

the st. matthew's word

Pentecost: A Season of Growth in the Holy Spirit

One Service Only, at 10:30 a.m. on June 8

Soon we transition from the Great 50 Days of Easter to the long season of Pentecost. The Pentecost Season begins with that wonderful festival of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost Sunday. As is our custom, we will cancel the 8:00 a.m. service for Pentecost Sunday, June 8, in order to gather the whole parish together for that unique and special day.

Pentecost Sunday Traditions

You are encouraged to wear your reddest of red clothes on Pentecost Sunday, in order to blend your colors with the altar colors of red, all signifying the coming of the Holy Spirit with cleansing and healing fire. Pentecost Sunday, of course, is the time when the church recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit into that upper room in Jerusalem, filling the disciples with gifts of joy and power and foreign speech. An old tradition on that day is to read the Scriptures in many tongues, reflecting the experience of the crowd hearing the gospel in their own language though they are gathered from all over the world (Acts 2:1-11). On Pentecost Sunday we will read the gospel, John 20:19-31, in the following fashion. I will announce the gospel text in English and read verses 19-20 in English. At that point members of the congregation who can read a text in a foreign language will be encouraged to finish the gospel (verses 21-31) reading aloud. All will read simultaneously. I expect to hear the gospel read in Spanish and French and German - but what about Mandarin, or Swahili, or Japanese, or Indian, or other languages? Can we do that? Please

contact Betty Mitchell at 345-8314, extension 215, if you are willing to participate in this special tradition. We will ask you to provide your own translation, if possible. Just let her know you are willing to read and in what language and she will give you the relevant information to be a part of it. At the end of the service the congregation will move outside and we will make a circle of joined hands around the church in order to pray for the church and the world. I think that is wonderful. And with you, I give thanks in advance for the Associate Vestry and all the hard work they are doing to make the Pentecost celebration so special and memorable for our parish family. We look forward to an excellent lunch and many great children's activities and good fun!

Birthday of the Church, Gift of the Spirit

Many consider the Feast of Pentecost to be the "birthday" of the church, recognizing the new and powerful beginnings of the apostolic movement and the new life and energy the Holy Spirit brings to a healthy, waiting church. Like the early church in the Book of Acts, we at St. Matthew's enjoy the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we await, happily, for any new and fresh outpouring of grace God desires for us!

A Passionate Pentecost Picnic from the Associate Vestry

by Dana Young and Lori Murphy

The Associate Vestry invites you to don your favorite red outfit and join us as we celebrate The Feast of Pentecost in grand St. Matthew's style. Sunday, June 8, we will come together as an entire parish family at 10:30 for a festive Holy Eucharist. Our annual Pentecost Parish Picnic will immediately follow in Huffman Hall. The hall will be decorated with flowers and banners of red and yellow, proclaiming the theme of our Feast

"Come Holy Spirit...Set Our Hearts on Fire!"

We are blessed to have our own Holy Smokers preparing the meal of fajitas and all the sides including their famous jalapeno poppers. Add homemade queso and chips and we'll have a wonderful feast!!

For the little ones, the Children's Ministry is sponsoring a moonwalk and face painting during the feast. There will be a special children's lunch table with PBJs, ham sandwiches, juice boxes and more. We look forward to sharing the joy of this festive day and encourage you to bring friends and family to the party in the spirit of Pentecostal outreach. Donations of \$5 per person/\$10 per family are requested and can be left in baskets throughout Huffman Hall. Get ready for a fun and spirit-filled afternoon on June 8th!

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

Our Church is Blessed in Many Ways - Part 1

Recently a family in the church made an anonymous donation to St. Matthew's of a group of condominiums. The church was able to sell the condominiums for \$350,000.00. The Wardens, Vestry and I are DELIGHTED by this significant act of Christian generosity, and though the donors choose to remain anonymous, we sincerely hope they know just how happy and grateful we feel to receive this special gift.

Our Church is Blessed in Many Ways - Part 2

You, the people of St. Matthew's, know just how blessed and fortunate we are to have Susan Barnes in our midst. Late last Fall Bishop Payne gave me permission to ask Susan to stay beyond the two-year term allocated for the newly ordained. Susan consented (joyfully, I might add!) and it is with great pleasure that I announce that Susan will be elevated to the position of Associate Rector beginning June 1. Her compensation will be increased at that time to account for that new and more permanent arrangement of sharing the full-time ordained ministry with me in this place. Susan and I will not make a sharp delineation of duties or areas of ministry, choosing instead to share the work and divide it as we see is helpful to the whole parish. We are so blessed!

Our Church is Blessed in Many Ways - Part 3

We have a wonderful, highly respected Day School. I am sincerely grateful for the excellent work done by the Head of School, Pam Littlefield, and her staff and teachers.

The relationship between the school and the church is excellent and the volunteer support from church members is remarkable. The church offers the chapel experience to the day school. On Wednesday and Thursday mornings, the school gathers in the Sanctuary for a 20 minute, age-appropriate adaptation of Episcopal liturgy. I am so thankful for the great work of our own Kathy Dugat and Shannon Magee to provide the teaching and music for these services. Another year of school and chapel is coming to a close and we owe Kathy and Shannon special thanks! I also want to thank Barbara Pitts for her solid and faithful leadership of our School Board. Barbara's term as President is coming to an end and we welcome Michael McCollum to that post for the coming year. Thank you to all church members who volunteer to support St. Matthew's Day School!

The Long Season of Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday begins the longest season of the church's calendar. The Pentecost Season this year focuses us on the Gospel of Mark. For the next six months we will tour Palestine and surrounding environs with our Lord Jesus, allowing Mark to draw us deeply into the mystery of the Love of God expressed so perfectly by Jesus. This is a season for growth in Christ's love, which is growth in the Holy Spirit. Enjoy!!

