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November 2013

St. Matthew United Church of Christ

(630) 665-1236 (Office)
(630) 665-1436 (Fax)
Office Email: office@stmatthewucc.org
Web Site: 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

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

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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Kim Congdon, Handbell Director

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Mary Lee Banie, Administrative Assistant

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Giving Your Life

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29

When I was a young person growing up in the church, I heard at church about the early Christian martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the faith. I remember my fascination with the many stories of the martyrs. Somewhere I found a list of people who were killed as missionaries. Accounts like the ones of missionaries who gave their lives in New Guinea in order to share the faith. One list gave the names, the dates of their martyrdom and the method of their killing. The one missionary who was listed as "killed, eaten" really got my attention. With my youthful idealistic imagination, I dreamed of find myself in some such situation in which I had to chose whether to die for the faith.

Needless to say, it has not happened yet. The sacrifices I have made when compared to those who have (and still do) make the ultimate sacrifice seem a mere pittance.

Have you ever considered what it means to "give your life"? I suspect we minimize the way we give ourselves and underestimate the importance of the tiny sacrifices we make. The card we write to someone ill, the food we bring to fellowship, the committee meeting we attend that go long when we have to wake up early the next morning and go to work, the night we work at PADS and endure a tiring next day, and the money we

give even when finances are tight may seem such small sacrifices. But it is the little bitty things we do that matter, often more than we may ever know, and they add up to a life well lived.

Sometimes we think of those little bitty things and wish we could do more of them, but tell ourselves we do not have time. Think about that statement, "I don't have time." It is really a dishonest statement, a little lie we tell to others, but mostly to ourselves. Early in my ministry, I had the good fortune of having someone call me on that. He told me how he transformed his life by refusing to say it. Instead he says, "It's not my priority right now." As long as we are standing upright and still breathing we do have time. We are not victims of time; we have the power to make our choices, to say either "yes" or "no" according to what is important at that moment in our lives. Very empowering.

Jesus asks us to take "his yoke" and he promises that we will find "rest for our souls." That is not the way we always experience church work and service to God in our daily lives. Rest? Exhaustion may be more to the truth. But I think what he really meant was "peace." The sort of peace you have when you have chosen wisely your priorities and are living your life well.

-Pastor Allen



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our second annual Trunk or Treat event a huge success. We had a beautiful day with 22 decorated cars, and one decorated Tree trunk. Children from St. Matthew and the community came in large numbers to trick or treat down the row of cars. Congregational Life and children's ministry provided food, crafts, and games in Dobstaff Hall for the families to enjoy. This event was successful because of our St. Matthew family who came together to help advertise, decorate cars, donate candy, decorate Dobstaff, make food, bake desserts, run games, crafts and the popcorn machine, clean up, etc. We are blessed!

Workshop rotation, the covenant/Abraham: God is the God of the covenant, we are people of the covenant, descendants of Abraham by faith. In the scope of world history hardly anyone would have noticed that a small family moved from Ur to Haran and then from Haran to Canaan. This move, however, changed history. In cooking, improv, art, movie and story the children will learn about Abraham's family and their faith in God. Each child who memorizes or explains the Bible verse Genesis 12:2 will earn another charm for their key chain.

The Sunday school will use their **fall offering** to help a Bridge Communities family with items that this mother and her son need to set up the apartment that Bridge Communities placed her in. St. Matthew provides financial and mentor support for this family, and this is another way that we can help.

November birthdays: Avery Scalora 11/12 and Kyle Bresingham 11/25

Looking ahead

No Sunday school: Dec. 1, Thanksgiving weekend
Evergreen tree dedication for Mary Jane Schnack: Dec. 8
Children's Musical: Dec. 15
Birthday Party for Jesus: Dec. 15



