

# The St. Matthew's Word

Volume 2005 Issue 11

November 2005

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

## From the Rector

BY THE REV. MERRILL WADE

I write this on October 13, 2005, still waiting on the cooler weather to come and stay. I am tired of air conditioning!

### Clergy Conference

Last week Susan Barnes and I gathered with Bishop Wimberly and the vast array of clergy in the Diocese of Texas for our annual Clergy Conference at Camp Allen. We enjoyed excellent scholarly work on the Gospels; inspiring musical leadership by Dr. Clarence Boyer, an Episcopalian who does excellent work retooling old gospel and spiritual favorites; entertainment by Ray Wylie Hubbard (who was very funny and super talented!); a probing presentation on contemplative spirituality and the moral life by monastic priest Curtis Almquist; time together as clergy; and several other informative presentations. Bishop Wimberly stressed his desire for clergy to work together in the Episcopal Church, even as many people in our denomination continue to press for division. He said his focus is excellent leadership in congregations and the church's mission to those in need. He told us that the Diocese of Texas raised some \$340,000 for hurricane relief. He will be calling for "rebuilding missions" in support of parts of East Texas devastated by Hurricane Rita. It was a great conference and wonderful time of bonding for the clergy of the diocese!

### In the Spirit of Excellence

I want you to know that Bishop Wimberly personally invited St. Matthew's to participate in a pilot program for parishes and missions called *In the Spirit of Excellence* which calls on lay and ordained parish leadership to set goals and to regularly review and evaluate parish ministries as a way to give emphasis to those ministries each parish does well and to make

sure that those involved are well prepared, supported and appreciated. More information will follow but I wanted you to know that St. Matthew's is the only resource-size parish in the program and that the Vestry approved our participation in its September meeting.

### Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday, November 23 7:15 p.m.

in the Sanctuary at St. Matthew's

Join us for our annual celebration of the Holy Eucharist with friends from Triumphant Love Lutheran Church. The service will include special music, a sermon and prayers of thanksgiving. A reception will follow.

### The Gathering - 2006

Bishop Wimberly told us about The Gathering, a diocesan-wide event to be held June 1st - 3rd, 2006, on the campus of Episcopal High School in Houston. The purpose of the Gathering is for clergy and lay members of ALL the missions and parishes of the Diocese of Texas to come together to energize our common conviction to serve Christ in mission and ministry. There will be some 60 workshops. There are two keynote speakers. One is *Newsweek* editor Jon Meachem, responsible for the recent *Newsweek* articles on the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which were extremely well received by the public and scholars as well. Meachem is an active Episcopalian from New York City. The other is Anne Lamott, author of *Traveling Mercies* and other best sellers. She is known to be a very frank and compelling storyteller

who mixes humor and complicated personal experiences to inspire faith in a difficult world. At this point I ask you to mark your calendar with these days in mind. Our goal will be for between 50-75 persons from St. Matthew's to attend.

### Giving Thanks for our Country

On Sunday, November 13, we will commemorate Veteran's Day by recognizing those men and women in our congregation who have fought to preserve our liberties in foreign wars. Veteran's Day is actually November 11, and is a day to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and sacrifice for the common good.

On Wednesday night, November 23, we will gather in our sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. for our annual joint Thanksgiving service with our friends at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist according to the Book of Common Prayer and share the duties of reading scripture, preaching and distributing the Holy Communion with Triumphant Love. This is a happy and important tradition and I trust that you will want to celebrate a Thanksgiving meal in church first! A brief reception will follow.

### Our Mission Statement

This is first notice that I will be teaching a class on our revised mission statement - "to know Christ, grow in Christ, and share Christ's love." I intend to weave Scripture, theology, hymn lyrics and my own thoughts together to offer a serious reflection on our mission together. The class will be held in Huffman Hall from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings, November 27, December 4 and December 11.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE...

**Brotherhood of St. Andrew**

We are developing a men's group to focus on prayer, study and service to the church. Over forty men will be installed as members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew on Saturday, November 5 at 8 a.m. in Huffman Hall. You will be hearing more and more about the Brotherhood and I am delighted to be a member and to offer my leadership and support to their work.

Finally, I want to offer a word of thanks to all of you for the excellent start to our pledge campaign for the Operating Budget of St. Matthew's for 2006. As of this writing we have 233 pledges for \$852,000. I am so moved by your commitments to grow this parish in mission and ministry. The Wardens will keep you informed as we move ahead in this process.

God bless you one and all!



Merrill



**Thanksgiving Morning**  
**Thursday, November 24**  
**7:00 a.m.**

You are invited to join the members of the Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study Breakfast Group for Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary.

**Thanksgiving Time**

BY DAVID PRICE, SENIOR WARDEN

Well, this is Thanksgiving month. Where in the world did this past year go? It's already time to be thinking about Vestry Elections and the January Annual meeting.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect upon our collective blessings. Last month, I mentioned Hurricane Katrina – not knowing Rita would be following during the interim. This past month, a horrible earthquake has hit northern Pakistan. I don't want to even think what may be around the corner.

But we are blessed. In this day of "instant" this, "instant" that, with the Internet, satellite news and radio, we are almost too in touch with current events. On one hand, we become desensitized to some of the horrors of the world, of natural events. Is God punishing us? Of course not. If you look at the loss of life in many of these naturally occurring events, we tempt fate by thinking we are smarter, that we can build in hurricane-prone, or earthquake-prone areas without consequence. We can be smarter by realizing we are not in control of natural phenomena – or in our lives.

But we are all blessed, not because of our relative wealth, as compared to the world. We are blessed because we are all part of God's Kingdom. This church could fall down tomorrow, and we would be here worshipping as a community. We are blessed, because our lives cannot be held ransom, as the ransom has been paid, forevermore. Yes, we are also blessed in the comforts of this world. We are blessed because our community shares with others less fortunate. We are blessed with family, with friends, with a wonderful faith community, and so much more.