Faithfully,

Merrill Wade

Young at Heart: Not Just a State of Mind for the Thompsons

by Betty Mitchell

"Young at Heart — all church members age 50 and over — no dues, no duties, just bring a covered dish." Does this sound familiar? These same lines have appeared monthly in the Sunday announcement sheet for the past several years, thanks to Billie and R. C. Thompson who have been shepherding the Young at Heart program. For at least eight years, on the first Friday of each month, following a speaker from the Senior Activity Center, the Young at Heart group has gathered for a covered dish luncheon. Billie and R. C. now pass this responsibility on to new hands.

The Thompsons say the success of the Young at Heart luncheons was due to several things. They were helped by a number of friends including Jo Ann Cage, B. J. Drenkhahn, Liz Johnson, Edith Price and Carol Stolz. Additionally, they also owe their gratitude to the senior members of St. Matthew's and the members of the Senior Activity Center (not all of whom belong to St. Matthew's Church).

Month after month they brought their delicious casseroles, salads, desserts and breads. Billie and R. C. and their helpers prepared the tables and the drinks and all pitched in to help with the cleanup. As a result of their organization, mouths and spirits were fed and lasting friendships were formed. R. C. says, "For Young at Heart, I may have been the guy out front, but Billie was the guiding light behind it — she's the one that made it work."

R. C. (with his little white poodle, Jiggs, of course) plans to continue teaching a T'ai Chi class to Senior Activity Center folks and also to a group at El Buen Samaritano. R. C. will also keep on serving as an Usher and Billie will continue to work with the Altar Guild.

So thanks to Billie and R. C. Thompson for a job well done; we look forward to your future activities here at St. Matthew's.

20TH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND PATRIOTIC REVIEW

Sponsored by the St. Matthew's Choir
Suzanne Daniel, Cary Michaels, Music Ministry

Thursday, July 3, 2003

7:00 p.m. Huffman Hall

Wear Red, White and Blue! Bring the kids!

Enjoy ice cream — all you can eat for a buck a bowl



Introduction to Healing Across Generations

by Barbara Pitts

Over the years a number of St. Matthew's parishioners have taken advantage of the opportunity to hear Bob Sears, S.J., speak about intergenerational healing. Therapists are discovering the absolute importance of family and social systems for explaining and dealing with illnesses. God, too, sees us not just as isolated individuals but also in relation to our family of origin and our religious family. This introductory workshop looks at God's way of healing throughout salvation history, as a model for how God heals us individually in our family system. We learn to diagram our family tree, discover issues that need healing, and follow steps in the healing process. We also consider healing of

past generations, which continue to influence the present, and we conclude with a healing service.

Bob Sears, S.J., teaches at Loyola University in Chicago, and brings with him his own ongoing growth and insights. This summer Fr. Bob returns to Austin and his initial workshop is being held at St. Matthew's, Thursday, June 19, from 10:00-4:00, in B-18. This workshop is open to all members of St. Matthew's. The \$35 registration fee includes lunch at Luby's and places should be reserved by June 13. To register you may pick up a form in the office or call Miriam Burke, Ph. D. at 346-1036.

United Thank Offering at St. Matthew's

by Shirley Ryfle

Sunday, June 15 will be the Spring United Thank Offering Ingathering at St. Matthew's. Let your offering to this worthwhile cause be your way of saying thanks to God for your many blessings. The UTO was founded in 1889 by the Women's Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church. Millions of dollars are raised each year and are used to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world.

The Fall UTO Ingathering at St. Matthew's was possibly a record breaker. We raised \$1,777.09. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously. This year our goal is \$2,000.00 but only you can make it happen. Now is the time to empty your little blue box and change it into a check or bills so you will be ready on the 15th when the Episcopal Church Women of St. Matthew's will be passing the blue collection plates right after the regular collection plates.

Say Cheese!

The Associate Vestry is hard at work on a project that we are sure you will appreciate. In the not too distant future, St. Matthew's will have an up-to-date pictorial directory. Photos will be taken on these dates: August 12 - 16, August 26 - 30, and September 3 - 6.

The company selected to produce the directory is Lifetouch; they are well known for the beauty and high quality of their portraits and directories. There will, of course, be no charge for the sittings, and every family who sits for a portrait will receive a free directory. Members will be able to purchase portraits if they wish, but will not be pressured to do so. You can, however, get a head start on your Christmas gift list!

Transitions

Together with all the Clergy who serve at our altars, I want to thank Mary Eastberg for her service as Altar Guild Director for the last few years. She has given a great deal of her time and energy to keeping our sacramental fires burning and we are so grateful. We are pleased to announce that Mary-Lynn Polk has graciously agreed to follow Mary in this position. We know that she will be a fine leader as well! *The Rector*

Warden's Corner

by David Price, People's Warden

I feel like a fifth wheel sometimes - which is good in this case. Things are firing on all cylinders in the Vestry.

We have been plugging along. Thanks to Kate Canby (Vestry Warden) for getting all of our ministries lined up so they are on a regular reporting basis to the Vestry. As in the past, they will have a brief article in the Monthly Word, too.

We had a Stewardship Conference (same weekend as the Parish Retreat). Charlie Cole will report on this. I heard Laity Lodge was a great treat. What a place! Yours truly (and family) did our yearly Friendship Festival at the Laity Lodge Youth Camp, whereby we clean and scrub and build and trim, and just generally get the camp ready for the thousands of kids coming for the summer.

I know the summer months are here. The Vestry will meet regularly during the summer. I'm sure there will be some vacation overlap with some members, so come on by and say "Hi"!

