

February 2015

Be Gracious in Your Speech

"Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out."

Colossians 4:6

There was a time back in the 1970's when it was very much in vogue to tell people that they needed to let their feelings out. It was a time of "self-actualization," of taking yourself seriously and learning to be more authentic. The idea was that we should throw caution to the wind and speak our mind. This was especially true for the expression of anger. "Stop repressing your anger. Don't stuff you feelings down. Come on, let it out!" What came out of that time were many people dumping their feelings out like garbage dumped out of a car window for others to have to deal with.

Our words matter. They have power to bless and the power to curse another human being. What parent has not watch in pain when they have let a word go with their child that they wished they could grab out of the air and take back. The Hebrew people understood that words themselves had an almost magical power to create or to destroy. God created by a word and God could destroy by a word. People made in the image of God have the ability to build up or tear down with our words. Once we release a word, it is out into the world to do good or harm.

The Apostle Paul tells us to use our words wisely. He does not mean for us to be overly meek and disingenuous, but considerate of how we can speak with integrity and aim to do what is good by what we say. Our words, like our actions, are dedicated to the service of God.

A friend of mine used to struggle keeping her mouth shut when she knew she should. On more than a few occasions, her words had caused her a heap of trouble. She finally made some headway with being more mindful with her words. Someone suggested that instead of saying the harsh word she wanted to say she should simply say, "Well, God bless him." We watched and laughed as our feisty friend struggled to make this adjustment. "WELL, God bless him!" she would say emphatically and then flash a knowing smile.

May God bless us as we work to be a blessing with our words.

Pastor Allen

Food on the First

Many thanks to those who donated in the month of January. Here is what is being asked for in the month of February:

- People's Resource Center

- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned fruit
- Canned pasta (ex: Spaghetti O's)
- Jelly
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6)
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent

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

"-----"

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Kevin Cole
- 2 Taylor Holland Tim Schubert
- 4 Charles Hambrick-Stowe Leona Staton
- 5 Pam Vargo
- 6 Bruce Anderson Linnea Karpenske
- 10 Elizabeth Baird Marilyn Geise Kirk Stubbee
- 11 Charlene Cooper
- 12 Stuart Blake
- 14 Daniel McGrath Amber Quinn
- 16 Courtney Christensen Lee Craig
- 19 Abby Johnson
- 22 Carl Anderson Tom Macauley
- 24 Liliana King
- 25 Joyce Boyd Anthony Kresl
- 26 Tracey Blake
 Cathy Miller
 Carol Mittman

Pennies from Heaven



So far this year, participation in the Manna program is WAY down. Maybe it's the weather, but "this little piggy" still needs to go to the market. We all still need to shop for groceries and gas, even in the snow, so buying Manna cards for the places you shop brings extra money to St. Matthew.

I am encouraging all of you to become a "Fanna Manna". If we could double our participation, we could double our profits. Remember - retailers are willing to make donations to us, so this is a fundraiser that costs us nothing! Incredible!

Check out the Manna table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday.

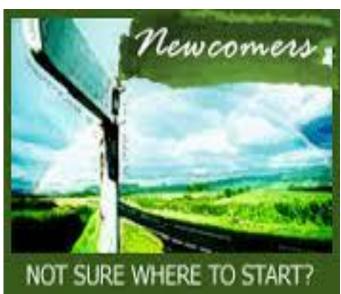
Goodbye and Best Wishes to Jackie Tobin!

Although we tried for two Sundays in a row to give Jackie a proper St. Matthew send-off, complete with a commemorative candle and a holder painted by Marge Hall, the weather did not cooperate. Jackie was not able to join us on either Sunday, and she is now leaving for her new home in Missouri. Her address is: 3700 Canal Street, St. Charles, MO 63301-8207.

I am sure that she would love to stay in touch with her St. Matthew family. We will miss you, Jackie and we wish you all the best!

We miss you already!

