



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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THE VOICE



January
2017

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PASTORAL MESSAGE
Rev. Allen Mothershed

KILLING TIME

Novelist Fredrick Buechner, in a sermon entitled "The Killing of Time," writes "I was with my wife and buying groceries one day, and I was on one side of the store and she was on the other, and over a shelf of breakfast cereal and cake mix I said, 'Don't forget the ice cream,' and she said, 'All right, but don't you forget you're trying to lose weight,' and I said, 'Oh, well, you only live once.' And then it happened, this thing that broke through my deafness. The store was nearly empty, so the woman at the checkout counter had no trouble hearing us. It was a hot, muggy afternoon, and she had been working hard all day and looked flushed and hectic there behind her cash register and through the rack of Life Savers and chewing gum and TV Guides, and when I said, 'O well, you only live once,' she broke into the conversation, and what she said, was, "Don't you think once is enough?" That was it."

Buechner goes on to say, that he realized she was saying a lot more than, "Don't you think once is enough." He had a rare chance to understand behind her words something else, maybe like, "People come and people go, most of them strangers. I'm sick of them, and I'm sick of myself too. One day's very much like another." He also heard between in those words, "I'm living my life out to the last, and I expect to have good days as well as bad. But when the end comes, I won't complain. One life will do me very nicely."

Buechner points out that whether or not we think "one life is enough," the one thing we can safely say is that it is the only life we get. "We tend to live as though our lives would go on forever." So much of our life is about looking forward to the next thing and everything else is just "killing time" in the interim. The phrase is such an awful one if we think about it, because the time we are killing is our own and we only have so much of it.

He goes on to describe a winter day when he was on the way to teach a class and he noticed that the sky was just right, the trees served as the perfect backdrop to reveal one of the most beautiful sunsets. He paused and took it in before making his way to the classroom where the students

(cont'd. on pg. 2)

were in their chairs waiting. He was just about to start the class when on impulse he went over to the light switch and turned it off and the room was in near darkness just enough so that the large window revealed to the class the setting sun. They remained silent for the longest time just noticing this sight that was about to be overlooked. He says what was so remarkable was not just the sunset they saw in those 20 minutes of silence but the un-busyness. They were not just killing time. They were communing with one another in life that so often we take for granted and just survive.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have life in all its fullness" (John 10:10), something to meditate on as we start a new year. As a plaque someone made for me—one she knew I needed— says, "Life is what happens to you when you are making other plans."

Blessings - Pastor Allen

Frederick Buechner, *The Hungering Dark*, "Killing Time," pp. 70-80, Harper San Francisco.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Renewing Faith Bible Study: The Experience of Salvation

At the heart of the Christian faith is the belief that we as human beings and the creation itself are in need of salvation. If we take our Scriptural tradition more seriously, we will discover images of salvation that are far more comprehensive and powerful than is commonly understood. Join us in the new year for an experiential exploration of the nuanced meanings of salvation in Scripture. Each week we will reflect on a particular Scripture in order to experience its relevance for our lives, as we also deepen our understanding of what it means to be saved.

Tuesday, January 10 7-8pm

Sin and Redemption: David and Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 12:1-15

Tuesday, January 17 7-8pm

Disease and Healing: Healing of the Leper - Luke 17:11-19

Tuesday, January 24 7-8pm

Exile and Coming Home: The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

Tuesday, January 31 7-8pm

Oppression and Liberation: Moses and the Burning Bush - Exodus 3:1-12

Tuesday, February 7 7-8pm

Blindness and Seeing: The Blind Man - John 9



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Happy New Year! We have made it through 2016.

December was exceptional musically. We had several join us to make it memorable with our **"Open-Choir Sing," Cantata, Bells, Praise Band and Sanctuary Choir.** If I am correct, each week we had additional people joining in one way or another with all our groups to help us through Advent and Christmas. Thank you to everyone who was involved in any way with music.

The **"Open-Choir Sing"** this fall saw several individuals join in, some once or twice and some each month. I was impressed with how well everyone learned the music, and I heard many compliments. As promised, here are the dates for the first half of 2017: January 15th, February 19th, March 19th and April 30th. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us.



May your New Year be blessed with Happiness and Peace.

Jamie Craig
630-202-6788
Lanni1@comcast.net

WEEKLY REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday

IntergeneRingers
6pm

Chancel Ringers
7:30pm

Wednesday

Praise Band
6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm

CANTATA 2016 - "Mary, Did You Know?"





MISSION NEWS



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

The annual Feed My Starving Children trip is Monday, January 16th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will meet at the church at 1:45pm and carpool to FMSC to pack food for starving children in countries all over the world. We will pack from 2:30 to 4:30pm 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 50 spots reserved, so please see the sign-up board in the narthex if you would like to participate.

