

The St. Matthew's Word

Volume 2005 Issue 8

AUGUST 2005

A monthly publication of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School

The Seven Acre Showcase

Sunday, August 14

BY BETTY MITCHELL

St. Matthew's church is somewhat like the proverbial iceberg – there is so much more here than meets the eye. On Sunday, August 14, from 8:45 until 10:15 a.m. you will have a rare opportunity to learn about the many ministries of this parish, all at one time. Never before have you seen so many different areas of lay ministry exhibited in one place. And what is that one place, you may ask? Because the area of our campus is seven acres, and because the exhibits will be placed in every building all across the campus – we're calling it the **Seven Acre Showcase**. The Associate Vestry is sponsoring this event and will be there that morning to help Chairman Cliff Harrison with the physical setup.

Each display/hands-on/working exhibit will be logically located in the area where the ministry does its work. For example, Altar Guild members will be in the Sacristy and on the Altar, ready to explain just what it is they do behind the scenes.

Members of the Flower Guild may be spotted on the Altar making the flower arrangement of the day. The St. Matthew's Day School will have classrooms set up, the Kitchen Angels will greet you in the Kitchen, the Library Ladies will be in the Library ready to assist you in finding a good book to read. If you go to Room B-18 you will be able to learn about all the Sunday morning Adult Education offerings and browse for a Bible Study group that interests you. The Holy Smokers will be at the pits preparing tasty treats. The Breezeway will be lined with Outreach Commission ministries each with volunteers eager to share their mission with you. And the Children's Ministry is anxious

for you to come into their classrooms and see the good work that is being done there.

This very special layout has been designed to allow you the opportunity to walk about and explore areas of the campus where you have never been before, and see ministries you didn't know we had, and meet fellow members of the parish who are committed to their particular area of interest.

Each ministry is being asked to provide bite-sized, breakfast treats for you to nibble as you visit. Several coffee and lemonade stations will be centrally located in the common areas. And to make it all even more fun, prizes will be awarded to the one who visits the most ministry tables. A prize will also be awarded to the ministry whose display reflects the most creativity! Judges from the Associate Vestry will make the decisions and prizes will be awarded at the announcement time during the 10:30 service.

So on August 14, set the alarm clock, gather up your family and head for church. The Showcase opens at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 10:15 in time for church. Who knows? You might just discover a new area in which you are called to serve. See you there!

Update: Our Vision Process

BY DAVID PRICE, SENIOR WARDEN

We are continuing our work on the Vision Process we started last Fall. As you recall, the Vestry authorized a Vision process, which started with a group of 20 people as a Task Force Focus Group. From the groundwork this group did, we held a Parish Wide Vision Day on June 11.

The data and results gathered at the Vision Day meeting were presented to the Vestry in the June meeting. This data is being compiled into a working document that will be used as a guide with the original group of 20, plus the Vestry, in developing a presentation to the Parish in the Adult Education time on August 21 and 28.

As you know, we "gear up" after a summer break, during August. We have the Seven Acre Showcase (see separate article) on August 14, followed by our Vision Day Presentations on August 21 and 28. So be prepared to see all of the wonderful things we have on our campus during the Showcase, as well as some of the things we will be doing in the months and years to come, as presented during the Vision Presentations.

See you then!

Dear Parish Family,

I submit this brief word of thanks the day before the Wade's leave on vacation. I'll be back at church on July 31. I simply want to restate my joy and gratitude to God for calling me to be the rector of this wonderful church. I look forward to the months of August and September with excitement. Please continue to practice the life of prayer and service – 20 minutes of silence a day, serving God's people from the deep well of grace offered by God to his people.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Word* you will read that life goes on with vigor and purpose at your church. Read carefully, stay connected and say "yes" if you discern that you are called to serve.

Much love in Christ's Name.



Vision Day Presentations

Sundays, August 21 and August 28
9:30 a.m. in Huffman Hall
in lieu of Adult Sunday School

Be with us as we prepare to follow
through on your ideas from Vision Day!

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Comes to St. Matthew's

BY BILL KJELLSTRAND

Men of St. Matthew's, please consider a new ministry to men forming at St. Matthew's.

We are organizing a chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, an international ministry dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men and youth in the Episcopal Church.

Is the Brotherhood for you? Any baptized Christian man may become a member of the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood is focused on three disciplines of regular prayer, study and service. We feel these disciplines will strengthen and challenge you in reaching out to others. Consider what a longtime member of the Brotherhood, Fr. Bill Brake, said: "I need the Brotherhood to be a ministry that helps me be what God is calling me to be."

John's Gospel tells us that Andrew, after meeting Jesus, went to find his brother, Simon Peter, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah." The Brotherhood began in Chicago in 1883 with 12 men who sought to follow the example of Andrew. Since then, chapters of the Brotherhood have spread around the world among the Anglican Communion. There are 37 chapters in the Diocese of Texas.

The Brotherhood is not just another man's group. Through the years, the Brotherhood has started the Forward Day by Day program, Faith Alive, Pewsaction and several missionary projects in Japan and Africa.

Like other chapters of the Brotherhood, we expect to meet monthly, likely the first Saturday morning of the month. Our steering committee is led by Jim Sparks and includes, Will Brown, Jack Eccles, Bill Kjellstrand, Tony Hatheway, Jim Newman, and Bill Smith. Jim Sparks has agreed to serve as chapter director. We also are supported by other Brotherhood chapters in the Austin area.

Our first meeting will be Saturday, August 6, 8 a.m. at Denny's, on Burnet Road at Anderson Lane. We will have an area reserved for us.

