

the st. matthew's word

Notes From The Rector

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

This week Susan Barnes and I attended the annual Clergy Conference of the Diocese of Texas, held at Camp Allen. It was a relaxing and stimulating week for me and I give thanks for the warm welcome I have received from the clergy of this diocese. This was the final Clergy Conference hosted by our diocesan bishop, The Rt. Rev. Claude Payne. Bishop Payne has, as you know, announced that he will retire next summer and will pass the crozier to Bishop Don Wimberly at that time. In number of members, congregations, and clergy, the Diocese of Texas is one of the largest dioceses in the Episcopal Church. I have never seen so many clergy together at a diocesan conference! I am quite proud to be a priest in this diocese and I assure you that the bishops and clergy surrounding us care very deeply about the health and future of St. Matthew's. St. Matthew's is respected for many reasons. One key reason is the large number of clergy who were lay people in this parish, or were trained as seminarians or young priests here.

St. Matthew's has an important role to play in the Diocese of Texas. We are considered a "resource-sized" congregation, which means that we have the congregational size and strength, the facilities and the staff to help the diocese and other congregations in their work. Our Bishop stresses the deep truth that each Episcopal congregation is profoundly connected to all the congregations of the Diocese. We are "one church" in this diocese, and as a further truth, we are one church with the whole of the Episcopal

Church. This communion is a sign of the unity all believers have in Christ, and the source of that spiritual unity is the Holy Spirit.

The topic of our Clergy Conference this year was "reconciliation." This subject is and was, weighty, and it led to many tough but important conversations on issues like war with Iraq, the effect of divorce on clergy and lay people, dissolved



pastoral relationships, broken promises, corporate business practices and numerous other involved and complicated ethical and moral issues. One thing became clear, there are broken relationships all over the church, this nation and the world. And another thing became abundantly clear, sincere prayer and faithfulness to Christ and our Baptismal Covenant with God are parts of the solution. Presiding Bishop Griswold is urging the church to "wage reconciliation" wherever there is brokenness. Ponder that!

I am deeply impressed with Camp Allen. Camp Allen is a magnificent facility including an excellent hotel and dining hall, fine conference rooms and gorgeous

scenery. Many of you have never driven the 2 hours east to Camp Allen. You should! Next summer Eric Liles and I will be directing a 5th and 6th grade session at one of the three campsites at Camp Allen. Now is the time for parents and grandparents to begin to plan for summer camps with the Diocese of Texas. We will soon be posting the schedule and Eric and I strongly urge you to take advantage of the summer camping opportunities we offer for children from the 3rd grade through high school. I am convinced that our children are truly renewed in their spirit after a camp session. It is a wonderful spiritual gift to offer them.

How many of you are in touch with our first-class web site here at St. Matthew's? Our web site is state of the art and is an important tool for communicating with one another and the world around us. I want to thank Jeri Muhich, Steve Ryder and David Harakal for being the main workers, but I also want to acknowledge the contribution of the entire Communication Commission and Betty Mitchell in the office. The web site is an excellent way to stay connected with your parish. Remember www.stmattsAustin.org

Our adult education program for Sunday mornings is now in full swing. I am so grateful for the wide variety of excellent teachers we possess in this parish. Adult education is extremely important! Many parents of young children return to the church because they want their young children to receive Christian Education and I sincerely believe we offer excellent children's educational ministries here at St. Matthew's. I can't say enough about the incredible job

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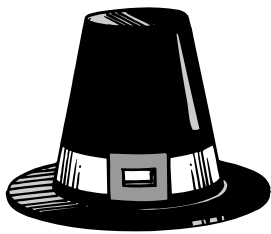
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Barbara Pitts and the Children's Council are doing to create a safe and nurturing learning environment for children. On the other hand, perhaps the biggest gift we can give our children is to be in Sunday school ourselves! Children can sense what is important and if they see us as parents engaged in growth and education, they are more apt to respect the Sunday school they attend. This is the reason adult Sunday school runs simultaneously with Sunday school for children. Christian Education is a life-long commitment and we are all in this together!

