

The Weekly Word

March 2- March 9, 2008

To Know Christ, Grow in Christ, and Share Christ's Love

Please take this Announcement Sheet home with you.

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

Today is Good Faith Sunday! St. Matthew's Good Faith Committee works to assist needy families and individuals in Austin and Travis County. The funds go towards basic needs, such as rent and electricity. All loose offerings in the collection plate on the first *Sunday of every month* go towards the Good Faith Fund. In 2007, 200 families and individuals were helped with our generous contributions!

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



50th Anniversary T-Shirts... If you ordered a 50th Anniversary T-Shirt, please see Scott Murphy in the commons today to pick up your shirt. If you didn't order a T-Shirt though would like to pick one up today, stop by and see Scott as there are limited quantities still available. "

*Today, Sunday March 2nd Get Your Kites Ready! All youth are invited to meet after the 10:30 service in the courtyard. We will travel together to Zilker Park for the annual Kite Festival. We will park in the Zilker neighborhood and travel by foot to the park. Once at the park we will eat a picnic together and then fly our kites. Kevin will provide the picnic. The festival is free! But if you would like to purchase anything from the vendors you may wish to bring some money. We will return to St. Matthew's at 3:00 pm. Your parents need to fill out the medical release form to attend. We will meet directly after the 10:30 service in the courtyard. We will not meet this evening.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Help, where are you? We don't see your picture waiting to be put in the new 2008 Anniversary Pictorial Directory. Don't wait, today is the last day to sign up. Sign up at the table in the Commons or call Harlan at 390-909-2288 or email him at HDSStudio@Aol.com.

Plastic Eggs and Wooden Crosses: Understanding what Easter is all about -- I hope you will make plans to join me for Conversations with Kathy on Monday, March 3rd from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in B18. Our focus this month will be on ways to bring the Easter story to life for your children. This will be a "make and take" session! You will take home everything you need to make this Easter special...and to begin some new traditions in your home! Come ready to have some fun! PLEASE NOTE -- ANYONE is welcome to join us, whether you have children at home or not! Grandparents, godparents...or just fun loving folks looking for a new way to celebrate Easter this year are all welcome to join us. Because this session requires an extensive supply list, an RSVP would be appreciated. Please contact Kathy Dugat (343-7989 or kdugat@austin.rr.com) to RSVP. Please bring \$4.00 to cover supplies. Childcare is available.

*Youth Group News: Wednesday March 5th the Middle School and High School Youth Groups will continue our Lenten Series studying the Gospel of Matthew. 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.

Attendance Sunday, February 24, 2008
8:00 a.m., 35 , 10:30 a.m., 328, 5:15 p.m., 17 Total 380



**COME ONE, COME ALL! YARD CLEAN UP DAY MARCH 8,
8:30 AM**

With close to 100 participating in the fall yard clean-up day, we are encouraged that this spring we can again accomplish a lot in the maintenance of our lovely seven acres. Bring an appetite (two meals are provided!), your gloves, sunscreen and a hat and any of the following that you have: power washer, water hoses, tree trimmers and pruners of all kinds, hedge trimmers, electrical cords, gasoline for power tools, two kinds of oil for gas trimmers, folding ladders, wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes. If you have a trailer to haul limbs, please let Jim Fryer know, 372.9832. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will provide breakfast and the Holy Smokers will provide the brisket for lunch. Scouts (a terrific help last time, along with their parents), women and men who are ready for fun, a day outside, and some good food, contact Linda or Jim, fryer602@281.com. Every Body Helps.

*Women's Story Circle, March 9 --A story of healing and recovery from childhood abuse and trauma will be told by Laura Myers-Doughty, who will speak on March 9 at the Women's Story Circle luncheon in Huffman Hall following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Laura will talk about the help that she received during the dark years of her childhood and early adulthood and will read some of the poems she wrote on her road to recovery from her book, "A Silent Holocaust: My Journey of Hope and Healing through Poetry and Prose." The Women's Story Circle is a monthly luncheon and fellowship for women of all ages, featuring a woman from our parish telling her spiritual story. A donation of \$5 may be made for the lunch. Babysitting is always provided and children are fed lunch.