Newcomers Welcome



If you have been visiting St. Matthew and would like to know more about what we do and how you can get involved, then join Pastor Allen on Sunday, March 15 immediately after worship. The informational meeting will last less than an hour. Committee members will inform you about Christian Education for both children and adults, upcoming church activities sponsored by Congregational Life and opportunities for involvement in Mission projects locally, elsewhere in the U.S. and internationally. Pastor Allen will also give a brief overview of the United Church of Christ, the importance of justice within our denomination and why we extend an extravagant welcome.

We will provide childcare. Please let Diana know you are attending. 630.665.1236 or office@stmatthewucc.org

A Note from Carol Honeywell

Thank you to my St. Matthew family for the many prayers, cards, phone calls and delicious, healing food sent to me after my recent surgery. Recovery is going well, much of it because of your good wishes and attention. You are the best!



Children's Ministry



February 2015

Thank you, teachers and shepherds, for the time you spent teaching the children about Jesus' love for His children: Jan Beaton, Marla Mothershed, Deb Felsenthal, Roseanne King, Summer Scalora, Alex and Abby Johnson, Julie Barnshaw, Diana Padilla, Miegan Bresingham and Emily Ciner. The children were blessed by the love, time and faith you showed during your time with them.

This Train is Bound for Glory

On February 8th the children will get their ticket in Sunday school to board the "Glory Train." Each Sunday their train ticket will be punched and they will learn about a different train car ... Engine, Science... Fuel Car, Bible Knowledge... Dining Car, Cooking... Passenger Car, Art... Baggage Car, Games... Red Caboose, Music! In each car the children will learn a way to stay on track as a Christian, learn a Bible memory verse, and bring home a Train Car Magnet each week so they can share the Bible message with their family.





March 28, Easter Egg Hunt: 10 a.m., egg hunt, donuts, picture with the Easter Bunny, games and crafts.

June 15 – 19, Vacation Bible School: 9:00 – Noon: stories, music, games, snacks, crafts



Zelda Chapple 2/8

Logan Roser 2/14



Preschool cooking class



Fun in the Nursery



EGG HUNT

Get your picture taken

Enjoy donuts, games, and crafts after the hund

Please bring your own basket

1420 S. Gables Blvd. Wheaton, IL 60189

630.665.1236

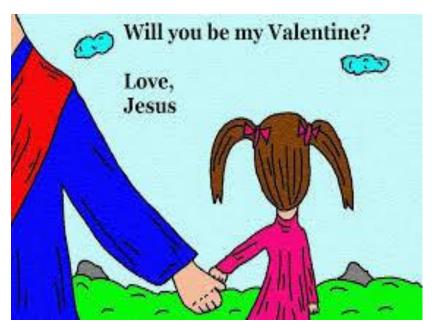
www.stmatthewucc.org



Coming up for crazies!

February 8 SOUPerbowl of Caring: Part Deux! February 15-16 crazies Overnight at Church ALL SUNDAYS: crazies meal and lesson







Adult Education Series

An exciting new video-based Adult Ed series will be offered for 5 weeks beginning on Thursday, **February 26**. The series will be held from 12-1pm and 7-8 pm and is called "Animate Faith" by Sparkhouse Press:



"Animate: Faith is built on solid theology and allows adults the opportunity to strengthen faith through spirited discussion, wondering, and journaling. Each video blends live action with animation to introduce a question, provide a thought-provoking perspective, and beckon viewers to participate in the dialogue."

Topics to be discussed are the following:

February 26th - Religion: Spirituality Is not Enough

March 5th - God : Faith is a Quest

March 12th - Cross: Where God Is

March 19th - Church: An Imperfect Family

March 26th - Jesus: The Revolution of Love

Please sign up on the board in the narthex and indicate which time you prefer. Also, note that child care will not be provided.



