

The Weekly Word--

December 13-December 20, 2009

TO KNOW CHRIST, GROW IN CHRIST, AND SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE

PLEASE TAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHEET HOME WITH YOU.

Don't miss our Annual Family Advent Event this evening from 5:15pm to 8:00pm!



Come and worship, hear a story from St. Nicholas, and make Christmas crafts and cookies!

This evening, from 5:15pm - 8:00pm, we will celebrate the Advent season, family style.

Our evening begins with a Family Eucharist, a preview of what is to come as we replace our current Children's Chapel program with a Family Eucharist, beginning in Lent. A Potluck Supper* will follow, with a visit from St. Nicholas. The older kids and adults will then go caroling in the neighborhood while the younger kids (ages 3 to 6 or so) stay to make crafts and decorate Christmas cookies. The festivities will end at 8:00 pm. If you are caroling, please wear warm clothes and bring flashlights and a joyful spirit!

COME ONE, COME ALL! To the Old Fashion Pot Luck Dinner

We're having a pot luck dinner on December 13, 2009, at 5: 15 p.m. in connection with the Annual Family Advent Event

If your last name begins with:

A thru J – bring Salads or vegetables.

K thru L – bring Desserts

M thru Z – bring Main Dishes.

More information:

Bring enough to serve 6 – 8 people.

Get there with your dish ready to put on the table by 5:00 p.m.

We have plenty of serving utensils so don't bring one that might get lost. Identify your container and be sure to take it home with you at end of evening. If some of your food is left please take it home with you.

Do not leave it in the kitchen. Drinks and bread will be provided.

Bon Appétit!

THE CHURCH OFFERS NURTURING, EXPERIENCED, CHILDCARE: For the 8:00 a.m. services, the nursery for infants and children up to 4 years old is available in Huffman Hall, the nursery is located down the hallway on the parking lot side of Huffman Hall. At 9 a.m. the 2 to 4 year olds go to Room 5 of the Education Building Nursery. Both Nurseries close at 12:15 p.m. There is also a comfortable, soundproof 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 the Basement of the Sanctuary and Children's Chapel in Basement Room, B-18 from 10:30 - 11:05.

THANKS FOR FAITHFULLY WEARING YOUR NAMETAG EACH AND EVERY SUNDAY!

If you are a member and 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.

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE WHEELCHAIRS AND A WALKER IN THE GALLERY, ALSO PRAYER SHAWLS AND A BLANKET OR TWO of the Sanctuary for temporary need. Please contact the Office before borrowing the equipment.

THE WEEKLY WORD DEADLINE IS 5 P.M. ON TUESDAY. If you have an article for the Weekly Word please email them to Word@StMattsAustin.Org. The monthly *Word* deadline is the 15th of each month. Please send Monthly *Word* articles to Word@StMattsAustin.org

Be in the know! Subscribe to the St. Matthew's Email Notification Service. 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@yahoogleroups.com You can unsubscribe yourself at any time.

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

Report on 2010 Operating Pledges: Special thanks to all those who have returned their pledge cards to St. Matthew's. As of December 7, we have received 255 pledges totaling \$882,652. If you have not received a pledge card, please locate one in the seatback in front of you in the church and place in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office. Thanks one and all.

December 5:15 pm Eucharist Services during December

December 20 th		No Service, due to the Sing Along Messiah	
December 27 th	Wilson Room	Contemplative Eucharist	The Rev. Jim Williams

The Perfect Gift: The Perfect Gift is here! Beginning today and continuing until the end of Advent, The Perfect Gift table will be available in the Commons before and after the 10:30 Sunday service.

Make a donation to The Perfect Gift and you will receive a gift card to give to a loved one or friend explaining that you have made a donation in their name to St. Matthew's Outreach ministries providing food, shelter, education, clean water, and mosquito nets to people in need. Sharing Christ's love with the less fortunate and your family and friends. The Perfect Gift.

Wednesday Evening Events: Wednesday December 16: ALL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY! at 7:00 pm the youth group will have its annual Christmas party! Along with a great meal we will have a white elephant gift exchange! A white elephant gift exchange is a fun hilarious thing to do. All youth are invited to bring a wrapped gift limited to \$5.00 in cost. This is your chance to be creative, the gifts are supposed to be gags! The rules of the gift exchange will be explained at the party. The party will conclude at 8:30 pm in the Youth Center

Sunday December 20th: Dinner and a Movie Night! We will meet in the Youth Center at 5:00 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm.

