The community of St. Matthew exists in the world as a visible expression of God’s love.

FROM ST. MATTHEW

“Making your way in the world today
Takes everything you’ve got.
Taking a break from all your worries
Sure would help a lot.”

“Where Everybody Knows Your Name” became the theme song for “Cheers” in August of 1982 and for twenty-seven years has been part of the daily re-run schedule.

The show is about community, a place that is “home”, a place where it is more or less safe to be yourself; a place in which people look out for each other.

St. Matthew’s School was for many people that kind of place. I hear stories almost daily from alums who speak with nostalgia about the events and times of their student days.

Even though students graduate and many leave the area to further their education or enter into the adult work world, St. Matthew’s remains a kind of “home.”

Every month, someone calls from near or far to ask if their new born could be baptized at St. Matt’s. The caller is not currently a member of the parish but he/she says: “I was baptized at St. Matt’s,” or “I graduated from St. Matt’s School.” The same kind of phone call comes from those seeking to enter marriage. And many times a call comes at the time of death to arrange for a funeral and the caller will say “He has not been a member of the parish for a long, long time, but he went to St. Matthew’s School.”

Over the years and over hundreds and thousands of miles, St. Matt’s remains a place where many remember a time and space, “Where everybody knows your name.”

This issue contains many names of alums for whom we do not have a correct listing of name and address. Can you help us find out where these alums are today?

If you are in contact with classmates and friends from your St. Matt’s School days, you probably find a special bond has endured over many years and many miles. Reunions and reconnections are like coming back to “Cheers.”

You are always welcome at Saint Matt’s. Many alums have reconnected with the parish and are now part of the Saint Matt’s community.

“Making your way in the world today
Takes everything you’ve got.”

You can return to a place called “home.” You can reconnect where everybody knows your name.

Yours truly,
Stephen Adrian, Pastor

Fr. Steve’s homilies are available on-line at www.st-matts.org

HELPFUL HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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15 Coach Krueger Reunion – Jan. 23

Kindergarten Round-Up, January 28 at 6:30 p.m.
All children attending kindergarten next year are welcome! Learn more about our academic goals, religious education and tuition assistance. For more information call the office at 651-224-6912.
FROM THE EDITOR
Can You Help Us Find Our Missing Alumni?

Alumni & Friends (A&F’s) is undertaking a project to track down missing alumni who graduated from St. Matthew’s School during the years 1961-1980. We’re asking for your help to find them.

The more alumni who learn about the great things happening at their old school, the broader the base of support for school scholarships. A&F’s commitment to St. Matthew’s School is long-term, and the more people we have helping us achieve that goal, the better.

It’s also an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with their former classmates, parish and neighborhood. For many people who’ve been long absent, the chance to attend a reunion, visit the school, or resume old friendships, has been an invaluable experience.

1000 Alumni are Missing

During the years 1961–1980, approximately 1640 students graduated from St. Matthew’s. We currently have about 600 of these people on our mailing list; 30 more are known to be deceased, which leaves about 1000 names.

Getting Started

Starting on page 6 you will find the names of all the missing alumni. They are organized alphabetically under the year they graduated. It’s likely that everyone on the list of missing graduates is known to one or more of our readers.

Part of St. Matthew’s Past & Future

Our goal is to find everyone missing from the alumni lists and give each of them the option to reconnect with their roots. Not all of them will, but it’s nice to have the choice. And that’s all we’re asking of you — help us give these missing alumni the chance to renew ties to their old neighborhood and their former classmates. Then they can decide for themselves if they want to be more than just a part of their school’s past by also contributing to its future.

— Maggie Lee, Editor

TIPS FOR FINDING MISSING ALUMNI

It’s All in the Family

The family connection can be a great tool for finding missing alumni. Since families were larger back then and the kids usually went to the same elementary school, chances are good, if you find one member of the family, you can get the addresses for everyone. Here are a couple of tips to keep in mind:

1. Check to see if any of your own siblings, nieces, nephews or cousins are on the missing list.
2. Scan the list for family names of people you might know and when you spot a familiar last name, check the other classes to see if other members of that family are missing from the list.
3. Look in the phone book to find a parent, a graduate or relative with the same last name. One phone call can result in finding several missing graduates.

