

the st. matthew's word

Vacation Notes From the Rector

Dear Parish Family,

As you receive this, Crystal, the kids and I are on vacation! We will return around August 8 and I will be in church on August 10.

Camp Allen

Before I left on vacation, I gave some of my reflections on Camp Allen at the 10:30 a.m. service on July 13. I, again, want to thank Eric Liles, Kelly Owens, Andy Muhich and Becky Novak for their great work with our 5th and 6th grade camp session. My son, Patrick, was a camper and one of the 63 beneficiaries of their labors, and he had a great time. It is so important that our clergy and lay leaders support our summer camping program, for those childhood experiences in the piney woods grow deep roots of faith for our children.

Playfulness

In my sermon on July 13, I mentioned that camp is both spiritually inspirational and playful and that I think we Christians all too often get too deadly serious about issues of faith. This kind of doctrinal intensity often breeds a kind of melancholy or anger that can get in the way of grace, and that often closes more doors of our hearts than we might desire. The Christian way of life is a serious pursuit, but it requires a deep trust in the goodness and faithfulness of God, and, as well, a sense of humor and gentleness about one's own finiteness, failures and broken promises. Playfulness is an antidote to deadly seriousness.

Big Questions

As your rector, I have been pondering the meaning of our life together. What does

a mature Christian look like? What are the traits of mature faith? A member of our Adult Education Council framed the question this way:

If I attended church faithfully, developed a life of prayer sustained by Word and Sacrament, faithfully participated in adult educational offerings and retreats, was actively engaged in meaningful ministry in the church and in support of those in need, what would be signs that I am growing spiritually? If I were involved in the life of this church for 10 years, what results would you want to see?

Signs of Maturity

Well, there are, of course, a multitude of possible answers to that question. In my July 13 sermon, I pointed us to five signs of spiritual maturity described by my seminary dean at General Seminary in the late 1980's, The Very Rev. James Fenhagen, in his book, *Ministry and Solitude*. They are as follows (all quotations come directly from the book):

1. Growth in self-awareness. This involves discernment of spiritual gifts and using them. Self-awareness involves "sensitivity to one's impact on others as well as an ability to receive criticism and use it for one's own growth." Dean Fenhagen added that "self-awareness implies a sense of one's own finiteness and a profound dependence on the infinite forgiveness of God."
2. An increasing sense of wonder and awe. This is rooted in humility. "One of the paradoxes of the Christian life is that the more deeply we come to experience God,

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for for more information!

The Rector's article...continued from page 1

the more aware we are of how limited our knowledge of him actually is." He adds, "Christian maturity involves a high tolerance for ambiguity and paradox and a lessened need for certainty. This sense of wonder allows us to open doors rather than close them in our relation with others."

3. "Christian maturity involves commitment to a disciplined pattern of nurturing the life in Christ. Such a pattern involves a life rhythm that moves easily between solitude and action. It will involve an increasing knowledge of scripture as a means of understanding one's own identity..., which is a life lived consciously in the presence of God" as a part of a praying church community.
4. "Christian maturity involves a growing capacity to respond to the pain of others, including the pain of others very different from ourselves."
5. "Christian maturity is reflected in our capacity for joy. For the Christian, all life is a gift. We are the recipients of a love that will not let go... Christian joy is more than good feeling. It is an ability to appreciate the gifts we see in others. It is a response to life that overcomes cynicism and allows for hope, even in the midst of darkness. We can sense joy in others not by the giddiness of their behavior, but by the way their joy empowers us."

It goes without saying that all of us will mature in Christ in different ways but I hope you will find the above five signs helpful in your journey. Take them seriously, but not too seriously!

Pictorial Directory

Finally, now is the time to sign up for your appointment to get your picture taken for the 2003 Pictorial Directory. Our Associate Vestry is hard at work to provide us an excellent resource for our parish. Please cooperate and get your appointment made immediately!

Faithfully and playfully,

Merrill

Camp Allen Meal Blessing

A la Merrill Wade's Sermon of July 13

Do you remember how to get silly? Well now is your chance. Just snap your fingers and join in the fun. To the tune of the Addams Family theme song: altogether now...

Duh duh duh duh snap! snap!
Duh duh duh duh snap! snap!

Duh duh duh duh
Duh duh duh duh
Duh duh duh duh snap! snap!

We thank the Lord for giving
The food we need for living
And so we ask God's blessing
'Cause now its time to eat! Snap! snap!

At the conclusion, raise your fist in the air and give it a pump!

Thank You from Texas Reach Out

Dear Reverend Wade,

On behalf of the Board and staff of Texas Reach Out, Inc., I want to thank your church and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas for the generous \$1,500 grant to further our mission.

Texas Reach Out, Inc. is dedicated to providing Christian men and women ex-offenders a structured Christ-centered transitional program when they are released from prison. Our goal is to equip our participants with the necessary skills to become productive citizens in our community.

Again, thank you for supporting this very important program that serve an often overlooked group of people in our community.

Sincerely,
F. James MacKie
Treasurer

New Adult Education Courses Begin August 31

Two new and exciting rounds of Adult Education will begin on Sunday, August 31.

Session I (August 31 – October 12):

- ♦ Hope in the Fast Lane: Spiritual Resources in a Stressful World — led Joyce Scott;
- ♦ The New Testament: Context and Content — led by Marty Novak
- ♦ Discovery Class – led by Merrill Wade — a necessary prerequisite for those wanting to be confirmed when Bishop Daniels visits in December.

Sunday, October 19: No classes (social time with coffee in Huffman Hall)

Session II (October 26 – December 14):

- ♦ Unearth Your Talents — led by Bonnie Coleman and Dyke Miller
- ♦ Pop Culture and Christianity: Finding the Spiritual in the Secular — led by Jay Robison

November 30: No classes (social time with coffee in Huffman Hall)

Watch for additional details about these classes coming soon to the Weekly Word!

Thank You from El Buen Samaritano

Dear Merrill,

El Buen Samaritano, extends its heartfelt thanks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for its generous donation of \$25,000 to our Building Hope Capital Campaign. El Buen greatly appreciates the gift of these funds which will be used to fund our new facility. We are truly grateful for all of the support the St. Matthew's vestry, clergy and congregation have extended toward our organization. We are blessed by your faith and generosity. Please share our joyful appreciation with your parish.

Yours in Christ,
The Reverend Jaime Case

Directory Pictures Start This Month! Are You Signed Up?

by David Luce, Program Coordinator, Pictorial Directory

Hopefully by now you have scheduled your appointment for your Pictorial Directory portrait sitting. If not, you should contact Jamie Mann quickly to schedule it (Jamie Mann: 913-6716). Portraits will be taken over the course of three weeks in August 2003 (see dates and times below). This directory will be an important way to help bind our church community together...so we are confident that you will find a time that will fit into your family's busy schedule.

We Will Be Calling!

If you don't have an appointment set by the first few days of August, we will be calling you. We'll try NOT to act like Telemarketers...interrupting your dinner...so don't hang up on us! We want to make sure nobody is left out of this marvelous project.

Plan on an HOUR!

When you come for your portrait sitting, plan on about an hour for the entire process. You will first check-in at your appointment time. Then you will sit for your portraits. Next you will go to view your portraits and pick your free 8x10 and pick the one you want in the directory. And finally, you will have the option of selecting packages of pictures that you can purchase separately. All told...it should take about an hour.

Appointment Changes and No-Shows.

Please, Please, Please work hard to set your appointment and keep it. While changes are possible, it becomes much more

difficult to manage changes as we get closer to the shoot dates. Also, please try not to simply forget your appointment (no-show). It will be very difficult to reschedule your appointment at the last minute. So...we plan to make it very difficult for you to forget.

