

# THE VOICE OF

# St. Matthew

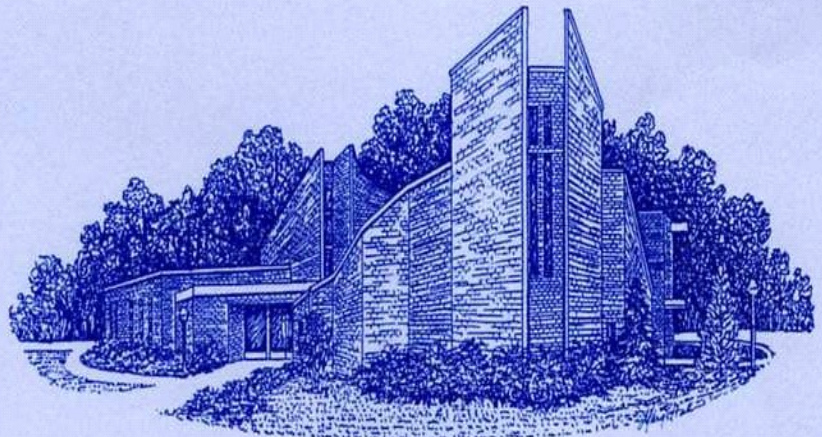
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## May 2013

### The Practice of Peace

*"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52)*

Jesus spoke these words of loving rebuke to Peter, who had just cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. "Those who live by the sword, die by the sword." Jesus was reminding Peter (and us) of an obvious truth we have a way of forgetting: violence begets violence. That is as true for verbal violence in the form of harsh and hurtful words as it is of physical violence. What we put out into the world has a way of coming back to us. Jesus taught us to break the cycle of violence. His instructions "to turn the other cheek" were not suggesting a passive response, but a deliberate defiance, which communicates fortitude and a refusal to be a victim. But it is also a response that effectively breaks the cycle of violence, one that invites peace.

Standing before Pilate, Jesus declares, "If my kingdom were of this world, my followers would rise up and fight. But my kingdom is not of this world." Unfortunately, most of us are not oriented to the "other" world in which Jesus lived. Our world is better represented by Peter, who in the gospel narrative has a way of standing in as "every man and woman." Peter's impulse for violence is our human impulse.

For a time, the first Christians lived this ethic of peace, staying close to Jesus and the apostle Paul's teachings. But by the fourth century, when Christianity was made the legal religion by Emperor Constantine and the persecution of Christians quickly ended, Christians became the persecutors.

Christians begin by killing other Christians over doctrinal issues such as the nature of the divinity of Jesus. Soon violence against Jews was practiced, followed centuries later by the violence of the Crusaders against Muslims.

But the heart of our faith is the way of peace that Jesus taught. As Paul said, "We are to be ambassadors of reconciliation." Rather than impulsively responding by reacting with rage and violence, we are to discover creative ways to create reconciliation and peace. In the name of Jesus, we are to perform the greatest miracle of Jesus' life, responding to hatred, ignorance, with love and even forgiveness.

This informs our current debate around gun laws and Congress's failure to pass meaningful legislation. In all the debate, I find myself wondering, why is there such an acrimonious defense of the right to bear arms and an insistence that even the most modest of regulation not be approved? I find this difficult, if not impossible, to defend as I look to my own Christian faith and my understanding of our vocation in this world to be peacemakers. I cannot imagine either Jesus or the Apostle Paul waving a pistol in their hands and insisting that everyone defend their right to bear arms at all cost, not with so many of our children dead in our streets and in our schools.

You may disagree with what I say in this article and hold another view, and that is to be respected. But I ask all of us to struggle with how your faith speaks, challenges or supports, your perspective. If we confess that Jesus is our Lord, then we must even include a difficult issue as this under his Lordship.

# Demolition at the More House





## **Foods Resource Bank (FRB)**

St. Matthew is once again sponsoring acreage in Forest, Illinois that will be planted and harvested. 100% of the proceeds are used to help poor areas in the world learn how to grow crops to sustain themselves. This is not a hand-out but a hand-up.

Please stop by the table in the Narthex and see for yourself how your contribution can multiply and help stop the hunger in less fortunate areas around the world.

We need your help. Sponsorships are accepted for as little as 1/8 acre or \$31.00. Full acres can be sponsored for \$250 each and you have until the end of September to pay. Please consider how you can help the hungry people in the world. Sign up today!