As always, I'm here to bend an ear to hear (say that fast, three times).

Have a good summer!

Summer Song: Are You Up to Date on Your Pledge?

June, July and August are the months when most families head out on vacations, camping trips, weekend forays, day trips and all those activities involving children. Church attendance normally lags during this period as members are frequently out of town on Sundays. Lower attendance means lower collections in the offering plate - and fewer available funds to pay the church's bills.

As you prepare to leave town on vacation you will go through the check list - cancel the newspaper, board the dog, arrange for a neighbor to water your yard and look after your house and - write a check to St. Matthew's to cover your pledge for the time you'll be gone. Please do not forget your commitment to St. Matthew's as you prepare for your summer activities. Our bills don't take a vacation and because of hot and dry Texas summers, our utilities increase just as yours do at home. We hope you will stay current on your pledge so we can avoid any potential cash flow problems!

St. Matthew's Summer 2003 Great Teachers Series

Submitted by Leon Whitney

Sunday mornings in Huffman Hall - Beginning Sunday, June 15

9:00 - 10:00 Teaching and Questions

10:00 - 10:20 Fellowship and Coffee

Huffman Hall

- Sunday, June 15 The Rev. Dr. William C. Spong
Professor Emeritus, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest
"A Musical Adventure into the Gospel Based Upon the Broadway Musical, Ragtime"
- Sunday, June 22 The Rev. John Musgrave, Rector
St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, Nassau Bay, Texas
"Ministry in the NASA Community: The 2003 Shuttle Disaster"
- Sunday, June 29 Mr. John Sharp, Former Comptroller, The State of Texas
"Ethics in Government: Ethical and Moral Issues Involved in the Distribution of Scarce Funds"
- Sunday, July 6 Dr. Charlotte Smith, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Specialist
Chair, Ethics Committee, Brackenridge Hospital
"Ethical Decisions in Health Care"
- Sunday, July 13 Ms. Karen Cox, Executive Director
CASA of Travis County
"Assisting Children in Time of Need"
- Sunday, July 20 Dr. Michael Granof, Ernst & Whinney Professor of Accounting
The University of Texas School of Business
"Honor in the Workplace: A Discussion of Ethics and Business Practices"
- Sunday, July 27 Mr. Fred Zipp, Managing Editor
Austin American-Statesman
"Ethical Decisions in the Media"
- Sunday, August 3 Cantor Neil Blumofe
Cantor, Congregation Agudas Achim
"The Roots and Rise of Current Anti-Semitism"
- Sunday, August 10 Dr. Michael White, Ronald N. Smith Chair of Classics and Christian
Origins, The University of Texas College of Liberal Arts
"Reflections on Early Christianity."
- Sunday, August 17 The Very Reverend Titus Presler, Dean and President
Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest
"Leadership in the Emerging Church"

Fundraiser Success

Submitted by Milt Williams for the Golf Committee

The St. Matthew's Golf Committee is pleased to report that \$2,840 was generated from the golf tournament on April 26th. The two annual tournaments have now raised nearly \$5000 for the youth program. This year's tournament funds have been designated for the youth group's pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland. The money was raised through the generous support of many sponsors and golfer's entry fees, both within and outside St. Matthew's. First place winner was The Holy Smokers, Clif Steed, Larry Simons, Kevin McGillicuddy and Jim Myers. Longest women's drive was Margaret Carpenter, longest men's drive was Chris Bodine, closest to the pin was Lee Clark and straightest drive was Sue Gregerson.

Visit St. Matthew's Memorial Garden

by Henry W. Krystow

What is a Memorial Garden and why does St. Matthew's have one? Historically, the Church interred its deceased members adjacent to and around the building in which they worshipped. That is no longer feasible, especially in urban areas. The early church-yard burial grounds have given way to cemeteries which are distanced from church and home, and from families and friends.

Within the Episcopal faith, the National Church supports cremation. Today, there are memorial gardens and buildings on church grounds, each called a columbarium, with niches, where ash-filled urns may be stored and visited by family and friends, or where the ashes are consecrated in a common urn in the garden.

Phases one and two of the St. Matthew's Memorial Garden are already completed. The final, third phase will get underway once more niches are sold. Urns containing ashes can be placed and sealed in niches, loose ashes may be deposited in the common ground urn located in the garden, or burial may be at another location and that person memorialized with a plaque.

This garden affords a setting where one can visit, think, pray, meditate and remember those whose ashes are there, and those who are interred elsewhere. It is a place of much peace and beauty on hallowed ground. What better tribute can anyone make for the memory of a loved one in the name of our Lord and Savior.

For information on how to purchase a niche, please call Betty Mitchell in the church office.



With these articles on the Lay Eucharistic Visitors and the Prayer Team Ministry, we continue a series that profiles various ministries within our parish. Each month, members of the selected groups will be recognized and thanked in a Sunday morning service and also featured on the St. Matthew's website (www.StMattsAustin.org) In July we will highlight the Baptismal Banner ministry.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

by Betty Mitchell

"In the name of this Congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup."

For those who are physically unable to make it to church on Sunday morning, there is a very special ministry available to see that they are not totally left out of the St. Matthew's worship experience. At the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. worship service, two Lay Eucharistic Visitors carry kits containing consecrated communion elements to those who request it in their homes, in hospitals and in nursing homes.

The LEVs are trained to listen to those they visit, take any special prayer requests the homebound person might have, pray with them, and then share the communion elements. In addition, they leave the home-

bound person an audio tape of the morning's sermon, the Service Leaflet, and the Weekly Word so that they may stay current on parish activities.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors receive special training that enables them to carry the Communion Kits and to administer the elements to those they visit. They do this with the utmost reverence and respect.

