

THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SPECIAL EDITION

Wagstaff Family Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction



St. Matthew's held a benefit dinner, silent auction and raffle on Thursday, April 27, 2017 in the parish hall for Tom Wagstaff and his family. Church members and people throughout the community have been praying fervently for Tom's full recovery, and he is making miraculous progress, for which we are all so grateful. In addition to Tom's physical recovery, however, Tom and his family will also need a financial recovery, not just to overcome mounting medical bills, normal living expenses and the additional living and travel expenses while Tom and Stacy devote their time to Tom's rehab in Nebraska, but also to cover lost earnings that might be used for the extras that every family needs. Fortunately, the Independence Police Department, area organizations and interested individuals are all doing what they can to ease the financial burden. Members of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Raytown wanted to contribute to this need too, and the proceeds of Thursday's benefit dinner will help lighten some of that burden.

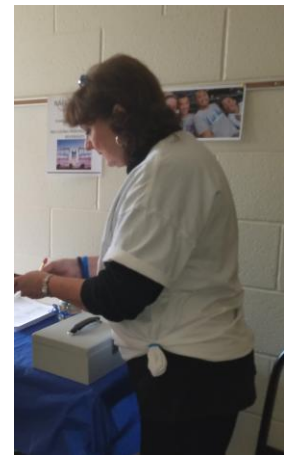
The idea for the benefit dinner, silent auction and raffle arose out of the church's evangelism efforts. Judy Taylor and Zella Forsythe invited Amber Digiovanni, who had been checking out St. Matthews during visits in February and March, for lunch at Applebee's to explore possible cooking-related programs Amber might be willing to do to help her meet people and become involved in church life. Amber is a personal chef, cookbook author, culinary teacher and speaker. After exploring ideas for cooking classes and dinners, we told her about Tom and what he was going through, and started talking about possible fundraisers we could do. Amber offered to volunteer her time and talent to prepare a dinner of chicken, fish and pasta for a food-cost of around \$5.00 per person. We jumped at her offer! The next thing you know, we had fleshed out a plan for Amber to prepare the entrées and for church members to bring salad bar items and desserts to keep costs down. Judy contacted Vestry members that day with an email motion to approve the dinner. A special meeting to discuss the event was held the next day, and we received unanimous approval from Vestry. That all happened on April 1st and 2nd. Twenty-five days later, the fundraising dinner came off without a hitch, but not without A LOT of work! Just about everyone in the church donated their time, their talent, their assets (e.g., trucks) or their treasure (i.e., money!), and many members donated a little of everything. We have many people and organizations to thank. We have tried to remember everyone who chipped in, but if we have left you off, or if you know of someone we have left off, please let us know so we can thank them too!

**THANK YOU MEMBERS OF ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH of RAYTOWN
AND THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS THEY RECRUITED!!!**



Great food was the key to Thursday's fundraiser. The stars aligned and God favored us by bringing Amber Digiovanni to St. Matthews at just the right time. Her experience, great culinary skills and high energy came together to produce a delicious meal of pasta primavera, Chicken Marsala, and tilapia. Amber donated all of her time, not to mention her talents! Amber also went from business to business soliciting food (and silent auction items) to keep costs down. She was able to get Hy-Vee to donate and deliver all of the salad bar items; Restaurant Depot to donate part of the chicken and fish; Sam's Club to donate vegetables and pasta; and Quik Trip to donate all of the ice. Cosentino's Price Chopper donated 250 bottles of water. McClain's Bakery donated delicious mini cupcakes. Thank you to Amber for all of her efforts!! Thank you also to her assistant that night, Bertha, who also donated her time and talents!!

You can't have a fundraising event without bringing in diners. We did this through ticket sales and "advertising". Linda Gerding coordinated this effort. Linda sent announcements to the Independence Examiner and the Raytown Post, sold tickets and distributed and tracked tickets issued to others for sale. Linda also worked the door all night with only a short break. Many people just wanted to donate money, so Linda collected those donations and recorded all names and addresses to send thank you notes. Thank you Linda!! Sherry Minzey created flyers and more than 200 event tickets. She also fielded the many phone calls that came into the office about Tom and about the benefit dinner, and assisted the entire event team with anything they needed. Thank you Sherry!! Thank you also to everyone else who sold tickets, including Amber, Patti, Sherry, Joy Devin, Father Orin, and Mike Coughlin



(KCPD)!! Mike took blocks of tickets and distributed them to KCPD, Independence PD and Raytown PD for each to sell to their officers. We had a number of police officers and their families attend. Kudos Mike! The entire team sold approximately 250 dinners (maybe more) through advance ticket sales and walk-ins. Ticket sales and donations brought in \$7,701.00!