I suppose it's no wonder people love this time of year so much. It's a time of togetherness, of sharing, of taking stock of our lives (okay, the cooler weather doesn't hurt, either). It's a time to also reach out to those less fortunate. Let us remember that there are many in need, throughout the year, not just during times of natural disaster. Let us remember those people, too, most of all. And let us share – as we always have – the bounty with which we have been so blessed.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!!!

**To Grow in Christ**

BY THE REV. SUSAN BARNES

As we begin to live into our expanded Mission Statement—To Know Christ, Grow in Christ, and Share Christ's Love—I would like to share some thoughts about what "Growing in Christ" means to me.

We so often use and hear the words "Jesus Christ" together that non-Christians might think "Christ" was Jesus' last name. Instead, as you know, the Greek word "Christus" signifies Jesus' identity as the Messiah, which means one whom God has chosen, whom God has anointed.

When we say "the Christ" we can be referring to the person, Jesus. In that sense, "to grow in Christ" can mean to grow in knowledge about Jesus by studying the gospels to learn about the facts of his life: his ministry, his teachings, his healings, his Passion, his death, and his disciples' experience of his resurrected presence.

Christ, today, is a mystery we experience in a community of believers. The Risen Christ transcends time, space, and the particulars of identity, including gender, race, and role. St. Paul wrote magnificently about that mystery, particularly in 1 Corinthians.

It is a mystery--and a reality. We are bound together in this reality first through our baptism. We celebrate and renew that bond in our worship, particularly the sacrament of the Eucharist, which unites us with all other believers everywhere. "To grow in Christ" in this sense means to participate in our common life, to grow as part of a community of faith and worship.

To grow in Christ also means to model our lives on Jesus'. That means accepting God's love for us, and God's claim on us—just as Jesus did. Learning how to love and serve others—just as Jesus did. God has a special destiny for every one of God's children. God has given each of us specific gifts to use for the kingdom. Part of growing in Christ is doing as Jesus did: regularly withdrawing for periods of silence; being present to God; seeking God's will in all that we do; listening for God's call.

The mystery of Christ is infinite, and infinitely wondrous. The process of growing in Christ is lifelong. It, too, is infinite, and infinitely wondrous. Thanks be to God!

# St. Matthew's Vestry Elections

BY DAVID PRICE, SENIOR WARDEN

Have you ever considered being a Vestry member? Do you know what a Vestry member is – or does? Well, I really didn't know either, until a few years ago, when I started to pay attention to things that were going on at the Annual Meeting. It has been a rewarding, and humbling experience, in which I feel blessed to have been able to serve.

St. Matthew's has a Vestry composed of fifteen members of the parish. Each year, five people "retire" from a three year term on the Vestry, as five more people are elected at the Annual Meeting in January. These members are responsible for the running of the business side of the church, as well as various Commissions. They attend an annual retreat each year (immediately after the Annual Meeting), where they get some training on process, and get to know one another, and share in fellowship.

Five new Vestry members will be elected to replace those who will be rotating off. Retiring from the Vestry will be Susan Robertson, Warren Marshall, Bill Donnell, Jerry Ballard, and myself. Elections will also be held for representation to the Diocesan Council and the Endowment Committee (formerly named the Special Gifts Committee).

The Vestry term is for three years. Each member will be expected to serve on a Vestry Commission, and to take a leadership role. If you think this might be for you, I suggest you speak to one of the current members, Susan, or Merrill. I also suggest you come to a Vestry meeting to get a first hand look at the process. It is quite rewarding.

There are a few requirements for eligibility to place your name in nomination for the Vestry per the Canons:

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; and
3. Have not previously served a full term on the vestry within the past 12 months.

The following items are also to be considered part of your commitment to serve our community at St. Matthew's.

- 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, held at Camp Allen on January 13 and 14, 2006.
- Attend Diocesan seminar for new vestry members on March 4, at St. Matthew's, in Austin.
- Attend Stewardship Conference at Camp Allen, August 4 and 5, 2006.
- 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.

And according to the Diocesan canons, 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.*]

# Brotherhood of St. Andrew to be Installed

BY JIM SPARKS

The installation of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew will be held in Huffman Hall on Saturday, November 5, at 8:00 a.m.

Forty-three men will be installed in St. Matthew's new chapter by Dudley Baker, national vice president, and the Rev. Merrill Wade. Jim Newman will serve as our sponsor, along with the Brotherhood chapter of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.

Breakfast will be prepared and served at 8:00 by the Brotherhood officers. Jim Sparks, Director, will tell the members about our focus for the coming year, including monthly Bible studies, quarterly meetings, a retreat, men's fellowship dinners and other activities.

---

## November 6th is NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

**Welcome St. Matthew's Newest Members at the "Parish Get Acquainted Lunch" on Sunday November 6**

The Newcomers Council extends an invitation to the entire congregation to honor the newest members of our parish family at the "Parish Get Acquainted Lunch" on Sunday, November 6, after the 10:30 service. We will have a delicious catered lunch, distribute the latest New Member Profile booklet and introduce the newest members of our church family to the congregation. There is no charge for the lunch, however a love offering basket will be available. Call the church office (345-8314) to sign up. If you are a new member who joined St. Matthew's since May 22, we would like to honor you at the luncheon so please RSVP quickly to Betty Mitchell at 345-8314 or via email, [betty@stmattsAustin.org](mailto:betty@stmattsAustin.org) Those who join St. Matthew's after October 25 will be honored at the next luncheon in May.

## Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 6

*Vestry Elections and State of the Parish Information  
Nomination Forms are available in the church office*

## Notes on the Monthly Financial Statements

BY DAVE BOWMAN, BUSINESS MANAGER

In each issue of *The Word* we report the monthly financials in summary form to provide a quick and easy-to-read statement. Please understand that in our effort to keep it simple, we have given up reporting some detail. For this reason I thought a brief explanation may help you understand what the numbers mean.

"Pledge and Other Offerings" contains: Pledge contributions, Non-Pledge Contributions and undesignated gifts, Plate, Good Faith contributions, Pastoral Care Contributions

"Other Income" contains: Operating Income from investments, Church Use Donations, Day School Utility Reimbursements, Designated Gifts, Miscellaneous Income

As an example, Year To Date (YTD) contributions to Good Faith total over \$34,000.00. Designated gifts YTD for Katrina Relief are \$24,685.00. When you deduct these from the summary, our real operating income YTD is closer to \$714,000 against a budget of \$771,000. Our Expenses are closer to \$777,000 against a budget of \$780,000.

All of this tells us we are very close to budget in expenses while pledge income is below budget. There is time left in the year for pledge contributions to return to their normal pattern.



## Spiritual Formation: Calendar of Events

(unless otherwise noted, all are at St. Matthew's)

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Seton Cove, brownbag lunch series on Restoring Balance: Reflections and Practices for Daily Living ([www.setoncovenet.net](http://www.setoncovenet.net))

November 3, 10, 17

12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Seton Cove, series of luncheon lectures on Spirituality and Consumerism ([www.setoncovenet.net](http://www.setoncovenet.net))

November 10-13

Camp Allen, Cursillo Weekend ([www.stmattsaustrin.org/cursillo.htm](http://www.stmattsaustrin.org/cursillo.htm))

November 10-13

Houston, National Conference of Image Journal, "The Matter of Devotion: Art, Liturgy, and the Stuff of Worship" ([www.imagejournal.org/conference/05/](http://www.imagejournal.org/conference/05/))

November 11-13

St. Matthew's Youth Fall Retreat, CrossRoads Retreat Center

November 18-20

Camp Allen, Happening, YES

Saturday, November 19

9 a.m., cost is \$10

Daughters of the King Day of Prayer, led by the Rev. Michael Gemignani

November 30, December 7, 14

12 Noon - 1 p.m.

Seton Cove, the Rev. Bob Lively, Becoming a New Creation: From Fear to Courage. ([www.setoncovenet.net](http://www.setoncovenet.net))

December 1, 8, 15

12 noon - 1 p.m.

Seton Cove, series of luncheon lectures on Spirituality and Anticipation: What are We Waiting For? ([www.setoncovenet.net](http://www.setoncovenet.net))

December 6, 13

12 noon-1 p.m.

Seton Cove, brownbag lunch series on Restoring Balance: Reflections and Practices for Daily Living ([www.setoncovenet.net](http://www.setoncovenet.net))

December 27-30

Camp Allen, Senior High Midwinter Retreat

January-November 2006

Seton Cove, year-long course on The Practice of Contemplative Leadership, taught by Patricia Speier, Executive Director of Seton Cove (for details, contact [pspeier@seton.org](mailto:pspeier@seton.org))

February-September 2006

Seton Cove, Leadership Pilgrimage 2006, year-long program of three 3-day retreats, led by Patricia Speier, Executive Director of Seton Cove (for details, contact [pspeier@seton.org](mailto:pspeier@seton.org))

### "I've Always Been Curious About That..."

**Come For Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, December 4 at 12:00 in the Bride's Room**

Do you have unanswered questions about St. Matthew's parish? About the church in general? About our personnel or programs? Do you have suggestions or innovative ideas you would like to share? Would you like an opportunity to visit with church friends, old and new, in a relaxed setting?

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbors who need a church home or those who have recently come into our church community to join us for our next Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, December 4, in the Bride's Room, B-6, at the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. service. For more information you can contact Newcomers Council Chair, Jeri Muhich at 452-1210, or Pat Boon, 345-1137, Betty Mitchell or Barbara Haynes in the Church office, 345-8314.

### September 2005 Financial Statement

	MONTH-TO-DATE		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$56,980.94	\$85,425.00	\$ 741,153.72	\$786,925.00
Other Income	28,802.04	950.00	31,459.29	4,720.00
Total Income	85,782.98	86,375.00	772,613.01	791,645.00
Total Expenses	126,157.89	90,506.09	832,470.04	799,806.31
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	(\$40,374.91)	(\$4,131.09)	(\$59,857.03)	(\$8,161.31)

# Adult Education Programs For Fall 2005

**“To Know Christ, Grow in Christ, and Share Christ’s Love”**

## Contemplative Spirituality

*taught by Sharon Lowe and Jim Duncan*  
 Sunday mornings 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in Room B-14

The goal of this class is to share life experiences as Christians listening to each other and connecting them to the larger story of Christianity. We seek to accomplish this through prayer, meditation, reflection, dialog, witness and the study of scripture, poetry and works by contemplative spiritual writers. The book currently being studied is “What is God’s Will For Me?” by Frederick O. Schmidt, about discernment on a daily basis.

## Bible Study

*taught by Joe Behen and Clive Smith*  
 Sunday mornings 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. in Room B-21

The goal of this study of Scripture is to gain a greater understanding of our relationship with the Lord through study of the story of God’s reaching out to His chosen people as given to us in Scripture. In addition to the words of Scripture itself, fairly extensive use will also be made of study aids. The format of this study is not that of lecture but of group study. Participation in discussions is always optional but encouraged. Topics of study will be decided by the group, with deference to topics that give some logical flow to the material over time.

