

# The St. Matthew's Word

Volume 2005 Issue 7

July 2005

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

## Vision Day: A Great Success

BY DAVID PRICE, SENIOR WARDEN

June 11 was a good day for "visioning." An enthusiastic and dedicated group of 120 people spent the day working on St. Matthew's Vision Process. This included visiting St. Matthew's Mission Statement, our Core Values, feedback on our 2001 goals, and goals for the future.

The day was spent with the adults working in small groups, which were assigned by random drawing of a table number, as people arrived. The children were treated to a wonderful program put together by Barbara Pitts and Hilary Martin. After discussing the above topics, based on presentation of the May 14, and May 21 Focus Group, each table spent about 45 minutes going into their own detail, commenting on the information and ideas the Focus Group had developed. Public discussion was then held, with various groups taking turns at strategically placed microphones in the room.

After a catered box lunch, we went into an afternoon session, dreaming of goals for the future, and looking at how we thought we fulfilled our goals from 2001.

The big surprise? There wasn't one. Basically, the feedback dealt more with enriching our existing programs, and adding some programs for singles. We are doing a lot of things well, and have a desire to reach out to the under 30 crowd (as an example). On the "infrastructure side," there was input on space for Youth, a Chapel, and various comments on the completion of the Master Plan.

There was obviously more detail than what I am discussing here. However, the next step is to tabulate all of the data (which is being done as this is being written), take it back to a small Focus Group for prioritization, then present the information to the Vestry. There will also be a presentation of the data during the Adult Education time on August 21 and 28. For those of you that missed it, I'll do another "flying" PowerPoint presentation during the August presentations.

Thanks to everyone that made this a success! This includes the original 20 members of the Focus Group, the Office Staff, and everyone who helped in any way! Thanks also, to Dr. Pete Steinke, who led us in our Vision Process, facilitated our discussions, and acted as moderator.

We look forward to moving this emerging blueprint along. One key comment that I do wish to single out, is that each of YOUR efforts and involvement is what makes things happen, in partnership with our Clergy. Another item is our deep and abiding love and respect for one another – and for strangers – as exhibited in our welcoming and hospitable nature. This love permeates everything we do. So stay tuned for updates in August!

In the mean time, have a great summer!



## Reflections

BY BABS CLENDENIN, JUNIOR WARDEN

A sound bite often heard on the Dr. Phil A.T.V. show is, "I want you to get excited about your life." As your Junior Warden, I want you to get excited about your church.

Did your heart skip a beat when the processional began for Pentecost and the drum rolls and trumpets welcomed the Holy Spirit? Did you catch your breath when you observed the fabulous work done by the Associate Vestry in decorating and cooking? That is excitement.

Did a smile cross your face when you heard our Junior Choir raise their voices in song, or when you shared a cup of coffee with our many new members and visitors in spotless Huffman Hall, a gift from our new Sexton, Jose Prado? That is excitement.

Did a feeling, rightly deserved, of pride come over you when you heard the results of the Heifer Project, or the amount of groceries you collected for Caritas? That, too, is excitement.

Perhaps attendance at a Youth Service at 5:15 p.m. on a given Sunday or visiting a Day School Chapel service on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. would also be an exciting experience for you. We don't often hear kindergarten age and younger children sing and SIGN or hear them count in Spanish and German as well as English. Plan to attend their Open House when school starts. You will be amazed and, yes, excited.

Excitement means welcoming Jim Williams, Father Joe, Bob Lively, Tim and Phil and applauding the number of volunteer hours committed to by so many in the life of St. Matthew's numerous ministries, council

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and committees. This is evidence of an excitement in all of you to do God's work.

As I write this and look forward to the months ahead, my excitement grows. Won't you join me? I am excited FOR you, now I want to be excited WITH YOU.

*What lies behind us and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.*  
 - Oliver Wendell Holmes

**22nd ANNUAL  
 Ice Cream Social  
 & Patriotic Review**

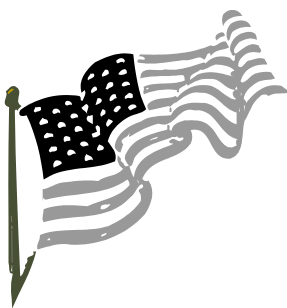
Sponsored by the St. Matthew's Choir

**Wear Red, White & Blue!  
 Bring the Kids!**

**Sunday, July 3 at 3:30 p.m.**

Come to Huffman Hall and join us as we honor the veterans of St. Matthew's for their military service. And stay for Ice Cream - still popularly priced at a buck a bowl!

If you served in the military, please email Tim Smith ([tsmith@stmattsaustrin.org](mailto:tsmith@stmattsaustrin.org)) and get out your uniforms!



# Reflections From the Rector

BY THE REV. MERRILL WADE

## Sabbatical

It has been a wonderful gift to St Matthew's Episcopal Church for Bob Lively to sojourn with us as a teacher and writer over these past several months. Bob is a warm and wise man and his two classes have helped advance our understanding of the role of contemplation in the Christian life. Bob will be seeking full-time employment elsewhere and though it is disappointing that he will not be teaching and writing on our campus, our relationship with Bob will endure. He is working closely with Phil Webster, Barbara Pitts and me on a conference planned for September entitled "How to Be a Family." Bob will be our initial speaker and he has done yeoman work in bringing three other excellent speakers to our campus for that event. Our work with Bob Lively is, in many ways, just beginning and we will keep Bob and his family in our prayers as he continues to discern his future work in the Kingdom.

