

THE VOICE OF

St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189
630-665-1236
Fax 630-665-1436
www.stmatthew-ucc.org



June & July 2015

The Church Politically Involved

“The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I’ve seen for myself how cruelly they’re being treated by the Egyptians. It’s time for you to go back: I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt.”

There are now many surveys trying to understand why people don’t come to church like they used to do. One reason is that they do not like seeing how politically involved churches have become. I can understand the reaction. Perhaps you can as well. From the late ‘70s there was a changing attitude by Evangelical churches that shifted towards political activism. Anti-abortion, anti-women’s rights, anti-gay, and to some extent anti-immigrant became key issues as prominent church leaders mingled church power with political power. Power corrupts, and we have seen our share of that. We also have the experience of the Middle Ages, when the church even had its own army and committed horrendous atrocities in the name of God.

Sometimes that part of me raised with a strong message of personal salvation cringes when I see the church jumping into some political cause, even good ones, and I want the church to pull back to focus on individual spiritual well-being. But I understand that the issue of political involvement is not so simple.

The church’s involvement has often come out of compassionate concern for the suffering of people damaged by the political and economic systems. If you work with the homeless and you see a family that is on the streets after being bankrupted by a lack of medical insurance, compassion will compel you to want to change the status quo. If you tutor an immigrant youth and whose family is being deported while she is left alone, how can you not be moved to action? The church has been a force for change in some of the most compelling issues of justice in our nation’s history: anti-slavery, civil rights, and women’s right to vote to name a few. Can you imagine what would have happened if people like Martin Luther King had decided that their job was to save souls and not be politically involved?

Both the Hebrew prophets and Jesus confronted political power with vehemence. Our scriptural faith has made a clear connection between a prayerful spiritual life and compassionate action for those who suffer in our world.

So maybe the challenge is making sure we do not either retreat from the world in prayer or allow our acts of compassion and advocacy to be detached from a spiritual life centered in love and a good dose of humility. We must act boldly but only in the way of Jesus, who loved the enemy and lived a life deeply centered in prayer and God’s love for all.

Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Allen



Food on the First

For those who donated last month, a big “thank you”! Here is what is needed for the months of June and July:

- Canned pineapple
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Honey
- Jam or jelly
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Diapers (size 1)

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.

Thank you for your generosity!

MANNA Program Pennies from Heaven

Summer is here and it's time for games and picnics! Check out some of our Manna retailers like American Eagle, Finish Line, Footlocker, Lands End, and Nike. Get your picnic supplies at Sam's Club, Gordon Food Service, Whole Foods, or Mariano's Fresh Market. Father's Day is June 21! Treat Dad to a gift card.

By the end of June, we'll be halfway through the year. We have an \$8,000 budget line for fundraising and if we expect the Manna Program to do that for us, our target is \$2,000 per quarter. Through mid-May we've made only \$1,573 – less than half of our goal.

Keep participating in our Manna program throughout the summer. School may be out, but Manna is still running and we need your help. Remember, you get full value for the cards you buy. There are no fees!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Aimee McGrath
- 3 Noah Baird
Allan Franz
- 6 Bob Armstrong
- 8 Britta Loucas
Jim Mathieson
- 9 Ginnie Jackson
Wendy Fanning
Randy King
- 12 Daniel Gonzalez
- 13 Daniel Gimre
- 14 Andrea DiOrio
- 15 Kenna Anderson
Robert Ortman
- 16 Thomas Cetina
Bill SooHoo
- 17 Beth Buhmann
Lesley Ebel
- 18 Brooke Adams Luedemann
June Adams
Aimee Legatzke
Will Matthei
- 19 Bridget Shrigley
Susan Crooks Simpson
Jan More
- 20 Justin Ciner
Ellen Ribe
- 21 Carolyn Ridgway
- 23 Ryan Dome
Kurt Madsen
Kelly Chapple
Tim Raymond
- 25 Roseanne King
- 26 Andrew Craig
Mike Skwara
- 28 Dennis Luehring
- 29 James Ribe
- 30 Janelle Chrisman
Julie Schubert
Elizabeth Trout

