

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



The Mustard Seed

January 2015



Thank You St. Matthew Christmas Angels

Thank you, St. Matthew Christmas Angels for your support of the Adopt-A-Family program. Thanks to you five families (14 people) received Christmas gifts, food, clothing and most importantly, you were God's light of love and care. Gifts were delivered to the Wesley Community Center on December 15. Food, blankets, and gifts were also distributed to UMOM before Christmas. Thanks to all who donated gifts and food, those who helped sort the gifts and made food boxes and to those who helped deliver the outpouring of your love.

Bless you, St. Matthew Angels. 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.

Wesley Food Pantry to Be Discontinued

As of January 5, 2015 the Wesley Center will no longer be accepting food donations. The original intent of the pantry was as an emergency backup for families in the immediate community, but most of the families in this area have been relocated. We appreciate all the volunteers and staff that have assisted in the food distribution program. Thank you St. Matthew UMC for your continuing support of such projects as a "Adopt-A-Family" and "Back to School" backpack distribution. For further details about the decision, go to www.wesleycenterphx.org and access the December newsletter.

January 2015 Sermon Plan

January 4 - Second Sunday after Christmas

Sermon Series "Questions of Life"
"Is There More to Life Than This?"

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi deem that there is so much more to life that they seek out Jesus.

January 11

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon Series "Questions of Life"
"Who is Jesus?"

Mark 1:4-11

God works through John the Baptist to introduce us to Jesus.

January 18

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

UMW Sunday

The Message will be given by Judith Nibbling this Sunday.

"God is Watching, God is Calling"

1 Samuel 6:1-10

January 25

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon Series "Questions of Life"
"How Can We have Faith?"

1 John 5:9-13

Faith is trusting that God has worked through Jesus to bring us eternal life.

Michael's Musings

The joyousness of Christmas is still in our hearts as we step into a new year. Most people have made numerous resolutions for 2015. Making resolutions is a good thing. The New Year means a fresh start. We look at our diets, our exercise regimen, our jobs, our relationships with others, and our finances. We make resolutions that will hopefully bring positive changes in one or more of the afore mentioned areas. By the time you read this, however, many people will have already broken one or more New Year resolutions. As previously stated, making resolutions is a good thing. However, making too many resolutions may not be such a good thing. By trying to do many resolutions we end up not succeeding in any resolutions. I am grateful for the wisdom of Kennon Callahan. He is an ordained United Methodist minister and also a church health/growth guru. When one tries to make improvements in one's life, one should work on one or two things rather than working on a list of things. This means make one or two resolutions for the New Year, and by doing so, one has a greater chance of success in keeping the resolution.

As we look upon the beginnings of 2015 I am reminded of a wonderful passage from Isaiah 43:19, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." The prophet speaks for God to a people who have experienced a lot of woe. We are invited not to dwell on the past and look forward to a future that God will provide. The year 2014 is behind and there is nothing that can be done about bringing it back. God is now giving us the year 2015 in which many new things can spring forward for us.

As for resolutions, we can resolve to grow closer with God during the year. Developing one's spiritual life through prayer and Bible study can certainly help forge a closer relationship with God.

We can resolve to help make a difference in someone's life. What a great thing taking interest in someone and helping him or her experience something that makes him or her feel important.

We can certainly resolve to do many things and hopefully stick to them. Think about what it is that you want to improve or grow yourself in 2015. What are the one or two things that would be most helpful in your life or in the life of the church?

Whatever you decide, always remember that God is always ready to provide guidance and sustenance to help you achieve your improvement or grow in the area you desire. It is my hope and dream that you will have a blessed 2015.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Michael



Habitat for Humanity

"Knock - Knock,"

"Who's There?"

"The Bigirimana / Revokata Family."

"Who?"

"The Habitat family you are helping to build a home for this year."

"Oh, yes, please come on in!"

Habitat Spring Build Dates Are:
Saturdays, January 10, January 24,
February 28 and March 14.

For more information and/or a ride,
please contact Duane Kiddoo at 480-831-1337 or
email him at kiddooskdk@aol.com.



Thank You St. Matthew Congregation

Psalms 119:50

This is my comfort in my grief.

Your promise gives me life.

My Dear Church Family,

Your love and support at my husband's passing, during the planning for his Celebration, Celebrating his life here in our beautiful church and putting him to rest, was beyond description. One of my most beloved chapters in Scripture is 1 Corinthians 13.

1 Corinthians 13:13 says,

"Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love".

