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March 2013

## Practicing the Faith We Confess

We are well aware now that the church as an institution is in trouble. Diane Butler Bass says that we are witnessing the end of the church, or at least the end of the conventional church. One in ten Americans now call themselves former Catholics. Mainline churches have been in decline since the mid-1960s. Now even conservative congregations are reporting a loss in membership, church attendance, and activity. More people say now, “I am spiritual, but not religious.” Decades ago it was the other way around. We use to say young people will come back to church when they have children, but now they are not coming back.

Religion has become a “bad word” for many. The involvement of the church in politics and the culture wars where some parts of the church wish to push their agenda on the larger political and social culture is part of the problem. The sex scandals most visible in the Catholic church, but not limited to them, is another reason. Increased mobility (moving from community to community) and the high demands of work and family on people’s time is yet another reason. We now live in a secular society where soccer and entertainment infringe on what use to be “church time.”

The good news in all of this, Diane Butler Bass says, is that people are hungry for a genuine spiritual experience. Rather than bemoaning the fact that the church is losing membership, Diane Butler-Bass suggests that we become a more responsive church to this longing for spiritual formation.

We are fortunately in a good position to make a difference in people’s lives. We are the repository of rich, time-tested stories, wisdom, and practices that feed the soul.

Jesus was dealing with similar problems we are now dealing with. Religion of his time was losing credibility with the people. Jesus said, “Listen to what they teach, but do not do as they do. “Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works.” (Matthew 23:2) We in the church have the wisdom that brings life to people, but are we living that faith in our own lives?

What the church most needs now is faithfulness. We must speak with our actions. In this mass media market where everything is being spun and perception seems to be more important than substance, people are increasingly skeptical. They understandably trust more what they see rather than what they hear.

Do people see in our lives the practices of the faith being lived? Do they see us practicing reconciliation with one another and hospitality to the out-cast? Is the church a place where people are allowed to be real, imperfect human beings hungry for relationships? Do we dare to be honest and support one another? Do we practice meaningful prayer and worship in ways that connect to the mystery and love of God?

This Lenten season is a time to examine our own lives - the way we live and do not live the faith. “Let your light shine that others may see in you the glory of God.” Jesus is talking about our actions, not our words.

- Pastor Allen

### 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, 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**

[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)

**Mark Restaino, Director of Youth Ministries**

[mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:mark.restaino@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)

**Karen Lindquist, Business Manager**

[karen.lindquist@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:karen.lindquist@stmatthewucc.org)

**Mary Lee Banie, Administrative Assistant**

[office@stmatthewucc.org](mailto:office@stmatthewucc.org)



Building and Grounds  
Committee



The Church Council has reformulated a committee charged with the maintenance and planning for all things building and grounds. If you are interested in helping this group please contact Al Skwara to find out more about this ministry’s next meeting.

Some of the upcoming projects are:

- ◊ New video projection for the sanctuary
- ◊ New lighting and sound system for the sanctuary
- ◊ A long-term plan for the St Matthew grounds
- ◊ Additional storage for the church.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Hillary Blake     |
|    | Jessica Blake     |
| 2  | Meghan Kelleher   |
| 5  | Carole Schmidt    |
| 6  | Bob Crooks        |
|    | Cheryl Umbeck     |
| 7  | Marisa Breese     |
| 8  | Erin Walsh        |
| 10 | Alexandra Milling |
|    | John Price        |
| 11 | Mark SooHoo       |
| 12 | Brian English     |
| 14 | Eric Hall         |
|    | Bud Justice       |
|    | Pam Starr         |
| 15 | Sara Faith        |
|    | Laurie Milling    |
| 16 | Julie Barnshaw    |
|    | Lexie Justice     |
|    | Michael Marquardt |
| 17 | Julie Guenther    |
| 18 | Jim Buik          |
| 19 | Sue Luehring      |
| 20 | Lisa Curda        |
|    | John Ribe         |
| 21 | Nicole Franz      |
|    | Adam Kirincich    |
|    | Annie Merrick     |
|    | Karen Lindquist   |
|    | Peter Lindquist   |
| 22 | Allison Breitfuss |
| 23 | Elijah Baird      |
|    | Andrew Kouns      |
|    | Brian Umbeck      |
| 24 | Dan Buik          |
|    | Cole Krynicki     |
| 28 | Leah Gimre        |
| 29 | Lori Chatten      |
| 30 | Emily English     |
|    | Stephanie Mindock |