Easter Eggs needed! We need lots and LOTS and LOTS of plastic Easter eggs to hunt on Easter morning! Donations of filled Easter Eggs or goodies with which to fill eggs would be greatly appreciated. Please make sure goodies are *individually wrapped* -- and consider donating "non-candy" fillers as well (coins, tiny toys, stickers, hair clips or bows, tiny toy cars, colorful shoe laces, etc.). Donation boxes will be located in the Commons. Questions??? Contact Kathy Dugat (343-7989 or kdugat@austin.rr.com).

Children's Ministry

Bring your Easter Basket! We will have an Easter Egg hunt for toddlers through third graders on Easter Sunday at 10:30. Bring your Easter baskets and gather in the courtyard at 10:30 for lemonade and cookies, followed by LOTS of egg hunting and fun! If you would be willing to help with this family friendly event (stuffing eggs ahead of time, serving lemonade and cookies, or hiding eggs) please contact Kathy Dugat (343-7989 or kdugat@austin.rr.com). In case of drippy weather, we'll gather in Huffman Hall.

Come on down! We've made ourselves cozy and at home in the Education Building for Children's Sunday School and in Huffman Hall for Chapel due to the damage in the basement from the flood. Our sincere thanks goes out to the Day School teachers for being willing to share their classroom space in our time of need. We will continue to meet in those locations until further notice. Hope you will make plans to join us at 9:15 each Sunday morning for Sunday School and at 10:30 for Chapel.

Children's Sunday School for March: The Greatest Gift! During March, our Children's Sunday School classes will focus on *The Greatest Gift!* We will spend the month learning about and preparing for Easter. As we move through the month, we will discover the events that lead up to the cross, the tomb and the resurrection...and discover that the cold, ugly tomb is really a beautiful gift straight from the heart of God to each and every one of us. We will also learn about ways we can help share the gift of God's love with others. Note that there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Easter Sunday. Instead, join us at 10:30, between the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services, for an Easter Egg hunt! Questions??? Contact Kathy Dugat (343-7989 or kdugat@austin.rr.com).

Adult Education Opportunities

Rector's Class Continues in March – Our Culture of Busyness and Anxiety On Sundays, March 2, 9 and 16, I will continue my teaching on this subject. We will look at a primary anchor for our identity as Christians, The Lord's Prayer. So many of us have prayed the Lord's Prayer for so long, we no longer think too deeply about our words. For these three Sundays I will examine the great themes of the Lord's Prayer, including

Our Father, who art in heaven

How is God our Father, or parent or Mother? Whom does that make us?

Hallowed be thy name. God is holy. Does this suggest that we must be sinless in order to approach God? Do we earn our way to heaven by 'good behavior'?

Over the three-week period, we will read through and discuss the entire Lord's Prayer, utilizing discussion questions like those above. Our goal is to think together about the ways we lead our lives and to find new (and re-find old) ways to live with and for God. This class will continue the themes I introduced in January and February, but you do not have to have attended those classes to be prepared for the March classes. If you would like to listen to the talks I gave in January and February, they are online on the Sermons page of the St. Matthew's website –

www.stmattsaustrin.org/sermon.htm. We will meet in Huffman Hall from 9:15AM until 10:15AM.

*Sunday Morning Bible Class Sunday Morning Bible Class - Room B21

Today, our class is beginning a study of the last book in the Bible, The Revelation. As is our custom, we will use a discussion format, with a group leader to guide us. New participants are always welcome. In preparation, it probably would be helpful, but not at all required, to read The Revelation completely through like reading a letter. We wish to look at the book as a whole, as well as to discuss it chapter by chapter. If you would like to join us, please come to Room B-21 on any given Sunday. We would love to see you there.

