

the st. matthew's word

Happy New Year!

Yes, the church continues to celebrate the Good News of the Birth of Jesus Christ. We gather again this Sunday, on the Eve of the Epiphany, to give thanks one more Sunday that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son!

Christmas and Epiphany are wonderful times in the church. They express our identity. We are an incarnational church. We believe that as the Spirit of God dwells in Jesus Christ, presenting grace upon grace, so the Spirit dwells in the body of the church. The spiritual presence of God is dispersed throughout the faithful, energizing our giftedness and consecrating us for ministry. In the Epiphany season a special light shines upon the church, shining through the life and teachings of Jesus into our lives. Epiphany means "manifestation" and I like to think of it as a light that illuminates darkness — a light that reveals God's presence in Jesus.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Monday, January 6, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist as a part of a special Festival of Lights. The service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the church and will include a candlelight procession and special music. Don't miss this wonderful celebration! The gospel reading that night is the Story of Three Wise Men, representing the "epiphany" or manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

The Sundays of the Epiphany season illuminate specific truths about Jesus. On January 12 we will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus as the Holy Spirit descends like a dove to anoint Jesus for ministry. We will, of

course, celebrate the Rite of Baptism at the 10:30 a.m. service that morning.

On January 19, our youth will lead the 10:30 a.m. service. They will design the service of Holy Eucharist and will be responsible for the music, the readings, the sermon and all the support services that make our Sunday services possible. I will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in our customary way but I trust that the youth will provide us with a wonderful and unique expression of the faith!

I trust that you are excited about 2003 and who we can be and what we can do together at St. Matthew's. God bless you one and all!

Faithfully,

Merrill Wade

Special Epiphany Service

The Feast of Lights
Holy Eucharist

7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 6

Annual Parish Meeting, January 12, 7:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend the annual business meeting of St. Matthew's parish following the Chili Cookoff on Sunday, January 12. At that meeting the budget for 2003 will be presented and five new members to the vestry will be elected. In addition, two alternate delegates to the Diocesan Council and two members of the Special Gifts Committee will be elected.

14th "Sometimes Annual" Chili Cook Off

On Sunday, January 12, just before the Annual Parish Meeting begins, chili cooking teams from various ministries of our parish will compete to see who wins the coveted awards in this year's competition. If your Sunday School class, Bible Study Group, etc. is not planning to enter, you may end up feeling left out! Why not gather your group and come up with a pot of chili and an attention-getting presentation that will capture the eye of the judges?

Event supervisor, Jack Ryfle, says, "This contest brings together the outstanding chili chefs and aficionados of North Austin. We would like to have a chili cooking team from each church organization. If you are interested please call me at 345-3830."

If you are not on a chili team and your last name begins with A - M, please bring a side dish. If your name begins with N - Z, it's your turn to bring dessert.

Chili Judging begins at 5:15 p.m., the serving line opens at 6:00 p.m. The Parish Meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Childcare is available for the evening so gather the family and join in this time of Christian fun, food and fellowship.

Vestry Candidate Information

Jerry Ballard

Occupation and current position: Semi-retired, family real estate

Member of St. Matthew's for: 28 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: Tuesday Night Bible Study, Usher Captain, Day School Board, Vestry, Outreach, Associate Vestry, Alpha, El Buen Samaritano Board.

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? A place where God's love is practiced.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry?

I would like to see St. Matthew's continue to grow spiritually and to mirror Christ's love to better serve the larger community.

Pertinent Biographical Data: Married to Kathleen, father of Barton, Libby and Ellen. Father-in-law to Matt. (At present my grandchild is a DOG.)

Sally Barber

Occupation and current position: Resource teacher for gifted and talented-2/3 time, Interior consultant business - Of a Whimsical Nature

Member of St. Matthew's for: 17 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: Arts Festival, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Vestry, 91-94, Director of Day School, Angel Tree coordinator, mentor for Rite 13 and confirmation.

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? St. Matthew's is my home! It is a place where we are each encouraged to grow in God's love no matter where we are in life. The best part, the Eucharist, where saints come together at God's table.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry?

Your will be done, God! But what comes to mind for this incredible place to reach out to others with God's love in ways we haven't envisioned yet and that it will be a place for us to grow in God's love spiritually—no matter what age we are through challenging education programs, Bible Study and Spirituality.

Pertinent Biographical Data: M. A. in Education for Gifted. Husband-Tim, 3 sons, Adam, Brett, and Ben. I never knew a time without God in my life. Although He has revealed Himself to me differently at different times and has asked different things of me. I am in awe of His presence in nature-seashells, acorns, penguins, hummingbirds, deer—all Gods creatures.

James C. Dettmann

Occupation and current position: Hospital Rate Analyst

Member of St. Matthew's for: 18 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish activities and leadership positions: Vestry (1 yr. Un-expired term), Lay Reader, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Youth Leader, Sunday School Teacher, Praise Band Member, Choir Member, Cook and Teacher for Men's Thursday Morning Breakfast, Usher, Cursillo Music Team and De Colores Musician

What would you like best about St. Matthew's?

The parishioners at St. Matthew's are a talented spirit filled loving community which uplifts my worship and supports our goal to "Know Christ and make Him known."

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years on the vestry? I would like to continue to focus on ministries that support an open, loving and sharing parish that would make the non-Christian community desirous of what drives this parish, to Know Christ and make Him Known thereby fulfilling the Great Commission.

Pertinent biographical data: I am a child of God blessed with a wonderful caring wife, Arlene, and four children. Work History: 1½ years - ACS negotiating hospital rates, 3 years - owned an IT consulting corporation, 30 years retired from IBM with experience in Personnel, Engineering, Production Control and Information Technology.

Bill Donnell

Occupation and current position: Electronics Engineer employed at Tescom as a Systems Engineer.

Member of St. Matthew's for: 6 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: Vestry Clerk, Delegate to Diocesan Council, Member of Stewardship Commission, LEM, LEM Coordinator, Team Teacher for Kerygma Bible Study

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? I like the enthusiasm and joy with which the members seek to carry out our mission statement: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry?

1. An easily accessible, expanded Church library.
2. Additional resources for Christian Education, for example, training for teachers, training materials and equipment and guest lecturers.
3. Participation in one or more Lay ministries or activities by all members.
4. A level of stewardship that supports all the goals of our church

Pertinent Biographical Data: Grew up in Dallas, baptized at age 11 in Methodist Church. Graduated from SMU. Served in USAF. Worked as electronics engineer in Dallas, Houston, and

Austin. Doris and I have been married for 48 years. We have two sons and three grandchildren. We came to St. Matthew's in 1995.