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors provide a valuable service — they maintain a line of communication between St. Matthew's parish and those who are unable to join in on Sunday mornings. And if you don't think that is important, just ask someone who has received home communion from one of these special people. Thanks to all our LEVs who hand carry Holy Communion and love from the people of St. Matthew's.

Chairman: Jim Sparks

Judy Bomar
Beth Deans
Anna Dodge
Nan Harrison
Tony Hatheway
Tom LeMond
Sue Kinney
Amy Tuvell
Cynthia Wilson

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Prayer Team Ministry

by Sandy Lanier

At our 10:30 service, during the Eucharist, two prayer teams are located on either side of the church. These teams are there to pray for anyone who comes with personal prayer requests. Requests can be as specific or non-specific as you chose. All you have to do is come to a prayer team. Everything is confidential.

For those of us who serve on Sunday Morning Prayer teams, we are given a gift to be a part of this ministry. It is a ministry of stepping back and becoming smaller so the Lord can become larger to the one for whom we pray. At our best, those of us on prayer team become a channel of God's healing light and love. We pray with no specific expectation, but with great expectancy for God's healing light and love to touch the one we pray for.

Prayer Team Ministry Coordinator:

George Wilson

Bob Ascott

Anna Dodge

Pat Boon

Kay Ballard

Suzanne Harakal

Phaedra Kline

Kelly Meyer

Shirley Meyer

Cynthia Wilson

Nan Harrison

Judy Neely

Hink Johnson

Nancy Johnson

Prayer Team



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A Letter to Susan and Merrill

by Christine Joanidi
(printed with permission)

I have been composing a "letter" to you in my mind since I came back from SafePlace on Sunday. But this morning I woke up with more than a letter; I woke with a testimony on my heart that I knew would not go away until I had written to you both.

Katie Lane and I have visited SafePlace twice this year, and each time I asked one of you to send us forward in prayer. I had prayed for our coming ministry during the prayers for the people at the morning service, but I really wanted to go forth with the blessings of St. Matthew's congregation.

When the women of St. Matthew's and St. James' congregations serve SafePlace they usually do it alone, without the companionship we experience when we serve in the kitchen, build a house, or care for the church grounds. We get into our cars and we hope that we are not going to make the journey "for nothing". We steel ourselves to go to each of the living pods and invite the mothers and their children to worship with us, and then we prepare the meeting room, and we wait.

The common living rooms of each pod are often filled with activity, children waiting for a meal, the women are usually preparing a meal and trying to be all things at once with little time for themselves. Sometimes the living areas are empty and the doors that line the room are all that separates us from the only sanctuary these women have on Sunday morning. Their family bedroom is a sanctuary quiet unlike the one we have just left. When we invite the women to join us, the children often ask "can we go?" and the mothers just as often reach out exhausted hands to quiet them because they don't want to come, and they don't want to tell us this. But these are often the women who come late, probably persuaded by the children.

One time when our daughter, Rebecca, was in town she came with me; she loved to work with the children. Since that time I have invited Katie to join me; she prefers to work with the children which leaves me free to minister to the mothers. She serves the servant by blessing me with her company on the journey to and from SafePlace, as well as while we are there.

*St. Matthew's supports SafePlace through its Outreach Commission ministry.
If you would like to volunteer, please visit with Christine or Kathleen.*

The last two visits have been different for me. Last Sunday, instead of doing my quiet morning time in my living room, I arrived at church early and sat in the Memorial Garden. I dedicated my 15 minutes of quiet prayer to the women I would visit, I prayed that God would prepare their hearts so that they would feel the invitation in my voice when I presumed to enter their living space.

After the service, I asked Merrill to pray with us, and we went forth with the power of that blessing, and it stayed with us and filled the room with the power of God's love. Eight women joined us on Sunday morning, the bruises they bore were not on their skin, but in their demeanor. The room is small and there were as many children as there were mothers; including one who was pregnant. There were not enough chairs, and not enough Bibles. I felt the power of God strengthen my voice so that I could lift it above the children's voices without sounding like I was shouting and I read the words of service.

After the service several women asked for Bibles. One woman asked if she could have a Spanish language Bible for her mother, she asked me to write "Happy Mother's Day" in it. This was all she had to give her mother, she left everything else behind when she came to SafePlace. Finally the room cleared and one woman and her four children remained. She wanted us to pray for her, she was going to San Antonio on Tuesday to see the FBI about her green card. She was from West Africa and France, she hasn't seen a single member of her family in 14 years, her brother is dying and she can't bear the thought of not seeing him before he dies. Her children were active and distracting her. And somewhere in that chaos, and in that pain I reached out to her in prayer. God's peace came on her through my words and my touch. It was my hand, but Merrill's blessing and the community of St. Matthew's that touched her with me and I was a humbled servant.

Job Cards Need You!

Newcomers, old-timers, old, young, and all "in-betweeners," please join in a unique St. Matthew's example of community effort! Annually we ask for your parish-wide help to tackle some of the tasks that need to be completed in order for fall Sunday School and Chapel to begin. "Job Cards" will be posted Sunday, June 15. This is early this year, in order to have the shelves scrubbed and materials cleaned before the Austin-area Training in July. Other chores will include paper cutting, sewing, errand running, and cleaning baseboards and sweeping out cobwebs and pill bugs. Last year groups of parishioners (thanks, Thursday Morning Men – 4th year in a row!), retirees, singles, teens, former Atrium children, families (yea, Price girls) – you name it, people contributed. Would you be willing to give an hour or two, also? Follow the notices and signs to the signup board, where Job Cards will be posted!! Thanks so much.