They may not have known it, but our local TV stations helped bring people to our event and no doubt brought in many donations, including silent auction items, by their continuous coverage of Tom's ordeal as well as coverage of our fundraising dinner. We had people bringing us silent auction items right up to the start of the event. Thank you Fox 4, especially Kathy Quinn, Megan Brilley and Molly Balkenbush; KMBC Channel 9, especially Kelly Eckerman; and KSHB 41.

The event required the use of multiple classrooms and the nursery. The class rooms and nursery were organized and cleaned for extra seating and the silent auction. Thank you Zella Forsythe, Linda Gerding, Patti McGill and Jim Minzey!! An extra special thank you goes to Zella for *scrubbing the walls*!!

Trucks and vehicles (and gasoline) were borrowed/used for deliveries, errands, and picking up silent auction items, groceries, etc. Thank you Amber Digiovanni, Sergeant Mike Coughlin (KCPD), Charles Cease, Patti McGill, Gay LaMonica (Joy Devin's daughter), Zella Forsythe, Dave and Linda Batson, Linda Gerding, Judy Taylor, and all those who traveled to the church for meetings, training, setup and other related activities!!

Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran Church (BRT) donated their folding tables and chairs. Thank you to them and to Father Orin Cummings for being our BRT liaison!!

Physical labor was utilized to haul coolers, tables, chairs and other necessities out of basements and from Blue Ridge Trinity Church, to haul it all back, and to set it up in rooms and the tent. Thank you Charles Cease, Dave Batson, Jonas Batson, Cecil Gannan, Jerry Nevans, Darrell Cook, Sharon Greer, Dave Chullino, George Miller, Dave Chullino, Fr. Orin Cummings and his team of BRT gentlemen, Pat Whitmore, Beth Cook, Nancy Anderson, Jeannie Miller, Patti McGill, Judy Taylor and Linda Gerding!!



The silent auction required a *tremendous* amount of effort, from gathering items to making sign and bid sheets, to room setup and post-auction phone calling. Thank you to Patti McGill for coordinating this huge effort (and she actually volunteered for this!) The auction grossed over \$5,000.00!

Thank you to Patti's daughter, Katie Cooper, for the beautiful artwork and signs for the auction and raffle!!

Thank you to Zella Forsythe, Linda Gerding, Patti McGill, Ann Corbin, Jeannie Miller, Pat Whitmore and Janet Carney for setting up the auction rooms and tables!!

Thank you to Patti McGill for creating the Taste of the Town buy-it-now board!!

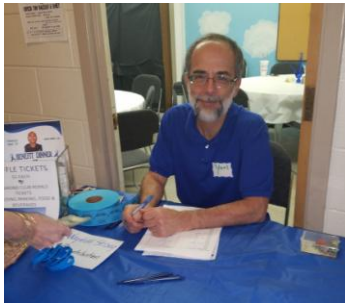


Thank you to everyone for donating silent auction items and for hustling up items from area stores!! See our separate and extensive list elsewhere in this newsletter of those who donated items for this event. The volume of items was amazing!

Thank you to Joy Devin, Janet Carney, Beth Cook, Darrell Cook, Gay LaMonica, Kay Chullino, Dave Chullino, and Sherry Minzey for monitoring the silent auction rooms and answering many questions!! Thank you also to Zella Forsythe, Kay Chullino, Mary Cease, Judy Taylor and Patti McGill who showed up the next day to call the winning bidders, and to Patti McGill, Mary Cease, Kay Chullino and Linda Gerding who stayed on Friday and Saturday to meet the winners who came to collect their items!!

The dining hall would have been dead except for crowd sounds had it not been for DJ and comedian extraordinaire Lloyd Cooper, III of LC3 Entertainment Co. of Lee's Summit, who donated all of his time for this event. He not only spun tunes, but he emceed the event, rousing the crowd to bid on auction items and to buy raffle tickets. He announced anything we needed the crowd to know about, and drew names for multiple mini-raffles. Thank you to Lloyd Cooper, III for his time, talent and humor!!





We auctioned off two tickets to a Royals game with seating in the Diamond Club, parking passes, food and drinks. We also conducted mini raffles of wristbands, a T-shirt, a "Bee pick" (compliments of Hannah's Handiworks LLC), and empty donut boxes from Doughboys Donuts of Raytown. Brenda Laney was a winner of one of the Doughboys Donuts boxes. All she has to do is take the empty box to Doughboys and they will fill it up with whatever kind of donuts Brenda wants! Thank you to Yael Abouhalkah, Beci Bosley, Beth Cook, Zella Forsythe, and Judy Taylor for selling raffle tickets!! We grossed over \$1,100.00 dollars on raffle ticket sales!

