

THE VOICE OF St. Matthew

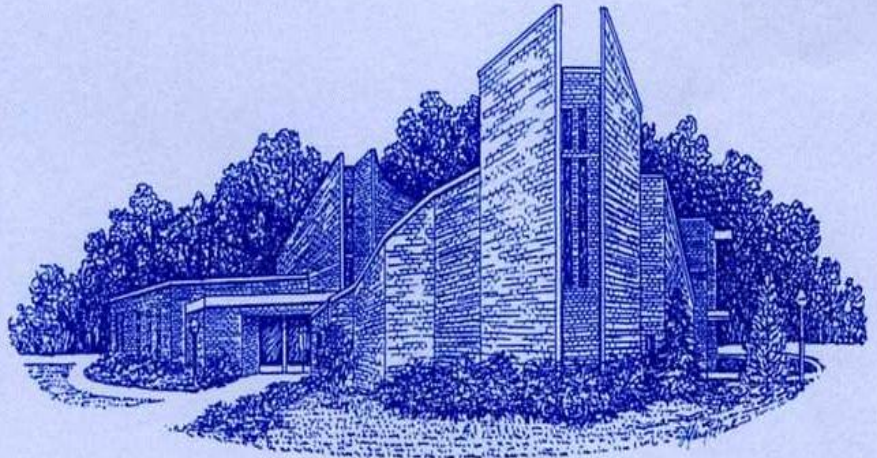
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

630-665-1236

Fax 630-665-1436

www.stmatthew-ucc.org



September 2014

Becoming Divine

“The Word of God (in Jesus) became human so that we might become divine.”

The goal of the Christian life is to become like God. That is our invitation from Jesus. He becomes a human being to help us to be like God. The early Christians believed that and strove for it with intentionality and dedication. Christians practiced forgiveness, hospitality, prayer, caring for the poor, and acts of generosity. It is a theology of Divinization (type that in your search engine and look at the Wikipedia article).

Unfortunately, somewhere along the line that high goal for the Christian life shifted from a focus on love to a focus on fear. Christians became preoccupied with doing things that will keep them out of hell or that will get them things from God. That is not a path to love and to life. The path to life is one dedicated to reflecting the divine nature.

How does that happen? How is that possible? Only through dwelling with God and taking into our own lives a deep abiding sense that we are beloved.

We also do it by making specific commitments to behaviors that reflect the love we receive into a world starved for love. That is to say, we understand ourselves as called by God to serve and we are willing to respond faithfully to that call.

I invite you to commit to living your faith at a higher level of devotion this year. Be faithful in your practice of worship, both in church and personal devotion. Commit to a specific ministry that will engage your gifts and transform your life. In Jesus, we become the sons and daughters of God.

*Christ's peace,
Pastor Allen*

A Different Response to the Events in Ferguson, Missouri

The events we have watched unfold in Ferguson, Missouri, are horrifying. We wonder how it is an unarmed young black man is shot many times by a policeman. The violent riots that tear apart a community, causing further harm to innocent neighbors, are disturbing. We cannot reverse the events that have taken place, nor do we know what the future will hold. There will be another tragedy if we are not willing to hear and understand one another. We need non-judgmental listening and understanding. What is clear is that whenever the final truth comes out, it will include the fact that racial divisions in our country are still wide.

Something different happened near Ferguson, at Gateway Middle School, that is hopeful. Rather than holding school with feelings so high, the teachers had the wisdom to let the youth talk and to listen to them. Here is what some of those youth said. See if you can listen and learn from their remarks. Attempt to be non-judgmental and non-reactive. Practice the compassion of Jesus' way. I also challenge each of us to talk to those of a different race and to be willing to listen to their perspective.

Gabrielle

"Even if he did shoplift, he didn't deserve his life to be taken. There are some people who have done much worse things and they're still alive."

"I'd rather be heard peacefully instead of destroying the neighborhood I live [in]."

De'Nonna

"I'm confused about why the officer shot Michael Brown in the first place, and why did he shoot him multiple times. I'm also confused about why do they choose to represent Michael with violence rather than peace."

"Would Michael Brown appreciate all the violence?"

Ajanae

"What if one day my brothers are walking down the street and the police try to beat them or even kill [them]?"

Jayda

"I'm feeling, I don't know, like I can't even say the words I'm feeling because they are curse words. But I'm tired of turning on the news and know[ing] when they say someone has been shot that it's one of my kind."