Pictured: Puppet workshop and trunk or treat

November 2013

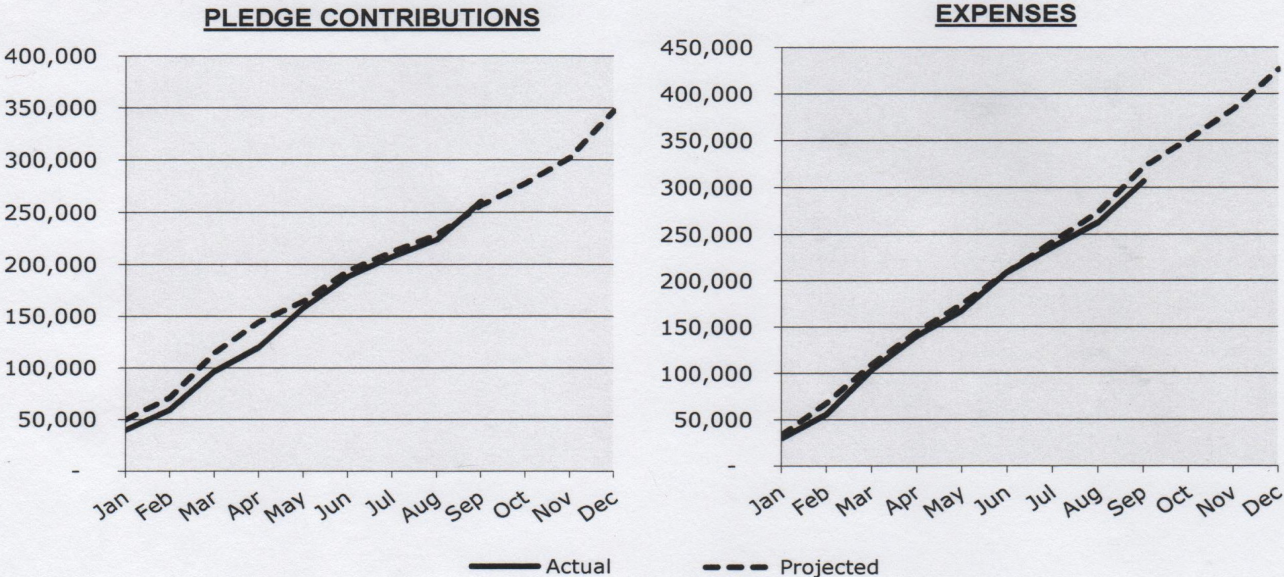
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Every Sunday:</i> 5p crazies Free Time 6p crazies		<i>Every Tuesday:</i> 6p IntergeneR- ingers 7p Bells Potluck 7:30p Chancel Ringers	<i>Every Wednesday:</i> 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Choir		1	2 <i>Sleep Out Sat- urday</i>
3 9:30a Wor- ship Service with Commu- ion	4 7pm Christian Education Meeting	5 7pm Member- ship 7:30pm Mis- sion	6	7	8	9
10 9:30a Worship Ser- vice 10:30a Memo- rial Committee	11 7p Worship Committee	12	13 PADS	14	15 7p Parents' Get Together	16 8a Men's Fel- lowship
17 9:30a Worship Ser- vice 4pm 'Sacred Voice' Concert Dec. VOICE Articles Due	18 7p Finance Committee	19 7p Girls' Night Out	20	21 6p Staff Rela- tions Commit- tee 7p Church Council	22	23
24 9:30a Worship Ser- vice	25 7p Committee Chairs Meet- ing	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30

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

For the Period Ended September 30, 2013

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	36,507	260,205	347,136
Loose Offerings	375	4,132	8,000
Rental Income	250	3,040	6,000
Fund Raising	50	250	10,000
Investment Income	(33)	(112)	500
More Property	12,000	28,500	54,500
More Property (special projects)	-	3,429	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	100	500
TOTAL RECEIPTS	49,149	299,544	426,636
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	26,395	165,359	224,061
Building	10,233	94,688	121,775
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	20,062	26,750
Mission / OCWM	3,225	13,901	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	629	7,368	10,150
Membership	378	1,041	3,900
Music	885	1,851	4,200
Worship	-	652	3,500
Congregational Life	52	298	800
Misc. & Contingency	-	363	2,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (before Special Projects)	44,026	305,583	426,636
Special Projects	-	3,429	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 5,123	\$ (9,468)	\$ -

2013 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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



Notes from the Music Room.....

Just time for a quick update this month. Cantata rehearsals are going well, but if you are interested, read music, and can make all remaining rehearsals starting with November 6, you can still join us. For the rest, make sure you have December 8 on your calendar to invite friends and neighbors to come to St Matthew to enjoy "Appalachian Winter".

The music has arrived for the Children's Christmas Musical and rehearsals are starting. That will be presented the week after the Cantata.

Handbells and praise band and the choir continue working to enhance our Worship Services with wonderful music.

So with everyone's busy schedule, let's not lose sight of Thanksgiving that we celebrate this month. Commercially, it seems Thanksgiving gets lost between Halloween and the Christmas promotions in the stores that start by November 1st, if that late. The reasons we celebrate Thanksgiving are still important today. I pray that it is meaningful to you and your families.

Yours in Christ through Song,

Jamie Craig
Director of Music
630-202-6788
Lanni1@comcast.net

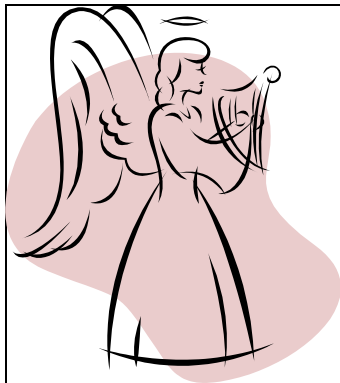
And now for something completely different...
The poem for November, from Linda Leinweber in Kazakhstan

Hopes Painted by the Autumn Cold
By Sergei Yesenin
Translated by Deutsch and Yarmolinsky

HOPES, painted by the autumn cold, are shining,
My steady horse plods on, like quiet fate,
His moist dun lip is catching at the lining
When the coat, flapping, flutters and falls straight.

