

St. Matthew
United Methodist Church
2540 West Baseline Road
Mesa, AZ 85202-5403

Office Hours
Monday -Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Office Closed

Tel: 480-838-7309/838-7311
Fax: 480-838-7354

Our Mission
We are called... to be a visible witness of the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit by providing a welcoming, caring, inclusive church home in the community for Christians of all ages as they live, grow and serve in their faith.

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The handicapped Parking spaces in the church parking lot are reserved parking for **those who are handicapped.**

**Vehicles that have
Handicap Plates or
Permits Only.
Please Comply!**

Articles for April Mustard Seed Due: Wednesday, March 17, 2010
e-mail to mustardseed@stmatthewmesa.org or leave in the Editors mail box.
(If you have photos to support your article please include them.)



The Head of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ.
The Ministers of this church are its members.
Those who assist them are:

Rev. Minerva Carcaño.....	Resident Bishop
Rev. Sharon Ragland.....	District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. David M. Alberts.....	Dave@stmatthewmesa.org.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Eric Brown.....	Eric@stmatthewmesa.org.....Associate Pastor
Pastor Diana Williams.....	Diana@stmatthewmesa.org.....Associate Pastor of Deaf Ministries
Iain Glithero.....	Iainglithero@yahoo.com.....Retired Local Pastor
Jim Fountain.....	Jim@stmatthewmesa.org.....Certified Lay Minister
Jill Fishburn.....	Jill@stmatthewmesa.org.....Director of Music
Jill Fishburn.....	Jill@stmatthewmesa.org.....Director of Stephen Ministries
Becky Kerr.....	Becky@stmatthewmesa.org.....Director of Youth
Mareen Treese.....	Mareen@stmatthewmesa.org.....Preschool Director
Laura Stuhlmler.....	Office@stmatthewmesa.org.....Office and Business Manager
Christiana Kirkham.....	Mustardseed@stmatthewmesa.org.....Publications Designer
Don Taylor.....Custodian
Webmaster.....	Webmaster@stmatthewmesa.org.....Communications

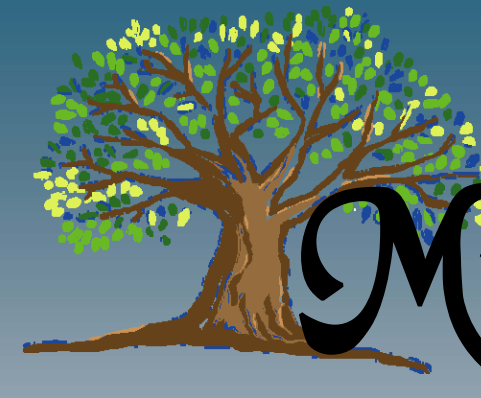
9:00 AM
Traditional Worship
(in the Sanctuary)
Children and Adult
Sunday School

9:00 AM
Contemporary Worship
with Communion
(in Fellowship Hall)

10:30 AM
Blended Worship and
Children's Church
(in the Sanctuary)
Youth and Adult
Sunday School

*Please call the church office if you
need assistance with transportation
to Sunday worship. We will help to
coordinate ride-shares
(480) 838-7309.*

*A Fellowship Time follows
each service of worship.
on the Patio.*



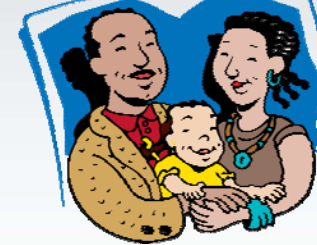
Mustard Seed

March 2010

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."
Matthew 13:31-32

The Lenten Season Continues

Church Photo Directory



The Evangelism Committee reports that the Church Directory went to the printer in late February. Olan Mills tells us that the printing usually takes a bit more than a month. This means that we expect the Directory back in our church around Easter. Thanks for putting this together, Evangelism folks!