I experienced that verse intensely through you over the past couple of weeks and continue to feel your love. You showed your love for Elliott, for me and my family in so many ways. My sons, Aaron Jr. and Gregory, daughter, Kitty, our entire family and I thank you.

I love you.

Rosemary James

Lay Leader Notes



Dear Brothers and Sisters, Bill and I spent Thanksgiving with our oldest son, Tom. We attended his church, Haymount UMC, Fayetteville NC. The title of the sermon given by Pastor Dennis Goodwin was "A Word of Hope for Losers and Cowards". It was based on Judges 6:11-16. If you haven't read about Gideon, take the time. To share with

you the essence of his sermon, let me start by telling you that Gideon is the epitome of a loser who, like a lot of us lives under the expectation that God will fail us. We have no reason to believe that, but we do. So we keep asking Him to prove Himself to us. "God, if you do this. We'll do that."

Why? Consider the man who goes to a full service gas station and every time he goes George pumps his gas, washes his windows and is pleasant. One day he goes and George isn't there. He goes again the next time and still George isn't there, so he asks the owner what happened to George? The owner says, George no longer works here. "Well then who will replace the vacancy he left?", the man asks. The owner replied. "He left no vacancy". We are often afraid that we (as George) are not necessary. We feel unappreciated and often unloved.

Or, Consider the woman who goes to the Psychiatrist because she thinks she may have an inferiority complex. After much testing the Doctor tells her, he has found that she does not have an inferiority complex - she actually is inferior. We determine by ourselves, that we don't measure up.

To compensate, we as Methodist have a way of determining that our sins are common and everyone else does them, therefore we deny they are really sins. Really? If we go to a Psychiatrist to cure our sins, do we become sane sinners? If we go to a doctor to cure our sins, do we become healthy sinners? If we accumulate great wealth, do we become wealthy sinners? If we join a church congregation, do we become religious sinners? Denying our sins will not make them go away and our self imposed loser image grows.

Repenting to God through Christ is our hope and it sets us free from ourselves. Putting God first,

reassures us that we are uniquely important and loved. Consider your fingers.....7.2 billion people in the world and God made our fingers unlike anyone else's, His love for us is unconditional. Through Him there are no losers or cowards. Gideon learned that. Remember this quote from The Help, "You is kind. You is smart. You is important." Kathryn Stockett : "The Help". Because each of you "is" in God's eyes. Let's let God Bless each of us in 2015 unconditionally, He certainly did 2014.

Barb Hedges
Co Lay Leader

New Church Fundraising Policy

Church Council has approved of a new fundraising policy effective January 1, 2015. New forms to complete.

Please allow (sixty) 60 days prior notice for approval to your requested date of sales. A copy of the new policy and procedures are available upon request in the church office during regular business hours.

Happy

New

Year

2015

God has amazing plans for you.

Jeremiah 29:11

Remember Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday, January 19, 2015. The Church Office will be closed.



United Methodist Women

Cuppa Natter information to be determined.

Morning Glories meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month at 9:00 a.m. in D23-24. Please arrive on time as we do begin at 9:00 a.m.

January 6 - "New Song" age - specific grief support for children. Please, contact Susan Mann Patterson at 480-684-0275 or Karen Anderson at 480-892-2082 for more details.

Crafty Ladies meet on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. in room D23-24.

UMW Unit Meeting information to be determined.

Bible Studies

Disciples Adult Sunday School meet at 10:30 a.m. in room B13. All are welcome to attend.

Searchers Adult Sunday School meet at 10:30 a.m. in room B11. All are welcome to attend.

Ladies meet Thursdays at 6:00 a.m. in D23/24. All ladies welcome to attend.

Men meet at 6:30 a.m. Thursday at Coco's restaurant, Baseline Rd. and Dobson Rd. in Mesa. All men of St. Matthew are invited to join us for fellowship, prayer and breakfast.

Pastor's Bible Study meet Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in D23/24. All are welcome to join this group. Bring

your friends and neighbors for fellowship and study.



Sunshine Choir will Start on January 8

Calling all 2nd through 5th graders who love to sing. Sunshine Choir practice is on Thursdays from 6:00 until 6:45 p.m. in room C1 starting

January 8. If you have any questions please contact Katie Swahn at 480-320-8242 or email her at anna1887k@hotmail.com.

Church Office Information

Please remember to update your building use request forms as many group room reservations have canceled the end of December 2014.

The church office will be closed in January on Thursday, January 1 for New Years Day Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. From the church office staff, Betty, Colleen and Evelynne.

