



March 2014

The Challenge and the Opportunity of Prayer as We Begin Lent

Perhaps you learned at some point in your life one of the acronyms for prayer. There are a variety of them, but the one I learned was ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). I can remember when I was much younger going through those four elements of prayer and attempting each time I prayed to devote time to each in the proper sequence. My having a sort of “formula” for prayer provided some direction which I needed, though my prayer life sounded more like an attempt to “get prayer right,” rather than an honest conversation in the presence of the living God. Those elements of prayer are important to know, but prayer is ultimately not something we can put in a formula and then practice, but a living dialogue with God.

I can also remember using devotional books in my prayer life, which have been helpful. If you are looking for a wonderful devotional guide, “A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God” by Rueben Job is a great place to start. The advantage of a guidebook is that you will have a disciplined guide to prayer that will encourage you to pray with scripture and that will offer substantive reflections that can speak in a practical way to your life. On the other hand, the temptation is to let the reflections replace the hard work of prayer and of developing your relationship with God.

We must begin to pray with realistic expectation and a sense of what is our responsibility in prayer and what is finally up to God. Our responsibility is to set and keep the appointment. It is not only true that “90% of life is showing up,” but the same is true for prayer. The truth is there is far greater pressure not to show up for prayer than there is to keep the discipline of praying on a daily basis.

When we pray, we pray into an awkward silence. This is the first thing you notice when you pray. You are praying to God, whom you do not physically see, and speaking words when you do not have the advantage of the visual and auditory cues and responses that you have when you speak to a friend or a close loved one. You are not always sure how what you say is being received and what the immediate effect of your prayer is. If you believe prayer is primarily giving God thanks and making supplication and you do that in prayer, then what? More silence.

The first truth about prayer is that God is primarily in the silence. God is not an overly pleasing friend who shows up and listens to everything we say at our beckoning call and gives us instant gratification for what we say or ask. God is a holy other desiring to relate to us, but not just on our terms. In prayer we first learn to befriend the silence of the prayer time, to see the silence as a sort of first gracious gift of God to us. If we can accept the silence, not always fill the space with our many words, but be in the silence, our prayers can deepen and God, in God’s own time, will speak to our heart. In silence, we can get to words that reflect our true heart’s desire, which is usually not related to the first words that come to our minds. The chatter must clear for the heartfelt words to arise and connection to be made.

Some have declared prayer as a war with one’s self, and I believe there is truth to that. Keeping the appointment is likely to only happen if we also are willing to understand this profound gift of the silence. In time, we come to understand that God is in that silence and in a larger sense always the Faithful One with us. May you keep the appointment this Lenten season and come to know the depths of God’s love for you.

*Christ’s Peace,
Pastor Allen*



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 Brody Stahulak Pam Starr
15	<i>Sara Faith</i> Laurie Milling
16	Julie Barnshaw Lexie Justice Michael Marquardt
17	Julie Guenther
18	Jim Buik
19	Sue Luehring
20	Lisa Curda <i>John Ribe</i>
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
27	Tony Banaszewski
28	Leah Gimre
29	Lori Chatten
30	Emily English Stephanie Mindock

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

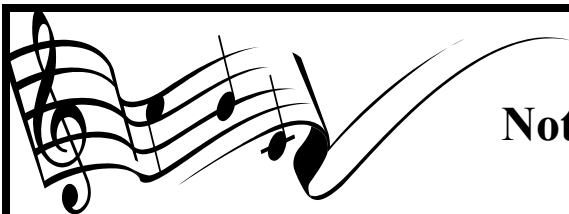
Crazies Shout-Out

crazies
St. Matthew UCC

In February, crazies started off the month by going Super Bowling at Wheaton Bowl instead of watching the Super Bowl. On the 9th, we joined members of the congregation at the Chili Cook-Off and afterwards we made Valentines for children patients at CDH. On President's Day, Chick-fil-a threw us a party at the church and in the spirit of the chicken celebration, we also watched the movie Chicken Run. During the month, crazies also had an overnight where Jennifer Buhmann hosted World Vision's 30 Hour Famine at the church. During this event, students fasted, collected food for the PRC, and played games. In the morning after Sunday's church service, students and parents hosted the Pancake Breakfast to raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip to Pennsylvania for home repairs. We raised around \$400 from the Pancake Breakfast and crazies would like to thank you for your support!

crazies dinners- the students love it, and it's also a good way for you to show your support of the youth ministry! One or two Sundays a year at 6 p.m., would you please consider cooking and bringing a meal to crazies (estimate around 10-15 students)? I buy pizza every now and then, and we always have snacks available, but the students really enjoy a home-cooked meal sometimes. Feel free to sign up and bring your favorite recipe. I'll send you an email reminder that week. The youth budget can cover the cost of ingredients, just give Mark a receipt and we'll refund you.

