

the st. matthew's word

Counting Our Blessings

Dear Friends,

Enjoying the Cool Breezes

Today as I write this the first few cool breezes of fall have swept down into Austin from the north. The cyclical nature of seasonal change reminds me of the trustworthiness of the Lord of All Creation. Almost without exception throughout our planet, cool breezes will follow hot seasons and rain will answer the needs of parched soils. The Psalmist says, "The Earth is the Lord's, for He made it." May we always be grateful for the Earth and its' bounty. These ruminations make me think of the Thanksgiving Holidays and that special time we set apart to give thanks to God for his provision to us and for all the blessings we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America.

Veteran's Day

In November we will have two excellent opportunities to give thanks for our blessings. On Sunday, November 9, in advance of Veteran's Day, we will recognize those men and women who have fought to preserve our liberties in foreign wars. Veteran's Day is, of course, a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

On Wednesday night, November 26, we will gather in our church for a joint Thanksgiving celebration of the Holy Eucharist with our brothers and sisters at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church. This

Thanksgiving Eucharist with special music and sermon will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a brief reception with cookies and punch in Huffman Hall. You are asked to bring nutritious canned goods that will be given to El Buen Samaritano.

Men's Fellowship to Help at Parish Pot Luck

On Wednesday night, November 5, those attending the First Wednesday Pot Luck Supper will be fortunate to hear our own Holly Dechard as the after supper speaker. The Men's Fellowship will be responsible for the set-up and clean-up for the Pot-Luck Supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Huffman Hall. We need at least 10 men to be responsible for these duties that night.

Men's Fellowship to hear Lawrence Sampleton

On Wednesday night, November 12, the Men's Fellowship will gather to welcome Mr. Lawrence Sampleton, Director of Admissions of St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin, as our guest speaker at our regular monthly meeting. I have recently become acquainted with Lawrence and I am delighted that he will be with us. Many of you may remember Lawrence for his brilliant career as a football player at the University of Texas and in the National Football League. But for the last 13 years Lawrence has been playing a key role in shaping the lives of young people at St. Stephen's. I have asked him to talk about persons that have influenced his

life for the good, to describe what he sees are the greatest challenges facing this generation of youth, and to tell us about the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's Episcopal School. Please sign-up for this event at church on Sundays or call the church office and let Barbara Haynes know that you will be attending.

We Are Not Sitting Still!

Finally, I want to thank you for your continuing commitment to God through your church. We have begun the Stewardship efforts for 2004 and your response has been excellent and faithful. I am deeply grateful to be your rector and I give thanks that we are building a strong and financially secure parish.

Over the next several months you will be hearing about plans to develop and build our Endowment Funds. You will be hearing about the work our Site Completion Task Force has done to study and make recommendations about the construction of new facilities associated with the Day School, a Youth Building, new offices, and a new chapel. The Vestry has made no final decisions about any of these significant steps but we need your prayers as we look ahead to a strong future together in Northwest Austin.

Spiritual Maturity Happens Where You Really Live

I believe that God has a special mission for St. Matthew's. We are to "know Christ and to make him known", and this is accomplished as each of us gathers to and scatters from this church. You are the Body of Christ

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

and wherever you are, wherever your heart is beating Monday through Saturday, that is the location of the mission field that needs you. I believe that our common calling is to help one another mature in the life of the Holy Spirit and to respond to the leading and prompting of the Spirit in our daily lives. I am concerned about the challenges you face in the world today and I want our church to be a place that supports you in every way possible.

Keep Your Eyes on the Baptismal Covenant

When I ponder this vision of our church I am more deeply convicted that our efforts should be focused on living up to the expectations of our Baptismal Covenant. The Baptismal Covenant (BCP 304-305) sets the standard for our belief, creed, prayer and Christian action in the world. Please read and re-read the Baptismal Covenant as the benchmark for your daily living. On All Saints Day, November 2, we will baptize several young children and we will recite, yet again, the Baptismal Covenant and its promises. In that Eucharistic and Baptismal liturgy, we will stand in the presence of the Communion of Saints, of angels and archangels, and of all the company of heaven, gathered as One in perfect unity in the Holy Spirit. I pray that we will be especially blessed by God to continue our special mission with enthusiasm and vigor.

God bless you one and all!

Faithfully,

Merrill

St. Matthew's—Exciting, Learning, Growing

by Phil Hatlen, Senior Warden

During the months I've been your Senior Warden, I have tried, along with the other wardens, the vestry, and the clergy, to maintain open lines of communication and sharing with the entire St. Matthew's community. I've learned a lot about the "business" side of a large church, and have come to have a very deep appreciation for a lot of aspects of St. Matthew's. Vestry membership was the beginning of a new learning experience for me. Then to be a warden further enhanced this learning and growing experience.

I grew up in a small farm town in the central valley of California. Our Lutheran Church was comprised almost entirely of Norwegian immigrants, and I did not hear a sermon in English until I was 16 years old. To my knowledge, the Church did not have any office staff. The pastor was the only employee, and his income depended on the collection plate and other unusual sources. My father sometimes gave the pastor two chickens on Monday morning because he had nothing to put in the collection plate.

I carried that "two chickens" philosophy of organized religion far into my adulthood, and resisted the concept of stewardship and pledging. But some time before Toni, Lucas, and I arrived at St. Matthew's I had developed a healthy, realistic understanding about what is involved in building the spiritual lives of people through ministry. And now

as I spend time in the office of our church, I can't even imagine how we would function as a church community without the dedicated and bright office staff we have. Add to that those who minister to us in so many ways, from childhood through our "mature" years, and it's very clear why we are called upon to be stewards through pledging our resources.