- ♦ We have sent you home with your appointment date written on the flyer.
- ♦ We will be sending you a Reminder Postcard.
- ♦ And we will be placing a Reminder Phone Call to you.

That's the very best we can do. The rest is up to you. Thank you in advance for your serious attention to this detail.

It will be a GREAT Directory.

When the completed book is finally in our hands, all of this hard work will have been worth it. Remember, for general questions you may contact David Luce (670-7557 or davidallenluce@aol.com). To schedule an appointment, contact Jamie Mann (913-6716).

August 2003 Dates and Times:

Aug. 6, 7	Wed/Thurs.	3 - 9 p.m.
Aug. 8	Friday	1 - 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 9	Saturday	9:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Aug. 12-14	Tues/Wed/Thurs.	3 - 9 p.m.
Aug. 15	Friday	1 - 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 16	Saturday	9:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Aug. 26-28	Tues/Wed/Thurs.	3 - 9 p.m.
Aug. 29	Friday	1 - 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 30	Saturday	9:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Retreat with Extended Family

submitted by Dyke Miller

Join the Extended Family community within St. Matthew's for a Thanksgiving weekend at Well Springs, Wessendorff Ranch on the Blanco river between Wimberly and Blanco. This "ranch" setting of open space and comfortable accommodations is just the right place to enjoy some family time and catch your breath. Consider packing up your family and take the one and a half hour ride to this wonderful retreat area. There are individual rooms, dorm rooms, comfortable lounge areas, a modern kitchen, flush toilets and running water. What else to you need? Yes, there is a chapel and we'll use it. Beds and mattresses are provided but you bring your own bedding.

The cost. WE share a custodial fee (last year it was \$210) and pro-rate the food costs. No charge for cooking. We self clean-up. There you have it. Give this family time "away" (but not too far) and give Dyke Miller a call at 794-9032 for more information. Oh yes, we plan to do this from noon on Friday, Nov. 28 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30. The Texas and A&M game will already be over!

Join the Fun of the Pictorial Directory

The Pictorial Directory NEEDS YOU to Volunteer!

Creating the Pictorial Directory will be a Great project! And great projects need many great, energetic volunteers. COME JOIN our awesome team on the Pictorial Directory Committee and feel the joy of being a part of this wonderful ministry.

Contact the names below to express your interest in the following: Volunteers are needed in these areas:

Telephone Team: We need team members to place phone calls to member, signing up appointments and making reminder calls. Contact Pat Yeargain 343-7048 to volunteer.

Hostess Team: We need team members to greet members as they come for their portrait sittings. You will greet members as they arrive and lead them from room to room, through the photo process. Contact Glenda Monroe at 250-5139 to volunteer.

Bragging Rights! Join us and you will not only have a bunch of fun doing this...but you will earn "Bragging Rights," being able to tell the world, "Yes...I helped make that directory a reality!"

Conflict Resolution and Forgiveness in a Faith-Based Community

submitted by Cynthia Wilson

Conflict is an all too human part of living in community. As members of a Christian community, we are called to prayerfully focus our hearts and minds to resolve conflict and seek forgiveness. Not an easy thing!

On September 20, 2003, The Austin Area Community of Hope will sponsor a conference at El Buen Samaritano in its new location. The Rev. Lex Breckenridge of St. Alban's will discuss Conflict Resolution. The Rev. Tudi Waters of St. David's will discuss Forgiveness. There will be small group discussion. The conference is from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost will be \$15. Lunch will be provided. Child care will be available with registration prior to September 10. Contact Cynthia Wilson 346-6870 or w8300@yahoo.com

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Iona — Glorious Iona

by The Rev. Susan Barnes

"The glories of Iona are reconstituted with every dawn and sunset, and with every changing minute of the day.... The Celtic church grew among people who were not builders, who were not tempted to follow a tradition of containing their gods in temples but felt closer to them where they could feel the wind buffeting their faces, and see the flash of white wings against the sky and smell the tangle of the sun-warmed bark of trees....Iona provided the perfect setting for their worship."

—from Ian Finlay's biography of St. Columba

Dear Friends in Christ,

By the grace of God and with the generous support of this congregation, twenty-one pilgrims from St. Matthew's (fifteen youth and six adults) made the extraordinary journey to the island of Iona, Scotland, for a week-long Pilgrimage.*

We joined twenty-four other adults, who had come from different parts of the world for the experience. For six days the forty five of us shared in worship (morning and evening, in the 13th century Abbey church), in meals, in household chores. We lived together in dormitory rooms. Together we traveled on water to the nearby island of Staffa, we discovered, on foot, the beauties of the ancient Christian island of Iona herself. Together we prayed, we sang and we danced. Together we saw how our unity in Christ transcended all our differences.

Each one of us was transformed by the experience. It is our prayer that we can, in turn, help to transform the community of St. Matthew's, sharing the gifts that we received thanks to your extravagant love and support.

The Pilgrimage was an ambitious thing to do financially, but you all made it easy. We owe you ALL our thanks for prayers, donations, for flocking and being flocked! We are particularly grateful to Pat Boon, Margaret Parker and their committee, to Margaret Carpenter, Merrill, the Tuesday Night Bible Study, Trisha Abrahamson, and Judy Neely. We thank Judy DeWitt, Kristi Robison, and Clive Smith who have faithfully taught these young people for two years and more; Clive, who made all the ground arrangements, our Youth Minister, Eric Liles, whose love, faith, and leadership have nurtured and formed our young people. Finally, we all thank Kathy Dugat. Before Eric and I came, she led the Youth Council in seeking and selecting the Journey to Adulthood program—the outstanding six-year youth curriculum of which the Pilgrimage is a part.

At summer's end we are planning a program or two to share some of the images and some of the fun. More about that later. First, we offer here our impressions of the week.

With gratitude and love,
Susan

**The Pilgrimage is a rite of passage that marks the transition into the final two year segment in the Journey to Adulthood Sunday school curriculum. During those last two years before they go to college, the youth identify their spiritual gifts and begin to participate as adults in the ministries of the church.*

The Pilgrims Speak! Excellence in Iona, Paradise Found

High atop the mountain I found myself, lost myself totally to God. On the mountaintop we stood. The wind was rushing past, probably around 40 miles per hour. It was amazing to just surrender myself and trust the wind and let it keep me standing. In the view and the wind, I believe I have grown to God. *Todd Wittie*

Let me tell you how you take a pilgrimage on a pilgrimage. You take a 7-mile hike around the place you are pilgriming to. You get to see ancient crosses and churches. You visit beaches and listen to history about then. You walk through a beautiful field with a carpet of flowers, sheep dotting the landscape, a brilliant blue ocean and tall hills around you. You hike to historic sites of religion and stone formations created by people older than you can imagine. When you see all this beauty around you, and realize this is the only place in the world that this can be found, and you connect to God in a way only found on a pilgrimage. And you want to keep on walking. Maybe another mile. *T.K. DeWitt*

The most spiritual time for me was in a small chanting session. There weren't many people and the room was darkened but lit by a few candles. In an ancient stone chapel we all chanted songs and everyone's voices blended beautifully. The harmony was awesome and a feeling of peace and calm settled over me. I was so moved that I actually had tears in my eyes. It was simple, yet entirely wonderful. *Anonymous*

The moment I arrived on Iona, I fell in love. Everything was green, blue and old stone grey. Behind the MacLeod center where we stayed, there was a giant hill. It looked as if God had piled rocks up and let the grass grow on top. I wanted to climb it that night; although it was almost 9:00 p.m., it was as bright as 3:30 in the afternoon, unfortunately not as warm. So the next day after lunch, I began my hike up to the summit with Megan Sikes. 15 minutes, 3 fences, 12 sheep, and 4 bogs later, I was at

continued on next page...