June Youth News

by Eric Liles

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive. Above all, clothe yourself with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body."
— Colossians 3:12-15

Lord we ask you to bestow on this our church family the riches of your blessing. With the gift of your grace, sanctify all of us who worship here, so that, faithful to your commandments, we will care for each other, ennoble this world by our lives, and reach the home you have prepared for us in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Taken from page 123 from *The Glenstal Book of Prayer*)

Our summer calendar can be found on the web. Please pray for all of our youth and leaders in our busy summer. If you have any questions, comments or just want to chat let me know.

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

St. Matthew's Salutes Its Graduates

In the May issue of The Word we asked for information on your child's graduation. Here is what came in; we are extremely proud of each and every one of you – graduates and their parents too.

High School Graduates

Matthew Abrahamson, son of Trisha and Ed Abrahamson, McCallum High School.

Jane Adolph, daughter of Laura and Anthony Adolph, Anderson High School.

David Ascott, son of Bob Ascott, Peninsula Village High School in Knoxville, TN

Will Dugat, son of Kathy and Bill Dugat, LBJ High School.

Stacy Strobusch, daughter of Linda and Jim Strobusch, McNeil High School

Amanda Williams, daughter of Janet and Tommy Williams, McNeil High School

Although we didn't hear from them directly, the following young people are listed on our records as high school seniors:

Nicole Chandler
Emily Eastberg
Katie Fink
Thomas Gilpin
Amanda Green
David Kahlke
Laura Kyle
Emma Lance
Adrienne O'Neil
Anne Rickard
Landon Shanks
Miguel Soto
Dane Walters

Advanced Degrees

Matt Evans, son of Ann and Bruce Evans graduated from Texas A & M University with a degree in Veterinary Science.

Christine Ocean, daughter of Terri Ocean, graduated from UCLA in Anthropology.

Ryan Steed, son of Patty and Clif Steed graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Economics

Susan Conway Brown Snook, daughter of Glenda and James Logan Brown, graduated from Church Divinity School of the Pacific and was ordained to the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church on May 24, in The Church of the Epiphany in Tempe, Arizona.

St. Matthew's Day School Kindergarten Class of 2003

Mark Ashworth
Madison Beathard
Clarissa Boerner
William Bunn
Nicholas Carlson
Cole Carpenter
Madeleine D'avila
James Gauthreaux
Beatrice Gilmore
Andrew Glazener
Garrett Hale
Luke Hill
Weston Hill
Carter Jenkins
Davis Langford
Gray Levine
Clark McCollum
Jack McNamara
Brittney Norment
Laine Porter
Isabel Prchlik
Isabel Rodriguez
Sarah Rung
Ashley Romans
Trey Shepherd
Rebekah Urban
Kevin Vaughan
Laurel Claire Webb
Stephanie Wiesehuegel
Hannah Windham
Abby Zarbach



St. Matthew's Day School News

by Barbara Pitts

Another school year is completed; the teachers' vast stores of materials are lovingly packed away and the children are off to far-flung places. What a fruitful year, culminating in the graduation of 31 Kindergarten students. As part of that final moment, St. Matthew's Church generously continued a tradition of presenting a Bible to each graduate, while the school continued its tradition of giving each child a James Avery cross in remembrance of St. Matthew's Church and School.

This year was also fruitful for the Board of Trustees, as it achieved its set goals to continue to strengthen the infrastructure that supports the school. Highlights included our revision of both the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and seeing them approved by Bishop Payne. We also went through a planning process that resulted in a Strategic Plan for the school. Through this plan annual goals will be derived for the next five years. Additionally, the Board implemented a self-study, which is supporting the development of individual trustees and the body as a whole. We also began the process with the Vestry, of examining the campus completion plan. Finally, the Board re-instituted the giving of the Jim Williams Scholarship, an annual scholarship awarded to a child of Hispanic descent.

Thanks for a great year go to the faithful efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and the Board of Trustees. Thanks are also in order for the consistent leadership of Pam Littlefield, who has completed her fourth year as St. Matthew's director, and to the Rev. Merrill Wade who has provided wise leadership in his capacity of Chairman of the Board. Some Day School children will be on campus this summer for camp June 9-13 and June 16-20. Look for the return of the entire student body on August 28. And, as it is said all over town, "Happy Summer Vacation!"

Children's Ministry Thanks You!

by Barbara Pitts and Jennifer Baskett

Thanks to all of these people who have worked with our 3-year-old through fifth grade children this past school year, to help with Sunday School, Chapel, Shepherding, and Spring Special Events. It wouldn't happen without you! Thanks, too, to the Children's Council, our supportive Church Office staff and clergy, and our supportive Communications Commission.

Judy Bomar, Eleanor Bowman, Bill Brooke, C.J. Carl, Marilyn Cole, Allison Dady, Ed Davis, Vicky Dettman, Amy DeWeese, Vicki DeWeese, Kathy Dugat, Amanda Fowle, Susan Fugate, JoAnn Grandjean, Colleen Hale, Suzanne Harakal, Ann Hart, Michael Hart, Heather Harmon, Mia Johns, Elizabeth Klingler, Shannon Magee, Michele Mann, Stephanie McCollum, Kathy Morris, Jimmy Muhich, Lisa Ottenbacher, Jane Preston, Kerrie Qualtrough, Kathryn Ross, Martha Schorre, Patti Shannon, Jeremy Smith, Lynn Smith, Jason Sommerville, Rachel Stephens, Lisa Thompson, Linda Uhl, Tom Uhl, Clarissa Vasquez, Stacie Veith, Alina Wasmuth, Martha Webb, Cheryl Williamson.

We in the Children's Ministry Office also thank Clive Smith, Bob Yeagain, and Daniel Smith for bringing our office on-line and into the network.