I have two months left as Senior Warden and as a member of the Vestry. I still have things I'd like to accomplish within the time I have left, and we'll see how far I get. But I am deeply grateful for the growth in my spiritual life, the learning about my church community, and countless other blessings that have been showered upon me during these last three years. And yes, there have been challenges and frustrations, too.

Soon you will be hearing about the election of new vestry members. Five vacancies will be filled in January, 2004. If you feel called to serve on the vestry of St. Matthew's, it's not too early to be considering it, praying about it, and discussing with your family how membership on the vestry might change your life.

When Merrill asked me to be the Senior Warden, I was humbled and very honored. I told him that I would accept if I knew that it would add to my personal spiritual growth. He assured me that it would. And he was right. Thank you, Merrill!

*The Episcopal Church Women of St. Matthew's
present*

Wendy Wimberly

Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15
Huffman Hall

This event is an "in-house" retreat beginning with dinner on Friday.

The cost is \$26.00 for both days

or you may sign up for one day or the other.

Register in the Commons on Sunday mornings.

Wendy, wife of the Bishop of Texas Don Wimberly, will give her witness on Friday evening and will speak on transition on Saturday.

Childcare and scholarships are available. Registration is a must!

Guests are very welcome.

This will be an excellent time to introduce someone to our parish.

If It's November, It Must Be... Time to Talk About St. Matthew's Elections

by Phil Hatlen, Senior Warden

Somehow, the Senior Warden gets the task of announcing the St. Matthew's Annual Parish Meeting and Elections every November. So this is it. It's time now to pull out the 2004 calendar you don't yet own and mark January 11 as the date for our Parish Meeting. As is our custom, we'll gather at 5:45 for our stupendous, outrageous Chili Cook-off. Jack Ryfle promises that this one will be the best ever, and it will be if you enter that secret recipe you think results in the best chili this side of Round Rock! Winners (and maybe even the losers) will receive exceptionally valuable prizes that will become their greatest source of pride. So, let Jack know that you're proud of your chili and want to share it with the rest of us.

We also have very important elections at the Annual Meeting. First, it will be time to elect five new Vestry members. Retiring from the Vestry will be David Harakal, Cliff Harrison, Clive Smith, and me. We will also be electing a Vestry member to replace Keith Thompson who resigned earlier in the year. Elections will also be held for representation on the Diocesan Council and the Special Gifts Committee. This latter committee has grown in importance recently, and has a critical role in managing our Permanent Endowment Fund.

Serving on the Vestry is a calling—a calling from God and from your parish community. The Vestry of St. Matthew's has many responsibilities in governance, and our Rector has made it clear that the Vestry will continue to be very involved in the future directions of our church community. We have been truly blessed with a thoughtful, creative, hard-working, dedicated Vestry.

It's a service and a ministry to be a member of the Vestry. I have very deeply felt the presence of God every time I've been with other Vestry members. If this sounds like something you'd consider, please pray about it, talk to current Vestry members about it, discuss it with our Rector, and by all means discuss it with your family. It does require time and commitment, and there will be those times when you'd like to be with your family, but the Vestry has an event. We have begun a very exciting time at St. Matthew's, with a now not-so-new Rector, financial stability, wonderful and creative new programs, and an energy that is very apparent. There's lots of good reasons to place

your name in nomination for the Vestry, and I really hope you'll consider it! Nomination forms are available in the church office.

In addition to agreeing to three years of service and ministry, these are the other requirements for eligibility to place your name in nomination for the Vestry:

Canon requirements

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Be 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:

- ◆ 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.]
- ◆ Pledge a 10% tithe or be seriously working towards a tithe.
- ◆ Agree to a three-year consecutive term unless otherwise stated.
- ◆ Regularly attend at worship and other parish events.
- ◆ Attend all vestry meetings if possible (Currently the fourth Tuesday of each month) plus special vestry workshops.
- ◆ Be willing to serve on a vestry commission.
- ◆ Attend the annual vestry retreat which will be held at Camp Allen on January 16 and 17, 2004, (overnight).
- ◆ Attend Diocesan seminar for new vestry members in February or March (Saturday) in Austin.
- ◆ Attend Stewardship Conference at Camp Allen, usually each year in May.
- ◆ Recognize that membership on the vestry is a commitment to service, not a position of honor or status, nor a reward for previous service.
- ◆ Be willing to listen, learn and lead.
- ◆ Have a record of leadership in at least one area of the parish's life and ministry.

Senior Sentences

by Lucy Boyea, Minister of Senior Activities

"We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us." BCP 836

I was moved by Merrill's sermon on Sunday, September 7, particularly his comments on work as a source of stress for so many people. He spoke of individual's desire for a more fulfilling job, a job in which there existed a relationship between one's life of faith and life of work, and, for retired persons, something which would provide a rudder in their life.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I feel so blessed that God has enabled me to find a rudder in my retirement, a fulfilling job in which there is a clear relationship between my life of faith and my life of work. In the words of the Baptismal Covenant, I hope that I will continue to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor and myself."



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Adult Education Summary

by Leon Whitney

First — We want to thank Joyce Scott and her guest speakers for a fascinating six weeks traveling with *Hope In the Fast Lane*. What a wonderful resource Joyce is for the people of St. Matthew's. Perhaps we can get her to offer Hope In the Fast Lane, Part Two next year.

Second — A big thank you to Marty Novak and Dab Cauley for an exciting adventure into the early years of Christianity and the Gospel of John in *The Bible: Content and Context*. This class will continue with other leaders discussing various ways to approach the Bible.

The Adult Education Council is offering four adult classes on Sunday mornings during November and early December. We encourage each of you to attend one of these classes. Our goal is to have adults involved in both Christian education and worship each Sunday.

St. Matthew's Adult Education SECOND SERIES

October 26 – December 14
9:00 to 10:10 a.m.