Finally, I want to urge you to continue to intercede for our President, George Bush, and all the leaders of this nation and other nations in this most stressful time. Please continue to pray for those who serve in harm's way and those who seek to protect others and preserve peace.

Faithfully,

Merrill Wade



Thanksgiving Eve Service

On Wednesday evening, November 27, at 7:15 p.m. St. Matthew's will join with the congregation of Triumphant Love Lutheran Church for the Annual Joint Thanksgiving Service. It has been the tradition to alternate locations each year and this year it the service will be at Triumphant Love Church, 9508 Great Hills Trail. Their pastor, The Rev. Norbert Firnhaber, and our own clergy will participate along with choirs from both churches. A reception will follow the service. Please plan to attend this service as we give thanks to the one from whom all blessings flow.

Our Vision

"To know Christ and to make Him known" is the mission statement upon which St. Matthew's ministries are founded and the creed by which we live.

In April 2001, the vestry appointed a Vision Committee to assist the congregation in defining its vision of the future. More than 120 parishioners who participated in Vision Day said they wanted a vibrant, energetic congregation. The two main themes that summed up the Vision Day responses were that St. Matthew's become:

- ♦ An entire parish in Bible study, small groups, tithing and involved in lay ministry, with standing room only at all of our services, and
- ♦ One of the top 10 Episcopal Churches nationally measured by spirituality, outreach, attendance, budget, and membership.

Responses to the questions asked on Vision Day essentially portray St. Matthew's to be a community that:

- ♦ wants a clear sense of mission,
- ♦ provides quality programs for all age groups (children, youth, adults) to equip them for life and ministry,
- ♦ accepts and incorporates the diversity of its membership,
- ♦ provides rich worship in a variety of forms,
- ♦ encourages the laity to develop and use their diverse gifts in ministry,
- ♦ promotes spiritual growth, increased membership, and financial stability,
- ♦ maintains a loving spirit,
- ♦ welcomes and assimilates newcomers,
- ♦ has pastoral leadership that is spiritual, professional, caring, and visionary, and
- ♦ extends its ministry into the wider community.

These Vision Day ideals support the priorities of the parish: pastoral care, open communications, a focus on children and youth, lay leadership, stewardship, evangelism, outreach, the appreciation of diversity among us and, importantly, fellowship.

Spirituality: Beginning with Prayer

by Susan Barnes, Assistant Rector

"I strongly suspect that if we saw all the differences even the tiniest of our prayers make, and all the people those little prayers were destined to affect, and all the consequences of those prayers down through the centuries, we would be so paralyzed with awe at the power of prayer that we could be unable to get up off our knees for the rest of our lives." (Peter Kreeft, professor of philosophy, Boston University)

Prayer is the rock upon which we build our relationship with God. It is the center of our spiritual life. As such, it is the proper place to begin our study of Christian Spirituality.

On Tuesday night, November 12, at 6 p.m., St. Matthew's will start the first of a series of Adult Education courses in Spirituality with a four-part study of prayer. Sponsored by the Daughters of the King and taught by me, the course will meet monthly, on the second Tuesday.

The source I'll be using for this course is a wonderful new book, *In God's Presence: Theological Reflections on Prayer*, by Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki. Purchase of the book is not required, but recommended. The schedule for the course is listed below.

If you want to purchase the book through St. Matthew's, please let Barbara Haynes know no later than November 5, by phoning the church office or emailing: office@stmattsAustin.org

November 12: Images of God; Conditions for Prayer (Suchocki chapters 1-3)

December 10: Intercessory Prayer; Healing Prayer (chapters 4-5)

January 14: Prayers of Personal and Corporate Confession (chapters 6-7)

February 11: Liturgical Prayers, The Lord's Prayer; Prayers of Thanksgiving (chapters 8-10)

Vestry Elections: A Letter From the Senior Warden

by Jack Eccles

Please mark your calendar for January 12, 2003. It is time for fun and the annual Parish Meeting. (At St. Matthew's, fun and Parish Meeting are synonymous.) Jack Ryfle will be organizing the chili cook off and all chefs (and pretenders) are welcome and encouraged to enter this highly sophisticated and delectably delightful event. (Please bring your own antacids). There will also be awards for presentation so get together and think of an outlandish get-up.