June 2003 Financial Statement

	CURRENT MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$81,620	\$72,071	\$480,748	\$441,335
Total Income	99,478	78,837	521,045	479,305
Total Expenses	77,081	84,275	484,775	517,515
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	\$22,397	(\$5,438)	\$36,270	(\$36,210)

the top. I had never seen anything to challenge the central Texas beauty. And as I knelt down and prayed, I knew that this was what heaven looked like. *Kara Denney*

Jesus is my savior
He lives within me
My heart is open to him
It's a heart of destiny
But all that I can take
Takes me to his misery
Cause Jesus is my savior
And he will stand by me
And when I am down
And need a friend,
I look to him for company
Cause Jesus is my Savior
And he will stand by me.
Vicky Dettmann

I think the most memorable part of this journey was the pilgrimage around Iona. The beauty of this island is beyond compare. Approaching Columba's Bay, you pass through a narrow pass with rock on either side. Upon exiting the pass, it opens up and you are offered a breathtaking view of the valley that turns into the bay. The sheer beauty of that scene would serve as proof to the most fervent nonbeliever that there is a God. A land of such unparalleled beauty could not have formed simply by coincidence. *Matthew Abrahamson*

Today after breakfast and service, we had another program. This one was on praying with scripture. Take a passage and read it three or four times, until you have it cemented firmly in your mind, then picture yourself as part of it, possibly someone close to Jesus, or interacting with him, one of his disciples, or remain yourself completely. Then imagine yourself in the scene (preferably doing something,) conversing, hugging, hiding or even arguing. This method of prayer was rather challenging for me. It comes more naturally to just picture the scene from an observant, outsiders view, but faith thrives on challenge I suppose. Each praying experience has been unique, I'm not sure how often or how many of these I will practice on my own, but certainly each lends a new perspective and facet to the ever-evolving relationship between Maker and man. *Anonymous*

One of my favorite moments in Scotland was Tuesday when we went on a pilgrimage around the island and stopped to eat lunch at Columba's Bay, which is on the South side of Iona. I was sitting high on some rocks and as I looked out into the sea at other islands, it was like being in another world, everything was so beautiful and uninhabited. I had such a peaceful feeling and it was a great experience. *Anne Rickard*

During the whole time I was in Iona, I had the opportunity to go climb and explore the rocky hills of the landscape. I took advantage of this opportunity and fell in love with its beautiful scenery. There was one occasion, however, when a few of my fellow pilgrims and I climbed up a large hill to see a good view of the whole island. As we got closer to the top, we all noticed that the wind had picked up a great deal. When we (finally) got to the top, the wind was so strong that I was able to completely rely on the wind to hold me up and keep me standing. This made me think of God and how he will always keep us on our feet no matter where we are, even if it is on the top of a hill in the middle of an island. *Megan Lilley*

Here on Iona you can really find God almost everywhere on the island. Well actually everywhere. A song that we sang during the Agape service Thursday called Earth I Am can sum up my experiences with the women's part: "All the earth is sacred, every step we take. All the air is sacred, every breath we take." On Iona you can tell that it is sacred and wherever it is sacred you can find God. I found it sacred to be able to see some of God's most beautiful countryside on such a small island, with such long, religious history. *Chris O'Quin*

Peace – complete and utter peace. I felt as if my entire body from head to toe had been emptied and turned to a sort of solid jelly. When we first entered this small stone structure and sat on tiny cushions set on the cold stone floor, I was aware of aches and pains and had a slight headache. The sight of the candles making a large cross on the floor was striking and immediately focused my attention. Then we began to sing, mostly songs I already knew, but now so different. Each one was sung again and again – harmonies added, descants soared above – over and over we sang until there was nothing but the music itself. Then, silence. Now a

different song, "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.." such simple words, but they took on a new meaning as we contributed our voices to this plea for salvation. We sang on and on until the hour got quite late and it was necessary to leave. The Taize chanting was over, but I will never forget the incredible sense of calm, serenity and peace which overwhelmed me that evening. *Judy DeWitt*

Even though it is a small island, Iona is full of abundance. Hills are abundant, rocks are abundant, water is abundant, bogs are abundant, sheep and cows are abundant, bland food is abundant, and British and Scottish accents are abundant. But the one thing of the most abundance is the love of God. The earth is raw and so rich with history. God took special time in making Iona perfect. In many ways it is the perfect place to be. There is no fighting, no one steals, and there are so many places of silence and solitude that you are unable to count them, even when using toes. The Abbey itself is a magical place that provides wonderful worship and fellowship in a beautiful setting. Iona is the most beautiful place I have ever seen. The crystal clear waters, white sand beaches, rocky, green hills and fields dotted with sheep and cattle make it entirely unique. I would recommend traveling to Iona to anyone who wants to be truly surrounded by God. I am so glad this trip has happened to me and am excited to have received such a life changing experience. *Lauren Rentschler*

I came to Iona with expectations of what God wanted me to learn. It didn't happen. Instead, He sent me a very clear message; that it was time to look at my life, and then look to my future. In doing so, I've learned more about myself, and what God has given me throughout my life. I thank Him, and understanding Him more now for knowing myself. *Sylvie Preston*

While I enjoyed and learned from the sessions on prayer, the worship services and the pilgrimage walk, I felt closest to God on Iona through the amazing natural beauty. On our afternoon trip to nearby uninhabited Staffa, we had the chance to sit on a cliffside and commune with puffins. Though we were perhaps a couple of hundred feet above them, the puffins down by the sea

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The Pilgrims Speak! (continued)

saw us arrive and flew up to sit near us, some barely a foot away. Humans drive their predators, seagulls, away, so puffins trust people. Watching how the sad-faced, huggable birds trusted us and seeing their beauty in their unspoiled environment, I could not help but turn my thoughts to our amazing Creator and the wonderful diversity of His creations. Surrounded by the sparking ocean, fresh green grass and flocking puffins was exhilarating – a deeply moving worship of my Lord. *Kristi Robison*

A Pilgrimage Poem

by *Jimmy Mubich*

Not knowing what I should expect
And the plane ride I wasn't wanting to accept,
I have had a time I wouldn't reject.

There was so much reflection
And such a strong spiritual connection
I could feel our Father's protection.

Truly this time was extremely personal
But it is nothing I can put in words, final,
And nothing could have been as moral.

Beauty graced this small island
In so many levels by God's hand
His presence even in the white sand.

I felt so at home in the town
The community so accepting all around
I don't want to leave what I've found.

Sacred Space, Holy Place

by *Jay Robison*

This sacred space, This holy place,
O Lord, You've led me here.
I've walked alone, night and day,
But without You I can't find the Way.

This sacred space, This holy place
From far away have I been called
To closer walk, O Lord with You,
And to break down this self-built wall.

This sacred space, This holy place,
Help me find You, Lord, in my life again.
Come to me, breath of God,
Come fill my sails with Your holy wind.

This sacred space, This holy place,
From here, O Lord, where e're it be,
Lead me out into the world
And help me keep this place within me.

I came to Iona to see a wonderful group of young Christian men and women take the next step in their Christian walk – and I did.

I came to get closer to 20 of the best people I am blessed to know – and I did.

I came to release the burdens that have come between me and God – and I threw them into the sea.

I came to find my spiritual center once again and to find inspiration – and I found these things.

