

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. 2

Universal City, Texas

February 2010

A Priest's Point of View

By Father Tim Vellom

The last weeks have had much sorrow for the St. Matthew's family; in the space of twelve days in late January, we had three deaths. Rudy Akins died early Saturday the 16th, Joyce Burchard died Wednesday the 20th, and Donovan Jones died a week later on the evening of the 27th.

As I reflect on and grieve these three lives, I see in each one strong evidence of the love of Jesus being lived out among us in the care shown to these three and their families by the members of this parish.

Rudy was an abused and disabled seven-year-old when Jackie and Don Akins adopted him and brought him to St. Matthew's. We had the privilege of supporting them with our encouragement, prayers, and participation in his life for over five years as Rudy found healing and grew into a very active part of this parish family. The Akins family moved away two years ago, but our love and prayers continued. News of his death at age 14 brought deep sorrow, but also refreshed our memory of the miracles we saw in him.

Donovan also was disabled, not by abuse but by multiple medical conditions needing extraordinary love and care from his parents, Bob and Phyllis. Again, St. Matthew's was privileged to support them for over thirty years in their care of him, even though Donovan lived away in special schools and we rarely saw him. After his death at age 48, the love this parish has given over many years again is flowing to his family as they grieve.

When Joyce Burchard was diagnosed with lung cancer 14 months ago, St. Matthew's stepped forward to care for her as a family would, offering emotional, practical, and spiritual support with great devotion.

I am deeply moved to serve among people who are so willing and able to show authentic Christ like love to others, especially those who are weak and in need.

Your servant in Christ Jesus and brother in the Lord,

Tim+

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday

By Marie and Gary Howard

St. Matthew's Youth Group is hosting a pancake supper at 5:00-6:30 p.m. on February 16. This will be the primary fundraiser for their mission trip planned for this summer.

The Youth Group will work with TEAMEffort Youth Missions of Copperhill, Tennessee, assisting in a Vacation Bible School and "getting our hands dirty" repairing and renovating homes in this small town in the Appalachian Mountains. The Youth group will also participate in team building exercises such as whitewater rafting, low and high ropes, rock climbing, and many other activities.

In addition, we are raising money for our trip through a calendar sale. The calendars feature 18 Episcopal Churches of San Antonio. We are pleased that the other churches will be selling the calendars as well to help us raise the necessary funds. Watch for bake sales, an Easter candle and cross sale, and the other fundraisers we will be doing this spring.

We hope everyone will support this GREAT group of kids who want to serve others, who want to learn more about America and its poverty, and who want to provide help to and solutions for the people affected by it.

If you have any questions about Shrove Tuesday or the mission trip, please contact Marie at 658-2906. Sign up sheets for the supper are located in Creasy Hall and the Narthex. Join us for pancakes and fellowship as we "kick off" our fundraising efforts and enter the Lenten season.

Support RACAP! As you get ready for the 1st Sunday potluck, check to see if you have any paper goods or staples to donate.

Ministry Focus

By Diane Woods and Terry May

Repetition—the act of doing or performing again.

Welcoming is repeated Sunday after Sunday and never gets old because the experience is so enriching for both the communicator and the receiver. Welcoming is such an important ministry that it bears repeating our focus. After meeting with the leaders of the Hosts and Greeters ministries, we realized the duties and responsibilities are actually interconnected; it seemed better that all involved should endeavor as a team. With that in mind, we will be conducting training on the new, better-defined duties. Please watch for announcements in the Weekly Order of Service for dates and times.

It is vitally important that the entire parish be involved in welcoming new and especially repeat visitors for the spiritual growth of both the parish and those who are seeking Christ in our midst. This is one of the ministries of the laity. The Book of Common Prayer, page 855, tells us; “The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.”

Every one of us can participate in the ministry of lay persons. We have a wide range of ministries in addition to the Greeters and Hosts from which to choose “according to the gifts” we are given. We only have to ask for guidance and the Holy Spirit will answer.