If this sounds like something that interests you, come and give us your ideas and help spread the good news of Jesus Christ. If you can't make the meeting, please talk with one of the steering committee. And for even more information, look for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew table in Huffman Hall at the Seven Acre Showcase.

The Brotherhood Collect

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS: Dessert Party at the Wade Home

Sunday, August 28, at 7 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY DEDEE NORMAN

If you are a new member and have not yet been to a 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 Crystal and Merrill Wade on Sunday, August 28, at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy delicious snacks and desserts, meet other new members as well as some of the staff, ministry leaders and Newcomers Council members.

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, x 219. All new members please RSVP to Dedee by August 24.

Spiritual Formation: Healing & Reconciliation

BY THE REV. SUSAN BARNES

The central fact of Jesus' ministry was the healing that he brought to the people he encountered. Some of those healings were physical, some were mental, some were spiritual. Because disability or disease made people outcasts, the healing was social as well. Once healed, people were restored to life in the community from which they had been isolated. They were reconciled with one another and with God.

Christ's church today carries on that ministry of reconciliation. "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 855). Healing of body, mind and spirit remain a vital part of that restoration. Healing is so very important that it is the goal of two of the seven sacraments of the church: Unction or anointment for healing (*BCP*, p. 455) and the rite of Reconciliation (*BCP*, p. 447).

Although many of us are blessed with good physical health, every one of us needs healing of spirit, healing of mind from time to time. Every one of us has present-day problems. And many of us have memories, regrets, or other issues from our past that plague our present. Every one of us at one time or another can benefit from the church's rites for healing. Every one of us can be strengthened in our relationship with God by bringing to God our need for healing—however insignificant it may seem.

I invite you all to take advantage of the opportunities for healing prayer and recon-

ciliation that are offered by St. Matthew's church. Each Sunday during the 10:30 service, there are two teams of lay people who will pray with anyone who wants to share concerns for themselves or for others. Each Wednesday at noon we have a service of Healing and Eucharist, which includes a Litany for Healing for others in need as well as the opportunity to be anointed for healing yourself.

The rite of Reconciliation is rarely requested, probably because it is little understood. Different from the Roman Catholic tradition, Reconciliation in the Episcopal church is not required. "All may, some do, none must," as we learned in seminary. Because we say the Confession and Absolution as part of the Daily Office (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline) as well as the Sunday Eucharist, most of us probably feel we have ample opportunity to lay down our burdens and receive God's refreshment. The truth is that we all would benefit from a regular examination of conscience and confession, concluded by the rite of Reconciliation.

Your priests stand ready to hear you and to administer the rite. Through Reconciliation we share with you the blessing of God's forgiving grace—the healing that God so fervently desired to share with us, and that was embodied in Jesus, the Christ.

Discovery Class to Begin in September

SUBMITTED BY DEDEE NORMAN,
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Are you new to St. Matthew's? Would you like to learn more about the Episcopal Church? Have you been here a while and now want to become a member of this parish? The Rt. Rev. Rayford High will visit St. Matthew's for Confirmation on Sunday, October 30, 2005, at the 10:30 a.m. service. To prepare individuals for confirmation, Rector Merrill Wade will teach a Discovery Class on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., beginning September 18. The classes will run through October 23.

If you are interested in taking this class, please give Dedee Norman a call in the Church Office, 345-8314 x 229, sign up at the Welcome Table in the Commons beginning Sunday, August 28, or email dedee@stmattsAustin.org. Or drop by the church office on August 14 at the Seven Acre Showcase to let Dedee know of your interest.

Attention St. Matthew's Women

The St. Matthew's Women's Retreat for 2006 will be February 3 - 5 at Camp Allen. We will be privileged to have Jeanie Miley as our speaker. Her theme, "Teach Me to Dance," promises to be joyful and inspiring. Mark your calendars and watch for sign-up sheets in October.

Mark your Calendars! You are Invited!

To the Fall Music Kick-Off Workshop and Lunch

- Who:** Anyone who enjoys singing
When: Saturday, August 6, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: St. Matthew's Choir Room
Why: To have fun making music together and to learn about your singing voice (or more about it)

Choir participation is neither a pre-requisite nor an obligation!

Please RVSP for lunch to Tim Smith, 345-8314 x 227
 Or email him tsmith@stmattsAustin.org

The St. Matthew's Word (USPS 009-663) is published monthly by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive, Austin, TX 78759-8678. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The St. Matthew's Word, 8134 Mesa Drive, Austin, TX 78759-8678.

Care for the Caregiver: A New Ministry

BY GIDGET FISHER, CHAIR

As recent graduates of the Community of Hope, we were called upon to reflect how we felt we could best use our training. Centering prayer is the cornerstone of this intense training and the route I use most often when I don't know where else to go!

Often, at the end of my 20 minutes of contemplative prayer, foremost in my thoughts would be the realization of how many persons are currently involved in some sort of care-giving capacity. These thoughts occurred more and more often. Sometimes, I don't listen to God as well as I should and He has to repeat Himself. Fortunately, God is very patient.

There are so many of us in the "sandwich generation", taking care of aging parents while still parenting our own children. There are so many of us who have a spouse or loved one with a consuming health issue. There are so many of us who have a special needs child. Yes, there are many of us at St. Matthew's and beyond our parish family. Thus, this new ministry, Care for the Caregiver, was developed to reach out to each and every one of us.

