

# THE VOICE OF

# St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.  
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[www.stmatthew-ucc.org](http://www.stmatthew-ucc.org)



August 2015

## *Is It Time to Say, "I am Sorry?"*

Every now and then, what is most needed is an apology. Some people, especially those averse to anger, are quick to apologize even when they may not even have been at fault. A friend may object, "What are you apologizing for? You did nothing wrong!" But we all know sometimes an apology is the best defense against prosecution. An apology offered is sometimes the quickest way to put a misunderstanding out of the way and move on.

Most of us struggle to say those three short words, "I am sorry." Our admitting that we are at fault is especially difficult when we are aware of some guilt. Someone pointing a finger at us only increases our reluctance in confessing wrong. No wonder; we want to defend ourselves. We live in a shaming and blaming culture. Scapegoating is the way of the world, and we all play that game. Are there not times when you turn the news off because of all the finger pointing? Are you like me, dreading the new round of finger pointing that is our presidential campaigns?

The Apostle Paul said something we would benefit to commit to memory. He said, "There is no condemnation for those who live in union with Jesus Christ." Reflect on that for a second. Let the words sink in. Let this be a mantra: "There is no condemnation." Paul is not saying there is 'no guilt.' He is saying that we have nothing to fear about our guilt. It is as if nothing wrong happened in the eyes of God. The past is now truly past.

When we dwell in Christ, we live in grace. To live with grace is to have the freedom to see our faults, know our humanity, and learn from our mistakes. We take ourselves out of the blame game and the need to point the finger away at someone else. Rather than playing the world's game of scapegoating, we are free to respond with love.

Maybe if we can take the fear out of our guilt we can learn from our mistakes and those of others and have the power to move on in a more loving way. "Yes, I have some responsibility for what happened. I am sorry for what I did. How can we learn from this and move on?"

May you wrap yourself in the grace that God has for you, then go ahead, when you need to. Say "I am sorry." In Christ, it is not as hard as you think.

*Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Allen*

## Food on the First

Thanks to all who donated in the months of June and July. It was very much appreciated.

Here is what's needed in August:

- Canned corn
- Canned tuna
- Pasta sauce
- Jams and jellies
- Mustard, ketchup, and mayo
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream and razors
- Diapers and pull-ups sizes 4,5, and 6

As always, please make sure the food is not expired and packages are not opened. If you have any questions, please call Betty Greer at 630.682.4084.

*Blessings to all!*

*-Betty Greer*



## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Laura Schlenker
- 2 Quinn Rosenthal  
Susan Wold  
Miegan Bresingham  
Reid Stubbe
- 4 Amy Achammer
- 6 Nancy Baird  
Mark Christensen  
Marge Hall
- 7 Traci Colella  
Emily Cortez  
Sandy Uhrig
- 10 Sue Lellbach
- 11 Sue Erickson
- 12 Laura Bucaro  
Dorothy McGowen  
Sandy Sapa
- 13 Phil Spicer
- 15 Tammy Cetina  
Eric Rauch
- 16 Tina Ciner  
Rob Neufelder
- 18 Matthew Gonzalez
- 19 Kyle Roggenbuck
- 20 John Barnett
- 22 Terry Young
- 23 Haley Wold
- 25 Brad Stoller
- 26 Joanne Papp

## **Pennies From Heaven**

It may be the “dog days” of summer, but throw some of those dawgs on the grill. Don't have a grill? Check out Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Lowes Home Improvement, Target, or Walmart and don't forget Gordons Food Service for crowd-sized packages of food and drinks.

Thinking about travel before school starts again? American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Avis, Budget, Hyatt Hotels, Disney Cruises and Disney Resorts are all Manna retailers.

**You get full value for the cards you buy (there are no fees) AND the retailers give money to St. Matthew! Win, Win !!**



## Directory Updates

We will be sending out an updated version of the St. Matthew directory the week before Rally Day. A limited number of printed copies will be available on Rally Day, September 13th. (Please contact the office to ensure you receive a printed copy that Sunday.)

Please contact Laurela at [office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org) or 630-665-1236 with any updates to your family's contact information or a new picture by Thursday, August 27th. Thank you!

## Changes in the Office

We welcome to our church staff Laurela Gayzhur as our new Administrative Assistant. Come by to welcome and get to know Laurela. Thanks to Rick Jungk, our Council President, and Joe Hall, Chair of Staff Relations, and the other members of the Staff Relations Committee for their good and devoted work. Diana who has served us so well, has left to prepare for the arrival of her baby. We are happy that we will continue to see Diana, and her family as they remain a part of our congregation. We are also excited to have another new baby on the way to welcome into our church family!