## Family Camp

Our first attempt at Family Camp was a treat! Parents and children swam, ate pizza, played Bunco, enjoyed Ben and Jerry's ice cream, toured the campus on scavenger hunts, ate chilidogs, ate a great chicken dinner, and learned to swing dance. All together - always together. Thanks so much to members of the Children's Council, Vestry and Associate Vestry and many others for making it possible for the families to stay and play together. A special thanks to Gina and Franz Henning, Kathy Dugat, Crystal Wade, Ann Hart, Pat Sutherland, Martha Webb and Isabel Bursk for unique efforts in making the Family Camp worth the wait.

## Vision Day

Vision Day was a very inspiring day for me. The 120 people gathered were serious and playful, forward looking and grateful for the past, complimentary and constructively critical. Each table of 6-8 persons contributed unique ideas and concerns. I am so grateful to the Wardens, David Price and Babs Clendenin, for the work they did with Peter Steinke to accomplish such an organized and meaningful Vision Day. Please note on page one the articles from the Wardens and their reflections on our life together.

## Weekend of Prayer

I have written many times of my personal commitment to contemplation as a way of life. Again, what I mean by this is to find time for silence with God - at least 20 minutes per day using a method called Centering Prayer. I also mean more than that. Contemplation also means for me a way of seeing the world about me. I want to let go of instant judgments about others. I want to let go of divisiveness and pettiness in political and church issues. I want to learn how to listen to others, not just react. Contemplation is about spiritual formation, growing more and more into the likeness of Christ - something I have no power to accomplish on my own. I want to thank Susan Barnes and Jim Williams for planning an excellent Weekend of Prayer. The Rev. Sandy Casey-Martus is a gifted teacher. I know that my commitment to prayer has been renewed.

## July Quiet

Apart from our two Discipleship Journeys and our IHN ministry of hospitality to those living on campus with us in July, we will be reducing our schedules to give staff and lay leaders time to recharge and plan for the fall. We will take a sabbatical in Sunday Christian Education from July 3 through August 7. We will have a revamped Ministry Fair on Sunday August 14 and Christian Education for all ages will begin again on Sunday August 21.

## Vacation

The Wade's are happily contemplating a family vacation from July 7 - 28. Susan Barnes will be present and I confidently leave all pastoral concerns to her able gifts and capacities. As usual, Dave Bowman will manage the finances, office issues and buildings and grounds concerns.

## Pray

I encourage you to pray in gratitude for the stunning blessings of the first six months of 2005. Pray for the young people and adults on mission and retreat in Massachusetts. Pray for your country on the Fourth of July. And find those 20 minutes a day to rest in God's presence.

God bless you one and all!

Merrill

# St. Matthew's "New Vision" Vis-À-Vis The Permanent Endowment

BY BERT HOOPER, SPECIAL GIFTS CHAIR

## Vision Day and "Missional Energy."

As this is being written, the results of the June 11 St. Matthew's Vision Day are being compiled for presentation to the parish for review, consideration and revision, all of which will lead to formal adoption of a new St. Matthew's Vision in place of the current one. An interesting concept identified at the Vision Day gathering was "missional energy," which refers to a congregation's dedication to and involvement in outreach activities, whether local, regional or international. If you acquaint yourself with the broad extent of St. Matthew's involvement in such activities, you would conclude, correctly, that the members of St. Matthew's expend a lot of missional energy. The recognition of the strength of this St. Matthew's characteristic played a large role in the deliberations on Vision Day.

## The Role of the Permanent Endowment.

The potential for greater and even more effective outreach for St. Matthew's can be enhanced through the growth of the Permanent Endowment. While the value of the current Permanent Endowment may be considered modest by some (about \$118,000 at present), it continues to grow. If we all add to it as we are able, in both small increments and large, it will produce increasing income over the years that will accrue to St. Matthew's vibrant outreach programs. Remember that gifts may be made to the Permanent Endowment for any purpose other than for general operation of the parish. The income from the Permanent Endowment may be used for any purposes recommended by the Special Gifts Committee and approved by the Vestry, which provides a wide range of opportunities. For a recent example, income from the Permanent Endowment was used to support the June 17-19 Weekend of Prayer, which focused on centering prayer.

Dear St. Matthew's Family,

I have been privileged to be a part of your life and to share the journey with you for the past six months as I invested the lion's share of my passion and energy writing. By the middle of May I had completed three manuscripts, one of which is sold and is scheduled to appear in print in September of this year. So what about the other two? Well, we will see what happens with them. Perhaps, they will be sold and published, or perhaps I will re-write them. Believe me, when it comes to writing, I never really know what will occur. I simply write what I hope might prove helpful and then give the outcome to God. But whatever happens, this one thing is for certain – writing them on your beautiful campus and in your loving midst has been a joy.