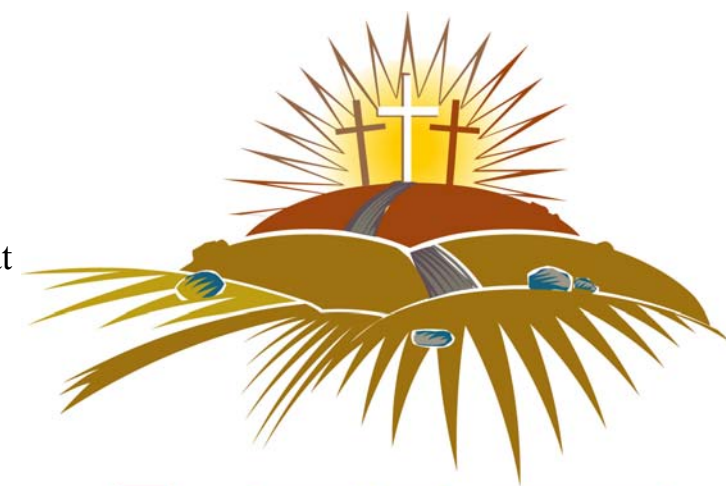
Lenten Suppers All Month
Each Wednesday night during March, we will be serving a soup supper starting at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. There's no charge for dinner (but there will be an offering basket out). You're welcome to come late or early. If you can help out with the dinners, contact Pastor Eric. Come join the Fellowship, then stay for the evening's activities (the choirs or the book study).

Lenten Book Study
If you didn't get a chance to join a small group for our Lenten Book Study, you are still welcome to purchase a book and read at your leisure. The book, *Unbinding Your Heart*, helps us to think objectively about sharing our faith with others. The

book is available at the Welcome Table.

Thank you to Our Lenten Fair Team

Our Sunday School teachers presented a fantastic Lenten Fair on Sunday, Feb 21. The fair introduced children to some of the important concepts of Lent, and the reasons we celebrate. Thanks, teachers, for your hard work.



LENT

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.STMATTHEWMESA.ORG

Pastor's Pen — "Anticipating a Move" By Pastor Eric

You may have heard that I have requested a change of appointment from our Bishop. Allow me to take a few minutes to explain why and what this means for St. Matthew.

In the United Methodist Church, pastors are deployed with an eye on the larger whole. This is to say, pastors come and go based on what is good for the United Methodist Church in a region. The Bishop and the Cabinet are charged with trying to find the "sweet spot," where the needs of our Annual Conference, our local church, the pastor, and his or her family all meet. This, as you can imagine, is a nearly impossible task. It is harder still when a pastor is unknown and comes from beyond the boundaries of our Annual Conference. Please keep this in the back of your mind when you consider the appointment process.

In the winter of 2008, my wife and I resolved to leave the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference for new opportunities. I served the United Methodist Church 11 years in Oregon and Idaho and we were ready for new horizons. I had heard of growing churches and populations of people ready to walk with Jesus the Christ in the Desert Southwest, and so I requested a move into this area. Bishop Minerva Carcano appointed us to St. Matthew. With this appointment, we received a profound gift. I thank God for this opportunity. We found a welcoming home, a loving place for our family, and great work for my wife. We have been blessed during our time at St. Matthew.

We knew from the beginning that this would not be a long-term appointment. If you study the wall of the Narthex, you'll find the average appointment time of an associate here at St. Matthew is just a couple of years. Furthermore, as someone who had served as a solo and senior pastor for the past 11 years, my leadership gifts and skills have been honed in a different leadership capacity. I long for my own church.

And I have appreciated my time here. I have been blessed by Pastor Dave. He is a gifted pastor and I have learned much working with him. It had been some time since I served on a staff. During seminary I served on a church staff; I appreciated this new opportunity to work with colleagues on a daily basis. I also have enjoyed having someone with which I could "share the load" and opportunities to take time off without having to worry about what was happening "back home." What a great opportunity this has been, both for my family and for me.

In October, at the time of our Charge Conference,

I requested a move to a church of my own. I did it with some regret, sorry that we would have to abandon the relationships that we have begun to build. But I also did it with a sense of realism: we cannot put down long-term roots here. We want to purchase a home and place our children in the schools that will see them through their whole elementary and middle school careers. As long as we are at St. Matthew, we cannot make long-term plans. With the description I gave of the appointment system in mind, it is hard to image that the Bishop would leave us here, at St. Matthew, for a very long time. The larger system, I know, would have need for us elsewhere. Even if we did not move this year, a move would eventually come, sooner rather than later.

With a sense of regret and realism, I requested a change of appointment in October. I anticipate the Bishop will give me a new appointment, effective July 1. I do not yet know where the new appointment will be. This means that my time at St. Matthew is short.

This change of appointment comes at an opportune moment for the St. Matthew Church. You may have heard that our church is in some financial distress. Pledges for 2010 are well below last year's pledges and well below our needs. The Finance Committee is working hard to close this significant deficit in our budget without laying off our staff. They have written the budget nearly every way possible, counted and recounted revenue, and prayed. In the very near future, you will hear a report from the Finance Committee.