Sunday December 27th: No Youth Group Meeting This Evening

Children's Ministry The Season of Advent



Join us in Children's Sunday School December 13th, and 20th as we discover the wonders of the season of Advent. We will experience the timeless story of the nativity through the eyes of Mary, the eyes of the angel, and the eyes of the shepherds. We will make Mary's treasure boxes in art, play an Advent trivia game in theater, and decorate angel and star cookies, as well as learn a star science experiment in cooking and science.

We will spend the month preparing for the birth of the Christ child. Advent is a time to count our blessings and to be a blessing to someone else. It's a time to know we are loved and to share God's love. It's a time to contemplate and to celebrate! We will make nativity crafts, listen to wonderful, timeless stories and wonder together what it might have been like to be present in that stable or on that hillside so long ago. We will ponder how much God loves us and think through how we can be "messengers" of God's love, just like those shepherds were messengers so many years ago.

On December 13th, the K/1st graders will do science/cooking, the 2nd/3rd graders will do theater, and the 4th/5th graders will do art. On December 20th, the K/1st graders will do theater, the 2nd/3rd graders will do art, and the 4th/5th graders will do science/cooking.

All ages will participate in La Posada on Sunday December 20th, a yearly tradition that symbolizes the trials Mary and Joseph endured before finding a place to stay where Jesus could be born. We will conclude our search with treats and a piñata!

Join us on Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 for fun and fellowship. Children ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through fifth grade are invited to join us each Sunday morning in the basement of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Helen Pelkey (345-8314 x227 or helen@stmattsaustrin.org).

3 and 4 year olds meet in Room B-16. Kindergartners through 5th graders meet in Room B-21 for our opening and then stay in B-21 or move to B-17 or B-12, depending on their rotation. Kindergartners through 5th graders gather at the end of Sunday School in Room B-21 for snack. All ages are then escorted to Children's Chapel or picked up by their parents.

Chapel in B-18 – A child and family friendly Chapel service is held EVERY Sunday morning in B-18 (Basement of the Sanctuary). Don't miss the fun! The service begins at 10:30 and is geared to the needs of children ages 3 through 3rd grade, but "lap sitters" are always welcome with a parent and older children are welcome to join us as helpers. Through carefully chosen words, music and activities, our daily lessons, Episcopal heritage, and the rhythm of our liturgy will come to life in the hands and hearts of our children. The Chapel service is led by a team of wonderful volunteers. Parents are invited to bring their children directly to B-18 before the 10:30 worship begins or to sign them directly through to Chapel when you drop them off at Sunday School. All the children will be returned to the sanctuary at the Peace so that families can celebrate communion together. This Sunday we will be visited by St. Nicholas. If you have any questions please contact Helen Pelkey at helen@stmattsaustrin.org or 345-8314 x227.

The Mom's Time Out will meet from 11:30 to 1:00 pm on December 17. We will gather in the Youth Center for lunch, and we will move to Sanctuary for Advent concert at 12:05 p.m Please RSVP to Anne Webster (awebstertx@gmail.com or 343-5583) by the Monday of that week if needing childcare or the Wednesday of that week if you plan to eat lunch. Join the St. Matt's Mom's Group Yahoo Group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stmattsmomsgroup> for event reminders.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES IN DECEMBER 2009

Please note that all classes will be cancelled on Sunday, December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010 for the holiday period.

All classes resume on Sunday, January 10, 2010.

Advent and Christmas– led by Merrill Wade Location: Huffman Hall

In this class, we will examine the biblical lessons and stories of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

These classes will be lively, conversational and relevant to your daily lives!

Sunday, December 13 – John the Baptist and Repentance

Sunday, December 20 – The Birth and Life of Jesus – what was God doing?

The class meets each Sunday at 9:15AM. *Submitted by Merrill Wade*

Living What We Believe - Location - B-6

Facilitator: Paul Williams. This Study group, "Living What We Believe" will meet in Room B-6 each Sunday morning at 9:15 to discuss the Gospel lesson from that Sunday's lectionary. The discussion is lively and reveals several points of view. After the class, at the 10:30AM service, it is interesting to compare the class discussion and the sermon.