In the past few days, as I neared the end of my six-month sabbatical, it has become clear to me that now is the time for me to enter into a new phase of my life. Translation: It is time for me to leave St. Matthew's so that I might pursue whatever it is God would have me do next. I refrain from saying good-bye because for the rest of my life I will consider myself to be a part of this great church. I will drop by from time to time to hear Merrill or Susan preach and each time I visit I will approach the altar of your beautiful sanctuary filled with gratitude for the great mystery and the grace that is the Holy Eucharist. Also, I look forward to being a part of the Family Conference St. Matthew's will offer in early September. In fact, I will serve as one of the four speakers during this unique program and my topic will be "How to Develop a Healthy Family." The other three speakers we have recruited are some of the best in their respective fields and you will not want to miss this opportunity.

St. Matthew's has been uncommonly kind to me during these six months, and please know that I have taken to heart and appreciated every kind word spoken to me as well as every affirmation offered. Also, I have learned so very much from you, and I leave knowing that coming here was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

You are a most loving and wise congregation of good souls led by a rector and associate rector both of whom are true spiritual giants. I have been humbled to be in your midst and to teach each Sunday morning for the past six months. And I will continue to pray for you and I ask for your prayers as I step forward trusting the Holy Spirit to lead me where it is I am to go so that I might do the most good for the kingdom in the time left for me to serve. May God bless you always in every dimension of your life together.

Faithfully,  
Bob Lively

## How Can Spiritual Direction Benefit You and Your Parish?

SUBMITTED BY THE REV. SUSAN BARNES

### What is Spiritual Direction/Companioning?

The spiritual life is one of the whole person on a journey deeper into God. Many people seek guidance on that journey. It is important to understand that even though a spiritual director is involved in many areas of the directee's life, this relationship is NOT one of counseling or of psychotherapy. The role of the director is to help the directee recognize and become increasingly open to the work of the Holy Spirit in her/her faith journey.

### How does this ministry fit into parish life?

Often parishioners will come to their clergy with a concern, not a crisis, that truly can be transformed through new and deeper practices of prayer. The God-given desire to launch out on such a faith journey frequently prompts Christians to seek spiritual guidance. Having a person in the congregation who is trained in spiritual direction can be a valuable resource for the clergy, because the spiritual director's primary work is to help others deepen their faith journey.

### Is a spiritual director paid for this ministry?

Not always. This is a personal decision for each spiritual director.

### Can a spiritual director offer anything besides one-on-one direction?

A trained director is an excellent educational resource. Such a person is able to:

- \* Supervise group spiritual direction,
- \* Plan and lead retreats, quiet days, and other spiritual growth offerings,
- \* Give prayer and spirituality presentations,
- \* Assist with Inquirer's class, and
- \* Help form and/or lead prayer groups.

A trained spiritual director can be a valuable asset in any parish, providing a vibrant prayer ministry and instruction in a wide variety of Christian spiritual practices. Such a person can be a vital factor in the continuing spiritual growth of the faith community.

### How can a parish locate a spiritual director?

FIND, Formation IN Direction, is the Episcopal Diocese of Texas' program for training spiritual directors. If you would like more information regarding this program, contact: Kathleen Phillips, Director, FIND  
979-324-4302 - findirectr@yahoo.com  
<http://www.hellotospirituality.org/>

## Conversation on Contemplative Prayer

BY FR. JIM WILLIAMS

I knew I didn't want to hear it! Who was it, that said, "Don't ask a question if you are not ready to hear the answer?" But I had to ask anyway. In the last issue of *The Word*, I asked you to share with me some of the ways you are able to make time for solitude – a time for Centering Prayer – in the complex structure of your lives, other than 3 a.m. (I quipped lightly that maybe the monastics were onto something.) But I knew I didn't really want to hear the answer.

Well, I am getting it. I am hearing from some of you, at least that the early morning is exactly where you have found the time for your solitude – for prayer, for study, for reflection. One rises at 4:30 a.m. to have an hour. Several find 5 – 6:00 a.m. gives them the time needed – and the silence, to begin their day in prayer. I have been assured by more than one that the results have been energizing, so that the hour or more of sleep "lost" is not missed at all. I also have been told that a repetitive activity, such as running, can provide the solitude necessary for Centering Prayer. I don't even what to think about it.

Implied in several of these responses is that the cumulative effect of Centering Prayer, even practiced less than perfectly, shows benefits in reordering the whole structure of daily life. You mean I may have to look at my "not a morning person" identity? ("Good Morning" is my favorite oxymoron.) Must I consider if I believe even God can help me do some reshaping? Oh my!

Others have responded about using evening hours, and some whose work life and family life permit love the time at dusk. Of course: Vespers and Compline! The history of prayer does carry wisdom.

But we must implement a time for prayer. What a concept! We have a time for other essential activities and order our lives

around these (see meals and bedtime). We suffer loss when these get out of sync. Of course, some of us have unique needs in our daily schedules, and will have to develop our unique individual answers. But we have to do it. It won't just happen, somehow. Did you ever realize how rapidly 20 minutes passes when we are watching TV? Or even an hour?

