

Matt's Missive

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Our Mission:

To be a strong community of faith rich in the Episcopal tradition serving Jesus Christ; welcoming the seeker; providing a caring church family; effecting spiritual change; reaching into the world with the love of Jesus.

www.stmattuc.org

office@stmattuc.org

Vol. XXV, No. 3

Universal City, Texas

March 2010

A Priest's Point of View

By Father Tim Vellom

I want to share with you an excerpt from the sermon delivered by Suffragan Bishop David Reed at the recent Diocesan Council. I find his reflection on the meaning and purpose of Lent to be very helpful.

“Thanks be to God for this holy season that recalls us from all the flirtatious and fluffy spiritual flim-flam that gets marketed as the cure for what ails us. Instead, the Church gathers us around big words and bigger truths, like sin and repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal; transformation and holiness of life; dying to self and living for Christ. And the Church calls us to old-fashioned, slow-acting, non-urgent practices, like self-examination, prayer, fasting, and self-denial; like reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. Not so that when Easter gets here we can get back to whatever we gave up, or be spiritually buff, but so that we will have recommitted our lives and our selves to the covenant God has made with us in his Son Jesus Christ. And so that, knowing more surely that we are forgiven, loved, and free, we might love one another as Christ loves us...and actively love and serve the world—even *those people*—the world for which we are called together to be light. We are drawn here so that in our love for one another, in our life together, in our unity and our worship and our service, we might remind the world of Jesus.”

“Forty days doesn’t seem like enough time. It’s a weighty season, solemn. It’s not easy to be honest about what we’ve done with the gift of self, others, church and creation. I think I might miss the “Alleluias” more this year than most, because it seems like such a penitential time in which we live anyway: from fear and anxiety and division within the Church, to (See *PRIEST’S POINT OF VIEW*, page 3)

HIS Love Weekend--March 5-7

By Liz Sampson

As many of you know, since you are providing food to nourish their bodies, our parish is hosting the HIS Love group this coming weekend. This group of anywhere from 40 to 80 teenagers from all over the Diocese of West Texas will be taking over both Creasy Hall and the Christian Education Building from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon that weekend, so there will be **no parish breakfast or potluck lunch** for the congregation and **no Sunday School** (neither youth nor adult classes) on Sunday, March 7. The nursery will be accessible through the door at the end of the Christian Education Building closest to the church. The rest rooms will also be accessible in both buildings, but they may be a little crowded! We plan to have our usual fellowship time between services and after the 10:30 service **outside**, and we hope to be able to have coffee and a treat available there. Please pray for nice weather, as well as for the teenagers.

The HIS Love group will sing for us during the offertory at the 10:30 service. Reserved pews will be marked for them. If that happens to be where you usually sit, please choose another pew for that one Sunday so all the young people can sit as a group.

Thanks to everyone for their understanding and generous support of these young people. If you have questions, or if you would like to donate for the weekend, please call the Parish Coordinator for HIS Love, Liz Sampson, at 386-5999. Time, more money, and more food are still needed—with that many young people, we can always use more help.

Ministry Focus

By Diane Woods and Terry May

Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6.2). That is the theme for this year that was announced at the 106th Annual Council of the Diocese of West Texas. As a parish, we do exactly that in many ways for each other, but we are challenged to reach out. How can we “fulfill the law of Christ” outside the walls of our parish? The answer lies in our Ministries of *Meeting Human Needs*—this month’s focus.

We provide monthly support to Habitat for Humanity, GRASP, RACAP, SAMM Shelter Meals, World Missions, and Disaster Relief from our Sunday offerings and pledges. Many of us are familiar with RACAP led by Kathy Ercoline. Also, we regularly collect items to stock RACAP’s pantry the first Sunday of the month. Terry May recently stepped in as the Ministry Leader of Habitat for Humanity and is learning what we can do to “ramp up” our hands-on contributions.

