

the st. matthew's word

Ready to Grow!

Dear Friends at St. Matthew's,
What a glorious welcome we have received! I write this in anticipation of our Vestry Retreat and my first Sunday as your celebrant and preacher at the services of the Holy Eucharist this coming Sunday. The Holy Eucharist is, of course, a liturgy of thanksgiving to God for his son Jesus Christ, who by the power of the Holy Spirit lived and died and rose again for the church and through the church, for the sake of the whole world. The focus and meaning of the Eucharist is thanksgiving, and my heart is full of thanksgiving for the gracious welcome we have received at St. Matthew's. On behalf of Crystal, Patrick and Caroline, I thank you for every act of kindness, your immense patience with me, and your cards and calls of good will and support. Most especially I am grateful for your prayers, which continue to sustain us!

We are looking now to the fall in expectation of a full and rich time of growth in this green Pentecost season. Like a plant needs water and sun and the coolness of the evening to grow, we need nurture. The Holy Spirit guides us and trains us, almost imperceptibly, in the regular rounds of Holy Communion, personal prayer, study and Christian fellowship. Most of the time, we don't know we have grown spiritually until we can look back and see the change, or someone points it out to us. Spiritual growth is a process, a journey

— it takes time and patience and an open spirit — and our task is to look and listen and marvel at God's abundance along the way. Our parish is, then, a faithful clan of pilgrims, journeying together while God generously provides the growth.

Of course, a parish our size needs a plan! I am impressed with the commitment to Christian education and formation in this place and I feel certain that I will grow with you in the faith! Now is the time to look ahead and begin the process of considering how you and yours will respond to Christ's call and claim on your life this fall at St. Matthew's. This edition of *The Word* is devoted to Christian Education. Some plans have been clarified and are ready for your involvement. Other ideas are still in the foundational stage. I trust that we will be able to grow together in many ways in the coming months. Thanks for bringing me aboard. I am ready to grow with you!

Faithfully,

Merrill Wade

Not as **BIG** as the Texas State Fair,
 but every bit as **interesting!**



The St. Matthew's Ministry Fair is coming!

This is your chance to find out how to participate in St. Matthew's many ministries and sign up for Sunday School!

— CHILDREN'S EDUCATION —

Children's Sunday School Begins September 1

Fall Registration

On Sunday, September 1, all children age three through fifth grade will "move up" to new Sunday School classes according to their grade/age levels in the new school year. On that day parents can expect to update their child's registration forms, if they have not done so during Ministry Fair.

Classes

This year we shall have four age groupings and class settings for our children:

Level I	3 Years - Kindergarten	B-17
Level II	1st - 3rd Grades	B-16
Level III	4th - 5th Grades	Education Building Breezeway
Level IV	6th Grade	Front room, Office Building (Maps will be posted in the buildings.)

Schedule

Safety first! Each Sunday begins with parent sign-in of children age 10 and under. This is St. Matthew's policy that has withstood the test of time and all parents are asked to honor it weekly. Children will spend the morning with adults trained to work with them on their age and developmental levels.

9:00-10:30	<i>Sunday School</i>
10:30-10:40	<i>Transition to Music and Chapel</i> - At this time trained adults will escort all children through third grade to music and chapel. Children who have not attended Sunday School will join them, processing with an acolyte from the Church Service in progress. This time is designed to provide the children with time for singing and movement to break up the morning, as well as prepare them to enter the service.
10:40	<i>Sign of Peace</i> - Children will be processed to the Commons to join their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Get Ready, Get Set...Go!

by Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

Scenario: It's Sunday morning after a busy week. The parents wake up, look at the clock. "Can't be that late already!" They are tired, but want to go to church. They roll out of bed, wake the kids, dress the kids, feed the kids, all the while managing to get themselves dressed and down a cup of coffee. Lots of activity, noise, and movement. They are on "go!" Pile into the car, with discussion about who gets to sit shotgun before and after church, and oh-by-the-way, where should they go eat lunch today? Will they make it on time? After hunting down an errant shoe and changing a shirt with a missing button, are they going to be almost on time to Sunday School?

Soon after finding a place to park, and then going back to the car for the diaper bag, they chat as they whiz down the stairs to get the kids to classes. Full of activity and noise, still on "go," they arrive at the classroom door, fully expecting to be greeted by more action and morning noise. Instead... the room is not on "go." There is noise, but it's a quiet hum. There is action, but it is quiet and considered movement. What is this? Looking around, they see children polishing silver, sorting shells, and tracing letters. Some are gathered together pouring over booklets and moving clay figures. Why haven't the teachers grouped the children, and why aren't they teaching them about Jesus?

Sound familiar? Has this ever happened to your family? It's happened to plenty of members of our Children's Council, and we have been looking at how these two "worlds" should merge and not collide.

Recently Tracey Nichols asked, "Why do the children sort shells and practice pouring in Sunday School?" I was able to respond to such an important question, by sharing that these are activities that help children make a transition from the activity of the busy week to time for experiencing a relationship with God. These are activities that allow them to become quiet, not just verbally, but also in body and mind. And it is important to note that these activities don't negate the active life; instead they round it out and give

spiritual food, at the children's level, to feed the active life.

And it really happens! During Lent, one six year old voluntarily explained the concept of soul to her mother; another was able to get through a difficult family situation this summer. The families related both incidents in the context of how the "quiet" of Sunday classes, and how God is shared in those quiet moments, had validated a spiritual life in their children and allowed the relationship with God to be real enough to become part of their active lives.

Children do know God already and need a place to enjoy God with others like themselves. The first year I attended a St. Matthew's ECW retreat, a woman came up and shared a story about her pre-school grandchild with me: the child had been asking her parents to let her see their new baby privately. The parents were worried, but acceded to the child's wish, when they realized they could listen through the baby monitor. What they heard was the child's voice saying to the baby, "Tell me about God. I'm already beginning to forget."

So, "Go!" to Sunday School; enjoy the change of pace and don't be surprised by it. In fact, observe the children over a period of months. In the meantime, Children's Ministry is watching with you and is finding ways to make the entire morning a blend of quiet and activity that is meaningful to the children. See you there!

Watch for These Dates!