Our Camp at Tower Hill and a Bold New Wilderness Conservation Opportunity

I was on the United Church of Christ Northern Illinois Camping Ministry Committee a few years ago when we were approached to consider setting aside a portion of the undeveloped area of our Tower Hill camp (in Sawyer, Michigan on Lake Michigan) as a protected and designated wilderness area. As we have no plans to develop this portion of the camp, we thought it a win/win. We will still have use of it for hiking, camping and outdoor activities. I am glad to see we are in an advanced stage of making this happen. As a congregation that is interested in preservation and caring for God's creation, I hope we will be a contributing church to help complete this goal. I invite you to read this further description and to make a donation. You can put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Write "Tower Hill Conservation" on the check.

We have been blessed to be in partnership with the Deer Creek Open Space Association, a couple of Land Conservations and the Berrien Community Foundation. These partners have committed to raising \$500,000 to buy a Conservation Easement from our Illinois Conference in a project called "Save the Woods. Support the Camp" at our Tower Hill Camp.

By God's grace, this is resulting in a very successful project helping ensure that Tower Hill Camp can be enjoyed, protected, and preserved as a sanctuary and natural habitat for generations to come. I trust that you and your congregation will want to be part of this wonderful endeavor, and help preserve Tower Hill as part of a life-transforming ministry out of love for our camps.

Approximately \$460,000 has already been committed. With the support of our congregations, the set goal can be met and surpassed. With your contribution we can all celebrate this achievement as a new Epiphany in the life and witness of our churches and Conference. The Goal is expected to be reached in mid-to-late 2015.

-Pastor Allen





P.A.D.S.

February is traditionally a month that is very hard for us to round up enough food donors and on-site volunteers.

Many of our faithful will be out of town again this February 11th/12th when we are back supporting the Peace Lutheran overnight shelter.

Please consider donating your time, food items, or dollars to help.

Congregational Life News

Congregational Life is sponsoring a Chili Cookoff on February 22nd from 5 – 7 p.m. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex or you can call the office to indicate your intent to join us for this popular event. If you don't think your chili is competition-worthy, or perhaps you don't have time, you can still come. We'll need people to bring mac `n cheese, cornbread, or brownies. Come see if anyone can unseat Pastor Allen, who is the reigning champion. Congo life will partner with Membership and Christian Education to hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th at the church grounds and on the More property. In addition to those planning to attend, anyone interested in helping with the event is asked to contact Cathy Soohoo, Kenna Anderson or Rob Neufelder.

- Rob Neufelder, for the Congregation Life Committee



Stewardship Corner

A big Thank You to all who supported our 2015 Stewardship Campaign Growing Stronger Together with your pledges of time, talent and treasure. We had a total of 13 new family pledges this year, which surpassed our goal of 10. We fell short of last year's pledge total, but expect some families will give even though they did not turn in a pledge card. Because of all our contributors, we will be able to carry on the many ministries of our Church, doing God's work here on earth. Even the smallest of contributions of time, talent and treasure make a difference when combined with that of our other members and friends. A few reminders: If you have not turned in a pledge card or T&T sheet, we will still gladly ac-



cept them. We still have some Christmas ornaments with family names printed on them and giving envelopes ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. We ask that all long-standing members look for comfortable ways to help integrate our newer members into the life of our vibrant faith community.

-Rob Neufelder, for the Stewardship Committee

FAMILY CAMP 2015

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.



And now for something completely different...

The poem for February, from Linda Leinweber in Kazakhstan

To Celia by Ben Jonson (1572-1637)

Drinke to me, onely, with thine eyes, And I will pledge with mine; Or leave a kisse but in the cup, And Ile not looke for wine. The thirst, that from the soule doth rise, Doth aske a drinke divine: But might I of Jove's Nectar sup. I would not change for thine. I sent thee, late, a rosie wreath, Not so much honoring thee, As giving it a hope, that there It could not withered bee. But thou thereon did'st onely breathe, And sent'st it back to mee: Since when it growes, and smells, I sweare, Not of it selfe, but thee.

