

The ST. Matthew's Word

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

Lent is a Lab for Love

This is not just a silly alliteration. Lent is a forty day sojourn into our human nature, wherein we search ourselves and find ourselves mortal: in other words, broken, and needy. The church has invited us to walk the pilgrim path of Lent, insisting that we, like Jesus, must enter the wilderness to discover our true selves.

Where do we turn?

What do we find in the wilderness of human living? What do I find when I take seriously the call to observe a Holy Lent? (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 265) In self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial, by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word, I find my self as I really am. I find my community as it really is. Much loved by God. Much encouraged by God.

My Small Heart

I also find myself unable to accept that love, desiring to trivialize love by a search for moralistic answers or certainties about God that place God in a little bitty manageable box in my office. I discover that all of life is a laboratory, a testing ground where we can learn to love or choose to remain ignorant or trapped in our current spats, weak relationships or prejudices.

Surrender again and again

All of us need help. We need to repent. We need to change and be changed. The Christian movement is a pulsation of the Spirit that takes all of our lives into account. The good, the bad and the ugly. We are invited to lay it all before God and encounter that surprising Love that created the universe and establishes it's wide, merciful boundaries.

Lenten Attention

Lent is a time for deep thinking and deep silence. Lent is a time for special attention to our souls. Please study this edition of the Word. The church is gathering again and again, in order to deepen our understanding and commitment to the spiritual life. We are retreating and praying and studying together. Again, I encourage you to come to the Bell Tower for Evening Prayer each night at 6:00 p.m. Daily devotions are at the heart of the unity and purpose of our common lives.

As your Rector, I know I need encouragement to be still and let God be God. I need encouragement to grow in love in order to allow the true Love to fill me and spread through me. I want to offer you that same encouragement as well. ☩

God bless you, one and all.

Merrill

A Funny Thing Happened Today on Mesa Drive

BY LAVANNE SCOTT

I saw Hilder, the heifer; Rob, the rabbit; Bill, the buffalo; Lanny, the llama; Charlene, the chicken; Don, the duck; Gordon, the goose; Susan, the sheep; Patrick, the pig; Connie, the camel; Owen, the ox; Bertha, the bee; Delbert, the donkey; Gilbert, the goat; and Connie, the cow. And they each had a friend. (Remember, two by two.)

Also there was one man out front leading the parade. He was wearing a long robe but I couldn't tell for sure if it was Noah, the Nauticalist or Merrill, the Minister.

The friendly animals that are purchased for the Heifer Project (www.heifer.org) will help some very needy families by providing eggs and milk for food, wool for clothing or even work by pulling a plow. By contributing during Lent, you will begin a chain of life that will continue for generations. By making this sacrifice you will provide just the right gift, for the right people, at the right time and in the right way.

Your help is urgently needed to fill the vacant rooms still available in the Ark, so we encourage you to respond today. Hopefully you will make this a family affair allowing each member to feel they are a part. Can you come up with better names for the animals you want to purchase for the Ark?

We know this will be a blessing to each one of you and to your family. There is room for a lot more animals on the Ark. Please respond today. For any questions please contact Lori "the Lamb" Murphy at 336-9879. ☩

Let's Tee It Up – One More Time!

BY MILT WILLIAMS

The seventh monthly St. Matthew's golf outing will be held at the Blackhawk course beginning at 9:28 a.m. on March 5. We have three tee times. The cost is \$20 for seniors (over 55) and \$25 for those younger (plus taxes). You may recall we had our first fund raising golf tournament there in April, 2002 (it is vastly improved).

To get to Blackhawk, go Mopac to Parmer Lane, turn right (east) to Dessau Rd. (traffic light), turn left (north) for several miles to Kelley Road. (not as far as Star Ranch--traffic light plus signs), turn right for several miles, course is on the left. For those not wanting to drive, we will carpool from the church at 8:30 a.m. Call Milt Williams (345-0499) to register. If you do register or have a change in plans, please call me. ☘

Fresh as Spring Rain...