On a more serious note, we will be reporting to the congregation on the status of this church of God we call St. Matthew's and elect a new vestry. We will be electing five new vestry members to replace Bob Ascott, David Barrow, Jack Eccles, Mary Nell Frucella and Bob Wood. The first four of this group have served their full term and are not eligible for reelection. Bob Wood filled a vacancy created by a resignation and therefore is eligible for reelection. We will also be electing candidates for Diocesan Council and the Special Gifts Committee. All are important posts.

Vestry members are elected for a three-year term. Requirements and responsibilities are listed below. The duties of a vestry person are analogous to a corporate board of directors except vestry members are not hand-chosen but elected by the congregation. The vestry is responsible for the physical plant of the church and the finances. In the absence of a Rector, the Senior Warden has the responsibility of the Rector. Members of the congregation are encouraged to run. Please remember, that while you may be associated with a particular group of the church, a vestry member represents the whole congregation.

To be eligible for a three year term on the vestry, a parishioner must meet these Canon requirements:

1. At least 18 years of age.
2. A baptized and confirmed (or received) communicant in the Episcopal Church, and a member of St. Matthew's Parish.
3. Not previously served a full term on the vestry within the past 12 months.

In considering service as a member of the vestry, carefully consider St. Matthew's additional requirements listed below:

1. Subscribe to the following declaration: "I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ: and I accede to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church." [from Canon 9, Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas.]
2. Pledge a 10% tithe or be seriously working towards a tithe.
3. Agree to a three-year consecutive term unless otherwise stated.
4. Regularly attend at worship and other parish events.
5. Attend all vestry meetings if possible (currently the fourth Tuesday of each month) plus special vestry workshops.
6. Be willing to serve on a vestry commission.
7. Attend the annual vestry retreat (overnight).
8. Attend Diocesan seminar for new vestry members in February or March (Saturday) in Austin.
9. Attend Stewardship Conference at Camp Allen in May 2003.
10. Recognize that membership on the vestry is a commitment to service, not a position of honor or status, nor a reward for previous service.
11. Be willing to listen, learn and lead.
12. Have a record of leadership in at least one area of the parish's life and ministry.

Would you or someone you know be a good member of the vestry? Now is the time to consider this possibility. Apply the above requirements to yourself and to your friends. The Requirements and Consent Form is available in the church office. Please remit the form as soon as possible to the church office.

Senior Sentences

by Lucy A. Boyea,
Minister of Senior Activities

Webster's defines "sharing" as follows: (1) to enjoy with others, (2) to experience with others, (3) to participate with others and (4) to have in common with others.

On a recent morning, as I was leaving my home before daybreak for my daily two-mile walk on the track at Murchison Middle School, I chanced upon the largest deer I have seen since moving to Texas in 1969. It was a handsome buck with an impressive set of antlers. My first thought was "I must tell someone about this," which in turn led me to reflect on sharing. One of the blessings of being a member of St. Matthew's Senior Activity Center is the opportunity to share with others. We enjoy with others, experience with others and participate with others as we take part in the many activities SAC has to offer. We discover what we have in common with others which leads to the formation of lasting friendships.

SAC celebrated its eighth birthday on October 4, 2002, and, as I observe the care and concern our members have for each other, I truly believe that our mission statement, "To enhance the quality of life for those who join us," is being fulfilled.

The United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering was founded in 1889 by the Women's Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church. The funds they collect are used for grants all around the world. Giving to UTO is a wonderful way to give thanks to God for our many blessings. November 10th will be our United Thank Offering Sunday at St. Matthew's. So, look for the little blue baskets that will be passed during the offering and give thanks by giving to UTO.

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Your Gift Makes a Difference

by Leon Whitney, Stewardship Commission

As we make our decision about how much to give to the church, many of us have two questions: "How does St. Matthew's spend the money we give?" and "What is expected of me?" Let me help answer these important questions.