Hope Brings Action

Central East District Leadership Training

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Cross in the Desert UMC, Phoenix

Mark your calendar and plan to join the Central East District as we IGNITE leaders of the Central East District through the priorities of the Desert Southwest Conference Strategic Direction.

We are privileged to have Dr. Lovett Weems, Jr. offer our morning keynote. Rev. Weems is a preeminent expert on church leadership. After many years as a pastor and seminary president, he is now distinguished professor of church leadership and director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. In addition, the Central East District Leadership Training Team has arranged a variety of workshops led by clergy and laity from around the Desert Southwest Conference. The morning and afternoon workshops for are designed to allow participants to engage in small group discussions regarding their leadership positions and interests.

Lunch will be provided to all in attendance and is included in your registration fee. You must register for this event. Please register online at tinyurl.com/CEDTraining2015.

We look forward to having you join us!

Registration:

\$15.00 on or before January 31

\$20.00 after January 31

We offer FREE childcare and lunch for registered infants and children of all ages. Contact Carla, 480.854.1217, to register for Childcare.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of a couple more volunteers for the sound booth as camera operators, and to created slides for Sunday morning worship. We will provide the training. If you have an interest in either of these areas please call the office during business hours at 480-838-7309. Thank you.

Sympathy

Sympathy to Janet Spears and family for the passing of her beloved daughter, Darci Spears on December 14, 2014.



Prayer List - Please include these members of our St. Matthew family in your prayers: Cottington family, Andy Lim, Schmitt family, Janet Spears family, Dan Turner and Audrey Whitehurst. If you have a prayer request, please fill out one of the prayer cards found in the pew and place it in the offering plate. You can also email requests to office@stmatthewmesa.org. Names will stay on the list for three weeks unless your prayer request is renewed. If you need confidential, personal care, this church can provide you with a Stephen Minister.

Justa Center Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
On behalf of Justa Center, I want to thank St. Matthew United Methodist Church for your donation of \$200.00 in December 2014. I also want to thank you for your continued support of Justa Center. Your commitment to helping homeless seniors in our community is sincerely appreciated. We are very fortunate that the homeless seniors seeking help from the Justa Center can count on the compassion of churches such as yours to make a positive difference in their lives. With the help of your substantial donation we will continue to be able to help approximately one person escape homelessness each day. Thank you again for your generous support of Justa Center.
Blessings,
Rev. Scott Ritchey, Executive Director
Justa Center

Church Medical Supply Equipment

St. Matthew United Methodist Church has a medical equipment supply room. These items are loaned out to church members and their families when they are in need of wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc... These items need to be checked out through the church office by completing a very simple form. Should you have equipment being used at your home currently, please call the church office during business hours at 480-838-7309. You may also call Donna Bengé at 480-969-0578 if you have questions or have new or gently used medical equipment items you would like to donate to our church. Thank you very much for your help.



Dear Desert Southwest Conference,

I really don't like to call it a season. Having said that, this is the time of year when we have a financial stewardship emphasis in most of our churches. Some churches with other than calendar fiscal years and churches with other traditions do it earlier or later. This should be one of the most joy filled times in our church. It is not a time when we HAVE to make financial stewardship commitments because the church needs our support, but rather a time when we GET to give joyously and gratefully to make ministry happen in response to God's generous provision to us.

As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)
Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

I pray for each of our churches that we can become a GENEROUS people, filled with the desire to praise God daily by the generous use of all the resources God has caused to flow through our hands in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. Generosity is not only the way we respond to an annual financial stewardship campaign. It is living everyday with an awareness of how generous God is to us and how much we want to "pay it forward" as we interact in the world around us. It begins by letting people cut in front of us in line when they are in a hurry or hold doors even when the person behind you is not expecting or needing your courtesy.

Generosity extends to every area of our life as we assess what we have, what we need, and what we can release for the work of God's church for ministry in our community. Learning to let go is a wonderful exhilarating experience. Discovering that we can live very well on what God provides us and less, or that we have more than enough from day to day gives us a tremendous experience of living daily in the grace and love of God. And that is something we want to pass along.

Join with me in practicing generosity from the smallest of daily actions to the biggest. You will discover how very wonderfully it is to live into the intended Kingdom of God.

God bless you,
Rev. Bob Burns

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob".

Please, Serve Your Church

Did you know that most of the work to run a church is performed by its members? Things like: assisting at planning Sunday services, ushering, operating the sound booth, assisting with communion, caring for our rose garden and campus plants, maintaining our computers, website and street sign, helping our members when they are ill or have lost a loved one, teaching, or assisting at Sunday School, and the list goes on.