## “The Anglican Church: Then and Now”

*taught by Susan Barnes and Cara Spaccarelli*

Sundays, November 6 and 13, 9:30 a.m. in B-18

Did you know that as members of the Episcopal church we are also part of the worldwide Anglican communion? What does it mean to be Anglican? What do all the Anglican churches across the many different cultures share in common? Join us in a two week adult education class on Anglicanism that seeks to explore this Anglican identity. On Nov. 6 Susan will discuss the roots of the Anglican church, and on Nov. 13, Cara, our senior seminarian, will discuss how Anglican identity has evolved and both the gifts and challenges that our shared Anglican identity within the Anglican communion present today.

## “Bishop Ussher and the Dating of Creation”

*taught by Marty Novak*  
 Sunday November 20 - 9:30 a.m. Huffman Hall

Archbishop James Ussher (1580-1655 A.D.) is best known today for his Biblical dating system in which, among other dates, he calculated that the world was created on October 23, 4004 B.C. Ussher’s dating system was widely adopted in the early Episcopal Church and was reproduced in the margins of King James Bible translations from 1701 A.D. through the early 20th century. Marty Novak will speak on the basics of Ussher’s dating system, with emphasis on how Ussher’s starting presumptions affected his calculations and the use of his calculations by modern “Young Earth” creationists.

## Sunday Evening Relationship Course

*taught by Bob Lively*  
 in Room B-18

This and cost-free course for singles and couples is entitled, “Breaking New Ground...A Course in Making Your Relationship Work.”

The class involves voluntary homework and meets on Sunday evenings from 6:15 until 7:45 throughout the fall semester. The focus of this fun and informative experience is to invite individuals to think and perhaps behave in new and more functional ways in the cause of making relationship systems more open and communication patterns far more honest.

# Care For the Caregiver is Off and Running!

SUBMITTED BY GIDGET FISHER

Our volunteer opportunities are expanding. There is a real need for the kind of support that this ministry offers. If you have a few hours per month, we have varied ways to fill those hours. The work is easy and rewarding. Please pray about this ministry and if you feel called, contact Gidget Fisher at 328-2088 or email [gid92get@yahoo.com](mailto:gid92get@yahoo.com)

## Senior Sentences

BY LUCY A. BOYEA,  
 MINISTER OF SENIOR ACTIVITIES

## Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving

In this season of Thanksgiving, I would like to share some thoughts of the Reverend James L. Burns, Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York, New York.

“All prayer begins with praise. Praise acknowledges God’s holiness, God’s providence, God’s steadfast love, and God’s glory. Praise reminds us that God is before us, in all, and above all. Praise puts everything in perspective and reminds us that we are not God, despite all our efforts and deceptions to the contrary. Praise gives rise to thanksgiving - for life, for the new day, and for the possibilities that God affords us, and for the Love that desires only that we dwell with God for eternity. Praise helps US to see that, as Sr. Joan Chittister put it, “life is punctuated by God, awash in God, encircled by God.”

Thanks be to God!

**Attention Chili Cookers**  
**The Annual Chili Cookoff and Parish Meeting**  
 is set for  
**Sunday, January 6**  
*So get your team organized and come up with hot chili and some cool decorations – you could be the winning entry!*

The St. Matthew’s Word (USPS 009-663) is published monthly by St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Drive, Austin, TX 78759-8678. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The St. Matthew’s Word, 8134 Mesa Drive, Austin, TX 78759-8678.

## November is Donor Awareness Month

### Be An Organ Donor – and 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? 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 twelve 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.

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

### Level I, Part 1, Training 2006

St. Louis Catholic Church, Austin  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

January 28 & 29  
February 18 & 19  
April 1 & 2,  
June 24 & 25  
July 15 & 16  
September 2, 3, 4 (Labor Day weekend)

- ♦ To explore the young child's religious nature and needs
- ♦ To prepare the adult to assist the child
- ♦ To meditate on the scriptural and liturgical themes presented to the child.

For information, contact Barbara Pitts  
bpitts@stmattsaustrin.org or 345-8314

## NOVEMBER KIDS' CALENDAR "u" COMPLETE O\_R FAMILY

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE		
<b>9:30 Sunday School</b> – Children are checked in by their parents		
Level I	3 yrs. (by Sept.1) – Kinder	Basement-16
	Nov 6 The Prophecy of Bethlehem	
	Nov 13 The Prophecy of the Names of Jesus	
	Nov. 20 The Prophecy of the Light	
	Nov. 27 Advent Procession/The Annunciation to Mary	
Level II	1st – 3rd Grades	Basement-17
	Nov 6 The Bible and the Books that Comprise It	
	Nov 13 Continue with the Books of the Bible	
	Nov. 20 The Geography of Israel	
	Nov. 27 Bible Study: Advent Prophecies	
Level III	4th – 5th Grades	Basement-13
	Nov 6 Bible Study: Creation & Redemption	
	Nov 13 Bible Study: Creation, Redemption & Parousia	
	Nov. 20 Call of the Prophets, Part 1	
	Nov. 27 Call of the Prophets, Par 2	
<b>10:30 Sunday School</b> – Children are checked in by their parents before the service at B-21		
	3 yrs. (by Sept.1) – 3rd Grade	Basement-21
	Nov. 6 All Saints Day	
	Nov. 13 Giving Thanks - Banner	
	Nov. 20 Giving Thanks - Banner, continued	
	Nov. 27 Giving Thanks - Banner, conclusion	
<i>Children who turn 3 by Sept. 1 may remain in the nursery for free play, or they may join the Level I (3yr.-Kinder) class for a more structured morning program.</i>		

IN NOVEMBER		
November 11, Fri	Bunco Redux - Save the date and watch for details	Huffman
November 15, Tues	11:30 - 1:00 Children's Council (NEW TIME)	B-14

## A Family Thanksgiving

SUBMITTED BY DYKE MILLER

Here is the family time you've been waiting for – an extended Thanksgiving at Well Springs Wessendorff Ranch on the Little Blanco River about 10 miles from Blanco, Texas on, county roads 473/403. The dates are noon Friday, November 25, through lunch (1 p.m.) on Sunday, November 27. Enjoy a two night, three day get-a-way from the hectic pace of "city" life and bring your family (all family types welcome) to this great "camp out" experience with the amenities of a "holiday inn", well almost.