Please contact Mark Restaino at mark.restaino@stmatthewucc.org or con-



Notes from the Music Room.....

The handbell choirs are next gracing the service on March 23rd. On that day, the IntergeneRingers will be playing "O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus" which was written in 1890. KC has graciously provided us the background of this powerful hymn:

O The Deep Deep Love Of Jesus, 1890

Lyricist: Samuel Trevor Francis; Composer: Thomas John Williams

On a cold winter night, at a point in life when his faith had wavered, Samuel Francis found himself walking across a London bridge. Feeling lonely and in the pit of despair, he heard a whisper telling him to end his life by jumping into the water below.

Fortunately, he didn't listen to the voice of forlornness, but instead heard God's whispering words of encouragement. In the middle of the bridge, he reaffirmed his faith and rested in Christ as his Savior.

Francis based his lyrics on Romans 8:38-39 *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, never more!
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

Yours in Christ through Song,

Jamie Craig
Director of Music
630-202-6788

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please notify Diana in the church office if you have made any changes that need to be updated in our new directory such as: change of address, removal of home phone, new cell phone number, etc. We are working on finalizing the directory and would like to have everyone's most current information.



The Guzman Story

In 2001, in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, a group of St. Matthew members went to Honduras to build houses. During that trip they met the Guzman family (1) and witnessed their dangerous living conditions. Upon their return, they had a Honduran Marketplace fundraiser (3) where they raised enough money to return in 2004 to build a small home for the Guzman family (4). The Guzman family worked alongside the St. Matthew members building their home. During the work trip, as the St. Matthew members got to know the family and understood why God brought them together, an unbreakable bond was born (5). They learned during this trip that the best gift to give, to ensure a way of rising above the poverty level, is to give the children an education where they learn to speak English. With the help of Honduran friends, whose house the St. Matthew group stays in during each trip, they enrolled the children in a bilingual school. Their education is funded by the commitment of a number of St. Matthew members to give regularly and an annual amount from the mission fund. Following a work trip to Guatemala in 2006, a group went to Honduras to spend a weekend with the Guzman family (6) and tour their school (7). They returned again in 2010 to attend Daniel Guzman's 6th grade graduation (8). During the trip they were aware that the way to ensure the family's safety was to return and build a security wall around their home. They returned in 2011 and built the wall (9).

The Guzman education fund covers what is needed for Claudeth and Daniel to attend a private English school in San Pedro Sula. School needs include: tuition, enrollment, class trips, books, uniforms, bus fare, computer, internet, etc. We do not support the Guzman family in other ways. Catalina Guzman supports her family. She travels by bus, 4 hours per day, 6 days a week, to her job in San Pedro Sula. She makes \$8 per day, with \$2 of that going toward her transportation. She leaves her home at 6 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m. (3:30 p.m. on Saturdays). She pays her own taxes, utilities and buys the food for her family. Most young adults Daniel and Claudeth's age are already working and married, but because Catalina wants a better life for her children, she is willing to work hard for them. She is so grateful for all that St. Matthew does for her children and makes it clear through computer messages and phone conversations.

Daniel's trip to the U.S. was the dream of a lifetime and an answer to prayers for him, his mother and us at St. Matthew. With his classmates, he attended an International meeting provided by the University of Chicago and went to Orlando Universal Studios for some fun. We were blessed to have him spend some quality time with us before he returned to Honduras. When Daniel was asked what was his favorite part of his trip was, "the roller coasters in Orlando or the car show in Chicago?" he answered, "My favorite was meeting my St. Matthew friends who have changed my life."

On behalf of the Guzman family, thank you so much for being the light of Christ in their lives!