My departure helps the St. Matthew financial situation. With my departure, nearly \$40,000 (one-half of my year's salary and benefits package) is made available to balance the church budget. To release this money to the budget, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee recommended and the Church Council approved that the position of full-time Associate Pastor not be filled. This request has been forwarded to the Bishop.

Let's be clear: my departure and the financial needs of our church are not related. I requested a change of appointment in October, before our financial campaign began and before the church's needs were apparent. I came to this appointment expecting that it would be short-term.

Thank you for allowing me to serve among you. Thank you for blessing my family with your generosity and kindness. Thank you, St. Matthew, for your many blessings. And I'm not gone yet. We have lots of fun in store in the next 4 months!

See you in Worship.

Pastor Eric

Thank You

Dear St. Matthew Elves,

What a precious gift to give to our family over the Christmas holiday. It is a true blessing to be loved and cared for by so many. The generosity and thoughtfulness that went in to each of the nights leading up to our trip was so heartfelt and unconditional. We will never be able to say thank you enough. Please know that each of you are loved back and appreciated so very much. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Blessings, Mareen, Ashlyn & Austin

Thanks to everyone who donated blood on February 7. Don't forget that if your regular donation time is not in February or August (the months of our scheduled drives) that you notify UBS that you are a St. Matthew member so we can get credit. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Dear Friends at St. Matthew,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, flowers and gifts for my granddaughter Kalia during the weeks of her illness and hospitalization. She is home now and will have ongoing challenges, but with prayer and God's presence in her life, she will get through this and return to her activities and a happy life. Your thoughtfulness to me and to my daughter Diane and son-in-law Mark were also appreciated. Special thanks to Pastors Dave and Diana, and to Morning Glories for their prayer shawl which Kalia loves.

I love you all,
Barbara Osgood

Thank you to the Evangelism Team. They put on a wonderful Senior Valentine Luncheon on Feb 13. Over 50 people attended and were blessed by a beautiful program. Special thanks to the kitchen team, the drama team, Steve Edman, Barb Hedges and Mary Arbaugh. Thank you!

Apportionment Thank You

Dear members and friends of St. Matthew UMC,

Thank you very much!

On behalf of the Desert Southwest Conference, I want to thank you for paying 100% (124,643) of your 2009 apportionments. Your gifts help the UMC train clergy and lay leaders around the world, address issues of poverty in the United States and elsewhere, and strengthen efforts to create new places for new people so they can experience the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Your faithfulness helped the Central East District pay 86.99% of 2009 apportionments. Desert Southwest Conference churches paid 85.4% which represents the hard work of all churches, including St. Matthew UMC.

Your efforts are especially appreciated during challenging economic times and show your gratitude for the abundance of God's gifts to us. May God continue to bless your efforts on behalf of the mission of the church-to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Blessings,
Sharon Ragland

Marriage Announcement

- Jo Stafford is happy to announce the marriage of Michelle Renee Stafford to Jason Alan Nelson on October 10, 2009.

Bereavement

- Our sympathies go out to the friends and family of Bill Albright on his passing.
- Our sympathies go out to Peter, Elena and Jaclyn Finelli on the passing of Elena's mother, Lisa Gwyn.

Church News

Meeting Date Change

The Evangelism Committee will meet at 6pm on Thursday, March 4 (rather than on its usual Wednesday night). If you are interested in the work of connecting people to one another and getting word of our great church out to our neighbors, come join in the conversation.

Coffee Cart

You may have noticed that the Coffee Cart that sits on the Patio each Sunday is in rough shape. The wheels are falling off and it does not roll straight any longer. To remedy this, the Evangelism Committee has put a coffee cart out on the coffee cart to accept your donations to purchase a new cart. The cart will cost about \$400.

The Rock Stars

Our "Rock Stars," (the upper elementary class) have been working hard. Through their good behavior, quick thinking, and bible skills they earned a video game called "Guitar Praise." This game, which comes with a pair of guitars, allows our students to sing and play along with great Christian music. Good job, Rock Stars!

Hugs for Haiti

With the prompting of Mr. Warren, our Sunday School spent Feb 14 learning about the recent earthquake in Haiti, Bible verses that call us to help our neighbor, and assemble 72 UMCOR health kits to send to needy people. Thank you for your generous help to make these health kits possible. Good job, kids!