"Life is too short to have innocent people have it wasted."

Torre

"I think that since Michael Brown was tall and dark-skinned that [the officer thought he] was doing something wrong."



St. Matthew UCC

Meet Emily Davis!



Emily Davis is a second-year student at Chicago Theological Seminary in the M.Div. program, and a long-time curriculum and bible developer for Augsburg Fortress Publishers. She holds an M.A. in Writing and Publishing from DePaul University and a B.A. in English and Theology from Elmhurst College. Before coming to St Matthew, Emily served as the youth minister of Plainfield Congregational United Church of Christ. Emily shares a home with her husband, Ryan, and their dog, Reinhold—both of whom are terribly spoiled.

It's an old habit of mine to collect important thoughts on Post-It notes. Give me a few weeks into my time here at St. Matthew, and you can bet that my desk will be surrounded by them. Meeting dates, to-do reminders, half-brained ideas, favorite lines from books—these are the things that surround me as I do my work. And, on my first day here at this church, I tacked up one of my favorites. It's a line from author and activist Elie Wiesel that I read once upon a time, though I can no longer remember where...

God made humans because he loves stories, and our lives are the stories he tells.

I think the best way to introduce myself to you is to tell you that I believe in the power and sacred nature of stories. In the months and years ahead, I look forward to getting to know the youth of this church through story. Together, we'll explore the sacred stories of scripture as well as the sacred stories of our everyday lives. Through worship, discussion, games, and study, we'll revisit the stories of Jesus and Moses and Elijah and Ruth—and we'll wonder together about how they shape the stories that we create and tell every single day.

Yes, stories will shape much of what we do. As for my story—well—I hope to tell it to you in person very soon. Stop by my office. Give me a call. Shoot me an email. I'm so excited to get started here at St. Matthew and look forward to sharing stories with each member of this beloved community of Christ.

Emily





Food on the First

Thank you to all who donated food and non-food items this summer. The food pantries are very grateful.

Outside the church office there is a bin for donations. If you can't donate on the first Sunday, it is there for you to donate anytime and I will make sure that it gets delivered. Each month I will find out their greatest needs and pass that along to you.

Here are the items that the pantry is in need of now:

- Cereal
- Salad dressings
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Kleenex
- Paper towels
- Soap
- Shampoo

As always, please make sure the food is not expired and the packages are unopened. Please contact Betty Greer at (630) 682.4084 if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity!



September Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 4 | Rob Kirincich
Sue Peterson |
| 7 | Edith DeBoard
Ruth Greer |
| 8 | Diana McKean |
| 9 | Liz Henderson |
| 11 | Summer Scalora |
| 13 | Diane Mook
Preston Peterson |
| 16 | Monica Holland
Marty Philipchuck |
| 17 | Steven Gimre |
| 18 | Nancy Pass |
| 19 | Karen Wellick |
| 20 | Lee Anderson |
| 21 | Kendal Franz
Rachael Lindquist |
| 23 | Annette English |
| 24 | David Johnson |
| 25 | Laurie Jordan
Becky Cole |
| 29 | Jen Fanning |
| 30 | Alex Johnson
Thomas Schubert |



Proverbs 19:17

*"He who is kind to the poor, lends
to the LORD, and He will reward
him for what he has done."*

Church Directory



Good news – no need to pre-order your directory. We will have a limited number of Photo Directories available at Rally Day. Anyone who would like a directory can purchase one on September 7 for \$10. If the directories are sold out, but you pay for the directory on or before September 7, the price will be \$10. Anyone who has already prepaid at \$12 will be refunded the difference. For Directories purchased after September 7, the price will increase to \$12. With this new Directory we have the ability to update and print the Directory more frequently.

As new members join us, we will be able to add photos and addresses quickly. If you do not want to purchase a copy of the directory, it will be available free online at the St. Matthew website after it is published. You will be able to access the directory using a password. We will also have a free updated paper copy of the directory (addresses only, but no photos) available after the publication of the photo directory.



Notes from the Music Room.....

Musicians are Wanted and Needed

We need vocalists and musicians for the Sanctuary Choir and the Praise Band.

Even if you can't read music but can carry a tune (in or out of a bucket), we need you. By working several weeks ahead, you will be able to learn the part and feel comfortable with it. High school youth are very welcome, too.

We need musicians for the Praise Band – guitarists, drummers and percussionists, bass players, brass and woodwinds are welcome, too.