And something else has begun to emerge in all this – how about a place for prayer, a place that the family recognizes, and honors the time persons spend there? Many cultures have prayer places, shrines, in the home. (Ours may be the kitchen.) But our rooms are designated now by long practice and we build our homes to reflect this usage (bedroom, family room, etc.) Will we begin again to build a "PR" (prayer room) into house designs. Also some people now have a corner, with a good chair, and a prayer desk, i.e. a designated space for the designated time. Children could help select a place and help to set it up.

What a witness to children, that (a) prayer is not just a bedtime activity, and (b) Mother and Dad are people of prayer. I would love it if a four year old said to mother, "Not now, I'm having my quiet time."

Well, think on these things. Keep talking to me and I'll keep talking back. Tell me more about prayer and children.

Peace,  
Fr. Jim

*Note:* This article was written before the Weekend of Prayer. I'll deal with that in next month's issue of *The Word*.

**Pssst! Did you hear the news?**

There's a new ministry at St. Matthew's: Care for the Caregiver.  
Watch for details in the August issue of *The Word*.

# Kairos #16 An Anthology

BY JIM GAINES

When meeting with the Tuesday Night Bible Study Group and my Wednesday Reunion Group, I have often heard a couple of the men of St. Matthew's comment on their experiences working with the "men in white," as they refer to the inmates of Hughes Unit near Gatesville, Texas. They find their prison work in the Kairos program most rewarding, and have shared those feelings with us. And read to us from letters written to them by inmates

"Curiosity killed the cat," as my grandmother used to say. Sometimes I would ask them questions about the possibility of going along as an observer, just to see if maybe this prison ministry would be something that perhaps at sometime in the future I might look into. "No!" was my answer. "There are no outside observers.

If you want to go, you must take training and that is the only way you will be permitted into the prison. Only after you have approval from Huntsville will your name be put on the list of those eligible to enter the prison," I was told.

So, I thought and prayed about this prison ministry for a time. And I remembered those times when I was in the Navy, as a hospital corpsman, and would be sent to hold brig sick call, a most depressing chore. Invariably there would be an enlisted man or two reporting for treatment with whom I was acquainted. It didn't make much difference whether we had been standing along the pier quietly fishing in the dawn light as the tide was coming in or had hoisted a few at the enlisted men's club on dime beer night, seeing them with a large yellow P stenciled on the back of their shirts or jackets would put my spirits in the bilges. Most of those guys weren't sick when reporting to sick bay. They just wanted someone to talk to, and if we had been friends, seeing a familiar face seemed to cheer them up.

I couldn't stop thinking about the Kairos Prison Ministry. So when urged by my friends to put up or shut up, I agreed

to receive the necessary training, meet the TDC requirements, and finally, in April, began Kairos #16 at the Hughes Unit.

So there we were, locked in the Hughes Unit chapel with forty-two candidates for Kairos with three outside people at each of the seven tables with six candidates. None of the training had prepared me for the emotional impact of being a group leader, my job assignment. We sang songs from early morning till late at night. You would have thought I was trying out for a leading role in a Broadway musical the way I was singing and boohooing through each one of those songs and hymns. When all my handkerchiefs were used up, Margaret Carpenter went to Wal-Mart and purchased a dozen more. The men shared with me and I shared with them. We bonded like brothers, like the siblings I never had.

One young man at St. Mark's table who had never been in a church in his life, professed faith in Christ and wanted baptism. One man ate so many hamburgers at lunch I thought he would explode. He said it was his first hamburger in three years. They all ate cookies till they couldn't eat another one, but sneaked a few back to their cells each night. They all agreed that they had come for the food, but instead they had found something that fed their deepest hungers more than any food could ever satisfy.

This has probably not been a very enlightening and informative story of what a Kairos weekend is like, but this is my story just the same. Through this program I feel God has touched my life in a most meaningful way. I am thankful that St. Matthew's supports the Kairos Ministry through its Outreach Commission.

**Outreach**  
*IN ACTION*

## A Letter of Thanks from Caritas

Dear Rev. Wade and Friends,

We are so grateful for your participation in this year's Faith Food Drive. Your members generously contributed 1,568 lbs. of food for our pantry! Because of your involvement, 10,373 lbs. of food and hygiene products stocked the Caritas Food Pantry **Outreach** *IN ACTION* to the brim.

Since 1964, Caritas of Austin has been a resource for individuals and families during financial crisis. This year, Caritas will assist more than 15,000 Travis County children and adults. These clients receive a variety of services ranging from a hot meal in our Community Kitchen; to rental and utility assistance through our Community Support Program; to skill-building classes through our Learn & Earn Program

At Caritas, we envision a community of hope, respect and self-reliance. Your gift works to help make these concepts reality. As Caritas strives to meet the basic needs of our community, your support ensures that individuals and families in crisis will receive valuable assistance. Thank you for caring and thank you for helping.

Julia Spann,  
Executive Director

Tamara Landry Bell,  
Faith Coordinator



## Change the Life of an Abused Child

Each month in Travis County there are more than 1,200 children living in foster care because of abuse and neglect. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) of Travis County connects these innocent victims with caring individuals who want to impact and improve a child's life. A CASA volunteer can add safety, friendship, and hope for a new future to the life of an abused child – things they may have never had before.

Attend a CASA Open House to learn how you can change the life of an abused child in our community. Open House is an opportunity for you to come meet some of our staff and ask any questions you may have.