Leslie Kjellstrand

Occupation and Current Position: I am the Communications Director for the Employees Retirement System of Texas, a state agency providing retirement and insurance benefits to all state and most higher education employees and retirees. I manage all external communications including publications, the website content and a presentations program on benefit issues throughout the state. I am in charge of the agency's open enrollment program for benefits changes during the summer—a massive communications effort to more than 250,000 people.

Member of St. Matthew's for: 6 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: I am currently co-chairwoman of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Women. For the last three years, my husband Bill and I have been coordinating the church's dinner group series, ConneXions. I am also a two-year member of the Communications Commission and a member of our Daughters of the King group. I am a licensed lay eucharistic minister, currently serving only as chapel participant. I have served as a writer and communications coordinator for numerous projects including the 2002 ECW Diocesan Annual Meeting, 2001 Arts Festival and the search for a rector. I've attended numerous retreats on Stewardship and Evangelism and have enjoyed two weekends at Laity Lodge.

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? St. Matthew's is my second family; I enjoy the unique intellectual, cultural climate at St. Matthew's and the loving support of members.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry?

I am committed to providing an environment where new and former members feel welcomed and where opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship abound. I support a balanced budget, a strong music and worship program, robust children's and youth education and the addition of new ministries as St. Matthew's grows. *Pertinent biographical data:* Bill and I have been members of St. Matthew's for about six years. We have three daughters, two of whom were married at St. Matthew's. Previously, I was active at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in many areas and was Senior Warden during the year of a search for a priest.

Sharon Lowe

Occupation and Current Position: Parent; Student in ETSS Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program (MAPM), graduating June 2003; Volunteer /Participant (Caritas, The Seton Cove, St. Matthew's, Trinity Center, ETSS, Courtyard Neighborhood Hospitality Committee-Co-Chair); "Recovering" Attorney.

Member of St. Matthew's for: 9 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: Opening Our Hearts Through the Arts-Co-Chair 2002, 2003/member 2001; Community of Hope-2002; "Practical Spirituality" Adult Sunday School team teacher; Casa Marianella cooking team 2000-2002; Stewardship Committee 1999-2000, Personnel Commission 1997-1998, Associate Vestry 1995-1997-Annual Parish Retreat Chair-1997; Children's Sunday School 1995-1996, "Faith Alive" Hospitality Committee 1994.

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? What I most appreciate about our parish is our capacity for community and inclusiveness, our dedication to one another, and our willingness to explore new approaches to outreach, education and growth.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry? My hope is that St. Matthew's will take steps to enhance the diversity of our membership, the range of our educational offerings and the scope of our outreach to the larger community. Basically, I would like to see us act to dispel the notion that Episcopalians are the "frozen chosen." To me, this includes outreach to people who are less represented within our parish—through education and the arts, through social justice programs like the Good Faith Fund, El Buen and Caritas, and youth/young adult programs. I would especially like to explore what we may be able to do with the Homeless Foundation, which benefits poor and working poor families through a network of host and support churches.

Pertinent Biographical Data: Married to Dirk Buikema for 18 years. Dirk is Director of Strategic Alliances at Motorola and is very active with Rangers club youth soccer. Two Children: Ben, 15, is a freshman at McCallum, and Laura, 13, is in 7th grade at St. Andrews.

Warren Marshall

Occupation and Current Position: Managing Broker for Realty World, John Horton & Associates

Member of St. Matthew's for: 20 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: Current: Associate Vestry, Usher, Finance Commission. Past: Vestry (1989-1991), Senior Warden 1991, Associate Vestry (1991, 1992, 1997, 2002), Usher since 1983, Chairman of Men's Fellowship (2000-2001).

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? The loving people and spirit that fills the St. Matthew's community.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry? Continued support for the vision and mission of St. Matthew's, including the varied ministries and activities enjoyed by the present congregation and to support the new programs and ministries required for the anticipated growth in membership and the required fellowship in a growing community of faithful parishioners.

Pertinent Biographical Data: Married to Marge Marshall for 48 years. We have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. A business background in computers, business and project management, retail business and real estate brokerage. I am a professional coach for business, and the practice of real estate.

David Price

Occupation and Current Position: Civil Engineer, Owner/Manager of AusTex Development Co. (Land Development, Civil Construction and Consulting)

Member of St. Matthew's for: 6 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: Alpha Program; as Director (3 years), Small Groups, and Logistics Coordinator (1 year). Currently serving as Lay Eucharistic Minister. Volunteer at various events.

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? The openness of the congregation, and the sheer joy it brings to people (and me). I also love the support for others, and the welcoming of others into the church.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry? (1) To fully engage the Youth in the church (they are our collective future), and the congregation with the Youth. (2) To nurture and grow the existing congregation in their needs (spiritual and other). (3) Do significant outreach to others outside the church, spreading God's Word, and emulating Christ's love through word and deed. (4) Get the congregation more involved in everything!!!

Pertinent Biographical Data: Native Austinite. Married to Marti, three wonderful girls. Two female dogs (yes, I am outnumbered by females in my household). Was baptized as an adult, and know how frustrating it is to be seeking an answer, when you don't even know what the question is. We sought out many churches as a possible home, and St. Matthew's was the obvious choice once we came here. We have a wonderful, loving congregation, with wonderful spiritual leadership, and a great staff.

Susan Robertson

Occupation and current position: Mon. & Wed: Office Manager for two psychotherapists. Tuesdays: Workshop coordinator for Pat Love.

Member of St. Matthew's for: 32 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish ministries and leadership positions: Current: ECW board, EFM, DOK, Past: Search Committee, Diocesan ECW Board, School Board president

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? I like the feeling of acceptance at St. Matthew's. You can be who you are without being judged. The more diverse we are, the more we can gain from each other.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years of service on the vestry? I would like to see more hands on participation in outreach by our parish family. I would also like to see 10% of our budget used for outreach. (over and above our diocesan commitment).

Pertinent Biographical Data: Married to Jack Robertson for 37 years, mother of 2 grown daughters.

Robert Wood, Jr.

Occupation: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Retired

Member of St. Matthew's for: 10 years

Worship service usually attended: 10:30 a.m.

Are you currently pledging to St. Matthew's? Yes

Current and past parish activities and leadership positions: Lay Reader 8 years, Choir 10 years, Lay Eucharistic Minister to the Ill or infirm 2 years.

What do you like best about St. Matthew's? The genuine warmth and love among the members of our church together with the wide range of activities for service and outreach to the community.

What would you most like to see accomplished during your three years on the vestry? I would like to see the choir grow to 40 or more members capable of handling any type of music — oratorio or otherwise. I would also pray for our continued growth in love and concern for each other together with our growth in numbers of members and all concerned in serving our Lord, loving each other and service to the needy.