Being Close to God

By Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

Soon after Easter this spring I was visiting with a group children and adults in the Level II, 1st-3rd grade, Atrium (Sunday School School class). As we chatted, I asked, "When, during Lent and Easter have you felt closest to God?" Here are some of the replies I received: "Knowing Jesus died on the cross," said a child. A second one agreed and added, "...because God knew Jesus died so we could come alive." A second grade girl: "Good Friday at the [Children's] Stations of the Cross; learning what happened." Three children thoughtfully spoke: "Communion." Two chimed in, "Communion Class." "My family's being together," interjected a first grade boy, followed by an adult smiling and saying, "seeing two new babies in our family; two new lives and new hope for the world." Two other children agreed that family time or a new baby had been their moment of feeling closest to God. One of the girls closed the conversation for us all by saying, "the Liturgy of the Light (a special para-liturgy for our children on Easter morning); receiving the candle was reminding me how Jesus rose from death." A silence, laden with appreciation for all these gifts followed.

Super Summer Sunday School

This has been a special year for our children, as evidenced by the fruitful responses of these children. In June we continue to provide meaningful time on Sunday mornings, beginning June 15. Children will be signed in at the playground at 9:00 each week, where they can enjoy a simple breakfast if they choose, and run and play together. Classes will transition to the basement at 9:20 for stories, crafts, art, games, cooking, and a special quilt project. Class will continue until the beginning of the service at 10:30, at which time children either join their families or remain downstairs for Chapel. Please bring your children when you are in town, and feel free to bring visiting children, as well. See you in Sunday School!

Children's Ministry Calendar – June 2003

June 1	No Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels
June 8	No Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Service – Celebration of the Feast of the Holy Spirit 10:30 a.m. Special joint liturgy for Primary and Children's chapels, B-19
June 15	9:00 a.m. First Super Summer Sunday School! Children are checked in by their parents at the playground, for Summer Breakfasts and playtime 9:20 a.m. Sunday School continues in basement – B-19 10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels
June 18	7:00 p.m. Children's Council Meeting B-16
June 21	VBS set-up day
June 22	9:00 a.m. Super Summer Sunday School! Children are checked in by their parents at the playground, for Summer Breakfasts and playtime 9:20 a.m. Sunday School continues in basement – B-19 10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels NOON – VBS Kickoff – All-Parish Luncheon – Sainly Sit Down
June 23-26	9:00-Noon, Monday-Thursday VBS – More than a Summer Blast! The Saints of God
June 26	6:30 p.m. VBS All-Parish – All Saints Night
June 27	VBS Clean up day
June 29	9:00 a.m. Super Summer Sunday School! Children are checked in by their parents at the playground, for Summer Breakfasts and playtime 9:20 a.m. Sunday School continues in basement – B-19 10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels

Looking Ahead

Regional Training Program: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, July 7-11

Job Cards: July and August

Orientation sessions for Levels I and II Sunday School: August

Final Super Summer Sunday School: August 17
Ministry Fair: August 24

First Fall Sunday School: August 31

Vacation Bible School: The Excitement Builds

Countdown to Vacation Bible School

The final weeks until Vacation Bible School are ticking away — have you registered your child yet? Have you signed yourself up to help? If not do so soon- there are very few days left before “The Saints of God” arrive at St. Matthew’s!

Forms can be found at the VBS information booth on Sunday mornings and are also available weekdays in the church office during regular office hours. Forms may be turned into the church office as well. If you have questions, please call Heather at 418-9343.

We have room for lots of kids (ages 3 and up) and are very excited about this year’s program. Merrill and Susan will be a part of our opening and closing worship and we will have many awesome youth volunteers helping us during the week! We will be doing outreach this year to a local children’s organization — you’ll have to show up on time the first day to find out the exact plan!

If you cannot make the weekday program (which is June 23-26 from (9:00-12:00)), try a take home bag or come join us for one of the parish events on Sunday and Thursday.

Again, we are very excited about this year’s vacation Bible School and cannot wait to see you there. Just remember, the clock is ticking so register now!

VBS Donations

We will be making prayer benches this year at Vacation Bible School. If you have any nails, child-friendly hammers and/or sandpaper you would like to donate or allow us to borrow, we would really appreciate your help. Donations can be dropped off in the main church office.

Decorating Huffman Hall

On Saturday, June 21, we will be setting up Huffman Hall for Vacation Bible School. We need all kinds of help — moving and setting tables, hanging decorations (includes going on a ladder), preparing classrooms, etc. If you are available in the afternoon on Saturday, June 21, please give Heather a call.

Saintly Sit Down

Come join the fun on Sunday, June 22! We will have an awesome meal catered by the famous Holy Smokers and have some cool, “saintly” art projects for children of all ages. Tickets are \$5 per person (children under 2 are free) and are available on Sunday mornings at the VBS info booth.

You do not have to be registered for Vacation Bible School to join the fun - it’s for everyone!

All Saints Night

Celebrate Saints by coming to All Saints Night, Thursday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to everyone (not just those who participated in VBS)! We will gather in the sanctuary for worship (and a few surprises) at 6:30 p.m. Following the service, we will go to Huffman Hall to make ice cream Sundaes and enjoy family fellowship time. Please remember, you may dress as a saint (famous ones and everyday ones) Thursday night.

Volunteer!

If you would like to help with any of these needs or events, or if you have questions, please call Heather at 418-9343. Thank you!



Thank You Letters

Dear Father Wade,

Thank you for your gift of \$2,500.00 to the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. We give thanks to God for the work that is made possible by your congregation’s generosity. The support we receive from you is vital to our unique educational resource in Austin. We strive to sustain the richness of the Anglican tradition in the education and training of lay and ordained ministers who will work in an increasingly multicultural context.