### Upcoming Open House dates:

- July 6
- Aug. 1
- Sept. 7
- Oct. 3
- Nov. 9

All Open Houses are held from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the CASA office located at 6330 Highway 290 East. Please call for directions or visit [www.casatravis.org](http://www.casatravis.org) for a map.

If you are unable to attend an Open House, please feel free to call us at 459-2272 or email us at [volunteer@casatravis.org](mailto:volunteer@casatravis.org). Attending Open House is not mandatory for becoming a volunteer.

### THE 47TH ANNUAL ZILKER SUMMER MUSICAL

Irving Berlin's

## ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

A rip-roaring, sharp-shooting, heart-tugging, bulls-eye evening of musical entertainment for the entire family!

July 8 – August 13, 2005  
Thursday – Sunday  
evenings at 8:00 p.m.

Starring St. Matthew's own  
Laura Huffman Powell as Annie!

Call your friends! Get up a group!  
Share the excitement!  
For more information  
call 479-9491.

## Second Friday Golf, July 8

BY DAVE BOWMAN, BUSINESS MANAGER  
& FIRST FRIDAY GOLF WRANGLER

In July we will be playing early, starting at 8:30 a.m., to beat the heat. We are also playing on the second Friday because the first Friday precedes the holiday weekend.

We have four tee times to accommodate 16 players at Morris Williams Golf Course, 4300 Manor Road, (just east of the former Mueller Airport). If you have not been part of one of these monthly events in a while, or at all, now is a good a time as any to join in the fellowship. We always welcome friends and guests.

Under 62 \$26.50  
(greens fee plus ½ cart)  
62 Plus \$19.00  
(greens fee plus ½ cart)

Please call Dave at the church office, 345-8314, to confirm a tee time.

## Senior Sentences

BY LUCY A. BOYEA, MINISTER OF SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE) hosted a colloquium on "Creativity and Aging" in April of this year. Dr. Bertram S. Brown, former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and a nationally known expert on mental health issues, was the guest speaker at the colloquium. Dr. Brown discussed observations, perspectives and reflections on aging. Following are excerpts from his presentation which I think are worth sharing.

"One secret of comfortable aging is that good mental health is highly correlated with relationships with the younger generation

and that being able to be involved in their lives is an important ingredient to vital aging. A connection must be established between youth, middle aged and the elderly".

Other secrets of comfortable aging are to have a sense of purpose in life, to find activities that give meaning to existence, the acceptance of the life cycle (including acceptance of limitations that accompany aging) and a sense of humor. Dr. Brown suggests that what we owe to the young is "a sense of sharing, a sense of caring and wisdom that can be passed on".

### May 2005 Financial Statement

	MONTH-TO-DATE		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$151,105.73	\$80,225.00	\$470,600.78	\$459,525.00
Other Income	1,263.00	600.00	2,328.65	1,670.00
Total Income	152,368.73	80,825.00	472,929.43	461,195.00
Total Expenses	72,606.05	88,913.59	417,266.09	448,982.95
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	\$79,762.68	(\$8,088.59)	\$55,663.34	\$12,212.05

## 5:15 p.m. Contemplative Liturgy Schedule for July

- July 3 Contemplative Eucharist led by Fr. Jim Williams
- July 10 Contemplative Eucharist led by The Rev. Susan Barnes
- July 17 Contemplative Eucharist led by The Rev. Susan Barnes
- July 24 Contemplative Eucharist led by The Rev. Susan Barnes
- July 31 Contemplative Eucharist led by The Rev. Susan Barnes



GOOD *Read*  
OF THE *Month*

### A Review of *Waiting for Bluebonnets* by Bob Lively

BY RITA ECCLES

As I started reading Bob Lively's book, *Waiting for Bluebonnets*, I thought I needed to read it as a text, or novel, reading many of the chapters at once. By Chapter 3, however, I found I needed to slow down as I was missing the richness of Bob's reflections as he passed them on to his daughter, Sara. Each chapter is a story that produces many remembrances of my questions about God and us, his people, as my life changed while I was growing up. I got more out of this book reading it a chapter a day and then spending time just thinking about it. Its reflections are personal and therefore not so much "teachy" but they did bring me instructions as to my trust and my apprehensions.

The book is placed in the meditations section of the St. Matthew's Library. I found it a really good way to start my day. There are many thoughts that stay with me during each day as I go through my daily routine.

This all boils down to the fact that I really like this book and I think that you will also. I know Sara must love her father. She must be very proud and pleased that he shared himself with her and with us in the great meditations of this book.

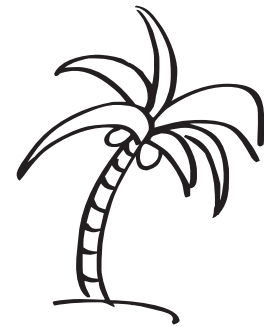
This book was very generously given to our library. Thank You to its donor. I hope that the people of the congregation will check it out, and while in the library, also browse our other good books. We are open whenever Huffman Hall is open. We are located down the hall, past the nursery. We would also appreciate your letting us know your wants for titles to obtain so that we can continue to bring our library into current religious ideas.