BY AMY TUVELL

Well maybe not that clean but we are going to be cleaning and polishing St. Matthew's for Easter. Spring Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to noon. We'll be working on indoor tasks only. Mary Nell Frucella will be making the list and supervising the tasks. Expect kitchen cleaning and pill bug sweeping to be at the top of the list. If you can, please bring rags and cleaning supplies. This is the same weekend as the Men's Retreat (it has been said that they'll be clearing brush) so we'll be giving the Holy Smoker's some time off. The goal is to finish before lunch so everyone can head to Luby's. ☘

Day School Update

BY MICHAEL MCCOLLUM

Our annual spring fundraiser is approaching! Friday, March 5 is La Noche, a wonderful event you surely won't want to miss. This year it will be held at the Austin Country Club and the evening will include (\$35) dinner with both silent and live auctions. La Noche is our (your) best opportunity to support St. Matthew's Day School's future growth and enrichment programs, and to show our commitment to the school as a congregation. See you there!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION ~ SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bob Lively to Lead St. Matthew's First Men's Retreat

BY BILL KJELLSTRAND

About 60 men from St. Matthew's will gather for an overnight retreat on Friday and Saturday, March 26-27, at Down Home Ranch near Elgin. Registration for the retreat is \$60. The registration covers the costs of the retreat, meals and overnight accommodations in rustic, but comfortable dormitory-style bunk houses. The Men's Retreat is the over overnight gathering for men, although men's group activities have been a part of St. Matthew's programs for many years.

Focus of the retreat will be "Spiritual Transformation," with three sessions led by the Rev. Bob Lively. Bob will share his personal experiences as well as give each attendee some thoughtful and challenging questions to discuss in small groups and ponder independently. A gifted writer, speaker and leader, Bob has written two books on recovery and is currently a teacher and pastoral counselor at Riverbend Church. His most recent book, published in 2001, is *God Help Me through Today: The 23rd Psalm Revisited*. Bob has spoken at St. Matthew's occasionally, most recently as part of the 2004 Great Teacher Series.

The retreat will include a Compline service on Friday night and Holy Communion as a closing service Saturday afternoon, both led by the Rev. James Williams, former associate pastor of St. Matthew's and now a retired priest and member of the church. Men attending will also have time to medi-

tate and explore personal issues, as well as to enjoy a respite from everyday life and responsibilities. There will also be several fellowship activities, with music led by Bill Smith.

The retreat will be held at Down Home Ranch, located outside of Elgin. The ranch is run by Judy and Jerry Horton and was initiated for children and adults affected by Down's syndrome. The 267-acre facility is a working ranch and includes a pool, basketball hoop, pond, cemetery and elaborate gardens with four greenhouses for growing commercial plants. Long-time Episcopalians, the Hortons have visited St. Matthew's on numerous occasions and have received support through various St. Matthew's outreach programs. The retreat will also include a service project for Down Home Ranch.

Interested men may send a check for \$60 to the church office. Scholarships are available: if interested, please ask the Rev. Merrill Wade. If you need special accommodations or special foods, please indicate that on your registration form. Information, the retreat agenda, and a registration form are included in a brochure posted on the St. Matthew's website, www.stmattsaustin.org. For more information or to register, call Scott Murphy, registrar, 750-2727. ☘

Senior Sentences

BY LUCY A. BOYEA, MINISTER OF SENIOR ACTIVITIES

The following is an excerpt from an article written by R. Douglas Spitler, President of the Episcopal Retirement Homes in the Diocese of Southern Ohio:

"If you believe the church's role is to benefit the broader community and, consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ, to reach out to people in need, I think this is a logical way for the diocese and Episcopal parishes to extend their ministry. I think it is a way of promoting the church—If we're able to provide a valuable service to the broader community, the church certainly has a stronger presence and a stronger image."

St. Matthew's Senior Activity Center strives to "benefit the broader community" by offering recreational and educational activities which enable participants to interact with each other in a nurturing environment. In so doing, we believe that SAC provides a valuable service thereby creating "a strong presence and a stronger image" in our community. ☘

Adult Retreat at Laity Lodge

SUBMITTED BY JIM MYERS

Sign up in the Commons now for St. Matthew's 2004 Adult Retreat at Laity Lodge.

When:

April 23, 24, 25, 2004

Who:

All adult members of St. Matthew's new or long time, young or old, married or single, etc.

