

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



September 2015

Articles for October Mustard Seed Due: **September 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 by calling 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

Rev. Joan Miller joan@stmatthewmesa.org

Rev. James Ek jim@stmatthewmesa.org

Gordon Gauss g_gauss@hotmail.com

Becky Kerr becky@stmatthewmesa.org

Evelynne Showers Evie@stmatthewmesa.org

Michael Isaksen isettled@cox.net

Ted Bachelder ted@stmatthewmesa.org

Mark Culbertson mark@stmatthewmesa.org

Resident Bishop

Pastor
480-838-7309

Associate Pastor
602-377-9434

Stephen Ministries
480-234-2330

Sunday School Coordinator
480-940-3379

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

Custodian
480-292-4165

Director of Music Ministries
480-963-0722

Director of Youth Ministries
480-862-3601

9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship
in the Worship Center,
Sunday School for children

10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship
with Communion
in the Activity Center,

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.



Please Share Your Information with Us

Having surgery?
In the hospital?

Please let the church office at 480-838-7309 or Pastor Miller at 602-400-5626 know if you are hospitalized

and desire a pastoral call. The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, enacted in 1996, prohibits hospitals from releasing patient information. As a result, the church office no longer has any way of knowing if you are in the hospital unless you contact the office directly.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for giving me the gracious welcome on Sunday, August 2, when Pastor Joan announced my return to St. Matthew, as your new Sunday School Coordinator.

I am once again, in awe of God's grace, understanding, and plans for my life. When one door has closed, He has always confirmed my "calling" by opening another.

I look forward to working with the Sunday School teachers, volunteers, parents, children, and all members of St. Matthew, as we continue to share the grace of Jesus Christ and love of God, with every person we meet.

I have "COME HOME"!

Yours in Christ,

Becky Kerr

Join us on Sunday, September 6,
9:00 - 11:15 a.m.
for a fun day of games and crafts, as we



"Make Our Goal, Sunday School"

THEN

Join us on Sunday, September 13,
9:00* & 10:30 a.m. as we



in our Sunday School classes.

*All children will attend the 9:00 a.m. worship until after the Children's Message. Then they will be escorted to their classrooms.

Thank you.

Dear Friends in Christ,



Where has the month gone? Again this month I've enjoyed spending time getting acquainted and learning "how you do what you do."

We closed the month out with an all-church potluck after worship where we had a wonderful time of fellowship. We used the opportunity to recognize the church staff, most of who work here in a part-time capacity.

Deb Landry, chair of our Staff Parish Relations Committee, introduced the staff present and everyone had a chance to thank them for their work among us.

It was a particular thrill this month to welcome two "new" people to our staff.

Becky Kerr joined us as our Sunday School Coordinator. Many of you know Becky as she and her family have been a part of St. Matthew for many years. Becky previously served here as the Youth Ministries Coordinator. She left the church's employ several years ago to serve as the Director of Children and Family Ministries at the Wesley Center. When the Wesley Center relocated further west this past spring Becky made the difficult decision to leave a job she loved, thus making possible her return to our staff.

Ben Shafer joined us as our new choir director late in the month. Ben has served in the music departments of several churches around the valley, including Valley Presbyterian and Victory Lutheran. He has a Masters of Music Education in Choral Conducting from Arizona State University and teaches choir at Central High School in Phoenix. Ben is a gifted singer, and leads the tenor section of the Canto Vivo Chorale. He also performs as a soloist throughout the valley.

I am so grateful that Becky and Ben have joined us here at St. Matthew. God has blessed us richly in this time of transition and I pray that God will continue to use us in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

See you in church,
Joan

September 2015 Sermon Plan

September 6 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The General Rules: "Stay in Love with God" Matthew 22:34-40 Question: What am I doing to stay in love with God?

September 13 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

People Worth Knowing: Jeremiah Jeremiah 1:4-9, 20:7-9 Question: Are we hearing what God is saying?

September 20 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah's Message: Never Too Far Gone Jeremiah 3:12-13, 7:5-7 Question: Where in our lives do we need God's grace?

September 27 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah's Message: Hope for the Hopeless Jeremiah 29:1, 11-14 Question: Where in our lives do we know hope?