And I found things I did not expect: the power of worshipping in an 800-year-old-church; gazing at a cross which has stood for over a thousand years; seeing a small rowboat in which three monks traveled from Ireland in an act of veneration for St. Columba.

And I found a connection to and unity with the worldwide body of Christ, worshipping alongside pilgrims and Iona community volunteers from around the world: the United Kingdom, Germany, Syria, Denmark, Latvia, Australia, Canada, Guyana, and the United States.

The power of these experiences will stay with me and guide me for the rest of my life. And I am already wondering how soon I can come back. *Jay Robison*

On Tuesday we went on our pilgrimage, a seven-mile hike around the island. We stopped at various sites on the island to rest, sing, pray, and hear historical facts and rumors that allow Iona to retain its charm. Parts of the walk were beautiful and parts of it were filled with muddy bogs. (Eric lost his sandals in one, and was forced to wear closed-toe shoes for the rest of the trip.) Sometimes we were easily ambling across flat fields, and other times we struggled to climb uphill on slippery, damp rocks. But what stands out the most in my mind was when we stopped to rest on one of the many hills. Looking down, I could see the narrow path we had just walked. Further away, I could see the grassy field, dotted with wildflowers where we had passed a flock of sheep, now mere specks on a green background. Beyond that, I could see Columba's Cove, where we had eaten lunch. The sea glittered and shone, crashing against the huge rocks scattered along the coast. The beauty of it took my breath away. It was then that I understood why Iona is such a spiritual place. No one, after seeing that view, can deny that there is a God in Heaven. *Amanda Williams*

My experience as both a leader on the trip and a pilgrim has been a two-fold blessing. I have had the opportunity to watch our youth and adults be transformed by God's presence, and that makes all the work worthwhile. But I have also grown in many ways, myself, becoming more open to God's work through different people, ideas and cultures. For me, this is the first time I have spent a week and worshipped with Christians from around the world, and that is something truly spectacular. *Eric Liles*

In beautiful Iona, Scotland, God was very present throughout the whole week in many things. The scenery and animals showed God's awesome creativity, and as I and others worked on crafts in the arts and crafts room, I saw the reflection of His creativity. As God is in us all, I mostly saw God in the people I met and the people I already knew. The most incredible thing was the feeling of deep friendship in everyone I met, already established through Christ. That is a feeling like no other, and it feels great to love someone so much who you hardly even know. Growing closer to all of my friends was also a blessing. I am truly blessed to have such a great church congregation that could support a life changing trip. Special thanks to my mom and dad, Jerry Ballard, Leon Whitney and anyone I forgot. *Andy Mubich*

The lochs, glens, mountains; the bogs and beaches, the rocks, the stones, the heather, the irises. Bad coffee, good tea, porridge, toast, marmite and marmalade. Wonderful new music, new worship morning and evening; the ceilidh, Scottish dancing and belly dancing. The Catholic nun and the Jesuit priest, volunteers from Holland, Germany, Canada, Sweden, England, and Scotland too. The Abbey church, the cloisters, the nunnery ruins, the ancient graves and crosses. The Mac, the sun and the rain and the wind. The island of Staffa and the puffins - Ah! Yes, the puffins. One is definitely closer to God in this place.

Reconciliation, and forgiveness, and joy in the fellowship of this remarkable ecumenical community of faith. I go to make peace with my long-dead brother. *Clive Smith*

Overflowing Hearts

from your Outreach Commission; Holly Decherd, Chair

On those good days, when blessings seem to abound, and gratitude exudes unabated, how do you handle it?

God's rich grace to each of us can be shared in simple ways. Like the ads suggest, we have to "Do it." Smiles, kindnesses to strangers in our lives and family alike are the first line of response. But how else do we express our thanksgiving?

Mature Christians seek to reach beyond this level. We are called to find ways to help those outside our immediate lives and neighborhoods. As Merrill, our rector, said in a recent sermon, we are to learn to take action in response to our compassionate sorrow. Injustice and inequality surround us.

Benjamin Disraeli said, "The greatest good you can do for others is not just to share your riches but to reveal to them their own." While we wish we could fix the problems of homelessness, poverty, abuse, and suffering of all types, we are able to reach out to others, and by sharing the blessing, help them to do this.

New Member Dessert Party 7:00 p.m., August 24

submitted by Jeri Muhich

If you are a new member and have not yet been to the New Member Dessert Party, now is your chance! The Newcomers Council cordially invites you to attend the New Member Dessert Party at the home of our Senior Warden, Phil Hatlen, and his wife Toni on Sunday, August 24, at 7:00 p.m. Come and meet the staff, ministry leaders and other new members of St. Matthew's while enjoying coffee and delicious desserts!

If you joined the church within the last year and have not yet attended a New Member Dessert Party, be looking for your invitation. If you do not receive an invitation and would like to attend, please call Dedee Norman at the church, 345-8314, ext. 219. All new members please RSVP to Dedee by August 18.

Our job as Outreach Commission is to jointly offer ways for you to reach out. Many of you find your own way. But for those of us who can benefit from a little structure, help us serve the needs of our adopted ministries.

This fall, to help us remember to participate in our outreach ministries, we are offering a special happy heart sticker for your nametag. Newcomers wear a red heart on their nametags for a year. Let's see if this happy heart sticker will help jog our memories to: 1) fill the food basket in the Commons; 2) donate personal items and clothing for SafePlace and Casa Marianella to the yellow box in Huffman Hall, 3) volunteer to help Reach Out, Kairos, Caritas, Capital Area Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, West Austin Caregivers or The Salvation Army. Perhaps your lifestyle is such that a check is a more convenient way to donate. Of course that is always greatly appreciated, and your donation can be dropped in our alms basin with the memo so designated.

Look for our table at the Ministry Fair on August 24, and join the club of happy hearts!

First Friday Golf to Begin September 5

submitted by Milt Williams

The Rev. Merrill Wade has suggested that we have a fun monthly golf outing the first Friday of each month beginning Friday, September 5. It will be a time for relaxation and community building. The outing will be held at the Bluebonnet Golf course with a tee time around 9 a.m. No sign up is necessary, just come. The cost is \$21.25 for those 55 and older, \$27.65 for those younger. The cost includes green fee, cart and taxes. For those wishing to walk, the cost is \$12.75 and \$17.00 respectively. We are encouraging both young and old, men and women to join us. It will offer an enjoyable time together. Call Milt Williams (345-0499) for any further information.

Educational Stewardship

by Charlie Cole, Stewardship Chair

Proverbs 18:15: *An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

Can you believe it is already "back-to-school time?" Where did the summer go? Before we get caught up in the exciting pace of the fall season, I invite you to take time out to celebrate the many efforts teachers, parents, and parishioners make year-in and year-out to ensure our children receive solid educations so they can grow up to be contributing citizens in their communities. I can't think of a more important human activity that will ensure the well-being and security of our nation and the world which God has given us to defend and protect.

And, lest we forget, does not God bless us with those who give their time and talent to teach "old dogs" some new tricks, be it through continuing education classes or Adult Sunday School here at St. Matthew's? For, we are never too old to learn how to be more effective workers, parents, and servants in Christ. We at St. Matthew's are very fortunate to have a rector like Merrill Wade and the 13 dedicated members of our Adult Education Council who devote themselves to our spiritual growth. Let us also thank everyone involved in our church's Children's Education Ministry, especially those who tirelessly lead our weekly Children's Sunday School classes.

The penultimate example of St. Matthew's dedication to learning, however, has to be our exemplary Day School. Supported by the 13-member school board and led by Director Pam Littlefield and her able staff of 35, the St. Matthew's Day School sees to the total physical, mental, social and spiritual development of 195 children each year.