August 11	Last Day of Summer Sunday School
August 18	No Sunday School
August 25	Ministry Fair and Sunday School Open House; No Sunday School
September 1	First Day of Fall Sunday School
September 4	Adults' Good Shepherd Bible study begins

Ministry Fair for Children – August 25th

What's white and cold and never in Austin during August? Give up? Snow! Ice! But Children's Ministry wants to offer our children a cool thought in August — "Be cool for Christ," as they "Dive into Sunday School!" Bring your children to our polar kids' area, where there will be penguins to make and mount, as well as games, cool face painting, and popsicles to enjoy! Leave your children here, in the expert hands of our Nursery workers, while you register them for their fall Sunday School classes and visit the other ministry exhibits. (Infant Nursery will be provided for younger children.) See you there! *Brrr!*

Glossary For Children's Program

- *Atrium* – the kids may not call their class "Sunday School." Don't be surprised if they call it "atrium," a holy space designed just for them
- *Catechist* [kat-uh-kist] – Adults may be called by this name, rather than "teacher," since they are listening to God with the children
- *Club 345* – a fellowship group for third, fourth and fifth graders that meets quarterly.
- *Good Shepherd Program* – Classes for children, 3 years through third grade; designed to meet the child's request, "Help me to know God by myself." Also known as "Catechesis" [kat-uh-key-sis]
- *Intermediate youth* – children in the upper elementary grades (third, fourth and fifth)
- *Level I* – 3 year olds, by Sept. 1, 2002, through Kindergarten
- *Level II* – 1st through 3rd grade
- *Level III* – 4th and 5th grades
- *Level IV* – 6th grade
- *Shepherds* – Adults who make the mornings run smoothly by helping teachers/catechists, running errands, and delivering snacks
- *Volunteer* – by any name, the people who make the program run. Become one today!!

Super Summer Sunday School: Sitting in the Shade with Jesus — Stories He Told

Morning Schedule, August 4 and 11

- 8:45 Meet in the Kinney Outdoor Chapel for breakfast
- 9:15 Move to B-18 for the story (parable) and art, music, movement or drama, and fellowship activities
- 10:40 Chapel services

Super Summer Sunday School is drawing to a close. Although there are only two classes in August, it's not too late to let your child join the fun! The final two programs will focus on The Hidden Treasure. Sound like the Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew? Yes, and even better, as the unraveling of this mystery will provide your child with a lifetime treasure.

Reminder: the Children's Council wants you to have STRESS-FREE SUNDAY MORNINGS. We have been serving breakfast to all the children during the summer (so they can sleep an extra 15 minutes!) The menu varies each week and includes items, such as fruit, milk, granola bars, bagels, cheese, peanut butter, or individual boxes of cereal, so children may make their own breakfasts — with a lot of supervision and suggestions. Thanks to Patti Shannon, David Sain, C.J. Carl, and Crystal Wade for adding to our breakfast pantry with bagels, fruit cups, granola bars, and muffins. We have been picnicking under the trees for breakfast — indeed sitting in the shade with Jesus!

After breakfast, we have been moving to B-18, which has been transformed week by week as our children, age three through fifth grade, have responded to the parables of Jesus through various fine arts media. Children's Ministry has welcomed children and adults for weekly tellings of these rich sources of information about God and God's kingdom. Better yet, relationships with God have been deepened and broadened by spending time with His very words.

Sixth Grade Rules!

This fall, children who are entering Sixth grade will have a unique opportunity for a custom designed curriculum during Sunday morning classes. Last May these students and families met with Children's Minister Barbara Pitts, and designed the format for their own program. What emerged was a shared desire for a program that is deeply spiritual, more directly connects to daily life and doesn't talk down to them, has an informative strand to it (about the Episcopal church, liturgy, and diverse churches), and is service oriented

Because this year's 6th grade waits one year in order to pair up with the class behind it for Rite 13 in 2003, these students will not participate with 7th and 8th grade on Sunday mornings only. They will partner with 7th and 8th grades for Youth Group activities.

Dynamic leadership will be provided by Steve Brock, Pat and Chuck Naeve, and Tommy Williams. Classes will meet from 9:00-10:30 in the front room of the church office building.

Further information may be obtained from Barbara Pitts at 345-8314, x221 or email at bdpitts@mail.utexas.edu and Eric Liles, Youth Minister, at 345-8314 x232 or eric@stmattsaustin.org

Caring Even for our Youngest

St. Matthew's traditionally offers care for infants and crawlers in the Huffman Hall nursery. This nursery is prepared for the busy crawler and the sleepy baby who needs a rest after all that busy work. Our second nursery, for children ages 2-4 years of age, is located in the Education or Day School Building and is equipped with a marvelous fenced playground just outside the indoor nursery.

Children are always welcome in St. Matthew's services and the Cry Room in the balcony is available during services for infants and toddlers who need a little extra wiggle or giggle room.

For more information, please contact Tracey Nichols at 331-0653.

— YOUTH EDUCATION —

The St. Matthew's Journey to Adulthood Program

by Eric Liles, Youth Minister

The Journey to Adulthood program attracts, instructs, and nurtures 11-18 year-olds. An Episcopal curriculum, it is founded on Biblical principles and texts, it employs the Book of Common Prayer, and the three-fold Anglican balance between scripture, tradition and reason to nurture the growth of youth into spiritual maturity and into full participation in the church community. Beginning with the first two-year segment, Rite 13 (6th and 7th grades), the program celebrates the gift of gender and creates a safe haven for youth to explore their creative power. The second two years, Journey to Adulthood (J2A-8th and 9th grades), is the heart of the program, teaching six basic skills of adulthood and helping youth to understand Christian living. The third section, Young Adults in the Church (YAC), encourages older youth to take on adult responsibilities in all aspects of congregation life and community.

It is exciting to share information with all of you about our J2A program and all of the amazing things that are going on. Since adopting this curriculum about 18 months ago, we have seen incredible growth in our youth program. The foundation of the J2A program is that young people need to experience rites of passage to mark their journey. In September our Rite 13 class (junior high) will have their "coming of age" ceremony. This past fall our senior high class (currently all in the J2A class), were served an elegant dinner welcoming them into this part of their journey, and next summer these students will participate in a spiritual pilgrimage. I hope everyone has read the excellent

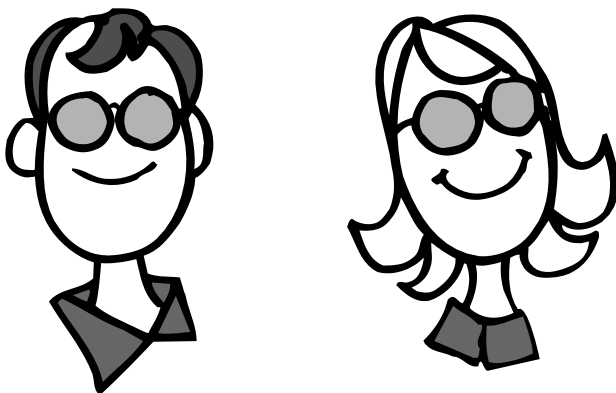
article written by Clive Smith on the pilgrimage in the July issue of *The Word*.