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: (Except Easter) 5p crazies Homework Hour 6p crazies		Every Tuesday: 6p IntergeneR- ingers 7p Bells Dinner 7:30p Chancel Ringers	Every Wednes- day: 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Choir		1	2
3 9:30a Worship Service  5p Love and Logic	4   7p Christian Education	5 7p Membership Committee 7:30p Mission Committee	6 12p and 7p Lenten Study Series	7	8	9
10 9:30a Worship Service  5p Love and Logic	11   7p Worship Committee	12	13 12p and 7p Lenten Study Series	14	15	16 8am Men's Fellowship
17 9:30a Worship Service  5p Love and Logic	18   7p Finance Committee	19	20 12p and 7p Lenten Study Series	21  6p Staff Rela- tions Committee 7p Church Council	22	23
24 9:30a Worship Service  April VOICE Articles Due	25	26	27	28 6p Maundy Thursday Dinner 7p Maundy Thursday Worship	29	30
31 9a and 11a Easter Wor- ship Services						

**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**  
 For the Period Ended January 31, 2013



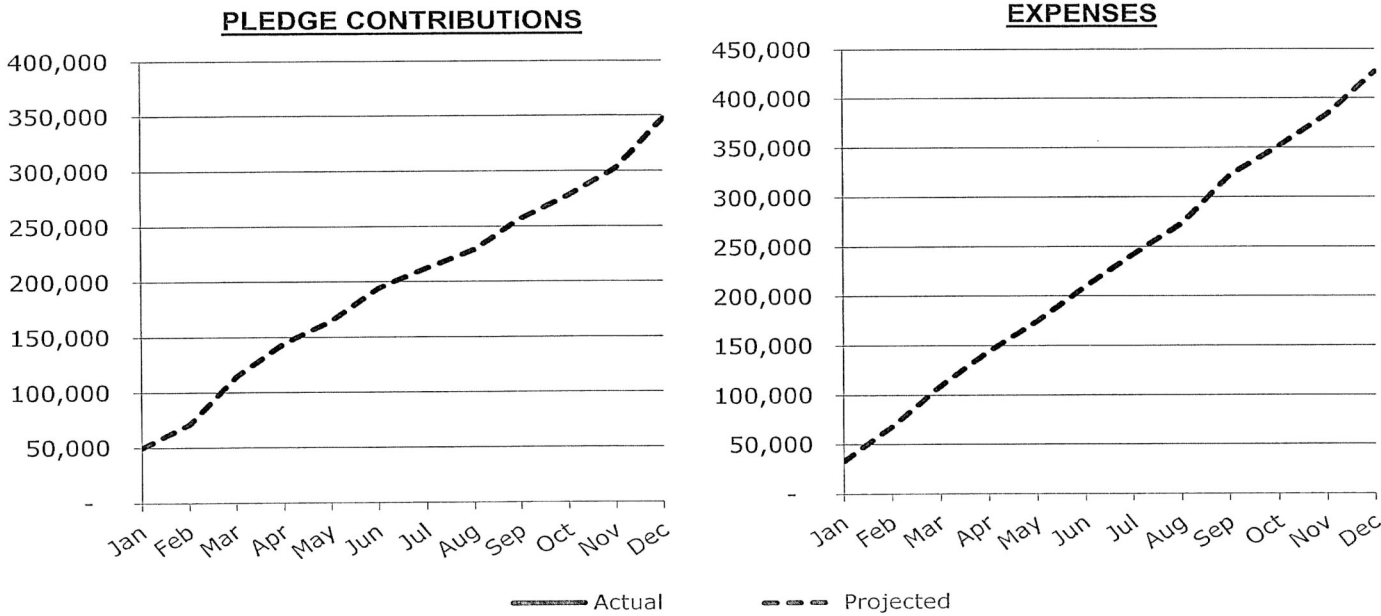
# Notes from the Music Room.....

As we continue to move through our Lenten journey this month, we see many ways that God continues to speak to us - Scriptures, the Message, Music. While these are but three ways, they make up an important part of our Sunday worship. Our music in worship takes many forms. This month you will hear contemporary from the praise band, a spiritual from the choir, a wonderful arrangement of a favorite hymn presented jointly with choir and praise band, and our bell choirs who never cease to amaze us. In addition to this, we end the month with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the solemnness of Maundy Thursday with a service of Tenebre, and the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, all with special music.