I would like to encourage you to contact me by email or phone. Tell me how St. Matthew's and this new ministry can support you during these most trying of times. We are open to new ideas. If you choose to explain your situation, confidentiality will be honored. It is through your input that this ministry can grow and serve those who most need it.

Care for the Caregiver will be included in the Outreach Council's exhibit at the Seven Acre Showcase on Sunday, August 14. Please stop by the Breezeway area and learn about us. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please contact Gidget Fisher at gid92get@yahoo.com or 328-2088.

Faith in Action: Outreach IHN Concludes, Successful Again

BY THE REV. SUSAN BARNES

As I write, our three-week session of hosting the Interfaith Hospitality Network is coming to an end. We are getting ready to have a farewell potluck supper to say good bye to Anna, Ernest (Randy), Ricky and Alannah; Charles, Blythe and Aiana; Norma and Jacob; Mike and Rain. In our time together, these four families have become part of our great parish family. Many of you have contributed to making their welcome extra special—so special that one guest said she had never experienced that kind of caring before.

We at St. Matthew's were deeply blessed to welcome these pilgrim families, who are in transition to secure jobs and housing. Indeed, during their brief time with us, two breadwinners got good jobs, and one family completed their final steps toward moving into permanent housing.

In sharing our facilities, sharing our company, sharing our gifts of hospitality and good cooking, we are sharing Christ's love with Christ's own beloved children. We are honored to be a part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and to contribute to their stunning success in tackling the growing problem of homelessness among families.

Amy Novak, who took the lead in this year's IHN effort, will be writing more about the program in a coming issue of *The Word*. I simply want to try to thank everyone who joined forces to make these three weeks so joyful and smooth. First among them were Amy, Sharon Lowe, and Margaret Carpenter, each of whom chaired one week. Many, many of you pitched in as cooks, evening hosts, overnight hosts, coordinators, buyers of supplies, etc.

In attempting to thank you all by name, I ask the forgiveness of any whom I omit by mistake: Susan LaValley, Dana Wagner, Debbie Marshall, Sharon Roberts, Lynn and Abbey Smith, Susan Fugate, Clive Smith, Liz O'Quin, Martha and Caroline Webb, Julia Perol, Bob Ascott and Virginia Hauser, Shanon and Patrick Sutherland, Vicki Blumhagen, Ann Hart, Liz Morris, Mary Nell Frucella, Ron and Lisa Ottenbacher, Esther Garcia, Heather Affleck, Sarah Neely, Steve Ryder, Carol Stolz, Tommye Bertero, Judy DeWitt, Toni and Lucas Hatlen, Megan Morris, Anne Matthews and Randy Reynolds, Ray Morgan, Jim Gaines, Gidget Fisher, Nan Harrison, Jerry Chapman, Marilyn Wright, Larry Miller, Elaine Robicheaux, Stephanie Hackney, Nan and Cliff Harrison, Alice Travis, Christy Wittie, Beth Ann Sikes, Meredith Entin, Sheri and Craig Tolliver, Pat and Bob Yeargain, Paula and Max Wright, Elena Smith, Jim Dettmann, Chris O'Quin, Diane Sparks, Mary Lou and Dan Henshaw, Dot and Sherm Strance, Frances and Benton Nicholas, Don Edwards, JoAnne Cage, Joanne and Ralph Comer, Janice Watkins, Nancy and Hink Johnson, Laura Doughty, Rhonda Myers, Carol Price, Katherine Price, Felicia Robbins, Andrew Robbins, Marti Price Mary-Lynn Polk, Kay and Jerry Ballard, Sue Johnson, Shirley Meyer, Doris Norton, Susan Robertson, Kristi and Jay Robison, the Williams Family, Rosie and John Neiman, Phil and Lucas Hatlen, Jeri Muhich, Patti Shannon, Mike Cunningham, Christine Joannidi, and Cheryl Coldwater (McLay)

St. Matthew's to Sponsor Family Conference in September

BY BOB LIVELY

Most brides-to-be ask a priest or a pastor to officiate at their wedding. Why? Likely, the answer lies in the fact that whether or not these folks are particularly religious or happen to be faithful church members, they believe (or intuit) that marriage is sacred and that the birth of a family is always a holy experience. And in believing this, these folks set their feet upon wisdom's path because marriage is indeed sacred and the family experience is invariably holy.

St. Matthew's Church understands this because the leadership of this particular body of Christ views the church as the custodian of the family. And because of this church's strong commitment to family health and wholeness, St. Matthew's is pleased to announce its sponsorship of the first annual family conference under the banner of *How to Be a Family!*

This unique and informative conference is open to everyone – to both members and non-members and to those who have raised a family, to those who are in the process of doing so, and to those who hope to do so in the future. Beginning September 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and running through September 14, four knowledgeable speakers will present talks on family health issues, which will include a time for questions on how to enhance functionality in the human family.

Sunday evening, September 11, Dr. Bob Lively, will begin the series with a talk on *Developing a Healthy Family*. Bob is an ordained Presbyterian minister, author, columnist and Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Monday evening, September 12, Dr. Bob Moats, a greatly respected psychologist will offer a talk on *Healthy People Make Healthy Families*. Bob Moats is a gifted and amazingly intuitive therapist who has been in practice in Austin for close to three decades. Many regard his effectiveness as near legendary.

Tuesday evening, September 13, Dr. Nancy Willbern, a gifted therapist and mother of three grown children will speak on *Living With and Loving the Adolescent*. Nancy's Ph.D. dissertation at The University of Texas at Austin concerned the integration of psychology and spirituality. She is a delightful, incredibly insightful and most wise woman. Nancy has practiced in Austin for about ten years.

