

# 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](http://www.stmatthew-ucc.org)



**January 2018**

## **To Speak or to Remain Silent, That Is the Question**

I had been told, when I was appointed back in the late 1980s to serve three tiny churches in the Mississippi Delta, that one of the first objectives of a new pastor was to make the rounds to some of the key families to understand the history and culture of the church. “Coming into a new church is like walking into a dark room where the furniture is all out of place. You better walk carefully and do your best to shed some light on the situation before you bruise your shins.” One of my first visits was to one of our older and still active members in the Duncan Methodist church. If I wanted to understand the Duncan church, Ms. Betsy was a good place to start.

Ms. Betsy was a woman of stories. She told me how as a little girl, her father had the notorious Senator Bilbo (a populist, hard drinking, big personality, racist) over at their plantation house for dinner and in the middle of this carefully planned meal she had interrupted the adult conversation and said, “Mr. Bilbo, didn’t anyone teach you how to use a fork?” She and I laughed together at what was clearly one of her best stories. I continued to listen as she shared the history of their little farm church. She told me that back before the roads were good the bishop of the church would appoint a new pastor. He and his family would travel by train to their new charge. One of these new pastors was especially popular with the congregation. “Why, the first day, our new pastor got off the train, a few of the white men were gathered around playing craps on the sidewalk when a young Negro boy came running by and grabbed the money that was on the sidewalk. Our new pastor had just gotten off the train and he pulled out his gun and shot that boy right there.” She laughed loudly before adding, “He was our favorite pastor.”

Even on that hot, humid, Delta afternoon I felt my blood chill to the bone. In theology school, they taught us about social injustice and to see in ourselves, and in the world around us, the sin of racism, but there is no way to teach a pastor how to be both loving pastor and fearless prophet in the moment. I created an awkward moment by not laughing. I paused and said simply, “That’s disturbing” and chose to go no further. In those years, I often lived with a disturbing inner turmoil about whether to create an awkward moment by speaking up and defining myself as something different; or choosing my battles and remaining silent; or to simply change the subject.

Undaunted by my response, she shared with me about a “Negro” woman, Mable, who had lived in a clean, well-kept shack behind her plantation home. For 40 years, Mable had cooked and cleaned and helped raise the children as if they were her own. Both of them were now old and without husbands when Mable had a debilitating stroke. Ms. Betsy moved Mable into her own home, into her second bedroom, and for a few years she fed her, bathed her, and nursed her as she would her own family, until she died. She shared this with as many tears in her eyes as she had shared about the loss of her own dear husband.

I am reminded by this story that we human beings are complicated. No label can ever be affixed to us that can do justice to the whole of who we are. We are also the product of the culture in which we live. To mature and to become fully human is to embrace the gifts of where we come from as we also free ourselves from the bondage of attitudes that eat away at our humanity, like maggots on healthy flesh. We can lose our souls by remaining silent, just as we can lose our soul by becoming self-righteous and judgmental of those with whom we disagree.

(...devotion continued)

“Speak the truth in love,” Paul instructs his congregation in Ephesus about how to confront evil and wrong thinking. Only then can we grow into the full stature and mind of Jesus, our Lord. We live in a time when our nation is dangerously divided in tribalism. Our call is to resist evil, but it is also to find a way to love and not separate ourselves from those with whom we disagree. Let us listen to God. God will give us the words to speak when the time comes. As I can tell you from experience, none of us are going to do this perfectly.

-Peace, Pastor Allen

### Food on the First

Thanks to all who donated in December. It truly is appreciated. Here is what is needed in January:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Soup
- Cold cereal
- Hamburger, Tuna, and Chicken Helper
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers and Pull-ups (Any size)
- Shaving cream
- Disposable razors
- Shampoo

Please make sure items are unopened and not expired. Please call Betty Greer if you have any questions 630.682.4084



Blessings to all.



### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Darcy Holland
- 6 Ruth Copeland
- 9 Bill Matthei
- 13 Leah Kulczewski
- 17 Dan Achammer  
Jim Fanning
- 18 Bob Cooper
- 20 Rachel Schubert
- 22 Mark Hutchison
- 28 Brian Nessel

### **REMINDER!**

**The 2018 Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 28th after the worship service.**

### **Remembrance Sunday**

On Sunday, January 14th in worship we will read the names of those from our church who have died in the past year's time. We will also give the members an opportunity to light a candle on behalf of their own loved ones and friends who have died in the past year. We hope this will be a healing service for those who have suffered a loss and a time once again to give God thanks for the lives of those who have touched our own.

### **Pennies From Heaven/Scrip**

All the holiday activity is out of the way, 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 Scrip cards for the places you shop brings extra money to St. Matthew.

SCRIP – it's not just for gift cards any more.

**Check out the Scrip table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday.**

A HAPPY NEW YEAR





## Notes from the Music Room....



A very Happy New Year to everyone; younger, older and in-between. I truly hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas filled with the joy that the season promises, and that as we move into the new year, you continue to be blessed with the bountiful blessings our Lord bestows upon us.

We had a wonderful December full of music to support Advent and Christmas provided by all the musicians of St Matthew: bells, band, choir, and Cantata Choir. The cantata was deceptively difficult for the singers, but I am proud of all of them as they persevered and rose to the occasion to produce a beautiful sound. Many thanks to them and especially to Brian Dobbelaere, who arranged the vocal score as well as the instruments. For those unfamiliar with what it takes to write a piece like "Peace Child," please know that a great deal of work, sweat, and love went into it by Brian. Thanks, Brian.



January, while very cold at the moment, marches on. Praise Band, handbells and choir resume rehearsals to provide music to add to our worship experience. All of our groups always are open to new people, however I must make a specific plea for singers to step up to help the choir. As many know, Rachel, one of our sopranos, has given birth to her first daughter, Winry (who is also my first grandchild). As all mothers know, she will have to step back from singing for a while. Kelly, also a soprano, is due to give birth in February, and then she too will be out for a bit. It is also travel time for others in our tenor and bass sections. **We need your help!** Open choir will continue each month, but there are two or three additional Sundays a month that the choir is currently scheduled to sing. By working ahead, it allows for people to miss a rehearsal here and there, and still allows us to be comfortably prepared for Sunday. Please look at your schedules to see if you can join for more than just open choir Sundays and come talk to me to see how we work around calendar conflicts. Anything will help.

### Open Choir dates January – May:

January 21    February 18    March 25

April 22        May 6



Peace, Jamie

630.202.6788 - [jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

Thank  
you



### *A note from Linnea Karpenske:*

*I wish to thank everyone at St. Matthew for their kind words and cards after the death of my cousin, Phil Spicer. Thank you for making him feel welcome whenever he attended and encouraging him to play the drums.*

# Christmas in Children's Ministry

Christmas Eve Pageant



M&M Christmas



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



Birthday Party for Jesus



*"From a pad on the floor, to a key in the door."*



"I'm so grateful to DuPagePads and their supporters.

Having a home has given me peace to build my family and begin to follow our dreams again.

You gave us hope and that hope is powerful."

~ Diana, with 5 year old son Gabriel



Scan here for full story or visit our blog:

[www.dupagepads.org](http://www.dupagepads.org)



**Did you know?** Over the past 2 years DuPagePads reduced the average length of stay from 57 days to 45 days, a 21% reduction.

*\* Save the date for our 12th Annual Taste of Hope event on March 1, 2018, 6pm - 9pm at Drury Lane.*

## **PADS Help Needed**

It is almost time for St. Matthew's monthly commitment to PADS. This Wednesday night/Thursday morning (January 10/11), we will again be serving a warm dinner and breakfast for approximately 55 clients. We will also be setting up, taking down, and cleaning their beds and common area and will then send them off with a bagged lunch. We really need your help. Because of the busy holidays, the PADS committee will be buying and preparing this month's main entrée (French onion meatballs on mashed potatoes). Donations are certainly appreciated and welcomed! There is a donation envelope on the PADS board in the narthex or you can give donations to committee members Tracey Blake or Wendy Fanning. You can also check the PADS board to see if there are other food items needed or volunteer time slots that need to be filled.