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Derek Breese
Martin Breese
Mikaela Breese
Alison McGrath
David Uhrig
- 3 Diane Breese
- 5 Becky Luehring
Brooke Stubbe
- 8 Glenn Sapa
- 9 Nancy Lewis
Becca Staton
- 11 Krista Caprini
- 15 Patti Woods
Ruth Nelson
- 16 Marla Mothershed
- 17 Priscilla Barnett
- 19 Cindy Bute
- 22 Gary Leonard
Karen Banaszewski
- 23 Suzanne Kouns
- 27 Lindsay Blake
Marco Colella
Michelle Kirincich
- 29 Carol Honeywell
Jack Schlenker
- 30 Dan Miller

Want to Become a Member of St. Matthew?

We are welcoming New Members into the St. Matthew family on June 7th. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested in joining.



Administrative Assistant Position

Diana Padilla has informed us that she will be leaving us as our Administrative Assistant, so we are beginning the interviewing process for her replacement. As you may know, St. Matthew's policy is to initially look outside of the congregation for staff openings. We will be advertising on local websites, but should you know of someone interested, please send an email to the Staff Relations Committee at human.resources@stmatthewucc.org or contact anyone on the committee: Joe Hall, Dave Boyd, Brian English, Hi Baird, or Dawn Schubert.

New Business Manager

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Joan Johnson as our new Business Manager. Joan is a long-time Wheaton resident and has a number of years of experience working in this capacity at other local churches. Her normal working hours will be Tuesday through Thursday. Please stop by the office sometime and welcome her to St. Matthew.



Notes from the Music Room....

It's time to Sign Up for Summer Music!!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who provided the wonderful music on Music Appreciation Sunday, and also to those who participated in music in any way over the past year. Your efforts significantly enhanced the worship experience for us all.

On to the summer: we need volunteers to sing, play, or do both to enhance our worship from now through September 6th – vocal, instrumental, or both at once; solos, duets, trios or quartets; combos would be nice, too. All are welcome and needed.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex and there are still many open dates. Please sign up soon, and thank you in advance for sharing your talents.

Peace....

*Jamie
Lanni1@comcast.net
630-202-6788*

Children's Ministry

June/July 2015

Thank you to the Children's Ministry volunteers who shared their kindness, love, faith and time with our St. Matthew children and helped in the planning of a program that stays fresh and current year after year. Throughout the Sunday School year, over 45 volunteers served in the many ministries within Children's Ministry: nursery, workshop rotation, Preschool, M&M, Children's Choir, outreach, parties, acolytes, and served committees. If you have not picked up the gift that the children made for you, please look for the big basket in the narthex and take a gift as our thank you for your generosity!!!

Our Summer Sunday School program will focus on a book each week, which will be read during the Children's Sermon. The children will gather each week for a variety of fun activities that relate to the book. The summer program will take place both inside and outside and will focus on Christian morals. During the summer, Sunday School will dismiss at 10:30 am.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15th-19th

9am-12pm



Tell your friends, family, and neighbors about The Armor of God, Vacation Bible School. This wonderful outreach offers our St. Matthew children and children in our community a safe, fun, and spiritual experience. All children Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to join us for five days of music, games, stories, crafts, science experiments, and snacks. All will take place in a magical kingdom where God is King and His children are all suited in His Armor. Registration forms are in the narthex and on our website. We also welcome walk-in registration.

June Birthdays

Jack Beres 6/6, Sean Walsh 6/13
Annabel Sturm 6/14, Katie Mitchell 6/30



SUMMER SCHEDULE

School may be done, but our youth ministry programs are not!
Join us on Sundays and Fridays this summer for some serious
fun. Dates are below--contact Emmy for details!

crazies

St. Matthew UCC

crazies on Sundays

Join us from 6:30-8:00pm

Crazies will meet on Sundays all summer. Our only dates off are June 21 (for the mission trip), and July 5 (for the holiday). Eat dinner at home, then come join us for fellowship and faith!