Hymn Sing Coming! Do you recall that in December we let you vote for your favorite Christmas and Advent carol and then we sang a verse from the top five choices? We are going to do it again next month. Please start thinking of what your favorite hymns are as we will again be putting ballots in the bulletin starting the first Sunday in April. This time the entire hymnal is open to your vote except Christmas and Advent carols. Remember, vote early and often!

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Pledge Contributions	39,580	39,580	347,136
Loose Offerings	1,000	1,000	8,000
Rental Income	400	400	6,000
Fund Raising	-	-	10,000
Investment Income	(16)	(16)	500
More Property	19,929	19,929	54,500
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	500
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>60,893</b>	<b>60,893</b>	<b>426,636</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Ministry	14,661	14,661	224,061
Building	12,084	12,084	121,775
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	2,229	26,750
Mission / OCWM	200	200	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	140	140	10,150
Membership	-	-	3,900
Music	182	182	4,200
Worship	245	245	3,500
Congregational Life	-	-	800
Misc. & Contingency	-	-	2,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>29,741</b>	<b>29,741</b>	<b>426,636</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 31,152</b>	<b>\$ 31,152</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

2013 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



Please contact Karen Lindquist if you have questions or need additional information.

Yours in Christ through Song,

Jamie Craig  
 Director of Music  
 630-202-6788  
[Lanni1@comcast.net](mailto:Lanni1@comcast.net)



## Children's Ministry March 2013

The St. Matthew Children have begun their **Workshop Rotation Lesson, Holy Week**. The children are learning the events that took place from Palm Sunday to Christ's Resurrection through Art, Games, Movie and Cooking Workshops. **Thank you Sheri Herring, Deb Felsen-thal, Alex and Abby Johnson for leading the children in this important Lenten study.**

**Thank you to all who generously donated items for our care package mission.** This year we will send 30 boxes to our college students and military men and women. Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the last day to donate items for the care package. After the Worship service, parents will join their children upstairs in Temple of Truth to pack boxes. **Thank you to the Justice family for donating the packing supplies and shipping expense for this mission.**

The Christian Education annual **Fannie May Easter Candy Sale** has begun. All orders should be turned in by March 10<sup>th</sup>. The candy orders will be shipped to your home free of charge and will arrive before Easter Sunday. The forms are in the church Narthex and can be turned in to the church office.

**The Easter Story Cubes** will be offered again this year at \$10.00 each or three for \$25.00. This is a wonderful gift for children, showing them the true meaning of the Easter season. It is also a nice way for them to tell the story to others. The cubes will be in the Narthex on Sunday mornings March 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.



### March Birthdays

Susan Wold  
Director of Children's Ministry

Natalie Brandy – 3/1, Luke Buhmann – 3/11,  
Ellison Priebe – 3/11, Brody Stahulak – 3/14,  
Christy Banaszewski – 3/15, Cole Hutchison – 3/23,  
Benjamin Achammer – 3/25, Luke Mothershed – 3/30

## Church Council for 2013

The Church Council has met for 2013. We have as a guide Matthew 5:16 "Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven."

The following is the organization of church council for this year. Feel free to contact any of these people with contributions of ideas or talents to help our light shine.

John Adams	Treasurer
Hi Baird	President
Stu Blake	Mission Liaison
Edie DeBoard	Worship and Stewardship Liaison
Wendy Fanning	Membership Liaison
Bob Guerrieri	Secretary
Abigail Jung	Endowment/Memorial Liaison
Linnea Karpenske	Congregational Life Liaison
Karen Lindquist	At Large
Anna Neufelder	Christian Education Liaison
Dawn Schubert	Vice President
Al Skwara	Building Liaison

## Easter Activities

**Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service** will be held on Thursday, March 28th at 6:00 pm in Dobstaff Hall. We will need volunteers to make stew and brownies for the dinner. Sign up begins Sunday, March 3rd in the Narthex.

**Easter flower orders** will begin on Sunday, March 3rd. Order forms will be in the Sunday service bulletin and on the opportunity table. Please make checks payable to St Matthew UCC and state Easter flowers in the memo section. Payments are due March 12th. You can also contact Lisa Curda directly at lisacurda@gmail.com or 630.567.8019.