## Save the Date!

### August 6: Diocesan Single Adults "Summer Splash" at Volente Beach

Is your alter ego a beach bum? Do you love the sun, but think it's too hot to get in it in Texas? Well, blend the beach, water, and the sun in with a group of singles looking to escape the daily grind, and you have Diocesan Single Adults Annual Summer Splash event. Join singles from all over Texas for a day of beach fun at Volente Beach on Lake Travis.

Enjoy a Texas-style fiesta with Fajita Bar, Volleyball, Water Sports, and more! Bask on the beach, water slide, or just hang out and eat. Just bring your water gear and your appetite (and cash for extras like parasailing and massages)! Please contact Linda Davis at 512.266.6606, Tamika Caston at 832.549.1841, or email us at [diocesansingles@hotmail.com](mailto:diocesansingles@hotmail.com) for complete details. Check out [www.volentebeach.com](http://www.volentebeach.com) for information on the locale. \$25 per person charge includes buffet, parking, and drinks.



## Youth Calendar - July 2005

Each Sunday Morning in July      **No Sunday School** - Meetings begin again in August

Each Wednesday Evening in July      **No Exploration** - Meetings begin again in August

Mon - Sun  
7/4 - 7/10

**Discipleship Journey (Alpha Week)** – This is the first week of the Discipleship Journey. The destination this year is Emery House, a monastery near Boston, MA. Please remember in prayer the following people as they live, pray, and serve together: Amy Krause, Julie Helfrich, Abbey Smith, Lucas Hatlen, Michaela Telfer, Christin Price, Adrienne Williams, Alex Robicheaux, Andrew Abrahamson, Ray Morgan, Judy Neely, Kiah Webster, and Phil Webster.

Wed, 7/20      5 - 9 p.m.

**Middle School Pool Party** – Bring your friends grades 6-8 for an evening of food, swimming, games, and fun at the Fugate's home. There is no cost but permission slips are required.

Mon - Sun  
7/25 - 7/31

**Discipleship Journey (Omega Week)** – This is the second week of the Discipleship Journey. The destination this year is Emery House, a monastery near Boston, MA. Please remember in prayer the following people as they live, pray, and serve together: Kat Price, Hannah Brock, Asya Congor, Ellie Byrom, Chelsea Murphy, Dillon Denney, Nathaniel Murphy, Jay Robison, Kristi Robison, Sarah Neely, and Phil Webster.

Each Monday Evening

**High School Coffee House** – There will be a high school coffee house with music, discussion, and prayer at St. Philip's. Call the youth office for details and carpool information.

## Children's Ministry Calendar – July 2005

### Sunday School Schedule - JULY 3 - AUGUST 14

9:30 Sunday School is on Sabbatical

10:30 Sunday School -

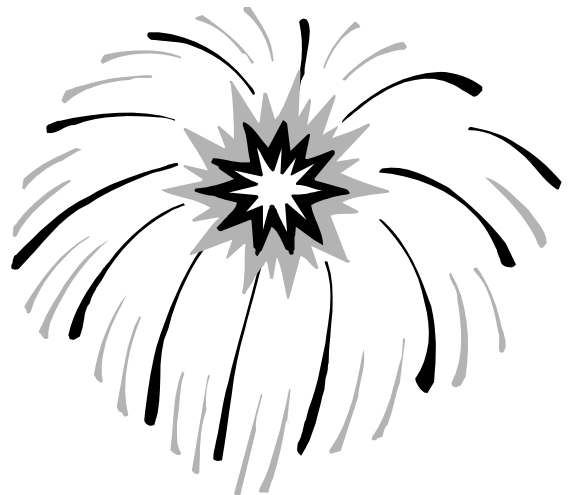
- For children 3 yrs (by Sept. 1) through 3rd grade (4th & 5th graders attend service with families)
- Children arriving are checked in by their parents at the Kinney Outdoor Chapel

### Looking Ahead

July and Aug 7	Sundays		9:30 Sunday School on Sabbatical 10:30 Sunday School Continues (Outdoor Chapel)
Aug 14	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Ministry Fair (B-13, 16, 17)
Aug 27	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Classes resume (B-13, 16, 17)

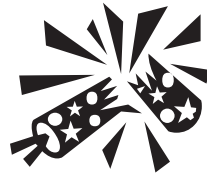
We "moved up" on **May 22** this year, "promoting" children to their fall age groups/school grades:

- 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
- Graduating Kindergartners have moved to the Level II (1st-3rd grade) class.
- Those completing 3rd grade have moved to the Level III (4th/5th grade) class
- Graduating 5th graders have moved to Middle School



# Summer Fun!

By BARBARA PITTS, DRE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



## 9:30 Sunday School

### Children's Program: 3-yrs – 5th Grade

**J.A.M.** – *Jesus and Me* – this summer has been a “delicious” treat for our children and adult leaders. “Chef” for this summer program, Jennifer Baskett, was joined by Stephanie McCollum, Reid Kirchem/Isabelle Bursk, and Nancy Johnson who served weekly as “**J.A.M.** Leaders.” Each **J.A.M.** Leader rotated with a group of children, going to an assigned “workshop” every Sunday.