Where:

For those unfamiliar with Laity Lodge, it is located in a canyon on a low bluff overlooking the Frio River a few miles from its source. It is a quiet, peaceful setting where the main sounds are the songs of birds and the gurgle of the river spilling over a low dam. Absent is the urban noise that so often intrudes on our daily lives. The atmosphere of the place makes it easy to converse and get better acquainted with other attendees or to indulge in quiet contemplation and/or introspection. It is a great place to "relax, refresh and recharge".

What:

A series of inspirational messages presented by retreat leader; sometimes accompanied by personal witnessing by guest lay persons. The retreat usually consists of four presentation sessions, a free time period Saturday afternoon and concludes with a worship service Sunday. Free time activities include

hiking, tennis, reading, fishing (catch & release), power napping, and occasionally artistic endeavors such as working with clay or colors.

Speaker:

The Reverend John Killinger. Taught at Vanderbilt University 15 years. Pastor of churches in Virginia, California and Michigan. Author of over 50 books including *Ten Things I Learned Wrong from a Conservative Church* and *God, the Devil and Harry Potter*.

Facilities:

- ♦ *Black Bluff* - Five suite-like rooms on three levels overlooking river.
- ♦ *The Lodge* - Two story, motel-like with 20 dual occupancy rooms.
- ♦ *Cedar Brake* - Single story 5 dual occupancy rooms.
- ♦ *Waterfall* - Large house type structure with two bedroom/baths
- ♦ *Lodestar* - Single story house 3 dual occupancy plus 1 four person rooms.

Cost:

Black Bluff: \$220 per person.

All Others: \$170 per person.

Deposit: \$50 per person deposit to reserve space.

St. Matthew's Coordinator

Jim Myers - (512) 608-6836

e-mail: jwmyer1@attglobal.net ☞

Retirement Home Ministry

BY MILT AND SARAH WILLIAMS

St. Matthew's has been involved for some years now in providing the Holy Eucharist, Rite I, to the residents of four Austin retirement homes. Along with the communion, old favorite hymns are sung with piano accompaniment. The four homes are Brighton Gardens at 2 p.m. on the fourth Sunday, Renaissance at 3 p.m. on the third Sunday, Heartland at 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday, and the Summit (Mesa) on the third Friday at 11 a.m.

Our rector, Merrill Wade, has routinely been involved in this ministry and is very supportive of the program. Merrill is seeking ways for us to continue. The other priests, Susan, Chuck and Jerry have also conducted the services.

It is a wonderful and rewarding ministry and the residents are most grateful. Sarah and Milt Williams assist with the services. Two retirement homes in particular, Brighton Gardens and Heartland have a number of participants who are somewhat mentally and physically impaired. Help would be appreciated in setting up for the service and in lending a hand to those attendees who have difficulty finding the correct pages as we go through the service. At the Renaissance, Margaret Carpenter and Dot Strance always furnish snacks and punch after the service.

If you might feel that this is a ministry you would like to be a part of, please contact Milt Williams at 345-0499 or MiltSarah@Austin.rr.com ☞

ConneXions Social Hour March 21 Kicks Off Spring Cycle

BY LESLIE AND BILL KJELLSTRAND

Find out what new dinner group you're in at the ConneXions Social Hour at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 21, in Huffman Hall. The event will be the kick-off for 2004 spring-summer cycle of ConneXions dinner groups. Members should bring an hors d'oeuvres, dessert or finger food to share.

If you are currently in ConneXions or want to be in this fellowship group, come to the Social Hour. Meet your new group as well as other members of ConneXions. About eight groups are planned for the new 2003 cycle. Now is the time to join.

What is it? ConneXions consists of groups of about 10 to 12 – couples and singles – who gather for a meal each month in the homes of members during a six-month cycle. You need only make a meal for your group one time in the cycle and then enjoy all the others. The meals can be breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner—whatever works for your group. Each group has a host or host couple to begin the monthly meals and shepherd the group through the cycle. New cycles begin in March and September.

ConneXions is one of St. Matthew's most popular and longest running groups. ConneXions has been active for more than 17 years at St. Matthew's. Many long-term friendships have formed from ConneXions groups and many wonderful dishes have been enjoyed and recipes exchanged.

