

# the st. matthew's word

## Rector's Overview

Dear Friends,

Our family enjoyed a great summer vacation. It was so nice to get back to Meridian, Mississippi and visit, on a Sunday morning, the church we left a year ago. St. Paul's is happily breaking in a new rector and all seems to be well. As I stated in my sermon on August 10, it is gratifying to see that the Wade Family made a modest impression and impact on the life of a church we served and loved.

### Spiritual Maturity

Many of you asked me to continue talking about the "signs" of spiritual maturity I wrote about in the August issue of the monthly *The Word*. You recall that I listed five signs of spiritual maturity cited by the retired Dean of General Seminary, The Very Rev. James Fenhagen. They were, briefly:

1. Growth in self-awareness.
2. An increasing humility rooted in a sense of wonder and awe about God.
3. Renewed commitment to a disciplined life of prayer and study, allowing for movement between solitude and action.
4. A growing capacity to respond to the pain of others, including the pain of others very different from ourselves.
5. Responding to life with hope and joy that overcomes cynicism.

I hope you can see how these "signs" of maturity can be useful to you as you ponder your life in Christ. As the busyness of fall sets in, now is the time to make a simple commitment to the life of prayer. It is for you that we gather for Evening Prayer in the Cauley Bell

Tower each evening at 6:00 p.m. It is for you that our church plans spiritual retreats throughout the year.

### Make a Commitment to Christian Education

We have designed our fall adult education curriculum to meet your needs. Our classes are intended to help you mature spiritually. Elsewhere in this edition of *The Word* you will find in-depth descriptions of our classes for all ages.

I am particularly concerned about the level of stress so many of us live with day to day. I commend our fall class, *Hope in the Fast Lane*, to you. Joyce Scott and her team of teachers will attempt to provide you sound spiritual resources to grow in maturity in the midst of the demands of life.

Many of you desire greater knowledge of the Bible. Marty Novak and Dab Cauley are working together to present you a solid framework for reading and understanding scripture.

We will begin with two classes for adults. **Make a commitment. Come.**

### Men's Fellowship

I will be one of the speakers at the first Men's Fellowship meeting on Wednesday night, September 10, at 5:30 p.m. in Huffman Hall. I will use that occasion to address each of these five signs of spiritual maturity in greater detail. The Holy Smokers will be providing dinner with the usual contributions needed. All men are invited to attend!

### Associate Vestry

I want to thank our Associate Vestry for their tireless work on our Pictorial Directory and for the work they are doing in preparation for St. Matthew's Day on Sunday, September 21. They are such a great group of people. Let them know how much you appreciate them.

### See you at the Arts Festival this Saturday, September 6

I remind you that the 3rd Opening our Hearts Through the Arts Festival is this weekend. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sharon Lowe and Renee Babcock and their team for making this happen. It is such a gift to see God's creative hand at work in and among us. You will not be disappointed if you attend!

### September 11

As we continue to remember the horrific events of September 11, 2001, we will remember the dead, the grieving, and those charged with our safety with special prayers on Sunday, September 14. The church will be open for prayer during office hours on September 11.

### Staying Focused

On the next page you will find a letter from Susan and me stating our support for Bishop Don Wimberly in light of the recent General Convention. Bishop Wimberly has rightly asked members of the Diocese of Texas to "pray and be patient as we seek God's will for the church." Again I quote, in the Diocese of Texas "we are clearly committed to be a missionary church engaged in the

*continued on page 2...*

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

transformation of lives." I see transformation and spiritual maturation as closely linked concepts.

At this point my biggest concern is that we as a parish do not become distracted from the wonderful mission we share in this community. People are visiting us and are joining St. Matthew's week by week. Our Day School is up and running. We have much to celebrate and our mission is clear – we are to know Christ and make him known!

**And Keep Your Head Still**

And, elsewhere you will find Milt Williams announcement about First Friday golf at Bluebonnet Golf Course on Friday, September 5. Come on out and see the rector mis-hit his new Cobra driver!!

Faithfully,

Merrill

**Senior Sentences**

*by Lucy Boyea, Minister of Senior Activities*

**W**asn't the Ministry Fair exciting? It was wonderful to see how many ministries St. Matthew's has to offer and how our members share their time and talents.

The Senior Activity Center, whose stated purpose is "to offer recreational and educational activities in a nurturing environment," attempted to show samples of its various activities from A to Z — an Alzheimer's support group, bridge and board games, delicious food when we party or have covered dish luncheons, exercise classes, etc.

Space does not permit me to take you through Z but perhaps the mention of some of our offerings will encourage those of you who are fifty-five and older to join us. Won't you?

**Miscellaneous Cash Collections and Vestry Responsibilities**

*submitted by Kate Canby, Vestry Warden*

**Y**ou may have noticed the Vestry becoming more visible with the oversight of specific functions of the church. Canonically, the Vestry is responsible for the accounting of the parish financial functions. While the Vestry may appoint certain members of the parish or staff is hired to assist with specific functions, it is ultimately the Vestry's responsibility to be accountable for these functions.