How to Submit Names and Addresses:

1. Email to Alumninews@st-matt’s.org
2. Mail them in the enclosed envelope
3. Phone them into the parish office at 651-224-9793
If you’ve bought any Girl Scout cookies in recent years at St. Matthew’s, you’ve probably purchased them from one of the girls in Troop 50163. They’re an industrious group of 5th graders, most of whom have been together since kindergarten. Over the years, they’ve also developed a strong commitment to community service.

Joyce (Heininger) Osborne (’77) is the troop leader and she explains the group formed when she couldn’t find a troop for her then five-year old daughter to join. She called up her friend, Kristine (Nielsen) Erickson (’80), and pitched her on the idea. Joyce says, “I talked Kristine into doing it with me. I said we’d have a small troop and we’d meet once a month.”

For a small troop that only meets once a month, they seem to get a lot done. For instance, this Christmas, the girls sent Spruce tree tops and handmade ornaments overseas to the troops. Joyce explains that it grew out of a project they did last year. Joyce, who works at United Family Medicine, says, “One of our doctors was in Iraq last year and we thought, let’s send him some cards and cookies — Christmas stuff. We also sent the top of a tree. He told us later, the thing the soldiers loved the most was the pine tree. They said it smelled like home. So this year, we sent two bundles so 20 people can have their own little Christmas trees.”

It’s just one of the many projects the girls have undertaken over the years. Joyce says the girls set their own agenda. Last year, they raised $700 at a holiday boutique and put all the money towards good causes. One project was to give a Christmas gift to an elder who didn’t have any family. With Sr. Anne Becker’s help, they found someone and assembled a care package. Joyce says, “The elder wanted to meet the girls, she was a retired teacher, and the girls had the most wonderful time!”

While the troop puts a lot of effort into a wide range of community service projects, they also have fun on field trips that include outdoor activities such as horseback riding, snowshoeing, and learning how to use a bow and arrow.

Joyce says, “It gives them confidence. It makes the next thing they don’t think they can do, easier to try.”

As a group, the girls have become close and have learned to work well together despite their differences. For her part, Joyce likes getting to spend time with her daughter and her friends. She believes Girl Scouts has really opened some doors for the girls, “They’re doing things that most of these kids would never have experienced.” She adds, “When they’re older, they’ll have some great memories.”
Volunteer Librarians Keep Setting Goals — And Achieving Them

Every Tuesday morning, St. Matthew’s students in grades K-5 get to visit the school library, listen to a story or a poem, hear a few book reviews and best of all, check out a book. They get to do all this because of the dedication of St. Matthew’s two volunteer librarians who’ve been coming to the school for the past six years.

Annette Patient and Ellie Breister started out in 2003, by assisting the school’s part-time librarian. The two of them had volunteered together for several years and found they clicked as a team. Neither Annette nor Ellie had any previous connection to St. Matt’s, but they liked what they saw. Annette says, “I wasn’t familiar with St. Matthew’s School, but what I saw happening each school day was wonderful and truly fulfilling the school’s mission.”

After their first year, budget cuts eliminated the librarian’s position and it looked as if the library would be shuttered. Instead, Annette and Ellie stepped in. Annette recalls, “It started out with Kindergarten thru 3rd grade. I’d read a little story and they could check a book out for themselves.” After two years, they added 4th and 5th grade as well. “It was initiated by the kids — they kept asking us ‘Can we still come to the library? We really miss it!’ So we thought, let’s run with this and we asked the teachers — can you fit us in?” Both Annette and Ellie acknowledge it wouldn’t have been possible without the considerable support of the teachers and school administration.

Annette, who has a degree in library science, is passionate when talking about how important it is to instill a love of reading in children, “I am a strong believer that reading is the foundation for all future learning.” Besides, Annette adds, “It’s fun! Reading is just as good escapism as TV, a DVD or a video game. A book can take you places you’ve never imagined.”