None of these noble efforts at St. Matthew's would be possible without your rock-solid, moral, financial, and spiritual support as parishioners. Nor, would the efforts of others in our schools and universities be possible without your support as citizens and taxpayers. So again, I invite you to join me in prayer and celebration for all who dedicate themselves to the field of education.

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities and especially St. Matthew's Day School, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Our Hearts Through the Arts

by Sharon Lowe

It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.
Antoine de Saint-Exupery, *The Little Prince*

Please join us September 5-6, 2003, in celebrating the connections between God's creative spirit in us and through the visual, literary and performing arts. A portion of the proceeds from this year's Festival will benefit Caritas of Austin and other outreach activities of St. Matthew's.

We will open the Festival on Friday with a low-key reception for the artists and public from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., that will include light refreshments, appetizers and live music by Patti Clawson Berry. This will be an opportunity to meet the artists and see their work in a more intimate setting. Those interested in contributing food or serving at the artists' reception should contact Louise Waddill at 343-7696.

On Saturday, the Festival will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will offer visual arts exhibits, art-making for the young and young-at-heart, talks by writers and artists and a silent auction. A few specifics regarding Saturday's events follow.

Literati: The literature and art talks this year will include our own star in the panoply of Christian writers, Keith Miller. Next, former associate rector, John Graham will talk about his new book, *Graham Crackers and Milk*. Spiritual director and retreat leader Bitsy Rubsamen from San Antonio will be here with her beautiful book of essays and photos, *Becoming the Beloved*. Flora Keshgegian, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest (ETSS), will be speaking about her book on trauma, truth-telling and healing through remembrance, *Redeeming Memories*. Robert McCandless, nationally known glass artist and exhibitor will be speaking about his book of gratitude to teachers, *Dear Mr. Madison*, as well as exhibiting his work with the other visual artists. And, finally, Tom Spencer, well-known host on KLRU, our PBS station, will be speaking on gardening and the soul about which he is writing a book (Tom's web site is www.soulofthegarden.com). Each speaker will present a brief talk and be available to answer questions, and autograph books. The "literati" program will be held in the sanc-

tuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending around 4:00 p.m.

Visual Arts and Crafts: We expect approximately 40 separate exhibits, to include paintings, prints, sculpture, textiles, glass, ceramics and jewelry. Because there will be so much to see, this year, some of the crafts exhibits will move to outdoor tents. While we do not have a complete list of the participating visual artists at this time, the following artists have confirmed: Jill Bacon & Glenda Brown (quilts), Margaret Bailey (carved wooden crosses), Joanna Brown/C.R.E.A.T.e (jewelry, leather bags, painted furniture), Joyce Evans (paintings), Doylene Fenton (pottery), Nichole Ferguson (jewelry), Jennifer Frost (paintings and principal in Manna Catering), Rosemary Howard (Scripture Friends), Judy King (small clay sculpture), Robert Lange (caricatures), Robert McCandless (etched glass and sculpture), Sidra Myers (paintings), Jane Preston (for Gregory Gordon of Galaxy Glass Works, Colorado), Sara Sharp (pastels), Betty Spence (watercolors), the Senior Activity Center, Amy Tuvell (photographs), Jean West (jewelry and rosaries), and Lilly "Ping" Xu (contemporary and traditional Chinese paintings on silk and parchment). We are awaiting confirmation from approximately 20 artists, including many you already know and love.

Performing Arts: While we will not be devoting a full evening to the performing arts this year, we will have live music during the artists' reception, during both meals on Saturday, and in the sanctuary undercroft (basement) to accompany the exhibits. Confirmed musicians include: Patti Clawson Berry (piano), Curt Voekle (jazz piano), the Blue Howlers (during brunch) and Judy DeWitt's Chamber Music group (during tea). We may also have couple of surprise guest musicians, but we aren't certain when they will appear... Musicians wishing to add some musical color to the exhibits on Saturday should contact Bob Wood at: 476-5029 or RwoodMD@austin.rr.com and copy Renee Babcock at: rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net.

Culinary Arts: We will be serving a New Orleans-style brunch by Manna Catering between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (\$6.00 per person or \$18 per family). Between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., members

of our parish will offer the ever-popular English-style tea (\$7.00 per person). Ladies: Fancy hats are welcome! For questions, to serve during brunch or tea or to loan tea sets, contact Trisha Abrahamson at 453-0393 or trishaustin54@hotmail.com.

Admission is free for the Friday evening reception and all performances, arts and crafts exhibits and writer's presentations. Advance sale tickets will be available for brunch and afternoon tea after church on Sunday's beginning in August, or by contacting Jill Bacon at 345-7999.

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:

August 3, noon, B-14, August 10, noon, B-14, August 17, noon, B-14, August 24, noon, B-14, August 31, noon, B-14

Other Ways You Can Help:

Children's Activities & Self-Expression Center: Needs volunteers to tell stories, face paint and to staff the crafts areas. Contact Renee Babcock at 587-4299 or rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net or Sharon Lowe at 345-1990, sharonylowe@hotmail.com

Docents/Escorts: Provide hospitality and respites to artists; help visitors find their way and do some "go-fer" work. Contact Barbara Hilliard at 837-1808 or Barb0928@aol.com

Facilities/Space Planning: Help is needed to plan and supervise the moving of furniture and to assist with exhibit set-ups and teardowns. Some lifting may be required. Contact John Moncure at 343-1328 or kjq@swbell.net

Publicity: Help is needed to distribute posters, yard signs, post cards and fliers. Invite your friends and neighbors! Contact Louise Thacker at 467-7265 or louisebthacker@hotmail.com

Silent Auction: To donate art-related items including original works, books, gift certificates to performances, restaurants etc., or to work on this event, contact: Sharon Roberts at 345-2296 or sroberts@austin.rr.com

Questions? Contact Sharon Lowe at 345-1990 sharonylowe@hotmail.com or Renee Babcock at 587-4299 or rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net.

Senior Sentences

by Lucy Boyea, Minister of Senior Activities

I have just finished reading some thoughts from Howard E. Butt, Jr., in the Summer, 2003 issue of "Laity Connections," a publication of the H.E. Butt Foundation and Laity Lodge. Howard's topic was "Encouraging Grace." Following are some excerpts from his article.

"The Christian life is about loving one another, and spiritual encouragement, in its variety of forms, should become so habitual that it's part and parcel of our personalities. People value being noticed, recognized for their work, and thanked. A word of kindness becomes the sign of God's presence; everyone is hungry for love."

I have been so blessed since starting the Senior Activity Center in 1994, by the many volunteers who have shared their time and talent with me. In each issue of the SAC newsletter, I include "Kudos" – an attempt to recognize the efforts put forth by various members. It would be virtually impossible to identify everyone whose contributions add to the success of SAC but I hope that I will never fail to recognize and thank them and reflect God's presence in so doing.

YOU: Minister to Visitors

by Dedee Norman,
Membership Coordinator

When you are in church and someone near you stands at the visitor announcement, we hope you will introduce yourself and show them the Welcome Card in the chair rack to be placed in the collection plate. And, very important, after the service, please offer to escort them to the Welcome Table in the Commons so we can give them their gift package. This is the obligation of every member. Thanks for your help!