Thank you for helping with this important St. Matthew ministry.

## **Costa Rica Mission Trip Meeting**

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, January 14, after church in the Parlor. The trip is June 24 to July 3, in Nosara, Costa Rica. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like information, please contact Julie Schubert at [tijjr7@att.net](mailto:tijjr7@att.net).



## **Dads and Kids Outing**

Save the date!

Who: Dads and kids;

When: Sunday, January 21st at 4pm;

Where: Main Event in Warrenville. More details to follow.



## Thank You!

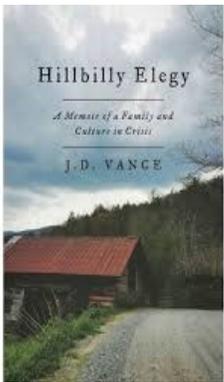
**crazies**

Thanks to all of you who helped with meals and/or an adult presence this past quarter. The new sign-up for the first quarter of 2018 is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please help the crazies by signing up for a Sunday. We appreciate your help and support!



### Feed My Starving Children

The annual Feed My Starving Children trip is coming up. It will be on Monday, January 15th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will meet at the church at 1:45, and carpool to FMSC to pack food for starving children in countries all over the world. We will pack from 2:30 to 4:30 and then carpool back. If you haven't packed before, it is a great experience and we always love to have new people join us. There are only 40 spots reserved, and the sign-up board is up in the narthex. Save the Date!



### Novel Approaches

Novel Approaches once again breaks tradition to approach another non-novel in January. We will be reading "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. This book is a memoir of a family and culture in crisis; about the Appalachian values of the author's upbringing and their relation to the social problems of his hometown. (Wikipedia) The date: Friday, January 26 at 7:30pm. The place: The Boyds', 510 S. Aurora Way in Wheaton. All are welcome, join us for fellowship, food and friendly discussion.

### ESSE ADULT DAY CARE POSITION OPENING ESSE

Adult Day Center has an opening for a part-time Activity Assistant. A sincere interest in working with older adults is necessary with a background in activities beneficial; however, training is available. Interested individuals please contact Cathy at 630.260.3773.



### Family Camp 2018

Family Camp 2018 sign-ups continue for Starved Rock! Come spend a week with your church family (Sunday, July 8th - Saturday, July 14th) and explore this amazing hidden jewel right in our back yard. Starved Rock features amazing history, famous canyons, and surprisingly beautiful waterfalls. In addition to the exceptional hiking trails and natural beauty of the park itself, the towns along the Illinois River boast of museums, historic mansions, and a glass blowing factory. Family Camp is a St. Matthew tradition dating back more than 30 years! Come be a part of this this unique, fun, and relaxing time for fellowship. Sign-up sheets are hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Hutchison at 630.639.1448 or markah22@gmail.com.