Ellie, also new to St. Matt’s, was soon won over by the kids, “A lot of them think I’m like their grandmother, especially the little ones. I think it’s comforting for them.” Ellie also appreciates the school’s commitment to promoting strong reading skills, “I’m amazed at the resources that are here to help kids. Title One, East Side Learning, plus the parishioners who volunteer. I just think they really care about how that student is going to progress.”

When they started, their first goal was to interest kids in reading and to get them hooked on using the library. Annette shares one of her strategies, “With the younger children, if I see a reluctant reader, sometimes I give them a book and say, ‘Take this home and when you come back next week let me know if I should read it to the whole class. Give me your opinion.’ It definitely engages them.”

Entire Library Now on Computer

Annette and Ellie have recently completed another big goal, one that’s taken over three years. St. Matthew’s library is now completely computerized. The new software program, InfoCentre, allows books to be checked out and in by scanning the barcode on the book. InfoCentre also allows students to search the library collection on computer, making the card catalog obsolete.

Ellie explains that for part of the last two summers, they each put in about 20 hours a week working to get the system up and running. Ellie says, “To get one book on the shelf in a library is a lot of work — people have no idea.” Completing that goal has led to their next one. Because it costs about 50 cents to enter each book into the computerized system, they weeded out any that were
outdated or in disrepair. Now they’d like to fill the shelves with books.

**New Goal – 2500 More Books**

Annette estimates the library currently has 2500 books. Their goal is to double that to 5000. She notes the library already has a good collection, particularly for fiction, and they want to build on it.

Annette explains that there is no money in the school budget to buy books, “There are a few very generous people who have given us money. And we do very well with the Fall Scholastic Book Fair — we get about 30 books from that each year.” While new books are great, they also welcome gently used books and encourage people to contact them if they have books they’d like to donate. *(See sidebar for more information.)*

When asked what keeps them coming back the women agree, it’s the children. Ellie says, “I’ve seen kids come in at kindergarten and over the years watched them blossom.”

Annette says, “Even the ones who have difficulty reading — you can tell they like the time they spend here.” Later she adds, “I believe everyone should do what they can where they’re planted. I can’t cure AIDS in Africa or solve world hunger, but I can do this.”

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**3 Ways You Can Help Fill the Shelves with Books!**

**DONATE USED BOOKS** Bring your gently used books to the school office for the librarians to review.

**CONTRIBUTE NEW BOOKS** Non-fiction books about sports, history, biography, ancient cultures and geography are always welcome. For fiction, Caldecott or Newberry Winners and Honor Books are great choices. We also are looking for poetry collections and books on mythology.

**CONTRIBUTE MONEY** Use the envelope in the newsletter to make a contribution — just indicate that you want your donation to go towards books for the library.

For more information, call the school office 651-224-6912.
How Many of the Missing Can You Find?

The following is a list of all St. Matthew’s missing alumni from 1961–1980. The list is organized alphabetically by the year they graduated. You’ll also find some tips for how to go about locating alumni, as well as the stories of a few alumni who’ve taken on the challenge of finding their missing classmates, why they did it and how they went about it. Information can be sent in three ways: email to Alumninews@st-matts.org; use the enclosed envelope, or call the parish center at 651-224-9793.

Note: Married women are listed alphabetically by their baptismal name with their married name in parentheses.