# crazies

St. Matthew UCC

## **Crazies Shout Out**

April showers bring indoor activities for crazies. This month, crazies split up, boys and girls, with the first crazies at HOME (Hanging Out at Mark's and Ellen's). The girls went to Ellen Ribe's house to make and eat a delicious Mexican meal, while the boys went to Mark's to play video games. We also participated in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, during which we cleaned up the Prairie Path, and then happily broke our fast. In addition, we visited Trinity UCC in Chicago and attended their worship service. This month's lessons included fasting and the value of human life. Next month, we're going to have a Cinco de Mayo party, walk for the CROP Walk, and look for some May flowers. Happy Spring!

by Jennifer Buhmann

## **An Opportunity to Serve**

Please consider joining with 7 or 8 other St. Matthew volunteers in helping Ellen Ribe with her ministry at The County Convalescent Home. Your help is needed and you will find it to be a very rewarding experience.

Here is how it works:

- We meet at 9:30am on any 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

- We assist patients who need help in attending the service

- We attend the worship service

- We assist the patients in their return to their floor...Done no later than 12 noon

The next date for us is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact myself or the church office, if you would be willing to assist.

For the Mission Committee, Bob Barnshaw



## Notes from the Music Room.....

The old saying is April showers bring May flowers. If that is the case, St. Matthew should be able to open its own wholesale flower shop. I give my heartfelt thanks to those members of the Music Ministry who on very short notice flocked to the church to remove all the bells from the music room so it could be properly cleaned after the flooding.

May brings us again to the end of the 'normal' church year, yet it holds three busy Sundays for the church. We start with Confirmation Sunday, one of the most meaningful days in the lives of our youth as they make their decision to be members of the church of Jesus Christ. Mother's Day follows with our children's choir, under the direction of Wendee Passini, presenting an original musical. We end the church year with Appreciation Sunday, when we recognize all those who gave their time to the many different aspects of the Music Ministry, but also those who have given their time in any way to support St. Matthew.

That brings us to Memorial Day Weekend and the start of our summer schedule. Our musical groups enjoy a well-deserved hiatus and we get to enjoy many different individuals sharing their musical gifts with special music. The signup sheet is in the narthex. We would love to hear from YOU!!!. How about getting a small group together? It doesn't have to be fancy. To our youth – we know you sing amongst yourselves. How about sharing your voices with the congregation? It could be solos, groups, duets, instrumentals, etc. As the Psalm says, "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord".

Yours in Christ through Song,

Jamie Craig  
Director of Music  
630-202-6788  
[Lannil@comcast.net](mailto:Lannil@comcast.net)

## Children's Ministry May 2013

**Workshop Rotation – Rich Young Man: Mark 10:17-31** We make a choice about having the right relationship with God. Our part of this equation is to be attentive to the will of God. The test of faith happens when our attention to God does not match the choice that we want to make. The objectives of this workshop are:- Jesus gave the rich young man a choice about his faith and his wealth. – Our desire to acquire physical wealth can challenge our desire to be right with God. - Wealth can get in the way of relationships, creating an attachment to possessions for some while alienating others. The workshops will continue through May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Children's Musical, May 12<sup>th</sup>, during Sunday morning worship.** Come celebrate Mother's Day with this wonderful musical performed by the Sunday school boys and girls and directed by Wendee Passini.

**Christian Education Volunteer Appreciation, May 19<sup>th</sup>** – During morning worship we will honor all those who have served Adult Ed, Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry. Following the service we will have a reception in Dobstaff Hall. Please join us to celebrate those who have served this ministry with Love.

**No Sunday school, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day weekend**

**Summer Sunday school begins June 2<sup>nd</sup> and summer 10:30 dismissal time begins.** If you are interested in teaching the children as a group any Sunday over the summer please contact me. You can choose your own lesson or I can arrange one for you. The children will gather from 10:00 – 10:30am. Some ideas are: movies, outdoor games, walk on Prairie Path, crafts, gardening, music, etc. We average 5 to 12 children over the summer months.