This year I offer one of the most widely anthologized, sung and generally familiar poems, and ask you to look at it with fresh eyes Enjoy the beauty of the lines, originally inspired by the Greek Philostratus, which offer a kiss and a glance both better than any wine. I have taken this from Committed to Memory, edited by John Hollander (Copyright 1996 by the Academy of American Poets, New York), but it can be found in many poetry books and on the Internet. Enjoy!



February 21, 2015

DuPage County Dr. MLK Scholarship Concert"Music Around The World"

HELD AT:

Glenbard South High School 23W200 Butterfield Road Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 6:00 p.m.

Tickets on Sale February 1, 2015

Website: www.dupagemlk.org or by calling 630-479-3432 or 630-260-0190 PURCHASE TICKETS BY FEBRURY 15, 2015

Also Featuring

Iglesia Cristiana Comunidad Hispana







Family: \$40.00 (Family of 4-6 People, Children up to 18 yrs.)

Minister Celeste Jarrett, Vocalist

Adults: \$20.00 Purchase Tickets Online
Children: \$10.00 No Surcharge Added

(11 yrs. to yrs., 10 & under FREE)





Combined Handbell Choirs St. Matthew UCC-Wheaton

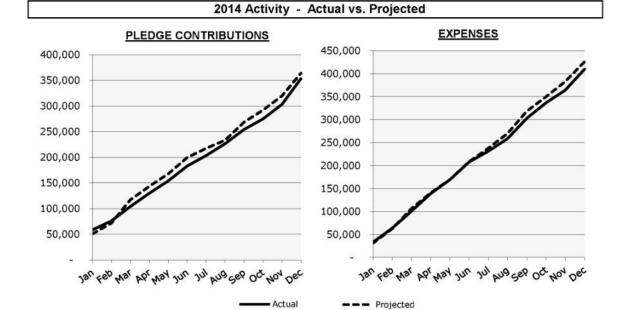
February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 -9:30a Worship Service: Holy Communion -no crazies	2	3	4	5	6	7
	7p Christian Ed	7p Membership 7:30p Mission			7p Shrimp Boil	
8 -9:30a Worship Service -New Member class after Worship -Souper Bowl of Caring -6p crazies	9 7p Worship Com- mittee	10	.11	12 6:30p Confirmation 7p Finance	13	14
15 -9:30a Worship Service: Bells & New Member Sunday -crazies Winter Overnight	16	17	Ash Wednesday 7p Worship Service	19 6p SRC 7p Council	20	21 6p Second Baptist MLK Celebration Fundraising Con- cert
22 -9:30a Worship Service -Sp Chili Cook-Off -6p crazies	23	24	25	26 12p & 7p Adult Ed Series	27	28

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

For the Period Ended December 31, 2014

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:	-		
Pledge Contributions	50,101	353,037	363,658
Loose Offerings	4,306	10,086	6,000
Rental Income	1,040	3,595	5,000
Fund Raising	1,008	5,368	10,000
Investment Income	(17)	(199)	-
More Property	-	41,500	41,500
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	=
TOTAL RECEIPTS	56,438	413,387	426,158
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	21,680	214,330	224,348
Building	9,442	114,253	122,810
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	26,750	26,750
Mission / OCWM	7,474	28,547	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	1,880	9,794	9,600
Membership	124	2,075	2,750
Music	1,323	4,651	4,500
Worship	38	960	2,500
Endowment	=	-	1,000
Congregational Life	-	402	800
Memorial	-		100
Stewardship	329	329	-
Misc. & Contingency	1,204	7,709	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	45,723	409,800	426,158
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 10,715	\$ 3,587	\$ -



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)

 ${\bf Office\ Email:}\ office @stmatthewucc.org$

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

Kim Congdon, Handbell Director kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org

Karen Lindquist, Business Manager karen.lindquist@stmatthewucc.org

Diana Padilla, Administrative Assistant diana.padilla@stmatthewucc.org