Monetary support through our combined donations is a way to ensure we reach out consistently to these organizations that do so much for those among and around us. However, loving our neighbors as ourselves and bearing their burdens is a call to action by the Bishop and Diocesan Council. Please demonstrate your Christian faith by contacting the appropriate ministry leader to learn of actions you can take to meet the challenge. We will feature the remaining *Meeting Human Needs* ministries in future articles so we can keep our focus all year on ***bearing one another's burdens***.

Matt's Missive

The Rev. Tim Vellom Rector
Margaret Palmer. Co-editor
Hope Ince Co-editor

MATT'S MISSIVE (USPS 0112718) is published once a month, 12 times a year, by
ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
810 Kitty Hawk Road
Universal City, Texas 78148210-658-5956

Periodical postage paid at Universal City, TX 78148
Postmaster: Please send all Forms 3579 to
Matt's Missive,
P.O. Box 2337
Universal City, TX 78148

18 or Older? Come to Game Night . . .

We had such fun at the game night for adults last month that we decided to come back for a repeat. Adults **18 and older** are invited for an evening of games, fellowship, and fun on Saturday, March 13, beginning at 6:30 pm in Creasy Hall. Just bring your favorite game (board games, card games, dominoes, dice games) and a snack to share. Iced tea and coffee will be provided; you may bring any other beverages of your choice. Child care will not be available. We hope to make this a monthly event—so if the date doesn't work for your calendar this month, keep a watch for next month! For questions or to RSVP, please contact Tish Barnhart at TBarnhart@satx.rr.com or 659-1287; or you can contact Barbara Duffield at barbara.duffield@dwtx.org or 683-4882.



Youth group wants to thank everyone for their support on Shrove Tuesday. We collected \$365.00! Thank you so much for helping us move closer to our mission trip goal.

Youth group will need some supplies for Vigil and for Easter by Thursday, April 1. We are making a special gift for the church this year, so we need tile, broken plates, cups, or pots or some that we can break. In addition, we will need Easter candy or small Easter party favor toys to fill the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. ***Please do not bring gum.***

Just a Note: Church door repairs are now complete. If you were given a key to the side door, this key will fit the new double doors. If you need a key, please contact the church office.

Priest's Point of View *(Continued from page 1)*

global economic upheaval and budget stresses in our congregations, to poverty and wars and degradation that just won't seem to go away. I don't mean that our culture is experiencing this as a penitential time — our popular culture seems incapable of restraint, moderation, civility, of being even slightly embarrassed by what it says and does. And so it could be that this is a time for us, the Church, to be intercessor and advocate for our world gone wild, to stand with those wrecked by the brokenness of life, to bear their burdens, to love them as we are loved."

The full text of Bishop Reed's sermon can be found online at <http://www.dwtxmediahub.org/>.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Tim+



Coming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Wednesday, March 3: | Alpha Program begins (meets each Wednesday through May 5), 6:30 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Thursday, March 4: | Lunch Bunch, 12:15 p.m., Creasy Hall. |
| Thursday, March 4: | Lenten Program, 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. |
| Fri.-Sat., March 5-7: | HIS Love Weekend. Remember: No Breakfast, no Sunday School, and no Potluck Lunch on Sunday. |
| Thursday, March 11: | Lenten Program, 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. |
| Saturday, March 13: | Game Night for Adults, 6:30 p.m., Creasy Hall |
| Sunday, March 14: | Daylight Saving Time begins. |
| Tuesday, March 16: | Vestry Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Creasy Hall Library. |
| Thursday, March 18: | Lenten Program, 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary. |
| Sunday, March 21: | Healing Service for March and April, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary. |
| Thursday, March 25: | Seder Supper and program, 6:00 p.m., Creasy Hall. (Dining Out to resume in April.) |
| Saturday, March 27: | Spring clean up and making of palm crosses; breakfast at 8:30 a.m. |

February brought great sadness once more to the St. Matthew's family as we learned of the death of Simon Peter, the infant son of Mary and Derek Bartholomew. Memorial services were held on Friday, February 19, with interment services at Fort Sam Houston the following Monday.

