

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

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday
Office Closed

Tel: (480) 838-7309/838-7311

Fax: (480) 838-7354

www.stmatthewmesa.org

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.

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

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Articles for February Mustard Seed Due: January 15, 2012

e-mail to mustardseed@stmatthewmesa.org or leave in the editor's 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. Michael Eaton	Michael@stmatthewmesa.org, (480) 390-7209 (cell)	Senior Pastor
Pastor Diana Williams	Diana@stmatthewmesa.org	Associate Pastor of Deaf Ministries
Pastor Iain Glithero	lainglithero@yahoo.com	Retired Local Pastor
Jill Fishburn	Jill@stmatthewmesa.org	Director of Music and Stephen Ministry
Becky Kerr	Becky@stmatthewmesa.org	Director of Youth
Maureen Jobe	Maureenjobe@stmatthewmesa.org	Christian Education Coordinator
Mareen Treese	Mareen@stmatthewmesa.org	Preschool Director
Adrienne Ashford Thorp	Mustardseed@stmatthewmesa.org	Office Manager/Publications Designer
Don Taylor		Custodian
Webmaster	Webmaster@stmatthewmesa.org	Communications
Evie Showers	Evie@stmatthewmesa.org	Nursery Coordinator

9:00 AM
Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary,
Sunday School for children and
adults

9:30 AM
Contemporary Worship
with Communion
in Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM
Blended Worship and
Children's Church
in the Sanctuary,
Sunday School for youth and
adults

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

Please join us for fellowship time
on the patio after worship.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed." —Matthew 13:31-32



**United Methodist Youth
Fellowship**

We will have our annual Phoenix Rock Gym outing on Sunday, January 29 from 6:30 – 9:15 PM. The cost is \$15 per person. You must have a 2012 St. Matthew UMYF Permission Slip on file and a Phoenix Rock Gym Waiver.

St. Matthew YACKS

The Young Adults Couples Kids (20's, 30's, and 40's) are kicking off 2012 with a potluck social on January 8 at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an informal time to gather, share a meal, and get to know other families in the church. The main course and place settings will be provided. Families are encouraged to bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share. For questions, contact Carl Chasse. Come and join us!

All-Church Ski Trip

Do you like to ski? Come play with us! Please fill out our online survey so that we can begin making plans: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LPXXSDG>

UMOM Gift Cards

Thanks to your support for our Christmas Gift Card project, the Mission Committee raised \$2,660 for UMOM.

Thank You!

Thank you St. Matthew Christmas Angels for your support of the Adopt-A-Family program. Three community families received Christmas gifts, food and clothing. Also, 10 youth received gifts and Bibles at the Wesley Community Center. You were God's light of love and care. Gifts were delivered to the Wesley Community Center during the week of December 12. Food and books were also distributed to UMOM before Christmas. Thanks to all who participated in this mission project. You truly are God's eyes, ears, arms, feet and heart. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:31-40)

Personals

St. Matthew member Dr. Ruth Lim has been named Mesa's "Woman of the Year." She will be honored at a banquet on February 21 at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa Hotel. Congratulations Ruth!

We are saddened by the deaths of St. Matthew members Susan Soto and Rose Latchford.

We welcome Trevor Isaiah Duenas, born December 6, to the St. Matthew family! Congratulations to parents Jenny and Tim, and big brothers Zach and Nick!

Pam Sanborn is the proud grandmother of Brynn Melissa, born December 20, to Sharon and Kyle Wagamon.

Lay Leaders' Notes

The New Year is here and traditionally we like to review significant happenings from the previous year and observe the impact they have had on our lives. Even global happenings can have an impact on our lives. Let's review some of these events.

Worldwide, the effects of a weak and unstable economy have affected all of us. As the year ended some stability was observed and even some slight improvement. This would bode well if it carries over to the New Year.

Last year saw the toppling of some dictators in other parts of the world. This may lead to some form of democracy in those countries, which may allow those people to escape oppression. In other countries oppression has been publicized which may cause positive changes to occur.

Acrimony and lack of compromise have been observed in many situations. Although pressure is often applied to change this behavior, it continues to persist. We can only hope that the lessening of some of our other problems will cause us to be more tolerant of others.

On a more local level, Arizona and the local area have seen a very slow economy and other negative actions. As the year ended there are signs that the economy is improving slightly. There was significant evidence of major new construction and large scale remodeling going on. There seems to be fewer homes for sale than there was earlier.

St. Matthew has had a good year in many ways. Significant mission, education, and outreach programs have been initiated. Some major improvements to the Church property were made. All of this was done while staying within our budget.

How has your past year gone? Only you can answer that. If it was a year of hardship, we need to remember that God is with us always. He works through our fellow human beings. Sometimes miracles are performed by other persons. We never know when we will touch someone else who is in need of words of assurance or a deed of kindness. God the Trinity is always with us to comfort us.

Remember to keep St Matthew in your prayers. Help us to be better Christians in God's sight. Pray that the DNA program will be an effective tool to help us serve better.