COFFEE Dates on Fridays!

COFFEE stands for Come Out Friday For Extra
Excitement!

Okay, yeah, that's a little tough to remember. But
all you need to know is this: Hang Out Tuesdays
are now COFFEE Fridays! Mark your calendar
with these dates, then get the full schedule of
events from Emmy. Bring your friends! See you
there!

COFFEE Dates:

June 5

June 19

July 3

July 17

July 31

August 7



Father's Day Car Wash

The Crazies Car Wash will be Sunday June 21st--yes, that's Father's Day! Come raise money for the Youth Fund (and come give your blessings to our Mission Trip attendees!). We will meet at 9am to get ready to wash some cars.

Get on Our Mailing Lists

Have a kid who's entering 6th-12th grade? Want to get involved with the Crazies? Wish you knew more about what the church's youth are up to? Send your e-mail and snail-mail addresses to Youth Ministry Director Emmy Davis at youth.ministry@stmatthewucc.org to receive the most up-to-date information about everything our program has to offer.

VBS Volunteers Needed

Don't forget to sign up as a VBS Volunteer! This year's VBS will happen June 15-19 and we need all hands on deck! Contact Emmy Davis or Susan Wold to get your name on the list.





St. Matthew United Church of Christ
1420 South Gables Boulevard, Wheaton, IL 60189
630-665-1236 - office@stmatthewucc.org - www.stmatthewucc.org

Armor of God VBS
Games - Crafts - Experiments - Bible Stories - Songs - Snacks

When: June 15th - June 19th 9am-12pm
Family Ice Cream Social Open House: Thursday, June 18th, 7pm
Who: Ages 3-4 (Must have completed at least one year of preschool) and
Grade K-5th Grade (Completed grades K-5th)

A decorative border consisting of a grid of ice cream cones. Each cone has a brown wafer base, a pink swirl, and a yellow swirl. The cones are arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

St. Matthew Vacation Bible School 2015

Family Ice Cream Social

Thursday, June 18th at 7 pm

Bring your grandparents, family, and friends to our closing program and ice cream social. This is when your children will perform the songs they learned throughout the week at VBS.

Sign-up for this event is in the church entrance.



Memorial Committee Report

The Memorial Committee announces that several gifts have been designated recently. Many families have chosen to support the Sanctuary Upgrade Project. Gifts have been given in the names of Carolyn Armstrong, Susan Crabtree, Rosie Miller, Barbara Pass, Bohemia Reina (Kelly Chapple's grandmother), Dorothy Rosenfelder and Tom Thomas. These names will be added to the Sanctuary Upgrade Plaque in the parlor hallway.

Additionally, there are plans to plant trees in the names of Edie Franz and Ruth Huss in the months to come. The families are in the process of choosing the trees and planting sites with the help of the committee.

Anyone viewing our Memorial Garden will admire the work and artistry that Lee Anderson and Rod Irey have lavished on the garden to produce a gorgeous display of plants and flowers. Funds from Tom Yule's Memorial account help to defray the costs. Our thanks to Lee and Rod for their inspired work.

The committee also reminds the congregation that the responsibility and authority to maintain and designate use of any Memorial gift resides with the Memorial Committee in cooperation with the Council and the Building and Grounds Committee. We appreciate the generosity of the congregation and welcome your ideas and input. Please contact Kathy Skwara, chairperson, or any committee member with questions or suggestions.

THANK YOU

Thank you, PADS Volunteers, for generously donating food and your time, month after month, to help the homeless population in DuPage County. Because of your faithfulness in giving, St. Matthew has been able to continue participating in this important mission for over 20 years!! See you in September!



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. 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. We are limited to 15 people and I need full commitment with payment of \$125 by August 1st.