## Holy Week Schedule

March 24th- Palm Sunday Worship Service 9.30am

March 28th- Maundy Thursday Dinner 6pm,  
Worship Service 7pm

March 31st- Easter Worship Services 9am and 11am



## Is fund-raising your passion – even a little bit?

As explained at the annual meeting, we are planning on \$10,000 of income from fund-raising as part of our church budget. Church Council is looking for people to spearhead or contribute to this effort. Please contact Hi Baird or Dawn Schubert if you are interested.

### Fannie May Fundraiser

The Christian Education Committee is having their annual Fannie May Fundraiser. Catalogs and order forms are on a table in the Narthex. Orders and payments can be placed in the Easter basket next to the catalogs. Please remember- no tax! All orders will be due March 10<sup>th</sup> and your order will be delivered to your home the week before Easter. If you have any questions, please contact Debora Felsenthal at 630.682.9650 or [busybusymommy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:busybusymommy@sbcglobal.net).

Gift cards are also available if you want to stock up for Mother's Day!

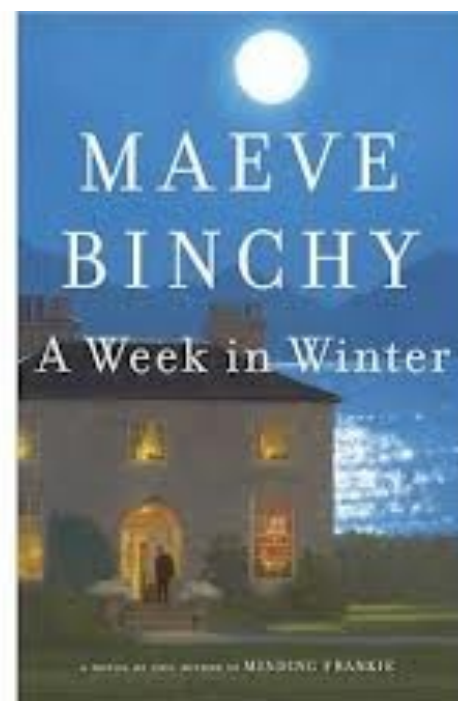
### NOVEL APPROACHES

The novel to be approached March is "A Week in Winter" by Maeve Binchy. In this novel an unlikely group of characters spends a week in a renovated mansion on the west coast of Ireland Ms. Binchy was a prolific writer and has produced a large body of work. She died just last year and this novel was published posthumously.

The date is **Friday, March 22nd, 2013 at 7:30 pm.**

## Fifth Sunday at DuPage Convalescent Center

For the past 4 years, dedicated volunteers from St Matthew have been helping residents of the DuPage Convalescent Center get to and from Sunday worship on 5th Sundays. This March, the 5th Sunday is Easter Sunday. Some of our regular volunteers will not be able to make it, and I know it's a difficult morning to volunteer. Helpers are needed, arriving at 9:30 am, to push folks in wheelchairs within the building. We'll be done by 11:45. If you are able to help out, please let me know - phone or email Ellen Ribe at [ellen.ribe@dupageco.org](mailto:ellen.ribe@dupageco.org), [630-784-4262](tel:630-784-4262). Thanks so very much!



# crazies

St. Matthew UCC

### crazies Shout Out

This month, crazies started out with something new. Instead of the annual Super Bowl party, we had a Super Bowling Party at Wheaton Bowl. At the Pancake Breakfast, we flipped and served enough pancakes to feed over eighty people and raised \$470 for the youth summer Boundary Waters trip! We hung out and helped out in the Moore house over President's day weekend. Near the end of the month, we went to the Winter Jam concert and saw Christian artists such as TobyMac and Newsong. Lessons this month included the UCC, making Valentine's day cards for kids in CDH, and Jesus' paradoxes. Next month, we're looking forward to ice skating and a Hawaiian-Themed party.

*by Jennifer Buhmann*

## Pastor Allen's New Orleans Style Bread Pudding

Several have requested the bread pudding recipe for the desert at the Shrimp boil. Here it is!

### Bread Pudding

14 oz of very stale French bread (must be stale)  
1 cup of sugar  
1 stick of butter  
4 cups of milk  
3 eggs  
2 teaspoons of vanilla  
1 teaspoons of cinnamon  
1/2 to 1 teaspoon of nutmeg  
salt to taste (maybe 1/2 teaspoon - but careful if you used salted butter)  
raisins to taste (optional)

Optional: coconut and pineapples and 1 cup of Pina Colada liquid mix in place of one of the cups of milk. Also, you could add a meringue on top and pour the hot butter sauce on that right before serving!