And finally, Wednesday evening, September 14, Dr. Janettee Henderson will speak. Janettee is a much sought-after speaker and marriage and family therapist in practice here in Austin. She is also a part-time instructor at St. Edwards and she will offer a talk on *Adoptive Parenting/Single Parenting/Blended Families*. Healing relationships is her life's work and no one does it with more love and tenderness than does this wise and skilled practitioner.

Complementing this program for parents and prospective parents will be a parallel program for youth where Ms. Sherry Davis, who is a knowledgeable and experienced school counselor, will offer four consecutive presentations to youth, grades six through twelve in Huffman Hall.

Childcare, which will consist of fun and creative activities will be offered to children younger than sixth grade.

There is no charge for any part of this conference, and this program will be of such quality that you will no doubt wish to invite family, friends, colleagues, and so forth to attend. So do someone you care about a favor today and invite them to mark their calendars now to be in attendance all four nights at St. Matthew's first annual conference on *How to Be a Family*. And while you're at it, do yourself the favor of marking these dates on your own calendar as well.

Caritas Needs Our Help!

Since 1964, Caritas of Austin has had **Outreach** IN ACTION one mission - to assist

with basic needs in times of crisis. Caritas of Austin works to prevent homelessness and hunger by assisting low-income people with basic needs and promoting self-sufficiency. The organization is now Travis County's largest non-governmental source of assistance. This year, Caritas will serve over 15,000 Travis County adults and children. And now, in particular, they need our help.

The Caritas Food Pantry is dangerously low and needs your help. Food donations are down and due to the economic downturn, the need for basic needs assistance among Travis County's low-income families is greater than ever. This year, Caritas expects to provide a two-day supply of groceries to more than 4,000 families.

A list of the needed items is below. Please fill bags with the items below and drop them off at in the Commons during the month of August. The need has never been greater.

Suggested food and hygiene items:

Canned meat and stews, packaged rice or beans, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, cereal (within expiration date), pop-top tuna, beans, fruit, and vegetables, canned or packaged soups, powdered or evaporated milk, bar soap, toothpaste, deodorant, and razors.

[Caritas is one of the ministries sponsored by the Outreach Commission. Come to the Seven Acre Showcase on August 14 and learn more!]

Senior Sentences

BY LUCY A. BOYEA,
MINISTER OF SENIOR ACTIVITIES

My oldest daughter once gave me a plaque which said "Where would I be without you?"

There are so many Senior Activity Center members and other volunteers, who are deserving of such a plaque. Some of the names will be unfamiliar to you since two-thirds of SAC members are not members of St. Matthew's but, through their efforts, they contribute to the success of SAC. Just to acquaint you with some of their contributions, I've compiled the following list:

- Dee Boswell, who keeps our birthday list up-to-date
- Barbara Haynes, who creates the labels for SAC's newsletter
- Liz Johnson, who teaches the Art Class
- Miriam Margulis, who leads Seniorcise and whose husband, Martin sets up for the class
- Betty Mitchell, who comes to my rescue when I have copier "glitches"
- Clint Norton, who coordinates our Thursday afternoon Bridge
- Liz O'Quin, who mails the SAC newsletter
- R.C. Thompson, who leads T'ai Chi and
- Nancy Tuck, who formats the newsletter on her computer

This list does not include all those whose willing hands are always ready to help with setting up for parties and luncheons, make coffee and a myriad of other tasks. You can see why I feel blessed by the efforts of so many!

[Note: Look for the Senior Activity Center display at the Seven Acre Showcase. It will be in the basement hallway just across from Lucy's office.]

Thoughts on Stewardship

BY KATHY VAIL, STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION CHAIR

Late summer is a good time for slowing down and reflecting on goals and priorities. It's normally too hot to work in the yard. The grass is brown and thankfully isn't growing anyway. Conversely, we've had a deluge of tropical moisture and it's too wet (and hot) to work outside.

Time is finite. We only get one life. There are no do-overs, no reincarnation to get a chance to do it better next time. Now is all we have. Now is a good time to ponder the meaning and direction of our lives. Are we living up to our potentials? Are we becoming the people God created us to be? Are we becoming overly self or other-centered? Are we wasting part of our lives?

Several people at vision day expressed a desire for St. Matthew's to become more outward focused, more service oriented. There was a concern expressed that we risk becoming too inwardly focused, thinking only of ourselves. To explore this concern is to look into our own individual lives, as well as our life together as a community. For now, I want to focus on us as individuals.

So what does this all have to do with stewardship? A steward is someone who is in charge of a large estate or an administrator of finances and property for an owner. The steward makes decisions regarding use of time and resources, both physical and monetary. The steward is responsible and accountable to the owner, for decisions made on behalf of the owner.

We may not have a large estate or large amounts of property or other wealth, but we have charge over something far more valuable, our lives. Take this time during the dog days of summer to reflect on being a good steward. Read what Jesus teaches about stewardship and priorities. Explore options. Come to the Seven Acre Showcase on August 14. Get ideas. Ask questions. Think. Pray. Be creative. Take a risk. Re-evaluate your priorities. Volunteer. Make stewardship a conscious part of your life.

June 2005 Financial Statement

	MONTH-TO-DATE		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$72,025.68	\$95,925.00	\$542,808.46	\$ 555,450.00
Other Income	(165.00)	1000.00	2,163.65	2,670.00
Total Income	71,680.00	96,925.00	544,972.11	558,120.00
Total Expenses	105,651.75	83,530.59	522,917.84	532,513.54
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	(\$33,791.07)	\$13,394.41	\$22,054.27	\$25,606.46

First Friday Golf

SUBMITTED BY DAVE BOWMAN

We will skip the first Friday in August. Too hot!