Family Camp News

Family camp is all set this year. We will be traveling to scenic Egg Harbor, WI in beautiful Door County to strengthen ties within our own families, within the St. Matthew family, and to commune with God's natural beauty. While the sign-up deadline has technically past, if you are interested, contact Dianne Hutchison, Mark Hutchison, Hi Baird, or John Kouns immediately to see if there is still a room available!

Family Camp has been a rich tradition within St. Matthew for over 30 years. We have traveled to places that many would not have otherwise been able to visit. We have made lasting friendships and had many fun adventures that have enriched our souls. It's not just a vacation; it's an event. To help preserve and grow this tradition, people are needed to help plan the future. No one has a huge burden on the committee. Please consider being a part of the planning and contact one of the people named above or the church office with questions or to join the committee.



ST. MATTHEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

It has been proposed that we create a garden at our church to support local food pantries. Besides being an educational experience for children and adults, we should have a lot of fun. If you would be interested in participating in this project, call Bob Barnshaw at 630-668-0014.

Go See St. Matthew's Very Own Mark Hutchison in Spamalot!

Wheaton Drama, 111 N. Hale St., is proud to present Spamalot, a musical lovingly ripped off from the 1975 film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." The production runs from May 22 to June 14. You'll see Mark Hutchison singing, dancing, and sword-fighting while playing the parts of Sir Lancelot, The Black Knight, and the French Taunter. Come expecting silly accents, coconuts, and a hilariously good time! Visit www.wheatondrama.org or call 630.260.1820 for tickets or more information.

630-260-1820 | www.wheatondrama.org

Directed by Peter Lemongelli

**BEST
MUSICAL**
2005 TONY AWARD®

MAY 22—JUNE 14



Monty Python's Spamalot is presented by special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

**MONTY PYTHON'S
SPAMALOT™**
A new musical lovingly ripped off from the motion picture
MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail

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CALLING ALL PATRIOTS: ESSE FUNDRAISER

Proud to be an American....and proud to support ESSE! Please support ESSE's 2015 "Split the Pot" (50/50) Raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held on July 1st at Muldoon's Irish American Eatery, 133 W. Front St., Wheaton. (You don't have to be present to win.) Muldoon's will also donate 15% of the sales from 4-11 pm that day if you mention ESSE! Contact Dawn Schubert at 630-665-9860 to purchase raffle tickets.


**KEEP
CALM
AND BUY A
RAFFLE
TICKET**

Upcoming Events

NOVEL APPROACHES Novel Approaches will not meet in June July or August. Watch the VOICE for the date and place in September. Reading Ahead: **"The Firefly" by Kristen Hannah.**

MARIAN PARK PICNIC St. Matthew will be hosting a picnic for Marian Park residents on Tuesday, June 16th from 5-7pm. We are looking for volunteers to set up, help cook, serve, etc. We are looking for people to help serve and to meet the families. There will be games, music, and food for everyone. There will even be a slip and slide if the weather is nice. Bring the whole family. Please sign up in the narthex or contact Erin Walsh at edbreit@hotmail.com or 630-660-4651 if you would like to help.



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC Mark your calendars! Sunday, June 7th after church: food, fun, fellowship, Bags, and of course, the traditional Egg Toss! We may also play some kickball. Burgers, hot dogs, chips, condiments and beverages provided; please bring a dessert, salad, or side dish. Please sign up in the narthex. Questions? Contact Rob Neufelder at rneufelder@ipmcinc.com for more information or game suggestions.

FATHER'S DAY CAR WASH The Crazies Car Wash will be Sunday June 21st--yes, that's Father's Day! Come raise money for the Youth Fund (and come give your blessings to our Mission Trip attendees!). We will meet at 9am to get ready to wash some cars.



FOURTH OF JULY PARADE Once again we will be marching in the 4th of July parade to collect food and cash for two local food pantries. We need marchers for the approximate time period of 9am to noon. Please sign up in the narthex or contact Erin Walsh at edbreit@hotmail.com or 630-660-4651 so we know how many carts to obtain. Also, please consider donating items for the People's Resource Center that we can stock the carts with. It is a great way to help someone else and have a great time doing it. See you on the 4th!