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

January brought great sadness to our parish as we learned of the deaths of **Joyce Burchard, Rudy Akins, and Donovan Jones**. Memorial services were held for Joyce on Tuesday, January 26th, and for Rudy on Wednesday, January 27th. Services for Donovan, beloved son of Bob and Phyllis Jones, were held on Sunday, January 31st.

May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Alpha begins at St. Matthew’s . . .

Alpha is a 10-week course in basic Christianity that provides a wonderful opportunity for spiritual renewal for those within the church and for discovering a living faith for those not in the church but seeking God.

The classes meet for 2-1/2 hours each Wednesday and include dinner, singing, a talk on some aspect of the Christian faith, and an opportunity in small groups to comment or ask questions about the evening’s topic. These topics explore such questions as: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? Why and how do I pray? How does God guide us? How can I resist evil? The course also includes a weekend retreat when the participants explore together who the Holy Spirit is and what He does.

If this is something you would like to participate in or if you know someone you think might benefit from the Alpha course, please mark two dates on your calendar: The Alpha Discovery Dinner will be on **Wednesday, February 24**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is a time to ask questions and learn about the Alpha Course. The classes begin at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 3**, and continue each Wednesday through May 5.

We look forward to seeing you and others you may invite to the Alpha Discovery Dinner. To make your reservations, call the church office, 658-5956, between 9:00 a.m. and noon before Wednesday, February 17.—Jayne Dunlap

Confirmation Anyone?

Classes will begin soon to prepare those young people who wish to be confirmed by the Bishop when he visits St. Matthew’s in June. If you are interested, please call Liz Sampson at 386-5999 or Wilma Heberling at 651-0359 to get your name on the list.

Vestry highlights . . .

- Elected 2010 officers & named ministry liaisons.
- Discussed January 29 and 30 Retreat plans and agenda.
- Discussed Diocesan Alcohol Use Policy.
- Reviewed 2010 Parish Events Calendar.
- Discussed building repairs with final action to be taken at Vestry Retreat.

Adults 21 and older are invited for a fun evening of games and fellowship on Friday, February 5, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Creasy Hall. 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 Friday night event—so if the date does not work for your calendar this month, watch for next month's date! For questions or to RSVP, please contact Tish Barnhart at 659-1287 or TBarnhart@satx.rr.com; or Barbara Duffield at 683-4882 or barbara.duffield@dwtx.org.

2010 Lenten Program

By Barbara Duffield

Ash Wednesday, February 17, marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Our annual Lenten program will begin Thursday, February 25, at 6:30 p.m.

We had such a good response to the program we used last year that we are repeating it again for 2010. On Thursday evenings, we will gather in the Sanctuary at St. Matthew's to watch a short video that will be discussed in small groups. The evening will end with Compline. The videos are from the *Nooma Series* and are presented by Rob Bell. Each video ranges from 8 – 12 minutes and touches on a point of faith. They are always thought provoking and entertaining and spark some good discussions.

We will continue with the program each Thursday through March 25. Anyone interested may take a turn leading Compline; the evening will end by 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions about the programs, contact Barbara Duffield at 683-4882 or by email at barbaradhome@gmail.com. If you would like to assist in leading Compline, call Wilma Heberling at 651-0359 or email her at johwil@sbcglobal.net.



