

January 2015

No New Year's Resolutions

"So, what are your New Year's resolutions?" Marla asked me this past week. I hate that question, even though I know it is likely to be asked of me every year. It reminds me of all the resolutions I have made in the past and did not keep. I am sure some of you can share a success story about resolutions, but I have not heard many. Most people are like me and have broken more New Year's resolutions than they have kept. Fortyfour percent of Americans say they are going to make resolutions. One researcher looked at the success rates. Each week for a year he surveyed 1,000 people, and here is what he found: By mid mid-January 29% of people had given up. By the end of February 36% of people had given up. By June 50% had given up. This is with a group of people who had someone calling each week to record their progress. Imagine those who have no one checking in on them.

"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," Jesus told his disciples when they could not stay awake in the Garden of Gethsemane. Paul expressed the despair this way, "The good I would do, I do not do. The very thing I don't want to do, is what I end of doing! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" This coming from a saint!

So this year, I want to try a new experiment. No New Year's resolutions. Not going to make any. There is no negative judgment against you strong-willed folks who have the discipline and the fortitude for another round of intentional New Year's change. Go ahead. Give it a try.

I am going to do something different. I am not going to commit to saying no to things. This year I am going to listen to those things in my life that give me positive energy and life. I want to listen for the "spirit" at work in me and build on anything that causes me to feel more alive and loving. I know when my focus is on what "I should NOT do," sooner or later (usually sooner) I find myself resentful and reactive. I start to behave like a rebellious child against my own commitments. "What you resist, persist" I was once told. That is true. But to move in a new direction by intentionally considering what is life-giving is to trust that God's Spirit is moving and active in my life. It is only up to me to listen and to follow.

Christ's peace, Pastor Allen

Food on the First

Thank you one and all for your support to the food pantries last year. You really helped to make life better for people through your donations.



Donations requested for January:

- Canned fruit
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Cake mixes
- Cake frosting
- Baby food
- Baby formula
- Diapers size 5 or 6
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

As always, please make sure food is not expired and packages are not opened.

Any questions, please call me at 630.682.4084.

Blessings to all, **Betty Greer**



Proverbs 19:17

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done."

" " ------["]



January Birthdays

- Kathy Oswalt
- Heather Madsen
- Darcy Holland
- 6 Ruth Copeland Gaye Justice
- 9 Bill Matthei Leah Kulczewski
- 15 Linda Dome Laurie Madsen
- 17 Dan Achammer Jim Fanning Kay Kullman
- 18 Bob Cooper
- 19 Mike Justice
- 20 Rachel Schubert
- 21 David Felsenthal
- 22 Mark Hutchison
- 23 Jen Eugea
- 26 Ryan Phillips
- 28 Brian Nessel

Pennies from Heaven



We have two fundraising opportunities that do not require our members to spend any extra money – St. Matthew receives "Pennies from Heaven" from your regular shopping. Through these programs, retailers have agreed to give a portion of your purchase to St. Matthew. Simply plan ahead and order pre-paid (gift) cards through the Manna program for your normal shopping – grocery, gas, movie theaters, department stores, restaurants, pharmacies, etc. Order forms are available every Sunday after church, and your cards will be ready the following Sunday. If you make online purchases, register with iGive on our page: igive.com/stmatthewucc. Then click on the iGive button in your browser and do your shopping. iGive will track your purchases and the retail-

ers' donations to our church. It's that easy! Tell your friends and family – they can participate too! More information can be found on the Donate page of our website at www.stmatthewucc.org



Happy New Year to All!!

I hope your Christmas was full of joy, happiness, friends and family.

Many thanks to those individuals who participated musically during the past month. I know it is a busy time of year, yet you still took time to rehearse and prepare. I am grateful for your commitment.

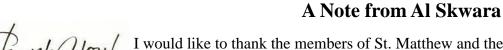


The New Year brings us many opportunities. Many of us make resolutions to change for the better in one way or another. Hopefully, we keep more of them than break them. I would like to suggest a resolution. Please consider joining the choir. Perhaps from now through Easter? Who knows, you may want to stick around longer, and we would love to have you.