How Does St. Matthew's Spend the Money We Give?

St. Matthew's is a tithing church. We practice what we preach. For 2002, the vestry voted to give \$138,367 for outreach and evangelism outside of our parish. This is 12% of the budget, but it asks only that we consider tithing 10% of our income. St. Matthew's strives to be a good steward of its funds, and your giving helps to support God's work here and abroad. In addition to the gifts for outreach and evangelism, major expenses include:

Diocesan Assessment.....	\$104,126
Clergy and Staff.....	465,740
Nursery.....	23,650
Utilities and Telephone.....	62,000
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance..	47,000
Insurance.....	15,000
Monthly Newsletter (The Word).....	11,100

How Much Should I Give?

We encourage everyone to work toward tithing by giving a percent of their income. For 2002, St. Matthew's families and individuals pledged an average of \$250 per month (\$3,000 for the year). For 2003, we will need an average of \$328 per month (\$3,936 for the year). While some are not able to give more than \$1,000 per month, others are in a position to give more than \$1,000 per month. Carefully consider what you can give. Your financial support is critical for the many ministries of our parish, the Diocese and the Episcopal Church. If you have not increased your giving for several years, consider doubling or tripling your pledge for 2003. It will be put to good use.



September 2002 Financial Statement

	CURRENT MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$74,042	\$70,146	\$598,133	\$590,512
Total Income	87,131	78,085	656,900	652,584
Total Expenses	68,800	87,950	752,148	843,566
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	\$18,331	(\$9,865)	(\$92,248)	(\$191,002)

Indebtedness as of September 30, 2002 = \$0

Thanks to Our Office Angel

The church staff cordially invites you to stop by the office soon, have a cup of coffee and take the guided tour to see our new decor and furnishings. Thanks to the generosity, good stewardship and decorating expertise of Mary Nell Frucella, we now have walls of soft buttercream that make our old framed prints look new and happy. With new placement of old furniture and a few strategically placed greeneries, the space has been transformed and looks warm and inviting. Mary Nell also provided a few new pieces of furniture to help us be more organized.

Our hats are off to Mary Nell for sharing her gifts with us.

Please Welcome Donna Lockett, Seminarian

It is with great joy and gratitude that I will be serving at St. Matthew's for my Field Education site while I am in seminary at ETSS. I visited St. Matthew's one Sunday before I knew where I would be serving and was impressed with the welcome I received as a visitor and the obvious love of God present in the worship and in this place.

My husband, Tom, will be staying at our home in Troy, Alabama, during my year here. Our daughter, Tina, is an Episcopal priest serving in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Our son, Tommy, who is a CPA and grandson, William, are in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

My year at ETSS will be in preparation to serve as a Canon 9 priest in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, southern Alabama and the panhandle of Florida. My years of life experience in working in my home church and diocese were considered part of my training. I am also a graduate of Sewanee's Education for Ministry program and the Spiritual Director's Program of the Diocese of South Carolina.

I look forward to getting to know everyone at St. Matthew's and serving God in this community.

National Organ Donor Sabbath, November 17, 2003

by Sophie Mathews

The month of November always brings to mind thanksgiving for our many blessings. Nine years ago I received the greatest blessing of all – the gift of life from a total stranger. I have had the great privilege of watching grandchildren grow up, graduate from college, marry and even have children of their own, all because a very loving and generous family donated the liver of their beloved mother (who was 71 at the time of her death) to save the life of someone who desperately needed it. Everyday is Thanksgiving Day for me.

Please consider being an organ and/or tissue donor. All you have to do is make sure your family knows your wishes and perhaps sign a donor card. Please contact me if I can answer any questions for you. Sophie Mathews 458-4408.