Luke Abouhalkah created prayer bracelets to raise funds for Tom. This was an independent effort on Luke's part, but since he turned in the proceeds the night of the raffle, we get to include bracelet sales in our event totals! Fr. Orin assisted by selling bracelets at BRT. Together they raised \$338.00! Thanks Luke and Fr. Orin!!



Pat Whitmore donated her considerable time and organizational skills to setting up the salad bar and coordinating donations for the dessert bar, setting up the dessert bar and drink station, AND decorating the hall and the tables. She also recruited volunteers to work the food line and worked the line herself. She did all of this on a sprained ankle and without breaking a sweat. Thank you Pat!!



It took many people to woman the food line the evening of the dinner. It was a *long* food line thanks to all of the donated salad bar and dessert items and the three entrees. Thank you to Ann Corbin, Jeannie Miller, Christina Brooks, Pat Whitmore, Robyn Williams, Brenda Laney, Cathy Culp, Virginia Sembower and Linda Batson!!

What fundraising dinner is complete without desserts? We had every kind of dessert imaginable. Many members, businesses, and "friends of Tom" donated to our fabulous and delicious dessert bar. Thank you to Pat Whitmore, Mary Cease, Jane Matson, Jo Miller, Diane Hunter, Robyn Williams, Brenda Laney, Patti McGill, Becky Palmer, Zella Forsythe, Beth Cook, Janet Anderson-Brown, Ron Stockton, Jeannie Miller, Judy Roberts, Linda Batson, Kay Chullino, Frances Macey, Barbara Wegner, and "friends of Tom" Fonda Martin and friend Bethany from KCPD!! Thank you also to McClain's Bakery and Doughboys Donuts of Raytown!!





Every table was assigned multiple servers to refill drinks, clear dirty dishes, and fulfill diners' requests. Who were these excellent helpers? Members of Jordan's wrestling team and friends from Raytown High School, parents and Coach Peter McDavitt. These young men and women wanted to lend their support to Jordan and his family. They also manned the coffee, tea, lemonade and water station AND washed dishes. Who trained and supervised this courteous team? Our own Zella Forsythe! Thank you Zella, the team, their parents and Coach Peter (who also helped supervise)!!

Thank you also to Linda Gerding for recruiting the team, who I understand very happily volunteered!! (Check out their Facebook page where they solicited volunteers, discussed the event, and posted pictures – you can Google it!)

Thank you to everyone who stayed around after the event to clean up and to those who washed serving equipment in the days before and the days after the event, including Ann Corbin, Jeannie Miller, Pat Whitmore, Robyn Williams, Brenda Laney, Cathy Culp, Linda Batson, Linda Gerding, Zella Forsythe and Judy Taylor. Thank you!!

What a mess a dinner with 250+ diners can create. We thought we might have a trash crisis, but thanks to the efforts of Mary Cease, Flynn's Raytown Disposal Service donated an extra trash pickup. They picked up multiple cans and bags of trash bright and early the next morning. Thank you Mary!!

Throughout the event we had cashiers stationed in the hallway to take money for buy-it-now items and silent auction items. Thank you to Mary Cease, Kay Chullino and Beth Cook!! Thank you also to Amy of the KCPD who was on hand making name tags for volunteers as they arrived and assisting as needed!!

Thank you to Mike Coughlin and Block and Company for donating the tent, and especially Mike for coordinating this effort!! It was a surprise to us all. Many people enjoyed dining outside, and the weather actually cooperated. It started raining *after* the event!



Thank you to Hyler Cooper, Katie Cooper, and our Treasurer, Dave Macey, who did all of the Square account and Bank account setups to enable us to take credit cards for silent auction items!!

Thank you to Dave Macey, Patti McGill, Linda Gerding and Judy Taylor for counting money, and to Dave Macey for doing all of the accounting for this amazing event!!

Thank you also to Patti McGill, Linda Gerding, Linda Batson, Jane Matson, and Judy Taylor who are still working to send out dozens of thank you notes to donors!!

The biggest THANK YOU goes to the members of St. Matthews, Blue Ridge Trinity, Kansas City Police Department, Raytown Police Department, Independence Police Department, and members throughout the community who bought dinner tickets, raffle tickets and silent auction items, and who donated money outright. All of our efforts would have been for naught without these generous contributors. Thank you to every one of you for digging deep into your pockets and purses to make this event a success!!