May the New Year be very happy for everyone!

Yours in Christ Through Music,

Jamie Craig C: 630-202-6788 Lanni1@comcast.net





I would like to thank the members of St. Matthew and the prayer groups for their prayers during my knee replacement operation and recovery. Those prayers and the knowledge of those offering them have made my recovery a much better experience. Thank you all for doing so much for me in this challenging time.

-Al Skwara

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2015 following the church service. The agenda and the proposed budget for 2015 will be available in the narthex bySunday 1/18/15. Outgoing Council President Dawn Schubert will address the congregation during the church service. Please plan to attend this very important meeting!

Children's Ministry January 2015

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Mark 10:14

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We closed the 2014 year and started the 2015 New Year with a two-week lesson on the Three Kings. The children learned that the Kings were models of how we too are called to give gifts to the Christ child. Giving our time and gifts may be hard at times, just as the long journey for the Kings was hard at times, but the rewards are great. We learned that loving and doing for others is the most generous gift we can give. Sometimes it might not be what we want to do, but most often it will end up being the most fulfilling thing we have done. Think of the gifts you can give to Jesus as a family: a homemade card or a visit to a nursing home, donating toys and clothes, visiting a neighbor or friend who lives alone, bringing a new neighbor a plate of home-made cookies, donating food to the local food pantries, etc. Sit with your children and come up with a list of the gifts you can give Jesus this coming year.

In Sunday School we are reminded that though the stockings, Santas, and other fun decorations are packed away, Christmas remains. Jesus' birth is the beginning, not the end, of the season. Jesus came to teach us so much, and that is the direction we head in Sunday School this New Year. "Jesus and the Children" is our upcoming lesson. Four weeks of fun workshops and preschool class activities will teach the children that they are valued by God and have important roles to play in the community of faith. The objectives for the lesson are: hear the story of Jesus welcoming the children; experience being a valued part of the faith community; see that we are all, young or old, children of God; see that every person is someone of worth; see that children have things to teach adults.

Thank you to the teachers and shepherds from the Rebekah workshop: Miegan Bresingham, Diana Padilla, Emily Ciner, Julie Barnshaw, Jan Beaton, Deb Felsenthal, Annette English, Robyn Beres and Susie Mitchell. Also thank you to those who helped with the Christmas lesson, Birthday party for Jesus, parents' Day Out and Christmas Eve pageant: Judi Gonzalez, Marla Mothershed, Deb Felsenthal, Kenna Anderson, Gwen Johnson, Susie Mitchell, Erin Walsh, Diana Padilla, Summer Scalora, Haley Wold, Patti Woods Jungk, Julie Barnshaw, Emily Ciner and Dan Achammer. You are a blessing to our children and this ministry!

December and January Birthdays

I am so sorry that I forgot to add the December birthdays to the last newsletter.

Heidi Bourne 12/5, Evelyn Henderson 12/25, Kylie Caprini 12/25, Emma Beres 12/27 Otto Sturm 1/10, Mary Kate Muntz 1/18, Charlie Mitchell 1/18, Anna Muntz 1/24, Callista Roser 1/28





HAPPY NEW YEAR from the crazies!



The crazies enjoying a Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange on Sunday, December 21st.

Join us this month for more great lessons about the ancestors of our faith:

Sunday, January 11: Moses the Frustrated Leader

Sunday, January 18: Rahab the Faithful Opportunist

Sunday, January 25: Deborah the Exasperated Matriarch



Twenty-five years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a single youth group praying a simple prayer:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$100 million has been raised across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. This Super Bowl Sunday, join the crazies as they try to make a difference by supporting our soup sale after worship. We'll be packaging your soup up in containers and sending it home for you to have for lunch, during the big game, or later in the week. All proceeds from those who purchase our homemade soups (and all donations that might be generously given) will go directly to the People's Resource Center Food Pantry.