The Vestry is required to count cash collections for functions held at the church when any church funds are used for the purpose of a church event, such as ECW dinners, VBS fund-raiser, the Arts Festival and Lenten suppers and free will offerings. The Vestry will collect and count the cash for the event and place it in safe-keeping. If you are in a position of collecting cash for a church function, please contact one of the Vestry members to assist. Two Vestry members will be assigned to be the primary contact each month. You will find their names in the monthly and weekly Word, as well as on the website. Clergy and staff have asked that they not be given any cash collections. On occasion, the business manager will be responsible for donations received through the mail and other occasional donations.

Also, Vestry members will have keys to open classrooms, the Sanctuary, and Huffman Hall. If you arrive on Sunday morning and a room is not open, please feel free to ask a Vestry member to assist.

## Opening Our Hearts Through the Arts

Celebrate creativity and the spiritual journey at an arts festival featuring painting and sculpture, jewelry, crafts; writers and artists' talks; music; hands-on activities for children and adults; a silent auction and much more.

A portion of the proceeds from this event will benefit Caritas of Austin. Donations of canned goods for Caritas will also be accepted and appreciated!

**Friday, September 5, 2003**

6 to 8 p.m. ~ Artists' Reception, Free Music and Light Refreshments

**Saturday, September 6, 2003**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ~ Arts Festival and Sale, Silent Auction, Free

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ~ New Orleans Brunch, \$6 (\$18 per family)

3 to 5 p.m. ~ English Style Tea, \$7

Meal tickets available through reservation or advance sale; contact Jill Bacon at 345-7999.

On-site babysitting available during meals by reservation; contact Tracey Nichols at 331-0653 by September 4.

For a list of artists, speakers, performers and other festival details, visit:  
[www.StMattsAustin.org](http://www.StMattsAustin.org)

## Letter from the Clergy

To the People of St. Matthew's:

Many of us remember fondly the first episcopal visitation to St. Matthew's of our new diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly. Serving then, back on May 25th of this year, as Bishop Coadjutor prior to Bishop Payne's retirement, Bishop Wimberly was a wonderful chief pastor of our congregation that day and many of you remarked that we seem to be in capable hands in the Diocese of Texas. We agreed with you then and we agree with you now.

In this pastoral letter, he is sharing his heart with us. In presenting his letter to you, we want to assure you that as priests of the Diocese of Texas we are in support of Bishop Wimberly and will, of course, freely and willingly submit to his authority in these matters as in all others.

We are grateful for his leadership and his pastoral sensitivity. As he requests, we intend to be faithful to the mission of the church trusting that God will lead the Episcopal Church through this challenging time.

We ask you to commit with us to prayer and patience and to love one another, recognizing that we at St. Matthew's are not of one mind on many difficult and emotionally charged issues. At the same time we see ever greater opportunities for ministry and mission as you and we continue to do the work of Jesus' Kingdom together, seeking to fulfill our Baptismal Covenant (*Book of Common Prayer*, Page 304).

This is a godly and dynamic parish with a distinguished past and a very promising future. The two of us feel blessed beyond measure to be with you in love and service to God.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Merrill Wade, *Rector*  
The Rev. Susan Barnes, *Associate Rector*

## Letter from Bishop Wimberly

August 11, 2003

To my Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*Grace to you and peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ:*

I write to you with a heavy heart as I return from General Convention. Controversial decisions and the reaction to these decisions profoundly illustrate that we are not of one mind in the church on matters of human sexuality.

Throughout our diocese there have been differing responses to the two issues which dominated General Convention and the news media: the consent to the consecration of the Reverend Canon V. Gene Robinson as bishop-coadjutor of New Hampshire and the adoption of resolution C051, which acknowledged that same sex blessings can be considered to be "within the bounds of our common life."

Some of you may be angered or feel alienated by these decisions or by the way our deputation and I voted (against consenting to Canon Robinson's consecration as bishop and against C051).

As your bishop, I wish to state clearly that I will not allow the blessing of same sex unions in the Diocese of Texas. Additionally, I will not ordain or license for ordained ministry any person living in a sexual relationship other than a sacramental marriage between a man and a woman. I believe this to be consistent with both the traditional teaching of the church and our diocesan canons. I realize that some of you will disagree with my position.

When I was consecrated a bishop almost twenty years ago, I promised to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the church, and I am being as faithful to that vow as I know how to be. It is my prayer that we will be a community of transformation and a hospitable church for all people, remembering our baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every human being.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams recognizes the gravity of these recent developments and has called for an extraordinary meeting of the 38 primates of the Anglican Communion. Many of these primates have issued statements critical of the actions taken by General Convention. Our Church is facing a significant challenge to our common life. In light of this challenge, I am in conversation with other

American bishops who are requesting a meeting with Archbishop Williams to seek his guidance and wisdom. While others have decided to ask for counsel from particular primates of the Communion, I believe the Archbishop of Canterbury's office is the only proper avenue through which we can address these matters and concerns. In these challenging times, I humbly ask for your prayers and patience as we seek God's will for our Church.

Like Paul, I ask "you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Our strength is in our adherence to Christ's call to us to be a holy people bound to him and one another for the redemption of the world. Please understand that we are engaging in a process that will take time and don't allow media reports to determine your faith life. Be patient and faithful in your prayers.