If you've been considering joining ConneXions, call Leslie and Bill Kjellstrand, ConneXions leaders, 331-2121, or email them at lkjellstrand@austin.rr.com Also, if you are currently in a ConneXions group and need to drop out for a cycle or two, let the Kjellstrands know. If they don't hear from you, they will assume that you want to stay in the program and will assign you to another group.

ConneXions communications are emailed to members. All ConneXions members will receive an email with their new group assignment; if you don't have email, you'll be sent a letter. ☞

Notes From the Nursery

BY TRACEY NICHOLS

Greetings from the Nursery! Just a couple of items this month. One is a reminder. If you are planning to sign up for Parents' Night Out, please remember that there is a sign up sheet on the front desk of the church office every Sunday. There are 10 spaces available each month. If you have signed up and are unable to attend, please cross your name out or phone me at 331-0635 as soon as possible to let me know.

Also, we would greatly appreciate donations of complete toys. Any complete farm sets, complete race car sets, complete block sets or any complete Fisher Price or Little Tikes brand toys are needed. Please, no stuffed animals. Thanks for your assistance.

As always, please contact Tracey Nichols at 331-0653 with any questions concerning the nursery. I would love to hear from you. ☼

Moms and Tots

SUBMITTED BY MARILYN WRIGHT

Moms and Tots has started back with the renewed interest we shared with each other in February. Please mark your calendars for the following dates: March 8th, April 12th and May 10th. Please contact me at least one week prior so we can ensure ample childcare. Call 401-8382 or email mjwright@austin.rr.com Hope to see everyone there.

Web Awareness Alert!

...You forgot to sign up for the Men's Retreat in the Commons after church on Sunday – no problem, the retreat forms can be downloaded from the web site and faxed or mailed to the office.

...You're new to Austin and want to visit Episcopal churches – our web site tells you all about St. Matthew's.

...You're a youth who lost your calendar of youth events for the month – just pull up the calendar on the St. Matthew's web site

There are hundreds of scenarios like these – but never fear, the St. Matthew's web site comes to the rescue.

As wonderful as it is to have a vibrant, up-to-date web site, the material doesn't just magically appear there. St. Matthew's relies on two "web servants" to keep things running. Jeri Muhich, the Content Coordinator, edits and formats material for the web then sends it on to Steve Ryder, who is the technical brains of the site as well as chair of the Communications Commission. As hard as they try to keep up with the many ministries at St. Matthew's for the web, it is a job that has become more difficult as our web site grows and our ministries evolve. And this is where you, the people of St. Matthew's, come in.

It is time for the people of St. Matthew's to become good "Information Stewards."

Information Stewards make sure that the web site accurately reflects each of the ministries of the church, periodically reviewing the web pages of their ministries and notifying Jeri when something is outdated or incorrect. When you use the web site and see something that is outdated, let Jeri know. When you want your program or event publicized as early as possible, send your information to Jeri at the same time you send it to Betty Mitchell, Communications Coordinator, betty@stmattsaustin.org

Being a good Information Steward also involves using all the church communication tools available (Weekly Word, Monthly Word, Web Site and Parish Email). Additionally, when your group's event is publicized on the web, Jeri links to it in the parish email, which currently has over 300 subscribers. When your event is over, check the web site to make sure it has been removed.

Although our web servants gladly maintain the web site, they are volunteers whose many hours of volunteer labor could be made much easier if everyone at St. Matthew's would work at being good Information Stewards. Send updated web information to Jeri Muhich at: jerim@austin.rr.com ☼

Children's Ministry Calendar – March 2004

Sunday School Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Children are checked in by their parents:

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

Chapel Schedule

10:30 a.m. Primary and Children's chapels

- Children follow the cross from the early part of church service
- OR Children are transitioned directly from Sunday School

Level I	3 yrs. (by Sept.1) – Kinder	B-21
Level II	1st – 3rd Grades	B-14

During the Month

Do chores galore and earn \$\$\$\$ to "Help Fill the Ark"

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	6 p.m. Lenten Supper; 6:40 Lent Around the World kids program
March 4	Communion Class - Final Thursday meeting
March 5 & 6	Communion Class Retreat
March 7	4/5th Grade SS kicks off Heifer Project among parish children
March 7	Communion Service and Luncheon
March 7, 14, 21, 28	4 - 6 p.m., Are You Game? Kid-Fun
March 9	Parenting Series - Tracey Wolf, Speech Therapist
March 16	Noon, Children's Council in B-16

Looking Ahead

Apr. 4	Palm Sunday Procession
Apr. 9	5:30-6:45 p.m. Good Friday, Children's Stations of the Cross
Apr. 11	Easter Sunday – No Sunday School; see Schedule insert
Apr. 18, 25	Chorus Rehearsals
Apr. 23, 24	Level II, Catechesis Training

St. Matthew's Youth Council

BY JUDY NEELY

There is lots of energy, enthusiasm and excitement under this umbrella!