The Wessendorff Ranch has innerspring single beds, individual rooms (2 per), dorm rooms for kids (slumber party like), hot/cold water, showers, flush toilets, living

room like gathering area, kitchen and dining area, and a TV to watch Texas and A&M play on Friday – otherwise the TV is OFF! In addition to the living area buildings, the Ranch has a Chapel, a wonderful area for star gazing, areas for hiking and exploring and if the water is not that cold, a place for some swimming. This is a time for relaxation, rest and time to just "hang" out. The sponsor of this week-end is the Extended Family Ministry of St. Matthew's. The cost will be pro-rated depending on those participating. We have a \$210 custodial fee to pay and also expenses for food. Contact Dyke Miller at 794-9032 for more details or to "sign up". Reservations need to be made by November 9th.

## Books by John Claypool (1931-2005)

A REVIEW BY RITA ECCLES

John Claypool came to St. Matthew's when he was attending Episcopal Theological Seminary to be ordained an Episcopal priest. He had been a Baptist minister before that. When ordained, he served as Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama, then as Professor of Preaching at McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia. He has served many churches and many people.

Claypool wrote eleven books, and was a nationally respected speaker. One of the priests who served with him says of John, "He touched my soul." In the short time he was at St. Matthew's, he touched our souls as well. Now, through his writings, he can touch those of us who did not know him personally. He died September 3, 2005 after long-term treatment for multiple myeloma.

Here are some of his inspirational books that are available in the St. Matthew's Library.

### *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler* Pub. 1974

After almost 20 years as a minister John Claypool dealt personally with sickness and death when his 10 year old daughter died of acute leukemia after suffering for eighteen months. This book is four sermons he gave during his family's trauma with her illness.

The sermons are titled: "The Basis of Hope", given shortly after her diagnosis; "Strength Not to Faint", given when, after a nine-month remission, his daughter relapsed; "Life is a Gift", how he dealt with her death, and "Learning to Handle Grief", given three and a half years after her death. It tells of his learning to handle his grief – learning how to lose. This is something all of us do. We lose at times. His personal experiences with biblical understandings are real and helpful.

### *Mending the Heart* Pub. 1999

This small book has a very large message. Its three chapters have excellent reflections on dealing with the wounds we carry from grievances when other people hurt us, wounds of guilt when we hurt other people, and wounds when we are hurt by loss.

### *Stories Jesus Still Tells* Pub. 2000

Ten parables are dealt with and explained in the time and culture that Jesus told them. In the vineyard owner who pays the same salary to those who worked a full day and those who worked just a short time, he focuses on the way we tend to be happy with our "lot in life" until we look at our neighbors with envy. He quotes many authors in this work. He certainly isn't envious of their strengths. Their work strengthens the stories and treatments he has gathered.

### *Glad Reunion* Pub. 2000

Stories of Old Testament heroes and heroines show our connection with our ancient ancestors. His comments regarding their ancient culture make their choices and actions dramatically real and helpful in understanding their places in our history. Each chapter has suggested questions for discussion and thought. This one might be good for bible study groups.

### *God the Ingenious Alchemist* Pub. 2005

Claypool wrote this while he was undergoing treatment for his cancer. Based on chapters 25 through 50 of Genesis, he tells the story of Jacob and Joseph and Joseph's twelve sons, showing how God managed to change their lives from destruction to mercy and grace, from "lead" to "gold". It tells of God having the ability to change the most destructive things we are capable of and make them into positive growth and blessings for the creature He created to be free.

### **Save These Dates!**

The Diocese of Texas Gathering

June 1 – 3 in Houston

60 Workshops and fun for all!

*Watch for details*

## Fall United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering

SUBMITTED BY LORI FEATHERSTONE

The fall UTO drive is this month. What are you thankful for? Family, friends, home, health, St. Matthew's Church...the list is endless. One way to give thanks for these many blessings is to make an offering to the United Thank Offering.

UTO was founded by the Women's Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church in 1889. Since its inception, millions of dollars have been raised and used to support grants for ministries around the world. Every penny given goes directly to selected projects.

November is UTO Month! Our ingathering at St. Matthew's will be on Sunday, November 20, and members of our ECW will be passing around the blue UTO collection baskets during the 10:30 a.m. service on that day. [You may turn in your UTO offerings at any time during the month of November, if you are not here on the 20th.]

Please remember to indicate "UTO" in the memo line of your check as you give generously to this worthwhile cause.

## The Day School Welcomes Fall

BY DANA FALLON, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Now that the weather has cooled (OK, maybe it's just less hot than summer), our thoughts turn to Fall. School and Fall just seem to go hand in hand. You can feel Fall in the air as you stroll through the halls of St. Matthew's Education Building. Children are wearing their fall clothes and decorating pumpkins. The breezeway has been transformed into a Fall orchard. The school and its wonderful parents work hard to prepare for Fall Fest. Our Fall Fest is a wonderful tradition that allows families to spend time together and have some old-fashioned fall fun. It is also a time for our day school families to thank St. Matthew's School by contributing their time and money to support the school and the children. It seems appropriate that Fall brings to us this a special event for expressing our thanks to our school and St. Matthew's. After all, Fall is a time for thankfulness -- a value that we all want the young children in our community to carry with them throughout their lives, a value that they will learn right here at St. Matthew's school.