The Bible – Content and Context

Lou Bedor and Susan Barnes in B-13

Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9

Lou Bedor: Wisdom Literature and Ecclesiastes: A three-part series introducing Wisdom literature with an eventual focus on the book of Ecclesiastes. Class 1, an introduction to Wisdom literature with some history and a quick look at Proverbs; Class 2, quick looks at Job, the Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus and an introduction to Ecclesiastes; and Class 3, Ecclesiastes.

Susan Barnes: Lectio Divina Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Dec 14

Holy Reading: a three-part series. We will use the ancient method of Lectio Divina (Holy Reading) to meditate upon one of the scriptures for each Sunday. On December 14, we will study the birth narrative in the Gospel of Luke to see how the content of that story relates to the context: the themes of Luke's account of Jesus' life.

Christianity & Popular Culture – Finding the Sacred In the Secular

Jay Robison in Huffman Hall

Pop culture is often seen as a mouthpiece that all Christians should fight, but is it really? God is a major character in one of 2003's most successful movies and Christian bands are finding increasing crossover success. This class will look at and discuss the way God and Christianity are portrayed in movies, music, and books, both past and present.

Unearth Your Talents – How Your Unique Combination of Gifts Works

Bonnie Coleman in Room B-18

"God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits! All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit... The variety is wonderful." (I Corinthians 12: 4-9, The Message)

Discovery Class – An Inquiry into the Episcopal Church

The Rev. Merrill Wade in Room B-21

This class is intended for those who are new to St. Matthew's or the Episcopal Church. We will take you on a journey down that fascinating middle-way between traditional Catholicism and Protestantism. If you desire to learn about the history, worship, faith, and tradition of the Episcopal Church, this class is for you. It is a necessary prerequisite for those desiring to join St. Matthew's through confirmation when Bishop Daniels visits.

On Sunday, November 30th (after Thanksgiving Day), adults will gather between 9 and 10:00 am. in Huffman Hall for coffee and fellowship. A special guest, Dolores Gunter, from Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack, New York, will present slides and stories of her work at an orphanage in Bosnia. Don't miss her inspiring story.

St. Matthew's Kitchen: Where the Heart Is

by Louise Waddill

St. Matthew's has a new guild that is working on plans to make our kitchen more "user friendly" and create a more cost-effective system of purchasing food items and other necessities. Members of the Kitchen Guild are very concerned about the amount of food that is wasted because we have overestimated the amount needed or we fail to check the inventory before shopping and end up buying things already on hand. If food is left over that will not be used by another function, it should be sent to one of our Outreach Groups. We are getting together a list with phone numbers and directions to the places. This list will be posted in the kitchen soon. Please don't let the food go to waste when there are so many people who go hungry every day!

We are developing *Guidelines and Policies for Use of the Kitchen*. As soon as these are approved, copies will be made available to those groups using the kitchen and posted in the kitchen. An inventory of the kitchen has been completed and will be checked on a regular basis. The outcome of the inventory revealed that several items are missing. Please check to see if you have borrowed any of these items and return them to the kitchen at once. Here's what's missing: *2 large full sheet heavy duty jellyroll pans; 3 half sheet heavy duty jellyroll pans; several stainless table knives and teaspoons; 2 small oblong plastic servers for sugar and sweetener.*

We will also be conducting an inventory of staples, such as mustard, mayonnaise, catsup, salad dressing, etc, and post this in the kitchen. Not only is it wasteful to buy things that are already on hand; it creates a storage problem as well.

Your cooperation will be essential as we move ahead. On that note, please do not borrow items from the kitchen unless you get permission from the office and sign a sheet indicating what you have borrowed and when you plan to return it. We would like to keep all items in the kitchen at all times so that they are readily available for legitimate uses. We realize, however, that there are instances when you need to take items from the kitchen for a church related activity held away from the kitchen. Just let the office know and sign out for them.

I appreciate all the hard work done by the members of the newly formed Kitchen Guild. We can all look forward to more exciting developments concerning St. Matthew's Kitchen.

What's With This 35-ish/55-ish Women's Group?

by Susan Barnes, Associate Rector

Some of you may have noticed that a new women's group is being organized. We thought it might be helpful to explain what it's about.

St. Matthew's is blessed to have many powerful leaders in the Senior generation: remarkable people, the founders of our church. Members back on Ridge Oak, you in this generation moved the church to this site and built it.

Frankly, the rising generation stands in awe of the Senior generation, the founders. We perceive that you have bonded strongly through building the church, through Faith Alive and all the other experiences that you have shared.

As the rising generation we want to prepare to assume our places in leadership alongside you, and to succeed you when the time comes. Some of us have been here for more than a decade, but many more are relatively new. One main goal of this women's group is to get to know one another, to share experiences, to grow spiritually together—to bond, ourselves—so that we can discern how to serve St. Matthew's better individually and in groups.

We are still struggling with how to define the group, because none of us wants to leave anybody out! Please forgive us if it seems we've been exclusive. That's not what we intend. That's where the "ish" came from—a desire to be flexible and open. We're not an alternative to the ECW, and we're going to drop the age references so that any woman who identifies herself with this idea will join in. We're very much a work in progress! And, before long, we'll bring the guys in, too!

After our a small retreat at Wessendorff in November we're planning an Epiphany get-together. By then we may even have a name...

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please pray for us as we seek to serve and honor the church family that we love.