1961
Rosemary Allie
Donald Altendorfer
David Anderson
Richard Auge
Gerald Augst
Dolores Beacom
Dennis Beissel
Mary (Skarda) Briel
Donald Burth
Joseph Burth
John Corrigan
Linda (Hansen) Drude
James Duerscherl
Ellen (Gordon) Eastman
Darlene Fibuch
Diane (Wineman) Gabriel
James Griffin
Roy W. Haas
Donna (Westpha)l Haffely
Marjorie (Spinner) Hall
Judith (Kelly) Havig
Karen (Kunzman) Kelly
Elizabeth Keonen
Cheryl A. (Bierbrauer) Lorch
Kathleen McCann
Refugio Mendez
William Michaeelsen
John Moonay
Dennis Moore
Barbara (Ashton) O’Connor
Bruce Peterson
Robert Plantenberg
Susan (Zaske) Ramirez
Capt. Edw. Reuter
Howard Rockwood
Susanne Roeller
Thomas Ruberto
Harold Schulte
Sylvester Schwartz
Margaret (Colbert) Schweickert
Mary (Legrid) Soukup
Theresa (Lindeke) Speiker
Judith (Horwath) Stelter
Elizabeth (Hall) Swiderska
Alice (Zamora) Triviski
Lynn (Boettcher) Winter
Edward Benoe
Elizabeth Blissenbach
Sandra Boehmer
John Booton
Dwayne Bronk
Marilyn (Kawakami) Bukrey
Michael Burns
Paul Burth
Barbara Clancy
Patricia Crisman
Michael D
Kathleen Darlow
Diane Delmont
Mary Diedrich
James Gabriel
Patricia Grogan
Stephen Gross
Gary Guldborg
Conrad House
Tina Isaac
James Johns
Richard Jorgensen
Marilyn Kisch
Michael Koller
Linda Korsell
Robert Kukacka
Linda Leko
James Lotzer
Thomas Lundgren
Martin Madsen
Anne Marxer
Jane Meyer
Robert Michaelson
Patricia Monsour
Gary Mosberger
Peter Nasself
Valerie Neveu
Gerald Nutzman
Jerome Osterman
Mary Jo Pagel
MIKE KOSEL (‘57)

“I saw it as a challenge.”

Mike volunteered to help find people for their 50-year class reunion.

“I thought, somebody’s going to have to do this or it’s going to be a thin crowd. I managed to find about 25 members of our class. I talked to most of them myself. Some of them were really excited about it — many of them came to the reunion. I found out two guys from Florida live right near each other and didn’t even know it. Then there was the gal from California we found by writing to her brother in Wisconsin the week before the reunion. He got the letter to her just in time and she came. Another woman was found the night before the reunion. She was in town visiting her mother so she came too.”

“One guy — he was one of the smartest kid in our class — I was just determined to find him. He couldn’t come to the reunion but he invited me to lunch at his house. He was extremely fascinating. He’d been in charge of Burlington Northern Railroad’s Chicago operation and in his basement he’d built a model of downtown Chicago with all the buildings and rail lines.”

To find people, Mike often used a phone book, “In some cases, I just looked up last names. One time, I found two names that were the same. I called one of the guys and he said, ‘No, it’s not me, but if you find that other guy let me know because he had a bill at Sears and I had to pay it!’” Later, Mike adds, “When I found the right guy, I never brought it up.”
1963, continued

Kay Tako
Theresa Thill
Christine Thul
Louise Thurn
Kathleen Tiger
Mark Triviski
Beverly Verdouw
Laura Waldo
Donna Waldoch
Barbara Wallace
Linda White
David Wilmes
Ronald Wylie
Barbara Zaun

1964
Cheryl Bateman
Diane Bauer
Bernadette Bobick
Marilyn Casalenda
Linda Duerscherl
Carol (Nelson) DuFour
Diane Engen
Carol Haas
Robert Haffely
Michael Lichtenberg
Gregory J. Lorch
Gregory Padelford
Michael Patrick
Richard Patrick
William Peter
Christine (Sanders) Quehl
Rosemarie Rahn
Richard Sellner
Timothy Tabor
Paula (Rude) Verdouw
Edward Viktora
Gail Zaun

1965
Samuel Achman
Lawrence Adams
Sylvia (Santos) Aguirre
Steven Alfveby
Linda Allie
Robert Anglo
Beverly Bachel
Barbara Bellows
Patrick Berg
Mary Bitterman
Don Bossart
Gary Brown
Barbara Burns
Joseph Cardenas
Robert Cruz