2nd Friday Golf – September 9th

Mark your calendars now for the second Friday in September, as a morning of fellowship on the links. Who will you encourage from within St. Matt's and who will you bring as a guest? Returning players, new players, and guest players are always welcome. Plan on an early start and an on-your-own lunch in the club house after we play.

The location and tee times will be announced in the September issue of *The Word*.

Here are two hymns and their stories that I have copied from the book *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan. This is a two-volume set with a total of 300 hymns. As I began reading the stories of the hymns that we sing, I got more and more excited about them. It took me quite a while to choose which to include in this article. There are many good stories. As you can see, I couldn't just choose one. Strange, how knowing a little of the life stories of the writers, and the circumstances that called them to write make the hymns more beautiful.

Come by the library and check these books out. While there look through the other good reads that we have. If you have any ideas about books that you would like to have in the library please let me know.

1674 - Before Charles Wesley or Isaac Watts, there was Thomas Ken who has been called "England's first hymnist." He was born in 1637, in Little Berkhamstead on the fringes of greater London. When his parents died, he was raised by his half-sister and her husband who enrolled him in Winchester College, an historic boys' school. Thomas was later ordained to the ministry and returned to Winchester as a chaplain.

To encourage the devotional habits of the boys, Thomas wrote three hymns in 1674, revolutionary because English hymns had not yet appeared. Only the Psalms were sung in public worship. Ken suggested the boys use the hymns privately in their rooms; one hymn was to be sung upon waking, another at bedtime, and a third at midnight if sleep didn't come. His morning hymn has thirteen stanzas, beginning with:

Awake, my soul, and with the sun the daily stage of duty run;

Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise, to pay thy morning sacrifice.

His evening hymn, equally meaningful, included this verse:

All praise to Thee, my God, this night, for all the blessing of the light!

Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, beneath Thine own almighty wings.

All three hymns ended with a common stanza, which has since become the most widely-sung verse in the world, The Doxology:

*Praise God from Whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

During the reign of King James II, Thomas, by now a bishop, was sent to the Tower of London for his Protestant convictions. After his release, Thomas retired to the home of a wealthy friend where he died on March 11, 1711. He was buried at sunrise, and the Doxology was sung at his funeral.

1860 - Anna and Susan Warner lived in a lovely townhouse in New York City where their father, Henry Whiting Warner, was a successful lawyer. But the "Panic of 1873" wrecked the family finances, forcing them to move into a ramshackle Revolutionary War-era home on Constitution Island on the Hudson, right across from the Military Academy at West Point.

Needing to contribute to the family income, Anna and Susan began writing poems and stories for publication. The girls launched literary careers which resulted in 106 publications. One of the most successful joint projects was a novel titled *Say and Seal*, in which a little boy named Johnny Fox is dying. His Sunday School teacher comforts him by taking him in his arms, rocking him, and making up a little song: "Jesus love me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so..." The novel became a best-seller, second only to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and when hymn writer William Bradbury read the words of the little song, he composed a childlike musical score to go along with them. "Jesus Love Me," soon became the best-known children's hymn on earth.

For forty years, Susan and Anna conducted Bible classes for cadets at West Point, and both were buried with full military honors. They are the only civilians buried in the military cemetery at West Point. To this day, their home on Constitution Island is maintained by West Point as a museum to their memory.

Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus Love me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.*

Refrain:

*Yes Jesus Love,
Yes, Jesus love me,
Yes, Jesus love me, the bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! He who died,
Heave-en's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little Child come in.*

*Jesus take this heart of mine,
Make it pure and wholly Thine;
Thou has bled and died for me,
I will hence-forth live for Thee.*

*Jesus loves me! He will stay,
Close beside me all the way;
He's prepared a home for me,
And someday His face I'll see.*

*Like Ministry Fair –
Only Bigger and Better!*

**THE
SEVEN ACRE
SHOWCASE**

Sunday, August 14

8:45 - 10:15 a.m.

Youth Calendar - August 2005

Sundays 4YOUth		Open House: August 14, 9:30-10:15 Kick Off Weekend: August 21, 9:15-10:15 Scheduled Classes: August 28, 9:15-10:15
Sunday, August 7	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Youth Council Retreat: This is a retreat for the St. Matt's Youth Leadership Team. The day will include team building, planning for the future, prayer, and a time for food and fellowship. Please contact Phil Webster for more details.
Saturday, August 13	12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.	Wet N' Wild on the Guadalupe: Enjoy an afternoon filled with food, fun, and friends. We will gather at the Youth Building and car pool to the Guadalupe River for an afternoon of tubing. After we get out of the water, there will be a picnic dinner. This is a joint event with the youth group from San Francisco de Asis and St. Luke's on the Lake. This is open to anyone grades 6-12. To register simply return a completed permission form and \$15.00.
Sunday, August 21	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Movie Night – Yes, its back! Bring your friends to the Youth Building for an evening of movies, pizza, and good conversation. This is open to grades 6-12 and there is no cost.
Sunday, August 28	5:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Celebration Fall Kick-Off – You know it and you love it! The whole evening starts with a youth-led Eucharist, featuring the youth band, starting at 5:15. After the service all youth grades 6-12 are invited to Huffman Hall for food, music, and some truly crazy games!
Wednesday, August 31	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Exploration Fall Kick-Off – Our mid-week time for active learning, fellowship, and prayer returns with a bang! This is open to youth grades 6-12 (Huffman Hall).