From The Children's Council

by Ann Hart, Chair

The end of the calendar year is a busy time for the Children's Council just as it is for most organizations. It seems as if Fall Sunday School just began, and it's already time to think about Advent, Christmas Eve, and 2003! Council members plan to assemble and distribute Advent take-home packets in early December. The packets will contain instructions for activities designed to help families observe Advent at home. After the season of preparation, St. Matthew's will begin the Christmas season with the annual Pick-Up Pageant at 4:00 p.m. on December 24. This service provides a joyous opportunity for children of all ages to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Look for details in upcoming Weekly Words.

On a separate topic, I'd like to express the Council's appreciation to Beth Ann Sikes for heading up the children's program at the Stewardship Luncheon. The kids enjoyed hearing and talking about time, talent, and treasure while having fun with their friends. Thanks, Beth Ann, for sharing your time and talent with our youngest stewards.

The Children's Council is an advisory committee set up to help the Children's Ministry staff develop and implement programs. Meetings are open to anyone interested in the Children's programs at St. Matthew's. Feel free to come and listen any time. If you'd like to add an item to the agenda, please call or e-mail the week before the meeting. If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like a copy of the Minutes, please let me know. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. Ann Hart (257-7130 or ann-hart@austin.rr.com)

Oxygen Masks

by Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

Have you heard my oxygen mask story? The story of the first two times I flew with my newborn son? Perhaps you can relate to how I felt those first times we flew together. As the flight attendants announced emergency instructions, I listened in a new way, since I was now responsible for an additional life. Can you imagine my horror, as they broached the possibility of loss of cabin pressure, and instructed parents flying with young children to don oxygen masks before turning to the needs of their children? The first time I heard the instructions, I bristled, questioning their wisdom. Not until the second time I heard the instructions did I comprehend that the flight attendants must know something I didn't yet understand, and I must trust their directions or I would be incapable of adequately providing for the needs of my child.

Over and over, through the years, I have reapplied that story to other areas of my life as a parent. At least in part, if I wanted my children to be consistent students, I needed to have them in school consistently. If I wanted my children to excel in sports, I must provide opportunities for them to be coached. If I wanted my children to grow spiritually, I needed to engage them in the life of the church. As the adult, in other words, I needed to join forces with the wisdom of others in order to provide the proper milieu in which my sons could have their needs met. How grateful I have been to those flight attendants who had flown before me, and then repeatedly instructed me based on their longer experience.

The church can be for each us as those flight attendants were for me, can't it? What an interesting thought. Those who have lived the Christian life before us have shared their expertise to help us on our way. Following that analogy, of course, we would do well to listen to their advice, trusting wisdom distilled from their longer experience. And to further the analogy, we could even put on our oxygen masks first – taking care of our own spiritual needs – in order to more adequately take care of the spiritual needs of our children.

That's a wonderful and lofty thought, too, isn't it? – Until it's Sunday morning and we are tired and our children are tired and trying to talk us into a day off!! I don't know about your family, but my kids always seemed to know which days I was extra tired. Those were the days I had to invoke the story of the oxygen mask and tell my boys that we would be engaged in the life of the church. Sometimes it was even necessary for me to cheerily draw the parallels between their being in school daily and on time or not missing any practices for their beloved sports.

What are the stories in your family that help keep you growing?!

See you on Sunday,

Barbara



St. Matthew's Activity Calendar

In such an active parish as ours, it is not possible to post a calendar with every meeting/function. This overview is designed to hit the highlights. Because it changes from minute to minute, we hope you will let us know of errors, corrections and additions. Please email your input to betty@stmattsaustin.org

DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME
November 1 & 2	Fri/Sat	Episcopal Church Women Annual Conference at Camp Allen	
November 3	Sunday	All Saints Day - Baptisms	10:30 a.m.
November 3	Sunday	Austin Civic Orchestra in Sanctuary	6:00 p.m.
November 5	Tuesday	Elections/Voting in Huffman Hall	All day
November 7	Thursday	Youth Council Meeting in Agape Bldg.	7:00 p.m.
November 10	Sunday	Episcopal Church Women United Thank Offering	
November 10	Sunday	Youth Movie Night in Agape Bldg.	6 - 8:30 p.m.
November 14 & 15	Thu/Fri	Day School Holidays	
November 15	Friday	<i>The Word</i> deadline - December issue	4:30 p.m.
November 15	Friday	Youth Go Bowling	Evening
November 26	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
November 27 - 29	Wed - Fri	Day School Thanksgiving Holidays	
November 27	Wednesday	Thanksgiving Eve Service at Triumphant Love	7:15 p.m.
November 28	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day - office closed	
November 29	Friday	Thanksgiving holiday - office closed	
December 1	Sunday	First Sunday in Advent	

