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

Resident Bishop

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

Articles for March Mustard Seed Due: February 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.



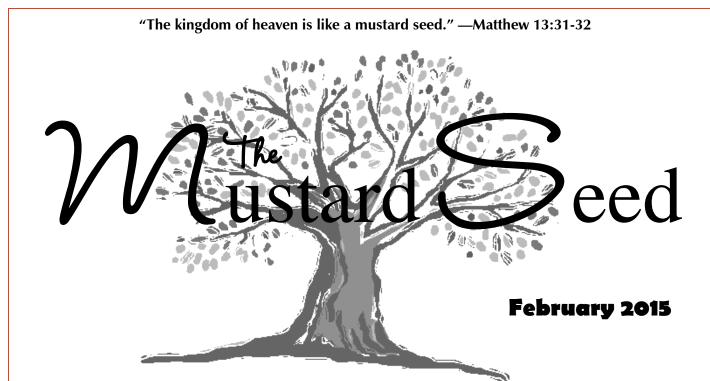
Rev. Robert T. Hoshibata Bishop@umoi.org

The Head of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Ministers of this church are its members.

Those who assist them are:

			Traditional Worship
Rev. Michael Eaton	michael@stmatthewmesa.org	Pastor 480-390-7209	in the Worship Center, Sunday School for children
Rev. James Ek	jim@stmatthewmesa.org	Associate Pastor 602-377-9434	10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Communion in the Activity Center, Sunday School for children
Gordon Gauss	g_gauss@hotmail.com	Stephen Ministries 480-234-2330	
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	Please call the church office if you need assistance with transportation to Sunday worship. We will help to coordinate ride-shares (480) 838-7309.
Michael Isaksen	isettled@cox.net	Custodian 480-292-4165	
Ted Bachelder	ted@stmatthewmesa.org	Director of Music Ministries 480-963-0722	Please join us for fellowship time on the patio after worship.
Mark Culbertson	mark@stmatthewmesa.org	Director of Youth Ministries 480-862-3601	



Central East District Training Action Brings Hope on Saturday February 7

We invite you, the members of the local churches in the Central East District, to join us for a day full of fellowship, training and inspiration!

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Lovett Weems, director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC. Dr. Weems is a keen observer of the church who is able to compile and share information about trends and ways to deal with challenges of the future for the church. His theme will be focusing us on Action steps we can take to bring Hope into our church communities. Dr. Weems will lead two sessions on feedback and further exploration of his keynote theme and as well we will have a several other training opportunities... Morning and afternoon workshops offer church members and leaders smaller group discussions regarding their leadership positions and interests. Lunch is included in your registration fee (\$20 after January 31). Registration info is available on the patio and in the church office.

You may also go to www.tinyurl.com/CEDTraing2015.

We will also offer FREE childcare and lunch for registered infants and children of all ages.

Hope you will be able to attend this training.

Celebrating Our Family

Meet Robin Watson

Robin is an
Arizona native
and was
baptized at
St. Matthew
United
Methodist
Church and has
been a
member for 40
years!
She loves the
Arizona



weather and the fact that there are so many activities and things to do with her family. She is married to Courtney Watson and has 2 sons, Colton and Trenton, who both attend church here. Robin is a 2nd grade teacher by profession. Her first real job was in retail, and she has waitressed and been a bartender in the past.

She enjoys teaching the Cherub Choir songs and playing the flute for our Sanctuary Choir, which she considers an honor to do.

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Michael's Musings

It has been a couple of weeks since the awful tragedy that occurred in Paris. Other attacks in Belgium, England, Germany, and even in the United States have been thwarted thanks to law enforcement agencies that have keeping watch. After the Paris attacks there was a groundswell of support for the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. People began chanting, "Je suis Charlie!" ("I am Charlie.") This was done to express solidarity with the newspaper and the victims of the massacre as well as to say that freedom of expression is important.