While our entire youth program is based around the premise of the J2A program, our activities each have their unique purpose and feel. Sunday mornings are the foundation of this program and each class is facilitated by two adults from their team, as they all partake in their journey after God together. The format of our Wednesday evening programs is very seeker friendly, and the youth are encouraged to bring friends. We have several other recurring activities, such as movie nights, bible studies, and trips, lots and lots of trips, retreats and lock-ins. We are very excited that this fall we are starting three discipleship bible study groups.

We have a great need for adult mentors throughout this school year, and for people who are willing to commit themselves to be trained to be the next set of our J2A facilitators. Adult Volunteer applications are available in the church office, and will also be available at the ministry fair.

For more information, comments, questions or suggestions, please contact me.

God's Peace,
Eric Liles
eric@stmattsaustin.org
office 512-345-8314 ext. 232
mobile 512-799-2638



Journey to Adulthood (J2A): A Glossary of Terms

The Journey to Adulthood Curriculum covers grades 6-12, so it most directly involves the children ages 11-18 and their parents. In a real sense, however, this program belongs to all of St. Matthew's. Its purpose is to develop and welcome young people into full membership in the church. For that reason, and because the Journey to Adulthood includes rites of passage that involve the entire congregation, we want every member of St. Matthew's to feel a part of it.

Like most institutions or programs (the Episcopal church and Episcopal liturgy, for instance!), the Journey to Adulthood Curriculum has its own vocabulary, or terminology. This brief glossary is meant to help us understand the key words in that vocabulary.

- ♦ *Journey to Adulthood (J2A)*: an Episcopal Christian education curriculum for grades 6-12. It is comprised of three parts.
 - Rite 13: 6th-7th grades
 - Journey to Adulthood: 8th-9th grades
 - Young Adults in the Church: 10th-12th grades
- ♦ *Group Leaders*: adults who teach the curriculum.
- ♦ *Rite 13 Ceremony*: a rite of passage, celebrated as part of a Sunday eucharist, in which the entire congregation marks the transition of young people, their initiation into manhood and womanhood.
- ♦ *Opening Celebration*: a rite of passage for the youth and their parents, a dinner prepared and served by the Rite-13 youth to the group leaders and to the youth who have completed Rite-13 and are entering the second part of the curriculum, the Journey to Adulthood.
- ♦ *The Pilgrimage*: a rite of passage, a group journey to "a distant land," undertaken by the youth at the end of the fourth year of the curriculum. Not a vacation, a sight-seeing tour, nor a mission trip, the pilgrimage is a time for seeking and finding God in new ways. The entire congregation supports the youth in this rite, spiritually and financially.

My Youth Group Experience

by Matthew Abrahamson

My years in the youth program have had a large influence in the shaping of who I am today. The examples given to me by youth ministers and Sunday schools teachers have become the basis for my actions today. They have opened my eyes to new opportunities and invitations to grow.

The two chief things that have changed me are events that Eric introduced me to. The first was a Diocesan event at Camp Allen called Happening. Simply put, Happening is a weekend dedicated to realizing God's overwhelming love for us. In that weekend, I experienced a complete transformation in my faith. The other event was that year's mission trip to Mexico, the first major event I attended after Happening, the transition was perfect. I went from receiving God's love at Happening to sharing it with others through my work, and the feeling I got was pure Joy. To know that by giving up a mere week of my time I made a significant improvement in someone else's life is one of the most rewarding feelings I've ever had, and none of this could have happened without the youth ministry showing me the way. I hope that someday I can share with others everything they've shared with me.

Youth Calendar for August

August 4	9-10:15 a.m. Sunday Morning Youth Group		
	10:30-12	Worship	
August 9	8-10 p.m.	Coffee and Worship	
August 11	9-10:15 a.m. Sunday Morning Youth Group		
	10:30-12	Worship	
August 18	No Sunday Morning Youth Group		
	10:30-12	Worship	
	12-5 p.m.	back to school party, details TBA	
August 21	7-8:30 p.m. First Wednesday Night Youth group with Pizza		
August 23-25	Happening #100, YES #67		
August 25	9-10:30am Ministry Fair (no Sunday school)		
	10:30-12	Worship	
August 28	Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.		

YOUTH

by Toni Provost-Hatlen

What do St. Matthew's youth need???

You and you and you ... to be a part of their lives

Older role models to tell them their stories

Understanding that they are unique individuals

Time to talk with you about what's important to them

Hearts that are open to theirs

After teaching Sunday School to the middle school youth of St. Matthew's, I've discovered what a blessing it is to be involved in their lives. These teens are going through an important transition from childhood to adulthood, and as a church community, it is our responsibility to help guide them through this special time.

St. Matthew's has adopted a wonderful curriculum for our youth called "The Journey To Adulthood." The part of this curriculum that addresses the unique needs of our middle school teens is called Rite 13. Rite 13 is a two-year program that concentrates on the fundamentals of our faith. It also covers four components that are critical in the development of young adults — Self, Spirituality, Society, and Sexuality.

One of the unique aspects of the Rite 13 program is a "rite of passage" ceremony. It is designed to welcome teenagers (around 13 years of age) to the journey of becoming adults and celebrate publicly, and in the midst of our worship, the gift of manhood and womanhood that God bestows on each of us. During these years of adolescence — this time of change and uncertainty — our young people need to hear from us that they are extraordinary. As a congregation, we want to affirm the unique and wonderful gifts of each teenager involved. The Rite 13 liturgy is our chance as a community to say to our youth, "We stand with you as you make your way on the journey; we're here if you need us; we think you are terrific; we love you." Nine of our middle school youth will be participating in the Rite 13 Ceremony in September. The exact date will be announced so you can be sure to attend.