## “Hyper-Life”

BY PHIL WEBSTER, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

One of the central aspects of Christianity is the concept of incarnation. Numerous theologians have commented on the incarnational aspects of creation, namely, that in creation the very goodness of God is present. Salvation history, particularly the Exodus from Egypt, illustrates the manner in which God is present in the world and is actively reaching out to humanity. Then there is Jesus the Christ, the ultimate example of God’s saving presence in the world. Incarnation is about God entering into the human condition, both the good and the bad, in order to lead humanity to the fullness of life.

Part of the human condition is culture, and as a youth minister, I am very interested in the cultural context of youth and their families. I have been involved in parish and diocesan ministry for nearly twelve years now and during that time I have noticed a steady and decisive movement toward excessive busyness – a “hyper-life” – in American families.

In 1999 a University of Michigan study showed that youth on average lost twelve hours of free time per week from 1981-1997. During that same period of time youth spent twice as many hours in structured sports activities, while the time for family dinners decreased by nearly thirty-three percent. Another huge concern for youth is the increased pressure to achieve academically. This pressure has not only been noticed by families, but also by the business community. According to Barbara Hagenbaugh in *USA Today*, the number of youth ages 16-19 with part-time jobs fell to 44% in 2004. The stated reason by most experts is that youth, and their families, are stretched too thin due to the pressures of an over-scheduled life. The reality for an increasing number of youth and their families is that life has become a juggling act – a steady stream of club meetings, after-school activities, homework, and sports that often leave them exhausted physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

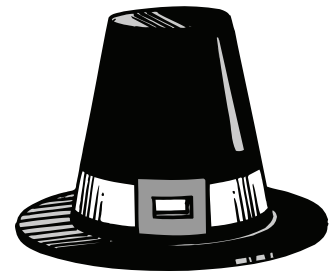
The busyness of youth and families presents a unique challenge for the development of a healthy spiritual life. The Christian tradition has long understood that a meaningful encounter with God requires “empty space” in one’s life – time for reflection and the opportunity to enter into relationship with God. As one author for parents has put it “... you can’t nurture your kid’s faith out on the

margins of life. A hyper-busy lifestyle assassinates the unhurried moments that are the breeding ground for passing on life’s great truths”. Family experts who once touted the virtues of a highly scheduled life are now recommending that families set aside time for family activities and to adopt guidelines of behavior that encourage a moderate and balanced approach to school, work, sports, family time, and church.

St. Matthew’s Youth Ministry has intentionally developed in way to meet the needs of youth within their culture, while respecting the need for balance. Over the last year I have noticed that St. Matthew’s does not have “a youth group”. Attendance figures show that there are, in fact, many groups of youth who attend our programs. Some youth participate in service projects and mission trips, but do not attend Exploration on Wednesday night. Other youth are able to participate in Celebration and Movie Night on Sundays, but cannot make many of the big social events. There are some youth who participate in nearly every program that we offer over the course of a year (more than fifty programs), but these youth are the exception, not the rule. And this is a good thing. As the Youth Director, it is my hope that St. Matthew’s Youth Ministry may continue to be a resource to parents and families. It is our goal to not have programs scheduled at every possible time during the week. Instead, it is our goal to generate programs that model balance and variety. It is my firm belief that participation in parish-based youth programming is important to the proper faith development of youth. However, it is equally true that youth must have time for their families and for their friends. With that said, it is our goal and our prayer that this ministry might continue to serve as an oasis of support, refreshment, and empowerment for youth.

In writing this article I am aware that I have not offered a solution to the problem. The reality is that life is busy and that choices and prioritization present real challenges for youth and their families. It is my hope, however, that we at St. Matthew’s can be open and responsive to the needs of youth and parents. This past September we hosted our first annual Family Conference and by all accounts it was a success. However, such a conference is not, in itself, the answer. The answer, I believe, will come through a

conversation led by the spirit. On behalf of St. Matthew’s Youth, I invite your thoughts and comments on the challenges of youth and family life. What are the demands that you and your youth are facing? How can St. Matthew’s be a support and encouragement to you in your journey of faith? Finally, in what ways can the shape of youth ministry programming in the future be more responsive to the time constraints of youth today? These are just a few questions, and you may have other comments and suggestions to offer. I want you to know that we are listening and that your responses will be carefully considered as the Youth Council prayerfully considers the ways in which St. Matthew’s Youth can be present to the needs of youth and their families.



Each Wednesday	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Exploration:</b> Join your friends for an evening of community building, active learning, and prayer. We will start most evenings in Huffman Hall and end in the Youth Building. All youth grades 6-12 are welcome. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 2: "Windows into heaven" (Prayer Experience)</li> <li>• November 9: "What to do when you mess up" (Adult-led)</li> <li>• November 16: "Turning down the volume of life" (Youth-led)</li> <li>• November 30: "What do you know" (Adult-led)</li> </ul>
Thursday, November 3	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	<b>Youth Council:</b> This is the monthly meeting of the Leadership Team of St. Matt's Youth. Please contact the youth office for details.
Sunday, November 6	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	<b>Youth Band Practice:</b> This is an open practice for singers and musicians to get ready for the next Celebration. All are welcome!
Friday, November 11 - Sunday, November 13	6:00 p.m. - 12:00 noon	<b>St. Matt's Youth Fall Retreat: "Be a Man/Woman of God".</b> This is a weekend retreat for guys and gals grades 6-12. The weekend will provide time for lots of fun, relaxation, prayer, and learning. There will be special activities just for the guys to be with guys and the gals to be with gals. The retreat will be at CrossRoads Retreat Center and we have the whole place to ourselves...this means that you should bring a friend or two with you! The cost of the trip is only \$70.00 and this includes all of your meals and transportation. Registration and permission forms are due by November 6th. Please check the website ( <a href="http://www.stmattsaustrin.org">www.stmattsaustrin.org</a> ) for more details or simply contact the youth office (345-8314).
Sunday, November 20	5:00 pm - 7:30 pm.	<b>Celebration:</b> The evening starts at 5:15 with a youth-led, contemporary Eucharist (the youth band will be playing) for the whole church family in Huffman Hall. At six, all youth grades 6-12 are invited to stay in Huffman Hall for great food, fun and some crazy big games!
Sunday, November 27	6:00 - 8:30 pm.	<b>Youth Movie Night:</b> Join your friends, grades 6-12, for an evening of food, discussion, and a movie in the youth building.