September Calendar

Sept. Repeat Events:

Tuesday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 7:00 pm Childcare, Nursery Pills Anonymous, all B bldg.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 5:00 pm Hands of Joy Choir, Chapel 7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6-7

Thursday, September 3, 10, 17, 24 6:30 am Men's Bible Study, IHOP 9:30 am Korean Bible Study, B11 6:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, AC Cool Hands Choir, D22

Friday, September 4, 11, 18, 25 5:30 pm Praise Band Practice, AC 7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6-7

Saturday, September 5, 12, 19, 26 11:00 am Praise Band Practice, AC 6:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, AC 7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6-7

Sunday, September 6, 13, 20, 27 8:30 am Childcare for services, N 8:40 am Prayer Meeting, Chapel 9:00 am Jesus' Jumpstarts, Age 4-5, C3 God's Kids, Gr. K-2, D22 Jesus Rock Star, Gr. 3-5, D25 Traditional Worship, WC 9:15 am Youth "Hang Time" D23/24 10:30 am Contemporary Worship, Children's Church, D22 Searchers Adult SS, B11 Youth "Ignite", D23-24 3:00 pm AZ Messianic Dance, AC 7:00 pm Putting God 1st AA, C6-7 7:30 pm Godly World Worship, B11/12

Monday, September 7, 14, 21, 28 8:00 am Communicator and e-Communicator deadline 6:00 pm 853 Boy Scouts, AC, C6-7 7:30 am Victory Praise, C1-3

Other Sept. Events:

Tuesday, September 1 9:00 am Morning Glories, C6-7 6:00 pm HOV Adult Grief Group, C3 6:30 pm Mission Committee, D22 7:00 pm Communication Comm. D25 UMW Crafty Ladies, C6-7

Thursday, September 3 3:00 pm AZ Messianic Prayer, AC 5:00 pm Crane/Hoffman Rehearsal, WC 7:00 pm Alzheimer's Support, B12 Worship Committee, B11

Friday, September 4 4:00 pm Crane/Hoffman Wedding, WC

Sunday, September 6 2:30 pm 841 Girl Scouts, C6-7

Monday, September 7 Labor Day Holiday - Office Closed 5:30 pm Hospitality Comm, C4

Tuesday, September 8 6:00 pm Finance Committee, C4 7:00 pm UMW Unit Meeting, AC, K

Wednesday, September 9 6:30 pm New Members Class, C4 7:00 pm Evangelism Comm., D22

Thursday, September 10 6:00 pm Pampered Chef, AC, K 6:30 pm Genesis Bell Choir, Sanctuary 6:45 pm Childcare, Nursery 7:00 pm Bells of Joy Choir, Sanctuary Stephen Ministry, B13

Saturday, September 12 7:00 am Trustees Meeting, C4 9:00 am Helping Hands, C6-7 9:00 am SS Meeting, C1, D22, D25

Other Sept. Events:

Monday, September 14 6:00 pm Hands of Praise Choir, D23 7:00 pm Monday Night Study, CH

Tuesday, September 15 8:00 am October Mustard Seed Submissions Due, Office 9:00 am Morning Glories, C6-7 6:30 pm Church Council, C4 Shining Jewel Team, AC

Wednesday, September 16 6:30 pm New Members Class, C4

Thursday, September 17 6:00 am Women's Bible Study, C4 6:30 pm Genesis Bell Choir, Sanctuary 6:45 pm Childcare, Nursery 7:00 pm Alzheimer's Support, B12 Bells of Joy Choir, Sanctuary SPRC Meeting, B11

Sunday, September 20 10:30 am Disciples Adult SS, B14

Monday, September 21 6:00 pm Hands of Praise Choir, D23 7:00 pm Monday Night Study, CH

Tuesday, September 22 8:30 am Week without Violence Task Force, D22

Wednesday, September 23 6:30 pm New Members Class, C4

Thursday, September 24 6:00 am Women's Bible Study, C4 6:30 pm Genesis Bell Choir, Sanctuary 6:45 pm Childcare, Nursery 7:00 pm Bells of Joy Choir, Sanctuary

Sunday, September 27 10:30 am Disciples Adult SS, B14

Monday, September 28 6:00 pm Hands of Praise Choir, D23 7:00 pm Monday Night Study, CH

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

Prayer List

Please include these members of our St. Matthew family in your prayers: Anne Dutton Lindsay Dutton Andy Lim & Dr. Ruth Tan Lim C. P. Morriss Jal Morriss Cheryl Phillips Betty Robinson & family Schmitt family 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. Contact the church office at 480-838-7309 with any questions Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. until noon and 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

2015 Monthly Prayer for Churches

You are encouraged to pray for the churches and pastors of the Central East District of the Desert Southwest Conference. Churches are divided by the months for the Appointment Year beginning July 2015. You may also want to send a card to the churches you are praying for each month.