To quote his uncle, Keith Bartholomew, whose loving poem honored Simon Peter, "His place is special in heaven./For his brilliant, perfect soul,/Will become the most beautiful of all angels." May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Seder (Passover) Supper is planned for March 25 at St. Matthew's

Have you ever wondered what a Passover Supper is like or what is served or why it is still celebrated? If you would like to know the answers, plan on attending the Seder on March 25 in the Parish Hall. Wilma Heberling has agreed to prepare the meal and explain the rituals involved. She has a script for all to follow along. After the meal, a Beth Moore video from "Jesus, the One and Only" series will be shown. The video further explains the Passover meal celebrated by Jesus and his disciples during the Last Supper. The evening will start at 6:00. Dining Out has been canceled for this month so that everyone can attend. Please reserve your place by calling the church office or signing on the sheet in the Narthex by Tuesday, March 23.

Vestry highlights . . .

- Discussed bids received for roof and tower repairs.
- Discussed steps that might be taken to eliminate current mortgage.
- Heard audit committee has been formed and will complete the audit report by March deadline.
- Plans made for Spring Clean-Up on March 27..

The Vestry will be creating a plan for St. Matthew's future. This plan could involve multiple lengths of time as well as a vision for the parish's long-range goals. Your vision of the future is essential to this undertaking. Please contact any member of the Vestry or email to Pelinda what you think. Do not limit yourself to one idea or even "low dollar amount" ideas. This is the time to be visionary even on a grand scale. We need raw material with which to work.

Ministry Schedule

Duty	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Altar Guild	Kathy Mulligan Bonnie Bell	Pat Perry Marie Lamberth	Luis San Román Olive Salyards	Hope & David Ince
Cooks	David Ince, John Sampson & Carole Fox	John & Wilma Heberling, Jean Kelly	Steve & Henrietta Polk	Gudrun Gustin
8 a.m. Servers & Readers	Chuck Swanberg (s) Jan Bonner (r)	Suzi Hopkins (s) Wilma Heberling (r)	Nina Thomas (s) Suzi Hopkins (r)	Memo Bjoring (s) Nina Thomas (r)
10:30 a.m. Servers	Mendell Morgan Olive Salyards	Tom Perry Barbara Duffield	Hope Ince David Ince	Jo Ann Quisenberry Wayne Mudge
10:30 a.m. Readers	Kathy Mulligan Terry Mayclin	Wayne Mudge Diane Woods	Barbara Duffield Mendell Morgan	Bonnie Bell Kathy Mulligan
Acolytes	Nick Blumenthal Jacob Mauceri Josh Hughes Amber Gaston	Anthony Blumenthal Christopher Carter Tristen Carter Myia Mauceri	Vince Michel Terry May Cynde Mauceri Hope Ince	Christopher Carter Jacob Mauceri Anthony Blumenthal Amber Gaston
8 a.m. Hosts	Don Carey	Ron & Jayne Dunlap	John & Mary Hamilton	Don Carey
10:30 a.m. Hosts	John Blumenthal (A) Cathy Oakley (B) Audrey Blumenthal (C) Mary Dunham (D)	John Means (A) Mikayla Howard (B) Jesse Quisenberry (C) Jo Ann Quisenberry (D)	Dawn Keane-Dawes (A) Bill Ercoline (B) Sean Keane-Dawes (C) Kathy Ercoline (D)	Howard Egbert (A) Nick Blumenthal (B) Terri Egbert (C) Derek Charette (D)
Prayers of the People	John Means	Bill Ercoline	Gary Howard	Wilma Heberling
9 Bean Soup Ministry	Ann Vellom	John & Barbara Means	Linda McClellan	Bonnie Bell
Home Communion	Kerry & Bonnie McKaskle	Mendell Morgan, Wil- ma Heberling	Tom & Pat Perry	Barbara Duffield
8 a.m. OSL Prayer Team	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield
10:30 a.m. OSL Prayer Team	Kerry McKaskle Skeeter Powell	Bob Jones Bonnie Bell	Fred McClellan Barbara Duffield	Kerry McKaskle Skeeter Powell
Lockup/Security	Hope Ince	Cynde Mauceri	Kerry McKaskle	Luis San Román