### **Vacation Bible School, June 17 – 21, 9:00 to Noon**

During this summer's Kingdom Rock VBS experience kids will learn to stand strong for God. St. Matthew will be transformed into a glorious Kingdom with fun games, crafts, experiments, stories, songs, snacks, moon jump and more. Registration forms are available on the St. Matthew web site, narthex and church office. Please tell neighbors and friends about this fun 5 days that will end with a family Ice Cream Social, Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering for this fun five days, please contact Susan Wold by phone or [swold45@hotmail.com](mailto:swold45@hotmail.com). We are always looking for adult and youth volunteers and you are guaranteed to have as much fun and learn as much as the children do.

Susan Wold  
Director of Children's Ministry

**May Birthdays**  
Jeremy Passini 5/1, Kelley Passini 5/2,  
Evelyn Hutchison 5/23



## CROP Walk

St. Matthew UCC is putting together a team to help end hunger by participating in this year's CROP Walk. Last year, through this walk, churches in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn raised over \$26,000!

Registration will start at 1pm and the walk begins at 2pm on May 5<sup>th</sup> from Downtown Glen Ellyn at Grace Lutheran Church located at 493 Forest Avenue.

Please support us by making a donation or join us on this year's walk! Feel free to donate by writing your check to "CWS / CROP Walk" or donate to our team online at <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/stmatthewucc>.

Talk to Alex Alavi

([alex.alavi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alex.alavi@sbcglobal.net)) or Mark Restaino

([mrestaino89@gmail.com](mailto:mrestaino89@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

## The First of Seven Prayers

One of the blessings of doing the 3-7am shift at PADS is having access to the excellent library of the host church. Recently a book titled "7 Prayers That Will Change Your Life Forever", by Stormie Omartian, came to my attention.

Besides recommending this book, the Prayer Chain will attempt to include each prayer, and a brief summary of the author's commentary, in this and upcoming editions of The Voice.

Prayer 1 deals with Sin and Confession. The following is quoted from the book.

When sin is not confessed, it becomes a subtle growth- wrapping its tentacles around every part of our beings, until we are paralyzed. The agony of its weight is accurately described by King David. (*See Psalm 32: 3-5*)

### THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, I come before you and I confess and repent of all my sin. I want to be more like Christ, every day.

*Additional Scripture: Psalm 139:24, 51:10 & 19:12*

For the Prayer Chain, Bob Barnshaw

## Annual Church Picnic

Mark your calendars!

**Sunday, June 9th after church**

Food, Fun, Fellowship - and of course the traditional Egg Toss!

Burgers, Hot Dogs and Beverages provided, please bring a dessert or side dish.

Questions? Please contact Judi Gonzalez [judi@thosegonzos.com](mailto:judi@thosegonzos.com) or Linnea Karpenske [linnea0206@hotmail.com](mailto:linnea0206@hotmail.com).

## Boundary Waters

Every 4 years, the St. Matthew UCC youth group, crazies, goes on a canoeing and camping trip in the Boundary Waters. The trip this summer is from July 7th-July 14th. The cost is \$500. We are still looking for high school and college students, as well as adults chaperones, especially a female chaperone, for the trip. Please contact the youth director, Mark Restaino at [mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org) for a Boundary Waters Participant Packet, if you are interested.

## THANK YOU!

The Christian Education committee would like to thank Al Franz for the awesome closet under the stairs! Thank you also to the ever-present, ever-faithful Mooks for cleaning out the closet and staining and painting. We are grateful!!

## Men's Group

Men's Group will meet on **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 8am - 10am**. Glenn Sapa will speak about retirement finance.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Curtis Holland    |
|    | Howard SooHoo     |
| 3  | Nicole Giambolvo  |
|    | Marilyn Guerrieri |
|    | Linda Leinweber   |
| 4  | Brian Anderson    |
|    | Jamie Craig       |
|    | Barbara Pass      |
|    | Jackie Tobin      |
| 6  | Jay Grove         |
|    | Wendee Passini    |
| 7  | Robert Guerriei   |
|    | David Shrigley    |
| 11 | Zack Leinweber    |
|    | Dixie Miller      |
| 12 | Alison Chatten    |
|    | James Ogorzalek   |
|    | David Wold        |
| 13 | Daniel Ciner      |
|    | Michael English   |
|    | Kelly Gonzalez    |
|    | Susan Neufelder   |
| 15 | Nigel Barnhill    |
| 18 | Barbara Giordano  |
| 20 | Monnie Stoller    |
| 22 | Eric Shrigley     |
|    | Jason Schubert    |
|    | Kelly Barnett     |
|    | Barbara Stevenson |
| 25 | Valerie Spitzer   |
| 26 | Dan Eugene        |
|    | Katie Guenther    |
| 27 | Mike Cetina       |
|    | Ann Ogorzalek     |
| 28 | Elsa Guenther     |
| 31 | Griffen Price     |