Islamic extremists were responsible for the attacks. Of course when such things happen some people begin to lump everyone devoted to Islam as extremists. Such a thing is called guilt by association and I remember from my logic and reasoning class that this is a fallacious argument. A certain idiom, "one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch" also seems to be pervasive among some people. If we look back into Christian history we can see some extreme things that were done in the name of "God." Justo Gonzales, a church historian calls the Crusades as "piety misguided." The idea was to recapture the Holy Land from the infidels, i.e. Muslims. Even children were sent and most either died on the way or became slaves.

In the 16th century after the Reformation, Protestants fought Catholics in the name of "God." The Anabaptists were a group who believed that people needed to be re-baptized, and that if something was not in the New Testament then it did not count. They were hunted down and killed by both Protestants and Catholics.

Mary Queen of Scots sought to restore Catholicism in England and became know as "Bloody Mary" because of the killing of Anglicans/Protestants to further her cause.

I could go on about other things from our Christian past but I will refrain. The point I wish to make is that Jesus came into the world to show us a way of peace and peace-filled living. Jesus wanted to include everybody in this way of life both Jew and Gentile. Recall from the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

As we enter into the Season of Lent later in February I invite everyone to rally together in ways of promoting peace. We need to show our solidarity with Jesus and with God to show we are capable of peace in our lives. However, before we can spread

peace throughout the world we need to have peace within ourselves. Recall also that Jesus says, "May peace I give to you. It is not as the world gives that I give to you."

If we are able to demonstrate peace within our faith community at St. Matthew UMC then people living around us might notice. Imagine sharing peace within our neighborhood that might touch their lives in special ways. Who knows maybe we can stop terrorism in its tracts by being a people that live in peaceful ways.

Grace and peace,

Lay Leader Notes

Dear St. Matthew church family, I have decided to switch from "resolutions" to "goals" for the New Year as having a goal gives me room to move along the way while keeping a resolution is all or nothing. One of my goals for this year (and one that will be there for the rest of my life) is to learn from Jesus the importance of putting people first and loving them as they are.

Max Lucado helps me remember not only who I want to emulate but who should hear now how important they are to me and others. Max asks if you can list the ten wealthiest men in the world, the ten last Heisman trophy winners, the ten last Nobel or Pulitzer winners. If you're like me, you probably had to refer to Google. On the other hand, look at those who have the impact of those who wear the face of Jesus in your life:

- think of three people who you like spending time with
- name ten people who have taught you something worthwhile
- five friends who have been there for you in difficult times

Look around you on Sunday morning and make a point to speak to those people you just listed. And continue your journey on becoming on those lists for someone else. I am also constantly working on developing and sharing a sense of "the peace that passes understanding" I leave you with this prayer: Deep peace of the running waters to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the smiling stars to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you,

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

Many Blessings, Betsy Hertzler, Co Lay Leader

February Calendar

February Repeat Events: Other February Events:

Sunday, February 1, 8, 15, 22 8:30 am Childcare for services, N

8:40 am Prayer Meeting, Chapel 9:00 am Jesus' Jumpstarts, Age 3-5, C3 3:00 pm Christ Centered Living, B11 God's Kids, Gr. K-3, D22 Jesus Rock Star, Gr. 4-6, D25 Traditional Worship, WC

10:30 am Children's Church, C2/3

Disciples Adult SS, B13 Searchers Adult SS, B11

10:30 am Youth "Sunday Drive" D23/24 2:30 pm 841 Girl Scouts, D25 3:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, AC

7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6/7 7:30 pm Vietnamese Worship, B11

Monday, February 2, 9, 16, 23

8:00 am Communicator deadline e-Communicator deadline 5:30 pm Emmaus Sisters, B12

6:00 pm 853 Boy Scouts, AC, C6-7 Hands of Praise, D23-24

7:00 pm Bible Studies, B11, B13, B14 7:30 pm Praise Tambourine D23/24

Tuesday, February 3, 10, 17, 24

7:00 pm Childcare, Nursery Pills Anonymous, all B bldg.