5th SUNDAY AT DuPAGE CONVALESCENT CENTER

January 29th is a 5th Sunday again! It is St Matthew's day to help get DPCC residents to worship on Sunday morning. Can you help? Arrive at 9:30am, push wheelchairs within the building, stay for worship, and help get folks back. You'll be done by about 11:45am, having spent time with some awesome people (at least two St Matthew members) who really appreciate what you do. Call Ellen Ribe, [630-784-4262](tel:630-784-4262) or email ellen.ribe@dupageco.org if you can help. Thank you!

FOOD ON THE FIRST

To all who donated in 2016, a very BIG thank you from me and those who work in the food pantries. We are all most grateful!

Here is what is needed in January.

- Cake mix (no frosting)
- Canned pasta
- Canned pineapple slices
- Hamburger, Chicken, and Tuna Helper
- Ketchup & Mayo
- Small cans of chicken - No tuna
- Soap

For Men:

- Body wash
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream



Please make sure items have not expired and are unopened.

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

Blessings to all.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 22nd, following the church service. The agenda and the proposed budget for 2017 will be available in the narthex by Sunday, January 15th. Outgoing Council President Bruce Anderson will address the congregation during the church service.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting!

EUCHRE NIGHT

Come join us Friday, January 20th at 7pm for our next euchre tournament and attempt to dethrone the current champs, Randy and Roseanne King. Feel free to bring friends who may want to get to know St. Matthew better. Bring a snack or drink to share. Sign up at church or email Roseanne King, kingz@me.com to aid in planning.

NOVEL APPROACHES

The next novel to be approached is "The Story of B" by Daniel Quinn. Continuing the visionary journey begun in *Ishmael*, "The Story of B" is a remarkable and provocative novel of intrigue involving the Antichrist and the hidden history of the world. All are welcome. Join us for fellowship, food and friendly discussion.

Date: Friday, February 3, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

Location: the Coopers, 422 W. Evergreen, Wheaton



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN/MANNA
MANNA Program

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 Manna cards for the places you shop brings extra money to St. Matthew.

Manna – **it's not just for gift cards any more.** Check out the Manna table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday.

MEMORIAL CELEBRATION FOR THE LIFE OF SHEILA SPINNER

Saturday, January 21st - 5-9pm

Immanuel United Church of Christ

Volkenning Hall

1500 Old Church Road (west of Barrington Rd.)

Streamwood, IL

630.837.0190

5pm - A reception with a light meal will be held. Please contact the Immanuel United Church of Christ Office to RSVP by Thursday, January 19th if you plan to attend.

6-7pm - A time of reflection and remembering of Sheila's life.

DADS AND MOMS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Several dads met recently and have planned two events, one for couples and the other for dads and kids. We hope you can join us in the fun.

Sunday, January 15th - Dads and Kids Game Afternoon at the Church

We will meet for games and a scavenger hunt at the church from 3pm until around 5pm. We will end with a light meal.

Sunday, January 22nd - **Parents' Outing at Top Golf, 5pm-7pm**

One popular place for adults to gather for games and food and drinks is Top Golf, near Highway 59 and I-88. **Don't worry if you don't play golf, there are many entertainment opportunities** and a place for us to gather. If you do golf, you can join in some fun golf games.

From the Holland Family

Dear St. Matthew Family-

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their kind words, **thoughts, and cards after my mother's passing. It has been a year of heartache in the Holland family with losing Lou's father earlier** this year as well. It is truly a blessing to have support and kind words from our St. Matthew family. Thank you all for letting us know you were there.

Warmest Regards,
Darcy & Lou Holland



Thank You from the Henderson Family

The Hendersons would like to extend their deepest gratitude for the church family's financial, emotional and prayer support for Evelyn's upcoming surgery. The response has been overwhelming and we are so grateful for everything the St. Matthew family has **provided. We'll depart for Florida in early February and appreciate** your continued prayers for Evelyn's surgery on February 7th and her lengthy rehab following. The family will provide regular updates via this Caringbridge website:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/eviehenderson>. Feel free to follow the site and be notified when updates are made. Cards or pictures from the kids would brighten Evie's day, and can be sent to:

Evelyn Henderson
c/o Quantum House
987 45th Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH



**Children's Ministry
Christmas Activities**



Top row: Mitten tree, Birthday cake for Jesus, children singing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

Row two: Eating cake, Manger, Christmas nativity craft.

Row three: M&M Christmas gathering, Sunday school tree, Children during parents shopping day out.



Happy Birthday
Mary Kate Muntz 1/18,
Anna Muntz 1/24,
Otto Sturm 1/10



Happy Holidays, St. Matthew family!

It was wonderful to see everyone in the holiday spirit on Christmas Eve and even better to see so many dedicated and pajama-clad families on Christmas morning when I got to give the meditation.

crazies has been going great. We have a solid group of youth and we have fun. Well, I **love spending time with them: hopefully the kids get something out of it, too. We'll** have regular crazies again starting January 1st after taking Christmas Day off. Basically, I'll hang out with your kids for awhile so you can finish recovering from New Year's Eve and get ready to go back to work.