## An Oasis in Our Midst

BY BETTY CUNNINGHAM MITCHELL

Do you ever find yourself stressed to the max? Overwhelmed by work, deadlines, family issues, or financial obligations? Do you need a quiet place to think, to walk, to work through the issues that haunt you? Well – look no further – simply take a little stroll down to the Memorial Garden at St. Matthew's.

I recently made such a small field trip myself and noted the fresh smell of newly spread mulch, the red blooms on newly-planted Turk's Cap, an orange butterfly sunning on red salvia. Then I glanced over to see the Memorial Garden niches where so many of our parish loved ones are honored – and I walked over to gently touch and whisper secrets to the three niches purchased in memory of my family members, and the one where, someday, my ashes will rest. I sat in the Kinney Outdoor Chapel where soon our own Alex Robicheaux will complete his Eagle Scout requirements by replacing the planks on the benches.

I came away from my five minute break refreshed and very grateful to the Holt Family for their recent generous donation of plantings in the Garden – and maintenance of that landscape. What a lovely way to honor the memory of their beloved George. I am grateful also to David Barrow and the Buildings and Grounds Commission, and to dear Henry Krystow who enabled the foundation of our Billie Taegel Krystow Memorial Garden.

And so, my friends, I urge you to take ten, go outside and sit a spell in our little sanctuary. And if you have not yet planned your final resting place, come on into the Church Office and arrange to purchase a niche or two, or more. Our parish is fortunate to have such a place of peace on that busy corner. I hope you will enjoy it as I have today.

## Sunday Evening Service Schedule

5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
(unless otherwise noted)

November 6  
Contemplative Eucharist  
with Fr. Jim Williams

November 13  
Contemplative Eucharist  
with Fr. Jim Williams

November 20  
Youth Led Eucharist  
in Huffman Hall

November 27  
Contemplative Eucharist  
with Fr. Jim Williams

## Giving the Creative Gifts of Hope and Peace this Christmas Season

SUBMITTED BY SUZANNE MCCURLEY

St. Matthews is reaching out to our community and to the world by creating an Alternative Christmas Gifts Market this year. Alternative Gifts is a new branch of the Outreach Commission. Chaired by Suzanne McCurley, it will serve as an umbrella for giving tax-deductible donations to local ministries, our mission to Honduras, and to new global outreach ministries that enable St. Matthews to support the Millennium Goals for Episcopal Relief and Development.

The first St. Matthew Alternative Gifts Market will take place on Sunday, November 20 after the 10:30 service. Festivities will include a light lunch, entertainment by the Djembabes, a local African percussion band, and entertainment for everyone! The featured event of course is the Market, which will give information about sponsored programs and a "wish list" for each. A calligrapher will be available to sign your gift cards so that you can get that early shopping done. Programs on the St. Matthews Alternative Christmas gifts wish list include projects which address the following global needs:

- ♦ Hunger Relief
- ♦ Shelter
- ♦ Medical Assistance
- ♦ Development
- ♦ Peace and Justice
- ♦ Environment
- ♦ Child Survival
- ♦ Sustainable Agriculture
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Water

# Sundays 4YOUth

Sundays 9:15 - 10:15

BY BARBARA PITTS, DRE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

As young men and women - 6-12th graders - explore the spiritual life, listen to God's call, and dig deeply within yourselves to discern what has abiding value in life from what has transitional meaning, St. Matthew's Church offers to come along beside you in your journey. One way we do this is through fun and meaningful events on Sunday mornings.

November 6	<b>Faith in Action – November's Artist: Ben Wright...</b> you've heard him at October Celebration, now join Ben up close and personal, as he connects with YOUth on a number of levels, sharing his musical talents and personal journey with God.
November 11 - 13	<b>All-Youth Retreat @ Crossroads: Being a Man or Woman of God.</b> Flyer and registration form can be downloaded at <a href="http://www.stmattsaustrin.org">www.stmattsaustrin.org</a>
November 13	<b>Middle School / Breakfast Club; High School / Breakfast Club</b> due to the retreat, Bible Studies & Breakfast Clubs have traded Sundays for November. If you are in town, hang & build: \$5 + a permission slip. Adult leaders facilitate the gathering and drive YOUth to 10:30 church.
November 20	<b>Middle School / Bible Study / with Cara</b> Key Line: What? Why? and Who Cares?
	<b>High School / Journey to Adulthood</b> November focus: Rules, Rules, Rules.
November 27	<b>Middle School Rite 13:</b> November focus: Service to others
	<b>High School / Bible Study / with Joe B.</b> Key Line: Context? Message Then? Message Now

## At the End of Life What Is: Ethical? Hopeful? Possible? Peaceful?

The Riverbend Church Senior Adult Ministry presents a seminar for seniors and others seeking information on end-of-life planning. Saturday, November 5 at Riverbend Church, 4212 N. Capital of Texas Hwy. For additional information and to register online go to: [www.riverbend.com](http://www.riverbend.com) or call the church at 327-3540.