As the youth have moved through the past four years in the Journey to Adulthood program, St. Matthew's has been blessed to have the leadership of Eric Liles serving as Youth Minister. We have participated in Sunday Morning Youth Group, Wednesday Night Youth Group, numerous Camp Allen retreats, Happening and Y.E.S. Weekends, Lock-Ins, trips to Enchanted Rock, Zilker Park, and Schlitterbahn, Christian Leadership Conferences, Movie Nights, Vacation Bible School, Mission trips to Juarez, Mexico, as well as local outreach service activities. As you can see, we are a very busy bunch.

The Journey to Adulthood program begins with the 6th Grade Sunday Morning Youth Group, led by John Bindel and Amanda Fowle-Bindel, Carol Farmer, and Bella Scanland, and meets in Huffman Hall. The Rite 13 Class - 7th Graders this year, meet in the Chrysalis Cottage, and are led by Laura Adolph and Steve Brock. The J2A Class is 8th, 9th, and 10th Graders, meeting in the Youth Building, and is led by Christine Joannidi, Scott Telfer, and Judy Neely. The YAC Class is 11th and 12th Graders, meeting in B-10, and is led by Jerry Ballard, Margaret Carpenter and Heather Walter. This is the first year that the Journey to Adulthood program has added the YAC (Young Adult Class) because most of the

students in the YAC successfully worked together over the past two years leading up to the first St. Matthew's Pilgrimage trip to Iona, Scotland. (Remember the flamingo flockings?!)

WHEN and WHERE:

The Youth Council meets every month (except July and August) on the second Thursday, 7 to 8 pm. in the Youth Building.

Here is the WHO on the council:

Chairperson: Jay Robison
Youth Minister: Eric Liles
Movie Nights Rep: Kristi Robison
Vestry Rep: Jerry Ballard
Clergy Rep: Susan Barnes
Adult Leaders from the 6th Grade, Rite 13, J2A, and YAC Sunday Morning classes.

Right now, we are in need of one student rep and one parent rep from each class to participate in the Youth Council. If you have a son or daughter in one of these classes, please talk to the adult leaders in the class to find out how you can help!

Finally, if you are a member of the St. Matthew's Parish, remember that the most important field of Evangelism is right here at St. Matthew's in the youth that you see every Sunday. They are at a very critical time in their lives. Greet them, talk to them, and offer your help in the program. The more we provide a loving, supportive parish and "embrace" the youth in our church, the more we will be doing "To Know Christ, and To Make Him Known"! ☼

Youth Ministry News From the Rector

I write to inform the parish that after three years of fruitful ministry as your Youth Minister, Eric Liles will retire from that work to pursue new ministries. Eric has recently been through a parish discernment experience and the Diocesan Commission on Ministry has recommended to Bishop Wimberly that Eric enter seminary this next fall. Eric will be meeting with Bishop Wimberly in March and will find out if the Bishop will approve him for seminary at that time. Should Eric not begin seminary this fall, he will pursue secular employment. Eric's last day will be May 31, 2004. Eric's departure will be sad for our church yet it will give us a fresh opportunity to gather our youth, parents and clergy together for planning and executing new ministries. In the meantime, Eric is committed to a vital and fulfilling youth ministry at St. Matthew's and will desire opportunities to meet with parents and youth as he prepares to leave. We will, of course, have plenty of time to say good-bye to Eric as the time for his departure approaches. ☼