Velda Rose UMC, Mesa White Mountain UMC, Show Low Chandler UMC Justa Center, Phoenix

UMOM - Join the Walk for the Homeless

Please join us as we support and celebrate UMOM at the Annual UMOM Walk for the Homeless. Saturday, September 26 at the Phoenix Zoo. Help us reach our goal of \$75,000. Adults \$25 - Youth \$20. Sign up on the patio August 30 through September 13 or go online. We have 2 teams, Friends of St. Matthew UMC, coordinated by Pamela and Greg Beihl. St. Matthew Ignited Youth Team, coordinated by Melanie and Mark Culbertson Both Youth and Adults will receive a free T-shirt. More details coming soon.



UMOM New Day Centers

Now through September 30 purchase 6x6 or 12x12 tiles in honor of a loved one, special occasion or organization. Your message will be engraved on a customized tile and placed on UMOM's Community Legacy Wall. Choose a size: 6x6 tile includes 4 lines, 13 characters max per line or company logo for \$100. 12x12 tile includes 4 lines, 20 characters max per line or company logo for \$250. Optional: purchase a 6x6 or 12x12 tiled for a child at UMOM to design. Now is your chance to have a lasting custom display in UMOM's commitment to breaking the cycle of homelessness. More details available online at: umom.thankyou4caring.org/pages/BuyATile

Interested in Ringing Handbells?

A new season of handbell ringing begins Thursday, September 10. Beginning bell ringers 4th graders and above, meet at 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. followed by experienced ringers, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Both groups rehearse in the Sanctuary. Please contact Sarah Hartong, handbell choir director, to discuss where you would best fit in our handbell ministry! Send email to: sarah@stmatthewmesa.org, or phone: 330-819-6476.

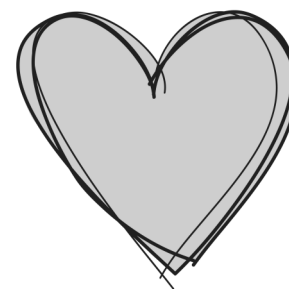


Thank You

On behalf of the entire Averill family, we would like to thank you for the many cards and prayers shared with us during the illness and loss of Alane's mother, Phyllis Averill. Your thoughts and prayers have given us great joy during this time of loss. For the many friends who made the trip up to Sedona for the Celebration of Life service, there are no words to express the impact your presence gave us. We are grateful beyond measure! God is good, all the time, All the time, God is good! Blessings and thanks, Alane and Michael Eaton



Lay Leader Notes



"If I can stop one heart from breaking I shall not live in vain"

Emily Dickinson

Dear St. Matthew family and friends,

Pastor Joan's series of sermons on the power of encouragement came to mind as I found this quote from one of my favorite poets. Although we have an extensive and active prayer chain in our church, those in pain may not always share that with others. A smile or a touch on the arm is a gift of the spirit and brings joy to the giver as well. We can also bring the gift of connection to those we meet during the day throughout the week as we don't know when the recipient may be in need. I'm reminded of a conversation with a cashier at a local grocery store. By speaking with her, she was able to share about the loss of a family member and the impact that had on her and her family. I told her that I would pray for the family. Although this was a brief encounter, we had connected at a meaningful level, and I left feeling as though I had been led to speak with her for a particular purpose. The Mission Committee has created an opportunity for you to reach out in the lunches that our church makes on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month in the church kitchen for the East Valley Men's Shelter. Each bag contains two notes: one a note of encouragement and the other a note offering a friendly ear, if desired. Please contact Ben Furlong or Denise or Bob Allen if you would like to participate.