Youth News

by Eric Liles, Youth Minister

We have just finished our Garage Sale (Oct 26), and the kidnapping of Merrill was a great success. Thank you for your support of our efforts to raise funds for the youth pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland. This month we are very excited to baptize two of our young people into the life of the St. Matthew's community. And if you get a chance, check out the Chrysalis Cottage, our Jr. High and Rite 13 groups have painted and decorated it, and it looks way cool.

I am personally very excited about the youth ministry here at St. Matthew's, great things are happening! Please pray for our Journey to Adulthood facilitators, that they would be encouraged and strengthened in their ministry here. We are looking forward to the possibility of a ski trip over Christmas Break, and doing some mission work next Spring Break. On January 25, we will travel to Temple for the day, to help sort medications for a medical mission trip that is going to Honduras. If you have any questions about our program, please let me know.

God's Peace,
Eric

eric@stmattsAustin.org
office 345-8314 ext. 232
mobile 799-2638

Youth Calendar for October

Nov 3	All Saints Day Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30-12 noon Baptisms (Kara and Melody!)
Nov 6	Pizza Night 7-8:30 p.m.
Nov 7	Youth Council 7-9 p.m.
Nov 8	Westwood vs. McNeil at Dragon Stadium
Nov 10	Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30-12 noon Movie Night 6-8:30 p.m.
Nov 13	Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.
Nov 15	7-9 p.m. Bowling at Dart Bowl, \$8 per person, turn in a permission slip ASAP
Nov 17	Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30-12 noon
Nov 20	Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.
Nov 22-24	Happening #101, YES #68
Nov 24	Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30-12 noon
Nov 26	Vestry Meeting
Nov 27	Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.
Dec 1	Sunday Morning Youth Group 9-10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30-12 noon
Dec 4	Pizza Night 7-8:30 p.m.
Dec 5	Youth Council 7-9 p.m.

Sunday Morning Schedule for Children

8:55	Sign-in & Name tags	Commons
9:00	Sixth Grade Sunday School	Front Room, Church Office Building
9:00	Opening Service	Church
9:15	Sunday School	
	3 Years - Kindergarten	Level I B-17
	First through Third Grades	Level II B-16
	Fourth and Fifth Grades	Level III Education Building Breezeway
10:30	Primary and Children's Chapels for Levels I & II	
11:10	Eucharist	Church

Children's Ministry News

Please Welcome...

In addition to those names printed in the October issue of *The Word*, Kathryn Ross will serve as a Primary Chapel Presider and Ed Davis will serve in Children's Chapel. If you feel drawn to joining them and the other wonderful adults serving in the area of children's ministries, please contact Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister, at 345-8314, ext. 221.

St. Matthew's Day School News

by Elizabeth Vetter

Fall Fest was a huge success! Co-Chairs Lora Zarbock and Cathylynn Brown, with the help of dozens of parent volunteers, organized a fabulous event. St. Matthew's families enjoyed carnival booths, yummy baked treats, the Fun Bus, pony rides, Doodle Bug the Clown, a moon walk and lots of popcorn (popped by our own Phil Hatlen). A delicious barbecue dinner was catered by Bert's BBQ.

The Fall Fest is an opportunity to spend an evening together having fun and supporting our school. It was wonderful to see so many members of our church family having a great time at Fall Fest (Caroline Wade had a big grin all evening!). The funds raised at Fall Fest are used to improve and enhance the programs and facilities for our children. This year the money we raised will go toward the school's library fund.

Adult Education Offerings for Fall Semester

The Adult Education Council, chaired by Kathy Vail, offers three classes for adults on Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10 a.m.