The Easter Egg Hunt



One of the great traditions of our church is the Easter Egg Hunt. This year's hunt is scheduled for the weekend before Easter, Saturday, March 27 from 10am to 12 noon. There will be a ton of crafts for kids, Easter eggs to hunt, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. We will need lots of volunteers to help out, along

with all the children you know to participate. Please bring plastic eggs (larger size eggs, please), non-chocolate candy, and other small egg stuffers and place them in the boxes in the Narthex before that meeting.

Helping Hands

THE NEXT HELPING HANDS MEETING WILL BE MARCH 6TH AT 8:00 AM. Please note the change in time. Helping Hands can provide transportation for medical appointments, church services and church meetings. If 48 hours notice is given we have time to organize this important service. For transportation needs call Sherry Twitchell, Phyllis Lalley or the church office. The day after Easter Helping Hands will be delivering Easter flowers. If you can volunteer for this service please call Barb Freeman (480-899-0449), the church office or Phyllis Lalley.

All are welcome at our meetings...hope to see you on March 6th at 8:00 AM, in the Fellowship Hall area.

Phyllis Lalley
Sherry Twitchell

Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 853 Rummage sale

Saturday March 27 7:00 AM
St Matthew Parking lot

Any and all donations accepted. Remember, it is tax deductible!! Everyone Welcome !!!!!

For questions, donations or, pick-up (Yes!! We will be happy to come and pick up your stuff). Please call Judy Nielsen.

Thank-you for ALL your support!! The congregation of St Matthew has ALWAYS been an incredible source of support for our Troop!!!

Girl Scouts

Girl Scout cookies are in, please look for us to get the ones that you ordered, before you stop at booth!

Thanks for supporting Girl Scouts!
—Marion Ritchotte



Lay Leaders Notes

In the very beginning of St. Matthew United Methodist Church (mid 1970's) there were many church positions to be filled with a small number of members. We took jobs to assure that SMUMC would succeed. Therefore, many of us had two, maybe three, committee or planning groups in which to participate. When we are actively involved we take more ownership of the work and feel more connected to the church and to one another. Many of us are still close friends, to these many 36 plus years.



Through that early volunteering these friendships and serving our church collectively has been one of our greatest joys. We felt a real sense of accomplishment in helping our church.

In this tough economy our church, as well as many others, are finding it hard to come up with the money to pay for all the activities we've started or new programs we may want to initiate. So volunteering is all the more important. If everyone chips in, the work gets done and God is indeed glorified all the more.

So we suggest every member and friend pray about giving at least two hours each week to St. Matthew UMC. Of course, one hour is for worship in whatever worship service you choose and one hour is any other way you'd like to contribute. If the Lay Leadership committee asks you to serve on a committee please give it your prayerful consideration. Other suggestions could be choir, Sunday School teachers and aids, Bible Study teacher or member, trustee work day, education, UMW and UMM, babysitting, cooking, Helping Hands, general leadership. The list goes on and on. We can guarantee you'll meet wonderful people, have fun, and you can have the feeling of ownership of St. Matthew.

The church conference Laity Team suggests we pray in March for First UMC, Gilbert; St. Paul's UMC, Globe; Gold Canyon UMC, Gold Canyon; and Living Water UMC. Also, pray for St. Matthew UMC.

In Christ's Name,
Roger and Joyce Helm

Youth News

UMYF Jamba Juice Fundraiser Sunday, February 28 – Saturday, March 6

Pick-up a flyer on the patio, Sunday, February 28; purchase a drink at Jamba Juice (Dobson & 101) February 28 – March 6; and our UMYF will receive 20% of all purchases. Funds received will be used for our June 2010 Mission Trip to inner-city Los Angeles.

**2010 Junior High Convention
"Beauty and the Geek"
Friday, March 12, 7:00 PM –
Sunday, March 14, 1:00 PM
1st UMC, Gilbert
Cost: \$88**

JHC is open to all youth in grades 7-9, and 6th graders who regularly participate in a youth group. Registration forms are on the Youth Yap Board.

All Church Picnic

March 21

Come one, come all to the St. Matthew United Methodist Church all-church picnic on March 21! The potluck picnic will be at Clark Park, 19th and Roosevelt (West of Mill Ave, north of Broadway Rd), Tempe, from noon to 3:00 PM.

Please bring complete table service and beverages for you and your family and a dish to share with your church family according to this plan: A-F, salad; G-R, main dish; S-Z, dessert.

Tables are available under the covered ramada. The volleyball court at the park will be available from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Bring a lawn chair to cheer on your favorite players!



United Methodist Women

Cuppa Natter

March 23, 7 PM at Julie Jensen's home. Call for directions. Julie will be giving a program on Thailand.