Events in the daily life of the seminary community signal new beginnings and new life. Seniors have completed the General Ordination Exams, many of them are learning of their assignments upon graduation, some are already being ordained to the diaconate. There is a sense of excitement as the end of the academic year grows visible. It is a time of great promise and great beauty, a reminder that as we fulfill our mission here we are participating in the joy of new creation.

We are grateful for your support. Through it, your parish shares in our mission of theological education and training for ministry. May God continue to bless your faithful stewardship of God’s good gifts.

In faith, Joseph Liro

Dear Friends at St. Matthew’s,

I write to thank you for your gift of \$250 to support the work of Austin Habitat for Humanity. Your generosity allows us to assist hardworking Austin families in need of decent, affordable housing to become homeowners.

As spring begins, I would like to introduce you to one of this year’s Austin Habitat families. In April we will build a home for Martha Collins and her three sons. Martha is a school custodian who entered the Habitat program over a year ago, hoping to move her family from an impoverished one-bedroom apartment to a home they could be proud of. Struggling to feed, clothe, and house three active growing boys has been a true test of Martha’s faith and determination but she has persevered. In addition to her job as a custodian and her responsibilities as a parent, she has contributed 200 hours building other Habitat homes for needy families. Thanks to generous donors like you, Martha’s dream of a home of her own is about to become a reality.

There are many families like Martha’s who need affordable housing throughout the city of Austin and we are working to help as many of those as we can. Your gift truly makes a difference and is deeply appreciated by all of us at Austin Habitat for Humanity, our Board, Staff, Volunteers, and our Habitat Partner Families.

With appreciation,

Patrick Welch, Executive Director
Austin Habitat for Humanity

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Benedictine Spirituality

by The Rev. Susan Barnes

Over 1500 years ago, St. Benedict founded his monastic order and wrote the Rule governing the order. Though the great age of monasticism is past, today the Benedictine Rule is as vital than ever. A document of seventy-two short chapters, Benedict's Rule addresses the everyday issues of life in community conduct of the abbot, to the allocation of clothing, food and drink. It is still in use in Benedictine communities worldwide, of course. But the human wisdom that permeates the Rule is so great that countless individuals and groups in our own time have chosen to use it as a guide for living. (For instance, Joan Chittister's annotated edition, *The Rule of Benedict*, is the text for the Community of Hope.)

The Most Reverend Rowan Williams, the new Archbishop of Canterbury joined three other leading figures in Christian thought Laurence Freeman, OSB, and Sister Joan Chittister, OSB Institute in New York at the end of April. They came to share their ideas on the subject of "Benedictine Spirituality in the Contemporary World." Their talks revealed how effectively the wisdom of Benedict's teachings apply to our twenty-first century lives. As clergy in the Diocese of Texas, we are expected to participate in at least two weeks of continuing education per year. I was blessed to go to New York to attend this conference.

Archbishop Williams spoke twice, preaching at the opening Eucharist, and giving the concluding talk. His sermon credited the Benedictine Rule with creating the environment in which a "listening community" could flourish. Jesus was a marvelous listener. The ideal of the Christian community, he said, is to listen to one another as a means of listening to God.

Archbishop Williams, a theologian and scholar, noted that the essence of Anglican theology is not the systematic study of the doctrines of the church but rather the meditation on what makes a holy life. In his talk he showed how St. Benedict, the first great theologian of a holy life, used the Rule to equip the monks and nuns with tools for holy living.

According to Williams, holiness is a set of habits of the heart. All of them, like a fine set of tools, are acquired and honed over time. It begins with the individual's

commitment to the stability of community, that is to acceptance of the "otherness" of other people

Three habits that sustain community are: transparency, peacemaking, and accountability. Transparency is honesty about ourselves and about others, recognizing and sharing in love the truth that is essential to real reconciliation. Peacemaking is the "daily discipline of mending" whatever is broken, facing potential difficulties and resolving them, never gossiping or retaliating, always praying for those with whom we are in conflict or disagreement.

Accountability is close to transparency, except that it involves the relationship of the community to God. Accountability particularly applies to the abbot or the leader of the community, who tends to the spiritual realities of the whole, to the requirements of different temperaments, and to the healthy circulation within the community. Accountability means seeing that all voices are heard.

It is clear to the modern reader how pertinent these habits are for our own lives. We all live in communities at church, in clubs and associations. Every one of these communities can be enhanced by our commitment to their stability and their diversity. Every one can be made more holy by the practice of the Benedictine habits. Transparency today calls us to self-knowledge and self-discipline, to honesty in all of our dealings. Peacemaking can be practiced in the laying aside of our own agendas, resentments, in striving to understand the point of view of the other, in praying for our enemies. Accountability means listening to everyone, even the most junior or disenfranchised people, because they, too are children of God, and equal members with us in the Body of Christ. As Archbishop Williams pointed out, we all stand before the judgment of Christ, and we all need God's mercy. But Christ is our creator, in love, and waits to love us.

In the meanwhile, Christ commanded us to love one another as he loved us.

Senior Sentences

by Lucy Boyea, Minister of Senior Activities

The Senior Activity Center opened its doors in October, 1994. One of its goals was to minister to the neighborhood through the use of its facilities and to respond to the social needs of the community. On-going outreach activities of the center include "55 Alive," a classroom refresher course for older drivers, which is offered monthly, and two Alzheimer's support groups, one for patients and one for care-givers, each of which is also offered monthly.