Jay Robison and I will continue to teach the middle school youth this year. If you have an interest in teaching or getting involved with these teenagers, please contact our youth director, Eric Liles. We would really appreciate additional volunteers for this age group!

Mission Trip Witness: Building For Christ in Juarez

by Stephen Brock

On the street I saw a naked child, hungry and shivering in the cold. I became angry and said to God, "Why do you permit this? Why don't you do something?" For a while God said nothing. That night he replied, quite suddenly, "I certainly did something. I made you."

I was blessed to be part of God's solution when the Senior High youth of St. Matthew's and other churches in our Diocese, decided to answer God's call. Eric Liles led a group of 63 youth and adults on a "Missionpaloosa" to the border town of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. When I elected to serve as an adult sponsor on the trip, I envisioned myself on a mission of serving needy people, lending a helping hand to those less fortunate. I was amazed to discover I received more from the mission experience than I gave.

While building a house for a family, I was invited into their lives. While spending a week of vacation time, I cultivated friendships that may last years. While doing God's work for the people of Juarez, I saw Christ accepted as Savior in the life of one of our own youth.

Maybe one of the greatest blessings of being involved with the youth of our church is getting to know these wonderful teens better, especially my own daughter! Every time I have answered God's call and given of myself I have been blessed ten fold in return.

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— ADULT EDUCATION —

Adult Education at St. Matthew's

by Kathy Vail, Adult Education Council Chair

Earlier this summer, the Adult Education Council conducted a survey to get ideas for future programming. We received 112 responses to the survey, the vast majority being from people who have attended some type of adult education class in the last six months. Approximately half expressed interest in participating in an intermediate level Bible study, with a third interested in advanced Bible study. Most people interested in Bible study expressed an interest in learning how the Bible applies to their lives, followed by learning how to interpret a passage of scripture. The other topics that received the most interest were: (1) history of liturgy and why we do the things we do; (2) current Christian authors and publications; (3) spirituality; (4) spiritual direction; and (5) discussions of ways to live as a Christian.

The vast majority of respondents indicated that they were willing to do outside readings and/or homework, if required by the course.

Responses were mixed with regards to evening classes. Approximately one-half indicated that they would like to participate in potluck suppers with adult classes following. Approximately, one-quarter indicated that they were not interested in any evening programs. The remaining responses were evenly split between those wanting adult classes with no supper and those wanting supper followed by programs for all ages.

The council met on July 21, to talk about the results and begin planning for the 2002-03 school year. Some tentative ideas for Sunday mornings being discussed included:

- ♦ a class that studies modern Christian authors;
- ♦ a beginner/intermediate Bible study class using the Kerygma materials;
- ♦ a newcomers class;
- ♦ a Christian spirituality class which would cover prayer, church mystics, and spiritual direction;
- ♦ a Christian traditions class that would study the liturgy, music, art, and church history; and
- ♦ a Christian living class which would focus on ways to live as a Christian, evangelism, and Christian social witness. This class could also look at ways to integrate our faith in our lives, whether single, divorced, widowed, with or without children.

We'll also be planning some evening programs for adults. At the time of this writing, the only scheduled class is EFM (Education for Ministry) on Tuesday evenings.

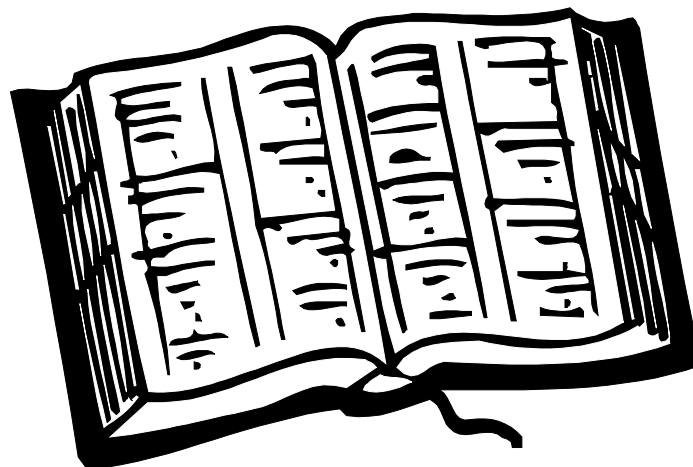
More information will be available at the Ministry Fair on August 25 and in the Weekly Word. If you have any suggestions or would like to help with the adult education program this year, please contact Kathy Vail, 343-7367 or kvail@austin.rr.com.

Education For Ministry

Have you ever wanted to study the Bible, church history, and recent theology in depth? Do you want a class that while academically challenging, also emphasizes connecting what you are learning with your life? Do you want to do all this in the safety of a small group, without having to worry about tests or papers to write? Then Education for Ministry (EFM) might be what you are looking for. EFM is an international continuing Christian education program for adults, offered by the University of the South School of Theology. Study is done independently at home. The seminar group (6 -11 students and a mentor) meets once a week during the school year to worship together, discuss the lessons, and reflect on the connection between their experiences and the materials that are being studied.

Commitment is for one nine-month period at a time and the four years can be done consecutively or as time permits. Over four years, you will study the Old Testament, New Testament, church history and modern Christian theology. Tuition is \$325/year. There are some partial scholarships available based upon financial need.

The St. Matthew's EFM group meets on Tuesday nights during the school year, starting in September. Registration for the 2002-03 year will begin in August. Please contact Kathy Vail, 343-7367 (evenings) or for more information.



Community of Hope: A School For God's Service

by Bethany Ramey

Everyone ministers to someone — spouse, child, parent, friend, neighbor. As committed Christians, we are called to use the gifts that God has given us. In order to be competent ministers, we need continual training. For those who feel called to expand and deepen their circle of caring, the Community of Hope offers a time for spiritual discovery, opportunities for learning, and a community for sharing. The Community of Hope trains Lay Chaplains to serve in St. Matthew's as well as in the wider community. It is an expression of our deep desire to "Know Christ and make Him known."

Our ministries lead us wherever the Lord calls. Lay Chaplains are involved in numerous ministries including: Outreach to the Parish, SafePlace, Retirement Homes, Nursing Homes, Community Outreach, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Good Samaritans, El Buen Samaritano, Habitat for Humanity, Settlement Club, Kairos, Home Visits, Hospice, Hospitals, Mission Trips, Transportation, Telephone visits, Casa Marianella, Caritas.