On a far road the unseen traces, leading
Neither to rest nor battle, lure and fade;
The golden heel of day will flash, receding,
And labors in the chest of years be laid.

Although I had read a few of Yesenin's poems some time ago, I was reintroduced to him by Josef's Russian teacher (also mine), when she gave him a poem to translate. It occurred to me that a Russian poem coming from Kazakhstan would be a nice idea for fall, so I chose the above, in part because it reminded me a little of Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." Yesenin, who died very young, was banned by Stalin, but continues to be very popular in Russia, is not a voice one hears a lot in America, so I am glad for the opportunity to share this poem.



**Advent and Christmas Eve
2013**

In Advent, we move from “ordinary time” to “extraordinary time” as we anticipate with excitement the coming of our Lord. This Advent, the sermons will also have an out of the ordinary focus as we use short clips of some of our favorite Christmas movies to experience the message of our Advent scriptures. This is a great opportunity to be in church (and invite your neighbors!) as we prepare for the joy of our Christmas Eve services and the Christmas season.

December 1	A Wonderful Life	Isaiah 2:1-5
December 8	A Christmas Carol Chancel Choir Cantata	Matthew 3:1-12
December 15	Will Someone Tell Me What Christmas Is About? Children’s Musical Birthday Party for Jesus	Luke 1:47-55
December 22	Christmas Vacation	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24	The Nativity Worship at 6:00pm and 10:00pm	Luke 2:1-20

Children’s DVD Library

The DVDs listed below have not been returned to the Children’s DVD library. If you recently checked out one of the DVDs listed, please disregard this notice. However, if you checked out the DVD a while ago and have already watched it, please return so another child can enjoy it. Thank you!

The Blind Side	We Are Marshall	Secretariat
Where the Red Fern Grows	Project Precious Paws	Firehouse Dog
Believe in Me	Annie	Narnia
The Bumblyburg Super Hero	Big River Rescue	It’s a Meaningful Life
The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything	Duke and the Great Pie War	Sweetpea Beauty
Lyle the Kindly Viking	Ballad of Little Joe	

Wow... and Thank You!

The fundraising event of Saturday, October 26th may be a fading memory for some, but for ALL of us it should stand as a reminder of Romans 12: 4-6- “For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...”

We are SO grateful to those who came and participated in the silent auction, and the committee is also grateful to all of those members who donated auction items and services, food, and their time. The clean up went quickly and smoothly as well because so many stayed to help.

Those in attendance enjoyed a wonderful performance by Kym Frankovelgia, and we enjoyed good food and drink before the performance. The final details are not known at this time, but we can safely say that it was a successful event with over \$7,000 being raised. My deepest thanks go to Kenna Anderson, Carol Honeywell, Sandy Sapa, and Cathy SooHoo. We worked well together as a team, and the results are indicative of a GREAT collaborative effort.

With sincere gratitude-- Dawn Schubert





Stewardship Corner

Enriching Our Lives Through Joyful Giving is the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign. I hope you are inspired to get involved in one or more of our many ministries at St. Matthew this year, utilizing the Church as your force multiplier in doing good in our local community and around the globe. I also hope and pray that your involvement gives you great personal and spiritual satisfaction.

Below is the kickoff message from Pastor Allen that was recently mailed.

Blessings, Rob Neufelder – Stewardship Chair

Friends:

It is with a joyful heart that I look back fondly on the completion of my first year at St. Matthew. As you have heard me say many times from the pulpit, St. Matthew is a very caring and involved church. We impact the lives of many people both locally, nationally, and internationally.

I write to you today as we kick off our annual stewardship campaign to ask you once again for your spirited support of the many ministries of St. Matthew through the dedication of your time, talent, and treasure. The Christian way is to know and experience the joy that comes through the freedom of letting go and being generous. Joy is found when we hold less tightly to our own lives and join together with our Christian brothers and sisters to share our gifts freely. For this reason, our theme for Stewardship centers on the joy of giving. We are not only concerned with the necessary task of raising the annual church budget, but we also want to encourage greater engagement in our ministries. We wish for you each to have the joy associated with being deeply generous in your lives.

Beginning Sunday, November 3rd we will reflect on the joy of giving in Christian life with the following sermon series:

November 3	Luke 19:1-10	<i>The Invitation to Joy</i>
November 10	Mark 10:17-27	<i>The Invitation to Be Fully Alive</i>
November 17	1 Corinthians 12:12-31	<i>The Invitation to Joyful Community</i>

On November 3rd you will have the opportunity to pick up your Estimate of Giving card and your Time & Talent sheet. On November 17th you are invited to bring both of these items to worship where we will celebrate our connection as the Body of Christ and dedicate our commitments of talents, service, and giving for the coming year.