Due to schedules, some weeks we know we will be shorthanded.

Praise Band rehearses Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

Cantata rehearsals start Wednesday, October 1st from 7:30 to 8:30 pm with the Sanctuary Choir rehearsal from 8:30 – 9:30 pm.

We need your support and participation.

If you have any questions, please see me, Brian, or any choir member.

Hope to see you soon.

Peace....

Jamie
Lanni1@comcast.net
630-202-6788





*Family
of
Faith*



Children's Ministry

September 2014

Workshop Rotation

Nazareth Neighborhood

Sunday morning schedule: Children preschool through fifth grade will join their parents for the first half of the Sunday morning worship service. Following the children's sermon, the children will be dismissed to attend Children's Worship upstairs in the Temple of Truth. The children will gather together for children's choir, announcements, a time of sharing and "Blessings and Bummers" (prayer requests). Following Children's worship, the shepherds will guide the K – 5th children to their workshops. They will experience a different workshop each week. The preschool age children will be in a classroom of their own taught with curriculum geared to their age and interests. Sunday school will dismiss at 11 a.m., allowing parents the opportunity to enjoy fellowship for a half hour after worship. The 6th graders are welcome to either remain in worship with their parents or join the children upstairs to serve as teacher and shepherd helpers; 7th and 8th graders will remain in worship as part of their confirmation requirements.

August 31st: No Sunday school, Labor Day weekend

Rally Day: September 7th will kick off the Sunday School year. The children will attend Children's Worship to meet and reacquaint with classmates and shepherds. We will dismiss at 10:30 on this special Sunday so the children can join their families at the Rally Day fun fair for games, prizes, moon jump, dunk tank, snow cones, popcorn, face painting, live music, lunch, and more. Be sure to stop by the Christian Education booth for bozo buckets, prizes, and M&M sign-up.

Workshop Rotation: September 15th- Jeremiah: Our first unit of workshop rotation is "Jeremiah". Throughout our five-week lesson the children will learn that Jeremiah was called to serve God while he was still a boy. Like Jesus, Jeremiah used familiar things to teach about how God wants us to live. People of all ages are called to serve God and live as God wants us to live. The story of Jeremiah will be taught in five workshops: Art, Cooking, Games, Science, and Storytelling. **Preschool class:** September 15th- The preschool age children will have their very own classroom to gather following Children's worship. They will grow in faith through activities geared to their age and interests.

M&M Moments Together & Memories Forever: This is a fun and popular program intended to give adults and children preschool – 6th grade an opportunity to get to know one another better. Partners will be randomly paired this fall and will remain friends for the year. Throughout the year our M&M coordinators will plan special fun and mission-related activities for the partners to enjoy together. Come to the Christian Education booth on Rally Day to register and receive a bag of M&Ms.

Children's Choir: Children's Choir Director, Wendee Passini, sings with the children at the beginning of Children's worship on Sunday mornings. Wendee will contact parents with the dates and rehearsal times regarding performances during worship.

Christian Education leader dedication: September 14th, during Sunday morning worship we will dedicate our leaders with a blessing for the upcoming Sunday School year. Fourth grade children receive their Bibles during worship on September 28th.

Looking ahead: October 26th: Trunk or Treat from 3–5 pm. This is a fun event where members decorate their car trunks and children trick or treat from car to car. This is followed by a meal, live music, and games inside.



Noah's Nursery



Children's Choir



M&M



Pennies from Heaven

We have two fundraising opportunities that do not require our members to spend any extra money – St. Matthew receives “Pennies from Heaven” from your regular shopping. Through these programs, retailers have agreed to give a portion of your purchase to St. Matthew. Simply plan ahead and order pre-paid (gift) cards through the **Manna** program for your normal shopping – grocery, gas, movie theaters, department stores, restaurants, pharmacies, etc. Order forms are available every Sunday after church, and your cards will be ready the following Sunday. If you make online purchases, register with **iGive** on our page: **igive.com/stmatthewucc**. Then click on the **iGive** button in your browser and do your shopping. **iGive** will track your purchases and the retailers’ donations to our church. It’s that easy!

Tell your friends and family – they can participate, too! More information can be found on the Donate page of our website at www.stmatthewucc.org

Fundraiser Update

In our constant quest to balance the budget and meet our fundraising goal of \$10,000, we now have an opportunity to earn money from Muldoon's in downtown Wheaton. Stay tuned for details in the Happenings, including the all-important date (probably a day in October)! This is an easy one-- they pay US to eat at their restaurant! We hope to make this event a fun St. Matthew social gathering! Plan to join us.