The grand total for the event (gross) so far is **\$14,185.00**. We still have a little more to collect and expect that total to rise to \$14,300.00. All of our costs have not yet been tabulated, but we hope to donate between \$10,000.00 and \$12,000.00 to the Wagstaff family.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Judy Taylor
Wagstaff Benefit Dinner Committee

TICKETS~TICKETS~TICKETS

Sherry Minzey very graciously volunteered to print all the tickets for our Wagstaff Benefit Dinner. As a committee, and considering the size of the Parish and volunteers to possibly help, we decided to just print 200 tickets initially. We ended up printing 75 more for a total of 275. We moved our dinner time to begin at 4:00 as opposed to 5:00 to hopefully help accommodate that amount of people. Having a 20 X 20 tent donated that we set up in the parking lot also helped ease our minds as to how we would be able to seat that many for dinner.

Amazingly everything seemed to run very smoothly. People arrived at various times, but at a good steady flow all evening. It was a little hectic at the ticket table trying to keep track of everyone with a ticket, those that walked in without a ticket, how many adults, how many children, and who wanted a "take out" box. Also information was given about the raffle drawing, where the Silent Auction rooms were located and when it would all end. Many people added donation money to their ticket cost, or just wrote checks for donations. One police officer, still on duty and couldn't stay to eat, ran in to drop off a check and said he just wanted to be there a minute to be a part of the event. Many officers from KCPD, Raytown PD, and Indep. PD, had either bought tickets or just walked-in.

My best estimate is that we sold approximately 118 adult tickets, 18 child tickets and we had 27 who took carry-out. We also had about 102 walk-ins. We think we served a total of approximately 265 dinners. And you know the rest of the story, that dinners along with extra donations raised \$7,701.

THANKS TO EVERYONE AT ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY!!!

We love Tom, Stacy, Jordan and Alex, and know that they know we continually pray for all of them. We have shown our love too, by all our efforts in making this fundraiser a success.

Blessings,
Linda Gerding
Wagstaff Benefit Dinner Committee



SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction at our fund raiser for the Wagstaff family was a huge success. This started with many planning and organizational meetings which lead to making many phone calls, making many arrangements and pounding the streets for donations; and many businesses and people in the entire metropolitan area generously donated items or money and posted our flyer.

Church member's donations started pouring in as well as items, time and talent from their family members. Thanks to my daughter Katie who created our signage and helped me get it printed. People we didn't know, but who are now friends, were literally calling the church to donate their time and talent as well as donations. The KC Royals and Chiefs offered sought after items as well as our Happy Crafters. And local artists including one of our own "kids" donated their art.

It just never stopped. Right up to the last minute people were walking in to offer help with donations and even close to an hour after our event closed a man walked in with an item to donate. A little late but we gladly accepted it and one of us bought it.

And then we set it all up. The night of the fund raiser with cashiers at the ready, many of you helped in the two rooms full of items for the auction and encouraged people to place bids. And that they did. 72 items were bid on, 33 gift cards and 42 Buy It Now items sold for a total of almost \$5,000.

I am overwhelmed with the response and the generosity of our community. God was obviously working through and with us as we developed an event to help Tom, Stacy, Jordon and Alex. He kept our energy going and filled our hearts with joy and purpose. Our friendships have been strengthened and we know each other better than ever. I'm proud to have been associated with such an amazing event.

God love and bless all who were involved in this wonderful process. Without all of you it couldn't have been such a success!

Patti McGill
Silent Auction Chair for the Evangelism Committee



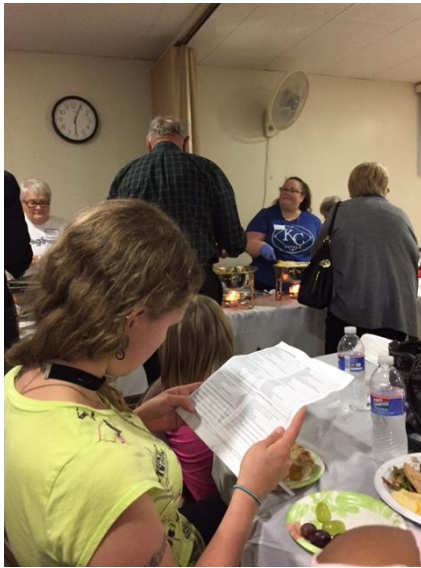


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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!!!

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The People of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
& Father Orin Cummings
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Sam's Club
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David Lock & members of the
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Pat Jennings
Judy Roberts
Jeannie Miller
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THANK YOU TO OUR ADDITIONAL DONORS:

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