Pertinent biographical data: Born and educated in Illinois. Undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of Illinois. MD degree in 1955. Practiced Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Board member and diplomat in Houston since 1960. Retired to Austin in 1991. Member Chorus Chicago Lyric Opera 1952-55, Dallas Civic Opera 1959-60, Houston Grand Opera Chorus 1963-69. Clinical Assistant Professor, Baylor Medical School, Houston, 1962-1990.

St. Matthew's Reaching Out: Casa Marianella

by Holly Decherd, Outreach Chair

Nestled away, by virtue of sizable old trees in an East Austin neighborhood off Airport Boulevard, is a house. While it may appear typical for this nicely maintained, older area, with narrow streets and sometimes cracked curbs, it is not. Instead of one family, hundreds of individuals and families, primarily immigrants, rotate through this home each year. There, basic needs and assistance for cultural assimilation are provided by a small staff and volunteers.

Upon close inspection, it becomes apparent that this house has been modified to be a small dormitory. A bedroom has been expanded to hold extra beds. There are extra storage houses in the back yard, some with clothes provisions, and even chickens are seen meandering there, apparently unaware of their potential contributions to the needs therein. The kitchen is an amazing sight when one considers the numbers fed from the appliances there. Picnic tables are clustered outside the tiny kitchen door. Here is where St. Matthew's helps.

Each month, teams of volunteers gather in our St. Matthew's kitchen, probably five times larger than the one at Casa Marianella, to cook for the residents there. On the last Friday afternoon of the month, four to six volunteers mix, stir, and prepare a meal to be taken across town to Casa Marianella. Mary Lou Henshaw is the main organizer of these

teams, and she reports that as more volunteers are forthcoming, we are able to provide more food. The cost of the foodstuffs is paid for out of the Outreach budget of the church.

When the Outreach Commission took a field trip there last year, it was a rewarding experience. Arriving at the end of the workday, we saw primarily men relaxing on both the porch and in the tiny living room in front of an elevated television. No derelict appearances here: both the quarters and residents were tidy and clean and peaceful. The families were bustling in the kitchen and outside. We were especially moved by an attractive pair of young women, who though only approximately 16 years old and sisters, were orphaned. This plucky pair had survived a long trek from Mexico alone. Their heads were held high, their spirits strong, their English improving rapidly, and hope shining abundantly from their pretty eyes.

If you are able to assist with this St. Matthew's effort, feel free to contact either the office or Mary Lou Henshaw and you can learn even more about this worthy group. Help Mary Lou in putting together some more cooking teams and enjoy fellowship while reaching out to help others. For additional information on Casa Marianella, please see their website at www.casamarianella.org

Year End Stewardship Report: Thoughts for 2003

by Bob Ascott, Stewardship Chair

By the first of the year, the 2003 Stewardship results will have been translated into the operating budget and hence the ministries for St. Matthew's for the new year. As always, the leadership will have to prioritize the financial allocations to the multitude of worthy ministries.

As of this writing, the results of the 2003 Stewardship campaign include a financial commitment of over \$810,000 by 250 families. This represents 46% of our member families. Both measures of dollars and percentage are up significantly over the last two years and are a sign of the great things in store for St. Matthew's in the future.

On behalf of the entire leadership and staff, I want to thank each of you for your participation in this year's stewardship program. Our goal remains to make "Stewardship a way of life" and to continue to focus on "Stewardship as the response to the magnitude of God's Love." As we continue with this message, our hope is that all of St. Matthew's will become "joyful givers" towards the vision and exciting work of our parish.

A Thank You Note From Casa Marianella

Dear Friends at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church,

Thank you so much for your gift of \$750 to Casa Marianella! Your timing could not have been better. We are currently getting ready to open a new residence for women and children. Extra expenses are coming in at a time when many donors are not in a position to give. A gift like this from the church is a huge help. We are very grateful for the help of St. Matthew's through the years. Thank you so much for this substantial and timely gift.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Long

Director, Casa Marianella

November 2002 Financial Statement

	CURRENT MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$71,032	\$78,806	\$720,085	\$739,564
Total Income	76,946	84,183	793,964	812,270
Total Expenses	72,613	88,875	917,088	1,020,795
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	\$4,333	(\$4,692)	(\$123,124)	(\$208,525)

Indebtedness as of November 30, 2002 \$0.00

With these articles on the St. Matthew's Choir and Praise Team, we continue a series that profiles various ministries within our parish. Each month, members of the selected groups will be recognized and thanked publicly in a Sunday morning service and also featured on the St. Matthew's website (www.StMattsAustin.org) In February, we will highlight the Acolytes.

St. Matthew's Choir Makes a Joyful Noise

by Suzanne Daniel

What do you get when you put together two physicians, an internationally published author, a ballroom dancer, a nurse, an engineer, a designer, a university administrator, an opera singer, some teachers, a counselor, a priest, a lawyer, and many others? Why, you get the St. Matthew's Choir!

This dedicated group of parishioners are seen and heard during most 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship services as well as at many other services and events throughout the year. Each week, the choir rehearses to prepare offertory anthems, hymns, praise songs and service music for upcoming services. On Sunday mornings, you can find the choir warming up and having a brief rehearsal before the service.

The choir sings a variety of music: chant, traditional Anglican songs, historic and modern settings of hymns, and contemporary Christian music. At any given time the choir is preparing music for about four or five services. Between rehearsals, the members diligently work with practice CDs to fine tune their parts.

Each year the choir sponsors the Annual Ice Cream Social and Patriotic Review to celebrate the 4th of July. The choir members also represent St. Matthew's at diocesan functions like the Visit of Archbishop Carey, and the Diocesan Choir Festival.

According to director Cary Michaels, "This is a group of individuals committed to service of St. Matthew's and the Lord who realize that hard work and fun can be enjoyed at the same time. I enjoy working with the musicians at St. Matthew's so much – it is a blessing."

New members are always welcome to join us on Wednesday nights from 7-9 p.m. in the Choir Room.

A New Year, A Fresh Start for the Praise Team

by Suzanne Daniel

With the completion of the new sound system, the praise team is gearing back up. In addition to helping to lead Songs for Praise & Worship and music during communion, many of these people help out by singing in the choir.

The team will have a brief meeting on Sunday, January 12th following the 10:30 service. If you play an instrument or sing and are interested in joining this ministry please meet at the front of the sanctuary, near the piano.