Submitted by Paul Williams

Sunday Morning Bible Discussion - Location: Room B-13

Facilitators: Kay Ballard and Will Lutz: Have you ever wanted to know what God would tell you about a particular issue if you could just hear him more clearly? Often, searching the Bible for what God said to his followers in the past helps us to know his purposes for today, as well. This fall, the Bible Discussion Class will take a topical approach to our Old and New Testament studies. As we discuss in class what God has told his people in the past, we will draw conclusions about such topics as:

Caring for Creation Our part in grace and forgiveness

The meaning of the Eucharist Purposes and guidelines for prayer

Our response for social justice

If you want to learn more of God's word and share insights with others, come join us in Room B-13 at 9:15 for coffee, Bible study, and fellowship. *Submitted by Kay Ballard*

Sunday Morning Book Group - Location - B-14

Facilitators: Jim and Linda Fryer: Peace, joy, self-mastery and justice can be acquired through practicing ancient disciplines, thus exercising our souls as we prepare for grace to surprise us. In the book Finding Our Way Again, Brian McLaren serves as a guide to a variety of spiritual practices, showing how they form character, awaken us to life, and help us to experience God and each other in new and fresh ways. Rather than a book review approach, the class invites members to share thoughts, insights and life experiences that are relevant to the week's chapter. We will provide books and new members are welcome to join at any time. *Submitted by the Fryers*

DON'T MISS OUR CLUB 345 CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 20TH!: If you are in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade, grab a friend and join us for our annual Christmas party on Sunday December 20th from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm (Note time change do to Sing Along Messiah) in the Youth Center! There will be crafts, treats to eat, a service project to make, and a toy gift exchange. Find a toy you no longer play with, valued at \$10 or less, wrap it up and bring it to exchange for something more to your liking. Be prepared for lots of swapping! Look for your e-vite a week out with more information. Contact Helen Pelkey at 345-8314 x227 or helen@stmattsAustin.org with any questions.

Make Plans to Participate in the "Pick Up Pageant"!



You and your families are cordially invited to attend the Pick Up Pageant on Thursday December 24th at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The Pick Up Pageant is one of our most special annual traditions. This hour long service combines the familiar words of the Gospels with a family friendly service of Holy Communion. We call this special service a "pick up" pageant because we literally "pick up" every child who wishes to participate in the pageant. It is NOT your usual well-staged, well-rehearsed, well-costumed pageant. It is, instead, an invitation to one and all to celebrate as an active participant in the joy and wonder of the birth of the Christ Child. What a sight it is to behold a whole flock of shepherds and an entire host of angels gathered around the manger rejoicing in the birth of Jesus! The primary characters in the story (Narrators, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Inn Keeper, a handful of "lead shepherds and angels," the magi, and the star) are cast ahead of time on a first-come basis. The primary characters are asked to be present at one brief rehearsal on Sunday December 20th, immediately following the 10:30 service. If your child is interested in representing one of the primary characters in the pageant, please contact Helen Pelkey at 345-8314 x227 or helen@stmattsAustin.org.



*Readers and Listeners: We need your help in the evenings for our families who will be visiting Dec 27 to Jan 3 through the IHN program. We are expecting 7 children, most under 6 years of age. If you could come spend some time between dinner and bedtime; reading, playing blocks, watching Lion King or other similar activities, you'd be helping out in a big way. Sign ups for any IHN job will continue in the commons after service. Amy Novak (795-8089, amy_m_novak@earthlink.net)

Women of St. Matthew's The 2010 ECW Retreat is just around the corner!

Please make plans to join us for the 2010 ECW Retreat, February 26-28, 2010. This year's retreat will be at Camp Allen and will be led by author, storyteller, speaker and teacher Kathy Hood Culmer. As Kathy says, "To share a moment along the path of another's spiritual journey is a gift. To see the stories illuminated by encounters with the divine, both ordinary and profound, shows us that their stories are our stories ". The retreat is a welcome time for relaxation, fun and fellowship. Registration is available in the Commons area each Sunday after church. Please contact Nora Foster at rdcnf@aol.com , or 512-632-3697 with questions

Eco-Friendly Decorating and Gift Tips



- Choose decorations which can be reused, rather than flimsy ones which will be used once and thrown away. You can also have fun making decorations from scrap materials.
- Buy gifts which are durable. Things which break easily will just end up in the waste bin and cannot be reused by anybody.