When every member helps out in some way then we are able to do all of these things, thereby fulfilling our mission of serving God and His children.

Look over the following list and see if you can help in one area. Call Evie in the church office at 480-838-7309, to get signed up to help.

Serve a Friday Night Dinner at UMOM

Help in the sound room

Become a door greeter

Serve Holy Communion

Help with church communications

Help with the rose garden and plants on campus

Help change light bulbs and filters

Help rake leaves, sweep sidewalks, clean gutters,

wash windows and so much more

Help fold newsletters and bulletins

Help set up chairs for the Contemporary service

Help with Sunday morning coffee cart

Help with "Helping Hands"

Teach Sunday School, be a substitute or helper

Send cards to fellow members

Call people to ask how they are doing

Become a Liturgist Reader at Sunday Worship

Join a choir

Join United Methodist Women Unit Meetings

Join Crafty Ladies

Join Cuppa Natter

Join Morning Glories

Join United Methodist Men

Join a Bible study

Join an adult Sunday School class.

The list goes on and on.

There is a place for you.

Thank You for serving your church!

St. Matthew UMC

A Place to Belong,

A Place to Believe,

A Place to Serve.

Hope to see you in 2015, Happy New Year!!

Sunday Service Volunteer

Slide Creators Needed

We need a couple more volunteer slide creators for our Sunday morning 9:00 Traditional service. If you have used PowerPoint, then you should be able to do this. We will provide training. If interested, drop in the sound booth after the 9:00 a.m. service, or call the church office during business hours at 480-838-7309.

Volunteer Camera Operators Needed

We need a couple more volunteer camera operators during the Sunday morning 9:00 Traditional service. This is used for our Live-Streaming Broadcast, our YouTube archive, for those using the Chapel, and for those that find it helpful to use the Worship Center big screen. We are using the latest technology. We will provide training. If interested, drop in the sound booth after the 9:00 service, or call the church office during business hours at 480-838-7309.



Volunteer Webmaster Needed



St. Matthew communications committee is looking for someone who is qualified to be our Webmaster. If you would be interested in this voluntary position please contact Marion at 480-284-9963 or communications@stmatthewmesa.org. Please consider prayerfully how you can help us to keep our web presence and continue to show God's love to the world through this ministry.

Communion Stewards Volunteers

We all treasure the opportunity to participate in the blessings of Holy Communion.

The Worship Committee is currently searching for people willing to become Communion Stewards.

Please prayerfully consider offering this service.

If you are interested, please call Wayne Douglas at 480-839-4467.



January Calendar

January Repeat Events:

Thursday, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Women's Bible Study, 6:00 a.m. D23-24
Men's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. Coco's
Korean Women Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. B11
Pastor's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. D23/24
Childcare, 5:45 p.m. Nursery
AZ Messianic Dance, 6:00 p.m. AC
Cool Hands Choir, 6:00 p.m. D22
Sunshine Choir, 6:00 p.m. C1
Genesis Bells, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Bells of Joy Choir, 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary

Friday, Jan. 2, and 16, 23, 30

Praise Band, 5:30 p.m. AC
Jade Moon Wushu, 7:45 p.m. AC

Saturday, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Praise Band, 11:00 a.m. AC
Jade Moon Wushu, 2:00 p.m. AC
AZ Messianic Dance, 6:00 p.m. AC
Putting God 1st AA, 7:00 p.m. C6/7

Sunday, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25

Childcare for services, 8:30 a.m. N
Prayer Meeting, 8:40 a.m. Chapel
Jesus' Jumpstarts, Ages 3-5, 9 a.m. C3
God's Kids, Gr. K-3, 9:00 a.m. D22
Jesus Rock Star, Gr. 4-6, 9:00 am D25
Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. WC
Children's Church, 10:30 a.m. C2/3
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am. AC
Disciples Adult SS, 10:30 a.m. B13
Searchers Adult SS, 10:30 a.m. B11
841 Girl Scout, 2:30 p.m. D25
AZ Messianic Dance, 3:00 p.m. AC
Putting God 1st AA, 7:00 p.m. C6/7

Monday, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26

Communicator & e-Communicator
Submissions Deadline 8:00 a.m.
Emmaus Sisters, 5:30 p.m. B12
Hands of Praise, 6:00 p.m. D23-24
853 Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m. AC, C6/7
Bible Studies, 7:00 p.m. B11, B13, B14
Praise Tambourine 7:30 p.m. D23/24

January Repeat Events:

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27

Childcare, 6:45 p.m. Nursery
Pills Anonymous, 7:00 pm all B bldg.