The Lay Chaplain's Role

As Lay Chaplains, members of the Community of Hope extend care to those in need and provide spiritual nourishment and encouragement during times of stress, change and crisis. Through compassionate, empathetic listening and appropriate action, Lay Chaplains journey with those in need, helping them strengthen their faith and supporting them as they search for God's mercy, grace, love and power.

A Time for Training

The training brings together clergy, lay staff, and community specialists to serve as faculty and to contribute their expertise. Participants are given the opportunity to practice supportive techniques for helping others. As members deepen their spirituality and pursue self-discovery, they begin visits to others while practicing principles of active listening, spiritual support, and prayer.

The course requires 36 hours of training plus a wide range of interactive exercises and role-playing, worship experiences, and supervised pastoral care visits. The class size is limited but all are welcome to register on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, please call Bethany Ramey at 482-0909 or email her at bramey@austin.rr.com Or please contact any one of the St. Matthew's Community of Hope lay chaplains for answers to your questions about the training: Cynthia Wilson (346-6870); Anna Dodge (339-8011); Tony Hatheway (453-6284); Mary Nell Frucella (346-5554); Sue Kinney (345-6119) and many others you may see wearing Community of Hope Lay Chaplain nametags.

Calendar for Community of Hope

Sept. 14	Theology of Pastoral Care, Pastoral Identity, Confidentiality and Debriefing
Sept. 23	Benedictine Spirituality
Sept. 30	Prayer, Worship and Christian Meditation
Oct. 7	Motivational Spiritual Gifts
Oct. 14	Listening Skills
Oct. 21	Understanding Family Systems
Oct. 28	Death, Grief and Loss
Nov. 4	Care of the Caregiver
Nov. 11	Commitment to Ministry
Dec. 8	Commissioning of Community of Hope Lay Chaplains

Senior Sentences

by Lucy A. Boyea, Minister of Senior Activities

This month I would like to share with you an excerpt from an article printed in the March 9, 1994, issue of The Wednesday Magazine, Kansas City, Missouri. David Ekerdt is a trustee of Shepherd's Centers of America and chair of SCA's Committee on Center Advancement and Growth. He finds one model of aging, "the branching tree" theory particularly interesting.

The premise of the "branching tree" model is that as we age, we make decisions and pursue different courses in our lives, or different branches. And as we grow increasingly older, we can look back on the branches of our personal life "tree" with a better understanding of the past events of lives. All these branches make each person's life unique unto itself. "This is quite a different notion than most of us have of older people," says Ekerdt. By holding to this model of aging, the older generation of America cannot be viewed as one large, homogeneous graying population. Rather, the focus shifts to individual seniors, who have knowledge of a personal nature. The implication of the branching tree is that such knowledge, if shared, is of great value to generations further up on the aging tree.

"The farther out you are on the tree, the more complex you are, the more you know, and the more worthwhile it is to have known that," says Ekerdt.

Ice Cream Social

We came, we sang, we devoured ice cream! What an amazing turnout for the 19th Annual Ice Cream Social and Patriotic Review on Monday night, July 1st. In spite of the rain, we had well over 100 people of all ages who sang 16 verses of Yankee Doodle and went through 26 half-gallons of Blue Bell ice cream (and who had an appetite for more!). Thank you for your generous support of this event.

June 2002 Financial Statement

	CURRENT MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$81,556	\$80,834	\$399,474	\$485,002
Total Income	83,635	83,501	406,996	498,002
Total Expenses	73,673	101,294	513,753	611,059
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	\$9,962	(\$17,793)	(\$106,757)	(\$113,057)

Daughters of the King Quiet Day - August 24, 2002

by Louise Waddill

Daughters of the King, St. Cecilia Chapter at St. Matthew's will hold a Quiet Day on Saturday, August 24, 2002, at St. Matthew's Church in Room B-18. The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. A sandwich lunch will be provided for \$5.00 each. We are fortunate to have Heather Kohout of The Seton Cove to lead us in a day of reflection, contemplation and quiet time with Our Lord. The day will conclude with Holy Eucharist celebrated by our own Chaplain, The Rev. Susan J. Barnes.

What is a Quiet Day? It has different meanings to different people and it evokes different emotions. Think of it as "hospitality for God." A Quiet Day is refreshment to the body, soul and spirit; it simply means taking away all obstacles so that those who participate may relax and come into the presence of God, who constantly invites us to "come to Him."

Other women of St. Matthew's are most welcome to share the day with us. Perhaps you are considering joining the Order of the Daughters of the King. This would be an excellent opportunity to see what we are about. We are also inviting our Sisters in Christ in other chapters of DOK in the Austin area.

In order to provide lunch and refreshments, we need to know the number attending. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Commons during August or call Louise Waddill at 343-7696 or email lwaddill@austin.rr.com

Are You Willing to Help St. Matthew's?

Did you know that 50 to 75 percent of all church members die without a will, which often diverts large sums of money away from family and charitable interests? Did you remember to include a gift to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in your will? Would you be willing to help? Please notify your attorney today!

What You Always Wanted to Know About Being a Mentor

by Jeri Muhich, Newcomers' Council, Co-Chair

The Newcomers' Council is beginning a new program to help mentor new members into our St. Matthew's community. We will begin by pairing new members with mentors in August. A mentor is a member of the church who shows a special interest in a new member and helps them feel a part of this new and sometimes overwhelming community we know as St. Matthew's. Through this relationship we pray each new member will feel valued and cared about and in turn plug into the community by participating in various groups and ministries. Below are some mentor guidelines written by the Newcomers Council.

1) Pray about this ministry – is this one where you can make a difference in the life of a new member? Do you have the time required to be a mentor? Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

2) If you feel uncertain about being a mentor, contact a member of the Mentor Subcommittee to work with you on understanding the mentor relationship.

3) After receiving the name of your new member, give him/her a call to introduce yourself and to welcome them to our parish.

4) Arrange a meeting, preferably at church the first time, before or after the service or at a Sunday School class.

5) Introduce your new member to others at church when the opportunity presents itself.

6) If appropriate, eat lunch together after church or arrange a mutually agreed upon time and place.

7) In your conversations ask them about themselves – their interests, where they are from, and be listening for clues that might help you suggest ministries or groups within St. Matthew's they would like to attend. If at all possible offer to go with them to the first one. It would also be good to call the person who heads that ministry and give the new member's name and phone number for a personal invitation to attend the next class, meeting, etc.