Adult Education Program

Please plan on joining us at our upcoming classes on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. this fall on The Great Questions-questions that disturb and intrigue us:

September 10th: Why does the Bible contradict itself?

September 17th: Can it be proven that God exists?

September 24th: Why should I pray when God doesn't answer all of my prayers?

October 1st: Do I have to believe that Jesus performed miracles in order to be Christian?

October 8th: If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions?

October 15th: Why does God let bad things happen?

October 22nd: What does God think about war?



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

P.A.D.S. will resume its Overnight Program in September. As usual, St. Matthew Church will be serving the homeless at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard on the second Wednesday night/Thursday morning of each month, BEGINNING on September 10/11. Our P.A.D.S. board has been readied and put up in the narthex. Please consider helping with this important ministry and sign up to contribute your time, food, or money.



Foods Resource Bank (FRB)



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. Please consider how you can help the hungry people in the world. Sign up today!

ESSE

There is STILL time to sign up! September is our month, and there are still many open spots on the calendar. PLEASE consider signing up for a spot or two! The clients so love our visits and help, and the staff appreciate new faces.



A Poem to Live By

After a sermon on the Feeding of the Five Thousand, in which I talked about the importance of our taking responsibility for those who are vulnerable and hungry, Dianne Hutchinson told me about this poem she memorized years ago. It is from her mother. It's a lovely poem to put to memory as a guiding light.



Beautiful hands are
they that do
Work for the Lord
good and true.
Beautiful feet are
they that go
Swiftly to lighten
others' woe.



Stewardship Corner

Thanks to those of you who responded to our request to get current on pledges. Typically summer contributions drop off as people are busy enjoying vacation travels.

Volunteering Opportunities: As we approach the start of our church year, we begin to think about volunteer positions that will soon be

opening within several of our many ministries at St. Matthew. If you have a desire to participate in a certain ministry or if you simply want to get involved, but don't know where, please contact Rob Neufelder or Diana Padilla in the office. As many of you already know, serving the Lord through participation in St. Matthew ministries is very rewarding. Our annual Stewardship Campaign will be kicking off in October and wrapping up in mid-November. More details to follow...

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

Potluck Fellowship Hour Reminder



Please help with our Potluck Fellowship Hour. We would like members of the Congregation to bring treats on Sunday to share. You can bring something sweet (cookies), savory (cheese), or fun (chocolate dipped strawberries). Try a new recipe or bring cookies from the grocery store in their original packaging. Help us to have a variety of treats every Sunday. Bring your goodies on the Sunday that fits in your schedule. Thanks for participating!



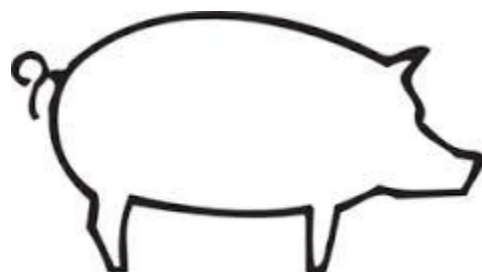
Congregational Life News



Greetings from the Congregational Life Committee. We hope you all had a great summer. We're excited about two upcoming events: Rally Day Fun Fair (September 7th) and an all-church Pig Roast (Saturday, September 20th).

On Sunday, September 7th, Congregational Life is partnering with several other committees to put on our annual Rally Day celebration. It is a great kickoff to our church year – we hope to see you there. We promise you won't go away hungry!

Congregational Life is hosting a Pig Roast / Wine Pull for all church members to be held at the church on Saturday evening, September 20th. This is a fully catered meal with pork and several sides. It promises to be a feast and all are welcome!! We will have a signup sheet out this week to get a good idea of headcount. To add to the fun, we will also hold a wine pull in conjunction with the event.



**And now...for something completely different, a poem for September
from Linda Leinweber:**

Blackberry Eating

By Galway Kinnell, 1927 -

I love to go out in late September
among the fat, overripe, icy, black blackberries
to eat blackberries for breakfast,
the stalks very prickly, a penalty
they earn for knowing the black art
of blackberry making; and as I stand among them
lifting the stalks to my mouth, the ripest berries
fall almost unbidden to my tongue,
as words sometimes do, certain peculiar words
like *strengths* or *squinch*ed or *broughamed*,
many-lettered, one-syllabled lumps,
which I squeeze, squinch open, and splurge well
in the silent, startled, icy, black language
of blackberry eating in late September.