James Diederich
Stephen Duerscherl
Mary Ehrenberg
Alfred Einberger
Judith Engen
Linda Frame
Mary Frank
Jeffrey Gebhardt
Virginia Greene
David Gross
Gail Gutzmer
Eleanor Handwerk
Jeffry Heutmaker
Gary Hinze
Deborah (Boultl) Kaminski
Elaine (Haberkorn) Kraker
Cavan Lasch
Lenny Lingofelt
Gregory Lothenbach
Susan Maher
Shanna McCann
Kevin McMonigal
Susan Meyer
Jean Michalski
Theresa (Thompson) Miller
Janice (Hawkes) Mrozinski
Mary Ann Nasseff
Stephen Petersen
Jane Pirkle
James Plantenberg
Richard Potzman
Sandra Reiland
Dennis Ring
Mark Roeller
Michael Santori

Patrick Schmidt
Steve Schuepler
Pat Scott
Kathleen Seidl
Michael Shanley
Gerald Stahnke
Donna Thellen
Daniel Triviski
Mark Troje
Mary Wanger
Kathleen Ward
Jane Wazlawik
John Wenker
Denise Wessel
James Wilmes
Peta Zarate
Jeanne Zimmerman

1966
Richard Adams
John Aguirre
Elizabeth Argo
Wendy Bachel
Richard Bandholz
Doris Barnes
Robert Behan
Marianne Benoe
Patricia Bredelhoft
Denise Brown
Charles Chaika
Catherine Clancy
Thomas Cruz
Gregory Dalton
Joann Danmeier
Deborah Duerscherl
Mary Jo Fibuch

Lucy (Maloney) Francis
Raymond Gangl
Sharon Gebhardt
Deborah Genin
Sharon Gonsoir
Mary Jean Haas
Janet Heutmaker
Mary Ann Hinze
Frank Jack
Amelia Joseph
Jeffrey Kelzer
Diane Kisch
Dorothy Kolb
Rita E. Kosel
Daniel Lancette
Michael Leahy
Kathleen Lothenbach
Margaret Maher
John Millan
Susan Mishler
Michael Moszer

Classmates
Get Together

If you graduated during the years 1961-1980, plan a get together with a few or your St. Matt’s classmates and brainstorm. Where did the missing graduates live? Who were they friends with? Where did they work? Who did they marry? Pool your information until you have some good leads. This is a fun, sociable way to tackle the challenge.
KATHY CHAPDELAINE (’64)
“There are so many people who know each other.”

Kathy, along with Donna Duffy McCarthy helped organize a 45th Class Reunion last Spring as part of Reunion Sunday. They set up a website to help organize the event.

“We had been to our high school reunion (Humboldt) in the fall and decided we should do it for our grade school class. We went thru the list (of missing alumni) and put together a letter that said we were looking for these people. We asked if anyone had names and addresses. We found at least half of them that way. It was a very good response.”

“We did it in such a short period of time. We started in January and had the reunion in May. We were so excited we found everybody. The response was so great. The farthest someone came was from Las Vegas.”

“The website is very easy to do. We put all the information about the reunion on the website and people could email their addresses. There are so many people who know each other. With email and the internet — stuff like this is getting easier.”
Toni Bloechl ’72
“For me, it’s about reconnecting.”

Toni is just getting started on planning a reunion for her class next fall. She’ll be doing it all long distance.

“I live in Santa Cruz, California. I’ve been here for 36 years. I’m the youngest of five — all of us went through St. Matt’s. My dad is Virgil Bloechl, he’s 88-years old and graduated in ’37. He was the fire captain at Station #6. He retired at 52 (due to job related injuries.) My three older brothers were out in California already so we moved too. I was 15 when we moved — it was pretty traumatic. My life was really disrupted.”

“I put together a reunion in the ’90’s. We met at Cherokee Park and had about 10-12 people come. It was an interesting cross section who showed up, the class brain, the class trouble maker — it was fun seeing how people had changed.”