In the Diocese of Texas we are clearly committed to be a missionary church engaged in the transformation of lives. Nothing has changed in our call to live into this vision. In our congregations, lives are being transformed, changed, enriched and made new, and this must continue. I urge you to support this holy calling through your continued attendance, active participation and prayer.

As much as I would like to offer an easy solution to these matters, our community is facing a challenge we cannot resolve quickly. Even in the darkest times of my life I have always been aware of God's presence and power. I feel this now. I believe that God will ultimately bring us to wholeness and joy, and I promise you my most faithful efforts in the journey that we share.

God's special blessing be upon each of you.

Faithfully yours,  
The Right Reverend Don A. Wimberly,  
D.D.

## Adult Education

by Russ Adams and Leon Whitney

We are excited! Yes, we are very excited about the beginning of the fall adult education program at St. Matthews. The Education Council has been meeting with a goal of presenting a different look compared to what we have seen in the past in regard to education. Thus we are taking a few steps in a different direction. Our goal, presented so effectively by Keith Miller, is that each of us, by participating in adult education over time, would develop the core essentials that we need in our Christian life. We hope that this combination of knowledge, attitudes and action will translate into your real world - the one you face every day.

We are moving our education format toward more short-term classes which will cover several areas each year. We hope to meet your needs and will be looking for your feedback. We give you permission to browse around. It is our desire that these classes will help you to experience the true spirit of community as you participate in sharing, prayer, and learning. We are designing our classes to be more interactive and experiential in nature - to make learning come alive for you. With several classes during the year, we will be looking for topics from you. We are also interested in talking to those of you who might be interested in teaching a short class. Think about it and let us know.

This fall's Adult Education Classes are in two series with *The Bible - Content & Context*, continuing across both series. All classes meet between 9 and 10 a.m. on Sundays. However, There will be no classes on St. Matthew's Day, September 21.

### FIRST SERIES: August 31 – October 12

#### HOPE IN THE FAST LANE – Spiritual Resources in a Stressful World

Joyce Scott with guest speakers

Is time your enemy? Your many talents underserved? Earning true treasure much harder to come by? Find hope and Spirit filled community building in this class. Learn the latest research, pray calming prayers, and relax with God's peace. Join us each week to build on your skills. This six-week class will help you define your current stressors and the means to overcome them through recommended readings, small group discussions and an action plan. Learn

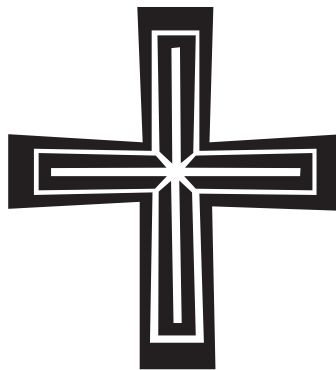
the Biblical teachings that pertain to your chief stress drivers. Each week a different speaker will share a relevant episode from their story. This class will include managing change, conflict handling/resolution, close relationship changes/loss, financial and work related issues. The August 31 class will be led by Russ Adams and Rev. Merrill Wade.

#### THE BIBLE - Content and Context

Marty Novak and Dab Cauley

Serious Bible study revolves around a conversation between authors and readers separated by many centuries of social and cultural change. As in any such conversation, the reader's comprehension of the author's message will be improved by better understanding both the perspectives and purposes of the author and the changed perspectives and purposes that the reader brings to the author's text. This class will be the first in a series of Bible study courses that examine individual books of the Bible for both content and context, to better understand both the ancient meaning of the texts and the ways in which the Christian understanding of the texts has been influenced by social and cultural change. The class begins with studies in the New Testament.

*NOTE: Information about the four classes to be offered during the Second Series, October 26 through December 14, will be presented in the October issue of The Word.*



## Conflict Resolution and Forgiveness in a Faith-Based Community

submitted by Cynthia Wilson

Conflict is an all too human part of living in community. As members of a Christian community, we are called to prayerfully focus our hearts and minds to resolve conflict and seek forgiveness. Not an easy thing!

On September 20, 2003, The Austin Area Community of Hope will sponsor a conference at El Buen Samaritano in its new location. The Rev. Lex Breckenridge of St. Alban's will discuss Conflict Resolution. The Rev. Tudy Waters of St. David's will discuss Forgiveness. There will be small group discussion.

The conference is from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost will be \$15. Lunch will be provided. Child care will be available with registration prior to September 10.

Contact Cynthia Wilson at 346-6870 or w8300@yahoo.com

## Faith in Action: The Community of Hope

submitted by Sharon Lowe

Please join the Community of Hope on Thursday, October 2, for a presentation by Ms. Pamela Arnold, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Homeless. We will meet in B-14 at 7:00 p.m. for worship, followed by Ms. Arnold's presentation from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. All are welcome!