Fellowship, Fun on the Ice

At this time of year, it's hard to imagine *choosing* to slip on the ice. But an adventurous group enjoyed a night of fellowship, fun – and sometimes finesse – at the Waltham Curling Club in Triumph, IL, on Dec. 27. This was the second time a group from St. Matthew visited Illinois' oldest curling club. With the outing over the winter break, those who are gone later in the winter (from college to Kazakhstan) were able to participate. Thanks to Joe Hall for organizing and leading this event, enjoyed by the Bairds, Schuberts, Statons, Andrew Kouns and Linda Leinweber! To see a slideshow with more photos from this event,

go to http://bit.ly/StMCurling



Costa Rica Mission Trip for 2015

This year we will be joining First Church of Lombard, UCC to travel to Costa Rica. We will be going to the area of Nosara, which is on the Pacific Ocean side. We will be building in a rural community with lots of wildlife to see and walking distance to the ocean. The dates for the trip are June 29 to July 7. There will be a meeting on January 11 after church, if you are interested in learning more about the trip. Thanks, Julie Schuberttijjr7@att.net



Sanctuary Update Info Session



Another informational meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 1/18 in the Sanctuary. We will have updated info from the vendor JNE, and there will be time for questions. If you cannot make that meeting and have questions, please feel free to contact Joe Hall or Rick Jungk.

Offering Envelopes

If you requested giving envelopes with your 2015 pledge card, please look for them on the table in the narthex near the vestibule glass doors.



Alive Inside—iPod Donation Project

Do you have a gently used iPod that you no longer need? The Music & Memory Organization, which recently released a documentary film called ALIVE INSIDE, uses iPods to help thousands of people struggling from dementia and other chronic cognitive and physical impairments reconnect with fam-



ily, friends and caregivers through a personalized digital music program. Your donation will help spread the healing power these iPods can provide through the personalized playlists that are put on them. The iPods will be delivered to a local care facility that participates in this program. They do not accept headphones, for hygienic reasons, but they do appreciate iPod connector cords. As technology improves, iPods are being supplanted by smartphones and other multimedia devices, so the iPods are often lying around at home, unused. An iPod donation is a great way to repurpose these devices, get them into the hands of those who could benefit most and keep

them out of landfills.

A box labeled "iPods" will be left in the office. If you have questions, feel free to contact Patti Woods at pwoods4@aol.com or 630-357-7146.

If you wish to know more about this you can go online to the website: http://musicandmemory.org/ or view the documentary film - ALIVE INSIDE - now available on Netflix.

Memorial Committee Seeks Suggestions



The St. Matthew Memorial Committee is charged with the responsibility of assisting the congregation with appropriate and needed selections of memorial gifts. It is the duty of the committee to review and approve all memorials in advance of their placement. We have maintained a list of suggestions over the years and the congregation has benefited greatly from these bequests .

Currently, our list is dwindling as selections have been made. We would like to invite the congregation and committees to make recommendations. Please refer to the accompanying list and make

additional suggestions. You may contact any member of the committee to respond. All suggestions are subject to committee approval prior to inclusion in the list. Thank you for your assistance.

Lee Anderson, Jan Beaton, Bob Crooks, Wes Curda, Leah Kulczewski, Jerry Stoller, Abby Jung (Council liaison), Kathy Skwara (Chair)

Memorial Gift Suggestions – 2015 List

Interior of Building: Umbrella stands for entryways, card tables, tinted windows for sanctuary, and window frames



Exterior of Building: new sign for church and canopy over the west Entrance

Music Department: Music stand for Director, set of drums, two standing microphones, and upgrade for sound system

Worship: banners for sanctuary and two Pastors' chairs





And now for something completely different...The poem for January 2015

Winter Night By Boris Pasternak (from Dr. Zhivago)

A snowstorm made the earth tremble through its whole frame.
A candle-flame upon a table,
Only a candle-flame.

Like midges swarming in the summer, winging to a spark, the flakes flew in a thick shimmer to the window from the dark.

The blizzard blew. Its rime and stubble clung to the pane.
A candle-flame upon a table,
Only a candle-flame.

High up on the bright-lit ceiling shadows were tossed: hands cross-clasped, feet cross-leaning, fate in a cross.