Register Now: ECW Lenten Retreat 2004

Theme: THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT: Loving God through music, art, worship and meditation on scripture

Leaders: Cynthia Clawson, Posy Jackson, and Susan Barnes

When: February 27-29, 2004

Where: Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas (on the Guadalupe River)

Who can come: All St. Matthew's women, ages 15 and over (there are 5 places for teenagers; 88 places for adults)

How much: \$170 for adults; \$70 for teenagers (some partial scholarships available)

Deadline: Christmas Eve 2003

Information: Contact Kay Whitney at 345-0574 or Susan Barnes at 345-8314. Teenagers contact Megan Lilley at megz11@juno.com

How to hold your place: Send your check for the full amount, made out to St. Matthew's (memo: Lenten Retreat)

A Season for Thanksgiving

by Charlie Cole, Stewardship Chair

As we prepare for the holidays, we certainly have much to be thankful for here at St. Matthew's. We are blessed with a wonderful and caring ministry team, a dedicated staff, and an active lay leadership, all working together toward a common goal: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known." For all the love, caring, and spirit that we have and share amongst ourselves and with others throughout the greater community, we thank God.

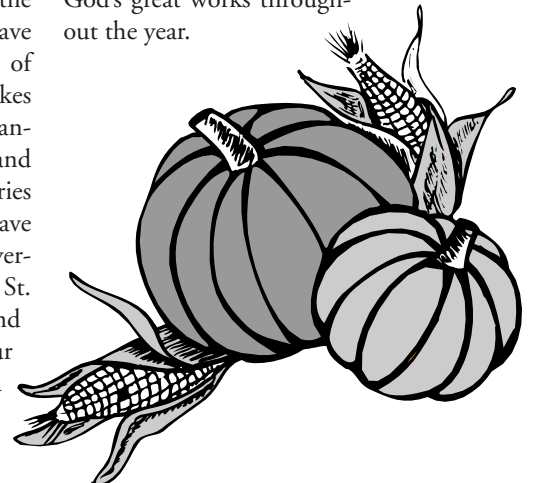
One of the ways we show our appreciation, our thanksgiving, to Him is by our financial commitment. For through that commitment, we show our support for His great works by giving back the resources which He has bestowed upon us. This year, we the vestry asked parishioners to make their commitment a bit earlier than in the past. We did so knowing we have much to plan for in the coming year. If we are to

carry on in God's mission for us, especially during times of economic uncertainty and global unrest, we must all step forward and commit ourselves as Christians for that is what He has called upon us to do.

On behalf of the leadership team and the entire congregation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the 256 individuals and families who have pledged \$759,500 towards the 2004 as of October 17, 2003. Your commitment makes it possible for the vestry to prepare a meaningful budget and for us all to carry on and enjoy the activities of the 80-plus ministries here at St. Matthew's. For those who have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully reflect on the many ways in which St. Matthew's has blessed you and those around you and then fill out a pledge card at your earliest convenience. Cards may be picked up and dropped off at the church office.

You can also access pledge cards online at www.stmattsaustrin.org/2003pledgeCard.rtf

Of course, Stewardship is not just a seasonal activity that begins and ends each Fall. I encourage you to seek out ways to embrace your baptismal covenant and lend your time, talent, and many treasures to do God's great works throughout the year.



Life Together

by Barbara D. Pitts, Children's Minister

If you've ever been to Camp Allen, you remember how your shoulders relax and your breathing deepens as you turn off Texas Hwy. 6 and begin to wind through the piney woods of east Texas. In late September, five members of our parish and staff enjoyed that Camp Allen ambiance, as they attended a diocesan conference on Christian Formation. All three bishops of Texas, Wimberley, Daniel, and High not only participated in the entire weekend, they all spoke, sharing their individual and collective commitments to opportunities within the church for children and adults to be "formed" in relationship with God. Workshops filled out the weekend, with Clarissa and Carlos Vazquez, CJ Carl, Jennifer Baskett, and I attending gatherings on effective church communications, children and faith development, storytelling, children's stewardship, church nurseries, and safe churches. We all anticipate putting newly gained information to work for St. Matthew's in practical ways.

Upon our return, we rejoined the 60+ volunteers who make Sunday mornings "happen" for our children, by giving new lessons each week in Sunday School, or by leading in Chapel.

In Sunday School (or 'Catechesis' as the children call it), one of the classes has actually written a vision statement for their year that includes their goals to both understand and learn more about God, pray, have fun, share, and read the Bible and other books.

Recently one of our fifth grade boys took individual responsibility for leading his peers in a weekly communal prayer time during class. To prepare, he went through the Psalms until he located "my favorite," which turned out to be Psalm 91:1-7 (did you or I have a favorite psalm at age 10?!). Once he found it he read it aloud to his teacher, so she could see why it was so important to him (God's protection and powerfulness is our safety). "See, it says it all, doesn't it?" Then he wanted to write down the words to a song, so his classmates could learn it and sing it with the psalm.

Selecting and leading liturgy, as our Level II and III children get to do, can foster their appreciation of our Episcopal liturgy, as well as give them "ownership" of it. We are so excited to see the children who attend Sunday School engage in the faith-growing that such challenges provide them. As Children' Council chair and Level II teacher/catechist, Lynn Smith, puts it, "Our students are self motivators and learners. They are very independent. We like to think of their choices as guided by the Holy Spirit...and...our rooms are filled with joy and praise for our Lord Jesus Christ."

Sunday morning classes are held in the basement. To quote Lynn once more, "Come by and visit us some time!"

Looking Ahead

By Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

November begins with "First Wednesday" Pot Luck Supper and Children's Program. Each month our children have fun with activities and play geared to the 30 minutes that adults finish eating and hear a speaker. That same week our campus welcomes the return of 25 individuals, for Level I training in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This is part of a wonderfully successful collaboration among four Austin Episcopal churches, bringing national leaders to help adults be "formed" in relationship with God, so that they may offer that same Christian formation to children. This month also marks the beginning of rehearsals for elementary children who will help lead worship through song.