Wednesday, February 4, 11, 18, 25

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

Thursday, February 5, 12, 19, 26

6:00 am Women's Bible Study, C4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study, Coco's 9:30 am Korean Women Bible Study, B11 Pastor's Bible Study, C4 6:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, AC Childcare, Nurserv Cool Hands Choir, D22 Sunshine Choir, C1

6:30 pm Genesis Bells, Sanctuary 7:00 pm Bells of Joy Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, February 6, 13, 20, 27

5:30 pm Praise Band, AC 7:45 pm Jade Moon Wushu, AC

Saturday, February 7, 14, 21, 28

6:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, B14 7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6/7

Monday, February 2 **Gound Hogs Day**

6:30 pm 853 Cub Scouts, D22, D25

Tuesday, February 3

9:15 am Youth "Hang Time" D23/24 9:00 am Morning Glories, C6-7, K 6:00 pm Adult Grief Support, C2 Contemporary Worship, AC 6:30 pm Mission Committee, D22 7:00 pm Crafty Ladies, C6-7

Thursday, February 5

3:00 pm AZ Messianic Prayers, AC 7:00 pm Alzheimer's Support C2

Saturday, February 7

8:00 am UMW Leadership, AC, K 9:00 am Family History Society, B11

Mondsay, February 9

6:30 pm 853 Cub Scouts, D22, D25

Tuesday, February 10

8:00 am BOOM, B bldg, AC, K 6:00 pm Finance Committee, C4 7:00 pm UMW Unit Meeting, AC, K

Wednesday, 12

8:00 am BOOM, B bldg, AC, K 7:00 pm Evangelism Comm. D22

Thursday, February 12

7:00 pm Stephen Ministry, B13

Saturday, February 14 Happy Valentine's Day

Friday, February 15

8:00 am March Mustard Seed Submission Deadline, Office



Monday, February 16

Presidents Day - Office Closed

6:30 pm 853 Cub Scouts, D22, D25

Tuesday, February 17

9:00 am Morning Glories, C6-7, K 10:00 am Alzheimer's Outreach, B11 6:00 pm Adult Grief Support, C2

Evangelism Comm., D22 6:30 pm Church Council, C4

Shining Jewels Team, AC



Wednesday, February 18

6:45 pm Childcare, Nursery 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service. **Worship Center**

Thursday, February 19

7:00 pm SPRC Meeting, B13

Saturday, February 21

11:00 am Praise Band Practice, AC 2:00 pm Jade Moon Wushu, AC

Thursday, February 26

7:00 pm Communication Comm. D25



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.

Global Ministries Dominican Republic Missionaries. **Ardell Graner and Gordon Graner**





Thank you for your gift received of \$5,000.00 to the General Board

of Global Ministries through The Advance, the designated mission giving channel of The United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that 100

percent of your contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Ardell Graner \$2,500.00, Advance #10836Z and Gordon Graner \$2,500.00, Advance #10835Z. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission. United Methodist missionaries serve in more than 60 countries around the world. With your gift and prayers, you have initiated a partnership with missionaries planting churches and developing congregations, providing health care in remote areas, providing education and leadership development, and working in sustainable agriculture and community development. Your gift allows Global Ministries missionaries to be The United Methodist Church's embodiment of Christ in the world. Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission. We are grateful for your support of this life-giving work. Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can reach the Gift Processing Unit at 212-870-3611. Information an Advance projects and missionaries can be accessed online at www.umcmission.org. We also invite you to sign up on our website to receive our electronic newsletter, Connect N Mission. This monthly publication will keep you informed about Global Ministries' work. May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.

Grace and Peace. Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer General Board of Global Ministries and Shawn Bakker, Deputy General Secretary **Communications and Development**

Volunteer Webmaster Needed

St. Matthew communications committee is looking for someone who is aualified 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.

Prayer List - Please include these members of our St. Matthew family in your prayers: Cottington family, Dunning family, Andy Lim, Potts family, Schmitt family, Spears family, Dan Turner and Audrev 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.