And two small shoes fell with a clatter to the floor, useless, and wax drops from the night-light spattered weeping upon a dress.

And all things faded, misted, feeble, a grey-white dream.
A candle-flame upon a table,
Only a candle-flame.

The candle felt a hidden shaking blow hot temptation: wings raised, like an angel's, taking a cross-like station.

All February, storm rocked the gable And found there the same candle-flame upon a table, only a candle-flame.

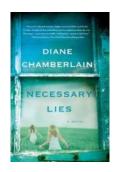
Translation Edwin Morgan

This is my submission for January as I pack, try to keep my travel anxiety in check and do all the last-minute home things I can think of before I leave tomorrow on January 5. Pasternak is primarily known as a novelist, but he was also an excellent poet, and this poem, from Dr. Zhivago, and written by Dr. Zhivago, stands alone quite nicely, imaging the cold outside and the warm candle, a sight Zhivago saw on a ride home in winter. I hope your winter (and mine back in Kazakhstan) is not too cold, and I hope you enjoy!

Upcoming Events

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN The annual Feed My Starving Children trip is coming up. It will be on January 19th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We'll meet at the church at 1:45 p.m., and carpool to FMSC to pack food for starving children in countries all over the world. We will pack from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and then carpool back. If you haven't packed before, it is a great experience and we always love to have new people join us. There are only 45 spots reserved, and the sign-up board is in the narthex. Please contact Alex Johnson if you have any questions: 630.890.7244, 630.665.7577, or alexanderjohnson30@yahoo.com. Save the date!





NOVEL APPROACHES The novel to be approached in January is "Necessary Lies" by Diane Chamberlain. "Necessary Lies" is the story of two young women, worlds apart and both haunted by tragedy, who are thrown together and must ask themselves: How can you know what you believe is right when everyone is telling you it's wrong? This book sheds light on the Eugenics Sterilization Program which was in effect from 1929 until 1975 in North Carolina. The date: Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. The place: The Skwaras, 2035 Cromwell Drive, Wheaton. Join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship.

<u>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION</u> Join the 25th Annual Dupage County Celebration of the life, legacy, and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Elmhurst College on Monday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Allen will be helping to lead the service and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Regional Superintendent of Dupage County Schools.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FAITH IN ACTION Please join us for the Martin Luther King, Jr. "Faith in Action Assembly" meeting on January 19th to witness the Community Renewal Society (CRS) in action and how we can engage in direct action to reduce poverty and improve social justice in our communities. The Assembly will include prayer, historical witness to Dr. King's legacy, and a Mayoral Forum to gain support for the CRS 2015 agenda to improve job opportunities and social justice in the City of Chicago. The assembly will take place at Liberty Baptist Church,



located at 4849 S. Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please sign up in the narthex on the mission board and contact Alex Alavi if you are interested in sharing a ride. We will meet at Church at 8:15 a.m. and leave to Chicago at 8:20 a.m.



EIGHT TO DINE Saturday, January 24, we'll gather again in small groups in homes for dinner - typically 6 p.m., although it may vary a little from host to host. The host provides the main course, everybody else brings a little something - coordinated by the host. Sign up in the narthex. Join us for a good time and a chance to get to know somebody new! Questions - call Ellen Ribe at 630-231-4718 or ellenribe@comcast.net. We'll let you know who/what/where about a week ahead of

SAVE THE DATE: CONCERT Second Baptist Church of Wheaton will be holding an interfaith fundraising concert on February 21st at 6 p.m. at Glenbard South to raise funds for next year's MLK Celebration Day. This will be an evening filled with worship great music, bell choirs, praise dancing, and choir performances. Please contact Pastor Allen or Second Baptist for more information.



<u>FAMILY CAMP 2015</u> Sunday 7/19 to Friday 7/24. This year is a close one (270 miles, about 5 hours) at the Landmark Resort in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, in Door County. There are lots of activities at the resort as well as lighthouses, theaters, beaches, and wineries nearby. You've heard about Washington Island during Susan's children's sermons; now is your chance to experience it in person. Please fill out the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Dianne Hutchison, John Kouns, or Hi Baird.