Morning Glories

Morning Glories Circle will meet at 9:00 a.m. on March 2 and 16 in Building D at the Church. The program on March 2 will be given by Linda Penman and on March 16 we will stuff plastic Easter Eggs for the church Easter Egg hunt. Please contact Judy Garza, if you have questions.

UM Women's Retreat



The UMW retreat is coming in July, if you would like to start a payment plan to cover the cost, see Phyllis Lalley. The theme this year is Keeping Your Faith Through it All.

Please consider coming if you have never attended, this is a great social

networking (not facebooking, but faceseeking) opportunity to meet the women of the church and to also learn about your faith.

THE LOST BOYS & GIRLS OF SUDAN MINI MISSION!

Everyone is invited

This wonderful event will take place at St Matthew UM Church and is being sponsored by the UMW. It will start at 9am - Noon on March 6th; registration (FREE) is at 8:30am. There will be snacks as well as some breakfast foods; coffee, tea and cold drinks. Please come and support this wonderful ministry. The Sudanese youth will have the entire service.

Save the Date

All Daughters' Luncheon, "Let Your Light Shine" on May 8. Tickets will be on sale beginning April 11, 2010. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and \$2 for children in the nursery.

Crafty Ladies



Please join us at Billie Snell's home on March 2 at 7:00 PM.

Our April meeting is on the 6th at 7:00 PM. We will be meeting at Phyllis Lalley's home.

YACKS

March 20th —Take Me Out to the Ballgame
Cubs at the Athletics 1:05pm, at Phoenix Municipal Stadium, tickets are \$10. RSVP by March 7th to Michelle Chasse to give us ample time to order tickets so we can all sit together.

April 10th — Habitat for Humanity Build & Potluck.
There is nothing better after a hard day's work than not to have to worry about dinner. We will meet back at the church to enjoy some good grub and fellowship.

The Men's Bible Study

Meets on Thursday mornings, at 6:30 AM, at Coco's on Baseline and Dobson Rd. The group is studying the 1st and 2nd Letters of Peter using the book: "Letters of James and Peter," by William Barclay, as reference.

Missions

U.M.O.M.

The new kitchen at U.M.O.M. is now open for service! The kitchen is wonderful with lots of room and we know they put it to use everyday. They are always in need of help in serving. Please contact the church office if you would like to sign up to help.

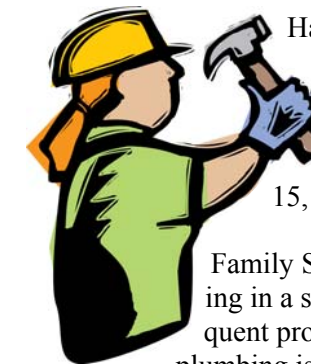
A recent donation was made on St. Matthew's behalf to the U.M.O.M. New Day Center, Child Care Center. With the recent discussion of changing the rules in daycare centers in our State, they are in need now more than ever to keep their doors open.

A recommendation has been made that we need to have a quarterly meeting for those that are involved with U.M.O.M. from St. Matthew (Women's Auxiliary, Youth Group, UMW, etc.) so we can all get together and discuss what we can do to help each other.



From top: Brian Loos, Kaye Rountree, Susan Lewis, Debbie Landry

Habitat For Humanity



Habitat for Humanity Spring Build:
Spring Build 2010
Family: Shbur/Tingloth Family
Family Bio: Father, Mother, Son 15, Daughter 11, Son 7, Daughter 3

Family Story: This family is currently living in a small apartment in an area with frequent property crime. They have on going plumbing issues and noise from surrounding neighbors is a constant distraction. The parents are looking forward to having a home in a neighborhood where their children are safe and they have individual privacy and space to play and grow. They are very happy to be a part of the Habitat for Humanity project and they believe in the mission of Habitat and are looking forward to working together throughout the building process to make their dream a reality.

Location: 5403 West Paltaire Avenue, Glendale, AZ
Ground Breaking: March 6th, 2010
SMUMC Build Dates: April 10th, July 3rd, July 17th (subject to change)
Volunteer Sign up: We will have sign-ups on the patio so stay tuned for more information
Donations: We are currently collecting money in the Lenten Banks.

If you have any questions or need to get a Lenten Bank contact Marlene Seitz and we'll be sure to get you one.

Mission Moment

Haiti Assistance - several donations have been made to help the relief in Haiti. And several health kits were collected, assembled and shipped to UMCOR. Thanks to Pastor Eric for all his work!