SAVE THE DATE:

November 21-23, 2003

Retreat for 30ish/40ish/50ish

Women of St. Matthew's

-Details coming soon-

Calling All Elementary Age Children and Their Families: It's God and Country Time...Just for YOU!

by Kathy Dugat

St. Matthew's is pleased to be able to offer the first two levels of the "God and Country" series to our children and their families this fall. The God and Country Program is recognized and commended by scouting organizations across the world as a way to help children and young people grow in their faith in age appropriate ways. The program is organized and taught by the church, *not* through scouts. That means the program is open to *ALL* children, not just children currently involved in some form of scouting. The program is divided into four levels:

Level	Designed for children/ young people in...	Focus/Goal
God and Me	grades 1 - 3	to discover/begin to develop a personal relationship with Jesus; to explore God's love with family and friends
God and Family	grades 4 - 5	to help young people understand the importance of family and how to develop healthy family relationships; God's role within a healthy family
God and Church	grades 6 - 8	to understand the mission of the church; to begin to discover and discern the young person's role within the larger church; to understand the church as God's family; to find ways to use one's gifts
God and Life	grades 9 - 12	to begin to discover ways to integrate a growing and more mature faith into one's daily life; to continue to discern God's plan for one's life

Children may enter the program at any level. Since the first two levels focus on the child within the family, a parent or adult family member is required to participate along with the child. We will celebrate the accomplishments of the children who complete the program on Scout Sunday in February 2004. In addition, those children involved in scouting organizations will receive the appropriate recognition within those groups.

God and Family (4th and 5th graders)

- ◆ Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 in B13 & 14
- ◆ Parent orientation on September 3
- ◆ Parent and child programs September 10th through October 22nd (8 sessions for parents, 7 for children)

God and Me (1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders)

- ◆ Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 in B13 & 14
- ◆ Parent orientation on October 29th
- ◆ Parent and child programs November 5th through December 10th, no meeting on November 26th; 6 weeks for parents, 5 weeks for children.

Cost: about \$25 per child to cover course materials and supplies.

Questions? Want to register? Call or email Kathy Dugat 343-7989 kdugat@austin.rr.com by August 24th for God and Family, October 1st for God and Me. Come join the fun!

O' Lazy Summer Days

by Amy Tuvell

Lazy summer days — do we have any of those any more? Time to sit and be part of God's creation. Allowing ourselves to be enveloped in a world of green sounding with the buzz of cicada or the music of mocking birds. It doesn't take that long and is fairly easy. Just take a few minutes during your worship routine to let the nature of St. Matthew's "backyard" touch you. Share your experience with God and reflect on His Word.

Spots to take five minutes to catch up with God:

- ♦ Sit under a spreading oak tree in the courtyard.
- ♦ Close your eyes and smell the rosemary in along the Mesa parking lot.
- ♦ Enjoy the "volunteers" in the west parking island. We have blue, three brothers wildflowers, white day lilies and interesting native grasses.
- ♦ Relax in the shade to the sounds of children laughing on the playground.
- ♦ Stroll to the south end of parking lot and enjoy the intentional plantings of natives with yucca for butterflies.
- ♦ Seek out the planters of irises and ruella.
- ♦ Watch for a squirrel at the feeders by the office.
- ♦ Be surprised by the inviting garden at the bottom of the stairwell east of Sanctuary.
- ♦ Marvel at the variety of annuals that can thrive in the confines of a pot.

All of these bits of nature are maintained by volunteer labor. Most of the work is done during two work days. The next work day is coming September 13.

August Youth News

by Eric Liles, Youth Minister

It has been a truly blessed summer for us. Iona was incredible, stay tuned for our slide show and movie coming soon. Christian Leadership Conference was a remarkable time of spiritual growth for high school students from throughout our Diocese. Camp Allen was a fun and funny week spent with Merrill, and all our staff from St. Matthew's was incredible. As we gear up for school once again, I am reminded that through the grace of God, morning by morning, new mercies we see.

In the youth ministry, we prepare to embark on some new undertakings. Be on the lookout for a new Bible study for High School students. Our Journey to Adulthood program has hit the first major shift point where we move up classes, and welcome our new set of teachers for the next two years. The wisdom of the program is that it recognizes the importance of having a consistent set of Christian adults in their lives over a period of two years, and then another set.

Starting August 31, 6th graders will meet in Huffman Hall, 7th (our Rite 13 class) in the Chrysalis Cottage, 8-10th (our J2A class in the Agape building), and our newest addition to the program 11-12th (Young Adults in the Church, or YAC for short) will meet in the basement. The entire youth ministry staff is very excited about getting started in this next phase of health and growth in our program. St. John's youth group will again be meeting with us on Wednesday nights this fall, and Merrill and Susan will both be involved. We are also pleased to announce that Lucy will be back again this fall as our youth ministry intern. What a privilege it is to be a part of family where so many care for the youth of the church. We are still in the process of setting up dates for our fall retreat, a possible lock-in, and perhaps a winter ski trip. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact us.

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Eric Liles - eric@stmattsaustin.org

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Lucy Koy - lucyk@mail.utexas.edu

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St. Matthew's Begins Its Own Venture Crew!

Hey, Youth...it's coming...FINALLY... and its here just for you! St. Matthew's new Venture Crew will begin meeting in September! Venturing is a program sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America for youth, both male and female, ages 14 (who have completed the 8th grade) through age 20. The Venturing program offers young people the opportunity to make friends, build character, learn and practice leadership skills, face and overcome challenges, and, most important of all, have fun, in an environment that encourages ethical, moral and spiritual growth. Although we'll be camping, backpacking, and hiking together over the next year, you need not have previous outdoor or scouting experience. We'll be doing lots of things that don't involve living in the out-of-doors, too! Grab a friend and come see what we are talking about! We'll be meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Huffman Hall beginning September 9. Hope to see you there! (Questions? Call or email Bill or Kathy Dugat, 343-7989 or kdugat@austin.rr.com)

August Youth Calendar

Aug 3	9-10:15 Summer Sunday Morning Youth Group 10:30 Worship
Aug 10	9-10:15 Summer Sunday Morning Youth Group 10:30 Worship
Aug 17	9-10:15 Summer Sunday Morning Youth Group 10:30 Worship 6-8:30 Movie Night
Aug 20	7-8:30 Youth Group, Welcome Back!
Aug 24	9-10:15 Ministry Fair, sign up for classes, meet your new teachers 10:30 Worship
Aug 27	7-8:30 Youth Group
Aug 31	9-10:15 First Fall Sunday Morning Youth Group 10:30 Worship

Meet Our New Seminarian: Reid Morgan

When asked to provide biographical information for this month's issue of The Word, this is what was sent.

I was raised in Gadsden, Alabama where I worked in a family business that was started by my grandfather in 1946 I went to Texas A & M University where I received a degree in Industrial Distribution. Our family business was sold in 1996, since that time I have sold tankless water heaters, cellular telephones, and industrial waste removal services prior to entering seminary in September of 2002.

My wife Marie and I met while at Texas A & M and we have three children Paige 20, Ray 19, and Alena 12. Paige is a sophomore at

the University of Montevallo in Alabama. Ray is a senior at McCallum High School in Austin and hopes to attend Texas A & M where he hopes to be in the band. Alena is in the 7th grade at Kealing Middle School in Austin. Alena is on a swim team and Ray plays varsity soccer.

I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1980 after growing up in the Methodist Church. I began attending the Episcopal Church with Marie while we were in college. I have served my parish in the following ways; lector, Sunday school teacher, clerk of the vestry, vestry member,

junior warden, lay eucharistic minister, choir member, and as a delegate to diocesan convention six times. I have also been active in Cursillo having served on four staffs and as a Lay Rector in September 2001. I have worked on eight Kairos Teams, six of which were in the HIV Unit at Limestone Correctional Facility in Capshaw, AL. I have been active in the Order of DeMolay and at many levels in the Boy Scouts of America.