I am excited that we are planning together a new year of ministry in the name of Christ. I thank you in advance for what you will give and pray you may find great joy in your giving.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Allen Mothershed

Trunk or Treat 2013

Twenty-two families and the youth group decorated their cars for the annual Trunk or Treat community event. The Congregational Life and Christian Education committees provided games, crafts and food in Dobstaff Hall for the families who attended. It was a beautiful sunny day, approximately 200 people arrived to participate in the fun! Thank you to all who volunteered to make this event so successful!





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Wayne Milling
- 2 David Barnshaw
- 3 Allison Cetina
Betty Luessenhop
- 8 Pastor Allen Mothershed
- 11 Joe Hall
- 12 Teresa Buik
- 13 Ryan Wold
- 14 Dianne Hutchison
Rick Jungk
- 16 Pam Spitzer Trinco
- 23 Jessica Guerrieri
Kristine Schroer
- 24 Jim Keuck
Ryan McKean
- 26 Aimee Phillips
Ben Schubert
- 28 Lindsay Christensen
Ryan Christensen
Betty Greer
- 29 Colin Kirincich
- 30 Jonathan Jungk

17th Annual ESSE Pancake Breakfast

A Salute to our Veterans
Special Guest Mayor Michael Gresk of Wheaton

Saturday, November 9th
7:30-11:00am
St. Paul Lutheran Church
515 S. Wheaton Ave, Wheaton

Food Sponsors
Brighton Gardens of Wheaton
Butterfield's Pancake House of Wheaton
Starbucks of Glen Ellyn
Arden Courts of Glen Ellyn

Raffle and Silent Auction!
Tickets can be purchased at the door
or from Dawn Schubert.
Call Dawn for information (630-665-9860)
\$5.00 Donation

NOVEL APPROACHES

This month we are deviating from our "only novels" rule to read **"ZEALOT: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth"** by Reza Aslan. This book is a fascinating, provocative, and meticulously researched biography that challenges long-held assumptions about the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth. *Zealot* yields a fresh perspective on one of the greatest stories ever told with the pulse of a fast-paced novel; a singularly brilliant portrait of a man, a time and the birth of a religion.

The date is **Friday, November 22nd, 2013 at 7:30 pm**
The place is **Skwaras**, 2035 Cromwell Drive, Wheaton

Everyone is welcome. Please join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship.

LOOKING AHEAD:

"The Lowlands" by Jhumpa Lahiri

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Fellowship

Lee Staton is doing the program for the Men's Fellowship on **Saturday, November 16th**. The topic is "Navigating Dilemmas of Media Ethics and Laws." The meeting is 8:00-10:00am in the Hall. Men in the congregation are invited.

Youth Mission Trip Meeting

If you are a high school, college student, or adult interested in going on the youth mission trip to Blue Knob, Pennsylvania to help with home repair, please come to the crazies Parents Meeting on **Sunday, November 17th from 7-8pm** to learn more about it. The dates of the mission trip will be Sunday, June 22nd- Saturday, June 28th. The cost of the mission trip will be \$350. If you are interested, but unable to attend the meeting, please get in touch with Mark.

Girls' Night Out

Join the women of our congregation for an evening of games and socializing on **Tuesday, November 19th at 7pm** at Roseanne King's home, 109 Fairway Lane in Wheaton. Bring a snack and a favorite game if you'd like. Sign up at church or RSVP to Roseanne at kingz@me.com.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Chuck Trunkey
The Rosewood at the Cypress of Raleigh
8710 Cypress Club Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615

crazies

St. Matthew UCC

crazies Shout Out

The crazies are coming down from the sugar high of Halloween after our wonderful October. This month, we went to Fright Fest at Six Flags, helped at scarce, and participated in Trunk or Treat with the rest of the church. We carved pumpkins and had a hoedown at Mark and Elizabeth's house. We tried out new ways to run crazies and had a Halloween themed lesson on Demons and Exorcisms. This month, we're doing sleep out Saturday, Feed my Starving Children, and Babysitting on Friday, October 15th from 6:30 to 9 pm. We're also seeing Catching Fire, watching the Doctor Who Fiftieth special, and having a lock in during Thanksgiving break. And, of course, the Turkey Bowl near Mark's house on Thanksgiving morning.

by Jennifer Buhmann

Thank You!

Heartfelt thanks go out to Laurie and Kurt Madsen for the beautiful bulletin boards that they installed in the Narthex.

Thanks also to Kenna Anderson and Marge Hall for painting the boards and enhancing their beauty. We are grateful to all of them for their expertise and continued service to St. Matthew!