Help Support the crazies: Souper Bowl of Caring

Twenty-five years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a single youth group praying a simple prayer:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$100 million has been raised across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. This Super Bowl Sunday, join the crazies as they try to make a difference by supporting our soup sale after worship. We'll be packaging your soup up in containers and sending it home for you to have for lunch, during the big game, or later in the week. All proceeds from those who purchase our homemade soups (and all donations that might be generously given) will go directly to the People's Resource Center Food Pantry.

SAVE THE DATE: SHRIMP BOIL

Friday, February 6th at 7pm.



VISITING ST.MATTHEW AND WANT TO LEARN MORE?



Have you been visiting and want to learn more about us or consider membership? On Sunday, February 8th after the fellowship time, we will have a luncheon and a discussion about the ministries of St. Matthew, information about the United Church of Christ, and what is involved in being a member. This will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Childcare will be provided upon request. Please email or call the office to let us know so we can prepare the meal accordingly. On Sunday, February 15th those who would like to join will have that opportunity. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you are unavailable on those dates, and we can find other ways to connect with you.

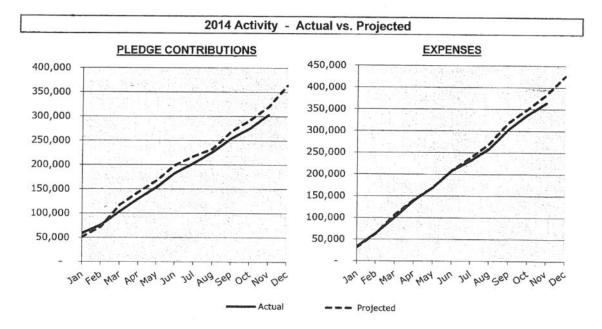
January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Tuesday: 6p IntergeneRingers 7p Bells Potluck 7:30p Chancel Ringers	Every Wednesday: 1:30p Women's Prayer Group 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Choir			I Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 -9:30a Worship Service: Commun- ion and Remem- brance Sunday -no crazies	5 7p Christian Ed	6	7	8	9 Annual Reports Due	10
11 -9:30a Worship Service: Emily Preaching -6p crazies	12	13 -Ip Digital Ministry -7p Membership	14	15 6:30p Confirmation	16	17
18 -9:30a Worship Service -AVL Meeting after Worship -Investment Commit- tee after Worship -бр crazies	-8:15a MLK "Faith in Action" -2:30 FMSC -6:30p MLK Celebration	20	21	22	23	24 Eight to Dine
25 -9:30a Worship Service -Annual Meeting after worship -6p crazies	26	27	28	29	30	31

ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

For the Period Ended November 30, 2014

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	28,483	303,103	363,658
Loose Offerings	562	5,780	6,000
Rental Income	100	2,555	5,000
Fund Raising	809	4,360	10,000
Investment Income	(13)	(182)	-
More Property	20,750	41,500	41,500
Miscellaneous Income		-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	50,691	357,116	426,158
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	17,541	192,650	224,348
Building	6,304	104,811	122,810
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	24,521	26,750
Mission / OCWM	1,000	21,073	29,000
Committees:			90000 *********************************
Christian Education	735	7,914	9,600
Membership	96	1,951	2,750
Music	775	3,328	4,500
Worship	52	922	2,500
Endowment	2	-	1,000
Congregational Life	133	402	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Stewardship	167	167	-
Misc. & Contingency	(1,426)	6,505	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	27,606	364,244	426,158
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 23,085	\$ (7,128)	\$ -



Please contact John Adams if you have questions or need additional information.



St. Matthew United Church of Christ

630.665.1236 (Office) 630.665.1436 (Fax)

Office Email: of fice @ st matthew ucc. org

Web Site: www.stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday, 9a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School: 10 a.m.

Our Purpose:

Become, Live, and Serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Identity:

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome and accepted here at St. Matthew United Church of Christ.

Our Staff

Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org

Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry emily.davis@stmatthewucc.org

Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org

Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org

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