

THE MATTHEAN



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

7 North Mast Street, Goffstown, New Hampshire 03045

www.stmattsepiscopal.org

Sunday Worship 8am & 10am

Thanksgiving-Advent Issue, November 2011

“We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing... give praises to God’s name, all glory be thine.”
(Hymn #433, The Hymnal 1982)

I’m thinking about delicious turkey dinner with hot mashed potatoes, dinner rolls and apple pie. I’m thinking about loved ones near and far, present to my heart on earth and in heaven. I’m thinking about how thankful I am for all God’s generosity to this world; how nature provides food and materials to sustain us and how God in Christ inspires souls to share, to give of themselves to help others, to grow in generosity and care as God has cared to provide for us.

I’m thinking about the Berkeley Plantation in Virginia in 1619 when 38 settlers first gathered to give thanks to God for their fresh start in a new world, for the chance to re-invent themselves and the future for the good, and for the bounty and beauty of the land around them. That first Thanksgiving they had leeks, prunes, cornbread and a couple of ducks and a goose and a turkey according to the account. They were grateful for where God had led them and for what the earth had provided. But then they grew even more thankful when their native, first world neighbors joined in with, according to the record, 5 deer to make it a true feast! The celebration and spirit of that early Thanksgiving was a living glimpse of what the kingdom of God can be like on this earth when we care for one another and share the best of what we have.

Looking ahead as a person with faithful ties to St. Matthew’s, I am thinking that every single thing we have to be thankful for (and that’s a lot) comes to us from the generous and caring heart of God. From your daily bread, to safe shelter, to those you love and the assurance of blessing and support freely offered through this your household of God. I wish you times of joy and laughter and moments of grace and gratitude as we approach Thanksgiving and the Holy season of Advent just a few weeks away. God bless you these short days and quiet nights. Give praises to God’s name, all glory be thine.

Faithfully, The Rev. Wm. E. Exner – Rector

This issue of The Matthean is short and sweet. Its purpose is to supply you with dates of events and opportunities for celebrations, spiritual nourishment, joy and outreach through November and December. Read on and mark your calendar, taking heart that your support of this parish and God’s support of you continues to do wonders within and outside the walls of our church.