Blessings, Betsy Hertzler Barb Hedges Co Lay Leaders

New Member Orientation

Are you interested in learning more about St. Matthew? Do you want to know more about the United Methodist connection? Would you like to explore what membership in this congregation means? If so, please join us Wednesday evenings September 9, 16 and 23. We'll meet from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in room C-4. For planning purposes, please let the church office or Pastor Joan know if you would like to attend. Please also let us know if you will be needing childcare while you are attending the new member class.



East Valley Men's Shelter Sack Lunches

Groups or individuals interested in helping may do so in the following ways. Help make lunches. Sunday morning or afternoon times are flexible for making and packing the lunches depending on the individuals or groups that volunteer. Teams of 8-12 work well. It takes about 1/2 hours to complete. Couples, individuals or groups may sign up by contacting Bob or Denise Allen. Currently we are serving on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Monetary donations can be given to St. Matthew but must be marked for East Valley Men's lunches. Supply donations can be brought to the church office during the week or on Sunday mornings. Please mark your donation for EVM. Donations include creamy peanut butter, containers of jelly, Ziploc sandwich bags, large lunch sacks, single serving packages of chips and snack crackers, dinner napkins, cases of water bottles or Gatorade type products. We are also looking for friends to write greetings to place in the sack lunches. Cards will be supplied by the Ignite Ministry team. To volunteer contact Bob or Denise Allen at 480-838-2269.





United Methodist Women Morning Glories

Meet the first and third Tuesdays monthly. ALL women are welcome to attend, bring a neighbor, friend or

family member with you!

September 1 - speaker will be Rev. Joan Miller.
September 15 - Program "Water in the West" by speaker, Mary Ohren Patterson. (Susan's daughter).
Contact Susan Mann Patterson at 480-684-0275 or Karen Anderson at 480-892-2082 for more details.

UMW Unit Meeting

Meet on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. Watch the Communicator for Program details.

Cuppa Natter

Meet Tuesday, September 22 to eat dinner out at Mimi's Café at 6:45 p.m. Location: 1250 S. Alma School Road (Southern/Alma School) Please RSVP to June Hanson at 480-968-0520.

Men's Bible Study

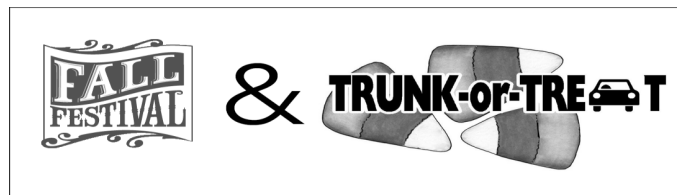
Men meet on Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. at IHOP located at Elliot and Alma School in Chandler. We are studying, "The Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren. All men of St. Matthew UMC are invited to join us. Call Greg Beihl at 480-839-1269 for details.

Disciples Adult Sunday Class

The Disciples class, taught by Luke Snell, starts on Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m. in B14. We will meet until Sunday, October 25. All are welcome to join us!

Searchers Adult Sunday Class

Meet at 10:30 a.m. in room B11. We are studying, "The Call" by Adam Hamilton about Paul's 14,000 mile journey for God's Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Save the Date!

Sunday, October 25 from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat

Wesley Center

Sewing Donations Needed. Wesley has weekly sewing classes, coordinated and taught by volunteers (thanks to the Sun Lakes UMC volunteers & others), will not meet during the summer, but will begin again in the fall. Donations of fabric, notions, etc., are most welcome. The contact at WCC for sewing items is Betty Mathis. For more information, please call her at her direct office line: 602-252-5624. Thank YOU!

Helen's Hope Chest

Thank you for the many gifts of clothing and toiletries given during our back to school drive; your generosity will put smiles on the faces of the many foster children visiting Helen's. When I went to the opening of Helen's new building, the director of the Mesa United Way related a story that shows the importance of such a facility: During a planning meeting for the new building, a young man sat quietly in the back of the room as architects, builders and staff all weighed in on what was needed. The director, realizing that the young man hadn't gotten the opportunity to contribute, asked him, what he would like to see in the new building. In response, the young man said, that he had been a foster child and had only one pair of pants and one shirt to wear to school each day. Of course the other children noticed this and made fun of him. It was so difficult for him emotionally that he had finally dropped out of school. He said he was just so glad that there was a place for foster children to go and pick out clothing that would enable them to fit in and enjoy school.