The Prayer Book Class led by Susan Barnes, Merrill Wade and Chuck Huffman meets in Huffman Hall. The text of the class is the *Book of Common Prayer* so if you have your own prayer book, please bring it with you to class. The class will run through Sunday, November 24 as follows:

- ♦ *November 3:* For Mission and Social Action - led by Susan Barnes
- ♦ *November 10:* For Christian Stewardship - led by Merrill Wade
- ♦ *November 17:* For Personal or Small Group Devotions - led by Chuck Huffman
- ♦ *November 24:* For Evangelism - led by Merrill Wade

The Practical Aspects of Spirituality seen through the lens of Scripture, Anthony de Mello, Gerald May, and others. This class is led by Annelle and Russ Adams. Join them in Room B-14 for fellowship, singing and great discussion.

Knowing God, a Kerygma Bible Study led by Dab Cauley, Holly Decherd and Kathy Vail in Room B-18. God's people carried questions about their creator which are mirrored in the Scriptures. They wondered: What is God's true nature? Can we trust God to be loving, fair and just? How can we know the unknowable God? We wonder too! Come explore these and other questions which shape our faithful inquiry yet today.

Birthdays

November

- 1 John Menchaca III
- 2 Ty Cunningham, Allison Dillawn
- 3 Betty Jones
- 4 Amy Brooke, Brad Claffin, Nikki Keller, Tessa Shanks, Claire Wilkes
- 5 Zacharias Doughty, Rita Eccles, Reilly Menchaca
- 6 William Brooke, Rylan Henderson, Tom LeMond, Dedee Norman, Dorothy Tesche
- 7 Laura Doughty, Cynthia Hilliard, Michael Moon, Lori Moya, Dolores Muhich, David Thacker
- 8 Irene Fredman, Preston Gregg, Chris Levy
- 9 Tracy Bissett, Carol Brewer, Alison Brooke, Vanessa Brooke, Anne Bustard, Tom Robinson
- 10 Shannon Buegner, Kate Canby, James Heldenfels, Hailey Nichols
- 11 Jean Davenport, Ava Johns, Steve Norman, Susie Pierce, Janice Rossen
- 12 Pete DeWeese, David Wilkes, Cecile Young
- 13 Anna Grace Carey, Colleen Quirke
- 14 David Daniel, Alison Tewes
- 15 Veronica Bailey, Pat Bliss, Scott Moore, Scott Tinker
- 16 Mary Brooks, Louise Thacker
- 17 Millie Roden, Brian Wood
- 18 Theresa Baer, John Carey, Maly Hatheway, Kay Hopkins, Edith Price
- 19 Christopher Drake-Allen, David Hansford, Tommy Williams
- 20 Stuart McKennon, Matthew Squires
- 21 Julie Alexander, Ann Brandt, Charlie Cole, Dennard Gilpin, Barbara Haynes, Julie Helfrich, Michael McCants
- 22 Tina Daniel, Cameron Kirkgard, Steve Shook
- 23 Andrew Abrahamson, Annelle Adams, Edmund Buckley, Dana Donart, Amanda Green, Terri Ocean, Clive Smith, Louise Trenholm, Art Werner
- 24 George Brooke, Christine Moore
- 25 Dee Bennett, Jeanne Hurta, Susan McElroy, Alex Robicheaux
- 26 Joe Evans, Juliana Webb, Harrison Wood
- 27 Becky Gilpin, David Hopkins, Beverly Horne, Andrew Mann
- 28 Ed Abrahamson, Onix Bhatt, Charles Bounds, David Looney, Linda Pugsley
- 29 Alice Ekerdt, Keller Hendricks
- 30 Hannah Gordon, Traci Hall

December

- 1 Fred Fredman, Rosie Nieman, Derek Tinker, Nathan Tinker
- 2 Rich Hall, Chase Roden
- 3 Andrea Miller, Kathleen Nitschke, Merrill Robinson
- 4 John Baker, Vera Robinson, Mary Sledd, Robert Thomas, Jim Veith
- 5 Beverly Burton, Ric Campbell, Patricia Dillawn, Samantha Dillawn, Ward Goessling, Cary Michaels, Ryan Poehl, Brad Robicheaux, John Uhl, Kay White
- 6 Lee Wiesehuegel
- 7 Lucy Boyea, Gillian Devlin, Karen Krause

A Note of Thanksgiving From Marge Marshall

In this season of thanksgiving, I am truly thankful for so many things; most of all just for being here and being part of the St. Matthew's community.