The mission of the Foundation For the Homeless, Inc., (FFH) is to mobilize the resources of the community of faith to alleviate homelessness in the spirit of compassion, hope, and love. One of their programs, the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), is a shelter program based on a national model that provides transitional shelter for homeless families. Host churches and support congregations work in collaboration to provide year-round shelter, meals, and support to families as they work toward achieving goals of permanent housing and self-sufficiency. For additional information, see the FFH website at: <http://users3.ev1.net/~homeless/join.html>

## New Education Opportunities for St. Matthew's Members

A unique online course on Hispanic ministry is being offered by ETSS as one of three classes open for registration on the Southwest Seminary's website. The Hispanic offering is "Historical and Cultural Contexts for Hispanic Ministry." Other offerings are "From (Stem) Cell to (Prison) Cell - Life Ethics," and "We Give You Greeting: Prayer and Praise from the Celtic Tradition." There are no educational prerequisites for these Lay School noncredit courses. The Oct. 6 through Nov. 14 classes are limited to 25 persons and tuition is \$65 per course. Detailed course descriptions, computer capability requirements and a registration link can be found at [www.etss.edu/online\\_courses.shtml](http://www.etss.edu/online_courses.shtml)

Joan D. Chittister, OSB, a leading voice in contemporary spirituality and church and world issues, will present two lectures in Austin in mid-September. As the 2003 Blandy Lecturer at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, she will explore "Ministry to a Wounded World" on Monday, Sept. 15, at El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission in South Austin at 6:30 p.m. \$10 tickets will be available at the door, and all proceeds will benefit the El Buen at 7000 Woodhue Drive. The Benedictine nuns second talk, "Spirituality and Culture" will be at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, in the Seminary of the Southwest's Knapp Auditorium. See Chittister's seminary lectureship at [www.etss.edu/Blandy03.shtml](http://www.etss.edu/Blandy03.shtml)

## Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest Fall Lay School Courses Focus on Poetry, Liturgical Year and Middle East

submitted by Bob Kinney, Austin Lay School of Theology

If you're looking for a quality faith-based course with no educational prerequisite, consider one of three classes this fall at the Austin Lay School of Theology.

This fall's slate includes "The Christian Experience in Poetry," "Enlarging the Tent of Worship - Re-imagining the Church Year for the People of God," and "Fighting Families - Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle East." The once a week, non-credit courses are offered from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. on the Seminary of the Southwest campus, 606 Rathervue Place (E. 31st St).

Registration concludes September 26. Contact seminary registrar Madelyn Snodgrass, 472-4133, ext. 344, [msnodgrass@etss.edu](mailto:msnodgrass@etss.edu), to register. Tuition is \$50 per course and another person may be added for \$25. Detailed course descriptions may be found at [www.etss.edu/laity.shtml](http://www.etss.edu/laity.shtml)

The Rev. Dr. David Frank Beer will offer the six-week poetry course that focuses on the Christian spirituality and theology of English poems from the medieval to modern periods. Beer, a retired University of Texas professor and assistant at the Church of the Good Shepherd, is assistant to the rector and director of Christian education at St. John's in Austin. The Thursday evening course begins October 2.

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Kittredge explores enlarging the "Tent of Worship" by taking a fresh look at the liturgical calendar of the church year. Themes and traditional symbols like the manger, loaves and fishes, and the breaking of bread will be looked at anew to reflect more of our human experience and a wider range of the people of God. The major feast days will also be re-examined through the eyes of feminist biblical interpretation and the work of creative liturgists and theologians. This course meets five times beginning September 29. Professor Kittredge teaches New Testament at the seminary and is an assistant at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Dr. David Zersen, president-emeritus of Concordia University in Austin, leads a study of the Middle East - its historical background and contemporary character of three related monotheistic faiths. Class members will be encouraged to share informed judgments about the Middle Eastern conflict and American involvement in that region. Representatives from each religious group will make presentations, along with experts on Middle Eastern culture and politics. The six-week Monday evening class begins Sept. 29.

**Fellowship!**  
**Girls 35-ish to 55-ish\***

Sunday, September 14  
5(ish) - 7 p.m.

Iced Tea, Lemonade, Margaritas

Caven's House  
5611 Spurflower, Austin, TX 78759  
345-7621

\*No ID required!

Annelle Adams  
Crystal Wade  
Betsy McCraine  
Beverly Horne  
Toni Hatten  
Kathy Dugat  
Marsha Caven  
Sally Barber  
Sally Barber

**St. Matthew's Day Celebration**  
**Sunday, September 21**  
Feast Day - One Service Only

10:30 a.m.

Wear Red! Come Early!  
Enjoy Lunch!

Bring the Kids!  
Stay Late!

Followed by lunch in Huffman Hall and Courtyard  
Prepared by the Holy Smokers  
Entertainment for Children and Adults

Watch your Weekly Word for more details soon!

*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.

## Great News for Kids!

by Barbara Pitts, Children's Minister

School's back in swing. You are seeing old friends and connecting with some new classmates. You are getting the feel for what your teachers will expect of you. You are reviewing some math, while moving to a new collection of titles in reading. Walking laps is exhausting because of the heat, and many of your buddies prefer the shade of the playscape to the sunbaked soccer field.

Something's missing though. All this work, all this action, but there's a hole. Maybe you feel restless, and can't seem to get going. Or you work to stay busy, talking and talking, or doing and doing.