# January

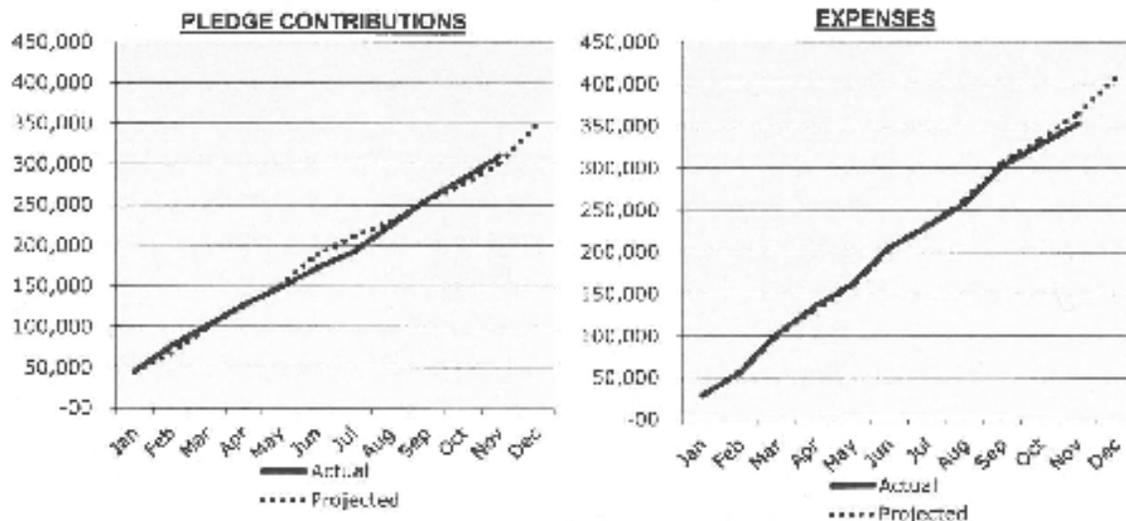
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>9:30am Worship Communion</i>	8	9	10 <i>PADS</i>	11 <i>PADS</i>	12	13
14 <i>9:30am Worship Remembrance Sunday -Costa Rica mtg</i>	15 <i>1:45pm FMSC</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>9:30am Worship -4pm Dads &amp; Kids Outing</i>	22	23	24	25	26 <i>7:30pm Novel Approaches</i>	27
28 <i>9:30am Worship</i>	29	30	31		<b>Tuesdays</b> <i>6pm Intergene Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers</i>	<b>Wednesdays</b> <i>6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm Sanctu- ary Choir</i>

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

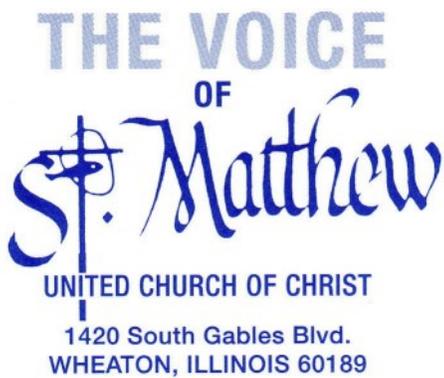
For the Period Ending November 30, 2017

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	28,204	310,841	350,000
Pledge Pre-Pay 2018	-00	6,493	-00
Loose Offerings	275	3,584	10,000
Rental Income	-00	3,150	3,300
Fund Raising	304	2,536	4,000
Investment Income	67	1,552	300
More Property	-00	21,000	21,000
Miscellaneous Income	-00	5,481	5,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>28,851</b>	<b>354,818</b>	<b>393,600</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	16,799	209,854	234,971
Building	3,942	86,599	102,216
Loans & Notes	-00	20,003	26,750
Mission / OCWM	3,000	25,795	26,950
Committees:			
Christian Education	637	6,390	8,000
Membership/Congregational Life	157	1,791	3,000
Music	216	2,305	4,200
Worship	78	439	1,500
Memorial/Endowment	-00	-00	100
Stewardship	-00	52	100
Misc. & Contingency	-00	-00	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>24,830</b>	<b>353,287</b>	<b>408,787</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$4,021</b>	<b>\$1,329</b>	<b>\$(15,187)</b>

**2017 Activity - Actual vs. Projected**



Please contact Howard Peterson 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:** 9:30am

**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**

**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)

**Quinn Rosenthal, Director of Youth Ministry**  
[quinn.rosenthal@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:quinn.rosenthal@stmatthewucc.org)

**Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director**  
[jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:jamie.craig@stmatthewucc.org)

**Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist**  
[brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:brian.dobbelaere@stmatthewucc.org)

**Kim Congdon, Handbell Director**  
[kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:kim.congdon@stmatthewucc.org)

**Dani de Leon, Administrative Assistant**  
[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)

**Alicia Drabik, Business Manager**  
[business.manager@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:business.manager@stmatthewucc.org)