I look forward to serving at St. Matthew's!

Children's Sunday School Begins August 31

Fall Registration

On Sunday, August 31, 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 already done so.

Classes

We have three age groupings and class settings for our children:

- 3 yrs-Kindergarten Level I B-17
 - 1st-3rd Grades Level II B-16
 - 4th-5th Grades Level III Ed. Bldg. Breezeway
- 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 Sunday School – Children participate in multi-age classes designed to provide them an experience with God. Trained adults journey along side the children using the predominant values of childhood, as they seek to help each child come to know God "all by myself."

10:30-10:40 Transition to Music and Chapel – At this time chapel ministers 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 tie the various parts of the morning together and prepare them to enter the service.

10:40-Sign of Peace Children will be processed to the Commons to join their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

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.

All God's Children...Super Summer Sunday School

by Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

Did you know that a tortilla in other countries might be a crepe, pancake, Belgian waffle, or egg roll? Can you count to 10 in Swahili, French, Spanish, Russian? Have you made a quilt lately?

Our children (ages 3, by last September 1, through just completed 5th grade) have been sampling flat breads from across the world, trying out a variety of languages, and making quilt pieces that represent the uniqueness of people around the world. They have experienced how people of other cultures are similar to our individual families and how people are unique, and they have tried some special foods, songs, and crafts! Most of all, they've seen that we are all God's children.

Mornings have been laid back, beginning with parent sign-in at the playground, where children have enjoyed one another's company while

playing outdoors for half an hour. The action has moved to B-19, then, where we have shared a rich variety of books. Singing, sampling foods, painting, and creating the quilt pieces have followed reading together by age groups. Snacks and games have concluded Sunday School at 10:30.

After that, children have transitioned to Chapel (3 years-3rd grade) or have been picked up by their parents to join the service, at it beginning. Our devoted Chapel ministers have led this part of the morning, and then have taken all children to the Commons at the sign of Peace.

Our final three weeks are ahead, August 3, 10, and 17. Please join us, letting your children wear comfortable clothes they can choose for themselves, so they can freely enjoy the playground and classroom activities. See you in Sunday School!

8:50	9:25	9:30	9:40	10:30	Sign of Peace
All Children, age 3 Years –5th Grade			2 groups: 3 Yr-Kind/ 1st-5th Gr.	2 groups: 3 Yr-Kind/ 1st-3rd Gr.	All children
Gates to Playground Open!	Begin Transition to B-19	Community Gathering	Reading, Activities, Snack time	Chapel 3 Yr-Kind 1st-3rd Gr.	Join families for Liturgy of the Eucharist

Education for Ministry is Available for You

by Kathy Vail

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 (six to eleven 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.

People enroll in EFM for many reasons. Some have participated in other Bible Studies, such as BSF and Kerygma and want a more advanced class that also covers church history

and recent theology. Others have never participated in a Bible Study, but want a deeper class than they have been able to take on Sunday mornings. Some are thinking about going to seminary. All want to explore their faith in a safe environment, and want the support of a small group.

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 \$340/year. There are some partial scholarships available based upon financial need.

The St. Matthew's EFM seminar group meets on Tuesday nights during the school year, starting in September. Registration for the 2003-04 year will begin in August. Please contact Kathy Vail, 343-7367 (evenings) or kvail@austin.rr.com for more information.

Regional Course a Community Success

by Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

Almost one year ago, St. Matthew's, St. Alban's, St. James', and St. David's Episcopal Churches began working together to provide training for our shared children's program, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. As our own needs became clearly defined, it occurred to us that others might share those same needs...so we decided to open this opportunity to other churches.

This opportunity consists of 90 class-hours of adult spiritual formation designed to deepen our understanding of the religious needs of the child and discern our part in helping fulfill the child's desire to "come closer to God all by myself." July 7-11 was the first part of this effort

As the registrations came in, it became more evident each day that this Course was needed by a diverse and ecumenical group. Ultimately, 40 Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Disciples of Christ, and Presbyterian men and women from a variety of churches and Montessori schools attended the first segment of the Course – July 7-11, hosted at St. Matthew's.

Participating from St. Matthew's, in order to work with 3-6 year old children (Level I), were Carrie Biggar, CJ Carl, Stephanie McCollum, Jeremy Smith, and Clarissa Vazquez. In the Course to prepare for work with our 1st-3rd grade children (Level II), were Colleen O'Heren-Hale, Shannon Magee, Lisa Ottenbacher, and Lynn Smith. Attending various morning Lectures and presentations were Jennifer Baskett, Vicki Blumhagen, Marilyn Cole, and Martha Webb. We are so grateful to them for their commitment to the children in this way.

Also contributing to the hosting of this Adult Formation Course were many members of our parish community:

*Steve Ryder wrote a computer program that allowed participants to register on-line at our St. Matthew's Web Site and allowed him to compile data for our use in preparing for the course

*Tracey Nichols coordinated our infant/preschool/elementary staff

*Kathy Dugat coordinated the planning and implementation of our preschool/elementary children's program

*Selah Miller worked in the Children's Program and planned and implemented an art component each day

*Jane Salkeld (Preston), Josh Dugat, and Abbey Smith assisted with the children's program

*Carol Mynes coordinated an ECW-prepared lunch for all full-day participants on Monday, July 7

*JoAnn Grandjean gathered materials for welcome bags for all full-day participants

*Lucy Boyea worked on rooms' coordination and altered schedules to accommodate us

*Margaret Carpenter maintained our financial records with speed and alacrity

*Merrill Wade provided strategic, practical wisdom and guidance

*Barbara Haynes coordinated cleaning crew for the Children's Program, worked with volunteers who got mailings out, and oversaw photocopying during the course

*Betty Mitchell prepared coffee multiple times daily and helped participants on campus

*Inez Scott served as Greeter and Children's Registrar on the first morning

*Jennifer Baskett was "jack of all trades" daily as she helped with daily set up and oversaw volunteer efforts in the Children's Ministry Office

*Clive Smith, Clarissa Vazquez, and Steve Brock were office technology consultants

*And, finally, do you remember our request for an early help with this year's "Job Cards," those cards with tasks needing to be completed so that fall Sunday School could get off to a successful start – and this summer's Adult Formation Course (training for our Sunday School teachers) could have clean rooms and materials? With thanks to Carrie Biggar, Jane Bray, Vickie DeWeese, Anna Dodge, Heather Harmon, Sue Kinney, Amy Krause, Martha, Michael, John, and James Mashburn, Jeri Muhich, Rosie Nieman, Allison, Kristin, and Molly Price, Carol Price Robbins, Bella Scanland, and Martha Webb, all needs were met. Thanks so much, everyone!

What a fruitful time this has been. I thank God for the community support and participation that has brought us to this point!