John Athey & Kammy Benham
 Judy Bomar & Barbara Borden
 Julie Drake & Mickey Drake
 Maly Hatheway & Chuck Huffman
 Hink Johnson & Nancy Johnson
 Pam Keightley & Sue Kinney
 Nancy Mallory & Debi Meyer
 Elizabeth Moon & Richard Moon
 Dolores Muhich & Carol Mynes
 Mary-Lynn Polk & Nancy Richards
 Beth Ann Sikes & Sharon Tomisak
 Shirley Towry & Amy Tuvell
 Marilyn Wenzel & Bob Wood
 Cary Michaels & Suzanne Daniel,

Interim Co-Directors

Choir Members

Randy Alexis
 Suzanne Daniel
 Beth Deans
 Tom DeWitt
 Anne Matthews
 Cheryl McLay
 Cary Michaels

Praise Team Members

Men's Fellowship to Hear David Peña on January 15

Mr. David Peña, Director of Reach Out Ministries, will speak to the Men's Fellowship Group at its meeting on Wednesday, January 15. David's ministry involves the operation of four homes in Austin where those being released from prison may adjust and decompress before returning to full time outside life.

David Peña says, "Let's face it, our present penal institution is failing drastically. The United States imprisons a higher percentage of its people than any other nation in the world. The prison system was never intended to restore, rather to punish, and to provide public safety. Our current prison system does this very well. It is the church who is responsible to disciple and restore the new believer to Christ. We the church have passed this responsibility of restoration to our government. We have to take our place as the body of Christ."

The Men of St. Matthew's are invited to gather in Huffman Hall at 5:30 p.m. and eat supper together at 6:00 p.m. (\$6) The meal will be provided by the Holy Smokers.

Community Health Screening on Thursday February 13th

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will host a health screening on Thursday, February 13, 2003. Life Line Screening will scan the carotid artery in the neck for plaque build up, which can lead to stroke, (75% of all strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage) and the arteries in the legs for peripheral arterial disease, which is linked to heart disease. They will also offer a third test for aneurysms in the aortic vessel in the abdomen and a bone density screening for women to test for osteoporosis.

This is a prevention program, and with early detection, these problems can be treated. The results are sent directly to you and referred back to your own doctor. The tests, are non invasive, completely painless and take only about ten minutes each. They are offered for \$40.00 each, or \$99.00 for the complete vascular package. The fee for the osteoporosis screening is \$35.00 and all four screening tests cost \$125.00 Individual screenings are approximately 10 minutes each. Persons availing themselves of all four procedures should allow one hour of their time.

Pre-registration is a must. Call 1-800-407-4557 for your appointment or for more information. Life Line Screening is the nation's largest mobile vascular screening service. It has been providing this service since 1993.

Movies With a Message: We ARE Having an Impact

by Kristi and Jay Robison

I don't believe in coincidences; God ordains that particular things happen to us or that particular people cross our path at precisely the right moment for us to learn something we need to know or hear something we need to hear.

On the evening of October 13, as part of the Youth Group's regular movie night, we watched and discussed *The Rookie*. I had decided weeks beforehand that this would be an excellent movie to watch because it is that rarest of films — a G-rated movie that wasn't aimed at young children and avoided the sentimentality that so easily turns off teenagers. And my fellow baseball fans will surely agree that October is a great month to watch a baseball movie.

This is where God comes in. This year, the Austin Film Festival ran from October 10-17, with a series of panels on screenwriting and producing taking place during the first few days of the festival. On Sunday morning, October 13, I attended one of those panels. Who should be one of the panelists but John Lee Hancock, writer and director of *The Rookie*! It wasn't anything Mr. Hancock said during the panel that struck me; it was afterward, when he was kind enough to take a brief moment to talk to me. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to ask Mr. Hancock if there was anything he would like me to say to the Youth Group when we were watching his movie.

He said to tell them that he was grateful for the support church groups and other Christian organizations had given to *The Rookie*. The film was an unexpected box-office success, and the support churches, organizations, and individual moviegoers in the Christian community gave to it had a lot to do with that. *The Rookie* was the first movie that Mr. Hancock directed. Thanks to the support of people like us, who are hungering for good stories that don't rely on sex and violence to be interesting, I am sure this film won't be his last.

This all well and good, you might say, but what does this have to do with life at St. Matthew's? A little over a year ago, at the invitation of our Youth Minister, Eric Liles, my wife, Kristi, and I began a movie ministry directed at the St. Matt's youth. It's become a monthly event where we watch

a movie and discuss the messages therein, what Scriptural references may apply, or sometimes just interesting points that strike the youth. We have had stimulating discussions on a range of movies, from heavier fare like *Schindler's List* to feather-light comedies such as *The Emperor's New Groove*. Even in very silly movies such as the latter there are good topics to discuss, such as forgiveness, loyalty, and the power of friendship.

It is also our aim to give our youth the tools they need to become smart and discerning consumers of popular culture. It is easy to want to cut ourselves off from secular culture completely, but I do not feel that is necessarily a healthy response. There is much to dislike about secular culture, but there are many wonderful things too. More importantly, there are many Christian artists who have chosen to express their art in the secular world. They deserve our support in a business where profit is everything. It is our main means to subvert an industry whose decision makers care about profit and little else.

Buying Christian albums, music, and books and listening to Christian radio stations are good things. But it is also good to reward the best of secular culture with our entertainment dollars. It can also be a way to connect with our kids and encourage them away from the worst that pop culture has to offer. Who knows? You might find you have a taste for the music of Moby or U2 or fall in love with Veggie Tales — which was created by Episcopalians and whose movie is out in theaters now.

And remember this, which the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear through the words of John Lee Hancock: We may think "Hollywood," as a whole, is ignoring us. But there is at least one filmmaker in Hollywood who is grateful for the support he has received from the Christian community. We can change things, and we are having an impact!

Youth News

by Eric Liles

Here we go! Starting off 2003 we are kicking it into high gear with the youth ministry. With more help from Lucy Koy (see the brief article about her in this issue), and with a renewed passion from all the adult leaders, we set about to make 2003 the best year the youth ministry of St. Matthew's has seen yet. There are tons of activities this month, and I am excited to announce our Spring Break retreat at Camp Allen. Plan to go and invite friends, this will be a great trip! If you have question, comments, or especially if you want to hang out, please let me know.

God's Peace,
Eric
eric@stmattsAustin.org
office: 345-8314 ext. 232
cell: 799-2638

Have You Met Lucy Koy?

by Eric Liles

It is my great pleasure to announce that Lucy Koy, (officially: our Jr. High youth ministry intern), will be working with our youth ministry 10 hours a week, starting in January. For those who do not yet know Lucy, let me bring you up to speed. Lucy is a "Dio kid." She worked on summer staff at Camp Allen, has participated in Happening, CLC, and other diocesan youth events. Lucy was raised in Bellville, and is currently a senior at that school Merrill went to (TU or UT, I get confused).

She started volunteering with our youth program about March of 2001, and has been an amazing servant to our youth since that time. She will be very active in the planning of our Jr. High events, as well as a leader within the entire youth program. Her extra involvement gives her the opportunity to visit more youth off campus at their schools for lunch and at extra curricular activities. Lucy is an incredible woman of God, and we as St. Matthew's are very blessed to have her here. So look her up, shake her hand, give her a hug, and thank her for a job well done with the junior high youth.