Children's Calendar for August 2005

Sunday School Schedule - AUGUST 7 and 14

9:30 Sunday School is on Sabbatical

10:30 Sunday School -

- Children 3 yrs. (by Sept.1) – 3rd Grades are checked in by their parents at the Kinney Outdoor Chapel
- 4/5th Graders attend the service with families

Sunday School Schedule - AUGUST 21 and 28

9:30 Sunday School – Children are checked in by their parents:

Level I	3 yrs. (by Sept.1) – Kinder	B-16
Level II	1st – 3rd Grades	B-17
Level III	4th – 5th Grades	B-13

10:30 Sunday School – Children are checked in by their parents before the service.

3 yrs. (by Sept.1) – 3rd Grade B-21

Children who turn 3 by Sept. 1 may remain in the nursery for free play, or they may join the Level I (3yr.-Kinder) class for a more structured morning program.

In August

Aug 10	7:00 p.m.	Children's Council (TBA)
Aug 14		Fall Registration Kick-Off: <i>U Complete O__R Picture</i> (Basement)
Aug 21		First Day of Sunday School Classes and Registration Continues: <i>U Complete O__R Picture</i> (see above)
Aug 28	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School (see above)

Safeguarding God's Children Training

Mark your calendars! If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this research-based three-hour course on the prevention of sexual abuse of children and youth, make note of the upcoming dates:

St. Matthew's, Sunday, August 14
12:15 – 3:15

St. Matthew's, Thursday, August 25
9:00 am - noon

There is no charge for this program. Registration is through the Diocese of Texas at www.epicenter.org. Forms can also be picked up from Barbara Haynes in the Church Office or from Barbara Pitts in the Religious Education office in the basement, but must be mailed or faxed to the diocesan office.

Sundays 4YOUth

Sundays 9:15 - 10:15

By BARBARA PITTS, DRE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Let's applaud adolescence – our own adolescence of a decade ago, or two... three... four... five... six decades ago – and the adolescence of today's youth. Research shows that the brain works harder during these years than at any other time except the early months of life, causing confusion, chemical changes, and extraordinary energy depletion. Congratulations to us all for working through that process!

Not only that, everyone of us exits childhood and has to determine "who we are" going to be as adults. Yes, in bygone generations some of the decisions were made by our families and communities for us. Why not so for today's youth? Are they unappreciative of our seasoned understandings? Not really! Just imagine: our homes no longer have walls that protect a family's inherited values, thanks to television, mass music, and the world wide web; marketeers vie for young people's loyalties, using sophisticated tools to create consumer cravings that compete with the voices of parents. How incredibly hard it must be to identify and walk on the right path.

For years, many at St. Matthew's have continued to show support for our youth in their endeavors to seek and stay on the path of faith. Examples include the ready response of adults to serve with youth in classes, councils, and events; to help raise money to fund pilgrimages and discipleship journeys, and to create relationships with young people. I knew by this past April who would be working with our fall Sunday morning classes; Phil Webster counted \$7000 raised by the parish for the Boston trips this summer.

For their part through the years, many of our youth have listened to God's call, they have dug deeply within to separate what has abiding value in life from what has transitional meaning. They have entered into parish ministries and they have broadened relationships.

In further support of our teenagers, we have expanded our selection of fall classes. The first Sunday of each month, guest artists, such as Craig Hella Johnson, Anne Province, Heather Kohout, Ragan Courtney, and Russ Adams will perform and challenge the kids to consider God in their lives in fresh ways and to consider how they might be drawn to respond to the Lord.

The second week of each month both middle and high school classes will engage the Bible through serious seminary-based study, letting the scriptures serve as a marvelous vehicle to knowing God and to appreciating God's great plan for us and for all creation throughout history.

The following weeks each class will take time to hang out at Breakfast Club, meeting at Luby's for a \$5 breakfast and time to build community. Adult leaders will facilitate each gathering and drive the youth to the 10:30 church service at the end.

On alternate weeks each class meets on campus for lessons focused on four aspects of a whole person: self, society, sexuality, and spirituality, in light of the Gospel.

If you are a young person – or if you hold the keys that drive the wheels that lead a teen to this kind of support during adolescence – we are calling you to be with us this fall. Can't wait!

1st Sunday of each month:	Faith in Action (6-12th Gr.)	Youth Bldg.
2nd Sunday of each month:	Bible Study	
	Middle School	Breezeway
	High School	Youth Bldg.
3rd Sunday of each month:	Middle School Breakfast Club	Luby's \$5
	High School J2A	Youth Bldg.
4th Sunday of each month:	Middle School R13	Breezeway
	High School Breakfast Club	Luby's \$5
5th Sunday of each month:	Middle School R13	Breezeway
	High School J2A	Youth Bldg.

U Complete O__R Family

By BARBARA PITTS

O__R Sunday School is Saving a Place for Ur Children!

No matter what your life is like, we have a place for you in our St. Matthew's Sunday School classes this fall! Perhaps you have very young children and getting everyone fed, dressed, and here at the same time is one of your main accomplishments each week; or maybe you are ready for that "something more" to encourage and support your child's growing relationship with God; or perhaps you've been coming for a while as a guest and you are "trying us out." Whatever the case, rest assured that we have saved a place for U – both you and your children!

9:30 Sunday School

Has your attention ever been arrested during the church service by the particular words of a scripture, a prayer, or the liturgy? But you couldn't really dwell on their meaning because everything was swirling forward around you? Imagine then what it is like for our children who can't ever quite keep up. At St. Matthew's we have put ourselves in the pews of our children (okay, cheap pun!) and have created classes in which our children can explore God, scripture, prayers, and liturgy at the leisurely, but quite focused, pace of childhood.