Children's Ministry Calendar August 2003

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Aug. 1,2 | Camp Allen, Christian Educators' Conference |
| Aug. 3 | 9:00 a.m. Super Summer Sunday School! Children are checked in by their parents at the playground
9:30 a.m. Sunday School continues in basement – B-19
10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels |
| Aug. 3, 6, 9 | Orientation for children 1st-3rd grades, entering Level II School-year Sunday School for the first time |
| Aug. 10 | 9:00 a.m. Super Summer Sunday School! Children are checked in by their parents at the playground
9:30 a.m. Sunday School continues in basement – B-19
10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels |
| Aug. 11-22 | Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Adult Formation Course: Level III, Pasadena, CA |
| Aug. 17 | 9:00 a.m. Final Super Summer Sunday School! Children are checked in by their parents at the playground
9:30 a.m. Sunday School continues in basement – B-19
10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels |
| Aug. 20 or 27 | Children's Council Meeting, TBA |
| Aug. 24 | 9:00 a.m. Ministry Fair – No Summer Sunday School – Children visit the Children's Ministry display in Huffman Hall and visit their Sunday School teachers/ classrooms for the fall, with their parents
10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels |
| Aug. 24, 27, 30 | Orientation for children 3-yrs. (by Sept. 1, 2003) – Kindergarten, entering Level I Sunday School for the first time
Orientation for children 1st-3rd grades, entering Level II School-year Sunday School for the first time |
| Aug. 31 | 9:00 a.m. First Fall Sunday School! Children are checked in by their parents
10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels |

Looking Ahead

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sept. 3: | First "1st Weds. of the Month" Pot Luck Supper;
6:30-7:00 Nursery & Children's Program – A Gaggle of Great Games |
| Sept. 10 | God & Country – 4/5th Grade 8-week Course begins |
| Sept. 14 | 4/5th Grade Sunday School – Family Social |
| Sept. 19, 20 | Camp Allen, Christian Educators' Conference |
| Sept. 21 | St. Matthew's Day with lunch & activities after Service |

Birthdays

August

- 1 Mark Banta, Jennifer Davis, Tom Uhl,
- 2 Marcia Bailey, Elisabeth Carl, Katie Hale, Sandy Luce, Patti Shannon
- 3 John Athey, Shelby Bursk, Colin Moore, Matthew Newman, Steve White
- 5 Mary Bass, Glenda Brown, Carolyn Meihaus
- 6 Lynn Durrenberger
- 7 Victoria Alcocer, Emma Carrier, Liz Johnson, George McClure
- 8 James Bennett, Elizabeth Klingler, Grant McCollum, Joe Nuessle, Scott Smith
- 9 Robert Wasmuth, Laurel Webb
- 10 Janice Harris, Betty Newman
- 11 Suzy Gregory, Marilyn Wenzel, Marcia Wheeler, Cheryl Williamson
- 12 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, Mary Ann Woodard
- 18 Nancy Kirwan, Ginny Malloy, Dennis Minks, Sarah Varnado, Bob Wood
- 19 Roger Buerchner, Alan Gregory, John O'Quin,
- 20 Sue McDonald, Larry Nichols, David Petersen
- 21 Lisa Thompson
- 23 Steve Ryder
- 24 Carol Ekerdt, Ann Hart, Pat Naeve
- 25 Karen Baker, Brandi Harmon
- 26 Diane Bennett, Dottie Driver, Michael Driver, Connor Hale, Jacob Veith, Crystal Wade, Caroline Webb
- 27 Mary Lou Henshaw, David Hooker, Laura Rose Nieman, Bill Wenzel
- 28 Reed Dady, James Mashburn
- 29 Noah Bowman, Jeanne Langston
- 30 Eric Liles, Torre Shanks, John Strange
- 31 Brittany Bass, Lakki Brown

September

- 1 Tim Kyle, Ryan Nichols
- 2 Sofie Alcocer, Brandon Brickley, Gidget Fisher, David Price, Marsha Spriggs
- 3 David Carrier, Ken Hay, Joanne Hummel, Laura Mecanick, Patty Steed
- 4 Phil Hatlen, Allen Keith, Warren Marshall, Fossie Moore
- 5 Colleen Hale, Tom Holt, J. D. Johns
- 6 Diane Smith, Sam Smith, Skyler Thorn
- 7 Judy Bomar, Sarah Neely

Parish Pot Luck Suppers to Resume in September

Back by popular demand, Wednesday Night Pot Luck Suppers will begin again on September 3. The first Wednesday night of each month we will gather together at 6:00 p.m. in Huffman Hall and have a pot luck dinner. Mr. Ed Gomez, the new Executive Director of El Buen Samaritano will speak briefly. This is a great chance to meet Ed and his family. We will strive to be through promptly at 7:00 p.m.

The September Pot Luck will be hosted this month by the Newcomer's Council and Outreach Commission. If your last name begins with A-J bring a main dish, K-R bring a salad, S-Z bring dessert. Drinks will be provided.

This is for everyone — families, singles, members, visitors and friends. You can eat and then go to choir, youth group, Club 345, etc. or just come. The nursery will be open with sitters on deck for infants and toddlers but children are expected to eat with their families — after all, this is family night supper! Mark it on your calendars and look forward to food and fellowship.

New Members

Jenny Zavala
Caroline Zavala

Krista Davis
Hailey Davis

Mary Ellen and Jamie Matthews

Baptisms

William Gamble Ward,
son of Missy and Allen Ward

Births

Abigail Jane Westbrook,
was born June 28, 2003
to Lisa and Douglas Westbrook,
great granddaughter of Janice Watkins

Dylan DeWitt Le,
was born June 26, 2003
to Tammy and Todd Le,
grandson of Judy DeWitt.

Deaths

Wesley Emory Smith,
father of Kirk Smith,
died July 1, 2003

Cherry McCraine,
mother of Bob McCraine,
died July 4, 2003

Louise Kinney,
mother in law of Sue Kinney,
died June 28, 2003

Memorials

In memory of
Mabel Sanderson,
mother of Sandy Holt
by
Elaine and Ward Goessling

In memory of
Malcom Riker
by
Sue and Robert Bunner

the st. matthew's word

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School
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(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 7:45 a.m. to
12:15 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 15, 2003

**at 5:00 p.m. Submissions on diskette
are welcomed - or email your article
to betty@stmattsaustrin.org
Articles may be edited for content
and length.**

Vestry Commission Chairs

David Barrow, Jr. and Mary Nell Frucella

Buildings and Grounds

Tom Canby
David Harakal
Warren Marshall
Charlie Cole
Holly Dechard

Finance

Communications

Personnel

Stewardship

Outreach

Lay Ministry Councils

Lynn Smith
Leon Whitney
Jeri Muhich
Milt Williams
Elaine Goessling
Sue Kinney
Jay Robison

Children

Adult Education

Newcomers

Parish Life

Pastoral Care

Worship

Youth

School Board

The Rev. Merrill Wade
Michael McCollum
Kristin Fason
Pam Littlefield
Kay Ballard
Kent Zarbock
Pat Boon
Members—Dana Bushong, Bess Carsner,
Michael Mashburn, Millie Roden

Chairman

President

Vice-President

Director

Secretary

Treasurer

Vestry Liaison

Staff

The Rev. Merrill Wade *Rector*
The Rev. Susan J. Barnes *Associate 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*
Margaret Carpenter *Assistant Bookkeeper*
Suzanne Daniel *Interim Music Ministry*
Barbara Haynes *Administrative Assistant*
Eric Liles *Youth Minister*
Cary Michaels *Interim Music Ministry*
Betty Mitchell *Communications Coordinator*
Tracey Nichols *Nursery Coordinator*
Dedee Norman *Membership Coordinator*
Barbara Pitts *Children's Minister*

Vestry

Phil Hatlen (345-9923) *Senior Warden*
Kate Canby (219-8693) *Vestry Warden*
David Price (371-0248) *People's Warden*
John Muhich (452-1210) *Treasurer*
Bert Hooper (346-6675) *Chancellor*
Patty Steed (346-4255) *Clerk*
Members—Jerry Ballard, Pat Boon, Charles Cole,
Bill Donnell, David Harakal, Cliff Harrison,
Warren Marshall, Debbie Meleski, Don Neely,
Susan Robertson, Clive Smith
Assigned Vestry Members for August—Charlie Cole
and Clive Smith