Being a Guzman Education Sponsor – We are in need of more sponsors for the Guzman family. As they advance in grades the opportunities increase, as does the expense (such as class trips). You can either sponsor with a quarterly donation or a one-time donation of your choice. Sign-up is in the narthex. Please let me know if you have any questions. I encourage you to pray asking God to guide you in your decision. Thank you for your consideration. *Susan Wold*



**Daniel's Visit
February 2014**







Children's Ministry March 2014

Spring is just around the corner and we have some fun events coming up:



Grand-Friends' Dance, March 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.: This family event is for all St. Matthew members and their grandparents, senior friends, senior church members, M&M partners, etc. We are encouraging the children to invite a special adult friend. The children made invitations and a take-home gift to give each adult friend invited. Come and enjoy food and desserts, fun dances (line dancing, Hokey Pokey, YMCA, etc.) and other activities (Lego building, craft, photo booth, raffle, etc.). Please mark your calendar for this fun evening.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 12, 10:00 a.m.: Bring your bag or basket to this fun all-community Easter Egg hunt. Following the hunt we will gather in Dobstaff Hall for donuts, drinks, and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Bring your camera and invite your friends for this fun event.

Sunday school mission projects: Our two Sunday school mission projects are in full swing. We are finishing up our care package collection and on March 2, during the Sunday school hour, we will pack boxes. **A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to this mission that reminds our military and students that they are not forgotten.** The children are still earning quarters to fill their M&M cylinders. The quarters collected will go to families of Bridge Communities.

Workshop Rotation: March 9, Resurrection Revealed – Easter Seen Through Symbols: It is important to remind our children that Easter is not just about chocolate bunnies and Easter baskets. We need to point them to the Good News of Christ's resurrection. Easter symbols can help them understand the Easter story. During this unit, the children will discover how symbols point to the real reason of Easter: jelly beans, hot cross buns, Easter eggs, lambs, rocks, palms, thorns, wine and bread. In Art, Drama, Storytelling, Archeological Dig, Cooking and Historical Re-Enactment workshops the children will not only learn and understand the Easter story; they will be able to tell the story of Easter to others.



As a special enhancement, the children will collect a symbol of Easter in each workshop they attend. They will put each of these symbols in a **plastic egg**. (There are 6 eggs total to collect). Each child will also receive an **egg carton** in which they will place the plastic eggs with the Easter symbols that they receive each week. It is hoped by the end of the unit that children will be able to tell the Easter story by using the symbols they have collected.



March Birthdays: Natalie Brandy 3/1, Luke Buhmann 3/11, Christy Banaszewski 3/15, Cole Hutchison 3/23, Ben Achammer 3/25, Luke Beres, Luke Mothershed 3/30

Susan Wold
Director of Children's Ministry

Lenten Study Series: Beginning to Pray

At the very heart of living the way of Christ is prayer. Prayer is our conversation with God. In that conversation our relationship with God is formed and we are being shaped into a follower in the way of Jesus. Many Christians find prayer difficult, perhaps a waste of time, or they see prayer being for someone more spiritually knowledgeable than themselves. So many are intimidated by the thought of praying or feel guilty that it is not something they do very often.

This Lenten Season we invite you to a series of conversations on prayer meant for the many who do not pray as a consistent part of their lives, as well as those with a lot of experience in prayer. Our conversations will be based on a short, accessible Christian classic called Beginning to Pray by Anthony Bloom.

March 12th	"The Absence of God"
March 19th	"Knocking at the Door"
March 26th	"Going Inward"
April 2nd	Spring Break-No Meeting
April 9th	"Managing Time"
April 16th	"Addressing God"

Each week we will have a short presentation, followed by discussion, and then time to experience the practice of prayer. ***You can join us on Wednesdays either from noon to 1 p.m. or from 7-8 p.m.*** We have copies of the book for \$9 in the church office for those who would like to read it (not required for the class).

Season of Lent Services Schedule

Ash Wednesday Worship

Service of the Ashes

March 5th at 7 p.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service

April 13th at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Dinner

April 17th at 6 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 17th at 7 p.m.

Good Friday

The Sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Services

April 20th at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.



Grand-Friends Dance

March 22, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.

St. Matthew Church

Families and their grand-friends
(grandparents, senior friends, M&M Partners, etc.)
are invited to this fun event.



Dancing

Food

Raffle Prizes

Frame Craft

Photo Booth

and more!!

2014 Chili Cook-off Winning Recipe

Makes 8 servings

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 small bell pepper, diced (optional)
- 1 stick celery, diced (optional)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound ground beef
- 3/4 pound beef sirloin, cubed
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can peeled and diced tomatoes with juice
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle dark beer
- 1 cup strong brewed coffee
- 2 (6 ounce) cans tomato paste
- 1 (14 ounce) can beef broth
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 1/2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin seeds
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 (15 ounce) cans kidney beans
- 4 fresh hot chili peppers, seeded and chopped

Directions:

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Cook onions, garlic, (bell peppers and celery if desired) ground beef and cubed sirloin in oil for 10 minutes, or until the meat is well browned and the onions are tender.