Youth Calendar for December

- Jan 1 Pilgrimage payment due (\$100 from family)
- Jan 1 New Years Day, no Youth Group
- Jan 2 No Youth Council meeting this month, next meeting 2/6
- Jan 2 6p.m., Meet at the Agape building, Lady Longhorns vs. Texas A&M Corpus Christi, game starts at 7 p.m., we will return to St. Matt's about 9:30 p.m., cost is \$1 to get in, and any extra money for snacks or drinks.
- Jan 5 Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m., Worship 10:30-12
- Jan 8 Pizza Night 7-8:30
- Jan 12 Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m., Worship 10:30-12
Parish Mtg & Chili Cook-Off 6 p.m.
Movie Night 6-8:30 p.m.
- Jan 15 Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.
- Jan 17-18 The Heart of the Father Conference @ St. Luke's, Eric has details
- Jan 19 Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m., 10:30 Youth-Led Service
- Jan 19 Club 345 Pizza & Glow Bowl at the Union after church, ask Heather for details if you want to help
- Jan 22 Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.
- Jan 24-26 Happening #102, YES #69
- Jan 25 Youth group to Temple to help sort and pack pills for Honduras Trip
- Jan 26 Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m., Worship 10:30-12
- Jan 29 Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.
- Jan 24-27, Feb 1-2 Anderson is putting on a production of "State Fair"
- Feb 14-16 Intermediate (4-6) and Jr. High (7-8) Retreats at Camp Allen, see flyer for details

Spring Break Plans: March 10-14

St. Matt's Youth Group Retreat at Camp Allen, mark it down, plan to go, have the best Spring Break ever. Challenge course, great food, cool games, worship, canoeing, campfire, horseback riding, talking about Jesus, need I say more? The cost will be around \$175 for the week, some scholarship money will be available.

The Youth Group Sponsors a Child: Yolanda Rosario Perez

by Lucy Koy

In September 2001, Paige Hill and I attended a youth worker's conference. Being newcomers to the whole youth worker's world we ventured to every table and booth to make sure we got the full experience. We came upon the Compassion International table, which caught our eyes and our hearts as we saw a table full of kids' faces from different ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities. Compassion International exists as an advocate for children, to release them from their spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty and enable them to become responsible and fulfilled Christian adults.

After hearing about the Compassion International ministry, Paige and I thought the St. Matthew's Youth Group could sponsor a child. We chose Yolanda Rosario Perez who is a beautiful six-year-old female from the Dominican Republic. Twice a semester the whole youth group sends personal letters to Yolanda. She has, in turn, expressed great appreciation in receiving them. We also encourage the youth to bring a quarter a week to meet the monthly fee of \$28.

From Yolanda's letters to us, we have gathered that she loves playing with dolls, playing house, and participating in-group games. In her last letter she told us that she was learning God's word, to pray, to serve, and how to paint, draw, read, write, and to respect older people. It sounds like she's real busy. To see updated information about Yolanda, we have posted her pictures and recent letters on the bulletin board in the Youth Group Agape Building. I encourage you to come check it out.

If you have an interest in sponsoring a child, please look into Compassion International. Their website is www.compassion.com which provides history of the mission, how to sponsor a child, upcoming news, and everything else you need to know. If you decide to sponsor a child, there is a monthly fee of \$28 and with that you will receive a profile and photo of your child, a correspondence starter kit, and Compassion's ministry overview.

Senior Sentences

by Lucy Boyea, Minister of Senior Activities

The odds of staying independent in advancing years have been getting better every year. A pioneering Harvard study of adult development indicates that the most reliable predictor of good health as one ages are, an absence of alcohol abuse, non-smoking, a healthy weight and stable marriage at age 50. Fewer Americans are becoming chronically disabled as they age and many experts believe that putting a greater emphasis on prevention could cut disability rates even further.

Researchers hope that expected advances in biogenetics will reduce disability from genetically linked, progressive diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. T. Franklin Williams, M.D., Scientific Director of the American Federation for Aging Research and a former Director of the National Institute on Aging is quoted as saying, "It's not about how long people live but how well they are able to live."

Psalm 91:16 *With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.*

Second Tuesday Spirituality Continued

The class in spirituality led by Susan Barnes continues on January 14, at 6:00 p.m. with our reading of Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki's wonderful book, *In God's Presence: Theological Reflections on Prayer*. All people are welcome to this hour-long discussion class, held monthly and sponsored by the Daughters of the King.

In January we will discuss chapters 6-7, on Personal Confession and Corporate Confession, and consider what subject to take on after finishing Suchocki in February. The book can be found in or ordered by local bookstores (including ETSS) or on Amazon.com. If you have questions, call Susan or Barbara Haynes in the church office, 345-8314.

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Compelling Questions!

by Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

As we begin a new year, I would like to reflect with you on some of the questions of childhood that our parents, Sunday School teachers, and other adults hear from time to time. Questions, such as Who is God? Where was I before I was alive? Where did Nana go after she died? What's it like to die? What is life? What are we doing here?

Why do children have to ask such hard questions?! Have you ever flinched when you heard the questions coming because you weren't sure you would have a satisfactory answer?! And yet the questions come. They come because they are fundamental, foundational questions asked by all peoples through the ages.

Such questions are not just the curious explorations of our children, but are key to their "finding their place in the universe." Underlying these questions are other questions: Who am I? With whom am I in relationship? Do I belong? Where do I belong?

These are questions of the utmost depth and importance. In fact, in the newly published book, *The Religious Potential of the Child 6 to 12 Years Old*, author Sofia Cavalletti observes, "In seeking to respond to such serious questions in the child, we must realize that we are not engaging in mere spiritual or intellectual musings and exploration. Rather, we are orienting the child to reality itself."

Where do we help children begin to find answers to their deepest questions in a way that orients them to reality itself? In the Episcopal tradition, we are able to draw help from both the Bible and the liturgy. In Sunday School, we spend time with the children considering the themes of life, of death, and of who is calling us to this life. Not only did Jesus tell parables that reveal the nature and value of life and parables that reveal the mystery of death into life,

His own life, death, and resurrection are the enfleshment of these truths. Throughout the scriptures God invites us to this life and this death into life. In class we also spend time learning about the liturgy, which points to this reality as well.

How do we help children begin to find answers to their deepest questions in a way that orients them to reality itself? Gently! Akin to the manner in which Jesus told parables, we find that we can give the children these thematic scriptures, and the Holy Spirit brings the answers to them. At that point, the children know an answer in their hearts. Then, outside of class, when the words of scripture, liturgy, parents, preachers, and other adults repeat the answers, their heart knowledge is affirmed. A visible difference occurs in our children when this has happened. A new confidence, serene and joyful, is evident in the face of these questions. As one of our boys said in awe and wonder, "I belong to God!"