Youth March Calendar

Mar 6	6-7 p.m. 7-8:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper (\$3) Youth Group
Mar 7	9-10:15 a.m. 10:30-12	Sunday Morning Youth Group Worship
Mar 10	6-7 p.m. 7-8:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper (\$3) Youth Group
Mar 11	7-9 p.m.	Youth Council
Mar 14	9-10:15 a.m. 10:30-12	Sunday Morning Youth Group Worship
Mar 17	6-7 p.m. 7-8 p.m.	Lenten Supper (\$3) No Youth Group, Bob Lively in Huffman
Mar 18	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Game Day, Zilker Park, bring picnic lunch
Mar 19	7-10 p.m.	Concert, Newsboys, Rebecca St. James + more
Mar 21	9-10:15 a.m. 10:30-12	Sunday Morning Youth Group Worship
Mar 24	6-7 p.m. 7-8:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper (\$3) Youth Group
Mar 28	9-10:15 a.m. 10:30-12 6-8:30 p.m.	Sunday Morning Youth Group Worship Movie Night
Mar 31	6-7 p.m. 7-8 p.m.	Lenten Supper (\$3) Joining Church to listen to St. Andrew's Upper School Choir

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A Glimpse Into the Mystery

BY BARBARA PITTS, CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Recently overheard: **The fourth grader who flew into her dad's arm upon returning from the Diocesan Intermediate Youth Retreat exclaiming, "Dad, I made six new friends!" **The second grade boy who complained when Communion Class ended each Thursday.

Have you ever had one of those periods when "urgent" matters usurped the time you had carefully set aside for doing the "important?" Recent events intruded on my office time, enough that I was feeling thwarted in my efforts to do what I longed to do, namely catch up with some families I either hadn't gotten to see lately or haven't gotten to know well since their arrival among us, as well as spend more time with the parishioners who serve our children. Yet, in the midst of managing logistical issues, reports, finances, emails, purchases, and meetings, in the midst of feeling frustrated, I realized I had a sense of joy that would not be pushed away.

I realized I felt joy because of the growth I was experiencing. My vision of what a church could be for children was being stretched and I was growing. Before, I had considered it important for a church to minister to children by providing a unique opportunity to experience God – primarily through education (more accurately, formation), as well as by providing general opportunities for worship and fellowship. I believed that a church's primary role was to help children connect with, and live in relationship with, God, trusting that they would make some "church friends" to help them along the way, and that their global life experience would round them out. Now, I was – am – seeing that we are in a generation where children need more support available from their church. We need to provide a microcosm of the global experience, so that children bond not only with God, but also have more diverse ways to connect and bond.

Through asking God to make me teachable and bring me new understandings to serve our children, I have spoken with people who have certain personal visions, as if each holds one piece of a common puzzle. I am finding other puzzle pieces through reading and study.

Among these puzzle pieces, I'm learning that because this generation has been thrust into "hyper-reality" through video games, computing, Internet, television, etc., they are less in contact with the physical, causing

Children's Chorus Sings with Joy

BY SHANNON MAGEE, DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The Children's Chorus' fledging year has been such a gift to me! Our group of fourteen children (all girls at this point), grades 2-5, send God's love each time they open their mouths to share their gifts and love of music with their St. Matthew's family. These delightful young ladies committed in the fall to share their gifts with our parish. If you see them, please thank them for their dedication, their gift--and even their courage at singing for our whole parish!

February 22 was their most recent "Singing Sunday." Fr. Wade most generously offered the invitation to our girls to sign and sing The Lord's Prayer in front of the altar during the offertory. We met each Sunday, during chapel time for six weeks to learn and practice our signs and song. The dedication of each child as they practiced with their own videos each week was amazing! The bonds between these angels is a beautiful sight to behold!

My favorite part of this experience has been watching and nurturing these bonds of our children. We have had a ceramics party, an after church luncheon with their families, and (best of all) a kidnap breakfast where we went into each house at 7:00 a.m., got the girls out of bed, and took them to breakfast at Marie Callendars in their pajamas! Thanks to all of the parents who have

Allie Blumhagen
Erin Buerchner
Shelby Bursk
Eleanor Carl
Elisabeth Carl
Kailey Davis
Alex Dolan

supported these events--especially getting up before 7:00 on a Saturday morning!