# Birthdays

## November

- 1 Bill Balsanek
- 2 Will Clitheroe, Allison Dillawn
- 3 Patrick Bloodworth, Betty Jones, Kelly Owens
- 4 Amy Brooke
- 5 Zacharias Doughty, Rita Eccles
- 6 William Brooke, John Edwards, Rylan Henderson, Tom LeMond, Dedee Norman, Dorothy Tesche
- 7 Laura Myers-Doughty, Carlin Mihm, Michael Moon, Dolores Muhich, David Thacker
- 8 Irene Fredman, Chris Levy
- 9 Carol Brewer, Alison Brooke, Vanessa Brooke, Vivian Francis
- 10 Shannon Buegner, Kate Canby, Hailey Nichols
- 11 Lane Dady, Jean Davenport, Dexter Glassco, Ava Johns, Jan Larson, Stefani Minnear, Steve Norman, Susie Pierce,
- 12 Kelly Blumhagen, Pete DeWeese, Mary Ellen Matthews
- 13 Anna Grace Carey
- 14 Alison Tewes
- 15 Veronica Bailey, Pat Bliss, Nancy Godwin, Scott Moore
- 16 Gloria Bankler, Mae Rizk, Louise Thacker
- 17 Millie Roden
- 18 Therese Baer, John Carey, C. J. Carl, Sophie Dolan, Maly Hatheway, Kay Hopkins, Edith Price, Paul Venincasa
- 19 Madison Alexander, Tommy Williams
- 20 Matthew Squires
- 21 Charlie Cole, Dennard Gilpin, Barbara Haynes, Julie Helfrich, Daniel Klinger, Michael McCants, Ted Stratton
- 22 Devin Bowman, Cameron Kirkgard, Howard Thompson
- 23 Andrew Abrahamson, Annelle Adams, Terri Ocean, Clive Smith
- 24 George Brooke, Christine Moore
- 25 Catherine Biggar, Dee Bennett, Susan McElroy, Jeanne Morgan, Alex Robicheaux, Abby Smith
- 26 Joe Evans, Juliana Webb, Harrison Wood
- 27 David Hopkins, Beverly Horne, Andrew Mann
- 28 Ed Abrahamson, Cole Bloodworth, Jane Harding, David Looney, Lesa Parham
- 29 Alice Ekerdt

## December

- 1 Ellee Cunningham, Fred Fredman, Rosie Nieman
- 2 Jill Glassco, Chase Roden
- 3 Andrea Miller, Theresa Mackie, 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 Lee Wiesehuegel
- 7 Lucy Boyea, Gillian Devlin, Karen Krause

# New Members

*Gloria and Joe White*

---

## Marriages

*Mandi Battaglia and Jeffrey Seiler*  
were married August 13, 2005.

---

## Memorial Gifts

Dr. Richard C. Youngs made a gift to the St. Matthew's Interfaith Hospitality Network account in memory of Jeffrey Jordan Marsh, cousin of Amy Novak.

In Memory of  
*Roland Taylor*  
by  
Pat and John Yeargain



# The ST. MATTHEW'S WORD

Periodicals  
Postage Paid  
USPS 009-663  
Austin, TX

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

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday

7:30 a.m. - Noon Contemplative Prayer in  
Brides Room (B-6)  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I  
9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Christian Education  
for Adults  
9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Christian Education  
for Youth (grades 6-12)  
9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Christian Education  
for Children  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
5:15 p.m. Evening Liturgy

### Wednesday

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

### Daily

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

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

The nursery is open each Sunday from 7:45 a.m. to  
12:15 p.m., where childcare is cheerfully provided for  
little ones from birth to age four.

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

**Friday, November 18, 2005**

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

Articles may be edited for content and length.

## Vestry

David Price (698-7676)  
Babs Clendenin  
John Muhich (452-7789)  
Bert Hooper (346-6675)  
Joe McLean

*Members*—Jerry Ballard, Vickie Blumhagen,  
Stephen Brock, Bill Donnell, Esther Garcia,  
Reid Kirchem, Kevin McGillicuddy, Warren  
Marshall, Kathy Morris, Susan Robertson,  
Jay Robison, Kathy Vail, Clarissa Vazquez

*Assigned Vestry Members for November* —  
Stephen Brock and Reid Kirchem

## Vestry Commission Chairs

David Barrow, Jr. and Mary Nell Frucella

Kevin McGillicuddy  
Steve Ryder  
Warren Marshall  
Susan Robertson  
Kathy Vail

*Buildings and Grounds*  
*Finance*  
*Communications*  
*Personnel*  
*Outreach*  
*Stewardship*

## School Board

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

The Rev. Merrill Wade  
*Members*—Dana Fallon, Layne Levine, Michael  
Mashburn, Carlin Mihm, Kenneth Wright

*President*  
*Vice President*  
*Vestry Liaison*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Director*  
*Assistant Director*  
*Chairman*

## Staff

The Rev. Merrill Wade	Rector
The Rev. Susan J. Barnes	Associate Rector
The Rev. Charles Huffman	Rector Emeritus
The Rev. Jerry Chapman	Assisting Clergy
The Rev. Joe Di Paola	Assisting Clergy
The Rev. Jim Williams	Assisting Clergy
The Rev. George I. Wilson	Assisting Clergy
Jennifer Baskett	Assistant to the DRE
Dave Bowman	Business Manager
Lucy Boyea	Minister of Senior Activities
Margaret Carpenter	Bookkeeper
Barbara Haynes	Administrative Assistant
Bob Lively	Teacher
Betty Mitchell	Communications Coordinator
Tracey Nichols	Nursery Coordinator
Barbara Pitts	Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth
Jose Prado	Sexton
Tim Smith	Director of Music Ministry
Phil Webster	Director of Youth Ministry

## Lay Ministry Councils

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