Mix in the diced tomatoes with juice, dark beer, coffee, tomato paste and beef broth. Season with brown sugar, chili powder, cumin, cocoa powder, oregano, cayenne pepper, coriander and salt. Stir in 2 cans of the beans and hot chile peppers. Reduce heat to low, and simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Stir in the 2 remaining cans of beans, and simmer for another 30 minutes.

Healthy Alternative: use ground turkey and cut the other meats out. For vegetarian, take out all meats and add celery and green pepper or other vegetable like zucchini or eggplant. Leave out the hot chile pepper if you do not like "REAL" hot.

-Pastor Allen



Upcoming Events

MARIAN PARK DINNER St. Matthew is planning to serve dinner for 45 Marian Park senior citizens on **March 4th**. The dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Senior Citizen community room at the Marian Park facility. We plan to serve chicken and roast beef. We will purchase the food, but need one or two volunteers to cook the roast beef. We also need 4-5 volunteers to help serve. Please sign up on the opportunity table if you can help and contact Alex Alavi for any information.



SHRIMP BOIL AND BLUES FEST The Mission committee is sponsoring a Shrimp Boil and Blues Fest at church on **March 8th** from 6pm-10pm. The proceeds from this event will go to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. Shrimp, salad, and dessert will be provided. This event is BYOB (beer or wine). Tickets will be \$15 per person or a max of \$40 per family. Please sign up on the Missions bulletin board in the narthex.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next Men's Fellowship meeting will be on **March 15th** from 8-10 a.m. This meeting will feature a program by John Rutledge, a member of the City Council. We will discuss "what is happening in Wheaton". The breakfast will be provided by Jim Fulcher.



5th SUNDAY AT DUPAGE CONVALESCENT CENTER

Join us to help push wheelchairs for church, **Sunday March 30TH**, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. DPCC is our county nursing home located in Wheaton with 330 residents, many of whom need help getting to and from activities within the building. On Sunday mornings, in addition to a Catholic Mass, there is Protestant Worship, where about 70 residents gather. Different churches in the area help out regularly, and 5th Sundays are St Matthew days. Won't you join us? We gather about at 9:30 a.m. for orientation, then spread out through the rather enormous building to bring residents to the service. At 10:30 a.m. the service starts, which on 5th Sundays includes communion. The service is over by 11:30 a.m. with transporting back done by 12 p.m. We promise a smile or two and a good warm heart. Questions? Want to let us know you can help? Contact Glenn Sapa or Ellen Ribe (ellen.ribe@dupageco.org 630-784-4262). Thanks!



Saturday
April 12th
St. Matthew U.C.C.
EASTER
EGG
HUNT

10 A.M.

Get your picture taken

With the Easter Bunny!

Enjoy donuts, games, and crafts after the hunt!

Please bring your own basket

1420 S. Gables Blvd.
Wheaton, IL 60189

630.665.1236

www.stmatthewucc.org

And now...for something completely different: A poem for March from Linda Leinweber.

Spring and All

By William Carlos Williams, 1923

By the road to the contagious hospital
under the surge of the blue
mottled clouds driven from the
northeast—a cold wind. Beyond, the
waste of broad, muddy fields
brown with dried weeds, standing and fallen

patches of standing water
the scattering of tall trees

All along the road the reddish
purplish, forked, upstanding, twiggy
stuff of bushes and small trees
with dead, brown leaves under them
leafless vines—

Lifeless in appearance, sluggish
dazed spring approaches—

They enter the new world naked,
cold, uncertain of all
save that they enter. All about them
the cold, familiar wind—

Now the grass, tomorrow
The stiff curl of wild carrot leaf
One by one objects are defined—
It quickens: clarity, outline of leaf

But now the stark dignity of
entrance—Still, the profound change
has come upon them: rooted, they
grip down and begin to awaken

Once you get past puzzling over what, exactly, a contagious hospital is (Williams was a doctor), you can relax and enjoy this poem for its imagery, which captures the transition from dead winter to the renewed life of spring. Williams rejected T. S. Eliot's academic approach to poetry and wanted his poems to reflect not ideas but the singularity of things. Many view this poem as a direct response to Eliot's "April is the cruellest month..." of *The Waste Land*. Of note is the way Williams runs his lines together, using lots of dashes and few end stops, as if this is being breathlessly experienced. I submitted this once before to *The Voice*, but it is worth a second look and perfect for March in the Midwest. It is widely anthologized, but I got it from *The Top 500 Poems, A Columbia Anthology*, edited by William Harmon. Enjoy!

