Mission Trip. It is wonderful to see the Mission Trips so totally supported by the parish members of St. Matthew's by coming to the Pancake Supper.

The parish also helped make the mission trip possible by buying shares and attending the shareholder dinner to hear a report of the trip. The giving of this parish is wonderful even in tough economic times.

The presentation at the Shareholder Dinner was wonderful and a special slide show was put together by the youth that attended the Mission Trips. Along with the slideshow, the youth shared with the diners their experiences on the trip and how it changed their lives and the lives of the people we met in New Orleans and Leadville. Everyone should be very proud of all the hard work that all the youth did while on the trips.

We look forward to a calendar full of wonderful events in the youth group new year.

Your Youth Group Leaders: Jody Shoemaker, Rob Myers, Stephanie Schneider, Andrew Erickson, Whit Greene and Kristi Koltiska