Cavalletti, Sofia, (2002). *The Religious Potential of the Child 6 to 12 Years Old*. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Press. This book can be purchased via www.amazon.com, www.catechesisgoodshepherd.org or www.ltp.org

We have committed teachers who are lovingly and joyfully guiding our children through a comprehensive curriculum for Christian formation. If you know a child between the ages of three and 5th grade who is not currently or consistently attending Sunday School classes, please join their families to see what we can do to help them become engaged. Our commitment during the baptisms of these very children was that we would "do all in [our] power to support them in their life in Christ." How creatively can we work together to meet the unique needs of all our children?

Children's Communion Class Begins January 19

by Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

Children's Communion classes begin on Sunday, January 19. The classes include six weekly two hour classes; five weekly classes during Sunday School; and a weekend retreat February 28 - March 2, culminating in a special celebration on March 2. A required parent meeting on Sunday, January 12, at 9:10 a.m. in B-13, will precede the classes.

Although any baptized person, regardless of age, is welcome at the communion rail here at St. Matthew's, we strongly encourage parents to consider "formal" communion instruction at some point in their child's elementary years. At St. Matthew's, communion instruction is intended to be an intermediate step between baptism and confirmation. While there is no "right" age for communion instruction, there are some guidelines we ask that families follow when selecting the time that is best for their child.

First, the child has to be "ready," being at a point in spiritual growth of asking questions and initiating conversation about God, the Bible, and/or church in general. The child should be mature enough to stay focused for an extended period in a contemplative environment. Second, the child should be a "comfortable" reader and writer, so mechanics are not a stumbling block to the meaning of the words we study in the Bible and Prayer Book. We have found that children usually hit this "comfort level" at about second grade. Children with special academic needs will, of course, be provided accommodations. Third, both child and family must be able to commit to regular attendance in the classes. Fourth, through the years we have learned that children, usually grades two through four, who have participated in the decision to make this commitment gain the most from the classes.

Begin praying about whether now is the right time for your child to participate in this very special class. I'll be happy to discuss the curriculum and your child's specific circumstances. Feel free to give me a call to visit or register. (Barbara Pitts, 345-8314 x221 bdpitts@texas.net)

By Request Concert

submitted by Tammy DeWitt Le

The Austin Civic Orchestra continues its 26th season with a special concert comprised of classical music pieces selected by a vote ("by request") from the ACO members. Conducted by Music Director, Lois Ferrari, the exciting concert will include some favorite and well-known pieces such as Beethoven's #6, Hindemith's "March from Symphonic Metamorphosis", and Vaughan Williams "Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis."

When: Sunday, February 9, 2003, 3:00 p.m.

Where: St. Matthew's Church

How Much: Admission \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors & students, and \$3 for children. Tickets will be available at the door. For more info, visit www.austincivicorchestra.org or call 990-8ACO.

St. Matthew's Day School News

by Dean J. Fisher, School Board Member

During this particular time of the season, we celebrate the glory and majesty of a New Beginning (i.e., the birth and incarnation of our King and Savior) followed by the celebration of a New Year. While rich in symbolism pointing to our own precious gift of spiritual rebirth, redemption and newness in life by and through faith in Jesus Christ, this particular time of the season has a special significance to our own childhood, to our children, and to our children's children wherein the joys and excitement of the season are truly manifested. Indeed, we are called to be more like children in our dependence on God (Matt 18:3). Therefore, it is in the understanding and application of this motif that we, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, give humble praise for the privilege and means to shepherd our community's preschool children through St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School.

To this end, St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School wrapped up another successful Fall semester with the advent of Christmas break, which commenced on December 19th and will end on January 6th. The Fall semester was highlighted by: (1) the annual Fall Fest, which is an evening of dinner, games, activities, and family fun; (2) the continuing professional and spiritual enrichment of the Day School's faculty and staff by their attendance at the National Association of Episcopal Schools conference in Houston; (3) Parent Education Night sponsored by the Parents' Council; (4) the three year olds' presentation of Christmas songs and the "Hokey Pokey" ("You put your antlers in, you take your antlers out...") to and with St. Matthew's S.A.C. members on December 13th; (5) the three year olds' "Pick-Up Christmas Pageant" on December 16th and 17th where the three year olds choose their own roles (this can result in some very interesting plays with, for example, several Marys, no Josephs, and several sheep); and (6) the four and five year olds' "Christmas Pageant" which is a delightful reenactment of the nativity story accompanied by traditional Christmas carols.

Going forward from the Fall semester into the Spring semester, the Day School will actually be going into the heart of the school year. By now, the children will have settled down and become comfortable with the well established routines and expectations of the Day School. Consequently, the Day School can direct the majority of the children's energy to the process of learning and developing age appropriate skills rather than on the process

of acclimating and nurturing the children's familiarity with the Day School. In this regard, the Day School has great expectations for a successful and rewarding Spring Semester. Indeed, the Spring semester will be another cornucopia of activity for the children and their teachers as well as for those who work behind the scenes. For instance, one of the School Board's primary objectives during the Spring semester will be to revisit, rethink, and revise, if necessary, the School's over-all strategic plan (both short and long term). This is a "must do" if the Day School is to maintain its standard of excellence in meeting the spiritual and academic needs of our community's children. Also, the Day School is supported by an outstanding Parents' Council, which is planning on sponsoring another Parent Education Night on February 19th. The speaker planned for this encore event is Claire Flynn, a behavioral specialist from For Kids' Sake, who will be talking on behavioral and development issues facing preschoolers. Also, please mark your calendars for the 2003-2004 School registration, which will begin the last week in February, and for the School's annual spring gala, La Noche, which is planned for March 28th at the Austin Country Club.

In closing, children truly are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3 (NASB)). They warm our hearts with their innocence and unconditional love. However, it is even more heart warming to know that one has sowed the seeds of eternal life into a child's heart. For this we are called by God -- "Teach them [God's commandment to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul] to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deut. 11:19 (NIV)). Therefore, it is a blessing that the congregation at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church has made this one of its priorities by sponsoring St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School and its mission to teach spiritual, academic, and developmental values and skills to our little ones. Through God's mercy and grace, St. Matthew's is making a difference! If you too want to make a difference on an individual level, then please make a New Year's Resolution (if you have not already done so) to spend more time with your children or grandchildren (even if they are already grown-up). As with God's gift to you of an eternal relationship with Him, give the gift of love to your children.