The next event planned before the Super Bowl will be Alex Johnson's trip to Feed My Starving Children on January 16th. Sign up in the narthex if you're interested in participating.

As always, if you'd like to volunteer to bring a meal or be my adult helper for a Sunday evening, send me an email. I'll always take all the help I can get.

Happy New Year!

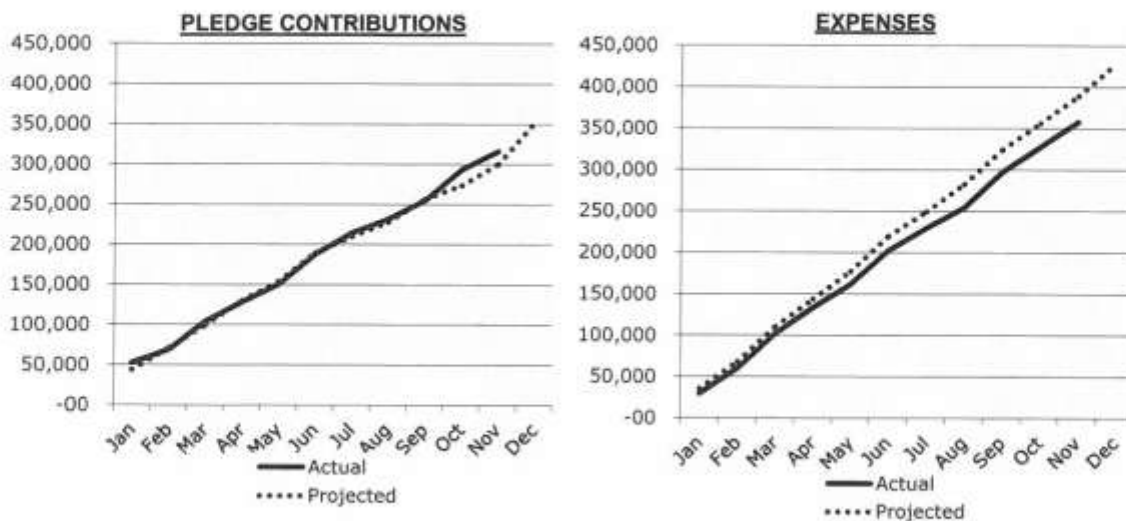
Quinn Rosenthal,
Director of Youth Ministry

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

For the Period Ending November 30, 2016

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	28,281	316,443	353,000
Loose Offerings	246	4,028	10,000
Rental Income	-00	2,855	5,000
Fund Raising	270	3,606	8,000
Investment Income	138	300	-00
More Property	-00	-00	-00
Miscellaneous Income	60	5,060	-00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,994	332,293	376,000
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	17,447	207,437	234,195
Building	6,626	85,956	118,253
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	24,521	26,750
Mission / OCWM	2,634	26,695	29,200
Committees:			
Christian Education	233	7,221	9,970
Membership	-00	807	2,750
Music	487	3,003	4,700
Worship	314	1,013	1,500
Congregational Life	147	857	800
Memorial	-00	45	100
Stewardship	-00	-00	500
Misc. & Contingency	-00	440	1,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	30,118	357,994	429,718
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$(1,124)	\$(25,701)	\$(53,718)

2016 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



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

JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR</i> 9:30am Worship Service 6pm crazies	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3 1pm Digital Ministry Meeting 1pm Finance 7pm Membership 7pm Mission	4 10am Women's Prayer Group Annual Reports Due	5	6	7
8 9:30am Worship Service - Remembrance Sunday 6pm crazies	9 7pm Building Committee 7pm Christian Education	10 7pm Adult Bible Study	11 10am Women's Prayer Group PADS	12 PADS 7pm Council	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship Service 3pm Dads & Kids Game Afternoon 6pm crazies	16 Martin Luther King Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> 1:30pm Feed My Starving Children	17 7pm Adult Bible Study	18 10am Women's Prayer Group	19 6pm SRC	20 7pm Euchre Night	21
22 9:30am Worship Service ANNUAL MEETING VOICE ARTICLES DUE 5pm Parents' Out- ing to Top Golf 6pm crazies	23	24 7pm Adult Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29 9:30am Worship Service 5th Sunday at DuPage Convalescent Center 6pm crazies	30	31 7pm Adult Bible Study		TUESDAY NIGHTS 6pm Intergene-Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Ringers	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	



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



St. Matthew United Church of Christ
630.665.1236 (Office)

Office Email:
office@stmatthewucc.org

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

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

Our Purpose:

*Become, Live, and Serve as Disciples
of Jesus Christ.*

Our Identity:

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's
journey, you are welcome and accepted here at
St. Matthew United Church of Christ.***

STAFF

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