## First spring flood of 2013



### Why are we still having floods?

After the installation of the drains around the back of our building, the rain water drains into the pond at the front of the Church. There is a small pipe that then drains the pond. As part of the development of the lots in the More Property a new sewer line will be installed on South Gables Blvd. We will then have the pond connected to drain into the new sewer line. Until that happens the water from the pond will be able to flow backwards and come up in the back door drain when the pond level is higher than the back door drain. With heavy rains such as we had on April 17 and 18 the pond filled and the water started to come up into the back door well. Until the new sewer line is installed we will continue to use sand bags around the back door and pumps to evacuate the pond and the back door well when the water gets high.



*The Church Office was up and running in Dobstaff Hall on Monday morning.*

*Thank you to those who helped in response to the flooding at the church: Hi Baird, Al Franz, Joe Hall, Sam Kouns and those who helped with the music room, Karen and Peter Lindquist, Pastor Allen, Al Skwara and the building committee, Dawn Schubert, Jerry Stoller, and Susan Wold. We appreciate all you do for St. Matthew!*

## Women's Fellowship

St. Matthew's Women's Fellowship is hosting a luncheon in honor of Marla Mothershed.

It will be held **Saturday, June 1, at 12 noon** in Dobstaff Hall and all women of the church are invited.

We will be placing a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so that you may indicate whether you will attend and we can determine how many guests to plan for.

-Marilyn Giese, Barbara Giordano,  
Wendy Fanning for Women's Fellowship

## Bags Tournament

A good time was had by all on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the bags tournament on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen teams participated in the double elimination tournament. The winners of the experienced bracket were Brian and Michael English and the novice bracket winners were Matt Traylor and Levi Henkel. We hear that people are already practicing for next year's tournament!



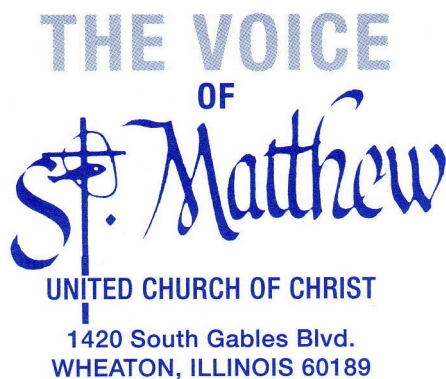
*Pictures from  
recent baptisms  
at  
St. Matthew*





# May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Every Sunday:</i> <i>5p crazies</i> <i>Free Time</i> <i>6p crazies</i>	<i>Every Tuesday:</i> <i>6p IntergeneR- ingers</i> <i>7p Bells</i> <i>Potluck</i> <i>7:30p Chancel Ringers</i>	<i>Every Wednesday:</i> <i>6:30p Praise Band</i> <i>7:30p Choir</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5 9:30a Wor- ship Service with Commu- ion, Confirma- tion</i>  <i>CROP Walk</i>	<i>6</i>  <i>7p Christian Education Meeting</i>	<i>7</i>  <i>7:30p Mission Committee Meeting</i>	<i>8</i>  <i>PADS 7pm Member- ship Commit- tee Meeting</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12 9:30a Worship Ser- vice, Chil- dren's Play</i>	<i>13</i>  <i>7pm Worship Committee</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>8am Men's Fellowship</i>
<i>19 9:30a Worship Ser- vice, Apprecia- tion Sunday</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26 9:30a Worship Ser- vice</i>  <i>June/July VOICE Arti- cles Due</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>  <i>7p Committee Chairs Meet- ing</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	



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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### St. Matthew United Church of Christ

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Web Site: [www.stmatthewucc.org](http://www.stmatthewucc.org)

Office Hours:

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

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School: 10:00 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](mailto:allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org)

**Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry**

[susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:susan.wold@stmatthewucc.org)

**Mark Restaino, Director of Youth Ministries**

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**Jamie Craig, Director of Music/**

**Choir Director**

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**Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist**

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