Bishop Payne Visits St. Matthew's

On Sunday, December 8, Bishop Claude Payne visited St. Matthew's to Confirm and Receive members. Those Confirmed were Mike Affleck, Renee Babcock, Chris Benham, Kammy Benham, Katherine Braddock, Phaedra Kline, David Luce, Sandy Luce, Jacqueline Malloy, Aric Mann, Jamie Mann, Kelly Smith, Mark Smith, Emily Venincasa, Janice Watkins, Pat Yeargain and Bob Yeargain.

Those being Received were Patrick Malloy, John Muhich, Marty Robbins, Paul Venincasa, Mary Ann Woodard and Dana Young.

Following the service a lovely reception was held in Huffman Hall. Kudos to the Hospitality Committee chaired by Louise Waddill. Members of her committee are: Babs Clendenin, Rita Eccles, Elaine Goessling, Leslie Kjellstrand, Katie Lane, Shirley Meyer, Jeri Muhich, Kristin Necessary, Jane Smith, Carol Stolz, Kay Whitney and Sarah Williams.

The next Confirmation date will be Sunday, May 25, when Bishop Wimberley will visit. The next Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. beginning March 30. The class will not meet on Mother's Day or Easter. If you have been neither confirmed nor received into the Episcopal Church, please call Dede Norman in the church office, 345-8314 x229 and find out more about this informative class.

Adult Education Council News and Short-Term Plans for Sunday Mornings

by Merrill Wade

In the last Adult Education Council the Rector and Council accepted the resignation of Kathy Vail as chair of the Adult Education Council after five years of significant leadership. We all owe Kathy a real debt of gratitude for her labors and leadership.

It was decided that the Rector would appoint a new Adult Education Council in 2003. Current members of the Council would be, of course, encouraged to continue to serve.

As we look ahead to the Spring of 2003, The Spirituality Class (Prime Time), will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00AM in B-13 under the leadership of Russ and Annelle Adams and Sharon Lowe. This class is, of course, open to all adults and is a wonderful combination of scholarly learning, prayer, music, meditation and personal sharing. This class is scheduled to meet weekly until classes are suspended for the summer in late May.

Merrill Wade and Susan Barnes will teach a Sunday morning class on the Gospel of John until mid-February and new classes will form based on those studies.

St. Matthew's Book Mobile is Coming*by Rita Eccles*

Do you know we have a library? Some of you do and some don't. Yes, we do. Do you know where it is? Same answer, some do know some don't know. It is the last room on the left in the basement of the Sanctuary, across from B-14. The sign on the door reads Resource Center. Would you use it if it were unlocked and in a room with easier access?

We are preparing a great treat for you! We are going to load as many books as one of our carts will hold and put the cart in Huffman Hall near the east entrance. We will have two clipboards for you, one with a check out information form and one with a form for you to request books that you would like to read, if we have them in our library. If there is enough interest we hope to be able to purchase some more current books.

You can keep a book that you check out for one whole month, just note your return date on the check out form when you place it back on the cart.

Our library has a very good selection of titles on a variety of religious related topics. Our cart will be left in Huffman Hall for you to gain better access to the wonderful, creative; instructive helps for our adult classes, our individual religious curiosity and our imagination. If you have information or questions for us, please call Rita Eccles 345-7396, Sarah Williams 345-0499, or Doris Donnell 345-0097.

Landmark Spiritual Formation Conference at Camp Allen April 7-11

Each spring Trinity Institute, New York, organizes a major international conference which is held at Trinity Church, Wall Street. Last year's conference, dedicated to the need for spiritual formation in the wake of September 11, 2001, was so important and successful that Trinity has decided to share it with people outside of New York.

We are deeply blessed that Camp Allen was chosen as one of only two sites for this landmark conference. Speakers in the five-day event include Archbishop Desmond Tutu; The Very Rev. Alan Jones, Dean of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco; Phyllis Tickle, editor of religion at Publishers' Weekly; theologian Walter Wink; and Father Thomas Keating, who is best known for his work on Centering Prayer.

Merrill Wade and Susan Barnes both will attend this event. It is open to all, and we urge you to join us. You must act quickly to get a place in what will surely be a sold-out event. For more information speak to one of us or log onto www.campallen.org

Diocesan Council — Gathering for Mission*by Betty Mitchell*

Last month the Rector wrote to invite any and all persons at St. Matthew's to attend our Diocesan Gathering for Mission in Houston, on Thursday through Saturday, February 6-8, 2003. There are over 40 workshops scheduled to train and educate us to be better stewards and ministers of God's grace here at St. Matthew's and as we reach out beyond our doors and walls to minister to a hurting world in Jesus name. When Bishop Payne met with the vestry on December 8, he challenged St. Matthew's to bring 30-40 people to gather with brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese.

All meetings will be held at the Episcopal High School, 4650 Bissonett, in Houston. Hosts for the event are Palmer Memorial and St. Joseph's Churches and the Episcopal High School.

Registration Forms for the Gathering are available in the Church Office, in the Commons, and also may be downloaded from www.palmerchurch.org It is necessary to complete one form for each person attending. The basic registration fee is \$75 if paid before January 20; after that, it will be \$85. Saturday only registration is available for \$30.

Now that you are planning to go to Houston, where will you stay? St. Matthew's has reserved rooms at the Marriott West Loop by the Galleria. If you would like to reserve one of these, please call Betty Mitchell in the Church Office right away. The rate negotiated by the Diocese of Texas office is \$75 plus tax. The Diocese has also arranged for two other nearby hotels to have special rates for those saying the magic words, "Diocesan Council." Additional hotel information is on the website listed above.

Representing St. Matthew's as voting representatives to the Diocesan Council will be Kate Canby, Tony Hatheway, Bill Kjellstrand and Kathleen Niendorff. Attending the meeting, but not voting, will be two alternate delegates elected at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 12. Three people, Dyke Miller, Kathy Morris and Jim Sparks, have asked that their names be placed on the ballot for the positions of alternate delegate.

When Bishop Payne was here he noted the renewed congregational enthusiasm and energy. Let's go to Houston en masse and participate in the Gathering For Mission, and become better stewards of God's love in the process.

Susan and Merrill to Teach Class on the Gospel of John*by Merrill Wade*

Beginning, January 5, 2003, and continuing for six consecutive Sundays, Susan Barnes and I will teach a class on the Gospel of John. The class will be held in Huffman Hall and will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will end around 10:00 a.m.

In each class, Susan or I will present three 10 minute lectures and will provide for 10 minutes of small group discussion after each lecture. Our goal is for you to become more familiar with the seminary model of education and for us to discuss the important issues faced by the community of John.

A sampling of the issues they faced:

- ♦ Who is Jesus and what do we believe about him?
- ♦ The diversity of belief and styles of faith in the church
- ♦ Overcoming Adversity and Conflict in the church
- ♦ The Life of the Holy Spirit in the Church
- ♦ The Relationship between Faith and Works

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this class. It is our intention that subsequent classes this Spring in Huffman Hall will be based on the issues raised by this class!