Mid-May to early June, from within a storyteller's tent, Gidget Fisher held the rapt attention of our children as she led them into dramatizations of the Beatitudes – “Apostles’ Playhouse” workshop. Next door, Marilyn Wright treated children to the opportunity to act out these same scriptures through puppetry – “Praising Puppets” workshop, while across the hall, in the “Creation Station” workshop, Connie Boerner and Joyce Evans had the children up to their elbows in ModPodge creating Beatitudes platters that the children will have at home as reminders of their summer ponderings.

For the last part of June, Penny and Rachel Stephens orchestrated Beatitudes Concentration games and Beatitudes Bingo, with children winning a swarm of bee stickers (the Bee-attitudes, of course!). At the same time, the Good News was heralded by another group of children through songs led by parish musicians Beth Ann Sikes and Connie Harris. Keeping pace, Isabelle Bursk and Jo Ann Grandjean took turns holding court, as they entertained children in “Holywood.” There, the children interacted with *Androcles and the Lion* or *How to Get Blessed Without Sneezing*, while extending their understanding of the Beatitudes.

Is any St. Matthew's gathering complete without food?! Our children want to thank Marge Marshall and Kay Ballard for keeping them supplied each week with fun snacks. Our thanks to them, also, for serving as ombudswomen for **J.A.M.** And in order to have real puppetry, Susan Fugate and Caroline, Laurel Claire, and Juliana Webb provided puppet theaters for the children's use. Thank you, one and all, for a great – dare I mix metaphors? – **J.A.M.** Session!!

## 9:30 Sunday School

### Youth's Program: The Rector's Class for Youth & Parents

If you wanted to put together a 62 book library in your home, filled with various genre and styles of literature, you would search for comedies, narratives, poetry, biographies, and dramas. You could select mysteries, travelogues, adventures, romances, polemics, sports accounts, myths and fables, instruction manuals, devotionals, etc. And you would have to install new shelves, wouldn't you? What if you could have the same number of titles, unabridged, in one volume? Same variety of literature, no extra shelving required.

Possible? Ask those who participated in Merrill Wade's interactive, fast-paced summer class. They will tell you, “Yes!” Our Bible is just that. It contains all genres of literature and provides a full range of styles in writing. And approached with that understanding, the Bible becomes a marvelous vehicle to knowing God and appreciating God's great plan for us and for all creation throughout history.

Not only did the class explore this approach to reading the Bible, they set aside time to consider the sacramental life of the church, in particular the Sunday Eucharist. In a two-week discussion, the class of youth and their parents, compared the “outward and visible signs,” such as the chalice and paten, the bread and wine, the vestments, the words of the liturgy, with the “inward and invisible grace received,” such as Christ's very life through his body and blood, our feeling loved by Christ, our awareness of God's forgiveness, the strength we receive, as well as solace, the sense of unity and peace, and so on.

This popular class focused its final two weeks on the essence of Christianity as expressed through Jesus and the kingdom of God. Look for new insights from the participants of this class, as they share with us in the months to come.

Thanks to the Strange family – Laura and Carl, John and Laura Lee and to the Byrom family – Sally and Jim, Jack and Ellie, for graciously hosting each of these Sunday mornings *and* for providing coffee, juice, and very good things to eat!

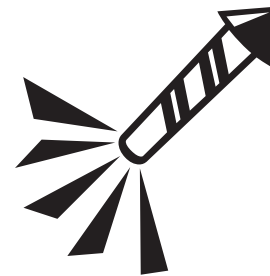
## 10:30 Sunday School

### Children's Program: 3-yrs – 3rd Grade

What a fun change of pace for children who participate in this summer class, as the group convenes in the Kinney Outdoor Chapel. In June we gave the 10:30 Adult leaders their “sabbatical,” and Jennifer Baskett and I had the privilege of spending those Sunday mornings with the youngsters. Basing each Sunday's lesson on the gospel, we not only shared kid-level conversations about God's love, but we acted out the concepts through such games as “Simon Says” – living under the law, and “Follow the Leader” – living under love. One theme that has been woven through these gospel readings is God's invitation to be in relationship with him through Jesus Christ. To articulate this, the children have been learning the song *Day by Day*, (*Godspell* tune) and they are mastering the song in sign language, as well.

This class will continue outdoors through July and will return to B-21 on August 21. For your child(ren) to join the morning, simply sign them in before the church service at the Outdoor Chapel, which is located within the enclosure near the corner of Steck and Mesa. Because the restrooms are a distance from our location, we have found it helpful for children to make a potty stop with parents before signing in. This helps ensure their presence for the complete lesson. Adult leaders will bring the children to the Commons, at the sign of Peace.

See you in Sunday School!