Okay, I submitted this poem in November, a couple of years ago, but it is the end of the blackberry season here in Kazakhstan and they are delicious and I just kept coming back to this poem, so I decided it was worth the repeat. I love the sensuousness of the berries in this poem and the metaphoric sense of the fruit as words and I love blackberries, so here it is for your enjoyment. This copy came from *Poems, the Seagull Reader*, Joseph Kelly, ed. (Norton; New York, 2008), but it is widely anthologized.

Rally Day Fun Fair

Hosted by St. Matthew UCC

When: Sunday, **September 7th**, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
(*Worship service and Sunday School begin at 9:30 am*)

Where? St. Matthew UCC:
1420 S. Gables Blvd, Wheaton, 60189

What? Moon jump, dunk tank, balloons, popcorn,
snow cones, face painting, games, prizes,
live music, and hot dogs!

Hope to see you then!

*Feel free to contact us for more information:
office@stmatthewucc.org - 630.665.1236
www.stmatthewucc.org*

Rally Day Bake Sale

Please contribute an item or two to our bake sale for Rally Day on Sunday, September 7th. Please bring items prepackaged on plates or in containers for the congregation to purchase. Proceeds will go to offset the cost for Rally Day expenditures. You may drop off your items in Dobstaff Hall before the service begins on September 7th. THANK YOU!



Thanks for bringing food; please pick up your dishes!

The "left behind" dishes are piled up in the kitchen once again. If you have brought food to an event at church recently, please check to see if one of your serving dishes is here and take it home. The dishes that are not picked up by Monday, **September 15th** will be donated to Goodwill. Thank you!

Family Camp - YMCA of the Rockies: Estes Park, Colorado



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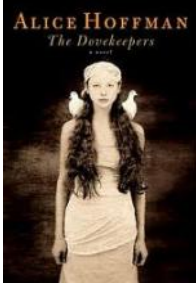
Upcoming Events

5TH SUNDAY AT DPCC It comes again so quickly! August 31 (Labor Day Weekend) is 5th Sunday again. A lot of our regulars will be tied up. Can you join us? St Matthew provides the person-power to help about 60 wheelchair-bound folks make it to Protestant Worship. We meet about 9:30am to get things going, do some serious walking and chatting, then stick around for worship. After getting folks back for lunch, we should be done by about 11:45. It's a great opportunity to connect with some really interesting folk. Questions? Contact Ellen Ribe (630-784-4262, ellen.ribe@dupageco.org) or Glenn Sapa. Thanks!



MARIAN PARK BBQ St. Matthew is planning a barbeque event for Marian Park residents on **September 11th**. We need a truck to carry 3-4 grills from St. Matthew to Marian Park and a few cooks to grill burgers and hot dogs for an estimated 100-125 residents. The cooks and grills need to be at Marian Park by no later than 4:45PM to start the grills, as we expect to serve burgers starting at 5:30PM. Please contact Alex Alavi at (630) 772-4449 or alex.alavi@sbcglobal.net if you can help.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT Girls' Night Out is returning this year! Our first get-together will be a game night at Julie Schubert's house on Tuesday, **September 16**, at 7:00pm. If you would like to bring a game or something to snack on that would be great. If your life is crazy, just come and enjoy. We will share ideas for the coming year. My address is 1278 Oxford Lane in Wheaton. Hope to see you there.



NOVEL APPROACHES The novel to be approached in September is "The Dovekeepers" by Alice Hoffman. "In 70 C.E., nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian, Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path." **The date:** Friday, September 19th at 7:30 p.m. **The place:** Char & Bob Cooper's, 422 West Evergreen, Wheaton. Join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship.

JOIN US FOR PRAYER The women's weekly prayer group will be resuming this fall for anyone seeking fellowship and spiritual growth. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, **Sept. 3** at 1:30 in the church parlor. Future meeting day and time will be decided at that first gathering. We will also be deciding what prayer guide book to use for this year's sessions. If interested, please call Kathy Skwara at 630-690-4490 for more information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SHEPHERDS

AND TEACHERS NEEDED!