It was just a year ago that Warren and I were in an accident while returning from Camp Allen. Even though for several days I was not completely aware of all those who came to the hospital to visit, I know that I felt your presence and heard the comforting words and prayers even though I could not respond. The outpouring of kindness in visits, cards, food, phone calls and just caring was overwhelming. This is just a small part of what it means to be part of such a wonderful church family.

Warren and I thank you all in this season of Thanksgiving for the love that was given to us during this stressful time.

God bless you all,
Marge and Warren Marshall



New Members

Heather and Michael Affleck
Pierce and Livia

Karen and David Craig
Colton and Cosette

Theresa and Bill Kahlke
Katie

Madelaine and Reid Kirchem

Inez Scott

Cindy and Mark Udelhofen
Ashley and Taylor

Dana and James Young
Mikey

Deaths

George Frank
died October 1,
father of Mary Nell Frucella,
husband of Nell Frank

Memorial Gifts

In memory of
George B. Holt
by
Wanzie and G. T. Kirkpatrick
James Russell III
Marjorie and Bert Hooper
Mary Kay and Jim Schultz
Pat Boon
Rita and Jack Eccles

In memory of
George Frank
by
Elaine and Ward Goessling, Jr.
Doris and Bill Donnell
Rita and Jack Eccles

Baptisms

Livia Nicole Affleck,
daughter of Heather and Michael Affleck

Taylor Anne Udelhofen,
daughter of Cindy and Mark Udelhofen

Births

Grace Marie Shafer,
was born on September 24.
Daughter of Elizabeth and Matthew Shafer,
granddaughter of Leslie and Bill Kjellstrand.

the st. matthew's word

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School
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(512) 345-8314 ♦ FAX (512) 346-2085

Periodicals
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Worship Schedule

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

Daily

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

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

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

Deadline for the December issue

of *The Word* is

Friday, November 15, 2002

**at 5:00 p.m. Submissions on diskette
are welcomed - or 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

Tom Canby *Buildings and Grounds*
David Harakal *Finance*
Debbie Meleski *Communications*
Bob Ascott *Personnel*
Holly Decherd *Stewardship*
Outreach

Lay Ministry Councils

Kathy Vail *Adult Education*
Ann Hart *Children*
Jeri Muhich *Newcomers*
Milt Williams *Parish Life*
Elaine Goessling *Pastoral Care*
Debbie Meleski *Personnel*
Sue Kinney *Worship*
Steve Brock *Youth*

School Board

The Rev. Merrill Wade *Chairman*
Barbara Pitts *President*
Kristin Fason *Vice-President*
Pam Littlefield *Director*
Eileen Cole *Assistant Director*
Elizabeth Vetter *Recording Secretary*
Michael McCollum *Corresponding Secretary*
Kent Zarbock *Treasurer*

Members—Kay Ballard, Vada Dillawn,
Dean Fisher, Andrew Urban

Staff

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

Vestry

Jack Eccles (345-7396) *Senior Warden*
Phil Hatlen (345-9923) *People's Warden*
Kate Canby (219-8693) *Vestry Warden*
John Muhich (452-1210) *Treasurer*
Bill Donnell (345-0097) *Clerk*
Bert Hooper (346-6675) *Chancellor*

Members — Bob Ascott, David Barrow Jr.,
Pat Boon, Charles Cole, Mary Nell Frucella,
David Harakal, Cliff Harrison, Debbie Meleski,
Don Neely, Clive Smith, Keith Thompson,
Bob Wood