*Creative Challenges Continue in B-18! Our survey of the ways that God has used controversy and challenge to create the church through the ages moves on to the modern period in America-March 2, our seminarian Amy Moehnke will discuss the ways that Puritanism shaped the church in England and the America Colonies-March 9, Chad McCall will present the early history of the Episcopal church, formed just after the American Revolution.-March 16, Susan Barnes will teach on the first revitalization movement in the USA, The Great Awakening.

*Next Sunday: Special Millennium Development Goals, 5:15 pm Service: On March 9 the 5:15 pm service is specifically designed to highlight the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs are eight goals agreed by the nations of the world to end world poverty. We, as the Episcopal Church, are called to uphold these goals in our mission. This service is designed to create an awareness of the MDGs and to provide a place of prayer and worship to focus on the call of God to be good stewards of creation. The Rev. Kevin Schubert will preside.

*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! 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

*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@sbcbglobal.net, by 5:00 p.m., the Sunday preceding the Wednesday program

SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD

The Heifer Project (www.heiferproject.org) helps needy people in 125 countries to become self-supporting. They do so by giving them animals as well as training in animal husbandry, environmentally sound farming, and community development. The animals are a self-renewing source of food, clothing, and labor for their new owners. Each recipient pledges to give the "first fruits"-the first offspring of their animal to someone else in need. Please help fill the Ark as part of your Lenten discipline. Stop at the table in the Commons and pick up your Ark bank. Ark gift cards are available. What a wonderful way to honor a special person or event (birthday, anniversary, etc.) in your life or the life of a loved one. Make checks out to St. Matthew's and mark Ark or Heifer Project on the memo line. Place them in the collection plate or in the Ark on the table in the Commons. If you have questions, please call Cynthia Wilson 345-6870 Thank you!!!

Habitat for Humanity The Outreach Commission is happy to announce St. Matthew's participation in Habitat for Humanity's 2008 Episcopal Build project. Austin-area congregations are joining to build a three-bedroom home for Martinez-Rivero family. The family has three daughters, ages 2, 5, and 7 and are currently living in a two bedroom apartment. The Episcopal Build began on February 23rd. St. Matthew's is scheduled to work on the home on Saturday, March 29th. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Andrew Bushong at 426-0682 or abushong@austin.rr.com Space is limited so don't delay!



Donate Your Old Auto or RV to El Buen and get a Tax Deduction

Donate your old car to El Buen Samaritano for recycling or reuse and it will enable working-poor Hispanic families to more fully participate in society. Your car, boat, camper or truck might just help a family in need. Through a partnership with Charitable Auto Recycling, El Buen takes your vehicle, old or new, running or not - and uses the proceeds to help Hispanic families in need. Your call gets the process started: 439-0743.

*Care for the Caregiver: There will be no Care for the Caregiver on Thursday, March 13. Please email Gidget Fisher at gid92get@yahoo.com for information on future meetings and events.

Multigenerational Game Night at St. Matthew's - Rescheduled for March 14, 2008:

Thought you missed the 1st Game Night at St. Matthew's? You're in luck! The flood caused us to need to reschedule, and the game boards have now been thoroughly dried out. So, on Friday, March 14 at 6:30p.m., St. Matthew's will be holding a pizza and game night for all interested players of checkers, chess, dominos, cribbage (or your favorite game!) This is an opportunity for children to have some exposure to some of these all-time favorite games. Everyone is welcome. In particular, it would be a great chance for some of our members to take on the role of surrogate grandparents to some youngsters who may not have grandparents in Austin and for kids and parents who are interested in gathering as families to come, eat and have some fun. Please RSVP to Paul Huggins at 736-7541 or email him at paul.a.huggins@gmail.com in order that he might know how much pizza to purchase!

LIKE TO DINE OUT WITH FRIENDS? By Stefani Minnear

Please consider joining ConneXions for the next round beginning in March. If you would like to meet with couples and individuals from St. Matthews about once a month for the next six months for dinner in each others' homes, and would be willing to host one dinner for 8-10 people in your home, please contact Stefani Minnear at 512-250-5703 or minnst14@aol.com. If you participated in the ConneXions round which started last October but would like to sit this round out, please let me know that too so I can keep the database up to date. Bon Appetit!