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

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer, now that the warmer and drier weather finally arrived. August should bring more of that warm air, and it also is time to get ready for the fall season. KC, Brian and I are working on the music plans for the bells, praise band and choir and the resumption of rehearsals is just around the corner. At this writing, the bells will start rehearsing on Tuesday, August 25, and the praise band and choir start on Wednesday, August 26. Our normal rehearsal schedule is as follows:

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>IntergeneRingers:</b> | Tuesday at 6 PM      |
| <b>Chancel Ringers:</b>  | Tuesday at 7:30 PM   |
| <b>Praise Band:</b>      | Wednesday at 6:30 PM |
| <b>Chancel Choir:</b>    | Wednesday at 7:30 PM |

Please watch the St. Matthew Happenings and Sunday announcements for more details as the start dates get closer.

Music is an important part of our worship service. I receive many comments regarding the positive impact our different types of music have on our services. Have you noticed the difference in our services when there is no Music for Worship? It takes many individuals giving their time to make it happen. We have a strong core of singers and musicians who provide music week after week. This is done willingly and with joy, but we need additional people. If you can sing or play an instrument, please prayerfully consider if you can add to your schedule the fun, fellowship, and music by joining the choir or praise band. I think KC has some room in the bells, too. We Need You!!

Peace....

Jamie

[Lanni1@comcast.net](mailto:Lanni1@comcast.net)





Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this year's VBS a wonderful success! All of the children have been blessed by your faith, love, and generosity.





**As summer winds down, it's time for our Crazies schedule to amp back up. On Sunday, August 30 we'll return to our regular Crazies schedule with Sunday Dinners, Fellowship, and Study. Adults, please talk to Emmy Davis about how you can help make Crazies happen this year—we'll need plenty of chefs, chaperones, and more. In the meantime, join us at one of these upcoming events!**

|                            |  |                   |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Friday, August 7</b>    | <b>SIX FLAGS!!!</b>                      |                   |
| <b>Sunday, August 9</b>    | Fellowship & Study                       | 6:30-8:00pm       |
| <b>Sunday, August 16</b>   | Fellowship & Study                       | 6:30-8:00pm       |
| <b>Sunday, August 23</b>   | Fellowship & Study                       | 6:30-8:00pm       |
| <b>Sunday, August 30</b>   | Confirmation Dinner<br>@ Pastor Allen's! | 4:00-6:00pm       |
|                            | Fellowship & Study                       | 6:30-8:00pm       |
| <b>Sunday, September 6</b> | Labor Day Weekend                        | <u>NO CRAZIES</u> |





## Finding God in All the Wrong Places

Where do you find God in your life? In worship? Through praying? A trusted friend? But what about the unexpected places? Beginning Sunday, September 13 in worship, we will be exploring the scriptures to find the uncommon places God show up in our lives. This sermon series is based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book on practices of the faith, "An Altar in the World."

- September 13** Genesis 28:10-17    *"Jacob's Dream: Finding God in Unexpected Places"*
- September 20** Exodus 3:1-12    *"Moses: Finding God on the Run"*
- September 27** Exodus 20:8-11    *"Sabbath: Finding God by Saying 'No'"*
- October 4** Luke 16:19-31    *"Lazarus: Finding God in the Down and Out"*
- October 11** Genesis 12:1-9    *"Abraham & Sarah: Finding God When You Are Lost"*

## Help End Homelessness One Step at a Time



The 11th Annual "Run 4 Home" is scheduled on September 19. This 10K & 5K CARA-certified course appeals to serious runners, casual joggers, walkers and families alike. Rain or shine, all are invited after the race to stay for music, refreshments, and prizes. Proceeds from the FUNdraiser will support individuals and families who are homeless in DuPage County. Contact Kariann at 630.682.3846 ext. 2290 for more information. We also need 225 volunteers on race day! Please contact Colleen at 630.682.3846 ext. 3500 or [cconwood@dupagepads.org](mailto:cconwood@dupagepads.org) if you would like to volunteer. You can register or make a donation online to DuPage PADS at [www.padsrun.org](http://www.padsrun.org). Together we can make a difference.

## Foods Resource Bank

St. Matthew is once again sponsoring acreage in Forest, Illinois, that will be planted, harvested and 100% of the proceeds used to help poor areas in the world learn how to grow crops to sustain themselves. This is not a handout 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. For your convenience, you can find the forms in the pew pads and turn them in to Terry Young, Gwen Johnson, or they may be placed into the offering plates. Please consider how you can help the hungry people in the world.