In February of this year, the Senior Activity Center hosted a Community Health Screening – a stroke prevention program – which was very well received. To further the outreach activities of St. Matthew's and S.A.C., we will sponsor a Blood Drive on Friday, June 27, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Blood collection will take place in the Blood and Tissue Center bus which will be located in the west parking lot. Donors will be seen by appointment; the actual blood donation usually takes less than 10 minutes but donors should allow about 45 minutes for the process. Please call Lucy Boyea, 345-8314, Ext. 226, if you would like to participate in this life saving, life sustaining process.

The Great Canadian Rocky Mountaineer Train Ride

Led by: Betty and Joe Di Paola

Dates: October 7 - 18, 2003

Itinerary: Round trip from Vancouver to Banff, including Lake Louise and Jasper

Optional: Two-day extension to Victoria

Want More Info? You are invited to see a 20-minute video tape of this spectacular scenic trip at the home of Rosie and John Nieman on June 5, at 7:30 p.m. Please give Rosie a call at 452-5671 for specifics.

Birthdays

June

- 1 Bob Davis, Scott Rankine
- 2 Martha Webb
- 3 Lynn Smith
- 4 David Houston
- 5 Erin Buegner, Rob Tomisak
- 6 Virginia Shotts
- 7 Dean Busboom, Anna Dodge, Caroline Neale, Dan Wilkins
- 8 Michael McGettigan
- 9 Nalette Butler, Clare Coleman, Danny Henshaw, Laurie Kafena, Ron Kelly, Aric Mann, Joyce Scott, Rachel Stephens
- 11 Bronson Dorsey, Mason Hale, Charlie Vazquez
- 12 Patrick Mihm, David Onion
- 13 James Durrenberger, Mary-Lynn Polk, Martha Schorre, Alina Wasmuth
- 14 Amanda Fowle-Bindel, Nancy Jameson, Lucy Koy, William Maynard
- 15 Emilia Douglass, Clark McCollum
- 17 Elizabeth Carson, Harry Deans, Doris Norton
- 18 Andy Bursk
- 19 Patty Baker, Lauren Kirchem, Devon McLay, David Puryear, Peggy Ryder
- 20 Carol Keskkula, Debbie Meleski
- 21 Buddy Hagman, Kailynn Powell, Daniel Smith
- 22 Andy Godwin
- 23 Steven Brooke, Merle Garwood, Clyde Prestwood, Caroline Wade
- 24 Steve Dillawn, Jane Preston, Emily Venincasa
- 25 Connor Smith
- 26 Livia Affleck, Larry Carpenter, Shari Thorn
- 27 Ray Bass, Anna Grace Burnette, Sara Soto, Stephanie Sweeney
- 28 David Barrow, Jr., Becky Novak
- 29 Mary Anderson, Kelly Looney, Judy Neely, Bill Rossen
- 30 Stephen Battaglia, Stephanie Battaglia, Lucas Hatlen, Lauren Thomas

July

- 1 Vicki DeWeese, Larry Miller, Amy Thomas
- 2 Larry Simons, Scott Telfer, Mark Udelhofen
- 3 Jim Bennett, William Dillawn, Alyssa Farmer, Jennifer Fisher, Timothy McGettigan
- 4 Clare Brock, Jon Mercado, Laura Strange, Amanda Williams
- 5 Lindy Buckley, Marty Novak, Marti Price
- 6 Jacqueline Malloy, Emily Mihm
- 7 John Hart, Patrick Naeve

Births

Savannah Elizabeth Cantor
was born April 21, 2003
to Adrianne and Gerald Cantor.

Brandon Gregory Wright
was born April 27, 2003,
to Marilyn and Kenneth Wright.

Lucy Helen Decherd
was born April 30, 2003,
to Caroline and Michael Decherd,
granddaughter of
Holly and Jonathan Decherd.

Tristan Scott Downey
was born May 7, 2003,
to Cat Deans Downey and Jesse Downey,
grandson of Beth and Harry Deans.

Deaths

Mabel Sanderson,
mother of Sandy Holt,
died May 17, 2003.

The Heifer Project: The Saints Of St. Matthew's Have Done It Again

by Cynthia Wilson

The Arks are ready to sail! We are sending \$7,217.54 to the Heifer Project. The Heifer Project has matching funds available for Rwanda and Honduras.

This means that more than three arks full of animals will be sent along with instructions about how to raise the animals, supplies to house them, and medicine to keep them safe.

It is such a blessing to think about the difference it will make in impoverished villages in these countries. As the animals multiply, there will be food, clothing, and money to buy medicine. Best of all, the gift will keep on giving as neighbors share with one another.

Thanks to all the groups in the church that joined together to buy animals. Ark Banks full of coins were collected by the Day School and the Sunday School. Young people gave their allowance or gave up cokes for Lent. The Daughters of the King, Community of Hope, the Search Committee, the Prime Timers, Tuesday Night Bible Study, Thursday Bible Study, Order of St. Luke all joined together to help.

Thanks to all those who bought animals to honor people they love. Particularly thanks to the parents and grand parents who bought animals as a way of teaching their children about sharing. Blessings Abound!

Opening Our Hearts Through the Arts: September 6

Celebrate creativity and the spiritual journey at an arts festival featuring painting and sculpture exhibits, authors' readings, music, literature and dance performances, children's activities and much more. For additional information or to volunteer your time and ideas, please call Sharon Lowe. *Save the date!*

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 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 July issue
of *The Word* is**

Friday, June 13, 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.**

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Tom Canby
David Harakal
Warren Marshall
Charlie Cole
Holly Dechard

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Communications

Personnel

Stewardship

Outreach

Lay Ministry Councils

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Jeri Muhich
Milt Williams
Elaine Goessling
Sue Kinney
Steve Brock

Children

Newcomers

Parish Life

Pastoral Care

Worship

Youth

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