As November concludes and the weeks of December unfold, a special "First Wednesday" Pot Luck Supper will be held. During Advent, our children will focus on outreach, elementary choir children will perform, and all will look forward to expressing praise and worship to God through participation in our annual Pick-up Pageant. Also, in December, families with children 2nd grade and older will receive information about the January-February Communion Class.

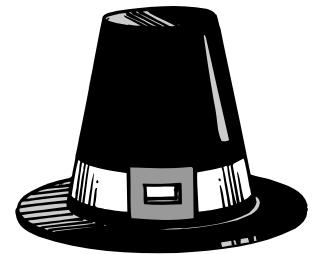
If you would like more information about any of these programs or want to know how you or your child can participate, I'm always eager to visit. Please call me at 345-8314, x221, or send me an email at Barbara@StMattsAustin.org.

Children's Ministry Calendar

- Nov. 2 Choir Kick-off Party
 Location: TBA
- Nov.5/12/17 God & Me, Room B-13
- Nov. 5 6:00 p.m. "1st Weds." Pot Luck
 Supper in Huffman Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Program in
 Ed. Bldg.
- Nov. 7 & 8 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
 Level I Formation & Training
 Course in Room B-18/19
- Nov. 18 12:30 p.m. Children's Council
 Room B-16

Coming Up

- Dec. 3 "1st Weds." with Special Program
- Dec. 3 & 10 God & Me
- Dec. 7 & 14 10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Dec. 14 Choir sings in 10:30 Service
- Dec. 24 4:00 PM Family Eucharist and
 Pick-up Pageant
- Jan. 9 & 10 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
 Level II Formation & Training
 Course
- Jan. Communion Class begins



St. Matthew's Day School News

submitted by Kay Ballard

Fall Fest, the School's fall fundraiser, took place on October 17 and was a huge success! Parents, students, teachers, and friends gathered in and around Huffman Hall for a barbecue dinner, carnival activities, and lots of fun. The profit from Fall Fest will go toward playground improvements, including updates of equipment and wonderful new purchases for all St. Matthew's children to enjoy.

The upcoming excitement for November will be the Thanksgiving feast each classroom will celebrate. The children will be dressed as Native Americans to lend meaning to what they will be learning. It is a wonderful event and reminds us all of the blessings we share watching these precious children learn and grow.

J2A Elegant Dinner, November 2nd

It's time once again, as a community to gather in celebration (something I am very thankful that we seem to do quiet a bit). On November 2, we in the youth ministry celebrate a Rite of Passage that marks the beginning of the Journey to Adulthood's class two year journey towards their ultimate goal of adulthood.

During the Elegant Dinner, the YAC and Rite 13 classes, as well as parents from all three J2A classes, set up, serve and clean up for the Journey to Adulthood class, while they sit around looking fancy. Don't ask me, it's one of the grown up things. After dinner, there will be a brief program outlining the J2A program, followed by a Litany of Offering and Sacrifice led by our Rector Merrill Wade.

This was a very special event in the journey of our last Journey to Adulthood class, and this one will certainly be as meaningful. If you are not currently part of the youth ministry team or a parent, and would like to support this effort or get more information, please let me know.

God's Peace,
Eric
eric@stmattsAustin.org
512-345-8314 ext. 232

November Youth Calendar

Nov. 2	Sunday morning youth group 9-10:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. J2A Elegant Dinner 6-8 p.m.
Nov. 5	Church wide potluck dinner 6-7 p.m. in Huffman Hall Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m.
Nov. 9	Sunday morning youth group 9-10:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 12	High School Bible Study 6-7 p.m. Room B-6 Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m. Pizza Night
Nov. 13	Youth Council 7-9 p.m.
Nov. 16	Sunday morning youth group 9-10:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Movie Night 6-8:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	High School Bible Study 6-7 p.m. Room B-6 Youth Group 7-8:30 p.m. Pizza Night
Nov. 21-23	Happening # 105/ YES #72 at Camp Allen
Nov. 23	Sunday morning youth group 9-10:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.
Nov. 26	No Youth Group
Nov. 30	Sunday morning youth group 9-10:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.

November is Donor Awareness Month: Be An Organ Donor – Tell Your Family!

by Sophie Mathews

Your blue box on the curb shows how dedicated you are to recycling. Taking your good intentions one step further, I sincerely hope you will consider recycling yourself. Won't you give some thought and prayer to being an organ donor?

As of October 1, there were 82,462 people on the national waiting list to receive a life-saving transplant, 5,409 in Texas alone. Please discuss this with your family and sign an organ donor card. It doesn't cost you or your family anything, and it will be the best gift you have ever given – the gift of life.

I was greatly blessed to receive a new liver ten years ago and am grateful for each and every day, not only to God but to the generous and loving family in San Antonio who donated their 71-year old mother's liver so that I might live.

If you have any questions or would like a donor card, please call me at 458-4408. And remember that filling out a donor card is only the beginning – you must notify your family of your decision. Organ donation cannot be completed without permission from your next of kin.

Angel Tree Project Needs Your Help

by Millie Roden

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Children of prisoners are some of the loneliest and most-neglected in our culture. They experience feelings of isolation, shame, and abandonment- through no fault of their own.

Angel Tree, a Prison Fellowship program, provides a way for us to buy Christmas presents for these children on behalf of the incarcerated parent. The presents can be delivered to children here in Austin, or mailed. Many of the children whose names we have live so far away that the packages must be mailed.

If you would like to participate in Angel Tree, please call Janet Williams at 244-6908 or Millie Roden at 345-7072. We will also be available in the Commons before and after the 10:30 service each Sunday in December.

Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas
present

SOUL FOOD 2003 "The Road to Reconciliation" A Retreat for Recovering People November 14-16, 2003 at Camp Allen

Enjoy three relaxing days in the Piney Woods of Texas.
In between workshops and meetings there will be times for walks in the woods, swimming, tennis, working out in the health facility, and getting away for quiet meditation.

The \$100 fee includes room (2 or 3 per room) all meals, snacks and programs.
Single occupancy available for an additional \$50.

For registration or more information, contact
Don Legge at (254)697-2167 dlegge@tlab.net
Troy Whitehurst (281) 334-0584 tnwjr@hal-pc.org

A Thanksgiving Weekend at Well Springs

by Dyke Miller

You deserve it – plan now to take Thanksgiving weekend off to enjoy some country living with fellow members of St. Matthew's Extended Family Ministry. This year we will gather at the beautiful Wessendorff Ranch at noon on Friday, November 28, for lunch. We sort of plan the rest of our time after we eat and explore the grounds.

We warmly invite you and your family to join us in this get-away time at the beautiful Wessendorff Ranch for a weekend of relaxation, rest and family time.

Wessendorff Ranch is a modern place with flush toilets, hot and cold water, showers, and modern kitchen with an ice machine and dishwasher. There are basically three buildings that house everyone. Individual rooms (2 per), dorm rooms (mostly kids), comfortable lounge areas and yes, there is TV (ABC & TX/Aggie game) available. WE share as family units the cost of a custodial fee (\$210) and pro-rate the food costs. Of course we eat left-overs. Swim in the Blanco River and hike the countryside.. Give this opportunity some thought. If interested, contact Dyke Miller at 794-9032 or let the Church Office know your interest. We can accept 25 more folks!

A letter from the Austin Civic Orchestra

September 24, 2003

Dear Merrill,

I just wanted to thank you and the church vestry for approving the Austin Civic Orchestra's free use of the sanctuary space on December 12, 2003, for our annual Holiday Benefit Concert. This is a very special concert dedicated to raising money and food for the Salvation Army. This worthy charity serves to "preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination." We have partnered with them for this event for over five years and in the process, have raised thousands of dollars and donated hundreds of pounds of food.

The admission to our concert is a cash or food donation. A Salvation Army representative will receive donations at the door. We are very pleased to provide community outreach concerts like this one and your generous donation of the church space really helps make it possible.

The Austin Civic Orchestra looks forward to a successful concert and we cordially invite the congregation of St. Matthew's to join us in support of this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

Tammy DeWitt Le
General Manager

Staff Members Sharpen Their Skills in San Antonio

On October 21, four members of the office staff, Margaret Carpenter, Barbara Haynes, Betty Mitchell and Dedee Norman traveled to San Antonio to participate in a hands-on training school to master St. Matthew's new database system. The system used by our church and many, many others is by Automated Church Systems. It was first used here in the DOS format which caused more than a few headaches. It has only recently been converted to a Windows format that is much more user friendly.

Even with modern software, and with trained hired help, our database is only as accurate as the information you provide to us. Please give us a hand and be sure that we have your correct address and phone numbers. The new photo directory will be printed using information we provide – is your information correct? If you have recently moved or changed phone numbers, give us a call at 345-8314 and update your record. Help us help you!

First Wednesday Parish Pot Luck Supper Makes History

by Betty Mitchell

For the first time in recent memory a phenomenal thing happened at our Pot Luck Supper for October – we ran out of food! What a shame that some who were waiting in line did not get served. To those unlucky few, we appreciate your good spirits and your willingness to run out for burgers at the last minute. So what do we do now?

On Wednesday, November 5, at 6:00 p.m. in Huffman Hall, we will do it again – but this time with more guidelines for what folks should bring. We are pleased that so many people enjoy these dinners – and certainly realize that some people are not able to bring a covered dish. Some of our terrific high schoolers come directly from school, some of our senior members are no longer able to cook for themselves, much less for others. Those of us who do cook are asked to cheerfully pick up the slack for those unable to bring food.

With the able help of Kay and Leon Whitney, the food allocation letters have been redistributed to assure that we have more entrees, vegetables and fewer desserts. Please observe these revised guidelines and make every effort to bring enough food to feed your family, plus six more. With your help, the next Pot Luck, on November 5 will be a terrific success. If your last name begins with

A – B bring a dessert,

C – M bring a vegetable or salad

N – Z bring a main dish.

Please bring enough for your family plus six more. Bless you!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Parish Get Acquainted Lunch November 9

by Debbie Meleski

Please plan to attend the Newcomers Council sponsored lunch after church on Sunday, November 9. This lunch has been planned to give all of us a chance to visit with our newest members and with each other. There is absolutely no charge for this delicious catered lunch (but free will offerings will not be turned down). Come relax, eat and enjoy good company.

To sign up, please do one of the following three things before Nov. 2: 1) call the church office; 2) sign up at the Welcome Table located right outside the sanctuary or 3) e-mail Jeri Muhich at jerim@austin.rr.com.

The Newcomers Council is co-chaired by Jeri Muhich and Dedee Norman. This Council goes the extra mile to show our new members how welcome they are at St. Matthew's. There's a whole crew of Newcomers Council members and more are always welcome. Please contact Jeri or Dedee if you would like to be a part of the NC.

Planning Ahead!

by Rita Eccles

Yes, we have the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany before we come to Lent 2004. This year, along with other Lenten activities, we plan to produce a Lenten Meditations Booklet from all our members, to all our members.

There is a structure of meditational readings, known as the Daily Office Lectionary, found in the Prayer Book. There are four readings for each day. We want to contact 40 different groups in the church to cover the forty days of Lent. These will include adult, youth and children's groups. We will assign a specific day to each group. That group will then choose one of the four readings to discuss, and build a meditation for the booklet.