Great news! We know what's missing and how to fill the hole. We can help. What's missing is the quiet place inside of you - all kids have it and all adults have it. But we get busy and forget about it. And think we don't need it, or think we can't get to it. In that quiet place is someone waiting for us. Yep, God. And until we connect with God, it does feel like a hole inside us.

So, fill the hole; connect with the quiet place. Everyone here is doing it. Join a group of kids around your own age - some who like soccer, some who like to read, some who like to talk or do gymnastics, some who excel at geography or drawing - kids much like you. All, kids who can take time to be in touch with God.

Last year's first, second, and third grade class set as a part of their vision statement, "[to] exceed. at loving and praising God." Over this past summer, their teachers spent 40 hours (yes!) in a course enabling them to empower these kids to live out such a vision. As I write this article, I am participating in a two-week course designed to challenge fourth and fifth graders in their faith development. Currently we are studying a number of age-appropriate ways to understand God's plan for humankind and for all creation, which God has had in mind since before all time, as well as ways for them to understand their place in that plan. Fourth and fifth graders are ready to give back to their community, and our class this year will be involved in meaningful outreach, as they were last year.

Our pre-school and Kindergarten teachers participated in a course that paralleled the first - third grade course this summer. They are organized and are ready to live with our youngest children in an enjoyment of God, where the values of young childhood are predominant.

Great news for kids. Fill the hole; connect with the quiet place. We call it Sunday School. See you there.

### Classes

- ◆ 3 Years-Kindergarten (Level I) B-17
- ◆ First-Third Grades (Level II) B-16
- ◆ Fourth-Fifth Grades (Level III) Ed. Bldg. Breezeway

*Maps will be posted on campus to assist you.*

### Schedule

Safety first! Each Sunday begins with parent sign-in of children age 10 and under. This is St. Matthew's policy that has withstood the test of time and all parents are asked to honor it weekly. Children will spend the morning with adults trained to work with them on their age and developmental levels.

**9:00-10:30 Sunday School** - Children participate in multi-age classes designed to provide them an experience with God. Trained adults journey along side the children using the predominant values of childhood, as they seek to help each child come to know God "all by myself."

**10:30-10:40 Transition to Music and Chapel** - At this time, chapel ministers will escort all children through third grade to music and chapel. Children who have not attended Sunday School will join them, processing with an acolyte from the church service in progress. This time is designed to provide the children with time for singing and movement to break up the morning, as well as tie the various parts of the morning together and prepare them to enter the service.

**10:40 at the Sign of Peace** - Children will be processed to the Commons to join their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### Children's Ministry Calendar - September 2003

Sept. 1	Labor Day, Office close
Sept. 3	6:00 p.m. First Wednesday Pot Luck Supper 6:30-7:00 Nursery & Children's Program - A Gaggle of Great Games 6:30 Parent Meeting for 4/5th Grade, God & Family
Sept. 7	9:00 a.m. 2nd Fall Sunday School! Children are signed in by their parents at their classroom/atrium 10:30 a.m. Primary (B-21) and Children's (Choir Room) Chapels
Sept. 10	6:30 p.m. 1st Class for 4/5th Grade, God & Family
Sept. 14	9:00 a.m. Sunday School! Children are signed in by their parents at their classroom/atrium 10:30 p.m. Primary (B-21) and Children's (Choir Room) Chapels Afternoon 4/5th Parents' Meeting and Kids' Party
Sept. 17	6:30 p.m. God & Family 7:00 Children's Council - B-16
Sept. 21	9:00 a.m. NO Sunday School - St. Matthew's Day Celebration 10:30 a.m. Primary (B-21) and Children's (Choir Room) Chapels Noon Lunch & Kids' Activities
Sept. 24	6:30 p.m. God & Family
Sept. 26-27	Diocesan Christian Formation Conference, Camp Allen
Sept. 28	9:00 a.m. Sunday School! Children are signed in by their parents at their classroom/atrium 10:30 a.m. Primary (B-21) and Children's (Choir Room) Chapels
<i>Looking ahead:</i>	
Oct. 1	6:30-7:00 First Wednesday Pot Luck Supper Nursery & Children's Program - Playground
Oct. 15	Children's Council
Weds. Nights	God & Family - 4/5th Grade concludes God & Me, 1-3rd begins mid-month
Watch for:	Elementary Choir Kick-off Party Levels I & II - Fall Family Gatherings

## Youth News

by Lucy Koy

It's that time of year again...the start of youth group. We are so excited about this semester and the many opportunities it holds. From a Fall Retreat at Camp Allen, to crazy fun lock-ins, to amazing Wednesday nights, to a possible ski trip in December, we're putting together a schedule that will keep us busy serving and loving the Lord. The Fall Calendar will be sent out shortly and will be passed out during youth group. Please see Eric Liles or me if you have questions or suggestions.

Once again, we are really looking forward to the start of a new semester so that we can grow, learn, and serve together. We hope to see you on Wednesday.

I am putting together a mission trip committee. If you (parents and/or youth) are interested and/or have suggestions please contact me at [Lucyk@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:Lucyk@mail.utexas.edu).