When the newsletter asked people to submit their memories about the church fire, Toni shared hers, “When I wrote about the fire, a classmate saw my name and wrote to me. We’ve been corresponding. I figure if a few of us can put our heads together, we can really get things going.”

Toni points out that when she organized the reunion in the ’90’s, it was without the aid of computers. The strategy this time combines old-fashioned legwork with modern day social networking. “There were 90 kids in our class and we probably have 25 names. We’re using Facebook. When we find somebody we find out who they might know and get a chain going. One guy (who’s helping) works for an insurance company — he seems to have a way of finding people.”

They’re planning the event for next October, which will make it the 38th anniversary — not a year everyone celebrates, but Toni doesn’t mind, “For me personally, it’s about reconnecting. I’ve always been a person who doesn’t like to lose people. It goes back to how and when I left Minnesota. It’s important to reconnect with my roots.”
Interesting stories?
If you’ve got one to share about tracking down your classmates let us know and we’ll include them in the newsletter.
Contact us: alumninews@st-matts.org.
Check the Web

The Internet is a powerful tool for finding people, particularly those who’ve moved out of state.
1. Try setting up a website for your class where alumni can easily exchange information.
2. Visit some social networking sites like Facebook, for names of missing classmates.
3. Google Class Reunion and you’ll find a host of free sites designed to help people reconnect. One of them may work for you.

1973, continued

Robert Strauss
Laurie Tackaberry
Teresa Topritzhofer
Philip Vail
Barbara Wessel
John Yanez
Lisa Yanez

1974

George Akin
Steven Andersen
Debra Bagley
Thomas Blaschka
Jeanne M. (Gravem) Brunzel
John Budziszewski
Joseph Buse
Thomas Costello
Jerome Cubus
Laurie Duncanson
Denise Erickson
Anita Follmer
Carl Folsom
Debra Gentle
Laura Gilliland
Christine Gubash
Lisa Haverland
Leonard Heininger
Elizabeth Hernandez
George Hernandez
David Hill
Joyce Jahnke

Teresa Joseph
Harlen Lafontaine
Andrea Lancette
Laurie (Jarvis) Leach
Jeffrey Letourneau
Margaret McNamara
Timothy Meyer
Kathryn Odegard
Jessica Ramirez
Gregory Sanft
Patricia Scherbl
Cary Schmidt
Craig Schmidt
Mark Schwartz
Mary Lou (Lagerstrom) Smith
Maureen Tackaberry
Brenda (Armstrong) Tonda
Anne Tosnsy
Roger Verduzco
Catherine Wanger
Nancy Wenker
Cynthia Wenner
Maribeth (Rice) Wilmes

1975

Eve Ackermann
Thomas Adams
Sheila Andersen
Steven Bade
Donna Benolken
Julie Blaschka
Kevin Boehmer
Paul Budziszewski

Mark Burg
Theresa (Maher) Buse
Christine Califano
Mary Clancy
Mark Cruz
Stanley Cunningham
Ann Cybyske
Christopher Delao
Thomas N. Doyle
Mary Jo Fretschel
Edward Frias
Donna Gross
Gilbert Hernandez
Timothy Hughes
Kathleen Hurley
Patrick Jaskowiak
Sandra Joseph
Manfred Krug

Suzanne Kuntze
Denise (Munos) Lerczak
Phillip Mauricio
Bernadette Monsour
John Morgan
Robert Munoz
Michael Ostrowski
Timothy J. Patton
David Poehmann
Robert Potzmann
Patrick Quinlan
Patricia Raines
Ann Renteria
Anthony Renteria
Anita Ruiz
Glorina Saucedo
Joseph St. Sauver
James Staples
Eva Steinhasuer
Ann Steinhoff
Pamela Swenson
James Tietz
Maureen (Berends) Traynor
Jeffrey Wenker
Colleen Wenzel
Susan Yanez
Gene Zieman