## ADULT MISSION TRIP TO BILOXI, MS

Our trip is planned this year for the week of October 11-17. If you would like to sign up and have been before, are new to this trip, or would like more information please email Lori Chatten at [lchatten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lchatten@sbcglobal.net). In general, we spend a week working on rehab and building projects in the community of Biloxi, MS. We work with the Back Bay Mission, which organizes everything and houses us. There are also opportunities to work at the food pantry, local soup

kitchen and the day site for the homeless. For more information visit [www.thebackbaymission.org](http://www.thebackbaymission.org). We are limited to 15 people.

### Children's Scooters

The two young boys we sponsor through The Bridge Program would like to have scooters. If you happen to have one or two just sitting around, give Bob Barnshaw a call at 630-668-0014.



### 5th Sunday at DuPage Convalescent Center

August 30 is St Matthew Day at the DuPage Convalescent Center. Come join us to help push wheelchairs to get folks to and from the Protestant worship service. We gather at 9:30 and finish up before noon. It's a great chance to help out and meet some really great people.

Questions - or to let me know you are coming - contact Ellen Ribe: [ellen.ribe@dupageco.org](mailto:ellen.ribe@dupageco.org) or 630-784-4262. See you then!



### Congregational Life News

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> Congregation Life will host a church-wide, family-friendly Pig Roast with all the complementary side dishes beginning at 5:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be posted in early August. After marking your calendar, please sign up to ensure we plan for enough food for all those who want to join in this early fall event. Come and enjoy great food and socialize with your church family.

Also, Congregational Life will be participating in the Rally Day festivities on September 13<sup>th</sup> right after the 9:30 a.m. service. We hope to see you there!



**September 26<sup>th</sup> 5 p.m.  
Behind Dobstaff Hall**



## COFFEE POTLUCK REMINDER

St. Matthew needs your help with Fellowship Hour; please bring donuts, fruit, cheese, crackers, and other goodies to share with the congregation after worship service. We are thrilled to have so many new visitors and members, but we need to make sure that the amount of treats and volunteers can keep up with our growing numbers. Please help in providing goodies for this important time of community and fellowship. Here is a reminder of our suggested schedule: Those with last name beginning with A, B, C: 1st Sunday of the month, D, E, F, G: 2nd Sunday, H, I, J, K: 3rd Sunday, L - Z: 4th Sunday, Anyone: 5th Sunday. Thank you!

## Family Camp Celebration Sunday

This Sunday, August 2 we will be celebrating Family Camp. There will be a video presentation from Door County where we just spent a week. Whether you were with us or not this year, please wear any past Family Camp t-shirt if you have one, including tie-dye from YMCA Camp of the Rockies.



## NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached in September is “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah. In this book, the author has captured a particular slice of French life during WWII with wonderful details and drama. In a story about the relationship between two sisters, Hannah explores what we do in moments of great challenge: Do we rise to the occasion or do we fail? Are we heroes or cowards? Are we loyal to the people we love most or do we betray them?

**The date:** Friday, September 25, 2015 at 7:30 pm

**The place:** Char & Bob Cooper, 422 W. Evergreen, Wheaton

**All are welcome!** Please join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship







# August 2015

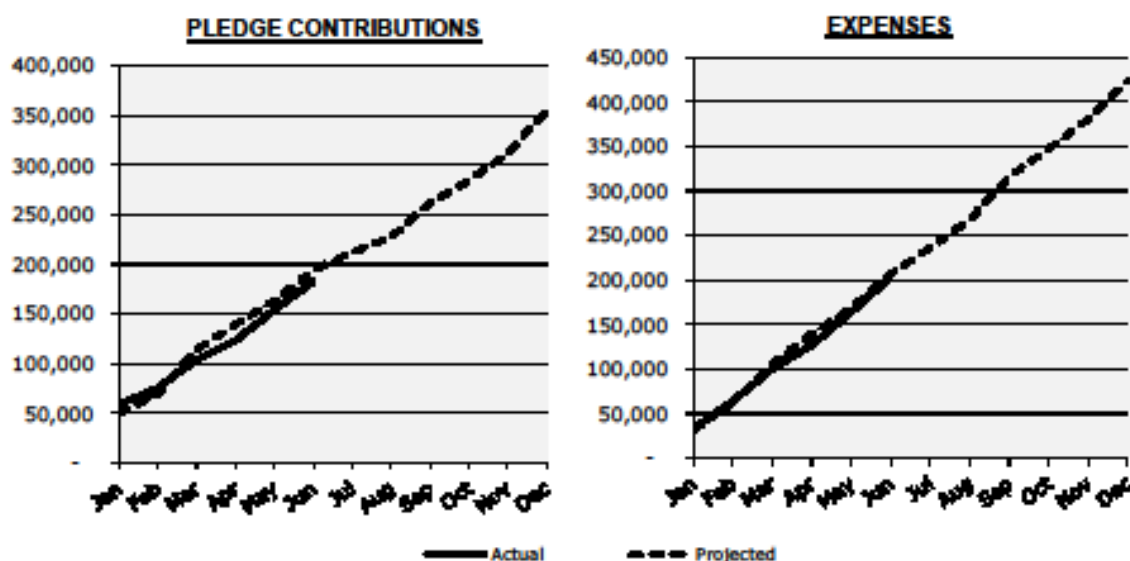
| Sun   | Mon                                   | Tue                             | Wed | Thu                            | Fri             | Sat |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|
|   |                                       |                                 |     |                                |                 | 1   |
| 2<br>-9:30a Worship<br>Service<br>-6:30p crazies                      | 3<br><br>7p Christian<br>Ed Committee | 4<br><br>1p Digital<br>Ministry | 5   | 6                              | 7<br><br>COFFEE | 8   |
| 9<br>-9:30a Worship<br>Service<br>-6:30p crazies                      | 10                                    | 11                              | 12  | 13                             | 14              | 15  |
| 16<br>-9:30a Worship<br>Service<br>-no crazies                        | 17                                    | 18                              | 19  | 20<br><br>6p SRC<br>7p Council | 21              | 22  |
| 23<br>-9:30a Worship<br>Service<br>-6p crazies                        | 24                                    | 25                              | 26  | 27                             | 28              | 29  |
| 30<br>-9:30a Worship<br>Service<br>-6p crazies<br>-Voice articles due | 31                                    |                                 |     |                                |                 |     |