Now...to have this booklet ready for the parish to use as part of our Lenten Discipline, I need to have all the meditations sent to me by January 26th, or earlier so that we may have it available to you two weeks before Lent starts. Very soon, I will contact group leaders and assign the Daily Office Reading for a specific day. Your group then chooses one of the four readings from that day, and a member of your group will record your discussion of it as a meditation and then email, or mail, it to me by January 19th in order to complete the booklet. If you have any questions, comments, or want to volunteer to help, please contact me. Rita Eccles 345-7396, email jandr@austin.rr.com

Music Notes

by Suzanne Daniel, St. Matthew's Music Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has contributed musically to our worship in the past few months! This has been a busy fall. In September, we had festive music for St. Matthew's Day with a brass quartet. In October, a St. Matthew's Vocal Ensemble was introduced, the Blue Halos made an offering, and we were blessed with the music of a guest flutist.

November will also feature special music:

November 2nd, we will have the Austin Civic Orchestra Bassoon Quartet;

November 9th will include music in honor of Veteran's Day

November 16th will be the second offering of a St. Matthew's Vocal Ensemble
November 23rd will "ring" out Pentecost with handbells.

November 30th will begin the season of expectation using Rite I music and liturgy.

For the months of November and December we will be singing the Psalms. Some will be sung by a solo cantor with the congregation joining on the antiphon. Others will be choral. Yet others will be chanted by the choir with the congregation joining on the antiphon.

Later in November we will begin rehearsing Advent and Christmas music. At the end of November we are hosting the joint Thanksgiving Service with Triumphant Love Lutheran Church with a combined choir from both churches. We hope that you will consider joining us in making a joyful noise!

The Community of Hope invites you to **A Benedictine Adventure**

A time of spiritual renewal led by Rev. Helen W. Appelberg,
founder of the Community of Hope.

We will explore the 1500-year-old "Rule of St. Benedict"
and its timeless formula for balanced,
Christian living in today's contemporary world.

Friday, November 21 - Sunday, November 23
Omega Retreat Center at St. Scholastica Monastery
Boerne, Texas

For information please call Lin Boudreaux at (210) 697-9484 or
The Rev. Kevin Johnson at (210) 696-0834 x 36



St. Matthew's Activity Calendar

from www.StMattsAustin.org

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

November 2	Sunday	All Saint's Day, Baptisms	
November 4	Tuesday	Election Day	7:00am.- 7:00p.m.
November 5	Wednesday	Parish Wide Pot Luck Supper in Huffman Hall	6:00 p.m.
November 7	Friday	First Friday Golf	
November 7 - 8	Fri - Sat	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training Level I	
November 9	Sunday	United Thank Offering Ingathering	
November 9	Sunday	Get Acquainted Luncheon in Huffman Hall	12:00 Noon
November 11	Tuesday	Veterans Day – Day School Holiday	
November 12	Wednesday	Men's Fellowship in Huffman Hall	6:00 p.m.
Nov. 14 - 15	Fri - Sat	ECW In House Retreat with Wendy Wimberly	
November 18	Tuesday	Bus Trip to Museum of Fine Arts in Houston	
Nov. 21 - 22	Fri - Sat	Women's Retreat at Wessendorff Ranch	
November 25	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
November 26	Wednesday	Thanksgiving Joint Service with Triumphant Love Lutheran Church - in our Sanctuary	7:00 p.m.
November 27	Thursday	Thanksgiving	
November 28	Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday/ Office Closed	
November 30	Sunday	Advent I Year C begins	
December 3	Wednesday	Parish Wide Pot Luck Supper in Huffman Hall	6:00 p.m.
December 5	Friday	First Friday Golf	
December 12	Friday	Austin Civic Orchestra Benefit Concert	7:00 p.m.
December 14	Sunday	Confirmation with Bishop Daniels	10:30 a.m.
December 16	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
December 18	Thursday	Trinity Episcopal School Christmas Pageant	6:30 p.m.
Christmas	Services	To Be Announced Very Soon! Stay Tuned.	
December 24	Wednesday	Christmas Eve/Office closes at noon	
December 25	Thursday	Christmas	
December 26	Friday	Christmas Holiday/ Office Closed	
December 31	Wednesday	New Years Eve/ Office Closed Noon	
January 1	Thursday	New Years Day/ Office Closed	
January 2	Friday	First Friday Golf	
January 6	Tuesday	Feast of Lights Epiphany Service	7:00 p.m.
January 9	Fri/ Sat	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training Level II	
January 11	Sunday	Baptisms	
January 11	Sunday	Chili Cook-Off and Annual Parish Meeting	5:45 p.m.
January 19	Monday	Martin Luther King Day/ Office Closed	
January 27	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
February 6	Friday	First Friday Golf	
February 13 - 14	Fri - Sat	Diocesan Council Meeting in Tyler	
February 24	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
February 25	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	
March 15 - 19	Mon - Fri	Spring Break	
March 23	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
April 4	Sunday	Palm Sunday	
April 11	Sunday	Easter	
April 23 - 24	Fri - Sat	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training Level I and II	
April 24	Saturday	Conspirare Concert in Sanctuary	
April 27	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
May 4	Sunday	Convocational Ultreya in Huffman Hall	6:00 p.m.
May 21	Friday	Last Day of School	
May 27	Tuesday	Vestry Meeting in B-18	7:00 p.m.
May 30	Sunday	Pentecost	