8) Contact your new member at least once a week for about a month to establish your relationship and to ascertain how you can mentor them effectively. After the first month use your own judgment on maintaining contact.

9) Your new member may be more of a self-starter and require less attention than some others or they may need more encouragement and individual attention. Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit on how you can mentor. We don't want to be intrusive, but we want them to feel valued.

10) Most importantly, don't drop the ball. If you run into a problem, let someone know.

Remember, we are here to help you if you run into any difficulties or have any questions.

St. Matthew's Newcomers Council Mentor Subcommittee: Dedee Norman (345-8314), Jeri Muhich (452-1210), Kay Whitney (345-0574), Debbie Meleski (327-6265).

Help!!!

by Suzanne Daniel

We've heard from many of you about how much you love the praise music during the service. Have you thought about joining us? A willingness to help lead the congregation in song (either by singing or playing) is essential — exceptional musical talent is optional. We have several dedicated members who periodically cannot participate due to other things in their life — travel, work schedules, family conflicts, etc. When many of these happen at the same time, we end up with a very small praise team! We will continue to have praise music during the service, even with a small team. Our numbers may be small, particularly over the summer, until we get some additional team members.

We currently rehearse on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary, although there is some discussion of an alternate time, to be determined by the group members.

If you are interested, please speak to or e-mail either Suzanne Daniel (suziq@jump.net) or Cary Michaels (cf13@swt.edu).

Choir Members Participate in Service with Archbishop Carey

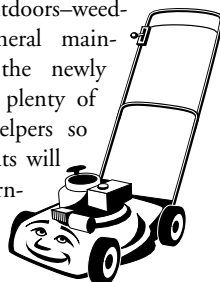
By the time you're reading this, a number of St. Matthew's members will have participated with many others from our diocese in a large choir for the Festival Eucharist as part of Archbishop Carey's visit to Texas. The service was at Sarofim Hall at the William Hobby Center for the Performing Arts in Houston on Friday evening, July 19th. Look for a follow-up report in the next issue of *The Word*.

Save the Date for Fall Cleanup!

by Amy Tuvell, Buildings and Grounds Commission

Clip. Trim. Weed. Sweep. The plants on our campus have been growing all summer and it's time for the Fall Clean Up Day. Let's get everything looking good for the Ministry Fair, the Arts Festival and St. Matthew's Day. Come on Saturday, August 24, at 9:00 a.m., with gloves and yard tools. Please bring old newspapers to use as weed barrier.

Most tasks will be outdoors—weeding, trimming and general maintenance, especially in the newly planted areas. There are plenty of tasks suited for little helpers so bring the kids. The Scouts will be there also. After a morning of work, we will be treated to lunch by the Holy Smokers.



Mississippi Conference on Music and Liturgy

At the beginning of August, Co-Music Directors, Cary Michaels and Suzanne Daniel will be attending the Mississippi Conference on Music and Liturgy hosted by the Diocese of Mississippi. This is one of the largest Episcopal Music conferences in the country. Several guest musicians and clergy will lead an exploration of the meaning and mystery of The Great Vigil of Easter through presentations, workshops and worship during the week. The conference ends with a Festival Eucharist on Sunday, August 4th. There will be a guest musician behind the organ console that Sunday.

St. Matthew's Activity Calendar

In such an active parish as ours, it is not possible to post a calendar with every meeting/function. This overview is designed to hit the highlights. Because it changes from minute to minute, we hope you will let us know of errors, corrections and additions. Please email your input to betty@stmattsaustin.org.

Date	Day	Event	Time
July 4	Thursday	Fourth of July Holiday/Office Closed	
August 2-3	Fri/Sat	ECW In House Retreat with Susan Barnes	
August 4	Sunday	Parish Luncheon After Church	
August 10	Saturday	Girl Scout activity in Huffman Hall	10 a.m. - noon
August 19	Monday	Trinity Episcopal School Orientation	5:00 p.m.
August 21	Wednesday	Men's Fellowship in Huffman Hall	5:30 p.m.
August 22	Thursday	Day School Orientation Meeting in Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.
August 24	Saturday	Fall Parish Clean Up Day	all day
August 24	Saturday	Daughters of the King Quiet Day in B-18	9 am - 4 pm
August 25	Sunday	Ministry Fair in Huffman Hall	
August 27	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
August 27	Tuesday	Day School Parent Orientation in Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.
September 2	Monday	Labor Day - Office Closed	
September 6	Friday	Young at Heart Luncheon in Huffman Hall	12:00 noon
September 6-7	Fri/Sat	Parish Festival - Opening Our Hearts to the Arts	
September 13	Friday	Ockerd/Briseno Wedding Rehearsal	5:00 p.m.
September 14	Saturday	Ockerd/Briseno Wedding/Reception in HH	2:00 p.m.
September 14	Sunday	Community of Hope Classes	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
September 22	Sunday	St. Matthew's Day observed - one service fits all	10:30 a.m.
September 29	Sunday	Baptisms	10:30 a.m.
October 18	Friday	Day School Fall Fest - HH and Grounds	evening
October 20	Sunday	Mozart Fest in Sanctuary	3:00 p.m.
October 26	Saturday	Garage Sale for Nursery in Huffman Hall	8:00 a.m.
October 27	Sunday	Austin Civic Orchestra in Sanctuary	3:00 p.m.
November 3	Sunday	All Saints Day - Baptisms	
November 5	Tuesday	Elections/Voting in Huffman Hall	
November 26	Tuesday	Day School Thanksgiving Feast in Huffman Hall	10:00 a.m.
November 27	Wednesday	Thanksgiving Eve Service at Triumphant Love	7:15 p.m.
November 28	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day - Church Office Closed	
November 29	Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday - Church Office Closed	
December 1	Sunday	The Advent of Advent	
December 8	Sunday	Confirmation with Bp. Payne	

Opening Our Hearts Through the Arts

Please join us September 6-7, 2002, in celebrating the connections between God's creativity and spirit in us and through the literary, visual and performing arts.

On Friday evening, September 6, St. Matthew's will host a barbecue dinner from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. Huffman Hall, followed by a diverse mix of musical, theatrical and dance performances in the sanctuary beginning at 7:15 p.m. Friday evening's performance will include (to name only a few):

- Renata Green and Tony Morris on classical guitar and flute
- Celtic music by Ed Miller and his little daughter
- Liturgical dance by The Reverend Diana Holbert
- Renaissance music by Jennifer Davis and fellow musicians
- Jazz piano music by Curt Voelkel
- Frank Shirley performing the music of Scott Joplin
- The "Ring 4 Him" hand bell choir of Hillcrest Baptist Church
- Cary Michaels and Suzanne Daniels performing P.D.Q. Bach.