## Mothers Ministry to Meet September 3

submitted by Marilyn Wright

The Mothers Ministry will have our first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 3 from 9:30-11:30 and we will meet weekly through the school year. We will be reading the lectionary readings and discussing them from a historical perspective. There will be no "homework" so come when you can to enjoy our fellowship. If you have any questions please call Marilyn Wright at 401-8382.

## News from the Nursery

by Tracey Nichols, Nursery Coordinator

Hello from the nursery! Your children continue to light up our Sunday mornings. Thank you for bringing them to us to care for. We hope you are pleased with the nursery. If you have any concerns or questions, please call me, Tracey Nichols, at 331-0653.

The Friday Night Parents Night Out continues to be popular. If you are not familiar with this event, here is how it works: Call me, Tracey, at the beginning of the month to make a reservation for us to keep your children on the 3rd Friday of the month from 5:30 - 8:00. The fee for each child for the evening is \$5.00. Space is limited, so please call early. This allows parents to have a dinner out, do some shopping or just sit and talk and remember why you got married in the first place.

If you are phoning me to schedule sitters for your group's event, please, please remember that church policy states that I need two weeks notice of an event to arrange sitting. Many of the calls I have recently received for sitting requests have been less than a week out from the event. My sitters are usually pretty available, but sometimes they are not. To insure you have sitters, please give me the two week notice.

Now that school has started, I am in need of sitters for the Mothers' Ministry Wednesday morning event from 9:15 until about 11:30. If you are available and would like to become a member of the St. Matthew's sitting staff, please call me. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, if you have an hour every other week, I would like to assemble a team to monitor the Cry Room in the Sanctuary. We need to make sure that it is clean and well maintained. Please phone me if you are interested in this ministry.

Again, thanks for bringing us your children; please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the nursery or contact me if you have not left your child in the nursery and would like a tour of our facilities.

## ConneXions Social Hour September 28

By Leslie and Bill Kjellstrand

Assignments for the new ConneXions adult dinner groups series will be distributed on Sunday, September 28 at a social hour at 7 p.m. in Huffman Hall. If you currently belong to a ConneXions group or want to be in ConneXions, you are invited to come and meet other members. About nine groups are planned for the Fall 2003 cycle. Now is the time to join.

The social hour is a relaxing time to share stories, meet your new group members and enjoy some Christian fellowship, which is the basis of the ConneXions program. If you plan to attend, bring a favorite snack or hors d'oeuvre to share with the group. Soft drinks, coffee and punch will be provided.

ConneXions is one of St. Matthew's most popular and longest running groups. ConneXions has been active for more than 15 years at St. Matthew's. Many long-term friendships have formed in ConneXions groups over many wonderful meals. ConneXions consists of groups of about 10 to 12 – couples and singles – who gather for meals in the homes of members monthly during a six-month cycle. You need only make a meal for your group one time in the cycle and then you can enjoy all the others. The meals can be breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner—whatever works for your group. Each group has a host or host couple to begin the monthly meals and shepherd the group through the cycle. New cycles begin in March and September.

If you've been considering joining ConneXions, call Leslie and Bill Kjellstrand, ConneXions leaders, 331-2121, or email, [lkjellstrand-austin.rr.com](mailto:lkjellstrand-austin.rr.com). Also, if you are currently in a ConneXions group and need to drop out for a cycle or two, let the Kjellstrands know. If we don't hear from you, we will assume that you want to stay in the program and will assign you to another group. Deadline for members to drop out is September 17.

ConneXions communications will be done by email to members. All ConneXions members will receive an email with the new group assignment; if you don't have email, you'll be sent a letter. If you've changed your email address, please let Kjellstrands know that, too! Group hosts will set up the first meal for each group, and members are encouraged to plan tentative dates for the remainder of the cycle at the initial meal for the cycle.

## Calling All Gardeners and Handy People...

### Fall Clean-Up Day September 13th

by Amy Tuvell

School is back in session. Vacations are over. Our routines are being re-established. In amongst the Fall routine at St. Matthew's is an important function -- Fall Clean-Up Day.

In one of two days of focused gardening (the other is in the spring), we tend to our churchyard. The whole parish pitches in for a morning of yard work, weeding and trimming to spiff up our campus for the Feast of St. Matthew. We take a lunch break to enjoy a cookout menu supplied by the Holy Smokers then wind down with a final pickup.

Come on September 13 at 9 a.m. bearing line trimmers, rakes, clippers and brooms; wearing hats, sunscreen, gloves and smiles. Join the fun. You might get to visit with one of the parents of a Day School student while sweeping on the playground. One of the Boy Scouts from Troop 511 might charm you with his passion for branch stumping and winning smile. Watch for Brownies delivering lemonade. You never know who you'll get to know but you can be sure that your gift of stewardship and community will be appreciated.

## DOK Training

Beginning September 7, 2003, the Order of the Daughters of the King will offer classes for candidates who wish to be admitted as "Daughters". The classes will be held in B-6 during the Sunday school hour (9 to 10 a.m.) and will include at least 8 sessions. If you would like to be a candidate or if you would like more information about the Order, please contact Carol Price, Trainer, at 835-1312; Louise Waddill, President, at 343-7696; or The Rev. Susan Barnes, DOK Chaplain, at 345-8314.