Our 2014 - 2015 Sunday school year begins on Rally day, September 7th. We need many volunteers to get the year off to a good start. Please consider being a Workshop Rotation teacher, Preschool teacher or Shepherd this year. Forms for explaining each position and volunteering your service to this important ministry will be on the narthex table. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Wold swold45@hotmail.com, 630-665-1236 or 630-752-4444.

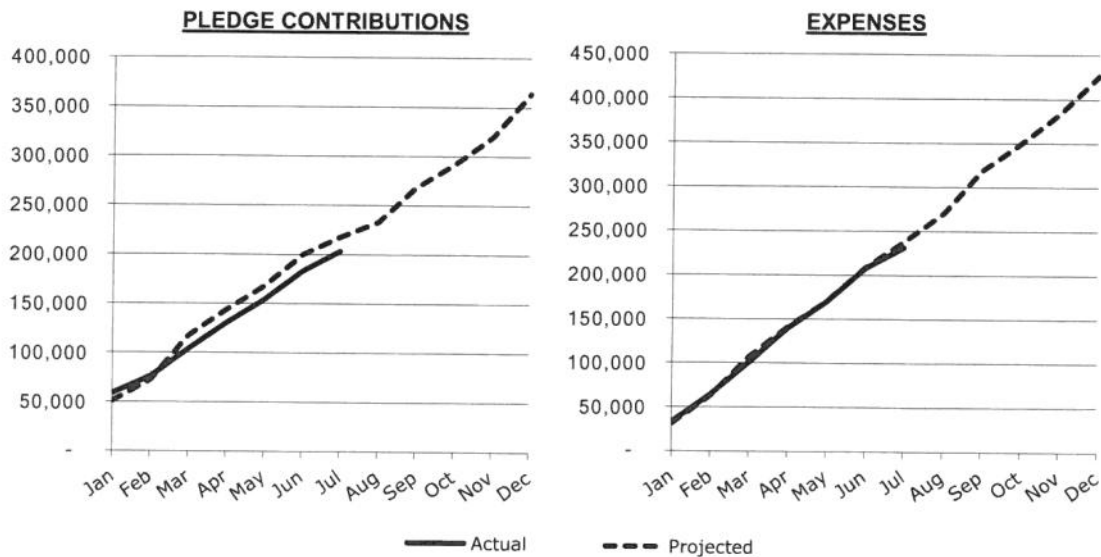


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ended July 31, 2014

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			
Pledge Contributions	20,241	203,172	363,658
Loose Offerings	179	3,744	6,000
Rental Income	150	1,665	5,000
Fund Raising	156	1,657	10,000
Investment Income	9	(263)	-
More Property	20,750	20,750	41,500
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	41,485	230,725	426,158
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>			
Ministry	14,822	121,306	224,348
Building	5,835	72,656	122,810
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	15,604	26,750
Mission / OCWM	-	8,880	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	319	4,559	9,600
Membership	226	1,240	2,750
Music	-	1,720	4,500
Worship	-	1,238	2,500
Endowment	-	-	1,000
Congregational Life	-	135	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Misc. & Contingency	-	3,926	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	23,431	231,264	426,158
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 18,054	\$ (539)	\$ -

2014 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy Labor Day! Office Closed	2 <i>1p Digital Ministry</i>	3 <i>1:30p Women's Prayer Group</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>-9:30a Worship Service: Holy Communion</i> <i>-Rally Day</i>	8	9	10 <i>7p Adult Education</i> <i>PADS</i> →	11 <i>4:45p Marian Park BBQ</i> <i>6:30p Confirmation Class</i>	12	13
14 <i>-9:30a Worship Service: Teacher/ Shepherd Dedication</i>	15	16 <i>7p Girls' Night Out</i>	17 <i>7p Adult Education</i>	18 <i>-6p SRC</i> <i>-7p Council</i>	19 <i>7:30p Novel Approaches</i>	20 <i>Congregational Life: Pig Roast</i>
21 <i>-9:30a Worship Service</i>	22	23	24 <i>7p Adult Education</i>	25	26	27
28 <i>-9:30a Worship Service: Fourth Grade Bibles</i> <i>-October Voice articles due</i>	29	30			Every Tuesday: <i>6p IntergeneRingers</i> <i>7p Bells Potluck</i> <i>7:30p Chancel Ringers</i>	Every Wednesday: <i>6:30p Praise Band</i> <i>7:30p Choir</i>



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

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry

Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director

Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist

Kim Congdon, Handbell Director

Karen Lindquist, Business Manager

Diana Padilla, Administrative Assistant