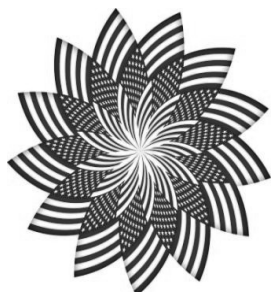
Dear Matthew parishioners, your contributions really do matter!

Submitted by Lin Leivian, Missions Committee.

Submitting Articles for Publication

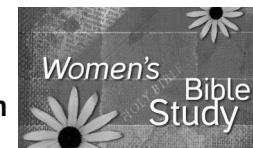
Please submit all articles for publication during the month of September and October on or **BEFORE** the 10th day of the month if at all possible. Should you have any questions at all please contact Evie in the church office at 480-838-7309.

Monday, September 7 is Labor Day and the church office will be closed for the holiday. Hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy Labor Day!



Women's Bible Study

Class begins on Thursday, September 17 and will go through November 17, meeting every Thursday, at 6:00 a.m. in room C4. Class subject: God Loves You by David Jeremiah. Cost is \$7.00, all books have been sold. Please contact Jo Sprankle at 480-227-6333 if you have not gotten your book yet. This study focuses on 10 different dimensions of love as manifested by the God who is love, because God is infinite and inexhaustible, so is true love. But the 10 dimensions of love revealed in this study are core aspects of the kind of love that sacrifices itself for the benefit of others, loyal, unconditional, eternal love. All women are welcome. Many age groups are represented. We conclude by 7:15 a.m. and some go on to work. Others join for breakfast at a local restaurant. (to be determined) Contact Anne Dutton annedutton@mac.com 602-320-1232 or Jo Sprankle jesprankle@hotmail.com 480-227-6333. December 3 and 10 will focus on special studies by our members. January 2016 we will begin a 26 week study on David by Beth Moore. Information will follow later.



Beloved Disciples: The Life and Ministry of John by Beth Moore

We will be studying the life and witness of the Apostle John. This eleven week study begins on Monday, September 14 in the B building. This study features an interactive workbook and video presentations on the life of John as presented by Beth Moore. Come and join us as we 'find our way to the heart of Jesus' and to discover above all else how differently would each follower live if we characterized ourselves above all else as the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ. This is the goal of our journey. Facilitator: Warren Enyart 480-839-2551.

A Thank You to St. Matthew UMC

The members of our church responded generously to the call from our conference to provide tuna and beans for the needy. As you remember, we were able to choose a local charity as the recipient. In that spirit, we chose to take our food donations to the United Food Bank which has several locations in Mesa. To volunteer at - or contribute further to the food bank, visit their site: www.unitedfoodbank.org.

Monday Night Study

Fervent Prayer: Equipping the Faithful Starts Monday night, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Cost is \$20 per person. Seating will be limited. Be sure to sign up early.



Facilitators: Anne Dutton and Pastor Jim. If you want a class ABOUT prayer, this is not it. We are not going to just talk about prayer or think about prayer or discuss apt forms of prayer. NO. For this class, get ready... In this class, you will pray. "Because life is just too impossible otherwise - yours, mine, everybody's. We simply don't have the luxury of playing nice with prayer. Not if we want things to change. Not if we want to be free - from whatever's keeping us held down and held back. Not if we want our hearts whole and thriving and deep and grounded...different. Not if we want to reach our destinies and experience God's promises. Not if we want our {families} living out what God has called them to do and be and become. Not if we want a fence of God's protection around us. Not if we want to bear the unmistakable mark of His favor upon us." Priscilla Shirer, *FerVent*, intro.

Content: Each session - begins with worship, addresses strategies for discovery and prayer, presents one or more questions to stimulate reflection, is Bible based, provides significant time for you to pray. You will - learn to write your own prayers, practice presence, reflect on your past, present, future, reflect on God's calling for your life, claim the power of prayer for yourself, your family and your church. The closing each evening will be equal to the effort of the class; sometimes surprising; sometimes familiar; always Christ centered.

To sign up for this class please contact: Anne Dutton: annedutton@mac.com 602-320-1232 Pastor Jim: jim@stmatthewmesa.org 602-377-9434.

Justa Center

We cannot do without your help. Your donations mean so very much to many at our center. Justa Center needs, razors, deodorant, toilet paper, dish soap, new men's socks, new women's socks, anti-itch cream, antacid and walking canes.

Thank YOU for your support!