## Parish Pot Luck Suppers to Resume in September

Back by popular demand, Wednesday Night Pot Luck Suppers will begin again on September 3. The first Wednesday night of each month we will gather together at 6:00 p.m. in Huffman Hall and have a pot luck dinner. Mr. Ed Gomez, the new Executive Director of El Buen Samaritano will speak briefly. This is a great chance to meet Ed and his family. We will strive to be through promptly at 7:00 p.m.

The September Pot Luck will be hosted this month by the Newcomer's Council and Outreach Commission. If your last name begins with A – J bring a main dish, K – R bring a salad, S – Z bring dessert. Drinks will be provided.

This is for everyone -- families, singles, members, visitors and friends. You can eat and then go to choir, youth group, Club 345, etc. or just come. The nursery will be open with sitters on deck for infants and toddlers but children are expected to eat with their families – after all, this is family night supper! Mark it on your calendars and look forward to food and fellowship.

## First Friday Golf To Begin September 5

submitted by Milt Williams

The Rev. Merrill Wade has suggested that we have a fun monthly golf outing the first Friday of each month beginning Friday, September 5. It will be a time for relaxation and community building. The outing will be held at the Bluebonnet Golf course with a tee time around 9 a.m. No sign up is necessary, just come. The cost is \$21.25 for those 55 and older, \$27.65 for those younger. The cost includes green fee, cart and taxes. For those wishing to walk, the cost is \$12.75 and \$17.00 respectively. We are encouraging both young and old, men and women to join us. It will offer an enjoyable time together. Call Milt Williams (345-0499) for any further information.

## ECW 102nd Annual Meeting Convenes October 17 in Galveston

by Leslie Kjellstrand,  
St. Matthew's ECW co-chair

Women of St. Matthews: It's time to sign up for the annual gathering of Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Texas to be held in Galveston, October 17 and 18. Theme for the meeting is "Through God All Things Are Possible." Many St. Matthew's women have attended past annual meetings, and St. Matthew's ECW was the host of this event last year at Camp Allen.

In the setting of the Trinity Episcopal Church, a beautiful English gothic style church with majestic stained glass windows, you can renew old friendships and to make new ones. In addition, you may want to explore the historic Strand shopping area, the beach or visit Moody Gardens with its rain forest, aquarium and other attractions. You can also shop at the "Marketplace" at the church, designed especially for this meeting.

The two-day gathering includes two worship services and three workshops (you can choose from several subjects for each workshop). You will also have the opportunity to hear Wendy Wimberly wife of the Bishop of Texas, The Rev. Canon Rayford High, Bishop Suffragan-Elect, and The Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly, Bishop of Texas. A special celebration will honor retiring Bishop Suffragan Leo Alard's faithful ministry to the women of our diocese. You may also welcome to our new Assisting Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Theodore and his wife, Cristina Daniels.

The outreach focus will be St. Vincent's House, which you may visit during a Friday afternoon workshop. On Saturday, one of the workshops will spotlight a new program at St. Vincent's, the Women's Wellness Clinic. All attendees are asked to donate a needed item to the St. Vincent's House preschool, such as laundry detergent, baby wipes, napkins, facial tissue or paper towels.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, visit the ECW website, [www.ecwtexas.org](http://www.ecwtexas.org). Registration for the conference is \$60, and options are available if you cannot attend the entire annual meeting. Early bird registration must be received by October 1. Hotel accommodations are also available through the registration process. Registration forms and your payment should be mailed to Anne Bentley, Registrar, ECW Annual Meeting 2003, Trinity Episcopal Church, 2216 Ball, Galveston, TX 77550.

## July 2003 Financial Statement

	CURRENT MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Plate & Pledges	\$54,221	\$71,889	\$514,969	\$513,224
Total Income	57,020	76,736	578,065	556,041
Total Expenses	92,152	84,365	571,631	801,880
Diff. of Income vs. Expenses	(\$35,132)	(\$7,829)	\$8,434	(\$45,839)

## Birthdays

### September

- 1 Tim Kyle, Ryan Nichols
- 2 Sofie Alcocer, Brandon Brickley, Gidget Fisher, David Price, Marsha Spriggs
- 3 David Carrier, Ken Hay, Joanne Hummel, Laura Mecanick, Patty Steed
- 4 Phil Hatlen, Allen Keith, Warren Marshall, Fossie Moore, Michael Zimmerman
- 5 Colleen Hale, Tom Holt, J. D. Johns
- 6 Diane Smith, Sam Smith, Skyler Thorn
- 7 Judy Bomar, Sarah Neely
- 8 Glenda Monroe, Mia Nieman, Kay Whitney
- 9 Margaret Hampton
- 10 Margaret Myers, Dianne Spires
- 11 Ethan Luce, Jill Miller, Marilyn Wright
- 12 Davis Fisher, Nancy Flanders, Jeremy Jones, Savannah Thorn
- 13 Carrie Buckley, Clarissa Vazquez
- 14 Keith Kirkgard, Bill Kjellstrand, Inez Scott
- 15 Mary Jo Culver, Dan McLendon
- 16 Easton Banta, Jill Bacon, Kathy Dugat, Dave Hart, Larry Richards, Mark Smith
- 17 Shannon Magee, Carol Mynes, Nancy Richards, Kelly Smith
- 18 Todd Le, Sharon Roberts
- 19 Pam Godfrey, Madeline Sutherland-Meier
- 20 Mary Eastberg, Barbara Ekerdt, William Fisher, Bruce Meleski, Carol Price
- 21 Steve Brock, Larry Roden, Barbara Spelman
- 22 Jane Adolph, Alyssa Moore
- 23 Ariana Patron
- 24 Diane Sparks, Lisa Williams
- 26 Lamar Doyle, Woodie Jones, Andrew McAdams
- 27 Margaret Huffman, Christine Miller, Millie Scott, Clif Steed, Leigh Williamson
- 28 Susan Barnes, Nancy Johnson
- 29 Pat Boon, Mary Nell Frucella, Gabe Ireland, Tom Robinson
- 30 Russ Adams, Andrew Bushong, Shelly Kirkgard, Kian McLay, Brad Smith, Penny Stephens