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

For the Period Ended June 30, 2015

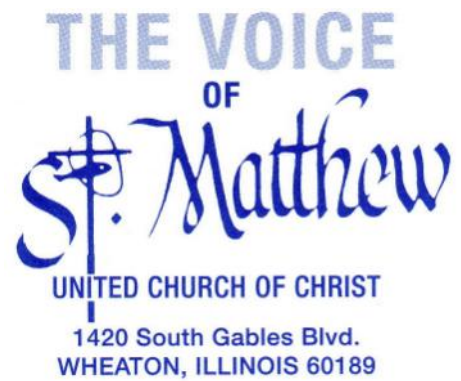
|  | ACTUAL<br>CURRENT<br>MONTH | ACTUAL<br>YEAR-TO-<br>DATE | ANNUAL<br>BUDGET |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS:-</b>                                      |                            |                            |                  |
| Pledge Contributions                                   | 28,994                     | 183,021                    | 354,327          |
| Loose Offerings  | 213                        | 3,458                      | 10,000           |
| Rental Income  | 250                        | 1,660                      | 5,000            |
| Fund Raising   | 135                        | 1,903                      | 8,000            |
| Investment Income                                      | 4                          | 1,081                      | -                |
| More Property  | -                          | -                          | 46,000           |
| More Property (special projects)                       | 81,201                     | 81,201                     | -                |
| Miscellaneous Income                                   | -                          | -                          | -                |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                                  | <b>110,797</b>             | <b>272,324</b>             | <b>423,327</b>   |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:-</b>                                  |                            |                            |                  |
| Ministry   | 23,369                     | 114,460                    | 229,129          |
| Building   | 10,781                     | 57,414                     | 116,028          |
| Mortgages & Notes                                      | 2,229                      | 13,374                     | 26,748           |
| Mission / OCWM   | 436                        | 9,016                      | 29,000           |
| Committees:  |                            |                            |                  |
| Christian Education                                    | 1,396                      | 4,929                      | 10,270           |
| Membership   | 165                        | 853                        | 2,750            |
| Music  | 150                        | 1,575                      | 4,500            |
| Worship  | 142                        | 1,063                      | 1,500            |
| Endowment  | -                          | -                          | -                |
| Congregational Life                                    | 143                        | 363                        | 800              |
| Memorial   | -                          | -                          | 100              |
| Stewardship  | -                          | -                          | 500              |
| Misc. & Contingency                                    | -                          | -                          | 2,000            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b><br>(before Special Projects) | <b>38,812</b>              | <b>203,049</b>             | <b>423,325</b>   |
| Special Projects                                       | 81,201                     | 81,201                     | -                |
| <b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>                             | <b>\$ (9,215)</b>          | <b>\$ (11,926)</b>         | <b>\$ 2</b>      |

**2015 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**



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:** [office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

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

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm

Friday, 9am-1pm

**Sunday Worship:** 9:30 am

**Sunday Church School:** 10 am

**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)

**Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry**

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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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**Joan Johnson, Business Manager**

[joan.johnson@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:joan.johnson@stmatthewucc.org)

**Laurela Gayzhur, Administrative Assistant**

[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)