- Where possible avoid buying (or requesting) presents which rely on disposable parts, including batteries. Buy rechargeable batteries when needed. Always look for alternatives, e.g., a coffee maker that uses a washable filter rather than throwaway paper ones, or a wind-up/solar powered radio (always good in-case of emergencies too).

- Buy Recycled! Buying products that have a recycled content is just as important as actually recycling. It is essential that markets for recycled products are developed. Look out for unusual gifts made from recycled materials, such as glass tableware, stationery or photo frames. These recycled product guides can give you ideas: tinyurl.com/yaqjx37 and tinyurl.com/ykzx1x6. Also consider the Perfect Gift of St. Matthew's charities, a gift that keeps on giving and avoids the landfill altogether: tinyurl.com/yfk8ng9.

IN OUR PRAYERS*--DECEMBER 13-DECEMBER 20, 2009

THIS LIST IS READ ALOUD AT EVENING PRAYER (DAILY 6 P.M. CHARLOTTE CAULEY GRAY BELL TOWER CHAPEL) AND IS INCLUDED ON THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER NETWORK.

Rowan of Canterbury, our Archbishop; Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, Andy, Rayford, and Dena, our Bishops; Merrill, Susan, Kevin, Chuck, Jerry, and Jim, our Clergy. The Rev. Miles Brandon, The Wardens, Staff, and Vestry of St. Matthew's; our Outreach Ministries: ETSS, Kairos, Habitat for Humanity, El Buen Samaritano, Care for the Caregiver, Alternative Gifts Market, Heifer Project, Diocese of Manicaland (Zimbabwe), Katrina/Rita Relief, SafePlace, West Austin Caregivers, Casa Marianella, Caritas, Capital Area Food Bank, General Seminary, St. James Episcopal School, Children's Hope Chest, Women's Story Book Project, Samaritan Counseling Center, Hope House, Interfaith Hospitality Network, The Students, Parents and Staff of St. Matthew's Day School, Hill Elementary School, Murchison Middle School and Anderson High School (adopted via Austin Partners in Education) and the Daughters of the King prayer list; Building on Our Sure Foundation Capital Campaign; Our Men and Women in the Armed Forces and others who serve our country at home and overseas.

Conny	Heather	Marib	Nichols Family
Connie Statz	Hillary	Hannah	Clarice Meer
Diane Smith	Ashley Adams	C.J. Carl & Family	Byron Howard
Laura & children	Alex Acosta	Caitlin Kennedy	Lindsay Cage
Lynn Horabin	Keaton Anderson	Price/Robbins Family	Ivory
Beth Ann Sikes	Arlon Boyd	Ashley Wingo	June & Trevor
Rhonda Myers	Libby	Paul Cage Rayburn	Webb
Hilary Mears	Helen Schmidt-Collins	John & Rosie	Lakki Brown
Ann & Tom	Andrew	Chris Mitchell	James & Paul
Craig Ramsey	Carolyne	Danny Young	Lori
Sue Dumond	Paulette Till	Troy Cernosek	Rachel
Matthew Hauser	Camilla	Susan & Frank Ford	Christiane
Ann Fry	Bernard Stratman	Sarah	Bryce Hicks
Jane Groves	Vanessa Gross	Susan Youngblood	Ted Hendricks
Abbey Taylor	Michael Thompson	Kim Jones	Juan Rojas, Jr.
Bill and Pam	Samuel	Larry Wilson	Jaime Fuller
Tara Fisher	Susan Leffler	Sam & Scott O. Amy P.	Eduardo Flores
Jeff Gray	Anita Riggs	Janice	Donita & Whitney
Pat Davis	Scott Davis	Ann Castleberry	Wheeler
Patty Brock	Allie Turner	Jordy Wallenberger	Molly & Lloyd
Judy Seebald	Bob Webb	Jason Foster	Hollie
Mitch Hall	David House	Stephanie Eshelman	Anne
Lillianna Krebs	Tucker and family	Jean Allison	Shirley Dyer
Ann	Sarah Woodall	Jane Bray	Ben Howard &
Bob	Will Wood	Chad	Jessica Curry
Geoff Shannon	Jake & Gina Guevara	Emily	David M. & family
Bill Lester	Maggie Poff	Paul LeMond	John Garland Burton
Dolores Muhich	Polly Coleman	Matthew Anderson	Spencer Family
Gay, Margaret, Ruth &	Sami & Philip	Sarah R.	Reid Kirchem
Billie	Gary Martin	Doris Dixon	Liz Johnson
Beverly Z.	Gloria Moore	Billy & Andy Robison	Mary Hill
Jerri Michalski	Lee Edwards	Jay Robison	Bill & Marilyn
Kelley Meyer	Logan Drifuss	Jake Thomas	Wenzel
Alex	Elizabeth Gerrie	Dr. Jenny Johnson	Ryan Rivette
Elizabeth Wellman	Jeremy Williford	Nathan & Carol Ina	& Family
Milo Nimori family	Bethany Billman	Shirley Meyer	Phyllis Davidson
Virginia Bockholt	Scott Nimori family	Dan Speilman	Odai
Margaret Richardson	Jacob & Kathryn Melear	Daniel	Louise Waddill
Janet Ogden	Mary Satoro		Bonnie Coleman

