



THE VOICE

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PASTORAL MESSAGE
Rev. Allen Mothershed

TURNING ASIDE OR NOT?

Starting on Rally Day, September 10th, I will begin the first of a sermon series on "Attitudes of the Heart: Living the Faith." The first part of that series will be several sermons on "Compassion." For Christians, compassion is a core disposition of the heart (or attitude) out of which we are called to live in relationship to all living things including ourselves. We often think of compassion as having feelings of pity or concern for someone in pain and that is indeed part of its meanings. But the meaning is more profound. The Greek word in our Bible is "splanchnizomai" (please do not ask me how to say that!). It means a turning of the stomach which compels a person to take action. So we are not talking about just a feeling, but a body experience that causes someone to do something to deal with the pain of another.

It is one thing to say you feel sorry for what someone is going through, and quite another to not only feel sorry for someone's plight but to take action to in some way either help alleviate (if possible) or grant comfort. In Luke's gospel, the Samaritan man sees a fellow human being who has been mugged and left for dead on the side of the road and his stomach turns within himself and he cannot help but go over to the man and do whatever is necessary to comfort, protect, and bring healing to the man. You will remember the other two men who walked by. Perhaps they felt sad and disturbed at the sight of the man before quickly turning their heads and walking away. But that is not compassion. Our capacity for compassion means that we must allow the plight of others to cause a disturbance with our equilibrium to the point that we cannot stand by and do nothing.

We are tempted in life not to look too hard at the plight of people to the point of allowing ourselves to be disturbed. This morning as I was reading the Chicago Tribune, I saw the headline about 30 people who had been shot in the city during the past weekend. I wanted to look the other way. Those sorts of articles seem to be the focus of the Tribune's front page every day. I read about so many people being shot in neighborhoods I don't often travel through. Some of these people are innocent, others caught in the web of rival gang violence. Frankly, I've become numb to these reports. I don't want to let it sink in to the point where I feel pained by it and am compelled to act.

If it were a different story, maybe I would let it sink in. Let's say a terrorist attack is committed in Naperville or some other suburb near me and 30 people are badly injured and several have died. I would go to the trouble to turn on the TV, find a newspaper, call someone who can tell me the news. Just think: 30 people injured and some dead!

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AUGUST 2017

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True, I don't always know what to do. I may not feel equipped to take on such an enormous problem as gang violence in our broken inner city upon whose well-being all our suburban communities depend. But I am reminded that the Samaritan did take action. He did what he could do, given the situation. It takes no intelligence to figure out who loved that man left for dead and who did not.

So this morning I read the report and when tempted to turn away, I read it again from beginning to end. **I don't want to turn aside. I want to let the eyes of my heart see what is happening to people who are just as valuable and as human as I am, maybe more so in the eyes of our God, whose heart is with the dispossessed.** Now I do feel compelled to do something, to care, to pray, to write this article, to demand to those in power that we act to take responsibility for the history of oppression that created this mess and inhumanity, and that we smartly commit resources to begin to solve what is a long-term problem. It is what the Samaritan man did. It is what Jesus did when He walked the road to the cross for the sake of us all. And it is what we who follow Jesus are asked to do, as well.

Blessings,
Pastor Allen

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM



"Summertime, and the livin' is easy," or so the song goes.

I hope your summer has been good so far, and continues to be. Now that August is upon us, we start looking at another musical year.

Rehearsals are about to start. Handbell rehearsals begin on Tuesday, August 29th with the Inter-geneRingers at 6pm and the Chancel Ringers at 7:30pm. Sanctuary Choir will start rehearsals on Wednesday, August 23rd at 7:30pm, and the Praise Band will start on Wednesday, August 30th at 6:30pm.

Singers, ringers and instrumentalists are needed for all groups. *PLEASE* come and join us.

This edition of the Voice kicks off a series about the meaning of the different musical components of **the worship service. So, as another famous song begins, "Let's start at the very beginning..." with the Prelude.**

The prelude is actually the beginning of the service. Its function is to induce a serious, worshipful mood, to give tone to the rest of the service. Outside of Christmas, Easter, and other important dates on the church or liturgical calendar, the prelude is usually something of a serious religious nature and typically not too loud or flashy. The selection is usually tied into the worship service thematically. Frequently, it presents a melody that will later be sung in the service. The prelude is not for entertainment or for the purpose of displaying technique, nor is it meant to quiet a congregation, but rather it is meant to prepare for the consideration of sacred things.