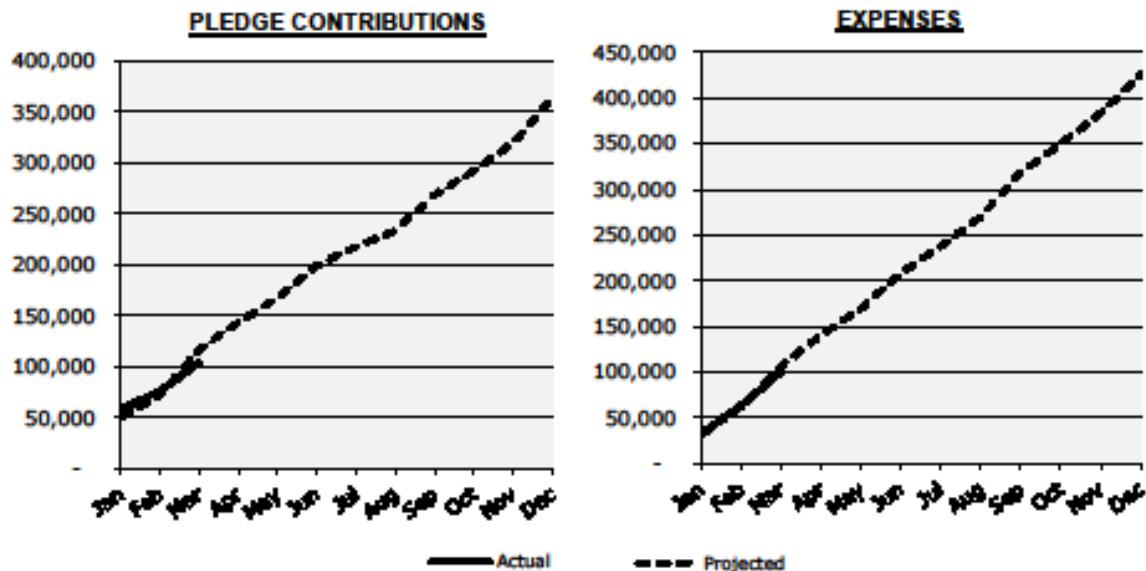


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ended April 30, 2015

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	21,948	123,327	363,658
Loose Offerings	883	2,531	6,000
Rental Income	50	860	5,000
Fund Raising	219	1,283	10,000
Investment Income	(15)	1,094	-
More Property	-	-	41,500
More Property (special projects)	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	23,086	129,095	426,158
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	17,867	73,572	224,348
Building	7,259	37,326	122,810
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	8,916	26,750
Mission / OCWM	2,000	2,080	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	754	2,421	9,600
Membership	142	281	2,750
Music	33	1,224	4,500
Worship	30	877	2,500
Endowment	-	-	1,000
Congregational Life	-	220	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Misc. & Contingency	-	-	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (before Special Projects)	30,314	126,918	426,158
Special Projects	-	-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ (7,228)	\$ 2,178	\$ -

2015 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>-1p Digital Ministry</i> <i>-7:30p Mission</i>	3	4	5	6
7 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i> <i>-New Member Sunday</i>	8 <i>7p Worship Committee</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i>	15 Vacation Bible School	16 <i>5p Marian Park Picnic</i>	17	18 <i>-6p SRC</i> <i>-7p Council</i> <i>-7p VBS Ice Cream Social</i>	19	20
21 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i> <i>-crazies Car Wash</i> <i>-Youth Mission Trip</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i>	29 <i>Costa Rica Mission Trip</i>	30				

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>ESSE Fundraiser</i>	2	3	4 <i>9a-12p Fourth of July Parade</i>
5 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>8a Lifeline Screenings</i>	17	18
19 <i>-9:30a Worship Service -Family Camp</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i>	27	28	29	30	31	



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, 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

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

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Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist

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Kim Congdon, Handbell Director

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Joan Johnson, Business Manager

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Diana Padilla, Administrative Assistant

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