

The Weekly Word

February 10- February 17, 2008

To Know Christ, Grow in Christ, and Share Christ's Love
Please take this Announcement Sheet home with you.

The Church Offers Nurturing, Experienced, Child Care: For the 8:00 a.m. services, the nursery for infants and children up to 4 years old is available in Room 5 of the Education Building Nursery. At 9 a.m. children below 2 years old are taken to the Nursery located down the hallway on the parking lot side of Huffman Hall. The 2 to 4 year olds remain in Room 5 of the Education Building Nursery. Both Nurseries close at 12:15 p.m. There is also a comfortable, sound proof room in the Sanctuary balcony for adults who wish to keep their babies with them during the services.

3 and 4 year old children have two options on Sunday mornings. ALL children, through age 4, are welcome in the nursery on Sunday morning. Those children who are reliably potty trained and developmentally ready for a more structured environment are invited to attend Sunday School from 9:15 - 10:15 in B16 and Chapel in the Choir Room from 10:30 - 11:00.

Thanks for Faithfully Wearing Your Nametag each and every Sunday!
If you need a new nametag, please visit the Welcome Table in the Commons right after church.

Personal Prayer Teams are available during Communion at Prayer Stations on either side of the sanctuary. One is located on the east side by the windows, and the other one is on the west side in the gallery. Prayers will also be offered immediately after church by the team near the windows. All prayer requests and discussions are completely confidential.

Home Delivery of Holy Communion If you are unable to come to church and would like Holy Communion brought to you on Sunday, please call the church office at 345-8314.

If you attend church but are unable to walk to the Altar for Holy Communion, please notify an usher and the communion elements will be brought to you where you are seated.

The Weekly Word deadline is Noon on Wednesdays. If you have an article for the Weekly Word please email them to Office@StMattsAustin.Org and JeriM@austin.rr.com

Be in the know! Subscribe to the St. Matthew's Email Notification Service. On average, you will receive only one email per week. The parish email keeps you informed about all the important events happening at St. Matthew's. Subscribe yourself by sending a blank email to: [StMattsEmail-
subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:StMattsEmail-subscribe@yahoo.com) You can unsubscribe yourself at any time.

Items marked with an asterisk () are run for the first time today.

*"Reflections of a Late-Blooming Christian" will be the topic for the talk that Nan Harrison will give to the Women's Story Circle today immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service in Huffman Hall with a light luncheon (\$5 donation suggested) and is open to all women. Babysitting will be provided.

**5:15 Alternative Service There will be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist this evening led by the Youth of St. Matthew's. All are invited to attend!

*Childcare for Lenten Series: We are happy to provide child care for infants thru children currently attending 5th grade during the weekly Wednesday night Lenten Supper/ Lenten Speaker Series. Childcare provided BY RESERVATION ONLY. Please contact Tracey Nichols at 331-0653 or ldncars@sbcglobal.net, by 5:00 p.m., the Sunday presiding the Wednesday program

*Cursillo Austin Convocation Ultreya, Sunday, February 10, 6 PM. St. Matthew's parish is hosting this regular gathering of the Austin Convocation Cursillo Community. Even if you have not yet made you weekend come anyway to learn more about Cursillo. As hosts we are asked to provide refreshments, so please bring your favorite snack. Our 4th Day speaker will be Steve Ryder. His topic will be "This is the way to go", about how Cursillo prepared him for his dad's last week on this planet and the blessings he and his extended family received during that week. And don't forget the closing at Camp Allen on Sunday February 24 at 3:30 PM for weekend #219: *The Cursillo of the Sojourners*. If you can't make the closing join the community at the Cattle Company in Elgin at 7:15 PM to welcome the new Cursillistas.

BY POPULAR DEMAND, THE ARK RETURNS!

The Heifer Project (www.heifer.org) is a unique opportunity not only to feed the hungry but to help people all over the world become self-supporting. We are calling on each of you to make a difference in the world this Lenten season.