### October

- 1 Ellen Wilkes
- 2 Cynthia Wilson
- 3 Molly Price, Debbie Simons, Bill Smith, Mary Ann Squires
- 4 Michael Mashburn
- 5 Kevin Burnett, Don Fritz, David Hampton, Bobby Magee
- 6 Miller Bursk, Elaine Goessling, Callie Harakal, Joy Swanson, Rachel Zimmerman
- 7 Betsy McCraine

## With Gratitude from Bishop Payne

*When Bishop Payne retired, our vestry made a \$500 contribution to his retirement fund. Here is his response.*

Dear Merrill,

Barbara and I have been thrilled to receive the very special purse which will brighten our new phase of life considerably. This whole transition has been rather overwhelming, and as long as we live, we will remember with such great affection the response that we have received throughout the diocese.

Your contribution was a part of this gift. For that, both of us want to express our deepest gratitude. This expression of thanks is not only for the gift, but for your ready response throughout the years in the furtherance of our Lord Jesus Christ's mission in the diocese. Many, many lives have been transformed and the greatest news is that this continues.

Our hearts are full as we move forward. You are certainly a part of that fullness, for which we give thanks to God. Also, we pray that God's blessing will continue to be with you.

Faithfully yours,

The Right Reverend Claude E. Payne, D. D.

## New Members

Becky and Charlie Graves

Sharon and John Edwards

Scott, Renee and Vivian Francis

Roberta Hertach

## Births

*Abigail Ruth Buckles*  
was born July 16, 2003,  
daughter of Sarah and Andy Buckles,  
granddaughter of Leslie and Bill Kjellstrand

*Gavin Christopher Smith*  
was born on July 18, 2003,  
son of Kelly and Mark Smith

*Julian Maximillian Fancellia*  
was born August 6, 2003,  
son of Rebecca and Dave Fancellia,  
grandson of Kate and Tom Canby

## Deaths

Dill Courtney,  
aunt of Hink Johnson,  
died August 6, 2003

Beverly Burton,  
wife of John Burton,  
died August 9, 2003

## Retreat for Women 35-ish to 55-ish

Eva Archer-Smith  
"Five Choices That Will  
Transform Your Life"

Wessendorf Ranch  
The Hills of Beautiful  
Blanco County

November 21 - 23,  
Friday - Sunday

Registration begins  
Sunday, September 21

# 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

Periodicals  
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## Worship Schedule

### *Sunday*

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

### *Wednesday*

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

### *Daily*

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

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

The nursery is open each Sunday from 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 October issue  
of *The Word* is  
Friday, September 12, 2003  
at 5:00 p.m. Submissions on diskette  
are welcomed - or email your article  
to [betty@stmattsaustrin.org](mailto: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  
David Harakal  
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

The Rev. Merrill Wade  
Michael McCollum  
Kristin Fason  
Pam Littlefield  
Kay Ballard  
Kent Zarbock  
Pat Boon  
*Members*—Dana Bushong, Bess Carsner,  
Michael Mashburn, Millie Roden

### *Chairman*

### *President*

### *Vice-President*

### *Director*

### *Secretary*

### *Treasurer*

### *Vestry Liaison*

## 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. George I. Wilson *Assisting Clergy*  
Lucy Boyea *Minister of Senior Activities*  
Margaret Carpenter *Assistant Bookkeeper*  
Suzanne Daniel *Interim Music Ministry*  
Barbara Haynes *Administrative Assistant*  
Eric Liles *Youth Minister*  
Cary Michaels *Interim Music Ministry*  
Betty Mitchell *Communications Coordinator*  
Tracey Nichols *Nursery Coordinator*  
Dedee Norman *Membership Coordinator*  
Barbara Pitts *Children's Minister*

## Vestry

Phil Hatlen (345-9923) *Senior Warden*  
Kate Canby (219-8693) *Vestry Warden*  
David Price (371-0248) *People's Warden*  
John Muhich (452-1210) *Treasurer*  
Bert Hooper (346-6675) *Chancellor*  
Patty Steed (346-4255) *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 September*—  
Debbie Meleski, Don Neely