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

Hands of Joy Choir, 6:00 p.m. Chapel
Cherub Choir, 6:15 p.m. C1
Putting God 1st AA, 7:00 p.m. C6/7
The Sanctuary Choir, 7:30 p.m. WC

Other January Events:

Thursday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day - Office Closed

AZ Messianic Dance, 3:00 p.m. WC
Alzheimer's Support 6:00 p.m. C2

Saturday, Jan. 3

Family History Society, 9:00 a.m. B11

Sunday, Jan. 4

Culbertson Luncheon, 11:45 a.m. AC, K

Monday, Jan. 5

Pampered Chef, 6:00 p.m. AC, K

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Morning Glories, 9:00 a.m. D23-24
Adult Grief Group HOV, 6:00 p.m. C3
Missions Committee, 6:30 p.m. D22
UMW Crafty Ladies, 7:00 p.m. D23-24

Thursday, Jan. 8

Finance Comm., 6:00 p.m. D23/24
Stephen Ministry, 7:00 p.m. B13
Worship Committee, 7:00 p.m. B11

Friday, Jan. 9

Walk to Emmaus, 5:00 p.m. AC, K

Saturday, Jan. 10

Family History Society, 9:00 a.m. B11
Habitat Family Build, off campus

Other January Events:

Tuesday, Jan. 13

HOV Grief Group, 6:00 p.m. C2/3
Evangelism Committee, 6:00 p.m. D22
Church Council, 6:30 p.m. D23/24

Thursday, Jan. 15

Deadline for February Mustard Seed
submissions, 8:00 a.m. Office
SPRC Meeting, 7:00 p.m. B13

Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Jr.

Holiday - Office Closed



Tuesday, Jan. 20

Morning Glories, 9:00 a.m.
D23-24
Adult Grief Group HOV, 6:00 p.m. C3
Evangelism Comm., 6:00 p.m. D22
Shining Jewels Team, 6:30 p.m. AC

Thursday, Jan. 22

Communication Comm. 7:00 p.m. D25

Saturday, Jan. 24

UMW Exec. Meet, 9:00 a.m. B11
Habitat Family Build, off campus

Remember - Save the Dates!

Saturday, February 14

Mission Committee
Fundraiser Dinner
"Decades" in the Activity
Center more details to
come soon. Contact Ben
Furlong at 480-993-3333 if
you would like to be a
helper.



Habitat Family Build Dates

Saturday, February 28 and

Saturday, March 14

Both dates are off
campus. Contact Duane
Kiddoo at 480-831-1337
for more details of a ride to the build
site.



AC: Activity Center; **B:** Music & Adult Ed. Bldg; **C:** Activity Center bldg;
D: Youth Ed. Bldg; **K:** Kitchen; **N:** Nursery;
WC: Worship Center (Sanctuary)
For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.stmatthewmesa.org.

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

Office Hours

Monday -Thursday

8:30 a.m. - Noon

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Articles for February Mustard Seed Due: January 15, 2015 by 8:00 a.m.

e-mail to mustardseed@stmatthewmesa.org or leave in the office mail box.

(If you have photos to support your article please include them.)

*Please notify the church office if you **do not** want to receive the monthly newsletter or call the office at 480-838-7309 or email: office@stmatthewmesa.org.*



The Head of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Ministers of this church are its members.

Those who assist them are:

Rev. Robert T. Hoshibata Bishop@umoi.org

Resident Bishop

Rev. Michael Eaton michael@stmatthewmesa.org

Pastor

480-390-7209

9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
in the Worship Center,
Sunday School for children

Rev. James Ek jim@stmatthewmesa.org

Associate Pastor

602-377-9434

Gordon Gauss g_gauss@hotmail.com

Stephen Ministries

480-234-2330

10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship
with Communion
in the Activity Center,
Sunday School for children

Marsha Lehman marsha@stmatthewmesa.org

Sunday School Coordinator

480-993-3907

Evelynne Showers Evie@stmatthewmesa.org

Office Manager/Design Publication,
Nursery Coordinator 480-838-7309

Michael Isaksen isettled@cox.net

Custodian

480-963-0722

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

Ted Bachelder ted@stmatthewmesa.org

Director of Music Ministries

480-292-4165

Mark Culbertson mark@stmatthewmesa.org

Director of Youth Ministries

480-862-3601

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