Peace

Peace will come when people live in friendship, side by side, and cherish understanding more than hatred, greed and pride.

Peace will come when people see all people as the same, and no one has to live in fear, in ignorance, or

Peace will come when people who are needy can reach out for shelter, food, or love, and no one has to do without.

Peace will come when people learn to listen and to care about the rights and dignity of people

Peace will come when love and trust and kindness know rebirth, and on that day all people will rejoice in peace on earth.

-Amanda Bradley

February 2015 Sermon Plan

February 1 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon Series "Questions of Life" "Why and How Should I Read the Bible?" 2 Timothy 3:14-17 The Bible is our way of understanding our relationship with God so that we can live in godly ways.

February 8 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon Series "Questions of Life" "Does God Heal Today?" 2 Kings 5:1-19 God is the one who brings healing into our lives.

February 15 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany/

Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon Series "Questions of Life" Rev. Jim Ek will bring the message this Sunday. "How Does God Guide Us?" Philippians 2:12b-13 What does one use when a map and GPS is not available?

February 18

Esther 4:1-3

Ash Wednesday (7:00 p.m.) Sermon Series "Questions of Life" Rev. Jim Ek will bring the message on Ash Wednesday. "What is Ash Wednesday?

February 22 First Sunday in Lent

Sermon Series "Questions of Life" "Why and How Should I Pray?" Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus provides an example about prayer.



The Missions Fundraiser "DECADES"

is Postponed

Due to a personal emergency experienced by our 'DECADES' chairperson, the Mission Committee has decided to cancel the fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, February 14. We wish to thank the musicians, singers and other volunteers from our committee and from our church community who committed time and effort to this event. Watch for news of "DECADES" rescheduling via our church publications. For more information, contact Ben Furlong, Missions Committee chair at 480-993-3333 or email him at missions@stmatthewmesa.org.



Please keep these families in your prayers.

Dennis Dunning Family

Jane's father, Ward Henry passed away on Thursday, December 31, 2014. Service was held in Kansas.

Alison Potts passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 after a 7 year battle with breast cancer. Alison's Memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Refreshments following the service.

Ardean Cottington passed away on Monday, January 19, 2015. Ardean's Memorial service will be held on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Refreshments following the service.

Bruce Spears passed away on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Bruce's funeral and burial will take place in Illinois at a later date in February.

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News from Rev. Eric Brown

The Rev. Eric Brown, a member of our Desert Southwest Annual Conference, serves as an extension minister under endorsement of the Division of Chaplains of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church. Having served as a US Navy Chaplain, the work Eric does is dear to my heart and important for those of us back home to know about. Rev. Brown is also LT. Brown, but in the Navy tradition his title is always Chaplain or affectionately in the Marine Corps world, "Padre." Following are his words used with his permission. I have an interesting ministry, and it is an extension of the ministry of your local United Methodist Church. You might best understand our relationship by thinking of me as your missionary. Instead of serving on the mission field in Hondurgs or the Philippines, I serve in the mission field with the greatest concentration of young adults in the world, the United States military. Let me tell you about my mission field.

I left Journey United Methodist Church in Maricopa on January 31, 2014 for active duty service in the US Navy. I felt like God was calling me to a season of military ministry after 16 years of full-time church ministry. I reported to training on February 1, experienced some 3 months of training, and reported to my duty station in Okinawa, Japan in May. I was separated from my family until school finished and they made their way to Japan in July.

This is a very different mission field than the "exurbs" of Phoenix. I work for the US Navy but I am assigned to the Marines (the USMC does not have chaplains; chaplains are assigned from the Navy to Marine units). Instead of new houses filled with families looking for a better life and retirees looking for winters without snow, I serve barracks filled with 18-22 year olds. Where I once spent mornings in coffee shops and at the Rotary club, I now spend my mornings doing "PT," usually a 3 mile run followed by calisthenics. Where I once worried about paying our church bills and celebrating Advent, I now worry about unplanned pregnancies, homesickness, substance abuse, and creating a sense of the Holy in a decidedly-secular setting.