This week we will begin to fill an ark (last year we filled four arks). Talk with your bible study group, Sunday School class, or groups of friends. Buy an animal in honor of a special person in your life. We will provide a beautiful gift card.

Raise enough money to send goats to Honduras, Llamas to Ecuador, water buffalo to Thailand and chickens to Mississippi.

This is our chance to make a difference in the lives of God's children right here in the United States as well as across the globe.

There is a table at the back of the church beginning. Pick up an "ark" bank to fill and more information. Make checks out to St. Matthew's marked Ark or Heifer Project on the memo line.

If you have questions, please call Cynthia Wilson 346-6870

20's & 30's Group

Theology & You: For those of you who are in their twenties and thirties (or those who wish they still were) come and enjoy a series called "Theology and You." On Tuesday February 12th at 7:30 pm we will meet to discuss different theological questions and concerns pertaining to our age group. The event is held at the North Lamar Central Market where you may enjoy many different choices of beverages or food. Our speaker for this month will be Dr. Greg Garrett, professor of English at Baylor. He is an extraordinary theologian and author of several books. He will speak to us about a theology of grief. There will be childcare available for this event in St. Matthew's nursery! You can drop off your child beginning at 7:00 pm and pick up will be at 9:30pm. If you would like more information about this group or would like to be included on the group e-mail list, please contact The Rev. Kevin Schubert by phone (512-345-8314 ext. 232) or through e-mail (kevin@stmattsaustrin.org).

Youth News

Sunday February 10th the Youth meeting is our On Campus Activity full of games, dinner, and fellowship! We will begin in the Sanctuary with Eucharist at 5:15 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm in B-18. Come and enjoy a night of fun filled games, great food, and good friends!

Wednesday February 13th the Middle School and High School Youth Groups will begin their Lenten Series studying the Gospel of Matthew. This five week series will coincide with the adult Lenten series. We will begin with dinner in Huffman Hall at 6:00 pm and then travel to B-18 for the Bible study. We will conclude at 8:00 pm.

*Moms Time Out will meet this Thursday, February 14th from 9-10am in room B-13 with childcare provided. This group provides an opportunity for some time out from the kids to discuss topics important to Moms. We will continue our discussion with Merrill on stress and anxiety in our day-to-day lives, exploring the ways our families are affected by the constant motion and activity and how we, as Moms, can find ways to manage it better. We hope you will mark your calendars, invite a friend, and join us for an hour of fellowship and respite from the busy-ness of motherhood! For more information or questions please contact Anne Webster at 343-5583 or websters@austin.rr.com.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABOUT PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

TODAY IS THE LAST DATE TO UPDATE DIRECTORY

*Directory Updates: The deadline for updating information in the church directory will be February 10.

*Group Pictures for the Pictorial Directory: Mr. Harris will be in the Commons beginning February 17 to begin making

appointments for individual, family and group photos. If you have any questions, please contact me. Babs Clendenin, ba69claus@aol.com, or call 795-8854

*Activity Pictures: Barbara Haynes has set up a box marked activity pictures in the office opposite her office. Please drop your pictures (not more than 6 right now) off before February 17, Thanks, Babs.

*Por Café y Conversación Entre Amigos: Do you speak Spanish? Do you like coffee? Even if you don't speak Spanish, please consider joining a few friends to talk about forming an informal group for fellowship and to practice the language of Español. We will meet at Russell's Bakery on Thursday, February 14 at 10 am "por café y conversación entre amigos". Hasta luego. If you have questions, please contact Esther Garcia at 918-3359 or emgarcia@austin.rr.com.

Until the flood damage in the basement has been repaired, we ask that ALL children under the age of 12 be ESCORTED by a parent or adult any time they are in the basement. Please do not allow your children to leave the Sanctuary to go to the restroom alone. We are doing our best to keep the area safe, but open walls and interesting equipment are nearly irresistible to curious little folks! We appreciate your help as we work through the reconstruction as quickly as possible.

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School has a temporary new home!!!