Monica Ackerman
Jerry Adams
Perry Altendorfer
Margo Bachel
Ann Bade
Jim Behan
Richard Boldt
Sue Brown
Brian Brunner
Jim Buse
Jim Castor
Karen Costello
Gregory Cubus
Annette Delao
Kurt Erickson
Gary M. Ewald
Leoncio Fernandez
Michele Gabriel
Angela (Neuman) Gangl
Diana Goubash

1975, continued

Juanita Hernandez
Mark Hernandez
Julie Herzog
Timothy Hurley
Stephanie (Norton) Langer
Mary Leahy
Robert McHolland
Dennis McNaughton
Thomas Medina
Vickie Meisinger
Joseph Mooney
Joseph Morin
William O'Donnell
Margaret O'Neill
Patti Ohmann
Connie Pelacio
Aaron Ramirez
Peter Renteria
Timothy Rogers
Shawn Schmidt
Walter Schoumaker
Lori Singer
Cindy Staggs
Cynthia Staggs
John Steinhauser
Mark Stellmack
Thomas Tonda
Bruce Uhler
Paul Wenne
Kathy Willmes
Elizabeth Wolf
Elvira Yanez

1976

Dan Brunzel
Anthony Bukowski
Tom Buse
Annie Delgado
John Deutsch
Timothy Garcia
Susan (Hendrickson) Hernandez
Lisa Hughes
Michelle Jahne
Kim Jenniges
Kelly Josephs
Lori Justice
John Klein
Kathy Kubiszewski
Pam Lerczak
Geraldine Lopez
John Marson
Colleen McHolland
Mona Mendoza

1977

Jackie Meyer
Mike Montour
Robin Moser
Tim Osborne
Mary E. (Korby) Patton
Sheryl Pederson
Tony Pirkle
Karen Potzmann
Lydia Rangel
Patricia Renteria
Dave Schoumaker
Scott Schwartz
Sharon Sisson
Randy Smith
Rob Steinhoff
Mike Sura
Mark Sward
Gina Torres
Pat (Kinderman) Tosney
Norman Vail
Gordon Wanger
Scott Weisman

1978

Michael W. Abbott
Bruce G. Alfveby
Mary Ellen (Jeffers) Ambrose
Kathleen Jean Benedict

1975, continued

NANCY RIEHLE BURKE (’59)
“Much more fun than I expected.”

Nancy attended a 50th anniversary gathering of her class at Reunion Sunday last May.

“It was great. Everybody was warm and friendly and talking to each other. Who would think that a Sunday brunch would be such fun? It was just lovely!”

To track down missing people, Nancy says they used high school lists, “I furnished the names of people who went to OLP.”

“I had not seen most of these people since I left St. Matthew’s in ’59.” Even so, she was able identify almost all 100 classmates in their 8th grade class photo. As for recognizing her fellow alumni 50 years later, “Most of us needed the name tags to identify each other — I know I did and I think people were looking at mine.”
“Just Be Persistent”

“Our graduates went to several different high schools. If the high school had a reunion, we started there.”

“We sent a letter out to people and we got a response from that – friends who kept in touch, relatives from the parish. The hardest part is finding women (because of the name changes.) In those cases, we try to find someone in the family.”

“For me, it was more fun finding people and talking with them. When you do talk with people, you find out what they’ve accomplished is phenomenal. We share common values and experiences. We share stories that over the years have become legends.”

“Everyone has succeeded and has a lot to be proud of, and it goes back to our roots, going to Catholic School.”
Reunion for Coach Krueger’s Players

All St. Matthew’s alumni who played on a team coached by Jerry Krueger (’72) are invited to a reunion with their former teammates. “It’s a chance to thank Jerry,” says David Hottinger (’81) one of the reunion coordinators. He’s put together a committee of 10 former players who are trying to track down their missing teammates and invite them to the event. Some committee members plan to contribute toward a scholarship to St. Matthew’s School in Jerry’s honor.

Reaching Out to Old Classmates

David says, “We have one or two people from each class year on the committee. We’re attacking it by saying, ‘you’re in charge of finding these guys.’” As for the missing teammates, David points out, “It’s an opportunity to reach out and invite them to the event, and also to see how the heck they’re doing!”