Birthdays

January

- 1 Karen Gilmore
- 2 Chuck Huffman, Larry Poehl
- 3 Dirk Buikema, Susan Fugate, Bob McCraine
- 4 Linda Uhl, Merrill Wade
- 5 Shannon Banta, Holly Decherd, Hunter Neale
- 6 Anita Ballard
- 7 Lisa Brewer, Ed Davis, Jeff Erb, Wendy Fudge, Sarah Kelly, Tish McGillicuddy, Melanie Wilkes
- 8 Craig Biggar, Ann Marie Maynard, Eric Nwolisa, John Tarbox
- 9 Kurt Lemke
- 10 Wanda Burnette, John Denton, Shannon Sweeney, Vera Townsend, Bob Wood
- 11 Dianne Green, Pam Massey
- 12 Adam Barber, Anne Clark, Cliff Harrison, Michael Mann, Jill Urban, George Wilson
- 13 Jim Dettmann, Jay Robison, Jeremy Smith
- 14 Dalton Doerr, Madison Doerr, Mary Ann Moore, Davis Niendorff, Sid Wattinger
- 15 John Burton, Babs Clendenin, Leslie Kjellstrand, Rachel Shook, Robert Thomas
- 16 Jonathan Decherd, Jason Sommerville, Ryan Veith, Zachary Veith
- 17 Scott Pugsley, Jamie Thompson
- 18 Kyle Deutsche, Meredith Entin, Joe Smith
- 19 Laura LeMond, Anne Pearson, Kerrie Qualtrough, Cindy Udelhofen, Jim Varnado
- 20 Caden Banta, Travis Gilpin, Carla Hermes, Debi Patron
- 21 Scot Rankine
- 22 Anthony Adolph, Aubrey Nichols
- 23 Tommye Bertero, Britton Bissett, Hunter Hall, Shannon Holt, Barbara Looney, Christin Price, Dan Robicheaux, Nathaniel Wright
- 24 Sally Barber, Carole Bleakney, Nancy Boyd, Nathaniel Murphy
- 26 Cyril Durrenberger, Jeanette Haugh, Sophie Mathews
- 27 Katherine Braddock, Christina Carrier
- 28 Cosette Craig, Liz O'Quin, Susan Robertson
- 29 David Maynard, Andy Muhich, Colette Torres, Louise Waddill
- 30 Elizabeth Ascott, Kevin McGillicuddy, Denman Smith, Janet Williams
- 31 Sean Haugh, Greg Shannon, Elisabeth Uhl, Robert Young

February

- 1 Jody Howard, Dakota Pina, Lillian Reutz
- 2 John Bindel, Chris Davis, Annie Denkeler, Hal Flanders, Heather Flanders, Chelsea Murphy
- 3 Hunter Campbell, Suzie Gallagher, Pam Schultz
- 4 J.R. Eastberg
- 5 Pat Burnette, Sally Busboom, Arlene Dettmann, Jennifer Jeter
- 6 Ann Brooke, Stephen McCants
- 7 Kiff Doerr, Chris Mitchell, John Moncure, Sam Shook, Chris Thacker

A Journey To The Center, ECW Lenten Retreat March 7 - 9, 2003

"We are a circumference people, with little access to the center. We live on the boundaries of our own lives 'in the widening gyre' [W.B. Yeats, "The Second Coming"], confusing edges with essences. As Yeats predicted, things have fallen apart and the center does not seem to be holding" Richard Rohr, Everything Belongs

God calls us to journey to the center, to learn to dwell there in God's vital, holy presence as we live our lives. Lent is a wonderful time to recommit to that journey and to engage with the spiritual disciplines that will keep us on the path.

The women of St. Matthew's are invited to begin the Lenten season by traveling together to Camp Allen to share in a retreat. Led by Susan Barnes and sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women, the retreat will feature an appearance by the award-winning gospel singer Cynthia Clawson. Also featured is the opportunity to walk the labyrinth, an ancient tool for spiritual meditation and centering.

The retreat will begin after supper on Friday and conclude with lunch after Eucharist on Sunday. The total cost, double occupancy, is \$175 per person. St. Matthew's women and their female relatives will be given priority in reserving the limited number of spaces through January 10, with a deposit of \$75. Any on the waiting list will be admitted thereafter. Final payment is due by February 1.

The Woodys Have Relocated

Some of you will remember Robert and Julie Woody and their boys, Seth and Sam, members of St. Matthew's from 1991-99. During their time among us, Robert (an attorney) discerned a call to the ordained ministry, attended Seminary of the Southwest, and was ordained a deacon. The Woodys spent the last 3 1/2 years in Tomball, Texas, where Robert served as deacon and (after his ordination) assistant to the Rector.

Recently, Robert accepted a call to be Rector of Church of Reconciliation in San Antonio, which happens to be the church home of former St. Matthew's parishioners Lilas and John Harvey! The Woodys report that they are delighted with their new call, in part because it brings them within an easier driving distance to Austin! The Woodys would love to have visitors — call them at (210)495-6848 and/or visit their church's website at ChurchofReconciliation.org. Robert's installation as Rector will take place on Wednesday, January 22, at 7 p.m. All are invited!!

*Would you be delivered
from the haste that is
about you? Then seek
first of all and always
to be delivered from the
haste that is within you.*

- Percy C. Ainsworth
in *Weavings*, Jan/Feb 2003

Births

Catherine Claire Biggar
was born on November 25.
Daughter of Carrie and Craig Biggar.

Deaths

Lucy Strauch,
mother of Elaine Goessling,
died December 5.

I.J. Irvin,
father of V. J. Eastwood,
died December 12.

the st. matthew's word

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Worship Schedule

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

Daily

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

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

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

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

Friday, January 17, 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

Finance

David Harakal

Communications

Debbie Meleski

Personnel

Bob Ascott

Stewardship

Holly Decherd

Outreach

Lay Ministry Councils

Ann Hart

Children

Jeri Muhich

Newcomers

Milt Williams

Parish Life

Elaine Goessling

Pastoral Care

Sue Kinney

Worship

Steve Brock

Youth

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Kent Zarbock

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The Rev. Susan J. Barnes

Assistant Rector

The Rev. Charles Huffman

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The Rev. Jerry Chapman

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. George I. Wilson

Assisting Clergy

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Minister of Senior Activities

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

Martha Schorre

Children's Ministry Assistant

Brad Wagner

Business Manager

Vestry

Jack Eccles (345-7396)

Senior Warden

Phil Hatlen (345-9923)

People's Warden

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Vestry Warden

John Muhich (452-1210)

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Bill Donnell (345-0097)

Clerk

Bert Hooper (346-6675)

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