On Saturday, September 7, a full day of visual arts exhibits including textiles and jewelry, a dance workshop, literary discussion, Mexican brunch, music and afternoon high tea will be offered between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Admission is free for all performances, arts and crafts exhibits and writers' presentations. Advance sale tickets will be available for meals and afternoon tea.

By the way...there is still time to join in this work and we hope that you will. Meetings of the full OOHTA Committee will be held as follows:

- July 21, noon, B-18
- July 28, noon, B-18
- August 4, 12:45, B-18
- August 11, noon, B-18
- August 18, 9 a.m., B-18
- August 26, 9 a.m., B-18

We are also still in need of volunteers and donations for the silent auction. Questions? Contact Kathleen Niendorff at: kdnlitag@sprynet.com or 453-6300 or Sharon Lowe at sharonlowe@hotmail.com or 345-1990.

Club 345

by Heather Harmon, Club 345 Coordinator

Club 345 (three-forty-five) is a group for third through fifth graders. It serves as a stepping stone to the youth groups sponsored by our St. Matthew's Youth Ministry.

This program allows for familiarity and connectedness with each of our educational programs. We also believe a group for third through fifth graders would help prepare them for becoming members of St. Matthew's youth group.

Secondly, this new group allows children to better know each other and learn how to better respect one another in and out of the church environment. This group has lots of fun for the children and hopefully makes them feel that they too have a place in our church.

Thirdly, as most of you know, studies are showing us that events (drugs, sex, puberty, etc) in children's lives are occurring at earlier and earlier times than they use to occur. Thinking about that and the increasing demands of society on our children, we can't wait until the "terrible teen" years to try to intervene or mentor or try to prevent situations that may already be happening by that time in a child's life. We need to start during the upper elementary years to give them a place where they feel they belong, that they enjoy coming to, and where they know they are loved and cared for by peers and adults. We need to create a caring, loving, spiritual environment in hopes of guiding them (and for them to guide each other). We want to support them and teach them to support each other throughout their adolescent years (and maybe even longer).

Club 345 has two events each semester and an event during the summer. We encourage children to bring friends, so we can serve more children than those in our parish. Please look on the website for photos of our past events.

This is a program that we hope can become very successful. With your prayers and support, we hope this program can expand to better serve the intermediate youth of this community.

Encounter

by Jim Sparks

I was sitting at the counter of the coffee shop when he appeared outside. He was about 30 years old, slim with medium length brown hair. His clothes were ragged. Without looking in the window of the coffee shop, he headed straight to the trash receptacle and pulled out a paper cup and drank the remains of the coffee. He drank the remains of two or three cups of coffee and turned around and left. He never looked in the coffee shop.

I told the waitress to give him whatever he wanted if he came in. He didn't come in. I haven't seen many beggars, but this man was not a beggar. He wasn't asking for anything. He didn't even look at us. But he was hungry!

As I was leaving a few minutes later, I saw him standing next to a trash bin by the alley. He was eating something. I took some money out of my wallet and drove straight to him. He looked up as though he were expecting me. He smiled at me and I handed him the money. His only words were "thank you."

His smile was the most loving I have ever experienced. His light brown eyes showed so much agape love that I was speechless. I managed to say "you are welcome," and drove off.

I looked for him each time I went back to the coffee shop, but he was gone. I couldn't understand why I kept seeing those loving eyes until it finally dawned on me: I saw Jesus!

Attention All Women, Especially Those Who Are Stressed Out

(and who isn't these days!)

You are invited to come to a fun, relaxing place to meet new Christian women and get closer to God. This women's spiritual support group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's, in Room B-21. We have the key to relieving your stresses and burdens. Pray those problems away, replace them with the joy of Jesus Christ. We're here to offer interesting scriptural topics and teaching of two-way prayer and intercessory prayer. Our next meeting is August 13. Hope to see you there! If you have questions, please call Laura Knight 261-3525 or Dee Kohlhoff 965-2301.

Birthdays

August

- 1 Mark Banta, Jennifer Davis, Tom Uhl, David Young
- 2 Marcia Bailey, Elisabeth Carl, Katie Hale, John Jansing, Sandy Luce, Patti Shannon
- 3 John Athey, Shelby Bursk, Colin Moore, Steve White
- 5 Mary Bass, Glenda Brown, Keith Thompson
- 6 Blake Denton, Lynn Durrenberger, Lela McIntosh
- 7 Liz Johnson, George McClure
- 8 Renee Arend, James Bennett, Elizabeth Klingler, Grant McCollum, Joe Nuessle, Scott Smith
- 9 Gil Heldenfels, Robert Wasmuth, Laurel Webb
- 10 Janice Harris, Betty Newman, Alexis McKennon, Abby Walsh
- 11 Suzy Gregory, Afif Kafena, Marilyn Wenzel, Marcia Wheeler, Cheryl Williamson
- 12 Mary Corner, Robert Myers, Patrick Wade
- 13 Will Kirkgard, Alexandra Le, Kelley Meyer
- 14 Ann Evans, Bruce Evans
- 15 Sharon Tomisak
- 16 David Ascott, Cole Feeley, John Muhich
- 17 Valerie White
- 18 Nancy Kirwan, Ginny Malloy, Dennis Minks, Sarah Varnado, Bob Wood
- 19 Bleakney Bissett, Roger Buerger, Alan Gregory, John O'Quin,
- 20 Jack Bissett, Sue McDonald, Larry Nichols, David Petersen, Audrey Wozniak
- 21 Gina Godwin, Jodie Gordon
- 22 Pamela Jackson, Lisa Thompson, Jake Walsh
- 23 Steve Ryder
- 24 Carol Ekerdt, Ann Hart, Pat Naeve
- 25 Karen Baker
- 26 Diane Bennett, Dottie Driver, Michael Driver, Connor Hale, Jacob Veith, Crystal Wade, Caroline Webb
- 27 Davis Beal, Mike Bhatt, Mary Lou Henshaw, David Hooker, Laura Rose Nieman, Bill Wenzel
- 28 Marsha Bemis, Reed Dady, James Mashburn
- 30 Claire Cordes, Michelle Gatton, Michelle Howells, Eric Liles, Torre Shanks
- 31 Brittany Bass, Lakki Brown