The committee’s first step was to brainstorm on the missing players list and share ideas for finding people. “You know who’s had the most information about the most people?” David asks, “The cops.”

David says they have three police officers on the planning committee, Dave Pavlak (’79), Mark Reding (’81) & Jim McKnight (’82), “They know where people are, they know their families — I’m telling you, if you want to try and find people, get a hold of some police officers!”

David says just getting the committee together to review the list of former players was a good time, “We went through the names of our team mates and started telling stories and we were cracking up. Guys we had not really seen or thought of in 25 years. It’s fun to get together. Just looking at the uniforms, we’re like, ‘you got to be kidding!’

“These are People You Really Knew”

David, who works in development at the University of St. Thomas, observes there’s something special about a grade school reunion, especially when it’s a place like St. Matt’s, a small school from a close knit community, “These are people you really knew. We went to school together for eight years. Guys have taken different career paths. One guy, Greg Emerson, is a teacher in Little Falls, and the guys who are cops — they all turned out and continue to serve the community. And there are guys who’ve done well in business, smart guys who didn’t come from a lot and have worked hard to get where they are.”

The committee hopes to contact every one of Coach Krueger’s former players and invite them to the reunion. The plans for the event include appetizers and drinks in the Social Hall as well as a visit to the old gym.

For more information about the event or if you have information about one of Jerry’s former players, contact: David Hottinger 612-363-7691 or dghottinger@stthomas.edu

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joe Cullen ’78  Bob Zimmerman ’80  Mark Reding ’81
Dan Schadegg ’78  Brian Osborne  Steve “Stoney” Schneider ’81
Jeff Kubiszewski ’78  David Hottinger ’80  Jim McKnight ’82
Dave Pavlak ’79  Bill Szlaius ’81

IT’S A GO!
PLEASE SHOW

January 23, 2010
6-9 p.m.
St. Matthew’s
Social Hall
EVENTS calendar

ST. MATTHEW’S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE — January 31, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — January 31 at 3 p.m.
Join us for a FREE Family Concert in the church! After the concert, children are welcome to meet the musicians and try out some of the instruments.
KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP — January 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Families are invited to visit St. Matt’s with their future kindergartner to learn more about our academic goals, religious education and tuition assistance. If you know a family with a child who will be attending kindergarten next year, let them know.
For more information call the school office at 651-224-6912.
SCOUT SUNDAY — February 7, 10:30 a.m. Mass
St. Matthew’s Boy and Girl Scout troops will participate in the 10:30 a.m. Mass and host the coffee hour after both Masses. Come, learn more about scouting and meet these fine young people and future leaders.
“THE BIG GAME” PARTY — February 7 at 5 p.m.
The Men’s Club invites everyone to watch the biggest football game of the year in the Social Hall on the BIG screen. There’s games and food for kids so bring the whole family. The cost is $10 per adult, $5 per kid ages 13-18 and free for kids under 13. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
JIGSAW PUZZLE CONTEST BEFORE “THE BIG GAME” PARTY —
February 7 at 4 p.m.
Teams of two will compete to be the first to complete their puzzle. The entry fee is $15 per team with cash prizes for the winners. For more info or to register, contact Steve Grunedi at 651-297-8328.
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES — February 17
Masses with ash distribution at 6:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Prayer services with ashes at 9 a.m. (with the school,) 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. (with Religious Education students.)
SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE — February 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
For parents with children not currently enrolled at St. Matthew’s School who would like to learn more about our school and its academic goals, religious education and tuition assistance. For more information, call the school office at 651-224-6912. Tell your friends and neighbors!
LENTEN FISH FRY — Fridays, February 19 – March 26
Regular serving time is from 5-7:30 p.m. with a Senior Citizen Special from 4-5 p.m. The Fish Fries will be co-sponsored by the Rosary Society, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Home & School. We also dedicate a portion of our profits to the Street Children of Bucharest.