*Prayer requests will be listed for one month after the initial request is made unless extenuating circumstances prevail. If you would like to see a name added back on after one month, simply call the office, 345-8314 and ask Barbara to add it.

Vestry Persons for December: Lori Murphy, Joe McLean

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER 6, 8:00 a.m., 37, 10:30 a.m., 355, 5:15 p. m., 5 TOTAL: 397

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

DECEMBER 13-DECEMBER 20, 2009

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY- FRIDAY, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

EVENING PRAYER DAILY AT 6 P.M. IN THE CAULEY BELL TOWER CHAPEL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I in Sanctuary
- 9:00 AM Adult, Youth and Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II in Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Children's Chapel in B-18
- 5:15 PM Family Eucharist, Potluck Dinner and Caroling in Huffman Hall
- 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous in B-21

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 9:00 AM Senior Activity Center Tai Chi in Huffman Hall, Board Games in B-18
- 12:00 Noon Job Support Group in Wilson Room
- 5:00 PM Grief Support Group in B-6

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15

- 9:00 AM Senior Activity Center Seniorcise in B-18
- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting in Breezway Conference Room
- 2:30 PM Alanon Meeting in B-14
- 7:00 PM Troop 511 Boy Scouts in Huffman Hall
- 7:30 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study Christmas Party in Youth Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II in Wilson Room
- 9:00 AM Senior Activity Center Tai Chi in Huffman Hall, Board Games in B-18
- 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry in Wilson Room (B-14)
- 11:00 AM Day School Christmas Pageant in Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II in Wilson Room
- 1:00 PM Grief Support Group in B-6
- 7:00 PM Youth Group Christmas Party in Youth Center
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 6:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast in Huffman Hall
- 11:00 AM Mom's Time Out in Youth Center
- 12:00 Noon Women's Study Group in Wilson Room
- 12:05 PM Advent Concert in Sanctuary
- 1:00 PM Senior Activity Center, Bridge in B-18

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 9:00 AM Senior Activity Center Seniorcise in B-18
- 11:00 AM Senior Activity Center Party in Huffman Hall

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:00 AM Order of St. Luke in Wilson Room (B-14)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I in Sanctuary
- 9:00 AM Adult, Youth and Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II in Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Children's Chapel in B-18
- 2:00 PM Club 345 in Youth Center
- 4:00 PM Sing-Along Messiah in Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous in B-21

ADVENT NOON CONCERTS

12:05-12:45 p.m.—Thursdays—FREE

Dec. 17—FULL CIRCLE—women's *a cappella*
choral quartet



Sing-Along Messiah 2009

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

December 20, 2009

4 p.m.—Sanctuary

DAVID STEVENS, Conductor

The Orchestra of St. Matthew's

\$15 Admission

(All proceeds go to defray the costs of professional performers and event expenses.)

find your section; and now you are part of the choir!

Soloists:

Soprano— Meredith Ruduski

Alto—Cindy Sadler

Tenor—Jeffrey Jones-Ragona

Baritone—David Small

Christmas Goodies on sale during Intermission

—hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, cupcakes

\$5 Raffle Tickets—Winner gets to conduct "The Hallelujah Chorus"