On our singing Sundays, you will see our Chorus in black skirts and white blouses, each adorned with a beautiful painted handmade terra-cotta cross around their necks with ribbon in the color of the season. (Many, many thanks to our lovely St. Matthew's ladies who sewed the Velcro on the backs of each ribbon for our girls!) Additionally, the ribbons are embellished with special pins that each child has earned (like scouting badges). Each song we learn has requirements to earn the pin.

Our next Singing Sunday is Mother's Day. Each child in the Chorus signed a contract in the Fall to attend each rehearsal. For Mother's Day, we invite any and all interested children (boys and girls) to join us! Please contact me or Barbara Pitts, St. Matthew's Children's Minister, should you have any questions or interest in joining.

We wanted to take baby steps this first year, and the support of Father Wade and my partner in this endeavor, Barbara Pitts has been fabulous. God willing, our children will continue to make their Joyful Sound in the coming years. In closing, I thank you, my St. Matthew's family, and my Lord for the gift of these children and this experience. ❧

Elizabeth Hart
Katherine Magee
Ashley Nicholson
Molly Price
Caroline Wade
Marissa Wasmuth
Caroline Webb

and, on occasion, our VERY junior members:

Laurel Claire Webb and Bobby Magee

a sense of disembodiment, loneliness, and isolation. Spiritual development becomes intentional for them as they then reach for the real.

Finally, I'm aware that St. Matthew's is uniquely poised to respond to these needs. Many of our members hold puzzle pieces that reveal ways to meet either the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, or physical needs of our children. I see, in a new way, how we have been trying first one, and then another, of the pieces, to lay out the frame and fill in the puzzle. And the children have

shown me that they will be the guides to our accuracy.

While I suspect the urgent will always try to overtake the important, and while I suspect the puzzle is never quite finished, I also suspect that growth and joy can continue as we fit our pieces together. ❧

Birthdays

March

- 1 Betty Dees, Bailey Pownall, Alex Soto
- 2 Doug Doerr, Harriet Houston, Sidney Lock, Joe McLean
- 3 John Nieman
- 4 Adrienne Williams
- 5 Adam Harmon, Stephen Kahlke, Stephanie McCollum
- 6 Samantha Shanks
- 7 Marjorie Bounds, John Eastberg, Elizabeth Moon
- 8 Barbara Pitts
- 9 Kevin Pownall, Mikey Young
- 10 Vada Dillawn, Donald Edwards, Beth Ann Sikes, R.C. Thompson
- 11 Jack Eccles, Jennifer Jones, Megan Lilley, William Wood
- 12 Krista Davis, John Eastberg
- 13 Josh Dugat, Shirley Dyer, Emily Eastberg, Jonathan Fisher, Katie Lane, Michael Newman, Mary Sidney Squires
- 14 Mike Affleck, Jim Gaines, Bob Pennybacker, Garrett Scanland
- 15 Karen Hooker, Thilde Smith
- 16 Marge Marshall, Laura Powell, Sherm Strance
- 17 Becky Graves, Ryan McGillicuddy
- 18 Colleen Hagman, Don Neely, Kenneth Wright
- 19 Dab Cauley, Diana Dworaczyk, Pat Yeagain
- 20 Amy DeWeese, William Powell, Stephanie Wiesehuegal
- 21 Michaela Telfer
- 22 Allison Price, Matt Ruka, Shanon Sutherland
- 23 Barbara Borden, Doris Dixon, Lisa Ottenbacher
- 24 Justin Clitheroe, James Helfrich, Hink Johnson
- 25 Henno Keskkula
- 27 Dana Bushong, Kailey Davis, Timothy Lawrence
- 28 Eleanor Carl
- 29 Allyson Tinker
- 30 Trisha Abrahamson, Pat Cauble, Sue Gregerson, Jim Lyons
- 31 Alsede Hogan, Johnny Moncure, Charlotte Nichols

April

- 1 Alan Carson, Cheryl Coldwater McLay, Carolyn Huffman, Michael Kulchisky
- 2 Will Brown, Meagan Hagman, Michael Meleski, Jim Myers
- 3 Suzanne Daniel, Barbara Hilliard, Cornelia LeMond, Michael Novak, Steven Wood
- 4 Joyce Evans, David Kahlke
- 5 Michael Levy, Andrew Newmiller, Stacy Strobusch, Carlos Vazquez
- 6 Jill Smith, Missy Ward
- 7 Beth Billman, Paul Nieman, Rosemary Sorenson