Peace,

Jamie
630.202.6788
Lanni1@comcast.net



WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers
6pm

Chancel Ringers
7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band
6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm

MISSION NEWS



FOOD ON THE FIRST

Thanks to those who made donations at church and at the 4th of July parade. Here is what is requested for August.

- Feminine pads (no tampons)
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned peas
- Ketchup
- Mayo

Make sure items are not expired and packages are unopened.

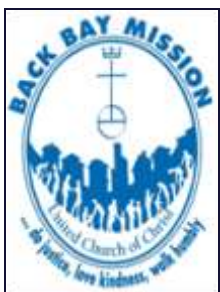
Please call Betty Greer, [630.682.4084](tel:630.682.4084) if you have any questions.

Blessings to all.

FOURTH OF JULY 2017

St. Matthew had over 25 members and friends participate in the Wheaton 4th of July parade, collecting in excess of \$2,000 and a truckload of food for the Interfaith Food Pantry and People's Resource Center. Thank you to all who contributed their time, money and resources to serving those in need in our community.





BACK BAY MISSION

Members of St. Matthew will be venturing down to Biloxi, Mississippi, to serve at Back Bay Mission from November 12th-17th. You can learn more about how this UCC ministry serves the Gulf Coast communities in and around Biloxi by visiting <https://thebackbaymission.org/> or you can review the **Participant's Guide** which can be found on the St. Matthew website under *Missions/Mission Trips/Biloxi, Mississippi* page, right below the *Back Bay Mission* logo. Printed copies will also be available on the sign-up table in the back of the narthex.

Look for a sign-up in the narthex. If you have questions please call or email John Adams at 630.235.3698 or jadams1958@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The combined committees hope you are all having a great summer thus far. We would like to share the following news:

Active Guests/Learning More

If you have been attending St. Matthew and want to learn more about our Church, our rich history and our welcoming family, please contact the church office, Pastor Allen or Rob Neufelder. We are in the preliminary stages of planning an active guest dinner for August 27th and would welcome your attendance.

Summer Gathering

Those who signed-up to grab a meal and meet up with friends will meet at 6pm Thursday, August 3rd **at Pal Joey's in Batavia, located along the Riverwalk**. We have reserved a room for those who will be attending. Attendees can walk or bike the Riverwalk before and/or after eating. Please contact Tracey Blake at stutra@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Euchre Night

The next Euchre night is planned for Monday, August 7th. Please watch the Happenings for any updates, as summer schedules are a bit more fluid.

Cougars Game

There was little interest expressed this year, so we have elected to bypass the Cougars game this summer and plan to add it back to our calendar next year.

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

As previously shared, Linnea Karpenske will continue to set up for coffee hour on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Diane and Dave Mook have agreed to set up on the 2nd and the occasional 5th Sundays. If you want to learn what this activity entails, please contact Rob Neufelder, Linnea or Diane. The time commitment is approximately 30 minutes. We are also looking for volunteers to help with cleanup. Please let Wendy Fanning know if you are interested.



CASH/CHECKS CAVEAT

If you have a payment or donation that did not make it into the offering plate on Sunday morning, please make sure to place it in the locked mailbox on the wall outside the church office. Do not leave cash or checks on the desk in the office. Thank you for your cooperation as we update our accounting procedures and try to break this habit!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Quinn Rosenthal
Susan Wold
Miegan
Bresingham
Reid Stubbe |
| 4 | Amy Achammer |
| 6 | Nancy Baird |
| 7 | Mark
Christensen
Marge Hall |
| 7 | Sandy Uhrig |
| 10 | Sue Lellbach |
| 11 | Sue Erickson |
| 12 | Dorothy
McGowen |
| 13 | Phil Spicer |
| 15 | Tammy Cetina |
| 16 | Tina Ciner
Rob Neufelder |
| 19 | Kyle
Roggenbuck |
| 20 | John Barnett |
| 22 | Terry Young |
| 23 | Haley Wold |
| 26 | Joanne Papp |
| 27 | Barbara Evans |
| 28 | Joe Fanning |

CHILDREN & YOUTH

thank
you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

Thank you to all who helped with Maker Fun Factory VBS this summer by praying, planning, and participating. You were a blessing to the children who participated and you are most appreciated!