September

- 1 Eleanor Eastberg, Tim Kyle, Ryan Nichols, Tyler Pugsley, Donna Tarbox, Sara Walsh
- 2 Brandon Brickley, Marsha Lee, David Price
- 3 David Carrier, Ken Hay, Patty Steed
- 4 Phil Hatlen, Allen Keith, Warren Marshall, Fossie Moore, Michael Zimmerman
- 5 Lauren Clark, Colleen Hale, Tom Holt, J. D. Johns
- 6 Ryan Leather, Diane Smith, Skyler Thorn
- 7 Judy Bomar, Sarah Neely

A Thank You Note from Jennifer Jones

Dear Friends at St. Matthew's,

It's been eleven years and countless changes since the first day I set foot in this church. Some of you I've known since then and some of you I have yet to meet, but you have all changed my life in some way, and you are all part of a greater family that has meant an incredible amount to me. From the day I arrived, St. Matthew's has been my home. You were welcoming and loving, and I found a community that only years later am able to truly appreciate. You have walked with me in my faith and watched me grow up in Christ. Almost all of my best friends and favorite memories came from St. Matt's. From ski trips to mission trips, youth group to worship team, this journey has brought

not only laughs but also—at times—struggles. It has taught me what the light of Christ really is and how important it is not only to have it but also to share it with those who don't. You have supported me through most of my life, and now you are supporting me to go do God's work in South Africa.

I am grateful for your generosity at the recent benefit concert for the South Africa mission trip, and I'd like to give a special thank you to band members Russ Adams, Tom Caven, Randy Alexis, and Anne Matthews. Thanks also to the St. Matthew's Outreach Committee for all your help.

As I stop and reflect on how much you have done for me, how much you have sacrificed, I know that there is no way I could

Congratulations to you!

The love offering collected for Father Joe Di Paola came to a grand total of \$12,880. Joe and Betty were floored by the love represented in this generous gift. If you would like to contact them, you may write to their home: 2529 Avenue O, Galveston, TX 77550 or email him at padrepreacher@aol.com

A Thank You Note From Joe Di Paola

Dear People of St. Matthew's Church: It is with much love and appreciation that we express our very deep gratitude for all of your many kindnesses and for the most generous "Farewell Gift" to Betty and to me. We are still overwhelmed, not only for the outpouring of your love on our last day — but we are still and we will always be overwhelmed by the wonderful time we had with you the last sixteen months. Words cannot express the love we have for you and how much we will miss you.

Bishop Payne has already begun to mention to me starting a new Mission in Dime Box, Texas after St. Mark's Church, Beaumont - I replied: "Beat it Buster!" — if we go anywhere, it will be Austin, Texas.

God Bless You Each and Everyone.

Gratefully and In Christ's Love,

Joe

Deaths

John DeWitt,
brother of Tom DeWitt
died on July 1, 2002.

ever show my gratitude. But then I am reminded that we fight the same battle for Christ, and the only way I could ever repay you is by doing God's will, God's work. It is because of you that I am able to do this. Your prayers for and support of this mission are just as important as the work I will be doing.

Thank you for walking with me. Thank you for growing with me. Thank you for laughing with me. Thank you for believing in me.

Love in Him,
Jennifer Jones

the st. matthew's word

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School
www.StMattsAustin.org ♦ office@StMattsAustin.org
8134 Mesa Drive ♦ Austin, TX 78759-8678
(512) 345-8314 ♦ FAX (512) 346-2085

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Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite One
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Adult Fellowship/Coffee
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
12 Noon Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
with Healing Service

Daily

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in the
Cauley Chapel

The Charlotte Cauley Gray (Bell Tower) Chapel and
the Kinney (Outdoor) Chapel are always open.

The nursery is open each Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:
45 p.m., where childcare is cheerfully provided for little
ones from birth to age four.

**Deadline for the September issue
of *The Word* is
Friday, August 16, 2002
at 5:00 p.m. Submissions on diskette
are welcomed - or email your article
to betty@stmattsAustin.org
Articles may be edited for content
and length.**

Vestry Commission Chairs

David Barrow, Jr. and Mary Nell Frucella

Tom Canby *Buildings and Grounds*
David Harakal *Finance*
Debbie Meleski *Communications*
Bob Ascott *Personnel*
Holly Decherd *Stewardship*
Outreach

Lay Ministry Councils

Kathy Vail *Adult Education*
Ann Hart *Children*
Jeri Muhich *Newcomers*
Milt Williams *Parish Life*
Elaine Goessling *Pastoral Care*
Debbie Meleski *Personnel*
Sue Kinney *Worship*
Steve Brock *Youth*

School Board

The Rev. Merrill Wade *Chairman*
Barbara Pitts *President*
Kristin Fason *Vice-President*
Karen Porter *Treasurer*
Pam Littlefield *Director*
Eileen Cole *Assistant Director*
Elizabeth Vetter *Recording Secretary*
Michael McCollum *Corresponding Secretary*

Members—Kay Ballard, Vada Dillawn,
Andrew Urban

Staff

The Rev. Merrill Wade *Rector*
The Rev. Susan J. Barnes *Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Charles Huffman *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Jerry Chapman *Assisting Clergy*
The Rev. George I. Wilson *Assisting Clergy*
Lucy Boyea *Minister of Senior Activities*
Suzanne Daniel *Music Ministry*
Barbara Haynes *Administrative Assistant*
Eric Liles *Youth Minister*
Cary Michaels *Music Ministry*
Betty Mitchell *Communications Coordinator*
Tracey Nichols *Nursery Coordinator*
Dedee Norman *Membership Coordinator*
Barbara Pitts *Children's Minister*
Martha Schorre *Children's Ministry Assistant*
Brad Wagner *Business Manager*

Vestry

Jack Eccles (345-7396) *Senior Warden*
Phil Hatlen (345-9923) *People's Warden*
Kate Canby (219-8693) *Vestry Warden*
John Muhich (452-1210) *Treasurer*
Bill Donnell (345-0097) *Clerk*

Members — Bob Ascott, David Barrow Jr.,
Pat Boon, Charles Cole, Mary Nell Frucella,
David Harakal, Cliff Harrison, Debbie Meleski,
Don Neely, Clive Smith, Keith Thompson,
Bob Wood