Memorials

In memory of
Marguerita Chapman
 by
 Holly and Jonathan Decherd
 Betty Mitchell
 Kate and Tom Canby
 Marcia Bailey
 Betty and Jim Newman
 Doris and Bill Donnell
 Kay and Jerry Ballard

In memory of
John Lock
 by
 Kay and Leon Whitney
 Robert Myers
 Kay and Jerry Ballard
 Marjorie and Bert Hooper

New Members

Heidi Murphy
 Sarah Murphy

A Tribute to Will Spong

BY DAB CAULEY

The Reverend Dr. Will Spong died February 3, 2004. How many of us at St. Matthew's knew Will Spong? Many, if not most of us. How many of us have been enriched by Will Spong's ministry of preaching, teaching, performing, pasturing, etc.? All of us, hundreds perhaps even thousands, of Christian lives all over the world have been enriched through his efforts at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest these many years.

Will filled the pulpit at St. Matthew's on numerous occasions when we were between rectors. The first was in 1973, then 1991, 1996 and lastly as our Interim Rector from October 2000 to January 2001.

Will was one of the first guest speakers when we started the Adult Education hour in 1974. Immediately he became a regular favorite speaker, entertainer, and musician at the adult hour, and was a regular in the Great Teachers Series of 2001, 2002 and 2003. Through story and song he emphasized over and over again the need we all have to heed Christ's first and great commandment – to love God with all our heart, mind and body and to love one another as we love ourselves.

Some have said that our Christian journey here on earth is to discover our God-given talents and help others discover theirs, and then to use them to build up the church, which is the Body of Christ. I know of no one who was more blessed with God-given talent or more effective in putting those talents to work in building up the Body of Christ, than Will Spong.

Will, we thank you with all our hearts. And Lord, we thank you for empowering your servant, Will, in such wonderful ways. We are forever grateful for having known Will Spong and receiving so much from his loving ministry. He will be greatly missed here on earth. ✠

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(512) 345-8314 ♦ FAX (512) 346-2085

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 **April** issue
of *The Word* is
Friday, March 19, 2004
at 5:00 p.m. Email your article
to betty@stmattsAustin.org
Articles may be edited for content
and length.

Vestry Commission Chairs

David Barrow, Jr. and Mary Nell Frucella
Buildings and Grounds
Dawn Neely *Finance*
Steve Ryder *Communications*
Warren Marshall *Personnel*
Charlie Cole *Stewardship*
Holly Decherd *Outreach*

Lay Ministry Councils

Stephanie McCollum *Children*
Leon Whitney *Adult Education*
Jeri Muhich *Newcomers*
Milt Williams *Parish Life*
Elaine Goessling *Pastoral Care*
Sue Kinney *Worship*
Jay Robison *Youth*

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Dean Fisher, Michael Mashburn, Millie Roden

Staff

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The Rev. Susan J. Barnes *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Charles Huffman *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Jerry Chapman *Assisting Clergy*
The Rev. George I. Wilson *Assisting Clergy*
Dave Bowman *Business Manager*
Lucy Boyea *Minister of Senior Activities*
Margaret Carpenter *Bookkeeper*
Suzanne Daniel *Interim Music Ministry*
Barbara Haynes *Administrative Assistant*
Eric Liles *Youth Minister*
Cary Michaels *Interim Music Ministry*
Betty Mitchell *Communications Coordinator*
Tracey Nichols *Nursery Coordinator*
Dedee Norman *Membership Coordinator*
Barbara Pitts *Children's Minister*

Vestry

Kate Canby (219-8693) *Senior Warden*
David Price (371-0248) *Vestry Warden*
Kathy Vail (343-7367) *People's Warden*
John Muhich (452-1210) *Treasurer*
Bert Hooper (346-6675) *Chancellor*
Clif Steed (346-4255) *Clerk*
Members—Jerry Ballard, Pat Boon, Babs Clendenin,
Charlie Cole, Bill Donnell, Reid Kirchem, Kevin
McGillicuddy, Warren Marshall, Debbie Meleski,
Don Neely Jr., Susan Robertson, Jay Robison
Assigned Vestry Members for March—
Kate Canby and Babs Clendenin