I know it's hard to believe, but summer is almost over, especially for our youth. However, we do still have a few fun things to look forward to. Of course, the Boundary Waters canoe trip is this month. Pray for our small but mighty band as we brave the northern wilderness! We'll also do an end of

summer campout closer to home the weekend of August 25th-26th, and we've scheduled the always popular Six Flags Trip for August 19th. A new and strong confirmation class will be kicking off their two-year journey this month as well.

Of course, I'll see you all on Rally Day in September. I'll be at a table and probably have my face painted in a rather ridiculous way. Please come see me to sign up to be a CRAZIES helper. Whether you have helped out before, or haven't, we always need you!

Safe travels and enjoy the rest of summer while it lasts!

Quinn

Father's Day Car Wash

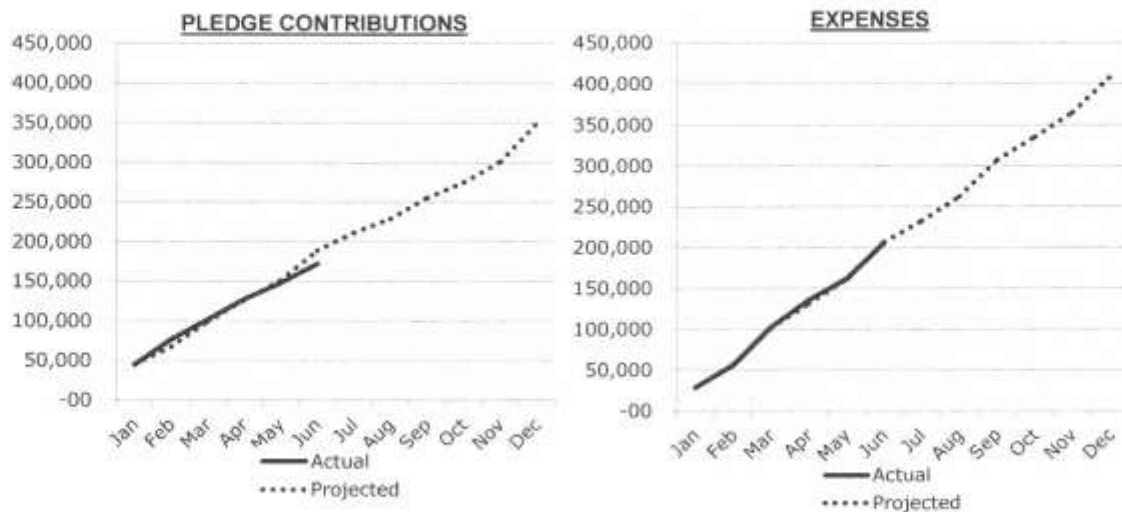


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2017

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	24,329	172,318	350,000
Loose Offerings	457	1,686	10,000
Rental Income	200	1,870	3,300
Fund Raising	264	1,441	4,000
Investment Income	40	1,196	300
More Property	21,000	21,000	21,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	481	5,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	46,291	199,992	393,600
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	22,457	117,385	234,971
Building	8,631	55,073	102,216
Loans & Notes	6,688	13,375	26,750
Mission / OCWM	6,020	14,120	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	403	3,573	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	121	738	3,000
Music	-00	1,087	4,200
Worship	-00	403	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	44,319	205,755	408,787
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$1,971	\$(5,763)	\$(15,187)

2017 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



Please contact Howard Peterson if you have questions or need additional information.

AUGUST 2017

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

		1 1pm Digital Commit- tee	2 6:30pm Midweek Sum- mer Worship	3 6pm Dinner at Pal Joey's	4	5
6 9:30am Worship Service	7 7pm Building Com- mittee 7pm Euchre	8	9 6:30pm Midweek Sum- mer Worship	10 7pm Membership/ Congregational Life	11	12
13 9:30am Worship Service	14	15	16 6:30pm Midweek Sum- mer Worship	17	18	19 Crazies Great America trip
20 9:30am Worship Service September VOICE articles deadline	21	22 6pm SRC 7pm Council	23 6:30pm Final Midweek Summer Wor- ship	24	25 Crazies campout	26
27 9:30am Worship Service	28	29 6pm IntergeneRing- ers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	30 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	31		



Find us at: www.stmatthewucc.org
Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube



St. Matthew United Church of Christ
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email:
office@stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm
Friday: 9am-1pm

Sunday Worship: 9:30am
Sunday Church School: 10am

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.***

STAFF

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