Birthdays

November

- 2 Ty Cunningham, Allison Dillawn
- 3 Betty Jones, Kelly Owens
- 4 Amy Brooks, Tessa Shanks
- 5 Zacharias Doughty, Rita Eccles
- 6 William Brooke, John Edwards, Rylan Henderson, Tom LeMond, Dedee Norman, Dorothy Tesche
- 7 Laura Doughty, Carlin Mihm, Michael Moon, Dolores Muhich, David Thacker
- 8 Irene Fredman, Chris Levy
- 9 Carol Brewer, Alison Brooke, Vanessa Brooke, Anne Bustard, Vivian Francis, Tom Robinson
- 10 Shannon Buegner, Kate Canby, Hailey Nichols
- 11 Lane Dady, Jean Davenport, Ava Johns, Steve Norman, Susie Pierce, Kelly Blumhagen, Pete DeWeese, Mary Ellen Matthews
- 14 Alison Tewes
- 15 Veronica Bailey, Pat Bliss, Nancy Godwin, Scott Moore, Scott Tinker
- 16 Mary Brooks, Louise Thacker
- 17 Millie Roden, Brian Wood
- 18 Therese Baer, Maly Hatheway, Kay Hopkins, Edith Price, Paul Venincasa
- 19 Christopher Drake-Allen, David Hansford, Tommy Williams
- 20 Matthew Squires
- 21 Julie Alexander, Charlie Cole, Dennard Gilpin, Barbara Haynes, Julie Helfrich, Daniel Klinger, Michael McCants
- 22 Devin Bowman, Tina Daniel, Cameron Kirkgard, Howard Thompson
- 23 Andrew Abrahamson, Annelle Adams, Edmund Buckley, Terri Ocean, Clive Smith, Louise Trenholm
- 24 George Brooke, Christine Moore, Wendy Stapler
- 25 Catherine Biggar, 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, Charles Bounds, David Looney
- 29 Alice Ekerdt, Keller Hendricks

December

- 1 Fred Fredman, Rosie Nieman, Derek Tinker, Nathan Tinker
- 2 Jill Glassco, Chase Roden
- 3 Andrea Miller, Kathleen Nitschke, Merrill Robinson
- 4 John Baker, Vera Robinson, Robert Thomas, Jim Veith
- 5 Ric Campbell, Patricia Dillawn, Samantha Dillawn, Ward Goessling, Marie Kirchner, Patrick Malloy, Cary Michaels, Brad Robicheaux, Jane Smith, John Uhl, Kay White
- 6 Elaine Okazaki, Lee Wieschuegel
- 7 Lucy Boyea, Gillian Devlin, Karen Krause

New Members

Dennis Featherstone
 Michael and Paula Wolf Kulchisky
 Barbara Ann Kulchisky
 Wendy and James Stapler
 Bes and Wes Stapler
 Heather Elaine Walter

Baptisms

Hailey Alyse Davis,
 daughter of Krista Davis

Baleigh Marie Hicks,
 daughter of Stacia Hicks

Barbara Ann Kulchisky,
 daughter of Michael and Paula Wolf Kulchisky

Births

Mark Austin Udelhofen
 was born September 11,
 son of Cindy and Mark Udelhofen

Tyler Gordon Hill
 was born September 29,
 son of Sara and Ed Hill,
 grandson of Susan and Jack Robertson

Lucas Andres Alcocer
 was born October 2,
 son of Elizabeth and Eduardo Alcocer

Samuel Evatt Yeargain,
 was born October 5,
 grandson of Pat and Bob Yeargain

Deaths

Dorothy Simcox,
 sister of Jerry Marshall,
 died September 25, 2003

Edwin Bush,
 father of Stacie Veith,
 died September 27, 2003

Lydia Strother,
 cousin of Hink Johnson,
 died October 5, 2003

**The 155th Annual
 Diocesan Council of The Diocese of Texas
 is February 13 - 14, 2004
 in Tyler, Texas**

Plan now to join the group from our parish
 that will be going to Tyler.

See the December issue of *The Word* for details!

The Rt. Rev. Leo Alard
1941 – 2003

With great sadness we note the passing of
 Bishop Alard.
 He was loved by all who crossed his path.
 Our prayers are with his wife and daughter.

the st. matthew's word

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and School
 www.StMattsAustin.org ♦ office@StMattsAustin.org
 8134 Mesa Drive ♦ Austin, TX 78759-8678
 (512) 345-8314 ♦ FAX (512) 346-2085

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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 December issue
 of *The Word* is
 Friday, November 14, 2003
 at 5:00 p.m. Submissions on diskette
 are welcomed - or email your article
 to betty@stmattsaustrin.org
 Articles may be edited for content
 and length.**

Vestry Commission Chairs

David Barrow, Jr. and Mary Nell Frucella
Buildings and Grounds
 Tom Canby
 Steve Ryder
 Warren Marshall
 Charlie Cole
 Holly Dechard
Finance
Communications
Personnel
Stewardship
Outreach

Lay Ministry Councils

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

School Board

Michael McCollum
 Kristin Fason
 Kay Ballard
 Kent Zarbock
 Pat Boon
 Pam Littlefield
 Eileen Cole
 The Rev. Merrill Wade
Members—Dana Bushong, Bess Carsner,
 Dean Fisher, Michael Mashburn, Millie Roden
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Vestry Liaison
Director
Assistant Director
Rector

Staff

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

Vestry

Phil Hatlen (345-9923)
 Kate Canby (219-8693)
 David Price (371-0248)
 John Muhich (452-1210)
 Bert Hooper (346-6675)
 Patty Steed (346-4255)
Senior Warden
Vestry Warden
People's Warden
Treasurer
Chancellor
Clerk
Members—Jerry Ballard, Pat Boon, Charles Cole,
 Bill Donnell, David Harakal, Cliff Harrison,
 Warren Marshall, Debbie Meleski, Don Neely,
 Susan Robertson, Clive Smith
Assigned Vestry Members for November—
 David Harakal and Susan Robertson