These classes begin at 9:30 and end at the sign of peace. When your 3-year old (by this Sept. 1) through 5th grade child participates in one of these age-appropriate classes, he or she has ample time to work with child-centered materials that open him or her up to the wonder of God through scripture and liturgy. The classes also include a balance among community building activities, singing, snack, and art, as well as time to dwell with God "in the quiet places."

10:30 Sunday School

Recognizing that there are seasons in life that restrict a family's involvement in church-centered Christian formation, we happily offer a half-hour class for our children 3-years (by this Sept. 1) through 3rd grade. Parents bring their children to B-21 before the service to join dedicated teachers in age-appropriate community building activities, a brief scripture study, singing and mixed activities, every week. Children rejoin their families at the sign of peace.

Finishing Touches

Thanks to a wonderful cadre of volunteers who completed much sanding, painting, and sealing so that our 9:30 Sunday School children might return this fall to intricately made new materials. As the year gets under way and you come to visit; be on the lookout for a new map puzzle of Israel, model of the books of the Bible, "maxims" ("Jesus, how shall we live...?"), additional parables, and hands-on ways to work with the prayers of the Eucharist.

And remember, without U, O__R family is incomplete. See you in Sunday School!

Cynthia Wilson Kicks Off Fall Women's Story Circle on August 21

By LESLIE KJELLSTRAND, ECW CO-CHAIR

"Blessings and Rough Patches" will be the title of a talk by Cynthia Wilson at the Women's Story Circle at noon on August 21 in Huffman Hall. Wilson's talk will begin the fall series of monthly luncheons and talks for women of all ages.

At St. Matthew's, Wilson is known for her sympathy, compassion and caring attitude. She recently spearheaded the formation of the Community of Hope group, now a robust ministry at St. Matthew's. Before that, she was one of the mainstays of the Stephen Ministry group.

All of this comes naturally to a woman trained as a nurse. But Wilson still finds herself asking, "How did a nice Jewish girl from Brooklyn end up in a place like this?"

While many at St. Matthew's may not know she started as a Jewish girl in Brooklyn, they do know that she's married to the Rev. George Wilson and has been a preacher's wife for many years. In fact, they have been married 52 years and have four children and six grandchildren.

Wilson has never been one to take life easy. She started out as a pre-med student, but life intervened and she changed to nursing for her degree. She worked as a nurse for two years before marriage and motherhood. While her children were young, she taught pre-school for eight years. She later went into marketing, selling educational materials. She was a head hunter before becoming a representative for a firm that published information to update lawyers on changes in business and tax law.

Over the years, Wilson's volunteer work has escalated. Long ago she was a volunteer fireman and also a volunteer on an emergency medical team. She's continued to do things that provide care and help to people when they're most needy: books to shut-ins, hospital visitations, visiting people in nursing homes and much more.

The Wilsons moved from Detroit to Texas in 1986 to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren here. Since then, both Cynthia and George have contributed much to St. Matthew's. George continues to serve as an assistant rector, as he has for many years, while Cynthia keeps the tract rack stocked with current publications. Both do much more, however, in the process of loving, caring and nurturing their St. Matthew's family.

The August Women's Story Circle is the first of the fall series. Meetings are typically held the second Sunday of the month. Mark your calendars for upcoming Women's Story Circle events:

- + September 11 with Barbara Williams
- + October 9 with Diane Sparks and
- + November 13 with Margaret Carpenter

The Women's Story Circle is sponsored by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Women. A light lunch is served and a donation of \$5 is suggested. Free babysitting is provided. To make reservations, email Carol Mynes at cmynes@austin.rr.com, or call her at 343-6801.

Episcoplayers Need You!

BY HINK JOHNSON

Is the play your thing?

Do you like acting out?

Do you like to work in the background?

There is a Drama Group here at St. Matthew's!

Look for us at the Seven Acre Showcase. We have a seat in the Balcony just for you!

We are the Episcoplayers, come join us. Fr. Wade occasionally wants a short vignette at sermon times, and a monologue or vignette for special occasions. We welcome additional members who can help with writing, acting, costume creation, scenery design and set making. Whatever your theatrical gifts are, they will be put to use by this group.

So let us work together to act up and entertain. If you are interested, please call Hink Johnson 258-3304, Beth Ann Sikes 837-5319 or Isabel Bursk 219-5789. And on Sunday, August 14, at the Seven Acre Showcase look to the Balcony for a pleasant surprise!

Don't miss the...