*The 2005  
Discipleship Journey  
Golf Tournament  
List of Sponsors and Donors*

*The Youth of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church wish to thank the following sponsors and donors for their gracious support of this tournament and the Discipleship Journeys.*

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- *A-A-A Storage, LLC*
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- *Gidget Fisher*
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- *Warren Marshall*
- *Gidget Fisher*
- *Tom Lemond*
- *Maddy Bergen*
- *Babs Clendenin*
- *Betty Mitchell*
- *David & Ann Hart*
- *Hink Johnson*
- *Nancy and Scott Telfer*
- *Barbara Haynes*

*Lastly, I would like to thank the following members of the 2005 Discipleship Journey Tournament Committee for their hard work and leadership: John Muhich, Scott Murphy, David Bowman, Milt Williams, Jack Eccles, Marti Price, Asya Congor, Julie Helfrich, Christin Price, and Kat Price.*

*Phil Webster  
Director of Youth Ministry*

## Birthdays

### July

- 1 Vicki DeWeese, Larry Miller, Amy Thomas
- 2 Larry Simons, Scott Telfer, Mark Udelhofen
- 3 Jim Bennett, William Dillawn, Alyssa Farmer, Jennifer Fisher
- 4 Clare Brock, Laura Strange, Amanda Williams
- 5 Marty Novak, Marti Price
- 6 Emily Mihm
- 7 John Hart
- 8 Bruce Calder, Peter Mann, Scott Murphy, Heather Walter
- 9 Dawn Brooke, Betty Davis, Christopher Shawhan
- 10 Greg Bowman, Jo Ann Grandjean,
- 11 Judy Day, Lucy Smith
- 12 Haley Holt
- 13 David Patron, Beau Ross
- 14 Marjorie Hooper, Sue Burton, Sarah Price, Andrew Uhl, James Uhl
- 15 Byron Grandjean, Chandler Morgan, Kirk Smith
- 16 Jim Duncan, Leon Whitney
- 17 Sybil Chenault, Christina Nichols, Daniel Ruiz
- 18 Charlie Doyle, Cordelia Edwards, Richard Moon, Lori Murphy, Gavin Smith
- 19 Lu Ann Barrow, Daniel Godwin, Brenda Helfrich
- 20 Anna Bushong, Stephanie Hackney, Milt Williams
- 21 Cass Brewer, Gini Hand, Joyce Statz
- 22 Kay Ballard, Marilyn Cole, George Herbert, James Young
- 23 Michael McCollum, Marion Smith
- 24 Renee Babcock, Nora Brock, Ben Buikema, Bill Day, Sarah Williams
- 25 Matthew Abrahamson, Charlie Eastberg, Camilla Gregory, Sandy Holt, Chris O'Quin
- 26 Aubrey Connally, Toni Provost-Hatlen
- 27 Guy Blumhagen, Charlie Graves, Jessie Howard, Madelaine Kirchem,
- 28 Peter Grandjean, Sandy Lanier
- 29 Kara Denney, Veronica Looney, Lisa Rieger, William Rhodes, Jack Ryfle,
- 30 Robbie Hooker
- 31 Billie Thompson

### 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

### More Graduates...

*Stephen Kahlke*  
 graduated from Anderson High School.  
 He will attend Austin Community  
 College in the fall.

*Christine Joannidi*  
 graduated from Austin Community  
 College with the degree of  
 Associate of Applied Science in  
 Technical Communications.



### Memorial Gifts to the Permanent Endowment Fund

In memory of  
*Frances Prince*  
 by  
 Order of St. Luke  
 Millie and Larry Roden

In memory of  
*Lucy Harrison*  
 by  
 Carol Stolz

In thanksgiving for the  
*Special Gifts Committee*  
 by  
 Anonymous

## Births

*Caroline Joyce Bindel*,  
 daughter of  
 Amanda Fowle and John Bindel,  
 was born May 31, 2005.

*Milena Jandreski*,  
 granddaughter of  
 Maria Luisa and Joe McLean,  
 was born June 14, 2005.

## Deaths

*Lucy Harrison*,  
 mother of Cliff Harrison,  
 died May 31, 2005.

## New Members

*Ken Blaker*  
 children: *Morgan and McKenzie*

*Stephanie Hackney*

*Karen McBrien*  
 daughter: *Michelle*

*Sue Tatum*

*Dana Wagner*

## Baptisms

*Aspen Sierra Crowl*,  
 daughter of Ashley and Mike Crowl

*Lucy Elizabeth Ward*,  
 daughter of Missy and Allen Ward

*William Galo Rhodes*,  
 son of Anna Morales and Tom Rhodes

*Nicholas Teague Rhodes*,  
 son of Anna Morales and Tom Rhodes

## Marriage

*Suzanne Coalter and Bill Balsanek*  
 were united in marriage on  
 May 28, 2005.

# The ST. MATTHEW'S WORD

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School  
www.StMattsAustin.org ♦ office@StMattsAustin.org  
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## 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

\*On Sabbatical during July. Classes for all ages will resume August 21.

### 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.

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

**Friday, July 15, 2005**

at 5:00 p.m. Email your article to [betty@stmattsaustin.org](mailto:betty@stmattsaustin.org)

Articles may be edited for content and length.

## 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 July* — Kevin McGillicuddy and Steven Brock

## Vestry Commission Chairs

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

## School Board

Crystal Edwards  
Sydney Searcy  
Babs Clendenin  
Kent Zarbock  
Millie Roden  
Pam Littlefield  
Eileen Cole

The Rev. Merrill Wade  
*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

President  
Vice President  
Vestry Liaison  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Director  
Assistant Director  
Chairman

## 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  
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Lucy Boyea Minister of Senior Activities  
Margaret Carpenter Bookkeeper  
Barbara Haynes Administrative Assistant  
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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

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