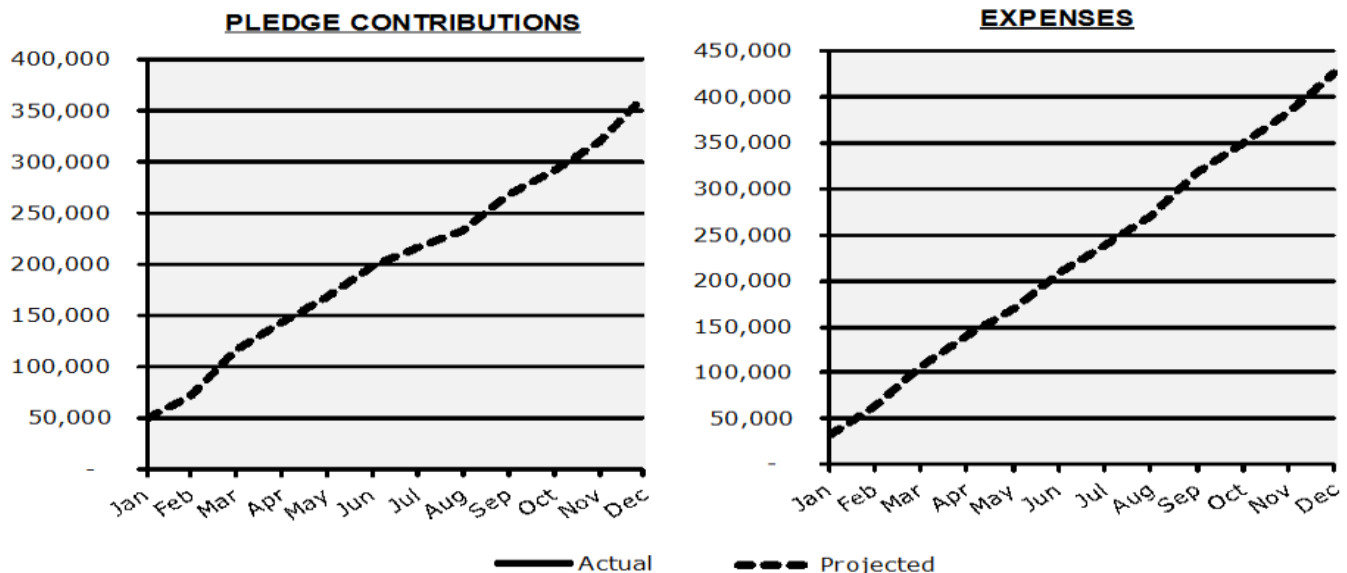


**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ended January 31, 2014

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	58,425	58,425	363,658
Loose Offerings	334	334	6,000
Rental Income	-	-	5,000
Fund Raising	-	-	10,000
Investment Income	(78)	(78)	-
More Property	-	-	41,500
More Property (special projects)	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	58,681	58,681	426,158
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	16,918	16,918	224,348
Building	10,895	10,895	122,810
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	2,229	26,750
Mission / OCWM	200	200	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	1,115	1,115	9,600
Membership	276	276	2,750
Music	775	775	4,500
Worship	582	582	2,500
Endowment	-	-	1,000
Congregational Life	-	-	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Misc. & Contingency	-	-	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (before Special Projects)	32,990	32,990	426,158
Special Projects	-	-	-
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ 25,691	\$ 25,691	\$ -

2014 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Tuesday: 6p IntergeneRing-ers 7p Bells Potluck 7:30p Chancel Ringers	Every Wednesday: 1:30p Prayer Group 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Choir					1
2 -9:30a Worship Service	3 -7p Christian Ed	4 -6 p Marian Park Dinner -7p Membership Com. - 7:30p Mission Com.	5 Ash Wednesday -7 p Worship Service	6	7	8 -6p-10p Shrimp Boil & Blues Fest
9 -9:30a Worship Service	10 -7p Worship Committee	11	12 -Lenten Prayer Study Begins: 12-1p or 7-8p -PADS	13 -7p Finance Committee	14	15 -8a Men's Fellowship
16 -9:30a Worship Service	17	18 -General Primary Election: Dobstaff	19	20 -6p Staff Relations Committee -7p Council	21	22 -6-8p Grand-Friends Dance
23 -9:30a Worship Service: Bells Sunday -April Voice articles due	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 -9:30a Worship Service	31					



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

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allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org

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Mark Restaino, Director of Youth Ministries

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