The Seven Acre Showcase

Sunday, August 14

Birthdays

August

- 1 Mark Banta, Jennifer Davis, Tom Uhl,
- 2 Marcia Bailey, Elisabeth Carl, Katie Hale, Sandy Luce, Patti Shannon
- 3 Shelby Bursk, Colin Moore, Matthew Newman, Steve White
- 4 Martha Schreffler
- 5 Glenda Brown, Carolyn Meihaus
- 6 Mitchell Venincasa
- 7 Victoria Alcocer, Emma Carrier, Liz Johnson, George McClure
- 8 Kristin Braun, Elizabeth Klingler, Heidi Murphy, Grant McCollum, Joe Nuessle, Scott Smith
- 9 Robert Wasmuth, Caroline Webb
- 10 Janice Harris
- 12 Robert Myers, Patrick Wade
- 13 Will Kirkgard, Alexandra Le, Kelley Meyer
- 14 Connie Boerner, Douglas O'Connell
- 15 Clarissa Boerner, Scott Francis, Sharon Tomisak
- 16 David Ascott, John Muhich
- 17 Valerie Armstrong
- 18 Nancy Kirwan, Dennis Minks, Julie Morales, Bob Wood
- 19 Roger Buegner, Nicholas Bursk, John DeVale, John O'Quin,
- 20 Sue McDonald, Larry Nichols, David Petersen
- 21 McKenzie Blaker, Jack Francis
- 22 Jim Byrom
- 23 Paula Kulchisky, Steve Ryder
- 24 Carol Ekerdt, Ann Hart, Pat Naeve
- 25 Karen Baker, Brandi Harmon
- 26 Diane Bennett, Stephen Boon, Connor Hale, Jacob Veith, Crystal Wade, Laurel Claire Webb
- 27 Mary Lou Henshaw, David Hooker, Laura Rose Nieman,
- 28 Reed Dady, James Mashburn
- 29 Noah Bowman, Jeanne Langston
- 30 Eric Liles, John Strange
- 31 Lakki Brown

September

- 1 Ryan Nichols
- 2 Sofie Alcocer, Gidget Fisher, David Price, Marsha Spriggs, Phil Webster
- 3 David Carrier, Joanne Hummel, Laura Mekanick, Patty Steed
- 4 Phil Hatlen, Allen Keith, Warren Marshall, Fossie Moore, Mike Zimmermann
- 5 Colleen Hale, Tom Holt, J. D. Johns
- 6 Todd Bankler, Diane Smith, Sam Smith, Skyler Thorn
- 7 Judy Bomar, Sarah Neely

New Members

Lynn Stiles

Jennie Robbins

Memorial Gifts to the Permanent Endowment Fund

In loving memory for
her father and mother
by
Constance Harris

In thanksgiving for
Clarice Meer's 90th Birthday
by
Carol Stolz

*Virginia Hauser and Bob Ascott
invite their St. Matthew's family to share
in the joy of their wedding on
Sunday, August 7, 2005.*

THE WEDDING EUCHARIST WILL BE AT THE REGULAR
10:30 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE. FOLLOWING THE SERVICE WILL BE
A LUNCHEON IN HUFFMAN HALL.
WEDDING VOWS WILL BE EXCHANGED AT 1:30 PM.
DESSERT WILL CONCLUDE THE AFTERNOON.

NO GIFTS PLEASE. CONTRIBUTIONS TO ST. MATTHEW'S GOOD FAITH FUND ARE WELCOME.
PLEASE RSVP FOR THE LUNCHEON TO
WEDDING@ASCOTTBUSINESSADVISORS.COM OR 512-257-9328.

The ST. MATTHEW'S WORD

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(512) 345-8314 ♦ FAX (512) 346-2085

Worship Schedule

Sunday

7:30 a.m. - Noon Contemplative Prayer in
Brides Room (B-6)
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Christian Education
for Adults
9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Christian Education
for Youth (grades 6-12)
9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Christian Education
for Children
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
5:15 p.m. Evening Liturgy

Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
12 Noon Holy Eucharist: Rite II 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.

Vestry

David Price (698-7676)
Babs Clendenin
John Muhich (452-7789)
Bert Hooper (346-6675)
Joe McLean

Members—Jerry Ballard, Vickie Blumhagen,
Stephen Brock, Bill Donnell, Esther Garcia,
Reid Kirchem, Kevin McGillicuddy, Warren
Marshall, Kathy Morris, Susan Robertson,
Jay Robison, Kathy Vail, Clarissa Vazquez
Assigned Vestry Members for August —
Jerry Ballard and Susan Robertson

Vestry Commission Chairs

David Barrow, Jr. and Mary Nell Frucella
Kevin McGillicuddy
Steve Ryder
Warren Marshall
Susan Robertson
Kathy Vail

School Board

Crystal Edwards *President*
Sydney Searcy *Vice President*
Babs Clendenin *Vestry Liaison*
Kent Zarbock *Treasurer*
Millie Roden *Secretary*
Pam Littlefield *Director*
Eileen Cole *Assistant Director*
The Rev. Merrill Wade *Chairman*
Members—Dana Fallon, Layne Levine, Michael
Mashburn, Carlin Mihm, Kenneth Wright

Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Treasurer
Chancellor
Clerk

Buildings and Grounds
Finance
Communications
Personnel
Outreach
Stewardship

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. Joe Di Paola *Assisting Clergy*
The Rev. Jim Williams *Assisting Clergy*
The Rev. George I. Wilson *Assisting Clergy*
Dave Bowman *Business Manager*
Lucy Boyea *Minister of Senior Activities*
Margaret Carpenter *Bookkeeper*
Barbara Haynes *Administrative Assistant*
Betty Mitchell *Communications Coordinator*
Tracey Nichols *Nursery Coordinator*
Dedee Norman *Membership Coordinator*
Barbara Pitts *Director of Religious Education
for Children and Youth*
Jose Prado *Sexton*
Tim Smith *Director of Music Ministry*
Phil Webster *Director of Youth Ministry*

Lay Ministry Councils

Martha Webb *Children*
Bill Donnell *Adult Education*
Jeri Muhich *Newcomers*
Milt Williams *Parish Life*
Merrill Wade *Worship*
Kristi Robison *Youth*

Deadline for the **September** issue
of *The Word* is

Friday, August 19, 2005

at 5:00 p.m. Email your article to
betty@stmattsaustrin.org

Articles may be edited for content and length.