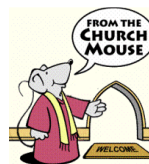
Shrove Tuesday

Coming Events

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Thursday, February 4: | Lunch Bunch, 12:15 p.m., in Creasy Hall. |
| Friday, February 5: | Adult Game Night, 7:30 p.m., in Creasy Hall. |
| Sunday, February 7: | Covered dish luncheon, 12:15 p.m., RACAP in-gathering, in Creasy Hall. |
| Sunday, February 7: | Healing Service, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary. |
| Monday, February 15: | Office Closed for holiday. |
| Tuesday, February 16: | Youth Group Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5-6:30 p.m., in Creasy Hall. |
| Tuesday, February 16: | Vestry Meeting, 6:00 p.m., in Creasy Hall Library. |
| Wednesday, February 17: | Ash Wednesday Services, 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. |
| Thurs. – Sat., Feb. 18-20: | Diocesan Council, in Corpus Christi. |
| Wednesday, February 24: | Alpha Discovery Dinner, 6:30 p.m., in Creasy Hall. |
| Thursday, February 25: | Dining Out, 6:30 p.m., location to be announced. Wayne Mudge, contact. |



St. Matthew's newly baptized Christians—the infant daughter of Ben and Amy Sickel, shown with her parents; and Tom Barnhart, pictured with his wife, Tish, and mother, Robbie.



Did you know . . .

The celebration of Shrove Tuesday (which falls on February 16 this year) dates back to the 15th century. It is the final day before the Lenten fast. On this day—also called “Fat Tuesday”—thrifty housewives traditionally served pancakes in order to consume the leftover eggs, milk, and fat not allowed during the fasting of Lent. “Shrove” Tuesday refers to the ancient practice of being “shriven” (confessing and receiving absolution) in order to begin and keep a holy Lent. From www.saintgeorgeschurch.org

Ministry Schedule

Duty	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Altar Guild	Luis San Román Olive Salyards	Hope & David Ince	Diane Woods Terry May	Audrey & John Blumenthal
Cooks	Tish Barnhart	Marie Lamberth & Youth Group	John & Mary Hamilton Tom & Lenore Mihara	John & Mary Hamilton Tom & Lenore Mihara
8 a.m. Servers & Readers	Nina Thomas (S) Wilma Heberling (R)	Barbara Duffield (S) Chuck Swanberg (R)	Suzi Hopkins (S) Memo Bjoring (R)	Wilma Heberling (S) Doreen Armogida (R)
10:30 a.m. Servers	Mendell Morgan Wayne Mudge	Hope Ince David Ince	Barbara Duffield Lisa Charette	Jo Ann Quisenberry Kerry McKaskle
10:30 a.m. Readers	Lisa Charette Barbara Duffield	Bonnie Bell Kathy Mulligan	Jo Ann Quisenberry Mendell Morgan	Jesse Quisenberry Wayne Mudge
Acolytes	Vince Michel Cynde Mauceri Barbara Duffield Hope Ince	Christopher Carter Jacob Mauceri Tristen Carter Myia Mauceri	Nick Blumenthal Josh Hughes Anthony Blumenthal Myia Mauceri	David Ince Barbara Duffield Terry May Hope Ince
Hosts	Bill & Kathy Ercoline	Jan & Alethia Dooling	Fabian & Meredith Borrego	Tom & Margaret Palmer & Kayley Carter
8 a.m. Greeters	Don Carey	Don Carey	Don Carey	Don Carey
10:30 a.m. Greeters	Mary Dunham	Carole Fox	Kathy Mulligan	Tish Barnhart
Prayers of the People	Hope Ince	Derek Charette	Sean Keane-Dawes	Bonnie Bell
9 Bean Soup Ministry	Linda McClellan	Bonnie Bell	Jesse Quisenberry	Bob Jones
Home Communion	Kerry & Bonnie McKaskle	Mendell Morgan Wilma Heberling	Tom & Pat Perry	Barbara Duffield Lisa Charette
8 a.m. OSL Prayer Team	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield	Don Carey	Barbara Duffield
10:30 a.m. OSL Prayer Team	Fred McClellan Barbara Duffield	Kerry McKaskle Skeeter Powell	Bob Jones Bonnie Bell	Fred McClellan Barbara Duffield
Lockup/Security	Tom Perry	Chuck Swanberg	Terry May	Jesse Quisenberry