Hope everyone is doing well and we will see you in the Mustard Seed.

Joyce and Roger Helm
rhelmaz@yahoo.com

Email Devotionals

Start your week off right! You can now receive weekly email devotionals from St. Matthew. To sign up, email adrienne@stmatthewmesa.org.

DNA Transformation

DNA Team will have a meeting Sunday, January 8 at 11:45 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Classes

Searchers/Disciples Class: The combined Searchers and Disciples Sunday School classes meet on Sundays in room B11 from 9:00-10:00 AM. The class is studying: "When Christians Get It Wrong," a book and DVD by Adam Hamilton. No class on January 1. Class resumes on January 8 with Chapter 6.

Men's Bible Study: The Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 6:30 AM at Coco's on Baseline and Dobson Roads. We are studying "The Purpose Driven Life," by Rick Warren.

Pastor's Morning Bible Study: Join us every Thursday morning at 9:30 AM in D23-24 for a Bible study led by Pastor Michael.

Pastor's Evening Bible Study: Join us for this new study on Mondays at 6:00 PM in D25.

United Methodist Women

Unit Meeting: Join us January 10 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for "How God led me to train my dog" by Ray Ritchotte. All women of the church invited.

Cuppa Natter: We will meet January 24 at 7:00 PM at Janette Gann's house (2724 W. Ocaso Circle, Mesa). Janette will lead our program. For directions, call her at (480) 839-6835.

Morning Glories: Morning Glories will meet January 3 in Building D at 9:00 to hear a program by Lynda Hammond, the "Garage Sale Gal." She writes a column for the Mesa section of the Arizona Republic. We will also meet January 17 in Building D 9:00 to hear a program by Mildred Thorpe.

Mark your calendars for the UMW Mini Mission on Saturday March 10! More info to come.

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome these new members, who joined on November 13:

Joseph, Vicky, Emma Grace, and Abel Kent are natives of the east valley and enjoy Minecraft, gardening, and working around the house. They were attracted to St. Matthew because of our proximity to Mesa Community College.

Tim and Jenny Duenas have lived in New Mexico and Virginia and moved to Arizona in February. They love going to the mountains and beaches. They were attracted to St. Matthew's traditional service, small-town feel, nice people, interesting and inspiring sermons, large, harmonious choir, friendly nursery staff and Sunday school staff.

Tami Guthrie moved to the valley from Wyoming. She is employed at Hospice of the Valley. She appreciates the warm welcome she has received and the Bible study and bell choirs. Tami enjoys hiking, reading, knitting, and cooking.

Walter and Leanna Pietzsch lived in Iowa until 1984 and then Green Valley before moving to this area. They enjoy reading, opera, travel, music and walking. They learned about St. Matthew from a friend. The Pietzsches will celebrate their 65th anniversary in 2012.

Amber Gillis and Alfredo Salas join with their son Ezekiel. Welcome Amber, Alfredo, and Ezekiel!

Mary Conover joined St. Matthew as a transfer from Dayspring UMC in Tempe. Welcome Mary!

Join us for worship!

January 1: "What an Epiphany!"
Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40 (Iain Glithero preaching)

"Grounding Your Life in Discipleship"

January 8: I. "The Baptism You and Jesus Share"
Mark 1:4-11

January 15: II. "How Do You Treat Your Body"
1 Corinthians 6:12-20

January 22: III. "Following the Call of Jesus"
Mark 1:14-20

January 29: IV. "You Can Help the Weak"
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The Mission Minute

Habitat for Humanity

This year, our congregation will be supporting next year's build of the Mighty Methodist Habitat for Humanity home in the Phoenix area. The build for next year begins with a ground breaking on January 7, 2012. St. Matthew's build dates are: March 3 and April 21. We are looking for volunteers.

We have made a financial commitment to this build of \$5,000, which is the same as last year. As one of our fundraisers, we are having a family Spaghetti Dinner. Watch the Communicator for more details!

UMOM

Thanks to our December Friday Night Dinner UMOM servers: The Jobe family, Amy Haywood, John Day and Leroy Livingston. Thank you for these volunteers who stepped up to serve over the holidays: Ginny Smythe, Pastor Michael and Alane (first time as part of the St. Matthew family), Polly and Dan Turner.

Those serving in January are: Bonnie and Tom Price (1/7); Chancel Choir (1/14); Marleen Sietz (1/21); Pastor Eric Brown - Journey UMC (1/28). If you are interested in preparing and serving a Friday dinner at UMOM, please call Ginny Smythe.

All Missions Meeting

We are also having a quarterly All Missions Meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 PM. This meeting is for those that are involved in the missions at the church (representatives of groups that participate in missions are encouraged to attend) and for anyone interested in the mission work at our church to share ideas and work together.

Get Involved!

Many groups at St. Matthew participate in missions. You can contact them directly to get involved with their projects. To join the Mission Committee, contact Brenda Hook.