These people need the ministry I bring, desperately. Once a week I meet with our company commander to tell him about the issues going on with his Marines and to help him think through the ethical issues that come across his desk. I do lots of counseling sessions for Marines that are going through hard times;

sometimes the counseling is just a friendly listening ear, and other times I need every skill I learned in my Clinical Pastoral Education rotations. These Marines are often alone and direction-less. The Gospel words, "they are like sheep without a shepherd," (Matthew 9:36) frequently echo in my ears. These are young adults with no shepherds, no knowledge of Jesus, and lots of questions. As an extension of your church and working for our global church, I am working as a shepherd of a whole flock of lost sheep.

Central East District E News 01/12/15 issue.

Day of Prayer and Fasting

Saturday, February 21.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. Psalm 122:6

Pray for the nation of Israel and it's people.

Pray for those experiencing many incidents of terror and violence.

Watch the video at www.youtube.com/watchtv?



United Methodist Women Thank You

I would like to extend a very blessed thank you to all the many faithful members of St. Matthew church who supported us at our United Methodist Women's Sunday services. You all made our speaker, Judi Nibbelink feel very welcome.

We also want to extend a welcome to those who are able to attend any of our special events coming up in 2015. You do not need to be a member of United Methodist Women to attend; all are always welcome. So keep an eye out for publications about future meetings and events.

God's blessings and love, Jo Sprankle, UMW President



United Methodist Women

Cuppa Natter meet Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in Barbara Osgood's home. Please call Barbara at 480-897-1271 for directions. Program will be about The Church of Wesley. Morning Glories meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month at 9:00 a.m. in C6-7. Please arrive on time as we do begin at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 3 - Crime Prevention Officer Jerry Quarles will speak on current topics of interest. Tuesday, February 17 - Program will be Sailing the Danube; Eastern Europe. Please, contact Susan Mann Patterson at 480-684-0275 or Karen Anderson at 480-892-2082 for more details.

Crafty Ladies meet on Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. in room C6-7.

UMW Unit Meeting meet Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. Program on the Importance of Music in Worship by Alane Eaton. The Call-to-Prayer and Self Denial invitation will be issued. (collection in April).

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. We are studying the book, "You'll Get Through This" by Max Lucado. In this six session small group Bible study, pastor and "New York Times" best selling author, Max Lucado offers refreshing assurance. Max reminds participants, God doesn't promise that getting through trails will be quick or painless. If it wasn't for Joseph - tossed in a pit by his brothers, sold into slavery, wrongfully imprisoned, forgotten and dismissed, but this Old Testament story is in the Bible for this reason: to teach us to trust God to trump evil. All are welcome to attend.

Ladies meet Thursdays at 6:00 a.m. in C4.

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 room C4. All are welcome to join this group. Bring your friends and neighbors for fellowship and study.

Friday Night Dinners at UMOM

Many thanks to the following groups for serving in January:

Laura Miller,

Bonnie and Tom Price,

Maureen and Paul Jobe,

Bimal and Yvonne Dev.

The Sanctuary Choir, Jerry Van Rennes,

Bob and Denise Allen

Groups signed up for February:

February 6 - Amy Haywood and 853 Scouts

February 13 - Julie Lega and Laura Miller

February 20 - The Sanctuary Choir, Jerry Van Rennes

February 27 - Maureen and Paul Jobe

UMOM Invitation

You are all invited to attend the UMOM Birdsong Luncheon, Saturday, February 28 at 1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort located at 7200 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona. It is a wonderful way to support UMOM and enjoy a nice afternoon. In the past St. Matthew has had two or three tables at the event. If you would like to be part of a table or need more details, please call Ginny Smythe at 480-892-8083.

Register online at

www.umomthankyou4caring.org/eventregistration.