Beat eggs, add melted butter to eggs (butter should not be so hot as to "cook" the eggs). Combine all ingredients. Should have liquid but not too soupy. Cook in the oven around 60 minutes at 330 temp. Check at 45 minutes. Should be slightly browning on top.

### Butter Sauce

1 stick of butter  
1 and 1/2 powdered sugar  
Two egg yolks  
1/4 to 1/2 cup of bourbon OR rum or bourbon non-alcoholic flavoring OR get creative!

On medium to low-medium heat melt butter and stir in the sugar until it is well mixed a good consistency. Take off the stove, let cool. Add the egg yolks and stir in. Add bourbon or non-alcoholic flavor and stir. The original recipe calls for no cooking. (You can cook this in order to cook the egg and cook out the alcohol, but the egg may add some lumps to the sauce. We did this at the Shrimp boil.)



*And now, for something completely different...  
The poem for March, from Linda Leinweber*

**February**

By James Schuyler (1923-1991)

A chimney, breathing a little smoke,  
The sun, I can't see  
making a bit of pink  
I can't quite see in the blue.  
The pink of five tulips  
at five p.m. on the day before March first.  
The green of the tulip stems and leaves  
like something I can't remember,  
finding a jack-in-the-pulpit  
a long time ago and far away.  
Why it was December then  
and the sun was on the sea  
by the temples we'd gone to see.  
One green wave moved in the violet sea  
like the UN Building on big evenings,  
green and wet  
while the sky turns violet.  
A few of the almond trees  
had a few flowers, like a few snow flakes  
out of the blue looking pink in the light.  
A grey hush  
in which the boxy trucks roll up Second Avenue  
into the sky. They're just  
going over the hill.  
The green leaves of the tulips on my desk  
like grass-light on flesh,  
and a green copper steeple  
and streaks of cloud beginning to glow.  
I can't get over  
how it all works in together  
like a woman who just came to her window  
and stands there filling it  
jogging her baby in her arms.  
She's so far off. Is it the light  
that makes the baby pink?  
I can see the little fists  
and the rocking-horse motion of her breasts.  
It's getting grayer and cold and chilly.  
Two dog-sized lions face each other  
at the corners of a roof.  
It's the yellow dust inside the tulips.  
It's the shape of a tulip.  
It's the water in the drinking glass the tulips are in.  
It's a day like any other.

*Here is a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (1955) poem  
from Pulitzer Prize-winning James Schuyler, who  
was born in Chicago but was part of the New York  
literary and artistic circle for much of his life.*

*This poem stands out for me because it  
captures a series of images and brings them all  
together to create a mood, a feeling of late winter  
going to spring, and a day in New York. Much like  
the line in the poem, it all comes together some-  
how. Enjoy.*

The Women's Auxiliary of the Chicago West Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, located in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, would like to kindly extend an invitation for you to attend the first "women's only" interfaith event we are hosting for the 2013 new year.

Kindly spread the word and pass on the attached flyer to any women who you believe will be interested in attending. We are especially reaching out to all faith congregations to lend diversity to the discussion.

In honor of Women's History Month, our Women's Auxiliary of the Chicago West Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community cordially invites you to an interfaith prayer event, where women of all faiths will gather to pray together for peace in the world.

It is an interfaith prayer service and open discussion on:

Faith and Healing:  
The Role of Faith in Times of Suffering

and the event will take place on

Sunday, March 17th, from 1 PM-3 PM  
at Masjid Baet-ul-Jaamay  
2S 510 ILLINOIS RTE. 53  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS, 60137-6868

KINDLY NOTE THAT IS AN EVENT FOR WOMEN ONLY

A healing discussion will follow the prayer, where we will discuss the role faith plays in our lives in times of suffering. We will also focus on what we can do, as women, to work as ambassadors for peace in the world.

We will discuss the role faith plays in alleviating pain and hate in both our personal lives and experiences as well as in light of national tragedies such as the Newtown shootings, the Sikh temple shooting, and 9/11.

We will pray that we leave the world more peaceful for future generations.

You may also RSVP via email at [glenellynmosque@gmail.com](mailto:glenellynmosque@gmail.com); to RSVP prior to attending the event is encouraged, but not required.