All Sunday School classes for children ages 3 years through fifth graders will move to classrooms in the Education Building for the month of February so that work can begin in the basement to repair damage from the flood.

Classrooms will be clearly marked and we will be in the Education Building hallway to help direct traffic. Come join the fun!

Children's Chapel has a new temporary home! During the month of February, Children's Chapel will move to Huffman Hall. Same great stories...same fun songs...same interactive worship...just a temporary new "home" as we work through reconstruction in the basement. Children 3 years of age and older, and their parents, are invited to join us for fun and worship at 10:25 each Sunday. We'll join the rest of the congregation in the sanctuary at the Peace.

Sacred Moments, Precious Memories: Anchors for life! Parents of children of all ages are invited to join Kathy Dugat on Monday, Feb. 11th from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in B13 to visit about ways to carve out sacred moments and make precious memories with our children. It is critical that we teach children, by our words and example, how to see God's presence in the "ordinary" things and events of our lives. Bringing God into those "everyday" moments opens the door to creating wonderful memories and deep rooted habits that will help sustain our children throughout their lives. Kathy will bring ideas to share, and be ready to answer questions. Childcare is available.

Adult Education- News

Creative Challenges and Crises, which is surveying 2,000 years of church history, continues in B-18. Feb. 10, Susan Barnes will discuss the Catholic Church's response to the Reformations, featuring 17th century religious art in Rome. Feb. 17, Greg Shannon will speak on the political conflicts between major European powers that were the context for the religious reforms. All are welcome.



We Want Your Stories!

What has happened to you here that has enriched your life? Has something strengthened your desire to minister to others? Tell us about it! Please limit your story to 250 words for the Monthly and Weekly Words. If it is longer we can use it for the History presentation at our celebration of St. Matthew's Day. Email them to Rita Eccles

jandr@austin.rr.comor or give them to Barbara Haynes in the Office. Thanks for joining us to celebrate our 50 years.

Laity Lodge Retreat- April 18-20, 2008

It's that wonderful time of year when St. Matthew's is blessed to spend a weekend at Laity Lodge! Registration begins on February 3, 2008. This year's guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Roberts, the new Senior Director and Scholar-in-Residence of Laity Lodge. Registration priority will be given to first timers or people who haven't been in awhile. Cost per person for the weekend is \$210 for Lodge/Lodestar and \$260 for Black Bluff. Sign-up in the Commons after the service where you can pay the \$50 per person deposit to reserve your spot. For questions, contact Tom Uhl 658-3989. For a tour of Laity Lodge, visit www.laitylodge.org

*The Rev. Susan Barnes is Honorary Co-Host of El Buen Benefit Bingo Brunch for Women, May 10. It is the hope that some of you will feel like joining in this fun event to benefit El Buen's programs for children, I would like to send invitations to many of the women of the parish. There is NO obligation to participate, of course--only an opportunity if it catches your imagination and matches your budget! Please let me know if you don't want to receive an invitation! Contact Susan@StMattsAustin.org or call 345-8314 Ext 217.



Disposing of old Paint and Hazardous Waste

Even though latex paint is water-based, other included toxic materials dictate it should be disposed of as a hazardous waste. The city's Hazardous Waste Collection facility is now open for collection on the first Saturday of each month; see tinyurl.com/2y3q56 for a complete list of times and materials accepted.

After the 10:30 service on the last Sunday of the Month, you can hear how nitrates, another toxic hazard, are polluting Bull Creek and how proper fertilizing techniques can help eliminate the problem.

*Trinity Center invites you to attend the 5th annual Barbara Jordan luncheon on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at the Omni Hotel Downtown, from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Trinity Center was established in 1999 to provide programs that improve the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the inner city area. For more information, email: Mary@TrinityCenterAustin.org



At Breakfast at the Sunday School Hour on February 24 we are asking you to be seated at tables by the decade that you joined St. Matthew's. There will be signs grouped for the years 1958-68, 69-79, 88-98, 99 – 2007. We want to put your memories of "your decade" together for a history presentation. So begin thinking now and bring your memories to breakfast.